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

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1838

Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, with gravitas emanating from his calm and quiet work ethics, the Honorable Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Speaker of the House of Representatives has steadily and efficiently discharged the functions and responsibilities of his office with excellence, and effectively presided over the Second Regular Session of the Eighteenth Congress with purposeful leadership worthy of the admiration and respect of his colleagues, constituents, officials, and employees of the House of Representatives, and the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, given the most tumultuous of times brought about by the pandemic, the House of Representatives, under the competent leadership and tranquil guidance of Speaker Velasco has approved priority legislative measures aimed to shepherd the country towards survival, recovery, and progress, which were passed into laws such as: Republic Act (RA) No. 11519, entitled “An Act Extending the Availability of Appropriations Under Republic Act No. 11494, otherwise known as the ‘Bayanihan to Recover as One Act’”; RA 11525, otherwise known as “The Covid-19 Vaccination Program Act of 2021”; RA 11523, also known as the “Financial Institution Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act”; RA 11534 also known as the “Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act” or “CREATE”; RA 11509, also known as the “Doktor Para sa
Bayan Act”; RA 11510, also known as the “Alternative Learning System Act”; RA 11524, also known as the “Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act”; RA 11521, entitled “An Act Further Strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering Law, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 9160, Otherwise Known as the ‘Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001’ as Amended”; and RA 11517, entitled “An Act Authorizing the President to Expedite the Processing and Issuance of National and Local Permits, Licenses and Certifications in Times of National Emergency.”

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives also approved on Third Reading, the remaining priority bills certified as urgent by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte including House Bill No. 8999, otherwise known as the “Medical Reserve Corps Act,” which makes it necessary to maintain a strong, proactive, and responsive healthcare system at all times especially during a public health crisis; and bills seeking to amend further Commonwealth Act No. 146, otherwise known as the “Public Service Act,” as amended, RA 7042, otherwise known as the “Foreign Investments Act of 1991,” as amended, and RA 8762, otherwise known as the “Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000,” which lowers the required paid-up capital for foreign retail enterprises to allow more foreign investments and hasten the country’s economic recovery from the stagnating effects of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives also approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 8628, or the proposed “Bayanihan to Arise as One Act,” which the Speaker is one of the primary authors, to continue giving cash aid to every Filipino regardless of social status, and likewise adopted on Third Reading the Resolution of Both Houses No. 2, which seeks to amend the restrictive economic provisions of the 1987 Constitution in order to fully transform the economic growth into inclusive and solidary progress among Filipinos;

WHEREAS, even during the congressional break, the House of Representatives conducted numerous committee hearings on bills and issues that are of primordial importance to the population during this pandemic, conducted committee hearings on the efficient rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination program and adopted four resolutions concurring with presidential proclamations granting amnesty to members of four rebel groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Moro National Liberation Front, Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa ng Pilipinas/Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade, and Communist Terrorist Group, which aim to achieve a just and lasting peace in the country while giving former rebels a path back into civilian life;
WHEREAS, recognizing the important role of women in society, especially during this pandemic, as front liners, health care workers, and members of essential industries, risking their health and lives to serve their country, Speaker Velasco rallied his colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass more laws that would further promote women’s rights and gender equality and to fully support the launch of a handbook entitled “How to be a Gender-Responsive Legislator” which gives lawmakers a unique opportunity to carefully craft their bills and resolutions through a more gender-responsive lens, amplifying the voice of women and other genders within the halls of Congress;

WHEREAS, in its continuing effort to ensure the health and safety of its Members and employees from the threat of COVID-19 and secure a COVID-free legislature, the House of Representatives, under the watch of Speaker Velasco has been conducting a quarterly real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) tests and bi-weekly antigen (AgT) tests for the Members and employees, taken at the beginning of their work shift, including official guests who enter the House premises, as well as a vaccination program for the benefit of House Members, employees, and their families;

WHEREAS, at forty-two years old, Speaker Velasco is the youngest lawmaker to become Speaker of a post-EDSA House of Representatives, and the second youngest in the history of the chamber after Sergio Osmeña of Cebu who became Speaker in 1907 at 29, bringing with him fresh ideas, vitality, and state of the art solutions that catapult and set the pace for the country’s exponential development;

WHEREAS, with his style of youthful, focused, consultative, and inclusive leadership, exuding a deep understanding of complex issues behind his humble and unassuming personality, shepherding his advocacies which include reorganizing the judiciary, ensuring uninterrupted power supply nationwide with emphasis on sustainable energy, institutionalizing a subsidy program for the children of public-school teachers, and leading the House of Representatives in actively helping the country from severe economic hardships brought about by the pandemic, Speaker Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco deserves utmost commendation, admiration, and respect; Now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To commend the Honorable Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Speaker of the House of Representatives for his competent, constructive, and decisive leadership of the House of Representatives during the Second Regular Session of the Eighteenth Congress.

Adopted,

JOSEPH STEPHEN "CARAPS" S. PADUANO  FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ