

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL No. 5659**

18 DEC 2008

01:40 AM  
E. S. Ocampo

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Introduced by Reps. SATUR C. OCAMPO, CYNTHIA A. VILLAR, ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON,  
TEODORO A. CASIÑO, LIZA L. MAZA, LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN and RAFAEL V. MARIANO

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to rename the Alabang-Zapote Road in Las Piñas City to General Edilberto Evangelista Avenue in honor of a Filipino martyr, patriot, revolutionary general, engineer, and fearless combat leader.

General Edilberto Evangelista occupies an indelible mark in the history of the Filipino people's struggle for national freedom, yet he is one of the many brave heroes forgotten by our nation, he who is the acclaimed hero of the February 17, 1897 Battle at Zapote Bridge.

He was born in Sta. Cruz, Manila on February 24, 1862. Through hard work and determination, he finished his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1878 at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran. He went to Madrid in 1890 to pursue higher studies where he befriended several Filipino patriots, notably Dr. Jose P. Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Juan Luna, and Mariano Ponce. He eventually enrolled at the University of Ghent in Belgium where he finished civil engineering and architecture with highest honors.

When General Evangelista arrived from Europe in September 1896, a month after the Revolution broke out in August 1896, Manila and the neighboring provinces were already in turmoil. He joined the Filipino revolutionaries in Cavite in October 22, 1896, and was eventually appointed Director-General of the Engineering Corps with the rank of Lieutenant General in the Philippine Revolutionary Forces.

Fully utilizing his engineering skills to advance the Revolution, Gen. Evangelista led the building of trenches and other defenses throughout the Filipino lines in Cavite. These defenses repelled repeated attacks by the Spanish colonial forces.

On February 16, 1897, General Evangelista made a final use of his engineering ingenuity. Tasked to contain the counter-attacking Spanish forces at the Zapote Bridge, he displayed exemplary courage in the face of imminent death. He inspired the Filipino revolutionary troops to redouble their efforts in thwarting the repeated Spanish onslaughts in what is now known as the First Battle at Zapote Bridge, which lasted till early March 1897, where the ill-equipped and ill-trained Filipino revolutionary forces held at bay the forces of the mighty Spanish Empire. But it was during the battle when General Evangelista bequeathed a noble legacy to the subsequent Filipino generation – heroically fighting and dying for one's country. He was mortally wounded on February 17, 1897.

The renaming of the Alabang-Zapote Road to General Edilberto Evangelista is consonant with the program of the Las Piñas City Government dubbed as the Las Piñas Historical Corridor Project, which is aimed at restoring and preserving old historical and cultural landmarks in the city. Without doubt, honoring General Evangelista through a major thoroughfare under his name is well within the objectives of this noble project.

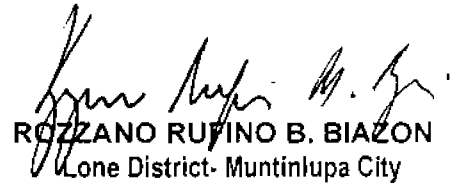
General Evangelista deserves his proper place in the history of the Filipino nation, and that revered place will be granted by naming the street which traverses the place where he gave up his life for the freedom of the Filipino nation.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

*Approved,*

  
SATUR C. OCAMPO  
Bayan Muna Party-List

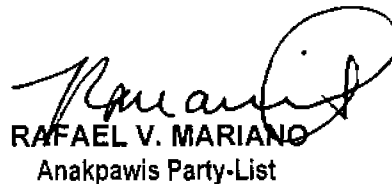
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR  
Lone District, Las Piñas City

  
ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON  
Lone District- Muntinlupa City

  
TEODORO A. CASIÑO  
Bayan Muna Party-List

  
LIZA L. MAZA  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
LUZVIMINDA C. ILAGAN  
Gabriela Women's Party

  
RAFAEL V. MARIANO  
Anakpawis Party-List

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**AN ACT RENAMING THE ALABANG-ZAPOTE ROAD IN LAS PIÑAS CITY, METRO MANILA  
TO GENERAL EDILBERTO EVANGELISTA AVENUE**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress  
assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** The Alabang-Zapote Road which bisects Las Piñas City and connects the South Luzon Expressway in the east to the Coastal Road along Manila Bay, is hereby renamed General Edilberto Evangelista Avenue.

**SEC. 2.** The Department of Public Works and Highways is hereby directed to implement the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

*Approved,*