

M E S S A G E

With gratitude in our hearts, we commemorate the 111th anniversary of Philippine Independence with the renewed resolve to bring to full fruition the aspirations of our nation's forebears.

This year's theme, "***Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan***" reminds Filipinos around the world of the continuing challenge for our nation's people to do our utmost and contribute to the further strengthening of our Republic.

Our forefathers envisioned a sovereign and democratic country governed by an accountable government and moved by an involved and empowered citizenry.

We have made great strides towards greater peace, progress and prosperity. And we will continue moving forward, propelled by the collective commitment of the global Filipino nation.

Filipinos in the United States and the Filipino- American community continue to be the Philippines' partners.

I commend the sustained efforts to learn more about Filipino heritage and to contribute to the Philippines' growth and development.

The many achievements of Filipinos here in the United States are an inspiration to Filipinos around the world.

With this demonstrated commitment, our nation and our posterity can be confident that the democratic legacy of our forefathers will continue to live on and that the fruits of our democracy will be enjoyed by all Filipinos.

Mabuhay ang diwa ng Kalayaan! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Pilipino!

WILLY C. GAA
Ambassador

Washington, D.C., June 2009