



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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CONSUL GENERAL CALONGE ADDRESSES THE ILLINOIS STATE SENATE



Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge (right) delivering his remarks at the podium of Illinois Senate President John Cullerton (left) during a regular session of the Illinois State Senate of the 99th General Assembly in Springfield (photo courtesy of the Office of the Illinois Senate President)

Upon the invitation of Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge visited and spoke before the Illinois State Senate during the celebration of the Filipino American History Month on October 20.

Consul General Calonge thanked Senator Cullerton, a native of Chicago and Loyola University Law School alumnus, for the golden opportunity to visit and address the State Senate, as a special symbolic exercise in international relations facilitated by the Senate President.

The Consul General and former Philippine Ambassador to Israel highlighted the significant and longstanding relations between the U.S. and the Philippines, predating and lasting beyond the formal grant of independence to the latter on 04 July 1946.

Aside from enjoying excellent bilateral ties, the Philippines, Consul General Calonge noted, enjoys a much improved standing in the international community and as a choice investment destination due to the successes and gains in good governance instituted by the Aquino administration.

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A photo of the State Senate chamber inside the Illinois State Capitol taken minutes before the start of the session

He pointed out that the recent forum on doing business in the Philippines held at the Morgan Stanley building in Chicago for Illinois-based companies, with PEZA Director General Lilia De Lima as special guest, was precisely part of the Consulate's continuing effort to enhance the existing commercial relations between the Philippines and the State of Illinois.

Lastly, Consul General Calonge invited the senators' attention to a pending piece of legislation before the U.S. Congress granting special recognition to Filipino Veterans of WWII (which is extended to American commanders and soldiers who fought in the Philippine theater) through the Congressional Gold Medal Act. Emphasizing its simplicity and import, he hoped that there would be a groundswell of bipartisan support and clamor in Illinois to add to the voices of Senators Mark Kirk and Dick Durbin, as well as Congresswomen Tammy Duckworth and Janice Schakowsky, and help push for the bill's passage. **END**

