

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 2020



---

Introduced by **Representative CAMILLE A. VILLAR**

---

**RESOLUTION**

**CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING HIDILYN FRANCISCO DIAZ FOR CAPTURING THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST-EVER OLYMPIC GOLD, ENDING THE NEARLY CENTURY-LONG DROUGHT FOR THE ELUSIVE MEDAL, AND RECOMMENDING THE CONFERMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE LEGION OF HONOR FOR HER RECORD-SETTING PERFORMANCE AND BRINGING NATIONAL HONOR AND PRIDE AS A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE**

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy of the State to "give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development" (Article II, Section 17 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution);

WHEREAS, the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports programs, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork, and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry (Article XIV, Section 19.1);

WHEREAS, weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz made history, clinching the top spot in the Women's 55-kilogram weightlifting category and securing the first Olympic gold for the Philippines in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games;

WHEREAS, the 30-year-old Diaz, a sergeant of the Philippine Air Force, set two Olympic records in her 127-kilogram lift in the clean and jerk event and a total of 224-kg gold-medal win, another world record;

WHEREAS, Diaz led the pack by and defeated the reigning world champion Quiyun Liao of China in a dramatic performance in Tokyo, Japan;

WHEREAS, in her quest to deliver the country's first-ever gold medal in the Summer Games, the bemedalled Zamboanga City native, a silver medallist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, had to endure hardships and even depression that made her think to bow out of the 2016 Olympics in Brazil, as well as lack of financial backing, restrictions and hurdles due to the pandemic, emboldened her resolve with the moral support of her *kababayans* to emerge victorious in Tokyo 2020;

WHEREAS, her road to that elusive gold came after months of training outside the Philippines and without the physical presence of her family and loved ones, and after experiencing being locked down in rural Jasin village in Melaka, Malaysia where a backyard training gym was installed<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, the national anthem "Lupang Hinirang" was played for the first time for the official competitions in 32 editions of the Olympics following Diaz's victory, in a display of Filipino pride before the international arena;

WHEREAS, apart from commending and congratulating the Filipino Airwoman for her historic feat, it is high time to confer to the four-time Olympian the Philippine Legion of Honor (Lehiyong Pandangal ng Pilipinas) for her heart-warming victory and uplifting national glory and pride in the world sports stage;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Legion of Honor, conferred upon a Filipino or foreign citizen in recognition of valuable and meritorious service in relation to military affairs of the Philippines and may be awarded by the Secretary of National Defense by the authority of the President on the declaration of the anniversary of the Philippine Independence, is befitting for a young Filipina athlete for demonstrating outstanding courage and determination in the world of sports despite the odds;

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, to congratulate and commend Hidilyn Francisco Diaz for capturing the Philippines' first-ever Olympic gold, ending the nearly century-long drought for the elusive medal, and recommending the conferment of the Philippine Legion of Honor for her record-setting performance and bringing national honor and pride as a member of the military and the Filipino people.

Adopted,

  
CAMILLE A. VILLAR

---

<sup>1</sup> Careem, N. "Filipino gold medal hope Hidilyn Diaz safe from Malaysian food in 'kampong' hideout as she prepares for Tokyo Games." South China Morning Post. 3 May 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/sport/other-sport/article/3132016/filipino-gold-medal-hope-hidilyn-diaz-safe-malaysian-food-kampong>