

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2028

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: 27 JUL 2016

TIME: 1:51 PM

BY: [Signature]

REGISTRATION UNIT

FILE AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by
HONORABLE IMELDA ROMUALDEZ-MARCOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare September 20 of every year as a special nonworking holiday in the province of Ilocos Norte in honor of the late Josefa Llanes Escoda. .

There is a need to strengthen the people's awareness of the heroic humanitarian efforts of the Girl Scout of the Philippines founder Josefa Llanes Escoda. Article XIV, Section 15 of the Philippine Constitution provides that *"The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's cultural heritage and resources."* Josefa Llanes Escoda, born on September 20, 1898 in Dingras, Ilocos Norte, is one of the greatest heroine of World War II.

She started her basic education in Dingras Elementary school, secondary level at Ilocos Norte Highschool and finished her undergraduate studies in social work at the New York School of Social Work and Columbia University. Josefa Llanes Escoda was a peacetime heroine, humanitarian, educator, and civic leader. She started to fight challenges directed against illiteracy, poverty, malnutrition, diseases and built nationwide chapters of The Red Cross, organized Anti-Leprosy Society, Anti-TB Society, and Anti - Tuberculosis Association. Josefa Llanes Escoda put the Philippines on the map through her worldwide lectures, promoting its cultural heritage wearing only Filipino dresses wherever she went.

Through her leadership and passionate efforts, educating Filipinos around the country, 434,725 women voted for the proposal of the *Woman Suffrage Law of 1937* which was passed and signed by President Manuel L. Quezon.

In 1940, she founded The Girl Scout of the Philippines that started from 1,000 members and now with more than 3,000,000 members solid today. The Girl Scouts of the Philippines (GSP) was chartered as a national organization under Commonwealth Act No. 542. Under her leadership, GSP helped thousands of families of American and Filipino prisoners of War.

Josefa Llanes Escoda is considered as one of the Country's most illustrious women who championed the cause of socio and civic services which earned for her the distinction and honor as one of the greatest heroines of the last Pacific War. She is remembered *"as a beacon of hope to all that could not be extinguished even in the darkest hours; as a woman who rose in triumph over the misdeeds of men"*, by the City of Manila's 45th Anniversary.

By declaring September 20 as "Josefa Llanes Escoda Day" and a special nonworking holiday in the Province of Ilocos Norte, it would be an honorable tribute to commemorate her priceless contributions to humanity.

For additional information, this bill was approved by the House on the Sixteenth Congress, and transmitted to the Senate for its action. Consequent approval by the Senate was stalled by the sine die adjournment of the Sixteenth Congress.

With the foregoing reasons, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Adopted,


HON. IMELDA R. MARCOS
Representative
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2028

Introduced by
HONORABLE IMELDA ROMUALDEZ-MARCOS

**AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 20 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
NONWORKING HOLIDAY KNOWN AS "JOSEFA LLANES ESCODA DAY" IN THE
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE IN HONOR OF THE WORLD WAR II HEROINE AND
FOUNDER OF THE GIRL SCOUT OF THE PHILIPPINES DOÑA JOSEFA LLANES
ESCODA**

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

SECTION 1. September 20 of every year is hereby declared as a special nonworking holiday known as "Josefa Llanes Escoda Day" in the Province of Ilocos Norte to commemorate one of the greatest heroines of the Last Pacific War and founder of the Girl Scout of the Philippines Doña Josefa Llanes Escoda.

SECTION 2. Effectivity – This act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in 2 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,