

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8195



Introduced by **HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Corella is a municipality in the Province of Bohol with a population of 9,479 people, according to the 2020 census, and located 10 km (6.2 mi) northeast of Tagbilaran. It was formerly known as Nug-as and considered a barrio in Baclayon. The adoption of the name Corella was at the behest of Rev. Fr Jose Maria Cabañas, then the parish priest of Baclayon and endorsed by Fr Felix Guillen de San Jose - the first Parish Priest of Corella who started the construction of the stone church and its convent. Corella was a name of a village in Navarra, Spain where this town's patroness, Nuestra Señora del Villar, showered miracles.

According to historical accounts, the beginning of the devotion to Nuestra Señora de Villar began in Corella, Navarra, Spain by the 16th century. Legend has it that a town located precisely on the ground occupied by the Hermitage, and of some neighboring shepherds of the place, who one day of astonishment when they discovered an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary on a rose born of miracle in the mountains of Argenzón. There was no town in existence at that time, but there was a farmhouse, whose name etymologically links with the Roman hamlets or “villas”, which were so abundant in the Corellana region, and there the first Hermitage dedicated to the Virgin.

The devotion to the Virgen del Villar took root on July 1549 when Pope Paul I, acceding to the neighborhood’s request, granted the City Council the patronage of the Hermitage to Nuestra Señora de Villar. Over the years, popular devotion to its patroness has continually increased, and in the eighteenth century, the Feast of the Virgin is celebrated every Third Sunday of Easter.

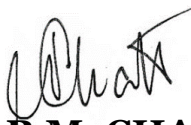
In Bohol, the devotion to Nuestra Señora de Villar in Corella began with the establishment of the town which was carved out from Baclayon in 1879. In 1884, Rev. Fr. Jose Cabanas introduced the devotion to Nuestra Senora del Villar and established a church in her honor. It is not certain when the image of the Virgin arrived in Bohol, yet, it is noted that when the image arrived, it was received with colorful ceremonies in the towns of Baclayon and Corella. Further, the establishment of the parish dedicated to Nuestra Señora de Villar in Bohol makes the church the only one dedicated to the Virgin under this title in the country.

The devotion to the Virgin is intertwined to the history of the municipality of Corella for not only it was named after the place where the devotion to the Virgin flourished in Spain, but also became it’s silent witness of Corella’s history, growth and development. The

Feast of the Virgin is celebrated every April 27 with much solemnity and devotional fervor of the people of Corella.

As a fitting tribute to the Mother of Corella, this proposed measure seeks to declare April 27 of every year as a nonworking holiday in the municipality of Corella to be known as “Corella Day” to give way to all the socio-cultural events to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Village.

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



EDGAR M. CHATTO

References:

- “Ayuntamiento de Corella”, Retrieved on May 10, 2021.
- “Novena sa Mahal nga Birhen sa Villar” Our Lady of Villar Parish, Corella, Bohol, 1962.
- “Ntra. Sra. del Villar Patrona de la Ciudad de Corella (Navarra)”, Retrieved from https://mercaba.org/MARIANA/Navarra/villar_corella.htm on May 10, 2021.
- <https://corellabibleapostolateblog.wordpress.com/2016/05/11/brief-history-of-our-lady-of-the-village/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corella,_Bohol#:~:text=Corella%20was%20a%20name%20of,Se%C3%B1ora%20del%20Villar%2C%20showered%20miracles.
- <https://pintakasiph.wordpress.com/2021/05/28/nuestra-senora-de-villar-de-corella-the-mother-of-corella-bohol/>

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AN ACT
DECLARING APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORELLA, PROVINCE OF BOHOL,
TO BE KNOWN AS “CORELLA DAY”.

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

Section 1. April 27 of every year is hereby declared a special nonworking holiday in the Province of Bohol to be known as “Corella Day”.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.