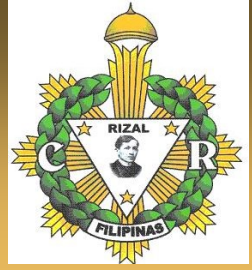




# Press Release

September 29, 2012

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**REMARKS DELIVERED BY SIR TOM D. RODRIGUEZ, KGOR, USA REGIONAL COMMANDER DURING THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF AN 8 FT. BRONZE MONUMENT OF DR. RIZAL AT THE CARSON INTERNATIONAL SCULPTURE GARDEN IN THE CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2012**

## Knights of Rizal

Chartered Under Republic Act 646

U.S.A. REGIONAL COUNCIL SIR TOM D. RODRIGUEZ, KGOR  
REGIONAL COMMANDER FOR U.S.A.  
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City of Carson Mayor Jim Dear, L. A. Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon, Maria Sereno Diokno, Chairperson – National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Sir Chito Mandap, Chairman of Dr. Jose P. Rizal Monument Movement and Councilman Elito Santarina, Ladies & Gentlemen:

The Supreme Commander of the Knights of Rizal, Sir Reghis Romero II is not able to attend this historic event because of conflict of schedule but he sends his congratulations and best wishes to all the dignitaries who are present here this morning.

Being a part of the continuing life story of the Phil. National hero Dr. Rizal is beyond description. As a Knight of Rizal, I am proud and yet humbled to participate in the dedication of Dr. Jose Rizal monument. A project of this magnitude is the product of profound faith and unshakable resolve. It is built on the foundation of teamwork based on respect, trust and common goal.

I join in congratulating the Fil Am community “for supporting, respecting and trusting the leadership of Sir Chito Mandap and ConGen Mary Aragon in this endeavor. A joint project of various Filipino-American Organizations it has a common goal of erecting a monument to remind us that the tenets of justice, freedom, chivalry, human dignity and love of country, as espoused by Rizal - will not perish from the heart of men.

Let us acknowledge the teamwork and hardwork of the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Monument Movement, led by Sir Chito Mandap, with the support of the City of Carson, led by Mayor Jim Dear, Councilman Elito Santarina, the Philippine Consul General in Los Angeles, ConGen Mary Jo Aragon, the SouthBay Los Angeles Area (FACC-SLAA), and Filipino-American Organizations throughout Southern California.

To Mayor Dear, I read in an article written by Joseph Pimentel that though some of your colleagues and community leaders from other ethnic groups complained at first about why a Filipino who died in 1896 should be erected first, but you and fellow Councilman Elito Santarina quelled that controversy by teaching them about Rizal and the Filipino’s message. Thank you so much. Now, you become a mayor – dearest to our heart. It reminds me of Nehemiah when he rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. He faced opposition but because he focused on accomplishing his goal and asked guidance from the Divine Providence, he achieved his objective.

Finally, the message I want to impart is: A monument like this will certainly inspire patriotism and evoke the finest sentiments of love of God, country and people.

Mabuhay! Maraming salamat.

*Sir Tom D. Rodriguez, KGOR*  
USA Regional Commander