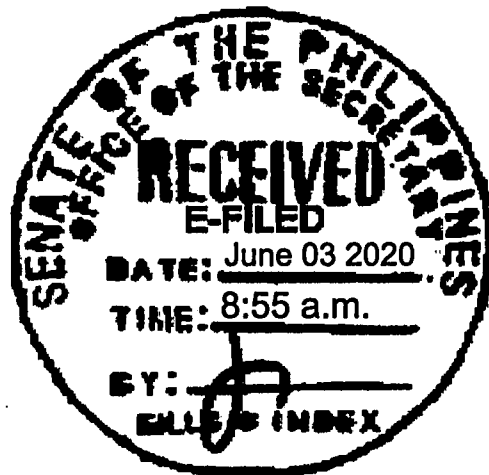


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
P.S. Resolution No. 436



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Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

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**RESOLUTION**

**RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE HEROIC SERVICES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD IN THE COUNTRY'S FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ADMIRAL JOEL SARSIBAN GARCIA, PCG, PH.D., H.D., AL-HAJ AND CONGRATULATING THE LATTER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD**

**WHEREAS**, there is an urgent necessity for the conduct of massive laboratory testing for COVID-19 to rapidly identify, treat and isolate the positive patients, and to ultimately stop the deadly transmission of the virus that has claimed the lives of more than 950 Filipinos and infected more than 18,000 of our countrymen;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), under the strong leadership of Admiral Joel Sarsiban Garcia, heeded the call of duty and aided in the country's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The men and women of PCG continue to risk their lives by personally conducting the swabbing and specimen collection of thousands of repatriated Overseas Filipinos Workers (OFWs) and other returning Filipinos, as well as in overseeing several isolation and quarantine facilities. The immeasurable contribution and brave and heroic services of the members and officers of the Philippine Coast Guard should be recognized and commended;

**WHEREAS**, Admiral Joel S. Garcia (Hajji Muhammad Abdul Aziz Bin) is an officer who goes beyond the bounds of duty, as exemplified by his valor and dedication to aid the government in the gargantuan task of beating the deadly Coronavirus pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, before his retirement on 1 June 2020, Admiral Joel S. Garcia, as the Commander of the Sub-Task Group for the Repatriation of OFWs (STG RO), led the brave men and women of the Philippine Coast Guard in the conduct of the

massive Covid-19 PCR testing of more than thirty-six thousand (36,000) Overseas Filipino Workers being repatriated due to the pandemic. The Massive Covid-19 PCR testing was done in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross and the Task Force for Test, Trace and Treat;

**WHEREAS**, Admiral Joel S. Garcia committed his life to the pursuit of knowledge and excellence culminating to a life dedicated to the service of the people;

**WHEREAS**, Admiral Joel S. Garcia was born on 1964 in Bago City, Negros Occidental. He studied in Bago City Elementary School and the University of Negros Occidental-Recolectos for secondary education;

**WHEREAS**, as a full government scholar, Admiral Joel S. Garcia finished his Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation majoring in Navigational Science at the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA). He also earned his Masters of Science degree in Maritime Safety Administration from the prestigious World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmoe, Sweden and Masters degree in Shipping Management at PMMA. He pursued further studies and obtained his Doctors degree in Philosophy in Public Administration from the Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST). He was likewise conferred a Doctors degree in Humanities (Honoris Causa) by the Sulu State College for his humanitarian services;

**WHEREAS**, Admiral Joel S. Garcia rendered invaluable service to the Philippine Navy, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Commissioner on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Transformation and Communication (DOTC) and to the nation with outmost loyalty, bravery, integrity and competence;

**WHEREAS**, Admiral Joel S. Garcia is a licensed mariner who ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Professional Regulatory Commission's (PRC) board examination and 4<sup>th</sup> place in the PRC's board examination for Master Mariner. He had a colorful career in the Philippine Navy before transferring to the PCG, serving and commanding numerous vessels in both branches of service;

**WHEREAS**, before his retirement, he concurrently held the following positions: the Commandant of the PCG, the Executive Director of the National Coast Watch Center (NCWC), under the Office of the President, and the Chairperson of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) Governing Council in Singapore;

**WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Admiral Joel S. Garcia performed other key roles: Officer-In-Charge of the PCG, Deputy Commandant for Administration of the PCG, Commander of the Coast Guard Maritime Safety Services Command (MSSC), Commander of the Coast Guard Marine Environmental Protection Command (MEPCOM), Commander of the Coast Guard Education and Training Command (CGETC), Commander of the Coast Guard Weapons, Communications, Electronics

and Information Systems Command (CGWEISC), District Commander of four (4) Coast Guard Districts (CGD), namely: CGD National Capital Region - Central Luzon (CGDNCR - CL), CGD Western Region based in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, CGD Eastern Luzon Region (BICOL) based in Legaspi City, Albay, CGD Northern Luzon Region based in San Fernando, La Union, Chairman of the Committee on Islamic Religious Studies, Member of the Technical Panels in Humanities and Maritime Education of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)(2003-2010), Executive Director of the Presidential Task Force on Maritime Development Secretariat (1996). He also served as a professor of Maritime Administration and Environmental Economics in the PMMA Graduate School;

**WHEREAS**, Admiral Joel S. Garcia is a loving father, scholar, professor, leader and a true public servant;

**WHEREAS**, the crucial contribution of the Philippine Coast Guard, under the leadership of Admiral Joel S. Garcia, to the successful completion of the COVID-19 PCR testing of more than 36,000 OFWs should be recognized and commended;

**NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Senate of the Philippines commends and lauds the brave men and women of the Philippine Coast Guard and Admiral Joel Sarsiban Garcia for their role in testing more than 36,000 returning Filipinos and for risking their lives to save the Filipino people from the effects of the Coronavirus.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Senate of the Philippines to recognize the achievements and contribution of Admiral Joel Sarsiban Garcia to the Philippine Coast Guard and to the Filipino people on the occasion of his retirement from the Philippine Coast Guard.

*Adopted,*



**RICHARD J. GORDON**