

CITY OF SAN DIEGO DECLARES DAY IN HONOR OF WORLD-RENOWNED FILIPINO Councilmember Cate Celebrates Arnel Pineda and Commemorates Philippine Independence Day

San Diego, CA: San Diego City Councilmember Chris Cate is the first Asian American to serve on San Diego's City Council in more than 50 years. He is a second-generation Filipino American representing the Sixth Council District where one in every three residents is of Asian American descent. San Diego has long been a destination for Filipino immigrants and boasts one of the largest concentrations of Filipino Americans in the entire United States. Filipino Americans have a rich cultural heritage which has enhanced the City's diverse multicultural make-up, and have made considerable contributions towards the educational, civic, and social advancement of the region.

Independence Day is an annual national holiday in the Philippines commemorating the Philippine Declaration of Independence from Spain on the 12th day of June 1898, ceremoniously marked by the raising of the first Philippine flag in a small town of Kawit, in the province of Cavite.

Lead singer of *Journey*, Arnel Pineda, is a world-renowned singer and songwriter, and the pride and joy of the Philippines. Arnel Pineda has overcome a tremendous number of obstacles throughout his life including, the loss of his mother at a young age, homelessness and borderline starvation, making him an inspiration and providing hope for millions of people around the globe. Blessed with the ability to give back, Arnel Pineda mobilized his team to join the battle against poverty and its ensuing havoc on Philippine youth. For millions of youth in developing countries like the Philippines, education is seemingly beyond reach. Poverty and inadequate government support stifle the future aspirations of Filipino children. Hence, Arnel Pineda Foundation, Inc. (APFI) was formed in 2010, principally to address their sad plight by preparing them for a brighter future through education. The Arnel Pineda Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit, and independent Philippine foundation that provides underprivileged children quality education, health services and medical attention. Arnel's ongoing tenure as front man of the American rock band *Journey* has allowed many individuals with shared goals to know him and join in helping children rise above their circumstances.

“Arnel Pineda is an icon, role model, and inspiration for Filipinos. For Philippine Independence Day, I am honored to proclaim a day in his honor and laud him for his continued efforts to improve the quality of life for all Filipino children,” stated Councilmember Chris Cate.

Councilmember Cate presented the City proclamation last evening via video conference call. He was joined by a handful of Filipino American journalists and community leaders from San Diego's Filipino community including: Audie de Castro, Philippine Honorary Consul of San Diego; Tony Olaes, co-founder of the Filipino School of San Diego; Michelle Abella-Shon, Past-President of the City of San Diego's Filipino Employees Association; Willy Santos, Professional Skateboarder; Jason Paguio, President & CEO of the Asian Business Association of San Diego; Lauren Garces, Program Manager for the Convoy District; Chasen Blair, District 6 resident and Philippine National U23 Wrestling team member; and Al Ambito, Lieutenant and Past-President, Filipino American Law Enforcement Officers Association, to note a few. View the Arnel Pineda proclamation presentation here: <https://youtu.be/oWAZRc6hm2w>