



PHL Consul General Calls on Filipino-American Rep. TJ Cox and Engages Filipino Community in Bakersfield

Consul General Adelio Angelito Cruz (right) shakes the hand of Representative Terrence John "TJ" Cox (left)



Los Angeles, 28 August 2019 – Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz visited Bakersfield for the first time on 28-29 August 2019 to call on Filipino-American Representative Terrence John "TJ" Cox of the United States House of Representatives. The Consul General congratulated Rep. Cox for his dramatic win in the 2018 midterm election and for being the first-ever first-generation Filipino-American to be elected to the U.S. House. He is also one of only two sitting legislators of Filipino-descent in the U.S. Congress.

Consul General Cruz also thanked the Representative for his membership in the Philippines-United States Friendship Caucus in the U.S. Congress. The Caucus was officially launched in 2003 and has been an important institution in sustaining the close friendly ties between the Philippines and the United States.



Aside from discussing the potential hiring of Filipino teachers and nurses to fill the City's need for medical and education professionals, the two also had a heartfelt exchange on their Filipino heritage hinged on their mutual respect for their Filipino parents and admiration of Filipino values.

The Consul General presented Rep. Cox with a bottle of *Aldio Barako Coffee Liqueur* as a token of appreciation. (Photo right)

Democrat Rep. Cox represents District 21, which is the northernmost congressional district under the consular jurisdiction of the Philippine Consulate General. It covers

certain areas within Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare Counties. Cities covered by the district include Delano, outer portions of Bakersfield, Hanford and Coalinga.

Prior to the meeting, the Consul General was warmly welcomed by the Filipino-American community in Bakersfield via an intimate luncheon meeting.



Consul General Cruz (center, second row) Consul Rea Oreta (center, 1st row) and Information Officer Mary Grace Leaño (rightmost, 1st row) pose with the Officers of The Filipino Community of Bakersfield and Vicinity, Inc.

The meeting was arranged by The Filipino Community of Bakersfield and Vicinity, Inc. (FCBVI) under the leadership of spouses Jun and Myrna Rivera, a retired businessman and banker, respectively. FCBVI serves as the umbrella community organization that keeps the community united.

Although relatively small compared to other groups in Southern California, FCBVI's impressive track record of being a united community organization with a strong cooperative relationship with other Fil-Am community groups, should serve as an inspiration for community building elsewhere in Southern California.

Also present during the meetings were Consul Rea G. Oreta and Information Officer, Mary Grace Leaño. END.