



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9434



INTRODUCED BY HON. FAUSTINO MICHAEL T. DY III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Athena Roberts, providing her all the rights and privileges as well as the duties and the obligations appurtenant thereto under our Constitution and existing laws.

Athena is a championship-caliber ice dancer. Athena aspires to represent the Philippines in International Skating Union events, with her dream to qualify for the 2030 Winter Olympics under the flag of the land of her heritage, the Philippines.

She began her training as early as the age of five (5) and with the support of her parents, she has continued to train and compete overseas. She is currently based in Ontario, Canada where she trains five times a week. In 2022, she placed 7th in the USA Junior National Solo Ice Dance Championships. In 2023 and 2024, she bagged the gold and silver medals, respectively, in the Spain Junior National Ice Dance Championships.

Athena is a true Filipina by lineage. Her mother, Sheila Calivoso Roberts, is a Filipina born in Quezon City, Philippines. Sheila acquired her U.S. citizenship on 20 May 2005, a few months before Athena was born. The timing of Sheila's naturalization and Athena's birth disqualified Athena from being deemed a Philippine citizen under Article III, Section 1 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. In 2023, Athena had tried to obtain her Philippine citizenship through derivative citizenship when her mother Sheila applied to reacquire her Filipino citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225. However, due to a mistake on the part of the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles, Sheila's application was denied. On 24 March 2025, Sheila eventually reacquired her Philippine citizenship through the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C—further affirming the fact that the initial denial by the Consulate in Los Angeles was erroneous. Unfortunately for Athena, she was already over the age of eighteen by that time and was therefore ineligible for derivative citizenship.

The Philippines has had limited participation in International Skating Union competitions and the Winter Olympics. Athena would provide a very rare opportunity for the Philippines to be represented in ice dancing. Athena has the potential to be the first Filipino to compete in ice. With Athena carrying our flag, we can show the world what Filipino athletes are capable of, even in winter sports.

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



HON. FAUSTINO MICHAEL T. DY III
5th District, Isabela



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AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO
ATHENA ROBERTS

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

SECTION 1. Athena Roberts is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Athena Roberts shall take the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SECTION 3. The Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization and Athena Roberts shall enter upon the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,