

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 0435

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In all books written on Philippine History there is very scant account, if at all, of the revolutionary heroes of Mindanao in the revolution against Spain and the subsequent war against the Americans.

In Teodoro Agoncillo's *Philippine History*, the only account of Mindanao's participation in the revolution was contained in one paragraph which stated that although the people in Mindanao was opposed to American sovereignty, the leaders particularly in Zamboanga quarreled among themselves such that when the Americans attacked Zamboanga, the town fell without much resistance from the quarreling Filipino leaders.

In his later book entitled *History of the Filipino People* there was even no mention of any revolutionary activity in Mindanao from 1896 to 1901. What was cited instead was the Bates Treaty between the Americans and the Sultanate of Sulu of August 20, 1899.

In Gregorio Zaide's *The Pageant of Philippine History* there were only three pages devoted to Mindanao's participation in the Philippine Revolution which mentioned that during the closing days of 1898, the people of Palawan rose in arms, liberated Puerto Princesa and other towns; that in January 1899 the Christian inhabitants in Misamis, Cotabato and Surigao in Mindanao also rose in arms and drove away the Spanish garrisons, which fled to Zamboanga; and that on May 13, 1899, the Christian revolutionists under the command of General Alvarez attacked the Spanish army in Zamboanga and later the Spaniards had to leave Zamboanga.

Zaide also mentioned that when the first U.S. troops under Captain Pratt landed in Jolo on May 19, 1899, the Taosugs did not resist and on August 20, 1899 the so called Bates Treaty was concluded. He continued by stating that on November 16, 1899, the American troops arrived in Zamboanga and made it a base to launch an intensive military offensive in Mindanao. He then briefly recounted the Battle of Agusan Hill and the assault of Macahambus Cave both in Cagayan de Oro by the Americans.

In Dr. Sonia M. Zaide's *The Philippines: A Unique Nation* (with Dr. Gregorio F. Zaide's *History of the Republic of the Philippines*), only two paragraphs were devoted to Mindanao. The first paragraph stated that in April 1899 the Filipino patriots of Zamboanga captured a large storage of machine guns and rifles from the Spanish gunboats in Basilan and with these arms, they attacked the Spaniards in Basilan and Zamboanga. In Misamis, Surigao and Cotabato, the Christian Filipinos also adhered to the cause of Philippine Independence. The second paragraph was an account of the signing of the Bates Treaty.

In Eufronio M. Alip's *Philippine History: Political, Social and Economic*, there was no mention at all on the revolution in Mindanao. In his later book entitled *Political and Cultural History of the Philippines* nothing was mentioned about the revolution in Mindanao except a passing reference to the Mohammedan elements in Mindanao which supported the cause of the revolution.

In Anotnio M. Molina's *The Philippines Through the Centuries* there was a short account on the revolution in Mindanao, which stated that a sergeant and a corporal attached to the 68th Regiment garrisoned in Jolo, succeeded in winning members for the Katipunan to which they were secretly affiliated. On 4th september they rose in arms and engaged the government troops in various skirmishes. However, the movement was quickly suppressed and trials were summarily conducted, with two sergeants, five corporals, and two soldiers being sentenced to death.

In his book, Molina also mentioned the rebellion of the 69th Regiment in Iligan on October 21, 1898 and the Marine Forces joined by Filipino land troops rising in arms in Lanao in November, 1898. He also mentioned that early in April 1899 as the remaining Spanish troops in Mindanao converged in Zamboanga port, ready for repatriation, the Filipinos, led by the patriots of Zamboanga took over.

In Conrado Benitez's *History of Philippines*, there was no mention on the revolution in Mindanao as if nothing happened in Mindanao during the period of the Philippine revolution from 1896 to 1901.

The above survey of the history books written by our more prominent historians clearly shows that there was disregard of, or even bias against, the heroic participation of the people of Mindanao in the revolution against Spain and the fight against American rule from 1896 to 1901.

It is a fact that in different places in Mindanao, the people rebelled against Spain and later fought the Americans who replaced the Spaniards.

The revolution against Spain was started in Northern Mindanao in Iligan City when a group of disciplinarios (Filipino soldiers under the Command of Spanish Military Officers) adhered to the cause of the Katipuneros and mutinied against the Spanish army in the early months of 1897. They killed all their Spanish officers and left again. These disciplinarios who numbered 300 soldiers belonged to the Third and Fourth Companies of the regular Spanish Army stationed in Iligan.

They went to Cagayan but found it heavily defended by the Spanish Regiment No. 72 and the Tercio de Voluntarios de Cagayan, a group of Cagayan volunteers who were primarily responsible for the defense of the town. They skipped Cagayan. In an encounter at Sta. Ana, Tagoloan, the disciplinarios were defeated and some of them went on to Bukidnon and lived there with the Bukidnons and some went on to Surigao.

Before the Spaniards departed from Misamis Oriental the people organized a new government based upon the laws and regulations of the Revolutionary Government at Malolos. The first resolution passed by the Provincial Council contained provisions to fight any invader, to organize armed forces and to secure arms and ammunition.

Later, Anselmo Abejuela arrived from Manila. He had been appointed by the Revolutionary government of Malolos as the Military chief of the province. He organized the local forces and continued the war preparation but later resigned due to poor health.

In the Battle of Cagayan, the Americans had occupied Cagayan without resistance. However, General Nicolas Capistrano had ordered all rebel forces to meet at Gango Plateau, 12 kms. southeast of Cagayan, on the same day that Cagayan was occupied by the Americans. Joining the rebels were Bukidnons who came to help the Cagayan revolutionaries.

On April 7, 1900, the Cagayan Revolutionaries attacked the American barracks and thus started the Battle of Cagayan, for almost an hour, the battle and raged on. Capt. Apolinario Pabayo of the macheteros succeeded in entering the barracks and wounding some Americans but was himself killed. Two American soldiers were killed and eleven wounded. On the side of the revolutionaries, 53 were killed, while 18 were wounded. The Americans had superior might and so General Capistrano's troops had to retreat.

In the fight against the Americans, the Bukidnon lumads had promptly responded to the appeal of their coastal brothers. In the Battle of Cagayan, fifteen Bukidnon patriots died. They also helped not only in warfare but also by giving quarters and provisions during the war.

In the Battle of Agusan Hill on May 14, 1900, Capt. Vicente Roa led the Cagayan Revolutionaries in the east in an encounter with the 40th Regiment U.S. Volunteer Infantry. Captain Roa, when told that all his men had been killed, kept on fighting with this revolver until he ran out of ammunition. When he fell, an American soldier snatched one of his medals of honor. On Agusan Hills lay dead 34 brave soldiers of the First Company of the Mindanao Battalion with their gallant captain.

In the Battle of Macahambus, the Cagayan revolutionaries in the west had fortified Macahambus case. On June 4, 1900, Capt. Eliot of the 40th Regiment decided to capture Macahambus cave. As the Americans climbed the narrow trail to the fortress, the revolutionaries ambushed them from their trenches. Nine Americans soldiers were killed and more than ten were wounded. Only one died, Apolinario Nacalaban and three were wounded on the side of the Cagayan revolutionaries.

In the Surrender of General Capistrano on April 6, 1901, the Misamis Phase of the Filipino-American war ended after about a year.

There were people from Misamis Occidental who fought with Aguinaldo's forces in Luzon. One of them was Mariano Garcenes, a Spanish mestizo who returned to Misamis after the signing of the Pact of Biak-na-Bato. Upon his return, he joined the resistance group organized by Simeon Ledesma.

On May 14, 1900 Captain Lambdin of the American forces with 40 men who were stationed at Loculan, 4 miles east of Misamis, were attacked by Misamis revolutionaries armed with daggers. Fifty seven revolutionaries were killed and twenty wounded. Because of superior weapons, the revolutionaries were repulsed.

The revolutionaries in Misamis Occidental were headed by Rufino Deloso. His force of 400 insurgents continued the struggle against the Americans by raising funds from the people, securing arms and initiating encounters with the Americans.

There were no less than twenty encounters between the revolutionaries and the Americans in Misamis Occidental from May 14, 1900 up to January 6, 1901.

To the natives of Oroquieta-Launguan area, Capitan Daligdig led numerous assaults against the Oroquieta garrison of the Americans. He was known as brave, a fencing expert and possessed with supernatural powers.

On January 27, 1899, Severino Reyes, organized the Corp of Liberators (Cuerpo de Libertadores) equipping them with arms to maintain public order and defend Camiguin against invaders.

On February 12, 1899 General Simeon Gonzales who had been appointed by Gen. Aguinaldo as the Military Chief of Mindanao arrived in Camiguin and commended the local revolutionaries on their war preparations.

On December 6, 1899, American gunships appeared along the coast of Camiguin. Gunship No. 5 dispatched a small boat to attack a banca which was aligning for port space. The Cuerpo de Libertadores defended the banca and volleys of shots were exchanged. The small boat retreated and went back to the gunship which then shelled the island for 3 to 4 hours.

On December 10, 1899, Gunship No. 5 of the Americans destroyed the steamship Minerva, owned by the provincial government when it resisted the assault by the gunship at the waters around Cagayan. On March 31, 1900, the Americans were able to take over the capital town of Mambajao.

The Gonzales family of Surigao was headed by Don Juan or Jantoy. In 1892, the Spanish governor of Surigao exiled the brothers Simon and Wenceslao Gonzales for their anti-Spanish activities to Jolo. They would have been vanished to the Marianas Islands but Fr. Pastells, Superior of the Jesuits intervened on time. Simon and Wenceslao returned to Surigao after almost four years of exile in Jolo.

In April 1896, the Spanish governor again exiled Simon and Wenceslao to Manila. Earlier, their brother Florendo was executed by Spanish authorities in Cebu for his Katipunan activities there. Both men never got to Manila because war broke out between Spain and the U.S. and they were detained in Iloilo.

In September 1896, they obtained permission to go to Hong Kong. They stayed only for a short time there and they later went to Manila where they got in contact with Aguinaldo revolutionaries. After September 15, 1898, they attended sessions of the Malolos Congress. On January 2, 1899, Aguinaldo appointed Simeon Gonzales as Military Commander of Mindanao and Wenceslao as Governor of Surigao. On February 11, 1899, they returned triumphantly to Surigao.

Returning in triumph to Surigao, the Gonzales brothers declared it a free territory and part of the Republic of the Philippines and with the assistance of their legal supporters imprisoned the priests and missionaries, Jesuits and Benedictines alike.

Simon was the first person to hoist the Philippine flag at Casa Real in Surigao while Wenceslao became the first person to hoist the Philippine flag in Butuan on January 14, 1899.

When the Spanish-American war erupted, General Simon Gonzales and Governor Wenceslao Gonzales made military preparations and geared the people in Surigao and Agusan for assistance against the Americans. However, their nationalistic efforts were thwarted when Prudencio Garcia, the general from Banganga, executed a coup d' etat and toppled and arrested the Gonzales after only 83 days in power.

The year before, specifically on September 23, 1898 this Prudencio Garcia had taken matters into his hands and led a swift and successful uprising against the undermanned Spanish detachments at the Banganga-Cateel line on the Pacific coast of Surigao. After deposing the Spanish officers and other government officials, he installed himself as head of the new local government unit.

On April 4, 1899, Garcia's men took Simon and Wenceslao, together with their father, Don Juan to the beach of Cortes where they were shot to death. Later, Gen. Garcia peacefully welcomed the Americans upon their arrival in Surigao.

From the Jesuit Missionary letters from Mindanao, we learn that the people in Central Mindanao also rose up against the Spaniards. From the letter of Mariano Suarez to the Mission Superior, the father reported the plans of the deportees in Cotabato to rise against Spain as early as November 1896. However, this was aborted by alert Spanish authorities.

In October 1898, Fr. Suarez wrote to the Superior about the plot of Spanish Infantry to mutiny. However, the Spanish governor learned of the plot and the infantry men were disarmed, shackled and detained at the barracks.

In November 1898, the Spanish authorities executed by firing squad in Cotabato forty nine of those who plotted against the Spaniards.

In Pollok, Maguindanao, Father Baltazar Ferrer also wrote to the Mission Superior on December 7, 1898 that a conspiracy, probably planned jointly with those in Cotabato, was to take over the two gunboats of the Spaniards namely the Gardoqui and Bravo by killing the officers of the ships. But their plot was discovered and twenty-two persons were apprehended and brought on board the Panay to Isabela.

In the same letter, Fr. Ferrer also mentioned the arrival a month earlier of more than 370 political exiles and convicts. Shortly on arrival, 101 were executed, same in Malaybalay and Baras and others in Parang.

After the Spanish withdrawal from Cotabato, Datu Piang declared himself Sultan of Mindanao. On January 6, 1899, with a thousand warriors, he occupied Cotabato and later on Tamontaka. The churches and convents were badly damaged and the pent-up wrath of the Maguindanao against the Christian colonizers reached a peak of expression. The memory of indio participation against the Maguindanao was still very strong.

However, Datu Piang's reign in Cotabato was short-lived. In December 1899 American occupation forces arrived in Pulangi, putting an end of the armed conflicts.

Although Datu Piang co-opted with the American establishment, resistance to American rule was led by Datu Ali a descendant of the Buayan ruling family and former follower of Datu Uto. Datu Ali attempted to raise the whole Cotabato Valley in revolt. His fortress in Cotabato was the largest ever constructed in Mindanao. It would easily hold five thousand men. Although this fortress/garrison was eventually overrun and taken by the Americans he was not captured. Datu Ali of Buayan was the last Muslim of reknown to resist American rules through armed means.

At the beginning of Philippine revolution, a sergeant and a corporal attached to the 68th Regiment garrisoned in Jolo succeeded in winning members for the Katipunan. On the 4th of September, 1896, the native soldiers rose in arms at Fort Alfonso XII and engaged the government troops in various skirmishes. However, the movement was quickly suppressed and trial was summarily conducted with two sergeants, five corporals and two soldiers sentenced to death. The rest of those arrested were condemned to life imprisonment.

By 1898, the repercussions of the revolution in Luzon were felt in Zamboanga where General Vicente Alvarez led the revolutionaries against the remaining Spanish contingents.

In April 1899, the rebels had captured a large storage of machine guns and rifles from Spanish gunboats off Basilan and on May 13, 1899 they began a siege of Zamboanga.

The Spaniards finally evacuated the town; but at embarkation, Montero, a Spanish general was fatally wounded. General delos Rios surrendered the city to Gen. Alvarez on May 18, 1899 and evacuated his troops to Manila the next day.

After the Spanish evacuation, a petty civil war between the principalia of Zamboanga and faction of the revolutionary militia broke out. On March 16, 1899 the American attacked Zamboanga with little resistance from the battle-weary citizens.

In Jolo, when the U.S. troops under Captain Pratt landed on May 18, 1899, the Tausugs did not resist. In July 1899, Military Governor Otis sent General John Bates to Jolo to negotiate an agreement with Sultan Jamalul Kiram II of Sulu. On August 20, 1899, the Bates Treaty was concluded establishing friendly relations between the Sultanate and the U.S.

The Philippine revolution of 1896 caused no significant reaction in Davao. In November, 1896 Fr. Saturnino Urios, Superior of the Jesuits in Davao, wrote how much they thank God for the people in Davao continued to be friendly, unaffected by the revolution.

In September, 1898, the Spanish officials in Davao received orders to vacate the place and turn over the government to the local authorities. When the Spaniards left Davao in mid January 1899, a new council of government was installed but other refused to abide by it and so anarchy reigned in Davao.

Unexpected on February 6, the tercios revolutionarios armed with rifles went on a rampage killing their senior officer, his wife and a young relative. Others joined them and proclaimed themselves masters of the town. Somehow the Jesuits managed to convince the tercios to return. However, one of the principales, a friend of the lieutenant killed by the tercios fired a bullet killing the latter's murderer and so fighting ensued. However they were later pacified and peace finally settled down.

These accounts clearly show that in all regions of Mindanao there were revolutionary activities waged by the community first against the Spaniards then later against the Americans.

Although there was not much direct participation of the Muslims in Mindanao in the Philippine Revolution from 1896 to 1900, first against the Spaniards and later against the Americans, focus should be made on the Muslim's indispensable role in helping the Philippine Revolution through their continuous resistance against Spanish rule specially during the years immediately preceding the 1896 revolution.

In 1880, Datu Uto became the most powerful datu in the Pulangi area. The Spaniards decided to conquer the Datu to demonstrate that the Maguindanao have no chance against the might of the Spaniards.

In 1884, a fierce battle between the Spaniards and the forces of Datu Uto in Tumbao took place but the Datu's man there was defeated. But Datu Uto remained unconquered such that in 1886 Governor General Terero had to personally lead the punitive campaign against the Datu. After more than a year of fighting, Datu Uto was forced to sue for peace through a letter. The Spaniards content by the letter abandoned their expedition. This expedition was criticized in Manila for its very large expenses.

Gen. Valeriano Wreyler succeeded Governor Terero as Governor General in 1888. He strengthened the Spanish forces in Cotabato but decided to conquer first the unconquered Maranaos.

On August 21, 1891, the Spaniards under Governor General Valeriano Wreyler attacked the Maranas at Fort Marawi under Datu Amai Pakpak. Unaware of concealed pits or ditches planted with sharpened bamboo sticks and covered with plants and vines, many Spaniards fell and got killed. However, they succeeded in scaling the fort's wall and defeated the defenders. Anai Pakpak escaped death.

But Wreyler three days later abandoned the fort in fear of Maranaos who were already massing for an assault on the Spaniards. They returned to Iligan.

In March 10, 1895, Gov. General Ramon Blanco with a force of about 3,000 troops aided by countless volunteers marched to Marawi. After severe fighting including hand to hand encounters and with heavy losses on both sides, Blanco's superior power succeeded in planting the Spanish flag upon the fort for the second time. But it was at the cost of 18 Spaniards dead and 197 wounded.

The conquistadores of Spain have met their match in the Islam's warriors of Mindanao and Sulu because after 300 years of fighting the Moros preserved their independence, religion and culture. The Muslims had staged a bitter and uninterrupted warfare against the might of Spain for a period of 337 years.

The Moro Wars became a factor in the development of the Philippine Revolution. The Wars sapped the energies of Spanish officials and gave them little opportunity to strengthen the Spanish hold on Luzon, thereby creating a situation favorable to a revolutionary movement. While the Christian natives were taxed and recruited into forced labor in support of the campaign against the Muslims, the Spanish authorities failed to protect Christian settlements from Muslims ravages. Thus, the Moro wars too, helped create sources of discontent which combined with other dynamics responsible for the Philippine Revolution.

Statistical data show that the Politico-Military Government of Mindanao begun incurring a deficit spending of 439,920.03 pesos in 1884; at Insular level a comparison shows that the staggering deficit accounted for 1,846,718.01 pesos and the budget for the succeeding years before the 1896 Revolution reflected the same trend. The budget immediately preceding the Revolution, that of 1895-1896, reflected the war department getting the lion's share of 4,045,061.34 pesos. A good percentage went to salaries of the clergy and support of the church amounting to 1,045,540 pesos. At the outbreak of the 1896 Revolution, the Insular Government had at its disposal a limited force consisting of two squadrons of cavalry, one battalion of engineers, one artillery regiment, and seven regiments of infantry. Six of these infantry regiments were then in Mindanao for the Lake Lanao campaign, but some of these were immediately recalled.

Because substantial Spanish forces were concentrated on these places of Mindanao including the forces along the trocha of the isthmus, Spanish forces in Manila were too weak to suppress the revolution. Therefore, in its contextual aspects, the activities of the Moros along the isthmus, the relationship of the Moros and the Subanen and the concentration of the Spanish forces in Mindanao contributed to the success of the Philippine revolution of 1896.

Burdened with financial constraints, the Spaniards could not fight two fronts at the same time, so, they fixed their attention to Mindanao. Because of this, their control in Luzon was eased as the big bulk of their forces was sent to the south. It was during the period that the Katipunan spread all over Luzon. Therefore, there is enough reason to believe that the Moro resistance had contributed in the strengthening of the Katipunan because without the military campaign in Mindanao, there would have been enough Spanish forces in Manila to check their activities.

The Moros may not have taken part in the actual combat during the revolution, but their unwavering resistance to Spanish domination is enough contribution to the cause of freedom. Their resistance and offensive operations undermined the Spanish plan to subjugate totally the archipelago. Enormous amount of money for the improvement of the army and the navy were spent, leaving behind other services for the colony, which resulted in dissatisfaction among Spanish subjects. This dissatisfaction, among others was one of the reasons of the revolution. Revolution is change and change is a process, in short, a revolution does not happen at a flick of fingers, but develops until it matured. The Philippine Revolution, therefore, was the climax of the process, the mutiny of the determination of the Filipinos to be free.

The Moro resistance, raids and piracies therefore, were the Moro contributions in the fight against the colonizers that reached the climax in the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

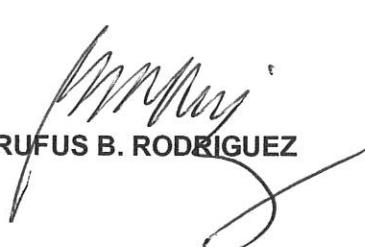
From the discussions above, it is clear that the people of Mindanao, the Christians, Muslims and *lumads* had participated in the Philippine Revolution that culminated in Philippine independence that we are now celebrating.

It is unfortunate that for a hundred years our historians have disregarded the heroic deeds of the people of Mindanao by merely mentioning them in passing, it at all.

But a hundred years is not too late to correct our history books. A hundred years could not suppress the recognition that is due to our heroes in Mindanao. It is about time to declare as national heroes Nicolas Capistrano, Apolinario Velez, Vicente Roa and Apolinario Pabayo from Misamis Oriental, Rufino Deloso, Simeon Ledesma and Capitan Daligdig from Misamis Occidental; Simeon and Wenceslao Gonzales of Surigao; Datu Uto and Datu Ali of Cotabato; Amai Pakpak of Marawi and Vicente Alvarez of Zamboanga.

Only by recognizing the heroic struggle of the people of Mindanao against colonial rule and by declaring as national heroes the Mindanaoans who fought so that this nation may be free and independent can we achieve a truthful and truly national celebration of the Philippine Centennial and the unity of the entire Filipino people. It is high time that we correct the injustice inflicted on our brothers in the South. Now is the opportune time to give recognition where it is due.

Approval of this timely measure is therefore most earnestly sought.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

0435
House Bill No. _____

AN ACT

TO DECLARE AS NATIONAL HEROES THOSE WHO LED THE REVOLUTION AGAINST SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES IN MINDANAO

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

SECTION 1. Short Title – This act shall be known as the *MINDANAO HEROES DECLARATION ACT*.

SEC 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared that the Filipino Nation recognizes the heroic acts of the people in all the regions in the country in the revolution against Spain in 1896 and subsequently the fight against the Americans in 1898 so that this nation will be free and independent.

SEC 3. Objectives – The Objectives of this Act are:

- a) to correct the bias against the heroic participation of the people from the different regions of the country outside of Metro Manila and adjacent regions in the revolution against Spain and the United States;
- b) to develop local writers to write about their local heroes in the revolution against Spain and the United States;
- c) to recognize the long delayed heroism of the people in other regions outside of Metro Manila and the adjacent regions in revolution against Spain and the United States.
- d) to lay the groundwork for the rewriting of Philippine history to incorporate the heroic deeds of our brothers and sisters in the other regions and make our Philippine history truly national and complete; and
- e) to make the centennial celebration of our Philippine Independence complete with the due recognition of the participation of the different regions of the country in the revolution against Spain and the United States.

SEC 4. The following are declared National Heroes for their heroism in the revolution against Spain and the subsequent war against the American occupation forces:

1. From Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro:

- a) General Nicolas Capistrano, the leader of the Cagayan revolutionaries who waged a one-year war against the Americans in 1900-1901 and led the attack of the Cagayan revolutionaries, assisted by Bukidnon lumads, against the Americans in the Battle of Cagayan of April 7, 1900.
- b) Colonel Velez, who commanded the revolutionaries in the west of Cagayan de Oro and victoriously led the defenders in the Battle of Macahambus Cave of June 4, 1900, where nine American soldiers were killed and more than ten wounded, and only one revolutionary died.
- c) Captain Vicente Roa who, on May 14, 1900, led the Cagayan revolutionaries in the east in an encounter with the 40th US Regiment

where he was killed fighting, together with 34 Cagayano soldiers in the Battle of Agusan Hill.

2. From Misamis Occidental:
 - a) Simeon Ledesma who organized the first resistance group in Western Misamis against the Americans;
 - b) Rufino Deloso who led a force of 400 revolutionaries and engaged the Americans in no less than 20 encounters from May 14, 1900 to January 6, 1901;
 - c) Capitan Daligdig, the lumad leader in the Oroquieta-Laungan area who led numerous assaults against the Oroquieta Garrison of the Americans.
3. From Surigao
 - a) The heroism of the brothers Simon and Wenceslao Gonzalez should be recognized. Simon Gonzales was appointed by General Aguinaldo as military commander of Mindanao, and Wenceslao as governor of Surigao on January 2, 1896. They declared Surigao and Butuan free territory and part of the Republic of the Philippines and they were the first to hoist the Philippine flag in these places. They made war preparations and prepared the people in Surigao and Agusan for resistance against the Americans. They were, however, both executed together with their father on April 4, 1899, by another military leader of Surigao.
4. From Zamboanga:
 - a) General Vicente Alvarez who led the revolutionaries against the Spanish forces which withdrew to Zamboanga from various parts of Mindanao. In siege of the Zamboanga, Montero, a Spanish general, was killed and General de los Rios surrendered the city to General Alvarez on May 8, 1899.
5. From Cotabato and Maguindanao:
 - a) Datu Uto must be credited for incessantly fighting the Spaniards from 1880 to 1886. The Spanish expeditions against Datu Uto weakened the over-all military strength and financial resources of the Spaniards making them vulnerable a few years later to the revolution waged by the Katipuneros.
 - b) Datu Ali organized and led the resistance in the Cotabato Valley to American rule. His fortress in Cotabato was the largest ever constructed in Mindanao easily holding 5,000 men.
6. From Lanao:
 - a) Amai Pakpak led the Muslim defenders of Fort Marawi in both the 1891 assault by Spanish Governor General Valeriano Weyler and the 1895 invasion of Governor General Ramon Blanco. Amai Pakpak died fighting the 3,000 Spanish troops.

These heroic wars waged by our Muslim brothers sapped and diminished the military strength and divided the attention of the Spanish authorities. The Muslim resistance led the strengthening of the Katipunan because without the military campaign in Mindanao, there would have been more than enough Spanish forces in Manila to check the Katipunan.

SEC 5. The National Historical Commission is hereby directed to undertake a full blown research on the life and the activities of the above declared National Heroes during the revolution against Spain and the war against the United States. The Commission is likewise tasked to publish a book on these National Heroes from Mindanao, to erect the monuments

and the historical markers of the different sites of the war against the Spaniards and the Americans in coordination with the local governments of the area.

SEC 6. Appropriation – The amount of the Thirty Million Pesos is hereby appropriated and given to the National Historical Commission to undertake the activities as provided in this Act.

SEC 7. Effectivity - This act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,