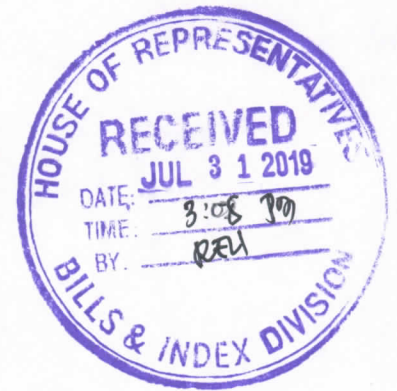


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3243



Introduced by JANICE Z. SALIMBANGON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The late Chief Justice of the Philippines and President of the Senate of the Philippines MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN who hails from Bogu City, Cebu was born on October 24, 1926 of spouses Judge Wenceslao and Mrs. Margarita Briones-Fernan.

Marcelo Briones Fernan's father in 1920 founded the Bogu Redeemers Society (BRS). It is a social institution aimed to recognize the achievements of young Bogohanons and transform their potentials into productive individuals. Marcelo Briones Fernan took over the task of running the BRS when his father died. To date the BRS organization continue transforming and molding the character of thousands of Bogohanons youth and make it relevant for almost a hundred years. It is now run and managed by Marcelo Briones Fernan's son Michael N. Fernan when he died on July 11, 1999. The BRS of Bogu had celebrated its centenary (100 years) of guiding and transforming lives of our youths into responsible citizens.

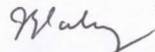
Marcelo Briones Fernan rose to become a lawyer after graduating from the University of the Philippines. When his father died, he took over the latter's law office in Cebu City. Following his father's practice, Marcelo Briones Fernan charged mostly pro bono on cases involving farmers who came for legal assistance, which policy endeared him to most Cebuanos. In so short a period, Marcelo Briones Fernan became famous and outstanding law practitioner admired by other law practitioners who voted him as National President of the IBP where then President Aquino picked him to become a member of the Constitutional Commission to craft the 1988 constitution. Prior to that, Marcelo Briones Fernan was elected constitutional convention delegate from Provincial Board Member and Batasang Pambansa member.

President Corazon Aquino later appointed Marcelo Briones Fernan as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice thereof not long after.

His incumbency as Chief Justice marked massive reforms of the judiciary starting with the transfer of the court itself from the old decrepit building in Taft Avenue, Manila to a large newly refurbished expansive more dignified building we now see at Padre Faura, Manila.

Forced to retire early as Chief Justice due to the demands from constituents, Marcelo Briones Fernan turned his sights in politics where he was elected senator in 1995. He became the President of the Senate of the Philippines on July 27, 1998 and thus becoming the only Filipino gifted with heading two of the three great branches of government, the Judiciary and the Legislative branches. He died in office.

Marcelo Briones Fernan is considered as one of the country's most outstanding and illustrious Filipino. He has brought extreme honor to the place where he hails from, Cebu City. By declaring October 24 as "Marcelo Briones Fernan Day" and a special non-working holiday in the City of Cebu, it would be an honorable tribute to commemorate his contributions to the society.



JANICE Z. SALIMBANGON

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3243

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**AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 24 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
NON-WORKING HOLIDAY KNOWN AS 'MARCELO BRIONES FERNAN
DAY' IN THE CITY OF BOGO IN HONOR OF THE LATE MARCELO
BRIONES FERNAN, AN OUTSTANDING STATESMAN AND LEGAL
LUMINARY**

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

Section 1. Short Title — October 24 of every year is hereby declared as a special nonworking holiday known as "Marcelo Briones Fernan Day" in the City of Cebu to commemorate one of the greatest and outstanding Bogohanon, Marcelo Briones Fernan, a statesman and an illustrious Filipino.

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,