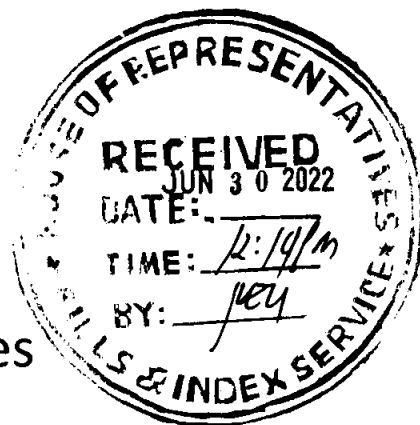




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **39**

Introduced by **HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO**

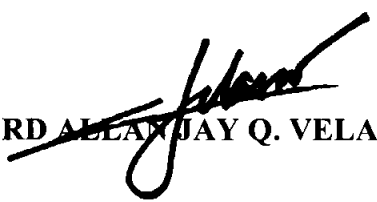
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is well-known as one of only two Christian countries in Asia. Its history dates to 1521 when Ferdinand Magellan reached Philippine shores. It was then that the conversion of the indigenous people to Christianity began.

Since then, not only have we been known for being a Christian-denominated country, but we have also been known for our grand celebration of Christian occasions. The observance of the Holy Week is one of the most significant Catholic occasions observed in the country. In the Province of Marinduque, the people have held the Moriones Festival since 1807. It was initiated by the Parish Priest of Mogpog, Marinduque, Father Dionisio Santiago. Presently, it is celebrated every Holy Week with the people wearing colorful costumes and masks similar to that of Roman soldiers. The people of Marinduque celebrate the Moriones Festival as a way of atonement for their sins. The ceremony is a re-enactment of the biblical story of Saint Longinus who was a Roman soldier who had one blind eye. It is known that Saint Longinus struck Jesus on his side with his spear. The blood of Jesus spurted onto the blind eye of Saint Longinus curing him of his blindness.

Given that it originated in the Province of Marinduque, and their annual celebration of it, the Moriones Festival has become a part of the identity of the people of Marinduque. Accordingly, it is proper to declare the Province of Marinduque as the home of the Moriones Festival. This would bring great pride to the people of Marinduque.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO



Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE AS THE HOME OF
THE MORIONES FESTIVAL**

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

SECTION 1. It is the policy of the State to preserve and promote historical and cultural artifacts.

The Province of Marinduque is hereby declared as the Home of the Moriones Festival which is celebrated every Holy Week. It started in Mogpog, Marinduque in 1807 as initiated by its then Parish Priest, Father Dionisio Santiago. The tradition of celebrating the Moriones Festival is centered on the story of Saint Longinus, a Roman centurion who has one blind eye, but was miraculously cured when he pierced the side of the crucified Jesus Christ and our Savior's blood restored Saint Longinus' sight. The Moriones Festival is a re-enactment of the biblical story of Saint Longinus. During the week-long celebration of the Moriones Festival, the people of Marinduque wear colorful masks and costumes similar to the Roman soldiers.

Sec. 2. The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall feature the Moriones Festival in its overall tourism promotion program.

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,