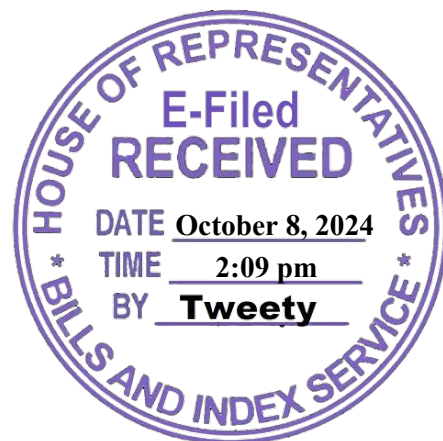


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10984

Introduced by **HON. FLORIDA P. ROBES**

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ETHAN KWON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The desire of Mr. Ethan Kwon to be a Filipino cannot be separated from the history of his family in the Philippines. Mr. Ethan Soonbum Kwon is a Korean born, United States national, born on May 13, 1975 in Korea. His family established a business in the Philippines in 1985 and relocated permanently in 1989, when his father secured a Special Investor's Resident Visa. In fact, he studied in Manila from middle school until he finished his secondary education. He then moved to the United States of America to finish his Bachelor's Degree. Despite this, he frequents the Philippines during breaks as his family stayed in the country.

His father, Dr. Hyukwon "Nick" Kwon, is one of the founding members of Enderun College and his mother, Aedoh "Rosa" Kwon currently manages the philanthropic activities of the couple. Even after the passing of Dr. Nick Kwon in 2018, the "Nick & Rosa Kwon Scholarship Grant", which started in 2005, still continues.

They also started to introduce and expand the New Village Movement in the Philippines. Also known as the Saemaul Undong, the movement was a community-driven development program for long-term economic development. When Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) ravaged several provinces, caused a great extent of damage and reported unprecedented casualties, Mr. Ethan Kwon, as then the Student President of Park Chung Hee School of Policy and Saemaul at Yeungnam University, raised almost 1 million pesos from his fellow students, faculty and staff to support disaster aid and relief.

For his graduate school thesis, Mr. Kwon focused on studying deep-well construction projects in the City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, and through this project, he also helped provide additional accessible, safe water source for underserved communities. Remarkably, this has been endorsed by the Education Department of the Republic of Korea. He is also a staunch advocate of the positive online behavior through the Sunfull Internet Peace Movement which aims to combat cyberbullying and foster a respectful digital environment. Mr. Kwon is also a member various business ventures which provided job opportunities and technological advancements for Filipinos.

Mr. Kwon and his family's philanthropy and professional contribution to the country did not end there. Similar to how Filipinos consider the family as the foundation of their social

life, with his father's death six (6) years ago, Mr. Ethan Kwon felt the need to reconnect with the place he considers his home, the Philippines.

With his family's extensive relation to the country and Filipinos alike, he would like to continue their family's legacy, pledging fully, his allegiance to the Philippines.

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


FLORIDA P. ROBES

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

SECTION 1. Mr. Ethan Kwon is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. Mr. Ethan Kwon shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SEC. 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Mr. Ethan Kwon who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,