

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5848

Introduced by: **Rep. Raul V. Del Mar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The late senator **Serging Osmeña Jr.** – who was also former Cebu governor and Cebu City mayor and congressman – was not as aptly honored as he deserved to be. This bill aims to correct that.

His **invaluable service** to Cebu and the country is on record and indisputable.

Son of Sergio Osmeña Sr. – the Filipino president-in-exile who “waded with General Douglas MacArthur in seawaters of Leyte when the general returned to the Philippines” – Serging Osmeña Jr. served as Cebu governor for three years, Cebu City mayor for three terms, congressman for four years, and senator for two years.

He ran for president in 1969 and could have served the country for many more years. In 1971, he was critically wounded when a Liberal Party rally at Plaza Miranda was bombed, a tragedy in Philippine politics that killed 10 people and injured 74 others. While on exile in the U.S., he died at 67 in 1984.

To Cebu, he has been most fondly remembered for **changing Cebu’s economic landscape** and thus affected its people’s lives in generations long after his death.

He was the first post-war **visionary leader** who prepared the province and cities for the future: the first Mactan-Mandaue bridge which he strongly lobbied for with national leaders and the transfer of the airport from Lahug to a modern facility in Mactan, along with the North Reclamation Area which anticipated the economic expansion were bold and ambitious enterprises that few other leaders in the country still only thought about but did not dare to undertake.

Cebuano leaders now hail his **foresight**, thanking him for many projects that he pursued before their time, which help Cebu cope with the demands of its growth and progress, as evidenced by the economic development of Cebu City, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City, and their neighboring areas.

Serging's legacy though would not just be the **infrastructures** that he made possible during his time but this mantra our leaders must espouse and practice : **not just for local governments and their communities to meet challenges of the present but to get ready for the years to come.**

It is most fitting for Cebu to place him on the top rung of outstanding Cebuanos. And most appropriate for the rest of the country to join Cebu in the tribute for a national leader truly deserving of the honor.



RAUL V. DEL MAR

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5848

Introduced by: **Rep. Raul V. Del Mar**

AN ACT
DECLARING DECEMBER 4 OF EACH YEAR AS (1) A NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN ALL THE CITIES OF CEBU AND THE PROVINCE OF CEBU
AND (2) A WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY IN
HONOR OF THE LATE SEN. SERGING OSMEÑA, JR.

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

Section 1. December 4 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working public holiday in all the Cities of Cebu and the Province of Cebu and a working holiday in the rest of the country in honor of the late Senator Serging Osmeña, Jr.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved