EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. <u>198</u>

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Introduced by Senator FRANKLIN M. DRILON

RESOLUTION POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING MR. HENRY S. SY SR. FOR HIS PHILANTHROPY AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN NATION-BUILDING

WHEREAS, Mr. Henry S. Sy Sr. established in 1958 a small shoe store in Rizal, Manila named "Shoe Mart", which eventually became a staple in all Filipino households and a pillar of the Philippine retail industry with over seventy branches in the country and seven in China under the moniker "SM";

WHEREAS, Mr. Sy's determination led to the establishment of other leading companies in the country, such as SM Investments Corporation, SM Prime Holdings Inc., SM Development Corporation and BDO Unibank, Inc., which made him the richest man in the country for eleven consecutive years and a prime example of hard work and success;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sy established SM Foundation, Inc. in 1983 with the mission of nurturing and empowering underserved communities through education, healthcare, shelter, disaster response, farmers' training, environmental programs and care for persons with special needs;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sy also established the Henry Sy Foundation to support educational institutions in promoting academic excellence as a key to a brighter future for the youth;

WHEREAS, recognizing education as the great equalizer, Mr. Sy created opportunities in educational institutions and donated in various scholarships and infrastructure projects to enhance the learning experience in the country. In his lifetime, he supported more than eight thousand college and technical-vocational scholars and built 92 school buildings with 248 classrooms;

WHEREAS, consistent with Mr. Sy's vision of fostering social engagement, SM Foundation continues to undertake medical missions and has attended to more than

one million patients and restored 155 wellness centers and 45 barangay health centers;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sy's strong sense of humanity was exhibited through his program called *Operation Tulong Express*, with the aim of providing immediate response during calamities. The program helped over two hundred thousand families during Typhoons Nona and Lando in 2015, Typhoons Mario, Luis and Glenda in 2014, the Cebu fire in 2014, and Typhoon Yolanda in 2013;

WHEREAS, recognizing the plight of our local farmers, Mr. Sy envisioned of providing up-to-date agricultural knowledge through the *Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan* Farmers' Training Program, wherein farmers undergo a twelve-week training on effective backyard planting and small-scale farming techniques for fruits and vegetables. SM Foundation has trained over twenty thousand farmers in cultivating high-valued crops;

WHEREAS, realizing the need to preserve the environment, his Grow a Million Trees Program helped communities by planting over half a million trees in city parks and forests nationwide;

WHEREAS, under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Sy, SM Foundation's SM Cares has undertaken various advocacies and initiated programs for persons with disabilities, children and youth development, women and breastfeeding mothers, senior citizens, Overseas Filipino Workers, and environment and sustainability;

WHEREAS, even after his death, Mr. Sy's compassion and care for humanity did not falter as he ensured that all donations will go to the SM Foundation in continuation of his philanthropic endeavors: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines to posthumously honor Mr. Henry S. Sy Sr., the Father of Philippine Retail, for his philanthropy and contributions in nation-building.

Adopted,

FRANKLIN M. DRILON Senator