

CLOSING REMARKS

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To our living heroes, the PEFTOK veterans, led by Ret. Col. Vilorio, Ret. Maj. Young, Ret. Col. Flores, Ret. Gen Villamor; guest speakers, Dr. Jose, Dr. Joven, Neville Manaois; colleagues in the Ateneo; participants to this conference:

This will just be short because we will have lunch soon.

So, this morning, we experienced touching moments with the sharing of our PEFTOK veterans and how they demonstrated their love of God and country through their heroic deeds and sacrifices in Korea to defend democracy, freedom, and human rights. We became more aware, through our resource persons, on how the Philippines and Korea strengthened their bond, starting with the PEFTOK experience in the Korean War of the 50s. This strong relationship is founded on the commitment of both countries to defend democracy, freedom, and human rights—especially when these principles are threatened. And, if you also notice, in the histories of both countries, they struggled against dictatorships.

So, this is actually a clear message to our youth today—that we should always be ready to defend democracy, freedom, and human rights when there are forces wanting to thwart these principles.

So, maybe with that, I will end my message. Again, thank you to our veterans and our speakers, and to the Academy of Korean Studies, our Korean Studies Program, our History Department, our Political Science Department.

Thank you, and we invite all of you to lunch at the fifth floor of this building.