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SENATE

P.S. RES. NO. 927

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Pia S. Cayetano

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**A RESOLUTION**

**COMMEMORATING FORMER HEALTH SECRETARY ALBERTO 'QUASI' G. ROMUALDEZ FOR HIS LEGACY IN HEALTH REFORM AND INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEALTH SECTOR**

**WHEREAS**, on October 18, 2013, former Health Secretary Alberto G. Romualdez passed away at the age of 73;

**WHEREAS**, Secretary Romualdez offered meaningful years of public service dedicated to health, starting as Medical Adviser to the then Minister of Health from 1979-1982, and Director of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine from 1981-1984<sup>1</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, he was appointed as Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health in 1998, but he opted to work for the World Health Organization's (WHO) Western Pacific Region, holding position as Acting, then Regional Adviser in Development of Human Resources of Health, and Director of Health Services, Development, and Planning<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, he worked for the private sector and as a consultant of the WHO and Department of Health, until he was appointed Health Secretary during the Estrada administration;

**WHEREAS**, Secretary Romualdez was held in high esteem by his colleagues and contemporaries, and honored for his "deep sense of humanity, unparalleled passion for universal healthcare to address social iniquities, and tremendous social skills to work well in harmony with public and private health stakeholders to advance our health goals as a nation"<sup>3</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, Secretary Romualdez was described by former President Joseph Estrada as a "man of competence and unquestionable integrity"<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, he was a respected and active advocate for tobacco control campaigns, women's health, non-communicable diseases, and universal access to healthcare;

**WHEREAS**, Secretary Romualdez played a crucial and instrumental role in the passage of key health legislations, such as the Reproductive Health Law, Philhealth Law, Sin Tax Law, and the Cheaper Medicines Act;

**WHEREAS**, he served as a board member of advocacy groups such as women's group Likhaan, and the Culion Foundation Inc., and was an admired and respected leader in the health sector, even beyond his tenure as Health Secretary;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.healthjustice.ph/?action=viewArticle&articleId=879>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

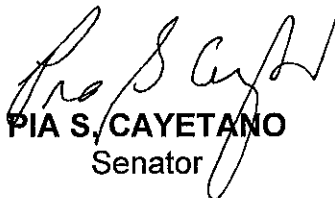
<sup>4</sup> <http://www.rappler.com/nation/41665-ex-health-secretary-romualdez-dies>

**WHEREAS**, his contributions and achievements in the public health sector continue to echo a year after his passing, and his outstanding public service lives on as his legacy to the nation;

**WHEREAS**, the life and work of Secretary Romualdez continue to inspire and affect the lives of Filipinos all over the nation, and deserve to be honored and remembered;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to commemorate former Health Secretary Alberto 'Quasi' G. Romualdez for his legacy in health reform and invaluable contributions to the health sector.

*Adopted.*

  
**PIA S. CAYETANO**  
Senator