



Burn victim Cloe Samantha Dumapi Alvarez - Page 5

PF NEWS

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FCSV leads Celebration of FIL-AM History Month - Page 11

President Duterte: a matter of faith

By Joe America

Faith is not truth. It is confidence and commitment.

If ever there were a case study to prove the point, it would be the 75% satisfaction level for President Duterte.

What are the components of faith? An emotional need for community, purpose and hope.

Organized faiths promote a set of rules, often found in a book, accompanied by lessons as to how the faith is to be applied in life. Preachers are the teachers. There is



President Rodrigo Duterte

a moral righteousness attached to the faith which cannot be challenged. To challenge is to disbelieve, to be a heathen. It is to promote disobedience and chaos and place at risk the community, the purpose and the hope.

People of faith tend to resist knowledge that conflicts with their rules or beliefs. If they change, it is in little, non-threatening steps.

Democracy is not a faith. It does not fight knowledge, but promotes it. Democracy sees argument as constructive, as a way to seek knowledge and create a commonly accepted direction.

President Duterte represents a faith, not a functioning branch of Philippine democracy. His administration is opposed to debate and knowledge. He demands obedience and allegiance, and his ministers (secr-

Continued on page 4

My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven



Photo by Dave San Pedro

Filipino community in Sacramento join Asian and other community to support My Sister's House fundraiser. This is the 13th year which the organization serves the needs of Asian and Pacific Islander women impacted by domestic violence.

Golden State Lions Club Halloween



On Friday, October 28, 2016, the Golden State Lions club hosted its 5th Annual Halloween Costume Dinner Dance. Continued on page 10



The Fil-Am community of Sacramento and Vicinity with Sen. Richard Pan in the assembly floor of the Capitol building of California to celebrate the Filipino American History Month.

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Human rights defenders are beautiful

By John Nery

Fresh from his triumphant visit to Japan, President Duterte revealed, among other things, that God had talked to him about his cussing, but then he also let his disdain for human rights advocates slip out again. In one of those stream-of-consciousness free associations that punctuate his unscripted remarks, during his arrival news conference the President complimented the latest Filipino beauty queen, Miss International Kylie Verzosa, and then added a gratuitous insult.

Let me use ABS-CBN's more complete version (but with my translation): "Of course, I am happy. I am always happy if our beautiful women win all the titles. Kasi Pilipino tayo [Because we are Filipino], it gives us konting hambog (a little to brag about). It lifts the [spirit.] Parang mayabang tayo. Kita mo, magaganda mga Pilipina [Like, we can be proud. You see, Filipinas are beautiful]," Mr. Duterte said. Then he said: "Pero kayong lahat diyan sa Human Rights Commission, mga pangit (But all of you there at the Commission on Human Rights, you are all ugly)."

The President was his usual bantering self, and the unexpected punchline had many people laughing, but it is a mistake to think that he was also not dead earnest. Since the CHR, under then chair Leila de Lima, investigated him in 2009 for possible human rights violations in relation to the killings attributed to the so-called Davao Death Squad, he has harbored a sense of resentment against the constitutional agency.

Sometimes this sense breaks out in trademark Duterte fashion; he cracks jokes about it. In August 2015, when he visited the Inquirer, he regaled editors and reporters with his on-the-money mimicry of De Lima's distinctive English, as he recalled it from their confrontation. He has made fun of De Lima and the human rights agenda on other occasions, and the unanticipated thrust at the CHR late Thursday night must be seen as more of the same—although this time he is taking aim at it because it has dared question the rising casualty toll in his so-called war on drugs.

At other times, this resentment reveals itself in less entertaining but also characteristic ways: He shames, and he threatens. He insults De Lima and denigrates the CHR and other critics, including US President Barack Obama and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who are impertinent enough to raise concerns about possible human rights violations in the war on drugs. Confessed hitman Edgar Matobato's disclosure of an aborted assassination attempt on De Lima's life in 2009 is a piece of still-unverified information I am prepared to understand in this context, too.

Whether serious or funny, the President is wrong to undermine the work of the human rights agency in particular, and human rights advocates in general. I do not mean to suggest that HR advocates or even the CHR are above mistakes; I know that some journalists are investigating the circumstances of one CHR official who seems to have been willingly used as a deodorizer of human

rights violations.

But we should all ask: What have human rights advocates done to deserve such hostility, such cavalier treatment, from the President?

Human rights advocates, including those identified with the National Democratic Front, including those who have served and are serving in the CHR, were among those who tried to hold the Marcos regime accountable during the dictatorship itself, and are among those leading the fight to bring the Marcos family to justice. Mr. Duterte's own mother, who was a leader of the anti-Marcos movement in Davao City, would have recognized them as kindred spirits.

To meet their mandate, CHR officials and staff are weathering executive resistance and public apathy to hold a popular administration to account for its controversial war on drugs. They are joined by other advocates who are alarmed, not only by the rise in the number of slain innocents, but also by the impact that repeated human rights violations, including the casual taking of life, would have on society. Mr. Duterte's own mother would have praised them.

A devout and disciplined Catholic, she would have understood the sacrifice these advocates made, in choosing the less lucrative, much more dangerous career of human rights work. I daresay she would have recognized in them the dignity, the beauty, of the saints: They are doing not only the right, but the beautiful, thing.

We will lose all of the West Philippine Sea

President Duterte does not understand leverage

By Andrew Lim

Don't blink, the entire West Philippine Sea and its resources will soon be gone. China's nine-dash line map will be applied, and the fruit of Duterte's pivot will be economic concessions that may appear substantial on surface but are actually a minuscule percentage of the value of what we will be giving up.

It will be a lopsided trade-off, with the Philippines on the losing end. And it will be irreversible.

Here's why:

A word we first encounter in school – leverage. The West Philippine Sea, its air and sea routes and its resources is not leverage – it is the prize; the pot at the end of the rainbow. It is what all the nations embroiled in this issue want to access.

Leverage is economic might, military might, technological prowess, court rulings, world opinion, strong alliances – what you can use to improve your position as you negotiate to protect your interests – in this case the West Philippine Sea.

Duterte does not have much of it; China has all of it. The arbitral ruling is leverage only if you do not go bilateral. The military alliance with the US is leverage, but Duterte chooses to side with China and drive the US away.

Duterte has drum beat "independent foreign policy". But he seeks money from China at every turn these days – from drug rehab facilities to railways in Mindanao to development money for Basilan.

(A side note on how outdated Duterte is on foreign policy aside from mistaking the FA-50 aircraft as coming from the US instead of South Korea: in a recent speech, he made reference to the submarine-launched ballistic Poseidon missiles of the US in case World War 3 breaks out. Poseidon was phased out long ago in the early nineties and replaced with the Trident missile system.)

Duterte is indeed a "provincial executive" as described by former Presi-



Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal

Apparently ceded to China, a valued fishing ground and shelter for Zambales fishermen. Drilling by China may be underway now.

dent Ramos.

Duterte is mad at drugs. He is mad at the US and the West for its concern on human rights but what does he do? He runs to China and Russia, egregious in its own human rights violations, suppression of dissent and use of drugs (for foreign policy, Olympic doping).

Principles do matter, no matter the contradictions you see in a country's history.

China's assistance in the construction of drug rehab facilities actually makes it an end to end, seamless integrated operation for them since there is evidence that the Chinese government, through its intelligence services, is covertly supporting the manufacture of illegal drugs in its territory.

Knowing Duterte's mad man attitude to drugs, they can calibrate the flow of drugs into the country, depending on how cooperative we are with the resources of the West Philippine Sea.

When Duterte complains that "all the big fish are in China", the Chinese are probably nodding, "and we supervise them, too."

The business concessions Duterte will likely bring home after his visit to Beijing – opening of the Chinese market to fruit exports, investments, railways for Mindanao, allowing Filipino fishermen to go back may look huge but it is extremely, extremely small compared to the economic value of the West Phil sea. Even if you peg the potential increased Chinese business ties in billions, the West Philippine Sea is still that much more than that. It is multiples of that.

Needless to say, business ties benefit both parties. But the West Philippine Sea is ours, and it rightfully, wholly belongs to us alone. The aquatic resources are renewable and capable of benefitting several generations of Filipinos.

Business ties with China can be cut abruptly, if relations turn sour. But once China starts exploiting the area for its resources, it cannot be reversed anymore, short of declaring a shooting war.

At the outset, China will play the nice guy, rolling out the red carpet – facilitate business to business partnerships, soft loans, infrastructure projects; it might even roll up a few illegal drug manufacturers to show its support for Duterte's obsession with the drug wars.

At the right point in time in the future, (say after 2-3 years) China will then turn the screws on us, applying the nine-dash line map, and start exploitation of the West Philippine Sea. When this point arrives, the Philippines will have absolutely no more leverage to contest, oppose or reverse whatever China wants to do. The arbitral ruling is no more; nor is the alliance with the West.

Where does Duterte turn at this point? Can he rely on China's sense of fairness and equity to obtain our just share? At this point, who dictates what?

China is wrapping Duterte and the country around its finger, deftly calibrating all its options to leverage its position- and Duterte, (egged on by local Maoists he has empowered via appointments to the Cabinet and a peace negotiation that will likely benefit the Maoists more) is powerless to counter it.

Duterte, for all his bluster and big words, is actually enabling China to get all that its dark heart desires, and the losers will be the entire Filipino nation and the generations to come. Duterte is brutal with the Filipino people, but he cannot touch the Chinese.

Say goodbye to the West Philippine Sea.



Editor's Note

We've come to the busiest time of the year, with all the upcoming major holidays and the national election, just around the corner. This issue of PF News recaps what went on in our Fil-Am community this past month, which includes a glimpse of the Filipino History month celebration at the Capitol and the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, and several community organization's Halloween and other celebrations.

On the first of this month is All Saint's Day, a big celebration held especially in the Philippines, in memory of our departed love ones. For our Fil-Am community in Elk Grove, this kind of celebration will be held once again at the East Lawn Elk Grove Memorial Park and Mortuary, put together by several community organization, and as spearheaded by Manny Buenaventura and Lilia Rivera. Everyone is invited but please call the listed phone numbers on their ad on page 18, for more information.

We were amazingly surprised at the success of the Golden State Lions Club's Halloween annual celebration. It was our first to attend their event and also our first time to actually put on a scary costume. Most importantly, it was an event especially held with proceeds to help little Cloe, a burn survivor. She has been graciously received by Lynne and Greg Mitchell at their home, since her arrival with her mother from the Philippines, and as she undergoes treatment at UC Davis Children's Hospital. Please read on page 5, for more information.

We are blessed to make it this far in the year once again. Be grateful for all God's blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!
Dinnah

How much do illegal drugs now cost in the Philippines?

Manila, Philippines – If there is one effect of President Rodrigo Duterte's intense war on drugs that cannot be contested, it is that 1.8 million current drug users may have to shell out more money to sustain their addiction.

The street prices of illegal drugs – particularly methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) and cocaine – are now more expensive.

The price increase comes hand-in-hand with the soaring number of casualties as Duterte's war on drugs passed its 100-day mark.

As of Thursday morning, October 27, the total number of persons killed has already reached 4,726. Out of this number, 1,725 are drug personalities killed in police operations, while 3,001 are victims of extrajudicial or vigilante-style killings. (READ: IN NUMBERS: The Philippines' 'war on drugs')

Increased prices for shabu and cocaine

According to data from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), as of October 2016, a gram of shabu – dubbed as the poor man's cocaine – now costs between P1,300 (\$27)* to P25,000 (\$517).

From January to June 2016, before Duterte took his oath as president, a drug user was able to purchase shabu for anywhere between P1,200 (\$25) and P11,000 (\$228).

The latest street price is also higher than in 2015 when a gram of shabu cost from P1,200 to P15,000 (\$310).

The street price of shabu is determined by the place of transaction, according to

PDEA. For example, in Cagayan, shabu is priced at a much higher P5,000 (\$103) per gram. The increase, according to PDEA regional director Laurefel Gabales, is because "drug dealers could hardly penetrate the local market."

Shabu is most expensive in Region 12 (Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sarangani, and Sultan Kudarat), where a gram costs P25,000, and is cheapest in Region 9 (Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga Sibugay) at P1,200.

From 2013 to 2015, the lowest street price was in the National Capital Region (NCR) while the highest was in Region 12 and Region 4B (Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental, Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon).

Cocaine, meanwhile, is priced at P5,000 (\$103) to P7,000 (\$145) per gram. In 2015, the cheapest gram of cocaine was pegged at P3,600 (\$74).

Unchanged prices

But while shabu and cocaine prices continue to rise, the street prices of marijuana and ecstasy remain static.

A gram of dried marijuana leaves has been priced from P18 (\$.37) to P300 (\$6.21) since 2013. Its price in recent years, however, has become cheaper than in 2012 when one could buy a gram for P60 (\$1.24).

A tablet of methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) or ecstasy, meanwhile, can be purchased for P1,200 (\$25) to P3,000 (\$62). In 2012, the "cheapest" cost about P1,700 (\$35).

A drug cocktail composed of ecstasy, shabu, and cialist – known as "fly high",



SHABU. Illegal drug confiscated during a raid in Happyland, Barangay 105 Tondo, Manila.

"party", or "superman" in the local party scene – costs between P1,500 (\$31) and P3,500 (\$72) a capsule. (READ: PH 'fly high' drug: Lethal mix of ecstasy, shabu)

"Fly high" is allegedly the cause of deaths of 5 individuals during a concert in May 2016.

Less demand not a 'dent'? PDEA Director General Isidro S. Lapeña, in a statement, said that the increased drug prices is an obvious gain in Duterte's war on drugs, given that the price structure is directly affected by availability and demand.

"When the market price of illegal drugs rises, it is generally assessed that there is a scarcity in supply available in the market and vice-versa," Lapeña explained. "That is an indication that the present government is winning the war against the drug menace."

Limiting the drug supply through prohibition, according to JC Punongbayan in a Rappler piece, however, is the traditional way of battling illegal drugs. But because drugs are addicting, Punongbayan pointed out that the increase in price "will not make a proportional dent" on the demand of drug users. Curiously, the rising cost of drugs seems to apply only to shabu and cocaine, the preference of the poor. A dent in the supply, not the demand, is also being made by the intensified war on drugs. What would be the best measure of success in this war against drugs?

China ships still guard shoal as Pinoys return

By Alexis Romero

MANILA, Philippines – Chinese Coast Guard ships are still guarding Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, although they have allowed Filipinos to fish "unmolested" for the first time in years, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperson Jr. said yesterday.

adding that an earlier report by the Philippine Coast Guard that the Chinese had left the area was incorrect.



Chinese Coast Guard ships are still guarding Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, although they have allowed Filipinos to fish "unmolested" for the first time in years.

The officials said this was shown in Philippine aerial surveillance photos of the shoal, which a UN-backed arbitration court had declared as a common fishing ground.

Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanan and Lorenzana said the return of Filipino fishermen to the shoal, which China seized in 2012 after a standoff with the Philippines over its vessels in the area, was "a most welcome development" because it brought back their key source of livelihood.

China granted access to the tiny, uninhabited shoal 123 nautical miles (228 kilometers) from Zambales after President Duterte reached out to Beijing and met Chinese President Xi Jinping and other leaders this month.

After his China trip, Duterte announced without elaborating that Filipinos might be able to return to the shoal soon.

A Philippine Navy plane spotted at least four Chinese Coast Guard ships around the shoal during a surveillance flight over the weekend, Lorenzana said,

"Flybys of our planes reported Chinese Coast Guard ships are still there but our fishermen were fishing unmolested," Lorenzana told The Associated Press.

It's unclear how long China would keep the shoal open to Filipinos or if there were any conditions attached.

Duterte made clear that the dispute over the shoal was far from over. He said he insisted in his talks with Chinese leaders that the shoal belonged to the Philippines, but that the Chinese also asserted their claim of ownership.

Esperon, for his part, said two Chinese vessels – a research ship and a Navy frigate – were seen in the shoal from Oct. 17 to 27 but Filipino fishermen were allowed to enter the area.

"There are no written agreements or rules but Filipino fishermen who went there lately attest that they were not driven away nor were accosted. And for the record, from October 17 to 27, there had been only two Chinese ships in Bajo de Masinloc," Esperon said, referring to the alternative name for Panatag Shoal.

"That's compared to daily average of five People's Lib-

eration Army Navy and four Chinese Coast Guard ships in the past," he added.

The research ship was spotted on Oct. 19 while the frigate was seen the following day.

Last Friday, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella announced that Filipino fishermen were no longer being intercepted at the shoal.

Happy to be back Since 2012, Chinese Coast Guard ships had

driven Filipino fishermen away from the area, sometimes with the use of water cannons. Farther south in the Spratly Islands, China went on to construct seven man-made islands in recent years despite protests from other claimants and the United States, which insisted on freedom of navigation in what it considered international waters.

The new development brought joy to the first Filipinos who ventured back to Panatag in flotillas of small fishing boats.

"We're happy that we were able to sail back there," said Gil Bauya, who returned Saturday with a huge catch of red snappers and other fish to Cato village in Pangasinan.

"They just let us fish," Bauya said, referring to three Chinese Coast Guard ships fishermen saw at the shoal from a distance.

"We were waiting for what they would do, but they didn't do anything like deploying small rubber boats to chase us like they used to do," Bauya added.

After three days of fishing, Bauya said they ran out of ice to preserve their catch

Continued on page 4



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President Duterte: a matter of faith

From page 1

taries spokesmen, and captured legislators) and mercenaries (trolls) suppress complaints and the knowledge attached to them.

Here are some examples of how the Duterte Administration rejects knowledge in favor of faith.

The war on drugs. The faithful see a necessary elimination of threats to social well-being caused by drugs and crime. They are deaf to the understanding that most critics ACCEPT the need to control drugs. Critics are opposed to human rights violations. The truth . . . the knowledge . . . is that killings are taking place with no due process that would confirm or deny the guilt of the victims. This is a violation of the Constitutional provisions protecting citizens. The faithful reject this knowledge. On faith that the ends will be good, and there is no collateral damage (like creating a generation of kids prone to violence as their preferred solution).

Senator De Lima. The faithful see the necessary prosecution of an evil woman who seeks to persecute their leader. The truth is that the Senator is a woman of considerable professional experience and integrity. She also has a job to do, granted by the Constitution, and took an oath to do that job to serve the people. The faithful have gone beyond politics to make up vicious stories and fake evidence. It is reminiscent of the Salem witch hunts, and other emotional religious persecutions.

China. The faithful see a bold pivot toward the most influential nation in Asia, the nation that can make the Philippines productive and rich. The benefits may come to be true. The gains are in the future. But the pivot denies the laws in place to protect Philippine sovereignty, the most prominent being the Constitution and the recent UN arbitration ruling. And it places at risk the sea-based resources (fish and minerals) that could make the Philippines more secure or even wealthy. The faithful deny the laws, and the losses.

Behavior. The non-faithful see a



President Duterte

rude and crude man, a diplomatic disaster who has denigrated the Philippines by cursing at the leaders of other lands, most prominently the United States and European Union, who shames them as Filipinos, and who has brought the economy to the brink of ruin. The faithful see a brave and manly man who stands up to the entitled who have delivered nothing to them, personally, in their lifetimes. For once, they can walk tall. To them, President Duterte is doing what is necessary to break through the chains of corruption and abuse that have bound the nation to failure. Duterte is hope, and he is courage. Well, the truth is that the Duterte Administration operates on the basis of power and favor, just like the predecessor administrations, and we do not yet know what the results will be. Without question, the Philippines is looked upon suspiciously by former friends, and many wonder why insults are needed. Without question, the stability and assurance that investors prefer are gone. The faithful don't care.

We could cite more examples, but I think the point is clear. The faithful are in some kind of emotional denial. Because their needs are emotional, it is impossible to reason with them.

Argument would be welcome under democratic principles, for disagreements are a part of the process. A constructive response to a complaint would be to answer it. But what we get is an emotional response. A faith-based rejection of complaints. The person doing the complaining gets threatened as a devious person seeking to undermine the faith, where the state is merely standing in as the proxy for the faith.

What we are witnessing is not a political fight within democracy. It is a fight between knowledge and faith.

The Duterte Administration has a powerful organization. It has priests who interpret President Duterte's messages and missionaries who carry out the work of converting or demonizing the non-faithful. It has a vast congregation, adoring followers who consider objection heresy, not opinion. Allegiance is based on faith, not knowledge.

The congregation does not yet have a temple, but when it does, it will be built in Davao.

I've stopped talking with most Duterte supporters because their emotional dedication is so confident, their commitment so unshakable, that it is futile to engage. They are not fully sentient humans, in my view. They have closed off the parts of the brain where knowledge ought to flow in.

What is peculiar to me is that many Filipinos seem to be practicing two religions at the same time. One is Christian or Muslim, and the other is Duterte. Both are faith driven. And what is extra peculiar to me is that many Christian and Muslim officials, representatives of their faith, are also practicing a second faith. It bends my mind and conjures up the term "flabbergasting". Or bizarre. Or absurd.

The Duterte faith promotes an emotional bonding, a kind of spiritual cleansing. But not truth. It is based on commitment and confidence. Not knowledge. The choir is shrill, ear-splitting.

It's almost enough to incite one to shout a "Glory hallelujah!" and fly off into a spiritual frenzy of tongues.

Or get on a fast plane out of an island asylum that denies knowledge and truth, and along with it, decency. Where faith has turned brutal and the values we cherish . . . intelligence, honesty, honor, and dignity . . . are being replaced by ignorance, lies, power, and violence.

Fidel Ramos quits as special envoy to China

By Yuji Vincent

Former President Fidel Ramos on Monday said he had resigned as the Duterte administration's special envoy to China, according to a report by GMA News.



Ramos - Duterte

Ramos said he resigned when President Rodrigo Duterte returned to the country from a state visit to China. He confirmed the news on Monday when he paid his respects to the late Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej at the Royal Thai Embassy in Makati.

Ramos accepted the post in July, in the wake of the Philippines' historic victory in the United Nations-backed arbitral tribunal in The Hague, which invalidated China's claims to almost all of the resource-rich South China Sea.

Recently, Ramos has criticized Duterte and his Cabinet in a series of strongly worded opinion pieces in a Manila broadsheet—the latest of which being about the President's continuous refusal to ratify the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The former

president once likened the Philippines to a "sinking ship" under Duterte's leadership.

Ramos has also voiced his opposition to Duterte's "separation" and repeated tirades against the United States amid an apparent tilt toward China.

But Ramos said the administration should take his criticisms as "brotherly advice."

Duterte's state visit to Beijing saw him and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreeing to bilateral talks over maritime disputes amid overlapping claims, a major turnaround from the previous administration's stand of engaging only in multilateral talks. The Philippine delegation also brought home billions worth of investments and credit pledges from the visit.

China ships still guard shoal as Pinoys return

From page 3

and had to sail back home for the All Souls' Day holiday.

Amid the festive air in Cato, where villagers helped them unload their bumper catch, Bauya said he and his crewmen planned to travel back to Panatag in the coming week.

Deputy US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters in Beijing on Saturday that China's withdrawal from the shoal would be welcomed by Washington.

He said it would be consistent with an international arbitration ruling in July that invalidated Beijing's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea.

The ruling said that both Filipinos and Chinese could fish at the shoal being a traditional common fishing ground but China ignored it.

The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration favored all of the Philippines' arguments that sought to clarify its maritime entitlements in the West Philippine Sea and the South China Sea. No compromise

Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto Yasay, in a Facebook post, said it might be too early to conclude that Duterte's approach was working based on reports that Filipino fishermen regained free access in the shoal.

"But then again we have no other option but to comply with

international law, as China is fully aware that it is also bound by the rules-based system that has been created for the settlement of international disputes," Yasay said.

Accepting that under international law the enforcement of "the final and binding arbitral ruling" of the arbitration court could only be achieved by mutual agreement of the parties, Yasay said Duterte "swiftly embarked towards restoring the broken trust" between the Philippines and China by pursuing confidence building measures through sound diplomacy with a view of ensuring, "without compromising" rights over exclusive economic zones.

He said this proved "that bilateral engagements at the proper time within the framework of the arbitral ruling can be facilitated peacefully."

"Among the key factors that promoted distrust and suspicion is our military reliance and dependence on America displayed through joint patrols and military exercises anchored upon the fear that China will use force and intimidation in derogating and trampling upon our exclusive economic entitlements of both living and non-living resources in the (South China Sea)," Yasay said.

"In turn this has impelled China to dig in and take on a hardline position on its territorial claims," Yasay said.

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Golden State Lions Club helps Philippine Burn Victim Cloe Samantha Dumapi Alvarez

An old inspirational quote states, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step".

For 2 year-old Cloe Samantha Dumapi Alvarez, her Journey of 7,500 miles began because she was unable to take a single step.

By Greg Mitchell & Eddie Aducaen

Young Cloe...

Cloe is a Burn patient from the Philippines being treated at the Shriners Hospital of Sacramento Burn unit, and she is the inaugural beneficiary of the Golden State Lions Club's Filipino Burn Patient Support Signature Project. Cloe's injuries are the result of an overturned candle that ignited her bedding when she was just two months old. Cloe has significant burns on the left side of her body, that left her foot fused to her shin, her calf fused to her thigh, her forearm fused to her upper arm, and the left side of her face badly scarred. Cloe at 20 months old had never taken a step. In fact, because of ridicule by those in the neighborhood, she rarely even went outside... More on Cloe in a moment...

In comes the Shriners Clubs and Golden State Lions...

As the quote above suggests, many great things come from humble beginnings, and so too, did this Golden State Lions Club (GSLC) Project, a project that is shared with AAHMES Shriners Islander Club of Livermore, California, and Ben Ali Shriners Islander Club of Sacramento, California. This project has its beginnings with Mabuhay Shriners in Manila, Philippines looking to help those children in need of burn treatment care. When they encountered a picture of Cloe on Facebook, they searched for Cloe and worked on bringing her from the Philippines to the Shriners Hospital in Sacramento.

With several initial burn surgeries and treatments projected to last up to a year, housing young Cloe and her mother Marites was going to be a significant and unbearable cost. Shriners Hospital looked for a sponsor family to provide food and lodging, yet no one had stepped up to take on this



Cloe-after-Tiara.



International Director Candidate PCC Derek Ledda with Cloe.



Cloe-before-face



Cloe-before-foot

responsibility. Shriners Hospital attended a regular GSLC meeting looking for sponsorship and housing, and it was then when the club agreed to take on this awesome responsibility and the Signature Project of GSLC was born. The GSLC Signature Project is being co-chaired by Caroline Kang and Eddie Aducaen. GSLC formed a relationship with Ben Ali Shriners Islander Club headed by Club President Alex Llanera with Treasurer Donie Navarro, and AAHMES Shriners Islander Club, lead by Nel Pacis and Jeff Hansen. Together, the 3 organizations have taken on the many aspects of supporting Cloe while in Sacramento. The individual organizations agreed to divide up the responsibilities to raise funds on their own, and contribute together as needed. The Shriners agreed to handle all aspects of transport, including getting the patients and parents from the Philippines to Sacramento and back, and providing regular transportation for doctor appointments, physical therapy session and other check-ups. GSLC had agreed to providing a home, and a life in Sacramento for these patients and their parents.

Providing a house and a home...

GSLC reached out to the community and found the perfect sponsor family that would look after Cloe and her mother Marites. Greg and Lynne Mitchell of Elk Grove agreed to provide a home

for Cloe and Marites. Hosting them is more than just providing a place to stay. Lynne acts as social worker, translator, tour guide, mentor, and so much more. Furthermore, it is important to understand that while Cloe and Marites are here getting treatment, their family, which includes the father and three siblings, are back home. As one GSLC member has stated, "We understand the tremendous burden that this treatment is placing on the family as a whole, and we feel it is important that not only does Cloe survive and thrive from this treatment, but it is equally important that the family survives the treatment as well". So, while Cloe and Marites are well-tended in Sacramento, the needs of the family back home in the Philippines are being addressed as well. GSLC and the Ben Ali Shriners of Sacramento have joined forces to ship a box of provisions to the family.

In addition to the food and lodging, GSLC has arranged with Gawad Kalinga (a Filipino organization similar to Habitat for Humanity) to provide a home for Cloe and family when she returns to the Philippines. GSLC has also provided the technology for the family members to communicate regularly, in fact, quite often daily. It is critical to keeping the family cohesion that the family can talk to Mom, and to see and talk to Cloe.

Furthermore, the sponsor family has added The Filipino Channel, to their television lineup, so that

Cloe and Marites can enjoy some of the comforts of life back home. Cloe and Marites have been touring Northern California with the sponsor family and other members of GSLC.

Cloe's progress...

Since she arrived in the US from the Philippines on June 26, 2016, Cloe has gone through four successful surgeries and spent almost two months of the four months that she has been in Sacramento as an in-patient. Cloe has had reconstructive surgeries to release her foot, her lower leg, her forearm (sadly, she lost all fingers on her left hand in the fire), and she has had multiple skin grafts and facial surgeries, requiring her to wear a mask.

It has been a rough few months, but she has come through it like a trooper. She has a great attitude, is

always smiling, loves to laugh and play. She has begun to walk and while she can stand on her own, she is yet to take a step without holding on to something or someone. We know that she will take that first step in the journey of her life any day now...

Cloe's Ongoing Journey...

Cloe's treatment is expected to continue throughout her childhood until she reaches the age of 18. She is expected to return to Sacramento frequently to receive care, and the Shriners Hospital has a long term treatment plan, with several surgeries planned over the course of the next three years already.

If you wish to contribute to Cloe's support. GSLC has created a fund-raising page for Cloe, at <https://www.crowdrise.com/cloe-samantha-dumapi-alvarez-toddler-burn-victim/fundraiser/georgeaducaen>



At Cloe's welcome party hosted by Golden State Lions at the Kang Residence. Sitting: Frank O'Donahue, Beth Esternon, Lita Castellano, Cloe Samantha, Marites Dumapi, Julie Melliza and Caridad Aducaen. Standing: Cecille Baylon, Ernie Santos, Lynne Mitchell, Caroline Kang, PDG Bert Melliza, Eddie Aducaen and Julie Vergara.

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Work Begins on City Park Named for Filipino-American Police Officer

By Chris Jennewein

City officials Tuesday marked the start of construction on a \$15.5 million park in the Ocean View Hills neighborhood, named for the highest-ranking Filipino-American officer in the San Diego Police Department's history.

The 15-acre Cesar Solis Community Park in Ocean View Hills is named after a retired San Diego Police Department assistant chief, becoming the first in the city to be named after a Filipino-American. The park is slated to open late next year.

Solis, a 32-year police veteran who retired in 2014, grew up in the South Bay and still lives there. His first assignment after becoming a police officer in 1982 was to patrol the Ocean View Hills neighborhood.



A rendering of Cesar Solis Community Park in Ocean View Hills.

"By naming this park after Cesar Solis, we are honoring the South Bay's rich history, but it is also a testament to City Hall's investment in this community's future," Mayor Kevin Faulconer said. "Cesar Solis is a neighborhood son but it is his commitment to our entire city that shows the next generation of San Diegans the type of selflessness that moves our city forward."

Solis has had a variety of assignments in his more than three de-

acades on the job, working patrol, investigations, community relations and as the SWAT commanding officer.

In the 1980s, he was a member of the Border Crime Protection Unit, a police-Border Patrol task force targeting border bandits. In 1985, he fatally shot a man who was robbing border-crossers and who shot a Border Patrol agent into his protective vest several times. The agent survived.

Solis was awarded the American Legion Medal of Valor and the department's Meritorious Service Award for his work on the task force.

As chief of investigations, Solis in 2014 was one of the moving forces behind a yearlong investigation into sex trafficking by North Park gang members under federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations laws. As a result of the SDPD's first-ever RICO investigation, two dozen alleged gang members were indicted on charges ranging from theft to pimping and murder.

"Retired Assistant Police Chief Cesar Solis dedicated his life to community service and helping others," said San Diego police Chief Shelley Zimmerman. "That is why it is so fitting to have a place that inspires a sense of community, a neighborhood park, named after him."

Solis served as captain in southeastern San Diego and became assistant chief in 2008. He attended

the lunchtime groundbreaking ceremony along with Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Councilman David Alvarez and Herman Parker, the city's parks and recreation director.

"This is a great day for the families of Ocean View Hills," Solis said. "Their dream of a neighborhood park is about to be fulfilled. My wife Doris and I are deeply honored to be a part of this community project."

The park — to be located on Del Sol Boulevard between Vista Del Mar Elementary and Ocean View Hills School — will include lighted athletic fields, playground areas, restrooms, a concession stand, storage, off-street parking, picnic shelters and benches. A later phase will include a recreation center, pool and joint-use field with the San Ysidro School District.

Ocean View Hills is a growing residential area east of the 805 freeway and north of the 905 freeway. Residents say they currently only have one small park.

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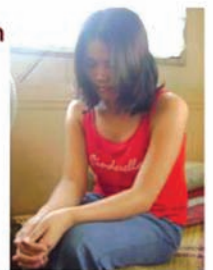
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Corazon Aquino

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PerryScope

By Perry Diaz

In Philippine elections, presidential candidates are labeled according to their perceived political persuasion or ideological beliefs. However, political persuasion doesn't really matter in Philippine politics because Filipino politicians change their political affiliations to suit their personal objectives. There are the "Am-boys" (American Boys). There are the "balimbings" (political turncoats and opportunists). And there are the "Manchurian Candidates" (secretly aligned with China).

The Philippines, which is considered pro-American in every meaning of the word, has always been allied with the U.S., politically, economically, militarily, and

culturally (there are five million Filipinos living in the U.S.) since she gained independence from Mother America in 1946. But "independence" from America hasn't really been deeply rooted because of the interdependence of the two countries on matters of foreign policy, economics, and national defense, so much so that the Philippine government didn't see the need for a strong navy and air force to defend her sovereignty and territorial integrity.

With three defense agreements that exist between the two countries – Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), and Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) – the Philippines feels safe knowing that Uncle Sam would come to her defense against foreign invaders, notably China. And this airtight fusion, which was sealed with the blood of Filipino and American soldiers who fought side by side during World

II, has endured to this day. Indeed, a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey taken recently showed that Filipinos trust America more than China. It's a testament to the strong ties between the two countries.

It is in this regard that pro-American candidates win in elections. To be perceived as anti-American would be a "kiss of death." Take the case of then Vice President Jejomar Binay who was accused of being a "Manchurian Candidate," which might have been a major factor in his defeat.



Duterte-assault-rifle

Extra-judicial killings Indeed, Duterte might have been the perfect "Manchurian Candidate." The fact that he belonged to a minor – hardly heard of – political party and whose ideological beliefs are in the fuzzy shades of gray, Duterte marketed himself as a populist crime-fighter, which the people bought hook, line, and sinker.

Never mind that he had been suspected of allegedly masterminding the extra-judicial killings by the notorious "Davao Death Squad" or DDS – which was oftentimes referred to as the "Duterte Death Squad." Never mind that he was once sympathetic to – or part of – the New People's Army (NPA). Never mind that he had admittedly killed a convicted felon for raping and murdering an Australian missionary.

He skillfully – and cleverly – walked a political tightrope, avoiding slipping to the right or left, which if he did might have ended his campaign. He was a Don Quixote riding a motorcycle and carrying an assault rifle. And he threatened to ride a ski jet to the Scarborough Shoal and plant the

Digong was the 'Manchurian Candidate' all along!



FVR and Digong

Philippine flag. People could hear "Digong, Digong, Digong..." like tinnitus ringing in their ears. And they could hardly wait to see the 100,000 dead bodies that he promised to dump into the Manila Bay to fatten the fishes.

Kingmaker

But if there was one person who is credited for making Digong run for president, it was former president Fidel V. Ramos, or FVR as he's often called. While Duterte acknowledged that it was FVR who encouraged him to run, rumor has it that on one of his trips to see Digong in Davao, FVR brought with him a huge bag, which he handed to Digong. Apparently, whatever was in the bag, it convinced him to run. As the old adage says, "Put your money where your mouth is," FVR might have done just that. But of course, it was just tsismis.

But on a more serious tone, FVR criticized Digong in an article he wrote for the Manila Bulletin titled, "Du30's first 100 days – Team Philippines losing." He said: "In the overall assessment by this writer, we find our Team Philippines losing in the first 100 days of Du30's administration – and losing badly. This is a huge disappointment and let-down to many of us."

On U.S.-Philippine relations, FVR – who was a West Point graduate – said: "Equally discom-

bolating are the mix of 'off-and-on' statements by P. Digong on Philippines-U.S. relations, particularly on security and economic matters." He also criticized Digong for berating U.S. President Barack Obama, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, and terminating RP-U.S. military exercises. "So what gives?" he asked. "Are we throwing away decades of military partnership, tactical proficiency, compatible weaponry, predictable logistics, and soldier-to-soldier camaraderie just like that?? On P. Du30's say – so???"

"America has lost!"

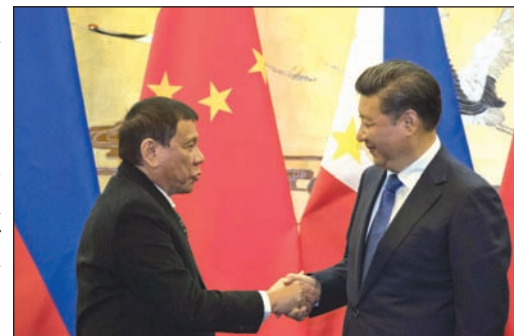
In a media interview upon his arrival in Beijing last October 18, Duterte said, "The only hope of the Philippines economically, I'll be frank with you, is China." He described his visit as the "defining moment" of his presidency. "Maybe because I'm Chinese," he said.

But what surprised the public was what Digong bluntly told Chinese and Philippine business people at a forum in the Great Hall of the

us against the world – China, Philippines and Russia. It's the only way." Is this the "new triumvirate" that would create a new world order... or should I say, disorder?

Whatever came to his mind to include his Third-World country in the company of China and Russia against the world, reminds me of someone who once said, "It's like shooting a loose cannon. There is lot of noise, but no substance – and worst of all, no voice."

Indeed, Digong has been trying very hard to amplify his dissatisfaction against the U.S. But the



Duterte and his new patron Xi Jinping

U.S. is not convinced that Digong has the courage to cut loose from Uncle Sam's protective embrace. What is Digong going to do when the Red Dragon starts reclaiming the Scarborough Shoal? What is he going to do when China tows away the old and rusty BRP Sierra Madre that has served as the Philippines' outpost to protect the Ayungin Reef from Chinese reclamation? What is he going to do when China evicts the Filipino settlers on Pag-Asa Island in the Spratly archipelago? What is he going to do when China declares an Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the West Philippine Sea? What is he going to do when China declares a 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ) all around the islands, reefs, and rocks in the West Philippine Sea? What is he going to do when China declares the Recto Bank off limits to Philippine oil and gas exploration? And what is he going to do when China claims the Benham Rise as her territory?

In the final analysis, nobody had any inkling that Digong was the "Manchurian Candidate" all along! And with all the hoopla that his pivot to China has created, the people have to look back at his first 100 days in office – just like what FVR did – and ask themselves: Do we want Digong to pursue a China-centric foreign policy at the expense of a century of building mutual trust between the U.S. and the Philippines?

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



The new triumvirate: Duterte, Xi, and Putin.

People in Beijing on October 20. "In this venue, your honors, in this venue, I announce my separation from the United States," he said. He declared that he had realigned with China, saying: "Both in military, not maybe social, but economics also. America has lost!" Nobody could have been happier than Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli who was seated a few feet away from Digong at the podium.

The new triumvirate

With \$13.5 billion in deals to be signed between China and the Philippines, Duterte couldn't contain his exuberance. He told the audience: "I've realigned myself with your ideological flow and maybe I will also go to Russia to talk to [President Vladimir] Putin and tell him that there are three of

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PerryScope
By Perry Diaz

A nation in pain

A Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey conducted last September 24-26 showed Duterte receiving a public satisfaction rating of 76%, “dissatisfied” rating of 11%, and “undecided” rating of 13%. According to SWS, Duterte’s +54 “net satisfaction” rating is better than most of his post-EDSA revolution predecessors, except for Fidel V. Ramos who scored +66 in 1992.

During that same period last September, the SWS survey showed that 84% of the respondents are satisfied with the ongoing campaign against illegal drugs, while 8% are dissatisfied and 8% are undecided. The question asked was: “Please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the performance of government in its campaign against illegal drugs?”

What SWS survey reveals?

But here is the stinger: 94% of the respondents believed the importance of keeping the drug suspects alive during police operations. Only 6% believed that it was not important. The question asked was: “In the police’s fulfillment of their duty in the campaign against illegal drugs, in your opinion, how important is it that they arrest suspects allegedly involved in the illegal drug trade alive?”

Is it then fair to presume that the respondents believed that killing the drug suspects should be avoided and that the police shouldn’t be trigger-happy when arresting drug suspects?

It brings to fore the question: Are the police trained to avoid killing the drug suspects whenever possible? Or, is Duterte’s “shoot to kill” order encouraging the police officers to use their guns as a “first resort” instead of “last resort.”

“Shoot first...”

This brings to mind a cliché that’s used in police operations, to wit: “Shoot first, ask questions later.” Although no police department would openly encourage its policemen to shoot first and ask questions later, there is a culture within the law enforcement community that a policeman should always be ready to shoot first and ask questions later. Their mindset is: It’s either they shoot first or they’re dead.

However, the “Shoot first, ask questions later” mantra is predicated on a situation where shots weren’t meant to kill but merely wound the target so that the police could question him later. But what has been happening is oftentimes the target ends up dead because the police use high-caliber weapons... and at short range. In other words, it’s not “Shoot first, ask questions later” but “Shoot to kill.” But isn’t that in line with what Duterte wants, which is to kill drug pushers and drug addicts? Didn’t he say during the campaign, “All of you who are into drugs, you sons of bitches, I will really kill you”? Didn’t he offer medals and cash rewards to citizens who killed drug dealers? And few weeks after his oath-taking as president, didn’t he reiterate his vow during his inaugural State of the Nation Address (SONA), saying: “We will not stop until the last drug lord ... and the last pusher have surrendered or are put either behind bars or below the ground, if they so wish”?

Terror effect

After reaching Duterte’s 100th day in office, Communications Secretary Martin Andanar announced in a press conference: “It’s a complete success and the people believe in it. 84% believe in the war against illegal drugs. 700,000 addicts turned themselves in kasama ang (including) 52,000 na drug pushers and drug lords.” He added: “You see crime dropping. Last July, it dropped at 49%. I don’t

have it in front of me but I have new data from January to September, crime dropped to about 40 percent.”

While the drop in crime may be attributed to “terror effect” -- which was intended against the drug syndicates -- it is also terrorizing communities throughout the countries. Citizens are afraid to go out at night lest they be mistaken for drug pushers or users and killed by the police or vigilantes... or people who have an axe to grind against them.

Dutertismo

In the long run, extra-judicial killings (EJKs) -- or “salvaging,” a Marcos martial law-era jargon -- and other indiscriminate killings would corrode the base of “Dutertismo,” a movement based on mass support for Duterte’s leadership in fighting corruption, crime, poverty, and other social problems. But, just like similar events in the history of mankind, there is a caveat here. Abuse of power and the impunity of corruption could turn that “mass support” into “mass protest,” which could mimic the people power revolutions of the past.

It’s interesting to note that one of Duterte’s early and ardent supporters -- former President Fidel V. Ramos -- wrote in his newspaper column: “In the overall assessment by this writer [Ramos], we find our Team Philippines losing in the first 100 days of Du30’s [Duterte] administration -- and losing badly. This is a huge disappointment and letdown to many of us.”

“Death under investigation”

Last September when the SWS survey was taken, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said that 1,011 drug pushers and users were



“The Filipino people are an extraordinary kind of people. They can tolerate the evils of corruption and endure the pains of poverty. But they are too forgiving of others’ transgressions.”

The Philippines has been getting military and police financial assistance for many years from the U.S. The military receives at least \$200 million a year, of which part of it is used in law enforcement. The U.S. military assistance is in jeopardy or it could be terminated to ensure that it will not be used for EJK operations. A U.S. State Department spokesman explained, “There’s a law called the Leahy Law that requires us to routinely and regularly vet security forces that are getting aid and assistance to make sure that any units that violate international law in that regard do not get aid and assistance.”

Indeed, with all the brouhaha over his controversial “War on Drugs,” Duterte has become an international pariah. Recently, a French daily newspaper, “The Liberation,” in a front-page article, Duterte was described as a “serial killer president.” The four-page story also touched on Duterte’s expletives against Obama and Pope Francis, and his controversial remarks in which he compared Adolf Hitler’s extermination of Jews to his “war on drugs.”

At the end of the day, the “message” from the SWS survey last September is crystal clear: While they want Duterte to stop the drug menace, they want him to do it in a way where killings are avoided. “Stop the killings!” was what the people were saying.

The Filipino people are an extraordinary kind of people. They can tolerate the evils of corruption and endure the pains of poverty. But they are too forgiving of others’ transgressions. And to the Filipino psyche, killing is never an option.

But in the final analysis, when our nation is in pain, there is only one option and that is, we turn to

killed from July 1 to September 4. In addition, there were 1,391 deaths considered as “death under investigation” (DUI) or those whose bodies were found with cardboards with the note “Pusher ako” (I am a pusher). A month later, the DUIs have increased to 1,745 cases; however, only 321 cases have been filed against the alleged perpetrators -- vigilantes? -- of the crime, of which 176 cases were considered solved. However, “solved” in PNP parlance doesn’t mean the perpetrator has been convicted; it merely means that an arrest has been made.

During a media interview, PNP Director General Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa attributed the deaths of suspected drug pushers to illegal drug syndicates purging their own ranks or due to turf wars or double-crosses in drug transactions. “You will be surprised, this is not the handiwork of vigilantes. These alleged vigilante killings, it turned out, are syndicated killings.”

But whether the EJKs were perpetrated by drug syndicates, vigilantes or the police, it is causing international furor because EJKs are considered human rights violations. In particular, U.S. President Barack Obama was concerned about the impunity of EJKs in the Philippines. This did not dwell too well with Duterte, who told Obama, “Go to hell.”

The people’s “message”

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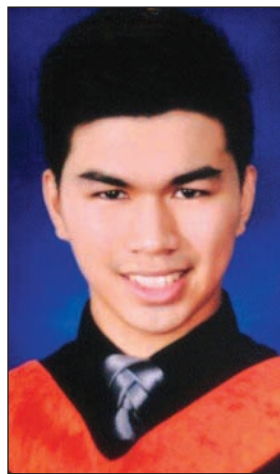
COED's First Scholars Graduate in 2016

By Malou Verder-Carlos

2016 happens to be a pivotal year for Creating Opportunities for Educational Development (COED, a 501 c(3) non-profit organization). This year, all of COED's scholars who started in 2011, graduated from college and fulfilled their seemingly unattainable goal of graduating from a university. In 2011, when all five of them graduated from public high schools in Marikina, Metro Manila (Parang High School and Sta. Elena High School), they were unsure of what their future would hold. Thanks to COED scholarship sponsors and supporters, they were able to get through several years of college and graduated this year.

Last year, Raniel Alayon graduated as magna cum laude from Philippine Aeronautical Technical School and took the rigorous examination and qualification for officers training with the Philippine Air Force (PAF). Out of 11,000 applicants for the PAF officers training, he continues as one out of 64 undergoing a year-long preparation to become a 2nd lieutenant by December 2016.

Juvelyn Nierves graduated this year as cum laude from the University of the Philippines (UP) with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in History. Currently, she works for the National Historical Commission at the Museum of Apolinario Mabini. At her job, she teaches museum guests and students about Philippine History and the role of Apolinario Mabini



Raniel Alayon



Juvelyn Nierves



Arvin Monte



Rogelio Operana



Harold Simeon



COED six scholars students for 2015



COED scholars with Malou and Rommel Carlos

in shaping Philippine democracy.

Arvin Monte graduated also from UP with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Geodetic Engineering. He currently works for the Department of Science and Technology, in the Disaster Risk for Exposure Assessment and Mitigation Program (DOST-DREAM). This month, Arvin takes his Board Exam for Geodetic Engineers and hopes to be promoted to an engineering position as soon as he passes his Board exam.

Rogelio Operana graduated from the University of the East (UE)

with a degree of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. The international accounting firm, KPMG recruited him to become an intern in their Manila office and has offered him a permanent position. Rogelio is also reviewing for his CPA exam this month and has several offers for accounting jobs in Manila, once he successfully passes his CPA exam.

Harold Simeon graduated from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering. Even before graduation, Harold has applied

his computer expertise by repairing computers, karaoke machines and other hi-tech devices to augment paying for his school expenses. Currently, Harold works as a computer programmer for a start-up technology company and has also been taking several certification exams to enhance his programming knowledge.

COED accepted an additional six students as scholars in 2015 and they are all sophomores in various universities in Metro Manila, namely, UP, PUP and UP at Los Banos. Their academic perfor-

mance demonstrates their initiative to succeed and graduate for a future they look forward to for themselves and their families.

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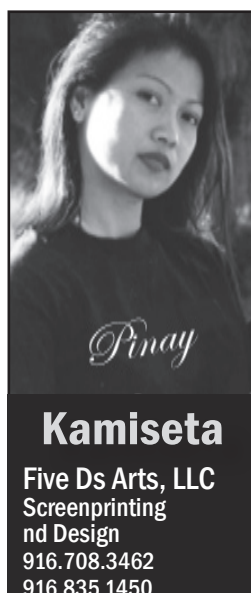


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Golden State Lions Club hosts its 5th Annual Halloween Costume Dinner Dance

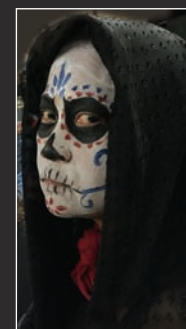
By Eddie Aducaen

On Friday, October 28, 2016, at the Sacramento Asian Sport Foundation located in Elk Grove, Golden State Lions club hosted its 5th Annual Halloween Costume Dinner Dance. The chairperson of the event was Lion Caroline Kang. It was a very successful fundraiser attended by about 250 people, many of which were in costume. The dinner included trip tip and chicken. There was a no host bar, as well as opportunity drawings, and of course dancing.

There were 4 costume contests – (1) Best in Character Costume, (2) Most Creative/Original Costume, (3) Scariest Costume, and (4) Best Looking Couple/Group.

There were 4 costume contests. The winner of the Best in Character Costume Contest was Robin Schneider Crosby, dressed as a Roaring 20's Flapper. The winner of the Most Creative/Original Costume Contest was Gilbert Garrucho, dressed as King Abdullah. The winner of the Scariest Costume Contest was Glory Guzman, dressed as Bone to be Wild Mom. The winner of the Best Looking Couple/Group Contest is Regina and Gary, dressed as Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Each of the 1st place winners of the 4 costume contests won a trophy and \$100 cash.

The proceeds of the event will go towards the club's medical missions, as well as the club's Burn Victims Sponsorship Signature Project.



Golden State Lions Club Members and Partners in Service Sitting: Gina Cundiff (Club President), Beth Estemon, Cloe Samantha, Marites Dumapi and Caroline Kang. Standing: Martin Castellano, Frank O'Donahue, Maria Hufana, Cecille Baylon, Kevin Dalmacio, Emilee Vergara, Kristine Aducaen, Eddie Aducaen, Evelyn Balenbin, Lynne Mitchell, Lita Castellano, Greg Mitchell and Julie Vergara.



FCSV Leads Celebration of Filipino-American History Month

By Faina E. Abaya

We peruse the pages of our history to travel back in time when the Philippines was a colony of the United States of America. It was a violent and tumultuous period of our history seldom mentioned by both countries until lately, when Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte brought out the massacre of thousands of Filipinos during the Philippine American War.

Whether it is right to mention such event to counter the United States criticism against the Duterte's administration policy on his fight to eliminate the menace of illegal drugs rampantly prevailing in the Philippines is, perhaps, a political question which is only resolved by political perception.

However, extra judicial killings of suspected illegal drug connected criminals are without doubt within the realm of the majesty of our laws in both countries judicial system. And such criminal activities are also in the judicial bounds of Human Rights violation, especially, when such acts are encouraged, tolerated and unabated by the legal authorities of one civilized country.

The primacy of human life takes precedent over political expediency, the reason why we have the right of due process enshrined in our constitution as well as in the treaties and global conventions which we are signatories. As such, we should respect, protect and enforce effectively with highest priority of whatever provisions on the rights of an individual as mandated in those documents.

Let us leave the present political vagaries seemingly existing between the Philippines and the United States to focus more on the strong relationship of both countries which has been tested with the passing of time. The trailblazing of our forebears on their epic journey to reach the United States was a history of perseverance, human endurance and undying determination never seen before by any breed of people. Our forefather's years of isolation from the mainstreams American way of life has been overcome through democratic and peaceful expression of grievances.

Eventually, the State of California through a resolution passed and approved by the California State Assembly recognized Octo-



Photos by Faina Abaya



ber as Filipino American History Month to commemorate the 100 years of immigration by the Filipinos to the United States. Consequently, in the year 2009, the United States Congress through separate resolutions of both houses affirmed October to be the period of annual celebration of Filipino American History

month nationwide. This is in consonance with the first recorded arrival of Filipinos aboard a galleon trade ship between the Philippines and Mexico that landed at what is now Morro Bay, California. The celebration is in recognition of the contributions of the Filipinos in all facets of human endeavors which greatly affected the strengthening

of the diversity of the American way of life. As expected, our premier community organization, the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity leads the way in the celebration of our Filipino American History Month on October 15, 2016 at the Dr. Jose Rizal Community Center on Florin Mall Drive, Sacramento. The celebration was a showcase of the greatness and depth of our cultural heritage as depicted in our costumes, dances, songs and music. Likewise, it also brought out the beauty of our regional customs

and traditions which were usually had religious connotations.

The inclement weather has not dampened the enthusiasm and celebratory spirit of those who bravely donned their evening attires, despite heavy rains and cold night just to be counted as participants in such important celebration.

The Rizal Center was well decorated, however, the attention was more concentrated on the seven mannequins displayed at the stage of the auditorium by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinities under the leadership of Dr. Fred Aquino and curator Susan Castillo of the Museo Pilipino. The mannequins are clad with the regional and traditional costumes or attires usually worn by the Filipinos especially during celebration and important occasions.

The Barong Tagalog is considered as the National Dress of the Philippines and it is usually worn untucked over an undershirt. It is also worn by women with various feminine designs. The Barong is popularized by all the Presidents of the Philippines from Ramon Magsaysay to Benigno Aquino III and it is usually worn during formal and State functions. However, lately President Rodrigo Du-

Continued on page 12

FCSV Leads Celebration of Filipino-American History Month

From page 11

terte has corrupted the wearing of the Barong by folding up the arm sleeves with unbuttoned collar, perhaps, to maintain his macho image that catapulted him to the presidency of his country.

There are two Mestiza dresses on display, both are intricately hand embroidered known for their usual elegance and butterfly sleeves and they are worn during formal occasions. Likewise, a sleeveless formal dress called Sablay with symbols on the sash referred to as babayin of ancient Filipino letters symbolizing the great institution of learning, the University of the Philippines. Meticulously hand embroidered is the beautiful and elegant white Maria Clara gown named after the character of Dr. Jose Rizal novel is a floor length paneled silk or satin and it consists of four separate pieces, also worn during formal events.

The colorful Kalinga skirt worn by Kalinga tribe of the cordillera region made by back strap weaving, a traditional weaving passed on from generation to generation and the Maranao typical and elegant costume of varied colors is worn by Maranao women of the great province of Lanao in Mindanao region which is also worn during festivities and memorable celebrations.

As expected the Rizal Center was filled up to capacity of about 200 attendees who were all in their best evening attires. The ladies showed their usual grace, beauty and elegance in their formal evening Filipina dresses of different colors and designs. Most of the gentlemen were, likewise, in their tailored Barong Tagalog of different colors with intricate designs while some others were in their best western suits. At this juncture, the program immediately started by two popular community leaders Lilia Rivera and Dick Mason who acted as the evening's Emcees.

The National Anthems of the United States and the Philippines were sung by the Bayanihan choir and immediately thereafter, our



Photos by Faina Abaya



community Diva Remy Solomon regaled her awed audience with a powerful patriotic rendition of the song "Ako ay Pilipino" receiving a prolong applause and standing ovation. Sister Josie Tanudtanud delivered the invocation who invoked the guidance of the Devine Providence for the success of the event and to bestow graces to a diversified community to become stronger and united in whatever meritorious activities that they indulged in for the betterment of their community.

The usual energetic President Mercy Guerrero of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity welcomes everyone as she expressed her profound gratitude for accepting their invitation to be a part in the celebration of the Filipino American History Month. She also praised the working committee led by Edna delos Reyes with Luz Daclan, Maria

Bahoric and Aurora Ramos and all the volunteers as well as community organizations who feverishly exerted their efforts for the success of this memorable month.

The amiable President of PNDA Cynthia Bonta, the event's guest speaker was introduced by Edna delos Reyes who said among others that she arrived in the United States at the height of the political and civil rights movements that she participated in the 1960's against the Vietnam War, farm worker's equal rights movements and many other social justice grievances for the American minorities.

Suffice to say, Cynthia Bonta is also a paragon of Filipino American motherhood having brought out and cared her children to become useful citizens in the community and country. As a result of such loving care she bestowed upon her children and her activism for the betterment not only her community but also country, she was unanimously voted as the Most Outstanding Woman of the year 2016 by the Women's Club of Sacramento. Culminating such motherly virtues for her children, Rob Bonta became the first and only Filipino American Assembly Member of the State of California legislative body.

Cynthia Bonta eloquently traced how Filipinos became part of the American political, social and economic landscapes from the time the Philippines was effective colonized up to the period of time when the Filipinos were brought to the United States to fill up jobs scorned by the Americans. Eventually, despite tremendous hardship, most of the Filipinos were able to establish themselves

in all the places where they have found comfort bringing with them their great tradition and cultural heritage.

The success of just few Filipino Americans in public service is not enough and even proportionate to the number of Filipinos who are qualified to hold such kind of service but stoically indifferent to be counted. The speaker urges Filipinos to engage more in the democratic process, especially, this year being the election of the President of the United States and other elective positions with long list of measures in our County and State that deeply affected us.

Showcasing our regional cultural and religious festivities were the highlights of evening's program. The Aklan Association led by Frank Zabal brought out Ati-Atihan, a religious festival in honor of Sto. Nino with performers who blackened their faces and wearing armor like outfits. Followed by the Ilocano Foundation of California led by Ling Avera showing the elegance of traditional Ilocano attires. The Cabalin Association led by Rod Lumbang sung their favorite regional song entitled "Atin Cu Pung Singsing". While the Abrarian led by Amy Inlay showed the gracefulness of their native dance called Tingian. The Visayan Association under the leadership of Alice Pambid showed a fashion show of the traditional and formal attires of the region. The Pangasinan group led by Ray Oineza entertained their audience with medley of songs in both Filipino and their native tongue. The Bicol region led by Tony Granado showed the glimpse of their religious fluvial parade

and procession referred to as Ina.

The non-regional presentation of the history month was led by the Filipino American National Historical Society under the leadership of Bill Tyson who chronicled together with Jay Paular and Dick Mason on how the Society played important role in the celebration of this event even before the official designation of the month of October as the Filipino American History Month. The Filipino Family Fraternity holds a procession in honor of the Virgin Mary and the procession was led by Nellie Umali. The FCSV contribution was the parade of two previous Mrs. Philippines winners Maria Bahoric and Alice Pambid in their best queenly attires. They were escorted by Joe Rivera and Joe Gonzales who were wearing their tailored with intricate designs Barong Tagalog. The Valley Hi Lions Club showed their presence by walking around the middle isle of the Center in their best fashionable evening gown attires.

The D' Dream girls regaled and mesmerized their audience with their graceful and well-choreographed dance called Malong Malong performed by Fe Alvarez, Janet Tavora, Edna Villanueva, Marian Kronemeyer and Marinelle Carillo.

The closing remarks was delivered by Joe Gonzales who thanks everyone for their participation in the observance of a very significant month for all Filipino Americans not only in Sacramento but throughout the United States. The successful celebration has continued music, dance and entertainment, until closing time.



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After



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UPAASV



UPAASV family picnic held on Oct.1, 2016 at McClellan Park.

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GOLDEN HIPS & friends Halloween and Marilyn Lopez' birthday celebration at Elna and Val Discipulo's residence in Elk Grove, CA.



Elna and Val Discipulo's romantic dance of the night



(L-R) Liz, Dinnah, Helen, Ida, Marita, Judie, Mariflor and Aida G.



Marilyn's sweet 16 birthday celebration

PAGDANGANAN FAMILY REUNION



Peping and Norma Pagdanganan



It sure did appear like a family reunion, as the Pagdanganan family had the chance to have their picture taken with everyone in the family, during another family's birthday celebration. It was an opportunity too precious to pass up!

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Eliza Castillo Banayat

January 19, 1937-September 26, 2016

Eliza Castillo Banayat was born in Piddig, Ilocos Norte, where she spent the best years of her young life with loving and caring parents Benjamin Castillo and Sotera Ventura together with her two brothers Mariano and Piping Ventura Castillo.

After finishing her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology degree and worked briefly at a well-known hospital in Manila to gain experience from her chosen profession, she decided to cross the vast Pacific Ocean for better opportunities. Her journey in crossing the great ocean brought her to many places, including Hamilton, Canada until she reached Saginaw, Michigan and later to Tacoma, Washington where she met her husband Pio Hullana Banayat in a Filipino community gathering.

The whirlwind courtship ended in marriage that lasted for 47 years and blessed with two children Edward and Elvin Banayat. Eventually, the family decided to settle permanently in Sacramento, California. She has been a Medical Technologist for 40 years since she started her career in Canada up to the time when she worked in various Kaiser Permanente hospitals throughout the greater Sacramento area for 31 years until she retired in 2007.

Liza was very proud of her

hobbies including travelling, dancing, baking, watching sports and her favorite sports teams were the Giants and the Kings. Aside from her hobbies, she loves serving Filipino communities by helping those less fortunate. Liza and her husband were members of several Pilipino associations and organizations in Sacramento such as the Filipino American Veterans Association, American Legion Magellan Post and Unit 604, United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America, Incorporated and many more.

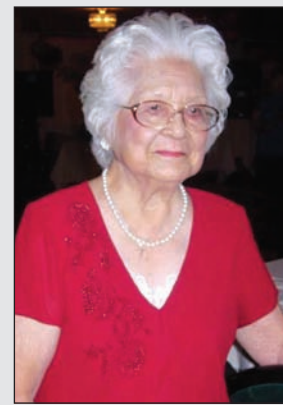
She and husband helped put up scholarship grants for many of her nieces and nephews including other children who sought her assistance for their college education in the Philippines which she jokingly referred to as her "foreign aids" to the Philippines. Throughout her life, her greatest love was to spend time with her immediate and extended families and many friends throughout the years in the United States and Philippines. She will al-

ways be remembered by those who loved her as generous, strong willed woman, loving, thoughtful, considerate, inspirational and steadfast in her desire to help others who are in dire needs for help in their day to day living or in the advancement of their education. Eliza passed away on September 26, 2016 after a long battle with cancer that lasted for 6 years. She is survived by her husband Pio, sons Edward and Elvin; daughter-in-law Tuyen Tran, grandson Khoi Anh Papiu Banayat and granddaughter Khue Linh Ely Banayat. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Liza will always serve as an inspirational spirit to others and will always be remembered. She was laid to rest on October 12, 2016.

While we are saddened by the passing of this wonderful woman, however, we are happy by the thought that she is now in the Kingdom of her Maker enjoying eternal life free from pain and suffering. *By Faina E. Abaya*



Liza's family at Piddig, Ilocos Norte



40th Novena and Prayer

Luz Del Rosario Albaniel

August 16, 1916-September 7, 2016

On 15 Oct 2016, at Magellan Hall, the family and friends of Remy Solomon came for the 40th Day Prayer and Novena for beloved Mama Luz, Remy's mother who lived to 100 years old, from 16 Aug 1916 - 7 Sep 2016.



Remy Solomon and siblings



Families and friends' gathering with memorial service and prayer in celebration of their Lola Luz's life.





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Birthdays



REY DE JESUS
OCTOBER 19



KORBEN ABAYA
NOVEMBER 2



FAINALITA and HIEU NGO
(Both) NOVEMBER 19



MIKE VALENTINE with Liza
NOVEMBER 9

Calendar of Events

December 9, 2016 7:30 PM
December 10, 2016 7:30 PM
December 11, 2016 2:30 PM

Sinag-tala 2016:
A theatrical Revue
Luther Burbank High School Auditorium
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www.sinagtala.org



NOVEMBER 19, 2016 (Sat)
Kappa PSI Epsilon
Annual Veterano Luncheon
11am - 2:00pm
Magellan Post 604
8831 Gerber Rd. Sacramento, CA
Rides can be provided
Contact Gabrielle-
KPSIE.EPSILON.COMMUNITY@GMAIL.COM



A surprise 70th birthday given to DANTE SAN PEDRO by his family, relatives and friends on October 8, 2016 held at Nirvana Banquet & Event Center in Tracy, California.



JULIE VERGARA with Emmy
NOVEMBER 25

Anniversary



REGINA and GERRY LOBO
8th Wedding Anniversary
November 8



CYNDY and BOBBY RICHARDS
9th Wedding Anniversary
November 10



CARLE and SARAH ENLOE
20th Wedding Anniversary
November 21

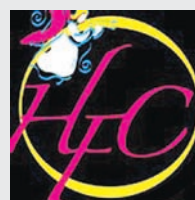
Baptismal



Joint Baptismal of Gilbert Emmanuel Solis, son of Charmaine Encina and Gilbert Solis and Enzo Jason Encina, son of Christina Loy and Fritz Encina, held at St. Paul Catholic Church on October 28, 2016.



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By Dale Esperante

November is a Month for Veterans and Thanksgiving

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month will be upon us during this issue of PF. Veterans all over town will be seen again proudly displaying their full military or veteran regalia on the 11th day. Homes in the community will also unfurl their flags to wave in front of their properties to honor Veterans Day.

The gathering place for Filipino-American veterans, Magellan Hall on Gerber Road, will be displaying three flags as always: United States, Philippines, and the POW/MIA flag. The veterans of The American Legion Magellan Post 604 are the caretakers of this property located at 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento, California 95828. The foundation of Magellan Hall was poured circa 1948 according to Veteran Pastor Engkabo. He remembers helping the builders before he enlisted in the military prior to the Korean War.

Elk Grove Veterans Parade starts 11 AM at 9408 Elk Grove Florin Blvd. The road from the Elk Grove Florin Shopping Center to Elk Grove Park will be closed to normal traffic during the parade. The Filipino Community of Sacramento is encouraged to support the parade participants especially the Filipino American veteran participants. This will be a great opportunity for Filipino-American organizations TO BE SEEN as supporters of events organized by the City of Elk Grove and the Sacramento County. Filipino-Americans are also encouraged to wave United States flags for the parading veterans, especially for the veterans of Magellan Hall—American Legionnaires of Magellan Post and Unit 604, and the Filipino-American Veterans Association.

Veterano Day is a day when college students from Sacramento State University and University of Cal-Davis will be hosting a party at Magellan Hall for the Filipino-American veterans. The students are members or friends of the following college organizations: Sac State's Kappa Psi Epsilon (KPsiE), Chi Rho Omicron (XPO), and the Cal-Davis university group. Kappa Psi Epsilon of California State University-Sacramento is the host and



tional problems with roof leaks, stained and peeling ceilings, warped flooring, uneven and graveled parking, lacking ramp railings, and miscellaneous deficiencies need to be resolved. So far since 21 Sep 2016, online and offline donations as of 25 Oct 2016 have totaled to \$3380. Our goal to fix the major problems is \$25,000.00. As you can see, there is still a long way to go to refurbish Magellan Hall into the 21st century. If you would like TO

DONATE ONLINE, go to the website of GoFundMe, then search for Veterans Magellan Hall. If you donate online, you'll have to use your credit card. TO DONATE OFFLINE, please write a check payable to "The American Legion Magellan Post 604" and mail it to Magellan Post 604, P.O. Box 292091, Sacramento, CA 95829-2091. Names of all donors will be archived in the historical records of Magellan Hall.

The Founding Fathers according to the book of Ron Chernow regarding Alexander Hamilton: Father of Our Country - George Washington
Father of The Constitution - James Madison
Father of Our Government- Alexander Hamilton

Family Friendly Video for Halloween, check out Oliver's Ghost. The story will relate to most of us with family members busy doing their own thing. We already know the lesson to be learned from this movie; however, sometimes we need reminding. This film will surely remind us of what is important to a family.

Happy Veterans Day! We give thanks to the veterans for serving in our armed forces to pay for our freedom.

"ALL GAVE SOME, BUT SOME GAVE ALL."

Happy Thanksgiving Day! "We give thanks for the blessing of the harvest and of the preceding year." Stay Safe Out There when doing your shopping or travelling on Thanksgiving weekend.

Mabuhay Po Tayong Lahat!

Remembering 11-11-11 The Beginning of Veterans Day

By Faina E. Abaya

On the 11th Hour of the 11th Day in the 11th Month in 1918, the world celebrated the end of World War I. After four years of war, a truce was signed ending what was called the "War to End all Wars".

November 11 was named "ARMISTICE DAY" in the U.S. to remember the sacrifices those male and female service members made, during the war for peace. It was a joyous occasion in cities all across America, families and friends celebrated the return of their loved ones. Those who survived the war marched in a parade through their home towns on that day, politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and ceremonies of tanks for the peace they had won. Congress voted Armistice Day a federal holiday in 1938, 20 years after the war ended.

Unfortunately, the "War to End All Wars" was not the last one. World War II erupted in 1939, setting off another struggle for world peace. After the war, Armistice Day continued to be observed on November 11.

Ironically, the name "VETERANS DAY" did not originate in Washington or from any congressional leaders. Residents in the small town of Emporia, Kan., localized the holiday by renaming it "VETERANS DAY" to pay homage to the Veterans in their town. Congress later followed suit and passed a bill that was "VETERANS DAY".

To this day, we continue to give thanks for peace and remember the men and women in uniform who have served and sacrificed for it. In keep-

A Salute to all our Men and Women in Uniform
Thank You for Your Service!



ing with the spirit of tradition, there are ceremonies and speeches and many Americans will observe a moment of silence at 11 AM, the 11th day of November.

On Friday, November 11, 2016, when you meet a Veteran, greet them with a simple "Thank You".

- Esmeraldo Lagasca Estioco-United States Marines Corps*
- Felimon Lagasca Estioco-United States Navy*
- Rufino Lagasca Estioco-United States Army*
- Mario Lagasca Estioco-United States Army*
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ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE PURPLE PLACE

A National Museum of Filipino American History Opens in Stockton, California

By Richard Tenaza

The first Filipinos known to set foot on American soil came ashore from a Spanish Galleon at Morro Bay, California, on October 18, 1587. The Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) commemorates their arrival by celebrating October as Filipino American History Month, honoring those long ago Pinoys while simultaneously delineating the span of our history in America.

Now another important Filipino History Month event is about to occur: On October 29, 2016, 429 years after the coming of those first Filipinos, FANHS will open a National Museum of Filipino American history in Stockton, California. In 1994 the FANHS founders and trustees voted to found a national museum and specified it should be in Stockton because this was the one city to which all Filipino immigrants arriving in the western US during the early to mid-20th century had ties. During that period more Filipinos lived in and around Stockton than anywhere outside of the Philippines, and thousands who did not reside there fulltime worked seasonally in the area's fields, packing sheds, and canneries. Nearly all who lived in the city stayed in the neighborhood now designated Stockton's Little Manila Historic Site, and those who dwelt outside of town would head to that Pinoy oasis to socialize, worship, and shop for goods and services in its stores, restaurants, barber shops, pool parlors, gambling dens, sororal and fra-

ternal clubs, dance halls, and churches.

FANHS founders and trustees in Seattle approved the idea of a national museum in 1994 and over the next two decades FANHS Chapter members in Stockton made it happen. The Stocktonians raised the money (largely through efforts of Mel LaGasca), collected the historical materials, and finally rented the space for the museum, shouldering the responsibility for planning an institution hoped to eventually represent all of FANHS's 34 chapters and our nation's 3.4 million Filipino Americans. All Stockton personnel involved in past and present efforts to open the Museum are volunteers, there are no paid staff in Stockton. Those who have worked the longest and hardest making ready for the grand opening are Beverly Engkabo, Terri Torres, Mel & Gail LaGasca, Anita N. Bautista, Leatrice Perez, Elena Mangahas, and Buster Villa.

The centerpiece exhibit for the opening is the Smithsonian Institution's captivating and educational Singgalot photographic depiction of Filipino American history. FANHS CEO Dorothy Cordova acquired the Singgalot on loan from Seattle's Wing Luke Museum. Other exhibits set up for the opening illustrate history of Filipino American boxers and martial artists, motorcyclist fraternal organizations, agricultural workers, religious organizations,

and public figures.

The purpose of the FANHS Museum is to educate the public about the history of Filipino Americans. Singgalot and other of the museum's exhibits cover the following and more:

- *Migration and dispersal of Filipinos to America from Spanish colonial times to the present
- *The Filipino American War and American colonization of the Philippines
- *Early 20th century recruitment of colonized Filipinos as cheap labor to work in fields and plantations of Hawaii and the western US
- *Anti-miscegenation laws that prohibited Filipinos from marrying whites
- *Anti-Filipino movements in the US
- *WW2 Filipino American regiments and war brides
- *Filipino American agricultural workers and unions
- *1960's influx of Filipino professionals
- *Filipino sororal, fraternal, social, and professional organiza-



Singgalot panels that tell the narrative of the Filipino American timeline of immigration. (Photo courtesy of FANHS)

tions

*The profound diversity of occupations, professions, interests, and outlooks held by present day Filipino Americans

While we 21st century Filipinos can celebrate the historic landing of our 16th century predecessors, for them it was a grim and deadly event. Those first Filipinos, who probably were slaves, were accompanying a party of Spaniards going ashore to plant a cross claim-

ing the land for Spain and souls of its human inhabitants for the Roman Catholic Church. But the land and souls already belonged to Chumash Native Americans, who understandably responded by attacking the landing party, resulting in the death of one of the Filipinos. Those unfortunate and unidentified Filipinos live on today in the minds and self-images of contemporary Filipino Americans.

On October 1, 2016, President Barack Obama wrote: "I am pleased to join in celebrating Filipino American History Month and in recognizing Filipino Americans across our country for the many ways they have enriched our society." Thank you President Obama! We've come a ways from the era when President William McKinley confessed not knowing where the Philippines were, when General Joseph Wheeler called Filipinos "...treacherous and bloodthirsty hybrid Malays," when General Joseph Smith ordered his troops to kill all Filipino males over ten years old,

when General Henry Lawton said "the only good Filipinos are the dead ones," and when an editorial in the San Francisco Argonaut newspaper said "the more of them (Filipinos) killed the better."

In recognizing Filipino American History Month, President Obama went on to write: "As we mark this special month, we celebrate ways Filipino Americans have lent their unique voices and talents to changing our country for the better. "Perfect, because educating the public about the history of our unique voices, talents, and contributions to the American Nation is exactly what the FANHS Museum is meant to do.

The FANHS Museum needs your help. It took Stockton FANHS two decades of golf tournaments and other fund-raising activities to build the \$90,000 bank account that finally emboldened its officers to step out onto a limb and rent space for the Museum. We've dreamt big on little money. At the rate of expenditure for rent and other expenses, the money will run out on March 31, 2018. If funding is not acquired by then the experiment will be over, the Museum will close, some of our history will be swept back under the rug.

Please consider contributing to keep the dream alive as the Museum works its way onto solid turf. Now that it is up and running the Museum will begin applying for grants; but it also sorely needs your donations.

You can send a donation via Paypal at the Museum website http://www.fanhsstockton.com/fanhs_museum

Or mail your check to FANHS Museum, P.O. Box 4616, Stockton, CA 95204.

PH bet Kylie Verzosa crowned 2016 Miss International

Philippine bet Kylie Verzosa was named 2016 Miss International in the coronation held at Tokyo Dome City Hall in Tokyo, Japan on Thursday.

Contestants from Australia, Indonesia, Nicaragua and United States finished first, second, third and fourth runners-up, respectively.

In her speech after the announcement of the top 15 finalists, Verzosa said that should she win the title, she wants to focus on cultural and international understanding.

"If I become Miss International 2016, I will devote myself to cultural understanding and international understanding because I believe that it is in developing in each of us sensitivity to other cultures that we expand our horizons, tolerate difference and appreciate diversity," she said.

In her speech after she was announced as winner, Verzosa thanked all those who joined her in her journey.

"I cannot believe this moment right now, and I am ecstatic and happy. Thank you so much to my family, to the Philippines, to everyone who supported me. I did not go through this journey alone, but I had a lot of help from the people who love me. I deeply appreciate this. This moment has only happened in my dreams. Thank you so much, Japan. Thank you, Miss International," she said.

Aside from the big winners, other contestants also received special awards:

- Miss International ASIA - Hong Kong
- Miss International EUROPE - Netherlands



The winner of the Miss International 2016 Kylie Verzosa representing Philippines walks on a stage during the 56th Miss International Beauty Pageant in Tokyo, Japan October 27, 2016.



- Miss International AMERICA - Ecuador
- Miss International AFRICA - Sierra Leone
- Miss International OCEANIA - Hawaii

Meanwhile, the candidates who made the Top 15 were: Finland, Mexico, Japan, El Salvador, Canada, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Russia, Thailand and Poland.

Miss Nicaragua also won for her national costume, while Miss Indonesia got the Miss Best Dresser award. The Miss Perfect Body award went to the contestant from Moldova.

Meanwhile, Binibining Pilipinas took to Facebook to congratulate Verzosa.

Designer Rajo Laurel also congratulated Verzosa for winning the title.

Verzosa is the sixth Filipina to bring home the Miss International crown for the Philippines.

Gemma Cruz was the country's first Miss International winner when she took the crown back in 1964, followed by Aurora Pijuan in 1970. Model-actress Melanie Marquez won the title in 1979.

After a long wait, Precious Lara Quigaman won in 2005, while Bea Rose Santiago won in 2013.

Last year's representative to the pageant, Janicel Lubina, made it to the Top 10 and was given the Best Dresser special award.

Filipino American History Month Celebration in LA

By Rees Retuta

In celebration of the Filipino American History month, the FAHM group based in LA produced a successful concert, held at the Greek Theater on Oct 23, 2016. It was a reunion concert by the Fil-Am celebrities and considered as their first, in performing together in over a decade.



Gary Valenciano and Gab Valenciano



The Fil-Am performers included Gary Valenciano, Gab Valenciano, Mama Bares, Tim Atlas, Jocelyn Enriques, KAI, Drop N Harmony, AJ Rafael, Pinay, Nico Santos, Devotion, Manny Streetz, The Filharmonics, Tribal Theory, Mastaplann, JR Aquino, Brian Puspos, Andrew Garcia, Kayaman ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts, Doce Pares, and other surprise guests.

Among the hosts included Arianny Celeste, Brian Vilorio, and Liane V. The event was made possible by Frontier Communications as the main presenter, along with the following sponsors: TFC, Philippine Airlines, Shangri-La, AMG, Philippine Department of Tourism, CMFA, Mobilite, Kababayan, and AirBNB.

The Filipino American His-

tory month celebration is held annually during the month of October all over the states to commemorate the contributions of Filipinos to America. This concert was held in honor of the Fil Am Arts, Rembrandt Flores, The Park's Finest, Gina Alexander, and Ruby de Vera.



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By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

Paul McCartney Rocks Sacramento

The revered Paul McCartney rocks Sacramento on the historical first event concert at Golden 1 Center, Tuesday, October 4th.

Large posters of Paul McCartney were placed all over conspicuous places in Sacramento one week prior to the concert. Newspaper, radio, TV, and social media were filled with add and talked about McCartney. Beatles fanatics coming mainly from California and some from other states were all excited for the concert. Some had their shirts printed with Beatles or McCartney's photo.

Downtown Sacramento traffic was expected to be congested. Thank God there is Regional Transit (RT), a light railway that transport people from Watt Avenue in North Sacramento and Folsom, CA, and from Cosumnes River College in South Sacramento. RT trains with three to four couches pass each station every 30 minutes and operates up to 12 midnight but extends one hour when there is event at Golden 1 Center or in downtown.

From home in Elk Grove, my wife and I drove our car about five miles to Franklin station and hopped RT for the first time to downtown Sacramento. A \$1 per day parking fee was all I need to securely park my car at the RT station public parking lot. Taking RT is a smart move to get away from traffic congestion and parking issues at downtown. For travel time, it took us 30 minutes of convenient journey from Franklin to Golden 1 Center.

While on train en-route downtown, Beatles fans inside the train were all talking about their experiences with the famous Rock 'n' Roll English band. A lady in her mid 60s said she was so excited when she learned from the news that Paul McCartney will perform at the Golden 1 Center. She added, "I felt I was 14 again. I screamed!"

At downtown, while walking alongside train passengers from RT station to Golden 1 Center, I observed how excited they were to see McCartney. Couple of people in the



Paul McCartney



Golden 1 Center Sacramento

street-side were looking to buy extra tickets. Humongous crowd of concert goers surrounded the Center one hour before the gates were scheduled to open. The air was filled with Beatles songs while the fans, mostly in their 60 to 70s, were singing.

The crowd cheered, clapped their hands in jubilation, and orderly rushed in when the entrance gates were opened.

At the end of countdown, the legendary Paul McCartney entered from the side, went on the stage and started the night with a popular "Hard Day's Night". A crowd of 15,500+ were all on their feet. McCartney sang selected songs from The Beatles, his solo albums, and from the Wings. The people went wild and screamed when the song is from the Beatles.

The crowd fans sang "la la la la la la..." for "Hey Jude" and a lot more. The three-hour concert ended at midnight but it was only the beginning of more events at the newly constructed \$556.6 million Golden 1 Center, the home of Sacramento Kings.

Paul McCartney, 74, came back the following day at Golden 1

Judy Ann Santos: I've come to terms with being fat

By Marinel R. Cruz

"Yes, I look fat in this movie ("Kusina"). I've already come to terms with that."

This was Judy Ann Santos' candid admission at a recent media gathering.

The actress said she was already bracing herself for more hurtful remarks about her weight when "Kusina" is released in August.

The film, codirected by David Corpuz and Cenon Palomares, is an entry to the 2016 Cinemalaya Philippine Independent Film Festival. The annual indie fete will run from Aug. 5 to 14 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the festival's satellite venues.

Judy Ann began filming four months after giving birth. "I couldn't postpone it any longer. I've committed to doing the project almost three years ago. I liked the story so much that I asked them to wait for my schedule to clear up."

"I suggested that we do the film for the following Cinemalaya edition, but I already got pregnant by then. This year, the 'deadliest' deadline to shoot the film was in June," she pointed out.

"I was a paranoid mom while conceiving Luna," according to Judy Ann, who also revealed that she had a failed pregnancy before giving birth to her now 6-month-old daughter.

The 38-year-old actress suffered from a blighted ovum before conceiving Luna. She said only a few knew about her struggles.

"I thought I wasn't affected by that incident, but it turned out that I was. I was depressed for a time. While Luna was still inside me, I would request for an ultrasound every week just to make sure she was doing OK—and hearing her heartbeat would calm me down."



Judy Ann Santos

She said conceiving again was more difficult compared to her experience with son Lucho, now 4. Judy Ann and husband Ryan Agoncillo also have an adopted daughter named Yohan, 11.

"With Lucho, I didn't have cravings ... no nausea. My tummy just grew bigger and when it was time for him to come out, I waited in the hospital for three hours—that was it," Judy Ann recalled. "I was more careful with Luna because I had some spotting."

She ate almost anything she wanted while bearing Lucho, but with Luna, Judy Ann made sure to have the freshest vegetables and juices only. "I'm much older now, so I had to make sure I was in shape," Judy Ann pointed out.

She had to give birth to Luna via Caesarian section. "I was ready for it emotionally, but nothing prepared me for the pain I went through post-operation. I couldn't stand, let alone move around," she said.

This was why getting back in shape would take longer for her. "I started doing light workout when Luna turned 4 months. On her sixth month, I returned to swimming and taking long walks," she said. "I try not to let pressure get to me. I don't want to push myself to losing weight fast just because other people say so. It's sad that some of them can be so insensitive with their comments."



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