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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

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**RESOLUTION  
COMMENDING THE WINNERS OF THE 2007 TEN OUTSTANDING WOMEN  
IN THE NATION'S SERVICE (TOWNS) FOR THEIR UNWAVERING  
DEVOTION AND LOVE OF COUNTRY**

**WHEREAS**, this year's Ten Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) awardees are four (4) scientists, three (3) educators, two (2) journalists and a business executive;

**WHEREAS**, the TOWNS awards are handed out only once every three years, hence, the competition is stiff. For this year, there were 71 nominees who were whittled down to 30, then 16, then 10. For 2007, bagging the award has been made more difficult by an innovation introduced by a new sponsor, Metrobank Foundation. The 16 finalists had to undergo rigorous interviews conducted by the judges led by Chief Justice Reynato Puno;

**WHEREAS**, The four scientists are: Ma. Corazon A. de Ungria, 39 (science); Alyssa M. Peleo-Alampay, 43 (science); Eva Maria C. Cutiongco-de la Paz, 45 (medicine); and Hilly Ann Maria Roa-Quiaoit, 38, (environmental conservation);

**WHEREAS**, the educators are Dina S. Ocampo, 42 (education); Catherine P. Vistro-Yu, 43 (education); and Glecya Cruz Atienza, 45 (arts and culture);

**WHEREAS**, the two journalists are Alexandra "Sandy" Prieto Romualdez, 40 (print journalism); and Maria A. Ressa, 44 (broadcast journalism);

**WHEREAS**, the lone awardee for business is Elizabeth H. Lee;

**WHEREAS**, Ungria is a biology honors graduate from Macquarie University of Australia (1993) and holds a doctorate in molecular microbiology from the University of New South Wales (1999). She has headed the University of the Philippines' DNA Analysis Lab since 1999. DNA analysis is a fairly recent science useful in pinning down suspects in rape, murder and other crimes, tracing wayward parents, and making a database of the genes of the Filipino race;

**WHEREAS**, Alampay gave up her green card to make a name in the Philippines as a geologist, earth scientist and professor of geological sciences at UP, where she finished geology in 1981 and earned her masters degree in geology in 1990. She has a Ph.D. in earth science at the University of California San Diego (1997). She has studied million-year-old fossils of elephants in Antipolo, microfossils at Scripps and global warming;

**WHEREAS**, De la Paz is a biology graduate and cum laude of University of the Philippines and a doctor from the same university. She is the assistant director of the UP Institute of Human Genetics and a professor at the College of Medicine. She is one of only five medical geneticists in the Philippines. Her Molecular Genetics Lab runs diagnosis of genetic conditions affecting humans, genetic disorders and breast cancer;

**WHEREAS**, Quiaoit finished marine biology, cum laude, at Ateneo de Cagayan, masters in marine science at University of the Philippines. Also, a doctorate degree holder in natural sciences, magna cum laude, at the University of Bremen, Germany. She is a director of McKeough Marine Center, Xavier University and Kinaadman Research Center, Xavier University where she is also an assistant professor in biology. Known as the “mother of giant clams,” she discovered a new specie of giant clams found only in the Red Sea;

**WHEREAS**, Ocampo is an expert on dyslexia and reading education. She has an elementary education degree and cum laude from the University of the Philippines, MA in reading education also in UP and a doctorate in psychology from the University of Surrey. Children and young adults benefit from her advocacy, especially for language and literacy competence;

**WHEREAS**, Yu is a mathematician, having finished math at Ateneo in 1984, masters in math education at the University of Georgia and doctorate in math education, also at Georgia. She is a math professor at Ateneo. Whereas, Aienza has a bachelor's degree, masters and a doctorate in literature, all from UP and theater is her passion;

**WHEREAS**, Romualdez is president and CEO of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, while Maria Ressa, the SVP for news and current affairs of ABS-CBN. Under Romualdez, PDI became a much-improved daily, a little less emotional, and focusing more on the good news and good deeds of people. While, Ressa brought to ABS-CBN a decade of international experience from CNN, and a global perspective to local news;

**WHEREAS**, finally, Beth Lee, magna cum laude from the California State University and a holder of masters degree also in CSU and Executive Vice President of Universal Motors Corporation. The Awards Committee says she restored the confidence of the auto industry, which resulted in new and additional investments because of her successful campaign against smuggled used vehicles. In effect, she helped save the local auto industry, a P98-billion business from collapse.” ;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, to commend the winners of the 2007 Ten Outstanding Women In The Nation's Service (TOWNS) for their unwavering devotion and love of country and service of the Filipino people.

Adopted.

  
**MANNY VILLAR**  
Senator