

## *Philippine Heritage Sites* Northeast USA

A “**Philippine Heritage Site**”, as defined by the Philippine Consuls General during the meeting held at the Philippine Consulate General Honolulu in September 2006, is *“any structure, edifice, marker or place that links Filipino Americans to the Motherland, increases awareness and appreciation of the Philippines, it’s history, culture and traditions, in the United States”*.

These may be historical locations that were visited by our national heroes, battleships that served in the Philippine arena, contemporary landmarks that commemorate modern-day heroes, thriving districts where the presence of Filipinos have reshaped the community, or other factors that transform what can be an insignificant “space” into a “place” that resonates with the Filipino people.

This list of Heritage Sites in the Northeast USA was compiled by the Cultural Section of the Philippine Consulate General New York, mostly from inputs given by members of the community who generously shared their wealth of knowledge with us, in an effort to preserve these gems of wisdom in our community’s collective memory. We recognize that this list is incomplete. It is in this regard that we decided to upload the list on our website and solicit the assistance of the community in collecting, preserving and continuing to enrich the list of Heritage Sites. We implore history buffs with suggestions on possible Heritage Sites - as defined above - to send via email, photos and/or reference material to us at [newyork@pcgny.net](mailto:newyork@pcgny.net), for consideration. Contributors will be acknowledged appropriately.

The “Heritage Sites” page will be updated regularly. We hope that this page will evolve to become a true reflection of the rich tapestry of the Filipino people’s imprint in the Northeast USA.

The Philippine Consulate General New York and the editorial team of this website greatly appreciate the participation of the community in this effort.

## MANILA AVENUE, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY



Jersey City, New Jersey boasts of a large Filipino-American community, perhaps the largest in northeast USA. Through the efforts of local Filipino-American leaders, the Jersey City Council issued City Ordinance S-326 on 18 December 1979 renaming a portion of Grove Street in Jersey City as **Manila Avenue**, and was inaugurated by then Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing, Sr.

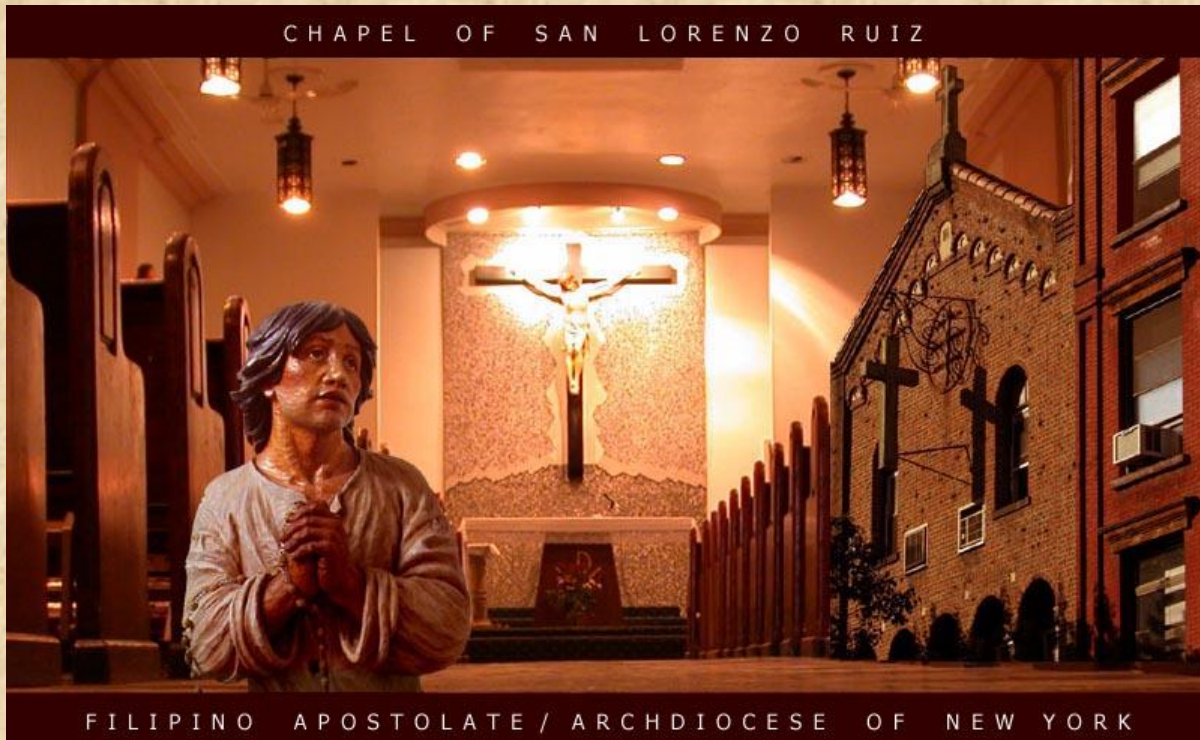
Manila Avenue comes alive particularly in May during the Santa Cruz de Mayo Festival, and during the Christmas season when Fil-Am-owned houses are decorated with the native Philippine Lanterns (Parol).

## PHILIPPINE PLAZA FOR PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN VETERANS, Jersey City NJ



The Philippine Plaza for Filipino-American Veterans is at located near Manila Avenue and is a 40 by 60 ft. enclosure dedicated specifically to veterans of the wars fought together by Philippine and American forces. At the center of the Plaza is a bust of the Unknown Filipino Soldier, representing all who made the ultimate sacrifice, for the cause of freedom.

## CHAPEL OF SAN LORENZO RUIZ, New York City, NY



On 11 April 1995 Cardinal John O' Connor established the Filipino Apostolate in the Archdiocese of New York to address the pastoral needs of Filipino Catholic. He appointed Fr. Erno Diaz as Coordinator of the Filipino Apostolate.

In mid-2005, the Archdiocese of New York assigned the Most Holy Crucifix Church in downtown Manhattan to the Filipino Apostolate to serve as a little "church" and as the site of the Philippine Pastoral Center. Named Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz, it has a capacity of 250. Located at 378 Broome street, between Mulberry and Mott Streets, New York, NY 10013, the Chapel is considered only the second "church" dedicated to Filipinos outside the Philippines, the first being a church for Filipinos in Rome.

On 15 September 2005, the Chapel was inaugurated, in the presence of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Father Erno Diaz supervised the Chapel and the Filipino Apostolate from 1995-2009. In February 2009, Father Joseph Marabe was appointed as head of the Filipino Apostolate. He manages the San Lorenzo Ruiz Chapel to the present.

The statue of San Lorenzo Ruiz, originally donated by Philippine Cardinal Sin in 1982 to the Apostolate to promote the veneration of Blessed Lorenzo Ruiz in the United States, was also enshrined on the same date.

Since 1982, this statue has been displayed every September at St. Patrick's Cathedral during the Mass for the feast day of San Lorenzo Ruiz. Devotees have claimed miraculous favors and cures from medical ailments from San Lorenzo Ruiz. The devotion to San Lorenzo Ruiz has spread beyond the Filipino community, as members of the Latin-American community have also begun to join in celebrations for the feast-day of the First Filipino Saint.

## JOSE RIZAL SITES



### Monument of Dr. Jose Rizal - Jersey City, NJ

The monument was erected in the 1990's through a City Council resolution designating the site as a memorial commemorating the National Hero of the Philippines, through the efforts of the thriving Filipino community in Jersey City, NJ.



### Dr. Jose Rizal Monument - Cooper River Park, Cherry Hill, NJ

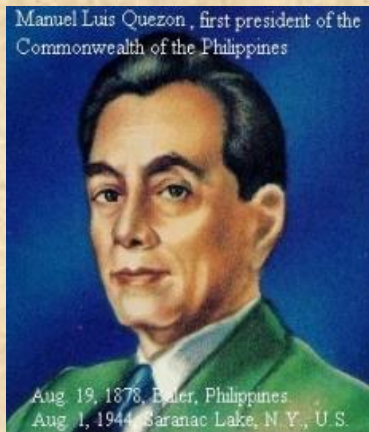
The monument site was built through funds raised by the Filipino-American community in the region, one of the landmark projects of the 1998 Philippine Centennial Commission in Southern New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The statue itself was provided by the Philippine Centennial Commission, in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Philippine Independence. The monument continues to be the center of Philippine Independence Day celebrations in the area.

### **BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL, Cherry Hill, NJ**



The Bataan Death March memorial honors the heroes who fell and those who valiantly survived the march from Bataan to Mariveles in the hot summer of April 1942, after the surrender of US and Philippine troops to the Japanese military, and the years of incarceration that followed. The memorial was built in the late 90s through the efforts of the Fil-Am communities in Cherry Hill, NJ, in an effort to raise awareness about the plight of the Filipino veterans of World War II, whose fight for recognition of their service was finally won in 2009.

### **TRUDEAU TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM, Lake Saranac, NY**



President Manuel L. Quezon, a fiery orator known for his quick temper and rapier wit, was elected the first Philippine President under the Commonwealth Government.

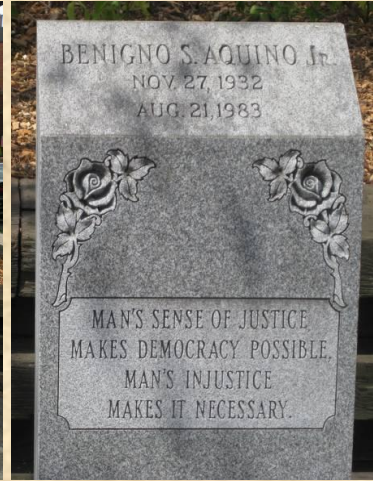
As President, Quezon initiated administrative reforms, including the 1935 Philippine Constitution, in preparation for the agreed grant of independence from United States, set for 1946. The outbreak of World War II in the Pacific in 1943 forced him and his government-in-exile to hold office in Washington DC.

Suffering from tuberculosis, he sought treatment at the Trudeau Tuberculosis Sanatorium (photo of the Sanatorium's Administration Building is shown above). He did not live to see the Philippines freed from either the Japanese occupation or from US Colonial rule, succumbing to the disease on August 1, 1944 at the Gonzales "cure" cottage located at 80 Park Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY.

President Quezon's remains were interred temporarily in a mausoleum at US National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, before being transported back to the Philippines at the end of World War II.

### **BENIGNO AQUINO TRIANGLE, New York City, NY**

Built in 1986, the Triangle is a fitting memorial to national hero Benigno Aquino Jr. It was constructed pursuant to a NYC council Resolution honoring the fallen hero. Located at 184<sup>th</sup> Place, Hillside Avenue, Hollis, Queens-NYC, a wreath-laying ceremony is held at the site every year on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August, the anniversary of the hero's death, led by the Consul General and attended by many members of the community, a few of whom were personal friends of the Aquino family during their brief sojourn in the Northeast US.



### **THE PHILIPPINE CENTER, New York City, NY**

The Philippine Center, located at 556 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY, was purchased by the Philippine Government in 1974 to house all the offices of the Philippine Government in New York City in one location. Today, the Philippine Consulate General, the Philippine Mission to the United Nations and the offices of the Philippine Department of Tourism, and the Department of Trade and Industry remain in this location. For more on the history of the Philippine Center, visit the following links: <http://www.pcgny.net/2009/history.html> and <http://www.pcgny.net/2009/pagePhilippineCenter.html>

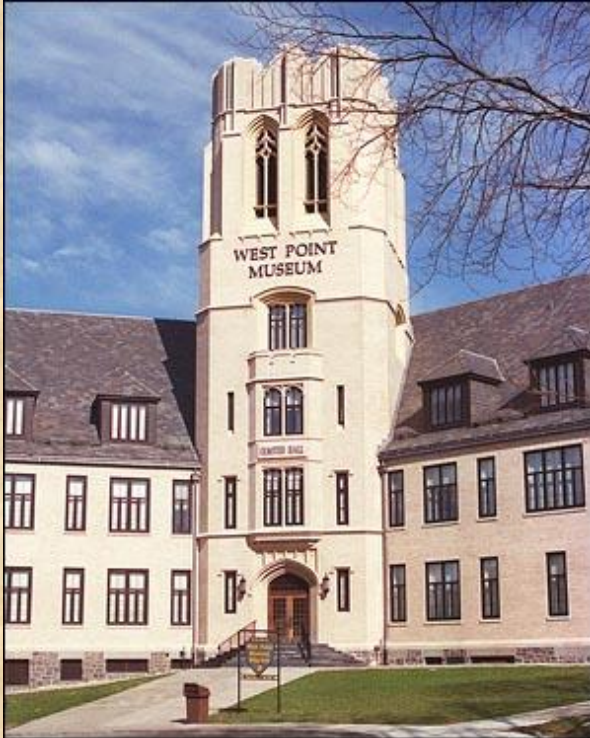
*Then*



*Now*



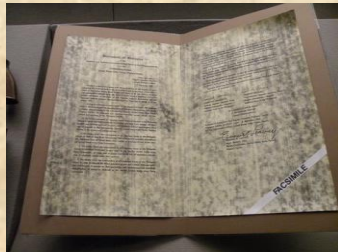
## WEST POINT MUSEUM, West Point, NY



The West Point Museum is located 2110 New South Post Rd., West Point, NY, 10996, and was formerly the Olmsted Hall at Pershing Center on the grounds of the former Ladycliff College.

The museum's collections represent all major categories of military study from arms, cannon and artillery to uniforms, military art and objects reflecting West Point's history. Originally opened in 1854, the West Point Museum is the oldest and largest military museum in the country. It contains some of the most interesting US national military treasures and one of the finest collections of military small arms available for public viewing.

Every American armed conflict is represented in the 135 exhibits, including relics from the Philippine-American War 1899-1901, the American military struggle to pacify the Filipino Muslims in Southern Mindanao that persisted throughout the US colonization of the Philippines from 1901-1946, and many other pieces on display from battles in the Philippine during World War II.

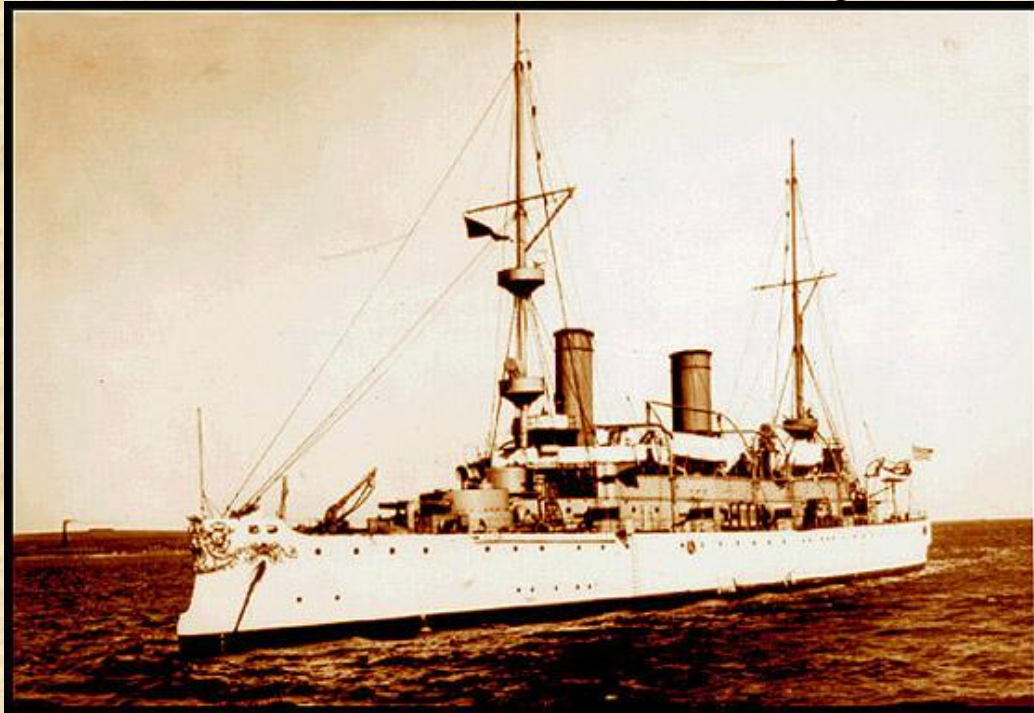


Of note is one of only four copies of the document of surrender signed by the Japanese Armed Forces in Baguio in September 1945 (left) and a Philippine Moro Kris, 1902 - captured by the US 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment at Petud, Lake Lanao (right).



West Point has also had its share of Filipino cadets, with a select number of members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines successfully graduating from this institution. The most prominent of the Filipino West Point alumnus is Former President H. E. Fidel Valdez Ramos, the 12<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of the Philippines. The Former President, known widely by his initials FVR, was a member of the US Military Academy Class of 1950. In the year 2000, the West Point Association of Graduates the 2000 Distinguished Graduate Award, in recognition of his brilliant military career and his record of public service.

**ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY'S USS OLYMPIA, Penn's Landing, PA**



OLYMPIA is the only naval vessel from the American Spanish-American War fleet still in existence. The OLYMPIA was the flagship of Commodore Dewey in his victory over Admiral Montojo's Spanish Squadron at Manila Bay, which brought the United States to the precipice of becoming a world power.

The OLYMPIA is now considered the oldest steel warship afloat in the world. Lunched in San Francisco, California in 1892, and following its May 1, 1898 victory over the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay at the start of the Spanish-American War, the OLYMPIA continued in service until World War I.

The OLYMPIA was decommissioned in 1922 and became part of Independence Seaport Museum's Historic Ship Zone in 1996. It is permanently docked at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia, and is open for public viewing. *Source: [www.spanamwar.com](http://www.spanamwar.com)*



Attachment B

**USS INTREPID BATTLESHIP, New York City, NY**



The Intrepid Battleship saw action in Leyte, WWII and helped in the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese occupation.

It is now docked as a museum at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, located on the West side of Manhattan on Pier 86, 12th Ave. & 46th Street. It is easily accessible from all points in the New York City Metro area.