A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF HONORABLE SENATOR MIRIAM DEFENSOR-SANTIAGO

WHEREAS, Esteemed Honorable Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago was born on July 15, 1945 in Iloilo City;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago was elected by States Parties to Rome Statute as Judge of the International Criminal Court for a nine-year term;

WHEREAS, she is the first Filipino and first Southeast Asian from developing state to be elected as Judge of the International Criminal Court;

WHEREAS, she received an award in year 2010 as a “Womanity Award for Public Service in year 2010, on website Female Network”;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago received “Order of Civil Merit” in Kingdom of Spain in year 2008;

WHEREAS, she is an awardee of Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service in year 1998, an Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize, Magsaysay Awards Foundation;

WHEREAS, she also received The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) Award for Law in year 1985;
WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago served as a Senator from year 1995-2016 where she served as a chairperson in the following committees, to wit: Committee on Foreign Relations; Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; Joint Congressional Oversight Committee; Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the Overseas Absentee Voting Act; Commission on Appointments; Committee on Foreign Affairs; Legislative Oversight Committee on the Visiting Forces Agreement; Committee on Economic Affairs; and Special Oversight Committee on Economic Affairs;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor- Santiago a Senior Partner in Defensor Santiago Law Firm was an Opinion Columnist, “Gadfly,” Today newspaper since 1992 up to year 2016;

WHEREAS, she was a runner-up (ranked close No. 2 in canvassing), in the 1992 Philippine Presidential Elections;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago served as the President and founder of People’s Reform Party since 1991 up to present of year 2016;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santigao also served as Chair and founder of Movement for Responsible Public Service in year 1990 up to year 2016;

WHEREAS, she served as Secretary of Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Chair for Presidential Agrarian Reform Council Executive Committee in year 1989;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago was a Commissioner of Immigration and Deportation in year 1988 to 1989;

WHEREAS, She was a Member of the Board of Directors of Public Estates Authority (1988-1989), Philippines Retirement Authority (1988-19890, and Ninoy Aquino International Airport Authority (1988-1989);

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago was a Professional Lecturer in College of Law, University of the Philippines, Diliman for evening class in year 1976-1988;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor- Santiago also served as Presiding Judge in the Regional trial Court, Branch 106, Quezon City in 1983-1987;

WHEREAS, she also served as a legal consultant in University of the Philippines Law Center in 1981 to 1983 and legal consultant to the Philippine Embassy based in Washington, D.C. in year 1982;
WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago humbly started her career as a Professor of Political Science in Trinity University of Asia (1971-1974), An Opinion Columnist in the Philippines Daily Express newspaper (1972-1975), A Member of the Board of Censors for Motion Pictures (1977-1979), Special Assistant to the Secretary of Justice in 1970-1980, and a Legal Officer in United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Geneva, Switzerland in year 1979 to 1980;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago was an exemplary student, graduating cum laude in Bachelor of Laws in University of the Philippines, finishing in 3 ½ instead of 4 years with an average grade in the last semester of 1.1;

WHEREAS, she has earned Master of Arts in Religious Studies in Maryhill School of Theology in Quezon City, Master of Laws (DeWitt Fellow) in University of Michigan with “A” average, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa in University of San Agustin, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa in Centro Escolar University, and Doctor of Juridical Science (Barbour Scholar and DeWitt Fellow) in Univeristy of Michigan with requirements fulfilled in six months, with “A” average;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago earned postdoctoral studies, to wit: Visiting Law Fellow in St. Hilda’s College in Oxford University; Visiting Fellow in Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law in Cambridge University; Paris-Geneva Summer Program in International Law, sponsored by American University; Summer Program in Law at Oxford University, sponsored by Florida State University; Summer Program of Instruction for Lawyers in Harvard University; Graduate, California Judicial College in University of California at Berkeley with a remarks in the practical courtroom test (American judges gave her the highest grade of 33 out of 35); Fellow in International Law in the Hague, Holland and Brussels, Belgium; A fellow in External Session of the Hague Academy of International law in Tokyo, Japan, and lastly, a Fellow in Academy of American and International Law, Southwestern Legal Foundation in Dallas, Texas;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago was a published legal book writer and was often cited as authority in Philippine Supreme Court Cases, to wit: Law 2014ed. Constitutional Law, Volume 1 (Political Structure); Constitutional Law Volume 2 [Bill of Rights, International Law with Philippine Cases and Materials and ASEAN Instruments, International Law (as a co-author)]; Rules of Court Annotated; Civil Code Annotated; Penal Code Annotated; Constitution Annotated; Corporation Code Annotated; Election Code Annotated; Insurance Code Annotated; Local Government Code Annotated; National Internal Revenue Code Annotated; Tariff and Customs Code Annotated; and Philosophy 2003 ed;
WHEREAS, she also wrote a book in politics, to wit: International Relations 2d. ed.; Politics and Governance; Christianity vs. Corruption; At the Turn of the Century: National Policy Issues in the Philippines; Cutting Edge: The Politics of Reform in the Philippines; Where Angels Fear to Tread: Politics and Religion; and, How to fight Election Fraud, and How to Fight Graft;

WHEREAS, she also wrote a book in literature as she aspires to be a writer in her early childhood. She wrote one literature entitled “Inventing Myself: an Autobiography a Frabjous Day and Other Stories; and The MIRIAM DICTIONARY;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago was survived by her husband, Atty. Narciso “Jun” Y. Santiago Jr., and her son, Narciso Santiago III. Her youngest son;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago’s presence before her family, relatives and friends will deeply be missed by everyone;

WHEREAS, Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago joined our Creator on September 29, 2016 after battling lung cancer at the age of 71;

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing factual milieu, we the undersigned members of the House of Representatives hereby RESOLVE to express our deepest condolences on the demise of former Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the bereaved family of the deceased Senator.

RESOLVED FINALLY, that this resolution be published in the Official Gazette and to form as part of the records of this august body.

ADOPTED.

ERIC L. OLIVAREZ