

500 YEARS OF NATIONAL PATRIOTISM

PHILIPPINES, 1521-2021

On April 27, 1521, in Mactan island of the Philippines, war chief Lapu-Lapu killed the Portuguese invader, Ferdinand Magellan. He was the first national hero who depicted Filipinos' many facets as leader, warrior, farmer, fisherman, laborer, trader, teacher, lover and family man, as illustrated by the famous artist from Angono, Rizal, Nemesio "Nemi" Miranda Jr., who created a mural painting in his honor, and the generations that followed in the next 500 years.

The Philippine National Hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal born on June 19, 1861, was a surgeon, a painter, a poet, a journalist and a political leader who faced execution for the love of his country, on December 31, 1861. His parting words were written in his poem, "Mi Ultimo Adios". He published a novel "Noli Me Tangere", and its sequel, "El Filibusterismo", that detailed the corruption, greed and cruelty of the Spanish regime.

On June 12, 1898, the Philippines won her Independence from Spain, with Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo elected as its first president. An American possession from 1898 to 1946, the Philippines survived the devastation of World War I and World War II, with volunteer army and unlisted guerillas paying for the ultimate price of freedom. On the Fourth of July 1946, the United States finally acknowledged the Independence of the Republic of the Philippines.

Fast forward to the 21st century, a global pandemic shut down the whole world, calling for the quarantine of all peoples in their homes, except for tens of thousands of healthcare workers and frontliners who were called to battle Covid-19 virus that threatened to annihilate humanity. Lives lost cannot be compared to the heroic acts of our valiant soldiers, but the number alone is a cold testimony of how frail human lives can be.

Today, we dedicate this Mural art in honor of all the modern-day heroes. In Manhattan, New York, this 23rd day of June, in the year of our Lord, 2021.

"Iniibig ko ang Pilipinas!"

Panatang Makabayan

Iniibig ko ang Pilipinas
Ito ang aking lupang sinilangan
Ito ang tahanan ng aking lahi
Ako'y kanyang kinukupkop
at tinutulungan upang maging
malakas, maligaya at
kapakipakinabang
Bilang ganti, diringin ko
ang payo ng aking mga
magulang.
Susundin ko ang mga tuntunin
ng aking paaralan tutuparin ko
ang mga tungkulin ng isang
mamamayang makabayan
at masunurin sa batas
Paglilingkuran ko ang aking
bayan ng walang pag-iimbot
at nang buong katapatan
Sisikapin kong maging isang
tunay na Pilipino sa isip,
sa salita at sa gawa.

Nemesio
NEMI MIRANDA

Caral Tanjitas

ELMER G. CAT

Ly G. Morales

Jaida N. Lewis

Leo Felix Jurado

Dy R.P.

Elen Angerat

Manin J. Santos

Norong Aguino

Roberto R. Mendoza

Edgardo V. Dip

Kathy Lambert

Alex Esteban

Joy Miranda

Franchesca Miranda

Loren San Diego



Alfred T. Tolentino Jr.
Didia Zebuska-Tolentino
Zino Cabigas
Iluminda Jimada

Nemesio Miranda Jr.

Lore Mercedes Guzman
ART ZAMORA
ZAMORA
ZAMORA
Bachung