



PRESS RELEASE  
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## FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS AWARDS IN LOS ANGELES



*The congressional gold medal depicts a Filipino scout, a Filipino infantry regiment officer, a guerrilla soldier with the foreground of an infantryman on guard, symbolizing the soldiers' fierce determination. The medal's reverse (tails) displays both the American and Filipino World War II-era flags. "UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES IN THE FAR EAST" is inscribed along the top border of the design. The inscription of "DUTY TO COUNTRY" and the key locations of "BATAAN & CORREGIDOR," "LUZON," "LEYTE," and "SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES" are featured centrally. "ACT OF CONGRESS 2016" is inscribed along the bottom of the design.*

Los Angeles, 11 May 2018 – Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz graced the awarding ceremony of replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal to Filipino-American World War II veterans held at the Filipino Cultural Center in Los Angeles on 09 May 2018. The event was organized by The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetRep) led by retired U.S. Army Major General Antonio Taguba.

The Filipino-American WW II veterans awarded that evening constitute the first batch in Los Angeles to receive their personal replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal numbering 23 in all (with 15 being able to be physically present during the awarding ceremony). Many of them were in their 80s and 90s with one already being 101 years old.

FilVetRep Board of Directors determined the number of Congressional Gold Medal replicas to be purchased from the U.S. Mint, for rostering purposes, budget programming and determining who qualify collectively as awardees of the United States Congressional Gold Medal (CGM Awardees) under the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015.

It may be recalled that the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015, signed into law on 14 December 2016 by former U.S. President Barack Obama. The LAW awarded 260,000 Filipino and Filipino-American WW II veterans a collective Congressional Gold Medal, signifying the United States' recognition of Filipinos for their service with its highest civilian honor. END.



*Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz addressing the audience.*



*Retired U.S. Army Major General Antonio Taguba addressing the audience.*



*(L-R) FilVetRep Mr. Eric Lachica, Consul General Cruz, General Taguba and FACLA President Fernandico Gonong.*



*(L-R) General Taguba presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to centenarian WW II veteran Marcelo Bartolome who is 101 years old.*