



Who's bluffing: Duterte or XI?
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Scariest Filipino Monsters
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Duterte cuts red tape in importing agricultural products

President Rodrigo Duterte signs Administrative Order No. 13, removing non-tariff barriers in the importation of agricultural products



President Rodrigo Duterte orders the cutting of red tape in importing agricultural products.

BY PATERNO ESMAQUEL II

MANILA, Philippines – President Rodrigo Duterte ordered the cutting of red tape in importing agricultural products as he issued an administrative order to address soaring inflation.

Malacañang on Tuesday, September 25, announced that Duterte signed Administrative Order (AO) No. 13, removing non-tariff barriers

in the importation of agricultural products. Duterte signed AO 13 on Friday, September 21.

A non-tariff barrier is defined as a way of limiting imports even while not charging a tariff.

In AO 13, Duterte said that “non-tariff barriers and certain administrative constraints, procedures, and fees unduly add to the costs

of importation and limit supply, which in turn push up the prices of agricultural commodities to the detriment of Filipino consumers, especially the poor.”

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia earlier told Rappler that Duterte agreed to issue an executive order to address the Philippines’ inflation woes.



NBI probes Red October ‘plotters’

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the NBI, the investigative and law enforcement arm of the Department of Justice (DOJ), has been tapped to conduct a fact-finding investigation to look into information from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that communist groups, opposition personalities and some disgruntled soldiers are conspiring to oust Duterte.

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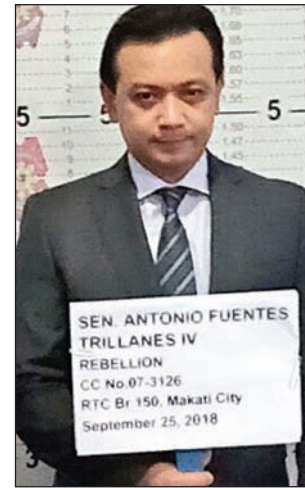
Senator Trillanes arrested

BY RAMBO TALABONG

Senator Antonio Trillanes IV on Tuesday, September 25, became the second opposition senator to be arrested under the Duterte presidency.

A team led by Makati police chief Senior Superintendent Rogelio Simon confirmed that the police served the arrest warrant on Trillanes for the charge of rebellion, hours after the document was released by Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 Executive Judge Elmo Alameda.

Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Jose Balajadia told reporters that the police followed protocol. He said that National Capital Region Police Office director Chief



Senator Antonio Trillanes IV is the second opposition senator to be arrested under the presidency of Rodrigo Duterte. He posts a P200,000-bail.

Superintendent Guillermo Eleazar served the warrant on Trillanes.

Eleazar said in an inter-

view on ANC that Trillanes voluntary went with the arresting team. The senator earlier said he would not resist arrest for as long as police presented a the proper warrant.

Trillanes was brought to Makati RTC Branch 150 after the booking procedure to post the P200,000-bail. He was accompanied by fellow opposition senators Kiko Pangilinan, Paolo Benigno Aquino IV, and Risa Hontiveros; as well as his Magdalo party mates.

The rebellion charge against Trillanes was revived after President Rodrigo Duterte issued Proclamation No. 572, revoking the amnesty granted to the senator in connection to the 2003 Oakwood mutiny and the 2007 Manila Peninsula siege.

Filipino Women’s Club



Photo by Dale Esperante

FWC President Zenny Yagen with Lilia Rivera, FWC 2018 Outstanding Filipina along with a group of FWC past Outstanding Filipina Recipients: Nilda Valmores, Sarah Enloe, Josie Patria, Mona Pasquil Rogers, and Vicky Johnson. Continued on page 11

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Do Philippine Mayors make bad presidents?

BY ANDREW LIM

Another mayor, another failure?

There have been three former mayors-turned presidents in our history: Aguinaldo, Estrada and Duterte. If you go back to the historical record of their terms, there is a strong argument to be made they did not do very well.

Sure, they had personal accomplishments, but if we make the judgment that on the whole, their shortcomings and transgressions far outweighed their contributions.

Let's review:

1. **Aguinaldo** – Held responsible for the assassination of his Filipino political opponents (most are now in the pantheon of heroes of the Revolution) and accused of prioritizing people instead of principles. The writers and producers of the Luna-Goyo-Quezon trilogy has a similar view of history, hence these lines in Goyo, Ang Batang Heneral: "Aso ka lang, Goyo, hindi ka sundalo!"; "Tao lang ang ipinaglalaman mo, hindi prinsipyo!" In hindsight, he is also considered a poor military strategist for rejecting Luna's idea of guerrilla warfare at the outset, only to adopt it later.

But perhaps the most scathing rebuke of Aguinaldo was Mabini's:

"To sum it up: the Revolution failed because it was badly led; because its leader won his post by reprehensible rather than meritorious acts; because instead of supporting the men most useful to the people, he made them useless out of jealousy...

A message of compassion, love and understanding...

BY JOY CARPIO

The Philippines —our beloved country's predicament today. Have we ever asked or wondered why we are indeed struggling all the time? Hereunder... common sense thoughts or maybe non-sensible thoughts. For every responder, please add other contributing factor – why we are seemingly in an almost impossible world we are in today...

I also believe whomever you put as President it's almost impossible to solve the



Aguinaldo, Estrada and Duterte

He judged the worth of men not by their ability, character and patriotism but rather by their degree of friendship and kinship with him; and anxious to secure the readiness of his favorites to sacrifice themselves for him, he was tolerant even of their transgressions."

2. **Estrada** – Ousted by popular revolt. Convicted for plunder but pardoned. His term was characterized by terribly low ethical standards, corruption and mismanagement. The military did not respect him at all, making its "withdrawal of support" easy. The Philippine stock market took serious hits due to cronyism. His administration could also be described as incompetent in economic affairs- factions within the cabinet led to turf wars which could happen with Duterte, as well.

3. **Duterte** – It's just been two years, but it's a litany of failures and disasters- from human rights record to support of fake news purveyors, to poor appreciation of international relations, to ignorance on economics leading to shortages, inflation and deterioration of many economic indicators, even sartorial choices.

Why such a dismal record? We have more than a few theories:

problems we have:

1. Population tripled. The gap between the rich and the poor widened.
2. Filipinos expect changes but they haven't cooperated.
3. At one time in our lives, one way or the other, we have accepted/done/tolerated corruption — big or small — perhaps because of ignorance and poverty.

To start ... every term of a President, he will have to accept/work on past errors/problems only to be

1. Perhaps it's the way they conducted business in their former jobs – they adopted a transactional approach, the old style of back-slapping, you scratch my back I'll scratch yours instead of being a transformative leader who changed how things were done.

2. Tribalism. The age-old problem of Filipinos, putting one's tribe ahead of any consideration – including morals, faith and the law. (I don't care if other Filipinos suffer, as long as we Davaoenos benefit! Marcos was corrupt and brutal but he took care of us Ilocanos!) This deserves a blog of its own. I am still astounded how supposedly decent, well educated Filipinos of faith do this without blinking.

3. Weak character. The temptations of the job may simply be too great for their upbringing – the temptation to steal, lie, to be brutal, to love blasphemy.

4. Inability to transition to global stage. Like it or not, international diplomacy has its own code of behavior, modified through centuries of practice. Is the smallness of their former fiefdoms a burden to smooth transition?

confronted with new ones. And worse is the endless disruption of the opposition. Bipartisanship... the collaborating factors and conspiracies. Truly Politics is the worst crime in history. Finally, we are affected or hit by the outside world's problem. Thus, no need to expound. We all know. The only thing free that we could easily do or share are compassion, love and understanding.

So help the people of the Philippines, God.

US-China trade war

BY ELFREN S. CRUZ

What is a trade war? This is when countries attack each other's trade by imposing higher tariffs and mandating quotas. The main objective is to hurt the economy of the other country.

The ongoing trade war between China and the United States is continuing to escalate. Trump has just announced he will impose tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods. China immediately retaliated by imposing new taxes on \$60 billion of American imports. China's trade sanctions is less than the American sanctions because Beijing is running out of American products to impose tariffs. This is one reason why Trump believes that the United States can easily win a trade war with China.

While China has less leverage on trade, there are other ways that China can retaliate. Unfortunately for the world, these other means – if China decides to use them – can lead to a new Cold War. According to Professor Charles Han- kla, there are four possible ways that China could respond to the increase of American tariffs.

Economic pain. China can escalate the confrontation by using its substantial economic leverage outside of trade. China could retaliate by reducing its purchases of American Treasuries or by selling some of the \$1.18 tril-



lion in its possession. China owns almost a fifth of the US national debt currently held by foreign countries.

If China reduces its holdings of American treasuries, this would drive up the cost of many goods Americans buy. This would also lead to a weakening of the dollar. China can also target companies operating in China with more regulations and interference.

Geopolitical games. China could undermine US efforts to disarm North Korea by not enforcing US sanctions. China could also confront the United States in the South China Sea. An escalation of the trade war could lead to China becoming more belligerent. Other options include attempting to isolate Taiwan, deepening ties with Russia as a counterbalance to the US and accelerating its military buildup.

Hegemony on steroids. China could take America's aggressive approach on trade as a reason to speed up its efforts to establish greater hegemony in the Asia Pa-

cific region and strive for greater economic independence. China could speed up its "Belt and Road" initiative, expand its influence in Africa, and pump more cash into its alternative to the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank.

Cooler heads. The fourth alternative is for China to de-escalate the confrontation by negotiating some resolution with Trump. However, at this point, Trump's terms for ending the trade war remains unclear.

China could limit the fight to the trade arena and wait for the results of the American midterm or the 2020 presidential elections and hope that a new administration will change American policy.

Before this confrontation started, Trump said "...trade wars are easy to win." He mistakenly assumed that Beijing would capitulate quickly. What does the United States hope to accomplish assuming they win the trade war? According to Professor David Lake: "Trump has said his aims are to open the Chinese market, reduce the trade deficit and save American jobs especially in the traditional manufacturing sector. His strategy is to bludgeon China with tariffs on its goods and then hit them with more tariffs when they retaliate. The idea is to take advantage of the unequal trade between the two countries to hurt China more than it can hurt the United

Continued on page 5

October is Filipino History Month,
a commemoration of Filipinos' humble
beginning and life experiences in America



NBI probes Red October 'plotters'

From page 1

BY EDU PUNAY

MANILA, Philippines — The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has started its own probe on the reported "Red October" plot to oust President Duterte.

Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the NBI, the investigative and law enforcement arm of the Department of Justice (DOJ), has been tapped to conduct a fact-finding investigation to look into information from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that communist groups, opposition personalities and some disgruntled soldiers are conspiring to oust Duterte.

"The NBI is already gathering information on the alleged Red October plot," Guevarra told The STAR yesterday.

Guevarra said the NBI is specifically tasked to look into the veracity of the AFP report and identify the personalities behind the reported ouster plot.

"If the NBI will be able to verify this alleged plot and identify the persons behind it, the bureau could then build up cases against them," he said.

Guevarra said among the possible cases that can be filed against the conspirators of the supposed plot are sedition and coup d'etat. Malacañang said any attempt against the President would fizzle out for lack of public support.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. expressed confidence that any destabilization effort will not prosper, noting the AFP and the President himself have already uncovered the Red October plot.

Roque said he has 100 per-

cent trust in the intelligence information received by the military regarding the ouster moves.

"However, I also am sure a hundred percent that this plot will not succeed because of the overwhelming support given to the President by the people when he was elected as president, and when he is now ruling as president," he said.

Though the political opposition is allegedly one of the conspirators, Roque has cleared Vice President Leni Robredo of involvement in the supposed remove-Duterte plot. Robredo heads the unified opposition.

Robredo on Tuesday slammed the attempts to link her and opposition figures to the so-called Red October.

She said the move to silence the opposition was a prelude to establishing a regime of corruption, abuse and dictatorship.

For former president and now Speaker Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Duterte's revelation of the Red October plot is believable.

"Let me just say, again going from my experience as president, the President usually has access to information that not all of us have access to. So if the President believes that there is a threat, he is working from good information. So we should believe whatever (he says)," Arroyo said.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson also believes Duterte has access to validated intelligence information so he understands his frustration over reports that some officers are dealing with opposition groups out to oust him.

"While it may be frustrating on his part, considering how he has consistently

treated the AFP upon his assumption as President, I think he is politically mature and experienced enough to understand that he cannot have absolute support of all the soldiers and officers of the AFP," Lacson said.

He said there was nothing unusual with some officers disgruntled with the administration and "there will be elements who will cast their lot with the opposition for reasons that may have something to do with their career advancements."

But even if such things are not unusual, it should also not be tolerated, Lacson said.

"That should not worry him at all because he has the overwhelming support of the vast majority of the country's armed services, the AFP and the PNP (Philippine National Police)," Lacson said.

He said he expects the AFP leadership to be conducting a "loyalty check" or conducting counter-intelligence operations.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, a former rebel officer himself, said the AFP would likely "stay at the center" of the issue.

"Soldiers are mandated to implement policy, not to interpret it. Interpretation of policy is a function of political leadership. Civilian supremacy over military," he stressed.

Honasan, one of the key players in the 1986 EDSA Revolution, said he was not comfortable talking of destabilization moves which only promotes intrigue and disunity among the people.

"What would be the message? We should not trust each other? We should not trust the institutions? What do we want to do? To bring



PNP unsure of 'Red October' oust Duterte plot

it out again to the streets, which is a bad habit in developing our democracy," Honasan said.

Red October

The President has claimed that the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army, the opposition Liberal Party and the Magdalo group of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV have conspired to oust him.

The AFP has informed Duterte that the ouster plan was to be launched last Sept. 21 but that it did not materialize. It is supposed to be mounted again next month, thus the label, "Red October."

Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade, AFP deputy chief of staff for operations, earlier said Sison was orchestrating the ouster plot against Duterte.

"There will still be a plan this coming October. They call it Red October. That is the month of international celebrations for communism, Marxism and IP (indigenous peoples)," Parlade said.

Parlade also linked the opposition coalition Tindig Pilipinas with the communist leaders spearheading the ouster plot. He bared the group withdrew after realizing that communist leaders were behind the move.

Robredo, the LP, Trillanes and Magdalo have all denied involvement in any plot to oust Duterte. Trillanes and Magdalo said they could not conspire with commu-

nist rebels who continue to kill soldiers.

Magdalo Rep. Gary Alejano, a former Marine captain, denied that the party-list group is involved in

the alleged ouster move.

He said soldiers, whether retired, inactive or on active duty, would never conspire with communists, whom they consider their enemies.

Parlade claimed the AFP squared up on the issue, making opposition personalities lie low and back out of the alliance for fear of being aligned with communists.

Asked who is spearheading the plan, Parlade mentioned Sison and the CPP's central committee, Rey Casambre and Satur Ocampo, "whose plans should be exposed considering that opposition personalities did not know who was behind the moves."

Parlade insisted the previously reported Sept. 21 plan to oust Duterte was real, if not a prelude or at least aimed at destabilizing his administration.

Dubious information

LP chairman Sen. Francis Pangilinan said whoever is giving the President "false and manufactured" intelligence reports must be fired.

"They should be giving him accurate information that he needs to know rather than dubious information that they think he would like to hear. Billions are spent on intelligence funds for fabricated information," Pangilinan said in a statement.

Pangilinan said during the Marcos regime, the late strongman made the same accusations against the LP,

that there was collusion with the communists to justify martial law.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon described the alleged destabilization plot as "an old familiar tune and it sounds like a broken record."

"This opposition-communist 'Red October' destabilization plot is a discredited fantasy tale taken from a Tom Clancy thriller and being peddled by those who wish to undermine our democracy to justify the declaration of a so-called revolutionary government," Drilon said.

Drilon was apparently referring to Clancy's "The Hunt for Red October" spy novel on how to take an entire Soviet submarine without the crew knowing that their officers had already defected.

Alejano, for his part, urged the President not to lump those in the political opposition with communists. "When one expresses dissent, it does not automatically make him a communist," he said.

Groups identified with the left like Makabayan denied it is plotting to oust Duterte.

Makabayan accused the military of "concocting a crackdown on progressive and opposition forces."

"The so-called Red October plot is a wild concoction by a paranoid military," the group said.

The group warned the public that it is also possible Duterte is laying the groundwork for a wider declaration of martial law.

The CPP has dismissed the October plot as a "figment of Duterte's imagination."

The communist National Democratic Front also described the Red October ouster plot as "fiction." —



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'Plots to oust Duterte will not succeed'

BY ALEXIS ROMERO

Manila, Philippines — The administration enjoys “overwhelming” public support and ouster plots against President Duterte will not succeed, Malacañang said yesterday as it assailed what it described as “power-hungry” destabilizers.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said Duterte continues to enjoy strong support from Filipinos despite criticisms against his policies, including his controversial war on drugs.

“We have no doubt that there are power-hungry individuals in the opposition who would like to resort to extra-constitutional means in putting down the government of President Duterte and we have no doubt that the Magdalo are addicted to coup d’etats,” Roque said, referring to a group of rebel soldiers who staged a mutiny and a siege in a Makati hotel against Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when she was president.

“However... we are confident that we enjoy overwhelming support from the people and therefore what these groups would want to see — the ouster of President Duterte — would not happen,” Roque stressed.

Earlier, the military claimed that communist rebels were planning to destabilize the Duterte administration next month as part of international celebrations for communism and Marxism.

Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) deputy chief for operations Brig. Gen. Antonio Parlade claimed that the “Red October” plot remains even if a plan to oust Duterte by Sept. 21 failed to materialize.

Parlade claimed that opposition group Tindig Pilipinas withdrew



President Rodrigo Duterte gestures as he reiterates that he has a sworn duty to protect the Filipinos as he delivers his speech during the 37th Principals Training and Development Program and National Board Conference.

from the unsuccessful plan after discovering that communist leaders were behind it.

The military official issued the statement days after Duterte claimed that communist rebels and the political opposition are conspiring to oust him.

Roque said the Palace has no doubt that Parlade’s statements were based on intelligence information.

“We have no doubt that the (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army) has been out to overthrow the government since they were founded,” Roque said.

“When you won by the margin that the President had in the elections and you have this kind of support as shown in surveys, they will have a hard time ousting the president,” he added.

Roque also claimed that many members of the opposition are “greedy for power” and could not wait for the next elections.

He also said a people power revolt would not work “when the people elected the President to a fixed term of office.”

“I also supported People Power. But we supported People Power in 1986 because the one who was ousted no longer had a mandate,”

Roque said, referring to the popular revolt that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Roque reminded members of the opposition that Duterte defeated their candidate Manuel Roxas II by six million votes in 2016.

“Huwag na silang managinip ng People Power para matanggal si Presidente sa kanyang posisyon (They should stop dreaming that they can oust the President through People Power),” he said.

“Wait for the election. Run. That’s how democracy works,” he added.

The Filipino people would be the “offended party” if ouster plots against the administration succeed, according to Roque.

Protecting the country

Exposing the plot to destabilize the government aims to protect the country, its people and its democratic institutions, the AFP said yesterday after revealing how the CPP is allegedly spearheading moves to oust Duterte and almost forged an alliance with opposition groups.

“By doing this, we are not protecting President Duterte per se. What we are protecting is our government, what we are protecting are the duly constituted authorities

and our democratic way of life,” AFP spokesman Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

The AFP’s efforts to expose such plans by the CPP must not be misunderstood or misconstrued, according to Arevalo, because the military is not against any legitimate exercise of the people’s freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly exercised within the bounds of law.

“Now, what are the actions taken by the AFP?”

First, what we did and we are still doing now is exposing plans of this broad coalition led by the CPP-NPA,” he told reporters in an interview at Camp Aguinaldo.

“Second, by this information that we are making public, we are hopeful that the public will be made aware of these plans and afford them this information that they will need for an informed decision,” Arevalo added.

“Third, we are looking at possible legal action that we can take against, of course, in relation with other agencies of government, when evidence and information are sufficient to warrant filing of cases,” he said.

Arevalo said the information the AFP possesses will also help in presenting the draft of a proposed executive order that will form a national task force for ending insurgency that seeks to “integrate and to harmonize all efforts of government agencies that are determined to solve the lingering issues that drive armed conflict.”

“AFP must prove report”
Meanwhile, Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said the AFP must prove its report that communist rebels and opposition groups have forged an alliance, to dispel fears the administration is using the military to crack down on critics.

In separate statements, Lacson and Senate President Vicente Sotto III said such reports coming from the AFP must be taken seriously.

Lacson said “whatever basis of the information that the AFP has in the alleged plot to unseat the Pres-

ident should not be taken lightly, it being a serious accusation.”

“If only for the fact that the AFP leadership itself has declassified such information, the onus to show proof rests on their shoulders,” he said.

Otherwise, opposition groups and the public cannot be blamed for suspecting that the AFP is engaging in some psychological operations to justify a crackdown as alleged by those opposing the policies of the administration in dealing with a wide range of issues ranging from human rights, even foreign relations, according to Lacson.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, president of the Liberal Party, reiterated the LP was not engaged in any plot to oust President Duterte and will “oppose any unconstitutional effort in this regard.”

“Intelligence reports based on paranoia and speculations are dangerous, if not deadly. It could target innocent people and critics voicing out their views and putting forward ways to help us get out of this mire,” Pangilinan said.

“The LP does not need to destabilize the administration that is shooting itself in the foot with the mismanagement of the economy,” he added.

The government should focus on stabilizing prices and availability of goods, especially safe and affordable NFA rice, not destabilizing plots, according to Pangilinan.

He said the LP will continue to oppose the anti-people policies of the administration through constitutional means.

Sen. Risa Hontiveros said Duterte was desperately linking the opposition to the alleged destabilization plot but “not admitting that he is actually the country’s ‘destabilizer-in-chief’.”

“If President Duterte is looking for destabilizers, he has only to look into a mirror,” Hontiveros said. — With Michael Punongbayan, Paolo Romero

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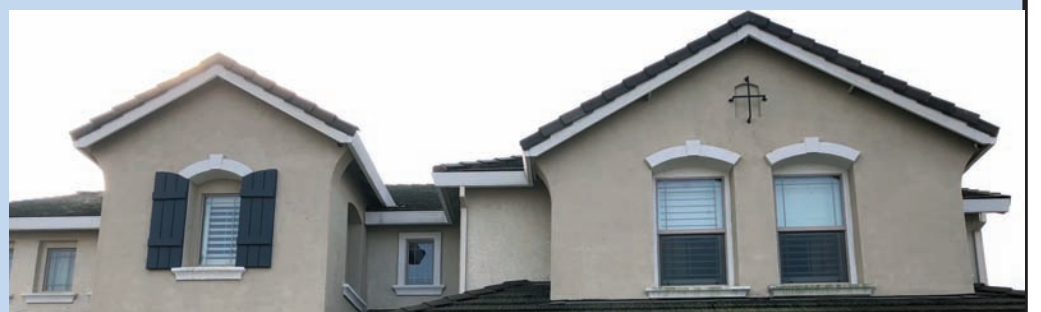


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Palace: JPE can't twist history

BY ALEXIS ROMERO

Despite President Duterte's friendship with the Marcoses, Malacañang yesterday disputed former senator Juan Ponce Enrile's claim that no one was arrested because of political views during martial law.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said there are court rulings and a law that recognizes the abuses during the period, regarded by human rights groups and some academics as a dark chapter in Philippine history.

"That's his belief; he is entitled to it," Roque said at a press briefing, referring to Enrile. "But as far as the Palace is concerned, there are decisions affirming that there were grave human rights violations committed during the Marcos regime."

A law in Congress which provides for compensation for victims of martial law even exists, and it was signed by Enrile when he was Senate president.

Marcos placed the Philippines under martial law

in 1972 supposedly to address the threats posed by communist rebels. While Marcos loyalists claim martial law was a period of peace and stability, human rights groups insist that the era was characterized by suppression of civil liberties. More than 100,000 people experienced human rights violations during the implementation of military rule from 1972 to 1981, according to Amnesty International.

Enrile, former defense minister of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and chief implementor of Marcos' martial law, recently denied that those who spoke out against Marcos were arrested during martial law.



Former senator Juan Ponce Enrile

In an interview with Marcos' son, former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Enrile dared critics to name a person who was arrested because of their political or religious beliefs during the period.



Presidential spokesman Harry Roque Jr. said there are court rulings and a law that recognizes the abuses during the period, regarded by human rights groups and some academics as a dark chapter in Philippine history.

Enrile made the claim even if more than 75,000 persons have filed claims before the Human Rights Victims Claims Board as victims of abuses during martial law.

Under the Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act, victims of human rights violations include those who died or

have disappeared and are still missing; those who were tortured, raped or sexually abused; those who were detained and those who experienced abuses.

"The position of the Palace is we are implementing the law and the law says there should be reparations paid to victims of martial law," Roque said.

"We stand by what the law says. We stand by what court decisions have said," he added.

Asked whether he thought Enrile and the younger Marcos had an agenda for disputing the arrests during martial law, Roque replied: "That's their business, that's an issue that we have nothing to do with."

"I don't think they can twist history when there's a law and there are court decisions attesting to what happened during martial law," he said.

Duterte, a political ally of the Marcoses, has been accused of trying to revise history and to rehabilitate the image of Marcos after he allowed the burial of the late dictator at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. The President has maintained that Marcos deserves to be buried at the heroes' cemetery as a former president and commander-in-chief.

Duterte's approval, trust ratings drop in latest Pulse Asia survey

BY ELLALYN DE VERA RUIZ

President Rodrigo Duterte suffered significant declines in his approval and trust ratings, 13 points and 15 points respectively, in the latest Pulse Asia "Ulat ng Bayan" survey released on Tuesday.

In the nationwide survey conducted last Sept. 1 to 7 with 1,800 respondents, Pulse Asia found 75 percent of Filipinos expressing approval and 10 percent expressing disapproval of the performance of President Duterte in the past three months.

Those who expressed their approval of the President's work is lower than the 88 percent in June 2018.

Pulse Asia also noted that 72 percent of Filipinos have trust in the President, while 9 percent expressed their distrust in him in the past three months.

The percentage of those who expressed trust in President Duterte is also lower by 15 points from 87 percent in June 2018.

The President's overall disapproval score also went up during this period at +7 percentage points). Across geographic areas and socio-economic classes, Filipinos' appreciation for presidential performance eased in the rest of Luzon (-17 percentage points) and Class D or "masa" (-13 percentage points).

Likewise, trust in Presi-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

dent Duterte became less pronounced not only at the national level (-15 percentage points) but in basically all geographic areas and socio-economic groupings (-13 to -20 percentage points and -12 to -16 percentage points, respectively). The exceptions are Mindanao and Class ABC or upper-to-middle class (-4 to -9 percentage points, respectively).

In the same survey period, Vice President Leni Robredo (61 percent) and Senate President Vicente Sotto III (73 percent) got majority approval scores. Meanwhile, the lowest disapproval rating is obtained by Senate President Sotto (6 percent), while the highest one is registered by Vice President Robredo (17 percent).

Meanwhile, nearly the same approval and indecision figures were posted by Acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio (42 percent versus 40 percent).

Vice President Robredo and Sotto also enjoyed majority trust ratings (56 percent and 66 percent, respectively).

Indecision was the plurality sentiment regarding the trustworthiness of Carpio (45 percent), while it was distrust in the case of Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (43 percent).

The House Speaker scored the lowest trust rating (19 percent) among all top five national government officials, while the lowest distrust figure was posted by Sotto (6 percent).

As also shown in the survey, majority approval ratings were enjoyed by Congress and the Supreme Court in September 2018 (52 percent to 63 percent).

Approval was the prevailing sentiment over the work done by the Supreme Court (52 percent), the House of Representatives (56 percent), and the Senate (63 percent).

US-China trade war

From page 2

States and thereby win the war. ... The real economic competition between the United States and China is in the industries of the future – robotics, artificial intelligence, biotech and more. The Trump administration appears to believe that the trade war will prompt Beijing to abandon the Made in China 2025 initiative – aimed at upgrading its technology to compete with the United States. The opposite is more likely. Losing access to the US market and US technology, China will aim to build out its own technological base even more rapidly, and will then start subsidizing and selling its products to markets the United States previously dominated."

Trump may see this as simply a trade war; but, Beijing thinks this is the

US trying to contain China and counter its rise as a superpower. If Beijing takes this view seriously, then this trade war could escalate into a Cold War.

In the meantime, the US-China trade war is creating some winners in Southeast Asia. According to Bloomberg: "The region is capitalizing on a rush of new orders and production moves as firms reconsider their business in US and China amid a deepening trade war. About one-third of more than 430 American companies in China have or are considering moving production sites abroad amid the tensions, according to survey results released September 13 by the American Chamber-China and the American Chamber-Shanghai. Southeast Asia was their top destination."

In the same article, three countries – Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, were reported as having benefited the most. Businessmen from these three countries reported increased demand from American and Chinese buyers. Global manufacturers are now actively looking for alternative sites for their all-important supply chains. In one article, it says that Vietnam is setting the example to the rest of Southeast Asia in attracting these investors. However, it adds: "Sadly, the Philippines with its clapped out infrastructure, expensive energy and notorious bureaucracy remains the outlier."

The Philippines cannot afford to miss participating in this major wave of industrial relocations from an increasingly expensive China.

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'What happens in the family, stays in the family.' Teacher admits to incest sex abuse

BY VINCENT MOLESKI

A former Stockton special education teacher was found guilty on Sept. 20 of transportation of minors with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity and transporting an adult daughter across state lines with intent to engage in incest after years of sexual abuse.

Rodney Flucas, 49, was convicted on charges related to the long-term sexual abuse of three of his daughters and two others, all of whom were minors when he began abusing them, according to a press release issued by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California.

Flucas' household mantra over the years was "what happens in the family, stays in the family," as part of his attempt to keep his children and other minors quiet about the abuse, and to encourage them to lie to investigators and police, according to the release.

DNA testing shows that Flucas fathered 10 children with victims who testified against him, among the 23 children he has fathered with numerous women, according to the release.

Hoping that her death would shed light on the abuse, one of Flucas' teenage daughters attempted suicide in February 2017 by driving into a lamppost, according to the release.

She survived, but when she was taken to the hospital, she informed authorities about the abuse, which prompted five other victims to divulge it as well, according to the release.

Flucas' abuse began around 2000, when he

and his family lived in Valdosta, Georgia, authorities said. He was subject to a 2014 child abuse investigation brought by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services after the grandmother of four of his children accused him of impregnating two of his daughters, according to the release.

The investigation was closed without bringing any charges, and Flucas moved his family to Americus, Georgia in August 2014, where the abuse of his children continued, according to the release.

In Americus, Flucas worked as a teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing for one month before being fired amidst sexual abuse allegations, according to the release.

Flucas and his family moved in September 2014 to Klamath Falls, Oregon, where the abuse continued and he impregnated an adult daughter for the third time, according to the release.

During his time in Oregon, Flucas began abusing a 15-year-old friend of one of his daughters, eventually having her move in with him, and impregnating her when she was 16, according to the release.

In response to more allegations in Oregon in 2015, Flucas moved his family and the minor he had impregnated to Stockton, and continued to sexually abuse them until February 2017, when his daughter attempted suicide and subsequently closed the abuse.

Flucas is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 17 and faces 10 years to life in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. On June 26, he was found guilty of attempted witness tampering; for that, he faces up to 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Top 8 reasons why Asian/Pacific Islander women don't report:

1. Language barriers: communicating with law enforcement about a case especially when one involves difficult terms "domestic violence". There often isn't a word these topics in other languages.
2. Immigration status: fears of deportation of other immigration ramifications can prevent people from reporting.
3. Lack of education: there is a huge stigma surrounding sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking that we often aren't taught about it. Many didn't realize that their situations were sexual assault or domestic violence related until after the fact.
3. Tight knit communities: In communities where everyone know each other, word spreads quickly. What if your abuser is someone well known and respected?
5. Isolation: If you're new to the area it's hard to have friends to turn to or know what resources are out there to support you.
6. Unsupportive community members: "Why did you drink that much?", "You need to work harder on your marriage.", "But he's such a nice guy." are common responses. If your own family members won't believe you, its difficult to imagine law enforcement will.
7. Shame: to save face family members might discourage survivors from reporting and might try to keep it within the family.
8. Impact of loss of innocence: In many Asian cultures and religions, virginity is important for marriage, character, and family honor. To reveal assault would be also to expose that one was no longer a virgin.

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Safe Haven



Saturday, October 27, 2018

What: 5k run/walk / Kids 1/2 mile race

Where: Start and finish at William Land Park at the Village Green area

(corner of Freeport Blvd. and Sutterville Rd.)

Race Day Registration: 8:00am

Kids' Half Mile: 8:30am

5K Run/Walk Race Start Time: 9:00am

Awards Ceremony Begins: 10:00am

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Source: gettyimages.com

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Kavanaugh under siege

BY PERRY DIAZ

Just three days before Dr. Christine Blasey-Ford is to testify against Judge Brett Kavanaugh on September 27, 2018, another sex bombshell – sexual misconduct -- was dropped on Kavanaugh.

A woman, Deborah Ramirez, 53-years-old, claimed that Kavanaugh exposed himself to her and thrust his penis in her face during a party when they were students at Yale University. Ramirez was quoted as saying: "I wasn't going to touch a penis until I was married," she told The New Yorker. "I was embarrassed and ashamed and humiliated." Holy cow! That's not high school stuff anymore. Kavanaugh was supposedly a mature and responsible adult... or at the very least, young adult. What's going on?

After six days of musing about it and consulting with an attorney, Ramirez told her story to The New Yorker's Ronan Farrow and Jane Mayer that she attended a "dorm room" party where Kavanaugh and several other students were attending. The incident happened during Yale's 1983-84 school year, when Kavanaugh was a freshman.

The New Yorker reported Ramirez's account of the incident as follows: "Ramirez said the group was playing a drinking game and she became inebriated. Later in the evening she was on the floor and remembered a 'penis being in front' of her face before she pushed the person away, causing her to touch it. She said she recalled Kavanaugh standing next to her, laughing and pulling up his pants. Another student then yelled down the hall: 'Brett Kavanaugh just put his penis in Debbie's face.'

"She noted that there are large gaps in her memory and said she was hesitant to come forward, afraid that she would be attacked because she had been drinking at the time. But Ramirez said her experience, along with that of Christine Blasey Ford, would warrant an FBI investigation into the nominee's behavior.

"Kavanaugh denied the claims in a statement to the outlet, saying the event 'from 35 years ago did not



Judge Brett Kavanaugh

happen. The people who knew me then know that this did not happen, and have said so. This is a smear, plain and simple."

The New Yorker said it was unable to independently confirm if Kavanaugh was at the party, but interviewed several of Ramirez's classmates who recalled being told about the incident in vague terms within days of it allegedly happening. Indeed, sex incidents on the campus travel fast among the student population. However, several others disputed the claims, saying the behavior was "completely out of character for Brett." But there seems to be a pattern that when Kavanaugh was drunk, his persona assumes a different personality.

It didn't take long for the White House to come to Kavanaugh's defense. A White House spokesperson rejected Ramirez's allegation, saying that this new allegation was part of the latest in a "coordinated smear campaign."

The New Yorker's exposé included serious allegations against Mark Judge, whom Dr. Ford named as being in the same room where his friend Brett sexually attacked her. However, Mark denied that he was in the room. But it is Dr. Ford's word against him. Mark's former girlfriend, Elizabeth Rasor, said that Mark lied when he claimed that there was no "horseplay" culture at Georgetown Prep, the high school both he and Kavanaugh attended. She claimed that "at one point during her three-year relationship with Mark, he told her of an incident where he and others had sex with an inebriated woman."

With two women -- Dr. Christine Blasey-Ford and Deborah Ramirez -- accusing Kavanaugh of sex crimes to date, it makes one wonder if what we're seeing here is just the tip of the iceberg? Will there be more women who would emerge to tell their story? If Kavanaugh had led a life during his teen years of sex-

ually molesting or attempting to rape teen-aged girls, would it be fair to presume that he had "habitually" committed predatory sex crimes in his youth? These incidents have caused many people to doubt if he's qualified to a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court. At his age, Kavanaugh could be on the Supreme Court for 30 or more years.

It is imperative then that the Senators, who have the power to confirm or reject his nomination, must be guided by their own conscience and duty to country, which they have sworn to protect. Would they vote to confirm Kavanaugh regardless of what their conscience dictates? Can they live with guilt for the rest of their lives? Would they reject Kavanaugh's nomination if there were preponderance of evidence against Kavanaugh? Would they believe that there is lingering doubt about his character, honesty, and integrity? As someone once said: "When in doubt, there is doubt." So until Kavanaugh is vindicated beyond doubt of having committed serious sex crimes, then "doubt" remains that he is "clean as a whistle," in which case his nomination should -- nay, must! -- be withdrawn or denied confirmation by the Senate.

By Sunday evening, Michael Avenatti, lawyer of the celebrated porn star Stormy Daniels, has entered the fray. He tweeted that he has some explosive information about Kavanaugh and his friend, Mark Judge. He wrote that he would soon be "demanding the opportunity to present testimony" to the Judiciary Committee and called for Kavanaugh's nomination to be withdrawn. (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

Vowing U.S. first, Trump presses on Iran, trade at UN

Agence France-Presse

UNITED NATIONS – President Donald Trump on Tuesday, September 25, urged heavy pressure both on Iran and Washington's trading partners as he offered a robust defense of the US right to go it alone.

Addressing world leaders at the start of the annual United Nations General Assembly, Trump lashed out at the OPEC oil cartel, China's trade policies and the International Criminal Court which he vowed the United States would never accept.

Hours before Iranian President Hassan Rouhani takes the same rostrum, Trump denounced the clerical regime as sowing "chaos, death and destruction" and doubled down on the US withdrawal of an international agreement on curbing Tehran's nuclear program.

But the real estate mogul turned populist leader was comparatively subdued a year after he stunned the global body with his bellicose language on North Korea, including a threat to "totally destroy" Kim Jong Un's state.

This time around, Trump heralded his own diplomacy on North Korea including a historic summit in June with Kim, saying he has worked to "replace the specter of conflict with a bold and new push for peace."

With midterm elections in the United States little more than a month away, Trump's address at times took on the feel of a campaign address as he heralded low unemployment.

Boasting that his team "has achieved more than any administration in the history of our country," Trump was met with laughter, highly unusual in the solemn General Assembly.

"I didn't expect that reaction, but that's okay," Trump responded.



U.S. President Donald Trump addresses the United Nations General Assembly on September 25, 2018 in New York City. Photo by John Moore/Getty Images/

Isolating Iran

Iran is a major focus of the annual week of UN diplomacy, months after Trump irritated US allies in Europe by withdrawing from a 2015 agreement under which Tehran has sharply curtailed its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief.

A day after the European Union announced a new legal framework in hopes that companies can keep doing business with Iran and evade incoming US sanctions, Trump demanded that all countries take aim at Tehran – and noted that his decision has been popular among the Shiite-majority nation's Sunni Arab rivals.

"We cannot allow the world's leading sponsor of terrorism to possess the planet's most dangerous weapons," Trump said, in an allusion to Tehran's support for Islamic militant movements such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

"We cannot allow a regime that chants 'Death to America' and that threatens Israel with annihilation, to possess the means to deliver a nuclear warhead to any city on Earth," he said.

"We ask all nations to isolate Iran's regime as long as its aggression continues."

'America will never apologize'

Trump robustly attacked the "globalist" view of the world – shared by many at the United Nations and on the political left in the United States – and vowed: "America will never apologize for protecting its citizens."

He said that the UN-backed International Criminal Court has "no jurisdiction, no legitimacy and no authority."

His national security adviser John Bolton earlier went so far as to threaten to prosecute judges from the court in The Hague if they take up accusations against US forces in Afghanistan.

"We will never surrender America's sovereignty to an unelected, unaccountable global bureaucracy. America is governed by Americans," Trump said.

Amid a growing trade war with China, Trump said that the commercial imbalance with the Asian power "cannot be tolerated" and reserved harsh words for OPEC, the global oil cartel that includes both US allies and foes.

"OPEC and OPEC nations are, as usual, ripping off the rest of the world, and I don't like it. Nobody should like it."

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PerryScope

BY PERRY DIAZ

Who's bluffing: Duterte or Xi?



A recent issue of the *Philippines Today*, headlines: “Duterte warns China of war over oil, uranium.” I couldn’t believe what I was reading. Was President Rodrigo Duterte bluffing? Or did he finally find the courage to remind Chinese President Xi Jinping of the Philippines’ claim in the West Philippine Sea (WPS)?

Although Duterte had insinuated a few times before about war with China over oil exploration, he wasn’t taken seriously. People would say, “He was just joking.” But this time around, he seemed to be serious. He gave the warning in a speech before the League of Municipalities on the Philippines (LMP), about two months prior to Xi’s scheduled visit to the Philippines in November. What gives?

Duterte considers Xi as a “good friend,” having been able to get huge loans for his infrastructure projects. He told his audience: “Mr. Xi Jinping, we also have a claim. You know we have the award [U.N.’s arbitral tribunal ruling that awarded the Philippines in June 2016]. But I will not insist on recovering the award because it would result in a war, and it will be a massacre, I know. But please be it noted that one day during my term, I will assert (our rights).” Does that mean that by asserting our rights, he’ll go to war – a real war, not word war – against China?

Which bring another question to the fore: Did Duterte play “offensive” move at a time when Xi is scheduled to visit the Philippines in November? Could it be that he’s posturing to gain positional advantage when he faces Xi to talk or negotiate the issues that have been festering ever since Duterte abandoned pursuing the arbitral award?

Checkmating Duterte

Surmise it is to say, if Duterte were a good chess player, he would move his pieces in positions to prevent Xi from moving his pieces forward within checkmating distance. Xi now has to rethink of revising his playbook when he arrives in the Philippines. He may have to deal with a leader who has changed his tune and might not be too willing to agree or accede to his proposal – or demands? – in relations to the Philippines’ claims in the WPS.

Duterte’s ace card

Okay, so Duterte was bluffing... just joking again. However, Xi knows he can’t go to war with the Philippines because Duterte has an ace card: the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), which calls for each party to come to the aid of the other in the event of an invasion from China or any other country for that matter.

It’s interesting to note that the anti-American leftists in the Philippines have tirelessly been demanding for the revocation of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) and the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the U.S. But what baffles a lot of people is that the leftists don’t demand the abrogation of the MDT. Why? Is it suffice to say that the Filipino people – including the leftists -- treat the MDT as an “insurance” from the threat of war by another country, particularly China?

When the Philippine Senate rejected the renewal of U.S. bases in the country in 1991 and the closing of the bases the following year, China – within two years – occupied the Panganiban (Mischief) Reef. The Philippine government couldn’t do anything to stop the occupation. China could then have invaded the country. But the MDT deterred her. Without it, the Philippines would have fallen easily to Chinese invasion. The “insurance” worked.

It’s interesting to note that the MDT also covers any Philippine naval vessel that is attacked in the high seas. That is why the BPS *Sierra Madre*, a rusty vessel of World War II vintage, was purposely grounded at the Ayungin Shoal in 1999 with a contingent of Philippine marines stationed on board to keep the Chinese at bay. China had incessantly demanded that the Philippines remove the grounded *Sierra Madre*. They even offered to haul it away for free! Obviously, once the *Sierra Madre* is removed, they

can then occupy Ayungin Shoal without interference.

Malacca Dilemma

But China isn’t ready to go to war against America. Not yet. It would take many years for China to catch up militarily with the U.S. But be-

reserves that would last for only 10 days. Without oil China would be paralyzed and rendered useless militarily.

In my column, “Duterte’s red lines: Is it a joke?” (June 13, 2018), I wrote: “When Duterte told Chi-

nese President Xi Jinping during a recent trip to Beijing that the Philippines intended to drill in the Recto Bank, Xi told him: ‘We’re friends, we don’t want to quarrel with you, we want to maintain the presence of warm relationship, but if you force the issue, we’ll go to war.’ Whoa! It must have hit Duterte



Xi Jinping and Rodrigo Duterte.

But the problem is what Duterte told his audience that if there is war, it “would result in a massacre,” a line he had repeatedly mentioned in the past. This would weaken Duterte’s hand. Besides, Xi is certain that Duterte will nev-



Xi Jinping flexes military power.

er go to war against China, simply because the Philippines doesn’t have the means to go war. War with China would entail the use of naval and air forces in the contested waters. With no heavy warships and just a dozen jet fighters, Duterte was right when he said that it would end in a massacre of Philippine forces.



Duterte’s balancing act.

cause of China’s dependence on foreign oil that accounts for 80% of her oil consumption imported from the Middle East and Africa, China is inflicted psychologically with what is called “Malacca Dilemma.”

The “Malacca Dilemma” is a term coined by former Chinese President Hu Jintao in 2003 on China’s over-reliance on the Malacca Straits where her oil imports from the Middle East and Africa pass through. A conflict in the region or war with the U.S. would effect China’s geopolitical and energy strategies. If war erupts between U.S. and China, the U.S. can block the chokepoint at the mouth of the Strait of Malacca and the Indian Ocean; thus, stopping all oil shipments to China. It is estimated that China has strategic oil

like a double whammy!

“In an effort to placate Xi and maintain a friendly relationship, Duterte offered to jointly explore and drill for oil in the Recto Bank on a 60-40 sharing deal. “China has offered joint exploration and joint operation. And I said, maybe, we give you [China] a better deal, 60-40,” Duterte told an audience on April 26.”



Strait of Malacca.

Clearly, China wouldn’t go to war against the U.S. and, by extension, the Philippines. China couldn’t afford the economic loss she would incur if war erupts, which makes one wonder: How are the Philippines and China going to play their geopolitical chess game

when Xi visits the Philippines? And who is bluffing: Duterte or Xi? Or both?

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



BY R. CARADO DIZON, PH.D.

Rain

“How beautiful is the rain!
After the dust and heat,
In the broad and fiery street,
In the narrow lane;
How beautiful is the rain!
How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs;
How it gushes and struggles out
From the throat of the overflowing spout.”

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882).
Most famous and popular American poet of the 1800s.

Modesto, California Central Plain. Summer, 2018. The rain in California, unlike the fictional rain in Spain of “My Fair Lady”, does not fall mainly in the plain. Rather, it falls mainly in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range.

The World Book Encyclopedia (1981) gives the following description, “a huge and tilted granite mountain range which extends north and south for 400 miles (640 kilometers) in Eastern California. It covers 31,000 square miles (80,300 sq. kilometers).” It is composed of a series of mountains big and small --- Mt. Shasta (4,217 meters) in the north and Mt. Whitney to the south, the tallest at 4,418 meters. The range virtually parallels the eastern edge of California’s Central Valley Plains, themselves stretching some 450 miles long and 40-70 miles wide.

The National Geographic (April, 1984) considers the valley as the “Salad Bowl of America.” Here, lettuce (the Green Gold), broccoli, wine grapes, cauliflower, artichokes and other vegetable crops are grown on a year-round rotation basis. And this is only made possible by the use of irrigation water that are impounded in the big dams built on the Sierra Nevada mountainsides. (More of this on the later chapters).

The climate scientists tell us that solar radiation heats the Pacific Ocean waters causing them to evaporate and be converted from liquid to gas. Heating causes the air gases to float to the atmosphere,

Cambio Climatico (Climate Change): When the Rains Fall in California



A rainy day in California

the air around the Earth. Global warming accelerates the rate of evaporation. The Kinetic Theory of Gases asserts that gases are made up of small particles called molecules. These particles are in constant random motion because they are perfectly elastic. Once they reach the atmosphere they collide and coalesce with the other water molecules coming from lakes, rivers and other bodies of water; and those from the land and underground and from green vegetation as well. This mass of moist air expands and cools. When their humidity reaches 100 percent, they condense as clouds. The condensed water vapor is called the precipitate. All the while, all the unified water molecules continue bombarding with each other.

The bombardment creates the pressure which drives the air to move horizontally as wind. They remain airborne from nine to ten days. But sooner, when the particulates and the accompanying snow flakes grow heavier, they fall back to the earth as rain thereby completing the water cycle.

The North American Monsoon.

The monsoon winds are basically responsible for the rains that fall on the Sierra Nevada mountains, in ways poorly understood by the average California farmer. Trudy E.

Bell, former editor of the Scientific American, wrote in 2017, that monsoon, from the Arabic term mausim which means “wind shift”, actually signifies a climatic pattern in which prevailing winds shift, and a dry season alternates annually with a season of high precipitation. It primarily affects the tropical and sub-tropical areas of Central America and Mexico. Its northern edge extends as far north as Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico in the U.S. High temperatures over the mountains of Mexico and the Sierra Nevada mountain range in western U.S. play a major role in the monsoon’s development /evolution. Moreover, Bell adds that shifts in the low level jet streams bring moisture to the continent from the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California. (N.B. The jet stream or westerlies are narrow winds that form at the top of the earth’s lower atmosphere. They flow generally in a west to east direction in boundaries of hot and cold air).

The monsoon winds play an important role in the daily cycle of precipitation. After a cool but dry desert winter that rapidly heats to above 100 degrees Fahrenheit by the month of May, heavy rains begin to fall in early June over southern Mexico. Following the western slopes of the Sierra

Madre Occidental mountains, the rains spread north towards the Sierra Nevada range with an intensity comparable to the tropical rainfall in a rain forest. The weathermen recorded temperatures during this time in these areas to be 12 inches (30 cm) more or less.

In the autumn, when rains subside, the dry season is virtually parched or arid. Perchance, the state of Arizona derived its name from this climate change anomaly--- Arid zone. Rains reach Arizona and New Mexico by July, the succeeding month. The enormous amount of rain water that overflow in the Sierras are drained from here through the thousands of small streams and tributaries that originate from the mountainsides. The waters from here find their way to the bigger and more powerful rivers that run in torrents westward and meet together as one in the California Delta,

their mouth, in the San Francisco Bay. Two such rivers are the Big Sacramento River that originates from the northern extremities of the Sierra and the next bigger San Joaquin River that comes from the southern part of the mountains.

During periods of very heavy rainfall, these rivers overflow their banks and floodwaters inundate the Sacramento and San Joaquin river valleys destroying agricultural crops and other properties on its wake. Nonetheless, after the angry waters have finally subsided, they leave behind large accumulation of the very fertile soil alluvium from the rich top soil eroded from the mountains during the rain. This is one of the reasons why the Central Valley is also called, “The Paragon of Plenty.”

The contributor is a retired Professor of Ecology from the Capiz State University in the Philippines. During the decades of the late 70s and the early 80s, he completed his Graduate Studies in Applied Ecology in the University of the Philippines- Los Banos and the Bowling Green State University in Ohio, U.S.A. His studies were sponsored by a scholarship grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Philippine National Economic Development Administration.

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UNLUCAI Health Awareness Program

BY FAINA E. ABAYA

In collaboration with Tina Bambao

In many years, the members of the UNLUCAI have been active participants or volunteers to promote health consciousness not only in our community but also in places where they are most needed. The leadership of the organization believes that healthy individuals make them physically and mentally productive that also make the community strong and progressive.

Fortunately, the organization has members who are professionally involved in the well being and health care of those who need medical and dental treatment. They usually joined good spirited individuals or other organizations geared towards the promotion of such health services especially in remote places seldom reach by medical practitioners. The Medical/Dental mission usually attends to residents who have health problems particularly the children and elders who are vulnerable to contract curable sickness.

Just like the many years that some of the UNLUCAI members had volunteered themselves in several Medical/Dental Missions not only in their beloved town of Naguilian but as far as Cagayan De Oro City and other places in the Philippines. Accordingly, some of the members will again join the Mabuhay Foundation International, USA headed by Tony Yadao for another Medical/ Dental Mission in Cebu sometime in the early part of 2019. In all the missions that they had under taken, they also donated reading eye glasses for those who were in need.



Medical Mission in Naguilian with president Tina Bambao (R)



Cagayan De Oro Medical Mission



Marilyn Bernal distributing eyeglasses



UNLUCAI joining Mabuhay Foundation USA

UNLUCAI President Tina Bambao also announced that the organization has joined efforts with several generous individuals and organizations to have raised enough funds in the procurement of Glycosylated Hemoglobin machine which was donated to the Rural Health Unit of the municipality of Naguilian.

The machine measures Hemoglobin A1C and determines a person's average level of blood sugar over the past 2-3 months. The test helps diagnose, monitor and aid in the management of diabetes. There is a very minimal charge of P280. per test for Naguilianers only. If you would like to avail this service, you can go to the rural health unit and request Dr. Teofilo Dumaguin, Jr. to write an order for the Hemoglobin A1C test and you will be directed to proceed to the Rural Health Unit Laboratory to get your test done. The



Members and volunteers in their beloved town of Naguilian

minimal charge is the "at cost" amount for one test strip. This is not intended for business undertaking, rather a public service for the people of Naguilian.

The funding of this machine emanated from worldwide donations by generous Naguilianers both locally and those residing abroad through GNAN and UNLUCAI in collaboration with Mayor Reynaldo Flores. Special thanks to Cleofe Madriaga Baltazar, RMT for her unending dedication to this project. We would also like to acknowledge those who had donated for this cause and would like to publish their names here. It is long overdue, but this project is finally moving. Thank you to all the donors and Mayor Flores!

The good hearted individuals who donated for this cause are; Anonymous Canadian, Henry and Tina Bambao, Dick and Marilyn Bernal, Roman and Lilian Calicdan, Donald and Lita Garcia, Mr. and Mrs. Julita Hartung, Magda Jane Madayag, Estenelle Lopez Madayag, Rupert and Lydia Marzan, Al and Tess Montante, Justin Morales, Gladys Nye, Grace Ortiz, Dan and Ellen Rimando,

Romeo anonymous, Terry and Toni Sablad, Domingo and Emma Moran, Amy Thangamani, Dagg Vandervennen, Albert and Lorenza Zarza, Naguilianers of Ontario, Naguilianers of Hongkong, Anonymous local Naguilianer, anonymous local Naguilianer and Alfredo Villanueva.



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California Auto Museum



The Best Costumes Winner.

Photos by Dale Esperante

Filipino Women's Club 2018 Outstanding Filipina - Lilia Rivera

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Fashion, Filipiniana, and Barongs drew attention on the evening of 8 September 2018 at the Jose Rizal Community Center. Flamboyant Venetian masks and headdresses elevated the evening wear of the Masquerade Ball presented by The Filipino Women's Club (FWC). This September to Remember affair promised to be fun and vibrant from the get-go!

The Mistresses of Ceremonies, Sarah Enloe and Leila Pereira, captained the introductions and announcements. First to be introduced, Father Joyle Martinez for the evening's invocation, followed by the dinner hour.

The music provided by Hi Tech Soundz' DJs' Ed and Paul Cordero during social/dinner hour inspired a few couples to use the dance floor for their ballroom pleasure, stopping only when the emcees announced the start of the official program.

The official program convened with the national anthems. The Star-Spangled Banner was sung by Mr. Ray Brooks, a new face in our community. The Filipino American Veterans Association's Men's Choir followed to deliver their rendition of Lupang Hinirang. After the anthems, FWC President Zenny Yagen delivered a truly pleasant welcoming speech, acknowledging her aunts, aunts, and adings for their support and encouragements during her current tenure. President Zenny then called upon the Scholarship Chair, Ms. Cleo Sabarre-Ner, to introduce a special young lady who achieved a greater than 4.0 GPA, this year's Scholarship Award recipient. Congratulations to Analisa Lynn Viloria, 2018 FWC Scholar! She is the granddaughter of one of our staunchest community members, Erlinda Aglubat.

For the most prestigious moment of the evening, Josie Patria introduced the honoree. Excerpts and paraphrases of her introduction: ...Lilia Rivera, a lady who's so well known in our community, that she doesn't need an introduction, right? But I have to tell you why....The FWC gives this award to honor a Filipina residing in



FWC President Zenny Yagen with Lilia Rivera, FWC 2018 Outstanding Filipina along with a group of FWC past Outstanding Filipina Recipients: Nilda Valmores, Sarah Enloe, Josie Patria, Mona Pasquil Rogers, and Vicky Johnson.

Sacramento and vicinity, who has distinguished herself in any of these 3 categories: Outstanding Leadership, Unselfish Devotion & Dedication to Community Service, and Great Achievements in Ones Career. Lilia qualified not only in one category, but in all the 3 categories.

Lilia worked for 34 years at the Calif Dept of Food & Agriculture Center for Analytical Services. She was the first woman in her department to be promoted to a supervisory position, then later to Laboratory Management. She also helped make California be the first state in the nation with multi discipline accreditation under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). FWC's focus, however, is on Lilia's leadership skill and unselfish devotion to community service.

For many years, Lilia has worked tirelessly for the good of the Filipino community as president of several organizations already mentioned in her bio. A significant accomplishment during her term as president of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV) was the grant from Seafood City—the use of a room we call Kapitbahay. It may be a small place, but it makes a big difference in our community.

FWC picked an extraordinary leader—intelligent, articulate, organized, prompt, creative, hardworking, dedicated, humble, tactful, knowledgeable, generous, and most of all, a fighter for what is right! That's Lilia! Various leaders from our community shared their admira-

tion for Lilia:

1. Sarah Enloe, 1st Vice District Governor of Lions International. "I have always observed and been impressed with how Ate Lilia is when she is working on a project. She never failed to impress everyone with her cooperative spirit, attention to detail, professionalism, & giving her all, above & beyond to ensure that whatever project she is working is completed successfully."
2. Murray Navarro, President United Federation of Fil-Am Educators, Sacramento Chapter. "Tita Lilia Rivera is the epitome of a genuine civic community leader. One of the top rank pillars of the Sacramento cultural & tradition movement. Her social strength & civic persona in the community is priceless."
3. Chris Mateo, President of Philippine National Day Association, "Auntie Lilia has been an inspiration to me. It's not easy being a leader for many reasons, but specifically in her role with Fiesta because she leads so many other leaders. She has shown me how to effectively delegate, how to be a champion for the Sacramento Filipino Community and how to be everywhere at once. I hope future leaders learn from her example and will join me in thanking her for her many contributions.

Before her introduction of "Ladies and



The Scholarship Award goes to Cleo Sabarre-Ner. Presenting the award: Josie Patria and Zenny Yagen.

Gentlemen, Let's give a warm welcome to the recipient of the 2018 Outstanding Filipina Award, Lilia Rivera, Josie Patria called Lilia and said, "on behalf of the Filipino Community, Maraming Salamat!"

Lilia Rivera accepted the honor with humility and grace. She started slowly, faltered by her emotions, but forged on strongly like a true champion. If one of her goals was to make a difference for the greater good of all, we can assure her that her goal has surpassed all measures. We thank you Lilia and more power to us all because of all your efforts. Philippine Fiesta would like to echo Josie Patria's words—MARAMING SALAMAT LILIA!

Lilia was then invited to sit front and center to watch the Kapitbahay Troupe entertain with a special dance number. Lilia was joined by her granddaughter who she cradled in her arms as she watched Kapitbahay. Grandma and granddaughter together portrayed an Instagram moment of love, care, security, and comfort—much the same as Lilia's accomplishments.

Following tradition of a Filipino function having a representation of our culture in entertainment, Jean Judith Javier and the Sinagtala Dancers were introduced.

Continued on page 12

Filipino Women's Club

2018 Outstanding Filipina - Lilia Rivera

From page 11

Jean Judith Javier's star shone brightly as she sang her rendition of a Filipino song entitled Kalesa. Her stage presence caught the mesmerized audience breathless and amazed by her Philippine Cultural Center/World-level performance. Of course, the Sinagtala dancers completed the whole showcase of perfection by supporting the lead of Ms. Jean Judith Javier, an artist well-versed in Philippine stage and entertainment productions.

One more official business to accomplish, the induction of the FWC's new members. Mona Pasquil, Governor Brown's appointment secretary, officiated the induction ceremony. Welcome and congratulations to the following: Melita Esperante, Aleli Townsend, Trisha Uy, Marie Difuntorum, Nilda Valmores, Carina Gonzalez, Mildred Go, Lita Calindas, Jennifer Patria, Josephine Patria Lal, Nanette Nerona, Jinky Dolar.

The agenda's business done, such as: prayer, anthems, dinner, recognition of scholastic achievements, Honoring Lilia Rivera, induction of new members, and entertainment extraordinaire; it was time for all to frolic. High Tech Zounds took over with a playlist of dance genres that emptied the seats for a bit of hip hopping, twisting, boogieing, rocking, swaying, disco hustling, east/west coast swinging, and even with some finesse ballroom smooth and rhythm dancing.

Congratulations to President Zenny Yagen and the members of The Filipino Women's Club for an extraordinary evening recognizing the community's current and future stars! Thank you again to the evening's brightest star! Congratulations to you Lilia Rivera and well wishes to your husband Joe and your children; fur-



Lilia Rivera and Mona Pasquil



The newly inducted members of FWC.

Photos by Dale Esperante



Jean Judith Javier and the Sinagtala dancers



The Honoree's Table seated Lilia Rivera, her husband Joe, children, grandchild, and friends.



Hip hopping, twisting, boogieing, rocking, swaying, and disco hustling.

thermore, we are thankful and we will always be there for you as you lead. Analisa Lynn Vilorio, keep up with your scholastic excellence and pay attention to the leadership

of our community like Lilia Rivera. For the entertainers, thank you for giving us joy through your artistry. President Zenny Yagen, the evening was not only extraordi-

nary, it was also exhilarating filled with camaraderie, joy, melody, symphony of artistry and creativity, and quite simply, FUN! Lastly, we would like to address the en-

tire membership of The Filipino Women's Club, MARAMING SALAMAT ULIT and Philippine Fiesta News is ready for your next exceptional event!

SacFilVet FUNDRAISER



Fundraiser supporting SacFilVet at Leatherby's on September 24th in Elk Grove, CA attended by local community organizations and individuals. For more information about making a donation or registering a veteran's next of kin for the Congressional Gold Medal and to participate in the October 13 ceremony and lunch, contact any of the following Sacramento FilVetRep Committee members.



L-R: Thomas J and Cherielyn, John cradling John Thomas and Irene, Lerma and Tom.



Happy Lerma with grandson John Thomas.

The Amaba Family Celebrations

Parents Tom and Lerma Amaba are proud of daughter Irene Joy Amaba for graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.

Irene, John, and Baby John Thomas celebrated with family and friends at the Laguna Town Hall on 22 Sep 2018. The celebration was gifted by proud parents and grandparents, Tom and Lerma Amaba.



Grandma Lerma with John Thomas and friends.

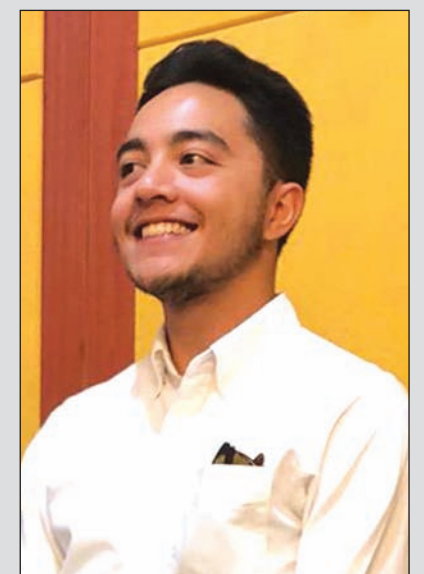


With John and Irene's families.



Happy 88th Birthday James "Jim" Foresee!

Aurora, Jim's loving wife, invited their closest friends to give hubby a big lift on his birthday. Aurora with her sister, Josie, and friends met up for lunch at Yummy Buffet on 26 Sep 2018. The group reserved a corner section of the large restaurant to give Jim a fitting 88th birthday celebration. On behalf of PF News, we'd like to say: Keep your bright smile, wiggle them ears, and enjoy life! Happy Birthday Jim!



Justin Jeffery

Justin graduated from CSU Eastbay in June 2018, majoring in Computer Science and starting his job as a software engineer in July 2018, his achievements were accomplished through hard work in addition to grant and scholarship assistance (through FAVA). Justin Jeffery was a FAVA scholarship recipient in the year 2012.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER 4, 2018 (THURS.)
PNDA FILIPINO FORK
 Annual celebration of Filipino Cuisines by local chefs
 5:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 California Auto Museum
bit.ly/pndavolunteer



OCTOBER 6, 2018 (SAT.)
8TH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO ALOHA FESTIVAL
 Presented by the Ka'ono'hi Foundation
 9:00 Am - 9 pm
 Cal Expo - FREE Admission



OCTOBER 27, 2018 (SAT.)
My Sister's House 15th 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>



Birthdays



NELDA ABELEDA
OCTOBER 24



MARLON COSTES
OCTOBER 1



JENNY SALVADOR
OCTOBER 7



DANIELA H. DOLAR
OCTOBER 1



CELSO SABINIANO
SEPTEMBER 19



SIMON & DAISY MAGSUCI
OCTOBER 23 & NOVEMBER 2



OZGEE GONZALES
OCTOBER 19



AIDA AZURIN with hubby Segundo
OCTOBER 16



LUIS SANTIAGUEL with wife Neth and grandkids
AUGUST 23



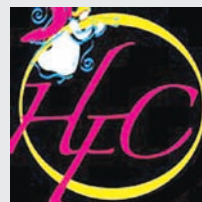
RAESELLE LOURDES & mom Neri
SEPTEMBER 25



SARAH ENLOE & hubby Carl
SEPTEMBER 29



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FILIPINO MYTH

Compiled and illustrated
By Dave San Pedro

Here are five of the most scary and unusual monsters in Filipino mythology.

1. Aswang

The aswang is probably the most common of Filipino monsters since there are so many different kinds. In general, they are shape shifters who are human by day and then at night turn into a dog, a pig, a bat, cat, snake... the type of animal depends on the regional lore. They break into funeral homes and steal recent corpses. They are also known to enter homes to drink human blood and can turn people into aswang by tricking the human to bite them in return. The aswang are especially hungry for human fetus so some of the more superstitious stories include neighborhoods patrols set up in front of the home of a pregnant woman to protect her from wandering stray animals in case they are the aswang in disguise.

2. Tiyanak

The tiyanak is similar to the Greek mythological siren in that it lures its prey with its voice. A person hears a baby cry from deep in the woods and then follows the sound to rescue the baby. Some stories say the person wanders aimlessly in search for the baby and becomes hopelessly lost. Other stories claim that the person eventually finds a baby in the middle of the woods. When it is picked up, the baby then shape-shifts into a monster with large, sharp teeth. It

then eats the person and transforms back to a baby to await its next victim. With either version, the story ends with "... and he was never found again."

3. Tikbalang

The tikbalang is described as having the head of a horse, the body of a man and the hooves of a horse where human feet would be. In northern regions, the tikbalang is considered a nuisance but generally harmless. They enjoy disorienting weary travelers and making them imagine things that don't exist. Travelers can easily stop the pranks by turning their own shirt inside out and asking the tikbalang to stop bothering them. The stories of tikbalang from southern regions paint the creature as a much more sinister monster. He has glowing red eyes, a large cigar and smells of the stench of burning hair. When angered (and he angers easily), the tikbalang will stamp you to death. To tame the beast, the person must pluck the one of three unusually long hairs found in its mane. After that, the tikbalang is your slave. Folk-

lore states that when the sun shines through the clouds while it is raining, a pair of Tikbalang are getting married.

4. The White Lady / Kaperosa

The White Lady is a specific kind of Multo, or ghost. Most multo tend to be family members who come back to certain relatives to take care of unfinished business but the White Lady is unique in that she doesn't appear to only her relatives or even to specific peo-

ple she knew when alive. Many sightings have reported her in empty buildings, near forests and on cliffs. However, she is most commonly reported seen along Balete Drive in Quezon City. She was a young lady who was raped and killed by two Japanese soldiers during WWII. While there haven't been stories of the White Lady being a purposefully malicious being, she has been the reported as the cause of more than a few car accidents by drivers who

Top 5 Scariest Filipino Monsters



Illustration by Dave San Pedro

look in their rearview mirror and see a young lady in the backseat wearing a white dress. Sure, some strange, unknown lady sitting in your backseat is bad enough but the White Lady is also said to have no face or a face covered in blood.

5. Manananggal

The Manananggal is sometimes considered to be a special breed of the aswangs. They are sometimes referred to as "Tik-tik" because of the sound it makes while in flight. To confuse its victims, the tik-tik sound becomes fainter as she nears. These creatures generally take on the form of a beautiful woman with large, leathery bat wings. The lower half of her body takes root to the ground while the upper part detaches as she flies in search of food. The manananggal has a taste for human blood and a particular craving for the hearts of human fetuses which it retrieves with its long, proboscis-like tongue. Like the Western culture's vampire, the manananggals hate garlic and salt so hanging garlic or placing a bowl of salt near the window is the best way to keep them away. To kill a manananggal, one must find the lower body and spread salt or ashes on the open wound. That prevents the two halves from joining and transforming back to human form when daylight breaks.

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Their Last Fight: Filipino Veterans Make A Final Push For Recognition

BY DORIAN MERINA

During World War II, more than a quarter million Filipinos fought alongside American soldiers. Many are still awaiting the recognition promised to them.

Maximo Purisima Young was just 19 years old when he heard President Franklin D. Roosevelt call upon Filipinos to join American forces fighting in the Southeast Asian islands during World War II.

In a clandestine radio broadcast which aired throughout the Philippines, Roosevelt asked Filipinos to “stand firm” along with the U.S. and pledged to “keep that promise” of independence for the U.S. Commonwealth.

“When we heard that, all of us shouted,” recalled Young, now 97. At the time of broadcast, he was camped alongside American troops - part of a remote force driven back by the well-armed Japanese army.

“All of us, Americans and Filipinos, were happy; we were shouting,” Young said.

Young, a Filipino, spent part of the war on a boat, shipping critical supplies and troops through the treacherous waters around Manila. At one point, he was captured by the Japanese and later escaped. He went on to lead guerilla fighters on the island of Negros, working closely with U.S. forces as they planned their return. His service earned him a Silver Star from the Philippine government.

But when he applied to be recognized by the U.S. government after the war, he was denied.

“When you write for compensation, they tell you that our records are closed,” said Purisima Young. “Really, it’s frustrating. Very, very frustrating.”

A Broken Promise

At least 250,000 Filipinos fought with American forces in World War II. After the notorious Bataan Death march in April 1942 and the withdrawal of most U.S. forces,

the fight against the Japanese was left mostly to locals. Ordinary Filipinos hidden in the jungles and mountains led the resistance.

The toll was high: more than a million Filipinos died.

Roosevelt signed a presidential order in 1941 bringing all military forces in the Philippines under U.S. control.

But after the war, in 1946, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that stripped recognition from Filipino soldiers. It was called the Rescission Act, and it explicitly barred “rights, privileges, or benefits” from most Filipinos who fought. That same year, the Philippines became an independent nation.

U.S. records, declassified in 1988, show that the military’s attempt to document the service of Filipino troops was inadequate and incomplete. It became even more difficult after a 1973 fire destroyed millions of military records, including those of many Filipinos. Tens of thousands of Filipino fighters were shut out.

It’s a dark legacy that, for many, continues today.

“They are almost at the end of their lives, and yet they are not receiving anything,” said Perla Teves, the daughter of a Filipino veteran and an advocate in Manila with the Filipino War Veterans Foundation.

Out of the quarter-million Filipinos who fought in the war, only about 6,000 are still living in the Philippines, according to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, which estimates hundreds could be dying every month.

“All of them are sick, they are living in their twilight years,” said Teves. “If the U.S. government still plans to give remuneration to these unrecognized World War II veterans, they better make it fast



Maximo Purisima Young, 97, displays photographs from his military service. He helped transport supplies and troops in World War II, then fought as a guerilla alongside American soldiers.

because time is running out.”

A piecemeal approach to reform

Over the decades, the U.S. government has made a few efforts to address the issue. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a law offering citizenship to some Filipinos. In 2009, the Obama Administration provided one-time payments to others: \$15,000 for U.S. citizens and \$9,000 for Filipino citizens. By the end of 2017, \$226 million had been awarded to more than 22,000 people. (Purisima Young was one of them.) But Department of Veterans Affairs records also show that more than half of the applicants who tried to qualify were denied.

The VA notes that some Filipinos do qualify for certain benefits, such as pensions and one-time compensation. And last year, Congress awarded Filipino veterans the Congressional Gold Medal, though the award, usually reserved for civilians, was mostly symbolic.

Critics say this reveals a problem in how the U.S. has addressed the issue: by avoiding a comprehensive approach.

“I think the opposition is primarily fiscal,” said Democratic Senator Brian Schatz of Hawaii. He’s sponsoring a bill that would rec-

ognize the last remaining Filipino veterans. The measure, co-sponsored by Republican Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, would extend recognition to all Filipinos who fought. It would also make it easier for them to prove their service.

Schatz does not yet have a cost estimate, but a more limited bill introduced in 2015 would have cost \$53 million in the first year, according to a Congressional Budget Office estimate.

“These soldiers fought under the American flag because they believed in our shared ideals,” said Schatz. “They bled for us and for our ideals and they also fought with us with the understanding that they would be treated like American veterans.”

Widows, children carry on the fight

Helen Balani, 87, can remember the heavy bombing near her home in Bukidnon, Mindanao, a southern island in the Philippines.

“We were always scared,” she said, saying her parents would scramble to find the kids as planes roared overhead. “My mother shouted, ‘Run!’”

At the time, her future husband, Ireneo Balani, joined other young Filipinos and fought as a guerilla in the mountains. He was later recognized by the Philippines government as a Scout, a division of local forces that helped guide U.S. troops through the dense mountainsides. He died in 2004.

Today, Helen Balani lives in Los Angeles in a cramped three-bed-

room house she shares with five people, including her daughter and two other World War II widows.

“Our husbands fought with the American army side by side, shed blood together with the Americans during that time, and thousands of our people died together with the American people,” said Balani.

As a widow, she receives 5,000 pesos a month from the Philippine government, or about \$100. But so far, she has been denied benefits from the U.S. Lately, Balani has had trouble making rent and fought an eviction notice.

“We are not trying to steal the money of America,” she said. “We just want what is due to us.”

Balani is not alone. In her neighborhood, known as historic Filipinotown, about a quarter of the Filipino families have a direct tie to a World War II veteran, according to Art Garcia, a community organizer and the national coordinator for Justice for Filipino American Veterans.

“That’s the irony of it,” said Garcia. “Imagine you fought for a war side by side with Americans and yet you’re denied being an American veteran.”

Garcia has been working to expand recognition for Filipinos for more than two decades. He said he sees the current legislation in the Senate as the final piece.

“If it is completed, America has paid its dues to the Filipinos,” he said.

But he’s worked long enough to know that passage is far from certain. The bill currently awaits action in the Senate’s Veterans Affairs committee, and though it has garnered bipartisan support, the upcoming election season may make it tough for advocates to keep lawmakers’ attention on the issue.

“We will continue fighting for benefits and for recognition,” said Garcia. “We will not let up.”

How much longer will they fight? “As long as it takes,” he said.

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FILIPINO VETERANS OF WWII
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 If you are a Filipino Veteran of World War II or their next-of-kin, SacFilVet is hosting a ceremony, presentation & distribution of the bronze replicas at the California State Capitol on Saturday, October 13th, 2018.
 For information about registering and attending this regional ceremony, please contact SacFilVet at the information below.

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL SacFilVet@gmail.com
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The saga of the Balangiga bells

PerryScope
BY PERRY DIAZ

It all began on August 11, 1901, with the arrival of Company C of the 9th U.S. Infantry Regiment in the coastal town of Balangiga. The purpose of the Americans' deployment to Samar was to close its port and prevent supplies from reaching the Philippine revolutionaries under the command of General Vicente Lukban, who served under Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo while at war with the U.S.

Consequently, U.S. Brig. Gen. Robert P. Hughes, commander of the Department of the Visayas, instigated an aggressive policy of food deprivation and property destruction on the island of Samar and the closure of key ports, which included Balangiga. Hughes' objective was to force the end of Filipino resistance.

On September 21, 1901, an incident occurred that broke the friendly relationship between the Americans and the townspeople. As the story goes, a Filipino girl named Catalina was selling tuba in her family's tuba store when two American troopers who had been drinking tuba tried to make some advances on the girl. Catalina shouted for help. Her brother and some friends came to her rescue and a brawl started. The two troopers ran to their barracks. Their commander, Capt. Tomas Connell ordered his troops to round up all the men in the town and detain them.

At around 6:45 in the morning of September 28, Lukban's revolutionaries, who numbered around 400, ambushed the American troops. The Balangiga bells were used as a signal for the Filipino revolutionaries when to attack the U.S. barracks. They surprised the Americans who were eating



President Rodrigo Duterte delivers his State of the Nation Address (SONA) in July, 2017.



Two Balangiga bells are displayed on a former base of the 11th Infantry Regiment at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

breakfast.

The townspeople and revolutionaries killed 48 soldiers, wounded 22 of the 78 men of Company C. The rest escaped by sea. The Filipinos captured about 100 rifles and 25,000 rounds of ammunition. The revolutionaries and villagers suffered 28 dead and 22 wounded. They then abandoned Balangiga for fear of reprisal.

Howling wilderness

And true enough the Americans returned... with vengeance. U.S. General Jacob H. Smith ordered that Samar be turned into a "Howling Wilderness." The bloody operation resulted in the death of more than 2,500 Filipinos. The Americans then looted the three bells in the church, which they took back to the United States as spoils of war.

The three bells were brought to the U.S. as war trophies. Today, they're displayed in two places. One bell is in the possession of the 9th Infantry Regiment at their base in Camp Red Cloud in South Korea. The other two are displayed on a former base of the 11th Infantry Regiment at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In 1994, then President Fidel V. Ramos initiated attempts to recover the bells during the time of U.S. President Bill Clinton. The U.S. government replied that since the bells were U.S. government property, it would take an act of Congress to return them. Fur-

ther attempts were made in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2014.

A century of denial

In the past few years, memories of the Balangiga bells began to ring again... louder. Their tolls are heard again in the psyche of the Filipinos -- "We want the bells back!" The least the Americans could have done was to return one or two of the three bells. But many Filipinos, proud as ever, wouldn't settle for that, it's "all or nothing." And "nothing" it was. The U.S. simply wouldn't budge.

In 2014, interest in the Balangiga bells was renewed when then President Barack Obama visited the Philippines. More than 3,000 signed an online petitioner urging the U.S. to return the bells. But there was no response.

On July 24, 2017, President Rodrigo Duterte delivered his State of the Nation Address (SONA) that was quite different from past SONAs. He told the U.S. to return the iconic Balangiga bells. "Give us back those Balangiga bells. They are ours. They belong to the Philippines. They are part of our national heritage," he said in the presence of U.S. Ambassa-

dor to the Philippines Sung Kim who showed no reaction.

The return of the bells

The following year, on August 10, 2018, a breakthrough happened! A prominent Eastern Visayas historian, Rolando Borrinaga announced a message he received from Bellevue, Nebraska Mayor Rita Gomez Sanders, who told him about the supposed announcement from US Defense Secretary James Mattis. "Good news today!" she said, "The Secretary of Defense announced the return of the Bells! Keep you posted for announcements, etc! I am so happy for you!" Mayor Sanders is Filipino-American. Borrinaga said that Sanders got the information from Nebraska Rep. Don Bacon, who got the information from Mattis. In his Facebook account, Borrinaga noted that August 10 was the fiesta of San Lorenzo de Martir, the patron saint of Balangiga. "The final clincher is the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense to the President for the bells to be returned," he said. "The final push was brought about by the concerted efforts of U.S. veterans work-

ing for goodwill and understanding between both countries."

The following day, August 11, it became official. The U.S. Embassy in Manila confirmed the intention of the U.S. Department of Defense to return the Balangiga bells to the Philippines. The embassy also said that Defense Secretary Mattis has notified the U.S. Congress of their intention to return the bells, which was necessary to get the concurrence of the U.S. Congress as provided for in the U.S. National Defense Authorization Act for 2018.

The saga of the Balangiga bells is an epic story that has defined Filipino nationalism and heroism. For 117 years, the bells traveled from a town ravaged by war to the other side of the world where they were displayed as war trophies. "Return the Balangiga!" became the battle cry of generations of Filipinos whose pride have been hurt deeply by the indignity suffered by their forefathers.

Now, the bells will soon make their trip back to where they came from, the historic town of Balangiga. It's time to rejoice! (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



U.S. troops pose with one of the bells they took as war trophy.



Filipino revolutionaries under Gen. Vicente Lukban. Note some of them are young boys.



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BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

The Love of Teaching



Management is the capacity to make dream a reality. As a former military professor in the Philippines before I migrated in California, one of my dreams is to teach at a prestigious university in the United States. This dream seems to be big but nothing is impossible. Dream is free and I'm free to dream big.

In June this year I applied for instructor position at the University of California. The university responded to my application asking my availability for an interview. What? Did I read it right? I responded without hesitation and had my interview scheduled on August 1st because my family and I are scheduled for a month's vacation starting in the 3rd week of June thru the 3rd week of July.

The interview was held at the 3rd floor conference room of Betty Irene Moore Hall at UC Davies campus in Sacramento. Some of the ques-

tions were situational that need critical thinking in making appropriate solutions. The cases presented by the interviewers need swift and deeper analysis to reach at the best courses of action. My management background helped me a lot in decision making. The interview was positive and lasted about half an hour. Lo and behold, I was accepted.

The time I am contemplating to retire from nursing profession, to live a simple life of an organic farmer to promote my advocacy on clean food and healthy living in the Philippines, another teaching employment opportunity opened up for me in this world class university. I guess am too young to retire from this noble profession and I believe God has plan for me to share what I have learned and experienced and positively impact the next generation of nurses.

Since I resigned my regular commission in the Corps of Professors at the Philippine Military Academy 15 years ago to join my family in Sacramento here I am again

in the teaching profession.

This time as an instructor of Master's Entry Program in Nursing at the University of California Davis Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing. Graduates of this program earn Master of Science in Nursing degree.

Learning happens when there is exchange of ideas, skills and technology. I am bringing with me over two decades of clinical experience and 20 years of formal academic preparation. I am sure to contribute and share my academic and clinical experiences to the education of my students.

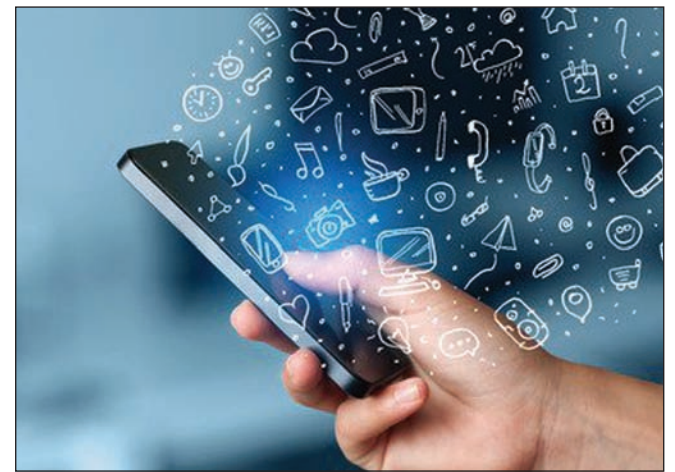
It is another dream came true. My love of teaching brings me back to the academe. This university employment is the best gift to me as I celebrate my 48th birthday on September 15th. I am now blessed with two jobs: as RN at Kaiser and as instructor at University of California.

God is good because He knows what is best. All glory and praises to God. Hallelujah!

More Filipinos use online mobile shopping

BY DAPHNE GALVEZ

The Philippines is known to hold the longest Christmas celebration in the world. And Facebook knows that Christmas season can make Filipinos become fierce shoppers, even online.



Online mobile shopping

"Filipinos think about Christmas as early as September and seeing products online on Facebook or Instagram is just as powerful as window-shopping – it helps make products and brands top of mind for when consumers need to start deciding on a purpose," said Facebook Philippines' Country Director John Rubio.

Citing data from Facebook 2018 Holiday Study, Rubio noted that shopping via mobile phones makes people well-informed shoppers of products since they are able to research about an item they want to buy as well as compare prices across brands, and thus get the best deals available.

The study, which analyzed the shopping habits of 1,504 people from ages 18 and above in the Philippines, revealed that even when people go to a physical store to shop, they still use their mobile devices to do some research.

Particularly, 64 percent of the respondents admitted they still use their smartphones even when they are already in the actual shop to research on a product before finalizing their pur-

chase; 72 percent compare product prices while 66 percent read reviews and compare items with other brands.

More specifically, the study showed that in-store shopping mobile activities include: comparing prices (72 percent); comparing products (66 percent); reading product reviews (66 percent); reviewing shopping lists (59 percent); and taking photos (56 percent).

Informed purchase

The study also found that three in five Filipino shoppers say that using their mobile phones for holiday shopping helps them in making informed buying decisions.

"So Filipino shoppers are 'hacking' holiday shopping," Rubio said. "Mobile-first shoppers does things like researching online, uses that information to then communicate to retailers and find shops and then order as well and buy online."

Rubio also said Filipino consumers are starting to turn to their mobile phones for easier shopping especially this Christmas season.

Based on the Facebook 2018 Holiday Study, 50 percent of the respondents prefer purchasing products online because it's more convenient than going to stores.

Mobile phone and millennials

Rubio noted that shoppers use Facebook and Instagram to find gift ideas for their loved ones this Christmas with 94 percent of the shoppers even saying that Facebook influences their holiday shopping.

"People are discovering the products and services that they want to give during Christmas. It happens primarily on mobile," Rubio asserted.

According to the research, the kind of videos that shoppers find useful during holiday shopping include: tips on how to make the most out of shopping/store visit (61 percent), product demonstrations (48 percent), and those that show the kind of person that would benefit most from receiving a product as a gift (42 percent).

In 2018, Facebook recorded an 18 percent increase in mobile-first shoppers in the Philippines – 70 percent of which are millennials.

"It's a trend that's being driven by the younger generation who are more used to interacting with the world through their mobile phone," Rubio pointed out.

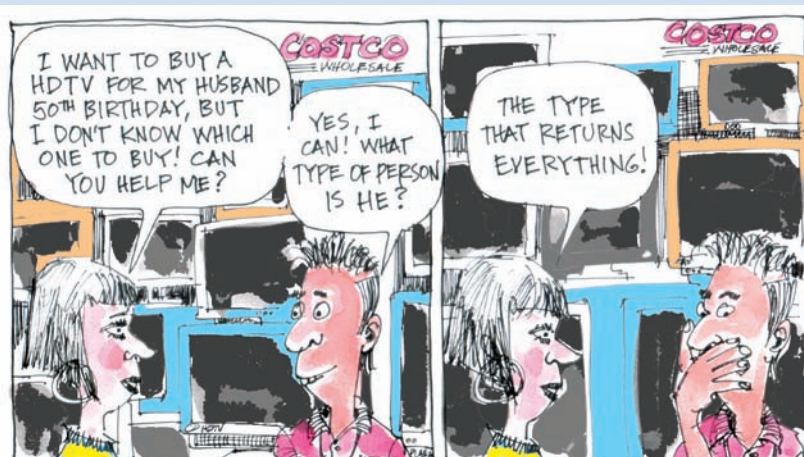
Content-driven campaigns

Since consumers usually discover and purchase products and services through their mobile phones, Rubio encouraged businesses to target their consumers through content-driven campaigns. Rubio advised businesses to utilize videos since they attract consumers as they browse through their Facebook or Instagram.

Rubio said Filipino shoppers will spend an average amount of P17,000 during Christmas, and 40 percent of mobile-first shoppers will spend more than that.

"Basically, mobile-first shopping is driving not only more research and bargain-hunting behavior, inventory-behavior but it also ends up making them spend more," Rubio said

Komiks **Buhay Pinoy** by Dave San Pedro



Legendary exemplary

Eddie Garcia's years in show business is beyond wow.

BY STEPHANIE MARIE BERNARDO

The 89-year-old Eddie Garcia's tenure of seven decades in Philippine cinema lined with remarkable roles and so many awards is a feat nearly impossible to match.



Eddie Garcia as retired Metrocom Colonel

But being able to keep his feet on the ground throughout, that trumps all and makes him a true icon.

In an interview, he casually said when asked that he has won at least 39 awards. The actor is the most awarded and nominated person in the long history of the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (FAMAS) Awards.

Eddie has garnered a total of 34 nominations – 13 for Best Supporting Actor, 10 for Best Actor, and 11 for Best Director. Out of these, he got six Best Supporting Actor wins, five Best Actor wins and five Best Director wins, three Hall of Fame Awards, 1 Lifetime Achievement Award and the Fernando Poe Jr. Memorial Award. He is the only individual inducted in three categories in the FAMAS Hall of Fame: Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Director.

Also, he is the only performer in local movie history to win three consecutive FAMAS Awards: Best Supporting Actor awards for "Taga Sa Bato (1957)," "Condenado (1958)," and "Tanikalang Apoy (1959)." In the 1980s, Eddie was able to make 22 films in a year.

The actor is active in the movies and on TV to this day. And he has no plans of stopping anytime soon. "As long as there's work for me, as long as people still want to watch me, I will go on," he said. "I'm not very picky with roles. Ultimately, it's just a role."

These include a gay guy, priest, soldier – name it, he's likely done it. "Well, except to play leading lady," he pointed out with a smile. Turning serious, Eddie said he gives his all in every role because it would be "the best recommendation for the next project."

Asked to pick favorite film in his catalogue, he said that numbering 600 now, that's just impossible to do.

"Basta ginawa ko, gusto ko kasi bakit ko tinanggap," he said.

Eddie is so professional that even now, he has no qualms waking up early for work even if he stayed up late taping a series of shooting scenes for a movie.

The actor recalled directing this movie which required him to work for 72 hours straight!

And, no, he isn't the type who would throw the director's chair at you even if you mess up your lines several times.

"Because if my mood suffers, then everybody suffers," he said, then joked, "Then no one will eat on set."

So, for the record, he is not strict?

"No. May pagka-Hitler lang," he said with a laugh.

Three time's the charm?

In 2005, on the first year of the Cinemalaya Film Festival, Eddie starred in the official entry "ICU Bed No. 7." Seven years, the actor headed the Cinemalaya film "Bwakaw." He won Best Actor for both performances.

This time, Eddie stars in the Cinemalaya film "ML" (short for "Martial Law"), written and directed by Benedict Mique.

Asked if he expects to win again, Eddie simply said if it's meant to be then it will be.

"Awards, though always welcome, are just bonuses for jobs well done," he said to that effect.

In "ML," Eddie plays the

role of retired Metrocom Colonel who has slight dementia. He believes it is still the era of Martial Law and when Tony Labrusca's character approached him, he mistakes him for an activist.

"I believe this film has an intriguing concept and it's good to be shown to today's generation," he said. They will like it."

How was Martial Law for him?

"Kapag hindi ka makikialam, walang mangyayari sa 'yo. Kapag nakialam ka, may mangyayari sa 'yo," was how the political actor put it.

Eddie praised Tony's work in "ML," calling him a "consummate actor."

Soldier boy

Eddie was asked what his job would be if not as actor.

"Retired sundalo or patay na (dahil sa gera)," he joked. Note that Eddie was a member of the Philippine Scouts in Okinawa in World War II. The Philippine Military Academy Marangal (Honorable) Class of 1974 also adopted him as one of their honorary classmates, alongside First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

Doing "ML" kind of brought him back to the past. The actor is into target shooting and he owns several licensed guns.

"If it's not licensed then it's against the law and I'm a law abiding citizen," he said.

Does he have a violent streak, we asked on a lam.

"Hindi ako violente, dapaat nga nag-pari ako eh dahil mabait daw ako at parang anghel," he said in jest.

We believe him.



Angelica Panganiban, Carlo Aquino and Maja Salvador

Angelica Panganiban reveals Carlo Aquino broke up with her for Maja Salvador

BY KATRINA HALLARE

Why did Carlo Aquino and Angelica Panganiban's relationship fizzle out not once, but twice? It turns out that this was over a third party.

This was the actress' revelation when she and Aquino had a joint guesting in a "Gandang Gabi Vice" interview aired Sunday.

Host Vice Ganda asked why their relationship ended the first time—after being together for six years. "May third party (There was a third party)," Panganiban pointed out.

"May boyfriend kang iba (You had another boyfriend)?" Vice asked, which Panganiban denied. This led the comedian to declare at Aquino: "So may girlfriend ka (So you had another girlfriend)," and the actor only chuckled.

Vice shifted to Panganiban and Aquino's second try, which she said lasted

for more than a year. When asked why it did not work out again, Panganiban answered, "Third party ulit (It's third party again)."

To make things more interesting, Vice queried the duo if the girl is well-known. "Ako mismo kilala ko?" Vice asked. "Oo!" Panganiban answered.

The actress then left clues due to the host's persistent questions, such as the actress being an ABS-CBN talent and regularly featured in the Sunday noontime variety show "ASAP."

Vice was not done and figured to find out the first letter of the mystery girl's name that starts with "M." After having fun with his questions, the host finally got it right when he mentioned "Maja"—referring to actress Maja Salvador.

Although Aquino did cheat on Panganiban with Salvador, she clarified that it was "legal," meaning he

ended things with her to be with Salvador. "Pinutol niya yung sa'kin bago siya nagsimula (He broke up his relationship with me so he could start again)," Panganiban said.

"Na-in love ka kay Maja (You fell in love with Maja)," Vice said, to which Aquino agreed. When he asked the actor "Alam ni Maja magjowa kayo [ni Angelica] o nilihim mo (Did she know you were with Angelica or you kept it from her)?" Aquino replied: "Parang hindi (I think not)."

But did Panganiban have bitter feelings against Salvador after what happened? "Hindi naman, hindi kami nagkaroon ng problema (No, we didn't have a problem)," she admitted. "Ako pa ba 'te? Bata pa lang, brainy na 'to (You're asking me? I was already brainy from way back when I was young)."

SIMPLY MAGIC
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Photos by Dave San Pedro

14th Annual My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven

Saturday, October 27, 2018

What: 5k run/walk / Kids 1/2 mile race

Where: Start and finish at William Land Park at the Village Green area (corner of Freepoint Blvd. and Sutterville Rd.)

Race Day Registration: 8:00am

Kids' Half Mile: 8:30am

5K Run/Walk Race Start Time: 9:00am



8TH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO ALOHA FESTIVAL

Presented by the Ka'onohi Foundation

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 9:00a - 6:00p

Cal Expo - Free Admission

8:30a - Parking Opens | 9:00a - Gates open | 9:30a - Opening ceremony

Aloha and welcome our very own Sacramento Aloha Festival. Coming up on 8 years, the Ka'onohi Foundation is proud to present a fun family day in the Sacramento sun and with FREE admission.

- Live Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Entertainment
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- Educational Exhibits, Workshops, and Information
- Speakers and Presentations / Cultural Village Keiki Korner - Arts & Crafts



Photos by Dave San Pedro

