

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

7 MAY 26 1913

SENATE
S. No. 1913

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 15, Section 1 provides that:

The State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development.

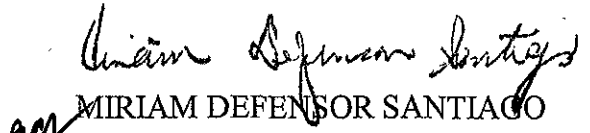
In the Philippines, close family ties have always been recognized as one of the core values of families. There exists a strong mutual relationship bonded by love, understanding, and respect towards each family member especially the mother who manages the household and takes care of the family. Consequently, gratitude for the laudable role of the mother should be celebrated.

In 1921, American Governor General Charles E. Yeater issued Circular No. 33 declaring the first Monday of December as Mother's Day in the Philippines. The entire country celebrated the day with appropriate programs in honor of all the mothers. In keeping with the tradition, the late President Manuel L. Quezon declared that Mother's Day should be celebrated nationwide every first Monday of December. The tradition continued to be celebrated until President Corazon Aquino issued Proclamation No. 266 declaring the first Sunday of May as Mother's Day. This was influenced by a group of businessmen who wanted to drum up business during the usually slack season from March to May and so suggested a Mother's Day in May to coincide with the American Mother's Day.

However, Mother's Day on the first Sunday of May is not appropriate for us Filipinos because it is an American tradition rather than a Filipino tradition. It is also best to note that first week of May is vacation time in the Philippines so the school children

cannot celebrate the day as much as they could, if they are in school. On the other hand, if Mother's Day is celebrated on December, the schools can organize programs in order to express our *gratitude for our mothers*.

This bill seeks to address the appeal for the re-establishment of Mother's Day celebration every first Monday of December in observance of the Filipino tradition of honoring our mothers.

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MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT
2 DECLARING THE FIRST MONDAY OF DECEMBER AS "MOTHERS DAY"

3 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
4 *Congress assembled:*

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the Mother’s Day Act of
6 2007”.

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of
8 mothers in the foundation of family life. The natural and primary right and duty of
9 parents in rearing the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character
10 shall receive support from the government.

11 SECTION 3. The first Monday of December is hereby declared as Mother’s Day.

12 SECTION 4. *Lead Agency.* – In the observance of this yearly occasion, the
13 Department of Education shall conduct commemorative activities as a national token of
14 recognition for mothers and motherhood.

15 SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of
16 Education shall promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations necessary for the
17 effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

18 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid
19 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
20 remain valid and subsisting.

21 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
22 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
23 or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended
24 accordingly.

1 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
2 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulations.

3 Approved,