



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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### CELEBRATING FILIPINO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DEEP IN MID-AMERICA

*Chicago, 07 August 2019* – A program celebrating the ties that bind the Philippines to the United States Midwest Region was held in conjunction with a consular outreach service last Saturday at Hampton Inn & Suites, Wichita, Kansas.

Led by Ms. Rose Axman, President of the Filipino American Association of Greater Wichita (FAAGW), the Filipino community graciously welcomed Chicago-based Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin as well as Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell and U.S. Representative Ron Estes.

Consul General Jamoralin took the opportunity to promote programs for the Fil-Am youth and seniors, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Midwest Youth Leaders in the Diaspora (YouLeaD) in the Philippines on 03-09 January 2020 and the Philippine Retirement Summit in Chicago on 10 August 2019. She conveyed appreciation to FAAGW for partnering with the Philippine Consulate General in providing much-needed consular services to the community and hosting a meet-and-greet with their local and federal elected officials.

The presence of Mayor of Wichita and U.S. Representative in the event and their willingness to meet with the Consul General, for which she expressed deep appreciation, is not just a show of support to the Filipino community, but also a hallmark of the friendship between the Philippines and the U.S.

On behalf of the city of Wichita, the most populous in Kansas, Mayor Longwell warmly welcomed the Consul General and her team as well as all consular applicants, highlighting the fast-growing developments and must-see places of interest in the city.

In his remarks, Congressman Estes thanked Filipino-Americans residing in Wichita and the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Kansas for the honor of representing them in the U.S. Congress where he serves on the Committee on Ways and Means. He mentioned the importance his work places on strengthening U.S. trade relations with the world, and emphasized the US-Philippines' bilateral trade as a significant aspect and reflection of the longstanding, friendly ties between the two countries.

He also vowed to continue working on needed reforms in the immigration system to fix what is broken and retain what works and preserves the values and welcoming spirit embodied by America as a nation of immigrants.

Outstanding Filipino-American youth and talents served as emcees and presented patriotic Filipino and American songs and a special solo and modern dance interpretation of "*Maglalatik*."

FAAGW Vice President Merci Mancao gave the closing remarks and invited the audience to a reception following the usual photo opportunities with the guest officials. **END**





**Above left:** Ms. Rose Axman, FAAGW President, giving her welcome remarks. **Above right:** Consul General Gina Jamoralin addressing the Filipino community with Wichita Mayor Jeff Longwell (seated left) and Congressman and Mrs. Ron Estes among the audience. **Below:** Congressman Ron Estes (wearing a yellow tie), Mrs. Susan Estes (7<sup>th</sup> from right), Mayor Longwell, Consul General Jamoralin and Ms. Axman pose for a photo with the officers and Board of Directors of FAAGW as well as the program's emcees, Kenneth Santiago (far left), FAAGW Youth Committee Chairman, and Ms. Aliana Idang (second from right), FAAGW Ms. Philippines 2018 and Youth Committee member.

