

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*



23 FEB -9 P12 :06

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY:

**S. Ct. RES. NO. 6**

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**Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
GRANTING CONSENT TO SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE LOREN  
LEGARDA TO ACCEPT THE "COMMENDATORE" TO THE ORDER OF MERIT OF  
THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC CONFERRED UPON HER BY THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**

**WHEREAS**, Honorable Loren Legarda has dedicated most of her life to public service, having served in the Senate for four terms since 1998;

**WHEREAS**, the Senate President Pro Tempore has bridged parliamentary relations with other nations to promote cooperation, whether in arts, culture, or trade and economy. In the present 19<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Senator was elected as the President of the Philippines-European Union (EU) Parliamentary Friendship Association;

**WHEREAS**, she has maintained a strong commitment to supporting Philippine-Italian projects and programs. In 2015, she advocated for the Philippines' return to the Venice Biennale after a 51-year hiatus. The country's participation in the world's oldest and most prestigious global art platform has showcased to the world the artistry and ingenuity of our local artists and has revitalized Philippine cultural and artistic expressions;

**WHEREAS**, our participation in Venice fostered the diplomatic exchange of ideas and meaningful discourses that forged a deep relationship between the Philippines and Italy;

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the lady Senator's steadfast efforts in strengthening bilateral ties, as well as the bond of friendship, between the Philippines and Italy, she was conferred the award of "Commendatore" to the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic;

**WHEREAS**, the "Commendatore" to the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic was given by decree of the Italian President Sergio Mattarella through Ambassador Marco Clemente;

**WHEREAS**, the prestigious Order of Merit is the highest-ranking honor system of the Italian Republic and is awarded for "merit acquired by the nation" in the fields of literature, the arts, economy, public service, and social, philanthropic, and humanitarian activities and for long and conspicuous service in civilian and military careers;

**WHEREAS**, Article IX-B, Section 8 of the Constitution provides that "No elective or appointive public officer or employee shall receive additional, double, or indirect compensation unless specifically authorized by law, nor accept without the consent of the

Congress, any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind from the foreign government;"

**RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,** consents to the acceptance by the Honorable Loren Legarda of the "*Commendatore*" to the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic to be conferred upon her by the Italian Republic and to publicly wear the corresponding insignia of the decoration.

*Adopted,*

  
**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**