



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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CONSUL GENERAL CALONGE THANKS CONGRESSMAN BLUM FOR SUPPORT OF BILL HONORING FILIPINO VETERANS

Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge personally thanked Congressman Rodney Leland Blum of the 1st District of Iowa for co-sponsoring the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act.



Congressman Rod Blum (left) is all ears as Consul General informs him about the economic and political landscape in the Philippines.

Congressman Blum, who met with the Philippine Consul General to the Midwest in Dubuque, Iowa, around 184 miles northwest of Chicago, said that Filipino Veterans deserved such recognition and it was high time that such an award be given them.

Over 200,000 Filipinos served under the US flag during World War II, and only around 17,000 of them remain in the U.S. and the Philippines, most of whom are already in their 90s.

Congressman Blum also expressed interest in the Philippines-US Friendship Caucus and the opportunities both countries can gain from further strengthening their long history of official and people-to-people relations, mentioning how impressed he was with the work ethic, intelligence and culture of Filipino Americans that he has known, particularly the community in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, during his first term in office.

Consul General Calonge noted that the Philippines is currently the 23rd destination of exports from Iowa and hoped that Philippine economic ties with the Hawkeye State would grow further for the mutual benefit of their peoples. **END**

