

6

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5383**



Introduced by Honorable Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez

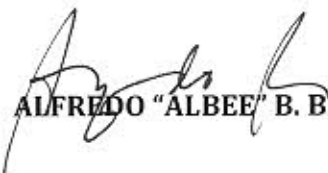
EXPLANATORY NOTE

On January 25, 2015, 44 members of the elite Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) were killed in action in Mamasapano, Maguindanao during a bloody operation to capture high profile terrorists – Zulkifli bin Hir (Marwan) and Abdul Basit Usman.

The entire nation is outraged and is grieving for the huge loss of lives among the Special Action Force in the Mamasapano operation. President Benigno S. Aquino III has declared a National Day of Mourning on January 30, 2015 for the fallen SAF members or the "Fearless 44". However, the uncommon brand of gallantry and love of country these policemen heroes demonstrated in Mamasapano should be imprinted in the minds of Filipinos not only today but also in the future. In addition, the country should also show gratitude not only to the "Fearless 44" but also to other members of the police force who have given their lives protecting their fellow Filipinos and keeping the peace and order that ordinary citizens enjoy.

This bill seeks to declare January 25 of every year as a National Day of Remembrance for the members of the police force who made the supreme sacrifice in order to fulfill their duty, "To Serve and Protect". The National Day of Remembrance shall ensure that the nation continues to honor the lives and heroism of the members of the police force who were killed in action and pay respect and gratitude to the entire police force whose lives are at risk as they perform their jobs.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.


ALFREDO "ALBEE" B. BENITEZ

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**AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 25 AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL
MEMBERS OF POLICE FORCE WHO HAVE DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY**

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

SECTION 1. January 25 of every year is hereby declared as a National Day of Remembrance for all the fallen members of the police force who have died while fulfilling their duty to keep peace and order in the country.

SEC. 2. The National Day of Remembrance shall thereon be observed as a working holiday to allow the country to commemorate the heroism shown by the fallen members of the police force.

SEC. 3. All public institutions and military installations are mandated to lower the Philippine flags to half-mast every National Day of Remembrance.

Approved,