

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 544**



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF JOHN  
LIM GOKONGWEI JR.**

**WHEREAS,** John Gokongwei Jr. was a Filipino billionaire businessman and philanthropist. He is the founder of JG Summit, which has interests in air transportation, telecommunications, banking, food, power, and property;

**WHEREAS,** he was a builder of a multinational consumer conglomerate across the Asia-Pacific region, a game changer in Philippine telecommunication and airline sectors, and a philanthropist who gave away half of his fortune to charity;

**WHEREAS,** Gokongwei also owns Universal Robina Corporation, the cornstarch plant he started in 1957 and one of the largest manufacturer of snacks in Southeast Asia;

**WHEREAS** he also controls Robinsons Land, one of the biggest property developers in the Philippines, which also operates a chain of malls;

**WHEREAS,** Gokongwei was born in China to John Gokongwei Sr. and Juanita Márquez Lim. His father was a scion of a wealthy Cebu-based family, with ancestral ties to China's Southern Fujian province. His great-grandfather a young peddler from China who was Hispanized as Pedro Singson Gotiaoco became one of the Philippines' most prominent Chinese Filipinos;

**WHEREAS,** Gokongwei obtained his basic education at the University of San Carlos for primary school and high school;

**WHEREAS,** he was only 13 when his father died and he had to work to help his family get out of debt. He started selling roasted

peanuts to his classmates in Cebu. He later sold soap, thread, and candles in the town market. With the profits he made there, he went back and forth to Manila to sell his products in a bigger market. He went into trading, and then manufacturing. Today, Gokongwei, Jr.'s conglomerate has diversified businesses around the world;

**WHEREAS**, he was married to Elizabeth Yu, and had six children - Lisa, Robina, Lance, Faith, Hope and Marcia. All his children play an active role in the Gokongwei Empire and companies owned by JG Summit Holdings;

**WHEREAS**, his only son, Lance Gokongwei, is now in charge of the Gokongwei Empire, serving as president and CEO while John serves as the Chairman Emeritus;

**WHEREAS**, John Gokongwei passed away at the age 93;

**NOW THEREFORE**, be it **RESOLVED** as it is **hereby RESOLVED** to express our profound condolences on the demise of John Lim Gokongwei Jr. to the bereaved family and loved ones;

**ADOPTED.**



**ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**