



The men and women of Housing in their traditional Filipino dress, front row, from left: Mariano Napa, Wilson Malano, Victor Cendana and Rene Posadas. Back row: Evangeline Baello, Amelia Cua, Helen Limato, Lilibeth Co, Gertrudes Domasig, Teresita Roque and Susan Verdejo.



Filipino employees from Rec and Parks and Housing enjoy the ethnic food.



Mariano Napa and Susana Verdejo performing a Filipino dance.

# Filipino Independence Day

■ **Housing's Filipino-American employees celebrate Filipino independence day.**

Story by Victor Cendana, Housing;  
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**HOUSING** — The 109th Philippines Independence Day was celebrated colorfully and nostalgically June 12, led by the FilAm Employees of the Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD) at the Garland Auditorium of the Garland Building in a two-hour cultural presentation.

Contributing to the Pinoy atmosphere was the beautiful Barong Filipino attire worn by the FilAms. As expected, delicious Filipino dishes including pinakbet, sisig, sinigang, pancit and vegetable rolls were in abundance for the delight of everyone.

After the Prayer for the Food, a slide presentation of beautiful tourist spots in the Philippines followed, beckoning all to visit the Philippines. Bruce Ortiz, a senior employee at Housing, gave the keynote speech, reminiscing how the Filipinos rose up against Spain to be free from foreign power in the famous Cry of Balintawak Aug. 23, 1896, which culminated in the raising of the Philippines flag for the first time in Kawit, Cavite, the Philippines on June 12, 1898, as an independent nation.

Two Filipina folk dancers entertained the audience with their nimble steps of several regional dances including the Igorot dance, Pandango sa Ilaw, Itik-itik, Muslim dance and coached everybody to participate and dance. There was enthusiastic response from the audience. Housing singers Wilson Malano, Lilibeth Co, Susana Verdejo, Rene Posadas and Cesar Cunanan delighted the audience further with their rendition of Filipino songs. Gus Soliman played on the keyboard the sentimental favorite – *Dabil sa Iyo*, while Amelia Hernandez sang.

A Housing version of the popular noon show, *Wowowee*, with lots of gifts added further glamour to the celebration.

Ate Helen Vela Limtao and Kuya Victor Wood Cendana hosted the event.

The Planning Committee composed of Teresita Roque, Mariano Napa, Rhod de Vera, Victor Cendana, Bruce Ortiz and Helen Limtao. They concluded that the affair was a tremendous success.

The affair was attended by many employees from Rec and Parks, Community Development, Transportation, Harbor, IITA and Finance and included top Housing management. Those in attendance were Major Project Director Sean Spears, Rent Stabilization Director Roberto Aldape, Sr. Personnel Analyst II Alfonso Perez and former Major Projects Director Ruperto Albelda.



Filipina dancer Irene Pinzon perform a muslim princess dance.



Two professional Filipino folk dancers, Irene and Lynn, performed a traditional fan dance.



Men participated in the "pandango sa ilaw" dance, from left: Rene Posadas, Housing, and Charlie Palaganas, Harbor.



Wilson Malano, Housing, performed a warrior dance.



Some of the nearly 100 lunchtime audience members at the event.



From left: Teena Wheelers; Rey Guilles and Ben Acuna.



From left: Eden Garcia, Marilu De Vera and Yolly Huang.



From left: Housing employees Illeana Reynolds, Wilson Malano, Lilibeth Co and Rene Posadas performed in the program.



Housing's Teresita Roque and Susana Verdejo show off their Filipino traditional dress.



LAHD employees, from left: Helen Limtao, Lilibeth Co, Gertrudes Domasig, Teresita Roque, Susan Verdejo and Amelia Cua.



Rec and Parks Filipino employees, including Rose Reyes (left), Chief Accountant, enjoy the Filipino buffet.



The women try the "itik itik" dance, from left: Amelia Cua, Susan Verdejo, Rhodess and Lu Ibarrientos.



From left: Marilu de Vera, Sr. Accountant, Transportation, and Yolly Huang, Chief Accountant, ITA, enjoy the Filipino show.



Employees from Rec and Parks.



The Filipino-American men and women of Housing pose after the successful event.