

FCSV Shines with “Bayan Ko”



A Celebration of Filipino Pride and Unity

A night of culture, color, and community as Sacramento's Filipino Americans honor heritage through dance, cuisine, and tradition.

BY DINNAH S. SAN PEDRO

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV) staged one of its most memorable Filipino American History Month celebrations on October 18, 2025, at the Jose Rizal Community Center in Sacramento, California — a night remembered for its color, culture, and community spirit.

This year's theme, “Bayan Ko: Celebrating the Heart of Every Region,” which I had the privilege of conceptualizing, became a living canvas of Filipino pride. The celebration honored the Philippines' rich diversity through tradition, cuisine, music, and dance, with each participating group representing the distinct regions of Mindanao, Visayas, Tagalog, and beyond.

From the moment guests entered, the hall radiated warmth and energy. Tables were transformed into stunning cultural displays that reflected the soul of each region — from handmade crafts to regional delicacies whose aromas carried memories of home. When the music began, the stage came alive with rhythmic performances that not only showcased our traditions but also celebrated the unity that binds all Filipinos together.

A special highlight of the evening was the recognition of outstanding Filipinos from each region — individuals whose service and leadership continue to inspire the community. Their achievements stood as proud reminders of the Filipino spirit of excellence and resilience.

The event's success was the product of vision, teamwork, and love for culture. Under the steadfast leadership of FCSV Board Member Edna De Los Reyes, the theme evolved from an idea into an unforgettable reality. I witnessed firsthand the dedication, creativity, and cooperation that brought “Bayan Ko” to life — a testament to the loyalty and passion of the entire FCSV team.

Several local government officials graced the celebration, affirming the growing recognition of the Filipino American community's role in shaping Sacramento's cultural and civic identity.

More than a celebration, Bayan Ko became a statement — that the Filipino community in Sacramento is not only present but thriving, visible, and proud. It perfectly aligned with President Murray Navarro's vision to enlighten, engage, and strengthen our connection to one another and to the greater community we serve.

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Regional Table Displays: Each table became a living exhibit of Filipino creativity, proudly showcasing crafts, symbols, and delicacies unique to every region—from Mindanao to the Visayas to Tagalog provinces. The vibrant displays reflected the essence of “Bayan Ko: Celebrating the Heart of Every Region.”



Honorees and Leaders: Outstanding Filipinos from various regions were recognized for their contributions to the community, joined by FCSV officers and local officials. Their achievements and leadership embody the spirit of unity and service celebrated at this year's event.

Photos by Frank Zabal



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Group Dance Performance: Participants representing different Philippine regions light up the stage with a colorful group dance that captured the heart and soul of Filipino heritage. The “Bayan Ko” theme united everyone through rhythm, culture, and community pride.



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As the night drew to a close, the message was clear: this was more than an event. It was a living tribute to who we are — Filipinos at heart, united in spirit, and bound by pride in our heritage.

OUTSTANDING FIL-AMS

Crisel Centeno- Pampanga Region
Dave San Pedro- Tagalog Region
Sarah Enloe- Visayan-Aklan Region
Vince Sales- Visayan-Aklan Region
Dave Tamayo-Pangasinan Region
Dr. Eric V. Monzon, S.E.- Bicol Region
Ambassador George G. Aducayen- Ilocos Region
Josie Region Patria- National Capital Region
Eduardo Caballero Jr. RN, BSN- Mindanao Region

REGIONAL TABLE DECORATION WINNERS

First Place- Visayan/Aklan Region
Second Place- Cagayan Valley Region
Third Place- Pampanga Region

REGIONAL DANCE PERFORMANCES

Cleo Savarre-Net Pangalay Folk Dance
Bicol Region- Sarungbanggi
Kapampangan Dancers- Ating Cu Ping Singing
Visayan/Aklan Region-Sunil
Alvin Sisayan and group- Palarong Pambansa
Dave and Dinnah San Pedro-Harana Segment
Diamond Stars- Pamaypay ng Maynila
KapitBahay Dancers- Binasuan/Pandango Sa Ilaw
Ilocano Dancers- Isem
Bayan Ko Finale- Remy Solomon

