



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

Press Release No. **21-2017**

TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT MANUEL L. QUEZON IN MICHIGAN HOLOCAUST MUSEUM'S "RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS"

Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge last Friday visited the wall of the "Righteous Among the Nations" at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, Michigan honoring the late President Manuel L. Quezon's heroic deed of saving more than 1,300 Jews from the Holocaust.

With its mission of "illuminating the past and enlightening the future," the museum considered as truly edifying the little-known historical fact about President Quezon's leading role in rescuing more than 1,300 Jews as part of a grand plan to open the Philippines to up to a million Jewish refugees who are fleeing the Holocaust.

However, the Philippine Commonwealth government remained under the control of the U.S., which maintained at the time a restrictive policy toward refugees, thus putting President Quezon at a serious political risk. Moreover, the outbreak of World War II interrupted his plan of opening settlements for more Jews to live in the country.

During the visit, Consul General Calonge met with Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, Chief Executive Officer of the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus. He thanked Rabbi Mayerfeld, his predecessor, Stephen Goldman, and the center's board for taking a bold and trailblazing step toward the recognition of President Quezon's great contribution, which in his own words was just "the right thing to do."

The tribute to President Quezon, the Consul General noted, likewise shines a spotlight on the Philippines. "It shows our character as a freedom and peace loving nation willing to do our share for humanity's most needy and vulnerable," he said.

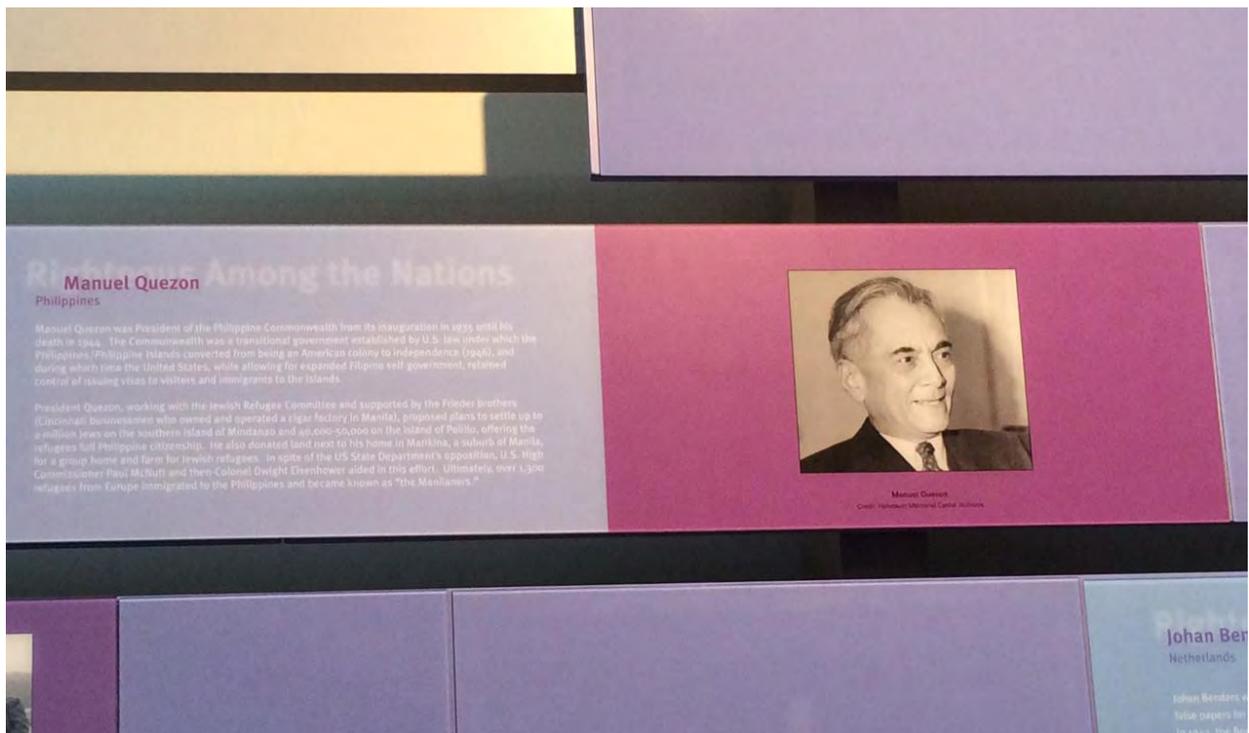
Consul General Calonge expressed hope that, with the same value and standard set by the Holocaust Memorial Center in Michigan, the oldest such institution in the U.S., other museums would come to a consensus in granting recognition to President Quezon.

A brief tour of the museum followed their meeting where the Consul General saw the memorial for President Quezon with other notable individuals considered as "Righteous Among the Nations." **END**





Above: Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO of the Holocaust Memorial Center in Michigan (left) receives in his office Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge (center) and Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor Israel Jr. (right).
Below: The portrait of President Manuel L. Quezon with a brief description of his heroic contribution is prominently displayed at the "Righteous Among the Nations" permanent exhibit of the center.



Consul General Calonge with a professional museum guide (above photo) and with Mr. Marcus Evangelista, Esq. (below photo, right) at the wall of the “Righteous Among the Nations” with the portrait of President Manuel L. Quezon in the background. (Photos courtesy of DCG RV Israel Jr.)

