

RESOLUTION NO. 2

DECLARING THE ARMY AND NAVY CLUB BUILDING ON SOUTH BOULEVARD, MANILA, A NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

WHEREAS, Article 14, Section 14 of the 1986 Constitution of the Philippines states that "The State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture..."

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 260, dated August 1, 1973, specifically vested the National Historical Commission, now the National Historical Institute, the power to declare historical and cultural sites and edifices as National Shrines, Monuments and/or Landmarks;

WHEREAS, the National Historical Institute is the government agency charged with the maintenance and care of historical shrines, monuments and landmarks, and the development of historical sites and structures that may be declared as National Shrines, Monuments and Landmarks;

WHEREAS, the Army and Navy Club was founded in 1898, the first American social club to be established locally, inside the Walled City at the corner of Bagumbayan (now P. Burgos St.) and Nozaleda (now General Luna St.), then transferred its headquarters in the former premises of the Spanish Army Engineers, at Santa Potenciana and Palacio Streets, diagonally across from the San Agustin Church;

WHEREAS, in 1911, the Army and Navy Club moved to its new clubhouse in the southeastern portion of the land fill which had extended the Luneta seaward, opposite the Manila Hotel, according to the plans of Architect Daniel Burnham;

WHEREAS, initial membership was extended to all officers of the United States services, active and retired, to carefully-screened American business and professional men residing in the Philippines, certain foreign officials, and honorary memberships to the United States High Commissioner and the President of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the first president of the Club was Admiral George Dewey, USN (1898-1899); and other notable presidents were Maj. Gen. Arthur MacArthur, USA (1900-1902); Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, USA (1906-1908); Gen. Frederick Funston, USA (1913); Maj. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, USA (1924-1925); and members were Gen. John Pershing, Gen. Jonathan Wainwright, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and Gen. Dwight Eisenhower;

WHEREAS, during World War II, the Club was occupied by the Japanese in 1942, and was liberated by Filipino soldiers and American troops in February 1945;

WHEREAS, the Post-War years saw the civilianization and Filipinization of the Club, with Col. Arthur H. Henderson, USAR (1951-1952) as the first civilian to be elected club president, and Col. Eustaquio V. Meim, PC AFP (1976-1977), the first Filipino president of the Club; and a widely-broadened membership which included several nationalities;


WHEREAS, situated on the shores of Manila Bay amid luxuriant palms, flame trees, and rambling bougainvilleas, with a beautiful view of the Bay proper and fronting a fine park to the north, the Club's white, three-storey building is one of the famous landmarks of a great city;

WHEREAS, over the years, the bonds of friendship between the Americans and Filipinos had fraternized within the precincts of the Club, and that the Army and Navy Club remains as a living monument of Filipino-American friendship and cooperation;

NOW THEREFORE, the National Historical Institute, by virtue of the powers vested in it by Presidential Decree No. 260, dated August 1, 1973, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1505, dated June 11, 1978, hereby declares the Army and Navy Club Building on South Boulevard, Manila, a National Historical Landmark.

APPROVED:

ONOFRE D. CORPUZ  
Member

  
MARCELINO A. FORONDA  
Member

  
EMILIO AGUILAR CRUZ  
Member

  
MR. GABRIEL CASAL  
Ex-Officio Member

  
NARCISSA V. MINASQUE  
Ex-Officio Member

  
SERAFIN D. QUIASON  
Chairman

April 26, 1991