



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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Chicago PCG's Ika-18 Pagkikita sa Konsulado Features Briefing on Immigration Developments by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Officials

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago held a briefing on significant immigration developments by officials from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Chicago Office as part of its "Ika-18 Pagkikita sa Konsulado," on 18 August 2016 at the Consulate's *Kalayaan* Hall.

Ms. Katy Leung, Special Assistant of the District Director of the USCIS, and Ms. Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez, Community Relations Officer of the USCIS, were the guest speakers for the *Pagkikita*.

Ms. Leung, informed the audience about the implementation of the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program which became effective on 18 June 2016. The Parole Program's main objective is to honor the thousands of Filipinos who bravely joined the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) to fight for the Philippines and the United States during WWII. The policy, among other things, will enable many eligible individuals to provide support and care for their aging veteran family members who are US citizens or lawful permanent residents. To date, an estimated 2,000 to 6,000 Filipino-American World War II veterans are living in the United States.

For her part, Ms. Rodriguez briefed members of the Filipino community on recent updates concerning the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program launched by the Obama Administration in 2012. DACA would allow certain people, who came to the US as children and meet several key guidelines, to request consideration of deferred action for a period of two (2) years, subject to renewal.

Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge, in his welcome remarks, shared with the members of the Filipino community the Consulate General's effort in the passing of the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015. Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel, Jr. in his remarks, shared important updates on the program which has so far received the support of six (6) out of the eighteen (18) US representatives from Illinois.

Photo opportunities and a modest reception, consisting of Filipino favorites including *fried lumpia* and *pancit palabok*, capped the evening's event. **END**





Consul General Generoso DG Calonge delivers his welcome remarks before the briefing of USCIS officials on "Humanitarian Parole Visa for Dependents of Filipino WWII Veterans" and other immigration reform developments," at the Consulate's Kalayaan Hall.



Ms. Katy Leung (left), Special Assistant of the District Director of the USCIS and Ms. Maria del Carmen Rodriguez (right), Community Relations Officer of the USCIS, gave presentations about WWII Veterans Parole Program and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) by the Obama Administration.



Consul General Generoso DG Calonge (middle), USCIS Officials, Officers and staff members of the Consulate General and members of the Filipino-American community posing for a group photo.