

COMBATING ANTI-ASIAN VIOLENCE via ZOOM

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM EDT (Washington DC)**

SPEAKER BIOS



H.E. JOSE MANUEL G. ROMUALDEZ

**Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the
United States**

Jose Manuel “Babe” del Gallego Romualdez was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the United States of America in July 2017 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. On 29 November 2017, he presented his credentials to US President Donald J. Trump and formally assumed office as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Additionally, as the head of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., Ambassador Romualdez is concurrently the Philippines’ emissary to the Commonwealth of Jamaica, Republic of Haiti; Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Antigua and Barbuda; Bahamas; Barbados; Dominica; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Saint Lucia.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Romualdez was designated as a special envoy of the Philippine President to the United States. He also served as a member of several Philippine business delegations visiting the United States, China, Japan and New Zealand from 1989 to 2012.

Ambassador Romualdez has extensive experience as a media practitioner and business executive. He used to be the Chief Executive Officer of Stargate Media Corporation and Publisher of People Asia Magazine (The Philippine Star affiliate). He was president of the Manila Overseas Press Club and vice-president of Rotary Club of Manila.

Ambassador Romualdez writes columns for The Philippine Star. All his columns have a wide following of readers both in the Philippines and abroad.

Born and raised in Manila, Ambassador Romualdez received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from De La Salle College in 1970. He plays golf as a pastime and is affiliated with Manila Golf and Country Club and the Manila Polo Club.



SENATOR SUSAN C. LEE

**Senate Majority Whip
Maryland State Senate, District 16**

Senator Susan C. Lee, an attorney, has served in the Maryland State Senate since 2015 and also was in the Maryland House of Delegates for 13 years. She is the Senate Majority Whip and a member of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, the Governor’s Family Violence Council, Safe Harbor Youth Victims of Human Trafficking Workgroup; Co-Chair of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council’s Law and Policy Subcommittee; a founder and past Chairman of the Maryland Legislative Asian American and Pacific Islander Caucus; and a past President of the Women’s Legislative Caucus. Susan is the first Asian American elected to the Maryland State Senate.

Susan has been a leader in passing landmark laws to fight domestic violence, human and labor trafficking, child and senior abuse, sexual assault, hate crimes, home invasions, crimes against immigrants, gun violence, pay inequity, identity theft, cybercrimes, and online fraud and to support education, civil rights, telehealth, privacy rights, cybersecurity and bioscience. She authored and led passage of the Maryland Equal Pay for Equal Work Act, one of the strongest pay equity laws in the country, Anti-Exploitation

Act, laws to fight threats of mass violence and terror against schools, places of worship and other places; the True Freedom Act to help human trafficking victims escape trafficking; and number of laws to protect victims of domestic violence and child predators.

Susan led passage of a law to require Background Checks on the sale of long guns and shot guns by private and unlicensed dealers to prevent those banned from having those guns go around the law and commit violence crimes. Although the bill was vetoed by the Governor, the Maryland General Assembly overrode his veto this year.

This year, she authored and led passage of bills to fight Ransomware and to help localities proactively develop cybersecurity strategies and programs to deter and fight serious cyberattacks that can paralyze and shut down our government, economy, hospitals, and critical infrastructures. Susan is the recipient of awards by Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women, Maryland Women's Law Center, Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Organization of Chinese Americans, Korean Community Service Center, Progressive Maryland, Equality Maryland, Maryland's 100 Women, and many other groups.

She represents District 16, which includes Bethesda, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Potomac, Rockville, Cabin John, and Glen Echo.



THEODORE S. GONZALVES, PH.D.

**Interim Director
Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center**

Theodore S. Gonzalves, Ph.D., is a scholar of comparative cultural studies. He has taught in the United States (California, the District of Columbia, Hawai'i, and Maryland), Spain, and the Philippines.

Dr. Gonzalves' publications include *Stage Presence: Conversations with Filipino American Performing Artists* (2007), *The Day the Dancers Stayed: Performing in the Filipino/American Diaspora* (2009), *Carlos Villa and the Integrity of Spaces* (2011), and, with Roderick Labrador, *Filipinos in Hawai'i* (2011).

A member of several academic journal editorial boards, he is a founding editorial board member of *Alon: Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies*. Generous support for Dr. Gonzalves' work includes recognition as a Fulbright Scholar to the Philippines, a Moeson fellow at the Library of Congress, and a senior fellow at the Smithsonian. He served as the twenty-first president of the Association for Asian American Studies.

Dr. Gonzalves is curator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History and is currently serving as the Interim Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center. He lives in Washington, D.C.

