Resolved by Representatives Alan Peter "Compañero" S. Cayetano, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Bienvenido M. Abante Jr.

RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, Honorable Antonio "Tony" V. Cuenco passed away on June 27, 2020 at the age of 84;

WHEREAS, Honorable Tony Cuenco was the son of former governor of Cebu, Manuel Cuenco and Milagros Veloso Cuenco, and the grandson of former Senate President Mariano Jesus Cuenco;

WHEREAS, Honorable Tony Cuenco finished his elementary education from the University of San Jose-Recolletos in 1950; obtained his secondary education from the Ateneo de Cagayan in 1954; earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956 and Bachelor of Laws degree in 1960 from the Ateneo de Manila University;
WHEREAS, before his stint as a legislator, Honorable Tony Cuenco served as station manager and broadcast journalist of DYSS Super Radyo station, Cebu City from 1961 to 1964; President of the Bisaya Shipping Lines in Cebu City from 1970 to 1983; and a professor of law at the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu City;

WHEREAS, in 1965, at the age of 29, Honorable Tony Cuenco was one of the youngest representatives elected in the Sixth Congress representing the Fifth Legislative District of Cebu; he was a Member of the Regular Batasang Pambansa from 1984 to 1986; Representative of the Second Legislative District of Cebu from 1987 to 1998 and from 2001 to 2010; and in May 2019, he was elected as a councilor of the South District of Cebu City and served as the President Pro-Tempore of the Council until June 2020;

WHEREAS, Honorable Tony Cuenco was a consistent awardee as one of the Ten Outstanding Congressmen of the Year by the Congressional Press Club and one of the Ten Most Useful Congressmen by the Philippine Free Press for three consecutive years, 1967, 1968, and 1969;

WHEREAS, as the Speaker Pro-Tempore during the Eighth Congress (1987-1992), Honorable Tony Cuenco was recognized for his excellent stewardship of the House of Representatives that led to the smooth deliberation and early passage of urgent legislation that earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues, including those in the opposition;

WHEREAS, during his terms as a Member of the House of Representatives, Honorable Tony Cuenco also held different prominent positions: Chairperson of the House of Representatives panel of the bicameral committee that deliberated the Local Government Code of 1991; member of the Commission on Appointments from 1992 to 1994; Chairperson of the Committee on National Defense during the Ninth Congress; Chairperson of the Committee on Dangerous Drugs during the Twelfth Congress; and Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs during the Fourteenth Congress;

WHEREAS, as a seasoned legislator, Honorable Tony Cuenco spearheaded the passage of several significant measures which include, among others: Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the “Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002,” which he principally authored; Republic Act No. 9372, otherwise known as the “Human Security Act of 2007;” Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010;” Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the “Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998;” Republic Act No. 9522, entitled “An
Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Republic Act No. 3046, as Amended by Republic Act No. 5446 to Define the Archipelagic Baselines of the Philippines, and for Other Purposes;” Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991;” and Republic Act No. 6938, otherwise known as the “Cooperative Code of the Philippines;”

WHEREAS, in keeping his mandate as a lawmaker, Honorable Tony Cuenco also legislated measures for the implementation of social services programs for healthcare, livelihood, skills development, disaster response, and rehabilitation services in Cebu, which greatly benefited his underprivileged constituents;

WHEREAS, from 1988 to 1998, concurrent with his legislative work, Honorable Tony Cuenco was the permanent head of the Philippine delegation to the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization, now known as the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), and in 2010 during his last term as Representative of the Second Legislative District of Cebu he was appointed as the Secretary General of AIPA and served until 2013;

WHEREAS, Honorable Tony Cuenco was known for his deep baritone voice, well-combed black hair, great charm, and admirable eloquence; described as a voice of reason, decency, and courage that amplified the yearnings of those without the voice and the power to be heard; and regarded as a respectable dignitary whose tone was firm, but not brash, whose ruling was clear and concise; and even if he only spoke English and Cebuano in a sea of Tagalog speaking colleagues and employees in the House of Representatives, he was successful in perfectly sending his message across;

WHEREAS, Honorable Tony Cuenco was a supportive and loving husband to his wife, Nancy Roa-Cuenco, also a former Representative of the Second Legislative District of Cebu during the Eleventh Congress (1998-2001); and a caring father to his four children: James Anthony Cuenco, former Cebu City Councilor; Ronald Cuenco, former Cebu City Councilor; Antonio Cuenco Jr., and Cynthia Cuenco-Dizon;

WHEREAS, Honorable Tony Cuenco was a committed public servant, distinguished legislator, respected statesman, noted constitutionalist, compassionate mentor, and iconic political leader who dedicated his life serving the people;
WHEREAS, the demise of this veteran lawmaker, staunch freedom fighter, and fearless civil rights leader is a significant loss not only to his family, relatives, and friends but most especially to his fellow Cebuanos, his legacy of selfless dedication and enormous passion in serving the people will leave a landmark in legislation and leadership: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To express its profound condolences to the family of Honorable Antonio V. Cuenco, Councilor of Cebu City, former Representative of the Second Legislative District of Cebu during the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth Congresses, and former Secretary General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family.

Adopted,

ALAN PETER "COMPAÑERO" S. CAYETANO

BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE JR.  FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ