

NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Resolution No. 35

A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF REUBEN RABE CANOY

WHEREAS, Reuben Rabe Canoy passed away on July 5, 2022;

WHEREAS, he was born on June 6, 1929 in Cagayan de Oro City;

WHEREAS, he was a fictionist, poet, screenwriter, film producer, radio host, lawyer, politician, and staunch advocate for Mindanao independence and federalism;

WHEREAS, he graduated with an AA degree from Silliman University in 1952 and was the editor-in-chief of the 1952 edition of *Sands and Coral*, the university's literary journal, for which he was also known for contributing its now iconic emblem of a nude figure swimming underwater and gathering sand in their hands, which he designed in 1948

WHEREAS, he was a huge part of Silliman's post-World War II generation of writers who went on to great critical acclaim in the mid-1950s, together with Edilberto Tiempo, Edith Tiempo, Aida Rivera Ford, Ricaredo Demetillo, Eddie Romero, and Cesar Jalandoni Amigo;

WHEREAS, he published his fiction and poetry in national papers and magazines and in 1981, his short story "Deep River" was included in the landmark anthology, *Philippine Short Stories 1941-1955*, published by the University of the Philippines Press;

WHEREAS, he would become a lawyer and was appointed as Undersecretary for the Department of Public Information under the Presidency of Ferdinand E. Marcos;

WHEREAS, from 1971 to 1976, he was the mayor of Cagayan de Oro City and would be part of the group that formed the Mindanao Alliance together with fellow Mindanaonon politicians Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Homobono Adaza;

WHEREAS, he was the lone opposition candidate in Northern Mindanao to win in the 1978 Batasan polls;

WHEREAS, Canoy was an accomplished author and one of his more famous works is *The Quest for Mindanao Independence* [1989], where he began touting his dream for that island's political independence from the Philippines. He would also turn his attention to the issue of federalism, and once described the current unitary government as "a legacy of colonialism, whose centralized power suppresses democratic governance, thwarts local development and impedes nationalist progress";

WHEREAS, he was also an accomplished film producer and screenwriter and he provided the story for fellow Sillimanian Eddie Romero's *The Passionate Strangers*, which is a film noir set in Dumaguete; he also wrote the screenplay for Romero's B-movie horror film *Mad Doctor of*

Blood Island [1968], for Amigo's *Babae sa Likod ng Salamin* [1976], which he also produced under his film outfit Ruben Canoy Productions, and Amigo's *Sa Dulo ng Kris* [1977];

WHEREAS, he was also a long-time radio personality starting in 1952 when he convinced his brother Henry to turn his fledgling radio station in Cagayan de Oro into a more powerful network which would become Radio Mindanao Network;

WHEREAS, until his later years, Canoy hosted an early morning radio program, "Perspective," which ran for 64 years on RMN;

WHEREAS, for his contributions to mass media, he would be conferred the Outstanding Sillimanian Award.;

WHEREAS, for many of his avid radio listeners, he was known for his trademark sign-off: "Ang lungsod nga nasayod maoy makahatag og kusog sa demokrasya. Apan ang lungsod nga mapasagaron, maoy makapukan sa atong kagawasan;

WHEREAS, Canoy was married to Solona Torralba in 1953, and they have four children, Rhona, Chet, Marc, and Don;

WHEREAS, Canoy served with utmost integrity, sincerity, and dedication as mayor of Cagayan de Oro City from 1971-1976; as Regional Assemblyman in the Interim Batasan Pambansa representing Cagayan de Oro and Northern Mindanao from 1978 to 1984; and the National Government as Undersecretary of the then Department of Public Information.

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To express its profound condolences to the bereaved family of Reuben Rabe Canoy.

Adopted,


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ