

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

Senate of the Philippines
Second Regular Session
May 16, 2012

S E N A T E
Senate Resolution No. 771

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

RESOLUTION

HONORING THE LATE NATIONAL ARTIST FOR MUSIC FELIPE PADILLA DE LEON WHO SERVED THE NATION WITH UTMOST DEDICATION, CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF NATIONALISM THRU THE CONSISTENT USE OF FOLK AND ETHNIC THEMES IN HIS MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS, THUS REFLECTING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE FOR A GENUINE NATIONAL IDENTITY

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides for the conservation, promotion, and popularization by the State of the nation's cultural heritage and artistic creations;

WHEREAS, then President Ferdinand Marcos, on April 27, 1972, thru Presidential Proclamation No. 1001, created the category of Award and Decoration of the National Artist to serve as national expression of gratitude and appreciation to Filipinos who have made distinct contributions to arts and letters;

WHEREAS, on October 9, 1997, thru Presidential Proclamation No. 1115 signed by President Fidel Ramos, Felipe Padilla de Leon, a renowned composer, conductor, and scholar, was named National Artist for Music for his preeminent achievements in enhancing the cultural heritage of the Filipino people thru the Filipinization of Western musical genres;

WHEREAS, President Benigno Aquino III, on November 28, 2011, issued Presidential Proclamation No. 283 declaring May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013 as the Centennial Year of National Artist for Music Felipe Padilla de Leon;

WHEREAS, Felipe Padilla de Leon, born on May 1, 1912 in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija to Juan de Leon and Natalia Padilla, obtained both his elementary and secondary education in his hometown at the Nueva Ecija High School. He also studied at the University of the Philippines College of Music in Manila and at the Juilliard School of Music at New York in the United States. Upon his return to the Philippines, he took the role of a scholar and became a professor at St. Scholastica's College, Centro Escolar University, Cosmopolitan College, and Laperal Music Academy. He was later appointed as School Director of the La

Union College of Manila before finally becoming Dean of Araneta University's Institute of Music;

WHEREAS, in 1957, he wrote the first full-length Filipino opera based on our national hero Dr. Jose P. Rizal's masterpiece—the social realism novel, *Noli Me Tangere*, of which its libretto was composed by another future National Artist for Sculptor Guillermo Tolentino. In 1970, the following novel *El Filibusterismo* was also adapted into an opera. Having been performed more than twenty five times both here and abroad, de Leon's *Noli Me Tangere* is still the most performed Filipino opera with two of its arias—“*Kay Tamis ng Buhay*” and “*Awit ni Sisa*” now part of the international operatic repertoire;

WHEREAS, by weaving ethnic and folk themes into his musical compositions-- from the “*Kay Selya*” which evokes the essence of a traditional *awit*, the “*Muntawit*” Song Sonnet for Voice and Orchestra that reminds of the country's indigenous forms of music like *kumintang*, *kundiman*, *tagulaylay*, or to the more popular “*Pasko Na Naman*,” and “*Noche Buena*,” which already acquired the status of folk songs, he successfully Filipinized western forms of musical genres and provided recognition to our cultural worth as a nation;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding his prodigious musical compositions expressing our “nation's ideals, historical struggles, and majestic destiny”, he continuously pushed for the improvement and protection of the welfare of his fellow band musicians and composers, being president of the the Pambansang Samahan ng mga Banda sa Pilipinas (PASAMBAP) from 1953 to 1982 and of the Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (FILSCAP), of which he served as its founding president from 1965 to 1985;

WHEREAS, during his lifetime he received various accolades which included among others-- the Republic Cultural Heritage Award, Doctor of Humanities honoris causa from the University of the Philippines, Presidential Award of Merit, Rizal Centennial Award, and Filipino Musician of the Year Award from the UP College of Music, culminating, finally in his being proclaimed posthumously as National Artist for Music in 1997;

WHEREAS, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts described his ability to express the momentous events and symbols found in the rich history of our nation and celebrate their deepest and most profound meaning thru music;

WHEREAS, since the early struggles for independence from the Commonwealth Period, the Japanese Occupation until the Post-war years, he remained a steadfast champion of the Filipino cultural identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Philippines, to honor the late National Artist for Music Felipe Padilla de Leon who served the nation with utmost dedication, championing the cause of nationalism thru the consistent use of folk and ethnic themes in his musical compositions, thus reflecting the aspirations of the Filipino people for a genuine national identity.

Adopted,



LOREN LEGARDA

Senator