

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

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**SENATE**

**P.S. Res. No. 1010**

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**INTRODUCED BY SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**RESOLUTION**

**HONORING THE LATE FORMER SENATOR RENE V. SAGUISAG FOR HIS  
INSPIRATION AND HIS EXEMPLARY AND INVALUABLE ROLE AS SENATOR  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER-ACTIVIST**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Senate has always honored and paid its respects to remarkable Filipinos for their outstanding legacy and service to the nation and the Filipino people;

**WHEREAS**, on 24 April 2024, his family announced that former Senator and long-time human rights lawyer Rene V. Saguisag died at the age of 84;

**WHEREAS**, Rene V. Saguisag was a human rights lawyer who, together with other human rights stalwarts such as Jose "Ka Pepe" Diokno and Lorenzo "Ka Tanny" Tañada represented countless of human rights victims of the Marcos dictatorship as members of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG);

**WHEREAS**, under Martial Rule he joined other human rights lawyers Jejomar C. Binay and Joker P. Arroyo, who would later on become Vice President and Senator, respectively in establishing the Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity, and Nationalism (MABINI), a lawyers' group that defended victims of various human rights abuses under the dictatorship, and most recently, the families of victims of the Duterte administration's war on drugs;

**WHEREAS**, upon the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship, he was appointed spokesperson by then President Corazon Aquino;

**WHEREAS**, as a Senator, he strongly worked on promoting ethical standards and accountability in government which resulted in two important laws, R.A. 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, and R.A. 6770 establishing the Office of the Ombudsman;

**WHEREAS**, also as a sitting Senator, he stood tall as one of Magnificent 12 who asserted our national sovereignty by voting to abrogate the Philippine-US Military Bases Agreement in 1991;

**WHEREAS**, upon his retirement from politics, he went back to his legal practice which included the same brand of human rights lawyering, and sustained his presence on the national stage as one of the petitioners questioning the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the United States government and the Anti-Terrorism Act, among others;

**WHEREAS**, through his newspaper columns he wrote about his rich experience in the field of human rights and commentaries on national issues, of which the Duterte administration's war on drugs received the most intense of his scathing rebukes, and;

**WHEREAS**, the progressive community and numerous human rights lawyers today stand on the shoulders of Ka Rene V. Saguisag, who will forever be remembered as an inspiration and a "saguisag" of a true fighter for justice and human rights.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, TO HONOR THE LATE SENATOR RENE V. SAGUISAG FOR HIS INSPIRATION, AND EXEMPLARY AND INVALUABLE ROLE AS SENATOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER-ACTIVIST.**

*Risa Hontiveros*  
**RISA HONTIVEROS** *rh*