

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5047**



Introduced by HON. NEPTALI M. GONZALES II

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The rich cultural heritage of our country made the Philippines a vigorous artistic community, especially in the art of painting.

Inspired by the likes of Juan Luna and Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, two Filipino painters recognized in Europe, it is submitted that Philippine citizenship be accorded to a foreign national artistic painter whose heart has always been that of a Filipino - Master Painter Juvenal Sanso.

Juvenal Sanso came to the Philippines in 1934 when his father, Jose Sanso-Pedret decided to settle in the Philippines. He was then four years of age. He received his first art lesson from Alejandro Celis, one of the first graduate of the U.P School of Fine Arts, who introduced the young Juvenal to a new artistic universe. He later enrolled at the U.P School of Fine Arts. His art professors were Fernando Amorsolo, Guillermo Tolentino, Dominador Castañeda, Torribio Herrera, and Ireneo Miranda. It was in U.P where Sanso found himself totally committed to art.

In March 1951, Sanso joined the annual exhibit of the Art Association of the Philippines. His entry, an oil painting entitled "the Sorcerer" won first prize and for the first time he was considered an artist. Later that year, he won first prize in water color for a work entitled "Incubus". His professor Antonio Garcia Llamas advised Sanso to go to Europe if he was serious about a career in art. Sanso departed for Europe in 1952 where he took formal art lessons in Rome and Paris.

Juvenal Sanso made a name for himself in different parts of the globe but the Philippines, his home country, always had a special place in his heart. His painting depicted themes and scenes of the Philippines such as his "Baclad", "Barong Tagalog" and "Bulaklak" series. He was cited "Artist of the Year" by the Cleveland Print Club. His work entitled "Moonglow" was chosen as "Print of the Year" by the Philadelphia

Print Club. Sanso exhibited his works in all capitals of the world. His paintings were acquired by major museum and private collectors world-wide. All the recognitions he received abroad always traced him back to the Philippines. Filipino artist and critics refer to Sanso as "Spanish by birth but Filipino at heart". The Philippines was and is always in Sanso's heart even when he lived abroad. He spent two to three months a year in Manila. In 2002, Sanso decided to retire and live permanently in the Philippines. He registered with the Philippine Retirement Authority.

Juvenal Sanso is now eighty four (84) years old. And part of his many continuing commitments to his beloved country, the Philippines, was to give scholarships to promising Filipino art students. Through his membership with the U.P College of Fine Arts Alumni Foundation he helped in making available valuable works of art to the public. He was a volunteer mentor to art students in the Shell National Artist competitions.

In view of the foregoing, this bill is respectfully submitted for approval.



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“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP
TO JUVENAL SANZO”

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

Section 1. Juvenal Sanso is hereby granted Philippine Citizenship with all the rights and privileges and prerogatives appurtenant thereto.

Sec. 2. After the taking and the registration of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines, Juvenal Sanso shall enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,