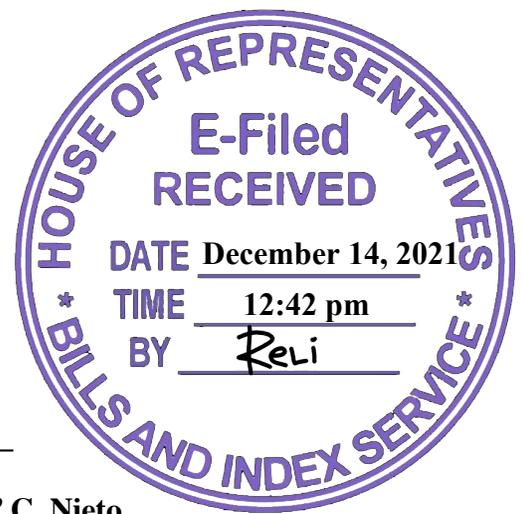


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2415

Introduced by Hon. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto



## RESOLUTION

### SECURING THE IRREPLACEABLE PERMANENCE OF PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HEROES AND THE REMOVAL OF ANY POLITICAL FIGURE IN PHILIPPINE BANK NOTES

**WHEREAS**, When the American liberation forces arrived in 1944, they brought the currency called the Victory Series No. 66. With the creation of the Central Bank of the Philippines in 1949, came the issuance of the English Series. They were in denominations 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 1000 pesos; all bearing portraits of Filipino heroes on the obverse, vignettes in Philippine history on the reverse, and worded in English language. On the other hand, all denominations of the Victory Series No. 66 were overprinted with “Central Bank of the Philippines” on the reverse side, and remained legal tender until July 30, 1964.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, since the inception of Central Bank of the Philippines, our national heroes is already part of the Philippine banknotes has been a constant reminder for us of the sacrifices that they have done for our independence and freedom, all in the name of our love for our country;

**WHEREAS**, the faces and names of our national heroes in our banknotes are one of the most effective ways to educate the Filipino people about our history and how important it is for all of us to stay educated and to open our eyes to the kind of hardships and battles that our heroes fought for our liberty and freedom. It is our daily reminder of who we are because of our national heroes.

**WHEREAS**, on 26 March 2018, the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas released the New Generation Currency (NGC) Coin Series comprised of the 10-Piso, 5-Piso, 1-Piso, 25-Sentimo, 5-Sentimo and the 1-Sentimo into circulation. These NGC coins feature three national heroes (Apolinario Mabini in the 10-Piso, Andres Bonifacio in the 5-Piso and Jose Rizal in the 1-Piso), a stylized three stars and a sun in the 25-, 5- and 1-Sentimo, the BSP logo, and endemic flora consistent with the design of the NGC Banknote Series that highlights Philippine fauna.<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2021 (Saturday), the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) released a new design of the One Thousand Peso Bill, a polymer 1,000 peso bill that features the Philippine eagle in front designed by the BSP and approved by the National Historical Institute (NHI)<sup>3</sup>. ;

**WHEREAS**, such a new design replaced the faces of our World War II heroes: Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos, Brig. Gen. Vicente Podico Lim, and Girl Scouts of the Philippines founder Josefa Llanes Escoda, all of whom were killed during the Japanese Occupation in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, Josefa Escoda was known for campaigning for women’s suffrage, Vicente Lim was a brigadier general and a World War II hero who was the first Filipino graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, and José Abad Santos y Basco was the fifth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, Japanese soldier captured him and wanted him to swear allegiance to the Japanese flag. "I would rather die than be a traitor," he said bravely to his captors. "I would prefer

<sup>1</sup> History of Philippine Currency-Demonetized Bank Series [English Series \(1949-1974\)](#) | Pilipino Series (1969-1974) | Ang Bagong Lipunan Series (1973-1993)

<sup>2</sup> New Generation Currency Coin Series, Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas

<sup>3</sup> Codero, T. (2021). *BSP releases new design of P1,000 bill*. [gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/814181/bsp-releases-new-design-of-p1-000-bill/story/](https://gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/814181/bsp-releases-new-design-of-p1-000-bill/story/)

to die rather than live in shame." Before he was shot to death on May 2, 1942, his last parting words were: "Do not cry, Pepito, show to these people that you are brave. It is an honour to die for one's country. Not everybody has that chance"<sup>4</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, there are glaring errors in the new designs of the aforementioned banknote, beginning with the scientific name of the Philippine eagle, where it was spelled *Pithecophaga "jefforyi"* instead of *Pithecophaga "jefferyi."*;

**WHEREAS**, more than the misspelled scientific name of the Philippine eagle, it is even worse to erase important historical figures of the new banknotes, by doing so, it is as if we are denigrating their significant contribution against the aggressive foreigners who have hurt and killed hundreds and thousands of our countrymen, focusing on any other than our national heroes is unjustifiable;

**WHEREAS**, while it is also important to feature the Philippine flora and fauna in our banknotes in the hopes of giving more knowledge to the Filipino people and preserving their lives and habitats, it shall not be done so at the expense of totally removing the names and faces of our national heroes who bravely stood up and fought for our rights and liberties;

**WHEREAS**, heroism is also enduring. Its impact goes beyond its time. Its legacy is felt by future generations. The freedom that we enjoy today were bought by the sweat, blood, and tears of Filipino heroes<sup>5</sup>, there is a need for consistency and security of the existence of national heroes in our banknotes, thus removing all political interest in order to avoid the misuse of our banknotes for personal agenda or the please the future administration, and will settle any future controversies.

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Bank Notes are being used in political agenda and propaganda just to please the incumbent administration because of its general circulation to the public.

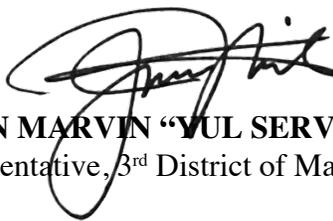
**WHEREAS**, the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas not even the National Historical Commission of the Philippines or any government agencies should have no power to remove the legacy of our national heroes in Philippine Bank Notes.

**WHEREAS**, the redesigning of our banknotes should have the concurrence of the Philippine Congress and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), because it has a significant relevance and implication in the society and Philippine history, the faces of national heroes in our banknotes serves a higher purpose than to serve as a design, it serves as a reminder that they are worthy of being in our currency because of what they have done for our country and the lives of our future generation to be proud of what we have fought for and who they are as Filipinos;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, to secure and consistently remain the National Heroes in our Banknotes and the removal of any political figure in order to secure our collective memory of our history and nationalistic interest without impartiality.

**BE IT FURHTER RESOLVED**, that the President institute through the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, National Historical Commission of the Philippine and the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts significant measures to secure, disseminate and propagate the truth about such fact in history books, elementary, high school and tertiary education, and other related medium of information.

*Adopted,*



**HON. JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO**  
Representative, 3<sup>rd</sup> District of Manila City

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<sup>4</sup> Gulf News Report. (2021, December). Look: There's a new 1,000 Philippine peso bill.

<https://gulfnews.com/business/look-theres-a-new-1000-philippine-peso-bill-1.1639296749735>

<sup>5</sup> Charissa Luci-Atienza & Bernie Cahiles-Magkilat, "Why do we celebrate National Heroes' Day?", Manila Bulletin, August 29, 2018