



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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CONSUL GENERAL CROWNS REYNA HELENA IN KANKAKEE CITY, ILLINOIS

The Filipino communities in Kankakee, Joliet and Chicago in the state of Illinois successfully organized Santacruzán 2019 on May 11, 2019 at the St. John Paul II Catholic Parish in Kankakee City and County, Illinois. The highlight of the program is the crowning of the 2019 Reyna Helena, Ms. Abigail Turija, by Consul General Gina Jamoralin. The Consul General also participated in the introduction of other Santacruzán queens and their escorts that evening by pinning their corsages and handing out flower bouquets. Other VIP guests who assisted in the pinning of corsages were Kankakee City Mayor Chasity Wells –Armstrong and Justice Jesse G. Reyes of the First District Appellate Court of Illinois. Mayor Armstrong also delivered her welcome remarks who lauded the Filipino community for their friendship and openness to different cultures and for their significant contribution to the city of Kankakee. Consul General Jamoralin was accompanied by Philippine Consulate’s Cultural Officer, Mr. Noly Dulay and the Consul General’s mother, Mrs. E. Jamoralin

Consul General Jamoralin thanked the Filipino communities for helping to preserve the annual Filipino tradition in May (also called the month of *flowers* or *Flores de Mayo*) of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary through a *Santacruzán* procession reenacting the search and discovery of the Holy Christ by St. Helena, mother of Constantine, the first Christian emperor of the Roman Empire. She expressed appreciation particularly to Ms. Benilda Hizon, *hermana mayor* who invited the Philippine Consul General and Mr. and Mrs. June Turija.

Consul General Jamoralin also made a last minute appeal to Filipino overseas voters in Illinois who had not yet mailed back their ballots to the Philippine Consulate in Chicago to submit their ballots in person to the Consulate which were open during the whole weekend of May 11 and 12 until the election’s closing time of 5:00 AM of May 13, Monday. **END**





Consul General Jamoralin and Kankakee Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong, the first elected African-American mayor of Kankakee City and County

