

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **3439**

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Rep. Neri Colmenares, GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. Luz Ilagan, ACT
Teachers Party-List Rep. Antonio Tinio, GABRIELA Women's Party Rep. Emmi de Jesus,
ANAKPAWIS Rep. Fernando Hicap, BAYAN MUNA Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate and
KABATAAN Rep. Terry Ridon

AN ACT
RENAMING COMMONWEALTH AVENUE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS DON
MARIANO MARCOS AVENUE) IN QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA
TO SENATOR LORENZO TAÑADA AVENUE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to rename Commonwealth Avenue (formerly known as Don Mariano Marcos Avenue) in Quezon City to Senator Lorenzo Tañada Avenue in honor of a Filipino unquestionably worthy of recognition and emulation because of his selfless contributions to the nation.

Lorenzo M. Tañada, parliamentarian, civil libertarian, lawyer, nationalist, is most deserving to have his name enshrined for posterity in the main avenue that leads to the Lower House of Congress.

His whole life is a compelling testament to that one cause he considered "worthy of all sacrifice – Philippine nationalism." He passionately advocated nationalism as "the most potent instrument in asserting the dignity of the people and the sovereignty of the nation." For him, no nation can survive or rise to greatness, let alone prosper or progress, without nationalist citizens and officials.

Scrupulously honest, he holds an unblemished record of 42 years in public office: Manila assistant fiscal from 1929 to 1935, Court of First Instance judge in 1945, Solicitor General and Chief Special Prosecutor of the Japanese collaborators from 1945 to 1947, and four-term Senator from 1947 to 1971 — the longest continuous record of any Filipino senator.

His magnanimous service to the nation continued into the bleak period of martial law. Although well into the age of retirement, he served as a lawyer for countless political prisoners from striking workers

and student activists to notable politicians like Ninoy Aquino, stoically enduring the indignity of being searched, fingerprinted and blindfolded during his visits to military prison camps.

A stroke in early 1983 did not stop him from marching in the forefront of the parliament of the streets that swelled in size and fervor following the Aquino assassination. Owing to his prestige and statesmanship, he played a key unifying role in the anti-dictatorship front that was to ultimately unseat the Marcos regime in February 1986.

In September 1991, already wheelchair-bound at age 94, he journeyed with thousands of other anti-bases activists to the Senate to witness the final vote ousting the U.S. military bases.

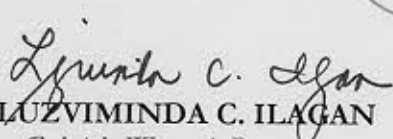
Lorenzo M. Tañada exemplifies how the politician could also be a statesman and the legislator also a nationalist for whom public trust does not mean private gain. Renaming the said avenue in his honor is as much a tribute to him as it is a reminder to us all what true public service means in principle and practice. It would also be an act of vindication for all those who laid down their lives in the dark years of martial law so that we may live in relatively larger freedom today.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Approved,



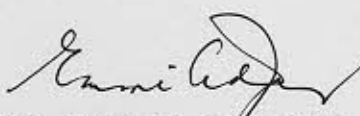
Rep. NERI J. COLMENARES
Bayan Muna Party-list



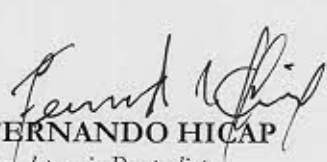
Rep. LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN
Gabriela Women's Party



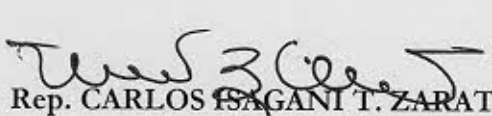
Rep. ANTONIO L. TINIO
ACT Teachers Party-list



Rep. EMMI A. DE JESUS
Gabriela Women's Party



Rep. FERNANDO HICAP
Anakpawis Party-list



Rep. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Party-list



Rep. TERRY RIDON
Kabataan Party-list

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

Section 1. The Commonwealth Avenue (formerly known as Don Mariano Marcos Avenue) extending from the Elliptical Road, Philcoa area and up to North Fairview in Quezon City, Metro Manila, is hereby renamed Senator Lorenzo Tañada Avenue.

Section 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways is hereby directed to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,