

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5835

Introduced by Deputy Speaker Henedina R. Abad, Reps. Ma. Lourdes Acosta - Alba,
Elisa "Olga" T. Kho, Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo, and Pablo R. Nava III

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AND LOCAL
VOLUNTEER AWARDS PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9418 OR "THE VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The recognition of volunteer work and service is one of the modalities to appreciate and nurture the continued involvement of concerned and selfless persons and inform the public of their contributions to the country's development. For volunteers, the honor and pride they feel when their small but significant acts of humanitarian and development endeavors are publicly appreciated cannot be measured by any form of material reward.

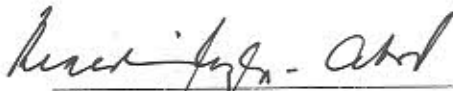
Thus, Republic Act No. 9418 or the "Volunteer Act of 2007" provides, among others, recognition and incentives to volunteers as well as the setting up of institutional mechanisms for research, documentation, recognition and modeling of best global volunteer practices. The Philippine National Volunteer Service and Coordinating Agency has been implementing the Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) since 2001, to acknowledge volunteerism as an important component of implementing development programs, projects and humanitarian endeavors.

With the increasing participation of both the public and private sectors in volunteer work, it is imperative to capture and document the experiences and best practices to cover as many sectors, geographic areas, and fields of

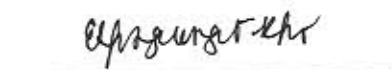


volunteer engagements. In this regard, there is a need for a sound legal framework to institutionalize an award program that will strengthen the existing SOV.

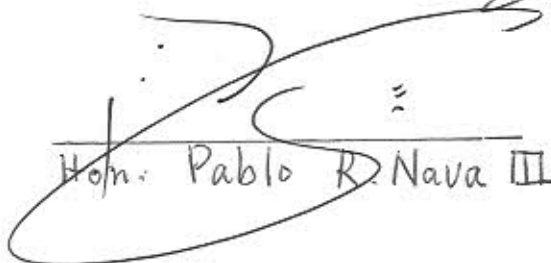
This bill proposes to provide for an Institutionalized Philippine National Volunteer Award Program (PNVAP) at the national and local levels to honor volunteer individuals and organizations for their exemplary dedication to serving and helping people and communities and for their outstanding contributions to the nation's overall progress.


Hon. Henedina R. Abad


Hon. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba


Hon. Elisa "Olga" Kho


Hon. Winston "Winnie" T. Castelo


Hon. Pablo R. Nava III

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AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AND LOCAL VOLUNTEER AWARD PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT 9418 OR "THE VOLUNTEER ACT OF 2007"

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

SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act 9418 is hereby amended to include the following which will be read as follows:

x x x

x x x

x x x

SEC. 12. *Special Provisions.*

a)

x x x

x x x

x x x

f). Institutionalization of the Philippine National Volunteer Award Program (PNVAP) comprising of a National Volunteer Award and Local Volunteer Award. –

- (i) The National Outstanding Volunteer Award (NOVA) shall be conferred by the President of the Philippines to recognize the exemplary contributions, dedication to service and achievements of individuals and organizations in uplifting the lives of peoples and communities through volunteerism.

The conferment shall be in accordance with such ceremonies as may be prescribed by the rules and regulations to be promulgated hereinafter. The Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) shall implement the PNVAP.

The funds necessary for the implementation of the NOVA program shall be initially sourced from the President's Social Fund (PSF) and thereafter, included in the budget of the PNVSCA under the General Appropriations Act.

- (ii) The Local Outstanding Volunteer Award (LOVA) shall also be established in recognition of the significant contributions of volunteer individuals and groups in the development of their respective communities.

The LOVA program shall be implemented by the Local Government Unit (LGU) and the award shall be conferred by the respective Local Chief Executive.

The funds necessary for the implementation of the local award shall be sourced from the budget of the concerned LGU.

x x x

x x x

x x x

SEC. 16. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,