



FCSV Filipino American History Month - Page 10



An evening with Pilita Corrales Page 18

# Task force chief declares 'total victory' in Marawi



Pfc. John Peralta gets a big hug from son Yhuan as the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Battalion of the 2nd Infantry Division arrives from Marawi at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City after President Rodrigo Duterte's declaration of the Islamic city's liberation. (Photo by Richard Reyes)

BY DIVINA SUSON

MARAWI CITY – "I would like to say it's already done. It's a complete and total victory for the troops."

This was the declaration of Brig. Gen. Danilo Pamonag, commander of the Task Force Marawi, in a send-off ceremony on Saturday of the 10th Marine Battalion Landing Team (MBLT10) out here for Luzon to secure the incoming 31st Association of South East Asian Nation (ASEAN) Summit.

But Col. Romeo Brawner Jr., deputy commander of

Joint Task Group Ranao, told the Inquirer that troops continued to flush out 20 more fighters who were holed up in the main table area.

Pamonag said this unit could be best remembered as the unit that cleared the three bridges that connect the western part of the city to the main battle area where the business center is located.

"You showed the determination to finish this campaign," he added.

Pamonag said one of the great accomplishments of

the MBLT10 was securing the Mindanao State University (MSU) campus against the Islamic-State inspired fighters who laid siege in this predominantly Muslim city.

The military continued with the pull out of soldiers here as the fighting continued to become weak by the day.

The MBLT10 is the second major military unit that was ordered to pack up after Friday's return to base of the Philippine Army's 1st Infantry Battalion.

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# 4th Annual Filipino American History Month at the Capitol



The Filipino American of Sacramento gathered at the California Capitol to celebrate Filipino American History Month. Photo by Dave San Pedro

BY CHRIS MATEO

For 4 years, the Filipino community of Sacramento gathered at the California State Capitol to celebrate Filipino American History Month and, well, themselves. Twenty-two organizations were in attendance at the State Capitol on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 to once again dine together, learn about their own community and history, and be recognized by some of the state's legislators.

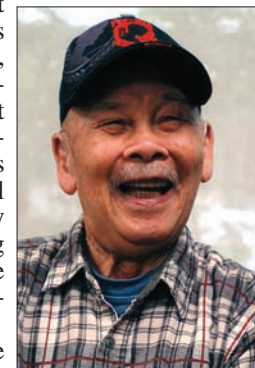
Thanks to Mona Pasquil, Appointments Secretary in the Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. the event was held again at the Governor's Council Room, a beautiful meeting venue that continues to remind the guests of this annual event that they are indeed being celebrated by the State of California.

Before the guest speakers addressed the audience, the leaders and members of the organizations stood up and were applauded for their efforts in improving the Filipino communities they serve, as well as the larger Sacramento and California

populations. Attendees were reminded that there are dozens of Filipino organizations in the Sacramento region and that the region's Filipino American history is immortalized not just by the individuals and organizations, but also of monuments such as the Filipino American National Historical Society museum in Stockton.

They were also reminded that California has two Filipino American legislators in the California Assembly, a Filipino American Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, a myriad of Filipino American

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World War II Veteran Gilmore Perla

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# The drug war beyond Duterte

BY GIDEON LASCO

Given this administration's propensity for theatrics — including (but not limited to) crying police chiefs — I am not convinced that the Philippine National Police's withdrawal from the so-called "drug war" is the end of this horrific and bloody campaign. We have seen this before in the aftermath of the killing of Korean businessman Jee Ick-joo, when an angry President Duterte described the police as "rotten to the core" and announced that the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency would lead the campaign against illegal drugs. As we now know, that volte face proved to be a 360-degree turn. Even if the police would in fact turn its attention to other matters, the Pandora's box of violence remains open and will continue to be that way unless the perpetrators and enablers of impunity are held to account.

Because he has made it the core of his presidency, the drug war is inexorably linked to Mr. Duterte's political fortunes. But beyond the ramifications of the drug war to the current regime (and vice versa), we must also be reminded of something that might vex both political sides (or be ignored altogether): the fact that ugly elements of the drug war have actually been waged for decades.

Random drug testing among high school students? It's actually in Republic Act No. 9165, Article III, Section 36, signed into law by GMA, and is reaffirmed in the National Anti-Drug Plan of Action 2015-2020, set forth during P-Noy's term.

Shaming of drug suspects? We've seen it in 2000 with Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim spray-painting the homes of suspected drug pushers, fully endorsed by then President Erap.

An opposition senator being linked to the drug trade? Before Leila de Lima, there was Ping Lacson, implicated by "Rosebud" Ong in 2001 — both of them leading the dramatis personae of those tempestuous times.

Death penalty for drug pushers?

Mr. Duterte wants it, GMA mulled it, but Ferdinand Marcos actually did it, overseeing the execution of Chinese drug lord Lim Seng by firing squad just a few months after he declared martial law.

Extrajudicial killings? It's been happening for a long

time—and not just in Davao City — though to a much lesser extent and with far less media coverage, as the Human Rights Watch Annual Report 2014 shows, among many others.

In light of this history, I worry that even after Mr. Duterte is gone, the "war on drugs" will once again be invoked by politicians for the same sinister ends. How can we prevent this from happening?

There are no easy, comprehensive answers to this question, but one key step is to change the way drug users and drugs are viewed by society. For decades, drug users, especially the poor ones, have been demonized, and drugs blamed for the most gruesome crimes. Indeed, from the 1970s, when Erap starred in a film called "Kill the Pushers," to our time when Mr. Duterte is actually calling for the killing of drug pushers, the idea that drug "addicts" are the worst of criminals has been widely shared in our society.

The ethnographic picture, however, is very different. Various studies (including my own research) show that among poor communities, people use shabu (crystal meth) for a variety of reasons: to stay awake in order to work longer, to boost en-



The body of a man killed during a drug bust operation

ergy in order to perform manual tasks, to stave off hunger, or to forget their problems. While there are problematic (and criminal) drug users, the same can be said of alcoholics and power-drunk politicians: The human mind never required a dose of any chemical to be capable of harm or evil. Most drug users need help and rehabilitation — not death or punishment.

But society — including the media — has largely subscribed to the dominant narrative. "What a horrible act!" I recently heard one AM radio commentator say of a man who killed his mother. "The suspect must have been an adik because only adiks are capable of doing such things."

This very low regard for drug users has made it possible for the President to call for their elimination and still maintain his popularity; in fact, such calls can boost his ratings. And so we must deal with an inconvenient truth: Many people know there is extrajudicial killing but approve of it, because like Mr. Duterte, they genuinely think that adiks don't deserve to live.

# Are doctors allowed to make mistakes?

BY THADDEUS C. HINUNANGAN

The crowd had left, and I was picking up the projector and the rest of my stuff in the conference room. To say that I had messed up was to make an understatement. A last-minute biopsy slide, which turned out to be that of a different organ, was probably the worst that could happen to a pathologist in training. Oh, my God, I thought, there is no recovering from this one. I had failed to adequately establish the cause of the patient's death.

Many people view doctors as infallible. That was my perception, too — until I began the journey of becoming a doctor myself. It's more of a burden for pathologists because clinicians depend on us for diagnosing malignancies, classifying or staging tumors, or confirming infections that would have serious implications on the treatment approach. Meaning: A misdiagnosis might result in the surgeon removing a benign breast or kidney, or the oncologist administering the wrong chemotherapy protocol, or clinicians undergoing the nightmare of over- or undertreating their patients.

I have tremendous respect for my fellow residents and consultants. More often than not, after a less than desirable score on the monthly exam where we are ranked, or

missed lesions on microscopy, I doubt whether I should continue. Being in this specialty requires one to be objective, methodical and precise — three adjectives seldom used to describe me. While my colleagues were completing secondary education in science high schools, I was a college student during the day and a call center agent at



night. Almost every move on their part was geared toward the goal of becoming the specialist they intended to be. In my case, I started late in medical school in the province, with the intention of becoming a general practitioner.

Almost a year into training, I am still adjusting in a major way. Distinguishing benign lymphocytic proliferation from lymphoma and further subclassifying require years of study, and up to now, doling out a diagnosis of cancer makes my heart beat faster. Of course, the fact that I'm alone in this journey — my brothers, my only family left, live abroad

— does little to help. Home-sickness presents a constant struggle, but I have been in frequent touch with pathologists in my native Leyte for encouragement and direction. Training in Manila comes at a high price, and I hope that when I go home to practice in the province one day, it would all be worth it.

I had felt this overwhelming longing to be with family and something familiar and comforting, but I needed to again head to the morgue to get additional tissue sections, to correct my mistakes in the diagnosis. I needed to prove in this case that mucosal and submucosal erosions and profuse bleeding from enteropathy had killed the patient.

I laid out the organs on the steel table, and began unraveling the colon. An image flashed in my mind: the patient's face, not when his body was undergoing my autopsy, but the way he looked in his ID card as a fresh graduate. He was young, and his siblings were at a loss as to what had really happened to their brother.

I thought I owed it to the patient to find the truth about his demise.

For a moment, I forgot about my own problems and focused on the task. But there was a lump in my throat and tears began to blur my eyes. Maybe it was the formalin, or maybe it was just me.

Thaddeus C. Hinunangan is a resident pathologist at the Philippine General Hospital.

## Editor's Note

A big congratulations to everyone in the celebration of the Filipino's contribution to America, during the Filipino History Month, through the different gatherings and activities in our community. At the same time, we thank our contributing writers in submitting files, earlier than usual, for printing this issue of Philippine Fiesta News.

As we plan for the upcoming holiday season, explore and support several continuing and newer projects that are about to happen in Sacramento and around. Take note of My Sister's House Annual Fun Run, the Maharlika Lion's Club Crab Feed, and the newest of them all, the Filipino Fork by the Philippine National Day Association. I gathered, the Sinag-Tala's December show is not going to be held this time of the year, but the Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA brings back its Christmas concert for everyone to enjoy. Rize All Art Center will also be holding their 2nd Dance Recital on December 9, at the Cosumnes Performing Art Center in Elk Grove.

On a different note, we would like to express our sincere and heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family of Joe Monteagudo, in his passing this month. His charismatic personality and his love for God, will surely be missed by everyone in our community.

Say hurray and congratulations in the retirement of partners-in-service and medical providers in tandem, Drs. Frank and Linda Marasigan. We know that they will still be around supporting our Filipino organization but it's great that they are taking the back road to enjoy a much needed and well-deserved retirement. The Philippine Fiesta thank you for your many years of service in our community!

Again, a big "thank you" to our contributing writers. The community that writes together, stays together!

Au Revoir,  
Dinnah San Pedro



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# Bongbong confident he will soon be VP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

The son and namesake of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos declared Thursday he was confident of ousting the current vice president in a legal challenge, which would place him a heartbeat away from leading his country.

Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. also confirmed his family was in talks with President Rodrigo Duterte, a political ally, to end the government’s three-decade hunt for billions of dollars worth of national assets allegedly stolen by his father and mother during their reign.

Marcos, 60, narrowly lost the vice presidential election last year but he filed a case with the Supreme Court alleging the victor, Leni Robredo, cheated by manipulating computerized vote counting machines.

“We are definitely sure that when the recount starts the true result will emerge and prove that the votes in the vice-presidential election had been incorrectly counted,” Marcos told reporters.

Victory for Marcos would cement his family’s remarkable political comeback, 31 years after a famous “People Power” revolution saw millions of people take to the streets to end his father’s 20-year rule and force the family into US exile.

Ferdinand Marcos Sr. died in Hawaii in 1989, his reputation mostly in tatters with the government accusing him and his cronies of embezzling up to \$10 billion from state coffers during his time in power while over-



Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. delivers a speech at his miting de avance during the 2016 elections.

seeing widespread rights abuses.

But his family, led by flamboyant matriarch Imelda, returned to the Philippines after his death and began rebuilding political power.

Imelda, 88, remains a member of Congress representing the family’s stronghold in a northern Philippine province.

She has said she dreams of Bongbong, who was a senator for from 2010 to last year, becoming president.

In the Philippines, the president and vice president are elected separately. The vice president takes over should the president die or become incapacitated.

Duterte, 72, has admitted to having a range of health problems, including a cardiovascular illness caused by smoking called Buerger’s disease.

Duterte said last year he had dealt with chronic pain by taking higher doses of fentanyl, a highly addictive opioid, than his doctor had prescribed.

Duterte insists he is an anti-graft crusader.

But he also openly admires the leadership style of the dictator, and counts the Marcos clan as important political allies who helped fund his presidential campaign.

Duterte said recently the Marcos family had proposed a settlement on the wealth cases by turning over to the government some of its assets, “including a few gold bars.”

Bongbong Marcos said Thursday the family was offering to sign a “quit claim” deed in which it would identify properties and assets it had acquired legally and relinquish its claim to whatever else the government finds.

“If the government is saying we are hiding other things, we will help you find it and you can have it,” he added, while declining to provide estimated values.

# Task force chief declares ‘total victory’ in Marawi

From page 1

“In the past five months, we started with some 3,000 structures or buildings to be cleared,” Pamonag said.

The MBLT10 was the first to reach the “finish line.”

“This unit was the first that reached the final objective,” he added.

The task, according to Pamonag, was very daunting and very challenging. But after almost 150 days of pushing, the military came to a point that less than five structures were left to be cleared inside the main battle area.

The full-blown battle in Marawi that started with what was a raid on a house where Abu Sayaff top leader, Isnilon Hapilon, the anointed leader of Islamic State in Southeast Asia, was staying.

Hapilon, together with the Maute group top leader Omarhayyam Maute, were killed in an early dawn assault operation, on Monday.

A day after their fall, President Rodrigo Duterte visited Marawi and declared its liberation from the influence of terrorists.

Pamonag said their mission in Marawi is one of the most successful urban battles “that we have participated” in the recent Philippine history since World War II.

“It is a test of determination,” he added.

Brawner said the remaining militants, which he considered insignificant, were hiding in at least five buildings.

“Firing of guns can still be heard right now,” he said. “There are still resistance from our enemies so or troops are very careful.”



Lorenzana says Marawi City siege is over

At the same time, Brawner said 11 of 21 hostages rescued on Friday were still being verified if they were really hostages or dependents of Maute and Abu Sayyaf.

Since May 23, the number of military and police casualties had reached 165. The civilian casualties was placed at 47, while the militants suffered 897 deaths.

Officials said 1,777 civilians, who were either held as hostages or trapped in the crossfire, had been rescued since hostilities broke out.

“We are trying to find out how many hostages are still inside the war zone. But we are confident fighting will be over,” Brawner said.

Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, the commander of the West-

ern Mindanao Command, said they might be able to proclaim the end of the war on Sunday with only about five structures remaining to be tackled inside the main battle zone.

But he clarified there were still hostages who needed to be rescued, which was why soldiers were still not rushing things up.

“But maybe we would be able to clear it by tomorrow (Sunday),” he said.

Marawi’s 200,000 residents displaced by the fighting are not yet allowed to return home as troops are still clearing many areas where the gunmen had left many improvised bombs. /atm



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# Battle of Marawi ends

Building where Maute militants made final stand captured; 42 bodies found

By AFP, AP, & FRANCIS WAKEFIELD

A five-month battle against Islamic State (IS) supporters in Marawi City that claimed more than 1,000 lives has ended, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said on Monday.



**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED** - Troops from the Marine Battalion Landing Team leave Marawi City after five months of fighting pro-Islamic State militant groups.

"We now announce the termination of all combat operations in Marawi," he told reporters on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meetings at the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga.

With the situation slowly returning to normal, the Philippine flag was raised at the Marawi City Hall for the first time since the siege started last May 23.

Mayor Majul Gamdamra led a short program following the flag-raising ceremony, saying "normal operations will start today (Monday) in preparation for the return of the internally displaced persons."

Lorenzana said there were no more militants, known locally as coming from the Maute Group, providing resistance following an intense final battle that led to the capture of a two-story building where pro-Islamic State group militants made their final stand after which 42 bodies were discovered.

"Those are the last group of stragglers of Mautes and they were caught in one building and so there was a firefight so they were finished," he said

"All terrorists, fighting troops. All hostages have been recovered."

"In crushing thus far the most serious attempt to export violent extremism and

radicalism in the Philippines and in the region, we have contributed to preventing its spread in Asia and gave our share to maintaining global peace, stability and security.

"We declare that this achievement is clear manifestation of how our regional cooperation will lead to a decisive advance against the proliferation of terrorism in this part of the world," Lorenzana added.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella commended the troops for neutralizing the Maute-led rebellion, saying the government could now shift to the massive rehabilitation of the war-torn city.

He said the defeat of the Daesh-inspired Maute Group also highlighted the government's "singleness of purpose" in the global war against terrorism.

It's possible that a few militants may still be hiding. It was not immediately clear how the dozens of suspected militants found in the two-story building near Lake Lanao died but it's possible some committed suicide after they were cornered by troops, said an official, who declined to be identified as he is not authorized to talk about the situation.

Hundreds of gunmen who had pledged allegiance to IS

rampaged through Marawi, the Islamic capital of the mainly Catholic Philippines, on May 23, then took over parts of the city using civilians as human shields.

President Duterte and security analysts said the militants were trying to establish a Southeast Asian caliphate in Marawi.

The ensuing US-backed military campaign to evict the militants claimed more than 1,000 lives, displaced 400,000 residents and left large parts of Marawi in ruins.

Duterte travelled to Marawi on Tuesday last week and declared the city had been "liberated," shortly after Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, the designated "emir" in Southeast Asia of the Islamic State, was shot dead there.

But the continued fighting raised questions over whether the city was indeed free of the militants.

Hapilon, who was on the US government's list of most-wanted terrorists, was killed along with one of group's other leaders, Omarkhayam Maute, according to the military.

Hapilon and Maute, along with hundreds of other militants, had been able

# Gadon says impeach bids aim to 'flush out' 'yellows' in gov't

BY JHOANNA BALLARAN

The main goal of the impeachment complaints lodged against the heads of different constitutional bodies is to cleanse the government of former President Benigno Aquino III's appointees and get rid of the so-called "yellow virus," lawyer Larry Gadon admitted Saturday.

"Kailangan tanggalin mo yang mga viruses ng mga yellow diyan kasi sila puro sila mga tuta ni Noynoy—to be blunt with this, wala na tayong paliguy-ligoy diyan. Mga tuta ni Noynoy Aquino yang mga yan e," Gadon said in a news forum held at Anna-bel's Restaurant in Quezon City.

(We really need to get rid of the viruses of the yellow there because they are all lapdogs of Noynoy, to be blunt with this, let's be straightforward. They are all lapdogs of Noynoy Aquino.)

Gadon had filed an impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, which is currently being heard by the House committee on justice. He alleged Sereno has been ruling against the Duterte administration.

"Si Chief Justice Sereno tuta rin ni (Noynoy) kasi halata, everything na decision niya is against the adminis-



(L to R) Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, President Rodrigo Duterte, and Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales.

tration," he said.

(Chief Justice Sereno is also a minion of Aquino because it's obvious that all her decision is against the administration.)

Sereno had voted against the burial of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani; favoring the dismissal of illegal drug raps against Sen. Leila de Lima who is a critic of President Rodrigo Duterte's critic; and voted to declare martial law only in Marawi City.

Gadon also charged Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales of displaying "selective justice" as she only filed cases against those opposing Aquino.

He accused impeached Comelec chief Andres Bautista of compromising the country's democracy over allegations of widespread cheating in the 2016 elections.

All these impeachment

complaints, Gadon said, are part of pursuing checks and balances in the government.

"Again, we (don't) have true democracy if we will not do these things. Ang focus talaga namin dito is (Our focus is really) to attain the principle of checks and balances," he added.

Last week, law expert and Lyceum of the Philippines College of Law Dean Ma. Soledad Deriquito-Mawis said that an impeachment is not a "light weapon to be used on the whim of those entrusted with the process," or else it will "make a mockery of the entire democratic process" and the other instruments that ensure checks and balances in the government.

Impeachment, the expert said, should only be used as the "last resort when other options for correction have been applied without effect." /jpv

to defy near daily bombing raids that left much of the city in ruins by sheltering in basements and travelling through tunnels, according to the military.

The impoverished southern Philippines, home to many of the nation's Muslim mi-

nority, has for decades endured conflict.

The nation's biggest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), is in talks with the government to end a rebellion that began in the 1970s and has claimed more than

120,00 lives.

But more extreme groups have emerged with no interest in forging a peace.

Some of those, including those led by Hapilon and Maute, had in recent years declared allegiance to IS.

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**PerryScope**  
By PERRY DIAZ

## Revolutionizing martial law

Recently, political debate was sparked on whether the 1987 Constitution would allow President Rodrigo Duterte to form a revolutionary government in lieu of declaring martial law. Supporters of Duterte say that by forming a revolutionary government, he doesn't have to make a report to Congress, which is a proviso of the 1987 Constitution when martial law is declared.

The framers of the Constitution believed that by requiring the President to report to Congress when the President declares martial law, it would prevent a repeat of the Marcos-era martial rule where Congress was transformed into rubber-stamp legislative body. It supplanted the rule of law with the rule of man.

But President Duterte figures that by forming a revolutionary government, he can still avail of the military's support, which is stacked up with loyalist Duterteistas, who would keep him – and themselves -- in power. And they'll be part of a power structure that will protect their personal and business interests. It's a philosophy that keeps the few elite in power.

### Dutertism

Duterte's campaign against criminality and illegal drugs has so far claimed the lives of at least 10,000 alleged drug users. However the "war on drugs" has failed to put the powerful drug lords out of action. Duterte himself has admitted to the existence of Chinese triads in the country. Tons of the illegal drug "shabu" continue to proliferate the country due to conniving customs officials, powerful smugglers, and corrupt influence peddlers.

But what is interesting to know is that with all these anti-crime, anti-drug, anti-corruption, and anti-poverty campaign the government is pursuing, the country is still sick just as it was once when it was called the "Sick Man of Asia." The government hasn't eradicated poverty as it claims it to be. The



President Rodrigo Duterte

peso is falling and the cost of food is going up.

With each passing day, the country's gloomy situation has evoked fears of martial law. And as criticism against Duterte's "war on drugs" and extrajudicial killings intensifies, Duterte warned that he'd declare a revolutionary government if his critics' attempt to "destabilize" the government escalates and causes trouble. He accused the "Reds" (communists) and the "Yellows" (Liberal Party and supporters of former President Benigno Aquino III) of conspiring against him. He said that he'd arrest all of the destabilizers once he declares a revolutionary government, just like what Marcos did when he declared martial law. He jailed almost all of the Liberal Party leaders including Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. (Cory's husband).

He likens his move to what former President Cory Aquino did. He said that Cory was about to declare martial law and then changed her mind and instead declared a revolutionary government.

However, lawyer Romulo Macalintal disagreed. In a media interview, Macalintal said that as a lawyer, Duterte should know that "revolutionary government is the result of a revolution where the existing legitimate government is completely overthrown by a new group of leaders that establishes its own government."

He cited the EDSA People Power Revolution in 1986 that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and installed Cory Aquino as its "titular head," and later as the chief executive, under the Freedom Constitution (also known as the Cory Constitution).

If Duterte insists on pursuing a revolutionary government, then it goes without saying that he is doing it to circumvent the Constitution; thus, it is illegal and uncon-

stitutional. It is also presumed that Congress would cease to exist, as we know it. How can it continue to function as a legislative body under a revolutionary government where Duterte would rule by decree? He might allow Congress to exist only to rubber-stamp his own legislative agenda. Wasn't that what had happened during Marcos' martial law era?

The Supreme Court under a revolutionary government could likewise be under the indirect control of Duterte. In my column, "Dutertesized Supreme Court" (September 22, 2017), I wrote: "If Duterte succeeds in removing [Chief Justice Maria Lourdes] Sereno and appoints someone whom he knows would be loyal to him, it would create a 13-justice super bloc that could easily provide him with a minimum eight-vote majority."

### Fascism

If Duterte succeeds in appointing majority of the Supreme Court Justices led by a Chief Justice of his own picking, then Duterte's revolutionary government would become a one-man dictatorship in the mold of the late Benito Mussolini, the founder of Fascism, a form of radical authoritarian nationalism characterized by dictatorial power, forcible suppression of opposition, and control of industry and commerce. Fascism flourished in Europe from the 1920s to the end of World War II. The three major fascist states were Germany under Hitler, Italy under Mussolini, and Spain under Franco.

Mussolini believed that the government is "supreme and the country is all-encompassing, and all within it must conform to the ruling body, often a dictator." Mussolini also believed that "any type of questioning the govern-



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## Jessica Sanchez takes the knee after singing US anthem

Filipina and Mexican American Jessica Sanchez took a knee at the end of her performance of the National Anthem before the Oakland Raiders-Los Angeles Chargers games in Oakland on Sunday.



Singer Jessica Sanchez

Sanchez went down on her knees while singing the words "home of the brave" at the end of the song, reports Asam News.

"I don't want to be quiet anymore. This is how I feel. It's what I stand for. I

encourage you guys, if you feel a certain way, don't be afraid to be part of the conversation. Stand for what you believe in."

The season 11 runner up on "American Idol" took to

Facebook to explain her decision, trying to find the words to explain her actions. The singer described reaction to her protest as "crazy stuff on the internet." Marshal Lynch of the Raiders sat during the anthem and Chargers Russell Okung raised his fist.

"I can't sit here and help them understand why I did it...but it's something I stand for and believe in," she said on her Facebook post. "I don't know. I've always been quiet about how I felt and my opinions about things like this, like big things like this."

Sanchez also released a song during the presidential campaign in support of Hillary Clinton.

ment is not to be tolerated. If you do not see things our way, you are wrong. If you do not agree with the government, you cannot be allowed to live and taint the minds of the rest of the good citizens."

Dutertism is clearly fascist in its philosophical outlook. Its strong emphasis on nationalism coupled with a hazy "independent" for-

eign policy is nothing more than a camouflage for what Dutertism hopes to achieve, which is total subjugation of the people under a fascistic regime.

Duterte's idea of a revolutionary government can be traced to Marcos' martial law regime. Indeed, Duterte is taking a page from Marcos' playbook. It is "revolutionary" in name only. It

is martial law disguised as revolutionary government. What Duterte is doing is revolutionizing martial law. It's one and the same with one exception: Congress is left out of the power equation. Indeed, it's coup d'état against the democratic government he was elected to serve.

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)





### 10th Annual My Sister's House High Tea

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and this one of a kind event demonstrates our community support with this fierce table decorating contest.



### Lost hikers decided to die to end their suffering

From page 7

Volunteers donated more than 2,100 hours in the search efforts, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said.

The bodies of Nguyen and Orbeso were found in a remote area of the park at 11:30 a.m. Oct. 15, according to a National Park Service press release.

Gilbert Orbeso, Joseph's father, was part of the search party that found the bodies, reported KABC. Gilbert Orbeso had continued searching for the hikers on weekends, aided by friends and volunteers, after the official search was called off.

On Oct. 15, he found pieces of clothing, water bottles and food wrappers in a wash two miles from the Maze Loop. Searchers followed the trail to the two bodies, found embracing each other.

"I feel that we have closure and we know we found them. That was our main goal, to find them," Gilbert Orbeso told KESQ Oct. 15.

Joshua Tree National Park, in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, covers 792,000 acres, an area slightly larger than the state of Rhode Island, according to the National Park Service.

A large part of the park is a designated wilderness area. About 1.4 million people visit the park each year.

The volunteer Joshua Tree Search & Rescue team said in a reply to a comment on Facebook that it's "surprisingly easy" to become lost in the park.

"You can take a short hike and lose sight of the road, and, if you didn't pay attention to what the landmarks look like, in the opposite direction, you could start wandering," a volunteer wrote. "People even get lost a short distance from a trail."

### For all the "me too"s who need support



One reason why "me too" is so successful is because it demonstrates how many people have experienced sexual assault or sexual harassment. Imagine what a survivor will feel when they see thousands of supporters at the 2017 Run for a Safe Haven!

Disclaimer: This is a picture from our Run for a Safe Haven last year with strong individual women, by no means does this picture indicate that they are "me too"s.

A safe haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children  
**My Sister's House**  
 My Sister's House saves the lives of women and children affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking  
 24/7 Multilingual Help Line: 916-428-3271

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**5K Walk/Run • Kids ½ Mile Race**  
 Saturday, November 4, 2017 • William Land Park  
 Registration 8 a.m. • Kids ½ Mile Run 8:30 a.m. • Run 9 a.m.  
 Register or Donate: [www.runforasafehaven.com](http://www.runforasafehaven.com)

Join our online community

**If you are being abused physically, sexually, emotionally, or financially ... help is only a phone call away.**

**My Sister's House (free) services:**

- ♥ 24/7 Multi-lingual Help line (916) 428-3271
- ♥ Safety planning, information and referrals
- ♥ Outreach, training, and education to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking
- ♥ Shelter for abused women and children



Source: gettyimages.com

A safe haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children  
**My Sister's House**

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## Where Northern California fire victims can find resources – and how you can support them

BY KALIN KIPLING

Amid all of the fire devastation in Northern California, some might be searching for ways to help while others need to find resources.

While volunteering or giving goods might seem more personal, the No. 1 need by far in the communities is monetary donations. There is a large backlog of supplies thanks to the generosity of the communities and beyond, so contributing to a campaign or group is the most helpful at this point (see a list lower down). A slightly more personal option: giving gift cards to families.

Here's a guide for fire victims seeking resources/help, courtesy of Sonoma County (haz clic aquí para información en español): Missing a relative? Or to mark yourself as "safe." Visit <https://safeandwell.communityos.org/cms/index.php>.

Visit <https://www.disaster-assistance.gov/> to find disaster help and resources.

People have created a public Google Doc on which people are listing available housing; see it here.

Turo is a p2p car sharing marketplace, and many hosts have opted in to list their vehicles for rent at no cost for people who have lost their cars in the fire or are in need of transportation. If North Bay fire evacuees are in need of a vehicle during this hard time, email [disasterrelief@turo.com](mailto:disasterrelief@turo.com) for more details.

Airbnb hosts are opening their homes for free to evacuees through Oct. 30.

People are opening up their land for people to stay on through Hipcamp. Check out a list and how to offer your land here.

Crop Mobster has created a resource listing and map where anyone can post needs or offers of help: <https://sfbay.cropmobster.com/bay-area-fire-resources/>.

Visit the Tubbs Fire (Lake/Sonoma/Mendo) Facebook group to get involved in community discussion, find lost pets and offer services, along with <https://www.facebook.com/groups/586292148428439/>. Cartelligent, which helps people buy or lease cars by handling "all the hassles of car shopping," has partnered with Sonoma Fire Info and

is offering its services for free through Dec. 31 to anyone who lost their vehicle in the recent fires.

Local Assistance Center (LAC), Press Democrat building in downtown Santa Rosa, 427 Mendocino Ave., between Ross and Fifth streets, is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily for at least two weeks. LAC is essentially a one-stop shop for services residents impacted by the fires need. The LAC is a one-stop shop with critical services for residents who have been impacted by the fires. Some of the services include: FEMA Disaster Recovery Center; Department of Motor Vehicles; American Red Cross; Small Business Administration; HOPE Animal Assistance Crisis Response; County Assessor and Tax Collector; Child Support Services; Housing Assistance; Fire & Emergency Services; Health & Human Services; Building Permitting Agencies; Transportation & Public Works; Veteran's Affairs. Free parking off of B Street in the city lot. The LAC is also accessible by Sonoma County Transit and City Bus via route 1. The LAC is just three blocks from the Downtown Transit Mall. The site is wheelchair accessible. Spanish translators and a children's play area will be available. For more information, call 707-565-385.

Information from the National Immigration Law Center (NILC):

- Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) gives food assistance to low-income households with food loss or damage caused by a natural disaster and is available regardless of immigration status.

- FEMA Longer Term Assistance (e.g. Individuals and Household Program) provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs. It is available if at least one household member is a U.S. citizen or a "qualified" immigrant. For example, undocumented individuals can apply on behalf of a minor child who is a citizen and has a social security number. FEMA can provide information about obtaining a social security number for a minor child.

The minor child must live with the parent/guardian applying on his/her behalf.

- Disaster Unemployment Assistance requires that a person be work authorized (and have been work authorized or PRUCOL during the base period).

- Other major benefits programs tend to be more flexible about requiring documentation immediately after a disaster – but may require applicants to declare that they have an eligible status – so applicants need to be careful. Visit <https://www.nilc.org/issues/economic-support/programs-available-to-immigrants-in-calif/>.

- State Emergency Services California's AB 2327 (among other things) requires that public employees provide assistance to survivors of disaster without eliciting any information or documentation not strictly necessary to determine eligibility

- NILC's Disaster Assistance Resources: food, shelter, cash payments, loans, eligibility for disaster assistance, and other help for victims of major disasters.

- Funds and services on the ground compiled by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR). Links to funds available and organizations in the region to support: <https://www.gcir.org/initiatives/natural-disaster-response>.

- Replacing vital records and other disaster assistance and recovery links from LawHelp: Information on how to replace identification, birth, marriage and death certificates, etc. Guide to insurance legal rights, claim guidance and more. For more information, visit <http://www.lawhelpca.org/subtopics/disaster-assistance-and-recovery>.

- Evacuation centers/shelters: Several local officials have made public statements to make clear that these shelters are open to everyone regardless of immigration status. The list includes many churches and schools that are hopefully seen as trusted spaces. For more information, including a list of evacuation centers, visit <http://www.caloes.ca.gov/ICES-ite/Pages/October-2017-Northern-California-Fires.aspx>.

## How big is the burn area of California's wildfires? It would engulf several major cities

BY KALIN KIPLING

As wildfires continue to burn in California, here's a look at the size of the burned areas compared to cities – and even a state.

California's major wildfires have burned more than 330 square miles, the state Governor's Office of Emergency Service said Tuesday.

That is about equal to the size of Sacramento, about 100.1 square miles; Fresno, about 114.7 square miles; San Francisco, about 46,87 square miles; and Oakland, about 77.86 square miles, combined.

The area burned has surpassed the size of New York City's five boroughs – Brooklyn, Queens, The



Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island – which measure about 305 square miles, SF-Gate reports.

The burn area is also more than a quarter – 27 percent – the size of Rhode Island, which is about 1,214 square miles, and larger than Chicago, which is 234 square miles. It's also 65 percent

the size of the city of Los Angeles, which is about 503 square miles.

Firefighters have said they are finally beating the blazes in Northern California, but a new fire erupted in the Santa Cruz Mountains and a large fire – now contained – hit Orange County in Southern California.

## Lost hikers decided to die to end their suffering, friends and family believe

BY DON SWEENEY

Family and friends reacted with shock and grief to the discovery that missing hikers found in Joshua Tree National Park died of gunshots, but expressed confidence that it was a mutual decision to end their suffering.

Searchers found Joseph Orbeso, 22, and Rachel Nguyen, 20, both of Orange County, Calif., dead in each other's arms Oct. 15 in a remote part of the national park east of Los Angeles. On Friday, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department revealed that Orbeso appeared to have shot Nguyen, then himself.

Sheriff's department spokeswoman Cindy Bachman told KABC that the hikers appeared to be in a "very dire" situation. They had arranged clothing to shade themselves and seemed to be rationing food, but had no water, she said.

"They were lost, they were in a bad area there, and their resources were either almost gone or gone, again, they were in a very desperate situation," Bachman told the station.

In another interview, Bachman told USA Today that the evidence did not suggest Orbeso had planned the killings in advance. "There is no indication that he wanted to harm her; that there was any plan for something like this," Bachman told the newspaper.

A handgun found with



Rachel Nguyen and Joseph Orbeso

the bodies was registered to Orbeso, Bachman said. Authorities did not initially release the information about the gun or gunshot wounds because the bodies still awaited autopsies and final identification, the department's statement said.

A statement from Nguyen's family called the situation "very difficult for the family," according to The Orange County Register.

"It was explained to us by the investigators on scene, with the circumstances and positioning of the bodies, that they believe this was a sympathetic murder-suicide. We hold no grudges against Joseph or the Orbeso Family. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Orbeso Family, and that they will remain in our prayers. We thank God that we'll be able to give Rachel a proper burial and lay her to rest," the statement said.

"They had a choice of a slow and painful death or a quick death," Austin Young, a friend of Orbeso, told The Long Beach Press-Telegram. "And they made the

choice of a quick death." Young said Nguyen and Orbeso had dated in the past but had recently been just friends. He told the paper they had gone to Joshua Tree National Park to celebrate Nguyen's birthday.

Nguyen and Orbeso had set out for a hike at Joshua Tree National Park east of Los Angeles on July 27, when temperatures in the park hit 100 degrees. A ping from Joseph Orbeso's cellphone was recorded in the park that day. The owner of the AirBnB where they had been staying notified authorities when they didn't check out the next day.

Searchers found their car at the head of the Maze Loop trail in the park but few other clues. Volunteer searchers scoured the park for days, using search dogs, helicopters and airplanes. Some searchers and dogs required rescue themselves after becoming injured or dehydrated in the harsh terrain, reported Joshua Tree Search and Rescue volunteers.

Continued on page 6





PerryScope

BY PERRY DIAZ

# ‘Moron-in-Chief’



President Donald Trump

It's not everyday that someone would call the most powerful leader in the world a "moron" or anything close to that. But that's what Secretary of State Rex Tillerson did. And for those who don't know what it means, the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "moron" as a "very stupid person" or "a person affected with mild mental retardation," which then begs the question: Is Donald J. Trump a moron?

But whatever you might think about it, the real reason Tillerson called Trump a moron is actually "terrifying" as the Daily Beast reported the incident on October 4, 2017. It reported that the insult came one day after "a meeting about Afghanistan in which Trump compared the process of reviewing strategy in the country to the renovation of a high-end New York restaurant." It then said that NBC News reported that "Tillerson called Trump a 'moron' after a meeting concerning the US' nuclear arsenal in which Trump asked for 10 times more nuclear weapons."

According to NBC News, the meeting was in July and Trump's "insane request" was apparently in response to information Trump was given about the US' steady decrease in nuclear weapons since the late 60's. The officials at the meeting were said to be surprised by his request, and had to explain to Trump "the legal and practical impediments to a nuclear build-up."

The NBC News reported further that Trump said several times that he also wanted more troops and military equipment. But officials told NBC News that no increase in the nuclear arsenal is planned. Soon after the meeting ended, the officials who stayed behind overheard Tillerson say that Trump was a "moron." When a reporter asked Tillerson to confirm if he called Trump a "moron," he didn't dispute it.

But what might sound "petty"

is a serious problem... a very serious problem, considering that the person referred to as a "moron" is the most powerful man on earth who has at his disposal more than 5,000 nuclear warheads. And he wanted to increase that number ten-fold? This man is not only a "moron," he is the "Moron-in-Chief." And he must be crazy, too!

### Dr. Strangelove

Which reminds me of the 1964 movie, "Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." It is a political satire black comedy film that satirizes the Cold War fears of a nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the United States.

Although the Cold War is now over, the specter of a nuclear war is still very real. With North Korea threatening to attack the U.S. with a barrage of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, it has driven

the following statement: "The mentally deranged behavior of the U.S. president openly expressing on the UN arena the unethical will to 'totally destroy' a sovereign state, beyond the boundary of threats of regime change or overturn of social system, makes even those with normal thinking faculty think about discretion and composure."

So, where is all this hyperbole leading? With North Korea conducting 19 missile tests and one nuclear test in 2017, North Korea is getting closer to its goal of developing a nuclear-armed intercontinental ballistic missile that could target the U.S. North Korea is now believed to possess 60 nuclear weapons.



Trans-Pacific Partnership

Trump closer to the brink of madness and self-destruction. The sad part of it is that the whole humankind would suffer, nay perish.

In less than a year in the presidency, Trump has reduced the world's only superpower to an impotent eunuch denigrated by rogue states like North Korea and Iran.

When Trump addressed the U.N. General Assembly with a threat to "totally destroy North Korea" if the U.S. is forced to defend itself or its allies, North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un responded: "I will surely and definitely tame the mentally deranged U.S. dotard with fire." Kim's personal response marked an escalation of the word war between Trump and Kim. North Korea's state-run news agency KCNA then released

### Trump's miscalculations

But North Korea's nuclear blackmail is only the tip of the iceberg. While the threat can be neutralized at a very high cost in lives and resources, there are a number of Trump miscalculations that could change the world order.

In my column, "Trump's geopolitical miscalculations," (May 12, 2017), I wrote: "But the worst in Trump's miscalculations in Asia was his decision to pull out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a security and economic agreement between 12 countries led by the U.S. Seven of the member-countries hail from the Asia-Pacific: Australia, Brunei, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, and Vietnam, of which four are ASEAN members (Brunei, Malaysia,

Singapore, and Vietnam). Collectively, the TPP member-countries account for 40% of world trade. Ironically, it was the U.S. under the presidency of Obama who started the negotiations among the 12 countries. Unfortunately, while 11 countries ratified TPP in 2016, the U.S. Congress under Republican control failed – or refused – to ratify it in the last few months of Obama's presidency. When



China fills the void.

Trump took over, withdrawal from TPP was one of his first acts – victims of his vindictive assault on policies and programs that Obama implemented."

### China fills the void

With the U.S. out of the "big picture," it is anticipated that China would step in to take the place of the U.S. in the TPP. It's ironic that TPP, which the U.S. was instrumental in forming as a counterbalance China's dominance in world trade, would end up circling in China's orbit.

But while the TPP might hurt the U.S.'s trade relations, there is nothing more destructive than Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the agreement last June. The agreement was adopted by

consensus by representatives of 196 parties at the 21st Conference of the Parties of UNFCCC in Paris on December 12, 2015. To date, 195 members have signed the agreement, 168 of which have ratified it. By Trump's withdrawal, the U.S. will join two other U.N. member countries – Syria and Nicaragua -- that haven't signed on.

On October 12, 2017, Trump brought his war to the home

front, launching an assault on Obamacare. He issued an executive order that stopped payments worth billions of dollars to health insurers to subsidize low-income Americans. It was a move health insurers have warned will cause chaos in insurance markets and a spike in premiums.

The following day, Trump did what he'd been threatening to do and that is: pull out of a deal freezing and reversing Iran's nuclear program if Congress and U.S. al-

lies do not agree to strengthen it. In trying to justify his decision, Trump said: "As I have said many times, the Iran deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into."

Sad to say, what Obama put together in the eight years he was president, Trump dismantled them in eight months. And it would probably take another eight years – maybe more -- to put them back together. As someone once said, "Rome wasn't built in one day, but they were laying bricks every hour." In the case of the U.S., Trump is burning it, day after day. And he fiddled while doing it.

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)





BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

# PMA Grading System and the Honor Code

The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) grading system is divided into three major components: academics, conduct, and athletics. A cadet is required to pass all three parts to proceed to the next level and/or to graduate. Otherwise, a cadet will be turned back or be discharged from the academy.



Philippine Military Academy Command Ceremony

Academics is based on the quantifiable performance of a cadet in class room activities, i.e., quizzes/lesson exams, and major examinations. A cadet must have at least 70% correct answers to pass each exam. Getting a grade below the allowed passing percentage is recorded as failed.

Athletics is another component in the grading system and a cadet must achieved the requirements to pass, i.e., 3.2 Km run, number of pull ups, sit ups, push ups, and other athletic related activities.

The conduct of cadets at PMA is regulated by Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines Regulation (CCAFPR) or the Gray Book. Every cadet is dutybound to read, understand, and internalized the meaning and content of this book which is considered to be the bible of PMA cadets.

Military and civilian employees of the academy who are directly involved with cadets' training such as instructors from the Academics and Tactics Groups are highly urged and encouraged to read and understand the CCAFP; other employees of the command who are not directly involved with cadet's training are advised to read the book.

The cadet corps is bound by the Honor Code which states, "We, the cadets, do not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate among us those who do so." Violation of the code has a serious consequence.

The Honor Committee is composed of selected cadets with high moral ascendancy among the corps who are in charge of implementing the code.

Once a cadet is reported, a cadet is also mandated to report himself, of violating the code the chair of the committee can schedule an investigation. The committee usually scheduled the investi-



PMA cadet corps

gation at the wee hour to keep it secret.

It needs a unanimous decision amongst the members of the Honor Committee to render a guilty verdict against the accused.

A cadet found guilty by the committee must accept the verdict, silently resign, and leave the academy with dignity. On the other hand, a guilty cadet who chose to stay in the academy until he/she resigns because of the pressure or stands on his/her decision to stay until graduation has to face a psychological and emotional treatment of ostracism.

The Honor Committee may order the CCAFP to ostracize a cadet found guilty of violating the code. Once ostracize, a cadet is considered not part of the corps and treated persona non grata or an outcast, or a lepper where the cadet corps won't talk to that cadet and the underclass, including the plebes, will not salute or address him/her sir or ma'am. A guilty cadet is on his own.

PMA cadets are easy to control than civilian college students. Cadets' lives are structured and they follow order. During class exam-

ination, cadets are allowed to move their heads to look up and down only. No moving of heads looking from side to side. An instructor can leave the room for bathroom privileges while the cadets are taking examination. The incidence of cheating is as good as nil.

PMA proudly stands on its motto: Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.  
(gabbyortig@yahoo.com)

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## A message from the Little Manila Board of Directors:

If you've ever been to our Little Manila Center in Downtown Stockton, you'd know that we have beautiful recreations of our historic banners surrounding the Little Manila Historic Site on our windows.

It is with a heavy heart to tell you that on Monday, someone defaced our windows and ripped our historic photographs that bore the words: Community, Culture, Empowerment, Arts, History, and Heritage. The first people to find our center in the condition it was in were our youth

dance students who stood heartbroken in front of our center.

As we celebrate Filipino American History Month this October, we know that discrimination against Filipino Americans is nothing new. The street our Little Manila Center is on is Main St. in downtown Stockton which was the dividing line for people of color in this city in the 1920s and 1930s. People of color were not welcomed north of Main St. and signs saying "Positively no Filipinos allowed" were displayed openly. It was illegal for Filipino men to marry White women in California. Later on, state and local officials would decide to destroy the Little Manila and Chinatown neighborhood by the building of the Crosstown Freeway.

This event has reminded us about the importance of the work we do. Through the Little Manila After School Program and Us History program we teach ethnic studies to high schoolers. Our advocacy helped Stockton Unified School District to adopt Ethnic Studies at our high schools just this year. Our Little Manila Dance Collective and Kulintang Academy teaches the art and culture of the Philippines to new generations of



young people seeking identity and a sense of belonging to our roots.

Little Manila was destroyed in the 1960s and 1970s by misguided policies. Our advocacy for the preservation of the Little Manila Historic Site is a result of the worst case scenarios of racist

federal, state, and local public policies that prioritized freeway construction, urban redevelopment, and suburbanization over our communities.

Little Manila Foundation and our Little Manila Center will continue to be a space for understanding and love, bringing together diverse communities. This incident only strengthens our resolve and reaffirms the work that we are already doing.

If you would like to help us recover and continue the educational, arts, cultural, and community strengthening work we are doing, please support us either by hitting the donate button above or going to <http://littlemanila.org>

*Note: The vinyl artwork in our storefront that was destroyed was designed by Joseph Racca and manufactured and installed by Eddie Avelar of Bahala Na Martial Arts in Houston and Frank Mendoza of Bahala Na Martial Arts in Stockton. It was through their generosity that allowed us to make Downtown Stockton a little more beautiful. We promise to get the art reinstalled some time soon.*

## Philippine Fiesta

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## The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity and Participating Filipino Organizations in Sacramento Celebrated October 2017 – Filipino American History Month

By **CARLE and SARAH ENLOE**

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV) and Participating Filipino Organizations in Sacramento celebrated October 2017 – Filipino American History Month with a rousing and entertaining evening in a “Celebration and Appreciation of their Roots through Folk Dances and Songs” on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the Jose Rizal Community Center.

The evening was filled with anticipation and excitement, since this was a collaborating event involving a majority of the Filipino Community organizations and their members! How creative and innovative! According to Mercedes “Mercy” Guerrero, FCSV President, the Rizal Center was elegantly and patriotically decorated, with patriotic decorations provided by Estela Rabara, FCSV 2nd Vice President, and ably assembled by the very artistic decorators, Ling and Alex Avera, the husband and wife team, along with the helping hands of Cleo Sabarre Ner; Rose Basos; Ana Bartolome; and Edna de Los Reyes. The guests were in for a wonderful treat. As the guests arrived, they were greeted by old time favorite folk songs which made all of us feel like we were back home in the Philippines! The ambiance was perfect!

The evening activities begin with Remy Solomon and Leila Pereira, FCSV Board Members, Mistresses of Ceremonies (MCs) for the evening, welcomed everyone to the evening’s entertaining filled event. Then the FCSV members led by MC Remy and accompanied by Bill Carlos on the Keyboard, sang the National Anthems. Afterwards, Fil Am Organizations’ Representatives led by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Sacramento and Vicinity (UPAASV) sang “Ako Ay Pilipino”. Lilia Rivera, President of the Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento and Vicinity and the American Legion Women’s Auxiliary Unit 604, delivered the Invocation.

Following the National Anthems and Invocation, a delicious Filipino Buffet Dinner, prepared and catered by Carol and Melchor Munar, assisted by FCSV member, was served. During dinner, the guests were serenaded by Frances Urbano. Additionally, the D’Dream Girls, consisting of Estela Rabara; Fe Alvarez; and Anabelle Pimentel performed and danced their version of the “Dahil Sa Iyo”.

As dinner ended, MC Leila introduced Mercy Guerrero, FCSV President, who gave her welcome address. She welcomed everyone and gave a special mention to the newly arrived Filipino Teachers from the Philippines. President



Mercy thanked everyone for coming to celebrate this significant event. She went on to note that the October 2017 Filipino American History Month was a great idea that the United States granted the Filipino Community – creating Unity among Filipino Americans. She noted that the event was an opportunity to appreciate our Filipino way of life; to celebrate our roots; and culture through folk songs and dances. President Mercy advised the guests that the participating organizations wouldn’t be singing just one song but a medley of their songs representing their regions. Also, some organizations would be dancing traditional dances from their regions. She thanked the organizers, chaired by Edna de Los Reyes; and co-chaired by Rose De

la Cruz; Remy Solomon; and Leila Pereira and their committees. President Mercy concluded her welcome address by acknowledging the presence of the community leaders who were in attendance and the Past Mrs. Philippines present: Alice Pambib; Maria Bahoric; and Christine Aducaeyan.

MC Remy introduced Mrs. Josie Patria, Past President of FCSV and FWC, assisted by Mrs. Aida Azurin, President of Filipino Family Fraternity and Past President of FSCV, introduced the Specials Guests for the evening. Josie announced that she was delighted to introduce the guests of honor for the evening – they are the newly arrived Filipino Teachers hired by the Sacramento Unified School

The Filipino Teachers are: Lorena Arca; Danilo Castro, Jr.; Shelly Mae De Guzman; Maria Chrisonta Ely; Louise Francisco; and Karmina Jardin. After their introduction, the Teachers were presented an individual Gift Card on behalf of FCSV by Aida. Josie ended her introduction by making a heartfelt plea to the guests to open their hearts and make a donation of whatever they could afford to the recent fire victims and other disaster victims to whatever is the appropriate agency. She suggested that the guest pass the hat at the Celebration to get the campaign rolling.

Event Chair Edna de Los Reyes introduced the Guest Speaker for the evening, Attorney (Atty.) Bill Tyson, President of the Sacramen-

to Chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FAHNHS). He briefly shared a few facts about why and how there came to be a Filipino American History Month. He noted that it began with the founding of the FANHS in Seattle, WA. In 1982. Six years later, FANHS declared the Year 1988 to be the 225th Anniversary of the first permanent settlement of Filipinos in the continental United States, the settlement at St. Malo Parish, LA, established in 1763. In 1988, FANHS set into motion a year-long national observance in order to focus on the story of nation’s past from a new perspective by concentrating on the critical economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions Filipino Americans had made in countless ways toward the development of the United States history. Eleven years later, in November 2009, Congress passed the resolution officially recognizing October as Filipino American History Month.

Atty. Bill continued that October’s significance is due to the fact that 430 years ago, October 18, 1587, the first documented presence of Filipinos in the continental United States occurred when the Spanish galleon, Nuestra Senora de la Esparanza, completed what was at the time only the second trans Pacific crossing in history from Asia mainland to America, and Filipinos sailing on that ship set foot on the sandy beaches at what is now known as Moro Bay, CA.

Atty. Bill continued by sharing three pertinent parts from the Congressional Resolution that stress the study of Filipino American his-

Continued on page 12



# Mabuhay!

BY DALE ESPERANTE

A rollicking 50's and 60's themed dinner and dance on 21 Oct 2017 by The Mabuhay Foundation International in St. Anthony's Parish Hall launched an evening of fun and appreciation! Master of Ceremonies Lee Luna started the program by introducing Vice President Sonny Ng Hiap who delivered the welcoming address with a significant nod to the honorees of the evening, Family Physicians Frank and Linda Marasigan.



Dr. Frank and Linda Marasigan and family

For entertainment, music maestro DJ Rolly Wagas delighted the dinner crowd with his musical repertoire, singing and playing one or more instruments either the guitar, harmonica, or ukulele. Mary Ann Shaw was introduced by MC Lee for a special vocal rendition. Mary Ann's intoxicating song selections became irresistible to the audience who started partnering up on the dance floor.



Dr. Bob Santos followed Mary Ann's performance. Dr. Bob delivered a fitting tribute to his colleagues, Frank and Linda Marasigan. Paraphrasing his prologue, Dr. Bob announced, "tonight we retire the golden couple and it also happens to be their wedding anniversary!" Given the floor, Dr. Frank Marasigan requested that everybody stay put because he had been given only three minutes to deliver his speech, meaning hold everything and stay tuned...lol. The Marasigan couple are thankful for the blessings of a successful medical practice that spanned for over forty-five years. Years of commitment being responsible for their patients' health from natal to adult care.



Retirement was not an easy decision for the married physicians. They have enjoyed their medical profession that gave them many opportunities, including becoming part of a mission. Serving a mission with the Mabuhay Foundation International became a rewarding experience for the Marasigan family. They have joined medical missions to the underserved areas of the Philippines organized by Mabuhay. For several missions, their children Lorraine and Frank Jr. joined as well. Their daughter Lynn had always stayed behind to manage the home clinic. Besides being responsible for the home clinic while her parents and siblings were with the mission, Lynn was also responsible for the art design

of Mabuhay Foundation International's current banner. Now all three children are responsible successful adults. Proud of all his children, Dr. Frank introduced the newest family members, Frank Jr's lovely wife Angie and son Jude.

After forty-five years of caring for others, it is finally time for Frank and Linda to just take care of themselves. They have plans for a lengthy visit in the Philippines. Perhaps, according to Dr. Frank, just relaxing on the beach with palm trees swaying in the background and watching all the lovely people frolic by. The golden years are just beginning for Frank and Linda. The beaches in the Philippines will see a lot of them in the coming years. Being retired, they can opt to be up for the glorious sunrises or be on the beach gazing

at the magical sunsets every relaxing evening, or do both everyday.... Having delivered his sincere and uplifting message, Dr. Frank Marasigan expressed one word with good cheer, MABUHAY! Then he invited his family for one more photo opportunity, before readying himself for a night of dancing with his lovely wife Linda.

President Tony Yadao expressed his gratitude to the honorees, the members and friends of Mabuhay Foundation International (MFI). MFI has grown stronger in giving and caring for all those in the underprivileged regions of the Philippines, thanks to the network of support, it continues to be blessed. Two distinguished physicians, Drs. Sys, visiting from Cagayan De Oro were introduced by



Photos by Dale Esperante and Bernadette Descargar

the time that Dr. Frank has been waiting for arrived. Doctors of medicine, Frank and Linda, became practitioners of dance at the sound of the first note of the rhythmic beat. The wide span of the dance floor populated quickly following the lead of the dance enthusiasts. Mabuhay lived up to its literal name this evening, in Filipino it means LIVE! On behalf of Philippine Fiesta, congratulations to the Mabuhay Foundation International and to the golden couple, Doctors Frank and Linda Marasigan!

President Yadao. They were the medical coordinators for Mabuhay's last successful mission in the Philippines. The next scheduled mission is slated to be in year 2019.

Then the lights dimmed, the speakers blared, the music danced, and



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## Filipino American History Month



From page 10

tory; that Filipino American youths to have positive role models; and that the month of October of each year shall serve as a significant time to study the advancement of Filipino Americans in the history of the United States.

Atty. Bill concluded his presentation by announcing that commencing in the Spring of 2018, the Sacramento Chapter of FANHS will be offering scholarships for the Filipino American students who have made a difference in their community.

The following is a summary of Part II of the Program, which was very entertaining, because it featured the various organizations performing their songs and/or traditional dances to include a group of the local Singing Lions from various District 4-C5 Fil Am Lions Clubs. They were introduced by 2nd Vice District Governor Sarah Enloe, who also gave a brief history of the Lions involvement in the Filipino Community. Here is the Presentation of Organizations' Performers and Performances: Kapampangan Folk Songs by the Cabalen NING Sacramento; Silong

Sa Ganding Muslim Folk Dance by Cleo Sabarner; Ilocano Folk Songs by the Ilocano Foundation of California; Pantomina Folk Dance by the Bicolandia Association; Special Medley by various Fil Am Lions Clubs in Sacramento (Mabuhay, Valley Hi, Maharlika, Golden State and Midtown Lions); La Jota Moncadena Folk Dance by the Kapitbahay Dancers; Tagalog Folk Songs by the Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA; Tinggian Folk Dance by the Abranian Association; Medley of Filipino Songs by the Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento and the Newly Arrived Teachers from the Philippines; Pangasinan Folk Songs by the Pangasinan Association of Northern California; and Tinikling Dance by the Sinagala and newly arrived Philippine Teachers.

Joe Gonzalez, FCSV 1st Vice President, gave the closing remarks. We would like to congratulate and thank FSCV and Participating Filipino American Organizations and their members; the Event Committees and their Members for another fabulous event and evening to remember.

## 4th Annual Filipino American History Month at the Capitol

From page 1

that the following day – October 25 – was the official gala celebrating the Congressional Gold Medals being awarded to Filipino World War II Veterans in Washington DC, the guest speakers were preceded by an introduction of Mr. Gilmore Perla. Mr. Perla was born on May 11, 1921, and became a US Army Philippine Scout in the 12th Signal Corps on March 10, 1941. He was a Bataan Death March prisoner at Camp O'Donnell, and received US citizenship and moved to the US after the war. From there, Mr. Perla joined the Air National Guard and was called to the Korean War in 1951. After the Korean War, he joined the United States Air Force, where he served for 23 years, and worked in civil service at McClellan for 16 years. Perla was married to his late wife, Rosario, for 60 years, and is a father of 3 and grandfather of 4. It was an honor to have Mr. Perla present.

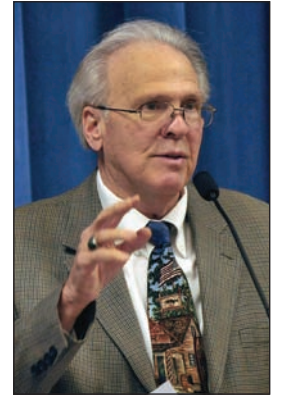
The first guest speaker was introduced as a longtime supporter of this event, in addition to all of the other things he does for the Filipino community, his district, and California. Assemblymember Rob Bonta welcomed the guests of the event and thanked Mr. Perla for his service to the United States. Mr. Bonta then reminded the audience that while we've come a long way, we still have much further to go. To do this, we need to continue learning our history,



Chris Mateo



Assembly member Rob Bonta



FANHS Pres. Bill Tyson



At the Governor's Council Room



Dale, Dick, Luz and and Howard



Veteran Gilmore Perla and the Fil-Am community



Atty. Beef Alo and Dr. Fred Aquino

embracing our present, and looking forward to our future.

Assemblymember Bonta was then followed by Mr. Bill Tyson, current president of the Filipino American National Historical Society, Sacramento-Delta Chapter. Mr. Tyson reminded the attendees that one of the best ways to celebrate our culture

is to be actively engaged within the community – something that everyone in that room continues to do. The event concluded with the officers of every organization meeting with Assemblymember Jim Cooper on the Assembly Floor, and taking photos with him. He thanked everyone for their contributions to the community, Assembly District 9,

and the State of California.

Upon exiting the Governor's Council Room, attendees were overheard thanking each other (some meeting each other for the first time) and saying, "See you next year!" Until the 5th Annual Filipino American History Month at the Capitol... Mabuhay!

## 5th Claverianos International Reunion



The Mayor of Claveria, Dr. Celia T. Layus, was the Guest of Honor who delivered her inspirational speech during the 5th Claverianos International Reunion at the Gold Coast Hotel in Las Vegas on September 30, 2017. Around 500 Claverianos and their guests attended the Reunion. (L-R) Ms. Anicia Agonoy; Mrs. Celia S. Yadao, President, United Cagayanos of California; Mrs. Caring Aducaeyen; Mayor Celia T. Layus, and Amb. George G. Aducaeyen, Jr.

## Class 1972 - Baguio General Hospital School of Nursing



Class 1972 - Baguio General Hospital School of Nursing taken at Suncoast Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada on October 22, 2017, with Cristina Bambao.



## Marilyn Tauro Lopez 60th Birthday Bash

Marilyn's sweet 60th Birthday celebration is a momentous occasion that she has long dreamed of and wished for. Held at the Sunshine Art Center in Elk Grove on October 20, 2017, everyone was surprised by the elegant venue, decorated with all shades of pink, as Marilyn's favorite color. She made a dramatic entrance wearing a long fuchsia evening gown, donning a long, white, silky capelet, while waving gracefully to her anxiously awaiting guests of family and friends. She was joined by her two children Roland and May, her boyfriend Jim Nuttal, other family and friends, along with her Kaiser family of friends and coworkers.

It was an event full of fun and laughter contributed by the music entertainment provided by Simply Magic Band, headed by Glenda Odra and Shirley Ferrer, Frank Gatdula as the MC and DJ, dance performances of friends, and by simply Marilyn herself, enjoying her big night with everyone to witness.



Jim and Marilyn



Marilyn would like to express her sincere gratitude to her boyfriend Jim, children Roland and May, Rowena and Jojo Vidal, Tel Lopez, Elsa all the way from Texas, Susan and Nestor Bautista, and Frank and Salome Gatdula.

## Manny Boy Turns 67!

A surprise birthday party awed "Uncle Boy" last Sunday, October 21, at the Del Pilar's residence in Natomas. He was so amazed finding his favorite pamangkins, cousins, brothers, sisters, and friends arriving from all over.

From the Bay Area, Sacramento, Los Banos, Vacaville, Honolulu, and as far as Toronto, everybody came to celebrate.

One by one, they either sang to him, danced for him, praying for more years to celebrate. And of course, he took lots and lots of hugs and kisses too! There was also music provided by the Mirage Band.

Truly, a usually "cool" Uncle Boy was emotionally because the event was an inspiring memory to remember.



Manuel Boy Concepcion



Entertainment by RB Apostol, Marivic and Henry Concepcion, and by his sisters, nephews, nieces, and other relatives and friends.



## Father Felipe Paraguya

Father Felipe Paraguya celebrated his 80th Birthday on September 30, 2017, held at St. Paul Parish hall, attended by his special friends and guest from other churches.



## Melita Esperante



Birthday lunch at Korean Oz with husband Dale on October 21.



# Calendar of Events

**NOVEMBER 4, 2017 (SAT.)**  
**Maharlika Lions Club**  
**Crab & Shrimp Feed 'All you can Eat!'**  
 6 pm / Dinner 7pm  
 \$45 per person - Opportunity drawings,  
 silent auction & dancing  
 St. Anthony Parish Hall  
 660 Florin Rd. Sacramento  
 Lyn 916.798.4423  
 Vickie 916.524.3452  
 Myrna 916.505.1421



**NOVEMBER 4, 2017 (SAT.)**  
**My Sister's House 14th Annual**  
**Run for a Safe Haven**  
 Race day registration - 8:00am  
 William Land Park  
 corner of Freeport Blvd. & Sutterville Rd.  
 Register at <http://www.runforasafehaven.com>



**DECEMBER 2, 2017 (SAT)**  
**Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA**  
**"An Event to Remember"**  
 Spaghetti Dinner, Dance & Fellowship  
 6:00 pm / Donation \$20  
 Semi Formal  
 St Charles Borromeo School Gymnasium  
 7580 Center Parkway, Sacramento 95823  
 916.995.2563



## Birthdays



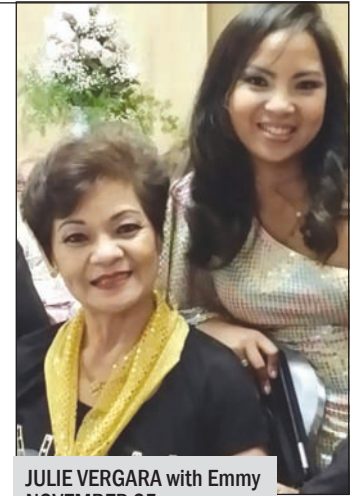
CRISANTA GALINATO and husband John  
NOVEMBER 1



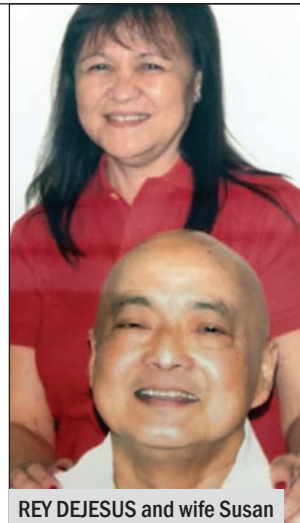
NELDA FORTUNO ABELEDA and hubby Arden  
OCTOBER 24



ALITA A. MERCADO and hubby Errol  
OCTOBER 27



JULIE VERGARA with Emmy  
NOVEMBER 25



REY DEJESUS and wife Susan  
OCTOBER 19



BETTY GANITANO RIGONAN and hubby Fernando  
NOVEMBER 1



OZGEE GONZALES  
OCTOBER 19



FAINALITA and HIEU NGO  
(Both) NOVEMBER 19



MIKE VALENTINE and wife Liza  
NOVEMBER 9



REGINA and GERRY LOBO  
9th Wedding Anniversary  
Nov. 8



CINDY and BOBBY RICHARDS  
10th Wedding Anniversary  
Nov. 10

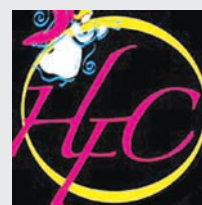


CARLE and SARAH ENLOE  
21th Wedding Anniversary  
Nov. 21

## Anniversary



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BY CHAPLAIN DALE ESPERANTE

World War II Veteran Gilmore Perla represented the Filipino-American veterans of his era at a capitol gathering on 24 Oct 2017 to celebrate the 4th Annual Filipino-American History Month.

Mr. Perla was born in 1921, served and fought as an ally of the American Armed Forces in 1941, then survived the Bataan Death March. Though now using a wheelchair, Comrade Perla is still an active member of The American Legion Magellan Post 604. He is able to come to the capitol and other veteran functions because of his fellow American Legion Post 604 member, Howard Williams. Howard would pick up him up and drive him to wherever and whenever it is requested by Mr. Perla.

At the Capitol, Comrades Gilmore and Howard were joined by fellow Post 604 members, namely: Commander Luz Molina, Director Fred "Doc" Aquino, and Adjutant-cum-Chaplain Dale Esperante with his wife, Melita. Assembly Member

# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLY CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



Commander Luz Molina and World War II Veteran Gilmore Perla



Dr. Fred Aquino, Melita Esperante, Atty. Beef Alo, Howard Williams and Veteran Gilmore Perla



Dale Esperante and Luz Molina



Dale Esperante, Luz Molina and Jim Cooper



Commander Luz Molina and World War II Veteran Gilmore Perla



Chaplain Dale Esperante, Jim Cooper and Gabby Ortogoza

Jim Cooper presented a Certificate of Recognition to The American Legion Magellan Post 604 as "deserving of special public recognition and the highest commenda-

tion from the people of the State of California for The American Legion Magellan Post 604 service within the Filipino American community of California Assembly

District 9.

The esteem, gratitude, heartiest congratulation, and best wishes of the public are hereby extended. October 24, 2017, signed by Jim

Cooper, Assembly Member, 9th District." Several Fil-Am organizations also received their certificates of recognition.

## Dinner & Dance at Magellan Hall

October 28, 2017  
6 pm - 11pm  
\$20 per person.

No official program, just for the sheer joy of social dancing.



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## Veterans Day, November 11, 2017

### One Moment To Remember

By Glenn D. Carrasca  
United States Air Force Retired

We are a nation so free that we sometimes take this privilege quite for granted. The hard edge of gratitude has given way to soft, single-minded pursuits of happiness. We gleefully pick the fruits of freedom, often without pausing to tend or pay tribute to the roots which bare them. We should be able to say, "I know why I am free and know who sacrificed their lives for me."

During this Veterans Day we direct all attention in one great moment to those fallen in service to this country - giving the ultimate sacrifice to establish and preserve our freedom and privileges.







BY CARLE & SARAH ENLOE

**“WHERE THERE’S A NEED, THERE’S A LION”  
“WE SERVE GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY”**

When disaster strikes, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) responds! When service projects are too large for a Club or a District to financially support, LCIF is there to assist. A great example of Lions and LCIF working together happens during disasters. This summer, the world watched as natural disasters struck around the world. In South Asia, parts of India, Nepal, and Bangladesh are experiencing devastating monsoon rains. In Mumbai alone, over 1,000 people have been reported killed in the floods. In the past three months, LCIF has approved 20 emergency grants to South Asia, totaling US \$125,000. In July, flooding in Japan took lives and destroyed homes. LCIF awarded a US \$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to help the community recover.

In August, Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas coast stretching from the Houston area into Louisiana. During one of the worst natural disasters in American history, thousands of people lost their homes and everything they own. Some people lost family members. LCIF immediately awarded a US \$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to assist in reconstruction efforts. Within two weeks of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma struck Florida and other areas of the Southeast United States, and destroyed much of the islands in the western Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. At the same time, Mexico was hit by its strongest earthquake in 100 years. LCIF has made funds available for two more US \$100,000 grants to aid Lions assisting with Hurricane Irma and Mexico’s earthquake. Most recently, LCIF awarded a US \$100,000 grant to support Puerto Rico hurricane relief and reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Maria.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the individuals affected by these and other natural disasters. At the same time, LCIF issues a heartfelt thank you to our donors. Please consider joining them and making a contribution. Donations will continue Lions’ relief efforts around the world, and no gift is too small.

Locally, the Month of October 2017, has been very busy for the Local Lions Clubs and their members. The month kicked off with the District 4-C5 Lions supporting and taking part in the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Walk to benefit Diabetes Research. The Lions Clubs that participated were: Sunrise Roseville; Capital; Metropolitan; Midtown; Golden State; and Maharlika. Lions Clubs International



(LCI) formally announced their commitment to curtail diabetes at the 100th Anniversary International Convention in Chicago, IL in July 2017.



The Valley Hi Lions Club celebrated their 35th Anniversary on September 23, 2017 at the Asia Pearl Restaurant. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to Valley Hi Lions Club and its members for their 35 years of dedicated service to the Community. Midtown Lions Club celebrated their 20th Anniversary with a Dinner and Dance on October 7, 2017, at the Lions Gate Hotel in Sacramento, CA. It was a fun filled evening. Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to Midtown Lions Club and its members for their 20 years of dedicated service to the Community.



and MJMP are partnering and will be cooking dinner for about 300 first responders, firefighters, police, volunteers, and victims.

During the month of October, the Golden State Lions Club (GSLC) donated and sent funds to the Tboli Indigents Students in the Philippines to help support their educational needs. The students sent pictures of their group to Lion Lynne Mitchell. Also, the Burn Survivor Sponsorship Signature Project (BSSSP) is a Signature of the GSLC. Ronald and Paz visited the Jelly Belly Factory with GSLC President Beth Estemon. Ronald, Paz, and two of the teachers from the Philippines also visited San Francisco with Lion Lynne Mitchell. GSLC members took turns bringing food to the hospital, as well as, donating clothes and shoes for Paz’s other sons in the Philippines.

On October 7, 2017, Maharlika Lions Club held its much awaited Golf Tournament at Bartley



fundraising events. Players from as far away as Los Angeles and San Jose came to participate to help support the Club’s various projects.

Mabuhay

Lions Club sponsored by over 20 businesses and individuals throughout Northern California. After the event, the players were treated to a sumptuous lunch of tri-tip steak, barbeque chicken, salads, and sweets at William Land Park. The tournament raised over \$4,000 dollars for the club’s local projects, including a medical mission to the Philippines scheduled for February 2018.

On October 14, 2017, Maharlika Lions Club held a mini-medical mission at Yuba City’s Migrant Camp managed by the Regional Housing Authority of Yuba, Nevada, and Colusa Counties. The camp has over 200 residents, which includes about 40 school-age children. These residents migrate from state to state following the picking seasons of crops. They are the ones farmers rely on to pick our fruits and vegetables, doing the menial low-paying jobs that many of us would not do. Their work is the main reason the produce we buy at the supermarket remains affordable. The children also face very long days since they usually must be driven very early

to school and then wait very long hours until their parents are able to pick them up after they have finished working on the farms. The mission provided much needed flu shots donated by Walgreens; diabetes screening; blood pressure monitoring; blankets; and new and used clothing; as well as, backpacks filled with school supplies for the children. Mission Chair Lynn Ventura and Club President Vickie Debord led the way in making sure we provided all the services requested. The Club was also assisted by the Site Manager of the camp, Aurora Salomon, by going door-to-door to make sure the residents were aware and knew of the Club’s services.

The Executive Director of Regional Housing Authority, Gustavo Becerra, stopped by to personally thank the Club members for their contribution and their dedication to helping others. Additionally, he later emailed 2nd Vice President Mark Bamba a personal thank you and expressing his gratitude to the Maharlika Lions Club for their efforts, which reads as follows: “Many thanks go out to you and your Lions Club, for the wonderful event this past Saturday, that brought free health services; winter coats; and school back packs for the kids, to our residents at the Yuba City Migrant farm worker housing development. It is people like you that make a difference in our communities, and your generosity, and willingness to volunteer many hours of your time is highly appreciated. Great to see you Saturday, and again, much appreciated. Please pass this on to your entire Club who was involved.” We would like to recognize and thank 2nd Vice President Mark Bamba for his contributions to this article.

A Collaborative Project of Six Local Lions Clubs will be holding the “Lions United for Hurricane Relief in Puerto Rico” on Saturday, November 18, 2017, from 3 to 6 pm at the Light Christian Church, 7257 Southgate Drive, Sacramento, CA. 95823. Cost for the event is \$20.00 per person. They will be serving a Tri-tip dinner. Lion Lynn Ventura, Maharlika Lions Club, (916) 798-4423, and Lion Tony Santos, Citrus Heights Lions Club, (916) 802-1187, are chairing the Project for the Clubs. The other Lions Clubs participating are: Folsom Lake Lions Club; Elk Grove Lions Club; Golden State Lions Club; and Sacramento Light Lions Club. The Public is Cordially invited!

The LCI Centennial Celebration brings Lions together to celebrate 100 years of life-changing humanitarian service. Starting with the kick-off in July 2014 and ending in June 2018, Lions Clubs around the World will join in the celebration by expanding our community project work and inspiring others to join us in service. It’s an exciting time to be a Lion, let’s celebrate together!



*In Loving Memory of...*



**Joseph B. Monteagudo**

1967 - 2017

He passed away in peace surrounded by his family and friends. His bright spirit will be greatly missed by his community and all who loved him.



Dearest Mother,

Ten years ago from today, you joined our Loving Father in Heaven. There isn't a day that we think of you and miss your unconditional love and support for our family, especially to your grandchildren. You lived to ensure we were comfortable and it is because of you and dad that we felt secure and loved and have the same great outlook in life.

We also inherited your light hearted spirit and lovely sense of humor. Your grandchildren, especially Erik, often remember and mimic your fond characteristics and see so much of you in your great granddaughter, Emma. How I wish your great grandchildren would have gotten to know their wonderful and loving great grandma. They may not have met you physically, but they know you in spirit. Emma even named her doll after you.



Miriam Vergara Eleccion

We are doing okay but ask for you and dad to continue to look after us from heaven as we continue to keep you in our hearts.

We love you so much.

Until we meet again, continue to Rest In Peace.

**All Souls Day**

*"Alaala sa mga minamahal na pumanaw"*  
(Honoring our departed loved ones)

Come and celebrate at  
East Lawn Elk Grove Memorial Park and Mortuary  
9189 E. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624

November 1, 2017 (Wednesday)

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. - Video Tribute and Living Rosary  
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BY FAINA and JUN ABAYA

Long before the emergence of Divas in the music world referring to successful female singers, Pilita Corrales has already a title as “Asia’s Queen of Songs”. A title that had been undisputedly bestowed to her for being the first Asian singer to successfully regaled her audiences in all of Asia with her singing performances in English, Spanish, Tagalog and Visayan songs.

The golden voice of Pilita Corrales has brought her far and wide, from the stage of Opera House in Manila to world stage together with such great entertainers as Sammy Davis, Jr. to the Beatles. She also shared the same stage with renown international artists such as Frank Sinatra, Julie Andrews and many others.

For many decades she became the crown jewel of Philippine entertainment with contemporaries like Elizabeth Ramsey and Carmen Soriano. As a total entertainer, she was heard over the radio, hosted television shows and made movies all of which were enthusiastically patronized by the Filipino people from every nook and corner of the country.

Indeed, Pilita’s popularity has crossed vast oceans and continents including Australia where she became the first female artist to top the Australian pop music charts before any other internationally acclaimed Australian artists have done. Pilita also achieved the honor to be billed as one of the Grand Dames of Victorian Radio and Television stars.

Undoubtedly, for many years she stands taller than any other Filipino stars in almost all facets of entertainments. Yet in the passing of years, while she is aging gracefully, this diamond like entertainer never fades its brilliant glows, just like a vintage wine that never mellowed but becomes precious and priceless.

Looking back in time at the pinnacle of her career, Pilita Corrales could be considered as the first Diva of Philippine music, her musical repertoire had transcended no boundaries especially among musically minded Filipinos who loved to sing her songs in all the appropriate occasions they attended.

After so many years of not witnessing her performances, our very own local impresario Donnie Pestrana in collaboration with ABS-CBN Foundation Community Ambassador Maribeth Lalongisip were able to convince



Pilita Corrales

Pilita to hold her concert in San Francisco for her fans who will have the chance to nostalgically see her in person. The concert was dubbed “An evening with Pilita” which was held on October 15, 2017 at the social ballroom of the Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront.

Joining several cars from Sacramento, 20 of the members and friends of United Naguilian La Union Circle of America, Inc. (UNLUCAI) led by Tina Bambao hit the road to the concert venue. At exactly 6:00PM of the said date, the concert was opened by Bay area well known comedian Xiao who as expected cracked some Filipino jokes to make the more than 400 diverse audiences comfortable.

Local singers who made their names in the Bay Area with their singing talents were introduced to break the ice for the concert while waiting for Pilita Corrales. First to be called was Tiffany Carandang who captivated the audience with her performance then followed by Rollie Halili whose rendition of the song “Fly me to the moon” received thunderous applause. Frank de la Rosa’s rendition of the song “My love will see you through” was well applauded just like Janette Ferraro who sang “Bituin walang Ningning” also received rounds of applauds.

Just as the applauds for the

# An Evening with Pilita Corrales



Unlucai members with Pilita



Social Ballroom, Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront

Photos by Faina Abaya



Henry and Tina Bambao with Donnie Pestrana and Faina Abaya

local entertainers were about to subside, there appears the bright star of the evening Pilita Corrales who seemed to have descended on earth from the sky long awaited to hear her melodious voice by her devoted fans. Indeed, Pilita Corrales not only endowed with gracefulness through the passing of time but likewise retaining the beauty and elegance of a prima donna who has been undauntedly endured the test of time. As expected she was greeted with standing ovation and a prolonged applause by her admiring fans.

Pilita Corrales, the star of the night is definitely a standout wearing a black evening dress with sparkling beads to complement her impeccable mestiza complexion accentuating her tantalizing eyes and contagious smile sang her opening song entitled “I will survive” receiving thunderous

applause from her admiring audience. She thrilled her audience with Visayan medley songs and likewise mesmerized them with nostalgic songs such as “Poppy love” and “Please stay with me Diana” Endowed not only with beautiful face but well-proportioned body simply feeds the mind with her sensuality enhanced by her body movements but sometimes it also cleanses the soul as she sang old Pilipino love songs.

The second part of Pilita’s concert saw her on another attractive outfit exuding an energy just like when he was still young as she invited her audience to sing with her on and off the stage. Singing old Filipino and English songs, Pilita went down from the stage reminiscent of her younger years when she mixed up with her audience dancing and singing with them. And those with cellphones

took the opportunity to take her picture or selfie for a lifetime remembrance that at one time they were with one of the best singers the Philippines or even the world had produced.

Pilita Corrales usually ends her concert with her signature song that catapulted her to a pedestal that few songstresses ever reached entitled “A million thanks to you my love”, her way of expressing her profound gratitude to her millions of fans the world over. After the show, Pilita as usual accommodated her fans for picture taking and signing any items that will last for a lifetime to always linger in their memories the greatness of this ageless chanteuse.

Some of the members and friends of the UNLUCAI who went out to witness such memorable evening with Pilita Corrales are: Henry and Tina Bambao, Rudy and Sonia Delizo, Dickie and Marilyn Bernal, Edgar and Charity Avena, Jun and Faina Abaya, Romy and Olga Samaniego, Fely Esplana, Cherie Nairn, Carol, Jane and Erna Bambao and Mildred Go.



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# The power of love

Almost a year after they quietly got back together, will wedding bells finally ring for Zsa Zsa Padilla and Conrad Onglao?

BY REGINA MAE PARUNGAO

Zsa Zsa Padilla hardly discusses her love life if unprompted.

Recently, though, in an interview, we were pleasantly surprised that she candidly talked about her fiancé, architect Conrad Onglao.



Zsa Zsa Padilla

They called it quits July last year but were back together after five months.

Though the short breakup was shrouded in controversy, Zsa Zsa said she is thankful it happened as it taught her many things.

According to her, she and Conrad had so many disagreements, which is why she thought it was best to end the relationship. The singer-actress also said she was firm on not getting back together.

"I was so determined na tapos na. Sinara ko agad. Hindi ko alam kung bibigyan ko ba ng chance. In fact, lahat ng pinapadala niyang bulaklak tinatapon ko because I was so mad," she said.

Later on, Zsa Zsa realized she still loves Conrad despite their differences. The reconciliation happened after the two unexpectedly crossed paths at a mall.

Of course, it was not that easy for the actress, revealing she even went through a healing therapy to learn how to forgive and forget.

"When I was talking to him and we were ready to make a commitment to make some changes, I realized that there are issues that I want to resolve also that's why I decided to give us a chance," she said.

The Divine Diva admitted that after the reconciliation, the relationship was still "volatile." But though it took her some time to adjust, Zsa Zsa shared the best lesson she learned from the breakup is never dwell on the past.

Zsa Zsa related that her three daughters – Karylle, Zia and Nicole – already established a civil bond with Conrad.

"For a while, si-yempre they feel a little bit defensive with me kasi I'm their mom. But after that (breakup), when they saw that everything is going smoothly naman, okay na sa kanila," she said, smiling.

### Simple

Zsa Zsa and Conrad were reportedly about to get married in Italy when they broke up.

Well, it will push through though she no longer wishes for a big wedding. She added there's no exact date yet for the wedding but it will most likely happen in the country.

Zsa Zsa prefers to keep the wedding a simple celebration with their closest family and friend.

"Hindi ko na siya ma-feel (need for a big wedding). I don't know if it's an age thing for me. Kung si Conrad kasi ang tatanungin, gusto niya. He was the one dreaming of it," she said.

"Sabi ko sa kanya na pagbigyan mo na ako, gusto ko tahimik lang talaga. It's more on the solemnity of us being husband and wife," she added.

Why, if it were just up to her, Zsa Zsa doesn't feel a ceremony is needed to seal their love.

"Sabi ko magtanan na lang kami," she said in jest.

Not that she doesn't believe in marriage. It's about practicality, she said.

"Kasi gagastos pa kami, eh ako tanggap na tanggap ko na ang edad ko. At alam akong anytime soon, pa-retire na rin ako (sa pag-aartista)," she explained. "Ang sabi ko sa kanya, ipunin na lang namin (ang pera) at ilagay na lang sa negosyo. Pero kung gusto niya talaga na (makasal), okay lang din naman basta gusto ko tahimik lang."

She also dismissed comparisons between Conrad and her former partner, the late Dolphy.

That said, the actress said she set rules for them to make the relationship work.

"Number one: Do not refer to the past kasi past is past na talaga," she noted. "And thankfully, it worked for the both of us. As to comparing him with Dolphy, I had to remember na ibang tao si Conrad at magkaiba ang ugali nila. Na-realized ko na lagi akong nasusunod, spoiled ako. It cannot be that way anymore because he's a different person."

The singer said she and Conrad are very similar in so many ways that they enjoy being together. The two were recently spotted together at the Star Magic ball.

Zsa Zsa said they both love to cook. They also love to take walks and have similar taste in films.

Asked what she likes best about the architect, Zsa Zsa said Conrad is very giving, loving and caring.

The singer-actress also described him as very much a "family man." She said Conrad has been very patient and would assure her always.

"He is very independent. Yun talaga ang napanin sa kanya, hindi ko siya kailangan alagaan ng sobra," she explained. "He gives me everything, he is very thoughtful, which is why I really wanted this relationship to work. Ayoko ng away-bati."

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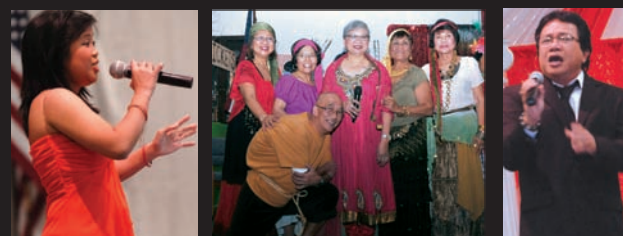
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