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## PHILCONGEN LOS ANGELES COMMEMORATES THE 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RIZAL DAY IN CARSON AND 120<sup>th</sup> MARTYRDOM OF DR. JOSE P. RIZAL



*Photo above shows Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz giving his speech.*

The City of Carson in cooperation with the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, Dr. Jose P. Rizal Monument Movement (JPRMM), Kalayaan, Inc. and the Knights of Rizal held a wreath laying ceremony on 29 December 2016 at the International Sculpture Garden to commemorate the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Rizal Day in the City of Carson and the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal.

The Consulate General was represented by Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz while the City of Carson, led by Councilmember Elito Santarina who offered their respective wreaths at the foot of the Rizal Monument. Other Fil-Am organizations, particularly Kalayaan, Inc., JPRMM, Knights of Rizal and Fleet Reserve Veterans Association, Branch 302, also offered their own wreaths.

In December 2013, the City of Carson approved and adopted Resolution No. 13-121, declaring December 30 of every year for the City of Carson, California – “A day of honoring and remembering RIZAL for the ideals of liberty, equality and justice, and for the noble principles he advocated which may serve to inspire people to become good citizens”.

Leaders of various Filipino-American Associations in Southern California participated in this year’s event. City of Carson Officials including City Treasurer Monica Cooper, Assistant City Manager Cecil Rhambo and former City Mayor Jim Dear also graced the occasion.

In his remarks, Consul General Cruz remarked “This year’s Theme, ‘*Rizal: Bayaning Global, Aydol ni Juan*’, is as timely and as meaningful not only to our *Kababayans* back home but to each of the 10 million Filipinos living and working abroad”. He also mentioned that “as we commemorate the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution of Dr. Rizal, we must not simply remember how or why he was killed, but rather, how he lived and how he left a profound impact on the lives of his countrymen then and, to this day, the present generation of Filipinos”.

In closing, Consul General Cruz appealed to the audience to re-acquire their Filipino citizenship and to register for the Philippine Overseas Voting (OV). These simple things, as he described, can be a heroic act that contributes in a better Philippines.

Councilmember Elito Santarina, in his remarks, shared the history of the Proclamation declaring December 30 as Rizal Day in the City of Carson.

The Rizal Monument, with the hero's statue standing at eight feet tall atop a seven foot granite pedestal, was unveiled in September 2012. It is the first monument to be installed in the International Sculpture Garden of Carson. It is also the first full-size statute of Dr. Rizal in the US West Coast. END.



*Photo above shows Carson Councilmember Elito Santarina delivering remarks.*



*Photo above shows JPRMM Chairman Mr. Chito Mandap addressing the gathering.*



*Photo above shows the wreath laying ceremony led by the Philippine Consulate General.*



*Photo above shows Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz during the wreath laying ceremony.*



*Photo above shows (L-R) Carson Asst. City Manager Cecil Rhambo, Carson City Treasurer Monica Cooper, former Carson Mayor Jim Dear, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, Carson Councilmember Elito Santarina, Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian Enciso, Cultural Officer Wilma Bautista, Consul Mary Joy Ramirez.*