

December 10, 1963
SERGIO OSMEÑA - DEFINITIVES

PRES. SERGIO OSMEÑA
(A Great Statesman)
(Sept. 9, 1878 - Oct. 19, 1961)

President Sergio Osmeña was born in Cebu on September 9, 1878. He finished law in the University of Santo Tomas. He became a fiscal, a governor an assemblyman and a senator.

For 15 years he held the post of Speaker of the Philippine Assembly. In 1916 he worked for the establishment of a semi-autonomous government under the Jones Law, from which came the Philippine Commonwealth and later on the present Philippine Republic.

In 1935 he was elected the first Vice-President of the Philippine Commonwealth. When Pres. Quezon died in exile in New York, in August 1944, Osmeña succeeded him as President. It was only when he was defeated by Manuel Roxas in the elections for the first President of the Republic that he retired to a quiet life in his hometown.

He died at the age of 83 on October 19, 1961, just one day short of the 17th anniversary of the Leyte landing in which he was a participant.

Known as the Grand Old Man of Cebu, Writer Ernie C. Evora aptly described Pres. Osmeña as the "epitome of a republic servant, a man who placed principles and ideals above personal gain. He always had faith in his fellow politicians and in the integrity of his party, forgetting that he might be sacrificed by others for convenience or expediency."

The Bureau of Posts pays its own tribute to Pres. Osmeña in the form of a stamp issued in his honor. This small monument to one of the greatest statesmen of the Philippines was designed by philatelic artist Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr. It shows the bust portrait of Pres. Osmeña in bright blue, vertically composed on the 19x30 mm frame of the stamp.

A quantity of 10,000,000 of the 70-centavos denomination stamp has been intaglio steel plate printed by the Bradbury, Wilkinson & Company, Ltd. of England.

