

SENATE
S. B. No. 1845

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Introduced by Senator Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel

**AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 6 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOSEFA LLANES ESCODA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Josefa Llanes Escoda, or Pepa, is a Filipina war heroine and an advocate of women's rights to suffrage. She was awarded the social worker's certificate in 1925 by the New York School of Social Work. Escoda became a social worker for the Philippine Chapter of the American Red Cross and was considered to be the "Florence Nightingale of the Philippines".

In 1933, Escoda underwent Girl Scout training in the United States which was sponsored by the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. She then went back to the Philippines to train women to become Girl Scout leaders and eventually established the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, where she served as its first National Executive in 1940.

When the Japanese invaded the country, she risked her life by smuggling medicines, food, and clothing to help the Filipino prisoners and American internees in concentration camps. Escoda, along with her husband, were imprisoned in 1944 in the Far Eastern University. On January 6, 1945, she was last seen being transferred into a Japanese truck severely beaten and bruised. For her heroism, she was awarded the Silver Medal by The American Red Cross and The Medal of Freedom with Gold Leaf for Services to Filipino Prisoners of War by the U.S. Army.

At this juncture in the country's history where its women are denigrated and where misogyny and machismo have become accepted and even endorsed in the corridors of power, it becomes even more necessary to remind the nation of the magnitude of their contribution in shaping the country's past and their capability to determine its future.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Ana Theresia "Risa" Hontiveros-Baraquel
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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **Section 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "Josefa Llanes Escoda Day"

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3 **Section 2. *Josefa Llanes Escoda Day.*** In recognition of the invaluable contributions of Josefa
4 Llanes Escoda to the Republic of the Philippines, January 6 of every year shall be declared a
5 Special Working Holiday.

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7 **Section 3. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Offi-
8 cial Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

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10 APPROVED,