

## Why Is that Dr. Jose Rizal Our National Hero?

First of all we should clarify the meaning of a hero to make it quite simple to understand how Rizal became one. A hero symbolizes goodness. Rizal gave us freedom by using goodness.

Jose Rizal became the Philippine national hero because he fought for freedom in a silent but powerful way. He expressed his love for the Philippines through his novels, essays and articles rather than through the use of force or aggression.

He was a very amazing person at his time. He was humble, fighting for reforms through his writings instead of through a revolution. He used his intelligence, talents and skills in a more peaceful way rather than the aggressive way.

It's because the Americans want it. They proclaimed Rizal as the national hero so people in Philippines would see him as a model. They would follow him; people would just study and develop their talents and skills and they would never be aggressive or be against to the Americans who are invading the Philippines that time. They preferred Rizal to be the national hero who is silent rather than Aguinaldo who is Aggressive and may be against the Americans.

Is it not only the Americans that made Jose Protacio Rizal Mercado Y Alonzo Realonda (June 19, 1861 - December 30, 1896) as a Philippine National hero but the Filipinos itself, for they seen his patriot works and his very most prominent advocacies for reforms in the Philippines during the Spanish colonial era, most specially his bloodless fight for the freedom of his mother land.

His name can be found in almost all corners of the Philippines. Roads, schools and even a province are named after him. His image can be found in peso bills and coins. Monuments are erected in his name (foremost of this can be found in Rizal Park in Manila). These are manifestations of the country's reverence accorded to Jose Rizal as a national hero.

Why is Rizal a national hero? What are his

contributions to Philippine history that makes him prominent among other Filipino heroes? Here are some of the reasons Rizal is a national hero of the Philippines.

In late 19th Century, Rizal became the voice of a people long oppressed by centuries-old Spanish rule. As an educated man, he was exposed to some of the abuses by Spanish friars and government officials. As a founder and member of the La Liga Filipina, he originally pushed for reforms of Spanish colonial rule.

He wrote *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Felibusterismo*. Although fictional, the novels described the abuses committed by Spanish officials against the locals. Alarmed over the threat posed by the two novels, angry Spanish officials pushed for Rizal's arrest and exile in Dapitan.

While exiled in Dapitan, Rizal devoted himself to improving the conditions of people in Dapitan.

During this time, the concept of "Filipino" was taking shape among the inhabitants of the islands. Before, society was divided among Spanish citizens and indios (locals). Some began to form nationalistic ideas. Rizal's two novels inspired locals to call not for Spanish government reforms but for independence from Spain.

This alarmed the Spanish colonial government. In 1896, Rizal was executed in Bagumbayan (Rizal Park) on charges of sedition and treason. The execution did not prevent the calls for independence to stop. The Katipunan led a full scale revolutionary war against the Spanish colonial government.

Although Rizal did not push for independence, his writings and execution inspired many to revolt against Spain. This is the primary reason Jose Rizal is a national hero. He instilled the sense of nationalism among citizens oppressed by centuries-old Spanish rule.

Rizal did not advocate for armed struggle. He is the epitome of the saying "The pen is mightier than the sword." He was also a learned man who pushed for the emancipation of the people through education. He advocated for equal rights be

accorded to locals and not just limited to Spanish colonials. And finally, he was a martyr that stood for his beliefs.

Did Dr. Jose Rizal deserve to be a national hero?

By odysseyme23

Dr. Jose P. Rizal is a hero, yes, but was he worthy to be considered as our national hero? In my own opinion, he only became a hero because his family was rich and famous. They were rich that he had a private tutor. So rich that he was sent to Manila to study to prestigious school and even sent to Spain to widen his wisdom. Because of his family's fortune, he also gained friends and among them were very well-known and were respected to the society. Without his family's money, he would not be able to prosper and improved himself hence, was able to see the disparity between the rich and the poor and even witnessed the maltreatment of the friars against the Filipinos including the abuses of the Spanish officials who was then running our country.

On the other hand, we might as well consider him as a national hero because he's a multifaceted individual both through the mind and manipulative areas, not to mention his inherit character and the love to people, especially to the poor. His sensitivity to the needs of others was overwhelming as evidenced by his sincere services to the people as doctor, engineer, teacher, artist, farmer and the like. He fought through his pen, books and knowledge. He did not fight through guns and swords. With the articles he has written, of which most of the topics discussed were all about slavery and abused, he has touched lives, awakened the people, but also provoked the Spaniards thus sent him to jail. But even then, he was still fighting, not for himself or for his family, but more for his people, for us through his ideas, through poems and other written articles.

But whether a national hero or not, he did a very good job for us considering the fact that he had set us all free from slavery and better education. He's a very good example and an inspiration to us, most specially to students because of his intelligence and boldness. He was not a traitor. He had faced death with boldness. He had proven the saying that goes, "A pen is mightier than sword".

"Did Dr. Jose Rizal deserve to be a national hero?"

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YES, He deserve to be our national hero... He deserves all the recognition and the importance given to him by the filipino people, in fact todays society are giving him less commemoration to what he really earn, judging by the magnitude of his influence and contribution to the history of the Philippines...He is admired not only by the Filipinos but all the freedom loving people of the world. He is the national hero of the Philippines because He lived not only by the point of view of a common Filipino of his time but he lived as a person with the mentality of a free son of man. and finally he is our national hero because He possessed one trait that no other hero of his time have... the perfect life and a perfect death in perfect timing, theres no other Local hero of that time that has the same impact as Dr. José Rizal have to the Filipino People of that time...

Well yah..he's a really great person..a genius indeed..a perfect example for the Filipino youth...but i dont think that there should be sects that worship him..he's not God..he's just a good example for everyone...right..?

Uhm, for me he's not really deserving unlike Bonifacio who deserved to be respected and honored more than Rizal. Because Bonifacio came from a poor family who really experienced the abuses done by the Spaniards while Rizal lived a happy and comfortable life and went to different places to study. Rizal didn't want the Philippines to be free from the Spanish colonizers but rather to be a province of it, he only thought about himself and other Spanish mestizos like him to be fair with the Spaniards. So, as we can obviously conclude that Rizal did not faught for the independence of the Philippines, but Bonifacio did! Rizal is also not a good model to us Filipinos, because he's a womanizer. And besides the Americans chose Rizal to be our national hero instead of Bonifacio because Rizal didn't oppose the government like Bonifacio did who faught for his principle and right. Now, you decide., who should be worthy to be our national hero? Rizal? or Bonifacio?

Jose Rizal is our national hero because he's a multifaceted individual both through the mind and manipulative areas, not to mention his inherent character and the love to people, especially to the poor. His sensitivity to the needs of others was overwhelming as evidenced by his sincere services to the people as doctor, engineer, teacher, artist, farmer and the like. He fought through his pen, books and knowledge. He did not fight through guns and swords. With the articles he has written, of which most of the topics discussed were all about slavery and abused, he has touched lives, awakened the people, but also provoked the Spaniards thus sent him to jail. But even then, he was still fighting, not for himself or for his family, but more for his people, for us through his ideas, through poems and other written articles. He sacrificed many things including his own life just for us to be freed from colonial rule.

Rizal as a hero, but more than that, the greatest national hero of the Philippines was a genius, the Philippines is very lucky because we have Rizal that will defend our country in a way of cognitive thinking, by his pens and by his God-given talent as an individual. This is true, because when you are debating you should not have deadly weapons to lose your opponent, just words! order in the court!

"He only became a hero because his family was rich and famous". I don't think that's justifiable.. national heroes are not national heroes because of their wealth and political connections.. if you should know, even people from other countries salute him. There are even foreign biographers who write about Rizal's life and achievements.. he was a threat to the colonizers because he was cunning. He didn't fight with the sword unlike Bonifacio and the others.. in fact, the revolution prepared by Bonifacio was only the consequence brought about by the pen of Rizal. If you only knew what he went through and what his sacrifices were just for our freedom, you would regret having said that statement.. I really believe he is worthy of being our national hero 😊

He deserved to be our national hero, because we know what he did for us to give our freedom to live in our own country, to live peacefully no doubt feeling, to live comfortable...

I think Rizal deserves to be our national hero because come to think of it even though at his time there is discrimination he still fought for the right of every Filipino, he didn't mind about what Spaniards could do to him ...he do work and publish his work for the Filipinos to enlighten their mind and saw the corruption that the Spaniards do, even though he knew the possible consequences of his action

For me Rizal really deserved to be our national hero because he fought for freedom in a silent but powerful way. He expressed his love for the Philippines through his novels, essays and articles rather than through the use of force or aggression.

He was a very amazing person at his time. He was humble, fighting for reforms through his writings instead of through a revolution. He used his intelligence, talents and skills in a more peaceful way rather than the aggressive way.

To make it quite simple to understand how Rizal become one First of all we should clarify the meaning of a hero .....

Jose Rizal

December 30 may be known for plenty other events that have occurred throughout history but in the South East Asian region, particularly in **Philippines**, December 30 1896 marked the execution of Jose Rizal, Philippines' National Hero. December 30 is considered a national holiday in the **Philippines** known as **Rizal Day**, to commemorate the martyrdom of **Jose Rizal**. A hugely popular figure, the nationalist is known worldwide for his push towards reform in the Philippines during the Spanish Colonial Era and known as the most prominent **Filipino**; Jose Rizal has left a long lasting legacy and monuments of Rizal has been erected as far away as the **United States** and even Czech Republic. **Singapore** also has at least one plaque erected in tribute to Rizal.

Jose Rizal

Plaque at the Ancient Civilizations Green near the Cavenagh Bridge, Singapore, in memory of the Filipino national hero Jose Rizal (June 19 1861 December 30 1896)

## Early Days

Jose Rizal, born to a wealthy family on June 19 1861 was a true intellectual; Rizal traveled to Spain, Paris and even Germany to gain his second doctorate and was believed to be conversant in over ten languages. His literary skills writing poems and novels proved to be the key as he became Asia's very first modern non-violent proponent of political reforms as he urged Philippines to undergo revolution against the Spanish Colonial Era. Rizal, through peaceful means, founded The Philippine League (known as the La Liga Filipina in the Philippines), an organization to reform the Spanish rule.

## Legacy of Jose Rizal

Rizal was perhaps best known as a polymath, a man with multiple exceptional skills. Besides his talent in writing poems and novels, Rizal was a well known educator, sculptor, painter, historian, playwright and ophthalmologist amongst other skills and was also known to be skilled in fencing, martial arts and in the matters of sociology, economics and cartography. Rizal's best known novels were the Noli Me Tangere and the El filibusterismo, novels that lambasted the Spanish friars and the Catholic Church and criticized the Spanish Colonial Era more than ever. Rizal's push for reforms did not end there as under pen names, he submitted several essays, thought pieces and editorials to express liberal ideas and equal rights for Filipinos.

## Jose Rizal

Rizal's largely anti-Spanish reforms led to him being eventually persecuted and being in exile from July 1892 onwards. In 1896, the Philippine Revolution was in full swing when Katipunan, a secret society that was rebelling against the Spanish Colonialists started a revolution. Rizal, even though disassociating himself from the revolution, was apprehended in Barcelona and was charged with the founding of the Philippine League (La Liga Filipina), a claim by the Spaniards that La Liga Filipina was meant to create the rebellion which sparked the revolution. Rizal was also charged for involvement in the ongoing rebellion and was sentenced to be executed on December 30.

## Death

Rizal was executed in what was then known as Bagumbayan Field (now known as Luneta) and was buried in Paco Cemetary in Manila. Even though Rizal is well known as a national hero for the Filipinos, there have been claims that while Rizal favored peaceful reforms, he approved non-peaceful reforms as well, which led to the Philippine Revolution. Rizal was also controversial through means of his connection with Josephine Bracken, a retraction of his faith in the Catholic Church. Despite his controversies, Jose Rizal was indeed a man of strong ideas following the likes of peaceful activists such as Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and Sun Yat Sen. A true national hero, his achievement to reform the Philippines without holding a gun or a sword has left a truly memorable legacy.

WHEN Jose Rizal was still alive, his countrymen had already looked up to him as their guide towards reforms, revolution, and independence from Spanish rule. And when he had died, it was also the Filipino people who eventually recognized him as their greatest national hero.

In the 1880's, the Filipino propagandists in Spain and other countries in Europe claimed that Rizal was the only one capable of uniting them, a model Filipino, the personification of Spanish Oceania, the titular head of the Filipinos, their illustrious countryman, a distinguished Filipino literary man, and author of various works that had merited general applause.

They also elected him unanimously as the honorary president of their society, Asociacion La Solidaridad (Solidarity Association), founded on December 31, 1888, in Barcelona, Spain.

## The Rizal Cult

In the Philippines, Andres Bonifacio established the Rizal cult or the tradition of venerating Rizal.

As the supreme leader of the Katipunan, he

ordered that the word Rizal be used as the password of Bayani (Patriot), the highest-grade Katipunero; that Rizal's pictures be hung in the meeting hall of the Katipunan Supreme Council and in other meeting places; and that Rizal's name be used as a Katipunan cry for unity and liberty. He also elected Rizal as the Katipunan honorary president, and solicited Rizal's views regarding their plans against Spain.

In early 1897, while in Cavite trying to reconcile the local Katipunan factions, Bonifacio issued a proclamation condemning the Spanish atrocities against Filipinos, and "the brutal execution of our most beloved countryman, the Honorable Jose Rizal."  
Greatest Filipino Patriot

On March 22, 1897, General Emilio Aguinaldo was elected president of the revolutionary government that replaced the Katipunan. In December 1897, after signing a peace treaty with the Spanish rulers, he and his companions left for Hong Kong; but since the Spaniards had no intent of honoring the treaty, they decided to return to the country. In April 1898, their comrades issued a proclamation, whose concluding part said:

"Our unworthy names are as nothing, but one and all of us invoke the name of the greatest patriot our country has seen, in the sure and certain hope that his spirit will be with us in these moments and guide us to victory -- our immortal Jose Rizal."

Signed by the members of the Central Filipino Committee in Hong Kong, this document hailed Rizal as the greatest patriot of the Filipino people. The revolutionary leaders knew that he was their inspiration, their rallying cry, and their unparalleled countryman, hence the greatest patriot ever to come out of their native land.

It was the Filipino people who felt, recognized, and hailed that the most beloved Filipino and the most famous

Filipino martyr was the greatest Filipino hero.

#### Original Rizal Day

On December 20, 1898, President Aguinaldo issued a decree designating December 30 as a national day of mourning "in memory of the great Filipino patriot Dr. Jose Rizal and others who faithfully loved the native land and were martyred by the former Spanish domination."

#### An Insane Theory

There is a theory which claims that it was the American colonial authorities, particularly William Howard Taft, who declared Rizal as the national hero, encouraged the cult venerating Rizal as the country's greatest patriot, and made December 30 a holiday.

Taft, who arrived in the country on June 3, 1900, served as chairman of the Second Philippine Commission, the body that U.S. President William McKinley created to exercise the legislative powers of the U.S. colonial government in the Philippine Islands.

The theory has it that because Taft, during a session of the Commission, decided that Rizal be the national hero, Rizal Day has become a public holiday since then. Taft's decision became the genesis of Rizal Day.

There is no law, proclamation, or any other document which Taft signed and in which he said: "I, William Howard Taft, hereby declare Rizal as your national hero." Nothing.

Governor William Howard Taft made Rizal the National Hero in 1901.

"Taft, with other American colonial officials and some conservative Filipinos, chose him (Rizal) as a model hero over other contestants - Aguinaldo too militant, Bonifacio too radical, Mabini unregenerate."

In the 1920's and 1930's, some Americans who wrote books on the Philippines were ignorant of the admiration, tributes, and the holiday that the Filipinos had already

bestowed on Rizal. Their ignorance led them to assume, allege, and finally claim that it was the American colonial authorities who elevated Rizal to greatness. Thus, this theory was born, and since then it has brainwashed many readers, students, writers, and scholars of Philippine history.

This theory is an insanity, if not stupidity, because how can the alleged decision of Taft making Rizal the national hero be the origin of Rizal Day when before Taft arrived in the country, the Filipinos had already recognized Rizal as their greatest patriot and had already celebrated December 30 as their first-ever national holiday?

### **Why is Jose Rizal the national hero of the Philippines?**

because he had the heroic virtues in perfect balance

...he's an idealist but not blinded by idealism (unlike Bonifacio)

...his life was well documented (in complete, and I mean unabridged form. The man is obviously fond of writing his daily journals (diary as I term it), even annotating books that he has read - these gave us the chance to know him best, as compared to our other heroes. So almost all of his thoughts are virtually known, and preserved..and utilized, till now. Most of them are even considered timeless. This definitely gave him an edge on the 'national hero' title.

...his life was like a well written stage drama, that would literally be highly endorsed by the MTRCB. The story had a strong foundation (education, values and patriotism), it has its humour (his promiscuity), it has rich complicated conflicts (battle against the colonist, against his fellowmen, against himself). And its end, - tragic, heavy, unforgettable. His life was a drama, an excellent one. And he wrote it. For us.

His Noli and Fili hadn't made this man our national hero, it was his other obra, his life. He was a conscious hero.

As insane as it is...Jose Rizal is more marketable than Andres Bonifacio.

J.Rizal was able to put his principles into writing. Through that, he made friends not only here in the country but also overseas. Those friends of his documented his life and those exist until now. Not only is he the national hero of the Philippines but considered to be the greatest in the Malay race.

A. Bonifacio was without a doubt courageous even with his disability. He was surpassed by J. Rizal because of education and his interactions with others.

Why is Jose Rizal a National hero?

Jose could write the alphabet at age three and was reading and writing by age five.

While his talent for art was also acknowledged, he was never provided any formal training. Leonardo never attended a university, while Jose not only attended four top quality universities but earned two doctorates. His student performance was always sobresaliente (outstanding).

Leonardo only spoke Italian.

Jose not only spoke Italian but twenty-one other languages. His linguistic fluency was such that he graduated from universities in three different countries.

Jose Rizal was a pacifist. Both Gandhi and Nehru credit him with originating the concept of "passive resistance". Passive Resistance eventually freed India from British colonial rule.

In contrast Leonardo spent much of his life designing and building "war machines", unfortunately many of his designs were impractical and/or failures. His "helicopter", "tank" and "airplane", while ahead of their time, were poorly designed and would not actually work.

During Leonardo's 67 years he is credited with being a : scientist, mathematician, engineer, inventor, anatomist, painter, sculptor, architect, musician, writer, aeronaut, botanist, civil engineer, chemist, geologist, optical engineer, and zoologist.

During Jose's brief 35 years he is credited with being an: anthropologist, architect, artists, businessman, cartoonists, cartographer, civil rights reformist, dramatist,

diarist, editor, essayist, educator, economist, ethnologist, engineer, Freemason, hospital director, scientific farmer, historian, inventor, journalist, linguist, musician, mythologist, nationalist, naturalist, novelist, ophthalmic surgeon, pacifist, poet, propagandist, psychologist, playwright, martial artist, scientist, sculptor, sociologist, teacher, theologian and writer. He was also an expert swordsman and an excellent shot. He carried on a very active correspondence with intellectuals from around the world, often in their own language.

I do not want to denigrate Leonardo da Vinci. He was a genius and far ahead of his time but it becomes immediately obvious that Jose Rizal accomplish ten times as much in half the time. He was NOT just the "greatest man of the brown race"; he was a great man of all races.

### Other Heroes and their remarkable deeds.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **national hero of the Philippines** is a **Filipino** who has been recognized as a hero for his or her role in the **history of the country**. Loosely, the term may refer to all Filipino historical figures recognized as heroes, but the term more strictly refers to those officially designated as such. In 1995 the Philippine National Heroes Committee officially recommended several people for the designation, but this was not acted upon. Currently, no one has ever been officially recognized as a Philippine national hero.<sup>[1]</sup>

The reformist writer **Jose Rizal**, today generally considered the greatest Filipino hero and often given as *the* Philippine national hero, has never been explicitly proclaimed as the (or even a) national hero by the Philippine government.<sup>[1]</sup> Besides Rizal, the only other Filipinos currently given implied recognition as national heroes are revolutionary **Andres Bonifacio**<sup>[1]</sup> and **Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr.** While other historical figures are commemorated in public municipal or provincial holidays, Rizal, Bonifacio and Aquino are commemorated in public *nationwide* (*national*) holidays and thus are implied to be national heroes.<sup>[1]</sup>

The National Heroes Committee recommended the Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, **Emilio Aguinaldo**, **Apolinario Mabini**, **Marcelo H. del Pilar**, **Sultan Dipatuan Kudarat**, **Juan Luna**, **Melchora Aquino**, and **Gabriela Silang** to be recognized as national heroes on November 15, 1995.<sup>[4]</sup> Up to now, no action has been taken for these recommended National Heroes.

In August 2009, shortly after the death of former **President Corazon Aquino**, widow of Benigno Aquino, legislative measures have been filed calling for her official recognition as a national hero.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

## History

### 1890s

Already admired in his lifetime for his nationalistic writings and activities, Jose Rizal was executed for treason on December 30, 1896 by the **Spanish** colonial government. His writings had helped inspire the **Philippine Revolution** against colonial rule. On December 20, 1898, **Emilio Aguinaldo**, President of the Philippine insurgent government, decreed December 30 of every year a day of national mourning in honor of Rizal and other victims of the revolution. Henceforth, December 30 has been celebrated as *Serrano Day*.<sup>[4]</sup> and

### 1900s

By the start of the 20th century, the Philippines had become a territory of the United States. Rizal was given special attention as a hero by the American colonial administration. This was because Rizal was interpreted to represent peaceful political advocacy, unlike more radical people whose ideas could inspire resistance against American rule.<sup>[4][5]</sup> Rizal was selected over the revolutionaries Andres Bonifacio, who was viewed as too radical, and **Apolinario Mabini**, who was considered unregenerate.<sup>[5]</sup> In June 1901, Act No. 137 of the **Taft Commission** reorganized the district of **Morong** into the **Province of Rizal**.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 1910s

On February 23, 1918, the Philippine Legislature issued Act No. 2760 which promoted the creation, maintenance, and improvement of national monuments, particularly the creation of a monument in

memory of Andres Bonifacio, leader of the [Katipunan](#) secret society which spearheaded the Philippine Revolution.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 1920s

On February 16, 1921, the Philippine Legislature enacted Act No. 2946, which made November 30 of each year a legal holiday to commemorate the birth of Andres Bonifacio, henceforth called *Bonifacio Day*.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 1930s

On October 28, 1931, the Philippine Legislature issued Act No. 3827, declaring the last Sunday of August of every year as *National Heroes Day*.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 1960s

By or even before 1960, Rizal was already held in such esteem that he was referred to as *the* Philippine national hero, even though no legislation had been passed making it official. That year, historian [Teodoro Agoncillo](#) wrote in his *History of the Filipino People* that the Philippine national hero, unlike those of other countries, was not "the leader of its liberation forces".<sup>[6]</sup> Agoncillo noted the sentiments of certain quarters calling for Rizal's replacement as the national hero by Andres Bonifacio, since Rizal was interpreted as ultimately a reformist content to be under Spain, not a revolutionary wishing for independence. He himself opined that Bonifacio should not replace Rizal as the national hero but be honored alongside him.<sup>[6]</sup>

### 1970s

Historian [Renato Constantino](#), building upon sentiments noted by Agoncillo, wrote in his 1970 essay *Veneration Without Understanding* that Rizal was unworthy of his high status since he was a "United States-sponsored hero".<sup>[4]</sup>

### 1990s

President [Fidel V. Ramos](#) formed the *National Heroes Committee* on March 28, 1993 under Executive Order No. 75, titled "Creating the National Heroes Committee Under the Office of the President". The National Heroes Committee was tasked to study, evaluate and recommend Filipino national heroes to recognize their heroic

character and remarkable achievements for the country.<sup>[1]</sup>

On November 30, 1994 (Bonifacio Day), President Ramos issued Proclamation No. 510 which declared the year 1996 (the centennial of the Philippine Revolution) as the *Year of Filipino Heroes*.<sup>[1]</sup>

The National Heroes Committee recommended the following nine individuals to be recognized as national heroes on November 15, 1995:<sup>[1]</sup>

- [Jose Rizal](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Andres Bonifacio](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Emilio Aguinaldo](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Apolinario Mabini](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Marcelo H. del Pilar](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Muhammad Dipatuan Kudarat](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Juan Luna](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Melchora Aquino](#)<sup>[1]</sup>
- [Gabriela Silang](#)<sup>[1]</sup>

Their report was submitted to the [Department of Education, Culture and Sports](#) on November 22 of that year. However, no action was taken afterwards. It was speculated that any action might cause a number of requests for proclamation or trigger debates that revolve around the controversies about the concerned historical figures.<sup>[1]</sup>

### 2000s

On July 25, 2007 President [Gloria Macapagal Arroyo](#) approved Republic Act No. 9256, which declared the Monday nearest August 21 a nationwide special holiday in honor of Senator [Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr.](#), called *Ninoy Aquino Day*. August 21 is Aquino's death anniversary.<sup>[7]</sup> On the same date President Macapagal-Arroyo also approved Republic Act No. 9492, which decreed that National Heroes Day be celebrated on the last Monday of August, Bonifacio Day on the Monday nearest November 30, and Rizal Day on the Monday nearest December 30.<sup>[8]</sup>

Following the death of President [Corazon "Cory" Aquino](#) on August 1, 2009, two resolutions, House Joint Resolution Nos. 41 and 42, have been filed proposing her official recognition as a national hero with her birthdate January 25 as *Cory Aquino Day*.<sup>[2][3]</sup>