

Republic of the Philippines  
Congress of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Metro Manila  
Eighteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session

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Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of July, two thousand twenty-one.

RESOLUTION NO. 280

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE  
PASSING OF MS. VIRGINIA MORENO

WHEREAS, Ms. Virginia Reyes Moreno passed away on August 14, 2021 at the age of 98;

WHEREAS, Ms. Virginia Moreno was born on April 24, 1923 in Tondo, Manila. She was the older sister of the late fashion designer Jose “Pitoy” Moreno who was an icon in his field. Their father, a ship captain, died when Ms. Virginia Moreno was about 6 years old. The siblings were then raised by their mother, a rice trader, at a house on Juan Luna Street in Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila;

WHEREAS, Ms. Virginia Moreno earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of the Philippines (UP) where she served as the literary editor of the *Philippine Collegian* and pursued further studies at the Kansas Institute for International Education, the British Film Institute and the International Writing Program in Iowa, United States of America. During that time, she also received a fellowship in creative writing from the Rockefeller Foundation and co-directed a documentary film titled: *The Imaginative Community: 7 Poets in Iowa*;

WHEREAS, in 1959, Ms. Virginia Moreno co-founded the UP Department of Humanities, now the UP Department of Art Studies. In 1976, she became the founding director of the UP Film Center where she taught lessons on Humanities and became the first executive director of UP Film Institute's Film Center, a post she held until 1991. She was the leading proponent for establishing the Humanities Center in UP Diliman, which evolved into Bulwagang Rizal or the UP Faculty Center which was destroyed by a fire in 2016;

WHEREAS, in 1969, Ms. Virginia Moreno produced a play titled: "*The Onyx Wolf*," also known as "*La Loba Negra*", and "*Itim Asu*," which earned her a win in the National Historical Playwriting Contest. The Cultural Center of the Philippines turned the play into a ballet performance a year later, with National Artist for Dance, Alice Reyes, performing as the lead;

WHEREAS, Ms. Virginia Moreno released her first poetry collection "*Batik Maker and Other Poems*" in 1972. In the same year, the collection won her the prestigious Palanca Award. She was also a playwright, penning "*Straw Patriot*" in 1956;

WHEREAS, in 1984, Ms. Virginia Moreno won the Southeast Asia Write Award, recognizing the impact of her literary excellence and cultural leadership in the ASEAN region. She also served as Chairman of the UNESCO Culture Committee of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, in 1991, Ms. Virginia Moreno was conferred the *Chroslais dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques* by the French Government: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives, To express its profound sympathy and sincere condolences to the family of Ms. Virginia Reyes Moreno, known as “Aling Barang”, and continues to be an iconic writer who has been revered across the ages. Her literary legacy will live on among the writers, artists, playwrights, and filmmakers—Filipino and foreign alike—who have been touched by the bold and creative spirit of “The High Priestess of Philippine Poetry”.*

*Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the bereaved family.*

Adopted,



LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO  
*Speaker*

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on February 2, 2022.



MARK LLANDRE “LONG” L. MENDOZA  
*Secretary General*

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