

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2953



INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The story of the Philippine Revolution is a tapestry of brave acts by men and women across the archipelago who stood up to colonial oppression. While the contributions of many revolutionaries have been celebrated over the years, the nation has yet to formally and equally recognize the regional heroes who played vital roles in the collective struggle for independence.

Pantaleon Villegas, more widely known as *Leon Kilat*, was born in Bacong, Negros Oriental, and became a central figure in the revolutionary resistance in the Visayas. On April 3, 1898, he led the uprising in Cebu City against Spanish colonial forces, an act of valor that stirred revolutionary fervor throughout Central Visayas. His leadership, sacrifice, and martyrdom continue to inspire generations, especially among Visayans who regard him as a symbol of courage and defiance.

This bill seeks to declare April 3 as Leon Kilat Day, a special working holiday in the Municipality of Bacong, Negros Oriental.

In doing so, this measure ensures that the heroism of Visayans like Leon Kilat are meaningfully preserved and passed on to future generations. It also affirms the importance of inclusive historical memory in the shaping of national identity.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JANICE V. DEGAMO
Representative, 3rd District of Negros Oriental

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Introduced by **HONORABLE JANICE V. DEGAMO**

AN ACT
DECLARING APRIL 3 OF EVERY YEAR “LEON KILAT DAY” A SPECIAL
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACONG, NEGROS
ORIENTAL

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

Section 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the “Leon Kilat Day Act of 2025.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to recognize, preserve, and promote the historical and cultural contributions of regional revolutionary figures who played a vital role in the Philippine struggle for independence.

Section 3. Commemoration of Leon Kilat Day. April 3 of every year is hereby declared Leon Kilat Day, a special working holiday in the Municipality of Bacong, Negros Oriental, to commemorate his role in the Philippine Revolution and his enduring legacy in Visayan history. The Local Government Unit of Bacong in collaboration with the Department of Education is hereby directed to hold a yearly activity within the municipality every April 3 in recognition of Leon Kilat’s accomplishments.

Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NHCP, in coordination the NCCA shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

Section 5. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and rules inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,