

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



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SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 1012

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Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE RENE AUGUSTO VERCELUZ SAGUISAG, FORMER SENATOR, WRITER, LAW PROFESSOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

WHEREAS, Rene Augusto Verceluz Saguisag, former Senator and renowned human rights lawyer, has succumbed to death on 24 April 2024 at the age of 84;

WHEREAS, Senator Saguisag was born on 14 August 1939, in Mauban, Quezon. He completed his primary education at Makati Elementary School and his secondary studies at Rizal High School in 1951 and 1955, respectively;

WHEREAS, he is well-known for his brilliance as a scholar par excellence. He is a proud product of San Beda College where he obtained both his Bachelor's degree (with honors) and Bachelor of Laws (cum laude) in 1959 and 1963, respectively. He then completed his Master of Laws from the Harvard University in 1968 on a full scholarship;

WHEREAS, his bright and brilliant academic background traces its roots in his humble beginnings which did not hinder him from achieving great heights both academically and professionally. His life story vivifies how diligence can catapult anyone to rise from the ranks and reach the pinnacle of success. Before becoming a revered public servant, he once served as a blue-collar worker employed as checker,

laborer, construction site guard and messenger. Eventually he became a student researcher which brought him a leap closer to becoming a law associate which was his gateway to being one of the esteemed members of the legal community. As a legal luminary, he utilized his expertise to defend the rule of law and human rights;

WHEREAS, having found his heart for the protection of human rights, Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag joined the Free Legal Assistance Group - a network of human rights lawyers. He later became one of the prominent lawyers, together with late Senator Joker Arroyo and Vice President Jejomar Binay, of the Movement of Attorneys from Brotherhood, Integrity and Nationalism or MABINI, which provided free legal aid to human rights victims and earned praises for landmark cases in the Supreme Court;

WHEREAS, Senator Saguisag started his term in the Senate in 1987 with a promise to only run for one term. He is best known for being a lawmaker whose tenacity and endurance even in the face of danger to his own life. He forged on despite the challenges and threats, and turned his misery into learnings which he so astutely applied in the various legislations he crafted and supported as a lawmaker himself;

WHEREAS, among the measures he authored which were enacted into law is Republic Act No. 6713, or the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees" which the society continues to benefit from to this day. He also authored Republic Act No. 6770 or "The Ombudsman Act of 1989" which primarily aimed at maintaining honesty and integrity in public service

WHEREAS, staying true to his promise, he ended his term in 1992 and moved on to heed his calling in human rights, legal education and free legal aid;

WHEREAS, his life story is punctuated by relentless pursuit for truth and justice, and he will eternally remembered by his impassioned dedication in standing guard by the line of fire to always let the rule of law prevail;

WHEREAS, Senator Rene A.V. Saguisag has inspired a legion of lawyers to soldier on even amidst repression as vanguards of justice, as well as public servants to serve the country with honor and excellence, and the entire nation to offer fidelity and loyalty our country and flag even and most especially in times of great cost to our own lives and safety;

WHEREAS, we remember and honor the life of Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag - a life truly well-lived. As a former member of this august body, it is thus only fitting that the Senate pays tribute to his legacy of indefatigable commitment to justice, truth and democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to express the profound sympathy and sincere condolences of the Senate of the Philippines on the death of the Honorable Rene Augusto Verceluz Saguisag, former Senator, writer, law professor and human rights lawyer.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the late Senator Rene A. V. Saguisag.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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