Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

Began and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand seventeen.

RESOLUTION NO. 116

RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF NATIONAL ARTIST OF THE PHILIPPINES, ESABELIO NAPOLEON “BILLY” VELOSITO 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 Tagbilaran Elementary School, and later at the University of Southern Philippines, Holy Name College (now the 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 degree 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 the age of forty-six (46), he was the youngest recipient of the National Artist of the Philippines for Visual Arts award – a status given to him by then President Ferdinand E. Marcos in 1976;

WHEREAS, Billy Abueva was 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 the National Library; and murals in marble at the National Heroes Shrine, Mt. Samat, Bataan. His sculptures also abound within the University of the Philippines – Diliman 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 Baños Campus;

WHEREAS, one masterpiece he dedicates to the Boholanos is the Sandugo or Blood Compact Shrine in Tagbilaran City, Bohol, 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" Veloso Abueva was eighty-eight (88) years old and survived by his wife, Dra. Sergyia "Cherry" Valles Abueva, and children, Amihan, Mulawin and Duero;

WHEREAS, his passing marks the loss of a great national artist, a hero, and an inspiration to all generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, To express its deepest condolences on the demise of National Artist Esabelio Napoleon "Billy" Veloso Abueva.

Resolved, further, That this Resolution be furnished the family of Esabelio Napoleon "Billy" Veloso Abueva.

Adopted,

PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Speaker

This Resolution, in consolidation with House Resolutions Numbered 1720 and 1723, was adopted by the House of Representatives on March 14, 2018.

CESAR CASTIA FABEJA
Secretary General
Name University), and Rafael Palma College (now the University of Bohol);

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CESAR STRATR BAREJA
Secretary General