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FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JUNE 6, 2015 ◆

REMEMBERING OUR HEROES ON PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

COVER STORY PAGE

4



CANDID PERSPECTIVES

TIME TO GET TO KNOW YOUR SPRATLYS

3



PHILIPPINE NEWS

GRACE POE: "I AM QUALIFIED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT"

11



LEGAL NOTES

USCIS NOW ACCEPTING H-4 WORK PERMIT APPLICATIONS

13



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EDITORIALS

Significance of Philippine Independence Day

Filipinos the world over will celebrate Philippine Independence Day on June 12—the date when Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, in Kawit, Cavite, boldly proclaimed the sovereign independence of the Filipino people from Spanish colonial rule.

Diosdado Macapagal, former president of the Philippines, eloquently stated that a nation is born into freedom “on the day when such a people, molded into a nation by a process of cultural evolution and sense of oneness born of common struggle and suffering, announces to the world that it asserts its natural right to liberty and is ready to defend it with blood, life, and honor.”

Some would argue that the United States, Spain and other nations at the time refused to recognize Aguinaldo’s declaration and that the Philippines would undergo a hostile invasion by the Imperial Japanese army and subsequent post-World War II occupation by friendly U.S. forces. But by virtue of the declaration, the seeds for the collective dream of a free and independent Philippines were planted in the hearts and minds of the people. Filipinos in the succeeding decades fought and bled to preserve their nation’s freedom. June 12 then is a holiday to remember and honor those brave Filipino men and women who made the ultimate sacrifices in defending life and liberty for themselves and their countrymen. It’s also important to remember that as Filipinos, we should continue to embody the values that the Philippines was built upon—values such as family, respect for elders, faith in God and hard work—to name just a few.

This June 12, as we honor those who have fought for the liberty of the Philippines with parades, fiestas and speeches, let’s also remember that no matter what our backgrounds or personal beliefs—we Filipinos are basically the same at heart when it comes down to it. We all want a more prosperous Philippines, greater unity amongst ourselves and a brighter future for our nation. That is the true meaning and essence of Independence Day!

Know What Is Covered In Your Health Insurance Plan

The news coverage of a local couple’s hospital visit to treat their infant has been getting a lot of attention lately because many local residents are realizing that they could end up in a similar situation of being stuck with an unexpected, huge ER bill, even if they have health coverage.

Amidst the rapid changes in medical care -- from insurance companies to hospitals, to physician groups -- this one case highlights the need for greater cooperation and simplification among all parties in the medical community. If not, more cases as what happened to this North Shore couple, will leave patients confused and frustrated over the process of medical care, particularly when visiting the ER.

What Happened...

A local couple drove their infant son to the emergency room at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children. Their 17-year child had a blood stool. The family is covered with HMAA. At the hospital, a doctor was assigned to treat their son. But it turns out that this doctor was a part of Emergency Medicine Physicians (EMP), and not a part of HMAA’s network. HMAA and EMP are in labor negotiations.

When it came time to pay the bill for the ER visit, HMAA paid for the emergency room visit but not for the doctor’s serv-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

The last of the state’s public schools ended classes earlier this week—much to the relief of students who have put in so much effort this past school year. Whether you’ve transitioned from middle high to high school, high school to college, or college to the real world...congratulations on a job well done. You deserve a well-earned summer vacation!



Our cover story for this issue is about Freemasonry, a fraternal organization and the key role it played in the struggle for a free and independent Republic of the Philippines. The cover story was written by Serafin “Jun” Colmenares Jr., who delves into the history of Freemasonry and its rapid growth among key Filipino leaders during the 1800 and 1900s. Please turn to page 4 to read more about this fascinating organization that left an indelible mark on Philippine history. Incidentally, the Philippines is celebrating its 117th Independence Day on June 12. Some say that although the Philippines has long since gained its independence, true personal freedom continues to elude many of its citizens, especially the poor and underprivileged, who suffer from the debilitating effects of corrupt government officials, abject poverty, high unemployment rates and poor education. But that is a topic to be discussed and debated for another time. For now, Happy Philippine Independence Day!

On a related topic, our columnist Emil Guillermo makes an interesting case on the need to pay greater attention to China’s antics in the Spratlys, where it has surreptitiously staked its claim—much to the chagrin of Fil-Am leaders like Loida Nicolas Lewis. The bottom line is that it will be extremely difficult to boot China from the area, once its facilities and presence have been firmly entrenched. Read his column on page 3 and see whether you agree with him or not.

If you’re looking to take the family on a relaxing summer beach outing but want somewhere else besides Magic Island or Waikiki Beach, consider taking a scenic drive to Windward Oahu’s Waimanalo Beach Park. This beach’s powdery white sand helped it to win the title of the Nation’s Best Beach by “Dr. Beach.” To find out more about pristine Waimanalo Beach, please turn to page 8.

That’s all for now. Thank you once again for your faithful support. As always, if you would like to share a story idea, suggestion or concern, please email it to our staff at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Until next time...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

ices. EMP told the couple that they owe EMP \$871.73.

The couple was shocked because this has never happened to them before while visiting ER. Like the couple, most people in the general public believe that if they have health insurance, an ER visit would normally require a co-payment for the visit, plus payment for a certain percentage of the doctor’s services. For the most part, most people believe an ER visit covered by health insurance shouldn’t be that high.

While this particular visit will cost the couple \$871.73, even with health insurance, there is a legitimate cause for concern because a medical ER bill could be even more for other medical services if a patient happens to be assigned to a doctor outside the network of his health insurance.

What you should know

To spare yourself from grief of having to be surprised with a costly medical bill, everyone must actually read carefully what is covered in his insurance plan. No one actually likes to read details of plans, but it could prevent patients from feeling blind-sided when the bill comes.

(continued on page 3)

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The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$80, foreign country \$90. Copyright 2006-2014. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES

Time to Get to Know Your Spratlys



By Emil Guillermo

Of you've been paying attention, then you may be aware of a military change in China. Unfortunately, the only change that seems to have registered with the public at large has to do with Bruce Jenner. Congrats to Caitlyn Jenner.

But now it's time to pay attention to China.

It's sort of going through a birthing too. Of new islands on some forgotten reefs. And a new navy even. Forget the old joke about the Chinese Navy being a bunch of junk. It's beefed up and ready to strike in the South China Sea.

According to a new white paper—the first public summary of military strategy from China—the Navy is expanding and ready to “counter-attack if attacked.”

They're building up some real muscle over there in the South China Sea, specifically on tiny specks of isles named for an English seaman who captained prisoner ships in the 1840s. That would be Dick Spratly, and the islands and reefs that bear his name could

be the next hair trigger in Asia.

As David Letterman might have said about cuts of meat, it really is time to get to know your Spratly Islands. From satellite photos, they look like Jenner's chromosomes. Or errant amoeba or paramecia.

But indeed, they are the aforementioned microscopic Spratlys, claimed by China and other countries nearby, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, and Taiwan. Guess what? China is trying to big foot them all and it could be the next big conflict in Asia.

Maybe even the world.

Not only is there an abundance of fish and marine resources, but there are also oil reserves deep down beyond the ocean floor. The Philippines, in particular, is concerned because of its claim to Thitu Island (also known as Pagasa Island, adjacent to Sandy Cay).

The Philippines' ragtag navy defending its Spratly holdings includes a rusted ship that's run aground, a kind of placeholder to let people know that it has more than just dibs on Thitu and the other islands in what the Philippines calls the West Philippine Sea.

But a constant threat to the southwest of Thitu is nearby Subi Reef, where China has



Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert Del Rosario (left) listens to Ms. Loida Nicolas Lewis of U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance. Philippines Ambassador Jose Cuisia (right) joins the conversation (USPGG photo by Eric Lachica)

been reclaiming land and has installed a three-story building. Last month, the U.S. Navy and an embedded CNN crew videotaped activity on another of the eight Spratlys claimed by China, Fiery Cross Reef.

The Navy's operation unveiled an early warning radar installation, military barracks, a lookout tower and a runway long enough to handle every aircraft in the Chinese military.

It was referred to as China's “unsinkable aircraft carrier.”

When the surveillance plane was detected, China sent out a loud warn-

ing, which in turn seemed to inspire this week's military status White Paper.

Said China spokesman Col. Yang Yujun to reporters: “There are people deliberately stirring up such discussions, with the aim of smearing the Chinese military and raising regional tensions—we can't rule out an intention to find excuses for justifying future action by certain countries.”

And that would be who exactly? The Philippines? Or

its ally the U.S.? Meanwhile, China dismisses its “island building” on the reefs, saying it's no different than the construction of homes and roads in a new subdivision. Like beyond Kapolei?

Yeah, but your subdivision probably doesn't have its very own military airstrip.

The revelations of China's buildup only confirms what many Filipinos have long known.

China is not backing down and only getting more aggressive.

It's making some American-Filipinos, like Loida Lewis, extremely concerned with some of the recent actions by the Philippine government.

Lewis notes China never disputed the Philippines' claim to the Spratlys, which was submitted to a UN Tribunal. But once the Philippines wins there, Lewis fully expects China to ignore the decision and make the Philippines en-

(continued on page 8)

EDITORIALS (from page 2, **KNOW...**)

People must communicate with their insurance companies should they have questions. Insurance companies must also communicate to their customers any changes to their customers' plan.

Whenever possible in non-life threatening situations at the ER, hospital administrators should try to assign a physician who is in the network of the patient. That could be the difference of hundreds, and even perhaps thousands of dollars. Those few minutes could be the difference between a patient being caught in a financial downward spiral of debt and a patient managing to make payments responsibly.

The general public must also realize that ER is strictly for emergency situations. Under the new health care reform law, insurers use what's known as the “prudent layperson” standard to qualify people for coverage. So there is a possibility that an ER visit may not even be covered if it happens to be for something like a cold. This is not to discourage the general public from going to the ER should they believe something is wrong. If a patient believes he is getting a heart attack, for example, he should go to the ER. If it happens to be simply diagnosed as a heart burn, insurers more than likely will cover the ER visit.

The “prudent layperson” standard is not very clear and it is always better to be safe and on the side of caution. Here is a general list of conditions that warrant a trip to the ER but not limited to these symptoms: chest pain, shortness of breath, stroke symptoms (dizziness, weakness on one side, slurred speech or sudden onset of paralysis), severe abdominal pain, uncontrollable bleeding, blunt head trauma or penetrating wound to the head, confusion or loss of consciousness, neck injury, poisoning, serious burns and cuts, seizure or broken bones.

(continued on page 9)

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Freemasonry and Filipino Nationalism

By Serafin Colmenares Jr., Ph.D.

On June 12, 2015, the Philippines will be celebrating its 117th year of independence. Once again, memories of the heroic struggles of individuals such as Rizal, Bonifacio, Aguinaldo, Mabini and other organizations such as the Katipunan, will be rekindled and commemorated.

Each year, the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu marks Philippine Independence Day with a community gathering held on the consulate grounds or at select locations in coordination with the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii. This year, the Independence Day celebration event is scheduled for June 12th at the Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel.

For Raymund Ll. Liongson, PhD, an associate professor of Asian and Philippine Studies at Leeward Community College, celebrating Philippine Independence Day is vital for Hawaii's Filipino community.

"It's about honoring those who came before us who offered the ultimate sacrifice—their time, their talents, their

energy and their lives," he says. "Philippine Independence was achieved through the enduring dreams and aspirations, ingenuity and energy, blood, sweat, and tears of our ancestors. That independence from colonial tyranny was paid with a dear price."

Freemasonry's Struggle

One institution that played a very important role in the Philippines' nationalist struggle, however, is seldom mentioned and given its due credit. This institution is Freemasonry, a worldwide fraternity which has provided the impetus if not the leadership of some of the more well-known nationalist movements in the world—the American revolution, the French revolution, the unification of Italy, the liberation of Turkey, the struggles

for Central and South American independence—to name a few. This venerable institution provided the spark that ignited the Philippine nationalist movement.

What is Freemasonry and what role did it play in the struggle for Philippine independence? Freemasonry is a fraternity that welcomes into its fold all men regardless of race, color, nationality, creed or station in life. Contrary to popular belief, it is not a religion, but teaches religiosity to its members; it is not atheistic, for no man can be a Mason without believing in a Supreme Being; it is not a secret organization, since its membership and records are open to the public, although it has its own rituals, signs and passwords, and uses esoteric language.

Its major tenets are brotherly love, relief and truth. It teaches that all men and women are brothers and sisters under the fatherhood of God and thus, should love, care for and help one another. It also teaches men to seek knowledge, for it is through enlightenment that man can develop himself to the fullest and thus become an asset to his family and society.

Among its principles are liberty, equality and fraternity. It believes that men are free and should not be subjected to any form of tyranny. While it teaches adherence to and respect for established authority, it nonetheless believes that people have the right to fight against authority when it becomes tyrannical and suppresses the rights and



Leaders of the reform movement in Spain: Left to right: Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar, and Mariano Ponce

freedoms of the people. Given these Masonic principles, it is thus of no surprise that Filipino patriots, seeing the decadence of Spanish rule in the Philippines and understanding the plight of their compatriots, became enthusiastic converts to Freemasonry.

Philippine nationhood is the product of two movements: the first, peaceful and reform-oriented, is known as the Propaganda Movement; the second, armed and violent, is better remembered as the Philippine Revolution. Although aimed at the betterment of the Philippine situation, both movements pursued different approaches toward their goal.

They were led by individuals who differed in their temperament, but most of them were united by a common bond—that of membership in the Masonic fraternity and a strong adherence to its tenets.

The Propaganda Movement

It is of interest to note that Filipinos discovered and embraced Freemasonry, not in the Philippines, but in foreign countries. Although Masonic lodges existed in the Philippines since the early 1800s, they were mainly foreign. They were not open to Filipinos and were mainly social

clubs and not attuned nor concerned with the situation then prevailing in the Philippines. Lodges in foreign countries, to the delight of Filipino expatriates, were open to them.

It was in Spain that these Filipinos sought and gained membership in Masonic lodges. It was also there that the Filipinos organized the first Filipino Masonic lodge—Lodge Solidaridad, which later gave way to Lodge Revolucion. Among the first Filipino initiates were Graciano Lopez-Jaena, Marcelo H. del Pilar, Juan Luna, Jose Rizal, Felipe Buencamino and others.

Buoyed by the freedom they experienced in Spain, those Filipino Masons came up with a plan to use the fraternity as a means of achieving reforms and improving the situation of Filipinos at home. This plan took on two forms: a propaganda campaign to be launched in Spain for the purpose of educating the Spanish people and government about the true situation in the home country, and a plan to organize Masonic lodges in the Philippines for Filipinos through which the people could be taught the principles of liberty and democracy and, in the process, educate them about their plight. (continued on page 5)



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, FREEMASONRY)

The first plan was implemented through the publication of La Solidaridad, a magazine that was edited by Lopez-Jaena and later by del Pilar. This was supplemented by presentations made by Filipino Masons, notably del Pilar and Rizal, in lodge meetings and other public gatherings. Excerpts from magazine articles and speeches show the Masonic basis of this propaganda movement.

The second plan was implemented when Serrano Lak-taw (in lieu of Luna who could not make it) was sent to the Philippines for the purpose of organizing Filipino Masonic lodges. Lak-taw carried with him authority from the Spanish Grand Lodge. He organized Lodge Maynilad, which became the mother lodge of Filipino lodges and a number of other lodges. Newly-initiated members were then sent all over the country to organize Masonic triangles or clubs, planting the seed for the formation of Masonic lodges. Records show that about 24 lodges and 39 triangles were organized in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

The main objective of this propaganda movement was to educate both Spain and Filipinos about the prevailing situation in the Philippines and to advocate for reforms in the governance of the colony and for its representation in the Spanish legislature. The intent was not to separate but rather to eventually become a province of Spain, making Filipinos citizens of Spain.

The movement did not succeed. Due to financial difficulties, La Solidaridad had to stop. Its editor, del Pilar, died of starvation. Rizal, who had become a popular leader of the movement as a result of the publication of his two novels, Noli Me Tangere and El Fili-busterismo, was arrested and eventually executed.

The lodges in the Philippines did not flourish owing to persecution by the Catholic Church which considered the fraternity atheistic and anti-Church. With the discovery of the Katipunan and its links to Masonry, the lodges were

banned as subversive organizations and eventually collapsed with the arrest and imprisonment of many of its members. The reformist movement ended, giving way to a revolutionary one.

The Armed Revolution

In a sense, the Propaganda movement was not a complete failure for it planted the seed for the next stage of the struggle. Through the organization of Masonic lodges in the Philippines, a group of leaders was born, albeit with a different perspective as to what solution the Philippine situation needs. These Filipino Masons—Andres Bonifacio, Antonio Luna, Apolinario Mabini, Emilio Aguinaldo, among others—believed in separation from Spain, and that an armed revolution was necessary to achieve this. Bonifacio founded the Katipunan, a secret revolutionary society based on Masonic organizational principles, which led the forefront of the Philippine revolution against Spain starting in 1896.

The armed struggle initially faltered but proved resilient enough to force the Spanish government to enter into a truce under the so-called Pact of Biak-na-Bato. The Filipino revolutionary leaders agreed to leave the Philippines for Hongkong, but this did not stop the continuance of the struggle, especially in the provinces. The leaders eventually returned and renewed a coordinated war effort that proved to be successful. This led to the proclamation of Philippine independence on June 12, 1898 by Emilio Aguinaldo who became the president of the first Philippine Republic. Many among the signatories of the proclamation were Masons. And many of the top officials of Aguinaldo's government were also Masons—among them were Apolinario Mabini, Antonio Luna, Baldomero Aguinaldo, Ambrosio Flores, Gracio Gonzaga, Mariano Llanera, Vicente Lukban, and others.

Freemasonry, thus, played



Katipunan's "Blood Compact"

a very important role in the Filipino struggle for independence against Spain. It provided the principles and the leadership that was so necessary to attain the objectives of the movement. Aguinaldo summed it up when he wrote:

"The successful Revolution of 1896 was masonically-inspired, masonically-led, and masonically-executed, and I venture to say that the First Philippine Republic of which I was its humble president, was an achievement we owe largely to Masonry and the Masons."

Post-Script

Filipino independence from Spain, however, was short-lived. The United States, which entered the war against Spain, decided to occupy the

Philippines. This led to the outbreak of hostilities between the newly-formed Philippine government and U.S. armed forces. Known as the Filipino-American War, the leaders in this struggle were practically the same Filipino Masons who waged the revolution against Spain—Aguinaldo, Emilio Jacinto, Mabini and others. The war ended with the Filipinos on the losing side.

But Filipino Masonic leaders did not lose hope. With the air of freedom brought on by the establishment of civil government, Masonic lodges were reorganized and allowed to flourish, eventually leading to the unification of American and Filipino lodges into the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. This produced a number of prominent Masons who

championed the cause of Filipino independence. They entered the political arena and using constitutional means, pursued with equal vigor the goal of freedom from the U.S. This new breed of Masonic leaders was led by Manuel Quezon, Rafael Palma, Teodoro Kalaw, Camilo Osias, Jose Abad Santos and Salvador Laurel, to name a few.

They worked for the passage of the Jones Law of 1916, otherwise known as the Philippine Autonomy Act; the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act; and the Tydings-McDuffie Law which provided for the creation of a Philippine Constitutional Convention for the purpose of framing a constitution.

Among those elected for the task of drafting the constitution were Claro Recto, Manuel Roxas, and Conrado Benitez, all Masons. Many members of the Constitutional Convention were Masons and it is no wonder that the Philippine Constitution of 1935 embodied some of the lofty ideals of Freemasonry. It is of note that the major candidates for the presidency of the Philippine Commonwealth govern-

(continued on page 6)

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OPINION

Congress Says, "War Powers? What War Powers?"

By Lee H. Hamilton

A few weeks ago, Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia made a small splash in the press when he took Congress to task for failing to authorize our nation's ongoing war against Islamic militants. "The silence of Congress in the midst of this war is cowardly and shameful," he said. "[T]his Congress, the very body that is so quick to argue against President Obama's use of executive power... allows an executive war to go on undeclared, unapproved, undefined and unchecked."

Those were strong words, meant to spur Congress to action. Yet after a day or two, they sank without a trace. No one in the media picked up the call. No one in a position to influence the Senate or the House made a move to advance a congressional war authorization.

Indeed, it has been three

months since President Obama sent his proposal for an "Authorization for the Use of Military Force" focused on ISIS to Capitol Hill. It, too, met with a brief flurry of attention and then went nowhere.

This is mind-boggling. If you had any question that we're at war, the bombing runs over Ramadi and the recent Delta Force raid that killed an ISIS official should have settled it. On the most important question government faces — military intervention overseas — Congress seems unable to stir itself to hammer out an agreement with the President. You can blame the President for this or you can blame Congress — each side comes in for its fair share — but inaction only expands the power of the President, leaving him to make hugely consequential decisions by himself. It's a shocking dereliction of duty on Capitol Hill.

Why do I say this? The

Constitution vests in Congress the power to declare war, but should that mean that Congress also has the responsibility to do so?

Let's start with this: former acting CIA director Michael Morell recently said that the "great war" against Islamic terrorists is likely to last "for as long as I can see." This is going to be a long and difficult conflict. It raises tough questions about the scope of the President's powers, the duration of those powers, the definition and identity of the enemy, the extent of the field of battle, the kinds of force that should be used, America's vital interests, and its fundamental role in the world.

The decision to apply American lives and resources to such a war is momentous, and as a country we need to know how far we're willing to commit ourselves. The President needs backing for a military campaign, and the discussion about what it ought

to entail needs to be open and rigorous.

I understand that this is a lot for Congress to undertake. A resolution authorizing the use of force is tough to draft — Congress needs to make the parameters and goals of military action clear without hindering our ability to respond to a fluid situation or micromanaging the executive branch. And, of course, it's just as tough politically. Some members will want to give more powers to the President, others less. No one wants to be on the wrong side of a war vote.

But the difficulty of a task is no reason to avoid it. If we are going to send U.S. forces into dangerous places, they need to go in with the public backing that comes from a formal authorization hammered out in Congress. This does not mean enacting a resolution after we've intervened — because then it's an argument about supporting our troops in

the field, and only a few members will vote against that.

Both the President and Congress are dragging their feet on this, but that only helps the President, not the country. It leaves him — and most likely his successor — with dangerously broad authority to use military force without restriction, in perpetuity. This is not how a democracy like ours should operate.

The American people are beginning to understand all this. They overwhelmingly believe that Congress needs to weigh in on the government's war-making powers. Yet that seems to mean nothing to Washington. "Cowardly and shameful," Sen. Kaine said. That pretty much sums it up.

LEE HAMILTON is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University; Distinguished Scholar, IU School of Global and International Studies; and Professor of Practice, IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

(COVERS TORY from page 4, FREEMASONRY)

ment in 1935 were all Masons—Manuel Quezon, Aguinaldo and Gregorio Aglipay. Elected president was Manuel Quezon.

During the interregnum brought about by the Japanese occupation during the Second World War, Filipino Masons

also featured prominently in the underground movement as well as in the government of the "second" republic set up by the Japanese occupiers. Dr. Jose Laurel, a Mason, was elected president, accepting the position as a buffer for the oppressed Filipinos. And it

was a Mason, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, member of Manila Lodge, who led the forces that liberated the Philippines. July 4, 1946 marked the culmination of the long struggle for Philippine freedom when the third Republic of the Philippines was inaugurated with Manuel Roxas, a Mason, as its first president.

Masonic leaders continued to play important roles in the post-1946 era and, even now, many Filipino Masons hold top positions in the government, business, military, academic, and other sectors of Philippine society. The role of Freemasonry in the Philippine body-politic lives on and is symbolized by the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, which continues to admit into its ranks good men and true who are dedicated to the tenets for which the early patriots willingly gave their lives—liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Are Filipinos Truly Free?

The Philippines today is an independent country free from the colonial oppression it

suffered in previous centuries. But despite its independent status, Dr. Liongson says the country's sovereignty and dignity of its citizens continue to be violated and threatened economically, socially and territorially in and by other countries.

"Economically, the country continues to depend on other nations by shamelessly exporting and endangering its most vulnerable citizens to foreign lands where they are abused and maltreated, or face threats of war and execution," Liongson says. "Socially, they are denied the warmth and love of family and their families deprived of their much-needed presence.

"Today, the country's territorial integrity is being threatened more seriously this time—not from rebellious separatists but from an intimidating covetous and acquisitive neighbor. The Dragon of Asia is mustering all the power and is bullying its defenseless neighbors. Protecting Philippine territory and sovereignty bares the fragility of the coun-

try's independence."

Liongson further defines freedom as the state of not being subjected to dehumanizing conditions such as crippling poverty, exploitation, oppression, ignorance, corruption and terrorizing powers.

"While there has been growth of wealth in the country, most of it remains concentrated in the hands of a very few that are at the pinnacle of the socio-economic pyramid," he says. "Corruption is rampant and squandering not only the nation's resources but debasing the people's moral fiber. On this premises, the majority of Filipinos today are not truly free and independent."

SERAFIN "JUN" COLMENARES works for the Executive Office on Aging of the State of Hawaii. A 32nd degree Mason, he is Past Master of Lake Lanao Lodge No. 227, Past Grand Lodge Inspector and Past District Grand Lecturer (Masonic District 25) of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. He is currently a member of Hawaiian Lodge and Leeward Lodge under the Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Court Drills Hole in Obama's Bucket List and Immigration Drained Out



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

A “bucket list” is a list of things a person wants to do before the person dies. It is taken from the phrase “to kick the bucket” which means “to die”. “Kick the bucket is derived from the anecdote about a man who wanted to kill himself. He stood on a bucket (pail), tied a rope around the branch of a tree, tied the other end around his neck, and then kicked the bucket he was standing on. Patay. Catholics have a different version. A priest was called to administer extreme unction to a dying man. The priest put a bucket of holy water next the man’s feet. When the cold holy water was sprinkled on the man, it trig-

gered cadaveric spasm and he kicked the bucket of holy water, which spilled.

During the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner, Obama said that his advisers had asked if he had “a bucket list?” Obama said he had “something that rhymes with bucket list.” “Take executive action on immigration? Bucket.” In the next breath, Obama said: “Some people think I am arrogant and condescending.” “Some people are so dumb,” he said arrogantly.

<http://search.yahoo.com/search?p=obama%27s+bucket+list+speech&ei=UTF-8&fr=chrffyff24>

The U.S. Court of Appeals put a hole in Obama’s bucket and drained immigration out of it and probably dented his arrogant demeanor when the court upheld the U.S. District Court’s February 16 temporary injunction order against the United States of America, its officers

and employees to not implement the Deferred Action for Parental Responsibility (DAPA) program which grants amnesty to illegal alien parents of U.S. born or legal resident children, and the expanded version of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) program.

The issue was whether the laws of the United States, including the Constitution, give the Secretary of Homeland Security the power to take the action at issue in this case? The District Court held that they did not, pointing out that the defendants failed to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 501 et seq. More specifically, the DAPA Memorandum was promulgated without the requisite “notice and comment” process required under § 553 of APA (5 U.S. Code § 553).

The DHS immediately appealed to the Court of Appeals

for the Fifth Circuit anticipating that it would reverse the District Court. As we had predicted in our column in this publication last February, it was unlikely that the appeals court would reverse the District Court because its holding was on solid ground and that the states had “standing” to challenge the DAPA and DACA memoranda.

Now that the Court of Appeals has rebuffed the Obama administration, Obama’s subalterns are complaining that two of the three judges that voted to uphold the injunction were appointed by Republican presidents and that they did not know the law. But it was the Obama lawyers who brought the case to the Court of Appeals? They brought this adverse result upon themselves. If they did not like the judges, why didn’t they move to disqualify them?

There is a saying: “If the

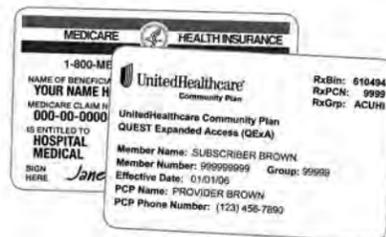
facts are against you, pound on the law. If the law is against you, pound on the facts. If the facts and the law are against you, pound on the table.” To which I am adding: “If the judges are against you, pound on their heads.”

The judges who ruled against Obama knew the law. Obama also knew or ought to have known the law. As argued by the DAPA and DACA challengers, Obama violated the Constitution which provides that the President shall “take care” that the laws be faithfully executed. As pointed out by the challengers, Obama had been saying before the midterm elections that the President did not have power to change the immigration laws and that only Congress did. Then after the elections, he said that since Congress had not done anything about changing the immigration laws, he was doing it himself. There is apprehension that Obama could tell the Supreme Court, if you do not

(continued on page 14)

Binibigyan ako ng aking planong pangkalusugan ng higit pa sa aking inaasahan.

Kung mayroon kang Medicaid at Medicare A at B, tumawag upang matutunan pa ang tungkol sa mga plano ng UnitedHealth Dual Complete™ (PPO SNP). Kumpara sa Original Medicare, ang mga planong pangkalusugan ito ay nagbibigay sa iyo ng mga karagdagang benepisyo at mga katangian na maaaring makapagpabago sa iyong buhay, kabilang ang:



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TRAVEL & TOURISM

Hawaii's Waimanalo Bay Beach Park Tops Dr. Beach's List

By Caleb Jones (AP)

HONOLULU — As the sun rises over the Pacific Ocean, Waimanalo Bay's powdery white coral sand glows in the morning light. A few people lounge in the sand as a fisherman casts his line into the turquoise water.

On Thursday, Waimanalo Bay Beach Park was named the top beach on an annual top 10 list of U.S. beaches compiled by a coastal science professor known as Dr. Beach.

Professor Stephen Leatherman of Florida International University compiles the popular list of best public beaches in the United States using 50 criteria, including best sand and water quality, environmental management and amenities.

Waimanalo Bay Beach Park beat out Barefoot Beach in Florida as the top pick for 2015, according to Dr. Beach. In recent years Leatherman has given extra points to beaches that have good safety records and no-smoking rules.

"Cigarette butts are the number one form of litter on beaches — plastics in terms of volume but in terms of numbers it's cigarette butts — so I'm starting to give beaches extra credit for no smoking," Leatherman said in a telephone interview Monday.

Leatherman said he has been to beaches where he counted 10 cigarette butts in a square meter, but smoking is illegal on beaches in Oahu, giving the island a boost on the list.

Leatherman cited Waimanalo's unassuming location, on a single-lane road in a rural stretch of the windward coast of Oahu, as another reason for its selection as the best of 2015. It's located in a quiet town near an Air Force base, far away from the busy streets of Waikiki.

"It's a beach that a lot of people don't know much about," Leatherman said. "I think it's one of those little gems . a lot of, shall we say, tourists — people from out of state — miss it all together."

Leatherman, who visits all the beaches on his lists, said Waimanalo Bay Beach Park is one of the longest in Hawaii and is the longest on the island of Oahu.

"If you're into beachcombing, you've got plenty of beach to walk on," he said.

Clean water and sand were important factors for Leatherman in deciding this year's best beaches. Safety and environmental management were also key components. Waimanalo Bay Beach Park has lifeguards on duty and the water is not very deep or treacherous, Leatherman says.

"There are a lot of beaches in Hawaii that are absolutely gorgeous but not very safe," he added.

Phillip Quiton Jr., a Native Hawaiian who was born and raised in Kaneohe, Hawaii, was fishing with friends Warwick and Warren Kekauoha on Waimanalo Bay on Tuesday.

He said he comes to the beach a lot to fish, but never to surf. "There isn't much surf here," he said of the relatively

calm blue waters.

But it's good for fishing, he said. "Nobody else is here, I guess for whatever reason they believe there isn't much fish." A few minutes later one of his friends landed a bonefish.

Quiton said the ease of access and rock-free sand are other factors for frequenting this particular stretch of shore.

Ali Junell, of Portland Oregon, and Kristen Carmichael, of Los Angeles, were lounging on the beach near the three fishermen on Tuesday. They were told about the spot by a friend who lives and works nearby.

"There's no one here," Junell said. "It's pretty empty and the waves aren't overwhelming."

"It's nice to be at a beach with blue water that you can get in if it gets too hot," she added.

Hamoia Beach on Maui also made this year's list, joining beaches in Florida, Massachusetts, the Carolinas and California to round out the top 10.

Hawaiian beaches have



Warren Kekauoha catches a bonefish at Waimanalo Bay Beach Park in Waimanalo, Hawaii. AP/Caleb Jones

won the top beach designation 14 of the 25 years Leatherman has published the list.

After Waimanalo, the other beaches on this year's list are Barefoot Beach in Bonita Springs, Florida, in the No. 2 spot, followed by St. George Island State Park on the Florida Panhandle; Hamoia Beach on Maui, Hawaii; Cape Hatteras, Outer Banks of North Carolina; Cape Florida State Park in Key Biscayne, Florida; Coast Guard Beach on Cape Cod, Massachusetts; Beachwalker Park on Kiawah Island, South Carolina; Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park in Naples, Florida; and East

Beach in Santa Barbara, California.

Up until now, any beach that won the top spot on Dr. Beach's list was retired and became ineligible for inclusion in subsequent years.

However, Dr. Beach says after 25 years of publication, next year he will clear the slate and allow any beach in the nation to once again be eligible for the contest and for the top pick.

"I'm going to start all over next year," he said. "This is the end of a 25-year, quarter century run and every beach is eligible again next year." (www.philstar.com)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 3, TIME TO GET)



Chinese build up in Spratlys

force the claim.

In a letter to Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino, Lewis wrote:

China knows that possession is 99 percent of the law. That explains the rush of China to reclaim the land in the West Philippine Sea knowing full well that when the UNCLOS Tribunal decides in favor of the Philippines, the United Nations is powerless to execute its judgment against China.

Lewis is also concerned that this month the Philippines is even thinking about joining China's Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Lewis said that would be "like a father receiving funds knowing that the funder is raping his daughter. He ignores that he and his daughter belong to one family. The Republic of the Philippines is one country, and we cannot separate financial gain from terri-

torial integrity!"

Lewis and her group, the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance, have been calling for a boycott of Chinese goods since last year to help publicize their cause. Another protest will take place on June 12, Philippine Independence day. Multiple demonstrations are planned for Walmart, Macy's and Apple stores in cities around the country, including New York, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

To not buy Chinese products may seem like a small thing. But it all adds up. The Spratlys are small too, and can amount to big enough real problems, if we forget they're there.

EMIL GUILLERMO served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. An award winning journalist, he was the first Filipino to host a national news program when he hosted NPR's "All Things Considered." He lives in Northern California.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Statewide Employment Projected to Expand by 2016

There is good news for job seekers or those looking for new employment challenges—State officials are projecting an increase of nearly 20,000 additional jobs in all major industries by 2016.

According to the “Employment Forecasts for the Short-Term Future-2016” report by the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, statewide employment is anticipated to expand by 2.9 percent, or 19,760 jobs, by the first quarter of 2016. All major industries will display positive movement, but the construction industry will lead the economic recovery with the fastest growth rate (8.5 percent), creating 2,580 new jobs.

In other employment projections by the State DLIR:

- All major occupational groups are expected to have positive job growth that will produce 10,020 annual openings, in addition to 17,050 annual openings that arise due to replacement needs. Therefore, the forecasted average annual number of total job openings during the 2014 to 2016 period is anticipated to be 27,070.
- Large-sized occupations with slower growth rates are likely to dominate the top 20 occupations with the most job openings. Eight of these occupations are in the food preparation and serving related occupational group—waiters and waitresses; combined food preparation and serving workers; counter atten-

dants of cafeteria, food concession, and coffee shops; hosts and hostesses of restaurants, lounges, and coffee shops; food preparation workers; dining room and cafeteria attendants and bartender helpers; restaurant cooks; and dishwashers.

- Construction and extraction jobs will grow the most rapidly at 6.1 percent, creating 1,540 job openings annually. The types of fast growing jobs include cement masons and concrete finishers; paving, surfacing, and tamping equipment operators; carpenters helpers; reinforcing iron and rebar workers; construction laborers; plumbers, pipefitters, and steamfitters; electricians; supervisors of

construction trades and extraction workers; sheet metal workers; tile and marble setters; and drywall and ceiling tile installers.

- Jobs in services, the largest group of occupations, will contribute the greatest

number of job openings with 8,810 annually. Many of these jobs will be of the food preparation and serving related variety, and others will be in sales and building and grounds cleaning and maintenance.

Hanabusa Appointed to HART Board of Directors

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has appointed former Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa to serve on the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transit (HART) Board of Directors.



Hanabusa served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Hawaii’s 1st congressional district from January 2011 to January 2015. She will replace HART board member Carrie Okinaga, who stepped down from her post to serve as the University of Hawaii-Manoa’s vice president for legal affairs and general counsel.

“I am confident that Congresswoman Hanabusa, with her decades of service as an attorney, Hawaii State Senate president and U.S. congresswoman will closely monitor HART’s spending and safeguard taxpayer money,” says

Caldwell. “Being from Waianae, she knows how badly West Oahu residents need this alternative to sitting in some of the worst traffic in the entire nation every day.”

Hanabusa says she was appointed by Caldwell to ask the hard questions, remain independent and keep the rail project financially accountable.

“I am honored by the mayor’s confidence and support,” she says.

EDITORIALS (from page 3. KNOW...)

It’s apparent that with the layering of complications and swift changes in modern healthcare, it’s not enough now to simply buy health insurance and not put thought into what’s actually being covered.

At least there have been some improvements with health care reform. In all plans that began on Sept. 23 2010, there should be no higher out-of-network costs.

Insurance companies can no longer charge higher co-pays or require patient to pay more co-insurance for out-of-network hospitals when it comes to emergency care. However, such as the case with the North Shore couple, there may be some unclear areas in terms of getting a doctor in ER that is part of your insurance company’s network. Remember a hospital visit charge for ER can be broken down into parts wherein the visit might be covered but certain other services within that same visit might not be.

The smart approach is read your health insurance plan.



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- Become familiar with the location of the emergency shelters in your area. For a list of shelters, contact the Hawai’i Emergency Management Agency at 733-4300, or go to www.scd.hawaii.gov.
- Make plans to go to a safe location where electricity will be available if someone in your home depends on an electrically powered life support system and you don’t have a backup generator.

For more safety tips, refer to Hawaiian Electric’s *Information Handbook for Emergency Preparedness* at www.hawaiianelectric.com, or call 543-7511.



www.hawaiianelectric.com

Marcos Rejects Draft BBL, Says It Won't Lead to Peace

by Christina Mendez
Thursday, June 4, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. yesterday rejected the draft Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), saying its provisions might inevitably reduce the sovereign authority of the country.

"What is given to the Bangsamoro government is necessarily torn away from the government of the Republic," Marcos declared.

Marcos, chairman of the Senate committee on local government tackling the BBL, pointed out Article V Section 3 of the BBL that enumerated no less than 58 powers exclusively given to the Bangsamoro government.

Marcos shared the view of Merlin Magallona, dean of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines, that the only governing authority recognized under the draft BBL is the Bangsamoro government of which there are powers to be exercised excluding the national government.

"Unfortunately, the BBL in its present form and substance will not bring us any

closer to peace. Instead, it will lead us to perdition," Marcos said.

"Armed conflict will ensue. Blood will be shed. And when blood is shed, it will not distinguish between right and wrong; between young and old, neither between men and women, nor soldiers or rebels, combatants and civilians, rich, poor, Muslims, Christians. Nobody wins. Everybody loses," Marcos added.

Marcos' declaration went against Malacañang in calling for Congress to pass the draft BBL in its original form.

Marcos cited concerns on the rather flexible Bangsamoro territory, owing to the vague and loose 'opt-in' and 'inclusion' mechanisms; possible conflict on rights and claims over 'exclusive' and 'internal' bodies of waters, like the Sulu Sea and Lake Lanao; and co-equal rights of indigenous peoples.

Asked if he is not intimidated by any possible backlash from Malacañang, Marcos said: "Well, I have been in politics for a long time so there is no sense of threatening me. There's nothing new."

Marcos rejected the draft



Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

BBL presented to the Senate by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and the peace negotiating panel after 14 public hearings, including five out-of-town trips to affected areas.

Marcos delivered his privilege speech ahead of his sponsorship of Senate Bill 2408, which provides for the creation of the Bangsamoro government as a result of the peace negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Marcos, in a speech, reiterated he is for peace but he cannot turn a blind eye on the constitutional questions over the draft BBL.

"The OPAPP totally ignored the major stakeholders. The Sultanate of Sulu, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Lumads, the indigenous people, the Christians, the local government units and business were abandoned at will," he said.

Marcos also cited the committee report of Sen.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago, chair of the committee on constitutional amendment and revision of codes, in saying the draft BBL is riddled with constitutional infirmities.

Citing the report, Marcos said the BBL aspires to create a part-sovereign state that enjoys sovereignty within the Bangsamoro territory and within the territory of the state, or to create a state within a state.

Marcos said several provisions of BBL run counter to the Constitution. Such are the provision for a parliamentary form of government within a presidential form of government; and that the BBL seeks to impose limitations on the power of Congress.

"The Bangsamoro parliament would be equal, not subordinate, to our Congress; exclusive powers given to Bangsamoro will diminish sovereignty of the Republic and that BBL has no power to create 'Bangsamoro territory'," he said.

Beating the deadline

Marcos said the Senate committee on local government, which he heads, is ready to prepare a substitute bill that will address the constitutional issues and other concerns on the measure.

He added the Senate panel will not be able to meet the administration's target deadline to pass the measure before Congress adjourns on June 11.

The House of Representatives, for its part, is still aiming to approve the BBL next

Thursday.

"June 11 is still our target for approving it," Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said.

Despite the slow pace of plenary deliberations on the measure, Belmonte said the chamber is not abandoning its timeframe for passing it on or before June 11, when Congress ends its second regular session.

Belmonte said they could meet their BBL approval target "as long as we are not asking the same questions."

"Let everybody ask questions, but I hope they are not repetitive," he said.

Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora said there should be a time limit for questions and debates.

"Basically, it should not be beyond one hour," he said.

Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said they are planning to hold session today and tomorrow "for as long as we have a quorum."

The House usually holds sessions only from Monday through Wednesday. Members spend the rest of the week presumably for constituency work in their districts.

The chamber has barely started debates on the proposed law that would create a new Bangsamoro region that would replace the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Only Zamora and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. have questioned the measure's principal author, Cagayan de Oro City Rep. Rufus Rodriguez.

About 30 other House members have indicated their intention to ask questions.

The failure of the majority to maintain quorum has prevented the House from extending the debates.

On Monday and Tuesday, when many members had disappeared from the session hall after responding to the roll call, Rep. Lito Atienza of party-list group Buhay questioned the quorum, prompting a suspension of the deliberations. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Grace: I'm Qualified to Run for President

by Marvin Sy
Thursday, June 4, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - While she has not yet declared her plans for the 2016 elections, Sen. Grace Poe seemed in a combative mood to face issues being hurled against her by the opposition United Nationalist Alliance.

Speaking before reporters at the Senate yesterday, Poe denounced what she described was a desperate move by the camp of Vice President Jejomar Binay to question her eligibility to run for higher office due to residency requirements.

"What was most insulting to me was for them to say I am not honest because I am not qualified (to run for higher office) and I did not state it. I am qualified but I am still not a candidate. I will address all of this when I file (my certificate of candidacy) and this would be my answer," she said.

"But I will admit that because of all these developments... Whenever I go out and they ask me how far along I am in making a decision, I would say around 50 percent but now they are pushing me closer to 100 percent," she added.

Poe stressed that she has always been forthright about every issue raised against her and does not need to "hide behind spokespersons."

She explained that her answer "six years and six months" as period of residence in the Philippines in her COC when she ran for senator in 2013 was based on the date she sold her house in the United States, which was sometime in April 2006.

She stressed she has been living in the Philippines since January or February 2005, or shortly after the death of her father on Dec. 14, 2004.

Poe noted that the tactic being employed by UNA was the very same used by enemies of her father, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr., when he ran for president in 2004.

"These were the same issues they threw at FPJ. Where do all this come but from the



Sen. Grace Poe-Llamanzares

same people who supported FPJ before," she said.

She also questioned the timing of the allegations, as she just recently signed the Senate Blue Ribbon subcommittee report recommending the filing of plunder raps against Binay and other Makati City officials.

Poe had recently rejected Binay's offer to be his running mate in the coming polls.

Commission on Elections Chairman Andres Bautista dodged questions from the media on whether Poe is not qualified to run in either the presidential or vice presidential race next year.

"At this point, it's still hypothetical because Poe is not yet a candidate," Bautista said.

"We will act on it once the proper petition is filed with us," he added, noting that the filing of certificates of candidacy will be in October.

Honest mistake

Election lawyer Romulo Macalintal said Poe's declaration in her COC "is not decisive in determining whether or not she could comply with the residency requirement for President or VP."

Macalintal said Poe could claim honest mistake, just as former first lady Imelda Marcos did during the 1995 elections.

He explained as of October 2012, Poe was a resident of the Philippines for six years and six months and the additional period from then until the May 2016 elections, which is three years and seven

months, would give her a total of 10 years and one month residence.

Marcos ran for representative of the first district of Leyte in 1995 and wrote in her COC that she had been a resident for only seven months, which was short of the one-year residency requirement.

But upon proof of Marcos being a resident of Leyte since birth, Macalintal said the Supreme Court ruled that "the fact of residence and not a statement in the COC ought to be decisive in determining whether or not an individual has satisfied the Constitution's residency qualification."

Marcos further alleged then that she committed an honest mistake because she thought the question pertained to the period of residency prior to the filing of the COC.

Former Comelec chairman Sixto Brillantes also said Poe is qualified if ever she finally decides to run for the presidency but said the opposition may tie up the issue with Poe's citizenship.

"The residency being re-

ferred to in the COC is actually on the domicile and not the actual physical residence. Domicile means you may not be physically there but there remains your intent to return," Brillantes said.

Poe had earlier explained that she renounced her US citizenship even before she chaired the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board in 2010.

"The question will then be: Who is her real father? Even if she was born here but her father is a foreigner, it means she is also a foreigner," he said.

But Malacañang is confident that Poe will be able to answer issues against her.

"Obviously, we are nearing 2016 and I suppose you can't help that issues like this come out," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said in a press briefing. "But in this regard, we are quite sure that the good senator will be capable of answering these

questions that are being thrown at her."

Valte refused to comment if UNA was feeling threatened by Poe's possible candidacy.

Last Tuesday, UNA interim president and Navotas City Rep. Tobias Tiangco claimed Poe was not qualified to run for president or vice president in next year's polls because she was six months short of the 10-year residency requirement under the 1987 Constitution.

Integrated Bar of the Philippines national president Vicente Joyas and two former law school deans - Pacifico Agabin of the University of the Philippines and Amado Valdez of the University of the East - yesterday expressed belief that Tiangco raised a valid point in questioning Poe's qualifications.

UP law professor Harry Roque Jr. likewise told The STAR that Poe can no longer run for a higher post next year because "she herself apparently declared length of her residency, which was tantamount to an admission."

(www.philstar.com)

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How to Detect a Thyroid Problem

MIND YOUR BODY By Willie T. Ong, MD

The thyroid gland is like the accelerator of the car, making the body work slower or faster depending on the hormones it produces or the body's so-called metabolism.

Why is the thyroid gland important? For three reasons: 1) Thyroid disorders are so common. 2) These diseases are easily missed by doctors. 3) The thyroid controls your whole body.

Women are affected much more than men. In fact, one out of eight women (12.5% of the female population) will develop a thyroid problem in their lifetime. Well, that's millions of Filipinos.

The thyroid gland acts like the captain of the ship. It is like the accelerator of the car, making the body work slower or faster depending on the hormones it produces or the body's so-called metabolism.

Because of these reasons, we should all be thankful to our thyroid glands. However, should this tiny organ falter for whatever reason, we could have a medical disaster in our hands, something patients and doctors should know about.

Here are five quick questions to test your knowledge on the thyroid gland.

1. Where is the thyroid gland located?

- In front of the neck
- In the stomach
- In the brain
- Above the kidneys

Answer: a. Your thyroid gland sits in front of the neck, just above the collarbones.

2. What is the shape of the thyroid gland?

- Like a cross
- Like a butterfly
- Round or oval-shaped
- Like a snake

Answer: b. It is like a butterfly in shape.

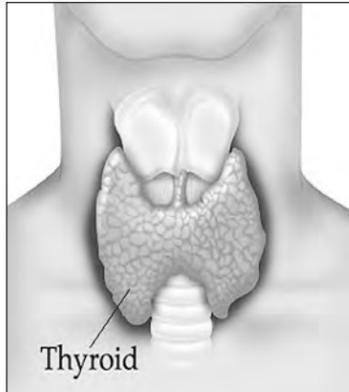
3. How much does the thyroid gland weigh?

- A half pound
- Two ounces
- Less than an ounce
- 4 ounces

Answer: c. It weighs less than an ounce.

4. The thyroid gland controls what parts of the body?

- All cells
- Your body's metabolism
- How you feel



- All of the above

Answer: d. The thyroid gland produces two types of hormones, T3 and T4, which determine how fast the body's organs should be running, and thus control all cells.

5. Which doctor specializes in diseases of the thyroid gland?

- Endocrinologist
- Oncologist
- Neurologist
- Gastroenterologist

Answer: a. Endocrinologists are the thyroid experts.

Is your thyroid hyperactive?

If your thyroid is overactive, you could have a wide variety of symptoms like palpitations, sweating, diarrhea, nervousness, tremors, insomnia, irregular menses, and loss of weight. This disease is

called hyperthyroidism or Graves' Disease. If this is not diagnosed early, the eyes can bulge out, the heart fails, and the patient can die.

Diseases of the thyroid are so easily missed. Sometimes, it's just a slight increase in heart rate or a little feeling of being hot. If you have menopausal symptoms and are still under 50 years old, you need to have your thyroid checked.

Is your thyroid underactive?

Going to the opposite problem, if the thyroid is underactive, we call this hypothyroidism. The complaints of people with hypothyroidism are non-specific. They experience fatigue, poor memory, constipation, high cholesterol, loss of hair, dry skin, weight gain, aching muscles, and joint pains.

As doctors, we find it terribly frustrating and irritating to miss a diagnosis. No one is perfect. Doctors, being human, can't get a perfect test score every time. And thyroid diseases are the Achilles' heel of medical diagnosis. Many doctors have been stumped by unusual patient complaints, only to find out that the thyroid gland is the culprit.

Testing the thyroid gland

It's easy to test the thyroid gland. We just request a blood test, called thyroid function tests that include Free T3, Free T4 and TSH levels. So why don't we just test everyone? Well, because it costs close to P1,000 to test.

We interpret the results as follows. If T3 and T4 are high and TSH is low, then you've got hyperthyroidism (fast or overactive thyroid). Your thyroid hormones, T3 and T4, are high, thus your TSH is inhibited. Urgent treatment is necessary with drugs like Methimazole or PTU.

For the opposite case of having a low T3 and T4 with a high TSH, this means you've got hypothyroidism (slow or underactive thyroid). The thyroid hormones in the body are low and patients feel slow. Treatment is thyroid hormone replacement, like Levothyroxine (Eltroxin), given for life.

Another useful test is the thyroid scan, which detects thyroid nodules and possible cancers. Your endocrinologist will tell you what other tests you need.

I hope this article has enlightened you on the functions and disorders of the thyroid gland. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippines, Taiwan Coast Guards Engage in Standoff

MANILA, Philippines — Coast guard vessels from the Philippines and Taiwan engaged in an hours-long standoff after the

Philippine patrol boat tried to tow away a Taiwanese fishing vessel for alleged poaching, the Filipino coast guard spokesman said Wednesday.

The waters in the overlapping exclusive economic zones have been a source of tension between the two Asian neighbors. Two years ago, a Philippine coast guard

patrol fired on a Taiwanese fishing boat, killing a crew member and straining otherwise friendly relations.

Cmdr. Armand Balilo said that the Taiwanese fishing boat was caught last week 33 kilometers (18 nautical miles) off Batanes, one of the Philippines' northernmost islands just south of Taiwan.

Balilo said that Taiwan's coast guard cutter then blocked the Philippine vessel

that was towing the fishing boat, setting off a four-hour standoff that ended with the Philippine crew releasing the boat.

Another Taiwanese fishing boat apprehended about three weeks earlier also near Batanes was released after it paid a \$50,000 fine.

A staffer at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office said there is "no statement on that matter." (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

USCIS Begins Accepting H-4 Work Permit Applications

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is now accepting work permit applications of certain H-4 spouses of H-1B non-immigrants who are in the process of obtaining green cards through employment.

The benefit is only available to the H-4 spouse of an H-1B visa holder who is either the principal beneficiary of an approved I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker or has been granted an H-1B extension under the American Competitiveness in the Twenty-First Century Act of 2000 (AC21), as amended.

Under AC21, H-1B workers may file for an extension of their H-1B status beyond the 6 years allowable period

on H-1B status, if they are unable to adjust status before the end of the six-year period mainly because of delays in the adjudication of employment-based green card sponsorships or the unavailability of a visa number.

The USCIS issued an FAQ on the new H-4 rule. It clarified, among others that H-4 dependent spouses who are eligible for the benefit may apply for work permits as long as they are on a valid H-4 status. The validity of their employment authorization document (EAD) will be for the same period as their H-1B family member. The applicants may apply for renewal of their EAD as long as they remain eligible under the rule.

If the H-1B visa holder's I-140 petition is revoked or he is no longer eligible for H-1B extension under AC21, the USCIS has the discretion to revoke the work permit is-

sued. Also, both the H-1B visa holder and the H-4 dependent spouse must maintain their nonimmigrant status in order for the H-4 spouse to qualify for the benefit.

The H-4 spouse granted work authorization under this rule may work for any employer. The work permit is unrestricted. The H-4 spouse may even start a business and hire individuals as employees of the business.

The application is made on Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. If the H-1B visa holder is filing Form I-129 petition to extend his/her stay on H-1B status along with the H-4 dependent's spouse H-4 extension of stay application, the application for work permit may be filed together with these applications.

If a new H-1B petition is being filed along with a new H-4 change of status application, the application for work

permit may also be filed concurrently. However, before the USCIS can adjudicate the I-765 application, it must first determine if both are eligible for H-1B and H-4 status respectively.

Current rules require the USCIS to adjudicate a pending I-765 application within 90 days from receipt. If the application is not adjudicated by the 90th day, regulations require the USCIS to issue an interim Employment Authorization Document. In this case, however, the USCIS will not begin counting the 90 days until they make a decision on the H-1B petition and the H-4 application.

The applicant must submit the following to show eligibility for the benefit: evidence of H-4 non-immigrant status, evidence of qualifying spousal relationship with the H-1B visa holder such as marriage certificate, and evidence of the H-1B family member's non-immigrant status.

If the H-1B visa holder

has an approved I-140 petition, the applicant must submit evidence that the I-140 petition has been approved such as the Form I-797 Approval Notice.

If not, the applicant must show evidence that the H-1B spouse is a beneficiary of a permanent labor certification application or employment-based immigrant visa petition which was filed on his/her behalf 365 days or more before the expiration of the six-year H-1B period, and the application or petition remains pending. The labor certification application or I-140 petition must have been filed by the end of the worker's fifth year in H-1B status.

There is no premium processing service available for I-765 applications under this new rule.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

US Warns China vs 'Throwing Elbows'

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has said that while some of China's territorial claims in the South China Sea may be legitimate, Beijing "shouldn't just try to establish that based on throwing elbows and pushing people out of the way."

Obama, in a discussion at the White House with a group of young leaders from Southeast Asian nations, said land reclamation projects in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea were unproductive and called for an end to aggressive actions by all parties concerned.

"China is going to be successful. It's big, it's powerful, its people are talented and they work hard. And it may be some of their claims are legitimate," Obama said during the discussion.

In Vietnam, US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said



US President Barack Obama said land reclamation projects in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea were unproductive

the US is not looking to militarize or escalate the situation in the South China Sea and West Philippine Sea where China and five other claimants, including the Philippines and Vietnam, are at loggerheads over disputed rocks, shoals and islands.

The claimants have been building structures on submerged features of the Spratly Islands and then claiming them as their own, but China is building faster and more aggressively than anyone else

and has recently put military hardware and a runway on reclaimed land.

In an interview with BBC's World News America correspondent Katty Kay in Haiphong, Vietnam on Monday, Carter said nothing China does will stop the US military from flying, sailing and operating in the region.

It is China's recent aggressive activities in the South China Sea, Carter suggested, that have prompted countries like Vietnam to seek closer ties with the US.

Those countries, he said, are now looking to the US for peace and stability and an emphasis on diplomacy, not "force or coercion."

The US has called on every country involved in land reclamation to stop its activities, particularly China. But China has rejected US demands, saying it is exercising its sovereignty.

militarize the situation, or escalate the situation," Carter insisted. "It's a system that's worked well for 70 years, we've got to keep a good thing going out here."

"We're not looking to

(www.philstar.com)



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DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Saan A Malipatan Ti Aldaw Dagiti Amma



apateg ti aldaw dagiti INNA ngem napateg met ti aldaw dagiti AMMA. Napateg nga agpadpada dagitoy nga al-aldaw ta no awanda nga agpadpada, awan met dagiti anak.

Nupay ammo tayo a nigduduma dagiti amma, ammo tayo nga adda nauyong, managbaybay –a, adda manangited, naranggas ken di manngikankano nga amma kadagiti annakda.

Ania met ti ama a nagpatanor kenka? Sapay koma ta maysa met a nadungngo ken mangipateg nga ama.



MANGIPATPATEG NGA AMMA

SURAT TI MAYSANGA AMA ITI ANAKNA ITI FILIPINAS

Ni Cristino Iloreta Inay

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A mangbuybuya iti panaglua manen ti
tangatang
Mayaplag to manen ti sumilsileng a niebe
Kadagiti kalsada ken tuktok
Dagiti balbalay iti siudad...
Uppaten a kasukot iti aruatek, wen,
Ngem kaskasdi latta
A tumulang ti lamiisna
Kayatkon ti agawid
Kayatkon ti agawid...
Iti ikut iti ipatpateg tayo a pagilian
Iti ikut iti siwawaya
Ken naragsak a panagbiag
Ditoy angko tay naitangkal
A tumatayab...
Robot dagiti tattao ditoy
Awananda iti utek ken kararua
Gangannaet ni Apo Hesukristo
A nailansa iti Krus.
Ngamin doliar ti bigbigenda a Dios
Agtigtigergerak ti nalaus a butengko, Anakko,
Kadagitoy a kinapudno

A maimutmutektekak iti inaldaw
Iti sidong daytoy a paset ti lubong
Agliplias iti milagro ti biag...
Nga awan ti masarakan a sungbatda
Wen, ti dayaw ti tunggal tao
Awan aniamanna kadakuada.
Agassawada no agkaidada iti rabii
Iti aldaw, awan bibiang ti tunggal maysa
Ti lalaki addaan iti babai
Ti babai addaan met iti lalaki
Kasta ti panagtayyek
Ti biag ditoy, Anakko.
Maulawak
Maulawak...
Ita ammokon ti panurnorem
A dalan, Anakko,
Ngem taliawem koma ti naggapuum
Punasem agarimayang a lua ni Luzviminda
Tapno makagtengka iti papanam
Ammok metten nga iti ungto
Ti bullalayaw ti biagmo
Addan nga agur-uray
Ti nalayog a balligim.

DANIWANKA TATANGKO

Ni Pacita Cabulera Saludes

Nanipud pay ammon dilak ti agbalikas
Sika Tatangko ti kanayon nga aw-awagak
Kunada napategka kano kaniak ta ipasimudaag dilak
Ammok a patpatgennak, nupay agmalen dinak katakunaynay
Arakupennak ti nairut, agek pupugennak pay
Kunam mainanaanka no madatngannak naragsak, nalang-ay.
Babassit nga imak, iyap-aprosko ita nasileng a rupam
Lupotmo nadaripespes ti ling-et, awan alumiim kaniak
Kirsang dagita barbasmo atapek a ta rupam mangpapintas
Gayam, nakurang panawenmo, naliduum ta bagim gapu kaniak

Ammok tatangko, agbannogkat' agmalem gaput' masakbayak
Kayatmo a naragsak, natalingenngen ti sasaadek nga agbiag
Rigatem a maibudiak kapatadak, wenna aglak-amak iti rigat
Sangkasaom "agadalka anakko" ta isut tawidmo kaniak
No agin-inanaka iti rabii awagannak, awidennak sibaymo
Pagpunganennak ita takiagmo, sanak mulien kadagiti balikasmo

Dakkelakon tatangko, makaaddangakon bukodko a law-ang
Matam sursurotennak, sarukodmo pasaraymo
Pay ipuruak a pagkaptak
Makitam ngata Tatangko, agnguynguy-aak a kumalay-at
Pilid ti biag inar-arapaapmo nga allinek tapno makaragpatak
Tatangko! Anian a nagdakkel, nagbaknang dayta pusom
Nagbalin a pagwadak, taklin, kibin, patawko a kanayon
Silawmo nadarang agpaay kaniak napateg a daton
Ladawam natibker a bato-lagip, dinto agkusnaw a moton.

Tugotmo Tatangko tintinepek, sapatosmo kayatko nga aramaten
Nabantot ngem napinasda kaniak kayatko a tawiden
Tatangko timudem toy daniwko nga agpaay kenka
Pagyamanko kadagiti ballaigik ken lalakl-amek a gin-awa
Kanayon nga ikarkararagko iti Namarsua,
A kas koma kenka dagiti amin nga Amma!

IMMIGRATION GUIDE (from page 7, COURT)

decide the validity of Obamacare today, I will decide it myself. What happened to separation of powers and checks and balances, Mr. Constitutional Law professor? Que horror!

If Obama was sincere in reforming our immigration laws, he should have compromised with Congress, not resort to bluff and bluster. His predecessors, like Presidents Reagan and Clinton, were facing a Congress composed of members of the opposite party but they knew how to deal with them amicably and got things accomplished.

We are for immigration relief to deserving aliens. We have invoked DAPA for a number of clients before the injunction. They are now in limbo.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication. No attorney-client relationship is established between the writer and readers relying upon and/or acting pursuant to the contents of this article.)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ISAH 2ND PRESIDENT ELPIDIO QUIRINO LEADERSHIP AND HUMANITARIAN AWARD AND GALA NIGHT | June 5, 2015 | HAWAII PRINCE HOTEL | Contact Danny Villaruz 778-0233 or Jun Abinsay 469-7351

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF HI, 36TH PNA GALA NIGHT | July 25, 2015 | HILTON HAWAIIAN

VILLAGE | 5:00 PM | Contact: Marise Aczon Armstrong, 542-5133 or Tina Salvador, 426-6183

MRS. ISAH 2015 CORONATION AND GALA NIGHT | October 24, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Contact Danny Villaruz 778-0233

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GLOBAL NEWS

Noy Gets Standing Ovation in Tokyo

TOKYO – President Aquino yesterday received a standing ovation from members of the Japanese Parliament after he delivered a speech about the country’s bilateral relations with Japan and “strategic partnership” on maritime issues.

House of Councilors (HoC) president Masaaki Yamazaki and Speaker Tadamori Oshima of the House of Representatives (HoR) welcomed Aquino when he delivered his address before the joint session of the National Diet of Japan at the Assembly Hall.

The event where Aquino spoke was attended by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and a good majority of the law-



President Benigno Aquino III addresses the upper house of parliament in Tokyo, Wednesday, June 3, 2015. Aquino is signaling his country’s deepening ties with Tokyo amid increasing concerns by both sides about China’s assertiveness in regional seas during his four-day visit. AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi

makers who also expressed their warm welcome and support for Aquino, whose latest visit is his sixth since his assumption into office in 2010.

The legislative branch of Japan is the National Diet, which is composed of HoC and HoR. This is where the country’s politics and policies are being discussed and delib-

erated like the right to collective self-defense.

In his speech, Aquino commended Japan for trying to help a small country like Philippines against the abuses of China on the West Philippine Sea, following the establishment of concrete military structures and reclamations in the disputed waters.

“Japan is one of two countries with which Philippines has strategic partnership,” Aquino said, extolling Tokyo for its “pro-active stance” where it now plans to make a more active role in helping aggrieved nations with the military might of China.

In a forum at Okura Hotel, Aquino was all praises for the bill on the “right to collective self-defense and related laws and bills” that have

been submitted to the National Diet for deliberation.

“We do not view with alarm this review of the collective defense that is being espoused, but rather we see it as an opportunity whereby Japan – a very significant and influential player in the world – will be able to completely fulfill its role in direct relation to its standing as a world economic power,” he said.

He stressed that Japan, having a “very significant influence throughout the world,” has all the right to do it.

“So, again, we do not see it as a cause of alarm, but rather an opportunity that they can fulfill their rightful functions in our attempts, especially at peacekeeping throughout the world,” he added. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Iloilo to Host Independence Day Rites

by Jennifer Rendon
Thursday, June 4, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Departing from tradition, this year’s 117th Independence Day ceremonies will be held not in Luzon but in Iloilo’s Sta. Barbara town, where the Philippine flag was first raised to inaugurate the provisional revolutionary government of the Visayas in 1898.

The vin d’ honneur (wine of honor) will also be done at the newly restored Iloilo provincial capitol with Senate President Franklin Drilon describing it as a celebration that will “showcase to the nation Iloilo’s remarkable progress and achievements.”

“Let us make use of that momentous event to show this nation the soaring aspirations of Ilonggos – that with our past, present and near future achievements, we are poised to reclaim Iloilo’s

rightful place as Queen City of the South,” Drilon said in a statement.

He added that the event is a “national affirmation and acknowledgement of Iloilo’s rise as a progressive and developing center in the Visayas.”

Philippine flags now line the streets of Santa Barbara where President Aquino is expected to lead the Independence Day flag-raising ceremony at the town plaza on June 12.

Customarily, the flag-raising ceremonies for Independence Day celebrations were done at the Rizal Park in Manila. Last year, it was done in Naga City.

Santa Barbara was chosen as the site of this year’s celebration because it was where the Philippine flag was first raised outside of Luzon on Nov. 17, 1898.

The President will also inspect the restoration of the

Santa Barbara Church and Convent, which served as the general headquarters and military hospital of the Visayan revolutionary forces in the late 1800s. It was on the convent’s balcony where Santa Barbara native General Martin Delgado, first civilian governor of Iloilo province, declared the famous cry of Sta. Barbara (Fuera España, Viva Filipina).

Built in 1845, the church is of Baroque Renaissance architecture with a neoclassic façade. In 2012, the National Historical Commission declared Sta. Barbara as one of the historic sites in Iloilo following its role in the 1898 Philippine Revolution.

Vin d’ honneur

After the flag raising ceremony, the President will motor to Molo church in Iloilo City and onto the restored Iloilo provincial capitol for the traditional vin d’ hon-

neur, the first outside of Malacañang Palace.

A traditional morning reception, vin d’ honneur takes place biannually in Malacañang: first, to mark the New Year, and second, to celebrate the anniversary of

Philippine Independence on June 12.

More than 50 ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps, Cabinet members and other government officers are expected to attend the rite. (www.philstar.com)

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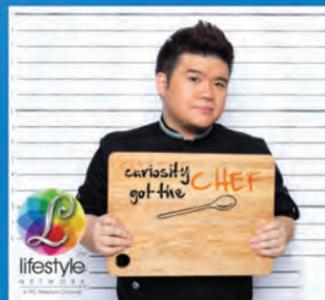


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*BILL CREDIT/PROGRAMMING OFFER: IF BY THE END OF PROMOTIONAL PRICE PERIOD(S) CUSTOMER DOES NOT CONTACT DIRECTV TO CHANGE SERVICE THEN ALL SERVICES WILL AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUE AT THE THEN-PREVAILING RATES. LIMIT ONE PROGRAMMING OFFER PER ACCOUNT. Featured package/service names and current prices: PREFERRED CHOICE \$48.99/mo.; FilipinoDirect Package \$35.99/mo.; Advanced Receiver fee \$15/mo. PREFERRED CHOICE package requires a qualifying WorldDirect international a la carte service. Price includes the following instant bill credits for first 12 months: \$39 for PREFERRED CHOICE Package. Customer must, at point of sale, activate and maintain any qualifying international service bundle, which shall include the PREFERRED CHOICE programming package and Auto Bill Pay. Account must be in "good standing" as determined by DIRECTV in its sole discretion to remain eligible for all offers.

**24-MONTH AGREEMENT: EARLY CANCELLATION WILL RESULT IN A FEE OF \$20/MONTH FOR EACH REMAINING MONTH. Must maintain 24 consecutive months of any DIRECTV base programming package (\$29.99/mo. or above) or any qualifying international service bundle. Advanced Receiver fee (\$15/mo.) required for all HD DVRs. TiVo service fee (\$5/mo.) required for TiVo HD DVR from DIRECTV lease. There is a fee of \$6.50/mo. for each receiver and/or Genie Mini/DIRECTV Ready TV/Device on your account. NON-ACTIVATION CHARGE OF \$150 PER RECEIVER MAY APPLY. ALL EQUIPMENT (EXCLUDING GENIEGO DEVICE) IS LEASED AND MUST BE RETURNED TO DIRECTV UPON CANCELLATION, OR UNRETURNED EQUIPMENT FEES APPLY. VISIT directv.com/legal OR CALL 1-800-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. INSTALLATION: Standard professional installation in up to four rooms only. Custom installation extra.

Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing residential. Taxes not included. Receipt of DIRECTV programming subject to DIRECTV Customer Agreement; copy provided at directv.com/legal and in order confirmation. ©2015 DIRECTV. DIRECTV and the Cyclone Design logo, PREFERRED CHOICE, and all WorldDirect service marks are trademarks of DIRECTV, LLC. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.