

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of July, two thousand twenty-two.

RESOLUTION NO. 22

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING GREGORIO G. VILLAR III, GENEVIE V. YANG, AND EDWARD GONZALES FOR THEIR VITAL ROLE IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE EXPLORATION MISSION TO THE PLANET MARS LAUNCHED BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched Mars 2020, a mission tasked to explore the Jezero Crater on the Planet Mars through the Perseverance Rover and Ingenuity Helicopter;

WHEREAS, the exploration mission was NASA's first Astrobiology-focused undertaking to collect and store rock and soil

samples from the surface of Mars, and ferry them back to Earth for detailed study and analysis of the existence of microbial life;

WHEREAS, the three major components of the Mars 2020 spacecraft are the 539 kg. (1,188 lb.)-cruise stage for travel between Earth and Mars; the Entry, Descent and Landing (EDL) System that includes the 575 kg. (1,268 lb.)-aeroshell descent vehicle + 440 kg. (970 lb.)-heat shield; and the 1,070 kg. (2,360 lb.)-fueled mass descent;

WHEREAS, three Filipino-American engineers, namely: Gregorio G. Villar III, Genevie V. Yang, and Edward Gonzales were among the thousands of scientists and technicians involved in the historic mission;

WHEREAS, Gregorio G. Villar III, an EDL Systems Engineer at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), was also the Head Verification and Validation Engineer for the EDL Phase;

WHEREAS, Gregorio G. Villar III attended the St. Louis University Laboratory High School in Baguio City. He obtained a bachelor's degree in Physics from the California State Polytechnic University, and a master's degree in Astronautical Engineering from the University of Southern California;

WHEREAS, Genevie V. Yang, a Flight Systems Engineer at the NASA JPL, who was born in Biñan City, Laguna and whose family migrated to the United States of America when she was five years old, was a member of the team that tested the flight software of the Perseverance Rover and worked with the Uplink Team that ensured the efficiency of the spacecraft while at launch cruise;

WHEREAS, Edward Gonzales, whose parents hail from Quezon City and Cavite, was the Lead Engineer of the Electromagnetic Compatibility Team that launch-tested and ascertained that all the individual subsystems and instruments of the Perseverance Rover would perfectly perform in the electromagnetic environment, and successfully collected and transmitted data from the Perseverance

Rover to the NASA base on Earth, despite the electromagnetic interference from the units onboard;

WHEREAS, Gregorio G. Villar III, Genevie V. Yang, and Edward Gonzales deserve recognition for their role and exemplary performance in the high-priority science space exploration to Mars, for inspiring the Filipino youth, and giving pride to the nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, To commend and congratulate Gregorio G. Villar III, Genevie V. Yang, and Edward Gonzales for their vital role in ensuring the success of the exploration mission to the Planet Mars launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America.

Adopted,



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ
Speaker

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on November 8, 2022.



REGINALD S. VELASCO
Secretary General