

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ SEPTEMBER 7, 2013 ◆

REMEMBERING DR. JORGE G. CAMARA

Filipinos Mourn the Passing of Renowned Eye Surgeon, Philanthropist, Musician and Scholar

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PHOTO BY TIM LLENA



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EDITORIALS

In Memoriam—Dr. Jorge Camara (1950-2013)

We lost a valued member of our ohana when Dr. Jorge Camara passed away last August 28, 2013. News of his death reverberated throughout the Filipino community, shocking and saddening scores of patients, colleagues and many others whom he had come into contact with.

The soft-spoken Camara was a giant among his peers in the medical community. A top-notch ophthalmologist, he continually pioneered new surgical procedures and ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery that restored the gift of sight to those who came under his care. And for good measure, he introduced live piano music into the operating room, which was scientifically proven to help lower patients' vital signs, relieve anxiety and reduce the need for painkillers and sedatives.

Camara was also widely-recognized for his humanitarian work with the Aloha Medical Mission (AMM), whether it was volunteering his services to indigent patients during the overseas missions or performing classical pieces on the piano in sold-out concerts locally that raised much-needed funds. To date, AMM has treated more than 260,000 people throughout Hawaii and Southeast Asia.

Perhaps the true measure of Camara's greatness was in providing for each patient the best possible care to the best of his ability—regardless of whether or not he or she was able to pay. He in fact performed many life-changing operations for patients knowing that he would never be properly compensated. He also mentored young doctors and doctors-in-training, and willingly shared his vast knowledge with other ophthalmologists from the Philippines and other countries, which enabled even more patients to receive treatment.

While it may seem unfair that Jorge was taken from us in the prime of his life, it is not ours to question the "why's" of his untimely passing. Instead, we should celebrate his life and carry on the ideals that he so willingly lived out. It's been said that some people come into our lives and quickly go. Others, like Jorge, stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts... and we are never, ever the same. To you Jorge, we say "thank you" for all that you have done and for showing us what it means to live a life of service. We will always remember you.

A College Education Is Becoming Too Expensive

A traditional four-year college education today is almost equivalent to the cost of a mortgage debt.

It's not too uncommon for recent graduates to be straddled with student loans upwards of \$100,000. The rapid pace of tuition increasing well ahead of the rate of inflation and showing no sign of slowing down should have many Americans concerned. In 2012, the cumulative student loan debt surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time.

What can be done to keep tuition down? What is spiking the cost of higher education each year? There are many unknowns and very little discussion on the issue.

About 30 years ago, taking a college student loan was almost unheard of. Parents simply paid for their children's college education while students simply concentrated on their full-time studies. About 20 years ago, we saw more students working part-time while going to school. That was enough to pay for college when factoring in assistance from parents.

Today, practically every college student works, some even

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Last week was a sad time for Hawaii's Filipino community. We lost a tremendous role model with the passing of Dr. Jorge G. Camara, a dear friend and a nationally- and internationally-renowned eye surgeon. Our deepest condolences go out to his family and extended ohana. As a scholar, humanitarian and classically trained pianist, Jorge was a refreshing presence whose influence went beyond the confines of our community. Always formal and courteous, Jorge was the embodiment of *Noblesse Oblige*—for whom much is given, much more is expected. Whatever Jorge chose to do in life, he did it extremely well—and made it seem almost effortless. On a personal note, the Chronicle has been incredibly blessed to have had him as a contributing writer for many years. We therefore have dedicated this issue in his memory. In our cover story on page 4, we interviewed many of Dr. Camara's friends and colleagues for their thoughts and the tremendous impact that he had on their lives. We also posed to readers our Chronicle Pulse question about Dr. Camara on page 6. In addition, Dr. Belinda Aquino shares several fond memories of him in her article "The Incomparable Dr. Jorge G. Camara" on page 8. Last but not least, younger brother Dr. Rickie Camara submitted an article on page 12 entitled "A Brother's Reflection on Jorge."

If you want the latest information on treatments for cancer and other serious health issues, consider attending a free seminar at the FilCom Center on Saturday, September 21st from 10 am to 12 noon. The seminar will be hosted by Dr. Alfredo Galvez, a researcher in the growing field of epigenetics, who discovered a natural peptide that blocks cancer cells. If you're interested, please turn to page 10 for more details.

In other news, tens of thousands of people converged in Washington, D.C. last August 24, 2013 for the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s march and famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The Chronicle's contributing writer Emil Guillermo traveled 3,000 miles to be among those in attendance at the historic event. He explains why in his column on page 3 entitled "Fifty Years after MLK—Being at the March, Listening to the Speech." We hope you will enjoy reading it.

That's all for now. Once again, we'd like to thank our readers and advertisers for their faithful support. It's truly a blessing to partner with them in our mission to serve Hawaii's vibrant and dynamic Filipino community. Please feel free to share with us any story ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. Send your email to: filipinochronicle@gmail.com
Until next time... *aloha and mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

full-time, receives financial help from parents, hustles for grants and scholarships, takes out hefty student loans and still falls short of paying for even a fraction of the full cost of college at the time of graduation.

The U.S. Department of Education reports that in the 2011-12 school year, 71 percent of all undergraduate students received financial aid; and 42 percent of students received federal loans (up from 28 percent).

The U.S. DOE's National Center for Educational Statistics reports that college costs are still rising. In-state tuition at community colleges jumped almost 6 percent, to an average of \$3,131 last year; state tuition at public, four-year college averaged \$8,655, up 5 percent; and for private, four-year colleges,



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(continued on page 3)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Fifty Years after MLK—Being at the March, Listening to the Speech

President Barack Obama was charged with making the “race” speech of his life this past Wednesday, when he spoke at 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech.

It was almost unfair.

What history will remember is not really in our control. Will a phrase connect? Will the media connect “dream” metaphors? Will 50 years later be a time for an “awakening”?

I thought about that as I attended the march the Saturday before in Washington, when it was all march and some speeches but not “the” speech. Indeed, history will note that the “I have a dream” speech wasn’t even the keynote in its

day, and that Dr. King wasn’t even the lead organizer of the march. Indeed, in the 50 years since King delivered the speech, “I have a dream” has had a life of its own.

At the Saturday rally, I’m sure Eric Holder, Rev. Al, and John Lewis had much to say, but I have to admit, if I wanted to hear speeches, I never would have left the comfort of my living room in California.

So why did I go 3,000 miles to Washington, to commemorate a march I barely remember as a child?

For a person of color—for a Filipino American--- it was important to be there.

And every time I thought it was difficult, I thought of the last 50 years, and told myself, whatever discomfort I experienced on this day by comparison would be nothing.

My train from New York (I was in from California, for a



DC-area based ILAW and the womens advocates, the Gabriela Network were at the march

conference) arrived after 9 a.m. Too late to get close to things. I tried, but was unsuccessful getting my press credential. I would be there as a “civilian.” That’s all right, I experienced the march like Roy Robertson, of Columbus, Georgia. We were like hundreds of late arrivals walking outside who were caught up in the temporary fencing around the mall, and ended up walking the perimeter trying to get in. I saw older people w/walkers, and other folks just dealing with the closed off logistics. All of us shut out. Some of us just sat down and watched what we could through a cyclone fence. Outside looking in. Just

like real life.

Speeches? The sound system was poor and only people who were close could hear.

But that’s all right. It wasn’t about the speeches, right? After the speaking part, all the key players lined up at the front of Independence Avenue where I stood with others (see the picture at www.amok.com)

Rev. Al gave us all a photo op, and let her go. And the movement, the mass of people, the march, really began.

There were unions, and racial organizations, and HBCU groups from all over. I stood like a tiny tree as the march came to me.

That’s when I knew I was really there.

My buddy Robertson from Columbus, Georgia, who is also a DJ at WOKS-AM and known as the “Breakfast Brother,” was somewhere in it all.

Robertson told me his station played “Southern Soul.”

I asked: “You mean like,

James Brown?”

He just smiled.

As the marchers came on, I danced through them in the open space, a carioca step I knew from playing cornerback in high school.

This was a little like bump and run. So at times, the whole thing was more dance than march.

Speeches? I had James Brown in my head. And figured that’s why you go to a march.

“I got the feeling ...”

On Wednesday, I thought Obama captured the feeling.

He mentioned Asian Americans and he talked about how to get to where we want to go race-wise in the future.

He talked about connecting with one another and being empathetic.

“That’s where courage comes from,” the president said. “When we turn not from each other or on each other, but toward one another, and we find that we do not walk alone. That’s where courage comes from.”

That’s how we get to where we need to be, the next 50 years, when maybe it won’t be far fetched to consider a Filipino American or Asian American president.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award winning journalist and commentator.

EDITORIALS (from page 2, A COLLEGE...)

tuition averaged \$29,056, up 4 percent.

These figures do not include the price of housing, food, books, supplies and transportation.

Undergraduate in-state tuition, per year, at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is also rising: \$9,144 for 2013-14; \$9,840 for 2014-15, \$10,584 for 2015-16, and \$11,376 for 2016-17.

With so many cost changes just within a few decades, it’s likely that attaining a degree from a university will be far more difficult for a growing number of middle-class families.

Recession

Clearly the dramatic ripple effect of the recession had a lot to do with tuition hikes across the nation. State budgets shrunk and state contributions to public universities followed. State general funds appropriated to UH declined by \$77 million from fiscal year 2009 to 2012.

The recession also created demand. Fewer job availability encouraged people to return to school and would-be graduates simply stayed in the classroom, pursuing graduate studies. With high demand and larger enrollment, so too came increased expenses for universities, and the ultimate need to raise tuition.

Universities are also faced with added costs unique to our time such as additional security, federal physical disabilities compliance, expanded career services, and constant technological upgrades.

Smarter spending

Despite inflation, the recession fallout, and unavoidable expenses that drove universities to their current fiscal vulnerability, there are questionable spending practices that ought to be examined to keep tuition more affordable.

Should the university be involved in money-losing, non-academic community events such as concerts? No.

Was a UH West Oahu Campus really necessary? No.

Should the university be spending so much on independent consulting fees? No.

Could operations and administrative costs be streamlined? Yes.

Should certain non self-sustaining sports programs be discontinued? Yes.

Should the tenure system be revamped? Yes.

Should football head coaches’ salaries be lowered? Yes.

Should the university suspend or minimize spending millions in construction and other capital improvement projects at this time? Yes.

These are only a few suggestions that UH and other university officials across the nation ought to be reexamining. Given the tremendous sacrifices students and their families are making to get a college education, it is not being unfair to demand that universities do the same and implement tough cost-savings measures.

COVER STORY

Filipino Community Mourns the Passing of Jorge G. Camara, M.D.

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

“I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again.” — Stephen Grellet

That in a nutshell describes the selfless life of service by Dr. Jorge Camara—an internationally-renowned ophthalmologist, educator, researcher, humanitarian and pianist, who passed away recently at the age of 63.

News of his death spread quickly, saddening especially those whose lives Camara had touched. Colleague and close friend Dr. Charlie Sonido described Camara as an extraordinary doctor who was at the top of his field.

“I not only lost a good friend, but an outstanding ophthalmologist, who was second to none,” says Dr. Sonido. “More than altruism, the search for perfection was what defined Jorge. Good genes were not good enough for him. With every undertaking, he planned extensively and practiced repeatedly until he achieved perfection—second best was never an option.”

Dr. Bradley Wong also described Camara as a “brilliant, talented and innovative eye surgeon” who was loved not only for his skills as a doctor but also for his personal interest in his patients’ lives and their improved health and well-being.

“He cared deeply for his patients and was a friend to anyone who would reach out to him,” says Dr. Wong.

Richard Pecson, a personal friend, knew Camara for the past 20 years and was also his patient. He describes Camara as a very thoughtful and grateful individual.

“No matter how busy he was, he made the time to remain in touch via voicemail, text or email just to convey edifying words of friendship,” Pecson says. “He always acknowledged in a special way even the littlest favor I did for him. I will terribly miss our conversations about spiritual

matters and a sovereign God who loves all of us.”

A Doctor's Doctor

Camara was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, the eldest of 12 children. He grew up in Manila, where he studied medicine at the University of the Philippines. He later moved to Houston, Texas where he completed his training in ophthalmology at Baylor College of Medicine Cullen Eye Institute. He completed a post-residency fellowship in Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, also at Baylor. In 1982, he joined Straub Clinic and later opened the Camara Eye Clinic at 2226 Liliha Street, where he provided the very best possible eye care to his patients.

Always a pioneer of new surgical procedures, Camara performed the first YAG laser capsulotomy in Hawaii, developed a laser procedure to treat blocked tear ducts, and discovered a condition found in Asians called Involutional Lateral Entropion wherein the upper eyelids turn inwards and rub on the surface of the eye.

In 1999, he performed the world’s first orbital surgery via long distance telemedicine on a 16-year-old female patient from the Big Island. Camara’s cutting-edge surgical procedures in ophthalmology were featured many times on the local and national television news, including NBC, CBS and ABC news, and internationally on CNN Headline News. His numerous scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals included a description of the use of radiofrequency in pterygium surgery, a new test to diagnose blocked tear ducts,



and the use of an image guided system in orbital surgery.

He received many awards over the years, including the 2001 Physician of the Year Award by the Hawaii Medical Association. Camara was chosen by his peers in recognition of his medical accomplishments and for outstanding service to the community. As further proof of his medical expertise, Camara was named by Honolulu Magazine as one of the “Best Doctors” in Hawaii, in its 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 issues.

In 2005, he again made history by playing the piano live in an operating room. The music he performed for patients prior to surgery was shown scientifically to lower the blood pressure, heart and respiratory rates, and reduce the need for medications before and after surgery.

Camara is also the first surgeon to produce a CD recorded live in the operating room. The CD, entitled “Live From the Operating Room,” included Debussy’s “Arabesque No. 1 in E Major” and Chopin’s “Etude in E Major, Op. 10 No. 3,” to “The More I See You,” by Harry

Warren and Mack Gordon.

One of his patients said that the live piano music made a huge difference. She wrote: “The music soared above me, swirled around me. It penetrated through my pores, beyond my ears, past my mind and somehow, into my heart. I felt at peace. I felt safe. I felt like everything was going to be just fine. And it was.”

Piano Man

Camara utilized his piano skills beyond the operating room and encouraged other musically-inclined physicians to join him in benefit concerts for the Aloha Medical Mission. A small recital was initially planned at the Sanders’ Piano store on South King Street but it was scrapped in favor of the much larger Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall. Concerts were held in 2004 (“Four Doctors and a Patient”), 2005 (“Four Doctors, a Patient and an Idol”), 2007 (“Four Doctors, A Patient and the Mayor”) and 2009 (“Four Doctors, a Patient and a Sweetheart”).

The four sold-out concerts raised about \$130,000 each and were a major source of

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, **FILIPINO** ...)

funding for AMM's projects. Dr. Camara also performed in two of the AMM's "Meet-and-Greet" fundraisers.

For all of his skills as a top-notch ophthalmologist, many say Camara was equally gifted on the piano as he was in the operating room. He enjoyed a wide range of composers and could play many pieces from memory.

"I considered Jorge to be a very good pianist," says Dr. Vernon Ansdell.

One person who had the opportunity to know Camara's passion for music was Dr. Wong, who was often invited over to listen to him play the piano and critique his performance. About four months ago, Camara invited himself over to Wong's residence to test his newly-tuned Steinway piano.

"I was a bit surprised that he was so interested in hearing how my newly-tuned piano would sound, but in retrospect, I see now that it was his way of connecting with me," Wong says. "I recall his usual playing pose of chin up, eyes closed, head and shoulders splayed back. I knew he was happy, showing off to me his latest newly-learned piece. That's what I admired about him—his intensity, his passion with which he threw himself into his playing."

A Renaissance Man

One of his most recent awards was the 2012 Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice, given by the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii

Chapter. The award is bestowed to individuals who best exemplify the life, values and teachings of Dr. Rizal, the national hero of the Philippines.

Dr. Belinda Aquino, who received the same award in 2011, notes several striking parallels between Camara and Rizal.

"Both are dedicated men of science," says Dr. Aquino. "Rizal was an ophthalmologist, as was Dr. Camara. Rizal was an artist, a poet, novelist, linguist, journalist, educator, social scientist and many others shaped by traditions of the Renaissance and universality. Dr. Camara was also a Renaissance figure of sorts—a patron of the arts and a concert pianist, and most of all, a medical doctor who has integrated music with medicine in a very creative way.

"I can think of no better recipient of the 2012 Dr. Jose Rizal Award for Peace than Dr. Camara, who has had a truly legendary career in medicine and other fields that Dr. Rizal himself would have been so proud of."

A Passion for Helping Others

What truly set Dr. Camara apart as a physician was his passion in helping those who could not afford proper medical care. Patients who suffered extensive damage to their eyes in horrific accidents and trauma cases were flown to Hawaii from places such as American Samoa, the Marshall Islands and the Philippines for treatment by Dr. Camara. Using cutting edge surgical tech-

niques and the latest medical equipment, he not only restored their vision but also did wonders to improve their appearance, boost their self-esteem and give them new-found self-confidence.

Dr. Curtis Toma, a primary care physician at the Kalihi-Palama Health Center and Institute of Human Services, once referred to him a Tongan man who ruptured his eye after a night of drinking and fighting. Camara reattached the extraocular muscles and inserted a prosthetic eye in alignment with the remaining good eye.

"It was impressive work," says Dr. Toma, who referred numerous other patients to Camara over a 10-year period. "Jorge never declined a patient regardless of insurance or lack of it. I know he did not get reimbursed according to his talent but it was obvious that he took great pride in his work regardless of reimbursement. He was always a true gentleman in caring for the underserved."

Camara was also a member of numerous Aloha Medical Mission teams that traveled to the Philippines, Laos, Cambodia, China, Bangladesh and other Third World Countries, where physicians performed thousands of surgeries for the poor and needy people. On his very first mission in the Philippine province of Palawan, Camara performed cataract surgery on a 37-year-old patient who suffered from blindness. The patient returned the next morning, astounded and in tears that he could once again see. That encounter is what made Camara return year after year with the AMM.

State Rep. Romy Cachola and his wife Dr. Erlinda Cachola accompanied Camara on several medical missions to the Philippines. Those who participate in these medical missions pay their own plane fares, hotel accommodations and food, often working early in the morning to late at night in order to treat as many patients as possible.

"I know first hand the work that he and many other doctors have given to the poor people," says Rep. Cachola. "Dr. Camara truly embodied what it



Dr. Jorge Camara with wife, Virginia "Binky" Camara

means to be a doctor. On more than one occasion, his peers have said that this world would be a better place if there were more people like him."

Camara also brought young ophthalmologists from the Philippines to Honolulu to personally train them so they could provide medical care for the people there. He later expanded his training program to include ophthalmologists from across Southeast Asia. His forward, visionary thinking, says Dr. Antonio Tan, further elevated the AMM's status.

"Instead of our doctors going to Third World countries to treat eye diseases, we now have local doctors trained by Dr. Camara doing what Aloha Medical Mission ophthalmologist volunteers would do when they go on medical missions," Tan says.

Only the Good Die Young

The news of Camara's death hit Hawaii's Filipino physicians especially hard. A tight-knit group, Filipino doctors have forged strong bonds of friendship that extend back to their difficult training and humble beginnings in the U.S.

Dr. Ray Romero describes Camara as a "great, compassionate doctor who was loved by his patients."

"He impressed me in his gentlemanly approach with a soft spoken voice and his up to date knowledge about his specialty," says Dr. Romero. "I remember him welcoming me to the community when I first came here in 2004. He gave me encouragement that my specialty (neurology) is much

needed here especially in Waipahu where there were no Filipino neurologists."

Constance Lau, President and CEO of Hawaiian Electric Industries and Chairman of the Boards of American Savings Bank and Hawaiian Electric Company, knew Camara for over 20 years. She described him as a role model for her employees, many of whom were Filipinos.

"His deep understanding of and connectedness with the Filipino and medical communities allowed him to bring a unique and caring perspective to our board deliberations, reminding us always of the importance of our higher mission to be the engaged, local bank committed to making our communities and businesses grow and prosper," Lau says.

Above all, Lau says Camara dedicated his life to using his considerable medical skills and talents to improve the lives of others.

"He had so many gifts which he used to help others," she says. "His altruism and selflessness served as a model for all of us, and his generous and gentle spirit will be missed by all.

His wife of 36 years, Virginia "Binky" Camara, says her husband was "as polite and gracious and funny with me as he was with other people."

"He was a very sensitive and loving and very logical person. He was very sweet. I will remember him with great love, tenderness and admiration. I don't believe I will ever meet a person like Jorge, not in this lifetime."



CHRONICLE PULSE

What do you remember most about Dr. Jorge Camara? What do you think will be his lasting legacy?

JUN ABINSAY, Waialae Iki

First, his commitment and very caring attitude in dealing with his patients are attributes that Dr. Camara exemplified and will always be remembered for. Second, he leaves a lasting legacy as a trailblazer who invented new techniques in the field of eye surgery.


DANILO ABLAN, M.D., Kahala

I recall many significant and memorable events with Dr. Camara. What stands out the most was how he made me feel very welcomed when I joined the staff at Straub Clinic in 1989. His lasting legacies are the Preceptorship and Fellowship Program for ophthalmologists from the Philippines and how he brought patients to Hawaii for major operative procedures.


EMMA AVILLA, M.D., Waikiki

I once saw him at a mass at a church in Kailua. After the mass, we stood in line as Fr. Fernando Suarez began healing people by touching them. Jorge told me that he believed in Christ and His healing power. He claimed that his back pain disappeared after going through the process. He asked me if I was healed too and I said, "yes." This incident was something I will never forget about Jorge. He had a great faith in God. He was always giving back to the community. He organized many fundraising activities for the Aloha Medical Mission and used his musical talents and the talents of others for the piano concerts, which were a great success.


TERESITA BERNALES, PH.D., Kailua

Dr. Camara was an exceptional physician. He was a warm, caring humanitarian with a gift of healing. He gave each patient his undivided attention and made sure that all issues were addressed satisfactorily. His legacy will be that special gift of giving oneself for a better world. His achievements in his profession, his humanitarian endeavors and his artistic talents that he utilized to improve patient care delivery and to further his humanitarian projects will forever remain in our hearts.


JOEY DE LEON, M.D., Aiea

I remember Jorge as a very successful person who came from a very wealthy family. He was so humble, honest, giving and concerned about the welfare of others.


BETH HOBAN, Kaneohe

I remember when my husband Jim and I were taking ballroom dancing lessons at his home with a private instructor. I was getting frustrated because I could not get the dance steps. He calmly took me by the hand and counted the steps over and over again until I finally got it. He was a caring person who enjoyed music, whether it was rock 'n roll or classical. He made a difference in people's lives by applying his skills as an ophthalmologist locally and globally. Binky was truly a devoted partner! *Malama pono.*


IMELDA JOAQUIN, Aiea

When our kids were much younger and he was just starting his practice in Honolulu, our families would have get-togethers during Christmas, New Year's Eve and Thanksgiving. It was always filled with music, fun, games and of course the laughter and screams of the children. Jorge was always gentle, compassionate and respectful. My family will remember him dearly. He was a godfather to one of my daughters, Tito Jorge to all of them and a dear and reliable old friend to Nick and me these past years. He will be greatly missed by everyone and by those whose lives he touched.


JESSIE RICAFORTE KOPPEL, Hawaii Kai

I remember his smile and his clean, crisp white jacket. Dr. Camara used the latest technology to treat ocular diseases. I consistently received the highest quality patient care.


MELBA MARIANO, Mililani

Dr. Camara had been my eye doctor since I came to Hawaii many years ago. He was very caring, compassionate and also very thorough in terms of treating my eye problem. Afterwards, we talked about music. I was a pianist too, so we enjoyed the same passion for music. I will truly miss him. His multiple talents and kind-heartedness for helping others are his lasting legacy.


MELVIN PALALAY, M.D., Honolulu

Dr. Camara's lasting legacy will be centered around his involvement with the Aloha Medical Mission and its evolution to what it is today—a leading non-profit organization that undertakes a myriad of medical missions around Asia and invests the talents of many gifted individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of others. Dr. Camara was part of a vanguard of visionaries who improved the quality of lives of others and decreased suffering in the world.



Dr. Camara's inspiration led to a series of musical concerts that raised significant funds for the Aloha Medical Mission. I will remember Dr. Camara's inspirational vision and insight as he garnered the support needed to ensure the projects' success. The concerts raised much awareness of what the AMM was all about, provided tangible examples of its impact on the lives of others—none more poignantly than Christopher Cerna, the blind musical prodigy who was rescued from a life of poverty in the Philippines through a mission of the AMM.

I will remember Dr. Camara as one of the most gifted individuals I have ever met. His combination of a wicked intellect, passion for a wide range of interests, including his love of classical music, and his grounded spirituality, which inspired him to a life of service, will ensure my remembrance of him, a truly bright light who inspired and continues to inspire me to strive for that ideal. He was a true once-in-a-generation force of nature, whose pursuit of excellence resulted in unparalleled success. He has undoubtedly left an indelible mark in the lives of those he touched.

RAMON SY, M.D., Honolulu

Dr. Camara was a gentleman and a visionary. He helped people see again in the best possible way.



LEGAL GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

From Fiancée to Lawful Permanent Resident in 6 Easy Steps

resides, the fiancée must apply for and obtain a fiancée visa.

Fourth, the fiancée and the petitioning U.S. citizen must get married within 90 days after the fiancée arrives in the United States.

Fifth, the former fiancée who is now the spouse of a U.S. citizen must apply for adjustment of her status to that of lawful permanent resident with the USCIS, and after an interview during which the couple must establish that their marriage is in good faith and that it was not entered into for the purpose of avoiding the immigration laws, the application is approved and a conditional resident card is issued.

Sixth, within 90 days before the second anniversary of the issuance of the conditional resident card, the couple must file a joint petition to have the non-citizen spouse's conditional resident status removed, by

affirming that they are still married and that they did not enter into the marriage for immigration purposes. The couple will be interviewed by USCIS, except in rare instances. If USCIS is satisfied that the marriage was in good faith and that the couple is still lawfully married, a permanent resident card will be issued that is valid for 10 years. If the U.S. citizen dies or the par-

ties are divorced within two years after the issuance of the conditional resident card, the non-citizen spouse may ask for a waiver of the requirement that the petition be filed jointly.

See *Choin v. Mukasey*, No. 06-75823, 07-70941, CA9, 08/12/13, and statutes cited therein.

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of

Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.

There are six easy steps for an alien fiancée to become a lawful permanent resident (green card holder):

First, the non-citizen and the U.S. citizen must meet in person and then become engaged to marry (fiancée and fiancé), after courtship and dating.

Second, the U.S. citizen fiancé must file a petition for a fiancée visa (K visa) with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) within two years after the meeting.

Third, after the petition is approved and the documents are sent by the State Department to the U.S. Embassy in the country where the fiancée

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City to Close Kailua Satellite City Hall

Due to budget cuts, the City will permanently close its Satellite City Hall at the Keolu Shopping Center in Kailua.

The closure will be effective September 30, 2013 at 4 pm. The number of transactions at the Kailua office averaged 16 customers per hour, which is low in comparison to other Satellite City Halls.

“After careful study, the closure is fiscally prudent,” says Sheri Kajiwarra, director of the City’s Department of Customer Services. “The Kailua staff will be relocated to other full-service locations to decrease the wait time for the public.”



Area residents will now

have to go to the Satellite City Hall at the Windward Shopping Center—a full-service office that provides driver license renewal service—or to use online services whenever possible.

A list of satellite city halls on Oahu is available at: www.honolulu.gov/csd/satellite/.

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COVER STORY

THE INCOMPARABLE DR. JORGE G. CAMARA

by Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

It would be an understatement to say that I was shocked to learn about the untimely passing of Jorge Camara when I was in Las Vegas recently to attend the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in America (UPAAA) biennial General Convention. I was truly stunned and it took a while to regain my composure.

I was not a close personal friend of Jorge's, but more of a colleague owing to our common experiences as UP products, though a generation apart. I had heard about him long before I met him when we were already both in Hawaii in the early 1980s, he in the Medical field and I at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

In time I would hear about his visionary project involving bringing over ophthalmologists from the Philippines every six months under the auspices of the UH John Burns School of Medicine. Jorge was affiliated

with the School Faculty and he taught the Filipino doctors basic and specialized ophthalmological procedures. I met several of them in the course of their advanced training with Jorge's guidance. After their training they returned to the Philippines to help their own communities, ever grateful for the additional skills they had acquired under Jorge's tutelage.

I always thought, here was someone who was not only a highly skilled eye surgeon, but a sincere humanitarian, a caring human being and a "servant leader," as those of his caliber came to be known later.

Over the years of his private practice in which he would have anywhere from 60 to 80 patients on a typical day, Jorge assiduously rendered extraordinary service to especially indigent patients in Hawaii, free medical care to the homeless and uninsured, and to recently-arrived immigrants from the Philippines without any visible support.

With his tireless efforts



Dr. Belinda Aquino at the launching of Dr. Camara's CD in Border's Book Store

came increasing fame including being featured in international media as a pioneer in the use of telemedicine to guide another doctor from a distance to perform an eye operation, which restored the sight of a young patient. Later in his career he discovered through a scientific study the healing power of music in bringing down the blood pressure, heart and breathing rate among patients about to undergo eye surgery. An accomplished concert pianist, he would play the

piano himself in the operating room. Then in a later scientific study, he analyzed the effects of vog among this patients. There was no end to his innovative and creative energies in his medical expertise.

I will not repeat the numerous, awards, accolades, citations and commendations that he constantly received during his brilliant and productive career. They are only too well-known.

But I take special pride in seeing him reap various awards from our alma mater - whether it be the UP College of Medicine, the UP Alumni Association in the Philippines (UPAA), and the UPAAA. Back in 2003, when we were both in Houston for the 10th General Convention, he was recognized for Outstanding Achievement as Distinguished Alumnus in Medicine. He was extremely delighted to be in Houston, where he had his residency program after graduating from the UP College of Medicine, as Class Valedictorian no less. Then again, during the UP Centennial

observance in 2008, we were both in Diliman, Quezon City receiving our respective awards.

But through all these, he was far and away the quintessential UP achiever, not only as valedictorian and *primus inter pares* (first among equals), but as a "doctors' doctor," a world-class scientist, a compassionate humanitarian, and above all as a human being extraordinaire. I would keep wondering, what else has Jorge not done on this earth? He was just simply amazing and truly awesome. There are no words to describe his vitality, his drive, his creativity, and his sense of service to humanity and society. I was afraid he would run out of intellectual and social spaces to conquer with his expansive mind and indomitable spirit.

Yet for all his fame and glory, he remained the ever-humble, understated, charming, gracious and unpretentious guy that he always was. Absolutely no tinge of arrogance, no airs, no pretenses! Even if you were

(continued on page 15)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Dr. Galvez to Hold Free Seminar at FilCom

Dr. Alfredo Galvez, an award winning scientific researcher who discovered the natural peptide that blocks cancer cells, will be conducting a free seminar on September 21, 2013 from 10 am to 12 noon at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu. He will discuss the potentially life-altering effects of Lunasin and its effects on cancer as well as other serious health issues.



Dr. Alfredo Galvez

Galvez is considered the pioneer in the field of epigenetics, a rapidly growing research field that investigates heritable alterations in gene expression caused by mechanisms other than changes in DNA sequence. He discovered a plant peptide called Lunasin, which has the ability to essentially turn "off" the bad genes and turn "on" the good genes in the body. This impressive natural peptide, found in miniscule quantities in soybeans, blocks cell division and effectively turns down the dimmer switch in our genetic material. In other words, it makes cells less receptive to disease. His finding is a game

changer in the area of disease control as well as many other areas.

A recent analysis in "Cancer Metastasis Reviews" noted that Lunasin has been shown to be active against human breast cancer, colon cancer, and leukemia cells in the laboratory. In a mouse study, injection of Lunasin into mice implanted with human breast cancer cells reduced tumor incidence by 33 to 49 percent. Galvez also developed a means of protecting the peptide so that sufficient amounts could be absorbed once inside the body.

"I have been excited for years about the enormous potential of the Lunasin peptide," says Galvez. "The bioactive Lunasin has opened the door to a broad range of dramatic health benefits and I am helping the world with affordable solutions."

For more information on the seminar, please contact Larammie & Associates at 1-800-933-3817 or register for free at www.drfredgalvez.com

Philippine Consulate Recognizes HFD Fire Chief

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu awarded a Certificate of Recognition to Honolulu Fire Chief Manuel P. Neves last August 28 at the Consulate.

The ceremony was attended by Consulate officers and staff as well as Neves' friends and colleagues.



Honolulu Fire Chief Manuel P. Neves

Neves is the first fire chief of Filipino ancestry in the fire department's 163-year history. He traces his family history in Hawaii to his paternal grandfather, Vicente Parungao, who immigrated from Badoc, Ilocos Norte to labor in the cane fields of Kauai.

In January 2013, Neves was named

Honolulu's fire chief by the Honolulu Fire Commission. He succeeded former chief Kenneth Silva, who retired in December 2012.

Neves is in charge of more than 1,100 firefighters and 44 fire stations on Oahu. He joined HFD in 1979 and worked his way up the ranks as fire fighter, rescue captain and battalion chief, before becoming an assistant chief in 2006.

A 1972 graduate of Damien High School, Neves earned an Associate's degree in fire science, Bachelor's degree in business administration and a Master's degree in public administration from the University of Hawaii-Manoa.

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ATIBAYEN DAGITI MANNA- LON ITI KAUAUAI KEN TI KAR- BENGANDA NGA AGTALON



Dakami dagiti mannalon iti Kauai. Dakami dagiti karrubayo. Paset daytoy a kumunidad dagiti kaamaanmi.

Adu kadakami ti nagtrabaho iti katalalanan ti Kauai iti adun a kaputotan.

Sumagmamano kadakami ti agpatanor iti natalged, nangato ti kalidadna a maapit a taraon dagiti tattao iti Kauai. Sumagma-mano kadakami ti agmula iti bukbukel a makasapul iti basbassit a danum, basbassit a pestisidio ken makaibunga iti ad-adu iti saan a nalawa a daga. Dagitoy a bukbukel ti agpaay a taraon ti riniwriw a tattao iti aglawlaw ti lubong.

Agsipud ta ditoy Kauai ti pagnaedan, ti panggedan ken timmanoran ti pamiliami, siempre, dakami ti maseknan ti pannakasaluad dagiti dagdaga iti daytoy a puro. Dakkel ti panangilalami iti nakaparsuaan iti aglawlaw ken kayatmi a tagibenen para kadagiti annaktayo ken iti sumaganad a kaputotan.

Ipakatmi ti nadumaduma a natalged a pangsalaknib kadagiti mula ken agaramatkami iti apagisu ken umdas laeng a mamagtalinaed a nasaranta ken awan peste kadagiti mula.

Dagiti ar-aramidenmi ket timtimben- gen ti U.S. Food and Drug Administration, ti Environmental Protection Agency, ken Department of Agriculture. Kasta met nga agnanayon a sipsiputan ti Department of Agriculture ti estado.

Supiatenmi ti County Council Bill 2491, ti gakat a a mabalin a mangduprak iti pagtatalonan ken ti panggedanmi.

Dayta a gakat ket insurat ti tao a saan a mannalon ken nabatad a saan a makaawat no ania ti kasapulan ti panagdakkel ti nasalun-at a mula, awanan insekto, awanan

sakit, ken ruroot. Kangrunaanna unay, daytoy a gakat ket insurat dagiti saan a makaawat iti kasasaad dagiti mannalon iti Kauai.

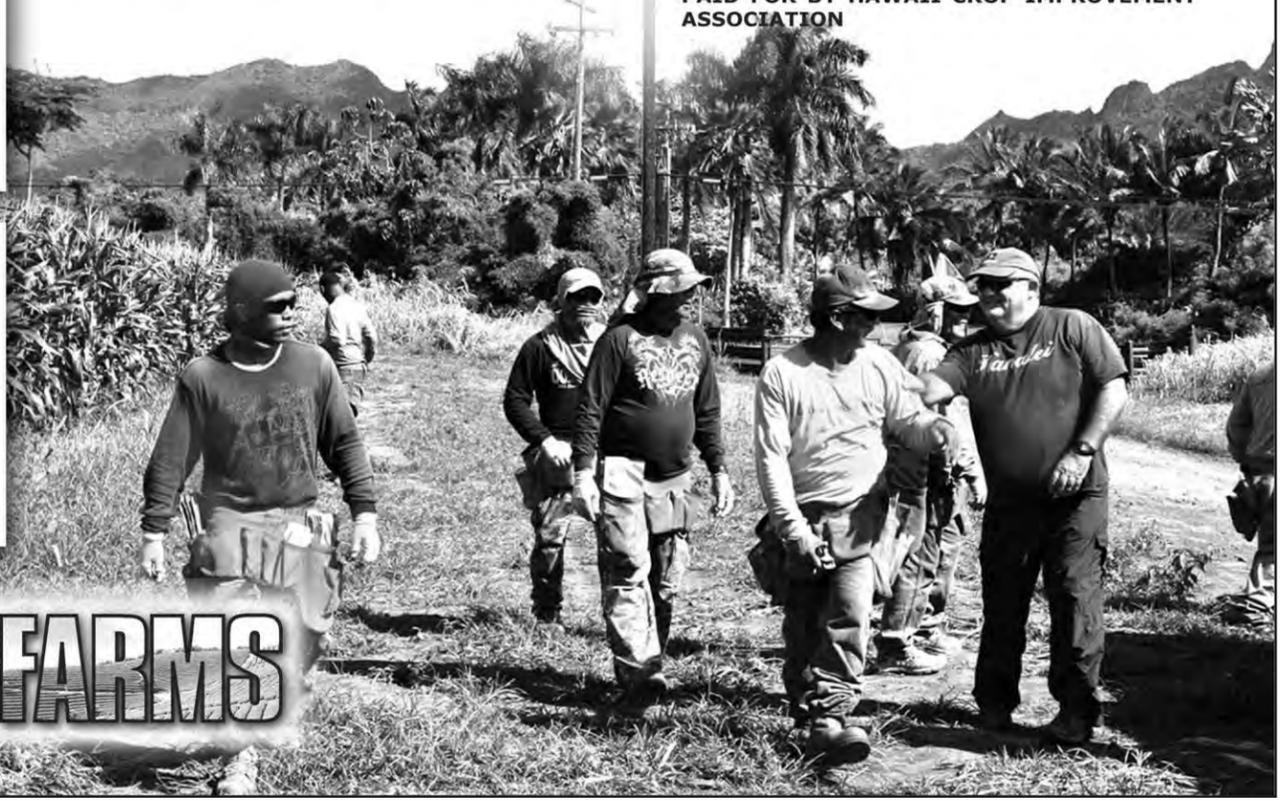
Ikalkalikagummi ti pannakasaluad ti katalalanan ti Kauai babaen ti:

- Panangipakaammo kadagiti umili maipanggep iti wagas nga ar-aramidenmi tapno masaluadan ken natalged ti aglawlaw;
- Aturenmi dagiti saan a pudno a pak-aammo nga iwarwaras dagiti bunggoy nga addaan iti naisangsangayan a kalikagum maipanggep iti panagatalonan;
- Guyugoyenmi ti kaadda ken panagaabay dagiti mannalon nga agar-aramat iti organiko (ganagan ken pestisidio a napartuat manipud iti mula ken animal), ti nakaisigudan ken kadawyan a wagas, ti panagpatanor babaen ti bayotekniko (pannakaaramat iti napartuat a ganagan ken pestisidio, ken ti naglaok a nginabras ti mula tapno nakired manipud iti peste ken ad-adu ti maapit).
- Panangtulong iti industria ti agrikultura, dagiti kapurokan ken dagiti negosiada iti Kauai.

Kasapulanni ti agtultuloy a panangsappupo para iti agrikultura, ti agtultuloy a wagas ti panagbiag a paset ti pannakasangkal iti pagnaedantayo a puro, ti pannakasal-aknib ti minilmillion a dollariar a negosio ken pakainaigan dagiti kompania ditoy, ken ti panangsappupo iti pamastrekan ti Kauai.

Ammuen no kasano ti tumulong. Dumap-aw iti: SaveKauaiFarms.com

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SAVE KAUAUAI FARMS

A Brother's Reflection on Jorge

by Rickie Camara, M.D.



peacefully to her Creator. Jorge had told us that he always wanted to be an only child. Now Jorge has mama all to himself and we hope it stays that way for a long time!

If we imagine life made up of many trails, I was the sib that hiked with or behind Jorge in many of them.

was just as smart and so were more lax with me. Jorge could be naughty too however. I remember when he taught me how to smoke when I was 7 years old. He proudly showed me off to his friends and then told me, "Now, you can't squeal on me to mama and daddy because you smoke too!" So smart!

Jorge was the one who taught me about the birds and the bees. I still remember. I was 9 years old and he used those "bedtime stories"—those small, square booklets with the grainy black and white pictures that you could easily hide from your parents and teachers. Anyway, I'm glad he taught me then because my parents didn't do it until I was 26.

Jorge practically left me alone on the trails in my teenage years as he started his collegiate life. This was fine with me since he already taught me all I needed to know for high school. I could study well, I could smoke (weed too!) and I knew about girls.

Jorge again blazed the trail for me in my pre-med days at the University of the Philippines. I was practically welcomed into the underground political structure of college life as Jorge was a busy student activist and member of the University Student Council in the days of the First Quarter Storm railing against the inequities and injustices of Philippine society at that era. I practically co-opted Jorge's po-

litical slogan of "Rights, Camara, Action" during my own time in the movement. I would not have dared rage against the machine if Jorge hadn't been on that trail before me.

Jorge dropped out of all the political action and his social life to focus solely on his studies when he entered medical school. His academic goal was to top my father's GPA which is the highest ever. Although he didn't achieve that (my father's record still stands), he nevertheless graduated valedictorian of his class...thanks partly to Binky, his wife, who was a year ahead of him and provided him with all the old examination answers. I shared this with Binky before but she still refuses to believe it. Since our voices sounded so similar over the phone, Jorge would have me call Binky during his medical school days to talk to her so that he could focus on his studies. I enjoyed sharing sweet nothings with her!

Our trails separated during our post-graduate residency and fellowship training days. He went to Baylor in Houston, Texas for ophthalmology where he later received an outstanding alumnus award. I had gone to train at the Cleveland Clinic in Psychiatry and it wasn't long after working on staff there that he asked me to check out Honolulu where he had moved to in 1982. We had visions of practicing together—he would deal with sight and me with insight.

And so it was that my family came to follow him on these beautiful island trails in 1992. And you already know of all his outstanding work in patient care, academics and community involvement. All his countless awards and publications speak to this. Taking care of patients and people was what brought him the most satisfaction and happiness. Thank you Hawaii. Thank you all for allowing him to do that and recognizing him for his hard work.

Life gives, life takes. Loss takes its toll. Again we hiked together, maybe more on sep-

arate somewhat lonely trails, as we processed our losses. First of all, TD, my late wife, who passed 8 years ago. Then his beloved son, Augusto, 6 months later. Then mama earlier this year. Sometimes it takes years to emerge whole. Sometimes you never do.

There are no mistakes in life; only lessons. Everything that happens on this plane is God's plan. For everything, everyone, every space, every time is God. The consciousness that we are separate is our fall from grace, our fall from paradise and it takes Jesus, Mama Mary, the saints, and even yogis to remind us that the kingdom is within us if we only just stay awake to that consciousness.

Like you, the siblings have been trying to process the lessons from Jorge's life and make sense of his passing. Bear with me as I share what we came up with.

1. Live your truth. Telling and living lies to yourself is a living hell. The basic truth is that we are God in bodies. Be God. Be peace. Be love. Be light.
2. Accept your flaws and in that way become perfect. Like a rose with thorns.
3. Accept and let go of the past. The present is so precious.
4. The power of the mind. Jorge was blessed with a keen intellect and being a Gemini, he lived in that air plane of thoughts. The mind, a yoga teacher says, can be your best friend or your worst enemy. It can bring you happiness or it can bring you sadness. Your whole perception of what the world is becomes what the world is. So guard carefully, dear readers, your thoughts. What you think becomes what you speak becomes what you do becomes what you are on this plane. The brain is the organ of the mind and therefore the organ of coping; and so illnesses and treatments that affect the brain will

(continued on page 14)

It's already been over a week since Jorge passed. The wound is still fresh; however it has been soothed and primed to heal by the outpouring of love and support at his funeral services last Monday, September 2, 2013. Your presence there was especially important for Jorge's brothers and sisters from Manila and the Mainland who appreciated the impact of his life in our community.

We come from a small Filipino family. Jorge is the eldest of 12 children. In chronological order, there is Sylvia, Crissie, myself, Philip, Mike, Leo, Pinky, Joey, Mando, Lisa and Martin. We truly feel blessed that our souls were brought together to work our collective karma with a wonderful set of parents, Feliciano de Guzman Camara (deceased) and Augusto Oliva Camara.

We are still grieving our mama's loss in February of this year when she went so

We shared a room growing up and just in the last few weeks he mentioned happy memories of our childhood conversations together. He mostly spoke, while I listened. And there was so much to listen to as I always looked up to him. Even in elementary school, Jorge racked up every award and medal there was. In retrospect, maybe he was a hoarder.

I remember watching him on TV when he was in grade 4. You know those game shows where you press the buzzer if you know the answer? It was always his buzzer going off! Jorge was captain of his debate teams in high school and at one point entertained ideas of becoming a lawyer. But he idolized daddy and lucky for us, he chose to become a compassionate and skillful physician as my father was.

Jorge was usually ahead on the trails and he made my path so much easier. Jorge was always at the top of his class and in elementary school at La Salle, teachers assumed that I

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LEGAL NOTES

Criminal Convictions That Can Result in Deportation



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Criminal activity by noncitizens may have immigration consequences. This is true whether they are undocumented aliens, temporary visitors or lawful permanent residents.

For individuals seeking entry or lawful status in the U.S., an admission or proof of criminal conduct could be sufficient for a finding of inadmissibility, whether as an immigrant or nonimmigrant. Individuals who are already admitted in the U.S. generally need a conviction to be considered deportable on crimi-

nal grounds.

Either way, they could find themselves in removal proceedings and ultimately deported to their home country and away from their family in the U.S., which is why deportation is sometimes seen as a worse punishment than imprisonment.

An alien may be deported for conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude committed within five years of admission and which carries a possible sentence of at least one year. Conviction of multiple crimes involving moral turpitude also makes one deportable regardless of when they were committed and whether they resulted from a single trial, as long as they did not arise out of a single scheme

of misconduct.

Crimes involving moral turpitude are those that are "inherently base, vile or depraved, and contrary to the accepted rules of morality." They include crimes against persons (e.g., assault and murder); crimes against property (e.g., robbery); sexual offenses; and crimes related to fraud (e.g., forgery and tax evasion). However, an alien found inadmissible or deportable on this ground may be eligible for relief such as waivers and cancellation of removal.

Aggravated felonies include some fifty general classes of crimes, including murder, rape, sexual abuse of a minor, illicit trafficking in controlled substances or in firearms, and crimes of violence for which

the term of imprisonment is at least one year.

To be an aggravated felony, the crime of violence must involve the use or threat of physical force against the person or property of another, or by its nature involves substantial risk that physical force may be used in the course of committing the offense. Kidnapping, stalking, sexual assault and third degree assault, are examples of crimes that have been held by courts to be crimes of violence.

Offenses involving theft and burglary may constitute an aggravated felony if the term of imprisonment is at least one year. On the other hand, in a fraud and deceit offense the length of imprisonment is not what makes it an aggravated felony but rather the elements of the offense and the dollar amount of the victim's loss, which must exceed \$10,000.

Unlike crimes of moral turpitude, an aggravated felony conviction bars many forms of relief, including asylum, cancellation of removal, and voluntary departure. An alien convicted of an aggravated felony and is physically removed from the U.S. also becomes permanently inadmissible, although there is waiver for this particular ground. In most deportability

grounds, the DHS must prove "conviction". Conviction for immigration purposes means a formal judgment of guilt of the alien entered by a court. If the adjudication of guilt has been withheld, the judge or jury must have found the alien guilty, or the alien has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or has admitted sufficient facts to warrant a finding of guilt, and the judge has ordered to be imposed some form of punishment, penalty or restraint on the alien's liberty.

Under certain circumstances, however, conviction is not even needed to subject the alien to removal. Mere admission of criminal activity is enough if certain factors are met. First, the conduct must constitute a crime under the law of the place where it was committed. Second, the noncitizen must admit to conduct that constitutes moral turpitude. Third, the alien must be provided with a definition of the crime before he can make a valid admission to a crime of moral turpitude or involving a controlled substance. Finally, the admission must be freely made and voluntary.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

PHILIPPINE NEWS

CBCP: Sept 7 Day of Atonement for Corruption

by Louis Bacani
Friday, September 6, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - In the wake of the alleged P10-billion pork barrel scam, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) is urging the nation to atone for graft and corruption which it described as "immoral" and a "social cancer."

In a pastoral statement, the CBCP said it is "immoral" to continue the pork barrel as it is a "fertile ground" for graft and corruption.

"Promoting the politics of patronage, it is contrary to the principles of stewardship, transparency and accountability. It is immoral to continue this practice," the CBCP said.

It said "God has been offended" by the citizens and elected public officials tagged into the controversy since they have violated the Commandments against lying and stealing.

The CBCP has urged the public to make September 7 as a day of atonement for these



"sins against peace" in the country.

"Stealing destroys peace. Lying harms our peace. Government corruption is an act of terrorism against our poor and our children," the CBCP said.

"Our first response to the pork barrel issue must be not protest but contrition. We are not just victims of a corrupt system. We have all, in one way or another, contributed to this worsening social cancer—through our indifferent silence or through our cooperation when we were benefiting from the sweet cake of graft and corruption."

The alleged pork barrel scam involves the transfer of lawmakers' Priority Development Assistance Fund

(PDAF) to bogus non-government organizations (NGOs) for ghost projects.

The Commission on Audit (COA) revealed in a special report that nearly 200 legislators coursed over P6 billion to 82 NGOs, several of which were reportedly dubious.

Some of these NGOs have been linked to businesswoman Janet Lim-Napoles, the alleged pork barrel scam mastermind.

Napoles has been detained at Fort Sto. Domingo in Laguna after surrendering to President Benigno Aquino III last week in connection with the serious illegal detention charges filed against her by scam whistle-blower Benhur Luy.

(www.philstar.com)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Philippines
San Marcelino, Zambales
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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Phi Preparing Protest vs China Over Shoal Posts

by Paolo Romero
Friday, September 6, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines will protest China's construction of facilities in Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal after the military reported spotting scores of concrete blocks in the disputed territory.

Speaking before members of the House of Representatives, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Evan Garcia said the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is studying the report of the Department of National Defense (DND) on the sighting.

In the report, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said sea and aerial patrols sighted three Chinese coast guard vessels and 75 concrete blocks scattered all over the shoal last Aug. 31.

It could be the start of the construction of a garrison and other facilities, the report added.

At the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Ambassador to Beijing Erlinda Basilio was called home for consultations and review of Philippines-China relations.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday Basilio will return to Beijing tomorrow.

"We had a review of Philippines-China relations and I think she will be returning to post either tomorrow or latest Saturday," Del Rosario said in a text message.

Basilio arrived on Tuesday from Nanning, the venue of the 10th ASEAN-China Expo (CAEXPO).

At Camp Aguinaldo, Gazmin and Japanese Minister-in-Charge of Ocean Policy and Territorial Issues Ichita Yamamoto agreed yesterday that force must not be used to change the status quo in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea).

Through an interpreter,

Yamamoto told reporters: "We shared the view that any country should not pursue to change status quo unilaterally by force. Also the establishment of the rule of law is very, very important."

"The establishment of rule of law is a very important agenda which requires the close cooperation between Japan and the Philippines and we would like to continue to cooperate with the Philippines in order to send strong messages to international community."

Yamamoto declined to comment when asked whether Japan plans to send assets to the Philippines.

"However, I believe that the recent visit by Defense Minister Onodera set (the) quality (of the) path on the future between Japan and the Philippines and I believe that further cooperation will be promoted," he said.

Yamamoto declined to comment on whether the increased US presence in the Philippines would promote regional stability.

"Whether the increased American presence will contribute to the strengthening security environment for the Philippines is primarily an issue to be answered by the government of the Philippines," he said. (www.philstar.com)

COVER STORY (from page 12, A BROTHER...)

affect the ability to cope and think positively.

- The quality of life is how peaceful, balanced and joyful you feel inside. The quality of your life is not based on the clothes you wear, the car you drive, the house you live in. Those are comforts and conveniences. Don't mistake it for happiness and quality of life.

The family is comforted that Jorge worked on all those lessons in the last few months. He started opening up to us and sharing his truth. In doing so, he was able to accept the truth in others. He began to talk fondly of his childhood years and got to know better especially the younger sibs as there was such a big age gap.

My younger brother Joey, who owns restaurants in

Manila, shared a recent trip of Jorge to Manila. Upon telling Jorge that he was putting up a new restaurant, Jorge gave this fabulous bit of advice for customer service. He advised Joey to incorporate the word "love" in the greetings that the servers and waiters would use. Things like, "It was 'lovely' having you as a customer..." "The dish you chose is so lovely..." We would 'love' to see you again." Yes, love an-

swers all.

Most of all, Jorge really felt the love of his wife, Binky. He was so blessed to have had her there with him throughout the years. Mama was right when she said there is probably no one else who could have done what she had done for him. She will always be a sister to me and I look forward to working with her in showering the world with Jorge's, Augusto's and TD's love. Binky (Valdes) also comes from a small Filipino family (11 of them), and their home was practically Jorge's second home during college.

I'd like to especially acknowledge Jorge's second family—the wonderful Camara Eye Clinic staff. Jorge was so proud of them. He talked of them like they were his children and he cared for them like they were. Jorge would not have been able to deliver the kind of excellence in patient care that he demanded without his staff. And thanks to Drs. David Mai and Michael Bennett, the Camara Eye Clinic will continue to see patients and carry on Jorge's legacy. Please allow his staff to continue to serve you in the way Jorge thought best.

The funeral services seem like a blur to me now; coming and going in an emotional cloud. I am so appreciative and thankful for everyone who worked so hard and diligently over a holiday weekend to give

Jorge the send-off he deserves.

To name a few—Father Frank and the Star of the Sea; Derwin and staff from Nuuanu Memorial Park and Mortuary Services; Flowers for You; the Carval caterers; J.P. and the Doctors on Stage; and all his fellow physicians and friends who pitched in at the last minute to provide resources and support.

The family was comforted by all of you who joined us at the reception to not just mourn a death, but to celebrate a life. It allowed for grief to find expression; for sorrow to speak. Jorge has finished his work on Earth. God needs him for something else. On a higher plane, he can now see as God sees and he can love as God loves.

Jorge, goodbye on this plane, on this trail. I hope you understand if I'm a little pissed. Who am I supposed to hike with now? A man is walking down a trail. But the trail is inside the man. I'll end this piece with a yoga blessing: "The Divine in me recognizes and honors the Divine in you. I greet you from that place where you and I are One." Namaste.

DR. RICKIE CAMARA is a Board-Certified psychiatrist and Bikram Yoga teacher. He teaches yoga classes at Bikram Yoga Honolulu and has a yoga-aligned health coaching and counseling practice. You can hear him on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Fridays of the month at 8am on KNDI with Dr. Danilo Ablan and Flor Martinez. Email him at rckieyogamed@pixi.com.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND UNIT MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL, RE-AFFIRMATION AND INSTALLATION BANQUET • SUNDAY • October 6, 2013, 6 PM • Pacific Beach Hotel • For reservations and more information, please call Angie Santiago (542-1418), Baybee Hufana-Ablan (723-1473) or Loida Yamamoto (679-9540)".

UFCH MRS. HAWAII FILIPINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT • SUNDAY • October 13, 2013, \$60 Donation • Ala Moana Hotel • For details email pr.ufch@gmail.com

GLOBAL NAGUILIANDERS ALLIANCE NETWORK REUNION & DINNER DANCE • SATURDAY • October 26, 2013, 6 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Eddie Baladad @ 341-5047

FILCOM CENTER'S 11TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER AND FUNDRAISER EVENT • SATURDAY • November 9, 2013, 5:30 PM • FilCom Center, Waipahu • Visit www.filcom.org for more information

UFCH REAFFIRMATION AND PROGRESS AWARDS • SATURDAY • November 23, 2013 • For details and nomination forms, email pr.ufch@gmail.com

UFCH WORKSHOP AND 1ST BOARD MEETING FOR 2013-2014 ADMINISTRATION • SUNDAY • November 24, 2013 • For details email pr.ufch@gmail.com

50TH FOUNDATION & GALA CELEBRATION DINNER & BALL OF CABUGAO SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWAII • SATURDAY • December 7, 2013, 6 PM • Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa • Contact: Mercedes Sonico, 258-9573 or 842-7149

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GLOBAL NEWS

PHL Embassy Reminds Filipino Community in Malaysia to Secure Proper Documentation in Light of Campaign Against Illegal Migrants

The Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur advised Filipino nationals to fully complete their immigration documentation and always carry proper identification documents in light of the Malaysian government's crackdown on undocumented foreign nationals.

"We wish to remind our Filipino nationals to have proper documents, notably work permit or passport with valid visa, and carry it with them in case of immigration checks, in order to avoid in-

convenience. Also, Filipinos who wish to enter Malaysia for work should have approved work permits or similar papers as they start their jobs here," Ambassador J. Eduardo Malaya said.

The Ambassador made the call as he and Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig visited Jalan Tun Tan Cheng Lock and other places frequented by Filipinos in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysian authorities started on September 01 a crackdown against undocumented foreigners, involving

personnel from different government agencies which has resulted so far in 2,433 foreign nationals arrested. According to news reports, they are mostly Indonesians nationals (717), Myanmar nationals (555), Bangladeshi nationals (387), and Nepali nationals (229).

Last Monday, September 02, Ambassador Malaya called on Minister for Home Affairs Dato' Sri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and exchanged views on the concerns of Filipinos in Malaysia, including

access to education by Filipino

school-aged children. Ambassador Malaya also requested humane treatment for Filipinos who may be affected by the campaign against illegal immigrants. The Ambassador was accompanied during the call at Minister Zahid Hamidi's office in Putrajaya by Consul General Macaraig, First Secretary and Consul Ma. Antonina M. Oblena and Police Attaché Charlo C. Collado.

"To ensure that our nation-

als have the proper documents, the Embassy continuously undertakes mobile consular missions particularly in Sabah, where we provide not just passports but also birth documentations for our nationals there." Ambassador Malaya added.

The consular missions have visited Kota Kinabalu, Lahad Datu, Semporna, Tawau, Kudat, Keningau, Kota Marudu, Sandakan and other areas. (www.asianjournal.com)

COVER STORY (from page 8, THE INCOMPARABLE...)

not close to him, you liked him immediately when you met him at first instance. Such was the power of his charisma, the dynamism of his personality, and he had such a great sense of humor to boot.

Another trait of his that you found appealing was his simplicity and childlike innocence. One time he and Richard Pesson and I were having dinner at Jorge's favorite hangout - the Goma Tei restaurant - in Ward Warehouse. He had been in the shopping center earlier checking out a shirt to wear to his next party. After dinner, he asked me to accompany him to see the shirt he had chosen, but wanted a second opinion. He took it out of the rack, put it in front of him as though to model it, and he

kept saying, "OK ba, Lindy, not too loud?" For a while, I thought maybe I looked like an approving mother, which I probably unconsciously was, and I quickly replied, "Not at all and very OK! It is colorful, but somehow it expresses you!" And he laughed heartily and bought it flat out.

What more can I say? He was like a perfect human being in an imperfect world.

It's extremely heartbreaking and painful that you are no longer around, Jorge. And how we will miss you to no end! I wish you had been around much longer in our midst to continue sharing with us your wonderful God-given gifts and talents.

But you always loved the term and concept "Journey" in

your never-ending quest for perfection. Obviously, you had come to what you thought was your Final Journey in life. You had arrived far more than we ordinary mortals you left behind have reached.

And in your own way it was time to start a new Journey in another realm, where the ultimate quest for perfection and happiness that had eluded you in life would be yours forever.

(DR. AQUINO, currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, was the UP Vice President for Public Affairs (1989-91), Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Awardee of UPAA (2008), and Most Distinguished UP Alumna (2003). She finished a BA in English from UP, an MA from the University of Hawaii from Manoa and Ph.D from Cornell University)



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