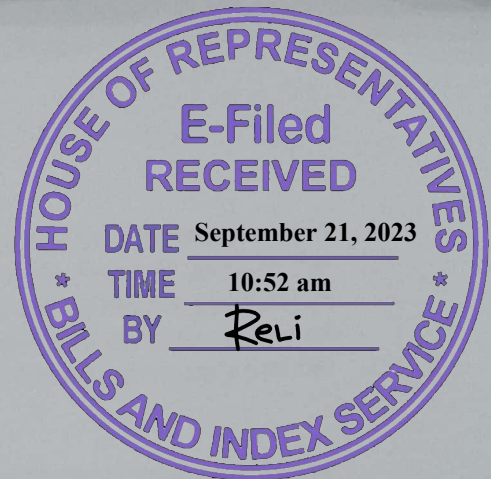


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **9279**

INTRODUCED BY REP. STEVE CHIONGBIAN SOLON & REP. PETER B. MIGUEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fr. Stephen Decatur Haines was born in 1942 in Philadelphia, USA. He studied Politics, Philosophy and English Literature from the German perspective at the University of Freiburg in Germany in 1963 where he obtained a degree of Master of Arts. In 1968, he studied at the University of Cambridge in England where he obtained a degree of Master of Theology.

In 1971, Fr. Haines was ordained into the Anglican priesthood. After serving as a full-time priest for 7 years, he was given permission to work in the secular world of banking while continuing to function as a priest. In the secular world, Haines worked for various financial institutions like the Chase Manhattan Bank. He specialized in mergers, acquisitions, and securitizations in the insurance industry.

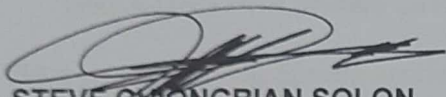
Fr. Haines served as a councilman – an elected position – in the City of London Corporation for 17 years. In said capacity, he had the occasion to chair the Establishment Committee which had about 4,000 personnel as well as the prestigious City of London School, a school for boys, that is owned by the Council.

Fr. Haines had been to the Philippines on a regular basis since 2007 where he integrated in his community in Barangay Namnama, Koronadal City. His good impression of the Philippines was influenced by his father who had fond memories of the country. His father, who was then a lieutenant in the US Army, was part of the US contingent that liberated the country during the Second World War.

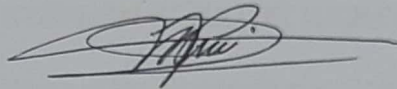
Fr. Haines joined the Roman Catholic Church in 2010 and was ordained in 2013 by the Archdiocese of Southwark, London. He served as priest for 10 years at the St. George's Cathedral. It was about this time that he engaged in occasional ministerial visits and worked under the Catholic Diocese of Marbel in South Cotabato. He mentored seminarians, led them in reflections, and is a benefactor of one of them. He held mass at the Christ the King Cathedral in Koronadal City. He also helped people in need in his community such as in extending medical assistance and in construction of houses.

Fr. Haines is under the spiritual direction of the Archdiocese of Southwark where he was incardinated. Having signified his intention to permanently live and work in the Philippines in the service of the church and the community, he was given full permission by the Archbishop of Southwark on his 80th birthday to embrace the dynamic reality of Christian life to continue to manifest the love of God to the faith-based community that he found himself in the country.

The ministerial work of Fr. Haines in the country is an immense contribution to the molding of the moral fiber of the nation. His application for citizenship is endorsed by the former Philippine Ambassador to the UK, the Honorable Antonio M. Lagdameo. Thus, immediate approval of this measure granting him Philippine citizenship is earnestly sought.



STEVE CHIONGBIAN SOLON
Representative
Lone District of Sarangani Province



PETER B. MIGUEL
Representative
2nd District, South Cotabato

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HOUSE BILL NO. **9279**

Introduced by: HON. STEVE CHIONGBIAN SOLON & HON. PETER B. MIGUEL

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO FR. STEPHEN DECATUR HAINES

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

Section 1. Fr. Stephen Decatur Haines is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant there to under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

Section 2. After the taking by Fr. Stephen Decatur Haines of his Oath of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized for this purpose, and the registration of the same with the Bureau of Immigration, Fr. Stephen Decatur Haines 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 Fr. Stephen Decatur Haines's Certificate of Naturalization.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,