The Honorable Speaker and Members

of the

House of Representatives

request the honor of your presence at the

Necrological Services

for the late

FORMER REPRESENTATIVE LORENZO S. SARMIENTO, SR.
(First District of Davao del Norte)

to be held at the

Session Hall of the House of Representatives

Quezon City, Metro Manila

on Monday morning, February fifteen

nineteen hundred and ninety-three

at ten o'clock

PROGRAM
of the
Necrological Services for the late
FORMER REPRESENTATIVE LORENZO S. SARMIENTO, SR.
(First District of Davao del Norte)
Monday, February 15, 1993 at 10:00 A.M.

I. **"IN MEMORIAM"** - Buenaventura
GHQ - AFP Band

II. **INVOCATION**
Hon. THELMA Z. ALMARIO

III. **"I BELIEVE"** - Drako and Groham

IV. **EULOGY**
SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Hon. RODOLFO P. DEL ROSARIO
Hon. JAMES L. CHIONGBIAN
Hon. ARTEMIO A. ADASA, JR.
Hon. GREGORIO A. ANDOLANA

V. **"HINDI KITA MALILIMUTAN"**
House of Representatives Chorale

VI. **RESPONSE**
Hon. ROGELIO M. SARMIENTO

VII. **MEMENTO OFFERING TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY**
SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.

VIII. **"NEARER MY GOD TO THEE"** - Lowell Mason
GHQ - AFP Band

NECROLOGICAL SERVICES FOR THE LATE FORMER REP. LORENZO S. SARMIENTO, SR.

At 10:02 a.m., the Speaker, the Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., opened the necrological services.

THE SPEAKER. The necrological services in honor of the late Hon. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr. of the First District of Davao del Norte, former Member of the House of Representatives, will now commence.

The Secretary General will read the order of the services.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Order of proceedings of the necrological services for the late former Member of the House of Representatives, the Hon. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr. of the First District of Davao del Norte.

Buenaventura's *"In Memoriam,"* to be played by the GHQ Band of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The GHQ – AFP Band played "In Memoriam" by Buenaventura.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Invocation by the Hon. Thelma Z. Almario of the Second District of Davao Oriental.

May we request everybody to please rise.

Everybody rose.

INVOCATION

MS. ALMARIO. Let us say a prayer for the eternal repose of the soul of our brother, former Congressman Lorenzo "Ensong" Sison Sarmiento, who died in the grace of our Lord on February 8, 1993.

I would like to start this prayer with a quotation from the poem by Schmolck:

> Straight to my home above
> I travel calmly on,
> And sing in life or death,
> My Lord, Thy will be done.

Lord God, oftentimes perhaps, because of the importance of the work You have entrusted us and the power our positions give us, we erroneously believe that we belong to ourselves. We often forget that the single purpose of our life is to be united with You in the eternal kingdom.

Lord God, help us to see death for what it really is, the end of anguish and distress and the beginning of tranquility; the end of frustrations and the beginning of fulfillment; the end of pain and the beginning of joy. Grant that we will never forget that life here on earth is short and uncertain. Let Your Holy Spirit guide us in holiness, justice and service to our brothers and sisters, so that when we receive our call to go home to our Father's house, we too may share in the glory and joy of heaven.

Today, Lord, we humbly commend to You our beloved friend and colleague Lorenzo Sison Sarmiento, whom You have called out of this mortal life. You loved him with an everlasting love. Now that You have called him and freed him from all evils and pains of this earth, bring him into Your paradise where there is no more grief or mourning or sadness, but peace and joy with You forever.

We thank You for all the blessings You have given to our dear friend Lorenzo Sison Sarmiento while he lived and worked with us. We pray that he may be able to glorify You with the life he lived and the way he made use of his blessings. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The House Chorale will sing "I Believe" by Drako and Groham.

The House Chorale sang "I Believe".

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. To bid adieu to the late Honorable Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, the Honorable Jose C. de Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

EULOGY BY SPEAKER DE VENECIA

THE SPEAKER. We are gathered today in this august and historic Chamber to pay our last homage to a worthy friend and colleague.

Death came to former Congressman Lorenzo Sarmiento of Davao as it must to all mortals. The man will be gone but his spirit will remain with us. And as Mr. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes aptly said: "Man's corporeal self is mortal but his spirit is eternal."

The good man we knew has taken leave of this world but the wonderful things he did in life will live on especially in the fond memories of loved ones, associates and friends.

Congressman Sarmiento was a simple, uncomplicated, unassuming individual. He did things that needed doing without thought of reward or recognition. Perhaps for the very reason that he did not seek public applause, the public showered him with plaudits. Public acclaim, it seems, sits better on the brow of the modest than on that of the vainglories.

He was my dear friend and teacher in the pre-martial law Congress when I was still a young Congressman as well as in the last Congress when he had to slow down his activities due to failing health.

Nevertheless, his legacy continues with the election of his son, the hardworking and able Congressman Roger Sarmiento of the First District of Davao del Norte, and his nephew, the equally outstanding Congressman Angelito Sarmiento of Bulacan.

Manong Enchong Sarmiento and his brothers, Pablo and Feliciano, were the quintessential Filipino entrepreneurs who not only contributed immeasurably to Philippine economic development, but also made their fortune in plywood manufacturing, food processing, feeds manufacturing, Vitarich, real estate, and agribusiness. Manong Enchong was a math wizard with an uncanny grasp of business complemented by a photographic memory.

The late Congressman Sarmiento contributed to a significant degree to the progress of Davao and to the importance of Mindanao in the scheme of national policy. He helped in demonstrating to a skeptical country that Mindanao is a land of promise. To this honored dead the vast, mostly unexplored wilderness in Mindanao was a world to conquer – its mountain fastness, new frontiers to tame and bend to man's designs – Davao, a place for leaving one's footprints in the sands of time.

I must also say that Manong Enchong Sarmiento was principal author in the creation of the NEDA, the National Economic and Development Authority, and the law creating the Population Control Commission. Even as a Member of Congress he was voted Outstanding Congressman and respected Chairman of the Committee on Economic Affairs and Chairman of the Committee on Currency and Banking. He was also principal author of the National Investment Act which created the Board of Investments.

I must also say that Manong Enchong, wife and children, relatives, friends and constituents were to benefit from the flowing of streams of Mindanao and Davao.

What better fulfillment indeed can crown a man's brief tenure on earth, the beauty, the glory and the magic of such consummation are better told in song and story.

Those of us who are left behind to mourn his passing, sing his praises, perpetuate his memory, and seek to emulate his example should strive to pursue the projects and espouse the causes that gave life and meaning to his solemn commitment to public service.

The good things Lorenzo Sarmiento did should not be interred with his bones; they should instead spur the living to serve the nation in the same noble spirit and on the same high ground. In the days ahead when the problems of national economic recovery and social rehabilitation will increasingly test the ingenuity and the dedication of the people in the public service, there will be a progressive need for the fortitude, the constancy and the tenacity that marked the public career of Lorenzo Sarmiento.

I, for one, am confident that weighed in the balance the people's representatives will not be found wanting. A happy combination of a fond remembrance and heartiest emulation will ultimately be the highest tribute paid to the departed Congressman by his living colleagues.

When the sound of mourning ceases and the lengthening shadows of evening deepen into night, our friend and colleague, Lorenzo Sarmiento, will begin to relish what an eminent thinker Gibbons called immortal souls' final reward, the peace of night after the fever of day.

I thank you.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Eulogy by the Hon. Rodolfo P. del Rosario, Representative of the Third District of Davao del Norte.

EULOGY BY REP. RODOLFO P. DEL ROSARIO

MR. DEL ROSARIO. My friends: A poet has said that no man is an island and that the death of one diminishes us all.

For once I feel the impact of this immortal truism as we gather here today to pay our last respects to one of the truly revered Members of this Assembly, Rep. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, who was summoned by God to a well-deserved rest from the cares and burdens of life on February 8, 1993.

To us who come from the Province of Davao, we remember him not only as our undefeated and outstanding Representative to Congress for three terms, but also as a father who pioneered in the development and pushed the frontiers for progress in that part of the country's promised land called Mindanao.

As our Congressman, we remember the far-reaching bills that he authored or coauthored in the House that eventually became laws of the land: the Investment Incentives Act; the law organizing the National Economic and Development Authority; the statute creating the three Davao provinces and the various infrastructure laws that brought forth considerable improvement in the life of the people in his district. We remember him as a visionary and progressive businessman-industrialist who founded and headed more than a dozen companies together with his brothers Feliciano and Pablo. These not only provided employment to thousands of constituents, but served as trailblazers in the development of Southern Philippines.

I could go on and on reciting the achievements of this extraordinary man but I do not have to do that. The work and service that Congressman Sarmiento had done to his country

are forever remembered by his peers in Congress and enshrined in the hearts of countless people whose lives he had touched. As one of those who have followed his political footsteps, representing a district of a province he used to represent as a whole, I indeed feel humble when I contemplate on the life and accomplishments of our departed colleague, Rep. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, whose passing has left a void that would be most difficult to fill.

A tree is best measured when it is down, so it is said. I am certain that when the life and times of Congressman Sarmiento are measured and written, it will undoubtedly be one of greatness, for he was truly one of the great citizens of this Republic.

I thank you.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Eulogy by the Hon. James L. Chiongbian, Representative of the Lone District of Saranggani.

EULOGY BY REP. CHIONGBIAN

MR. CHIONGBIAN. We lost a dear friend in the person of Kumpadre Enchong. We lost him physically but we all know that in our memories he lives forever. He had made his name tall and enduring among his peers here in Congress as we vividly recall his being consistently voted as an outstanding Congressman by the different media practitioners for his notable achievements of national dimension, among which was his authorship of the Investment Incentive Act creating the Board of Investments and the law creating the National Economic and Development Authority.

He once chaired the prestigious Economic Affairs Committee during the Sixth Congress under which I was a member. He had endeared himself among his colleagues and the private sector participants for his amiable and competent stewardship of the said committee.

Not only here in Congress, of which he was a Member for three terms, did he achieve excellence as a parliamentarian but also in the business and industry where he took the helm of a score of giant corporations and helped propel the economy of the nation to its proper perspective. For this, he was recipient of the honors and awards bestowed on him by the different sectors of the society. To his constituents in Davao, he was an achiever *nonpareil.* To us here in Congress, we eloquently attest to his exemplary dedication to the service and his unsullied integrity. During the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Congress that we were together, I cannot remember a single instance where he left the session hall before adjournment except for reason of health. Such was the dedication and commitment that Kumpadre Enchong had shown among his peers that earned him the respect of all of us.

Thus, Kumpadre Enchong had finally joined his Creator knowing well that he had left a legacy of honor and integrity for his peers here in Congress to emulate and a legacy of a "mission accomplished" for his beloved family and his constituents in Davao and Mindanao to long remember.

As we bid farewell to a noble and respected Congressman, our colleague in the Sixth and Eighth Congress, we wish

At this juncture, the Speaker relinquished the Chair to the Speaker Pro Tempore.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Eulogy by the Hon. Artemio A. Adasa, Jr., Representative of the First District of Zamboanga del Norte.

EULOGY BY REP. ADASA

MR. ADASA. We are gathered here today to honor and bid farewell to one of the distinguished and well-respected Members of the House of Representatives, the late Rep. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr. or "Ka Enchong" as we fondly called him.

His demise is a great loss not only to his loved ones, relatives, friends and constituents but to the Filipino people in general.

I am fortunate to have known Ka Enchong during the last five years that we were together in the last Congress. I have worked with him as his first vice-chairman of the Ethics Committee and I have been his favorite errand boy in that committee. So, we, for so many times, had talked together not only in his office but even in that corner where he used to sit during the last Congress. With that close relationship with him for five years, I was able to see the real Congressman Sarmiento as a man who had devoted so much time for his constituents and worked doubly hard to serve his people.

Last Congress, he had filed 396 bills of local and national importance, six of which were approved by both Houses in Congress, signed by the President and became Republic Acts.

Ka Enchong is a remarkable man. Aside from discussing politics with him, he used to and loved to talk about his family and business. From those discussions I had with Ka Enchong, he had left those virtues like firmness, humility and perseverance for us to emulate. He is a remarkable man because for so many times that our committee had been tested, he had always shown his love for truth and quest for justice. His credibility was untainted and unquestionable, and his integrity and honesty remained beyond reproach.

It is indeed painful to let Ka Enchong go but just the thought of all the things he had shared with us and the memories that he left us, remembering him in the process is enough strength and inspiration to go into the business of living day after day.

I know the last Congress would be the last term for Ka Enchong because he used to tell me that he is old and that he wants to retire from politics and look for his successor. At first he said that it need not be from his family because of the reluctance of probably one of his sons – I did not know Roger then – to run for Congress. I was glad during the opening of our present Congress, for I know that his equally outstanding son has succeeded him to become a Representative of his district and continue the work and the fulfillment of Ka Enchong's dreams.

So, to the bereaved family of our beloved Ka Enchong, my deepest condolences.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Eulogy by the Hon.

of North Cotabato.

EULOGY BY REP. ANDOLANA

MR. ANDOLANA. My dear friends: Mang Enchong Sarmiento was my seatmate for more than five years. Twenty one years after seeing him bellow from a campaign stage in Padada, Davao del Sur, I found myself one day sitting side by side with him, a colossus in Mindanao politics.

Growing up in the undivided Davao in the sixties, Mang Enchong Sarmiento was to my generation like the proverbial star one could not touch. But like the seafarer of the olden days, it was used as a guide in achieving one's destiny.

This was not lost on him as he would gently nudge me every time I railed against the system that it was what I condemned much which allowed me, a sharecropper's son, his former constituent, to rise and become his colleague in Congress.

So, in our small cluster in the Eighth Congress, Mang Enchong Sarmiento sat among us, neophytes, unobtrusive and unimposing, neither flashy nor flamboyant, yet exuding a rarefied pride and dignity that left other men insecure before his presence.

In the words of Thomas Hardy, "Even that man's silence was wonderful to listen to."

But when scandals rocked the House and Congress-bashing became a national pastime, it was he, as head of the Ethics Committee, who summoned to our rescue and cleansed the tarnished image of the institution.

By simply standing in front of the ramparts, he drove the mob away, using nothing but his reputation as a fair, free and fearless man.

Like Humphrey, he believed that the moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life – the children; those who are in the twilight of light – the aged; and those who are in the shadows of life – the sick, the needy and the handicapped.

In the autumn years of his public life, he consistently carried out this dictum, sponsoring bills that are social in nature.

He filed a bill which would give day-care workers a bigger take-home pay, noting with a tinge of sarcasm that it is better to be despised by politicians than to be unloved by children.

He wanted local governments to have a bigger share of revenue allocations, assailing imperial Manila as an impediment to countryside development.

He wanted appellate courts to sprout all over the regions, noting that justice is not only a matter of equal protection but also of equal proximity.

He wanted government to grant long-serving civil servants eligibility and to extend the umbrella of social insurance to its contractual employees. For what is the moral basis of government, he asked, to order private companies to be fair to its workers when government itself is unfair to its own workers?

He encouraged small-scale miners to set up cooperatives so they may benefit immensely from their hard labors.

lands identified, protected and legally awarded to them.

For a nation growing cynical of the big, bad government, it was his committee that crafted the most stringent ethical standards act for government workers in Philippine history.

Yes, these contributions were hardly noticed for he shunned publicity. Unlike the political moths of today, he had never been infatuated with nor hankered for the glow of media attention. After all, as it is true in life as in legislation, the essential is invisible to the eye.

As an angry young man in the exciting '60's, born in the wrong side of the tracks and tempered by poverty, I saw Mang Enchong Sarmiento as the embodiment of an establishment worth overthrowing; a dinosaur in a wasteland that was Philippine politics.

To a certain extent, I carried a residue of that baggage when I entered these halls in 1987. So with no basis at all, I lumped him up with other adversaries in great debate on agrarian reform. He was a *prima facie* landlord. So even if he was my seatmate, I never bothered to proselytize him. Long before the battle, he had already conceded to the enemy. As the discussions went by, Mang Enchong just sat through stoically like Disraeli, who said: "Now I sit down but the time will come when you hear from me."

It indeed came to the point of deciding how many hectares a landowner can retain. Those who advocated for infinitum, the majority, rose. After which, those who sought to limit ownership were summoned to rise. Slowly, to the astonishment of everyone including this Representation, he rose – standing straight to be counted with a spine as ramrod as his principle. To ease me of my bewilderment, he told me: "Greg, alam mo, ibinigay ng Panginoon ang Kanyang kaisa-isang anak. Ang hinihingi sa atin ngayon ay lupa lang, kaya dapat ibigay na natin."

Mang Enchong Sarmiento had a life well lived. Like Saint Paul, he fought a good fight, kept his faith and finished the course.

It is because of this that his death diminishes us all.

My dear Mang Enchong, as you never failed us in your lifetime, we, whom you have left behind, vow to live, work and fight by your ideals.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The House Chorale will now sing "Hindi Kita Malilimutan."

The House Chorale sang "Hindi Kita Malilimutan."

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Hon. Rogelio M. Sarmiento, incumbent Representative of the First District of Davao del Norte, the eldest son of the Hon. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr., will deliver the response.

RESPONSE OF REP. SARMIENTO (R.)

MR. SARMIENTO (R.). In the morning of February 8, Congressman Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, "Mang Enchong" to many of you, passed away. We brought him to Davao Tuesday and arrived at 4:30 a.m. At the break of dawn, the whole offi-

the Davao International Airport. The body stayed in the first congressional district of Davao del Norte for about two days where a lot of people kept on wishing us well, telling us stories of how Mang Enchong or Papa helped them.

On February 11, we brought the body to the provincial capitol for the necrological services where I never saw as many people in my life. People lined up from the district office up to the provincial capitol and from the capitol up to the boundary of Davao del Norte, almost 45 kilometers long.

I know the Rules of the House say that necrological services are given only to incumbent Members. My father is not an incumbent Member but it is also, I guess, one way for this House to show affection to Congressman Lorenzo Sarmiento. So, what do I say to all of you except, thank you very much.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE. As a token of respect and affection of the House Members, collectively and individually, for the Hon. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr., the House would like to offer some mementos to the family of our beloved colleague. Congressman Rogelio M. Sarmiento is requested to ascend the rostrum to receive these mementos on behalf of the family with the assistance of the Secretary General.

At this juncture, Rep. Rogelio M. Sarmiento ascended the rostrum to receive the mementos.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE. The General Headquarters Band of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will play *"Nearer My God to Thee"* by Mason.

The GHQ-AFP Band played "Nearer My God to Thee" by Mason.

THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE. The necrological services for the Hon. Lorenzo S. Sarmiento, Sr. are now terminated.

It was 10:57 a.m.