

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 AUG 26 P 2:05

SENATE
Resolution No. 581

RECEIVED BY: JA

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**A RESOLUTION
HONORING AND REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL ANGEL BENITEZ FOR HIS
BRAVERY AND COURAGE IN THE CALL OF DUTY**

WHEREAS, on 18 August 2008, the country lost one of its most promising military officers in Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez, previously assigned as executive officer of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade, who was killed in the call of duty along with several soldiers and innocent civilians when Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels attacked Kulambugan, Lanao del Norte;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez was a member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Bigkis Lahi Class of 1990;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez was a dedicated combat officer who finished number one in the Scout Ranger and military intelligence and psychological operations courses he took;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez was awarded several Bronze Cross Medals and Military Merit Medals, which he earned in combat;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez finished at the head of his class at the General Staff College (GSC) after taking the General Staff Course required for promotion to full Colonel and assignment as battalion commanders or brigade staff;

WHEREAS, on 18 August 2008, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez and two of his men were killed when their convoy was ambushed by MILF rebels in Barangay Libertad in Kulambugan town;

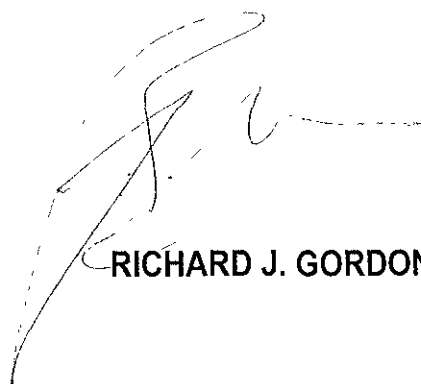
WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez was the highest-ranking military officer killed in combat by Moro rebels since Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Villanueva, head of the 53rd Infantry Battalion, who died in February 2005 after being hit by a mortal shrapnel in an encounter in Panamao, Sulu;

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez deserves to be honored and remembered for his unparalleled dedication to the service in defending the citizens of Lanao del Norte; *Now therefore be it.*

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate honor and remember Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez for being a military officer par excellence and for his valiant efforts in defending and upholding peace and order in Mindanao;

RESOLVED FURTHER, to provide copies of this Resolution to his family, and to the Philippine Military Academy, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to guarantee its wide dissemination and enable the public to know how the late Lieutenant Colonel Angel Benitez defended, served and laid down his life for his country in the call of duty to protect and uphold the security of Filipinos in Mindanao;

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. J. Gordon', is written over a faint, dashed-line signature. The signature is positioned above the printed name 'RICHARD J. GORDON'.

RICHARD J. GORDON