



PASUGUAN NG PILIPINAS

EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

### NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Today, we start a New Year, filled with hope and anticipation for the good, and emboldened by the successes of our past. We are grateful for a new chance to do more and to do better. We are thankful for the gifts that have been bestowed on us, as individuals and as a people.

In landmark events in our people's history last year, unity and a strong sense of nation defined Filipinos in the Philippines, and here in the United States. The world witnessed a vibrant democracy in our country and we are enjoying a consistently growing economy.

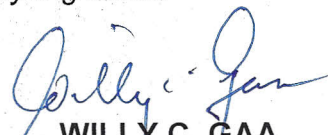
In all these, the Filipino-American community has stood by the Philippine Government in its efforts to forge peace and inclusive progress. In abundance and, more so, in need, the spirit of *bayanihan* sprang Filipinos and Filipino-Americans to action.

We expect the year 2011 to be as eventful and exciting. For me, in particular, this year presents new beginnings as I soon end my tour of duty as Philippine Ambassador to the United States and look forward to fresh opportunities waiting for me elsewhere. I also battle huge challenges with my health, as you all know by now, but am facing them courageously and optimistically, thanks to all your expressions of concern and good wishes.

In saying goodbye to 2010, I congratulate all of you for a productive year and thank you for your unstinting support and cooperation for the projects of the Embassy. May you persevere in your hard work with unrelenting pride in your Filipino heritage and continuing faith in our people and nation.

My wife, Linda, and the officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy join me in wishing you all the blessings of the New Year. We pray that your Tomorrows will always be bright.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and *mabuhay tayong lahat!*

  
WILLY C. GAA  
Ambassador

03 January 2011