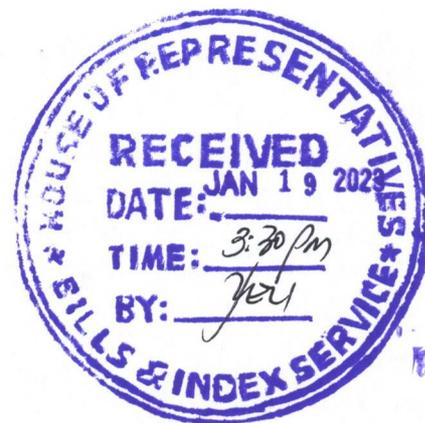


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6803

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**Introduced by CONG. ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the world. Its popularity originates in North America but great interest is rapidly spreading into the international arena. The Philippines prides itself on its competitiveness globally in sports and continues to maintain and cultivate this competitiveness.

The Philippine Lacrosse Association (PLA) represents the country within the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL). The Philippine Lacrosse Team is currently ranked number 10 globally out of 79 countries after its debut at the 2018 World Lacrosse Championship in Netanya, Israel. Of the 23-man roster that attended the world games in Israel, 19 of them were Filipino Citizens per FIL rules.

**Patrick David Bartolome Kaveny** was born in Singapore on June 10, 1999 to an American Father and a Filipino Mother who was naturalized as a citizen of the United States in 1993. She recently reacquired her Filipino citizenship through R.A. 9225. Mr. Kaveny is ineligible to receive citizenship through his mother as she was not a Filipino citizen at the time of his birth.

Mr. Kaveny played defense at the highest Division 1 Collegiate level in the United States and through a rigorous selection process and try outs, Mr. Kaveny has been selected to represent the Philippines at the 2023 world games on the 23-man roster. The requirement of citizenship does not differ from the 2018 games in Israel: 19 of those 23 men must be Filipino citizens. PLA hopes to make another strong showing at the 2023 World Lacrosse Games in San Diego.

Additionally, it is the goal of the PLA to grow the sport of Lacrosse within the Philippines and Mr. Kaveny has also be selected to work with the PLA to teach the sport to local youth when they travel to the Philippines in the incoming year.

In recent years, the Philippines has granted Filipino citizenship to athletes in order to represent the country in international tournaments. In 2014, two American-born basketball players, Javalee McGee, and Andray Blatche were granted citizenship to play on the Philippine National Team in the FIBA Basketball World Cup. More recently, PBA player Justin Brownlee has been granted citizenship. Another example of an athlete granted the honor of Philippine citizenship to represent our country is SEA Gold medalist swimmer Akiko Thompson.

Again, it is of utmost importance that we bolster the rosters of all teams representing the Philippines in any international tournament to create a successful culture in sports. Mr. Kaveny is by blood a Filipino and his loyalty to the country is without question. His skill in the sport of Lacrosse will undoubtedly represent the Philippines well at the 2023 World Lacrosse Games.

With all above being considered, approval of this bill is humbly sought.



**ROBERT ACE S. BARBERS**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Surigao del Norte

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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO**  
**MR. PATRICK DAVID B. KAVENY**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Patrick David B. Kaveny is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights and privileges and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto, under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Patrick David B. Kaveny shall take the Oath of Allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

SECTION 3. Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue a Certificate of Naturalization to Patrick David B. Kaveny who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*