


THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Resolution No. 595

Introduced by: Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE
CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF PHILIPPINE STAR
PUBLISHER MAXIMO "MAX" V. SOLIVEN AND HONORING HIS
CONTRIBUTION TO PRESS FREEDOM IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, one of the pillars of Philippine journalism, eminent publisher of Philippine Star Maximo "Max" V. Soliven, passed away on November 24, 2006 at the age of 77, in Tokyo, Japan;

WHEREAS, the late Max Soliven had a sterling academic background. His undergraduate years were spent at Ateneo de Manila University, where he received the ONZANAM award for writing, while in 1951, Soliven received his doctorate degree from Harvard University in International Studies;

WHEREAS, he began his career at 20 as associate editor of the Catholic newspaper The Sentinel, as police and political reporter for the Manila Chronicle at 25, then business editor of The Manila Times from 1957 to 1960;

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-seven, in 1960, Soliven became the publisher and editor of the now-defunct *The Evening News*, which rose in 1960 from sixth to second highest in daily circulation in the country;

WHEREAS, Soliven's work led to him becoming a Chevalier (knight) of the National Order of Merit of the French Republic; this was presented to him in 1991 by French President Francois Mitterrand;

WHEREAS, nine years later, Soliven was conferred one of Spain's most coveted decorations, the rank of Encomendero de la Orden Isabel la Catolica, from King Juan Carlos;

WHEREAS, he has also been named Journalist of the Year by the National Press Club; the award was presented by his former teacher Henry Kissinger;

WHEREAS, spending more than twelve years as a foreign correspondent, Soliven has traveled to many places around the world during times of trouble, covering such events as the Vietnam War, the 1968 Tet Offensive and the Gestapu Coup in Indonesia in 1965, in which half a million people were massacred;

WHEREAS, Max Soliven also earned an exclusive when he watched the detonation of the first atomic bomb in the People's Republic of China, where he also interviewed Premier Zhou Enlai on the matter;

WHEREAS, in 1972, Max Soliven was one of the two most influential columnists at The Manila Times. When the late President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law, Soliven was arrested at two o'clock in the morning of September 23, 1972. He was jailed, then released on probation after three months, and was banned from leaving the capital for three years, and from leaving the country and from writing for seven years.

WHEREAS, throughout his life he had stood for freedom of the press, integrity, decency, sincerity, stellar work ethic and perseverance, qualities that have made him one of the most influential journalists in the country today: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolence on the demise of Maximo "Max" Soliven, Publisher of the Philippine Star.

Resolved, further that a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family of the late Maximo V. Soliven.



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.