



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL  
**P R E S S R E L E A S E**

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10 August 2007

**CONGRESSMAN RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 11<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY  
EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR THE VETERANS EQUITY BILL OF 2007**



Consul General Cecilia B. Rebong with Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, Vice Consul Elena Maningat, NJ Filcom Leaders Ludy Hughes and Efren Dato

New York – Consul General Cecilia B. Rebong, accompanied by Vice Consul Elena Maningat and Filipino community leaders Efren Dato and Ludy Hughes, met with Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen of the 11<sup>th</sup> District of New Jersey on 6 August 2007 at his district office in Morristown, New Jersey.

Congressman Frelinghuysen is presently a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee; ranking member of the appropriations subcommittee for Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, and appropriations subcommittee on Defense.

He is presently serving his seventh term, representing the Congressional District of Morris County, Sussex, sections of Somerset, Passaic and Essex Counties.

During the meeting, Consul General Rebong briefed the Congressman on the status of RP-US relations and invited him to join the RP-US Friendship Caucus. While expressing his sincere appreciation for the invitation, as his principle is to represent all his constituents equally, regardless of ethnicity, he declines all invitations to join caucuses. However, he did give effusive praise to all Filipinos who, in his experience, have always been “utterly dependable” with a well-deserved reputation for excellent work ethics and professionalism. He also assured the Consul General and the Community Leaders that his support for the Filipino community in his district can always be counted upon.

The Congressman praised the Philippine-US security partnership, the support of the Philippines for the US-led war on terror, and particularly the success of efforts in Mindanao. Briefed by the Consul General on the positive changes in the lives of many ordinary Filipinos in Mindanao made by a combination of military assistance, socio-economic development, infrastructure and livelihood projects who are now able to experience the tangible benefits that peace brings, the Congressman stated that he will back efforts to sustain US



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assistance through his Committees in the House.

On the Veterans Equity Bill of 2007, which was recently approved by at the Committee level and will hopefully be discussed on the floor, Congressman Frelinghuysen (himself a veteran of the Vietnam War) expressed immediate support for the proposed bill. With his support, it is hoped that the long-delayed recognition for the valiant Filipinos who fought alongside their American brothers in Word War II will finally be granted.- END -



Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen speaks with the Consul General and with NJ Filipino Community Leader, Ludy Hughes