HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE July 12, 2021
TIME 5:51 pm
BY Reli
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Resolution No. 1958

A RESOLUTION
EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE RESIDENTS OF PATIKUL, SULU WHO ARE MOSTLY TAUSUGS WHO HELPED RESCUE SOLDIERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES WHO WERE INJURED IN THE DEADLY PLANE CRASH LAST JULY 4, 2021

WHEREAS, last July 4, 2021, a Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) crashed after an attempted landing at Jolo Airport in Sulu;

WHEREAS, the aircraft was carrying 96 military personnel and crew and other military supplies including military vehicles;

WHEREAS, it was coming from Laguindingan Airport and, according to Joint Task Force Sulu Commander William N Gonzales, the personnel traveling on the plane "were supposed to report to their battalions and were supposed to join us in our fight against terrorism";

WHEREAS, among the first who went to the crash site and help rescue the soldiers were the civilians and residents of Patikul, Sulu, mostly Tausugs;

WHEREAS, during the time of the crash, it was reported that the Tausug villagers were in the middle of their midday prayers when they heard the loud noise and were startled by the impact of the crash;

WHEREAS, Almar Hajiraini Aki, a 12th grader at the Sulu National High School, said that he, together with some friends, immediately rushed to the crash site and when they got there, they saw some soldiers sprawled on the ground and found some of them alive and they were able to help three soldiers;

WHEREAS, Maj. Gen. William Gonzales, Joint Task Force (JTF)-Sulu commander, said that militiamen, who are Tausug natives and who belong to the 8th Civilian Active Auxiliary Company (8CAAC), rushed to the crash site just seconds after the crash to look for survivors and they were able to take about 20 soldiers to safer grounds.;

WHEREAS, Private First Class Troy Fernandez, a survivor of the crash, said that he had heard stories of soldiers being ambushed or killed in Sulu;

WHEREAS, he was, however, surprised that he saw Tausug villagers immediately rushing to help and rescue them;

WHEREAS, it was the same for Private Cyrus John de Castro who said that he never expected to survive the accident and that he saw civilians running towards them and dragged them out of the burning plane;

WHEREAS, Cpl. Baginda Nasser of the 4th Infantry Division recounted that he saw civilian residents rescuing him and dragging him away from the burning plane;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives to express its gratitude to the residents of Patikul, Sulu who are Tausugs who helped rescue and save soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who were injured in the deadly plane crash last July 4, 2021.

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ