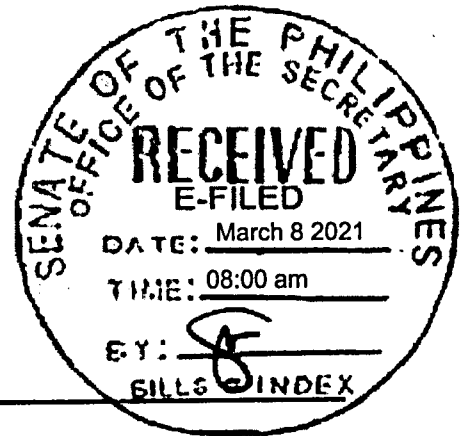


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

P. S. RES. NO. 674



Introduced by **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LATE FATHER JOAQUIN G. BERNAS, S. J., J. S. D., FOR HIS IMMEASURABLE AND INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND SOCIETY AND EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE UNTIMELY DEMISE OF THE BEST KNOWN AUTHORITY ON THE CONSTITUTION AND ONE OF THE FRAMERS OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, Father Joaquin G. Bernas, S. J., J. S. D, a Jesuit priest, a Doctor of Juridical Science, lawyer, professor, writer-columnist, and author, passed away on March 6, 2021 at the age of 88;

WHEREAS, after entering the Society of Jesus in 1950, he devoted his time and effort in advancing his knowledge and understanding of the law and other disciplines, obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Latin, and Greek Classics and Master of Arts degree in Philosophy from Berchmans College in 1956 and 1957, respectively, Bachelor of Laws degree from Ateneo de Manila Law School in 1962 and placed 9th in the bar examinations given that year, Licentiate of Sacred Theology from Woodstock College in 1966, and Master of Laws and Doctor of Juridical Science from New York University in 1965 and 1968, respectively;

WHEREAS, after he was ordained as priest in 1965, he began teaching at Ateneo de Manila Law School in 1966 and thereafter served in various capacities inside and outside of the university, namely: Dean of the Ateneo College of Arts and Sciences (1970-71), Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines (1976 to 1982), Dean of Ateneo Law School (1972 to 1976 and 2000 to 2004), Member of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution, 28th President of Ateneo de Manila University (1984 to 1993), Rector of the Jesuit Residence (1994 to 2000), Dean Emeritus of Ateneo School of Law upon his retirement in 2004, and Director of the Philippine Stock Exchange;

WHEREAS, a bar topper and a known constitutionalist, he authored and published several books and articles dealing with the Constitution, such as, "The Intent of the 1986 Constitution Writers (1995)", "The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of

the Philippines: A Commentary (1996)", "Constitutional Structure and Powers of Government: Notes and Cases (1997)", "Constitutional Rights and Social Demands: Notes and Cases (2004)", "A Living Constitution: The Ramos Presidency (1999)", "A Living Constitution: The Cory Aquino Presidency (2000)", "A Living Constitution: The Abbreviated Estrada Presidency (2003)", "A Living Constitution: The Troubled Arroyo Presidency (2007)", and "A Living Constitution: Constitutional Issues Arising During the Troubled Gloria Arroyo Presidency Part II (2010)";

WHEREAS, in some important cases of national significance and interests, his views and arguments as "amicus curiae" or otherwise were given utmost consideration by no less than the Supreme Court, such as, the "Asia-Pacific Conference on East Timor in the Philippines", the "Indigenous People's Rights Act of 1997", the "Impeachment case against Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr.", the "Oral Arguments in the FPJ citizenship case", and the "Oral Arguments in the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD)" and, in all these cases, he had consistently persuaded the Court, orally or in writing, with clear objectivity based on the fundamental principles of justice and humanity but humbly reminding his Colleagues and followers that "when it comes to the interpretation of the 1987 Constitution, the Supreme Court always has the final say";


WHEREAS, in his honor and for his invaluable contributions to the legal profession as a pillar of constitutional law, the Ateneo de Manila University Law School established the "Fr. Bernas Center for Continuing Legal Education & Research" to provide a venue for continuing legal education programs for the disciples of the law;

WHEREAS, the untimely death of a great Servant of the Church and the Law, who had always responded to the call of legal and moral duty to protect democracy and human rights unmindful of his own physical well-being and whose unblemished devotion and faith in God and the Rule of Law had helped rebuild the country through his teachings, writings, and leadership, is a great loss to the Filipino people and the nation as well, particularly in this time of crisis and upheaval: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES, To honor, as it hereby honors, the late Father Joaquin G. Bernas, S. J., J. S. D., for his immeasurable and invaluable contributions to the legal profession and society and To express, as it hereby expresses, its profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the untimely demise of the best known authority on the constitution and one of the framers of the 1987 Constitution.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the bereaved family of the late Father Joaquin G. Berna, S. J., J. S. D.

Adopted,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III