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

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1298

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco,
Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Bienvenido M. Abante, Jr.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2020, Honorable Arnulfo “Noli” P. Fuentevella passed away at the age of 74;

WHEREAS, Honorable Fuentevella obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree in 1966 and graduated at the top ten percent of his class in his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1970 from the University of the Philippines; passed the Philippine Bar Examinations in 1971; and admitted to the New York State Bar in 1984;

WHEREAS, a consistent and active youth leader, he spent most of his childhood in scouting where he earned the rank of Life Scout, and was a Philippine delegate to the 50th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America in 1960;
WHEREAS, he started his legal profession offering pro bono legal services to poor and underprivileged clients, and from 1971 to 1974, he worked as a partner at the Prila Law Office;

WHEREAS, Honorable Fuentebebla completed post-graduate courses at the Kennedy School of Government in Harvard University including the Program for Senior Managers in Government, Practice of Trade Policy, Economics Negotiations and Rules, and Crises Management, Exercising Leadership in Extraordinary Times;

WHEREAS, Honorable Fuentebebla served as one of the youngest Members of the Interim Batasang Pambansa from 1978 to 1984; Member of the House of Representatives representing the Third Legislative District of Camarines Sur during the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congresses, and the Fourth Legislative District of Camarines Sur during the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Congresses;

WHEREAS, in 2000, Honorable Fuentebeilla was elected Speaker, making him the first and only Bicolano legislator to hold the highest position in the House of Representatives, and during the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Congresses, he also served as Deputy Speaker;

WHEREAS, as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honorable Fuentebebla displayed exceptional leadership skills in spearheading the national legislative agenda, establishing a harmonious relationship with co-equal branches of the government, and inspiring stewardship during the Eleventh Congress, guided by his family’s philosophy, “One cannot divorce God’s will and public service because service to people is service to God;”

WHEREAS, after devoting almost three decades of his life as a lawmaker, serving as vice chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means during the Ninth Congress, and chairperson of the Committee on Energy during the Eleventh Congress, he made notable accomplishments and contributions to national policy with the enactment of Republic Act (RA) No. 9136, otherwise known as the “Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001;” RA 7907, entitled “An Act Amending Republic Act Numbered Thirty-Eight Hundred Forty-Four, As Amended, Otherwise Known as the ‘Code of Agrarian Reform in the Philippines;’” RA 8175, otherwise known as the “Revised Charter of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation Act of 1995;” RA 9513, otherwise known as the “Renewable Energy Act of 2008;” RA 10931, otherwise known as the “Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act;” RA 10969, otherwise known as the “Free Irrigation Service Act;” RA 11038, otherwise
known as the “Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2018;” RA 11215, otherwise known as the “National Integrated Cancer Control Act;” and RA 11350, otherwise known as the “National Commission of Senior Citizens Act;”

WHEREAS, true to his commitment to the people of Camarines Sur, Honorable Noli Fuentebabel worked hard for the passage of laws of local application that brought significant development to his district such as RA 7820, otherwise known as the “Partido Development Administration Act of 1994;” RA 8053, entitled “An Act Converting the Bicol Region Training and Teaching Hospital into Bicol Medical Center, Defining its Functions, Responsibilities, Powers and Authority and Appropriating Funds Therefor;” RA 8097, entitled “An Act Granting the Partido Broadcasting Corporation a Franchise to Construct, Install, Establish, Operate and Maintain Broadcast and Cable Radio and Television Stations in the Bicol Region;” RA 8201, entitled “An Act Constituting the Engineering Districts in the Province of Camarines Sur into Four Separate and Distinct Engineering Districts, to be Located in the Municipalities of Ragay, Canaman, Tigaon and Baco, all in the Province of Camarines Sur;” RA 8619, entitled “An Act Providing for a More Responsive Science Education in the Province of Camarines Sur, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8304 Entitled ‘An Act Converting the San Rafael National High School in the Municipality of Tigaon, Province of Camarines Sur, into a Science High School to be known as the San Rafael National Science High School Campus, and Appropriating Funds Therefore;” and RA 9029, entitled “An Act Creating the Partido State University (PSU) by Integrating the Partido State College (PSC), San Jose Polytechnic Institute (SJI), Governor Mariano Fuentebabel Memorial College of Fisheries (GMFMC), Tinambac Polytechnic Institute (TP), Caramoan Technical Vocational School (CTVS), Lagapoy School of Fisheries (LSF), and San Jose Fisheries School (SJFS), Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes;”

WHEREAS, he was also instrumental in the establishment of the second largest national road network of over 270 kilometers in the Bicol Region; 100% electrification of 299 barangays; establishment of Partido Water Supply System (PWSS) and installation of modernized treatment plants for potable water; creation of schools bringing education closer to the barrios; allocation of funds to finance scholarship program that provided education to thousands of deserving students, medical assistance to indigent patients, delivery of social services, and construction of various infrastructure projects; and the construction of the Partido Airport, a high-impact proposed project aimed to boost the productive capacity of the economy, create jobs, increase incomes and strengthen investment, leading to sustained inclusive growth not only for his
district but to the entire province as well, through the Build, Build, Build infrastructure program of the Government;

WHEREAS, due to his exemplary contributions to society, Honorable Noli Fuentebella was hailed "Outstanding Parliamentarian of the Year" in 1979; "Top Achiever Solon" in 1994; "Lawmaker of the Year: The Workaholic" in 1994; "Outstanding Public Servant of the Year" in 2000; "Outstanding Congressman" during the Ninth, Tenth, and Eleventh Congresses; and "Advocate of Good Government and Defender of Social Justice;"

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, former Mayor Evelyn B. Fuentebella of the Municipality of Sagñay, Province of Camarines Sur, and children, Representative Arnie B. Fuentebella of the Fourth Legislative District of the Province of Camarines Sur, former Representative Felix William Fuentebella of the Fourth Legislative District of the Province of Camarines Sur, Mayor Pamela Rinah Fuentebella of the Municipality of Tigaon, Province of Camarines Sur, Mayor John Vincent Fuentebella of the Municipality of Sagñay, Province of Camarines Sur, Eugene Adrian B. Fuentebella and Patricia Rinah F. Aldaba;

WHEREAS, a decent man of action and persistence, Honorable Noli Fuentebella was one of the rarest breeds in politics who always stayed true to his words, and willing to give up what he had to fulfill his mandate to serve the people which he believed was a way to serve God;

WHEREAS, in his foreword on Honorable Fuentebellas’s book, "Embracing Destiny" former Senate President Aquilino Q. Pimentel expressed that "at times when mud is being freely hurled at the reputations of some people in power, the country needs the examples of true public servants like Honorable Fuentebella, to show that public service may be done selflessly to promote the common good;"

WHEREAS, the untimely demise of Honorable Arnulfo "Noli" P. Fuentebella leaves a great loss and sorrow in the hearts of his family and friends, and he will always be remembered as a good father and dedicated public servant whose life he devoted to his family, and his beloved people in Camarines Sur: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To express its profound condolences to the family of Honorable Arnulfo P. Fuentebella,
former Speaker of the House of Representatives and father of former Representative Felix William B. Fuenteabella and Honorable Arnie B. Fuenteabella, Representative of the Fourth Legislative District of the Province of Camarines Sur.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be given to the bereaved family.

Adopted,

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR. FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ