



Leni Robredo: May the best woman win - Page 7

# Philippine Fiesta™

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Volume 14A No. 12 / April 28, - May 28, 2016



Water Rights and Water Wars in California - Page 8

## Abus plotted to take Pacquiao, Kris - Noy



"They allegedly even hatched plots to kidnap Manny Pacquiao or one of his children, as well as my sister Kris or one of her children, with the plan to use them in bargaining for the release of their cohorts. Threats against my own life have been investigated," President Aquino said.

By Aurea Calica

MANILA, Philippines – The Abu Sayyaf had hatched plots to kidnap boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and celebrity presidential sister Kris Aquino as part of the bandit group's effort to gain favor with the extremist Islamic State (IS), President Aquino revealed yesterday.

One of the bandit leaders, Isnilon Hapilon, through his cohorts in prison, tried to convert other inmates in the national penitentiary to their cause and establish ties with remnants of the Rajah Sulayman Movement, purportedly in an attempt to embark on a bombing campaign in Metro Manila, Aquino said.

He stressed he has to put an end to the Abu Sayyaf,

which has been seeking to align itself with the IS.

"They allegedly even hatched plots to kidnap Manny Pacquiao or one of his children, as well as my sister Kris or one of her children, with the plan to use them in bargaining for the release of their cohorts. Threats against my own life have been investigated," Aquino said.

The President said no improvised explosive device (IEDs) attributable to the group of Hapilon had been found.

"We have monitored their activities, unraveled their network and arrested key players, while some of the minor players already on the run are being hunted down. I credit our security services

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## The Pasquil Family Foundation Inaugural Gala

By Dale Esperante

The early evening of 27 April 2016 started off with a roar when the skies above Elk Grove darkened, thundered, and lit up with lightning followed by a torrential rain. The walls next to the main entrance of the Falls Event Center supported an array of drippy umbrellas left there to dry by guests who have arrived.

When the program started, Mona Pasquil introduced this writer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Donned with our Ameri-

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Photo by Dave San Pedro

The recipients of Pasquil Foundation's Bayani Award, apl.de.ap (L) and Cynthia Bonta (R).



Photo by Dave San Pedro

Amanda Newsom and Dane San Pedro with their dazzling segment from their Dance Magical Show that was filled with technical dance steps and impossible magic tricks.

## Rize All

By Dinnah San Pedro

The Rize All Premiere show was a spectacle for all to enjoy. From popcorn and cotton candy to the performances by local high school dance groups, the event was an amazing debut for the Rize All non-profit organization's offerings in the community. The purchase of a ticket funded a student to attend dance class for a week in Rize All's Rize & Dance Afterschool arts program.

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## A HERO ON CARING FOR OUR HEROES

*It is not often that we have a real live hero in our midst.*

The hero I am speaking of is only the second Philippine-born U.S. citizen to be promoted to the officer rank of "General" in the U.S. Army. He received numerous military awards, including the Army Distinguished Service Medal (2 awards), the Legion of Merit (4 awards), the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (6 awards), the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge. He retired in 2007 having served 34 years on active duty as a decorated officer with the rank of "Major General" and an advocate for breaking down racial and ethnic barriers in the military.

But what to me is the most heroic deed of all was the investigation he led of the Abu Graib war prisons in Iraq which exposed human rights violations too heinous to repeat at this time. His findings implicated high ranking leadership and to report the truth as he saw it could mean the end of his military career. With eyes wide open to the consequences, our hero told all with the deepest commitment to integrity.

Yes, when someone like Major General Antonio Taguba comes to Sacramento, he is also invited to the Capitol to be introduced to the California Assembly. We thank Assemblymember Rob Bonta for inviting General Taguba to be introduced to the California Assembly and to provide a time for colleagues and staff to meet the General at a reception.

The Sacramento Filipino community and their friends



Cynthia Bonta with Major Gen. Antonio Taguba

in the broader community were very privileged, indeed, to have our hero, Major General Taguba visit Sacramento as AARP's Ambassador on April 18th, Monday, at a Town Hall Meeting to draw us into a conversation about caring for our heroes, our veterans, our family members, our elderly parents. Sacramento was his fourth and last step of town meetings to engage the community to band together and bond together in facing this task that need not be as difficult as it often is when families do not shy away from such topics as getting old and caring for our elders.

Yes, when General Taguba talks about caring for our heroes, he means caring for our elderly parents when they get sick, when they can no longer take care of themselves, when senility sets in, may be even dementia or Alzheimer's disease. It can also mean caring for any member of the family. Are we prepared for when the time comes? Who will care for our aging parents? We, their children? Who can be hired that is trained and trustworthy? How will the care be paid for? What community resources are there to seek help from when we are at our rope's end? Is

there a support group for caregivers who can share problems and solutions? If not, why not start one?

Are you starting to ask these questions with your parents while they can participate and make their wishes known? It is never too early. And you will be glad to be prepared and to honor your parent's wishes.

If you are a parent, start a conversation with your children about your care, so that it becomes a familiar topic of conversation, not an awkward one.

General Taguba told his story about caring for both his parents, his dad with dementia. He invited others present to share their story as well. By hearing each other's stories the community can bond together on this issue and realize that they are not alone.

His story inspired listeners to take their elderly care seriously, be it theirs or other member's of their family.

Major General Antonio Taguba also visited Union City, Daly City, and Vallejo on, April 16 and 17, 2016. His trip was sponsored by AARP and Bataan Legacy Historical Society. AARP's purpose was to promote their caregiving program while Bataan Legacy Historical Society's goal was to provide the accurate history as backdrop to his Congressional Gold Medal Project. We are happy to be partnering with these two organizations for the first time with the promise of more future collaborations.

General Taguba's caring for our heroes is not

Continued on page 4

## Leni Robredo: The impossible dream

By Elfren S. Cruz

Leni Robredo's candidacy as vice president of the Philippines started as the Impossible Dream. It has now become a national crusade not just a political campaign. To a growing number of Filipino voters, she has restored faith in the democratic process. She is proving that a person of integrity, humility and simplicity can still run and win a national position in this country.

Her late husband, Jesse Robredo, once said in a speech: "Our country is in dire need of servant leaders whose sense of compassion and service are truly awakened. We cannot bring the Philippines to lasting greatness without leaders of this calibre working in government." Those prophetic words are how people are now describing his widow.

These emotions are best shown in the words that different people have used to explain why they are voting for Leni. For some people, it is because they believe that she shares a common cause like a group of alternative lawyers, legal advocates and human rights defender who recently expressed their support in a public statement.

Among the many reasons they stated were the following: "We enjoin voters to choose Leni for her commitment to transparency and reform ... Our endorsement for a true public servant like Leni is equal to our continuing commitment to the advocacy for programs and policies that empower communities through equal access to education, employment, food, land, and other resources and justice. Let us not simply vote for person-



Leni Robredo

alities with tainted political histories and short sighted promises.

We want a transparent leader who will espouse and enable our own engagement and participation in good governance, and we believe vice presidential aspirant Leni Robredo has exemplified these features throughout her career as an alternative lawyer, development worker and legislator. "

Then there are those who believe voting for her is a strong, symbolic gesture. Roel Cruz said, in a recent facebook post, that a vote for Leni Robredo is a vote: "Against forgetting. Against historical revisionists hailing our country's most tyrannical President a hero and glorifying his immeasurably wide scale oppressive regime. Against entertaining, popcorn demagoguery and misplaced gutter toughness trying to pass itself as a concrete national vision. Against traditional visions out to maintain the status quo of institutionalized corruption. Against pseudo-intellectualism, cynicism and the politics of fear."

But it was not just her words but her sincerity and

credibility that has won her many new followers. There was a statement she made that would be considered a motherhood statement if said by other candidates. When she compared herself to a mother who will sacrifice everything for the sake of her children, one could see she really meant what she said: "Ang isa pong mabuting ina ay naaasahan sa kahit anong panahon, hindi umaatras sa hamon, sumisikap sa bawat araw na maging mabuting example sa kaniyang mga anak, binibigay ang lahat walang tinitira sa sarili."

There are still those who believe Leni lacks the necessary experience because they are not aware of her record as a public servant. This is how she introduced herself in speech during a Vice President Forum:

"I may be new in politics, but I am a veteran in public service. I have dedicated my professional life as an alternative lawyer, working with and serving farmers, fisher folk, abused women, laborers, and others in the margins of society. My work has allowed me to walk closely with sectors of our society that are hungering for justice and a better life such as the Sumilao farmers in 2007 as they marched in protest to get the land that is rightfully theirs.

"This brand of leadership – one that listens to the people, gives voice to the margins and inspires people participation – is what I strove to continue during my term as representative of the Third District of Camarines Sur."

There is one story about Leni that has endeared her to those who have heard

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## Headless body turned over to Canadian embassy

By Cecille Suerte Felipe

MANILA, Philippines - The headless body of a man who looks like a Caucasian, believed to be Canadian John Ridsdel, has been turned over to the Canadian embassy.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ricardo Marquez said the headless body, which was found in Barangay Gata, Talipao in Sulu, was flown to Heritage Park in Taguig yesterday morning.

Marquez said police Scene of the Crime Operatives (SOCO) conducted the autopsy on the body at the Heritage Park.

Ridsdel was one of four hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf since last September.

The kidnapers had issued a ransom deadline that lapsed Monday. His severed head was found in a plastic bag along a street in Jolo town.

On Wednesday, a headless cadaver of a Caucasian male was found in Talipao but authorities have yet to confirm if it was Ridsdel's.

There was no indication that the victim was beheaded in the area where it was found "due to the absence of blood stains in the scene," according to a police investigator.

Ridsdel was among four hostages taken by the Abu Sayyaf in Samal Island last September.

The three remaining hostages - fellow Canadian Robert Hall, Norwegian Kjartan Sikkengstad and Filipina Maritess Flor - are still being held by the bandit group, along with other foreigners, including 14 crewmen of an Indonesian tugboat. Four Malaysian seamen are also being held.

President Aquino has promised to devote his remaining days in office to crushing the Abu Sayyaf.



Image from an undated Abu Sayyaf video shows Canadians John Ridsdel (right) and Robert Hall.

Fourteen bandits have been killed in continued shelling of their stronghold in Jolo since Tuesday, a military spokesman said.

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) yesterday condemned the murder of Ridsdel.

"AmCham extends its deepest condolences to the Ridsdel family, friends and others close to this remarkable man," the group said in a statement.

AmCham said Ridsdel was well known to the American business community in Manila, where he was based for many years.

"He was a strong believer in the development of the Philippines, to which he contributed as the senior executive of a mining company known for its highly responsible practices," AmCham said.

"John Ridsdel had decided to retire in the Philippines. He made many friends among many nationalities and loved to sail among the islands from his base at Puerto Galera. It was when he responded from his boat moored on Samal Island to a call for help from a neighboring boat that he was seized," it said.

AmCham joined the call on the government to bring the killers of Ridsdel to justice and to implement

policies that will bring improved security and peace and development to areas in Mindanao where the Abu Sayyaf and other criminal elements operate.

Officials, on the other hand, are discussing coordinated naval patrols on its southern maritime borders with Indonesia and Malaysia to protect shipping after attacks and kidnappings by Islamist militants.

Foreign Secretary Jose Rene Almendras said the government is proposing separate but coordinated patrols to identify safe corridors where ships can travel.

Indonesia last week called for joint maritime patrols with the Philippines and Malaysia. Joint patrols would involve ships from the three navies patrolling together and crossing into each other's territorial waters.

Officials from the three sides are due to meet in Jakarta on May 5 to discuss cooperation.

"The issue is safety and security," Almendras said.

"It's called coordinated patrols, we'll do our patrols and they will have their own patrols in their own territorial waters so there will be no more threats to the movement of ships, including the kidnapping of sailors."

Two Indonesian coal ports have blocked ships from leaving for the Philippines and Malaysia's eastern Sabah state due to security concerns.

The growing frequency of maritime attacks has affected coal trade between the Southeast Asian neighbors - Indonesia, the world's largest thermal coal exporter, and the Philippines, which relies on Jakarta for 70 percent of its coal imports.

## Ping Lacson on Duterte presidency: God help us

By Christine O. Avendaño

May God help us!" was how reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson reacted on Wednesday to the looming possibility of Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte winning the presidential race and fulfilling his controversial campaign promises such as killing all corrupt officials in government.

Lacson hoped that Duterte's statements at the Makati Business Club on Wednesday and his other equally controversial campaign promises were "just sound bytes to get elected."

Lacson mentioned Duterte's to-do things when he becomes president—to kill 100,000 criminals in three to six months; to close and padlock Congress; to establish a revolutionary government; to ride a jet ski to Scarborough shoal and plant the Philippine flag and be shot by the Chinese, and now to shoot all corrupt officials and pardon all their assassins.

### No to civil war

"I hope and pray that if elected, he (Duterte) won't do what he mostly says and promises to do during this campaign because if



Rodrigo Duterte

he does, may God help us," Lacson said in a text message.

Lacson said he did not want the country "plunged into a civil war."

He also noted that Duterte was not the same person he knew for more than 20 years, saying he saw the mayor then as a "soft spoken, unassuming, never arrogant" person.

"We were not really close friends but during my law enforcement days, even before my appointment as Chief of the Philippine National Police, we mutually respected, even admired each other, at least that's how I viewed it from my own perspective," he said.

Lacson said he would "touch base with (Duterte) to catch up whenever I visited Davao City."





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## Can Digong beat Grace?

PerryScope

By Perry Diaz

Just a few weeks ago, the man to beat for the presidency was Jejomar "Jojo" Binay. As a sitting vice president, Binay had the advantage of incumbency. He used his position as second-in-command to President Benigno "P-Noy" Aquino III and as the administration's "Housing Czar." It was no wonder then that his popularity ratings were consistently high in all the years he was residing at the Marcos-era Coconut Palace, a "gift" from his erstwhile friend P-Noy. Indeed, his power was so immense that when he declared his intention to run for president early in his term, he was considered a shoo-in for the presidency. Indeed, he was on top of the world. His time was about to come. But as the presidential campaign period goes into the homestretch, his world turned upside down! What the hell happened?

Call it fate — or misfortune — but Binay lost his primacy in an election that was his to win, but he blew it. With Election Day just a month away, the presidential race has narrowed down to two candidates — Davao City Mayor Rodrigo "Digong" Duterte and Sen. Grace Poe-Llamanzares — who are now statistically tied in the latest surveys. However, what is interesting to note is that Duterte — who placed fourth two months ago — has surged to three percentage points over Llamanzares. What does that tell you? Any political pundit would tell you that Duterte is pulling ahead to victory in a tight sprint against Llamanzares.

But like any other presidential election, nobody has a crystal ball that accurately predicts the winner. It's a game of political survival where the "cheatest" wins. But don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that all candidates have to cheat in order to win. An honest candidate can still win if he or she could muster the resources to prevent other candidates from cheating. But how do you prevent your opponent from cheating?

### Surveys

Laylo-survey-March-2016-The fact that Duterte (30%) and Llamanzares (27%) are only 3% apart in the latest survey conducted by Laylo Research Strategies, the election could go either way. The rest of the survey shows Mar Roxas with 21%, Binay with 18%, and Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago with 2%. The survey has a national margin of error of +/- 1.8%. But here's the stinger: If you look at the trend, Duterte's campaign is gaining momentum — he was in fourth place several months ago — and if the upward trend is unbroken, he could win the presidency.

Forget about Binay; his quest for the presidency has already gone south. He'll never recover, not with Duterte and Llamanzares tying for first place and he a distant fourth place with Roxas in precipitous third place. With luck, Binay might be able to overcome one or even two of the three. But to deal the front-runners — Duterte and Llamanzares — a debilitating blow would take a miracle unless he resorts to massive election fraud.

### Duterte vs. Llamanzares

So let's forget about Binay and Roxas and look objectively at a Duterte-Llamanzares face-off:

1. Family background — Duterte's father was a former governor. Llamanzares' adoptive father was a movie actor.
2. Citizenship — Duterte is a natural-born Filipino. Llamanzares is a foundling with unknown parentage.
3. Education — Duterte is a Bachelor of Laws graduate and a lawyer. Llamanzares supposedly took a teacher's licensure in the U.S. but did not pass it.
4. Judiciary experience — Duterte was a former Prosecutor and Fiscal. Llamanzares has none.
5. Legislative experience — Duterte was a former Congressman. Llamanzares is a neophyte senator elected in 2013.
6. Chief executive experience — Duterte is Davao City Mayor for more than 20 years. Llamanzares has none.
7. Campaign donors — Duterte only accepts donations from the people. Danding Cojuangco, who was known as the "King of Cronies" during the kleptocratic Marcos regime, reputedly finances Llamanzares' campaign.
8. Presidential theme — Duterte will fight corruption, criminals, and drug traffickers. Llamanzares said that she would continue what Fernando Poe Jr. (FPJ) had started, which makes one wonder: Other than acting, what had FPJ started that has to do with good governance?

### Election fraud

Guns-Goons-Gold I don't have to convince my readers whom I believe would make a better President and Commander-in-Chief between Duterte and Llamanzares? But in a democracy, whoever gets the majority of the votes wins.

But here is the rub: In most presidential elections since 1946 when the Philippines became a republic, various forms of election cheating were used. In the early years of the republic, vote-buying and the infamous "flying voters" were keys to winning the election. Then, cheating became more sophisticated with the use of dagdag-bawas (add-subtract) system where electoral results

were manipulated to give favored candidates majority of the votes with the connivance of Commission on Elections (Comelec) officials. During the 1960s, election-cheating took a quantum leap when "Guns, Goons, and Gold" (3Gs) became the rule rather than the exception.

### Electronic vote-counting

Duterte-rally.1But elections in 2010 changed all that. Well, "3Gs" was still popular in intimidating, terrorizing, and bribing the voters. However, the introduction of the automated Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) vote-counting machine improved the speed with which votes were counted and tabulated. Assuming that the PCOS machines were programmed correctly and insulated from manual manipulation, vote-counting is reliable.

But here is the caveat: Like any automated system, the rule of thumb is GIGO, which means "Garbage In, Garbage Out." Although cheating was never proven during the 2010 and 2013 elections, there were numerous complaints, particularly in the 2013 elections when a citizens' group claimed that the PCOS machines were programmed to generate what came to be known as "60-30-10," where certain candidates were pre-programmed to get around 60% of the votes. Thus, the pejorative term Hocus-PCOS was coined. This also came to be known as "electronic dagdag-bawas," which would be hard to detect and expose.

Who-is-the-next-president-2016In a tight election, a small amount of cheating could make the difference. And this is where Digong and Grace have to make an effort to stay on top to prevent or discourage cheating. Needless to say, preventing the other candidate from cheating doesn't necessarily mean that he or she wouldn't resort to cheating. It is not unusual for the financiers of a certain candidate to resort to cheating — without the express knowledge of their candidate — to protect their "investments." They know that if their candidate loses, they're not going to receive "dividends" on their capital. Is it then fair to presume that if there were no big-time financiers to a candidate then the probability of election cheating engineered by financiers is virtually nil?

At the end of the day, while money may still reigns supreme in an election; there are no substitutes to vigilance and a strong grassroots campaign. And if you ask me, "Can Digong beat Grace?" my answer is: With Duterte's ability to draw large and enthusiastic crowds anywhere he goes, my answer is an unqualified "Yes." (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

## Abus plotted to take Pacquiao, Kris - Noy

From page 1

for putting these threats to bed with both professionalism and discretion. The public may rest assured that they may go about their daily lives without fear or unease," Aquino said.

"However, we want to continue to seriously erode any ability of the Abu Sayyaf to continue to function. This is the reason we are conducting continuing operations in Basilan versus Isnilon Hapilon and his sub-leader, Furuji Indama," the President said.

Aquino vowed to crush the Abu Sayyaf before he steps down from office in June, saying the opportunity to smash the bandit group is now within sight.

Aquino cited reports showing the three remaining captives of the Abu Sayyaf taken from Samal Island in Davao del Norte were under the control of Radillon Sajiron, who consolidated his forces around himself and the hostages.

"This presents both a problem and an opportunity. It is a problem because of the sizeable force surrounding Sajiron and the captives, but it is also an opportunity because smashing these forces is within our grasp," Aquino said.

"This is why intensive operations are ongoing against the (Abu Sayyaf) forces holding civilians captive in Sulu," he said.

Aquino ordered the military to exert full efforts to bring down the Abu Sayyaf on the mission to rescue the hostages while ensuring the safety of civilians in the theater of operations.

The government had been exerting maximum efforts to stop the Abu Sayyaf and while casualties were to be expected, Aquino said the war against the bandit group "has to be of utmost importance."

"The men and women in our Armed Forces are well-trained, well-equipped and resourceful. I have full trust and confidence in them," the

President said.

"We will not stop until the threat they pose to our communities is ended."

The next president's problem The military came under increased pressure to rescue more than 20 foreign hostages still held by the Abu Sayyaf after the beheading of John Ridsdel, one of two Canadians and two others held hostage by the bandit group.

The troops, however, find it difficult to succeed without endangering the remaining captives.

But instead, Aquino said the bandits "galvanized us even further" to ensure justice would be meted out and the other hostages would be freed.

In a statement following the beheading of Ridsdel that outraged Canada, Aquino said the Abu Sayyaf thought "they could instill fear in us" by murdering people and terrorizing the whole population.

The President said he sent a letter expressing condolences to the family of Ridsdel last Tuesday.

## A HERO ON CARING FOR OUR HEROES

From page 2

limited to caregiving, He founded the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project which aims to educate the public about the Filipino soldiers who fought during WWII and to seek recognition of their sacrifices through the Congressional Gold Medal Award.

During World War II, the Philippines was a Commonwealth of the United States. -On July 26, 1941, as tensions with Japan rose in the Pacific, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called into the service of the United States all the organized military forces of the Philippines. -Thus the United States Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) was established with Manila designated as the command headquarters. -The USAFFE included the Philippine Scouts, Philippines Constabulary, New Philippine Scouts, Philippine Commonwealth Army and Recognized Guerrilla Units. -On December 20, 1941, President Roosevelt signed a law which allowed Filipinos in the United States to enlist in the Armed Forces which led to the formation of the 1st and 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments. -More than 200,000 Filipino soldiers fought in World War II. An estimated 18,000 soldiers are still living in the U.S. and Philippines. -Filipinos participated in the war out of national pride as well as out of a commitment to the allied world's struggle against fascism.

The Rescission Acts of 1946 passed by Congress reversed the promise made by President Roosevelt and denied benefits to the Filipino Soldiers for their wartime service. BOTTOM LINE - Public awareness of the contributions of the Filipino soldiers during WWII is scant or nonexistent. There has been no formal declaration by the United States to recognize their dedicated services and selfless sacrifice.

Thus we are asking community support to seek approval for the U.S. Congress to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Filipino soldiers.

There is a number of signatures that are needed in both Senate and House for Congress to agree to mint the Gold Medal and this has to be met by October, the deadline set.

Assemblymember Rob Bonta has sponsored an Assembly Joint Resolution supporting The Congressional Gold Medal Award urging congress to pass their respective bills. Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, will also be presenting this to the Mayor's Council. We had the honor to have both Bonta and Cabaldon present at Taguba's town hall meeting. As of this writing, House Representative Doris Matsui signed off on the bill in support.

Cecilia Gaerlan, Executive Director of Bataan Legacy Historical Society, has been organizing support for her work with the California Department of Education to implement California Legislation AB199, which aims to include the role of the WWII

Filipino soldiers in the history/social sciences curriculum framework for Grade 10 and 11 in California.

Both General Taguba and Cecilia Gaerlan work together to achieve their goals. They wish to urge our support. We are happy to report that the Sacramento Delta Chapter of Filipino American National Historical Society has pledged their support of action items required to implement AB 199.

With an October deadline to get all the required signatures in, there is movement in the community to get organized to make sure the Congressional Gold Medal is minted.

The visit of General Taguba has certainly left us with a sense of urgency both for facing up (1) to the time that we will need care in our old age and need to plan for that time with our families and (2) fast approaching October deadline to get all required signatures to approve the Congressional Gold Medal Award for our WWII Filipino veterans.

We thank Filipino American Veteran's Association (FAVA) through its President, Richard Weitzenberg and Magellan Post 604, through Commander Rafanan for welcoming the community to the Taguba's Town Hall Meeting at the Filipino American Veteran's Memorial Hall with a patriotic program and a sumptuous merienda buffet.

Without the local sponsorship of FAVA and Magellan Post 604, I do not think we would have had the fortune to have a hero in our midst.

By Cynthia Bonta  
cynbonta@comcast.net



# The Pasquil Family Foundation Inaugural Gala

From page 1

can Legion Magellan Post 604 caps, my band of brothers, veterans and legionnaires Alfred Aquino and Joe Gonzalez, accompanied me to the dais. We thanked the Pasquil Foundation for inviting us veterans to do this honor, then reminded everyone who were still holding on to their electronic devices, to please let go (unhand their devices) for the pledge. Removing our headgear and facing the flag, we recited the 31 word pledge accompanied by the echoes of other voices.

After the invocation by Reverend Fel Ursos, Mona Pasquil's siblings--Gigi Ferrari and Danny Pasquil-- welcomed everyone to the launching of their family's Foundation. They introduced their family members and then shared some of the family's history, starting with a grandfather who was a member of the Philippine Scout turned U.S. military way back in the early 1900s. There were precious happy moments as well as tearful times, narrated emotionally by Gigi. Gigi concluded sharing her family's story by gifting us with a beautiful song, appropriately titled "Wind beneath My Wings."

The 28th Chief Justice of California, the Honorable Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye, delivered inspiring words blended with a tremendous amount of love and respect for the first recipient of the Pasquil Foundation's Bayani Award, Cynthia Bonta.

Cynthia thanked the Foundation for this recognition, acknowledging that her involvement with the Philippine National Day Association and the Outstanding Filipino Youth Award contributed immensely to reach this point. She is proud to be recognized as an activist, an agent of change. She admitted being thankful that her experience with demonstrating



Photos by Dave San Pedro

and picketing outside, hoping to capture the attention of the California legislature, is no longer necessary as much as before. She raised a son who followed her path to activism but somehow transformed the methods of her activism. Her son, State Assembly Member Ron Bonta, now has the opportunity of recommending changes, within the Assembly chambers of the State Capitol. Cynthia was quick to thank the supporters of her son for his rise to his current position.

Annie Lam, the Executive Director of the California API Legislative Caucus Institute, gushed with pride as she introduced the second

recipient of the Bayani Award, apl. de.ap. As we all know, apl.de.ap is a famous member of the world renowned hip hop group, the Black Eyed Peas. Apl's approach to his story was very touching, starting off with his humble beginnings as a boy in a town called Sapang Bato in the Philippines. He shared a little known fact that he always had vision problems. It was hard in school growing up when he couldn't see what was written on the board. He recalled his childhood chore of taking care of their family's water buffalo. So when he finally made it to the top with the Black Eyed Peas, people were impressed when he shared the

water buffalo story. They'd say something like, "Wow, alp had a pet bison!" Anyway, now that he has made it, he has done some work to give back like buying a building in the Philippines and turning it into a computer lab for poor children, just one of his many donations.

The aforementioned recipients have some things in common—great work ethic, tenacity, stick-to-it-ness, and positivity. The most common trait is their strong desire to help those who need help.

Before ending the evening, two brothers--Rylan Ladion--sang Straight up & Price Tag. Apl

joined the two brothers ending with a rap rendition of Where is the Love that moved everyone to stand up and feel the music. When the music ended, the roar of the crowd may have equaled the early evening's rolling thunder and lightning.

Mona Pasquil smiled, thanked everyone as she waved goodbye and goodnight to everyone. The inauguration of the Pasquil Family Foundation will be remembered as special, because of bayanis like the Pasquils, the Bontas, and the Black Eyed Pea.

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## Leni Robredo: The impossible dream

From page 2

about her. When she was Congresswoman, she had to attend the regular sessions at the Congress in Quezon City. Every week, she would ride a bus – yes a bus – to go home to Naga City, Camarines Sur. There are now many who are saying that she will change her lifestyle since she is now a national celebrity. It is to Leni's credit that she understands the siren song of power and fame. And this is what she said in a recent debate:

“Gabi gabi po nagdadasal

ako na bigyan ako ng sapat na lakas para po patuloy na magsilbi nang matapat. (Every night I pray that I will be given the strength to continue to live a simple life so I can continue serving with sincerity.)”

Seven months ago, when she started her quest, Leni Robredo had a rating of one percent and was ranked sixth out of six vice presidential candidates. Today, she is the leading candidate in the latest vice presidential surveys.

The Impossible Dream was the favorite song of Ninoy

Aquino and Evelio Javier. When I think of Leni Robredo quest I remember one stanza that said: “To fight for the right/ Without question or pause/ To be willing to march into Hell/ for a Heavenly cause.”

From the same song, I am sure that the Philippines “will be better for this that one woman... strove with her last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable star.”

Leni Robredo for Vice President of the Philippines.

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## PerryScope

## Leni Robredo: "May the best woman win"

By Perry Diaz

Up until a few weeks ago, vice presidential candidate Congresswoman Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo was behind in the polls. Way ahead of her then were Senators Francis "Chiz" Escudero and Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. who were at a statistical dead heat. But the latest polls surprised a lot of the power brokers who have shrugged her off as a "spoiler." Not anymore. Indeed, if the elections were held today, she'd win over Bongbong and Chiz, which makes one wonder: Why the sudden voters' interest in Leni?

This is a complicated situation because first of all, Leni is paired with Liberal Party (LP) standard bearer Manuel "Mar" Roxas II who is perceived as a weak leader. And secondly, she's up against two formidable vice presidential candidates, Marcos and Escudero, whose campaigns are being bankrolled by some of the wealthiest families and oligarchs. While Bongbong is presumed to have unrestricted access to the Marcos family wealth, Chiz is supported by a group of mega-billionaires led by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and Ramon Ang. Cojuangco is the Chairman of San Miguel Corporation (SMC), the largest food and beverage corporation in the Philippines and Southeast Asia; and Ang is SMC Vice-Chairman and Chief Operating Officer. By comparison, Leni doesn't have rich and powerful groups that can match her rivals' financiers. That's a double whammy – nay, triple whammy! -- that she had to overcome to win the vice presidency. As it stood then, Leni couldn't win, not even in her dreams. Yes, it was that bad.

### Leni's rise

But she proved the pundits wrong. In September 2015, Leni's rating was 5%. Today, it's 26% with just three weeks to Election Day. By

comparison, Bongbong's ratings -- after shooting up to the 25% range last January -- have stagnated, which seems to suggest that he may have reached his highest rating. On the other hand, Chiz's ratings were like shooting stars. He started with 20% in September 2015 and had gone up as high as 30% by November. But evidently, he had reached the apex of his campaign; it has been downhill since then. Today, Leni and Bongbong are at a statistical dead heat, with Chiz running behind Bongbong at 18%. [Note: these numbers may vary a little in other surveys but their rankings are pretty much in line with the numbers reflected here.]

Leni's phenomenal rise brings to the forefront of debate the question: What are the factors that contributed to her success in beating the odds? In my opinion, Leni's rise happened when presidential candidate Sen. Grace Poe-Llamanzares' ratings plummeted. That happened last March when Grace's ratings reached the highest at around 30%. Then her numbers started going down while Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's ratings started to go up. By the end of March, Duterte became the frontrunner as Grace's ratings began to fall.

By the looks of it, the presidential race will be won by either Duterte or Llamanzares. However, Duterte's campaign is winning a lot of the supporters of Vice President Jejomar Binay whose ratings have slid down to 14% today from 30% last January. And with the upward trend of Duterte's ratings, a "bandwagon effect" takes hold attracting those who abandoned Binay's sinking ship and jumping into Duterte's bandwagon.

### Leni vs. Bongbong



Leni Robredo

In the case of the vice presidential contest, it appears that it is going to be a tight race between Leni and Bongbong. But like a horse race, whoever takes the inner position in the final lap would have the advantage of beating the other in a photo finish, with the victor winning by a nose.

And this is where organization and money matter. Organizationally, Leni has an advantage because of the Liberal Party's top-to-bottom infrastructure, from the President down to the more than 40,000 village councils – barangays – that the LP administration controls. Bongbong, although a member of the Nacionalista Party (NP), is running as an independent. Two other NP members, Senators Alan Peter Cayetano and Antonio Trillanes IV, are also running for vice president. Bongbong has to rely on his own political network that includes the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), or New Society Movement, which was founded by his father and namesake, the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos. However, since the ouster of Marcos and dismantling of his authoritarian regime, the KBL became politically insignificant, a relic of the dark days of a bygone era.

But Bongbong's main strength is his family's financial empire. Although, the public and the government know not much about the alleged Marcos wealth, it is presumed to have been the source

of his campaign funds. And this is where he has an overwhelming advantage over Leni. Like any campaign for political office, money talks. The more money he funnels into his campaign, the louder his message is heard.

However, Leni seems to be unperturbed by

Bongbong's financial advantage. She is a lawyer, holds an Economics degree from the University of the Philippines, a social activist, and currently serving her first term as the representative of the Third District of Camarines Sur to the Philippine House of Representatives, which she reluctantly ran for -- and won -- in the 2013 elections beating Nelly Favilla-Villafuerte, who belongs to the politically powerful Villafuerte family dynasty.

### Jesse's legacy

While Leni is politically savvy, her election victory would be a testament to the legacy of her popular husband, the late Secretary of the Interior and Local Government Jesse Robredo who served under the Aquino administration from 2010 until his death in 2012. Prior to his national prominence, Jesse Robredo served six terms as Mayor of Naga City. He was also elected President of the League of Cities of the Philippines, the influential national association of city mayors. In 2000, he was recognized and awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service.

After the death of her husband, Leni kept a low profile. But Fate pushed her to the limelight when she reluctantly accepted a draft to be the LP's vice presidential nominee after President Aquino failed to convince Grace Poe-Llamanza-

res to fill the spot. As the Aquino's second choice, it didn't take long for Leni to learn the ropes of running for national office. Leni's performance at the two vice presidential debates last April 10 and April 17 proved her mettle as a candidate to be reckoned with. Her ratings improved considerably putting her ahead in the race. After the second debate, 33% of the 1,200 viewers polled voted Leni as the "best performer" of the debate. Chiz garnered 28%. But Bongbong was a no-show, which proved to be a bad thing for him. Truth be told, his ratings went down by several percentage points. As they say in politics, "Out of sight, out of mind."

### Women's vote

It's quite interesting to note that during the first debate, Leni was voted the best among women respondents with 35%, which begs the question: Is women's vote a factor in winning the election? I am inclined to say, "Yes, with qualification." I believe it is how women voters perceive the candidates. In the case of Grace Poe-Llamanzares, there seems to be a disconnect with the women voters because of the way she handled the citizenship and residency issues against her. Although the Supreme Court ruled in her favor on the disqualification petitions filed against her, a lot of voters were convinced that she lied. And then there is the case of her having two social security numbers in the U.S. Her denial didn't seem believable. And then, there is the secrecy about her husband Neil Llamanzares' employment with an outfit that does espionage work for the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies.

But it's her sense of humor that endears her to voters. During the first debate, Leni teased her five rivals for the vice presidency, saying: "May the best woman win." She was the only woman among the six candidates. Touché! (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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# Water Rights and “Water Wars” in California

By Dr. R. Carado Dizon

*“Nature, in a word, is at our disposition and we are called to exercise stewardship over it.*

*Yet so often we are driven by greed and by the arrogance of dominion, possession, manipulation and exploitation; we do not preserve nature, nor do we respect it or consider it a gracious gift we must care for and set at the service of our brothers and sisters including future generations”.*

—Pope Francis, *Message for World Day of Peace, January 1, 2014.*

Modesto, California Central Valley. Drought, the absence of rain over a prolonged period, is the root cause of the water crisis now going on in California. It is now on its fourth year in the Golden State. According to California Governor Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown, Jr., it has “reached crisis proportions “after a winter of record low snowfalls. That is why the honorable governor, on April 1, 2015, in an Executive Order, has directed the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to impose a mandatory 25 percent reduction, from 2013 levels, in the state’s water supply. This new mandate is directly addressed to the 400 local Water Supply Agencies which serve 90 percent of California’s residents over the coming years. These water agencies, in turn, will be responsible for coming up with restrictions for the cutback and for monitoring compliance. The specifics on how this cutback will be achieved are being left to the water agencies to propose, based on the new SWRCB guidelines. Governor Brown made the official announcement and order declaration in Phillips, a piedmont village on the Sierra Nevada mountain range, where the annual snowpack is measured every start of the month of April. Snow packs store the waters that fall as snow during winter months and release these same when they melt during the spring thaw. Snow packs on the Sierra Nevada are the largest storehouses of surface water. In a typical year, the measure in Phillips is around five or six feet of snow. Now it is just five percent of the historical average. The previous low was set last year at 25 percent. “We are standing on dry grass. And we would be standing on five feet of snow. We are on a historic drought”, Gov. Jerry was heard to remark. “The idea of your nice little green lawn getting watered every day, that’s going to be a thing of the past”, he warned in a manner filled with his rough-hewn candidness (Wolfson/Newsweek, 05-01-2015).

The governor’s water use reduction order has virtually reignited the on-going undeclared “Water Wars” or Rivalry for the use of the diminishing waters in California. The main Issue in this competition for the state’s most precious natural resource: Water and the Rights to its Use. It has pitted farmers against city dwellers; big farmers versus small ones; northern communities against communities down south; Republicans versus Democrats, etc. Way back in 1967, the Democratic state legislature under the elder Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr.,

established the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to “exercise the adjudicatory functions of the state in the field of Water Resources” (Calif. Water Code, Sections 174-175). Conflicts between protagonists are first resolved in the SWRCB. Decisions from here are appealed at either of two venues: For cases involving questions of Facts, in the State Appellate Courts, or, for those involving questions of Law, to the California Supreme Court.

The “Water Wars” coinage was first used by Mike Dunbar, in his commentaries being published in The Modesto Bee daily newspaper. Dunbar, himself the Opinion Editor of the Bee, commenting on the Water crises then, wrote, “Get ready for a water war in the valley ... In the name of helping an endangered fish, the state takes 40 percent of water flowing down the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers and send it to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta leaving a third less for irrigation ... Farmers start pumping more groundwater for their trees and vines. After a couple of droughts, there isn’t enough groundwater left and trees and vines begin dying. Meanwhile, south valley farmers get guaranteed deliveries from gigantic pumps near Sacramento. With this reliable supply their trees and vines flourish, their land prices rise, and they make huge profits where there’s no competition from nut farmers to the north. It’s a nightmare from Merced to Manteca” (modbee.com/opinion, 07-14-2014).

Barely two months after Governor Jerry’s Order was announced, in early June 2015, Farmers Group in the Byron-Bethany Irrigation District protested openly in Sacramento. At the same time they filed a Suit in the State Superior Court protesting too much water cutback. They point to more than \$ 65 million in crop losses and more than 500 jobs lost unless the water is turned back the soonest... this is happening in the middle of the growing season, so it couldn’t come more on a worse time’, declared a spokesman for the district. Their tomatoes and alfalfa crops are still in the fields, and are likely to be wiped out if they don’t get watered enough. However, the court ruled that the SWRCB notice of cutoff and of a similar cutoff against the district and five other similar districts in the Central Valley constituted a “Taking” of the farmers’ rights. The court temporarily suspended the enforcement of the order. Nonetheless, the water board issued a statement on the week ending July 10, 2015, commenting that the judge’s ruling was “limited in scope”, and that it concerns only the form of its curtailment notice. The cut-off was justified. The right to the water claimed by the district was within the range for which the board has determined, “no water was available up to this time” (The Wall St. Journal, 07-13-2015). Only recently also, The West Side Irrigation District was demanded by the SWRCB that it stop delivering wa-



ter to its customers. This is because the district is in violation of drought restrictions by pumping water from the Old River in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, after not being told to. Apparently, although dozens of irrigation districts and thousands of farms have been warned that rivers and creeks are too low to tap, none had seen a cease and desist order with a \$ 10,000-a-day Fine.

California Water Rights and some Correlated Water Laws The Random House Dictionary (1969 unabridged edition) defines Laws as any written or positive Rules or collection of rules prescribed under the authority of the state or nation, or by people in the Constitution. The state constitution is the fundamental law upon which the state of California is governed. A Right accordingly, is a Just Claim or Title which is due to anyone by a just claim and lawful Guarantee. Thus, water rights and other rights in the Bill of Rights are rights legally guaranteed to California citizens by the constitution of the state of California.

The first California constitution of 1849 was established by the people of California in a general election cum referendum/ratification held in Monterey (then the state’s capital) on November 13, 1849. The same constitution was submitted by the state representatives to the U.S. Federal Congress for admission as a new state in the newly organized United States of America (USA). On September 9, 1850, or just ten months later, California was admitted as the 31st state of the Union. This virtually changed the Political Climate of the state: from a government where revolution and disorder were the rule, law and order the exception; to a “Republican government of laws and not of men”. Quite interestingly, the right to the use of water was already expressly provided in Section 3 of the Admission Act as one of the conditions for admittance. It states that, “All navigable waters within the said state shall be common highways and forever free, as well as to the inhabitants of said state as to citizens of the United States, without any tax, impact or duty therefore”.

The first constitution was short. It contained just 12 articles. Expectedly, it was not satisfactory to all the people. That is why from 1880 to 1940 inclusive, there were amendments proposed to 730 sections of the first constitution, of which 343 were adopted and 390 rejected. Some later amendments were modifications of some original provisions by several statutory laws (laws enacted by the state legislature) and case laws or decisions made by the courts, which were based, when appropriate, on other state and federal constitutions (Hundley, 2001).

More amendments to the constitution may be proposed by a member of the state assembly or the senate. If a majority of both houses approve the amendment then it is recorded in the journals until the next legislature is elected. If the majority of both houses of the next legislature approve the amendment, then it is voted upon by the people of the state in a referendum. Approval of the amendment should be by a majority of the people of the state (Article X, First California state Constitution). Article X in the most recent and current constitution has an entirely different provision. It embodies instead the state’s water rights and the beneficial use of water. The article and its seven corresponding sections are a latter-day adoption dated way back on June 8, 1976. The seven sections include: Sect. 1, the state’s right of eminent domain, Section 2, Riparian rights, Sect. 3, Tidelands, Sect. 4, Access to navigable waters, Sect. 5, State control of water use, Section 6, Compensation for water loss, and Sect. 7, Acquisition of real property in conformance to water laws. The California government grants property owners the rights to use water, not to possess or hoard it. This is because water is both a basic necessity of life and essential to all economic activities. However, legal water use also entails specific obligations. Holders of water rights must not adversely affect the rights of other legal water users or harm the environment.

To fulfill its regulatory functions, the SWRCB also issues permits for the use of water coming from the state-owned water resources particularly the huge State Water Project (SWP). Ironically, it was the elder governor Pat Brown (the father of the present governor) who was mainly responsible for establishing the SWP on July 10, 1959. Financed by a \$ 1.5 billion Water Bond guaranteed loan fund, the SWP includes big and small dams that store waters from the state’s major and minor rivers. The waters so stored are delivered through a network of concretized canals and laterals notably the 444-mile-long California Aqueduct. This particular waterway distributes water from north in the Central valley to as far south as San Diego near the Mexican border. The big Oroville dam for one, holds back water from the Feather River, a tributary of the mighty Sacramento in the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range. It impounds more than nine million acre feet (9 MAF) of water in its 235-meter high hydro-electric dam, the highest in continental USA. (An acre foot equals 326,000 gallons of water). From the other smaller dams an additional 5 MAF of water is available. Thus the SWP provides enough water to irrigate some 755,000 acres of the state’s farmlands (National Geographic, April 2010). Altogether, this gargantuan state water project serves 23 million Californians in terms of clean or recycled water for households and factories, water for crop irrigation and cheap electricity.

**Part II - California Water Rights**  
At present, the SWRCB recognizes

four different kinds of water rights in California. This include’ Riparian, Appropriative, Descriptive and Overlying Rights.

**1. Riparian right.** Before 1848, the Riparian Doctrine was one of the doctrinal basis of rights to the use of water in the then Alta California territory. This is also a constituent part of the Old English common law. After the admission of the state to the USA in 1850, the state legislature adopted the old English common law as the basic framework for riparian right in the state. Quite simply, the riparian law provides that a person owning land bordering a navigable stream owns the bed of the stream up to its thread or middle line and may make a reasonable use of its waters. Riparian rights therefore, are rights to divert, use and enjoy waters from a stream that abuts your landed property, your real estate. In other words, if you own a land that has a stream next to or running through it, you probably have riparian rights to divert water from the same stream and use it to grow crops or for other purposes specific to your property. Here in California, riparian rights are held in common by all landowners along a stream or river. They have what you may call “correlative rights” with respect to each other, i.e. they also own a right to use a percentage of the flow of the stream every year, a percentage that doesn’t change. In dry years however, they must take less from the stream according to the riparian doctrine, in S. D. Cal. 101 F Sup., (1951).

Riparianism adheres to the principle that no one would acquire a property right to the corpus or body of the water itself, only to its use. It also emphasizes location and mere legal position (i.e. owning some piece of land through which a stream flowed) as a prime consideration in establishing a water right. It guarantees owners of land bordering a stream the full natural flow, less only what is needed upstream to satisfy domestic needs, including the watering of livestock but did not authorize withdrawals for agriculture. Riparian owners’ rights are equal in that all could use the water so long as they did not impair the rights of other riparians. The California Supreme Court has established that riparian right holders have priority for diverting water over most if not all appropriative rights holder. Yet they could not divert as much water as they wanted whenever they wished. Use did not create the right but non-use did not terminate it. Location alone determined the right which simply resided in the ownership of the land bordering the stream (U.S. v. Public Utility District, S.D. Cal. 101 Sup.298, 1951). Two important limitations of riparian rights should be noted. First, the right does not extend to seasonal storage of water, i.e. collecting of water in a reservoir during times of surplus, for use during times of deficiency. Second, this right is part and parcel of riparian land and cannot be transferred for use in other lands (Hundley, 2001).

**2. Appropriative rights.** The con-

Continued on next page



## Water Rights and "Water Wars" in California

ceptual framework in this kind of right is whomever got the claim first, got to work it first, and whomever diverted the water to whom the claim first had priority over claimants who claim later. Hence, appropriative rights is summed up by the phrase, "First in time, first in right". This is what the court ruled in *Irwin v. Shaw*, 5 Cal. 140 (1855). One component of this right that distinguishes it from riparian right is the obligation by the appropriator to show due diligence in working their claim and using the water in it. They cannot just lodge a claim and then simply sit on it. The California civil code of 1872 contained a provision for forfeiture of appropriation right by reason of non-use. When an appropriator or his successor in interest cease to use the appropriation for some beneficial purpose, the right ceased. This is corollary to due diligence in applying water to beneficial use in order to initially perfect the right, often referred to as "use it or lose it" principle. In other words, cessation of the beneficial use meant an end of the right thus allowing someone else to use the water. This became known as the "arid region doctrine" or doctrine of prior appropriation. This doctrine resembled the Hispanic law in its emphasis on use as the decisive consideration for developing a region or area. Yet, unlike the Hispanic practice it grounded water rights on personal initiative, not on imperial decree. But every so often, conflicts arise between appropriations versus riparian water right holders especially on the interpretation of the essential provisions of each right. This is usually brought about by a state of confusion on the part of the water right holders themselves in regards to their respective entitlements.

In another popular case of *Lux v. Haggin* (69 Cal. 255, 1889), the court ruled that geography and climate dictated which of the two doctrines suited: riparian for the humid parts of the state, appropriative for the arid; and local judges and juries with their knowledge of the community should be the ones to decide which applied in a given case. Further, that the usages and customs of reasonable men, not precedent nor statute, must determine law, which if it reflected local standards would set the stage for rapid economic growth and development. By the way, the SWRCB may only regulate all water rights that were initiated after the year 1914. The board is only allowed to investigate problems with senior water rights holder or those that got their water appropriations before 1914. In *Smith v. Hawkins*, 110 Cal. 122, 127, (1895), the court held that five years of continuous non-use was the proper measure of time for forfeiture of an appropriative right.

**3. Prescriptive rights.** The California Impact Network (C-WIN, 2005-2009), provides a short description of this kind of right viz: "Prescriptive rights have a long tradition in American property law. Many trail corridors and public access to beaches have been obtained through legal prescription — through continued and well-documented usage over the rights of property holders. As a water right holder (either riparian or

appropriative) you could lose your water rights through "prescription". The situation starts where someone using water you might have used. If they use it for five years or more without you challenging their usage, they have probably acquired their rights to the water through prescription". Clandestine diversion of water from a stream in the hope that early riparians or appropriators would either not notice or ignore, was a gamble during early times (Hundley, 1992). In the case of *Crandall v. Woods*, Cal. 136, (1857), the State Supreme Court had allowed many farmers to turn the gamble into a firm right through a device then known as "Adverse Prescription". If irrigators could maintain their unauthorized diversions for at least five years without legal challenge, the right to the water was theirs. It was a loop-hole that provided many late comers with legitimate access to water. Attempts to take advantage of the law in this way more often led to extensive litigation that the poor farmers could ill-afford to pursue because of the big expenses involved. Nevertheless, there were few people with enough means to initiate and maintain an expensive lawsuit that would keep judges busy and water attorneys wealthy. It was always that way.

**4. Overlying rights.** Among the rights you may acquire when you purchase a piece of land in California is a right to ground water. This is the water beneath the surface of the earth that accumulate chiefly from rain that filters through the soil. It is also the same water that seeps into the underground from nearby rivers and lakes just lying near or adjoining your land. They percolate and congregate together into a hard pan or underground bedrock in the bottom called aquifer. Rights to this kind of water are called "Overlying Rights" and like riparian rights, they are attached to your land and at the same time considered correlative. You own a percentage of the percolating waters that exist under your land in common with the other landowners in your neighborhood. The state ground water reserves are enormous. It is estimated at about 8 MAF. Some 30 percent of this is being used in the state at this time-about 1.6 MAF. The mining of ground water has accelerated throughout the Central Valley since the early 1950s mainly because of agricultural expansion. In a typical 1,300 square miles area in the Central Westside, the volume of pumped water has increased from one MAP to 1.2 MAF in just a 2-year span of time (Hundley, 2001). Federal as well as state water experts acknowledge this as, "far in excess of replenishment". Drilling rampantly causes underground water levels to fall. Draining of aquifers, for one, creates another hazard above-ground. As water is pumped and pulled from the spongy layer below, the ground above collapses creating subsidence. Where subsidence is worst, the land can sink as much as a foot each year. At this point in time, in large areas in the Central Valley, the land has subsided as much as 30 feet, as water was pumped out by numerous farmers, mostly big landowners. Pumping has produced



compacted or "squeezed" aquifers that could never again be refilled with water, whether from rainfall or direct injection, granting there is still surplus water available to inject. Except in areas where water rights in a ground water basin were settled or adjudicated, ground water pumping is still unregulated in California. The consequences of unregulated pumping of ground water can be seen everywhere in the Central Valley, as far back as 60 years ago. In the 1930s, water tables have fallen from an average of 55 feet below ground surface to three or four times deeper by the 1940s to 1950s. As of 2011, the state has already lost some eight trillion gallons of ground water from its overall water reserves, two-thirds of this from underground aquifers (SWRCB Bulletin 160-198).

Ground water can be subject to correlative, appropriative and "mutual prescription" rights. Common Law recognizes that the paramount right to the subterranean supplies of water belong to the owners of the overlying land. Land ownership carries with it dominion over a wedge extending from the earth's center into space. Since the common law is the basic principle for riparianism, ground water rights could therefore be under the power or authority of riparian laws. In the celebrated case of *Katz v. Walkin Shaw* 141 Cal. 116 (1903), the court held that, if there were multiple owners above an aquifer, each possessed a correlative or reciprocal right to a reasonable volume of water. Ground water not needed by overlying landowners, and hence considered surplus, could be acquired by others through the doctrine of prior appropriation, (mentioned before): first in time, first in right. In another 1949 case of *Pasadena v. Alhambra*, 33 Cal. 2d 905 (1949), the State Supreme Court sought to inject order to a patently destructive situation by creating the doctrine of "mutual prescription". This princi-

ple awarded prescription rights to the users of an over drafted aquifer and established a formula for determining the quantity of each party's right. This formula called for determining each user's highest five years of pumping and then reducing proportionately the uses until the total did not exceed the safe yield of the aquifer. In August 2000, The California Supreme Court hinted that the Judiciary has the authority to impose order on the chaotic ground water situation. This hint carried no legal weight though. It was only a footnote in the remarks of one of the court jurors in the case of *Barstow v. Mojave Water Agency* (2000). Still, it suggested a course of action of considerable significance. Thus, "If Californians expect to harmonize water shortage with a fair allocation of future use, courts should have some discretion to limit the future of ground water use of an overlying owner... and reduce to a reasonable level the amount the overlying user takes from an over drafted basin".

Meanwhile, small farmers in the Central Valley have complained about their wells going dry. Last year, frightened farmers in the Modesto locality have aired their concern to the Modesto Bee, a local newspaper. They were directed to refer their problems to the county government, particularly the County Health and Human Services Agency. In turn the agency advised them to "Dig deeper" and apply for a county permit to drill. Yet, more problems have cropped up in regards to the business of drilling. Because of the on-going drought, drilling permits in the county have soared two-fold. Drilling contractors are so swamped with request that there is a wait of four to six months for a new well. Ignominiously, when shallow farm and domestic wells dry up the bounty goes to those who can afford to dig deeper. At present, it cost \$ 670,000 for one used drill that is guaranteed to dig up to 2,500 feet into the ground. It is also at this depth that ground water is guaranteed to be pumped out at the rate of at least, a thousand gallons per minute. In this particular situation, the Law of Supply and Demand takes over. Only the big-time farmers with deep pockets are fit to survive the catastrophic

drought, one of the vagaries of Climate Change. It was always that way.

Yet, wise men, from Popes to Professors have time and again, espoused the philosophy that Nature's Bounty shall always be shared alike by all creatures great and small. Thus, Prof. Dr. Fritz Went, in his Research work published in *Scientific American* (1955) wrote, "In the desert, where want and hunger for water are the normal burden of all plants, we find no fierce competition for existence, with the strong crowding out the weak. On the contrary, the available possession-space, light, water and food are shared and shared alike by all. If there is not enough for all to grow tall and strong, then all remain smaller". The eminent Dutch Professor of Ecology and his graduate students from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) conducted, in the early 1950s, a research study of the ecology of desert plants in the most extreme desert in the U.S.-Death Valley in California.

A wise judge in the famed case of *H. and W. Omelvanny v. Elisha Juggers* (2 Hill 634, 1835), carefully observed that the streams of water are intended for the use and comfort of man, and it would be unreasonable and contrary to the universal sense of mankind to prevent a riparian proprietor from using the water in ways conformable to the usages and wants of the community ... and not inconsistent with a likewise reasonable use by the other proprietors of land of the same stream above and below. Determination of reasonable use should be left to the jury and in each case, the courts have to balance the rights of individuals to use waterways adjacent to private property with the right of others to use the same waterways.

*The author is a retired Professor of Ecology from the Capiz State University in the Philippines. He finished his Ph.D. (Biology) degree at the Bowling Green State University in Ohio in 1984. His book, "Ecology of the Coconut Crop in the Philippines" was published in 2004.*



Dr. R. C. Dizon

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Five D's Arts, LLC (Publisher)

Web Designer: Rees Retuta

Managing Editor  
Dinnah S. San Pedro

Editorial Assistant  
Dane San Pedro

Layout and Design  
Dave San Pedro

Photographer  
Dave San Pedro  
Frank Ayran

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Carleton Enloe  
Sarah T. Enloe

Faina Abaya  
Jose Abaya, Jr.

Maria Kang  
Gabriel Ortigoza

Nancy Bautista  
Perry Diaz

Glenn Carrasca  
Dale Esperante  
Dr. R. Carado Dizon

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# United Federation of Filipino-American Educators Sacramento and Vicinity Chapter's Meet and Greet

**T**he United Federation of Filipino-American Educators Sacramento and Vicinity Chapter (UNIFFIED SVC) had a successful 'Meet and Greet' event on April 16th at Sandpiper Park in Rancho Cordova, CA.

Educators representing different districts in Sacramento and neighboring regions were in attendance. Also present were leaders of other Filipino-American organizations who showed their support to the newly created group. Murray Navarro, the Chapter's President explains "The UNIFFIED SVC's inception was through the initial encouragement of Lumen Castañeda, Founder and Former President of the National UNIFFIED

based in New Jersey under 501(c)(3) a non-profit organization and Ronie Mataquel, Current National President. During the 2015 National Summit in Los Angeles, both Castañeda and Mataquel bestowed on me their blessings in which they promised to support Sacramento teachers to organize a chapter. Last December 2015, a set of officers was elected on the chapter's Facebook page. UNIFFIED Sacramento and Vicinity Chapter officially became the 13th chapter of UNIFFIED National on March 18, 2016 upon induction of officers by Mayor Christopher Cabaldon of West Sacramento. On April 16, 2016, a Meet and Greet picnic, our FIRST event, was successfully held with the help of our officers and members and the support of community leaders from different Filipino-American groups in Sacramento."



UNIFFIED SVC and community leaders of Filipino-American groups - Dolores Diaz, Eskwela Natin; Perry Diaz, Maharlika Lions; Josie Patria, Filipino Women's Club; Mercedes Guerrero and Aida Azurin; The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc., and; Ling Avera, Ilocano Association of California - who showed their support to UNIFFIED SVC's first social event (not included in the picture are Ginna Guiang-Myers, UNIFFIEDSVC's Secretary and Beatriz Alo, UPAASV and SinagTala).

The UNIFFIED SVC will embark on several service-oriented projects that will promote knowledge about the Philippines, its culture and traditions. Future activities include:

- Collaboration with Eskwela Natin (Our Filipino School). Eskwela Natin offers a fun, interactive and unique learning experience about the rich and diverse Filipino culture for children ages 5 to 12. Everyone is welcome as students. Summer Session starts May 15 at 12:00 noon.
- Participation in the 40th Filipino Fiesta Anniversary on June 5th at Jose Rizal Community Center. Please look for UNIFFIED SVC's booth and support them during the parade.
- Adopt-a-School in the Philippines Project: The project allows

members to help rural schools in the Philippines. UNIFFIED SVC will send school supplies, used textbooks and curriculum materials. This year's target school is Malinta Elementary School. The organization is currently asking for help from the community for school supplies donation and freight sponsorship.

For more information about UNIFFIED Sacramento and Vicinity Chapter, please visit:

- Facebook Page: UNIFFIED - Sacramento and Vicinity Chapter (United Federation of Filipino-American Educators)
- Website: [unifiedsvc.wordpress.com](http://unifiedsvc.wordpress.com)
- Instagram: UNIFFIEDSVC
- Email address: UNIFFIEDSVC@gmail.com



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<p><b>Eskwela Natin's Summer Session starts May 15!</b></p> <p>Join us for the 2016 opening reception, scholarship awards' presentation and first class:</p> <p><b>Sunday, May 15, 2016</b> Reception starts at 12:00 p.m. Class from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Class Location</b></p> <p>County Human Resources Building (Community Room) 2450 Florin Road (entrance 25th St.) Sacramento, CA</p>	<p><b>2016 Summer Class Dates</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>May 15</td><td>June 19</td></tr> <tr><td>May 22</td><td>June 26</td></tr> <tr><td>May 29</td><td>July 10</td></tr> <tr><td>June 5</td><td>July 17*</td></tr> <tr><td>June 12</td><td>*Graduation</td></tr> </table> <p><small>All classes from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.</small></p>	May 15	June 19	May 22	June 26	May 29	July 10	June 5	July 17*	June 12	*Graduation
May 15	June 19											
May 22	June 26											
May 29	July 10											
June 5	July 17*											
June 12	*Graduation											

For more information, email [EskwelaNatin@gmail.com](mailto:EskwelaNatin@gmail.com) or contact Dolores V. Diaz at (916) 396-2351.  
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Induction of UNIFFIED SVC Officers with Honorable Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, City of West Sacramento



# Rize All

By Dinnah San Pedro



Photos by Dave San Pedro



Rize All is a local non-profit organization with a goal to enrich students with experiences that will positively affect their current and future lives and in turn enhance the community as a whole. Having served over 1000 students in the Elk Grove and Sacramento City Unified School Districts, the Rize All Premiere show was a celebration of all that Rize All has accomplished in their first year alone.

Upon entering, guests are greeted with sights of red and white streamers and curtains; the smell of scrumptious popcorn and sweet cotton candy fill the air while upbeat modern French swing music enlivens the ambiance. Guests can purchase a ticket or two to toss beanbags and shoot arrows in some carnival style games or guess the amount of jellybeans in a large glass jar. It was marvelous experience. The lobby was filled with fun until attendees were directed to their seats for the main program.

The show portion of the event began with a welcome introduc-

tion by Rize All's founders Amanda Newsum and Dane San Pedro. They began the show by performing a dazzling segment from their Dance Magical Show that was filled with technical dance steps and impossible magic tricks. After wowing the audience with their own talents Dane and Amanda were very proud to introduce each of the high schools' performances. All of the high schools were simply amazing as each school performed a 4-5 minute set of advanced dance movements. Later, Jason Magsuci of the Las Vegas Jabbawockeez cast came on stage to show his contribution back to the community by speaking and performing with many students who he taught via intensive workshop just two days prior to the show. The show portion concluded with a mesmerizing set of solos by each of the high school's dance directors including Coco Huang of Hiram Johnson, Page Yang of Luther Burbank, Anothony Wei of C.K. McClatchy, fittingly ending with Dane and Amanda, directors of John F Kennedy and Rosemont. After the show the final portion of the event ensued as students went head to head in friendly dance competition, the Mad Hatter Dance Battle, which was won by Adreanna Colfield of JFK who was rewarded with a Starbucks prize pack.

The event was unique in its enjoyable offerings and all in attendance were satisfied with the fun they shared. While

it is rare to see a non-profit organization have accomplished so much in its first year it is delightful to see Rize All to present its accomplishments with such prestige. Be sure to not miss their future events! For more information visit their webpage at [www.RizeAll.com](http://www.RizeAll.com)



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# 18th Birthday



## Ayden Capri Salgado

What a fun way to celebrate Ayden's 18th birthday hosted by her grandparents, Fely and Cesar Salgado, along with her mom Cheryl on April 2, 2016, at the Holiday Villa Restaurant in Sacramento, California. The emcee was her uncle JR, who delivered a welcome remark followed by her mom Cheryl's blessings. Ayden makes her dad Michael proud for what she has become, as she turns 18, full of dreams, and ready to tackle what's ahead, in her young adult life.



## Alysia Mercado

It was indeed a very special evening to celebrate such a beautiful young lady on her 18th birthday, Alysia Mercado, daughter of Errol and Alita of Elk Grove, California. The celebration was held on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at the Falls Event Center in Elk Grove. Over 300 families and friends were in attendance at the biggest party in town, filled with laughter, dance surprises, and the pride that her parents had generously shared, as they introduce her to the young adulthood with everyone.



Photos by Dave San Pedro



Photos by Dave San Pedro



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ang ganda-ganda!**

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Brunch at Janet and Joey Chuidian chateau in Folsom California.

Retirement



Retirement Party of Johnny Regadio with UP friends on March 26, 2016 at West Sacramento

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CSUS Samahang Pilipino  
 Fil Am Students Assist to Veterans

By Dale Esperante

It seemed only yesterday that Chi Rho Omicron (XPO) from Cal State University Sacramento (CSUS) led by B.K. Evangelista focused on the exterior coating of Magellan Hall (MH). Actually this happened approximately a year ago. The painting project by XPO made the Veterans hall, though alone on its property, appear glorious in its solitude. It stands out. Salamat again XPO.



Chi Rho Omicron (XPO) from (CSUS)

Earlier this year, CSUS' Samahang Pilipino/Kappa Psi Epsilon (KPsiE) headed by Rachel Cantor reached out to the veterans of MH, offering their assistance in covering the historic walls of Magellan's interior with a fresh coat of paint. Rachel initially contacted the American Legion Magellan (ALM) Post 604's 2nd vice commander, Joe Gonzalez. Joe briefed the board members of ALM Post 604 at a meeting a few days later. The gesture of Samahang Pilipino/KPsiE received unanimous appreciation from all the board members.

On 9 April 2016, the members of the aforementioned CSUS groups not only rolled and brushed paint onto the inside walls of Magellan Hall, they also displayed attentiveness and care to the foundation of the Sacramento Fil-Am veteran community--Magellan Hall. It took approximately seven hours of intensive labor to complete the painting of the hall's whole interior. A Special "Maraming Salamat" to the following students from CSUS: Rachel Cantor, Desiree Zarco,

Cathy Deguzman, Brandy Bondon, Ronalyne Ulep, Rinna Pera, Davy Nonog, Adrian Legaspi, Justice Crisolago, Gabe Manela, and Ricky.

For the veterans part, they provided needed support: Commander Rick Rafanan, 1st Vice Commander Ted Tabarango, 2nd Vice Commander Joe Gonzalez (Project Manager), Sgt-at-Arms Bill Bostock, and Director Bill Versoza. Joe and Bill Bostock did the prep work on 7 April. Early Friday morning, Joe and Ted purchased the paint from Lowes because the store offers a 10 percent discount to past and present military members. Bill B, Ted, and Joe painted the separate meeting room used by the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 (women's unit). The Magellan Post and Unit 604 donated monies to purchase painting materials and other provisions.


This community project succeeded due to the synergy between generations. Whatever valuable lessons CSUS students are receiving

from their university, community outreach and service are clearly values of interest. The parents of Generation Z (1995-2012) and Millennials (1980-2000) deserve credit for their guidance and support of their children. Yet no matter what generation one belongs to (Gen Z; Millennials; Gen X 1966-1976; Gen Y 1977-1994; Boomer I 1946-1954; Boomer II 1955-1965; Silent Pre-1946), it is the individual who must decide which path to follow in life.

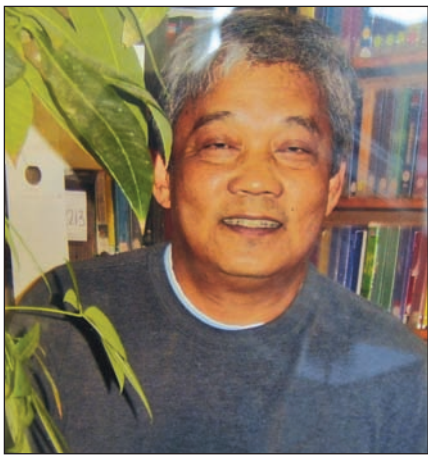
The veterans of Magellan Hall are grateful to receive the very best assist from CSUS (a relevant example--in the NBA this season, Steph Curry and the Warriors succeed because of assist and teamwork). The Boomer Generation I and Silent Generation veterans of The American Legion Magellan Post 604 extend their best and sharpest salute to the Generations Z and Millennials of Samahang Pilipino and KPsiE! This is a Win for All and Magellan Hall!

The 70th Anniversary of Magellan Hall is fast approaching (2019), so this Samahang Pilipino/KPsiE painting project aided in getting her ready for that platinum anniversary. Though she is a veterans' hall, she is also the pride of our community because of her historical significance. Let us get her ready for the platinum--she deserves it! Then in 2024, she will surely deserve the diamond jubilee (75th). Thanks to veteran Pat Engkabo for sharing that he helped prepare the foundation of Magellan Hall in 1949. Thanks again to the aforementioned CSUS student organizations who are always ready to assist the veterans at 8831 Gerber Road in Sacramento.

**Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation (PRHF)**  
**Fund Raising Golf Tournament**  
**July 16, 2016**  
**For the future Filipino Community Center Building**  
**Non-profit EIN: 94-3361494 for tax purposes**  
**Any question please contact:**  
**Dr. Fred Aquino, PRHF Chairman: 916.914.3106**  
**Guily Fontillas, PRHF Member: 916.362.7541**  
**Joe Gonzalez, PRHF Member: 916.369.7863**







**CARLITO T. MIGUEL**

April 3, 1950 - March 28, 2015

Miguel, Carlito T. Beloved father and grandfather, passed away on Saturday March 28, 2015. He was born April 3, 1950 to Pelagio and Narcisa Miguel in Urdaneta, Pangasinan Philippines. He is survived by his wife Minda L. Miguel, two children Lee Weathers-Miguel and Lorelei Miguel-Rossow, his grandchildren, and his sister Julie Oineza. He had his Bachelor's degree in Accounting and after moving to the America he became a splicing technician for Pacific Bell. When he retired, he became an Accountant again until his passing.



Minda Lacquiao Miguel with family and closed friends at the First Death Anniversary celebration of her husband, Lito, held at St. Paul Parish Hall on April 2, 2016 in Sacramento, CA.

**Alfredo "Eddie" Cacdac Vita, Jr.**  
April 27, 1948-April 11, 2016



Alfredo "Eddie" Cacdac Vita, Jr., 67, of Lathrop, CA died on April 11, 2016 with his family by his side due to brain cancer/glioblastoma. Eddie was the only son of the late Fred and Adel Vita (Founders of UNLUCAI). He was born on April 27, 1948, in Naguilian, La Union, Philippines. He graduated from Naguilian Academy High School in 1964 and earned a BS in Medical Technology from Far Eastern University in 1968. He served in the US Army and was honorably discharged in September 1971 with final rank of SP5. He was married to Edna Rabanes on Sept. 6, 1970. They lived together in Oakland and Hayward for 36 years before relocating to Lathrop CA. Eddie was a Clinical Laboratory Scientist at San Ramon Regional Medical Center and Kaiser Oakland Hospital. He was passionate about helping the people of his hometown of Naguilian in the Philippines and funded many medical missions to

Naguilian. He was also the Founder and President of the ANNAK ti NAGUILIAN, USA. Eddie loved dancing and spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Edna, three children: Alfred, of Lathrop, CA, Albert, of Atlanta, GA and Dulce, of San Francisco, CA, 6 grandchildren and four sisters: Weveline, of Oakland, CA, Delia, of Seattle, WA, Charity, of Sacramento, CA and Elsa, of Torrance, CA. A funeral Mass was held at All Saints Catholic Church in Hayward, CA on April 15, 2016 and he was buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Hayward, CA.



The Vita Family

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## Birthdays



**MATHEW SABINIANO & Jazy**  
APRIL 20



**NATHANIEL NGO**  
MAY 20



**FELY ESPLANA**  
MAY 11



**LORETO DELMENDO CALLAO**  
APRIL 22



**FAINA ABAYA**  
MAY 18



**MARIBETH PARAS**  
MAY 5

## Calendar of Events

**APRIL 29/30, 2016 (Fri/Sat) 8pm**  
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**APRIL 30, 2016 (SAT) 4pm**  
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### Lucy and Asa Birthday Celebration



**ARDEN ABELEDA & wife Nelda**  
MAY 11



**TESS SANTOS with Dinnah & Levy**  
APRIL 27



Lucy and Asa Takara celebrated their wild birthday on April 9, 2016 at the Magellan Hall with their parents Reanne and Troy, grandparents Remy and Dr. Tony Solomon, relatives, and closed friends in Sacramento, CA.



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By Dale Esperante

## Major General Antonio M. Taguba AARP Community Ambassador

Which Sacramento venue was the ideal place to host a retired Army Major-General who wished to speak to the Filipino American community comprised of veterans and civilians? This question was answered when the community and the veterans all agreed to meet him at Magellan Hall. American Legion Post 604 Commander Rick Rafanan and Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA) President Richard aka Dick Weitzenberg spearheaded the arrangement to host the visit of retired army Major General Antonio M. Taguba on 18 April 2016.

At approximately 7 p.m., Master of Ceremonies (MC) Dick Weitzenberg asked all to rise for the national anthems (American and Filipino). The FAVA choir, all veterans, stood next to the flags and proudly sang the anthems. MC Dick followed the anthems by introducing the first speaker, Cynthia Bonta.

Cynthia is also known to our community as the mother of State Assembly Member Ron Bonta. She is also a past president of the Philippine National Day Association (PNDA). She thanked the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) for bringing to us our distinguished guest, Maj Gen Taguba. She also acknowledged the presence of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS), PNDA, and Sacramento's community leaders, i.e., Derek Ledda, Sarah Enloe, Remy Solomon, and Leila Pereira amongst others. She thanked and welcomed all who came to this important town hall event.

Before introducing the next speaker, MC Dick acknowledged the presence of Will Williams, the Commander of The American Legion District 6. He also acknowledged the president of the local Elks Lodge, Conrad De Castro.

MC Dick introduced the next speaker, Cecilia Gaerlan, the Founder and Executive Director of the Bataan Legacy Historical Society (BLHS). Cecilia drew inspiration from her father, a Bataan survivor and also a member of the 41st Infantry Regiment. Growing up, she didn't realize the hardship her father lived through in WWII. Her dad didn't talk much about the war. When she found out later of the sufferings undergone by her dad and his WWII comrades, it fueled her to establish BLHS. She emphasized that the Philippines was a commonwealth territory of the United States before WWII. Six hours after Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese military, the Japanese targeted the Philippines with an onslaught of hostile military forces. The majority of American armed forces to defend the Philippines at the time consisted mostly of Filipinos. Out of approximately 140 thousand defenders of the Philippines, Filipinos numbered up to 119 thousand soldiers while approximately 20 thousand American soldiers originated

from the United States. Because of Hitler's advance in Europe, a conversation between the United States and the British governments decided not to send reinforcements to the war in Asia, specifically the Philippines. This decision contributed to the downfall of the Bataan forces. The toll of the Bataan March amounted to the deaths of ten thousand Filipinos and seven hundred fifty Americans. Camp O'Donnell became the prisoner of war camp housing most of the Bataan marchers. Because of the enemy force's brutality and the harsh condition of the camp, about twenty thousand Filipinos and sixteen hundred Americans perished at this prison camp.

Cecilia continued that since 2014, the BLHS has been working to implement the Filipino's context of the Bataan history into the American educational system. They are working to add it to the curriculum of grades 10 and 11. The support of the Filipino American community is urgently needed to have this implementation succeed. Bataan history was written by American reporters building up their own contributions but downplaying the role of the heroic contributions of the Filipino soldiers who fought under the American flag. This deliberate exclusion resulted in the Filipino veterans being denied their entitled benefits as members of the American forces. Five months after WWII, the United States government passed the 1st and 2nd Rescission Acts, officially denying benefits to the Filipino veterans.

Cecilia is asking all of us to "unite to restore the honor and dignity of those who died in Bataan." As a community, we must indeed unite to ensure the contributions of WWII Filipinos who fought for the Americans are recognized by the world, especially by the United States government. Maraming Salamat to Cecilia Graelan and the BLHS.

MC Dick then announced that a presentation was held at the Capitol "this morning." Assembly Member Ron Bonta presented a Joint Resolution to award the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor to WWII Filipino veterans. Ron Bonta addressed the audience and shared the progress of the aforementioned joint resolution.

Up next, West Sacramento Mayor Chris Cabaldon faced the audience and looked around the room, proudly recognizing the presence of the National representatives of AARP, State Assemblyman Ron Bonta, and retired Major General Antonio Taguba, along with the local community leaders, all in the same room. He once stood here as a youngster, long before he became a mayor, not foreseeing that a day like today would happen in the heart of Magellan Hall. He then proudly introduced the man of the hour, Retired Army Major General Antonio M. Taguba.

General Taguba retired from the military on January 1, 2007, after serving 37 years on active duty. Then AARP came calling, asking him to be their national community ambassador. He came tonight specifically

as AARP's Ambassador of Caregiving. He began his speech by sharing a few anecdotes about his simple life after the army. Paraphrasing one of General Taguba's interesting experiences: After the military and later becoming eligible for Medicare, he submitted for his entitlement. The agency's clerk looked at him and saw just an ordinary Filipino. He was asked to prove his U.S. citizenship. He was instructed to obtain additional proofs from the social security office. Instead of showing his irritation, he proceeded to obtain the required paperwork to satisfy the Medicare office. He humorously asked the clerk, once he was approved for Medicare, if he can be rest assured now that his citizenship is proven legal. The clerk reassured him. As he walked away, the "profile" word came to mind.

He then shared his caregiving experiences. When he retired from the army as a Maj General, demen-



Photos by Dale Esperante

tia had robbed his father of his basic cognitive abilities and rendered him helpless. Some symptoms of dementia his father exhibited were: forgetfulness, falling episodes, sneaking out of the house. After a visit with the doctor, it was discovered that his father suffered from a series of mini-strokes, which caused the falling episodes. The General recommends that after the age of 65, one should ask for an appointment with a geriatric doctor. A primary doctor will not be as knowledgeable about geriatric illness as a specialist. Don't settle with a primary care doctor.

General Taguba's father was a veteran and was only receiving \$500 a month, due in part to his refusal to visit the VA for 11 years. His inability to care for himself would have qualified him to receive an extra \$2000 a month, had he visited the VA sooner. With medical expenses mounting, his father's savings were depleted. So General Taguba and his siblings had to take care of the \$5000 plus a month cost of home-care for their father. A nursing



Retired Army Major-General Antonio M. Taguba speak to the Filipino American community.

home would have cost \$10,000 and more a month. His father eventually died at a foster care home. Foster Care Homes do feed and bathe their residents. However, there have been reports that some foster homes have had dubious feeding practices. According to one report, "one foster home fed only bologna sandwiches, daily, to one resident." If your only option for your aging parent is a foster home, research the facility's caregiving practices online and by requesting a "walk through" with the administrator. If possible, interview family members of residents and the residents themselves about their

ernor Brown last October. This requires hospital records to have 2 caregiver names and contact info, just in case of a hospital transfer. The hospital is required to inform the caregiver.

-Take care of yourself because caregiving is a 24/7 experience. Caregiving at home, talk to your love one who has dementia. It will stimulate your love one's thoughts and memory. A care home may not have time to do this.

General Taguba asked a couple of audience members to share their caregiving experiences. Both recounted their experiences with their loving parents before they passed away. First, Jay Paular stated, "We don't plan to fail, we fail to plan." Secondly, Beep Alo promised to learn all the valuable AARP information to share with her children. She urged everyone to open this discussion with their children. If anyone is shy to do this, just call Beep and she will open a discussion with your children for you.

The General then talked about the need to educate the public about what happened in the Philippines during WWII. The war ended in December 1946 which also ended the recognition due the Filipino soldiers, even though they fought as soldiers of a United States commonwealth territory.

The joint resolution to award the Congressional Gold Medal of Honor to WWII Filipino soldiers will require signatures from 67 senators and 218 legislators. So far only a handful of senators and 87 out of 218 legislators have signed to pass this resolution. California has 53 congressional members and only 24 have signed. It has been seven years since this resolution was originally introduced.

General Taguba said that we must have this Bill passed this year! Our WWII Filipino veterans are slowly fading away. Let us not allow this Bill to fade away as well. Passing it will be a monumental reminder to all freedom loving peoples of the world that in WWII, Filipinos fought alongside the Americans for the defense of an American territory, the Philippines. The Filipinos embraced their conscription into the American military forces, e.g., 41st Infantry Regiment (Cecilia's dad) and 45th Infantry Regiment (Gen Taguba's dad). Let us get this Bill passed and call it a "Labor of Love" by our community and supporters. He then shared the Army Creed, "I will never quit..."

AARP and Cal Vet representatives spoke briefly. At approximately 8:40 p.m., I left Magellan Hall with invaluable information to share with our Philippine Fiesta readers.

experiences with the home. For your loved one's sake, scrutinize the health, safety, caregiving practices, and all necessary licenses and accreditations prior to making any type of commitments.

When the Taguba siblings reviewed the funeral plan paid for by their father, they discovered that the casket he bought was made out of Styrofoam. So the siblings decided to chip in and pay \$10,000 more for a proper burial.

The General gave us 5 things to know:

-AARP has a "Caregiver Resource Guide" that is available for everyone. Get this.

-There will be no inheritance money because it will be spent on caregiving.

-Let Love prevail and not Anger. Your children will sense your feelings. When it is their turn to take care of you, let them feel Love.

-Check out the VA Caregiving Support. VA disability veteran benefits may be passed on to the spouse. SB 675 was signed by California Gov-





By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

### Standard Situation

Are you familiar with F-A-S-T? FAST is a four-letter word internationally utilized standard in assessing stroke. F stands for Face. In performing physical assessment, let the person smile and look for facial asymmetry. If there is facial droop the victim may have stroke. A stands for Arms. Let the person raise both upper extremities and look if one falls down before 10 seconds. If one of the arms falls down, the victim may have stroke. S stands for Speech. Let the person speak and observe if there is slurring. If the victim is slurred or aphasic, he may have stroke. T stands for Time. Investigate when was the last time the victim seen normal? If the stroke happened within the 3 to 4-hour treatment window, the victim can be TPA candidate. After determining these four important standard assessment it is high time to call 911. 911 is the standard number dialed by people in the United States in times of emergency. It offers three importance services: EMS, Fire, and Police.

### Nursing Care Standard

Generally, a standard is an acknowledged measure of comparison for quantitative or qualitative value, criterion, or norm. Specifically, nursing standard is a measure by which nursing care can be judged or compared. A nursing standard can be a target or a gauge. When used as a target, a standard is a planning tool. When used as a gauge against which to evaluate performance a standard is a control device. Nursing care standard is a descriptive statement of desired quality against which to evaluate nursing care. It is a guideline. A guideline is a recommended path to safe conduct, an aid to professional performance.

### Characteristics of Standard

Standards must be realistic, acceptable, attainable, standards of nursing care must be developed by members of the nursing profession; preferable nurses practicing at the direct care level with consultation of experts in the domain, standards must be understandable and stated in unambiguous terms, standards must be based on current knowledge and scientific practice. Standards must be reviewed and revised periodically. And one must remember that standards that work are objective, acceptable, achievable and flexible.

### Purposes of Standards

Setting standard is the first step in structuring evaluation system, standards give direction and provide guidelines for performance of nursing staff, standards provide a baseline for evaluating quality of nursing care, standards help improve quality of nursing care, increase effectiveness of care and improve efficiency, standards may help justify demands for resources association, and standards may help nursing to define clearly different levels of care.

### Sources of Nursing Care Standards

Professional organization, licensing bodies, institutions and health care agencies, department institutions, patient care units, government units

## EMBRACING GLOBAL STANDARDS TOWARDS QUALITY NURSING CARE

at National, State and Local Government units, and individual.

### Ends and Means Standards

Nursing care standards can be divided into ends and means. The ends standards are patient-oriented; they describe the change as desired in a patient's physical status or behavior. The means standards are nursing oriented, they describe the activities and behavior designed to achieve the ends standards. Ends (or patient outcome) standards require information about the patients. A means standard calls for information about the nurses' performance.

### Legal Significance of Standards

Standards of care are guidelines by which nurses should practice. If nurses do not perform duties within accepted standards of care, they may place themselves in jeopardy of legal action. Malpractice suit against nurses are based on the charge that the patient was injured as a consequence of the nurses' failure to meet the appropriate standards of care. Malpractice is defined as improper, illegal, or negligent professional activity or treatment, especially by a medical practitioner, lawyer, or public official.

### Standards of Practice for Culturally Competent Nursing Care

A task force of the Expert Panel for Global Nursing and Health of the American Academy of Nursing, along with members of the Transcultural Nursing Society, has developed a set of standards for cultural competence in nursing practice. The aim of this project was to define standards that can be universally applied by nurses around the world in the areas of clinical practice, research, education, and administration, especially by nurses involved in direct patient care.

Standard 1: SOCIAL JUSTICE. Professional nurses shall promote social justice for all. The applied principles of social justice guide decisions of nurses related to the patient, family, community, and other health care professionals. Nurses will develop leadership skills to advocate for socially just policies.

Standard 2. CRITICAL REFLECTION. Nurses shall engage in critical reflection of their own values, beliefs, and cultural heritage in order to have an awareness of how these qualities and issues can impact culturally congruent nursing care.

Standard 3. KNOWLEDGE OF CULTURES. Nurses shall gain an understanding of the perspectives, traditions, values, practices, and family systems of culturally diverse individuals, families, communities and populations for whom they care, as well as a knowledge of the complex variables that affect the achievement of health and well-being.

Standard 4. CULTURALLY COMPETENT PRACTICE. Nurses shall use cross cultural knowledge and culturally sensitive skills in implementing culturally congruent nursing care. Standard 5. CULTURALLY COMPETENCE IN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM AND ORGANIZATIONS. Healthcare organizations should provide the structure and resources necessary to evaluate and meet the cultural and language needs of their diverse clients.

Standard 6. PATIENT ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT. Nurses shall recognize the effect of healthcare policies, delivery system and re-

sources on their patient populations, and shall empower and advocate for their patients as indicated.

Standard 7. MULTICULTURAL WORKFORCE. Nurses shall actively engage in the effort to ensure a multicultural workforce in health care settings. One measure to achieve a multicultural workforce is through strengthening of recruitment and retention effort in the hospital and academic setting.

Standard 8. EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN CULTURALLY COMPETENT CARE. Nurses shall be educationally prepared to promote and provide culturally congruent health care.

Standard 9. CROSS CULTURAL COMMUNICATION. Nurses shall use culturally competent verbal and nonverbal communication skills to identify client's values, beliefs, practices, perceptions, and unique healthcare needs.

Standard 10. CROSS CULTURAL LEADERSHIP. Nurses shall have the ability to influence individuals, groups and systems to achieve positive outcomes of culturally competent care for diverse populations.

Standard 11: POLICY DEVELOPMENT. Nurses shall have the knowledge and skills to work with public and private organizations, professional associations and communities to establish policies and standards for comprehensive implementation and evaluation of culturally competent care.

Standard 12: EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND RESEARCH. Nurses shall base their practice on interventions that have been systematically tested and shown to be the most effective for the culturally diverse populations that they serve.

### ABCs of Cost-Effective Quality Care

The purpose of this topic is to explain to the professional nurse: what quality assurance is in the healthcare setting, the role the nursing staff plays in achieving quality assurance measures, and how both the client and the healthcare setting benefit from quality assurance measures.

### Quality Assurance

What then is meant by quality assurance and why is quality assurance important to end-users?

Assurance is defined as: State of being assured or sure. Quality assurance provides the means of assessing quality as well as a process to ensure quality improvement. The double-edged sword presented by quality assurance of being cost-effective and patient outcome-oriented presents a challenge for the patients seeking quality care and the healthcare providers striving to meet patients' expectations at a reasonable cost.

### Quality Care

Nurses play a large role, especially registered nurses, in the provision of quality assurance in the healthcare setting. The American Nurses Association has launched Nursing's Patient Safety and Quality Initiative, a series of activities that provides a step toward public accountability. The ultimate goal of this venture is to support the nurse's ability, opportunity, and value in the provision of quality, safe patient care.

### Quality Measurement

The ANA's initiative is geared toward



empirically testing nursing sensitive quality indicators, forming collaborations with acute care settings, developing accurate methods for data collection, and educating patients about nursing. Exploration of relationships among RN staffing, length of stay, and patient outcomes was sought by a research study funded by the ANA. This study and the first Nursing Report Card study used five outcome measures including length of stay, pneumonia, post-op infections, pressure ulcers, and urinary tract infections as the basis for measurement. Both studies found that nurse staffing had a statistically significant impact on the outcome and prevention of these five factors.

Consistent associations of nurse staffing and patient outcomes are found across the board. Furthermore, it has been found in several instances that cutting staff, particular registered nurses, can lengthen hospital stay and increase patient complications, which in the end increase costs to the facility. In this way, nursing care can be quantified as an essential part of optimal patient care.

### Quantifying Quality

Quality assurance is an abstract idea that must use concrete findings for measurement. Quality is a perception that can only be quantified using specific measurements. The most common measurements of quality in the healthcare setting are consumer satisfaction and perception. Other important measurements are nurse satisfaction and new emphasis on staffing. Improved patient outcomes have time and again been associated with involvement of registered nurses in the decision making process.

### Quality Indicators

There have to be ways to measure quality.

Quality outcome indicators have traditionally been hospital readmission, length of stay, and mortality rates. Current studies have also used such data as medication error rates, patient falls, and occurrence of pressure ulcers, infection rates, and patient complaints.

Ten nursing-sensitive quality indicators have been identified. These indicators include: staff skill mix, staffing levels, maintenance of skin integrity, patient injury rate, nosocomial infection rate, nursing staff satisfaction, patient satisfaction with pain management, patient satisfaction with educational information, patient satisfaction with overall care, and patient satisfaction with nursing care.

Another peripheral indicator is thought to be total nursing hours provided per patient day. JCAHO accreditation mandates that a minimum level of nursing staff must be maintained and is relevant to better patient outcomes.

### Quality Testing

One way to assure quality outcomes as they apply in nursing care is to test nurses for competency. In fact, JCAHO (Joint Commission on Accredi-

tation of Healthcare Organizations) has instituted specific requirements to assess staff competency. JCAHO was founded in 1951 to improve patient care outcomes. Healthcare providers, numbering in the thousands utilize JCAHO to acquire accreditation. Some consider JCAHO to be the "gold standard" in health care. Testing nurses for competency to assure quality outcomes as they apply to nursing care is accomplished by observation or monitoring of nurses during job performance in healthcare settings across the country; JCAHO achieves this through skills assessment.

JCAHO states that skills assessment must include one of three methods: observation of staff performing routine testing, observation of staff performing a test on an unknown specimen, monitoring a user's quality-control performance, due to these requirements, verbal and written assessment of problem-solving skills is not sufficient. Testing of staff competency is one way to perform quality assessment with specific measurements in mind.

N.B.: Stronger nursing leadership is linked to nursing retention. Leaders must be communicators, team builders, change agents, and analytical thinker.

### Nurses' Leadership Role in Quality Assurance

Seven components to be addressed for nursing to take a leadership role in quality assurance: nurses in all areas of health care must use technology and information systems to monitor patients, access records, order services and supplies, coordinate care, and measure quality. Computer literacy is a must for this component, as healthcare becomes more dependent on technology, nursing must focus on collaboration rather than competition, negotiate mutually beneficial relationships, and embrace cultural diversity in order to thrive, nurses must invest their time and efforts to remain proficient, as the nursing scope of practice continues to grow, nurses are being recognized more and more as managers of non-licensed staff. There is a view that quality of care will be related more to management skills of team leaders and collaboration of team members rather than clinical skills, nursing must become more politically involved in decision making. Decisions about quality patient care are made when decisions about regulation of health care settings, insurers, and providers are made, nursing must take a leadership role in quality improvement and outcomes research activities, and the holistic view of patient care from the nursing standpoint recognizes the patient as a whole being so that quality of care is not affected by the dehumanization of technological advances.

### Nurses and Quality Assurance

Not only is there a holistic approach to patient care by the nursing staff,

Continued on next page



# Mark Magsayo set to inherit Manny Pacquiao's crown

By Isaac Robinson

At the age of just 20, Mark Magsayo is bidding to replace Manny Pacquiao as the darling of Filipino boxing.

In terms of a nation embracing a fighter - or, for that matter, a sportsman - being billed an heir to Pacquiao presents the very biggest of metaphorical thrones to sit on. So adored is 'Pac Man' that he's moved smoothly (or not so smoothly) into politics over the twilight of his boxing career.

He may have lost the 'Fight of the Century' against Floyd Mayweather, but Pacquiao officially retired in the wake of April's points victory over Timothy Bradley as the sport's only eight-division world champion having won 58 of his 66 professional contests.

Of course, the Philippines already has other fighters on the world scene such as four-weight world champion Nonito Donaire (37-3-KO24) - but while the exploits of 'The Filipino Flash' will no doubt shine brighter now, a significant proportion of hopes will be transferred to Magsayo.

On April 23, Donaire and Magsayo (14-0-KO11) fought on the same bill in their home country. Donaire was defending his WBO world super-bantamweight title against Zsolt Bedak, while Magsayo took on former Carl Frampton victim, Chris



Mark Magsayo

Avalos, with a jump up the WBO featherweight rankings at stake.

Both excelled in what could be seen as auditions. Needless to say, Donaire and Magsayo are in different weight divisions and are not mutually exclusive in terms of support, and both ended thrilling contests with stoppage victories.

Donaire has mixed it with the very best, of course. Aside from a points defeat in his second professional bout, the 33-year-old has only lost at the very top; outmanoeuvred on points by the slick Guillermo Rigondeaux in April 2013 and then blasted out in six rounds by Nicholas Walters in October 2014.

The defeat against Walters simply represented a step too far for Donaire, who was fighting a featherweight who has since

stepped up to super-featherweight. Two quick-fire stoppage victories later, he was back at 122lbs to claim a world super-bantamweight crown by outpointing Cesar Juarez.

If Donaire cares to become the national boxing hero (and there's no suggestion it's something keeping him up at night), he faces a

problem in that so much of his greatness has been overlooked while Pacquiao ran amok; overlooked not just by his countrymen but by the world in general. Conversely, Magsayo is just starting as Pacquiao is finishing.

Although officially there's less than an inch in height between them, Magsayo seems naturally rangier than Pacquiao was. Pacquiao won his first world title at flyweight, while Magsayo has weighed in for all his professional contests to date as a featherweight. He's likely to move up soon enough as he continues to grow 'into his body'.

The youngster served up drama aplenty against Avalos. The Cebu crowd were enjoying their man's aggression but were suddenly aghast in the third round, when Avalos (26-5-KO19) felled the home fighter with a

left hook. Magsayo made the sign of the cross and rose to his feet to grimly survive the remaining minute and a half of the session.

Having consolidated in the fourth, Magsayo found a sweet counter-left of his own to wobble Avalos late in the fifth. The ruthless manner in which he capitalised - throwing left hooks and right hooks with fluency - evoked memories of Pacquiao on the charge. At the bell that briefly postponed his defeat, Avalos was leaning stunned on the ropes, the crowd going wild.

With fans baying for an emphatic finish, it took him a minute of the sixth to truly find the American again but when he did, a brutal four-punch combination was interrupted by a towel sailing in from the visiting corner.

It wasn't polished and it was fraught with danger and adversity, but Magsayo had once again exhibited a style in victory that is bound to attract attention, sponsors and support... just as he did on his US debut in October 2015, when he stopped Yardley Suarez inside the opening round.

Pacquiao's career benefited from broadening exposure when he stole the undercard on Lennox Lewis v Mike Tyson with a second-round stoppage of Jorge Eliecer Julio. He was 23 at the time. Whether he is a worthy heir or not, Magsayo's introduction to the big stage may come even sooner.

## EMBRACING GLOBAL STANDARDS TOWARDS QUALITY NURSING CARE

nurses are at a great advantage to work with quality assurance due to the comparatively significant amount of time spent with patients and studies have concluded that the largest percent of patient satisfaction comes from care they received directly related to nursing interaction. Without an organizational culture that provides support and access for the nurse to pursue avenues of improvement, quality assurance and better outcomes may be lost.

### Maintaining Quality Assurance

A nurse is the coordinator of care for the patient. However, there are some factors that restrain some employees from providing optimal care such as: lack of time due to larger patient assignments, staff ratios, increased patient acuity, desire to remain within a comfort zone and avoid change, the tendency to seek others for blame, and the defensive attitude found in response to the legal environment.

### Assembly Bill 394

California's nurse-to-patient ratio law, as known as Assembly Bill 394, was passed by the California Legislature and signed into law by Governor Gray Davis in 1999. When Governor Davis signed the bill on October 10, 1999, he accompanied the measure with a message which read, in part, "Registered nurses are critical component in guaranteeing patient safety and the highest quality health care. Over the past several years many hospitals, in response to managed care reimbursement contracts, have cut costs by reducing their licensed nursing staff. In some cases, the ratio of licensed nurses to patients has resulted in erosion in the quality of patient care."

The required ratios for acute care: Intensive/Critical Care 1:2, Neonatal Intensive Care 1:2, Operation Room 1:1, Post-Anesthesia Recovery 1:2, Labor and Delivery 1:2, Antepartum 1:4, Postpartum Couplets 1:4, Postpartum Women Only 1:6, Pediatrics 1:4, Emergency Room

1:4, ICU Patients in ER 1:2, Trauma patients in ER 1:1, Step Down in 2008 1:3, Telemetry 1:4, Medical/Surgical 1:5, and Psychiatric 1:6

### Principles of Management

Management principles are guidelines for the decisions and actions of managers.

Division of Labor - the whole work is divided into small tasks. Authority and Responsibility (Authority means the right of a superior to give order to his subordinates; responsibility means obligation for performance). Discipline - refers to obedience, proper conduct in relation to others, respect of authority. Unity of Command - each subordinate should receive orders and be accountable to one and only one superior. Unity of Direction - all those working in the same line of activity must understand and pursue the same objectives. Subordination of Individual Interest to the Interest of Majority - the interest of the organization must prevail over the personal interest of individuals. Remuneration - workers must be paid sufficiently as this is a chief motivation of employees and therefore greatly influenced productivity. Centralization - concentration of decision making authority at the top management. Scalar Chain (Line of Authority) - refers to the chain of superiors ranging from top management to the lowest rank. Order - social order ensures the fluid operation of a company through authoritative procedure. Material order ensures safety and efficiency in the workplace. Equity - managers should be fair and impartial when dealing with employees, giving equal attention towards all employees. Stability of Tenure - personnel must not frequently enter and exit the organization. Avoid quick turnover of staff. Initiative - is a source of strength for the organization because it provides new and better ideas. Esprit de Corps - refers to the need of managers to ensure and develop morale in the workplace, team spirit.

The Institute of Medicine defines health care quality by six attributes: Safety - patients should

not be harmed by the care that is intended to help them. Patient-Centered - care should be based on individual needs. Timely - waits and delays in care should be reduced. Effective - care should be evidence-based. Efficient - reduce waste. Equitable - care should be equal for all people

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### Recapitulation

Nursing Standard is a measure or measures by which nursing care can be judged or compared; the measures used are agreed upon by common

consent. Standards for an agreed level of care for a particular purpose should be derived and set in a democratic way, with the participation of all those involved.

Quality Health Care is easily defined as doing the right thing (getting the health care services you need), at the right time (when you need it), in the right way (using the appropriate test or procedure), to achieve the best possible results.

### Conclusion

As the most trusted profession in the world for 14 consecutive years, we, the nurses, should make sure our nursing standards are updated, acceptable, and globally competitive to provide quality care beyond what is expected; and let us continue to serve humanity with love.

Happy 91st CCINAA Anniversary & 27th Loreto D. Tupaz Memorial Lecture. God bless us all.

Mabuhay!  
(The above lecture was delivered by the author during the 91st CCINAA & 27th Loreto D. Tupaz Memorial Lecture on 18 April 2016 at Amigo Terrace Hotel in Iloilo City, Philippines)



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By Jer



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## Pia finally confirms dating Dr. Mike, to reunite with BFFs in Miss Universe semga

After four months, Miss Universe 2015 Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach confirmed last Thursday night that she is really dating "Sexiest Doctor Alive" Dr. Mikhail Varshavski.



Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach and Dr. Mikhail Varshavski

"I'm dating. I've dodged this question in a lot of interviews for you. He's adjusting to the Filipino ways a lot because it's very different, the culture is very different. I had to explain to him how it is in the Philippines, kung papaano ba manligaw. Alam ba nya kung ano ang ibig sabihin ng panliligaw?"

Ginagawa naman n'ya. He's a true gentleman," said Wurtzbach, during an interview for an episode in "Tonight With Boy Abunda" aired over ABS-CBN.

"Medyo naninibago rin ako sa kanya kasi iba 'yung kultura nila. At naninibago rin sya sa akin because medyo reserved ako. May barrier ako eh. Sya naman dahil duon sya lumaki, straightforward sya. May mga adjustments but so far, everything is OK," Wurtzbach said.

Wurtzbach also said that the Russian doctor has been very understanding about her situation. She told him that her duties as the reigning Miss Universe are her priorities these days.

"I assure you guys, masakit sa kanya pero sinabi ko talaga sa kanya na ito ang number one priority ko," said Wurtzbach, as she pointed to her Miss Universe sash.

Wurtzbach also said that Varshavski wanted to visit the country soon. "He is busy now but I know he would like to visit the Philippines."

Last month, Dr. Mike confirmed he is in a "fairly new relationship" with the beauty queen.

### Miss 'U' BFFs

Wurtzbach said that she is so excited to reunite with her best friends in the Miss Universe pageant at the Binibining Pilipinas grand coronation night to be held at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City tomorrow, April 17.

"Miss USA Olivia Jordan is coming to Manila. It's her first time here and finally she's going to watch the pageant," said Wurtzbach, during an 18-minute live Facebook chat with her fans from around the world. The chat earned 268,447 views.

Jordan placed third at the 64th Miss Universe contest in Las Vegas, Nevada last December 20, 2015. She is now the roommate of Wurtzbach in New York City.

"I wish we will have more time and take her around so that we can go to the beach and have some fun but we've got work to do," Wurtzbach said.

"She has also work to do because the Miss USA pageant is coming soon, so she's also

busy like me," the Filipino-German beauty queen said.

Wurtzbach added that Miss Myanmar May Thaw and Miss Malaysia Vanessa Kumares are also coming to watch the Binibining Pilipinas contest.

But Wurtzbach said that Miss China Yung Fang Xue could not make it due to visa problems.

"Miss Myanmar and Miss Malaysia are also coming. I'm not kidding. They will watch Bb. Pilipinas and we miss each other so much. I miss my roommate Miss Myanmar. Miss China couldn't make it because of visa problems. It was a short notice but it could have been a nice reunion," Wurtzbach said.

Sources said that Miss Universe Paula Shugart, president of the Miss Universe Organization, is also joining the girls in Manila.

After the Bb. Pilipinas contest, Wurtzbach said that she will fly to Peru to crown 2016 Miss Universe Peru next week. This will be her first time to visit the South American country.

### PH as Miss 'U' host

Wurtzbach also said that she is actively campaigning for the 2016 Miss Universe pageant to be held in the Philippines.

"It's not a close deal yet. But I am actively campaigning for it. All of us in the Miss Universe Organization, we want the Miss Universe pageant here in the Philippines. Ito ang No. 1 choice namin. No. 1 on our list. And we are really trying to find ways on making it happen.

"How do we make that happen? We need the nod of the government. We need the help of the private sector. We need sponsors and people to get interested to reach out and unite to make it happen here. It would be such a pleasure for me to pass on my crown here in the Philippines. It would be great for tourism. It's about time that we have it here," she said.

The last time the Miss Universe contest was staged in Manila was in 1994. It was in 1974 when the pageant was held for the first time in the Philippines.

## Pia: Liza 'can still train' to become a beauty queen

Manila Philippines - Miss Universe 2015 Pia Wurtzbach believes that "Dolce Amore" lead star Liza Soberano "can still train" to become a beauty queen.

In a round-table interview organized by Binibining Pilipinas on Thursday, 26-year-old Wurtzbach was asked why she said last January that Soberano is fit for the crown.

(Pia thinks Liza Soberano could be Miss Universe)

"Beauty of face. Maganda talaga," she quipped. "When I was asked at that time, it was just very quick, at the top of my head. I thought of commercial beauty na papasa na Pilipina pa rin siya, at 'yon ang naisip ko."

"She's young, and she can still train," she added.


According to Wurtzbach, there are many other celebrities who have the potential to become beauty queens aside from Soberano.

She admitted, however, that it could be a hard decision for these actresses because their showbiz careers would have to take a back seat.



Liza Soberano

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