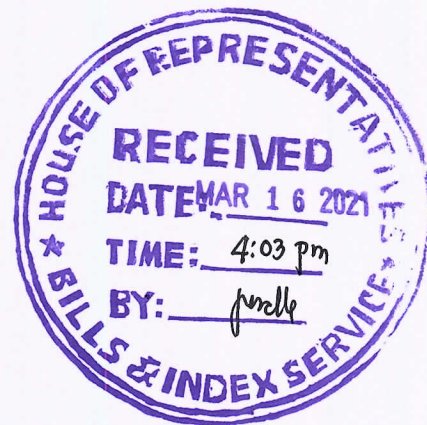


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9010



Introduced by Rep. Christopher V.P. De Venecia

AN ACT

DECLARING DECEMBER 23 OF EVERY YEAR A NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF DAGUPAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAGUPAN-BORN NATIONAL ARTIST VICTORIO EDADES, TO BE KNOWN AS VICTORIO EDADES DAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Known as the “Father of Modern Philippine Painting,” Victorio C. Edades was born on December 23, 1895 in Barrio Bolosan, Dagupan, Pangasinan. Earning the title of “apprentice teacher”, would-be National Artist Victorio Edades had the natural ability to create and appreciate arts early on in his younger years. After finishing high school, he travelled to the United States to further master his crafts, where he was exposed to then-progressive movements in Fine Arts that helped him formulate what would be known as Modern Philippine Painting. He got familiarized with the works of Modern Artists such as Picasso and Matisse, and even dabbled in Surrealism. This greatly influenced the growth of his work from conservative Realistic school to the more Modernist thought, a style that encouraged artistic experimentation and allowed the artist to interpret reality in their own way.

Victorio Edades participated in various competitions in American and won awards. Unfortunately, his talent was less so appreciated in the Philippines by his own countrymen. Edades staged a one-man show at the Philippine Columbia Club in Ermita to exhibit to the Philippine audience Modern Art – at a time when Philippine Fine Arts was mostly copies of the style of the great Fernando Amorsolo – a time with little variety and dry creativity. The rough, bold, impasto strokes along with the muddy earth colors and distorted figures that characterized his paintings truly were ahead of his time, beyond the appreciation of his contemporaries and critics. Not a single painting was sold during the exhibit. Edades would later on be named a National Artist in 1976, nine years before his death in 1985.

December 23 therefore marks the birth of a true revolutionary. Edades defied conservative thoughts and practices in his own field which he believed stunted the growth and development of artists and the arts itself in the country. He defied critics and artists and went against the grain at a time when it was so easy to conform to the trend popularized by no less than Fernando Amorsolo himself. December 23 likewise marks the day showing that locals of Dagupan, Pangasinan have the creativity and boldness to become world class artists, and revolutionaries in their own way. It must therefore be commemorated as such.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher V.P. De Venecia".

REP. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAGUPAN-BORN NATIONAL ARTIST VICTORIO
EDADES, TO BE KNOWN AS VICTORIO EDADES DAY**

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

SECTION 1. December 23 of every year is hereby declared a non-working holiday in the City of Dagupan, Province of Pangasinan, in commemoration of the birth anniversary of Victorio Edades, a Dagupan-born painter and National Artist, which shall be known as the “Victorio Edades Day”.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,