



**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL  
PRESS RELEASE**

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**PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2009  
SONATA FOR OUR HEROES – PHOTO EXHIBIT**



Ambassador Hilario Davide, Consul General Cecilia Rebong, Mrs. Loida Lewis and the representatives of the Filipino Veterans of World War II in New York and New Jersey together open the the exhibit "Sonata for our Heroes", with the artists present.

8 JUNE 2009, NEW YORK – The Philippine Consulate General New York, in cooperation with SINAG (American Society of Philippine Photographers of Metro New York), the Association FotoSeven of California, the Camera Club of the Philippines-Manila, photographer Rick Rocamora (San Francisco), photographer Jercy Garcia (Manila), opened "Sonata for Our Heroes: Unsung Filipino WW II Veterans", a unique photo exhibit to honor the Filipino Veterans of World War II.

The exhibit places the focus on the veterans and their families, after the passage into law of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which authorized the release of \$198-M to make a one-time lump sum pay of \$15,000 to each of the Filipino World War II veterans who are United States citizens and \$9,000 to each of the veterans, who are not US citizens and are mostly living in the Philippines. This provision gives long-overdue recognition of the Filipino veterans' invaluable service to the US military in the Philippines during WW II.

"The *Sonata for Our Heroes* exhibit is a showcase event for the Consulate's Independence Month, a tribute to our veterans, in thanks for their selfless fight for freedom," noted Consul General Cecile Rebong. "It is timely as well that it will run through June 19, the birth anniversary of our National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal."

This event would not have been possible without the valued contributions of passionate advocates like Mr. Rene Ner and Mr. Robert Perez de Tagle. It was further made special by the presence of veterans from New York and New Jersey, brought to the event by Rosalinda Mayo. Guests were serenaded by sonatas played on violin by the heroes who no longer consider themselves "unsung" with the passage of the The exhibit is free and open to the public, and runs until the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2009. END.