



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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### CONSUL GENERAL GRACED FILIPINO-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MICHIANA CHRISTMAS BANQUET IN SOUTHBEND, INDIANA

Before a crowd of hundreds of Filipino-Americans and Americans at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in Southbend, Indiana on December 7, 2019, Consul General Gina Jamoralin affirmed the close friendship and enduring ties between the Philippines and the United States. Consul General Jamoralin paid tribute to the bonds of friendship between the two countries forged during World War II where Filipinos and American soldiers fought shoulder-to-shoulder against Japanese aggression. She also remarked that day marked the 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor which sparked World War II in the Pacific and brought the war to Philippine shores hours after the bombing in Hawaii.

She also noted that the Filipino-American youth wowed the audience when they performed Filipino cultural dances and sang Filipino songs, product of close people-to-people links between the two countries. She congratulated the Filipino-American Association of Michiana (FAAM) for their efforts to promote Philippine culture to the next generation of Filipino-Americans and invited them to participate in the Philippine Consulate General of Chicago's and Commission of Filipino Overseas' (CFO) cultural immersion project, the *Midwest Youth Leaders in Diaspora Immersion Program*, which aims to develop the youth as future leaders of their communities and help the Fil-Am youths born and raised in the United States to rediscover their Filipino heritage.

Consul General Jamoralin also exhorted the Filipinos and those with dual citizenship to register as Philippine overseas voter in the upcoming registration period to commence on December 19, 2019 in preparation for the Philippine presidential elections in 2022. She also asked those who are already registered as overseas voters to check their voting status to ensure that they are still in the active list, otherwise, they have to renew their registration.

The 27<sup>th</sup> FAAM Annual Christmas Banquet also included the induction of officers for 2019-2021 led by incoming FAAM President Delia Salire-Keck. The Philippine Consulate staff also distributed "Save-the-Date" flyers for the upcoming Very Important Pinoy (VIP) Tour scheduled on 19-26 July 2020 in Manila, Iloilo and Boracay

Southbend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg also sent his congratulatory message to FAAM and was unable to come due to his busy campaign schedule as Democratic presidential candidate. There are an estimated more than 17,000 Filipinos and Filipino-Americans living in the State of Indiana. END





Consul General Jamoralin delivering her inspirational message



Consul General Jamoralin posed with the newly-inducted 2019-2021 FAAM officers



Consul General Jamoralin shared light moments with FAAM officers and guests including Mrs. Jill Donnelly ( 2<sup>nd</sup> from left), wife of former United States Senator Joe Donnelly from Indiana from 2013 to 2019.