WHEREAS, one of the most significant dates in the history of the Philippines is Independence Day, which marks the date of the nation’s independence from Spanish rule on June 12, 1898; and,

WHEREAS, in 1898 the Philippine Declaration of Independence was signed and publicly read by Ambrosio Rizal Bautista, declaring a free, sovereign, and democratic Philippines; and,

WHEREAS, the Philippines’ flag was raised and its national anthem was played for the first time in 1898; and,

WHEREAS, the annual June 12th observance of Philippine Independence Day came into effect after past-President Diosdado Macapagal signed the Republic Act No. 4166 on August 4, 1964; and,

WHEREAS, this year marks the 121st anniversary of Philippine Independence, and Illinois is proud that thousands of Filipino Americans call our state home; and,

WHEREAS, the contributions of Filipino Americans to the social, economic, and cultural landscape of this State greatly increase the quality of life for all Illinois residents; and,

WHEREAS, our state’s thriving Filipino American population is well-served by the Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago, and it is important that we commend the valuable Filipino community organizations across the Land of Lincoln;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim June 12, 2019 as PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY in Illinois.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this THIRTY-FIRST day of MAY, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
NINETEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
two hundred and FIRST.

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE

[Signature]
GOVERNOR
June 12, 2019

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to send warm greetings to everyone gathered today in Daley Plaza for the 121st Celebration of Kalayaan or the Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. Today, we commemorate the Declaration of Independence on June 12, 1898 by General Emilio Aguinaldo and the Filipino revolutionary forces from Spanish colonization. The model of Kalayaan or freedom is deep-rooted in the fight for liberation of the Filipino people. This day each year is a time to raise awareness among Filipinos nationwide and worldwide that freedom is a most precious right.

As we raise the flag of the Philippines today, we celebrate Philippine independence while remembering the generations before us who made great sacrifices to make this independence a reality. We should make sure that our community, and especially the younger generations of Filipinos and Filipino Americans, will always be reminded of the heroism, bravery, and sacrifices of their ancestors. The colors of the Philippine flag have significant meaning. The blue symbolizes traits such as peace, sacrifice, justice, and truth while the red represents courage, valor, and patriotism. The white stands for liberty, equality, and fraternity. The large yellow sun feature is symbolic of sovereignty, unity, freedom, and democracy.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I offer my heartfelt best wishes to our Filipino and Filipino-American communities.

Sincerely,

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress
June 12, 2019

The Honorable Gina Jamoralin
Consul General
Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines
122 South Michigan Avenue
Suite 2100
Chicago, Illinois 60603

Dear Consul General Jamoralin:

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered, and to congratulate the Filipino community of Chicago on the celebration of the 121st anniversary of Philippine Independence.

This occasion provides us the opportunity to reflect on the historical day June 12, 1898, 121 years ago today, but it also reminds us to celebrate the outstanding Filipino community we are so lucky to have in the City of Chicago. Chicago is proud of the many links that bridge our communities together. Dedicated to veterans of World War II fighting in the Philippines, the Bataan-Corregidor Memorial Bridge stands strong on State Street. I am so grateful for the many ways in which the dynamic Filipino American community has contributed to the rich diversity and fabric of our great city, and I look forward to watching as the community continues to grow and to flourish.

Please accept my sincere gratitude for the leadership you provide in your role as Consul General. I look forward to working with you. I offer you and all those gathered my best wishes for a wonderful celebration and much continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayor

121 NORTH LASALLE STREET • ROOM 509 • CHICAGO, IL 60602
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 12, 2019

Gina A. Jamoralin
Consul General of the Philippines
Consulate General of the Philippines
122 S. Michigan, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Consul General Jamoralin,

As Attorney General of the State of Illinois, I want to offer congratulations to you and the people of the Philippines on the celebration of your country’s 121st Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

Filipinos here in Illinois and around the world can take great pride in their country as their nation celebrates its anniversary of independence. The Filipino community is a vibrant and important part of Chicago and Illinois, and I know Filipino nationals feel much joy in this celebration.

We are proud that our world-class city of Chicago is home to the Consulate General of the Republic of the Philippines. I am very appreciative of all you and your staff do to assist visitors as well as those living in Illinois and throughout the Midwest. I hope that the 2019 Independence Day is a wonderful celebration.

Very truly yours,

Kwame Raoul
ATTORNEY GENERAL
June 12, 2019

GREETINGS

As Illinois State Comptroller, it is a pleasure and honor to send my warmest greetings to everyone in attendance for the Celebration of Kalayaan being held at Chicago’s beauteous and historic Union League Club.

This year commemorates the 121st Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence, one of the most important days in Filipino history. Here in the United States, it has become an important celebration showcasing Philippine culture and heritage, drawing attention to the contributions Filipino and Filipino-Americans have made to this country. It is also a time to empower and inspire individuals to serve their communities with pride.

I congratulate the Consulate General of the Philippines for putting on such a tremendous event here in Chicago. I look forward to celebrating with all of you in the years to come. My best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Susana A. Mendoza
Illinois State Comptroller