

Bordallo helps celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage

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Congresswoman Bordallo helps celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month, promotes leadership to local Girl Scouts

Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo was the guest speaker for Carlisle Barracks' Asian Pacific Heritage Month observance at the Letort View Community Center May 18. Bordallo spoke about the island of Guam, where she lived and got her start in the political world, highlighted some of the native culture and explained the country's plans for the 3rd Marine Division's upcoming return. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.



May 20, 2009 – Congresswoman Madeleine

Bordallo was the guest speaker for Carlisle Barracks' Asian Pacific Heritage Month observance May 18 at the Letort View Community Center.

"This month is not just about the many Asian Pacific trailblazers and pioneers," she said. "It's about the grassroots people who live and work together. Our differences enrich our heritage and we are all proud Americans."

Bordallo went on to describe the patriotism that can be seen on the island of Guam, where she grew up and started her political career.

"I have been told by many military commanders that the Soldiers and Marines from Guam always stand out. They are morale builders, take orders with a smile and have the best barbecues," she added with a laugh.

She said more than 100 members of Congress have accompanied her to Guam, and all have commented on the warmth and hospitality of the country's people.

While taking questions from the audience, Bordallo described the actions being taken to prepare for the 3rd

Marine Division's return to Guam from Okinawa, Japan, where they have been based since 1956.

"We are spending \$14 billion to create an environment for the incoming Marines," she said. "It is an island-wide project to upgrade the whole infrastructure – the powerplants, sewer, water, dump sites. Everything is being improved."

"We will be working with the military to improve our lives and theirs," she added. "Guam is planned to be ready by 2014. Many people feel that the 3rd Marine Division liberated us, and we like to think of it as a homecoming for them. We are looking forward to them moving back, and we are working hard to prepare for their arrival."



Local Girl Scouts hear first-hand leadership experience from Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo. Bordallo spoke to the scouts about growing up to be good leaders. Photo by Spc. Jennifer Rick.

After the observance, the congresswoman met with a group of local Girl Scouts to share her experiences and give them guidance on how to become a leader.

Bordallo reflected on her time as a Brownie in Guam when she was young.

"Girl Scouts helps create leaders," she said. "That's how I started out. It's a great basis for learning leadership skills."

The scouts were given the opportunity to ask Bordallo questions about her life and her work in Congress. Several questions were asked about her own leadership skills and which ones she believes are the most important.

"You have to be persistent," she emphasized. "Stand up for what you believe in and don't always take no for an answer. You must also be optimistic and fair."