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EDITORIALS

Honoring Our Veterans

It's been said that the history of a nation is often written by the blood of its heroes. This saying is especially true for the United States of America and the Philippines, two nations with inter-twining histories. Thanks to the heroic actions of their brave men and women, Filipinos and Americans today live as free citizens.

It's safe to say that every Filipino born in the Philippines during the past century owes a debt of gratitude to those veterans who fought against Japanese occupation during World War II. America is also indebted to these brave Filipino nationals, as well as the thousands of Filipino-Americans who were already living in the U.S. but petitioned to join the U.S. military. Their military service not only helped to win the war, but also shortened its duration, limited the financial cost and spared the lives of many more Americans who most likely would have died or suffered injuries had it not been for Filipinos' involvement.

So this Veteran's Day, when we honor our nation's war heroes, let's not forget our Filipino-American veterans—living and dead. Parades, banquets and other public events are held to thank veterans for their service. Such events serve that purpose, but so do personal gestures of thanks. Instead of letting this day come and go like so many other national holidays, consider giving extra thought as how you can show your appreciation to veterans. If you know a veteran—reach out to him or her and thank them for all they have done on behalf of this nation. Better yet, pay a visit to a Filipino-American veteran and convey your personal thanks. Or if you see someone in uniform, give him or her a hug, shake their hand or offer to pick up the check at the grocery store or restaurant. If you're not the type to do such things, then just say a simple prayer for them and their families. These simple acts will mean more than you know and it's the very least we can do. Whatever you decide, make sure to do something special to make a veteran happy this Veteran's Day.

The Government Has No Business Tracking Our Phone And Internet Use

Apparently Big Brother is watching us and George Orwell's classic novel 1984 is proving to be more prophetic than believed.

Ordinary citizens such as you and I, foreign citizens, as well as international leaders are all potential targets of spying by the United States' National Security Agency (N.S.A.)

Former CIA employee and N.S.A. contractor Edward Snowden, puts it this way: "Today, no telephone in America makes a call without leaving a record with the N.S.A. Today, no internet transaction enters or leaves America without passing through the N.S.A.'s hands."

Snowden is an American computer specialist who disclosed classified details of the inner-workings of N.S.A.'s mass surveillance programs. He was charged with espionage and theft of government property and is now in exile in Russia. He is a controversial figure. Some hail his bravery as a whistleblower and applauds his actions, including former president Jimmy Carter. Others consider him a traitor who has caused irreparable damage to U.S. intelligence.

Among the more controversial findings, Snowden reveals the N.S.A. collects metadata that traces telephone records by using tracking interceptor programs such as PRISM, XKeyscore and Tempora, as well as traces internet records of ordinary citizens through major internet companies such as Google, Yahoo,

FROM THE PUBLISHER

If there was ever a time to pray for the Philippines, now is it. At press time, Super Typhoon Haiyan, a Category 5 storm with winds of up to 195 mph, slammed into the Central Visayas. The timing of Haiyan could not have been worse, particularly for the Visayan region, which is still recovering from the powerful 7.1 magnitude quake that rocked the area last month. Weather forecasters expect Haiyan to exit the Philippines sometime on Saturday, November 8th, but not before leaving a swath of chaos and destruction in its wake.

Chaos of a different kind reigned at the State Capitol where over 5,000 people packed joint House Judiciary & Finance committee hearings on a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage. Marathon hearings were held over several days, with supporters and opponents passionately speaking on Senate Bill 1. The measure was passed by both committees and later by the full House by a surprisingly comfortable 30-18 vote, with three lawmakers absent. The full House is expected to hold a third and final reading on the bill sometime next week. Even if SB 1 is passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor, a circuit court judge has agreed to hear a challenge to the bill, so don't expect a quick resolution to the highly-contentious issue anytime soon.

In other news, November 11th is Veterans Day—a time to thank all the brave members of our armed forces for their service in defense of this great country. The Filipino community has planned a luncheon on November 16 to honor Filipino-American veterans of World War II. We hope you can attend this special event which may be the last hurrah and the final time to witness a large gathering of Fil-Am veterans. Many of them are sickly and nearing the twilight of their lives. Please read our cover story beginning on page 4 for more about the luncheon as well as the struggles of our courageous Fil-Am veterans. Also, the documentary film "Untold Triumph" will be shown on November 17 to the public at 5:30 pm at Pearl Harbor.

Speaking of courage, I think you'll find our story on page 13 about Emme Tomimbang very inspiring. Contributing writer Dr. Belinda Aquino recently interviewed the veteran newscaster, who spoke about the recent challenges in her life that she courageously faced and overcame. Ms. Tomimbang will be the guest of honor at a gala dinner and fundraiser scheduled at the FilCom Center on November 9. Turn to page 8 for more on this special event, which has been sold-out.

In closing, thank you for picking up this latest issue of the Chronicle.

Until next time...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Microsoft, Apple and Skype. But spying is not just relegated to domestic spying in the U.S., but global leaders are now claiming that they too have been targets by the N.S.A. Thirty-five world leaders from France, Mexico, Germany, Brazil, China, and Spain condemned the N.S.A.'s spying practices.

Most prominent among the world leaders putting pressure on President Barack Obama and the N.S.A. is German Chancellor Angela Merkel, leader of Germany and of Europe's most powerful economy. Merkel has made personal calls to Obama questioning him about claims that her cell phone had been monitored by the N.S.A. from as far back as 2002.

The Spanish government is seeking answers to N.S.A.'s re-



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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

For me, the highlight of the recently concluded Filipino American History month had to be actually hearing the voice of Filipino American labor leader Larry Itliong, 100 years after his birth.

I didn't have a fancy Ouija board. I just had access to tapes of Itliong made by students at UC Santa Cruz in 1976, a year before Itliong died.

The tapes reveal a tough, but principled man, who led the way in 1965 at the Delano Grape Strike, but rarely gets the credit. Instead, Cesar Chavez gets the glory, over-

Filipino American Labor Leader Larry Itliong Speaks 37 Years After his Death

shadowing Itliong.

Once the strike was won in 1970, Itliong became VP of the United Farm Workers, Chavez became president. But Itliong left in 1971, a result of disagreements with Chavez on how Filipinos were treated.

The AFL-CIO didn't want him to quit. On the tape, Itliong tells the students he was offered money.

"A lot want to buy me off," Itliong told the students. "One of the biggest organizations that I grew up with in this country offered me \$200,000."

Itliong described the offer: "They said, Larry Itliong, we know you need money. You're doing a good job in California. We'll give you \$200,000 to do whatever you want to do."

But then he described the conditions.



Larry Itliong

He was told, the money would be his... "if you're going to help Cesar Chavez run the service center," he says on the tape. "Just the implication that I'm supporting Cesar Chavez, they want to give me \$200,000."

It was as if the union acknowledged how badly Itliong was needed to unify the two biggest groups in the fields, the Mexicans and the Filipinos.

"You know what I tell them," he said. "I don't need that \$200,000. I can eat rice and pusit (squid), bagong (anchovy paste), mango. I don't need \$200,000."

He said young Pinoys with him were amazed at the time by his refusal.

"I said, \$200,000 to sell out my countrymen?" Itliong asked rhetorically. "I figure we have about 350,000 [Filipinos] in California. That's only \$200,000. That's not even \$1 dollar a head. No, I don't want your money. If I want to sell my countrymen, then give me \$50 million—I'll take it."

So Itliong did name his price, but as he told the story, he laughed with the students in the seminar. "Do you want to buy my countrymen, give me \$50 million?"

Itliong said it wasn't an isolated instance either.

On the tape, Itliong talks of being offered \$50,000 to back the presidential run of Hubert H. Humphrey. (Itliong didn't do it because Humphrey wasn't his candidate, though he did not say who was).

Even the Catholic Church, wanted Itliong as a consultant.

But the way Itliong saw it, he was a man of principle who couldn't be bought.

Hearing the tapes again at their first-ever public showcase practically moved Debbie Paganiban Louie to tears. She'd only played the tapes twice 37 years after she recorded her UC Santa Cruz seminar in 1976.

But the lessons were already deeply ingrained in her from the start.

"His courage and wisdom in fighting for equality and justice for Filipinos and work-

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EDITORIALS (from page 2, THE GOVERNMENT...)

cent collection of data on 60 million telephone calls in Spain.

Adding tension to U.S. relations with the international community, Russia in defiant action, brushed aside pleas and warnings from President Obama by granting Snowden temporary asylum. White House press secretary Jay Carney said of Kremlin's decision: "We are extremely disappointed that the Russian Federation would take this step."

How Legal Is Government Spying?

Domestic spying has always been targeted at suspicious individuals. But following the 9/11 terroristic attack, President George W. Bush signed the USA Patriot Act that allowed secret snooping at an unprecedented, massive level. But the types of practices and under what circumstances deemed to be legal under the Patriot Act is not very clear.

Snowden uses his interpretation of the 4th and 5th Amendments of the Constitution, Article 12 of the Univer-

sal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other statutes, to justify his actions, claiming that massive surveillance as those he employed under the N.S.A. are illegal. He says "while the U.S. Constitution marks these programs as illegal, my (U.S.) government argues that secret court rulings, which the world is not permitted to see, somehow legitimizes an illegal affair.

In light of the international embarrassment surrounding N.S.A.'s spying practices, U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, is considering bills that would clarify spying practices, make the N.S.A. more transparent, add oversight by Congress, and add some privacy safeguards.

S1467 would add a "Special Advocate" to argue for individual rights to be heard before the intelligence court. Right now, only governments, have this right.

S1551 goes further and would end bulk data collection of Americans' phone calls and limit the surveillance of online

data.

House bill H.R. 2818 calls for repealing the Patriot Act that allows online data collection. It would also require a probable cause warrant to collect information on Americans.

Germany and France are pushing for a new code of conduct for U.S. intelligence agencies in Europe, claiming that the trust had been broken with this latest spying scandal.

Balance Is Fair

Following this aftermath of one of the most publicized intelligence leaks in U.S. history, perhaps it's time for lawmakers to revisit aspects of the Patriot Act. Americans must engage in this debate to find the proper limits of government surveillance.

We need to find a balance between surveillance programs that will protect us from acts of terrorism and protect us from unnecessary intrusions into our private lives, as well as the lives of our global, leader-allies. When Americans supported the passage of the Patriot Act, they were proba-

bly unaware of the trade-offs to privacy we would encounter, how far it would go into phone and internet monitoring, or even how long these surveillance programs would last.

For the majority of law-abiding citizens, perhaps surveillance would not lead to any criminal reprimands. But

the fact that such a system exists in which all our communication is recordable, who's to say what kind of abuse could take place in the future when our private information falls into the wrong hands. In our society where freedom is sacrosanct, spying with no justifiable cause somehow just doesn't fit in with our values as



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COVER STORY

Filipino Community to Honor Fil-Am Veterans of World War II

By HFC Staff

“W

e remember the war. We fought very hard. When our comrades die, we are very sorrowful, because we feel it. So let us just face it. Time is very fast going on.”— Filipino veteran, 89 years old

These words were spoken by an unnamed Filipino veteran, who was among the 260,000 young Filipino men who responded to President Roosevelt’s call-to-arms and willingly fought under the American flag during World War II.

Many Filipinos made the ultimate sacrifice as soldiers in the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East or as guerilla fighters during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. They bravely did so, with the promise of receiving the same health, pension and other benefits as their American comrades. However, Congress passed the Rescission Act in 1946, which stripped these brave Filipino soldiers of their promised benefits.

A Look Back

For decades, the veterans and their supporters lobbied

Congress for full recognition and long-overdue benefits. The World War II Filipino-American Veterans & Ladies Auxiliary, which was organized in 1993, worked in close coordination for the immediate passage of any and all pending Filipino veterans benefit bills that provided equity benefits, compensation, pension and full recognition for Filipino veterans.

“We were requested to participate and render our oral testimony during public hearings to justify and support the passage of legislation either at the State Legislature or City Council,” recalls veteran Art Caleda, former president of the Fil-Am Veterans Auxiliary.

In July 1998, a delegation of 39 Filipino veterans led by Col. Eduardo C. Mina and former State Rep. Jun Abinsay joined a week-long rally

at the nation’s capital. One of the veterans, Rizal Agbayani, exhausted from the relentless testimony, rallies and speeches, died the night before the group returned to Hawaii.

Hawaii’s congressional delegation—the Late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka, former U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie and the late U.S. Rep. Patsy Mink—all gave their personal commitment to support bills on behalf of the veterans.

After two decades, President Barack Obama in 2009 signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) which provided a one-time, lump sum payment of \$15,000 for qualified Filipino veterans in the U.S. and \$9,000 for those in the Philippines.

Caleda called it a “breakthrough” and “victory won.” He thanked the late U.S. Sen. Inouye for championing for the inclusion of the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund into ARRA.

Aged Warriors

Presently, the numbers of these aged warriors continue to dwindle, with many of them in their 90s. Only a handful attend reunions and other annual gatherings, which once bustled with activities and excitement. According to Caleda, the World War II Fil-Am Veterans & Ladies Auxiliary still meets monthly and continues to promote unity, friendship and brotherhood among Filipino veterans in Hawaii.

Over the years, sickness and old age took a toll on the



Photo courtesy of www.sfgate.com



Fil-Am veterans prepare to march in Waipahu during the Oahu Sugar Plantation’s 100th Anniversary celebration in 1997

group’s 1,000 strong membership, which has since dwindled to 600 members. Many members decided to move back to the Philippines after receiving their \$15,000 lump sum benefits. Currently, the group has only 15 active members.

Caleda himself is in decent shape, all things considered, except for a constant pain in his leg. At age 21, Caleda served as a guerilla intelligence officer for the Intelligence Service Company of the 11th Infantry Regiment, U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines, Northern Luzon. He arrived in Hawaii from the Philippines in July 1992 under the Immigration & Nat-

uralization Act of 1990.

Luncheon For Fil-Am Vets

To honor these aged warriors, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH) and the Filipino American WW II Veterans Celebration Committee will host a celebration luncheon on November 16, 2013 at the Filipino Community Center in from 10 am to 2 pm. The event will pay tribute to the heroic sacrifices of these veterans who fought to liberate their homeland and preserve freedom. Funds raised by the luncheon will be allocated to the Veterans Special Account, which will help provide fi-

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Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

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

nancial assistance to veterans who may need aid with funeral and burial needs. On November 17th, veterans will tour the USS Arizona and enjoy a special viewing of the documentary "An Untold Triumph." The public is invited.

The veterans' luncheon also marks two special events. First, it is the 10th anniversary of a special monument erected at the FilCom Center which stands as a testament to the courage and sacrifices of the Filipino veterans. In 2003, then Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris earmarked \$50,000 for the Filipino-American Memorial Monument. Secondly, it is the 20th anniversary of the World War II Fil-Am Veterans & Ladies Auxiliary.

Organizers have also prepared a special souvenir booklet which chronicles the history of service that Filipino-Americans dedicated themselves to during the war. Each veteran will receive a copy of the souvenir booklet.

Organizers for the special luncheon for the veterans, expect up to 250 attendees. They encourage the Filipino community to come out and support the veterans.

"This is an opportunity to honor our veterans for their sacrifices," says Abby Shaw. "We are proud of them and how they have become, in their short time in Hawaii, very engaged, influential and exemplary citizens."

The Struggle Continues

As of October 1, 2013, over \$224 million has been awarded from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation (FVEC) Fund to eligible Filipino Veterans. The government has also established an interagency working group to review the applications of veterans who believed that their claims were improperly denied or that they did not receive a satisfactory explanation as to why their claims were denied.

Veteran Art Caleda received his equity payment but still hopes to obtain what was promised by the U.S. government—full benefits given to



Hawaii's Filipino veterans wait to meet with U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono's staff to seek her support for the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011 (HR 210)

all U.S. veterans.

"That will satisfy our struggle for justice and fairness," he says.

According to Arturo Garcia, national coordinator for Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV), it's status quo regarding the veterans' fights for equity rights.

"They are still unrecognized and are NOT considered as American Veterans," Garcia says. "The veterans are fighting for lifetime pensions for them and their survivors and lump sum claims for widows/survivors of departed veterans."

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz introduced the bipartisan Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2013 which gives Filipino veterans the recognition and benefits that they deserve.

"I worked to find Senate and House partners across the aisle to support the bill and move it forward," he says. "I had an opportunity to testify before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs about this important legislation earlier this year, and my colleagues on the Committee continue to consider the legislation. I will keep fighting for this bill to become law."

In the U.S. Senate, Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois introduced the Benefits Fairness for Filipino Veterans Act of 2013, which U.S. Rep. Schatz co-sponsored. The bill would fix a current flawed Department of Veterans Affairs rule that cuts Filipino veterans benefits by half if they spend more than 60 days at a time or more than 183 days in a calendar year outside the U.S. Instead, this bill would allow Filipino veterans to receive 100 percent of their benefits provided they are not outside

the country for more than 365 days in a calendar year.

"What our Filipino veterans are asking for is simple and straightforward—to be recognized for the service that they performed for the U.S. during the Second World War, and to have access to the benefits that they were promised," Schatz says. "I am committed to advancing their interests and ensuring that they are recognized as American veterans."

"All of our veterans deserve to be recognized for their service, regardless of whether they served as a Filipino Scout during the Second World War or Marine Scout Sniper in Afghanistan. They are all American veterans."

Veterans are also hoping that citizenship for their sons and daughters will be fast-tracked under immigration reform measures now being debated by Congress. U.S. Rep. Coleen Hanabusa's bill for family reunification passed without opposition in the Senate but faces uncertainty in the Republican-controlled House.

If the immigration reform bill is



The late State Sen. Calvin Kawamoto (top row, 4th from left), poses with Fil-Am veterans beside a memorial at the Oahu Sugar Plantation in 2002 to honor the 100th Anniversary of Filipino migration in Hawaii. (L to R) Richard Bibilone, Frederico Caluya, Jose Saromines, Domingo Los Banos, Ernie Sombrero, Pedro Tampon and Ben Acido. (kneeling) Guillermo Alejo and Abelino Bagayas

approved, Garcia says at least 20,000 veterans will benefit.

"It will allow veterans' grandchildren to reunify with their grandparents," Garcia says. "This means a lot for many veterans who've had a long wait for visas."

Among these veterans is Caleda, who is still awaiting the arrival of two more of his adult-aged children. Four are already here in the U.S. Before he reaches the end of his life, Caleda only wishes one thing—to be reunited with all

of his children and that they have a successful and stable life.

Shaw says the Filipino community owes it to these veterans to keep alive the memory of their sacrifices.

"Throughout all these years, hope is what has sustained them," Shaw says. "We can never say enough thank-you's. Now, in their elder years we need to assure them that we will continue to advocate for their rights and benefits."

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OPINION

Filing Plunder Charges Against 'Pork' Thieves Should Not Be This Slow

NO LIMITATION
by Ted Laguatan

O have high respects for Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales but her statement that it will take "less than a year" before she can file charges against the pork barrel thieves bothers me. It appears to suggest that it will take about a year for her to file charges. Given the massive thefts of the people's money and the public outrage involved, a year is just too obscenely long.

Understandably, a prosecutor wants to put together a case that he (or she) can win. Some cases are more difficult than others, especially when there is a lack of uncertainty as to what actually happened, who actually committed the crime and if the evidence is insufficient. In such cases, more investigation and more evidence are needed in order to successfully prosecute a suspect.

Of course, notions of fairness to a suspect and due process rights also come into play in democratic societies. Ethically, a prosecutor should objectively examine not only evidence that suggests guilt but also that which exonerates.

But essentially, these pork barrel scam cases are not really that difficult to prosecute. What happened over 10 years is quite clear. The pattern of wrongdoing or modus operandi utilized by the suspects over the years repeated itself regularly. The accused senators, congressmen, other public officials and supporting conspirators and abettors were essentially repeatedly engaged in the same identifiable pattern of wrongdoing: Legislators and other officials regularly channeled their allocated pork barrel funds to so called non-government organizations (NGOs) for supposed publicly beneficial projects.

These NGOs ran by Janet Lim Napoles were revealed to be straw organizations and the projects turned out to be non-existent ghost paper creations. Huge amounts of money were regularly released to the Napoles NGOs over a period of 10 years or so. Napoles would pocket a certain percentage which in many cases amounted to 30 percent of the total and kicked the rest or the 70 percent back to the lawmakers and other public officials or to their agents. The others who were also accused by the Department of Justice are bureau-

crats who were bribed by Napoles to facilitate the unconscionable transactions.

The bottom line: Public moneys amounting to billions meant to benefit the people were repeatedly efficiently systematically stolen by so called public servants eventually winding up in their pockets or bank accounts or those of their bagmen and Napoles.

It's incredible how a woman who grew up in the province with only two years of college in an ordinary school was able to smoothly run this incredible scam for 10 years involving massive amounts of money with the participation of powerful politicians and other officials. The scam would not have been exposed if her relative, Benhur Luy, had not blown the whistle and gave the details on her shady operations.

Napoles may not have acquired an MBA from Wharton to learn how to make money, but she definitely understood human greed and used this like a skilled puppet master to make senators, congressmen and others dance to her dark music.

Successfully prosecuting suspects is a matter of identifying them, showing their malicious intentions by demonstrating their criminal modus operandi and presenting credible and sufficient evidence against them. In the Philippines, a very important extra element is having an honest conduct of the trial – especially when moneyed influential defendants are involved.

The necessary damning information as well as evidence in the form of witness statements and voluminous paper trails including bank accounts are already in the possession of the Ombudsman. It has been about three months now since the pork barrel scam investigations were initiated by the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman. Why should it take any longer to file charges of plunder

against the suspects?

Secretary of Justice Leila de Lima has already submitted a list of suspects and various evidence to the Office of the Ombudsman indicating probable cause that serious crimes were committed by the suspects including and especially plunder – a no bail offense.

To her credit, Ombudsman Morales had announced that to speed up the cases, she organized three teams to investigate and analyze the cases. I take it that her "less than a year" statement to analyze and investigate these cases before she can file charges – was made not to reflect actual reality but just a media statement guesstimate to allow her a generous wiggle room time before she actually files the plunder and other cases.

At this point, the pattern of wrongdoing is already clearly established. The volumes of records from Commission on Audit Chairperson Grace Tan Pulido and whistleblower Benhur Luy and others and their testimonies – should be credible and sufficient evidence to now file the cases. Investigations for more information and evidence, if still needed, does not have to stop as the cases proceed. If she anticipates delays because her office lacks logistical support and she needs funding for additional competent (and honest) investigators and prosecutors, she should exert all efforts to acquire this. These Pork Barrel cases are of supreme importance to the life of the nation.

The President has just a little more than 950 days in office. He, more than anyone else, should know the limited time left – to successfully prosecute the wrongdoers. In the future, his presidency will be judged by the way he handled these terrible Pork Barrel crimes against the people. If the "wrong" President sits in 2016 and these cases are not yet completed, the probability is that these cases will be dropped or the wrongdoers pardoned.

The alleged plunderers are actually on the defensive. Caught red handed, the lame

defenses they present to the public range from the absurd to the ridiculous. One Senator's defense amounts to an admission: "I'm not the only thief." Another: "It was my staff who did the stealing." Another one: "My signature was forged." One thing they cannot deny, tons of money from Napoles' NGOs ended up with them or their assignees.

National interest compels the Ombudsman to file plunder and other cases against the suspects as early as possible. Why?

The outraged global Filipino community both in the homeland and outside are demanding a speedy prosecution of the suspected pork barrel thieves. The extent of the massive looting of the people's money and the length of time over which this has been going on – caused the people to be extremely upset...no, furiously angry. Understandably so, as they have been blatantly abused and scammed.

Many feel that imprisonment is too mild and too kind as punishment for these vultures...okay, alleged vultures. In actual effect, these bloodsuckers grabbed the food from the mouths of innocent hungry children, stole medicine from seriously ill people and deprived our young of better schools. Stoning to death or hanging are some of the recommended punishments angrily expressed in households, social gatherings, bars, carinderias, restaurants, barbershops and inside taxicabs.

The national consciousness of Philippine justice moving at molasses flow rate also has everyone anxious and wondering whether these instant cases will be just like the Ampatuan massacre cases. Four years have passed and not a single Ampatuan defendant has been convicted.

The people are also aware of the fact that none of the Marcoses or their cronies have been convicted nor has the bulk of their stolen wealth been recovered. This lengthy or failed prosecution of defendants who

(continued on page 7)

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Arguing Successfully in Appellate Courts



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Confidence, confidence, confidence” are the three most important qualities of a lawyer in order to argue successfully in appellate courts. A lawyer must exude confidence in walking to the lectern, in discussing the case, and in answering the judge’s questions. Without showing confidence, the lawyer will lose.

Avoid starting with a joke. It could fall flat.

Lawyers with a thick accent must get rid of it. Lawyers with a funny pronunciation like saying “San Jose” as “San Hoosi” must correct it. Tape record your argument and have another without these problems hear it.

It is rare for appellate courts to schedule an oral argument. In most cases, the appellate court will simply state that the case is suitable for disposition without oral argument. On the day of the argument in one case, the judges announced that

there was no need for additional argument. The appellant’s lawyer patted himself on the back, thinking that his brief had covered all the issues. His appeal was dismissed.

HowTO Gain Confidence

Lawyers must study the case thoroughly, know all the facts and the law applicable, read all the briefs and the cases cited by the parties and remember all their facts and the court’s decision, check the later history of the cases if they have been overruled or modified, and explain why the cases cited by the opposing party are inapplicable.

The lawyer should check the background of the judges. I checked their alma mater and their years of experience and compared them with mine. I determined whether they were conservative or liberal. I read samples of their decisions that I might cite.

I anticipated possible questions and prepared my answers.

On October 10, 2013, I had the privilege of arguing before the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. A panel of three judges headed by the Chief Judge came to Honolulu to listen to oral arguments in about 20 cases out of hundreds appealed. Our case was the

first to be heard and I was the first speaker.

“May it please the Court,” I greeted the panel. There is no need to say “Good morning” or “Welcome to Hawaii”. On the day of the argument, it was raining, so it would not have been appropriate to say those words. Conserve words. I was given only 10 minutes. “My name is Emmanuel Samonte Tipon, I appear for the defendant-appellant.”

Discuss Issues and Facts Briefly

The issues are whether criminal defense counsel was ineffective when he told defendant, who asked what would happen if he pleaded guilty to drug distribution, that (1) defendant “may” be deported although the correct answer was that he “will” be deported because distributing drugs is an aggravated felony and subject to mandatory deportation, and (2) defendant will be released after serving his sentence, although the correct answer was that he will continue to be detained until his deportation proceedings are concluded.

Defendant was with a group when one shouted that somebody wanted to buy drugs. Defendant became

afraid and threw away a packet. Another picked it up and gave it to the one who shouted. He gave it to the buyer who turned out to be an undercover agent. Defendant and the others were charged with drug distribution.

The court-appointed counsel for defendant terrorized him by saying that if he fought the case and lost he would get 20-40 years but if he pleaded guilty counsel would negotiate a term of 12 to 18 months. If the defendant had been told the truth that he “will” be deported if he pleaded guilty and that the maximum sentence he could get was 24 months if he went to trial and lost, he would have gone to trial and might have won because a reasonable juror could conclude that he was “discarding” not “distributing” drugs. Defendant was prejudiced because he spent four years in jail waiting for his deportation proceedings to be finished before being deported.

Discuss Why Case Is Significant

The mischiefs committed in this case are capable of repetition. Criminal defense counsel should be warned not terrorize clients into pleading guilty by telling them an unre-

alistic maximum sentence if convicted. Counsel should be cautioned against giving immigration advice if they do not know immigration law, but should consult with an immigration lawyer.

State What You Want From the Court

We ask the court to set aside the defendant’s conviction and order the Department of Homeland Security to bring him back because he was denied his constitutional right to effective counsel and suffered serious prejudice by being deported.

Listen to the audio recording of this case, 10-15195 United States v. Ramiro, at http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/media/view.php?pk_id=000011368

(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: filam-law@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.

OPINION (from page 6, FILING...)

clearly are guilty as hell is a damning reflection of the Philippine justice system.

The longer it takes to file charges, the more Filipinos continue to lose faith in their government. Already, many Filipinos are becoming increasingly doubtful of the possibility of jailing the big politico sharks. They are also concerned that with all these delays, the suspects are given so much opportunity to move and hide their loot and destroy the evidence. In other jurisdictions in the world, as a matter of common sense and practicality, warrants for immediate seizure of evidence would already have been long issued.

It is obvious to deeper thinking observers that the ultra-left forces and the propa-

ganda forces of the powerful accused suspects together with the Marcos and Arroyo forces – have combined to misdirect the people by putting the blame instead on Aquino. They want to make it look like it is Aquino who is the wrongdoer instead of the actual thieves. Of course, it serves the interest of the ultra-left connected to Beijing to bring down the government. Whereas it serves the interest of the specified others to bring down Aquino.

Aquino should just ignore the taunts of the enemy. He should just continue to do the right thing - aggressively relentlessly bear down and even increase efforts in the fight against corruption and corrupt people. Results are what people appreciate and recognize.

The longer the Ombudsman delays in filing plunder cases against the accused, the more frustrated the people become – including those who support Aquino in his anti-corruption crusade. That frustration can very well eventually turn against President Aquino as the delay can be used by his enemies to question his sincerity.

While the Ombudsman is theoretically supposedly independent in carrying out her job, the public perception is that the President appointed her and therefore, he can influence her to step on the accelerator. The more she delays, the more the President’s credibility and rating goes down.

This is Aquino’s defining moment and a great opportu-

nity for the country. He can either be a consistently strong moral leader, take the bull by the horns, throw all the bad guys in jail including certain allies, make his martyred father’s impossible dream of a better life for Filipinos come true – or get discouraged, fail to do all

these and fizzle as a dud winding up forgotten in the dustbin of history.

Hopefully, the Ombudsman can read the sign of the times, be constantly sensitive to the fact that she is the representative of the people in bringing

(continued on page 8)

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NEWS FEATURE

FilCom to Honor Tomimbang at 11th Annual Gala Dinner

The Filipino Community Center (FilCom) will hold its 11th annual gala dinner and fundraiser on November 9, 2013 beginning at 5:30 pm at the FilCom Center Grand Ballroom in Waipahu.

The guest of honor will be Emme Tomimbang, a veteran TV journalist who has made numerous contributions to the community over the past several decades. "Sharing Memorable Moments With Emme & Friends" will also feature authentic Filipino dishes prepared by celebrity chefs, a star-studded cast of entertainers and a silent auction. Proceeds from the gala event will benefit the FilCom Center which serves thousands each year with programs for youth, senior citizens, and families.

Tomimbang, a founding member of FilCom's Board of Governors, has been an inspiration for many Filipinos, says FilCom Center president Rose Churma.

"Her dedication to foster goodwill in the community we live and work is much admired," Churma says. "We are forever grateful for her tireless service to the betterment of the Filipino community."

Scrumptious Cuisine

Several renowned Hawaii chefs who have been inspired by authentic Filipino dishes will create a gala dinner menu that



includes crispy pork belly *chicharonne* spiced with Filipino *patis*; *mongo* (mung) beans; sweet potato leaf or *talbos ng kamote* salad; *taba ng talangka* or fresh crab with lemongrass; shrimp *lumpia* with banana sauce; sous vide *shin-sato* pork belly *guisantes*; seared *kampachi* salad with toanjan vinaigrette; and *halo-halo*.

The award-winning chefs, known for starting the Hawaii Regional Cuisine movement in the 1990s, include Alan Wong, Philippe Padovani, Paul Rivera, Dave "D.K." Kodama, Roy Yamaguchi and Darryl Shinogi. Master sommelier Roberto Viernes, a sommelier of Filipino descent, will offer wine recommendations for the menu.

"I am deeply grateful to our great chefs for donating their time and talent for this occasion because they are all helping our collective efforts to continue FilCom's educational, social and cultural service to the Filipino community as well as the entire Leeward Oahu community," says Tomimbang. "The evening promises to be *masarap* (delicious)."

Alluring Entertainment

Local boy and internationally-renowned singer Willie K will headline a star-studded cast of entertainers. Also performing with Willie will be guests Jordan Segundo, Jasmine Trias, Ben Stone, Kristian Lei, Jimmy Borges, and a few

other surprise celebrities and stars, many of whom have appeared on "Emme's Island Moments" television specials.

Willie K performs a myriad of musical genres, including Hawaiian, jazz, blues, reggae, rock, country western and opera. He has supported various causes through his celebrity golf tournament, an event he says was the brainchild of Tomimbang. The tournament has raised over half a million dollars for cancer patients from Maui.

"They thank me all the time, but truly Emme is the one they should thank also," he says. "I want to thank her for being a great inspiration. She helped me as well as many others in our

careers, so appearing at the FilCom event is just a small token of my appreciation."

Also performing during the cocktail reception will be Banda Kawayan, a musical group comprised of an intergenerational group of volunteers devoted to the perpetuation of the Filipino performing arts.

One of the highlights of the evening is the live auction. Items include a Hawaii 5-0 VIP package (starting bid \$5,000); dinner with Emme with dishes prepared by Chef Wong for a table of 10 (starting bid \$1,000); and a Lanikai Beach house dinner prepared by Chef Rivera for 10 and a two night stay (starting bid \$500).

OPINION (from page 7, FILING...)

to justice erring public officials who betray the public trust. She must have a good feel for the public pulse. And what do the people want?

The people are justified in wanting and demanding

speedy justice. They want plunder and other charges against the Senators, Congressmen and other officials filed as soon as possible. They want them arrested and jailed now. If this is done within the

next 45 days, watch Filipinos and the world stand up and applaud. Filipinos and the rest of the world who hold us in affection – want crooked politicians and officials who have been blatantly stealing the

people's money and causing suffering to millions – to stop their corruption and get the punishment they deserve. Period.

The only real way we can rid the Philippines of endemic widespread institutionalized corruption is to alter the mindset of our people. The nation needs to impose harsh penalties against corrupt officials instead of rewarding them. We should also teach and develop among our people a deep appreciation of the value of honesty as a way of life. We should impress to our children the culture of honesty from the time they start school and preach it from every pulpit and shout it from every podium.

Well-meaning people understand the reality of the difficulties in the jobs of President Aquino and the Ombudsman. But as long as both and other officials continue to act in good faith in the sacred quest for a better country, they will not be lacking in support in fighting to end the powerful evil forces of corruption and social injustice that plagues our people.

ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is a human rights lawyer based in San Francisco, California and is officially recognized by the California State Bar as among one of only 29 lawyers officially certified for 25 years as Expert-Specialists in US Immigration Law. Email laguatan-law@gmail.com Tel 650 991-1154

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Green Card for Ministers and Religious Workers

Religious workers may qualify for permanent residence as a special immigrant. They can apply within the United States through adjustment of status, or from abroad by obtaining an immigrant visa at the U.S. consulate. Typically but not always, the religious worker is already in the U.S. on R-1 or temporary religious worker status.

The beneficiary of the special immigrant worker (I-360) petition may be a minister or a religious worker. A

minister is fully authorized and fully trained according to a religious denomination's standards to conduct religious activities, such as a priest, minister, rabbi or imam.

The minister must be able to provide a certificate of ordination or similar documents, and documents reflecting acceptance of the beneficiary's qualifications as well as evidence of completion of theological education in an accredited institution.

Religious workers, on the other hand, are those who are working in a religious vocation or occupation and are authorized to perform traditional religious duties. These include religious instructors, religious counsel-

lors, and missionaries.

The beneficiary must have been a member of the denomination for at least two years immediately preceding the filing of the petition. He also must have been working as a minister or religious worker, either abroad or lawfully in the U.S., for at least two years immediately before the filing of the petition.

The job offered must be full time or at least 35 hours per week. The petitioner must show proof of how it intends to compensate the beneficiary, such as financial statements, bank statements, budget showing sums sets aside for salary. Other types of evidence that can be submitted include W2 forms of the beneficiary if already employed by petitioner, tax returns, and documents showing that a car or room and board will be provided

Submitting sufficient documentation is important. In one case where the peti-

tioner only submitted pay records of a missionary's salary for one out of the minimum 2 years, the USCIS found that the pay records did not show beneficiary's continuous, full-time employment.

The petitioning organization must make several attestations in the petition. For example, it must establish that it is a non-profit organization by providing documentation of its tax exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service.

The petitioner must also state how many members there are in the denomination, how many petitions have been filed in the past 5 years, and how many employees are currently employed on religious worker status.

Several years ago, a study concluded that 33% of visas granted in the religious worker program were based on fraudulent information. Because of this, the USCIS now requires

an on-site inspection of the petitioning organization before it will approve the I-360 petition. The site visit allows the USCIS to verify the existence of the petitioner's organization. The site visits allow the USCIS to deter fraud by checking the existence of the organization, inspecting the records and interviewing personnel.

The religious worker visa program for non-ministers has been extended through September 30, 2015. Ministers are not affected by this sunset date.

Non-minister religious workers are subject to an annual cap of 5,000 but there is no cap for those entering the U.S. solely for the purpose of carrying on the vocation of a minister.

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

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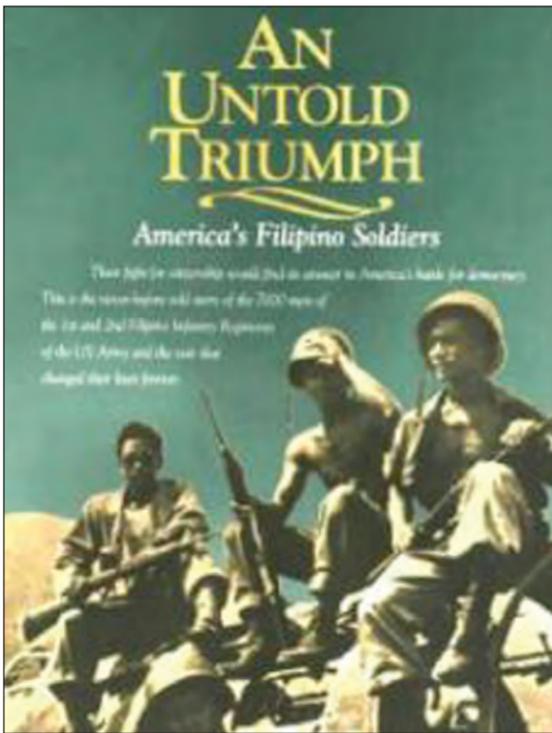
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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

'Untold Triumph' to be Shown at Pearl Harbor



The award-winning documentary film “An Untold Triumph” will be shown free of charge on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center at 3 pm for special guests and again at 5:30 pm for the general public.

“Untold Triumph” is a feature-length documentary produced by Hawaii independent filmmaker Stephanie J. Castillo. It took eight years to make and was completed in 2002. The film had a national PBS premiere in May 2005, reaching nearly two million households in its maiden broadcast.

“Untold Triumph” is about the 7,000 Filipino-Americans—

both immigrants and sons of immigrants—who volunteered their services to the U.S. Army and helped liberate their homeland from Japanese occupation during World War II. The story is captured through the voices of the veterans themselves and delivers personal accounts of the men’s contributions and sacrifices during the war. These Filipino-Americans, who were not even considered U.S. citizens, endured a bleak, racist pre-war climate and instead rallied to join the war effort and cement their rightful place in American history.

The film’s showing is in conjunction with a special tour of the



USS Arizona Memorial for Filipino-American veterans of World War II. The tour is part of several festivities organized by the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii and the Filipino American WW II Veterans Celebration Committee.

Call Jose Saromines at 595-3099 or Domingo Los Banos at 497-1461 for more details on the film’s showing.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES
(from page 3, FILIPINO...)

ers everywhere should be acknowledged widely and revered for all time,” she said.

It’s been said that historians and journalists overlooked Itliong and looked uncritically at Chavez, because of the latter’s charismatic sense that came from adopting the non-violent tactics of Gandhi and Dr. King.

That was a stark contrast to a battle-hardened Itliong, who saw decades of often violent racism in the fields but who still evolved into a principled union man.

Chavez may have been the man who said yes, “Si Se Puede.”

But Itliong was the man who said no to the Union, the growers, to poor conditions and low wages. He leveraged it cunningly through the force of the labor strike and the power of saying no.

Chavez didn’t join the strike till later. He wanted to march behind a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Said one Filipino worker, an Itliong loyalist in Stockton, “Marching 366 miles behind a statue of the Virgin Mary is not a strike.”

The record will soon be amplified.

Chavez needed Itliong to show him the way. It’s all on the tapes.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award winning journalist and commentator.

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The Connector will be available to lawfully present Hawai'i residents who're buying their own health insurance. To qualify as a Hawai'i resident, you must have a Hawai'i home address and generally consider the State of Hawai'i your permanent home. If you receive health coverage through your job, but your family isn't covered, you can also use the Connector to search for and purchase coverage that suits their needs.

What kind of help is available to lower the cost of health coverage?

Whether you're looking for health insurance for yourself or your family, you'll be able to get help that answers your needs—online, in-person or over the phone.

What kind of health plans will the Connector offer?

The Connector will offer quality health insurance plans from companies you know and trust—all of whom are guaranteed to provide the essential levels of coverage and consumer protections required by state and federal laws—including preventive services, doctor visit, maternity care, pediatric dental and vision, emergency care and drug prescriptions.

When does coverage purchased through the Connector begin?

Applications for enrollment in health plans are available now and will continue through March 2014.

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FEATURE

Emme Tomimbang Back on the Spotlight

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

There seems to be a sense of timelessness about Emme Tomimbang, this year's recipient of the Filipino Community Center Dinner Award. She has been a fixture on the Hawaii and Filipino scene since age three, when her devoted father Tommy Tomimbang would tag her along to the KISA Radio station where he had a multilingual program in Cebuano, Tagalog and Ilokano to wake up the community. By "fixture," I don't mean a piece of furniture or a hanging on the wall, but a vibrant presence which would play out on the public scene, particularly in the media world, for a long time.

What makes her tick?

I had wondered about her during the past few years when she was out of circulation for a while, until I read accounts of her struggles with seemingly life-and-death situations, including the role of her dog Rufus in her survival. But more about that later.

In Retrospect

The last time I had a long interview with Emme was in 2003 when Edna Alikpala and I visited her in her well-appointed office in Ala Moana, which had a commanding view of the Koolau mountains. She had launched a new venture called "Emme Tomimbang Multi-Media Enterprises, Inc." or EMMÉ, INC. for short. It was her own video and production company featuring "Emme's Island Moments" on KGMB in a magazine format.

Among some of her memorable features were the Makaha Sons, recording artist Kenny Loggins and American Idol contestant Jordan Segundo, to name a few. Many of these productions became part of the entertainment programs of Hawaiian and Conti-

mental Airlines. She would later add a 26-week series oriented towards health and wellness to augment the "Island Moments" personality profiles. She had Wili Moku and Robert Cazimero talking on diabetes, for instance, and Alan Wong and DK Kodama on hypertension, among others.

Previously, she had done regular broadcasting on KITV Channel 4 for 12 years, eventually becoming the anchorwoman for the 10 o'clock News. She made history by becoming the first Filipino-American anchorwoman in the U.S. and possibly in the world. She later moved to Channel 2 for her "Island Moments" series.

During our interview, Emme recalled that Connie Chung of NBC in New York approached her to consider a possible job in the Big Apple for the network. She had met Connie in New York when they were both covering the high-profile trial of Imelda Marcos and other indictees for fraud, racketeering and other charges in 1988. Ferdinand Marcos himself, who was also indicted, pleaded serious illness to avoid traveling to New York for the arraignment.

Emme said she gave serious thought to Connie's suggestion but in the end, while freezing in New York, she decided against it mainly because of the weather. She decided she would always be an "island girl."

After her stint at KITV and later at KGMB, she met and later married Judge James Burns, son of the late Gov. John Burns. This marked a new and exciting chapter in her life.

Discovering Her Philippine Roots

The height of her career in the 70s and 80s coincided with the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines (1972 - 1986),

calling them the "most torturing and exhilarating years of my life." Being born and raised in Hawaii, she had never visited her ancestral homeland.

When she was still working with KISA Radio as the "Morning Girl," Amelito Mutuc, Marcos' emissary to Hawaii, extended an invitation for her to visit the Philippines under the auspices of the Balikbayan program, which was intended to draw tourists to the country, especially those with Filipino roots or connections.

Emme had never known the Philippines in depth except for what she had heard or read in the papers, much of which was not positive at all. She approached the issue with some trepidation, but decided to accept the invitation because after all, the Philippines is her ancestral country.

And what she experienced and saw while there amounted to some kind of epiphany—a great moment of sudden intuitive understanding and discovery, a revelation and a transformation. She was dumbfounded and moonstruck.

"I discovered for the first time what being Filipino was all about," she exclaimed. "Here was a whole country, a whole nation, which was just so overwhelming for me." She had in the back in her mind expected to see plantations, but high-rise gleaming buildings in Makati and a vibrant popular and media culture in Manila just blew her mind. She was treated like royalty and got a lot of job offers in TV and radio because, as Joe Quirino, one of the leading media personalities said at the time, Emme spoke excellent English and could polish her Tagalog as well. She was on Cloud 9 and KISA back in Hawaii got worried as to when she would be returning. Her father Tommy flew to Manila to bring her home after a long six-week absence.

She could not stop talking



Emme Tomimbang

about her incredible journey and epiphany even long after. "It was just like I had discovered another life," she gushed. "If I could have two lives in one, I would have lived in the Philippines."

The high point of her trip was her visit to Siquijor in the Eastern Visayas, and she was swept off her feet by this as well. She visited the site of the "nipa hut" where her father was born, heart pounding. There was a big fiesta going on and scores of relatives from as far as Mindanao hurried to Siquijor eager to meet "this girl from Hawaii who is a TV newscaster." She was again overwhelmed at having this "extended family," but also

sad to see that some of them were poor. She ended up giving everything to them including her luggage.

But mostly, the sentimental visit hit home for her. "I didn't really know who I really was until I touched the island of my father's birth and realized how he journeyed from this island in the middle of nowhere to Manila, and from Manila to across the Pacific Ocean to finally reach Hawaii. It gave me such a profound respect for my dad."

Tommy died in 1993, which marked another major shift in Emme's life. She was very close to him. She always thought of her father as "very

(continued on page 14)



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FEATURE

(from page 13, EMME...)

enterprising” and decided to follow in his entrepreneurial footsteps by launching her own business venture. She could have been more financially secure if she stayed with the networks, she mused. “But you’ve got to be young to wake up at 3 o’clock every morning to go to work.” She had endured that for many years and it was time to shift gears.

“Besides,” she added, “the satisfaction of creativity and personal achievement is such a big thing for me.”

Bridging the Gap

In 2006, she produced a much-acclaimed documentary, “From Mabuhay to Aloha,” which premiered in the Hawaii International Film Festival that year. The documentary bridges the gap between Philippine history and the Filipino-American experience in Hawaii, as symbolized by the title.

It was her lasting contribution as an artist to the celebration of the Hawaii Filipino Centennial, which marked the 100th anniversary of the first Filipino migrant workers known as sakadas, who were recruited by the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association to work on the sugar plantations in 1906. Emme straddled these two disparate worlds and tried to integrate them to be more meaningful to her and her generation.

This desire to bridge this generational gap is compelling on the part of Emme, almost an obsession. Comments Evelyn Mingming Llena, another Filipina-American, who was a couple of years behind Emme

as a student in Manoa in the 70s and like Emme, an Operation Manong volunteer working with students of Filipino ancestry: “Emme was always interested in educating herself about her Filipino heritage due to her Visayan parents.”

This is a striking comment because it’s often the case that Fil-Ams especially in that period who were deeply interested in their parents’ cultural backgrounds and ethnic roots, tended to be the exceptions. This was not exactly their fault. Growing up in a totally American or western milieu, they knew very little or practically nothing about their parents’ origins in the old country. Their education in the public schools did not introduce them to their cultural heritage. As a teacher for several courses on Philippine society and culture for many decades at the university, I would ask Fil-Am students if they knew where their parents came from and almost always, I would get a blank or responses, like, “Oh, I dunno. I think from Ilocos or that province that starts with a ‘P’ (referring most likely to Pangasinan).” And that’s about it.

Not so with Emme. “I really admire Emme’s perseverance,” continues Llena, “in promoting the Filipino image and working towards changing that image, and ‘to give back to the community.’ She exemplifies how a marginal ethnic identity and working both the Filipino and ‘local’ identities may succeed in society, and excel in promoting and nurturing a positive image of her Filipino heritage.”

Thus the Siquijor dimension remains very much cen-



Emme Tomimbang with Ka'anapali Beach Hotel staff member Dee Coyle and General Manager Mike White. Tomimbang received the 2011 Bronze Telly Award in the travel and tourism category for the television special “Ka'ilila'au's Canoe - A Journey of Spirit.”

tral to Emme’s life. We have been talking (mostly email) about her “magnum opus” yet to be made on Siquijor that runs deep in her psyche, especially having visited there again and found still many more relatives coming from all over the world. I am certain it will be another great epiphany in her long and productive career, which bears watching.

Later Downsides in Emme's Life

Not a few were shocked when accounts began to surface in the media about Emme’s successive bouts with unfortunate “life-changing” events that visited her in the past couple of years. These events propelled her into a “caregiving” role for her loved ones and eventually for her own self.

First, a close friend Mary suffered a stroke after coming from the Philippines and was placed in intensive care. Emme helped her friend’s family in rehab, visits to the hospital and with chores at home. This introduced her to the complex web of hospital bureaucracies, rules and regulations, medications, health-care and other matters regarding caregiving.

Second, Emme’s mother Nena, then 85 years old, had back surgery and could not speak for three months. Emme and her two sisters took daily six-hour shifts taking care of her until she was well enough to go to a nursing facility. They were virtually part of the medical team for their mother. She eventually died and her services were held at the Fil-Com Center.

Third, her husband Jim was diagnosed with Stage Four throat cancer, which was truly devastating. It derailed all their plans. It’s called, “when it rains, it pours.” He could not eat properly for months. He was tube-fed and Emme had to learn how to administer liquid food and medication that had to be crushed and injected into Jim’s system.

“All this was so new and strange to me,” recounts Emme in an interview with Generations Magazine. “But I was determined to learn it all and do it well. And it was never easy.” Worse, in the course of Jim’s radiation and chemo treatments, he developed pneumonia, which was even more life-threatening. Emme had to shuttle back and forth to hospitals checking on both Jim and her mother at the nursing home.

A faint-hearted individual would have given up or gotten depressed. “But this was my mom and my husband,” Emme says. “I needed to be there for both of them.” Such remarkable filial loyalty and devotion in addition to strong genes and caring capacity.

Finally, in May 2012, Emme herself faced the music after rewriting her “Hawaii 5-0 Revisited” TV special. It must have been from sheer physical and mental exhaus-

tion from her extremely demanding caregiving duties. “I had just sent my husband with a friend who drove him to a doctor’s appointment when I collapsed after toweeling off from a shower. I just hit the floor.

Fast forward to Rufus, her 110-pound Rottweiler, who came to the rescue.

She didn’t know what happened next. But Rufus “used his nose to open our sliding screen door and woke me up by licking my face. With his help I was able to get on the phone and call my husband.” The following moments were like blurry steps to eternity. When she came to, she was being ferried on a gurney and rushed to Castle Medical Center.

Emme had suffered ruptured brain aneurysm, which could have been fatal were it not for Rufus and the timely emergency intervention. Aneurysms are swollen blood vessels with risks of rupture, hemorrhaging and sudden death. It’s easy to see this as a sign of destiny: when it’s not your time to die, you get to live. Some people actually do believe in that.

The caregiver had now become the patient! But she still worried about Jim and who was taking care of him. And Rufus, of course, became her constant caregiver in a way, gently nudging her when it was time for her nap and sleeping next to her in his own blanket.

A very touching, heart-warming story indeed, but there is no end to caregiving. This time, her dog Rufus developed severe arthritis and hip dysplasia, and had to be “caregiven” himself. He was taken to an acupuncturist and happily goes to his monthly treatments under Emme’s and Jim’s care.

Now, Emme concludes, “Jim, me and Rufus are living the ‘new normal.’ It sort of feels good to be different, to see life and feel the gifts that come our way.”

That’s vintage Emme for you—always ending on a high note of human triumph. What a life!

(continued on page 15)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Super Typhoon 'Yolanda' Hits Land; 21 Areas Under Signal No. 4

from www.philstar.com
Friday, November 8, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Super typhoon "Yolanda" has made landfall over the Visayas where 21 areas have been placed under public storm warning signal no. 4, state weather bureau PAGASA said early Friday morning.

In its 5 a.m. bulletin, PAGASA said Yolanda made landfall over Guiuan, Eastern Samar around 4:40 a.m. and was last observed at 62 kilometers southeast of the said area.

Yolanda is packed with maximum sustained winds of 235 kilometers per hour near the center and gusts of up to 275 kph.

The super typhoon is now

battering Visayas as storm warning signals have been hoisted over the following areas:

Signal No. 4

- Masbate
- Ticao Island
- Southern Sorsogon
- Romblon
- Northern Samar
- Eastern Samar
- Samar
- Leyte
- Southern Leyte
- Biliran Province
- Northern Cebu
- Cebu City
- Bantayan Islands
- Camotes Islands
- Northern Negros Occidental
- Capiz
- Aklan

- Antique
- Iloilo
- Guimaras
- Dinagat Province

Signal No. 3

- Rest of Sorsogon
- Burias Island
- Albay
- Marinduque
- Occidental Mindoro
- Oriental Mindoro
- Calamian Group of Islands
- Rest of Negros Occidental
- Negros Oriental
- Rest of Cebu
- Bohol
- Surigao del Norte
- Siargao Island

Signal No. 2

- Catanduanes
- Camarines Sur

- Southern Quezon
- Laguna
- Batangas
- Rizal
- Metro Manila
- Cavite
- Bataan
- Lubang Islands
- Northern Palawan
- Puerto Princesa
- Siquijor
- Camiguin
- Surigao Del Sur
- Agusan del Norte

Signal No. 1

- Camarines Norte
- Rest of Quezon
- Polilio Island
- Bulacan
- Pampanga
- Zambales
- Misamis Oriental
- Agusan del Sur

PAGASA said Yolanda is now expected to traverse the

provinces of Biliran, the Northern tip of Cebu, Iloilo, Capiz, Aklan, Romblon, Semirara Island, the Southern part of Mindoro then Busuanga.

Forecast to move west northwest at 39 kph, Yolanda will exit the Philippine landmass on Saturday early morning towards the West Philippine Sea.

Heavy to intense rainfall amount (10 to 30 millimeters per hour) is expected within the 400-kilometer diameter of the typhoon.

PAGASA said heavy to intense rains are affecting Surigao Del Norte, Surigao Del Sur, Agusan Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Camiguin, Bukidnon, Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, Lanao Del Norte, Lanao Del Sur, Misamis Occidental and Zamboanga Peninsula, which may continue for the next to three hours.

(www.philstar.com)

JPE's DNA in Scam Confirmed – Miriam

by **Christine Mendez**
Friday, November 8, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago accused yesterday Senate Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile of being the "godfather" of the pork barrel scam, saying his "DNA" on the scam "has been confirmed."

At the Senate hearing on the scam, Santiago refused to believe that Janet Lim-

Napoles could conceive of the organized scheme to siphon pork barrel funds into her private accounts using fake non-government organizations (NGOs).

"Somebody conceived that, and they have built themselves into a citadel. She's not alone, especially if you're an outsider. It's coming from a college graduate who came from the boondocks," Santiago said at a press briefing.

"Who put that iron in that spine? That is the question,"



Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago

she said, referring to Napoles.

Pressed further on who the possible mastermind could be, the senator pointed to Enrile.

She noted that Enrile was the Senate president at the time when the pork barrel misuse happened. "His paternity is unquestioned. His DNA has been confirmed."

Santiago said one could not ignore the testimonies of whistle-blowers and the documents presented.

She noted that the pork barrel system could no longer be tolerated. "The entire sys-

tem has a breakdown. That's what the public should realize. No more pork barrel – there is no way you can control it."

Santiago said she used her own pork barrel in the past because thrice the Supreme Court has upheld its legality.

"Unless we stop pork barrel, this will continue forever and forever. We will keep on systemic breakdowns every two years... People will run for office for the pork barrel," she said. (www.philstar.com)

FEATURE (from page 14, EMME...)

Conclusion

The bigger lesson in Emme's dramatic life at this stage has to do with the value of caregiving in every way. She is a hardy survivor because of it. She advises everyone who is in need of it to look for agencies and organizations that can offer support. They are there always "in sickness and in health." Those in the Filipino community don't have to look very far because almost 95 percent of the care and foster homes are owned by Filipino families, especially women, and hundreds of multilingual

caregivers across the state.

Emme is back in circulation at least, albeit in a new, probably richer, role. She has been through a lot. How much can one bear?

Ten years ago when I wrote an article about her entitled "Beyond Celebrity," I had alluded to the strength and substance of her humanity, rather than on her celebrity status. I had ended on a high note as well, saying she indeed has much to recommend her. And the Filipino community has a clear winner in her, whose achievements, real and symbolic, will res-

onate strongly with future generations.

I was right, wasn't I? Because 10 long years after that, she is back on the spotlight as a living symbol of human indestructibility and resiliency.

Originally from San Fernando, La Union in the Northern Philippines, DR. AQUINO is currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, where she was Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies, and also the founding director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the School of Pacific and Asian Studies. She is also an accomplished journalist and writer who has contributed scores of commentaries, columns, articles and essays in numerous international publications.



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

**Ban on Using Mobile Phones
 in Flights to Be Scrapped**

by Camille Diola
 Tuesday, November 5, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) will soon allow passengers to use mobile phones in flights, which is presently banned for fear that they may interfere with aircraft's system.

CAAP deputy director general Capt. John Andrews said that the new policy, scrapping the antiquated doctrine that passenger can only use phones between landings, permits the use of cellphones and tablets at all stages of the flight.

"Wala pang nababalita na kaso ng cellphone na nag-interfere sa electronic equipment ng eroplano," Andrews said in an interview with DZMM on Tuesday.

Andrews said that CAAP is preparing to issue a memorandum order that



Photo by Dean Shareski/Flickr

follows the United States Federal Aviation Administration's new rules on the use of gadgets while on board.

The aviation executive added, however, that only gaming, internet surfing and texting are allowed. Text messaging, after all, is only possible when the plane is near the earth.

Andrews said making calls are still prohibited as the scenario when all 200 passengers "might talk all at the same time" can be messy. (www.philstar.com)

**HK Solons OK Withdrawal of
 Pinoys' Visa-free Entry**

by Camille Diola
 Friday, November 8, 2013

MANILA, Philippines - Hong Kong lawmakers on Thursday voted to pass an amendment withdrawing visa-free access to Filipinos into the city.

Chinese newspapers reported that the Hong Kong legislative council voted by 41 to three, with seven abstentions in favor of the entry ban seen as the region's retaliation for the 2010 Manila hostage crisis.

Hong Kong officials have long warned about possible sanctions including economic barriers against Manila if the latter fails to meet demands of families of eight Hong Kong residents who died in the bungled police rescue.

The legislative ruling came after Hong Kong Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying issued an ultimatum threatening to spoil good relations with Manila for its failure to respond to the crisis led by a disgruntled former police officer in Rizal Park.

Leung urged Manila "to make a timely and concrete response, otherwise the incident will continue to stand in the way between the two governments and the peoples."

His stamp on the amendment is the last step to make the travel sanctions final.

Legislative Council official Lai

Tung-kuok said in a China Daily report that suspension of the visa-free entry for Filipinos will not impact on Hong Kong affairs heavily.

In 2012, about 700,000 Filipino visitors spend about P16.73 billion in the administrative region. Over 1,100 Filipinos were also recorded to have arrived in Hong Kong last year to look for jobs, the report said.

Former security chief Regina Ip Lau Suk-yea then filed an amendment "to preserve Hong Kong people's dignity" in the travel sanctions against the Philippines.

Observers have said that trade sanctions would follow if government remains adamant on its view that the issue is close. President Benigno Aquino III had expressed regret over the incident, but declined to issue a national apology to the distraught families.

Manila City Councilor Bernardito Ang visited Hong Kong last month to discuss the issue in a bid to appease the city's officials and residents.

Manila Mayor and former President Joseph Estrada also flew to Hong Kong last October in a bid to extend apologies in behalf of the local government for the botched 2010 affair.

The Department of Foreign Affairs had said that government is "working quietly to achieve a result that is mutually satisfactory." - with Associated Press.

(www.philstar.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

63RD ANNUAL CONVENTION LUNCHEON OF DIOCESAN CONGRESS OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC CLUB • SATURDAY • November 9, 2013, 12:00 PM • Pagoda Hotel International Ballroom • Call Estrella Estillore at 672-8100 for details

NAKEM CONFERENCE ON "THE CENTER FOR THE MARGIN: ACCOUNTING ALL THE PHILIPPINE & OTHER PERIPHERALIZED LANGUAGES FOR CRITICAL EDUCATION" • November 14-16, 2013 • For details, email aurelioagcaoil@yahoo.com

WORLD WAR II FILIPINO AMERICAN VETERANS CELEBRATION • SATURDAY • November 16, 2013, 10:00 AM • FilCom Center • Contact: Abby Shaw @ 722-6786

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL KIMONA BALL • SATURDAY • November 16, 2013, 6:00 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Call Estrella Estillore at 672-8100 for details

CORONATION & GRAND REUNION 2013 OF SAMAHANG ILOKANO • SUNDAY • November 17, 2013, 7:00 PM • Coral Ballroom, Hilton Hawaiian Village • Call Romeo Garcia @ 368-2312.

UFCH REAFFIRMATION AND PROGRESS AWARDS • SATURDAY • November 23, 2013 • Contact: Bernadette

Fajardo @ 342-8090

MINI-CONFERENCE ON MINDANAO, MINDANAO STATE UNIVERSITY RESOURCE SPEAKERS • SATURDAY • November 23, 2013, 2 - 5 PM • Contact Dr. Fred Magdalena at 956-6086 for more info

51ST INSTALLATION & BANQUET OF ANAK TI BATAK OF HI • SATURDAY • November 30, 2013, 5:00 PM • Hale Koa Hotel • Contact: Liza Romualdo @ 220-5250

3RD INSTALLATION BANQUET, HI ASSOCIATION OF MAPUA ALUMNI • SATURDAY • November 30, 2013, 6:30 PM • Ala Moana Hotel • Contact: Cirvilina Longboy @ 488-2190

COOKING COMPETITION (2:00 PM) AND PAROL FESTIVAL (6:30 PM) • SATURDAY • November 30, 2013, 12:00 PM • Philippine Consulate • Contact: Jeffrey De Mesa @ 595-6316 Ext. 105

50TH FOUNDATION & GALA CELEBRATION DINNER & BALL OF CABUGAO SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWAII • SATURDAY • December 7, 2013, 6:00 PM • Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa • Contact: Mercedes Sonico, 258-9573 or 842-7149

STO. DOMINGO, ILOCOS SUR ASSOCIATION OF HI, OAHU CHAPTER, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND CHRISTMAS BANQUET • SATURDAY • December 14, 2013, 6:30 PM • Pearl Country Club • Contact: Roger Tapat @ 294-0904

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GLOBAL NEWS

Pinoys in Moscow Going All Out for Ariella

by Chiara Mapa

Monday, November 4, 2013

MOSCOW — Filipinos in Russia are rooting for Ariella Arida, the Philippines' candidate in the 62nd Miss Universe beauty pageant, which will be held at the Crocus City Hall here at 10 p.m. on Nov. 9 (2 a.m. Nov. 10 Manila time).

Since her arrival here last week, Arida has been greeted by cheering supporters from the Filipino community.

Arida's Facebook page is filled with photos with her kababayans who were able to catch her during the Miss Universe candidates' city tour and other pre-pageant events.

Even the strict security and closed-door regulations could not stop Filipinos from manifesting their support.

During the Miss Universe National Gift Charity Auction Dinner last Oct. 30, a large group of Filipinos stationed themselves by the gates of the Crocus City Mall with large banners and flags of the Philippines.

An official of the Miss Universe organization soon let Dr. Cesar Dalida, president of

Miss Philippines Ariella Arida poses with Filipinos at the Crocus City Mall in Moscow. At right, photo provided by the Miss Universe Organization shows Arida at the Tony Ward Fashion Show in Moscow. CESAR CALIDA



the Filipino Association in Russia, into the cordoned hall.

"It was a blessing. I got to meet so many candidates and I was also able to interview Miss Philippines who is so sweet and beautiful," Dalida said.

He reminded his fellow Filipinos to vote online for Arida.

The official Miss Universe Fan Vote (www.missuniverse.com) is ongoing until Nov. 8. The winner of the poll automatically advances to the semifinal round of the pageant.

"We will again be cheer-

ing our hearts out for Ariella during the National Costume Show on Sunday," Dalida said.

Another group of Filipinos in Russia, the Bayanihan ni Juan, is also rallying behind Arida.

"Many of us Filipinos here in Moscow will watch the pageant on Nov. 9. We are fully behind our candidate and our country," wrote a Bayanihan ni Juan member on Arida's Facebook page.

Another Filipino posted that it would be best if Filipinos would comprise half of the pageant's audience on

Nov. 9.

Dalida said that although filling the 7,500-seat capacity Crocus City Hall may sound too ambitious, more than 200 tickets have been bought by Filipinos for the pageant finals and "many more are buying."

There are around 2,000 Filipinos in Moscow, among them former Soviet Union scholars who have found employment in private establishments and foreign embassies, household service workers, chefs and finance specialists.

Shining moments

Out of 86 Miss Universe

hopefuls, Arida and 26 others were chosen to take part in the Tony Ward Couture Fashion show last week.

Arida was also selected to be part of a Mercedes-Benz television commercial along with four other Miss Universe candidates.

Eighteen bets were also picked to participate in the Yamamay Swimwear Show and model the official swimwear for the pageant.

While participation in these events will not affect the scoring of the pageant, the chosen candidates were nevertheless given significant exposure to the public and the media.

Final week

The preliminary round will be held on Nov. 5 where 16 semifinalists will be chosen.

The two-hour final competition on Nov. 9, which will be telecast live from Moscow, will be hosted by MSNBC Live's anchor Thomas Roberts and America's Got Talent judge Melanie Brown of the Spice Girls singing group.

An estimated one billion viewers across 190 nations are expected to tune in. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Kinamanasangaili Ti Maysa A Kapintasan A Galad Ni Filipino (Ilokano)

ikarkarigatana a ti mangpaadda tay pannakaisagana ti nasayaat a pannakasangaili tay sangailienna. Uray saan a mairuruar a kagamitan maaramatda no adda sangailida. Maidsarmet tay narungbo a panagsaganada, maparagsak ken maikkanda laeng ti napintas a lagip ti sangailienda.

Naitugtugot dagita a kanawidan iti sadino man nga ayanda. Kangunaana la ngaruden iti idadateng ditoy nasalsaliwanwan a lu a lugar a sinangpetanda. Maipakita ti pannakaitandodo dayta a galgalad iti sinangpetanda.

No adda masangili manipud idiyay Filipinas maipakita ti kasayaatan pay laeng a pannakasangailida napno ti pakalaglagipan.

Sinangaili ti Vigan Association of Hawaii ti Gobernador ti Ilocos Sur ken ti Mayor ti Vigan ken kakaduada idi Agosto 31, 2013 idiyay Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel. Naipaayanda kadagiti adu a nakallalagip a pammadayaw manipud kadagiti kakailienda ken babaen ti wardas ti Pangulo ti Vigan Assn. Ken ti kailienda a nagrapresentative Felipe Jun Abinsay Jr. a tangsit ti Ilocos Sur.

Sinangaili met dagiti taga San Nicolas ti madaydayaw a Mayor ni Mayor Melani Valdez ken ti bise Mayorna Alfredo Valdez ken kakaduada iti Empress Restaurant iti Honolulu idi Sept. 14, 2013. Agsusublat dagiti kakailienda a mangsangaili kadakuada ken mangted ti pakalaglagipan kadakuada bayat ti kaaddada iti Hawaii.

Masindadaan met ti GUMIL HAWAII a mangipabalon kadagiti kiddaw ti Mayor a gapuanan dagiti Mannurat a libro a para kano iti irubrubaatda a Librariada, iti San Nicolas.

Kadagiti adu pay a bumisbisita iti Hawaii masindadaan nga umabrasa dagiti organisasion iti ilida agraman dagiti

kakailienda. Awagan laeng ti papangulo ti Grupo iti Iliyo. "WELCOME" kadagiti amin nga umay sumarungkar.

Kadagiti agpaspasiar a sumarsarungkar idiyay Filipinas, aglalo dagiti makadanon idiyay Ilocos, masansan a mangngeg kadakuada tinalaus a panagdayawda kadagiti napapananda. Ti kinasayaat dagiti disso a napapananda kangrunaanna pay dagiti tattawenno pamilia a nangsangsangaili kadakuada.

Kasta ngamin ti naipaugali a galadtayo idiyay. Ta uray kasano ti kinakurapay tay tao wenno pamilia no adda segsegaanna a sangailina

RAMA TI BIAG

Anusan ti agtaeng iti lubong a nakaikarian Ta dayta to naikeddeng disso a pagnaedan Paraiso numan pay napno't lunod ken damsak Ta isu met laeng ti burayok pagsakduan ragsak

Umaddangka numan pay nasiit dagiti lasaten a dana Ikarigatan a sipduten tunggal maipuris iti saka Raatan tapno sika met laeng ti mangdaddas No kayat a Makita a ti masakbayan agparang a nasayaat

Bagnos ti bassit unay a silaw a sinegdak Balonen kadagiti amin a disso a pakaisadsan Nagkarkaradapan a kabatuan sakbaytay a nakatakder Nupay awan man laeng nagdisnudo a mangbatak

Uray inaramat kakaisuna a sagunday a naipabulod A pakiranget ti ania man a bakal a pakaisagmakan Kired pakinakem kakaisuna a balon a mangtarabay Nayon karkararag ken salaknib a pagkammatakan

Ikarigatan raatan nasamek a bakir ti biag Ket namnamaen a natalubo dagiti rosas nga intukit Kayat nga uray agrarabay tugo titi pagpasagan La ket nasaysayaat irurusing saringit Masanguanan.

MAINLAND NEWS

Miss World 2013 Pays Courtesy Visit to Phil Consulate in LA

Megan Young, Ms. World 2013, paid a courtesy call on Consul General Maria Hellen Barber De La Vega at the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles last October 25th.

Consul General De La Vega told Miss World that she is an ideal role model for young women all over the world who want to make a difference in their communities.

Young was crowned Miss World last September in Bali, Indonesia. She is the first-ever Filipina to win the title since the Philippines first participated in the pageant in 1966. Young was born in Alexandria, Virginia of a Filipino mother and American father. She moved to the Philip-

pines when she was a child, attended school in the Philippines and pursued a career in show business.

As Miss World, Young will travel to 40 countries and plans to be involved with charity projects such as fundraising for Haiti's quake victims and for ventilator machines for the Philippine General Hospital and the Tuloy Foundation in Alabang, Philippines.

The Tuloy Foundation was founded in 1993 and began with 12 children from the streets and presently has over 900 children in its compound. The Tuloy Foundation has built a gymnasium and a church and is providing education for children, aside from housing 200 to 300 children.

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