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FIL FEST USA 2024 A CELEBRATION OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY OCTOBER 5 & 6 FESTIVAL PARK @ ATLANTIC UNION PAVILION

(Portsmouth, Va.) – Fil Fest USA celebrates its 10th Annual Event in Portsmouth, recognizing Filipino-American History Month. This year's theme: Innovation & Technology.

The two-day free-to-the-public, family-friendly community event scheduled for October 5 & 6 opens up with Mayor Glover to welcome all to the Filipino Festival. With the Mayor's message, he will include recognizing teachers from the Philippines teaching in the Portsmouth Public School systems through the Global Teacher Program. Since Portsmouth has been redesignated as the Coast Guard City, Mayor Glover will also recognize Filipinos in the Coast Guard, both Retired and Active.

Fil Fest USA's "Flavors of the Philippines," our rendition of Restaurant Week, in its second year, will be scheduled from September 27 to October 3, leading up to the opening of Fil Fest weekend. Flavors of the Philippines include Alkaline, Kusina Filipino Cuisine, Lumpia & Company, Max's Restaurant, Maymar Filipino Restaurant Chesapeake, Ray Ray's at the Mayflower, and Sunrise Breakfast Shoppe.

Innovation and Technology awards are to be presented to leading Filipino Americans who have made a difference in their respective industries. Nominees include industries such as Research & Development, Scientists, Recruitment, Business, Health, Music, Dance and Fashion.

Our Children's Tent will showcase our Custom Lego-inspired iconic Filipino Jeepney, designed for Fil Fest. TikTok Creator and CEO of LittleBricks Charity, Russell Cassevah will live-build jeepneys throughout the weekend, along with our special puppet guests from The Sandy Castle. Puppets will be introduced by Justin Garcia, Founder and Creator. Laskin and Rudee Puppets come alive at the festival.

Special Programming Entertainment includes the Philippines' R&B King, JayR, and the American Pop Band, a family of six brothers and sisters, JAGMAC. Enjoy cultural dances, songs, and activities from local and regional talent performers. Our Annual Lumpia eating contest is sure to be a crowd pleaser—proudly sponsored by a local favorite, Lumpia & Company.

Key Sponsors are the City of Portsmouth, Gentry Locke, SpartanNash, Rivers Casino of Portsmouth, Modern Woodmen of America, Phirst Park Homes, Resort Management, Jen Kiggans for US Congress, Best & Dependable, Chesapeake Bay Forex, Gardner & Mendoza, Ramiscal and Equitan Advisors, and VAAPIC Fund.

With the area now home to more than 120,000 Filipinos/Filipino Americans, many of whom deployed into the area via the World's largest naval base, the synergy from this intergenerational event will celebrate Coastal Virginia's Filipino diaspora's story through history, music, food, and the arts.

For more details, visit <u>www.filfestusa.com</u>.