



P8 Filipino Soldiers of Korean War

PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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P9 Filipino Women's Club

After court denies her bail, what happens to De Lima now?



Despite her two acquittals, De Lima will remain behind bars while the trial of her remaining case continues

BY JAIRO BOLLEDO

MANILA, Philippines – Only a few weeks after her recent acquittal, former senator Leila de Lima suffered a loss in the court: Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 256 denied her petition for bail.

On Wednesday, June 7, the court presided by Judge Romeo Buenaventura, denied De Lima's bail plea for various reasons. Among them, the

court said, De Lima's plea on "humanitarian considerations is untenable."

In her plea, De Lima said she is now a senior citizen, has several medical issues, and is not a flight risk. However, the court said these grounds are "not compelling."

Now that De Lima's bid for temporary freedom has been denied, what happens to her?

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Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento 2023

A Cultural Day of Celebration



The FAVA color guards with banner bearer Alex Avera and Frank Zabal

Photos by Dave San Pedro

BY MURRAY NAVARRO
FFS President

This celebration is a platform to remind us of our rich cultural traditions and unique heritage that originated from our beloved home country, the Philippines! These festivities that we embodied as part of our yearly event have the capacity to uplift and empower not only Filipinos here in Sacramento but also our friends, allies, and supporters and the celebration goes beyond the perimeters of Sacramento, in fact all over the world in different fashions.

This year's fiesta theme is "Honoring our Community Partners" in appreciation of their unwavering support, unceasing generosity, and priceless partnerships to celebrate our yearly fi-



Derek Ledda, Dave Tamayo and Chris Cabaldon



Mrs. Ilocano foundation of California

esta. There are five corporate sponsors whose generous funds sustained our commemoration of our Philippine Independence Day on a yearly basis. The recognized partners are SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District), East Lawn Memorial Park, Seafood City, Kaiser Permanente, and Parkwest Casino Lotus. Our yearly sponsors were invited by Sponsorship Committee

Chair Jinky Dolar through her notable reputation in the community together with committee member Lilia Rivera. Each sponsor was given a plaque of recognition from the fiesta in appreciation for being a long-time community partner in the annual commemoration of Philippine Independence Day and a certificate of recognition from the office of Assemblymember

Kevin McCarty. The Fiesta-goers and guests in the audience were entertained by Lola's Apos Chorus rendering "What a Wonderful World" (by Louis Armstrong). This was the brainchild of Josie Patria to pay tribute to the guest and especially to the Loyalty Awardee of the fiesta, Former Mayor Christopher Cabaldon.

Continued on page 6



Thank you Bayanihan Clinic of 2022 - 2023. We will never forget your fun-loving ways of supporting the veterans of AMERICAN LEGION MAGELLAN POST 604. After our monthly meetings, you have always been available to check our vitals. We have also enjoyed your company during our social dinners and dance practices. We are grateful to you young adults. It's now time for some of you to transfer elsewhere for higher medical programs. Perhaps someday you can stop by and visit us after you've reached the pinnacle of your careers.

Meet CJ Reynaldo, the artist championing Deaf culture, Filipino Sign Language, and the LGBTQ+

BY MARGUERITE DE LEON

MANILA, Philippines – Being a freelance artist in the Philippines is a challenge. Standing out from the crowd and making a name for yourself without institutional support is a daunting hurdle, no matter how talented you may be. And if we go by Deaf LGBTQ+ illustrator CJ Reynaldo's example, leaning into who you are and creating from a place of authenticity is the key.

Born deaf, CJ was vulnerable to discrimination and stereotyping from an early age, but he didn't let his disability deter him from what he loved to do – drawing. He also credits his parents for providing a healthy environment to evolve in this craft.

“Since I was a kid, I loved drawing anime and Disney. I was really a drawing addict,” he shared to Rappler in an interview on May 18. “When I was a kid, I wanted to receive art materials rather than toys. My parents were very supportive of this

passion. They encouraged me to develop my skills and talent.”

Fast forward to today, and the 25-year-old from Antipolo has achieved much respect by using his art to advocate for Deaf awareness as well as LGBTQ+ rights – often-times merging both, like in his illustrations on how to say queer terms using Filipino Sign Language (FSL).

CJ first realized he was gay when he was a freshman in high school, when it occurred to him that he didn't behave in stereotypically masculine ways. He had also been sexually awakened through yaoi, a genre of manga that depicts love between men. And like many young members of the LGBTQ+ commu-

nity, CJ faced prejudice from ignorant people in his environment. “I was often bullied by my classmates because I liked a male student,” CJ confessed. “I remember, at first, I was confused with myself, but eventually, I learned to embrace who I am.” Similarly, CJ also owns his deafness with gusto. “There's this ableist stereotype that deaf people can't do anything just because they can't hear.



That's bullcrap,” CJ said. “Deaf people are just as capable of anything as hearing people.”

He went on to explain that even the deaf can enjoy music by feeling a song's vibrations, or through the help of an interpreter. The deaf, he added, also have inner voices that can make sounds such as laughing and screaming. There were countless misconceptions that he was determined to debunk.

This positive outlook and determination to be himself despite the odds is reflected clearly in CJ's art. When visiting his social media accounts – under the name Caldate-lier, a merging of his first name Caldwell and “atelier” or studio – one is treated to art that not only endears, with its cheery, wide-eyed characters and creamy color palette, but also educates.

Why go the educational

route? According to CJ, he is determined to bridge the gap between the deaf and the hearing with his instructional FSL illustrations.

“Promoting the language of deaf people will give us a sense of pride, that we are part of a society, a part of a culture,” he asserted. “FSL is the heart of local Deaf culture, and it's an essential tool to

communicate with each other and bring communities together. It would be awesome if we saw hearing people who know how to sign and can talk to us through FSL.”

Besides championing the Deaf and the LGBTQ+, CJ also advocates for other minorities such as people with autism, and is also quite passionate about local folklore and modern Filipino culture.

After court denies her bail, what happens to De Lima now?

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In total, De Lima faced three drug charges filed during the term of former president Rodrigo Duterte. Two of them have already been denied – one in February 2021, and then the most recent one in May this year.

De Lima faces one more case, the one being handled by Judge Buenaventura. The former lawmaker's petition for bail in her remaining case was important because it could give her temporary freedom after over six years in detention.

But since her bail was denied, she will not be temporarily freed despite her two acquittals.

In addition, De Lima will remain behind bars while the trial of her remaining case continues. In the meantime, De Lima will remain detained at the Philippine National Police custodial center.

What are De Lima's remaining options?

After the court denied her petition for bail, De Lima is left with a few options.

University of the Phil-

ippines College of Law lecturer Oliver Xavier Reyes said the De Lima camp can file a motion for reconsideration (MR) before Muntinlupa City RTC Branch 256 to ask the court to reconsider the bail denial. Reyes noted that if the MR will be denied too, the De Lima camp can file a petition for certiorari under rule 65 of the Rules of Court with the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court.

“It might be likely though that even before the Petition for Certiorari on the matter of bail were decided by the higher courts, the RTC might have already issued its decision convicting or acquitting De Lima,” the UP College of Law lecturer explained.

Reyes added: “Also, the filing of that petition would not change her current condition unless the higher courts issue a writ of preliminary mandatory injunction directing RTC to release her on bail while the higher court decides on the petition. But that is very rare and unlikely to happen.”

Aside from this, De Lima

also has an option to file a petition and ask the Supreme Court to grant her the privilege of writ of habeas corpus to gain temporary freedom. This was the precedent set by the release of chief presidential legal counsel Juan Ponce Enrile's former staff, Gigi Reyes. Reyes was released after she argued that she is entitled to the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus by reason of delay and alleged violation of her constitutional right to speedy trial.

In addition, the De Lima camp can also aim for a demurrer to evidence once the prosecution rests its case in her remaining drug charge. The camp would need to first ask the court's permission before they could file a demurrer to evidence, which will seek to dismiss the prosecution's case on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

Granting the demurrer has the same effect as an acquittal. The granting of De Lima's demurrer to evidence in one of her cases led to her first acquittal back in February 2021.

– Rappler.com



Editor's Note

In this issue of Philippine Fiesta News, we take pride in celebrating the month of June, in several instances. Through the following pages, are stories about the Filipino Women's Club Mother and Grandmother's Day celebration, the wedding of one of our amazing contributing writers, Christina Andrada, and the most recent, the successful Filipino Fiesta festival in Sacramento.

Most importantly, the month of June is an awareness month for the LGBTQ+ community. In addition, it's also PTSD Awareness Month, Gun Violence Awareness Month, Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, and Immigrant Heritage Month.

There's so much to celebrate about our human existence. Let's continue to support one another, find some means and resources to feel empowered, in order to achieve our dreams and goals, in any given time in our lives.

The Philippine Fiesta News in association with the Laban group (Asian American Liberation Network, Everyday Impact Consulting, Amado Khaya Foundation), in our quest to Stop Asian Hate, feature Andri Tambunan's art pieces depicting LGBTQ+ pride and awareness on pages 3, 10, and 13.

Happy June Awareness Month!!

With love always,
Dinnah San Pedro

Photograph by Andri Tambunan



YOUR LIGHT YOUR TRUTH

YOU ARE MULTIFACETED, YOU ARE BRIGHT, YOU ARE SEEN AND YOU ARE NEEDED. DON'T BE AFRAID TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT THE WAY ONLY YOU CAN.

"To exist and be visibly queer, it allows the world to know that we exist and always have existed. I wish the Filipino community knew that spirituality can be more than Catholicism or organized religion. It can look like journaling, reflecting, meditating, energy cleansing, or being a steward to the land." **NIKKI ABELEDA**

TO REPORT A HATE ACT, CALL (833)866-4283 OR VISIT CAVSHATE.ORG



The following ad campaign is brought to you by the Laban Group: Filipino Ethnic Media Collaborative. This group aims to promote awareness in our beloved Filipino American community and the broader public about anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes; reduce stigma surrounding the reporting of hate incidents and hate crimes; enhance understanding of resources for victims and survivors; and, to promote community healing and cross-racial collaboration. This collaborative is funded by the "Stop The Hate" campaign from the California State Library in partnership with the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs. Learn more at lnktr.ee/labangroup.

Social Security Earnings Limit

Presented BY **MARITES AVILA**

Once you reach full retirement age (FRA), any income you earn will not affect your social security benefits. If, however, you took benefits early, you may be affected by the earnings limitation, which caps how much income you may earn and still receive social security benefits. Moreover, if other family members, such as your spouse or children, are receiving dependent benefits based on your work history, your earnings could reduce their benefits, too.

What's the Earnings Limit?

In 2023, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will allow individu-

als to earn up to \$21,240 in calendar years prior to their FRA without being affected by the earnings limit. Once you reach this limit, \$1 of social security benefits will be withheld for every \$2 earned above the threshold. The threshold is higher in the year you reach your FRA: \$1 will be withheld for every \$3 earned above \$56,520. This offset would end in the month in which you reach your FRA.

Example: Let's assume Sally decides to begin collecting social security at age 64, two years before her FRA. She contacts the SSA and finds out that her monthly benefit amount will be \$1,800. She has been doing part-time consulting work to keep busy and estimates she has earned \$35,000. This amount puts her \$13,740 over the earnings limit for 2022 and consequently reduces her social security benefit by \$6,870 for the year.

Which Income Applies to the Earnings Limit?

When applying the earnings limit, the SSA looks only at earned income, which is an individual's gross wages or net earnings if self-employed. A worker's investment income, government benefits, retirement plan distributions, and pensions do not count as income for the earnings limit. In addition, if you receive income after retirement that social security considers to be a "special payment," it is not counted as income for the earnings limit. Postretirement bonuses, vacation pay, commissions, sick pay, severance pay, and deferred compensation fall into the special payment category and therefore do not count toward the earnings limit.

Offset Benefits Are Not Lost Forever

If you find your social security benefits are offset by the earnings limit, you will recoup these payments once you reach your FRA. At that

time, your benefits will be increased to account for the amounts withheld because of the earnings limit. Benefits paid to spouses and survivors with minors or children with disabilities in their care will not receive this increase at FRA.

This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer.

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BY BENJAMIN ABAYA

LGBTQ History shows Past and Present Greatness



June is recognized as Pride Month

As we peruse the pages of our ancient history, we have encountered many interesting facts with reference to our subject matter, so unbelievable that we scanned further to determine such factual conception if ever. We found out that a great warrior who conquered vast territories of the ancient world was himself a gay person.

We are referring to Alexander the Great of Macedonia, the King warrior who was reputedly never to have been defeated in the battlefields, yet his sexuality was questioned with his closeness or relationship to one of his generals named Heptathlon. The relationship between the two was thought to be just plutonic, simply because during that period there was no such thing as gay behavior of both man and woman.

However, when Heptathlon died, the burst of mournful emotion showed by Alexander the Great indicated that their relationship was beyond friendship but could be lovers, in other words, Alexander the Great was bisexual since he was married twice and had a child in one of his wives. The mourning period for his lover or friend was so profound that he ordered within his empire not to play any kind of music until he lifted it.

The advent of modern communications such as cellphones and personal computers that we can talk in virtual reality to anyone the world over has given us the chance to converse on any topic that deeply concerned us in our day-to-day undertakings. Ironically, the usual subject matter that we used to talk were about politics but after elections, we have now all the time to talk about ourselves.

While exchanging ideas, some openly gay leaders suggested

that Alexander the Great be made an Icon of the LGBTQ-movement to show that what anyone can do, a gay person can do it. However, most of the gay world opposed it by reminding everyone that Alexander the Great was a warrior who fought many battles and therefore, encountered the brutalities of the battlefields where men killed, murdered noncombatants and those captured or surrendered were most probably became slaves to serve the empire.

Surely, Alexander the great battles will be likened to the War on Ukraine waged by Vladimir Putin the President of Russia where thousands of civilians were being collaterally killed



Alexander the great and Heptathlon

and cities were being wantonly destroyed for no apparent reason. In fact, the United Nations International Criminal Court has lately issued a Warrant of Arrest against Putin for his violations of War Crimes as enunciated by the Geneva Convention on crimes committed during military conflicts.

Conversely, such imaged of greatness is not the picture that the gay community likes to project but more on the humanitarian kindness and respect to its fellow men regardless of race, social status, religious beliefs and political leanings. There are so many great gay personalities who are successful in their respective

field of endeavors that anyone of them can be an exemplary to emulate by the members of the gay community.

As we continue our search for a possible Iconic image for the gay community, suggesting one of the greatest artists of all time, Leonardo da Vinci, the creator of Mona Lisa, the Last Super and many other art works be considered as one of them. So valuable and great of his work of arts that Bill Gates bought 72 pages of book banded drawings and scribbles of different futuristic images of airplanes, helicopters, tanks and many others in the amount of more than 30 million dollars the most expensive art works ever paid to date. Many historians believed that the great artist was gay because he could not have possibly stayed celibate throughout his adult life. They suspect that his companion for more than 20 years who also acted as his model in some of his art works pointed to many circumstances that he was his lover and no other evidence pointed otherwise.

June is widely recognized as Pride Month in many parts of the world, particularly in the United States and other Western countries. The observance of Pride Month in June has historical significance and is rooted in the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and others) rights movement.

The origins of Pride Month can be traced back to the Stonewall riots, which occurred in June 1969 in New York City, specifically at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village. At that time, LGBTQ+ individuals faced widespread discrimination and persecu-

tion, including police raids on gay bars. On the night of June 28, 1969, patrons of the Stonewall Inn fought back against a police raid, leading to several days of protests, demonstrations, and clashes with law enforcement.

The events at Stonewall Inn were a turning point in the



Stonewall Inn, a bar located in New York City's Greenwich Village that served as a haven for the city's gay, lesbian and transgender community.

fight for LGBTQ+ rights and equality. They sparked the formation of numerous LGBTQ+ activist groups and led to the emergence of the modern gay rights movement. In subsequent years, activists and community members organized marches, rallies, and events to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. Over time, these gatherings evolved into the Pride parades and celebrations that are now held worldwide.

Asian LGBTQ+ representation has been a subject of immense progress and significance in recent years. From media and entertainment to politics and activism, individuals from the Asian LGBTQ+ community have courageously stepped forward to challenge societal norms, break barriers, and inspire change.

In our time, no less than the President of the United States Joe Biden showed his highest respect to the gay community by appointing Pete Buttigieg, an openly gay politician into his cabinet as his Secretary of Transportation. As we celebrate Memorial Day, there was a time when the "don't ask and don't tell" policy was implemented in the military, however, once became known that the soldier was gay, he will be discharged from the service. It was only in 2021 when this policy was rescinded. Today we are all united to honor the heroic deeds of our brave soldiers whose supreme sacrifices will eternally honored and remembered.

In the Philippines where most of us came from has showed in many aspects how they treat and deal with the gay community. Perhaps, the Filipinos are the only people on earth who enjoyed watching the daily television show led by openly gay movie/TV star. As expected, many of the participants and guests are also from the gay community which make the television show enjoyable to millions of viewers all over the world where Filipinos are found to be peacefully and comfortably residing.

Undeniably, our Sacramento Filipino American community has been dealing with our openly gay members with respect as we have done to other members regardless of race, religious belief, social standing and political leaning.

Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento 2023

A Cultural Day of Celebration

BY MURRAY NAVARRO
FFS President

The opening program was the highlight of the event. The masters of the ceremony were Sarah Enloe and Vince A. Sales. The entrance of colors covered by the gentlemen of FAVA led by Dick Weitzenberg as Team Captain, Rudy Delizo, Pete Delacruz, Bill Bostock, and Fel Reyes. The singers of the National Anthems that mesmerized the audience were Raeselle Lao for Star Spangled Banner and Shane Tapado for the Lupang Hinirang. Followed by a warm welcome address by the FFS President Murray Navarro emphasizing the theme and thanking avid volunteers whose effort and energy are immensely selfless that made the event possible in an efficient manner.

The Vice Mayor of Elk Grove Kevin Speace provided a Proclamation of the Philippines Independence Day for this year's 125th anniversary. And Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen (District 10) provided the introduction of the Guest Speaker Mayor Pro Tem of West Sacramento Quirina Orozco. ASM Nguyen deliberately stressed the deep-rooted Filipino background of the speaker and evidence of their great friendship was captured in her introduction as well. And Assemblymember Kevin McCarty gave a few words about her living and growing up just a few blocks down the road from Rizal Community Center. As a friend of Fiesta, Guest Speaker Mayor Pro Tem Orozco put emphasis on the humble beginnings of the Filipino community here in Sacramento. It was different from then compared to what we have currently experienced. She also mentioned the grass-root beginnings of her immigrant family history to which most of the Sacramento community members can relate. She also explicitly encouraged everyone to get a stronger Filipino community to sustain



Photos by Dave San Pedro

the tradition, culture, and heritage and pass it on to the next generation.

The awarding of honorees was assisted by distinguished elected officials who graced the

event. Aside from the formerly mentioned officials, County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy and Mayor Pro Tem of Sacramento City Mai Vang (who was represented) joined the awarding ceremony on stage.

The Fiesta's Loyalty Award was given to Former Mayor Christopher Cabaldon for his grateful recognition of his many years of commitment and dedication to the Filipino Fiesta and its significance. Another

Proclamation of the 125th Philippines Independence Day was provided by Mr. Kirby Araullo a representative of the Office of Mayor Pro Tem Mai Vang. All awardees and dignitaries were

Continued on next page

Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento 2023

A Cultural Day of Celebration



invited to a VIP reception inside the Rizal Center. Each guest was properly served Filipino cuisine prepared by the Filipino Women's Club headed by President Leila Pereira.

Prior to the opening ceremony, the fiesta celebration started with a well-organized community parade showcasing a series of organizations. There are two organizations that joined for the first time, namely, California Supreme Eagles Club (Philippine Eagles) and Filipino American Law Enforcement Officers Association (Sacramento Chapter). Selected award winners were given \$50-check the different groups for the most colorful, most entertaining group, most participants, most youthful, most unique/creative, and best native costume. The parade judges were Atty. Jeffrey Javinar, Myrna Agbunag, and ARI Director Rejie Balojos. And the parade was chaired by Frank Zabal.

The event's success was gauged partly by the number of fiesta aficionados. There were lines formed from food trucks and booths despite the 94-degree weather. There were more than 60 vendors who participated in the event. All vendors properly participated with County regulations due to the effort of Fiesta Vendor & Logistics Chair Rosie Dauz. The car show spearheaded by Jazel Gonzalez was packed with all sorts of cars, but the Jeepney of Brian Pastor stands out which is the only one of its kind in the entire United States.

A variety of entertainment followed the opening ceremony. Entertainment Committee Co-chairs Gigi Perez and Febelyn Acosta-Green organized a lineup of entertainers for the three stages, Parkwest Casino Lotus Main Stage, Vision in Education Amphitheater stage, and SMUD Rizal's Indoor stage. The main stage's sound was provided by 102.5 KSFM DJ Squintz.

A big shout out to Fiesta Secretary Melissa Javinar, Carlos Cordero, Alex Avera, Frank Zabal, the late Joe Gonzalez buddies, and Mathew Navarro for their assiduous effort and energy just making ground logistics. All volunteers were treated to a lunch meal that was provided by Ling Avera the chair of the hospitality committee.

At the end of the day, the celebration is the fruition of priceless volunteerism and sincere commitment from the community members to commemorate the celebration of our grassroots from our Motherland, the Philippines!

Mabuhay ang Filipino Fiesta!

PEFTOK Veteran

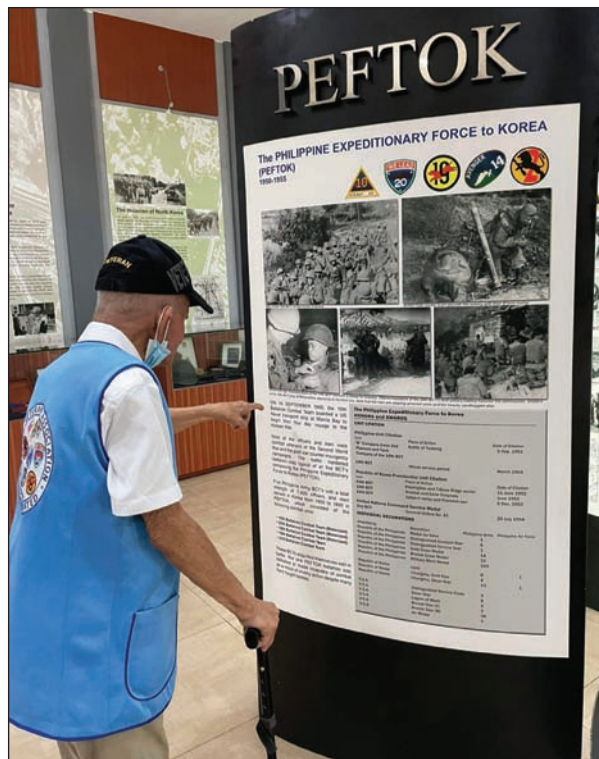
BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA

Korean War veteran Marcelo C. Ortigoza, Sr. is a Filipino soldier who served as a member of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK) during the Korean War. He was born on June 24, 1928, in Fabrica, Silay, Negros Occidental, Philippines.

Ortigoza joined the Philippine Army in 1951 and was assigned to the Philippine Army Infantry Division. During the Korean War in the early 50s, he was one of the 7,420 Filipino soldiers who were sent to Korea as part of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (PEFTOK), which was a contingent of Filipino soldiers who were sent to support the United Nations' efforts to defend South Korea against North Korean aggression.

As a member of the 2nd Battalion Combat Team of PEFTOK, Ortigoza fought in several battles. He was known for his bravery and dedication to duty.

Ortigoza's service in Korea was recognized by his super-



Filipino soldier and Korean War Veteran Marcelo C. Ortigoza

Photos by Gabriel Ortigoza

riors, and he received several medals and awards, including the United Nations combat medal, military award given to Filipino soldiers for acts of valor in combat.

After the Korean War, Ortigoza returned to the Philippines and continued his military ca-

reer. He served in various positions, including as an ordnance personnel at Camp Aguinaldo, military NCO at Tactics Group in PMA and Sergeant Major at Composite Air Support Force 12 in Awang, Dinaig, Maguindanao.

Ortigoza retired from the

military in 1981 and went on to become a successful family man who sent his three children to school, finished college and all are professionals. He is also active in veterans' organizations and advocated for the welfare of Filipino veterans who served in the Korean War.

Marcelo C. Ortigoza, Sr. is turning 95 years old this June 24th. He is now getting forgetful and wants to be remembered as a brave soldier, a dedicated father, and a proud Filipino who served his country with honor and distinction.

Heroic Roles of Filipino Soldiers During Korean War



Filipino soldiers of Korean War

BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA

Filipino soldiers played a crucial role during the Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953. The Philippines was one of the countries that sent troops to support the United Nations' efforts to defend South Korea against North Korean aggression. Here are some of the roles that Filipino soldiers played during the Korean War:

- 1. Combat Operations** - Filipino soldiers were deployed to the frontlines to engage in combat operations against the North Korean and Chinese forces. They fought bravely and made significant contributions to the war effort.
- 2. Humanitarian Aid** - Filipino soldiers also provided hu-

manitarian aid to the Korean people, who were suffering from the effects of war. They helped distribute food, clothing, and medical supplies to civilians.

- 3. Engineering and Construction** - Filipino soldiers were also involved in engineering and construction proj-

ects, such as building bridges and roads, which were crucial for the movement of troops and supplies.

- 4. Medical Care** - Filipino soldiers also provided medical care to wounded soldiers and civilians. They set up field hospitals and treated patients, often under difficult conditions.

- 5. Peacekeeping** - After the armistice was signed in 1953, Filipino soldiers continued to

serve in Korea as part of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission. They helped ensure that the terms of the armistice were being observed and contributed to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

Overall, Filipino soldiers played a significant role in the Korean War, and their contributions were greatly appreciated by the United Nations and the Korean people.

Philippine Fiesta

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Mother's Day Celebration

BY DALE ESPERANTE

On 13 May 2023 at 4pm, Filipino Women's Club President Leila Pereira welcomed all members and their families to honor the mothers of the community. Sr. Josie Tannudtanud said a prayer for the special celebration. The luncheon was catered by Carol Munar. For Reflections, Josie Patria led the reading of a beautiful poem entitled *The Beauty of A Woman*: For attractive lips, Speak with words of kindness; For lovely eyes, Seek out the good in people; For a slim figure, Share your food with the hungry; For beautiful hair, Let a child run his or her fingers through it once a day; For poise, Walk with the knowledge you'll never walk alone. People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed...Never throw out anybody.

Congratulations to the following:

Mother of the Year: Aida Azurin presented by Edna de los Reyes

Grand Mother of the Year: Ling Avera presented by Med-ing Mangosing

For the Presentation of Roses, every mother in attendance received a long-stemmed Rose hand delivered by Leila Pereira, Edna de los Reyes, and Cleo Sabarre-Ner. Remy Solomon dedicated a special song during the presentation.

This special event was held at the historic Magellan Hall owned and operated by the American Legion Magellan Post 604. In the 1940s and 50s, Filipinos in the Sacramento area gathered on this property for various reasons and functions. Knowing how Filipinos love to celebrate, they probably used this place for weddings, birthdays, parties, and perhaps also for Mother's Day. Congratulations and thank you to the Filipino Women's Club of Sacramento for this meaningful event!



Aida Azurin and Ling Avera



Filipino Women's Club officers and Moms of the year



FAVA and Auxliary ladies



Mothers, members and Families



Remy Solomon serenades the Mother and Grand Mother of the year



The Filipino Women's Club members and guests

Photos by Dale Esperante

Photograph by Andri Tambunan



YOUR LIGHT YOUR TRUTH

YOU ARE MULTIFACETED, YOU ARE BRIGHT, YOU ARE SEEN AND YOU ARE NEEDED. DON'T BE AFRAID TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT THE WAY ONLY YOU CAN.

"Trans and non-binary Filipinos exist. Our pre-colonial ancestors had spiritual leaders, the Babaylan (femme priestesses of any gender). They didn't follow colonial ideas of gender and gender roles and were highly respected in their communities. Today, they continue to challenge the status quo and fight for freedom. Knowing this history of our people makes me feel proud to be who I am." **KIANA AQUINO**

TO REPORT A HATE ACT, CALL (833)866-4283 OR VISIT [CAVSHATE.ORG](https://cavshate.org)



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Our Wedding Christina and Lancelot

It was kind of funny how it just seemed like with myself, I “suddenly” got engaged to be married. It was like going from zero to 60 in 3 seconds, was the reaction from even my close friends and family when I told them I am getting married. Their first reaction was “to whom?” “Since when did you start dating?” “I didn’t know you guys were dating.” “Who is this guy?” “I have known you for decades, and not once have you mentioned anything about this guy.” All the reactions were similar. Let me tell you, I was surprised myself.

The universe had a funny way of revealing fate. The truth is, I felt there was something inside me which needed to be fulfilled, completed, and to be whole. I spent a lot of time going through the motions, finding a whole lot of lacking. Little did I know, the person I am meant to be with, I had already met, under different circumstances, a different life, at a different time, and while I was already in a committed relationship. Eleven years ago, the person whom I was with, was living in San Francisco. He had many friends, and many of his friends became my friends. I wouldn’t have met even many of my current friends if it were without my involvement with this person. One of those friends was Lancelot.

As time passed, life went on, and we went in different directions. In 2015, I moved to Miami to create new businesses, our new money transfer service, as well as, creating and living my own type of adventure, traveling, working, and having fun. Lance moved back to California after working many years of traveling, building and maintaining wind turbines and then working for the City of SF. Often times I would come back to California during Christmas and New Year. In 2019, on one of my Christmas holiday trips, I managed to connect with my friend Ilaya, whom also did radio work at KPFA. We managed to meet up at the hot spring, a favorite place for some self-care – Harbin Hot Springs.

While preparing to entering the hot spring resort, I was approached by a person. As I looked over at this person, I see Lancelot! Like a sudden rush of shock,



Readings and Blessing

I proclaimed “Oh my god! What are you doing here?” Turns out, Lance was invited by our mutual friend Ilaya. And like that, Lance and I were old friends reacquainting ourselves after all these years. A beautiful weekend in nature, hot springs, relaxing, and catching up with old stories, acknowledging former relationships, and past histories. But as it was, I had to go back to Miami for work and Lance was already living and working in SF.

In March 2020, Covid 19 changed the world. I flew back to California on March 18, 2020 with a round trip ticket back to Miami two weeks later with the hope of going back to business as usual. We all know that Covid did not let that happen. That two weeks in California turned into six months, then turned into two years. After the long two years of quarantining Covid 19 living, social distancing, isolation, masking and living in fear, like many people, we were all needing human interaction, music, and dancing. These were the things that reminded us of our humanity, let loose and free ourselves from these isolating times.

In March 2022, a Reggae festival gathering brought us friends together. Lance, Ilaya and I attended a reggae campout event in Placerville. We all emerged from this post Covid environment to a large scale organized music festival. I was single for a long while, and Covid didn’t help at all. I was still being a little guarded around people, despite my own urges to connect with people. Lance and I spoke candidly to each other about hopes and dreams for the future, perhaps I wanted to be married someday, have children and that living a single life is not for me anymore. I was putting it out there for the universe to hear. Perhaps someday my hopes and dreams would be answered. Lance was listening, but remained quiet.



The Groom and the Bride

As Lance and I said our goodbyes as we departed from the festival, Lance looked at me and said, “You did not reject me.” I responded “I did not reject you. Ask me out.” You see, during the festival we



With Dinnah San Pedro and Cynthia Bonta



The Dance

were a bit intoxicated and having fun and he had asked me to “join” him and I respectfully declined. In the back of my mind, I was thinking perhaps Lance heard me. Who knows. Maybe he would call me. Maybe not.

Two months later on June 4, our friend Ilaya had a musical performance event in Oakland. A twist of fate brought Lance and myself to be reacquainted again. According to Lance, Saturdays are



Rosalinda and Tito Andrada

the days which he visits with his mother and has a day out, but on this particular Saturday, she was sick. He was urged not to come, so instead he attended Ilaya’s show in Oakland. It was there where he and I were reacquainted again. According to our friends, all you could hear from Lance and I were giggles and adoration for each other. From that point forward, it was clear that Lance and I were bonded and were inseparable. Other camping and outing events together strengthened our bond. The rest was history.

All Lance and I wanted to do was to spend time together. Although he lived in San Leandro, and I lived in Auburn, we visited each other as often and when we could. On July 10 Lance wanted to see me in Auburn, so he came up from the bay and we had a wonderful time seeing the town of Auburn, visiting historical sights and a museum. During the course of the day, he said to me, “the reason I am here is because I want to meet your family.” I was stunned but I obliged. Why not. I arranged for all of us to meet.

My parents were all business. In true form, my parents agreed to meet Lance and I at our business office board room in Auburn. We all had a light hearted, jovial, good discussion especially learning about Lance, his history and his time in the Navy. My parents truly wanted to know who Lancelot was. In the course of the discussion, my dad asked Lance, “What is your five year plan?” And like that, without hesitation Lance said, “To be honest sir, I want to ask permission from you for your daughter’s hand in marriage.” My dad and mom had a wide eye look on their faces. I was in pure shock. I looked at Lance, and then I looked at my parents, and then immediately tears started welling in my eyes. I turn to Lance, and tell him “What?!” There was little discussion about marriage and

having kids the night before, but nothing prepared me for the interview my parents had with Lance. I was in shock and elated all at the same time. I told my parents sitting in front of them, plainly, and with tears in my eyes, I said “I love Lance.” My Dad comes back and says, “You have our full support.”

The next weekend, I drove up to see Lancelot in San Leandro. He said, “I want you to meet my mom. We are going to have lunch.” I was open to meeting Lance’s mother and family. We drove to Walnut Creek to pick her up. Lance introduced me as his “friend.” Anyways, we go to lunch at a little Filipino restaurant in San Leandro called Parekoy Lutong Pinoy. After lunch, we drove to Crissy Fields in SF to take pictures. Lance handed his mom a phone to take a video, and then Lance took out a little ring box, presented me this beautiful ring and proposed to marry me while his mom video it. With a resounding YES, I agreed with my whole heart.

It was as if Lancelot answered my prayers, the universe aligned us to solidify our union together. Although Lancelot and I had newly reacquainted, it has felt as if we had needed to know each other and be in each other’s lives. The similarities in our stories, the histories of our families, of my family being from La Union in the Philippines, and his grandfather being Ilocano from Aringay La Union. Lance came from a legacy of educators and administrators, while I too have educators, administrators and teachers in my family. Lance grew up in Sacramento, as I also spent time growing up in Sacramento during my formative years in high school and post college. The religious values we both share. The fact that he is the eldest sibling of two younger sisters, and I am the youngest with two elder brothers. We both have a thirst for adventure and exploration. The future adventures we plan on having, building of a family, securing the union between us and our families. We are constantly discovering the things that draw us together, culturally, family, historically, religiously, spiritually, comically, physically, emotionally...we have so much in common. Lance is a Taurus, an Earth sign, as well as I am a Capricorn an Earth sign.

The universe has answered with Lancelot in my life. I am forever grateful, thankful, and blessed. We are ready to start the rest of our lives together.

Taylor Swift speaks out against laws that put 'LGBTQ community at risk' during Eras Tour

BY JOYCE ORLANDO

Taylor Swift took the stage during the Chicago leg of her Eras Tour with a message of support during Pride month, reminding fans that voting is important while speaking against the wave of legislation in the country that put “people in the LGBTQ community at risk”.

The singer took a moment during her more than 40-song set on June 2 to speak about how her shows were a “safe space” for all that come.

“I wish that every place was safe and beautiful for people in the LGBTQ community,” Swift said.

Swift’s tour has taken her many places in the country that passed legislation that does everything from narrowing the scope of medical care to trying to change the rights of those that are part of the LGBTQ community, including Tennessee.

‘Can’t talk about pride without talking about pain.’

Swift’s message of tolerance also spoke



Taylor Swift talks about Pride month and calls out harmful pieces of legislation.

of “pain” associated with Pride. She highlighted legislation that is happening in different states that affect members of the LGBTQ+ community.



“Right now and in recent years, there have been so many harmful pieces of legislation that have put people in the LGBTQ and queer community at risk. It’s painful for everyone. Every ally, every loved one, every person in these communities,” she said.

Tennessee law bans gender-affirming health care for transgender children; drag law challenged

In March, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed legislation that put a total ban on gender-affirming health care for transgender children.

The new health law bans medications such as puberty blockers and hormone treatments to treat any underlying gender dysphoria cause, affecting Tennessee children who identify as transgender and nonbinary. Surgeries, which were rare in Tennessee, are also banned.

At the same time, Lee also signed off on a new law to prohibit “adult-oriented” entertainment, including “male and female impersonators,” from public property and limit it to age-restricted venues.

Before Swift ever made her impassioned speech at her Chicago concert, a Memphis federal judge tossed out Tennessee’s controversial Adult Entertainment Act just late last week. The judge called the state law that could have targeted some drag performers “an unconstitutional restriction on the freedom of speech.”

And Tennessee isn’t the only Southern state passing such legislation.

We are just ONE week away from the return of Sacramento Pride!

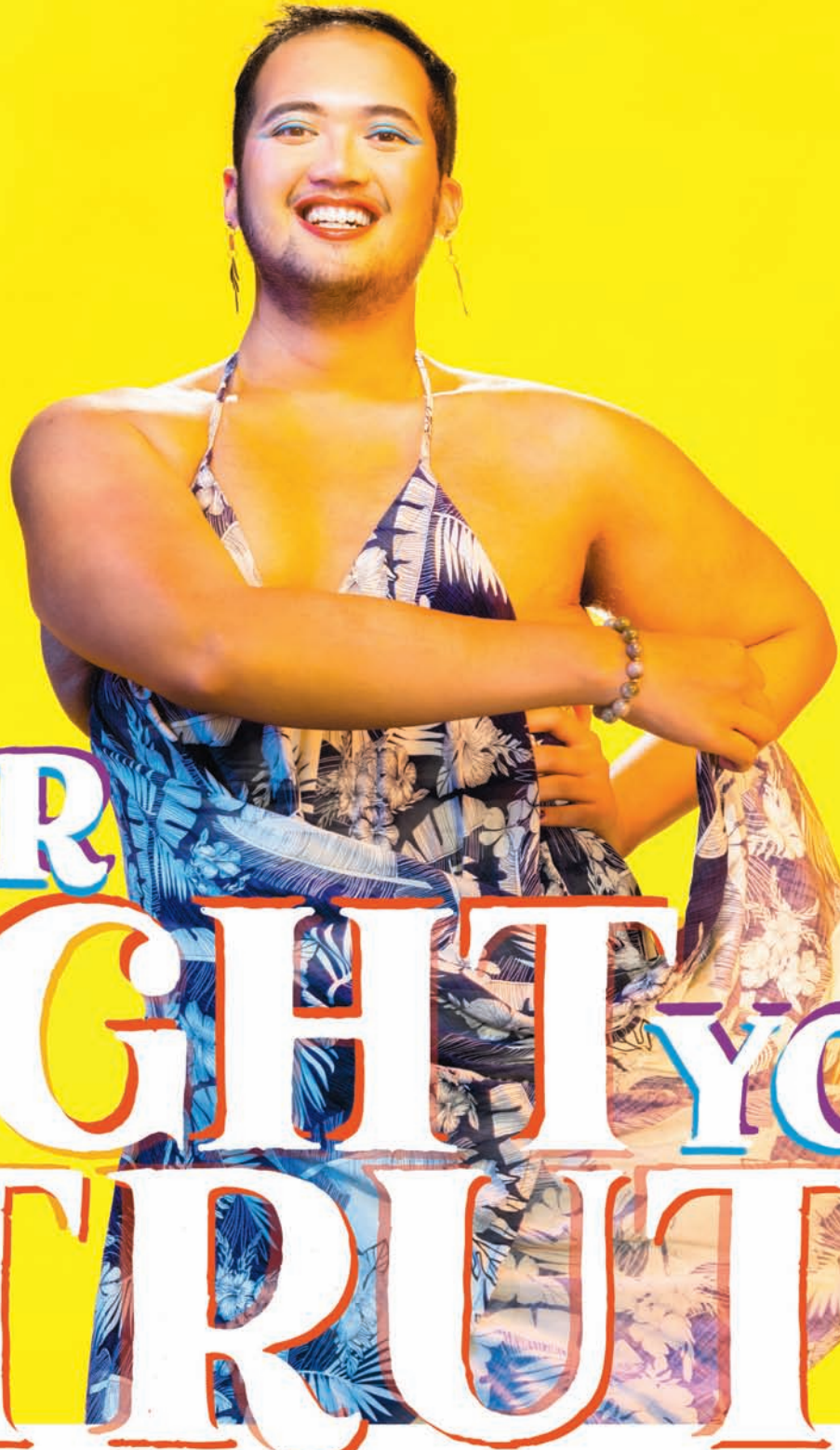
The Sacramento LGBT Community Center’s biggest celebration of the year includes a march, hundreds of vendors, and three stages of entertainment with performances by Rebecca Black, G-Flip, Bronze Avery, Siena Liggins, and more!

Here’s everything you need to know

Capitol Mall
Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11
Saturday from noon to 9 p.m. & Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.
Get tickets to the #SacPrideFest2023 festivities at sacramentopride.org
Link in bio.
Sacramento LGBTQ Community Center



Photograph by Andri Tambunan



YOUR LIGHT YOUR TRUTH

YOU ARE MULTIFACETED, YOU ARE BRIGHT, YOU ARE SEEN AND YOU ARE NEEDED. DON'T BE AFRAID TO SHINE YOUR LIGHT THE WAY ONLY YOU CAN.

"In Filipinx culture, image is everything. How you present yourself to the world (and conversely, how the world perceives you) is a reflection of your character, your values, and your upbringing. My parents taught me to always present myself honorably, which means making sure to filter out parts of myself that are considered transgressive or imperfect. I would like this portrait to show that I have no shame in my image and how I present myself. I am femme. I am fat. I am loud. I am imperfect. And I should be able to share who I am without shame." **JEFFREY BONGGA**

TO REPORT A HATE ACT, CALL (833)866-4283 OR VISIT CAVSHATE.ORG



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