

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5310



Introduced by **ABONO Party-list Representative**
HON. ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On June 16, 1948, President Elpidio Quirino signed Republic Act No. 289 which provides for the construction of a "national pantheon for presidents of the Philippines, national heroes, and patriots of the country" that will serve as the resting place of their mortal remains. In 1954, President Ramon Magsaysay renamed the cemetery to what is now known as the Libingan ng mga Bayani. The Libingan ng mga Bayani, located at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, currently accommodates around 50,000 remains of Filipino soldiers and veterans, presidents, statesmen, government dignitaries, and national artists and scientists.

In the coming years, we can expect that there would be a need for more spaces to house the remains of our fallen heroes. Further, having only one heroes' cemetery, which is based in Metro Manila, effectively denies some the opportunity to be buried there considering its location. This is especially the case for those whose hometown or place of family residence is in the provinces. Travel to and from Metro Manila makes it difficult for families to visit their loved ones. Considering this, the government should endeavor to bring these families closer to their dearly departed.

As such, an annex of the Libingan ng mga Bayani should be established in other sites outside of Metro Manila. For this purpose, Camp Lt. Tito Abat in Manaoag, Pangasinan is a potentially ideal location. When established, our fallen heroes from Northern Luzon may be laid to rest much closer to their families and hometowns, thus further honoring their heroic legacies, as well as their cultural heritage. Finally, through this Act, we extend the government's sympathies to the bereaved families by providing for a more appropriate setting wherein to commemorate the memory of their loved ones.

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


Rep. Robert Raymond M. Estrella
ABONO Party-list

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5310

Introduced by ABONO Party-list Representative
HON. ROBERT RAYMUND M. ESTRELLA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIBINGAN NG MGA BAYANI IN
NORTHERN LUZON, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Libingan ng mga Bayani sa Norte Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to give dignity and perpetuate the memory of all our military personnel who died in line of duty as well as those honorably discharged from their duties, our Presidents, national heroes, artists, and scientists who brought honor and inspiration to the Filipino citizens of this generation and those to come. Towards this end, there shall be constructed a heroes’ cemetery which will serve as the burial place of their remains.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Northern Luzon.* – There is hereby established a Libingan ng mga Bayani in Northern Luzon. It shall be located at Camp Lt. Tito Abat in Manaoag, Pangasinan. The construction of which shall be undertaken by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

SEC. 4. *Administration.* – The administration of the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Northern Luzon shall be vested upon the Grave Services Unit of the Philippine Army Support Command.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year’s appropriations of the Department of National Defense. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of National Defense, in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines shall, within sixty (60) days upon the approval of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,