



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4465



INTRODUCED BY HON. FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Established on May 1947, the Libingan ng mga Bayani was built by the Philippine government to pay tribute to the gallant Filipino men and women who brought honor to the country and fought for the sake of freedom and democracy during World War II. Its existence was in accordance with Republic Act No. 289, which provides that: "To perpetuate the memory of all the Presidents of the Philippines, national heroes and patriots for the inspiration and emulation of this generation and of generations still unborn, there shall be constructed a National Pantheon which shall be the burial place of their mortal remains."

Over the years, the Philippines has produced some of the world's most outstanding athletes such as Manny Pacquiao, Lydia De Vega, Paeng Nepomuceno, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Hidilyn Diaz proving that talent, determination, and resilience can break barriers. From the boxing ring to the Olympic stage, Filipino athletes have brought honor and pride to the country. Their strength, courage and bravery led to a victorious fight against their opponents in the battlefield of sports.

Thus, in order to honor and perpetuate the memory of our national athletes who are heroes in their own field, who have led lives worthy of inspiration and emulation of this generation and of generations still to come and in recognition of their dedication and sacrifices for the country, this bill seeks to allow deceased sports heroes who during their time brought honor and glory to the country to be laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

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


FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III
Representative, Isabela 5th District

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Introduced by Representative Faustino Michael T. Dy III

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

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 arrangements for the interment service.

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,