

# Guam Governor urges APIs to be involved



Guam Governor Felix Camacho speaks before the California Delegation during a morning caucus held at the Sheraton Bloomington. Camacho emphasized the importance of the Asian Pacific Islander vote and asked fellow Republicans to do their part to get involved.

MINNEAPOLIS—Emphasizing the importance of the Asian Pacific Islander vote, Guam Governor Felix Camacho urged fellow APIs and Republicans to be actively involved in the coming US Presidential elections.

“Asian Pacific Islander’s participation in this election is extremely important. They are a significant and influential voting block and can help their fellows back home by talking to their local congressman to lobby on issues affecting APIs,” Camacho said.

Camacho, who spoke before the California Delegation during a morning caucus held at the Sheraton Bloomington on September 3, also stressed that APIs have strong values of family and unity. “We have to do our part and seek out ethnic minorities and get them involved. The country does not need

orators, fluff, or a pretty face. What we need is a strong leader and that is John McCain,” he added. Thirty-five percent of Guam’s population is of Filipino descent. Camacho’s father, former Governor Carlos Camacho is ¼ pinoy, while his wife is half Filipino.

Other APIs during the caucus include Hawaii State Representative Kymberly Pine, who is a third generation Filipino American, Rudy Pamintuan, chairman of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders, New York delegates to the Republican Convention Myrna Littlewort, Marietta Chaves and Salvador Robles, Evangeline Robles and Purificacion Tuano from New York, Mel Alfarero, Cecil Ramos and Leo Pandac from California, and Dr. Sonny Carlota from Tennessee.

# NY FilAm Contingent at the GOP convention



The FilAm contingent from New York pose in front of a replica of Air Force One during the RNC Welcome Party held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. (From left to right) Myrna Littlewort, Marietta Chavez, Purificacion Tuano, Evangeline Robles, Salvador Robles. (AJPress Photo by Miko Santos)

# Helping Hand

Days after typhoon Frank pummeled the Philippines, the Filipino community leaders of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania convened at the Philippine Center to start off a donation-drive for the victims and their families.

Led by Consul General Cecilia B. Rebong, the leaders called the drive ‘Project Tulong’ and for the past two months, more than \$39,000 in cash and checks has been received. ConGen Rebong shared the good news during the recent Philippine Independence Day Committee thanksgiving party.

Officials from the Philippine Consulate have been very active in promoting ‘Project Tulong’. During the last gala night to celebrate the Philippine Fiesta in Secaucus, ConGen Rebong requested for the community’s support, asking them to skip one Starbucks a day and give that amount instead to ‘Project Tulong’.



Cesar and Vivian Malntic, Bert Pelayo, Consul General Rebong, Dr. Frank Rabadam and Dr. Boy Panga.

“Any amount is appreciated. Our *kabayans* who were victims of Typhoon Frank need all the help they can get. To those who have shared their blessings, thank you very much,” the consul general said.

Deputy Consul General Millie Thomeczek, the project officer for Project Tulong has been making sure that the donations will reach the victims of the calamity. The help desk has been receiving funds constantly and will provide an update at the end of September when the donations will be sent to the most affected areas of the typhoon.



Capizeno Circle, headed by Tony Bordamonte pack donations from Marriott Hotel, New Jersey for Typhoon victims in Capiz, Aklan and Masbate via 5 Star Cargo.

“The Filipino community here in the east coast has been very generous and responsive to our call regarding the concerns of our fellowmen in the Philippines,” consul Thomeczek said. The community efforts have also been extended to the business sector, with cargo companies agreeing to donate their services, donations in kind or give discounts. Hotels such as the Waldorf Astoria, New York Palace Hotel and Marriott Teaneck and have also donated blankets, bed sheets and towels while Sheraton Newark has also

committed to donate.

“Most of the community’s events are held in some of these hotels so this is also their way of thanking us,” Thomeczek added.

The Association of Philippine Physicians in America through its president Dr. Francis Talangbayan has also been very active in raising funds for the typhoon victims. The organization is donating thousands of dollars worth of hospital supplies and equipment to be donated to

declared in Bulacan, Albay, Antique, Iloilo, Leyte, Zamboanga City, Aklan, Capiz, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and South Cotabato.

The typhoon sank various marine vessels, including passenger ship MV Princess of the Stars, which capsized last June 21 off the coast of Romblon with 141 crew / non-crew members and 725 passengers on board.

The devastation wrought by the typhoon to the Philippines resulted in loss of lives, severe damages to properties and agriculture and displacement of thousands of families.



Project Tulong Committee Member Elsa Olsen and Nimfa Tinana of Friends indeed USA Inc.

the district hospital in Janiuary, Iloilo.

“The Philippine Consulate General New York is only allowed to accept donations with express authority from the Department of Foreign Affairs, for emergency situations and specific circumstances. However, the Filipino community is encouraged to maintain such emergency funds, which can be tapped in cases of calamity,” Vice Consul Elena Maningat said when asked if there are plans to make Project Tulong permanent.

Typhoon Frank made landfall in Samar on June 20, 2008, tracking an unusual course which affected nearly all regions of the Philippines from Mindanao, through the Visayas, all the way to Northern Luzon, before leaving the Philippine area of responsibility on June 23.

The Philippines’ National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) provided immediate emergency assistance to affected communities and remains on top of relief and recovery operations. A state of calamity was

Donations of any amount are still accepted until September 30. Check donations can be officially issued to the following organizations with 501c-3 status: Laguna and Friends, NaFFAA-New York, Friends In Deed, and Building Futures Together, Inc. and sent to the Philippine Consulate General, Project Tulong Desk, 556 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10036.

Cash donations are accepted at drop-boxes at the Philippine Center, c/o Project Tulong.

The Philippine Consulate General New York also opened the Condolence Book for the Victims of Typhoon Frank for signing at the lobby of the Philippine Center on 556 Fifth Avenue.

Members and heads of the following Fil-Comm organizations formed the core group of the drive: Laguna and Friends, NaFFAA-New York, Building Futures Together, Friends Indeed, Fil-Am Association of Fair Lawn, Capizeno Circle, Inc-Eastern USA, PIDCI, PAFCOM, PACEC, UN Philippine Cultural Society, Maharajah USA, Ilocano Mission, Aklan Group, Philippine Bread House, Iloilo Group, Philippine Hearts and Hopes, Bulacan Mission and the Association of Philippine Physicians of America.

The various Filipino community organizations are still encouraged to mobilize members and friends to start their own Project Tulong for the victims of Typhoon Frank. For more information, please call the PCG Project Tulong Desk, 212-764-1330, ext. 310, 336 or 306.



Project Tulong Fundraising Reception Committee at work headed by Ms. Mena Kaufman.

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