

Remarks by  
**The Adjutant General**  
Eugene R. Andreotti  
at  
**Philippine Plaque Unveiling**

February 4, 2002

Ambassador Del Rosario, Lieutenant Governor Schunk, Senator Pappas, Senator Chaudhary, Representative Dawkins, other distinguished guests, fellow Minnesota citizens:

Thank you for inviting me to be with you today. And what a great day it is!

Beyond correcting a wrong, we are also demonstrating how persistence can pay off.

I recall the day, almost five years ago, when Dr. Adiarte and other members of the Philippine Study Group visited with me in my office.

I recall how sensitive they were to preserving the honor and memory of the brave soldiers of the 13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Regiment.

But I also recall how insistent they were that the existing plaque commemorating the service of the 13<sup>th</sup> was historically inaccurate.

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Well, I may be a General.

I may command the 12,000 men and women of the Minnesota Army and Air National Guard.

I may even control tanks and fighter jets.

But there is no way that I could directly accomplish what the Philippine Study Group set out to do. At best, I was able to encourage them to work with the Minnesota History Center and the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board.

And work with them they did!

The result of their effort speaks for itself.

The brave deeds and selfless service of the 13<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Volunteer Regiment are still recognized. But now we also recognize a historically accurate accounting of the Filipino situation during the Spanish-American War.

Thank you again for inviting me to be a part of today's ceremony.

The men and women of the Minnesota National Guard are extremely proud to have played a part in this project. We all look forward to a continued strong and positive relationship with The Filipino-American community here in Minnesota.

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