



PHL Consulate Gen in L.A. Hosts Welcome Dinner for Amb. Romualdez



Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez with the Philippine Consulate General headed by Consul General Adelio Angelito Cruz during a welcome dinner held on 14 September 2019 at the Consul General's residence.

Arcadia City, CA – Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, together with the officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General, hosted a welcome dinner in honor of Philippine Ambassador to the United States, Jose Manuel G. Romualdez, on 14 September 2019 at the Consul General's official residence.

More than a hundred guests attended the dinner, including Filipino-American elected and appointed officials from various cities of Southern California and key members of the Filipino-American community. Upon their arrival, the guests were given the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves to the Ambassador.

Consul General Cruz in his formal introduction of the Ambassador said, "Our guest of honor scored a landmark victory for the Filipino people when the U.S. Government...finally decided to return the *Balangiga Bells*, an artifact of deep historical, emotional and symbolic significance to the Philippines." (Photo right)





In true Filipino fashion, three Filipino-Americans welcomed the Ambassador with tokens of appreciation, namely, Ms. Grace Ouano who gave the Ambassador a copy of her award-winning cookbook titled, *“The Age Beautifully Cookbook”*; Ms. Theresa Arroyo-Finnegan who presented a mother pearl replica of a waist ornament traditionally worn by Ifugao men and a book titled, *“Ifugao: People of the Cordilleras”*; and Mr. Gil Mislang who gifted a numbered print of a painting by John Solie, illustrating the last U.S. Calvaray Charge in Morong Bataan in 1942. (Above photos)

Also included in the guests were the Ambassador’s former classmates he had not seen in decades. Aside from a being a reunion of sorts, the dinner was also an opportunity for the Ambassador to invite his fellow Filipinos to look back to the Philippines and see the many exciting developments taking place in the country.

Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez was appointed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as Philippine Ambassador to the United States of America in July 2017. He presented his credentials to President Donald J. Trump in November 2017. He was in Los Angeles on 13-16 September 2019 for his first official visit to Southern California. END.



(Left to right) Former Commissioner and Mrs. Fred Alain Docdocil, Mr. and Mrs. Gil Mislang, Ambassador Romualdez, Commissioner and Mrs. Abraham Lim, Commissioner Emmanuel Liban and Consul General Cruz

(Left to right) City of Beaumont Mayor Pro-Tem and Mrs. Rey Santos, City of Carson former Councilmember Elito Santarina, City of Bellflower Mayor Pro-Tem Sonny Sta. Ines, City of Claremont Councilmember Jed Leño, Ambassador Romualdez, City of Artesia Councilmember Melissa Ramoso, City of Claremont Mayor Corey Calaycay of the City of Culver Mayor Thomas Small, and City of Cerritos Councilmember Mark Pulido and Consul General Cruz.

