Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 1695

Introduced by REP. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF
NATIONAL ARTIST OF THE PHILIPPINES,
ESABELIO NAPOLEON "BILLY" VELOSO ABUEVA

WHEREAS, Esabelio Napoleon Veloso-Abueva, nicknamed "Billy," was born
on January 26, 1930 in the City of Manila to Teodoro Lloren Abueva, a Bohol
congressman and Purificacion (Nena) Gonzalez Veloso, president of the Women’s
Auxiliary Service;

WHEREAS, as a young boy, "Billy" studied at the Taghilaran Elementary
School, and later at University of Southern Philippines, Holy Name College (now Holy
Name University), and Rafael Palma College (now the University of Bohol);

WHEREAS, a home-grown talent, "Billy" was given a break in 1951 when he
won the Pura Villanueva-Kalaw Scholarship which led him to a Bachelor's degree in
Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines, with Guillermo Tolentino as one of his
mentors and where he graduated in 1953. Thereafter, he furthered his studies abroad
under various scholarship grants including one from Harvard University. He also has
a Masters in Fine Arts at the Cranbrook Academy of Arts, United States of America;

WHEREAS, Abueva has helped shape the local sculpture scene in the
Philippines. Being adept in both academic representational style and modern abstract,
he has utilized almost all kinds of materials from hard wood (molave, acacia, langka
wood, ipil, kamagong, palm wood and bamboo) to adobe, metal, stainless steel,
cement, marble, bronze, iron, alabaster, coral and brass;

WHEREAS, at age 46, he was the youngest recipient of the National Artist of
the Philippines for Visual Arts award – a status given him by then President Ferdinand
Marcos in 1976;

WHEREAS, "Billy" Abueva is the Philippines' National Artist for Sculpture.
He was also entitled as the "Father of Modern Philippine Sculpture";

WHEREAS, his notable works include the Kaganapan, Kiss of Judas, Thirty
Pieces of Silver, The Transfiguration, a towering Christ figure at the Eternal Gardens
Memorial Park, the Sunburst at the Peninsula Manila Hotel, the bronze figure of
Teodoro M. Kalaw in front of National Library, and murals in marble at the National
Heroes Shrine, Mt. Samat, Bataan. His sculptures also abound within the University
of the Philippines – Dilliman Campus and include: the double crucifix inside the Parish
of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Gateway, "Siyam na Diwata ng Sining" (Nine Muses) and "Magdangal". He also sculpted the UP Oblation replica found in the UP – Los Banos Campus;

WHEREAS, one masterpiece he dedicates to the Boholanos is the Sandugo or Blood Compact shrine in Bool, Tagbilaran City, a landmark at the site of the first international treaty of friendship between Spaniards and Filipinos and is a tourist attraction in the province;

WHEREAS, Abueva performed the death mask procedure of the late Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino II, Fernando Poe Jr., and Cardinal Jaime L. Sin;

WHEREAS, he joined cultural missions and received awards both locally and internationally;

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2018, he succumbed to pneumonia. Esabelio Napoleon “Billy” V. Abueva was 88 and survived by his wife, Dra. Sergia “Cherry” Valles Abueva, and children, Amihan, Mulawin and Duero;

WHEREAS, his passing marks the loss of a great national artist, a hero, an inspiration to all generations;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing factual milieu, we the undersigned members of the House of Representatives hereby RESOLVE to express our deepest condolences on the demise of National Artist Esabelio Napoleon “Billy” V. Abueva;

RESOLVED further, that this resolution be furnished the family of Esabelio Napoleon “Billy” V. Abueva;

RESOLVED finally, this resolution be formed part of the official records of the House of Representatives.

19 February 2018, House of Representatives, Quezon City, Philippines.

Adopted,

RENE L. RELAMPAGOS