



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

Press Release No. 08-2017

### CONSUL GENERAL CALONGE DELIVERS ADDRESS BEFORE THE MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Standing for the Philippines and promoting the country's cordial relations with the great State of Missouri, Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge addressed the Missouri House of Representatives in Jefferson City during its regular session on Thursday, February 23.

Consul General spoke before the fourth largest state assembly in the U.S. about the Philippines' longstanding relations and shared history, values and principles with her former colonial ruler and now her only defense treaty ally. In this connection, the House applauded the information he shared on the passage of the Filipino Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 last November.

He also provided a detailed picture of the Philippines' economic growth and successes in governance gained through reforms in recent years. He then invited the distinguished elected officials of Missouri, being the home of more than 21,000 Filipino Americans, to rely upon the rich talent of the Filipino community for worthwhile civic endeavors and to consider visiting their uniquely beautiful and blessed country of origin for touristic, cultural and historical purposes.

Consul General Calonge was tendered a reception by Lieutenant Governor Michael L. Parson at the latter's office where he was also welcomed by Secretary of State John R. Ashcroft, Senate President Pro Tempore Ron Richard, House Majority Floor Leader Mike Cierpiot, Majority Whip Steve Lynch and other state officials. Ms. Ann Pardalos of the Missouri International Trade and Investment Office served as protocol officer for the event. **END**





*Consul General Calonge is flanked by Missouri Lieutenant Governor Michael L. Parson (left) and State Senate President Pro Tempore Ron Richard (right) Photo courtesy of Missouri State Capitol.*



*Representative Lindell Shumake of the 5<sup>th</sup> District of Missouri (second from right), who conveyed an invitation for the Consul General to visit and speak before the Missouri House of Representatives during a Filipino community event they both attended in Boonville last year, stands with Consul General Calonge and Majority Floor Leader Mike Cierpiot (extreme right) and Majority Whip Steve Lynch (extreme left). Photo courtesy of Missouri State Capitol.*





*Lieutenant Governor Parson and Secretary of State John Ashcroft (second from right) and other Missouri state officials hear Consul General Calonge's brief explanation of the Philippine Consulate General's functions during a special reception before his address. Ms. Ann Pardalos of the Missouri International Trade and Investment Office, who also served as protocol officer, is standing behind CG Calonge. Photo courtesy of Missouri State Capitol.*



*Republican Speaker of the House Todd Richardson of District 152 shares the podium with Consul General Calonge who speaks before the Missouri House of Representatives during its regular session on Feb. 23.*