

FILE COPY

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

5 AUG -8 P2:49

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: G

P. S. RES. NO. 298

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCE AND SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF FORMER SENATOR RAUL S. ROCO

WHEREAS, the Honorable Raul S. Roco, former Senator, Congressman and Department of Education Secretary, passed away on August 5, 2005;

WHEREAS, the late Senator had a brilliant academic background. He finished his elementary education at the age of ten (10) and his high school at fourteen (14) at the Ateneo de Naga, and he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, magna cum laude from the San Beda College in Manila at eighteen (18);

WHEREAS, he finished his law degree at San Beda College with an Overall Excellence Award and received his Master of Comparative Law degree as a University Fellow at the University at Pennsylvania, USA where he also cross-enrolled at Wharton School for Multinational Studies;

WHEREAS, as a young student of San Beda College, he was editor-in-chief of "The Bedan", the college newspaper, and wrote the lyrics of the San Beda College Alma Mater Song;

WHEREAS, as a young leader, he was the youngest ever president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) in 1961 and named one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in 1964; as a member of the legal staff of the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, he helped in drafting the "Study Now, Pay Later" law;

WHEREAS, as a constitutionalist he was the youngest Bicolano delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention and as a leader of the Bar, he was the youngest Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) President from 1983 to 1985;

WHEREAS, after years of brilliant law practice, he once again entered public service guided by basic tenets that people are more important than institutions, and children and women must have first access to resources. He was elected Congressman representing the Second District of Camarines Sur in 1987 and Senator from 1992 to 2001;

WHEREAS, during his term as Representative of the Second District of Camarines Sur, he was cited by the Ford Foundation and the UP Institute of Strategic and Development Studies as first in overall performance among legislators of the 8th Congress from 1987 to 1992; in the Senate he was consistently adjudged outstanding Senator;

WHEREAS, as financial law reformer, he was the "Father of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas" which reformed the central banking system, liberalized the local banking industry, and strengthened thrift banks; he likewise authored the Intellectual Property Code, and the New Securities Regulation Code, among others;

WHEREAS, a champion of women's causes and feminist ideals, he was named "honorary woman" and authored remarkable laws addressing the needs of women and children, such as Republic Act 7192, "Woman in Development and Nation-Building Act; Republic Act 7877, "The Anti-Sexual Harassment Law"; Republic Act 8353, "The Anti-Rape Law"; and Republic Act 8369, "The Family Courts Act of 1997";

WHEREAS, as Secretary of Education, he instituted significant reforms to protect teachers' welfare by ensuring prompt payment of their salaries; and implemented the Ganson law which mandates "Zero Tuition" in all public and elementary education in the country, thus, it was during his stint that the Department of Education overcame its image as the fourth most corrupt agency into the "Most Trusted Agency" with a 73% public approval rating;

WHEREAS, unknown to many, the late Senator was a poet and a musician who also dabbled into film production including producing the multi-awarded movie with the late film Director Lino Brocka, entitled "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang";

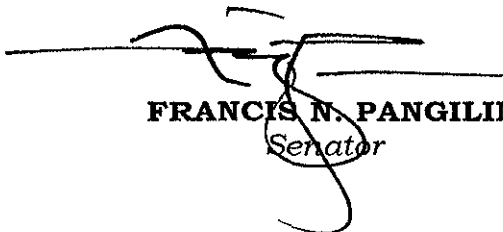
WHEREAS, he was a statesman whose life is a testament that honesty, decency and integrity must never be compromised in favor of convenience and expediency. His wisdom, politics and vision prepared him well for the presidency which could have changed the country's political landscape had fate not intervened;

WHEREAS, his passing away is a great loss not only to his 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 condolence on the death of former Senator Raul S. Roco.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family of the Senator.

Adopted,


FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN
Senator