

# **PRESS RELEASE**

Tony Garcia (202) 370-6446

## ***Philippine Ambassadors Gaa and Baja to grace first TOFA Past Awardees Reunion in Chicago***

By Tony Garcia  
PGON Staffwriter

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 31- The first ***TOFA Past Awardees Reunion*** will be held at the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago on Friday, November 2, 2007, starting at 6:30 p.m. Four main topics are selected and recommended by the elite "***Circle of Leaders***" - the ***Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)***. Topics recommended for the speakers were suggested to inform TOFA Past Awardees and motivate them to act in unison in assisting our kababayans (countrymen) in the Philippines.

The two distinguished Philippine ambassador guests are His Excellency, Philippine Ambassador to the U.S., Ambassador Willy Gaa of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. and His Excellency, Ambassador Lauro L. Baja, Philippine Special Envoy, on special leave from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, who is travelling around the United States to meet Fil-Am and global Filipino community leaders. Philippine Consul General Blisela Cabrera of the Philippine Consulate General of Chicago and Nonoy Mendoza of ***FILAM*** and ***PGON*** are also in the program to deliver brief remarks.

Chuck Castro (TOFA 1995) of Dayton, Ohio is the master of ceremonies. Assisting in coordinating the "REUNION" functions are Chicago's Veronica Leighton (TOFA 1992), Joseph "Jojo" Quiroz (TOFA 2007), and ***PGON/FILIM*** representative Cynthia Jarencio Conroy of Chicago.

Recommended four main topics are: (1) "The political situations in the Philippines to be the subject" by Ambassador Gaa; (2) "The problems facing the global Filipinos and how can the global Filipinos assist in rebuilding the Philippines" by Ambassador Baja; (3) "How the U.S. immigration issues can affect the Filipinos in the U.S" by Congen Cabrera; (4) "Roles TOFA Past Awardees can play in assisting the Philippines" by Nonoy Mendoza.

In the first of its kind event sponsored by ***FILIPINO IMAGE MAGAZINE (FIMA)*** and the ***PINOY GLOBAL ONLINE NEWS (PGON)*** which has so far 280 TOFA Past Awardees - ***Circle of Leaders***, as they call themselves - spread around the United States, Canada, the Philippines and other areas in the globe, more than 40 guests from the Midwestern are expected to attend the function. According to ***FIMA*** and ***PGON***, they will announce in the near future the planning of similar functions to be held in the East Coast and the West Coast areas as each project is confirmed. #



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**I N V I T A T I O N**

TO

**Reunion of TOFA Past Awardees  
from the Midwestern Seaboard**

*His Excellency*

*Philippine Ambassador to the United States*

**Honorable Willy Gaa**

*His Excellency*

*Philippine Special Ambassador Envoy*

**Honorable Lauro L. Baja**

together with

**Mr. Nonoy Mendoza**

**Editor & Publisher**

*FILIPINO IMAGE MAGAZINE &  
PINOY GLOBAL ONLINE NEWS*

**WHEN:** *Friday, November 2, 2007 starting at 6:30 p.m.*

**WHERE:** *Philippine Consulate General  
30 North Michigan Avenue - Suite 2100  
Chicago, Illinois 60602 • Tel (312) 332-6458*

**PURPOSE:** *To meet His Excellency, the Philippine Ambassador to the  
U.S. and His Excellency, Ambassador Layro Baja,  
Philippine Special Envoy; and to renew friendship with  
TOFA Past Awardees from the State of Illinois & the  
neighboring States*

*Hosted Dinner Reception • Brief Program • Photo Opportunities*

*Hosted by the*

***Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)***

***"Circle of Leaders"***

***RSVP as soon as possible - number of guests limited:***

- Mr. Chuck Castro - (937) 422-8210
- Ms. Veronica Leighton - (773) 677-2707
- Ms Cynthia Conroy - (312) 953-6511
- Nonoy Mendoza (202) 531-1798

***ORIGINATOR & SPONSOR OF TWENTY OUTSTANDING FILIPINOS ABROAD PROJECT  
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## *"Reunion"*

**Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)  
TOFA Past Awardees From the Midwestern Seaboard**

**Friday, November 2, 2007 • starting at 6:30 p.m.**

## *Planned Activity*

**Master of Ceremonies-  
Chuck Castro - TOFA Past Awardee - 1995**

## *Programme*

- 6:30 p.m. - **Arrival of Guest & Registration**
- 7:15 p.m. - **Welcome Address by the  
Philippine Consul General  
Hon. Brisela Cabrera**
- 7:20 p.m. - **Invocation**
- 7:25 p.m. - **Dinner**
- 7:45 p.m. - **Ambassador Willy Gaa • Remarks**
- 7:55 p.m. - **Nonoy Mendoza • Remarks**
- 8:10 p.m. - **Ambassador Lauro Baja • Remarks**
- 8:30 p.m. - **Photo Opportunity Sessions**
- 8:40 p.m. - **Open Informal Sessions**
- 9:30 p.m. - **Adjournment**

