

# Fiesta Filipina

## Philippine Independence Day Celebration 2007

**T**he Philippine Declaration of Independence occurred on June 12, 1898 in the Philippines, where Filipino revolutionary forces under General Emilio Aguinaldo (later to become the Philippines' first Republican President) proclaimed the sovereignty and independence of the Philippine Islands from the colonial rule of Spain after the latter was defeated at the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.



Ambassador Willy Gaa and Event Chair Lita Martija



Lita Martija and Leilani Fontanilla



Advisor of Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Bert Dy-Liacco and his wife



The Philippine American Chamber of Commerce

Costume Parade



The Philippine Independence Day was celebrated on Sunday June 10 this year at the Marriott Downtown. Fiesta Filipina was organized by the Council for Filipino American Organizations. The event was held from 11 am to 7 pm and included exhibits, food, trade promotions, ethnic products showcase, performances and raffles. Most Filipinos wore their traditional costumes to the celebration.

The program began with the Presentation of Revolutionary Flags Re-enactment Declaration of Philippine Independence. Then, it was followed by a 10-people choir from Faith Foundation of Orlando singing the Philippine National Anthem. Ambassador Willy Gaa was introduced by Consul Angelito Nayan as the Guest Speaker. The rest of the performances included Filipino Costume Parade, Filipino folk and traditional dances by FSA of UCF, Singing by Ilocano Association of Central Florida, Modern Tinikling by Wedgefield Bayanihan Dance Group.

It was delightful to see how colorful and lively the Filipino culture is. It is also encouraging to see that the younger generations of various Asian immigrants are interested to learn and practice their traditions, and are proud of their heritage.

■ By Shally Wong

▼The Wedgefield Bayanihan Dance Group



Pandanggo Sa Ilaw Dance by Filipino Student Association of UCF



Maglalatik Dance by Filipino Student Association of UCF



Tinikling sponsored by Bayanihan International Ladies Association



Modern Tinikling by The Wedgefield Bayanihan Dance Group

◀Victor Alzona and Rapsie Gandola-the Dance Instructors for Bayanihan