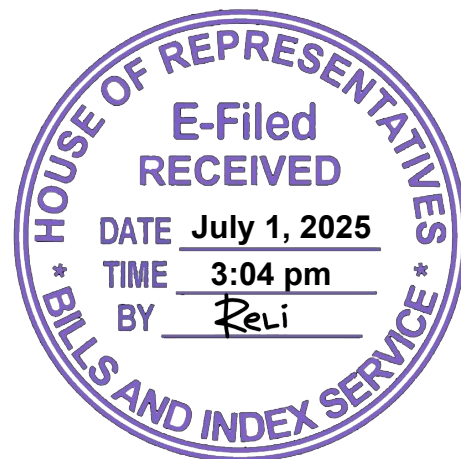


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 924



Introduced by **Hon. Bernadette S. Barbers**

**AN ACT ALLOWING THE INTERMENT OF FILIPINO SPORT HEROES AT THE
LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is a refiled version of a measure that was extensively deliberated and approved on third reading during the previous Congress.

“Sports stars become heroes when they are admired for their athletic accomplishments. As a society, we yearn to feel a connection to them, bask in their success, and pattern our lives after them.”¹

Filipino sports icons have this amazing, unique way of making a positive impact in our society. They are our source of inspiration and strength in direst situations and served as good role models, especially to the youth.

With their incredible achievements that brought honor to our country, they deserve a spot at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.

As such, this bill seeks to allow the interment of our sport heroes at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani* in recognition of their enormous work, dedication and sacrifices they have endured to bring pride and honor to our country.

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


HON. BERNADETTE S. BARBERS
2nd District, Surigao del Norte

¹ Joseph Hastings, “The Impact of Sports Heroes’ Rise and Fall on Today’s Society”, December 13, 2022, accessed at <http://pitt-narr-and-tech.blogspot.com/2013/12/the-impact-of-sports-heroes-rise-and.html>

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Commemoration of
Filipino Sports Heroes Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
to honor and perpetuate the memory of the Filipino sports heroes who have led lives
worthy of inspiration and emulation of this generation and of generations still to come.

In recognition of their dedication and sacrifices for the country, the State shall
allow deceased sports heroes who during their time brought honor and glory to the
country be laid to rest at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.

SEC. 3. *Sports Heroes.* – Sports heroes as used in this Act shall refer to
Filipino national athletes, amateur or professional, including athletes with disabilities,
who have distinguished themselves in their particular field of sports, possessed good
moral character and integrity, represented and brought honor and glory to the country
by winning any medal in the Olympics or Paralympic Games or a World Championship
in any professional sports competition sanctioned by any of the international governing
bodies of various sports, and recognized as such by the Philippine Sports Commission
(PSC) and Games and Amusements Board (GAB). They also refer to any Filipino
athlete, coach, or trainer who were inducted into the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame
pursuant to Republic Act No. 8757, entitled: “*An Act Establishing the Philippine Sports
Hall of Fame and Appropriating Funds Therefor*”.

Sports heroes must be citizens of the Philippines either from birth without
having to perform any act to acquire or perfect their Philippine citizenship, or those
who are former Filipino citizens by birth who are naturalized in another country but re-
acquired Philippine citizenship making them dual citizens of both the Philippines and
the country where they were naturalized pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act No.
9225, otherwise known as the “Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003”.

SEC. 4. *Interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.* – Filipino sports heroes
as defined in Section 3 hereof shall, upon the recommendation of the screening

committee established under Section 5 of this Act, be eligible for interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

SEC. 5. Screening Committee. – A screening committee shall be established by the PSC to determine and recommend qualified Filipino sports heroes which shall be comprised of the following:

- a) Chairperson:
Chairperson of the PSC;
- b) Vice Chairperson:
Chairperson of the GAB;
- c) Members:
 - i) President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC);
 - ii) President of the Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC);
 - iii) Chairperson of the Philippine Olympians Association (POA);
 - iv) Head of the Grave Service Unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP); and
 - v) Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Sports and the House of Representatives Committee on Youth and Sports Development.

The screening committee, upon determination of the eligibility of the deceased sports hero, shall issue a certificate of eligibility for interment at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.

SEC. 6. Interment Service. – Upon issuance of a certificate of eligibility for interment, the PSC or the GAB, as the case may be, shall coordinate with the AFP to issue the interment directive and make the necessary arrangement for the interment services.

Such interment privilege, however, may be waived by the family of the deceased sports hero or by the sports hero upon written notice to the PSC, GAB or the AFP.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The PSC shall, in coordination with the POC, PPC, GAB, POA, and AFP, promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,