

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: (202) 370-6446

EMAIL: nonoymendoza@filamimage.com



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LEONIDA M. CORTEZ, is Unanimously Selected As One Of The 2010 Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)

WASHINGTON, D.C. May 11, 2010 - (PinoyGlobal) **LEONIDA M. CORTEZ** is unanimously selected as one of the **2010 Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)** by the TOFA Panel Board of Judges headed by **Nonoy & Aida Mendoza** of the **FILIPINO IMAGE MAGAZINE (FILIM)** and the **PINOY GLOBAL ONLINE NEWS (PGON)**, and the **ROXANNE ANDREA MENDOZA (RAM) MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**.

The **TOFA** project was initiated in 1990 and have been commended by the governments of the United States, Canada and the Philippines. The bio-data of the 320 Past TOFA Awardees are found in the **PINOY GLOBAL ON LINE NEWS**: [HTTP://WWW.FILAMIMAGE.COM](http://www.filamimage.com), a 24/7 global web site.

The **CRITERIA, HISTORY** and other **TOFA** informations are found in the popular website. A complete copy issue of **FILIPINO IMAGE Magazine's** 2006, 2007 & 2008 Souvenir Journals, detailing more one hundred pages of bio-data of the **2009 TOFA** awardees and photographs; VIP Special Messages and including all the Congratulatory Messages and ADs, in full color, are in the website and free for all to read globally. An unprecedented feat in Filipino journalism.

The 3-day 14th annual event starts on **Thursday, Sept. 09, 2010** with an informal get-together for the awardees and their special guests. The following, **Friday, Sept. 10th**, the VIP Luncheon at JW Marriott Hotel, and at night, the fabulous welcome dinner reception at the **Philippine Embassy**. The following day, **Saturday, Sept. 11th**, a sight-seeing tour, and photo opportunity around the Nations' Capital, capped with a memorable VIP Dim Sum Luncheon. At night, **Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010**, is a formal gala Banquet and Ball Award Ceremony. After the gala is the traditional Filipino breakfast which will end the whirlwind social functions.

Born in Pozorrubio, and grew up in Mangaldan, Pangasinan 70 years ago belonged to a poor and large family, Nida struggled to get a college education finishing her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Pangasinan, Bachelor of Education from Rizal Memorial Colleges, Davao City and MS in Special Education and General Education from Touro College, NYC. Prior to coming to United States in 1987 she was a classroom teacher for twenty years and five years as a department head at Tagaytay City High School, where she retired.



LEONIDA M. CORTEZ
President, San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, Inc.

As an educator she was promoted as the first Master Teacher I in Pangasinan, awarded as an Outstanding Teacher in the Division of Cavite and Top Ten School Adviser in the National Press Conferences in Iloilo, Mindoro, Cavite and Metro Manila. She was chosen by the USA Department of State as the representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture in the Multinational Institute at the New York University, a program of the USIA.