

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
6679
House Bill No. _____



Introduced by Honorable REYNALDO V. UMALI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to HANS GUENTER SCHOOF, a 69-year old German citizen and businessman.

Hans Guenter Schoof was born in July 31st 1947 in Wiesbaden, Germany. In 1986 he came to the Philippines, married a Filipina and adopted his wife's two Filipino children. Hans was granted a Special Retiree's Visa in 1991 that he holds until today. Hans and family established their home in Ayala Alabang, first at Biata Street, and then 516 Country Club Drive.

Hans Schoof founded the Old Heidelberg Restaurant in 1987 that he operated until November 1995 at Soldado Street Ermita and Nakpil Street corner Bocobo Street in Malate. It was a popular destination and melting pot of the Filipino and foreign communities. Hans, a lover of Rizal history, wished to recreate the experience of when our National Hero stayed in Heidelberg, where we wrote parts of Noli.

In 1987 he was invited by to join The Order of the Knights of Rizal, the first Filipino socio-civic organization converted into a public corporation by Republic Act No.646, and was knighted by Associate Supreme Court Justice Conrado Vasquez.

His deep interest in Rizal and work with the Knights caused him to rise to the rank of Exchequer, then Supreme Councilor, and finally Deputy Supreme Commander - the highest post held by a foreigner. As part of the Supreme Council he was instrumental in the formation of international chapters while being based in the Philippines. For his contributions to Rizal's memory, rare pieces of Rizal memorabilia and Philippine history have been donated to him. In the early 90s, Hans financed the renovation of Rizal Park in Luneta, with President Ramos being present during the celebration.

In 1995 Hans Schoof and family established a home in Upper Laya, Baclayon Bohol, where he currently resides since establishing The Peacock Garden Resort, independently owned and operated by Quelle Resorts and Hospitality of which he is chairman. The Peacock Garden Resort and Spa is TripAdvisor's Top 4 Hotel in the Philippines for 2016 and 2017 and has been a Traveller's Choice award winner since 2012 onwards. Of the hundreds of staff employed at The Peacock Garden, all but one are Filipino, reinforcing Hans' pride in Filipino service and his commitment to supporting constant employment in Bohol, which he has long called his home. The establishment remains the largest private employer in Baclayon.

Hans has contributed extensively to the community: he is an active, well-known philanthropist and patron of the Arts and Rizal history. He was appointed consultant for tourism by then Bohol Governor Erico Aumentado from 2001 to 2010, and also asked by the governor to head the "Prime Movers", a multi-stakeholder organization devising strategies and solutions for Bohol's challenges.

In 2007, resolution 2007-171 of Sangguniang Bayan of Baclayon, Bohol recognized Hans Schoof as an adopted son of Baclayon as *the highest taxpayer* and for his *philanthropic deeds*. In 2009 Hans was given the distinguished award of merit *for his rare achievement and contributions in the field of business and tourism and for breaking cultural barriers by embracing a country and people as if his very own* by the City of Tagbilaran and was declared an adopted son of Tagbilaran in 2011.

Hans has donated continuously to schools and educational programs, health and medical services, and various LGUs. He contributed financially to Bikes of The Philippines foundation - of which his son Chris is on the board - the only Bike organization that operates in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, currently a partner of the Department of Education's pedals and paddles project - which provides bicycles to children with a monthly income of below P5000 for a family of six who have to travel at least eight KM everyday to school and back.

He has contributed to Bohol Local Development Foundation (BLDF), founded by another Baclayon resident, Dr. Nestor Pestelos. BLDF is committed to enhancing the social assets of Bohol through education and livelihood programs.

Hans is a co-publisher of the only German translation to Rizal's El Filibusterismo, and has financed Rizal statues in Peru and the Bohol provincial capitol.

Since his arrival in 1987 Mr. Schoof has rarely left the Philippines knowing since then that it is where he wished to live the rest of his life. Mr. Hans Guenter Schoof has indicated true and sincere intention to stay for good in the Philippines and to continue serving its interests.

In view of thereof, early consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reynaldo V. Umali', written in a cursive style.

REYNALDO V. UMALI

Representative

Second District, Province of Oriental Mindoro

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**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINES CITIZENSHIP TO HANS GUENTER
SCHOOF**

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

Section 1. Mr. Hans Gunter Schoof is hereby granted Philippines citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

Section 2. After the taking by Mr. Hans Gunter Schoof of his Oath of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized for this purpose, and the registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration, Mr. Hans Gunter Schoof shall enter upon the full enjoyment of his Philippine citizenship.

Section 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall forthwith issue Mr. Hans Gunter Schoof's Certificate of Naturalization.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,