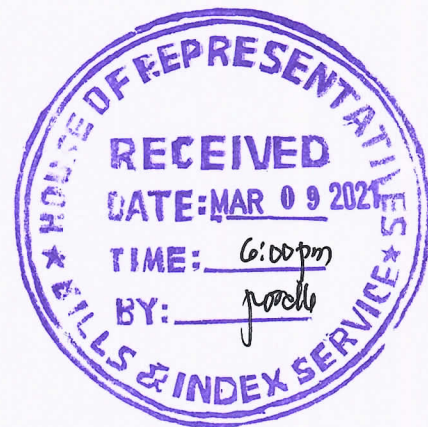




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1636



**Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand
Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano**

RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PHILIPPINE PROVINCE OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS (SJ) AND THE FAMILY OF FATHER JOAQUIN G. BERNAS SJ, DEAN EMERITUS OF THE ATENEO SCHOOL OF LAW AND MEMBER OF THE 1986 CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, on March 6, 2021, Father Joaquin G. Bernas SJ, passed away at the age of 88, at the Lucas Renewal Center of the Loyola House of Studies in Quezon City;

WHEREAS, Father Bernas was born on July 8, 1932 in Baao, Camarines Sur to Dr. Jose Bernas and Mrs. Amparo Guevara Bernas; joined the Society of Jesus on June 20, 1950; and ordained into the priesthood at Fordham University Church in New York on June 10, 1965;

WHEREAS, he finished his elementary education in Santa Monica Academy in Baao and high school education at the Ateneo De Naga University; earned his Bachelor of Arts major in English, Latin, and Greek Classics (1956) and Master of Arts major in Philosophy (1957) degrees from Berchmans College, Cebu; finished his Bachelor of Laws degree and graduated valedictorian from the Ateneo Law School (1962), and placed 9th in the Bar examinations; held a Doctor in Juridical Science (1968) and a Master of Laws (1965) degrees from the New York University; and a Licentiate of Sacred Theology degree from Woodstock College (1966);

WHEREAS, fondly called “*Fr. B*” or “*Fr. Bernie*” by his students, Father Bernas joined the faculty of the Ateneo School of Law in 1966; served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 1970 to 1972; twice served as dean of the Ateneo School of Law, from 1972 to 1976, and from 2000 to 2004; and elected as the 28th president of the Ateneo de Manila University from 1984 to 1993;

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the Ateneo de Manila School of Law, he was conferred the title of Dean Emeritus, and in 2008, he was honored with a center named after him, the Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J. Institute for Continuing Legal Education which provides a venue for continuing legal education programs by holding legal education series, undertaking legal researches and producing legal publications on current, relevant and important legal topics and subjects intended to address the demand among law practitioners and those interested in the law from government and non-government institutions for legal updates and analytical discussions;

WHEREAS, as a well-respected and distinguished constitutional law expert, Father Bernas became a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission which drafted the 1987 Philippine Constitution, invited by the Supreme Court to appear as *amicus curiae* on important constitutional law test cases, and became well-known in constitutional law classes in various law schools for his commentaries on the Constitution;

WHEREAS, as a member of the Society of Jesus, Father Bernas served as provincial superior of the Jesuit Philippine Province from 1976 and 1982, and rector of the Jesuit Residence from 1994 to 2000;

WHEREAS, as a prolific and articulate writer, Father Bernas wrote numerous publications on law, contributed a weekly column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer called *Sounding Board*, and authored several law books, such as: *The Intent of the 1986 Constitution Writers*; *The 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines: A Commentary*; *Constitutional Structure and Powers of Government: Notes and Cases*; *An Introduction to Public International Law*; *Constitutional Rights and Social Demands: Notes and Cases*; *Foreign Relations in Constitutional Law*; and *The 1987 Constitution of the Philippines: A Comprehensive Reviewer*, among many others;

WHEREAS, Father Bernas had consistently engaged in discussions concerning issues of national importance without a tinge of hesitation, argued orally or in writing, with distinct objectivity of an academic mind, but grounded on the fundamental principles of justice and humanity;

WHEREAS, in 2015, he was awarded the 40-year Service Award during the 37th University Service Awards of the Ateneo de Manila University for his four decades of generously serving the profession, the university and the whole Ateneo community;

WHEREAS, a man who dedicated his life to service, to standards of excellence, and to the greater glory to God, Father Bernas remained a positive force in the field of academic law, and inspired students, professors, lawyers and advocates of the law to pursue justice and good governance;

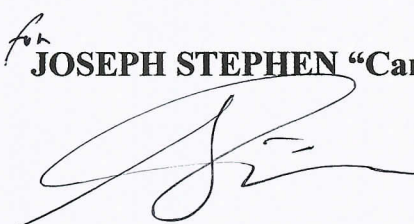
WHEREAS, Father Joaquin G. Bernas SJ, was truly an excellent man for others, and in his passing, the nation has lost one of its most respected legal enlighteners and a keen mind, leaving a legacy of legal excellence and a passion for humanity and the rule of law which will always be remembered with utmost respect and admiration by his family, friends, colleagues, students, the Ateneo community and the whole Filipino nation: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To express its profound condolences to the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus (SJ) and the family of Father Joaquin G. Bernas SJ, Dean Emeritus of the Ateneo School of Law and member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family and the Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus.

Adopted,


LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO


JOSEPH STEPHEN "Caraps" S. PADUANO


FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ