

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill no. **3784**



Introduced by Representative Roberto V. Puno

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In August 2013, Philippine basketball reclaimed its glory when the Gilas Pilipinas national team bagged the silver medal in the 27th FIBA Asia Championship. The impressive feat earned for our country a coveted slot in the upcoming FIBA Basketball World Cup to be held in Madrid, Spain from August 30 to September 14, 2014.

After a long medal drought, the national team was able to restore pride and honor to our country as a result of its efforts to adapt to the needs and demands of international competitions. Through the initiative of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP), the national team brought in a naturalized basketball player to boost its stock and global sports ranking. With this pivotal move and a series of other long-term measures initiated last year, the country's FIBA world ranking today has jumped 29 places from 63rd place in 2007, the year the SBP was formed, to 34th place today. The Philippines has already exceeded expectations given the fact that while it is ranked 34th, it was able to earn a coveted slot in the exclusive circle of 24 teams qualified to compete in the world's most prestigious basketball event.

This world-class performance of the Gilas Pilipinas team was made possible by the immense contributions of its first naturalized player—Marcus Douthit—who helped bring Philippine basketball to its strongest finish in 27 years in FIBA.

To further cement our place in basketball history and significantly strengthen our chances in the 2014 FIBA World Cup, the Philippine national team needs to naturalize another player in the person of Mr. Javale Lindy McGee. This is a strategic long-term measure designed to avoid jeopardizing the long-term goals of the Philippines' national basketball program.

This measure is a re-filed bill from the 15th Congress, when we had earlier sought the grant of Philippine citizenship for Mr. McGee. But owing to several financial concerns, such as issues involving Mr. McGee's insurance requirements, we deemed it wise to withdraw our measure at that time.

These financial concerns and other constraints have now been resolved to the advantage of the Philippine national team. Thus, we are now renewing our call for the grant of Philippine citizenship to Mr. McGee on the grounds that his exceptional talent and ability would make him an invaluable asset not only to our national team but to our country.

Javale McGee was born on January 19, 1988 in Flint, Michigan, USA. A basketball standout at the Hales Franciscan High School in Chicago, Javale McGee later on signed as the starting center for the University of Nevada during college. After only two years, Javale McGee was eventually selected by the Washington Wizards in the 1st round, 18th overall, of the 2008 NBA Draft. He played for the Washington Wizards from 2008 – 2012. On March 15, 2012 he was then traded to the Denver Nuggets, his current NBA team.

Javale Mcgee, who stands 7'1" tall, is a versatile player with tremendous mobility and athleticism. Mcgee has career averages of 7 points, 3 rebounds and .4 assists per game.

He was considered twice to play center for the United States Men's National basketball team and trained at the Team USA's summer training camp in preparation for the 2010 World Championship in Turkey. In 2011, he was chosen to participate at the NBA Slam dunk contest, the first player from the Washington Wizards in history to do so. Though he did not win, he was cited by the Guinness Book of World Records for achieving a world record in most basketballs dunked in one jump, having used three balls in a single dunk during the competition.

Given his remarkable track record in the United States' professional basketball scene, Javale Mcgee will no doubt be a great asset to our country if given a chance to play for the Philippine team. This bill is also in tune with the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas' continuing program of maximizing the eligibility of a naturalized player, Mcgee being only twenty six (26) years old.

Naturalized athletes have brought honor and pride to our country not only in the field of basketball. An example is swimmer Gillian Akiko Thomson, who brought home gold medals for the Philippines in the 14th and 15th Southeast Asian Games and represented the Philippines in three consecutive Summer Olympic Games. Christine Jacob-Sandejas is another naturalized Filipino who won several swimming golds in the Southeast Asian Games and represented the country in the 1984 Summer Olympics. Up to this day, they continue to live up to the honor of being Filipino citizens by turning out commendable performances in their current fields of interest.

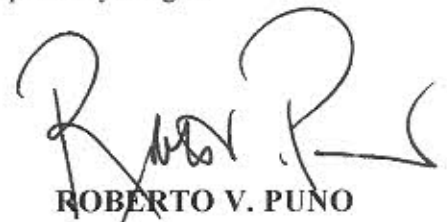
Allowing naturalized athletes to play for national teams has proven to be crucial and extremely beneficial to other countries. South Korea has naturalized the brothers Jaron and Greg Stevenson and Eric Sandrin so that they could play for the national basketball team. Qatar has naturalized Americans Jarvis Hayes, Trey Johnson and Boney Watson. Lebanon has naturalized Loren Woods, Joe Vogel and Jackson Vroman. Russia catapulted to first place in 2007 in the European basketball rankings due in large part to its move to bring in naturalized players Jon Robert Holden and Kelly McCarty.

Naturalization by legislation allows Congress to confer Philippine citizenship to whomever it believes deserves this honor by virtue of exceptional merit and ability. Congress can continue being an integral part of the Philippines' resounding success in world basketball by naturalizing another player that has proven his outstanding performance in the sport.

Mr. McGee's values, exceptional track record and the stringent ethical standards he practices in and out of the court prove that he would be a valuable asset to the Philippines just like its equally exemplary natural-born citizens. Mr. McGee truly deserves the honor of being called a Filipino.

On a final note, Mr. McGee's naturalization has now acquired a sense of urgency, considering that our national basketball team needs to submit its initial lineup to FIBA by May 30, 2014.

In consideration of all the above, the swift approval of this measure is respectfully sought.



ROBERTO V. PUNO

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3784

Introduced by Hon. Roberto V. Puno

**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JAVALE
LINDY MCGEE**

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

SECTION 1. Javale Lindy McGee is hereby granted Philippine citizenship
with all the rights and privileges and prerogatives appurtenant thereto.

Upon taking and registration of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the
Philippines, Javale Lindy McGee shall enter upon the full enjoyment of Philippine
citizenship

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,