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SENATE

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Proposed Senate Resolution No. 291

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN GREGORIO OCA, A TRUE MARITIME LEADER

WHEREAS, Master mariner Captain Gregorio Oca, chairman of the Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (Amosup), died last 21 November 2010 at the age of 83;

WHEREAS, Amosup is the largest organization of maritime officers and seafarers in the country after the Associated Marine Officers' Union of the Philippines (Amoup), which Oca founded on 11 November 1960, merged with the Associated Seamen's Union of the Philippines (Asup) in 1972;

WHEREAS, Oca likewise established the welfare and mutual benefit and CBA provident funds for Amosup members; constructed a seafarers' museum; and founded the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific, a world-class maritime training institution which nurtures seafarers and maritime leaders;

WHEREAS, Oca was a recognized leader in the industry and had been awarded for his contribution to maritime trade unionism, shipping and the Philippine society. In early June of this year, the former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo conferred Oca the Order of Lakandula with the Rank of Bayani. The Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, in recognition of his support and services to the Church, also conferred him the Papal Award Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. His alma mater, College of San Beda, also inducted him as a Hall of Famer in Shipping for his achievements in this field;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment has benefited from Oca's wise counsel as he represented the sea-based sector in the Governing Board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA); the Board of Trustees of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA); and the Board of Trustees of the National Maritime Polytechnic and the Maritime Training Council (MTC);

WHEREAS, Oca was also the president of the Bagong Bayani Foundation Inc., a private foundation that recognizes yearly the excellence of overseas Filipino workers around the world;

WHEREAS, some of his legacies are: Amosup's Seamen's Hospital; Seamen's Village in Dasmarinas, Cavite; Slop Chests for seafarers in Manila, Cebu, and Iloilo; and Sailor's Home in Manila. At the time of his death, Oca was actively pursuing efforts to combat piracy at sea, which has become a menace to global seafarers.

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, to express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of Captain Gregorio Oca;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family of Captain Gregorio Oca.

Adopted.

Senator