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FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ APRIL 15, 2017 ◆

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IT'S FILIPINO FIESTA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY!



Photos by: Gabe De Liso



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EDITORIALS

25 Years of the Filipino Fiesta Is Truly Remarkable

Hawaii's Filipino community will come together to celebrate in May an impressive milestone, the 25th anniversary of the Filipino Fiesta, its silver jubilee year. To give a perspective of how long the fiesta has been around, 25 years ago George H.W. Bush just lost the presidency to Bill Clinton; Microsoft released Windows 3.1 (we're now at 10.0); the cost of a video telephone (precursor to today's modern cell) was \$1,499; Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner starred in the Bodyguard; and the popular TV programs were Law & Order and the Oprah Winfrey Show. Locally, Hurricane Iniki devastated Hawaii causing \$1.8 billion in damage. In the Filipino community, ethnic pride hit a new peak as Ben Cayetano was in the midst of his first term as governor of Hawaii.

The inception of the Filipino Fiesta in a way could be viewed as a symbolic celebration of Hawaii's Filipino community's "coming of age," a time when Filipinos really started to make an impact in the state as leaders in practically all sectors in society. The idea of the Filipino Fiesta originated when L&L Drive-Inn Founder Eddie Flores thought of initiating a celebration to help raise support for the construction of the FilCom Center, which has been organizing the event since its inception. The construction of the FilCom Center came to fruition a few years later and the Filipino Fiesta continues to be the most celebrated yearly event for the Filipino community.

The Filipino Fiesta is more than just about sharing Filipino culture, food, entertainment with all the people of Hawaii. Its success is a reflection of our community -- perhaps nowhere else outside of the Philippines but Hawaii could a Filipino Fiesta of this magnitude and longevity be replicated; and perhaps nowhere else outside of the Philippines but Hawaii can you find a more vibrant, influential, and diverse Filipino community. This is something Hawaii's Filipino community can be very proud of.

Kudos to the FilCom Center, Inc. for their hard work, professionalism and commitment to making sure the Filipino Fiesta remains an annual tradition. Congratulations also to the myriad of Filipino clubs, civic groups, professional organizations, businesses, media, cultural experts, volunteers, and attendees of the fiesta who have contributed to the success of this event throughout the 25 years. If you haven't been to the Filipino Fiesta in a while, we encourage you to come back for this very memorable 25th anniversary celebration. We encourage the younger generation in our community to get involved and see the value of this event so that one day they can carry the torch and keep it going for yet another 25 years, and beyond.

Russian Involvement in U.S. Elections Deserves A Full Accounting

President Donald Trump's budget plan called "America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again" looks more like a wish list for the militarization of our country. His budget calls for seismic changes: adding billions to the Armed Forces, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs while slashing all other federal agencies and doing away entirely with long-standing programs.

FROM THE PUBLISHER



The month of May is fast approaching and we all know what that means -- it's time to show our ethnic pride and attend the annual Filipino Fiesta at Kapiolani Park. This year is extra special because the community will be celebrating the Filipino Fiesta's 25th jubilee anniversary. For our cover story this issue, HFC associate editor Edwin Quinabo gives us all the details of the event: who will be performing, who are this year's food vendors, as well as what the Filipino Fiesta means to organizers and a few ardent supporters. We all have very fond memories of the fiesta. For many years, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle has been a participant of the fiesta where I've gotten the opportunity to meet with many of you in the community, talk about some of your concerns, and develop wonderful friendships. Besides sharing our culture with each other and the rest of our state -- our cuisine, history, talent, and diversity -- to me the Filipino Fiesta is about celebrating who we are, where we came from, and what direction we want to go as one community. Hundreds of you in our community have lent a helping hand to make the fiesta a success, a myriad of Filipino clubs. Thousands of you who show up each year have contributed to the event's success. The FilCom Center, Inc. deserves special recognition for putting it all together. Let's come together once again and keep this tradition alive. See you at the fiesta on May 6.

Also in this issue, Atty. Reuben Seguritan outlines in his column the legal rights of undocumented immigrants who are entitled to protections in the Bill of Rights, the Fifth and Fourth Amendments. An undocumented immigrant has the right against unreasonable searches and seizures and the right to seek redress for any wrongdoing. Seguritan writes that often arresting officers and government agencies will use trickery or lie to obtain information. The best option for an undocumented immigrant when facing arrest is to exercise the right to remain silent and to ask for legal counsel.

In our Mainland news section, read about the Republican's strategy to change Senate rules to clear the path for the appointment of conservative Judge Neil Gorsuch, President Donald Trump's nomination to the Supreme Court. The procedural change comes with controversy as it lowers the minimum requirement needed to confirm nominees from 60-votes to just a simple majority. The new rule change is significant to note because it undercuts the need for bipartisanship and enables the majority party to fast-track nominations with little to no regard of what the minority party thinks. Is this really a precedent we would want Congress to take?

We hope you find these articles informative and that you enjoy reading the rest of this issue. Thank you for your continued support. Until next time, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Some news stories linger on and on, and for good reason. Americans deserve to find out the extent of Russian involvement in the U.S. election, where security breaches occurred, what U.S. intelligence did in response, and how do we move forward to restore confidence in our elections process.

What the FBI had already confirmed is that the Russians had hacked the Democratic National Committee to undercut Hillary Clinton's campaign. What we do not know is if there were any ties between Trump and the Russians, specifically the Kremlin, during the election -- this is what the House and Senate intelligence committee is investigating. So far, there are traces of smoke, and it is the U.S. Congress' constitutional duty to investigate if in fact a fire exists, no matter that the president is already elected, and no matter that the president happens to be of the same majority party in Congress.

It's illogical that Republicans, and later the FBI during the most critical time during the election, fanned the flames over possible criminal conduct over Clinton's mishandling of her email server while she was Secretary of State; yet, some Re-



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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Trump Sees the Light but Is Gabbard Blinded by Syria?

Why So Little to Commemorate a Real War Crime in Bataan?

Before we talk about the war crime that is Bataan Death March, I must ask about the unofficial war crime in Syria and how it's effecting Rep. Tulsi Gabbard D-Hawaii.

When it comes to Syria, Gabbard's marching to a totally different beat from official Washington, and I'm not so sure that's a good thing.

But maybe it is if--you want to replace her.

The word in Washington is that something is wrong with Gabbard, and it's beyond whether she should have met with Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad in January. They're wondering if he got the best of her.

Gabbard has brought it on by being so very cautious to condemn Assad for the recent gas attacks in Northern Syria, the one that produced those

pictures that made Donald Trump a cruise missile humanitarian.

Trump seemed willing to threaten his "bromance" with Putin.

Gabbard doesn't seem willing to threaten whatever relationship she developed with Assad.

She's the only prominent voice all too willing to give the Syrian dictator the benefit of the doubt.

But among Democrats and Republicans that the finger points directly to Assad.

Gabbard's restraint is very cagy. She's against the war. And she hates the use of chemical weapons. She just wants more evidence before she commits.

You can't fault someone for wanting to see proof right? Thought Trump doesn't worry much about that.

As one Twitter wag joked, if it wasn't Assad, maybe it could have been the North Koreans. After all, they have

chemical weapons.

Clearly something's up. And people have started calling Gabbard an apologist or worse. Those on the left, like Neera Tanden of the Center for American Progress challenged Hawaii residents to replace her.

"People of Hawaii's 2nd district," Tanden tweeted. "Was it not enough for you that your rep met with a murderous dictator? Will this move you?"

To what?

Put up someone to go after Gabbard in the next primary, of course.

I've always found Gabbard to be unpredictable in a good way. She was a military vet for Sanders and not Clinton. But that "peace mission" to meet with Assad took her from Sanders left to who knows where? She's alienated the DC Left, and she's not exactly swamp right.

Only the Russians right now are saying Assad wasn't responsible, saying that some rebel group set up the gas at-

tack to create a pre-text for American strikes.

Meanwhile, Trump and Tillerson are certain Russia is at least behind a coverup of Syria's involvement.

And while they argue, it all matters more to Hawaii than you think.

So, who do you want District 2?

The long knives are ready to come out for Gabbard. But is there anyone in Hawaii on the Democratic side who will or can challenge her? A Filipino?

Bataan Death March

If you mention the Bataan Death March, people nod like they know it.

Maybe from the John Wayne movie. Or from someone mentioning it in passing. For sure, they know the three words. It was in Bataan. And men died while marching.

Oh yeah, it happened during World War II. A long time ago.

Now it's nearly forgotten.

This year in California, the move is just about complete to make sure there's something in at least the high school history curriculum about the Bataan Death March.

Maybe the same should happen in Hawaii.

It's important that all Filipinos know a little something about it.

But on the weekend after Donald Trump showed the world how emotional he was seeing the "beautiful babies" suffer from Bashar al-Assad's gas attack on his own people, I don't recall seeing the Trumpster pause to remember April 9, 1942.

Palm Sunday 2017 may have started Holy Week.

75 years ago, it started a week of hell.

There's no debate over this: The Bataan Death March was a horrific atrocity, judged a war crime that convicted General Masaharu Homma of the Japanese Royal Army by execution.

He was the man behind the march that marks the largest surrender of U.S. forces in history. It was the end of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFPE) defense of the Bataan peninsula in World War II.

The Japanese captured more than 75,000 Filipino and American troops.

Side-by-side they had fought the Japanese for months. And then, side-by-side they were sent by the Japanese Imperial Army 60 miles in the Philippine heat to be imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell.

Despite cars to transport the men and available supplies, the Japanese marched their prisoners in the blazing heat as a form of torture.

They were given no food. No water.

And if you stopped marching, you were beheaded or speared with a bayonet.

The casualties may tell the story why America has often let Bataan wither from the memory.

Historical accounts put the casualties from the march alone at 10,000 Filipinos.

Just 650 Americans are said to have died during the march.

The 10,000 Filipinos who died were mostly young men who had answered President Franklin Roosevelt's call and

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EDITORIALS (from page 2, RUSSIAN....)

publicans, unconscionably are too expedient to put a lid on this investigation. When comparing the two -- one that potentially compromised top secret information via email vs one that potentially rocked the very foundation of our democratic process, our election -- it's clear that Congress, the FBI, the NSA ought to be giving this investigation the most serious consideration. So, too, should President Trump, if he has nothing to hide.

The New York Times already reported that "phone records and intercepted calls show that members of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and other Trump associates had repeated contact with senior Russian intelligence officials in the year of and before the election.

The latest cloud of suspicion billowing involves former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, who was ap-

pointed and just let go by Trump last week. Flynn is seeking immunity from prosecution from House and Senate intelligence committees in exchange for information. Flynn, a retired Lieutenant General and adviser to Trump during his campaign, has had extensive ties with top Russian officials. The official reason for Flynn's resignation is that he had misled vice president Mike Pence about having communicated with the Russian ambassador to the U.S. before Trump was sworn into office. Whether he has any evidence to shed light on Russian involvement in the election remains to be seen. But his testimony, as well as a thorough investigation -- that some are already demanding should be elevated to a post 9/11-type full bipartisan investigation -- is crucial. Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon is making the case that Trump's tax returns be investigated to see

whether he'd been influenced by the Russians. "We need to follow the money. Russia's corruption problem, may be our corruption problem," he said.

Other European governments like France and Germany are stepping forward accusing Russia of interfering also with their elections this year. If democracy needed any defending as politicians love to talk about to justify all kinds of adventurism abroad, there is no better time to defend it than now. Americans should demand a full accounting of what occurred. The next step, if conclusive evidence shows wrongdoing, is explore what to do with Russia and how to defend our government against cyberwarfare. The much murkier scenario is what to do should clear evidence show improper collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign during the presidential election.

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COVER STORY

Come Celebrate the Filipino Fiesta's 25th Anniversary

By Edwin Quinabo

Baguio has its famous floral Panagbenga Festival; Cebu has the Sinulog Festival that attracts locals and tourists from all over the world. The Ati-Atihan Festival in Kalibo, Aklan is known as the Filipino Mardi Gras.

Whether it be religious in honor of Sto. Nino and Holy Week, or to celebrate the start of Spring or harvest season -- the Philippines is known as a country rich with fiestas. It's believed that there is a fiesta happening each month somewhere in the Philippines where a town queen and her court are being coronated or the town's patron saint venerated with prayers and tears. Whatever may be the reason to get together in revelry and camaraderie, Filipinos love their fiestas.

So, it's no surprise that since its inception, the Filipino Fiesta in Honolulu continues to be embraced by the community with pride and joy, making it the biggest annual Filipino cultural celebration in the state, and arguably the most well-attended Filipino Fiesta anywhere outside of the Philippines.

Organizers estimate each year over 10,000 Hawaii residents and tourists partake in the cultural extravaganza, appreciate colorful indigenous costumes, arts and craft, watch live music and traditional dances while feasting on a medley of savory dishes from the motherland. Lumpia, pancit, pork adobo are crowd favorites. To cool off from the heat, halo-halo is the preferred remedy. Beauty queens, politicians, local and Philippine celebrities can be seen warmly greeting people at this family-friendly event.

This year's Filipino Fiesta is extra special; it marks the 25th Jubilee anniversary. It will be held on May 6 at Kapiolani Park, Waikiki, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is sponsored by L & L Hawaiian Barbecue (title Sponsor), Philippine Airlines, Honolulu Star Advertiser and Western

Union. The GMA Premier Exhibitors are LBC and Sunrun.

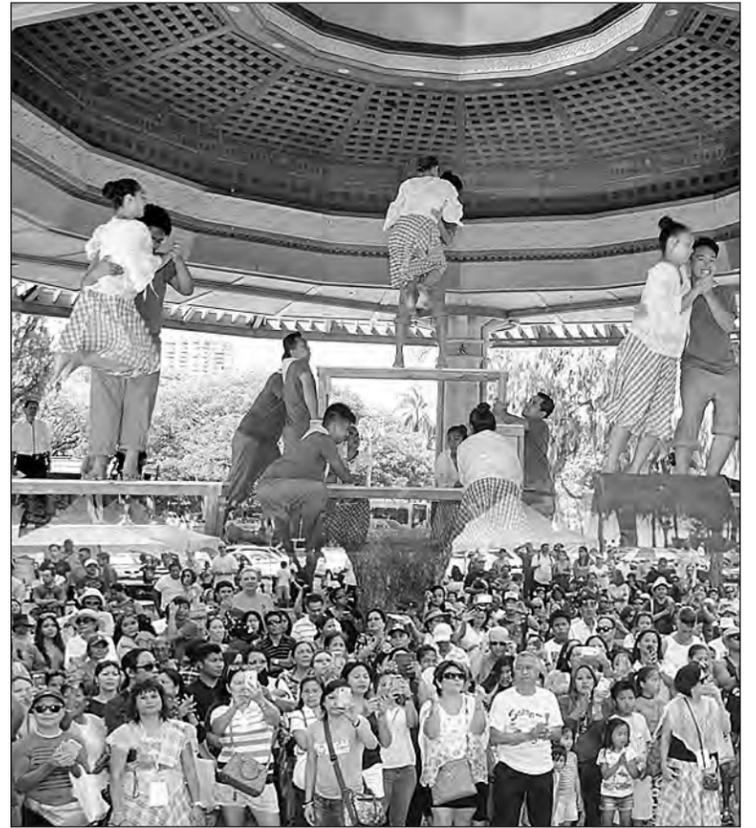
"The Filipino Fiesta is a community effort. We all worked very hard to showcase our Filipino culture and history to the rest of Hawaii's community for the past 25 years," said Eddie Flores, Jr. who came up with the idea of having a Filipino Fiesta in Honolulu.

Flores said part of the success of the Fiesta has been bringing in celebrities from the Philippines who not only perform but meet-and-greet fiesta-goers. Each year there is a mix ethnic, Philippine and American entertainment.

Opening up the festivities, Coro Filipino will do the Ama Namin; BIBAK, an Igorot prayer, COVO a Muslim chant. Following that the first singing performances begins with national anthems: Coro Filipino renders the Star-Spangled Banner, Pike Velasco, the Philippines' Lupang Hinirang. The Hawaii Pono'I will be sung by Miss Taylor Ishida.

Immediately after the FilCom Center, Inc. concludes the welcoming remarks, there will be non-stop entertainment for the rest of the day. Some of the local singing and dance presentations include: Bobsky, Linglingay Dance Group Hawaii, Waiakoloa Twirlers, Haranistas, Bradley Anguay, Kaylee Shimizu, Nixpac Dance Company, Chris Low, Kristian Lei, Mr. Pinoy Aloha - Tunac, HI Collective, Raymond Sebastian, Dynamic Kids and Dyanmic Trio.

The much-anticipated cultural dance segment of the entertainment program begins around 11:30 a.m. The Lin-



Photos by: Gabe De Liso

glingay Dance Troup will do the Maria Clara Dance. Techniqings Crew will present a modern Tinikling. Himig at Indak performs a few dances and songs, followed by BIBAK presenting a Cordillera (Igorot) Suite; Bulacan Circle and Associates does the La Jota Moncadena, and Dabawenyos of Hawaii finishes this segment with the famous Singkil.

In addition to Filipino cultural performances, there will be a variety of other entertainment such as Broadway tunes, modern dance, hip hop, Taiko drummers, Balinese ensemble, belly dancers, a lion dance, twirling routine, and more.

Food, food, and more food

The Filipino Fiesta never fails to present some of the best of Hawaii cuisine. This year's vendors promise not to disappoint with dishes that represent the Asian Pacific rim, fusion and ethnic dishes, and local plate lunch favorites. The celebrated, Filipino-style lechon and the famous crispy appetizer chicharon are only a few food items that will be available. The list of food vendors this year include: Crazy Country Corn, Dick's Lechon,

Gerry's Grill, Island's Finest Shave Ice, L & L Hawaiian Barbecue, Olay's Thai Food Express, San Nicolas Chicharon & Sausage, Seafood City, Sugar Mill Café, and UBAE LLC.

Gerry's Grill, an international restaurant chain and one of this year's food vendors, will serve at the fiesta some of its best sellers: pork sisig, pork barbecue, pork liempo, bangus sisig, pansit and lumpia.

"This is the first time for Gerry's Grill to participate at the fiesta where we can showcase how good we are in terms of cooking Filipino food for not only Filipinos but for all the people of different nationalities and ethnicities," said restaurant manager Joe Quibuyen.

Informational and Health Booths

Non-profits have always participated in the Filipino Fiesta providing valuable information. This year's non-profit groups include: HMSA, Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association, Legacy of Life Hawaii, and the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii.

The Community Health

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

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(from page 4, COME CELEBRATE...)

Fair has become a fixture at the Filipino Fiesta giving attendees an opportunity to learn more about some of the local medical and dental services available. This year's Community Health Fair participants include: Bright Smiles Hawaii, Humana, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health, and San Diego Family Dentistry, Inc.

Dr. Rita San Diego of San Diego Family Dentistry, Inc. said this will be the second year for her company to be a part of the fiesta. "The fiesta is the great gathering for us Filipinos in Hawaii. Having a Filipino Fiesta means that we Filipinos -- Ilocanos, Visayans, Tagalogs, Kapampangans, etc. -- can be together and harmonious. Filipinos are a big mix of different cultures. We can be proud and be in unison." San Diego Family Dentistry, Inc. delivers high quality dentures, same day crowns and bridges. They also do regular cleanings, whitenings, fillings, extractions and root canal therapy.

Exhibitors

Among this year's exhibitors are AARP Hawaii, Aerotek, Argosy University, Atlas Express Padala, EneGence (Lipsense), Estherbrook, Inc. (Salad Master), Globe/GTI Corporation 8 T-Mobile, and Valley of the Temples.

AARP Hawaii has been a part of the fiesta since 2013. "The focus of our participation at the Filipino Fiesta has been on increasing our relevance to Filipinos by providing information about legislative advocacy issues

and free resource materials to help them understand public benefits like Social Security and Medicare, and ways to avoid fraud, and to care for their family members," said Toy Arre, member of AARP Hawaii's Executive Council.

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older.

"In previous years, we've been part of the group in the community services tent. This year, we are renting our own tent in order to see if we can engage more people in looking at our information and discussing our issues," said Arre, who also served as President and COO of the FilCom Center, Inc. from 2004-2012.

Significance of the Filipino Fiesta

For Honolulu city employee Evangeline Endrina, the fiesta "represents our community's unity. It's an opportunity for Filipinos living away from the Philippines to come together."

For Endrina, food is an integral part of cultural sharing, so what better way is there to share Filipino culture at the fiesta than to present authentic Filipino dishes. She has participated in the fiesta since 2004. She said her Lasang Pilipinas booth serves "100 percent Filipino dishes that every Filipino can find in a fiesta back in the Philippines." While Endrina will not be putting up a food booth this year, she says she'll be back next year to share specialty dishes such as relenong bangus, kare-kare, afritada and caldereta. She also cooks street food such as fishball, kwek-kwek,

and arroz caldo.

"I cook each dish home-made style with fresh ingredients. I do not have a big food inventory but my food is sold out at the end of the day. People line up by yards for my food," she said.

The fiesta also brings back fond memories of her mother. Endrina recalls her most memorable fiesta was in 2004, the last time her mother helped her at the Lasang Pilipinas food booth. Her mom later passed on in 2006.

For Melody Calisay, past President of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii (UPAAH), the fiesta serves as a gathering place to meet new people and old friends that she hasn't seen in a long time. "For UPAAH, it is always a place to find a new member, either new to Hawaii, or those who doesn't know UPAAH exists."

Calisay is also president and owner of East West Marketing Inc., an importer/wholesaler of Filipino food products to the U.S. "Last year's fiesta, UPAAH showcased a sari-sari store (typically found in the Philippines) where we displayed all kinds of Filipino food products. Even non-Filipinos were surprised with the varieties of food products we have. One of the biggest attractions in our booth was the gugo shampoo made from Gugo bark. People were surprised that gugo bark still exists," she said.

Like Endrina who used to attend the event with her mother while she was still alive, to Calisay, the fiesta is a family event. "I always take my grandnephew with me to

(continued on page 7)

FILIPINO FIESTA PROGRAM AND ENTERTAINMENT

Part 1 ► 9:00 am - 10:00 am- Overture

Voice Over
Farrington High School Band
US Marine Corp Band - FB

Part 2 ► 10:00 am- 10:30 am - Filcom Hour

Emcee - Amelia Casamina Cabatu

Ama Namin | Coro Filipino
Igorot Prayer | BIBAK
Muslim Chant | COVO
Star-Spangled Banner | Coro Filipino
Lupang Hinirang | Pike Velasco
Hawaii Pono'i | Miss Taylor Ishida
Welcome | Donnie Juan - Executive Director
Remarks | Edmund Aczon, Chairman of the Board
Musical Interlude | Jeannette Trevias
Hermano & Hermana Mayor

Part 3 ► 10:30 -11:30 am- Festivale International

Emcees: Amelia Casamina Cabatu

Ati-Atihan | Bobskey
Polynesian Revue | Linglingay Dance Group Hawaii Division
Korea | Taiko Drummers
Balinese | Balinese Ensemble
Lebanese | Belly Dancers
Lion Dance | Lion Dance

Part 4 ► 11:30 am-1:00 pm- Sunduan

Emcee: Glenn Sagayadoro

Maria Clara Dance | Linglingay Dance Troupe
Twirling routine | Waiakoloa Twirlers
Serenade 1 | Haranistas
Serenade 2 | Bradley Anguay

Part 5 ► 1:00 pm -2:00 pm- At Nayong Pilipino

Emcee: Emmie Anderson

Modern Tinikling | Teckniqlings Crew
Sing and Dance | Himig at Indak
Cordillera (Igorot) Suite | BIBAK
La Jota Moncadena | Bulacan Circle and Associates
Singkil | Dabawenyos of Hawaii

Part 6 ► 2:00 pm -3:00 pm- Touch of Broadway

Emcee: Amado Cacho

Song | Kaylee Shimizu
Dance | Nixpac Dance Company
Tenor | Chris Low
Broadway Themes | Kristian Lei

Part 7 ► 3:00 pm -4:00 pm- Concert...Concert

Emcee: Allan Alvarez

Modern Dance | Nixpac Dance Company
Song | Mr. Pinoy Aloha - Tunac
Hip Hop | HI Collective
Songs | Raymond Sebastian
Medley | Dynamic Kids
Concertina | Dynamic Trio

Part 8 ► 4:00 pm- 5:00 pm- STARRR!

Emcee: Glenn Sagayadoro

Opening dance | Nixpac Dance Company; Top GMA Artists

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State Budget Decisions – Not an Easy Job – But Housing Needs to Continue as a Priority

By Catherine Graham and Rev. Bob Nakata
Co-chairs, Housing Now Coalition

Affordable housing advocates have a bold vision of Honolulu in 10 or 20 years: we see the Rail

Project completed and the housing developments along the rail line providing sufficient affordable rental housing for all who need it. Honolulu's economic future is bright and homelessness is no longer a pressing issue as Housing First can easily find homes for those who need them due to the successful Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

We know that many legislators share this vision, but what will it take for this vision

to become a reality?

Perhaps most crucially, it will take a legislature that continues to appropriate sufficient funds for affordable housing developments through the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF). Such funds are like a water pipe leading to a reservoir. The larger the pipe and the more water flowing through it, the quicker the reservoir will fill up. The more money that our legislature allocates to the RHRF on an annual basis, the quicker we can significantly increase our affordable housing inventory.

Housing advocates thank Ways and Means Chair Jill Tokuda and Finance Chair

Sylvia Luke for supporting affordable housing with a \$25million appropriation to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund, which, combined with dollars from the conveyance tax, will provide 650 affordable units. However, we respectfully urge the legislature to consider increasing this amount as our community needs over 2000 affordable units each year to meet the legislative mandate of 22,500 units over the next 10 years.

Developers of affordable units rely upon the RHRF for gap funding. The RHRF is by no means the only financing a developer applies for, but it is an essential piece of the financial pie if housing at 60 percent area medium income is to be built. That is housing for a fam-

ily of four making about \$60,000 a year.

Of the \$151 million in the Rental Housing Revolving Fund currently, all but \$3 million is spoken for because it has been awarded to projects that are being developed and built, but cannot be dispersed until the projects are complete.

Having a large balance in the RHRF at the Hawaii Housing and Finance Development Corporation (HHFDC) can appear to be money not at work. Nothing could be further from the truth. Those dollars are at work for our community, enabling the affordable units we need. very year this fund will need a large investment to finance affordable developments.

However, our legislators know how many other state

projects need funding and that other departments could provide more timely benefits to the community. That is a dilemma. No one disputes the difficulty the legislators have in deciding how to divide up the monies.

The State mandated Special Action Team is working on identifying state and county owned parcels of land that can be utilized for affordable housing development. They are strategizing on ways to streamline the permitting and planning process. They are encouraging more creative affordable rental development. All they need now is adequate funding.

But it has taken decades of inaction to arrive at our dearth of housing. It may take decades of courageous action to solve the problem.

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

joined the USAFFE in the Philippines. They were promised U.S. citizenship and benefits, but then later were denied of all that by the Rescission Act.

No wonder the U.S. would like to see Bataan go away as a bad memory.

The U.S. had promised the fighters reinforcements would come well before April 9. But then the U.S. decided Europe would be prioritized. It meant the USAFFE fighters and the American troops who were securing the Bataan Peninsula to protect Manila Bay were essentially abandoned, as General Douglas MacArthur retreated away from the Philippines.

Surrender and Retreat Gave Us the Bataan Death March.

Some who survived the death march simply returned to the Philippines, to lead the resistance as guerrillas.

The real lucky ones were those who stayed alive long enough to see the U.S. make good on its promise. After decades of stalling, the Filipino Vets of WWII were made whole when President Obama paid out lump sum payments to the veterans in 2009.

And then there was an even luckier group that included Jesse Baltazar, who managed to escape the march, and then was able to get the U.S. where they joined the regular U.S. military. Baltazar

made it to the U.S. Air Force. He retired as a major in 1966. Last year, Baltazar, who was active in fighting for Filipino Veterans rights, died of cancer. He was 95.

Bataan was like the Alamo, Dan Gonzalez, an Asian American history professor at San Francisco State University told me in my recent podcast.

<http://traffic.libsyn.com/emil-amokstakeout/EmilAmoksTakeoutEp8TrumpBataanGhostInShellFX.mp3>

Even in surrender it was the Filipinos finest moment, showing the loyalty of Filipinos to the U.S.

Of course, they were a colonized people in a colonized army, often treated as second-class citizens by the U.S. Army

regulars.

To the Filipinos already in the U.S., who had managed to get here as U.S. nationals, it was an opportunity to not only show loyalty to their new home, but to go back to the Philippines and protect their ancestral home.

It is the one piece of U.S. Filipino history that deserves never to be forgotten.

Trump's Cruise Missile Viagra

Frankly, I don't buy Trump's justification for his Syrian strikes. Pictures of dead babies moved him? This is the man whose travel ban was no welcome mat for Syrian refugees.

But Trump is a showman and an opportunist.

The Assad attack simply gives him cover to do what he did, a small surgical strike to send multiple messages.

Obviously, it sends a message to Assad, and his enablers, Russia.

It also helps douse the fire of those who think the Trump Putin Bromance and Trump-Russian connections smell of treason.

But it's also a message to Trump's weekend guest,

China's President Xi Jinping.

How convenient. A way to show off to China who has influence with North Korea.

Sixty Tomahawk missiles sent without Congressional approval say, "You don't eff with Donald Trump."

Finally, there's a message to all the pollsters. After a failure to repeal Obamacare, and failed attempts at a travel ban, Trump's approval ratings dropped to 35 percent as the week started.

What better way to boost ratings but with an aggressive dose of cruise missile Viagra?

And all of it, under the cover of being so emotionally moved by the "beautiful babies" of Syria that he just had to take military action.

He should see the old pictures of marchers starved to death and bayoneted in Bataan.

Those are bon-a-fide war crimes that seem to be slipping away from our collective memories.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association California.

A POPULAR RESTAURANT IS FOR SALE

An authentic Filipino restaurant near the Kahului airport is for sale.

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SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Take Five Steps Toward Financial Security

By Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay

Social Security is celebrating its first National Social Security Month in April and is encouraging future recipients to take five steps toward financial security. Visit www.socialsecurity.gov/5-steps-toward-your-financial-security and take the five steps: 1. Get to know your Social Security; 2. Verify your lifetime

earnings; 3. Estimate your future Social Security benefits; 4. Apply online for retirement, disability, or Medicare benefits; and 5. Manage your Social Security benefits.

During the month, Social Security will provide educational articles and video messages on its website featuring personal finance expert Suze Orman. Each message will provide the public with practical

tips for developing a sound financial plan that includes Social Security as a foundation.

“With retirement, disability, and asurvivors benefits, Social Security helps secure today and tomorrow for millions of people throughout life’s journey,” Acting Commissioner Berryhill said. “By hosting National Social Security Month, we hope to help the public understand their Social Security protections and promote finan-

cial education.”

On average, Social Security replaces approximately 40 percent of pre-retirement earnings. To enjoy a comfortable retirement, most people will also need income from other sources — like pensions, savings, and investments. Yet nearly a third of America’s workers have no money set aside specifically for retirement.

Throughout the month of

April, groups and organizations will join Social Security across the country to help spread the word. The agency will be conducting social media outreach, including a Facebook Live Chat:

Social Security will participate in a Facebook Live Chat, hosted by USA.gov, on April 20, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. ET. The public may ask questions via livestream about the “5 Steps toward Financial Security.”

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii’s Senate Honors Libarios and Agbayani for Their Contributions to Education

Two educational leaders -- Prof. Ernest D. Libarios, Sr. and Dr. Amefil Agbayani -- were recognized for their lifetime achievements by the Hawaii Senate at the State Capitol.

Prof. Libarios, a college counselor, professor, and deacon, was recently named also the recipient of the 2017 University of Hawaii College of Education Alumni Award. Libarios retired as a college counselor and full professor of

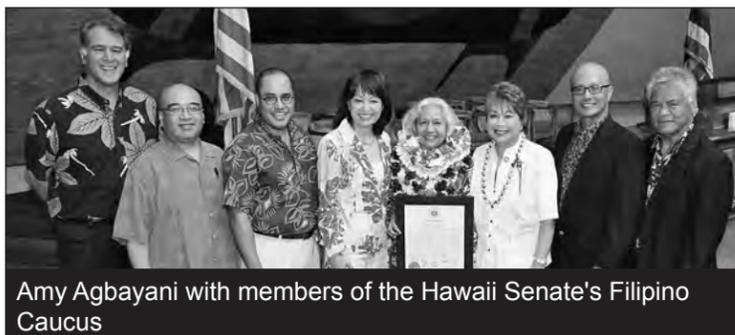
Leeward Community College and as deacon of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu in 2015. He is the first Filipino counselor of a student services department of the UH Community Colleges system and first Filipino male graduate of Chaminade University. Senator Will Espero presented a certificate to Libarios on the Senate Chamber gallery.

Dr. Agbayani received her lifetime achievement recognition on the last day of Interna-

tional Women’s month. Agbayani retired from the University of Hawaii as Assist. Vice Chancellor on Diversity and Director of the University’s Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity program (SEED). Senator Donna Kim led the presentation on the Senate Floor Chamber where Agbayani also led a moment of contemplation on the legacy of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink, the first woman of color elected to the U.S. Congress.



Leon Florendo, Ernest “Ernie” Libarios Sr., Senator Will Espero, Ernest “Niki” Libarios Jr., and Reverend Bob Nakata



Amy Agbayani with members of the Hawaii Senate’s Filipino Caucus

(from page 5. COME CELEBRATE...) the event every year, so that he can learn about the different places, food, dance and dialects within the Philippines.”

Cultural Booths

Fiesta-goers once again can learn about the diversity of the Philippines at the cultural booths. Local Filipino clubs will present educational and cultural displays that represent the Cordillera, Ilocos (Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur), Mindanao, Pangasinan, Tagalog, and Visayas regions. The clubs organizing the cultural booths are BIBAK Hawaii, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH), Ilocos Norte College of Arts and Trades (INCA), Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii (ISAH), Dabawenyos, Urdaneta/San Manuel, Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii, Bulacan Circle Associates Hawaii (BCAH), Aklanon, Congress of Visayan

Organizations (COVO), Cebuano, Balaan-Catalina. The Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu will also have a booth.

How the fiesta got started

“Twenty-five years ago, I saw a Thai Festival at Kapiolani Park and told myself that we Filipinos love fiestas; and yet, we don’t have one. So, I called several of my friends from the Filipino Chamber and we started to organize the first Filipino Fiesta at Kapiolani Park. The next year, I decided to have a Filipino Parade on Kalakaua. That was the first Filipino Parade for us,” Flores recalls.

Each year Flores, president of L&L Drive-Inn, dedicates his marketing staff to promoting the event. But the coordination and production is spearheaded by the FilCom Center, Inc.

One of the reasons the Filipino Fiesta was created

was to help raise public awareness and support for the completion of the FilCom Center. The Center eventually became a reality and opened its doors almost 10 years after the first Filipino Fiesta in May 1993.

Roland Casamina, the first president of the FilCom Center, Inc. said having a fiesta was part of the overall strategy of the FilCom Center. “We visited the Okinawa Center and they suggested that we do a festival like the Okinawans do each year (to help support their Center). The late Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Mario Ramil, who at the time was the vice-president of the FilCom, Inc., spearheaded the meetings with the Okinawans. When Ramil was appointed judge, I recruited Eddie Flores to join me to coordinate with the community. It was a perfect fit since we talked about having a festival. Since Eddie

had already organized a group, we merged the groups together,” said Casamina.

Twenty-five years later, the Filipino Fiesta is still going strong, putting smiles

on faces and helping to unite our community. Organizers say let’s keep this tradition alive and come celebrate the Filipino Fiesta’s 25th anniversary.



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WHAT TO SEE IN TANAY, PILGRIMAGE SITE NEAR MANILA

by Deni Rose M. Afinidad-Bernardo

RIZAL, Philippines — “Tayo na sa Antipolo at doo’y maligo tayo,” the lyrics of a popular Filipino folklore goes, referring to the popularity of Antipolo, a city east of Manila, as a popular pilgrimage site, especially this Holy Week.

But, apart from Antipolo’s Our Lady of Peace and Voyage, more and more motorists are also discovering a new pilgrimage site about an hour from Antipolo or three to four hours from Manila.

Legend has it that after the Second World War, during the arrival of the Americans, an American soldier asked a boy what the name of the place is. Scared of the soldier, the boy ran back to his house and called his parents, “Tay! Nay!” which means “tatay” (father) and “nanay” (mother). The Ameri-

can allegedly took note of the place’s name as “Tanay.”

From a provincial backwater further away from Antipolo, Tanay in Rizal province is now a growing tourist destination, thanks to its decades-old religious heritage; multi-cultural residents composed of modern Filipinos and traditional Dumagat from the indigenous Filipino tribe Aeta; and unspoiled environment that includes falls, rivers, and hiking trails by the slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains.

Due to its proximity to Manila and cool, pleasant weather often compared to Baguio, Tanay, for decades, has been among movie makers’ favorite “secret” shooting locations. Among those reportedly shot there were Robin Padilla’s “Andres Bonifacio” and Maja Salvador’s current TV series, “Wildflower.”

Some of the stars who



The San Ildefonso de Toledo Parish in Tanay houses the most life-sized retablos in the country, making it a declared national cultural treasure. Philstar.com/Efigenio Christopher Toledo IV

have made movies there, such as Dolphy, Sarah Geronimo, and former Philippine president and now Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, have fell in love with the place and have acquired farms or properties there.

In light of a recent bus tragedy in Tanay that killed 15

students, the Department of Tourism held a press conference and a familiarization tour of the town lately to assure its safety for travelers.

For those planning a trip to this town that is only a short trip from Manila, here are some of the places to see and experience.

Regina Rica

Regina Rica in Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal, a pilgrimage complex created by Dominican nuns, has been luring local and international tourists for its giant statue of the Virgin Mary, believed to be among the biggest in the country.

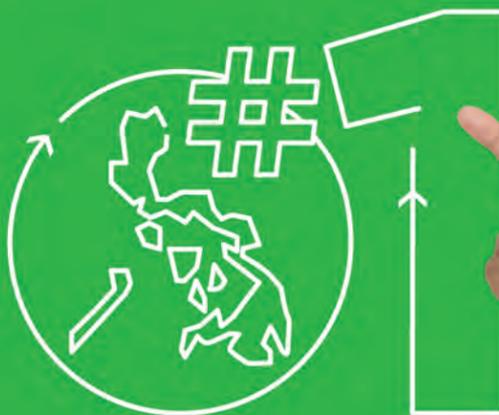
(continued on page 10)

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Dr. Jon Avery Go is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and underwent training at the Roger Williams Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island which is affiliated with Boston University School of Medicine.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Gabbard and Hanabusa Seek to Exempt Hawaii from TSA Fee Hike

Reps Tulsi Gabbard (HI-02), Colleen Hanabusa (HI-01), and Don Young (AK-AL) introduced the Passenger Fee Restructuring Exemption Act (H.R. 1782) that seeks to exempt Hawaii and Alaska from the TSA rate hikes, lowering the states TSA fee to \$2.50 for interstate direct flights. Congress raised the national TSA fee to \$5.60 in late 2013, and could increase the fee to \$6.60 in FY2018.

“The doubling of the TSA fee since 2013 has had a disproportionate, negative impact on Hawai‘i residents and businesses who rely on air travel as the only available mode of transportation for everyday necessities like commerce,

healthcare, education, and more. As Congress considers raising the TSA fee again, our bipartisan legislation will help relieve this cost burden by exempting Hawai‘i and Alaska, and other communities who rely solely on essential air service, from this tax,” said Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

“Hawai‘i and Alaska share unique geographic challenges that make our dependence on air travel a necessity. As such, any increase in TSA fees disproportionately hurts our residents, tourists and businesses alike. This bill redresses that wrong by exempting Hawai‘i and Alaska from the disparate impact of these fee increases,” said Rep. Colleen Hanabusa.

TRAVEL & TOURISM (from page 8, WHAT....)

Apart from the statue, which has a rooftop viewing deck that shows a magnificent view of Tanay’s greenery, the complex has its own church, where the choir is composed of the nuns; a modern cemetery for nuns; a small nipa hut village where the nuns live; walking and meditation paths with stations of the cross; and a small zoo with a duck pond for communing with nature.

San Ildefonso de Toledo Parish

Rumor has it that this church built in the 17th to 18th century by the Franciscans started as a nipa hut founded by the Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, who founded and is entombed in San Agustin Church in Manila.

Today, the church and its intact bell tower have been declared a National Cultural Treasure by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts for housing the most life-size retablos or statues of saints in the country, found on the church’s altar. Inside the church are gravestones with their original Spanish inscriptions.

San Martin de Porres Chapel, Philippine Army 2nd Infantry Division

Housing what is claimed to be the Philippines’ biggest all-resin altar made by a Tanay resident, Engr. Dennis Afinidad, the San Martin de Porres parish inside the headquarters of the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army features a choir made up of cadets in uniform and sometimes, music by the battalion’s famous 2ID (2nd Infantry Division) band.

It is free to have a mass in the church. By appointment and with permission, it is also possible to tour the division to see the army’s obstacle courses, training grounds, and small museum. The army also offers

summer workshops and short training courses for those who want to experience a real-life boot camp workout.

Daranak Falls

Actress and politician Vilma Santos-Recto famously played the Virgin Mary in apparition at the Daranak Falls, Tanay’s main falls known for its multi-level drops and cool waters.

For a minimum fee needed to preserve the falls and its cleanliness, one can already have a picnic in huts and a building complex fronting the falls. Hawker food and full meals are also available outside the park.

Tanay, however, has many falls for exploration, mostly located in its up-mountain villages like the sitios Bayucan, Daraitan, and Macaira in Sampaloc.

Caves, parks, and resorts

Tanay also has many resorts for team building, picnics, and summer staycation. Among these are Estrada’s JE Resort with swimming pools and a mini zoo. The former Philippine president had his house arrest there. He still goes there to relax or to entertain other political dignitaries, which is why the place has a small mosque for Muslim guests.

For extreme adventurers, there is Masungi Georeserve, a conservation site and a rustic rock garden tucked in Rizal’s rainforests.

There is also Daraitan with its flowing rivers on which horses or trekkers cross with natural giant marble boulders as obstacle course. Some landowners in Daraitan have cacao plantations, where one can pick cacao straight from the tree, while others have ponds, where one can swim with eels.

Daraitan is also home for the Dumagat, the descendants of the indigenous

(continued on page 12)

NEWS FEATURE

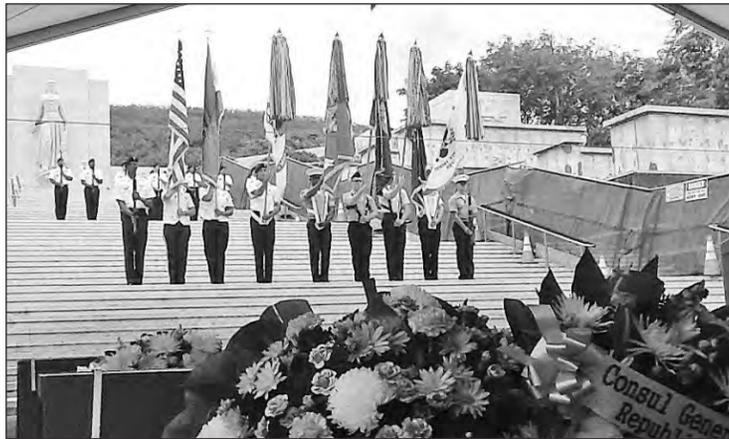
ARAW NG KAGITINGAN FOCUSES ON REMEMBRANCE, POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS, AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

by Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

The day after Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, the Japanese invasion of the Philippines, then a U.S. colony, began. Manila was captured within a month. Filipino and American troops, working together as members of the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) retreated to the Bataan peninsula. On April 9, 1942, the Philippines and the rest of the world heard that Bataan has fallen. Some 75,000 soldiers, of which eighty percent were Filipinos, surrendered to the invading force.

The war episode that followed then, now called the Bataan Death March, has become the reminder of the valor and ultimate sacrifice of all Filipino soldiers in World War 2 (WW2). In all, there were over 200,000 Filipinos soldiers of which less than ten percent or 18,000 are said to be alive today.

April 9 is a national holiday in the Philippines and observed as “Araw ng Kagitingan (Day of Valor).” In Hawaii, the Philippine Consulate of Honolulu, in cooperation with its Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee and the Armed Forces Liaison of the Philippines to the US Pacific Command (PACOM), organizes the annual “Araw ng Kagitingan” ceremony. This year, the two-hour program started promptly at 9 o’clock in the morning and took place at the main memorial shrine of the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. About 175 invitees attended the event -- PACOM officers, Pacific Fleet Band members, consuls and diplomats from many nations, leading elected officials of Hawaii or their representatives, World War II Filipino and American veterans and their families, event organizers, Fil-



ipino-American community organization officers and members, and the general public.

“We thank the people of Hawaii for remembering the brave soldiers from the Philippines. Thank you so much for remembering us.” World War 2 Filipino veteran and Davao native, Narzal Concepcion, said after the ceremony.

“We feel honored and thankful for the program. It is well done,” added his wife, Pelagia Concepcion.

Meanwhile, their daughter, Narzalyn Martinez, was new to it all. “It is my first time (to witness the Hawaii ceremony). I arrived here eight months ago after 21 years of waiting since my father petitioned for me,” she said.

Narzal Concepcion was one of the few WW2 Filipino veterans who attended this year’s ceremony with some of their family members. He is the vice president of the local WW2 Filipino-American Veterans Group, and his wife is the president of the Lady Auxiliary Group. As reported by the Honolulu Star-Advertiser last year, he served in the guerilla armed forces and left the Army as a second lieutenant. Last year, at the age of 90, Concepcion was hoping that his son and daughter could finally be allowed to come to Hawaii so that they can care for each other as family.

The Punchbowl ceremony started with the entry of colors, an invocation, and playing of anthems. The messages of remembrance came from the

government of the Philippines and Hawaii’s leading political leaders. Brigadier General Mark Gillette of PACOM delivered this year’s inspirational address. The Pacific Fleet Band played “America the Beautiful” as attendees laid more than twenty fresh flower wreaths and leis in honor of the fallen WW2 soldiers. The ceremony closed with taps that included a military gun salute, the retirement of colors, and photo op.

Consul General Gina Jamoralin was the highest-ranking representative of the Philippine Government in attendance. She drew attention to the progress and continuing struggle to help surviving WW2 Filipino veterans, especially those residing in the islands. She reported that a Hawaii bill to provide burial assistance passed. She meant House Bill 1420 which was introduced by State Representative Romy Cachola. After the program, State Representative Ty Cullen clarified that the bill’s passage as a law is still in progress. Serafin Colmenares, a member of the Knights of Rizal Order, expressed the need for community members to support the bill.

Hawaii’s congressional delegation, namely US Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono and US Representatives Tulsi Gabbard and Colleen Hanabusa, highlighted positive developments of the year 2016 and early 2017.

First, there were historic gestures of reconciliation and

symbolisms in pursuit of peace. Shinzo Abe visited Pearl Harbor last December, making him the first Japanese prime minister to do so after the war. Joined by then US President Barack Obama, Abe offered sincere and everlasting condolences to the victims of Japan’s attack some 75 years ago. In May of 2017, Obama made the historic visit to Hiroshima, one of two cities that was devastated by US atomic bomb in WW2. He was the first sitting US President to do so.

Second, members of first family in Hawaii to benefit from the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program arrived in Honolulu last February. The program allows families of aging veterans, or their spouses, to come and live in the US as their visa application continues.

Third, the passage of the Filipino Veterans of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act.

US Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard who delivered her message in person said:

“The legacy and sacrifice of these heroes must never be forgotten. Nor can we forget the high cost of war and the lasting effects that inevitably define those who are touched by its reaches. For decades,

legislation has been introduced in the United States Congress to honor our Filipino Veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal and, as you’ve heard, we were finally successful at obtaining this long overdue recognition—thanks in large part to the support and leadership of so many of you here today. Last Session, I was very proud, along with Senator Hirono, to reintroduce and finally pass this legislation, honoring our Filipino Veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal Act, and see President Obama signed it into law in December, just before he left office.”

The messages from the elected executive officials - Governor Davide Ige, Honolulu Mayor Caldwell, and Kauai Mayor Bernard Carvalho - related the bravery and sacrifices of the Bataan soldiers with the traits that have also come to be associated with Filipinos in Hawaii. Carvalho who delivered his message in person encouraged, in a folksy manner, for all to have “Faith to stay strong, hope to never give up, and to love unconditionally.”

Brigadier General Mark W. Gillette, PACOM’s Deputy Director for Strategic Planning and Policy, charmed the audi-

(continued on page 12)



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

More Countries Issue Travel Warning on Philippines

by Audrey Morallo
Thursday, April 13, 2017

MANILA, Philippines — More countries are warning their citizens against traveling to some parts of the Philippines with the French and New Zealand embassies in Manila issuing separate travel advisories for their nationals following clashes between security forces and a terrorist group on the tourist island of Bohol.

Both embassies warned their citizens against possible kidnapping or attacks by terrorist groups especially in some parts of southern Philippines and told their nationals to be vigilant and mindful of their personal safety.

“There are credible reports of threats of kidnapping by terrorist groups in the Central Visayas, particularly in Cebu and Bohol,” the French advisory said. “The Philippine police are also taking the threat seriously and have already taken steps to protect tourists and foreigners. Even if this threat remains unclear in the areas concerned, greater vigilance remains more important than ever.”

These latest advisories are part of a string of travel warnings from some countries including the United States and Australia ahead of the foray of the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf into Bohol province. This marked the first attack of the bandits on the region which is far from their traditional lairs in Sulu and Basilan islands in Mindanao.

This clash between the terrorist group and Philippine security forces left six bandits dead including Abu Rami, an Abu Sayyaf subleader who was involved in the beheading of some foreigners in the past. Four security forces also perished in the gun fight.

The government of New Zealand meanwhile warned of extreme risk to their citizens’ safety and security in the Mindanao provinces of Sarangani, South Cotabato, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao Del Norte, Zamboanga Del Norte, Zamboanga Del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay and in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao including the provinces of Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

“We advise against all

travel to these areas. The very high threat of terrorist activity, kidnapping and violent clashes between the military/police and terrorist or rebel groups makes travel to these areas extremely dangerous,” the advisory read.

It also warned of high risk to the safety and security of New Zealanders in the remaining provinces of Mindanao.

“We advise against all tourist and other non-essential

travel to these areas due to the threat of terrorism, kidnapping and violent clashes between the military/police and terrorist or rebel groups,” the advisory said.

It said: “We continue to receive reports that terrorists aspire to conduct attacks in the Philippines. The possibility of future attacks cannot be discounted, particularly in the Mindanao islands group, but attacks could occur anywhere

and at any time.”

Elsewhere in the country, the New Zealand government warned of some risk and advised its citizens to exercise caution.

“There is some risk to your security elsewhere in the Philippines, including in Manila, due to the threat of terrorism, risk of kidnapping and violent crime,” it said.

(www.philstar.com)

Taiwan to Grant Filipinos Visa-free Entry in June

by Audrey Morallo
Thursday, April 13, 2017

MANILA, Philippines — Filipinos will be granted visa-free entry to Taiwan starting June this year, in a move meant to encourage more tourists from other Asian regions to visit the island.

According to a Taiwanese news website, Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced that Philippine nationals would be granted visa-free stays on the island for a period of up to 30 days.

The ministry said that this



move would be on trial basis for one year from June 1 this year to July 31, 2018, the Taiwan media outfit reported.

Taiwan also extended its 30-day visa exemption for citizens of Thailand and Brunei to one year. Multiple-entry visa privileges meanwhile will be extended to nationals of India,

Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

This move by Taiwan is part of its government’s “New Southbound Policy” which aims to establish closer trade and economic ties with south and southeast Asian nations, the website said.

Taiwan saw a surge in its number of visitors since it offered citizens of these south and southeast Asian nations visa-free entry, it said.

Based on Taiwanese government data, the number of tourists from these countries climbed to 68,000, a 42.8 percent increase. This growth was the biggest in four years. (www.philstar.com)

TRAVEL & TOURISM (from page 10, WHAT....)

Aeta people. Though they still look like the Aeta, the Dumagat here are already as modern as anyone else. Local legend has it that the first Dumagats traded their gold for “modern” things like sardines from the lowlanders and that is how they began embracing the modern times.

Meanwhile, the Calinawan Cave near Daranak Falls has been believed to be discovered

when a villager hid there with the statue of the Virgin Mary. The icon, according to folklore, shielded the villager from flying arrows when the Dumagat attacked him with their bows and arrows.

The Windmills

Relatively new attractions near Tanay are the windmills stretching from the nearby

Pililla in Rizal to Laguna. This wind power farm, once fully operational, has been envisioned to provide sustainable energy to Tanay and its surrounding towns, allegedly, to lessen the residents’ electric bills.

For now, the giant “electric fans” have been luring present day Don Quixotes and rivaling the windmills in Bangui, Ilocos Norte. (www.philstar.com)

NEWS FEATURE (from page 11, ARAW...)

ence by greeting the audience in Tagalog. “Magandang Umaga Po. Karangalan ko na makasama kayo ngayong umaga,” he greeted at the onset of his speech.

“Heroism and valor are imbued in the blood of every Filipino - and those that made that horrendous march knew the real meaning of liberty and sacrifice. For liberty is purchased only with great sacrifice. It is only at our peril to forget, or take for granted Liberty’s cost – as payment is due repeatedly, in the coin of heroism and bravery demonstrated by our young men and women against challenges that are best met together. It was true at Bataan in 1942, it is true today.” He said.

“Although battles like Bataan have long passed, challenges to peace and security remain. It is of fundamental strategic importance that we be ready anytime, to meet any

threat to America and our allies.” He continued. He felt that it is truly encouraging today that there is the trilateral cooperation between the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia on maritime issues in the Sulu and Celebes Seas. He is also encouraged another multilateral activity - the Maritime Security Initiative (MSI). He said that MSI is not about equipment - but about building cooperation and security through regional engagement.

Ben Acohido, Hawaii Director of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education, realizes that many children and grandchildren of soldiers do not know much about WW2 soldiers’ personal stories. This he hopes will change for knowledge can help locate and find all the soldiers deserving of the congressional gold medal of honor.

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LEGAL NOTES

Undocumented Immigrants Have Rights



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

Ommigrants and immigration rights have been in focus during the first couple of months of President Trump's term in office. In one of his first executive orders, Trump barred nationals of certain countries from entering the United States. He also ordered immigration raids across the United States. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the federal law enforcement agency under the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has conducted arrests and scheduled foreign nationals for deportation.

Concerns over the rights of the legal and undocumented

immigrants during the arrests conducted by the ICE have arisen. Many arrested foreign nationals do not know that they have rights when they are arrested. But immigrants, including the undocumented, do have rights.

First, every person has the right to remain silent. Everyone has the right not to answer questions from the arresting officer or other government agents. Remaining silent is the best way to respond to the questions asked by the arresting officer and other government agents. Any information that the immigrant gives may be used against him or someone else by the government.

Immigrants must also be aware that arresting officers and government agents sometimes use trickery or lie to them in order to obtain information. Again, the best response is to remain silent. In addition, the immigrant must



never lie to the arresting officer or any government agent because this would be a crime.

Next, every person arrested is entitled to speak to a lawyer, especially before speaking to any government officer. This is true regardless of the person's guilt or innocence. Hence, the best course of action would be to ask to speak to a lawyer at the time of arrest. The foreign national does not have the right to a government-appointed attorney and must therefore hire his own attorney.

For all persons, even those who entered or stayed in the United States illegally, the United States Constitution provides rights which can be exercised.

First, under the Bill of Rights, undocumented immigrants are entitled to equal protection of the law. The constitutional guarantee of equal protection of the law does not distinguish between citizens or foreign nationals. The fact that one is an undocumented immigrant does not diminish or remove one's right to seek redress for any wrongdoing by another.

Secondly, the Fifth Amendment guarantees the right of persons to remain silent. This means one may not be compelled to answer questions by a government agent. If the immigrant refuses to answer questions pertaining to his immigration status, for example, said immigrant may not be arrested or detained

purely for such refusal.

Thirdly, the Fourth Amendment guarantees the right against unreasonable searches and seizures. No government agent may search one's home or office without consent unless the agent has a valid search warrant issued by a judge. A valid search warrant must state in detail the places to be searched, and the things to be seized as these details indicate the limits of the warrant. The search or seizure cannot legally extend to places or things not stated in the warrant. Without such warrant, one may refuse to let the government agent in their house. A valid search warrant does not obligate one to answer the questions of the government agents enforcing such warrant. An exception is made in an emergency such as when a person inside is heard asking for help.

A foreign national may, of course, waive his right to a hearing and agree to leave the United States. In such case, such foreign national may lose the right to apply for immigration status and may find it difficult to re-enter the United States in the future.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippines Aviation Policy Protects Passengers from Violent Offloading

by Louella Desiderio
Thursday, April 13, 2017

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines has regulations in place to prevent incidents similar to what happened on a United Airlines flight involving the forced removal of a passenger, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said.

CAB executive director Carmelo Arcilla said in a text message yesterday that the country has existing regulations regarding overbooked flights that caused the violent ejection of a passenger.

The United Airlines flight from Chicago was headed to Louisville in Kentucky.

Under Section 10 of the Air Passenger Bill of Rights, a passenger checked in for a particular flight has the right to board the aircraft for the purpose of flight, except when there is legal or other valid cause such as immigration is-

sues, safety and security, health concerns, non-appearance at the boarding gate at the appointed boarding time or government requisition of space.

Other than any of the above-mentioned causes, the regulations provide that "no passenger may be denied boarding without his or her consent."

Arcilla said that while it is an accepted practice for an air carrier to overbook flights, the regulations provide airlines would need to offer perks for affected passengers.

The Air Passenger Bill of Rights states that any expense, consequence or inconvenience caused to affected passengers must be borne by the carriers.

As such, the air carrier should be able to determine the number of passengers in excess of the actual seat capacity of the aircraft.

The air carrier should also

announce when the flight is overbooked and look for volunteer passengers willing to give up their seats in exchange for compensation.

Once there are volunteers, the carrier would need to provide them a list of amenities or offers they could choose from, with priority booking in the next flight or endorsement to another airline as part of the options.

In case the number of volunteers is not enough to resolve the overbooking, the carrier will need to increase the compensation package or add more amenities or services until the required number is reached.

Earlier this week, videos taken by passengers of an overbooked United Airlines flight, which went viral, showed a man being forcibly removed from his seat and dragged down the aisle of the aircraft by a security officer.

(www.philstar.com)

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HEALTH & FAMILY

4 Ways to a More Meaningful Holy Week

by Tina Santiago-Rodriguez

Holy Week is upon us and we all know what that means, right?

A few days of no work for many of us. No classes for those who have kids and for everyone – with kids and otherwise – that means it’s time to jet off to the beach!

Or at least that’s what is probably on many people’s minds right now. Holy Week equals vacation time!

But many people also know that Holy Week isn’t just about time off from work and school. The mere phrasing of it – Holy Week – sends us an invitation to make the coming break more meaningful.

Holy Week is a time for pause, reflection and yes, even prayer. For us Christians, it is a time to connect with the Lord. Make your Holy Week more meaningful this year by doing one or more of the following:

1. Spend more time in prayer.

If you’re a Christian (and yes, Catholics are Christians too!), you would probably know that Holy Week is something like the “culmination” of the Lenten season. For us Catholics, Lent is usually considered the time for “prayer, fasting and almsgiving.”

Whether or not you have been observing Lent so far, take the opportunity this Holy Week to devote more time in prayer. If you haven’t been doing any Lenten practices like praying more, Holy Week is the perfect time to do so. You can even try spending some minutes praying while you are stuck in traffic! Just converse with God in your own words, or pray traditional prayers like the Our Father. What is important is you pray with your heart.

2. Go to confession.

If you’re a Catholic, you might want consider going to confession, or what we call receiving the Sacrament of Rec-



conciliation. These days, many people think that going to confession is not an important thing to do, or that it is an “outdated” practice. But the reality is it is a very concrete way to be reminded of God’s love for us.

3. Do something “spiritual” as a family.

More than spending time with your family at the beach or swimming pool, or just lounging around at home, why

not do something “more”? This Holy Week is a perfect time to introduce spiritual traditions like the Visita Iglesia or Pabasa. If you don’t feel like leaving home or have other reasons to be homebound, you can also consider doing the Stations of the Cross as a family at home (booklets can be bought at religious bookstores). You might want to search the Internet for ideas on how to observe Holy Week at home.

4. Attend a retreat.

Going on a Holy Week retreat is a great way to refresh

your soul and recharge your spirit. It is also a good time to connect or reconnect with the Lord.

One highly recommended retreat is the “Shine Forth!” Holy Week Retreat led by well-known Catholic author and lay preacher Bo Sanchez, on April 13, 14 and 16. This is a unique retreat that will surely encourage and inspire you. Other speakers include Fr. Bob McConaghy, Fr. Bong Lo, Alvin Barcelona, Didoy Lubaton, John Ben Rodriguez, JC Libiran and Audee Villaraza, who are all set to deliver powerful talks that will change your life.

Go to Mass (by the way, The Grand Easter Feast has Holy Mass incorporated in the program), greet one another with “Christ is risen, Alleluia!,” learn the Christian roots behind the usual Easter egg hunts before you participate in them and search the Internet for more “Catholic ways to celebrate Easter.”

Most of all, rejoice because Easter is when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ!

So I encourage you, dear readers, make this coming Holy Week more meaningful. Pray, fast, give alms and remember, you are on this earth for a higher purpose!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAWAII FOUNDATION ANNUAL TERNO BALL | April 15, 2017 | 6:00 PM | HIBISCUS ROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact Nelly Pongco Liu @ 228-7808, Carlota Ader @ 797-4381 or Mercy Mullins @ 226-1320.

MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT | April 22, 2017 | KAHILI GOLF COURSE | Contact Bill Ruidas at 873.8605 or co-chairperson Alfredo Evangelista at 808.242.8100.

PMAH MEMORIAL WEEKEND & CME | May 27 - 29, 2017 | TURTLE BAY HILTON | Contact Nelly Pongco Liu @ 228-7808, Carlota Ader @ 797-4381 or Mercy Mullins @ 226-1320.

2ND PMAH GOLF TOURNAMENT | October 18, 2017 | 9:00 am (Registration), 11:00 a.m. (Golf Tournament Begins) and 6:00 p.m. (Awarding of Prizes and Buffet Dinner) | HOAKALEI COUNTRY CLUB | For registration, contact Elmer Baysa, MD @ 689-8315, Ray Romero, MD @680-0554 or Christopher Regala, MD @ 622-2626.

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MAINLAND NEWS

Senate Rule Change Ignites Controversy Over Appointments Process

WASHINGTON, DC-- Republican senators voted to change Senate rules to clear the path for the appointment of Judge Neil Gorsuch, President Donald Trump's nominee for the U.S. Supreme Court, to be appointed.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell invoked what is known as the "nuclear option," making a simple majority vote sufficient for the appointment to the Supreme Court, instead of the 60-vote requirement. The change in Senate rules kills the minority's chance to filibuster appointments.

Judge Gorsuch earlier failed to get the 60-vote requirement for his appointment. The attempted block of Judge Gorsuch's appointment by Democrats is seen by some rooted in both principle and retaliation. In principle, Judge Gorsuch is viewed

as a conservative judge who interprets laws in the originalist philosophy similar to the deceased SC Judge Antonin Scalia who Gorsuch is replacing. The attempt to block Judge Gorsuch appointment is also viewed as retaliation for the GOP's obstruction of Judge Merrick Garland's nomination, who was selected by President Barack Obama in March 2016 after the death of Scalia. Instead of holding confirmation hearings, the GOP-majority Senate decided to postpone any moves to replace Scalia until after the presidential election.

While Democrats criticized this tactic as a dangerous precedent, Democrats have employed this tactic before under former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid to assist in the confirmations of President Barack Obama's judicial nominees.

McConnell has said he's not a fan of changing the rules and going

"nuclear," but Republicans want to get Gorsuch confirmed.

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) criticized the rule change. "Today will go down in history as the day Republicans deepened the divides in the Senate, the Supreme Court, and the country. Instead of changing the nominee to reach bipartisan consensus, Republicans chose to change the rules. In doing so, they weakened one of the last bastions of bipartisanship at a time when polarization is at an all-time high. I'm deeply disappointed and concerned by the Republicans' actions, which were pushed through in a brazen effort to further politicize the Supreme Court.

"The Senate rules exist to encourage bipartisanship, deliberation, and compromise. Now that Republicans have successfully put one of those rules on the chopping block, we will have more difficulty achieving those purposes."

Pro-Immigrant and Workers Rally Planned in Queens and Manhattan

QUEENS, NY--A coalition of community groups invites supporters of migrants, refugees and workers to join them in a rally on April 23, 1 pm on 58th Street

and Roosevelt Avenue in Queens. The rally is the first planned event of solidarity that will lead to a larger gathering on International Workers Day, May 1st in Manhattan's Union

Square Park. The May 1st rally is also calling for a strike by immigrants and all workers on that date.

The organizers are working with business owners along to

route for their support. It is expected that many businesses will be in solidarity with the march and rally due to the atmosphere of insecurity and fear fostered by recent statements coming from the Trump Ad-

ministration on the topic of immigration.

Groups and individuals interested in supporting this event can contact the organizers at 718.414.9558 or 917.502.2137.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Pacquiao Going for KO vs Horn, says Roach

by Dino Maragay
Friday, April 14, 2017

MANILA, Philippines – Freddie Roach expects no less than a knockout win for Manny Pacquiao when the latter takes on Jeff Horn on July 2 in Brisbane, Australia.

In a report by Grantlee Kieza of The Courier-Mail, Roach said Pacquiao will work hard to score a long overdue

knockout, something he hasn't done in eight years.

"Manny hasn't scored a knockout in a long time and it's time that changed. He is working his ass off for this fight and we will be keeping the world title," Roach explained.

Pacquiao's last knockout victory came against Miguel Cotto in 2009, and many of his fans—most especially Roach—want that drought to end against the 29-year-old

Horn.

Although a heavy favorite against the younger Horn—a licensed school teacher—Pacquiao, according to Roach, will be keeping his guard up.

"Manny doesn't underestimate anyone. He knows upsets can happen in boxing and that Horn is a good puncher but we are prepared for anything," added the multi-awarded trainer.

"Horn is a strong guy, a

counterpuncher but we're coming up with a game plan to make sure that Manny Pacquiao flies home still with that world title belt in his possession."

Horn, a native of Brisbane, will be enjoying a huge home crowd support at the 55,000-seat Suncorp Stadium where the fight will be held.

Roach, for his part, sees no problem with that, saying it will even motivate Pacquiao to

fashion out an exciting performance.

"And he loves nothing more than entertaining big crowds. The bigger crowd the more he likes it. There might be 55,000 people in the stadium cheering for Horn but that will only encourage Manny to put on the best show he can," Pacquiao's longtime cornerman continued.

"We're going for the knockout." (www.philstar.com)

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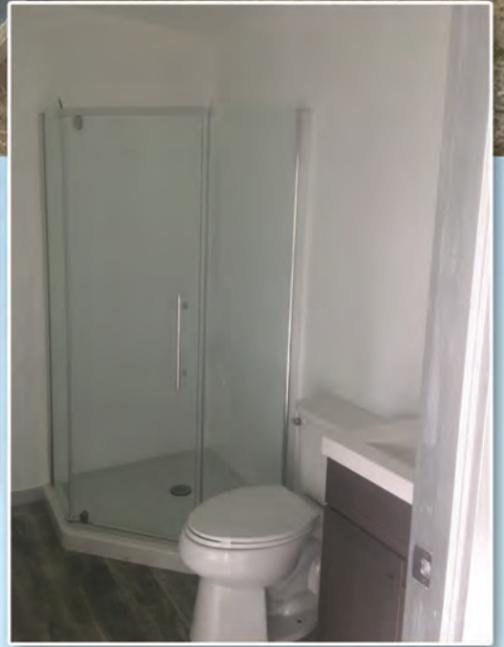
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