

## Rothman Joins New U.S.-Philippines Friendship Congressional Caucus

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Washington, DC - Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ9), who represents a large and active Filipino-American community in Northern New Jersey, today announced that he has proudly joined the newly created U.S.-Philippines Friendship Congressional Caucus. The primary purpose of the bipartisan group is to increase the bonds of understanding and friendship between the American people and the people of the Philippines.

"I want to be a part of the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Congressional Caucus to ensure that the positive relationship between America and the Philippines is not only maintained, but strengthened," Rothman said. "The Philippines has a historically close relationship with the U.S. over the years, and this relationship was deepened when the Philippines became our most supportive Asian ally in the war on terrorism."

Rothman pledged to use his position in the new caucus to complement his work on the influential House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, which allocates U.S. foreign assistance to countries around the world, including the Philippines. Additionally, the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Congressional Caucus will also focus on issues that affect Filipino-Americans, including health care for Filipino war veterans.

"The United States and the Philippines are linked by our longstanding friendship and our common threats from global terrorism," Rothman said. "Now more than ever a Congressional caucus is needed to provide Members of Congress with information regarding the U.S.-Philippine bilateral relationship, and help us to better mobilize on issues of importance to a strong and vibrant U.S.-Philippine alliance."

Rothman has been an ardent supporter of the Philippines and Filipino-Americans. He supported the economic and military assistance provided to the Philippines for the global war on terrorism. Additionally, Rothman cosponsored the Health Care for Filipino World War II Veterans Act, which aimed to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II and surviving spouses.

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[Go back](#)