

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5476



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Introduced by

Hon. Roque R. Ablan, Jr. and Hon. Salacnib Baterina

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Edward A. Artis, with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant to such grant with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

Under Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, the Congress is empowered to grant, in accordance with law, Philippine citizenship to foreigners who have rendered outstanding service to the country and the people.

Edward A. Artis is one of three founding members of the Knightsbridge International, a California-based humanitarian relief organization that has provided millions of dollars worth of food, medicine and shelter to people in need in hard to get to and dangerous locations throughout the world. Recently the southern Philippines, more specifically in the village of Guinsaugon, Leyte where a whole community was buried in an enormous landslide, Knightsbridge International under the leadership of Edward A. Artis provided, in partnership with other NGOs, food, clothing, medical supplies, dug wells and water catchments systems for the survivors. For his selfless dedication and concern for the unfortunate victims of the Leyte disaster, no less than President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo cited him for "his solidarity with the Filipino nation, especially the people of Guinsaugon, in a time of great grief"; and "for his generous heart and selfless spirit – offered when we needed it most."

Aside from the humanitarian services rendered to the Guinsaugon victims, Edward A. Artis, through his Knightsbridge International organization has already been involved in civic action projects in various parts of the country for the last four years beginning in April 2002, namely:

"Participation in Balikatan 2002 resulting in provision of 2.28 million dollars worth of medicines and medical equipment donated in support of Medical Civic

Action Programs mounted in Zamboanga, Basilan and physical delivery of medicines and equipment to Sulu;”

“Provision of more than a quarter million dollars worth of medicines personally delivered by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to refugees in Tawi-Tawi from Zamboanga;”

“Active participation with valuable assistance in the rebuilding of the DSWD Orphanage in Talon-Talon, Zamboanga in partnership with other Philippine and U. S. NGOs;”

“Physical delivery and personal distribution of medical supplies and medical equipment personally solicited by Edward A. Artis from various organizations and agencies in the United States during the years 2003 and 2004 – such as, hospital beds, heart monitors, X-ray machines, dialysis machines, suction pump, incubators – all of which benefited various beneficiaries in Zamboanga City, Pagadian, Basilan, Jolo, Cotabato, Pikit, Davao, Digos, Cebu, Lanao del Norte, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Tawi-Tawi, Palawan, Olongapo, Subic and Angeles City, etc.,”

“Personal solicitation by Edward A. Artis of free medical treatment in the United States for a significant number of Filipino children, including helping in obtaining surgical intervention for the separation of the conjoined Aguirre Twins, among others, jointly with Philippine and U. S. NGOs;”

Provided medical equipment and medical supplies worth Four million pesos to the Philippine National Police General Hospital at Camp Crame;

True to his credo that life is most meaningfully lived when it is lived for others, Edward A. Artis made a commitment to continue providing coordination and logistical support, in active participation with both Philippine and U. S. NGOs, in humanitarian and human improvement programs in the Philippines as long as they are needed.

Thus, in recognition of the foregoing invaluable services rendered to the Philippines and its people, it is but fitting that Edward A. Artis be granted by the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines the honor of Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant to such grant and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

Approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.

  
ROQUE R. ABLAN, JR.

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AN ACT  
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO EDWARD A. ARTIS

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Edward A. Artis is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,