



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

23 MAY 15 P1:13

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

S. No. 2183

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

AN ACT
RENAMING THE AGHAM ROAD AND THE BIR ROAD STRETCHING FROM NORTH AVENUE, TRAVERSING THROUGH QUEZON AVENUE, UP TO EAST AVENUE, ALL LOCATED IN QUEZON CITY, AS SENATOR MIRIAM P. DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO AVENUE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to honor the legacy of Senator Miriam P. Defensor-Santiago, widely known as the "Iron Lady of Asia," by renaming the Agham Road and BIR Road located in Quezon City as Senator Miriam P. Defensor-Santiago Avenue.

Senator Defensor-Santiago was an esteemed and celebrated female icon of the modern era in the Philippines, whose exceptional achievements as a lawyer, public servant, and senator remain unparalleled. Senator Defensor-Santiago served in all three branches of government – judicial, executive, and legislative – leaving a profound impact on the country and the Filipino people she tirelessly served.

As a Regional Trial court judge, Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago exhibited her unwavering commitment to justice. Her strict adherence to the law, refusal to tolerate delays, and impartiality in decision-making earned her the moniker "Fighting Judge" and established her as an exemplar of justice, inspiring respect and admiration among her colleagues and the legal community.

In the executive department, Miriam Defensor Santiago served as Bureau of Immigration Commissioner and Secretary of Agrarian Reform, where she

demonstrated remarkable leadership and unwavering commitment to public service. At the Bureau of Immigration, she implemented reforms to address corruption within the agency, restoring public trust and upholding the integrity of immigration processes. As Secretary of Agrarian Reform, she passionately advocated for farmers' rights and pursued land distribution programs to empower them and promote social justice in the agricultural sector.

It was during her tenure as a member of the Philippine Senate that Senator Defensor-Santiago shone and made some of her greatest contributions to the Filipino people. Renowned as the senator with the highest number of bills filed, she authored significant laws that positively impacted the nation. Her legislative accomplishments include the landmark Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012, the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, the Magna Carta of Women, and the Archipelagic Baselines Act of 2009. These laws bear witness to her profound dedication to improving the lives of the Filipino people.

Senator Defensor-Santiago's exceptional contributions and unwavering commitment to public service were recognized through numerous prestigious awards, including the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award for Law, The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS) Award for Law, the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service, and the Most Outstanding Alumna in Law Award by the University of the Philippines. Moreover, in December 2018, she was posthumously honored with the prestigious Quezon Service Cross, the highest national honor bestowed by the Philippines, making her the first and only woman recipient of this esteemed accolade.Senator

Senator Defensor-Santiago also brought great pride to the Philippines as she became the first Asian from a developing nation and the first Filipino elected to the International Criminal Court by the United Nations. This remarkable achievement solidified her status as a trailblazer and showcased her exceptional legal expertise on the global stage.

Senator Defensor-Santiago's outstanding and selfless public service endeared her to the Filipino people. She holds a rockstar-like status among the youth, which makes her a favorite keynote speaker at many youth-oriented events.

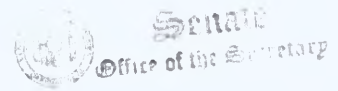
In honor of her remarkable efforts and enduring contributions to the Filipino people and the nation, it is only fitting that Agham Road and BIR Road be renamed as Senator Miriam P. Defensor-Santiago Avenue. By bestowing this honor upon her, we ensure that Senator Defensor-Santiago's invaluable contributions to our society will be remembered and celebrated by generations to come.

In view of the foregoing, I earnestly seek for the approval of this bill.



CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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

1 Section 1. The Agham Road and the BIR Road, stretching from North Avenue,
2 traversing through Quezon Avenue, up to East Avenue, all located in Quezon City,
3 are hereby renamed as Senator Miriam P. Defensor-Santiago Avenue.

4 Sec. 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways shall issue the
5 necessary rules, orders, and circulars to implement the provisions of this Act within
6 sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

7 Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
8 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,