



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES
LOS ANGELES



PR-AASC-23-2026

**FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS HONORED AT
CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY ABOARD USS IOWA**



Consul General Cruz delivering his remarks at the Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony aboard the USS Iowa

LOS ANGELES, CA – Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz attended the Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony aboard the historic USS Iowa on 27 September 2026, where five World War II veterans were posthumously honored for their service and sacrifices during the war.

The honorees were Chief Petty Officer Santiago Busa, Sergeant Eugene Macabitas, Sergeant Frank Dones, Signalman Third Class John W. Huson, and Private Florencio A. Farin. Their families received the Congressional Gold Medal on their behalf during the ceremony, which brought together veterans' families, veterans' advocates, and members of the U.S. military community.



Consul General Cruz and Captain Olaes awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to the honorees' families

In his remarks, Consul General Cruz paid tribute to the Filipino and American soldiers who fought side by side during World War II and highlighted their place in the shared history of the Philippines and the United States.

“Our alliance is unique. It is not forged in the backroom of political negotiations; it was forged in fires and battles right there in the Pacific. It was cemented by the blood of the Filipino and American soldiers who fought, bled, and died together in defense of our liberty,” Consul General Cruz said.

The ceremony was held as the Philippines and the United States mark the 80th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations in 2026.

Consul General Cruz, assisted by U.S. Navy Captain Phil Olaes, presented the medals to representatives of the five veterans' families. Family members also shared stories about the honorees and expressed their appreciation for the recognition accorded to their loved ones.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest expression of national appreciation bestowed by the United States Congress in recognition of distinguished achievements and contributions.



Consul General Cruz and wife, Mrs. Catherine A. Cruz, joined by former U.S. Consul General Santiago Busa, Jr., Regional Director of Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP) (leftmost) and U.S. Navy Captain Olaes (rightmost)