

HON. ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

**REMARKS FOR THE SPECIAL MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN HONOR OF
U.S. AMBASSADOR STEPHEN W. BOSWORTH**

**20 February 2016 (Sunday), 2:00 p.m., Harvard Univ. Memorial Church
Cambridge, Massachusetts (Reception: Loeb House, 17 Quincy St.)**

**Celebrating the Full Life of
U.S. Ambassador Steve Bosworth¹**

Of People Power and Diplomacy

Mrs. Christine Holmes-Bosworth;

The Hon. Han Sung Joo *(Former South Korean Foreign Minister and
Ambassador to the U.S.);*

The Hon. Richard Haass *(President, Council on Foreign Relations);*

The Hon. Morton Abramowitz *(Senior Fellow, The Century
Foundation);*

The Hon. Aso Tavitian *(Co-Founder, Syncsort, incorporated);*

The Hon. Peter Ackerman *(Managing Director, Rockport Capital);*

¹ Drafted by OUP USec. EPG and OSEC SA Lito Nayan; Cleared by Chief Coord MTD

The Hon. Graham Allison (*Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Douglas Drillon Professor of Government, Harvard Kennedy School*);

Allison and Andrew Bosworth (*children from the first marriage*);

William and Stacey Rutledge (*step-children*);

Mr. Barry Bosworth and Mr. Brian Bosworth (*Brothers*);

Board of Trustees, Officials and Faculty Members;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Distinguished guests;

Ladies and gentlemen;

A very good afternoon.

The fate of men and nations can intersect at unexpected but happy and distinct crossroads. We are all here together to remember and celebrate the life of our good friend, Ambassador Steve Bosworth, whom we had met at various such intersections.

Many years ago, we stood with Steve at a very significant crossroad. Filipinos were rallying for the cause of democracy against the Marcos dictatorship, following the famed Snap Election of February 1986.

Dismayed by a statement from the late President Reagan's White House that both sides had cheated during that election, I was asked by the late Jimmy Ongpin, a renowned patriot, to help organize a march by Filipino alumni of US schools and was appointed to personally deliver a manifesto to the U.S. Embassy in Manila.

At that historic moment, Steve was the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines.

On 21 February 1986, a Friday, I remember calling Steve to advise him that we were going to his Embassy. Steve did not try to dissuade us.

On the contrary, ever the gentlemen that he was, he asked what cold soft drinks we would like to have since about 150 of us would be marching in the heat of the sun.

But it was not meant to be. Our planned demonstration was overtaken by events, because the First EDSA People Power Revolution burst into the open the very next day, February 22. Instead, we, the would-be demonstrators, and our families, rushed to the gates of Camp Aguinaldo to join so many others in protecting the anti-Marcos military rebels who had taken refuge there, surrounded by the dictator's military.

As the Filipino People gathered at EDSA, the dictatorship endeavored to cut the military rebels off from communicating with the outside world.

With Jimmy Ongpin in the lead, we found our small group among the first to join the military rebels inside their Camp. Because of my close friendship with Steve, I was asked to engage him for assistance in facilitating communications between Camp Aguinaldo and other military camps around the country.

Filipino People Power astonished everyone. Images of Filipinos, gathered in peaceful millions, appeared on television and news reports everywhere. We called for an end to corrupt dictatorial rule and for the restoration of our nation's freedom. Our call was heard beyond our shores and propelled a democratic wave that swept the world.

That was 30 years ago.

But this was not the end of the story. Our lives intersected again, when I joined Government service twice, first in 2001, and then in 2011. In those positions my friendship with Steve deepened even further.

On several occasions, we celebrated our friendship. In 2003, my wife Gretchen and I had the privilege of hosting an annual Alumni meeting of the Fletchers School of Law and Diplomacy at the Philippine Ambassadors Official residence in Washington DC.

As recently as last year, we had an opportunity to visit Steve and Chris in Boston for a wonderful get together.

What I have failed to mention earlier was how Steve and I first met. As the story goes, there is guidance for incoming US Ambassadors to the Philippines which reads “If you want to play tennis, call Albert.” And so, from the outset, we became not only the best of friends but also regular tennis partners.

A Diplomat's Diplomat

Steve is most lovingly remembered in the Philippines.

President Benigno S. Aquino III referred to him as “an enduring friend of the Filipino people and our democratic way of life.”

The late President Cory Aquino, an icon of democracy all over the world, called Steve “a diplomat who went above and beyond the call of duty to understand and support the aspirations” of the Filipino people.

Knowing Steve was a pleasure. Witnessing his profound engagement with the Filipino People was a privilege.

He served the US government, the academic and diplomatic community --- having been American Ambassador in Tunisia and the Republic of Korea in addition to the Philippines --- with personal and professional integrity, with incredible insight and with moral courage.

Dean, Scholar, Intellectual and Visionary, Steve was, indeed, a Diplomat's Diplomat.

'He Belongs to Us'

When the great American President and savior of his nation, Abraham Lincoln, passed away, his people said that he "now belongs to the Ages."

Steve, our friend, now belongs to all of us here today.

We Filipinos, in particular, claim a share of his memory, for his advocacy of our freedom, for his support of Philippine democracy and for his commitment to excellence in service, whether in Government or academe, from which Filipinos have also benefited. It is from Steve, and from staunch men and women like him, that we are forever inspired to build a better world for our children and our children's children.

In five days, on February 25th, we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the First EDSA People Power Revolution. Once again, Ambassador Steve, beneath the bright shining standards of those momentous events, you are honored and remembered.

Steve, from a grateful Filipino nation, please accept our heartfelt gratitude. May you rest in peace, my dear friend, and know that we will always cherish your memory.