



Remarks of

LTGEN EDGAR R FALLORINA AFP

Commanding General, PAF

To Be Read by

MGEN ROZZANO D BRIGUEZ AFP

Vice Commander, PAF

For **CEREMONIAL TURNOVER OF THE 1734 MURILLO-VELARDE MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES ICOW WITH THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**

ARMED FORCES OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WEEK 2017

25 0900H August 2017, Hall of Flags, HPAF Bldg, CJVAB, Pasay City

“ONE HISTORIC “SOAR” FOR PAF”

(APPROPRIATE GREETINGS...)

Off the cuff, let me extend my warmest felicitations to the Chairman and CEO of Asian Institute for Journalism and Communication, **MR MEL VELARDE**, and his party for making this auspicious and historic activity possible. I know the Commanding General, Philippine Air Force would have wanted much to be a part of this momentous event; but he was called at General Headquarters for some important conference.

Kaya isang kasiyahan para sa akin na maging kinatawan ng Punong Heneral ng ating Hukbong Himpapawid; at mabigyan ng pagkakataon na makibahagi sa makasaysayang araw na ito. At this juncture, allow me to read the message of our CG, PAF for this special occasion, and I quote:

After the contentious filing of complaint of the Philippines against China at the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the 1734 Murillo Velarde map figured principally as historic piece and reference. If truth be told, I personally followed the thread of events for several reasons. *First*, I found it remarkable that a scientific map of the Philippines does exist. *Second*, the men and



Remarks of

LTGEN EDGAR R FALLORINA AFP

Commanding General, PAF

To Be Read by

MGEN ROZZANO D BRIGUEZ AFP

Vice Commander, PAF

For **CEREMONIAL TURNOVER OF THE 1734 MURILLO-VELARDE MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES ICOW WITH THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**

ARMED FORCES OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WEEK 2017

25 0900H August 2017, Hall of Flags, HPAF Bldg, CJVAB, Pasay City

women of Philippine Air Force will greatly benefit from knowing by heart our territorial borders and boundaries because, primarily, our mission is to secure the Philippine skies, which basically cover all. And, *third*, as a Filipino, it is painful and alarming to know about any encroachment that will greatly affect the sovereignty and integrity of our land.

It was then a sure booster when I was able to read the interview of Mr Velarde by Esquire Philippines in May. There I learned the painstaking effort he did in order to get the historic 1734 map. It was in 2014 that he won the auction through the phone. But it was only in 28 April this year that the "Mother of all Philippine Maps" arrived in the country and was formally turned over to the government on June 12, 2017, propitiously in time for the commemoration of the 119th Philippine Independence Day.

Indubitably, Mr Velarde gave a new breadth to the word patriotism. If I will be using the well-known hash tags of the millennial, I will say hash tag Velarde modern day patriot. What you replied to the question "*You were engaged in a bidding war that brought up the price of the map up to P12 million. What went on in your mind?*" was notable and heartwarming. He replied: *The dominant thing in my mind was to win. In my mind, I was reminded of soldiers ready to die for our country. It's a long shot, and quite a*



Remarks of

LTGEN EDGAR R FALLORINA AFP

Commanding General, PAF

To Be Read by

MGEN ROZZANO D BRIGUEZ AFP

Vice Commander, PAF

For **CEREMONIAL TURNOVER OF THE 1734 MURILLO-VELARDE MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES ICOW WITH THE COMMEMORATION OF THE**

ARMED FORCES OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WEEK 2017

25 0900H August 2017, Hall of Flags, HPAF Bldg, CJVAB, Pasay City

stretch of imagination, to think that a map could prevent them from dying or getting into war, but I'd take that shot any day, nonetheless, as I did.

*Kaya, sa ngalan ng lahat ng sundalo na lumalaban para sa bayan, sa lahat ng bumubuo ng Hukbong Himpapawid ng Pilipinas, ang aming taos-pusong pasasalamat at pag-saludo **Sir Mel Velarde** sa iyong pag-mamalasakit sa amin. This map is a symbol of love, a symbol of patriotism. Thank you for giving the Air Force a replica that, in your own words, is not simply *a historic artifact; but an evidence of our historic rights... a source of narrative for our youth to love our country... an embodiment of our material being as a nation.**

This is so much a complement to our celebration of the Armed Forces of the Filipino people week. This map will give an added hue and accent to the importance of our roles and contribution to our territorial integrity and independence. This will bolster our sense of pride in performing our mission. This will be a tangible reminder of our sworn duty to secure the land and serve our fellowmen at all times.

To our special guests who greatly appreciates the importance of acquiring the historic artifact for all the Filipino people to see; and



Remarks of

LTGEN EDGAR R FALLORINA AFP

Commanding General, PAF

To Be Read by

MGEN ROZZANO D BRIGUEZ AFP

Vice Commander, PAF

For **CEREMONIAL TURNOVER OF THE 1734 MURILLO-VELARDE MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES ICOW WITH THE COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WEEK 2017**

25 0900H August 2017, Hall of Flags, HPAF Bldg, CJVAB, Pasay City

the rest of his party, on behalf of the men and women of the Philippine Air Force, again, our heartfelt and sincerest appreciation and thanks for this noble act of donating this **1734 MURILLO-VELARDE MAP OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS** to the Philippine Air Force. Rest assured that we shall take good care of this Map.

Mabuhay si Mr Mel Velarde! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!