

Filipino American Community Leaders in the Metropolitan Washington area



WASHINGTON, D.C., July 5 (PINOY GLOBAL) - Ten accomplished Filipino American community stalwarts posed for a souvenir photo during the successful *Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC)* banquet and ball held at a Marriott hotel recently where more 1,200 guests attended, the largest Fil-Am social gatherings ever remembered by the Filipino community in the region. *MHC* is efficiently managed by a triumvirate composed of Atty. Arnedo "Nedo" Valera, Jess Gatchilian and Grace Valera- Jaramillo. In the photo, seated from left is the popular **Pat Ganio**, a *1991 TOFA* Awardee and a Filipino American national leader in the still continuing struggle for the Filipino World War II veterans' rights; **Remigio Cabacar**, *TOFA 1997* Awardee, and a distinguished and influential community leader in the State

of Maryland; and **Mrs. Cabacar**. Standing from left is **Arnedo "Nedo" Valera**, *2006 TOFA* Awardee, a practicing lawyer and the founder of the *Migrant Heritage Commission (MHC)*; **Nonoy Mendoza**, editor and publisher of the *PinoyGlobal* and *FILIM*; **Emily Gaborne Dearing**, *2004 TOFA* Awardee, and a distinguished activist and well-known national community leader; **Henry Balagatas**, *1997 TOFA* Awardee, prominent and successful entrepreneur, dynamic stalwart of organizations and humanitarian projects; **Claudio "Jun" B. Pedery**, *1991 TOFA* Awardee, a leader among leaders, and spearheader of various humanitarian projects; **Perfecto Paras**, a FIL-AM community and church leader; and **Mrs. Aida J. Mendoza** of *PinoyGlobal* and *Filipino Image Magazine*. #