

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

House Resolution No. 1941



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**INTRODUCED BY**  
**REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

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**A RESOLUTION**  
**CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MR. JOSE GABRIEL MEJIA FOR**  
**BEING THE FIRST FILIPINO TO WIN THE WORLD WILDLIFE FUND**  
**INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S YOUTH AWARD**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jose Gabriel Mejia, also known as "Gab Mejia", is a 24-year-old Filipino conservation photographer and environmental storyteller who has made history as the first Filipino to win the prestigious 2021 World Wildlife Fund (WWF) International President's Youth Award;

**WHEREAS**, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), an international independent conservation organization founded in 1961 working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife, has awarded on 23 June 2021 the annual WWF International President's Youth Award to Gab Mejia from the Philippines and Mutetelenu Kalama, a 29-year-old social development activist from Zambia;

**WHEREAS**, the young Filipino awardee who is also a weekly writer for an environmental column in The Manila Times, received recognition in an online ceremony that was also attended by veteran broadcaster of the natural world, David Attenborough, who received the Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Award as conferred by Britain's Prince Charles himself;

**WHEREAS**, the WWF International President's Youth Award acknowledges Mejia's "outstanding achievements, dedication, and commitment to the natural environment; his passion and leadership skills for the conservation and protection of wetlands and wildlife; and his advocacy for the climate and shared cultures";

**WHEREAS**, the globally-acclaimed WWF International President's Youth Award aims to recognize young people who are already active in conserving the natural environment, achieving significant success, and/or innovative approaches, and whose efforts are influencing and inspiring others;

**WHEREAS**, since 2012, the annual WWF International President's Youth Award acknowledges and encourages outstanding achievements of young people under the age of 30 who are making strong and compelling contributions to nature conservation, and helping improve the lives of local communities;

**WHEREAS**, Gab Mejia is a world-renowned National Geographic Explorer covering stories on nature, wildlife, the climate crisis, and indigenous people; a contributor to National Geographic Your Shot; a 2019 Jackson Wild Media Lab Fellow and a Nikon Asia Ambassador having presented stories in several TEDx talks; and has published stories in National Geographic, CNN, Nikon, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

**WHEREAS**, Mejia is also known as a global youth leader as the Co-founder and Communications and Outreach Lead of the Youth Engaged in Wetlands, the global youth network advocating for the conservation of wetlands and natural-climate solutions around the world;

**WHEREAS**, Mejia has also been recognized and included in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2021 List, as one of the trailblazers in the field of Arts who are unparalleled examples of determination, hard work and innovation; and in the annual Tatler Gen. T Under 40 Shaping Southeast Asia's Future List, as one of the 400 leaders of tomorrow who are driving positive impact and catalyzing change in the region;

**WHEREAS**, Mejia's outstanding talent and leadership have created numerous opportunities and inspiration for young people to take part in environmental conservation efforts not only in the country, but all around the world;

**WHEREAS**, this achievement, like Mejia's previous accolades which brought honor and pride to the Filipino people, especially for the youth, deserves to be recognized by the State;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**, to congratulate and commend Mr. Jose Gabriel Mejia for being the First Filipino to win the World Wildlife Fund International President's Youth Award.

**Adopted,**

  
**REP. ALFRED VARGAS**  
Fifth District, Quezon City