WASHINGTON, D.C., November 3, 2015 – For the second consecutive year, AARP presented The Outstanding Filipino Americans in New York (TOFA-NY) Awards on Saturday, October 31 at Carnegie Hall in New York. Created to recognize and celebrate the achievements of individuals and organizations that have raised the profile of the Filipino American community in a unique way, TOFA honored 15 exceptional individuals and organizations.

AARP presented the TOFA award for ‘Senior Welfare and Advocacy’ to the Philippine Aging Group for Active Seniors of America (PAGASA), a non-profit that helps the growing number of isolated elderly Filipino Americans and provides a place where they can gather and interact with others.

“Supporting organizations like TOFA-NY and PAGASA is an example of how AARP is strengthening communities,” said Beth Finkel, AARP New York State Director. “The honorees embody AARP’s belief in turning possibilities into realities.”
“We are extremely fortunate to have AARP head our list of sponsors this year and applaud them for their support to our community, especially during Filipino American History Month,” said Elton Lugay, Founding Chair of TOFA.

“We’re very proud of our colleague Steven Raga, honored by TOFA for his commitment to the community and his achievements working with the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), Pilipino American Unity for Progress (UniPro), and Forest Hills Asian Association,” said Daphne Kwok, AARP Vice President of Multicultural Leadership, Asian American and Pacific Islander Audience. “As our AARP Consultant, Steven brings AARP’s resources to the Filipino American community as well as brings the community to AARP! We congratulate Steven and all the TOFA winners on their exceptional accomplishments!”

Other TOFA awardees included Gail Banawis, Mark Bustos, John Gadia, Richard Holsman, KC Concepcion, Chelle Lhuillier, Makilala TV, Carmelyn Malalis, Kevin Nadal, Betina Ocampo, Nicole Ponseca, PAG-ASA Social Foundation Inc., Katrina Saporsantos, and Jonathan Wong.

For more information about how AARP helps Asian American & Pacific Islander families get more out of life, visit www.AARP.org/AAPI, www.facebook.com/AARPAAPICommunity and www.twitter.com/AARPAAPI.

ABOUT AARP
AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world's largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; www.aarp.org; AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at www.aarp.org.

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