

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. 282

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES  
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE  
PASSING OF MR. FRANCISCO SIONIL JOSE, NATIONAL  
ARTIST FOR LITERATURE

WHEREAS, Mr. Francisco Sionil Jose, one of the most widely read Filipino writers in the English language, passed away on January 6, 2021 at the age of 97;

WHEREAS, Mr. Jose was born in Rosales, Pangasinan, which is the setting of many of his stories, more known as the "Rosales Saga." He later spent his childhood in Barrio Cabugawan, Rosales, where he first began to write. Mr. Jose's early influences include Jose Rizal, Willa Cather, Faulkner and Steinbeck, which he read at his school's library when he was in fifth grade;

WHEREAS, Mr. Jose attended the University of Santo Tomas after World War II and later plunged into writing and journalism in the City of Manila. He would later edit various literary and journalistic publications, start a publishing house, and found the Philippine branch of Poets, Essayists, Novelists (PEN), which was an international organization for writers;

WHEREAS, Mr. Jose's writings espoused social justice and change to better the lives of average Filipino families. His novels and short stories depict the social underpinnings of class struggles and colonialism in Filipino society;

WHEREAS, Mr. Jose also owned the Solidaridad Bookshop, a known bookstore located along Padre Faura Street in Ermita, Manila, which offers mostly hard-to-find books and Filipiniana reading materials and is said to be one of the favorite haunts of many local writers;

WHEREAS, five of Mr. Jose's works have won the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature for five separate years, namely: his short stories "The God Stealer in 1959", "Waywaya" in 1979, "Arbol de Fuego (Firetree)" in 1980, his novel "Mass" in 1981, and his essay "A Scenario for Philippine Resistance" in 1979;


WHEREAS, from the late 1970s to the 1980s, Mr. Jose received several awards for his outstanding works and for being an outstanding Filipino in the field of literature, including the City of Manila Award for Literature which was presented to him by Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing (1979), the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, the Outstanding Fulbrighters Award for Literature (1988), and the Cultural Center of the Philippines Award (Gawad para sa Sining) for Literature (1989);

WHEREAS, in the 1990s up to the turn of the century, Mr. Jose continued to be recognized as a unique maestro in the field of literature not only in the Philippines but all across the world, winning the Cultural Center of the Philippines Centennial Award in 1999, the prestigious *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres* in 2000, and the Order of Sacred Treasure (Kun Santo Zuiho Sho) in 2001, and the coveted Pablo Neruda Centennial Award in Chile in 2004. The Philippine government bestowed upon him the prestigious title of National Artist for Literature for his outstanding contributions to Philippine literature in 2001: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* To express its profound sympathy and sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Francisco Sionil Jose, whose contributions to Philippine arts, culture, and literature shall forever be etched in the annals of Philippine history.

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

Adopted,



LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO  
*Speaker*

This Resolution, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 2446, was adopted by the House of Representatives on February 2, 2022.



MARK ILANĐRO "DONG" L. MENDOZA  
*Secretary General*

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