

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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Senate
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SENATE
P.S. RES. NO. 179

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND
SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO, FORMER
SENATOR (1995-2001 AND 2004-2016), FORMER JUDGE
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, FORMER
SECRETARY OF AGRARIAN REFORM, FORMER
COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION AND
DEPORTATION, FORMER PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE
QUEZON CITY REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, LAW
EXPERT, AND AUTHOR**

WHEREAS, the Honorable Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago, a distinguished member of the Senate (1995-2001 and 2004-2016), former Judge of the International Criminal Court, former Secretary of Agrarian Reform, former Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, former presiding Judge of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, a constitutional and international law expert, and renowned book author, passed away on 29 September 2016 at the age of 71;

WHEREAS, she obtained several college degrees from prestigious universities, namely: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of the Philippines Visayas, *magna cum laude*; Bachelor of Laws, University of the Philippines, *cum laude*; Master of Laws and Doctor of the Science of Law, University of Michigan; Master of Arts in Religious Studies, Maryhill School of Theology, and various post doctoral studies in various countries in Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States of America; and was

conferred honorary doctorates from different Philippine universities;

WHEREAS, as a student, she received several awards as Best Debater in the UP College of Law and was a recipient of the Vinzons Achievement Award for excellence in leadership;

WHEREAS, starting her career in public service at a young age, she was appointed to various positions in the government such as Presiding Judge, Regional Trial Court, Quezon City; Immigration Commissioner; Agrarian Reform Secretary, as well as international institutions, such as legal officer, United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland; and Consultant, Philippine Embassy, Washington D.C.;

WHEREAS, she received numerous prestigious awards for excellence, some of which are: The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) award for Law (1985); the Outstanding Women in the Nations Service (TOWNS) Award for Law (1986); the Magsaysay Award for government service for her courage in fighting corruption in government; Most Outstanding Alumna in Law, University of the Philippines (1988); Gold Vision Triangle Award for government service, YMCA (1988); the Republic Anniversary Award for law enforcement, Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines (1988); the Golden Jubilee Award of public service, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines (1990); the Celebrity Mother Award, Gintong Ina Awards Foundation (1991); the Grand Cross of the Order of Civil Merit, Spain (2007); Philippine Judges Hall of Fame, Philippine Judges Association (2015); and the Distinguished Icon of Legal Excellence and Public Service Award (2016); and was hailed by the foreign press worldwide as the "Incorruptible Lady", "Platinum and Tiger Lady", and "Tiger of Asia";

WHEREAS, she campaigned for the presidency of the land in 1992 but lost, then was elected into the Senate in 1995 and reelected in 2004 where she chaired the Committees on Foreign Relations; Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes and Laws; Legislative Oversight on Visiting Forces Agreement; and on Energy;

WHEREAS, she was instrumental in the enactment of the following landmark legislations: the Reproductive Health Act; the

Sin Tax Act; the Climate Change Act; the Renewable Energy Act; the Philippine Act on Crimes Against International Humanitarian Law; the Magna Carta of Women; the Unified Students Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (Unifast) Law; the Cybercrime Act of 2012; the Department of Information and Communication Technology Act; and the Archipelagic Base Lines Act;

WHEREAS, as Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations, she successfully defended and secured Senate concurrence in the ratification of the following international treaties: the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA); the ASEAN Charter Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties with Spain, Korea and the ASEAN; the Avoidance of Double Taxation Treaties with New Zealand, Japan the United Arab Emirates (UAE); the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) Headquarters Agreement; the United Nations (UN) Convention Against Corruption; and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control;

WHEREAS, aside from being a fiery debater and interpellator in the Senate halls, she was hailed for her ability to elicit truth and anomalies on matters under congressional investigations;

WHEREAS, in 2012, she became the first Filipina and first Asian to be elected to the International Criminal Court (ICC), but later resigned from the post for health reasons, and in 2016 she became a member of the International Advisory Council of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), an inter-governmental body that promotes the rule of law;

WHEREAS, her failing health did not prevent her from performing her mandate as a lawmaker as she was still the top performer in terms of the number of bills and resolutions filed during the 16th Congress, and from pursuing her noble objective to help her countrymen as she ran again for the highest position in the land in May 2016;

WHEREAS, the passing away of a great leader and hardworking public servant who had served the three branches of government, the executive, judiciary and legislative, is a great loss

not only to her bereaved family, but to the nation, as well: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of the Honorable Miriam Defensor Santiago, former Senator (1995-2001 and 2004-2016), former Judge of the International Criminal Court, former Secretary of Agrarian Reform, former Commissioner of Immigration and Deportation, former Presiding Judge of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, law expert and author.

Resolved finally, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Adopted,


AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III