

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4331



Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**
First District, Bohol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"We are called upon to decide on this momentous debate whether or not this land of ours will remain the cradle and grave, the womb and tomb of our race – the only place where we can build our homes, our temples, and our altars and where we erect the castles of our racial hopes, dreams and traditions and where we establish the warehouse of our happiness and prosperity, of our joys and sorrows."
- President Carlos P. Garcia

Without doubt, Philippines' eight (8th) president, Carlos P. Garcia, remains one of the most esteemed sons of Bohol. Naming the Bohol island circumferential road to his name is the least expression of our solemn gratitude to the president whose legacy is his belief in the Filipinos.

Perhaps one of the, if not the most, popular legacy of President Garcia is the "Filipino First Policy." Recovering from the effects of World War 2, this policy ensured government support to Filipino businessmen and Filipino products over foreign investors and foreign products. Foreign business was not totally ignored and was allowed to participate under the 60-40 ratio of ownership within the business.

President Garcia is also known for his Austerity Program which he implemented to curb the rampant graft and corruption in the country through wise spending, industry, thrift, trustworthiness, integrity and honesty. He also urged people to avoid luxury items and to live a simple life and reminded government officials and employees that corruption destroys the peoples trust in the government.

It was also under his term that the Bohlen-Serrano Agreement was executed – the law that shortened the original 99-year lease of US bases in the Philippines to 25 years and renewable for period only up to five years.

After having been under a long period of colonization from various countries, the Garcia administration found the necessity in putting emphasis on cultural revival. To encourage this, awards were given to Filipino writers, artists, historian and scientists.

President Garcia hails from Talibon, Bohol and was born on November 4, 1896. This year marks his 120th birthday.

¹ speech during a joint session of Congress on September 18, 1946

After having been among the top ten (10) bar examinees in 1923, President Garcia first worked as a teacher at Bohol Provincial High School. He became famous for his poetry, where he earned the nickname "Prince of Visayan Poets" and the "Bard from Bohol".

Prior to his presidency, Carlos P. Garcia became Representative of the third district and Governor Bohol. He then became Senator, Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary to the Magsaysay Administration. Post presidency, he was elected president of the 1971 Constitutional Convention until his death on the same year. President Garcia became the first layman to lie in state in Manila Cathedral – a privilege until then limited to a deceased Archbishop of Manila – and the first President to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

To date, we can find in Bohol a municipality, a sports complex and an avenue named after President Carlos P. Garcia. But Bohol have yet to give a province-wide recognition and tribute to our beloved president. This is also a fitting reminder to our youth of nationalism and love of country.

It is for this purpose that this bill is being sought to be passed.


RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4331

Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**
First District, Bohol

**“AN ACT RENAMING BOHOL ISLAND CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD TO
PRESIDENT CARLOS P. GARCIA CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD”**

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

SECTION 1. In recognition of the remarkable achievements and contributions of the late President Carlos P. Garcia in Bohol and in the country, the Bohol Island Circumferential Road, is hereby renamed as President Carlos P. Garcia Circumferential Road.

SECTION 2. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is hereby directed to implement the provision of this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,