



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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### CONSULATE GENERAL LEADS THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 158<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. JOSE RIZAL IN CHICAGO

21 June 2019, Chicago - The Philippine Consulate General led the wreath-laying ceremony in commemoration of the 158th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal at the Rizal Monument located at Margate Park, Chicago on Wednesday, 19 June 2019.

Officers and staff of the Consulate General, together with commanders and members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal in Chicagoland, attended the ceremony. The floral offering was followed by the singing of the Philippine and American national anthems and a short program highlighting the Rizal-related events of the past year and upcoming plans to promote understanding of the national hero.

Dr. Rizal was born in Calamba, Laguna on 19 June 1861. In 1888, he embarked on a journey across the United States. On 11 May 1888, Rizal made a 14-hour stopover in Chicago as part of a trip by train from Oakland, California to New York, where he boarded a transatlantic ship to England for his second stay in Europe.

The Rizal Monument in Chicago, which was created by Antonio “Lito” Mondejar and is a bronze replica of the Rizal monument in Dapitan, was unveiled in 1999 to commemorate the centennial of Philippine Independence. According to the Chicago Park District, it was an initiative of the Order of the Knights of Rizal and Ladies of Rizal and was funded by the Philippine Centennial Commission. Chicago Park District views Rizal as “a revolutionary martyr and Philippine hero from the Spanish Colonial period. Rizal was a writer, doctor, farmer, artist, and activist whose military trial and execution are often considered the catalyst of the Philippine Revolution against Spain and the United States.”

Earlier on 11 June 2019, Dr. Ambeth Ocampo, a public historian and Rizal scholar, delivered a stirring and well-attended lecture in Chicago entitled “Rizal: The Hero as Traveler”, in connection with the Philippine Independence Day, considered the birthday of the Philippines as a nation, which Rizal inspired. **END**





*Philippine Consulate officials and Knights of Rizal (KOR) officers lead the wreath laying ceremony at the Rizal Monument in Margate Park, Chicago. (L-R) Sir Alvar Rosales, Deputy Commander of Maynilad Chapter; Sir Ceasar Balarbar, Maynilad Chapter; Sir Nick Gilana, Malaya Chapter; Sir Delfin Masangcay, Chicago Chapter; Ed Ramos, Commander of Malaya Chapter; Sir Bishop Eli Pascua, Commander of Chicago Chapter; Sir Anong Santos, Commander of USA Central Area; Sir Consul Ryan Francis Gener, Maynilad Chapter; Sir Willi Buhay, Chicago Chapter; and Sir Butch Odulio, Maynilad Chapter*



*Floral Offering by Philippine Consulate officials and Knights of Rizal officers at the Rizal Monument in Chicago*