



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

Eighteenth Congress
Third Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2122

**Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco,
Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano**

**RESOLUTION
CONGRATULATING AND CONFERRING THE CONGRESSIONAL
MEDAL OF DISTINCTION TO CARLO PAALAM FOR BRINGING
PRIDE AND HONOR TO THE COUNTRY BY WINNING THE SILVER
MEDAL IN THE MEN’S FLYWEIGHT BOXING EVENT AT THE 2020
TOKYO SUMMER OLYMPICS ON 07 AUGUST 2021**

WHEREAS, on 07 August 2021, Carlo Paalam made Philippine boxing history by winning the silver medal in the men’s flyweight boxing event in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games held at the Kokugikan Arena in Tokyo, Japan;

WHEREAS, since the Philippines first competed in 1924, our country has sent athletes to every edition of the Summer Olympic Games, except in 1980, in our earnest campaign to win the prestigious Olympic Gold Medal;

WHEREAS, the Olympics is considered the pinnacle of sports competition in the world. The 2020 Summer Olympics was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was held in Tokyo, Japan in 2021;

WHEREAS, Paalam’s silver finish after Hidilyn Diaz’s golden victory, Nesthy Petecio’s silver medal and Eumir Marcial’s bronze finish is historically significant as it marks the first multi-medal finish for the Philippines since 1932;

WHEREAS, Paalam and Petecio’s silver medal Olympic triumph is the first for Philippine boxing in 25 years, after Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco's silver medal win at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics;

WHEREAS, Carlo Paalam was born on 16 July 1998 to a modest family in Talakag, Bukidnon, an upland town in Bukidnon province next to an outlying rural village in Cagayan de Oro City. His family eventually relocated to Cagayan de Oro, to seek for better opportunities;

WHEREAS, in order to put food on the family table, the young Paalam used to scavenge for garbage in a sanitary landfill near their shanty in Barangay Carmen, Cagayan de Oro. He used to swap punches with other kids to win a bottle of soft drinks in backyard fights;

WHEREAS, at a young age, Carlo Paalam joined a local tournament known as the “*Boxing at the Park*” and won his first boxing match at the age of seven, using his winnings of one hundred fifty pesos to buy rice for his family;

WHEREAS, in 2009, he was scouted by local officials during one of the “*Boxing at the Park*” tournaments and was placed under Cagayan de Oro’s boxing training program which fielded him on various youth competitions, such as the Batang Pinoy, Philippine National Games and the national championships. He earned the nickname “Pipi Lata” or tin-can crusher from one of his early coaches, two-time Olympian Roberto “Bobby” Jalnaiz;

WHEREAS, Carlo Paalam’s life was transformed from being a garbage picker to being an amateur pugilist after being mentored by former national coach Elmer Pamisa, who took over the amateur boxing development program in Cagayan de Oro and who searched for him and dutifully trained him again after Paalam quit boxing for a brief time;

WHEREAS, Paalam joined the national team in 2013 when he was 15 years old and quickly distinguished himself as a promising boxer when he took home the bronze medals both at the AIBA Youth Asian and World Championships in 2016;

WHEREAS, Carlo won several other medals in the international boxing arena including a gold medal in ASTANA President's Cup in Kazakhstan in 2017; bronze medal at the 2018 Asian Games; gold medal in the 10th AIBA International Tournament in 2018; gold medal in the 1st Thailand International Boxing Tournament in 2018; and gold medal in the 2019 Southeast Asian Games held in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Carlo Paalam secured a last-minute spot for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games through the International Olympic Committee-Boxing Task Force (IOC-BTF) ranking by virtue of his No. 2 ranking in Asian boxing flyweight category after the continental Olympic qualifiers;

WHEREAS, coming into the Olympics as an underdog, the Cagayan de Oro native did not have an easy run to the finals, as he had to defeat two-time Olympians Brendan Irvine of Ireland and Mohamed Flissi of Algeria to reach the quarterfinals, stunned the world after defeating the Rio Olympic gold medalist and men's flyweight world number one, Shakhobidin Zoirov of Uzbekistan in the quarterfinals, and roundly defeated Ryomei Tanaka of Japan in the semifinal match;

WHEREAS, Carlo Paalam gallantly fought in the finals of the men's flyweight division to gain what would have been the country's first Olympic gold medal in the sporting event many Filipinos highly celebrate and revere, but won only the third round out of three rounds, thus gaining a silver medal for his valiant efforts;

WHEREAS, Paalam, after emotionally planting a kiss on his Olympic silver medal which was made of recycled scrap metals, humbly declared that the said medal symbolizes his life. Everything came full circle for the boxer who used to scavenge for scrap metals to earn food for his family and came out victorious and successful because of perseverance, sacrifice, and hard work;

WHEREAS, Carlo Paalam's Olympic story mirrored the journey he took out of squalor of living off other people's refuse and has touched and inspired countless Filipinos, athletes, and young dreamers to reach for their goals and achieve their dreams despite their current predicaments in life;

WHEREAS, Paalam's fighting heart and indomitable spirit has ignited hope and dreams in our country reeling from the current pandemic and economic downturn by bringing honor and pride to all Filipinos, whether in the country or abroad;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has awarded the Congressional Medal of Distinction for Filipino achievers in sports, business, medicine, science, and other fields;

WHEREAS, for his unwavering determination and outstanding performance to bring the Olympic boxing glory to the country, Carlo Paalam inspired young Filipinos to persist and excel in sports, and his extraordinary

story and achievement deserves utmost emulation and recognition: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To congratulate and confer the Congressional Medal of Distinction to Carlo Paalam for bringing pride and honor to the country by winning the silver medal in the Men's Flyweight Boxing Event during the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games on 07 August 2021.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be given to Carlo Paalam.

Adopted,



LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO



JOSEPH STEPHEN "CARAPS" S. PADUANO



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ