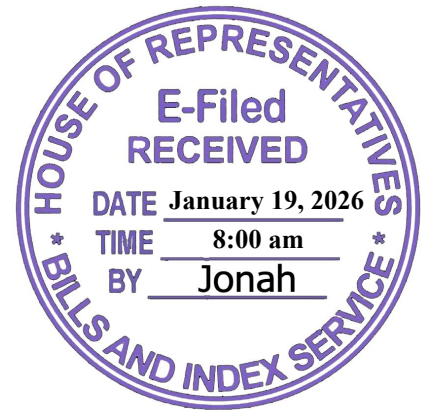




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7144

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Commemoration of Filipino Sports Heroes Act seeks to recognize and immortalize the invaluable contributions of Filipino athletes who have brought honor, pride, and inspiration to the nation by granting them the privilege of interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Throughout history, Filipino sportsmen and sportswomen have carried the national flag with dignity and excellence in the international arena. Their victories—whether in the Olympics, Paralympics, world championships, or other prestigious global sporting events—are not merely athletic triumphs but symbols of the Filipino spirit: resilient, determined, and united in the face of adversity. Yet, despite their achievements and sacrifices, many of these heroes fade into obscurity after their careers, with little institutional recognition from the State they represented with pride.

This measure acknowledges that athletes are not only champions in their respective fields but also modern-day patriots who embody discipline, perseverance, and national pride. They dedicate years of their lives to bring glory to the Philippines—often with limited resources and personal hardship—making their legacy deserving of the highest national honor.

The bill defines “sports heroes” as Filipino national athletes—amateur or professional, including athletes with disabilities—who have won medals in the Olympic or Paralympic Games, or world championships sanctioned by recognized international governing bodies. It also covers coaches, trainers, and athletes inducted into the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame established under Republic Act No. 8757. Filipino citizens who have reacquired citizenship under the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003 (R.A. No. 9225) may likewise qualify.

To ensure that this privilege is accorded with fairness and integrity, a Screening Committee shall be established, chaired by the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), with members from the Games and Amusements Board (GAB), Philippine Olympic Committee (POC), Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC), Philippine Olympians Association (POA), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Senate and

House Committees on Sports. The committee shall determine eligibility and issue a certificate of qualification for interment.

The measure also mandates coordination between the PSC, GAB, and AFP for the interment service and recognizes the right of the deceased athlete or their family to waive the privilege if they so choose.

By allowing Filipino sports heroes to be laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, this Act institutionalizes the nation's gratitude and ensures that future generations will remember and honor those who lifted the country's name before the world.

It is but fitting that our sports heroes—who have shed sweat and tears for the flag—rest among the nation's most honored sons and daughters.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 7144

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Commemoration of*
2 *Filipino Sports Heroes Act*"

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 honor and perpetuate the memory of the Filipino sports heroes who have led lives
6 worthy of inspiration and emulation of this generation and of generations still to come.
7

8 In recognition of their dedication and sacrifices for the country, the State shall
9 allow deceased sports heroes who during their time brought honor and glory to the
10 country be laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.
11

12 **SEC. 3. Sports Heroes.** - Sports heroes as used in this Act shall refer to
13 Filipino national athletes, amateur or professional, including athletes with disabilities,
14 who have distinguished themselves in their particular field of sports, possessed good
15 moral character and integrity, represented and brought honor and glory to the
16 country by winning any medal in the Olympics or Paralympic Games or a World
17 Championship in any professional sports competition sanctioned by any of the
18 international governing bodies of various sports, and recognized as such by the
19 Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and Games and Amusements Board (GAB).
20 They also refer to any Filipino athlete, coach, or trainer who were inducted into the
21 Philippine Sports Hall of Fame pursuant to Republic Act No. 8757, entitled: "An Act
22 Establishing the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame and Appropriating Funds Therefor".
23

24 Sports heroes must be citizens of the Philippines either from birth without
25 having to perform any act to acquire or perfect their Philippine citizenship, or those
26 who are former Filipino citizens by birth who are naturalized in another country but
27 re-acquired Philippine citizenship making them dual citizens of both the Philippines

1 and the country where they were naturalized pursuant to Section 4 of Republic Act
2 No. 9225, otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of
3 2003"

4
5 **SEC. 4. Interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.** - Filipino sports heroes as
6 defined in Section 3 hereof shall, upon the recommendation of the screening
7 committee established under Section 5 of this Act, be eligible for interment at the
8 Libingan ng mga Bayani.

9
10 **SEC. 5. Screening Committee.** - A screening committee shall be established
11 by the PSC to determine and recommend qualified Filipino sports heroes which shall
12 be comprised of the following:

13 (a) Chairperson:

14 1. Chairperson of the PSC;

15 (b) Vice Chairperson:

16 2. Chairperson of the GAB;

17 (c) Members:

18 (i) President of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC);

19 (ii) President of the Philippine Paralympic Committee (PPC);

20 (iii) Chairperson of the Philippine Olympians Association (POA);

21 (iv) Head of the Grave Service Unit of the Armed Forces of the
22 Philippines

23 (v) (AFP); and

24 (vi) Chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Sports and the
25 House of Representatives Committee on Youth and Sports
26 Development.

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

30
31 **SEC. 6. Interment Service.** - Upon issuance of a certificate of eligibility for
32 interment, the PSC or the GAB, as the case may be, shall coordinate with the AFP to
33 issue the interment directive and make the necessary arrangements for the
34 interment service.

35
36 Such interment privilege, however, may be waived by the family of the
37 deceased sports hero or by the sports hero upon written notice to the PSC, GAB or
38 the AFP.

39
40 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The PSC shall, in
41 coordination with the POC, PPC, GAB, POA, and AFP, promulgate the rules and
42 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within (60) days after its effectivity.

43
44 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is
45 declared unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected
46 thereby shall remain in force and effect.

47
48 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
49 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the
50 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
3

4 *Approved,*