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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**RESOLUTION**

**CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CRIS "KESZ" VALDEZ FOR BEING AWARDED THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PEACE PRIZE ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT THE RIDDERZAAL IN THE HAGUE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippine Senate has in several occasions paid tribute to outstanding Filipinos for bringing home pride and glory to the country;

**WHEREAS**, 13-year old Cris "Kesz" Valdez was awarded this year's International Children's Peace Prize in a ceremony at the Ridderzaal in The Hague, Netherlands on 19 September 2012 for his efforts to improve the lives of street children in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the International Children's Peace Prize is an annual honor that recognizes remarkable children whose advocacies and actions help improve children's welfare around the world;

**WHEREAS**, inspired by the principle of paying the deed forward, having been a scholar of CNN Hero of the Year, Efren Penaflorida, who relieved him from a difficult childhood living in open garbage dumps and sleeping on open tombs, Kesz founded the Championing Community Children organization at a young age of seven;

**WHEREAS**, Kesz, and his organization were known for distributing Hope Gifts, a package of clothing, slippers, soap, toothbrush and toys, to impoverished children and helping underprivileged children understand things about hygiene, food and children's rights;

**WHEREAS**, Kesz is an inspiration to many Filipino children to maintain the circle of selflessness and sharing, and to involve others in the advocacy of serving the destitute, the oppressed and those who have less in life;

**WHEREAS**, this award given to Cris "Kesz" Valdez deserves to be commended for the honor and recognition he has brought our country;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate to congratulate and commend Cris "Kesz" Valdez for being awarded this year's International Children's Peace Prize in a ceremony at the Ridderzaal in The Hague on 19 September 2012 for his efforts to improve the rights of street children in the Philippines.

**Adopted,**

  
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Senator