



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 908

Introduced by Honorable Erlinda M. Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill appropriately seeks to rename the Commonwealth Avenue/Don Mariano Marcos Avenue in Quezon City into “Eraño G. Manalo Avenue” in honor of a dynamic spiritual leader indisputably worthy of lasting recognition, if not adulation and reverence.

It is said that a tree is best measured when it is fallen. “Executive Minister Eraño Manalo nurtured the Christian church—Iglesia Ni Cristo—x x x and made it a vehicle for transforming both spiritually and materially the lives of tens of millions of the Filipino poor.”^[1] “He was a great Filipino who was a compassionate leader to his flock and who was a perfect example of a good person, a humane leader who took care of his followers and never tolerated corruption among his members who were in government.”^[2]

“Ka Erdy’s enthusiasm to help unify a nation matched his admirable personal decorum in respecting the principle of separation of church and state, and for that, and for everything he has done to the country’s spiritual development, he will be long remembered by a grateful nation.”^[3] Speaker Prospero C. Nograles described Ka Erdy as a “leader who lived for others and who truly lived a full life for God and country” and whose “greatness grew from his humility, love of God and selfless service to humanity.”^[4]

In a statement President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said, “this country and the world have lost yet another great leader in this generation, one who has touched the lives of multitudes by his life and his teaching.”^[5] “In almost eight years of personal contact with this great and respected leader of the nation and the INC, I have learned lessons in leadership, which I will continue to cherish. Our agreement to unite on issues concerning public trust which we always express jointly in public will remain.”^[6]

“The brave INC leader was a true servant of God and the respectable leader of one of the strongest Church in the Philippines with members in different countries. Ka Erdy is an inspiration not only to the INC members but also to many of our countrymen especially those of the poorest of the Filipino masses.”^[7] Sen. Loren Legarda for her part said: “Ka Erdy embodied the spirituality and religiosity of the Filipino people and particularly spread the concern of the Church to the poor.”^[8]

^[1] Rep. Jose De Venecia, et al., PDI, September 7, 2009.

^[2] Former Senator Ernesto M. Maceda, TDT, September 2, 2009.

^[3] Former President Joseph Estrada, MB, September 3, 2009.

^[4] TDT, September 2, 2009.

^[5] The Daily Tribune, September 2, 2009.

^[6] Malaya, September 2, 2009.

^[7] Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, Bulgar, September 4, 2009.

^[8] TDT, September 2, 2009.

In his lifetime and as Executive Minister of the Iglesia Ni Cristo, Ka Erdy caused the acquisition and/or construction of structures that became imposing landmarks of Quezon City, more particularly the stretch of Commonwealth/Don Mariano Marcos Avenue: the INC Central Office Complex, 1971; EVCO Building, 1978; New Era College, 1978; New Era Evangelical College, 1980; Central Temple and Museum, 1984; Tabernacle Multi-Purpose Hall, 1989; and the New Era General Hospital, 1993.

Upon Ka Erdy's passing and during his interment, Commonwealth/Don Mariano Marcos Avenue hosted the grieving multitude whose number and discipline is unequalled in contemporary time, holding the traffic to a virtual standstill, subdued and muted to the reality that a milestone was unfolding in its midst. Renaming this thoroughfare after him is a befitting legacy of this great and adored spiritual leader of our time.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ERLINDA M. SANTIAGO



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AN ACT
RENAMING THE COMMONWEALTH/DON MARIANO MARCOS AVENUE
IN QUEZON CITY METRO MANILA INTO ERAÑO G. MANALO AVENUE

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

Section 1. The Commonwealth/Don Mariano Marcos Avenue extending from the Elliptical Road, the Iglesia Ni Cristo Office Complex, and all the way to North Fairview in Quezon City, Metro Manila, is hereby renamed ERANO G. MAÑALO AVENUE [EGM Avenue for brevity].

Section 2. The Department of Public Works [DPWH] is hereby directed to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 3. All laws, decrees, proclamations and orders inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,