



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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PRESIDENT ARROYO HOSTS A RECEPTION FOR THE LEADERS OF THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN THE NORTHEAST USA

New York – Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal Arroyo met with the leaders of the Filipino community in a reception, which the President hosted during her official visit to New York.

Attended by over 250 community leaders from throughout the Northeast, the event was highlighted by special awards given by the President to members of the Filipino community in who have brought honor to the Philippines, and whose work have helped the Filipino people.



President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo confers Presidential Citation to Filipinas Lowery and her team

The first citation was given to the “Philippine Nurses Association of America Task Force for NCLEX Administration in the Philippines”, whose diligence, under the leadership of Ms. Filipinas Lowery, succeeded in having the National Council of State Boards of Nursing agree to the administration of the NCLEX in the origin country of the majority of NCLEX takers abroad, the Philippines. This signal achievement by Ms. Lowery and her team, Leo Felix Jurado, Seny Lipat, Rosario Mayor, Reynaldo Rivera and Lolita Compas, has paved the way for many of their compatriots, reducing the cost of examinations for nurses who wish to qualify for employment in the United States.



Filipino Playwright Alberto Florentino receives the Presidential Medal of Merit from the President

The second award was given to US-based Filipino Playwright Alberto Florentino, who accepted the Presidential Medal of Merit, which he was unable to receive in Manila in February 2007. Mr. Florentino was honored not only for his exemplary writing, which earned him a Palanca Award in 1954, but also for his work as editor and publisher of works by other Filipino writers, who were later recognized as National Artists for Literature. The third award was the Order of Lakandula conferred on Consul General Cecilia B. Rebong for her work as Chief of Presidential Protocol from the 2001 to 2003.

The Filipino veterans, whose recognition and benefits were stripped away with the Rescission Act of 1946, and who have fought for the restitution of their honor for the last 61 years presented the President with a letter expressing the veterans' deep appreciation for her full support for their cause. Today, with the approval of the Veterans Equity Bill of 2007 at the Committee levels of both houses of US Congress, and the assurance received from President Bush by the President that he will sign the Bill once it is approved by Congress, the Veterans are closer than they have ever been to regaining well- deserved recognition for their service and sacrifice.



The President with representatives of the Filipino Veterans of World War II

The Filipino community, represented by the leaders from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Massachusetts, presented a Recognition of Excellence Award to Her Excellency. President Arroyo capped the evening with a brief speech, thanking the Filipino community for their support and outlining the accomplishments of the government in the economic and social fronts. –END-



The Filipino community eager to meet and shake hands with the President, while Consul General Rebong makes



Ms. Filipinas Lowery in her last public appearance. Ms. Lowery passed away just a few days after receiving the award from the President.