



Honorees with Queens Borough President Melinda Katz (center). From left, Remy Patrick C. Lavilla, Benjamin Angelo Santos, Judith Fenster, Aida Bartolome, Consul General Theresa Dizon-de Vega, Fr. Kevin Abela and Feliza Matela.

The Borough of Queens in New York, one of the most ethnically diverse places in the world and the area with the largest concentration of Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the U.S. Northeast, celebrated Philippine Independence Month at Queen's Borough Hall on June 22, 2017.

The commemorative program included the participation of Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Philippine Consul General Theresa Dizon-de Vega, and members of the Filipino-American Community in Queens.

The event was co-sponsored by the Foundation for Filipino Artists, United Staffing Registry, Kinding Sindaw, and Batangas Varsitarian.

Katz extolled the many contributions of the Filipino-American community to the diversity of Queens and handed out Certificates of Honor to de Vega, Fr. Kevin Abels, Parish Priest of St. Sebastian Church which has the largest Filipino-American congregation in Queens, Ms. Judith Fenster, young scholar Remy Patrick C. Lavilla, Community Leader Feliza Matela, and young achiever Benjamin Angelo Santos.

A special Proclamation in honor of Ms. Aida Bartolome of the Foundation for Filipino Artists, a longtime leader and cultural advocate, for her efforts at helping to hold the Philippine Day event every year was likewise given by the Borough of Queens.



Queens Borough President Elana Stein (left) with Councilwoman Elva Rodriguez,



Mr. Eric Santos, RN and CEO of United Staffing Registry, Inc., delivers the closing



Young Fil-Am performer Julian Pigao with his rendition of Freddie Aguilar's classic



Part of the standing room only audience at the event.