



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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CONSUL GENERAL CALONGE LAUDS APPROVAL OF FILVETS GOLD MEDAL BILL, THANKS COSPONSORS AND FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY FOR SUPPORT

Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge welcomed the approval by the U.S. House of Representatives of the "Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015," which paves the way for its signing into law by President Barack Obama.

Consul General Calonge likewise thanked all cosponsors of the bill especially those who comprise the congressional delegations of the sixteen states within the Consulate General's jurisdiction.

He also commended leaders and members of the Filipino American community who helped in the campaign for the proposed legislation by raising public awareness and seeking their respective representatives and senators' support.

Dr. Jose Evangelista, Honorary Consul General to Michigan, and Mr. Roberto Romero, Honorary Consul to Louisiana, likewise merited Consul General's special mention as they both provided unremitting support to efforts in reaching out to congressional leaders in their areas.

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of two highest civilian awards in the United States. A bipartisan bill filed in June last year seeks to recognize, after more than 70 years, the Filipino veterans' valor and loyalty, commitment and sacrifice in defense of the Philippines, then part of U.S. sovereign territory.

The bill, which earlier passed the U.S. Senate on July 13 and the House on November 30, has been presented to the President on December 7.

"I look forward to this historic legislative measure becoming law as a special gift of the U.S. government and a grateful American nation to the Filipino veterans who fought and died for the shared values of patriotism, honor and liberty. I hope this will signal a renewed vigor for closer ties between our peoples," Consul General Calonge remarked. **END**

