



CAL MARITIME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL IS CAL MARITIME COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

(Vallejo, CA – April 12, 2007)... Maria Rowena Mendoza Sanchez, San Francisco-based Consul General for the Philippines, will be the speaker for the 77th annual Commencement at The California Maritime Academy, Saturday, April 28, 2007 in Vallejo, CA.

Consul General Sanchez, a career diplomat, assumed her current post in July, 2004. She joined the Philippine Foreign Service in 1978 and passed her Foreign Service Officers Examination the following year. She has held positions of increasing responsibility in the Philippine Foreign Service, most recently as Chief Coordinator of the Department of Foreign Affairs under President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. She has served overseas as Deputy Chief of Mission and Consul General at the Philippine Embassy in London from 1997-2000, with concurrent accreditation to Dublin, Ireland and Reykjavik, Iceland. She also served as Consul General in Chicago (1994-1997) and held embassy assignments in Washington, D.C. (1982-1987) and Ottawa (1987-1990).

“We are pleased and honored that Consul General Sanchez will address our graduating students and their families this year,” said Academy President William B. Eisenhardt. “Her selection is particularly appropriate given the Academy’s continual focus on global awareness and citizenship as part of our educational process. This year will see the graduation of the first cadets from our newest major program, Global Studies and Maritime Affairs, with its emphasis on maritime security, international maritime environmental policy, maritime history and maritime law and organizations. Consul General Sanchez has served as a diplomatic liaison to the International Maritime Organization and knows the importance of international cooperation and understanding in the development of laws and regulations which govern the global maritime industry.”

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“In addition, our training ship *Golden Bear* will be calling Subic Bay in the Philippines during the 2007 summer training cruise and exchanging visits with cadets and faculty from the Philippine Maritime Academy. And finally, our home port of Vallejo has one of the largest concentrations of naturalized U.S. citizens of Filipino descent in the nation, many of them with deep ties to the U.S. Navy and the Mare Island Naval facilities here.”

The April 28th program will include morning commissioning ceremonies for graduating cadets planning service in the U.S. Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine as well as presentations of honors and awards for outstanding academic and service achievements.

The formal commencement program will begin at 2 PM with proud family members and friends of the Academy gathered on the campus quadrangle to watch the graduation.

Located in Vallejo, California, The California Maritime Academy is a unique and specialized campus of The California State University, offering bachelor's degrees in business administration, facilities engineering technology, global studies and maritime affairs, marine engineering technology, marine transportation, and mechanical engineering. Cal Maritime is one of only seven degree-granting maritime academies in the United States — and the only one on the West Coast.

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