

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

Nineteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 113



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**Introduced by Hon. Christopher “Toff” V.P. de Venecia**

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**A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING GINA APOSTOL FOR WINNING THE 2022 ROME PRIZE IN LITERATURE**

**WHEREAS**, New York-based novelist Ms. Gina Apostol wins the 2022-2023 Rome Prize in Literature by the American Academy in Rome, Italy for a novel she wrote titled *The Treatment of Paz*;

**WHEREAS**, Rome Prize winners are selected annually by independent juries of distinguished artists and scholars through a national competition. The annual competition received 909 applications, representing 47 U.S. states and territories and 19 different countries. Previous winners of the Rome Prize include Ralph Ellison, Anthony Doerr, Alexandra Kleeman, Robert Penn Warren, and Filipino-American writers Lysley Tenorio and Jessica Hagedorn;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the American Academy in Rome is considered as America’s oldest Overseas Center for independent studies in advanced research in the arts and humanities;

**WHEREAS**, this year’s winners are among the most diverse in the Academy’s history, with approximately 46 percent of them identifying as persons of color and 24 percent born outside of the United States. Each winner will receive a stipend, workspace, and room and board at the Academy’s eleven-acre campus on the Janiculum Hill in Rome, starting in September 2022;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Gina Apostol shared that her work-in-progress, *The Treatment of Paz*, is about the 1880s and 1890s and will look at the “Filipino revolution from the point of view of women.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.goodnewspilipinas.com>

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

The story is about *Paz Pardo de Tavera*, the wife of Filipino painter and patriot, Juan Luna, who murdered her in Paris in 1892;<sup>3</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Apostol currently lives in New York City and western Massachusetts and grew up in Tacloban, Leyte. She teaches at the Fieldston School in New York City;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Apostol finished college at the University of the Philippines and finished her Master's Degree in Creative writing at the Johns Hopkins University, United States of America;<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, among the novels she has written are: "*Bibliolepsy*", "*Insurrecto*", "*The Revolution According to Raymundo Mata*" and "*La Tercera*" which will come out in January 2023;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, "*Gun Dealers' Daughter*" was Ms. Apostol's US debut, published by W.W. Norton & Co., and received the prestigious PEN Open/Book Award. She had also undergone surgery and chemotherapy to beat breast cancer and looked on in horror as Super typhoon "Yolanda" leveled Tacloban, where she grew up;<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, it is important to recognize Ms. Gina Apostol's success and to encourage our talented and successful local writers, authors and novelists to bring Filipino literature to the global stage. This will inspire the Filipino publishing industry stakeholders to grow and evolve into a germane industry rich in diversity, history, culture, professionalism, creativity, consistency, leadership and commitment to quality;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that taking into consideration the above mentioned premises, the undersigned member of the House of Representatives hereby RESOLVE to congratulate and commend Ms. Gina Apostol for her inspirations, hard-work and patriotism which are ingrained in her craft and literature;

**RESOLVED FINALLY**, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be given to Ms. Gina Apostol and another copy be prepared for submission to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines for proper archiving.

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>4</sup> <https://maharlika.tv/2022/05/17/filipino-novelist-gina-apostol-wins-2022-rome-prize-in-literature/>

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>6</sup> <https://lifestyle.inquirer.net/402745/novelist-gina-apostol-wins-rome-prize-for-literature/>

*Adopted,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher V.P. De Venecia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some overlapping letters.

**HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA**