



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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KOREAN WAR VETERANS HONORED IN CHICAGO

Chicago, 30 July 2019 – A solemn ceremony commemorating the 66th anniversary of the signing of the Korean War Armistice was held at the Korean War Memorial in Kennedy Park, Chicago.

The Kennedy Park memorial, dedicated in September 1988, is one of the first monuments built in the U.S. honoring America's involvement in the Korean War.

Organized by the Windy City Veterans Association and Filipino American Veterans of Illinois (FAVI), the solemn occasion saw the attendance of Consul General Young Sok Kim of South Korea, Consul General Umut Acar of Turkey, Honorary Consul Paul Van Halteren of Belgium, Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor Israel Jr., Ms. Linda Chapa LaVia, Acting Director of Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Ret. Gen. Stephen Curda, Director of Illinois Joining Forces Foundation, together with tens of Korean War veterans and members of FAVI and Chicago Nightingales, led by Ms. Rose San Diego, representing the Filipino community.

DCG Israel highlighted the significant contribution of the Philippines through the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK) despite the country's struggles coming out of WWII. This clearly showed its resolve to stand with other freedom-loving countries in defense of democracy, peace and liberty.

The event likewise brought out the importance of the Korean War for the United States, which proved its willingness to fight for its values anywhere in the world. It also shed light on the positive force of international cooperation, as the concerted efforts of sixteen countries under the United Nations led to a highly developed South Korean economy and thriving democracy.

With a campaign for the award of Congressional Gold Medal to combat veterans of the Korean War still ongoing, the Korean War should no longer be a "forgotten war."

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago encourages Filipino community members in Chicago to come out in support of such events to remember and pay tribute to Filipino American war veterans. **END**





IJF Director and Ret. Gen. Stephen Curda (far left); Consul General Umut Acar of Turkey (5th from left); Deputy Consul General Israel (standing, 7th from right); Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Acting Director Linda Chapa LaVia (5th from right); Consul General Young Sok Kim of South Korea (4th from right); Honorary Consul Paul Van Halteren of Belgium (3rd from right) pose with Korean War veterans after the ceremony at Kennedy Park, Chicago.



DCG Israel (4th from left) is joined by Cultural and Community Affairs Officer Noly Dulay (2nd from left), Ms. Rose San Diego (3rd from left) of FAVI and officers and members of the Chicago Nightingales, who attended the 66th Korean War Armistice commemoration on Saturday, July 27.