

"She's considered one of our highly-respected women elders, whose leadership in civil rights activities and organizations built our history as a Filipino American immigrant community in the area in the 1960s-'70s. Those she's mentored have become leaders worthy of continuing her admirable work." **Rose Ibanez**, L.A. Community Investment Department project coordinator.



Geaga family from left: Jaime , Jorge, Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal, Remedios, Jose, and Joaquin.

REMEDIOS VERGARA GEAGA

*Fearless
Filipino American
Community Leader
Oct. 1916-Jan. 1997*



Remy, left, with L.A. Council President John Ferraro & Monterey Park Mayor Monty Manibog

A strong advocate for political empowerment, Remy highlighted issues including those involving women, public employees, youth and seniors. She fought for equity for Philippine-trained workers in the U.S., and for Philippine WWII veterans' recognition and benefits. In the 1980s, she worked to recognize and designate the Historic Filipinotown of L.A.

"My best Remedios story is that she was the lady whose transformational leadership paved the way to what is Filipinotown today. Active Filipino youth in our community make us strong and good citizens of America." **Librada Villanueva** started the campaign to establish Remy's Square.

"Join the Geaga family in our support of: Carlos Bulosan Book Club, run by Jaime Geaga at the Echo Park Branch Library www.carlosbulosanpodcast.com"



Remy (seated) with L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley



Remy (circled) in *Gintong Kasaysayan, Gintong Pamana* mural



At the corner of Alvarado & Temple Streets



Remy has left a legacy for all generations

Born 1916 in San Fernando, La Union, Philippines, to Nicolas Vergara and Emerenciana Flores, Remy emigrated in 1965, along with children: Joselyn Geaga-Rosenthal, Jorge V. Geaga, Jaime V. Geaga and Joaquin V. Geaga to join husband, Jose, an engineer, and WWII Bataan Death March survivor.

"Remy lifted the Filipino Community through her tireless work and dedication, leaving a legacy for all generations. In recognition of this legacy of service, it is appropriate that the City honor her memory by naming the intersection at Temple Street and Alvarado Street as Remy V. Geaga Square." Motion presented by then 13th District Councilman and now current Mayor Eric Garcetti; passed unanimously by all 15 council members Oct. 29, 2010.

Upon arriving, dismayed with the plight of Filipinos in the land of plenty, especially seniors, some of whom WWII vets or their widows, going hungry; people in inadequate housing and some subjected to racially-biased employment and educational practices.

She pioneered for rights of immigrant Filipinos. She dedicated her life to end discrimination in employment, education, and housing, and for voting rights.

"Imagine this tiny immigrant woman, barely 5 feet, going to City Hall and bravely stepping up, speaking in her second language, then coming out with the funds to feed the elderly in her community." **Jeremy V. Geaga, grandson**



Remy at LA City Hall, with Mayor Tom Bradley

Remy was a four-time president of the FilAm Community of Los Angeles, core member of the National Asian Democratic Caucus of the Democratic Party, president of the Sampaguita Women's Circle, co-founder of the Bayanihan Senior Association and co-founder of FASGI—the Filipino American Service Group, Incorporated. Remy pressed for social services, housing and hot meals for seniors, and programs for youth.

She fought to restore Philippine democracy, as an active member of the Ninoy Aquino Movement.



Remy, right, with Aquino widow, Cory, Philippine President 1986-1992, and Andrea Aquino in the Malacanang Palace.

"We all used to say we want to be like her, still very active in the Filipino Women's Network. She paved the way for many Fil-Ams' involvement in politics, and our empowerment through voting. So much energy and compassion for the community." **Fe Koons, community activist**



Remy with FACLA officers, circa 1970s