

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

2016

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_



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Introduced by Reps. NERI JAVIER COLMENARES and TEDDY A. CASIÑO

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RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF WILLIAM "BILLY" FUNA-AY CLAVER, HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, CHAMPION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS, FOUNDING CHAIR OF THE CORDILLERA PEOPLES ALLIANCE, AND HONORABLE MEMBER OF THE EIGHTH CONGRESS, REPRESENTING THE LONE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF KALINGA-APAYAO

WHEREAS, the Filipino people lost a pioneer human rights and peoples lawyer when William "Billy" Funa-ay Claver, passed away on December 15, 2011 at the age of 75;

WHEREAS, Claver was born in Mankayan, Benguet to Ludivico Ofo-ob Claver and Maria Funa-ay in Bantoc, Mountain Province on July 16, 1936. He married Jane Abeya of Sagada, Mt. Province. They have seven children: Ayangwa and Endenns (both deceased), Balag-ey, Cabnah, Dwahgan, Farnaw and Gkachay;

WHEREAS, Claver finished law at the San Beda College in 1960, and passed the bar in the same year. He started his public service career as town councilor of Mankayan, Benguet in 1962; and in 1987 to 1992, he served as lone district representative, after a short term as Officer-in-Charge of the province of Kalinga-Apayao;

WHEREAS, Atty. Claver lawyered for the Kalinga indigenous peoples in the celebrated case against the Chico River Dam Project in the 1970s. He also figured in many other human rights cases involving the peoples of the Cordillera and Northern Luzon in the dark years of the Marcos fascist dictatorship;


WHEREAS, he was a member of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) along with Senators Jose W. Diokno, and Lorenzo Tañada. But Claver was the only FLAG member in Northern Luzon in the most brutal period of the dictatorship. He dared to stand up for the rights of the Cordillera Peoples during Martial Law when most lawyers were intimidated by the military. He defended victims of human rights violations who were mostly poor farmers;

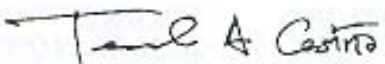
WHEREAS, as a congressman, Claver championed the rights of all indigenous peoples in the whole country. He chaired the House Committee on National Cultural Communities and sponsored and consistently lobbied for House Bill Nos. 428, 34913 and 24913, the forerunners of the present Republic Act No. 8371, also known as the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997;

WHEREAS, the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) of which he was founding chairperson, paid Claver an apt tribute as "one of the foremost trailblazers in the mainstream campaign for popular assertion of collective indigenous peoples rights in the Cordillera and in the mainstream campaign and assertion of individual human rights";

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives expresses its profound condolences of the on the demise of William "Billy" Funa-ay Claver, human rights lawyer, champion of indigenous peoples rights, founding chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, and Honorable Member of the Eighth Congress, representing the lone district of the province of Kalinga-Apayao.

*Adopted,*

  
REP. NERI JAVIER COLMENARES  
Bayan Muna Party-list

  
REP. TEDDY A. CASINO  
Bayan Muna Party-list