COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 822

Submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on MAR 08 2021
Re : House Resolution No. 1628

Recommend its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1403.
Sponsors : Reps. R. Romulo and M. Abunda

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture to which was referred House Resolution No. 1403, introduced by Rep. Maria Fe R. Abunda, entitled:

A RESOLUTION
COMMEMORATING THE 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILIPPINE PART IN THE FIRST CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE WORLD ON THE ISLAND OF HOMONHON ON MARCH 17, 1521

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Resolution No. 1628, entitled:

RESOLUTION
COMMEMORATING THE ROLE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE WORLD BY SPANISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCES LED BY FERDINAND MAGELLAN, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE HUMANITY AND GENEROSITY OF EARLY FILIPINOS ON THE ISLAND OF HOMONHON, WHO RECEIVED THEM WARMLY 500 YEARS AGO ON MARCH 17, 1521, AND PROVIDED FRESH PROVISIONS FOR THEIR ONWARD JOURNEY AND THE COMPLETION OF THEIR MISSION


Respectfully submitted,

ROMAN T. ROMULO
Chairperson
Committee on Basic Education and Culture

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
RESOLUTION
COMMEMORATING THE ROLE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL CIRCUMNAVIGATION OF THE WORLD BY SPANISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCES LED BY FERDINAND MAGELLAN, MADE POSSIBLE BY THE HUMANITY AND GENEROSITY OF EARLY FILIPINOS ON THE ISLAND OF HOMONHON, WHO RECEIVED THEM WARMLY 500 YEARS AGO ON MARCH 17, 1521, AND PROVIDED FRESH PROVISIONS FOR THEIR ONWARD JOURNEY AND THE COMPLETION OF THEIR MISSION

WHEREAS, Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer, who headed the expedition authorized by King Charles I of Spain with the goal to find a western route to the Moluccas (Spice Islands) and trade for spices but had unwittingly commanded his fleet to sail into a body of water which finally led the expedition to the shores of the Philippine islands;

WHEREAS, after leaving the islands of Canoyas and sailing westward looking for the Moluccas, Magellan’s fleet of ships sighted, on March 16, 1521, the first major landmass known as the island of Homonhon, sailed south along the coast of what is now called the Province of Eastern Samar and, on the following day, sailed along the southernmost point of Guiuan;

WHEREAS, Magellan’s fleet returned to the island of Homonhon on March 17, 1521, which marked the first landing made by Europeans on Philippine soil, and where Magellan and his crew encamped and replenished their supplies;

WHEREAS, on March 18, 1521, natives from Suluan, an island in Guiuan, Eastern Samar, arrived by boat and provided Magellan and his men with food and other provisions in exchange for gifts consisting of clothes and other items from Europe, and thus, became the first recorded interaction between Filipino ancestors and the Spanish expeditionary force;

WHEREAS, on March 22, 1521, the natives of Suluan returned to the island of Homonhon with more food and other provisions which enabled Magellan and his men to regain their strength after their long journey;
WHEREAS, the magnanimity, compassion, and humanity of early Filipinos of the islands of Homonhon and Suluan, Guiuan, Eastern Samar, in helping the weary, ill, and starving crew of the Armada de Maluco, also known as the Magellan-Ellcano expedition, revived, in the words of Filipino writer Luis Francia, the waning hopes of the first circumnavigators;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2021, Magellan and his fleet set sail again in search of the Moluccas islands;

WHEREAS, the Province of Eastern Samar played a vital role in the epic journey of humankind by providing relief to the beleaguered crew of the Armada de Maluco and thus, ensured the success of the crew in eventually finding the Moluccas and completing the first circumnavigation of the world;

WHEREAS, 500 years ago, Magellan’s arrival marked the introduction of Christianity to the country, transformed the archipelago and fostered the expansion and diversification of Philippine culture and traditions;

WHEREAS, the first circumnavigation of the world, referred to as the greatest sea voyage in the age of discovery, claimed for science and humanity the achievement of confirming that the earth is round, provided scientific information on the earth’s circumference and global time, paved the way for a new western sailing route, opened up opportunities for global trade, and led to globalization that defines our world today;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to commemorate the role of the Philippines in the first successful circumnavigation of the world by Spanish expeditionary forces led by Ferdinand Magellan, made possible by the humanity and generosity of early Filipinos on the island of Homonhon, who received them warmly 500 years ago on March 17, 1521, and provided fresh provisions for their onward journey and the completion of their mission.

Adopted,