



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE

No. 65-2018

DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION FOR *KALAYAAN 2018* HELD IN CHICAGO

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago commemorated the 120th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence on 14 June 2018 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General.

Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin led this important event and was celebrated at a diplomatic reception which gathered representatives from the Filipino-community organizations, public institutions, business, and diplomacy.

Official proclamations from Hon. Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago, and Hon. Bruce Rauner, Governor of State of Illinois, read by their representatives, called for the celebration of Philippine Independence Day as a special occasion to be observed all over the city and the state in honor of the significant contributions of Filipino-Americans. Governor Rauner's personal video greeting to the Filipino community in Illinois was also shown to the audience.

Special congratulatory messages from the State of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs were likewise delivered by their respective community outreach coordinators.

Young singers, namely Christiana Santiago and Rodell Rosel, sang the Philippine and US anthem respectively.

Gracing the occasion was Hon. Virgilio S. Almario, National Artist for Literature and Chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Chairman Almario, in his speech, cited that the fundamental factor in commemorating this important event is a shared resolve to stay united and tackle challenges together. He urged the audience to reflect what unity means and to remember and honor with gratitude all those who sacrificed for us to enjoy our freedom today.

Consul General Jamoralin led a ceremonial toast with State of Illinois Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza and Consul General of El Salvador and Dean of Consular Corps Patricia M. Pittsford for a brighter, more prosperous Philippines and enduring friendship between the two peoples. **END**

Chicago, 18 June 2018





Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin delivers her welcome remarks at the start of the Diplomatic Reception held at the Kalayaan Hall on 14 June 2018. *Photos courtesy of Mr. Cornelio P. Santiago*



Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin (left) with Mr. Thomas Choi of the Governor's Office, Ms. Sharon Garchitorea of the State of Illinois Treasurer's Office, Ms. Jordan Miller of the Chicago Mayor's Office, Ms. Nettie Lasko of the State of Illinois Attorney General's Office and Mr. Steven Lu of the State of Illinois Comptroller's Office during the Diplomatic reception held at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General on 14 June 2018. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Cornelio P. Santiago*



Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin offered the traditional toast with Hon. Susana A. Mendoza (left), State of Illinois Comptroller and Hon. Patricia M. Pittsford (right), Consul General of El Salvador and Dean of Consular Corps with Hon. Virgilio S. Almario (far right) as guest of honor for the evening's event.

Photos courtesy of Mr. Cornelio P. Santiago



Hon. Virgilio S. Almario, National Artist for Literature and Chairman of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) thanked Consul General Jamoralin and acknowledged the contribution of Filipino Americans for the growth and development of the many diverse communities within Illinois and the Midwest.

Photos courtesy of Mr. Cornelio P. Santiago



Consul General Jamoralin presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Ms. Christiana Santiago and Mr. Rodell Rosel for singing the Philippine and US anthem at the Diplomatic Reception. *Photos courtesy of Mr. Cornelio P. Santiago*



Photo op with guest of honor Hon. Virgilio S. Almario and Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin together with the Officers and staff members of the Consulate General at the 120th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Cornelio P. Santiago*



Melodies of *kundiman* medley played on Rondalla by the Chicago Angklung and Rondalla Ensemble throughout the evening. Photo courtesy of Mr. Cornelio P. Santiago