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SPECIAL TO THE FILIPINO REPORTER

TWO FILIPINO NURSES DO WELL BY DOING GOOD

New York, May 26, 2014 -- They hail from Northern Luzon – growing up in adjacent provinces along the coast of Lingayen Gulf. They took different paths to a nursing career, and on May 8th – an ocean away from home – Mereli Llarenas of Naguillan, La Union, and Joaquin Valdez of Rosales, Pangasinan, stood together when each received the Beatrice Renfield Center of Excellence award during Nurses Week celebrations at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York City.

Ms. Llarenas, winner of the Renfield Circle of Excellence in Patient-Centered Care by a Staff Nurse, also was a nominee for the 1199SEIU/League Nurse of Distinction Award. She works in the Intensive Care Unit of Mount Sinai Beth Israel Brooklyn. She received her BSN from Union Christian College in La Union and has been employed at the hospital since immigrating to the US in 1987.

Mr. Valdez, who also is called Jack, is a staff nurse on 3 Karpas Rehab Unit of Mount Sinai Beth Israel in Manhattan. A BSN graduate of the University of Manila, he ventured in the Middle East for a spell before moving to New York and joining Beth Israel, where he has worked for more than 20 years. He received the award for Excellence as a Preceptor.

Both nurses earned praises from their peers for their proficiency, professionalism, caring and dedication.

Presiding at the Renfield Awards ceremony during Nurses Week celebrations at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in Manhattan was Angela Babaev, RN, MSN, Interim Director, Beatrice Renfield Division Nursing Education and Research. Kate Maitland of the Beatrice Renfield Foundation presented the Circle of Excellence sterling silver laurel wreath pin designed by Mrs. Renfield to award winners, along with a \$1,000 certificate for continuing education.

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