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◆ JULY 25, 2015 ◆

SOCIETY OF SEVEN RETURNS TO HAWAII

COVER STORY
PAGE

4



Photo courtesy of SOS



NEWS FEATURE

BALLET PHILIPPINES TO PERFORM AT UH KENNEDY THEATRE

8



COMMENTARY

"TORPE DE MANILA" AND THE POLITICS OF "PAIKOT"

9



LEGAL NOTES

FIANCE (E) VISA FOR SAME SEX COUPLES

13



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EDITORIALS

Society of Seven Rolls Onward

Rocking a musical instrument and performing on stage is for all intents and purposes a young person's game. But don't tell that to some members of the Society of Seven, who have enjoyed long and successful careers spanning well into their fourth decade. Money and success did not breed complacency for SOS, which enjoyed a tremendous following during their heydays in Waikiki. The group boasts hit songs like "Walk Away," "99.8" and "I'll Love You Through in All." They were also repeatedly voted by Honolulu Magazine as the "Best Show in Waikiki" and in 2007 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawaii Academy of Recording Artists.

The fact that SOS continues to sell out shows in Hawaii, the mainland or wherever they perform is a testament to the members' longevity and ability to constantly reinvent themselves. And when members—many of whom were Filipino—passed away or transferred out for whatever reason, it was always next man up and the show went on. Longtime SOS members also get along well and respect each other. There are unavoidable conflicts of course, but at the end of the day, they are all brothers.

The founding members of SOS are now in their 70s and still going strong, which puts them on par with iconic pre-1970s bands like Earth Wind and Fire, Aerosmith and the Rolling Stones which are still on tour. Heady praise indeed for a group of local boys. Audiences who have seen SOS veterans Tony Ruivivar and Bert Sagum on stage would agree that it's not too far fetched to compare the two to the Stones' Mick Jagger and Keith Richards for sheer entertainment and musical ability. And like the Stones, SOS has taken its high energy variety show to international audiences in countries like Guam, Indonesia, Australia and Canada.

SOS' ability to stand the test of time and remain relevant in today's entertainment industry is all the more remarkable considering they have carved out a niche in an industry that is obsessed with youth, fashion and good looks. When seeing one of their performances, the audience sits back, relaxes and enjoys a good show that makes them laugh and reminisce of happier times. For entertainers like the SOS, they wouldn't have it any other way.

Filipino Veterans to Reunite With Family Members

At long last, relief is on the way for Filipino World War II veterans and their children who have waited decades to immigrate legally to the U.S. It's indeed welcomed news for the few remaining veterans who are now in their 90s. Only 6,000 of the original 250,000 veterans—a paltry 2 percent—are still alive. These were Filipinos incorporated into the U.S. Army under Gen. Douglas MacArthur in the months before Pearl Harbor.

The long wait for veterans to be reunited with their children was due to a limit placed on the number of Filipinos who were allowed to enter the U.S. Under the new policy, relatives of Filipino WWII veterans would be exempt from yearly immigration

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Of you're an entertainment junkie, you will love this issue! First off, our cover story is about the return of the Society of Seven (SOS) to Hawaii. The group is scheduled to perform for a few shows only on Maui and Oahu in late July and early August. The uber popular SOS delighted local audiences for years, ruling the roost in Waikiki during the 1970s through 2000 and beyond. For all of the group's successes, members have remained humble, grounded and thankful for their decorated 40-year plus career as showmen. Turn to page 4-5 to find out the story behind this amazing musical group and how to obtain tickets to their upcoming shows.



If ballet is more your cup of tea, then you're in for a treat as the Philippines' best ballet troupe is in town to perform at the Asia Pacific Dance Festival from July 25-26, 2015 at the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Kennedy Theatre. Artistic director Paul Morales promises that you will enjoy watching his group's performance. To the untrained eye, ballet may look easy but it requires a great deal of discipline, athleticism, stamina and poise—to name just a few. We hope that the Filipino community will come out and support Ballet Philippines. You can read more about this outstanding dance group and how to see them on stage by turning to page 8.

In an interesting commentary on page 9, contributing writer Dr. Raymund Liongson discusses Torre de Manila—a 49-story tall condo that critics say destroys the visual vista of the monument of Philippine national hero Dr. Jose Rizal in Luneta. Dr. Liongson also discusses the role that "paikot" or political spin that some politicians and government officials used to justify the questionable permit that was issued to construct the controversial high rise. He and other members of the Knights of Rizal have called on the government to demolish Torre de Manila which they say would restore the grandeur of Rizal Park. Please read Dr. Liongson's commentary on page 9 and see if you agree with him or not.

That's all for now. Please take some time to read the other informative columns and news stories that we have for you in this issue, including a book review on page 14 of "101 Filipino Icons" Volumes 1 and 2. And as always, we are ever grateful for your continued support. 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

numbers, allowing their visa applications to be processed sooner rather than later. More specifically, the Department of Homeland Security will work together with the State Department to create a program that would allow veterans' family members to come to the U.S. on a case-by-case basis, instead of through the much lengthier general family immigration process. The American Coalition of Filipino Veterans estimates that the new policy could allow up to 20,000 children of these veterans to immigrate to the U.S.

A big mahalo to U.S. Rep. Mark Takai, a member of the House Armed Services Committee and member of the Hawaii National Guard, for introducing the Filipino Veterans Family

(continued on page 3)

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OPINION

Same-Sex Marriage Is Now Rightfully the Law of the Land

By Edwin Quinabo

June 26, 2015 is a triumphant day for civil rights. For our country, it's as historic as the milestone legal victories that gave African Americans and women the right to vote, as well as the lifting of former bans on interracial marriages and segregation.

Allowing same-sex couples to marry is so enormous in magnitude that it will mark the beginning of new cultural and social norms, and expand the "model" of what is considered a family unit. In time, like other major landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions that forever changed the way we live, future generations will look back at this time and wonder in confusion why was the country so backwards to not allow same-sex couples to marry sooner.

The U.S. Supreme Court in its 5-4 majority decision should be applauded for its courage and fortitude in taking up the issue and giving a final ruling that the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples violates the Due Process and the Equal Protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This interpretation of

the law, in effect, makes it legal for same-sex couples to marry in all states.

Prior to this ruling, same-sex marriage was legal in 38 states, Guam and the District of Columbia.

Now the U.S. joins 21 other countries that allow same-sex marriages.

Legal Battle

The long journey to get to this point in time has been exhausting for both sides of the same-sex marriage debate. The idea gained prominence in the U.S. starting in Hawaii in 1993 when the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled in *Baehr v Lewin* that the state's prohibition of same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. Since then, legal challenges mounted across the nation in state courts and federal courts. States held public elections on the issue. Communities were divided and some politicians conveniently used the issue as election platforms. Such single-issue politicians quickly rose to prominence. Some of them burned down equally as fast, or quickly was forced to soften their stance as the general public shifted their opinions from a majority being against same-sex marriage to a majority supporting it.

Popular Opinion

Practically all the independent polls from CNN to Wash-

ington Post to ABC News to the Pew Research Center show that a majority of Americans are in favor of same-sex marriage and supported the Supreme Court's ruling from a rough margin of 60% in favor to 34% opposed with 6% with no opinion.

Every conceivable argument for or against same-sex marriage has also been exhausted and explored in the court of law and debated in communities and churches across the nation for the past 20 years.

Arguments

Early arguments put forth by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other religious organizations claimed that children would do best when raised by a mother and father. In the interest of children, same-sex marriage shouldn't be legalized.

Counter to that argument, the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychiatric Association, National Association of Social Workers and many others claim that gay and lesbian parents do form stable, committed relationships and are essentially equivalent to heterosexual relationships.

Their body of research supports that the children of same-sex parents are no less psychologically healthy and well-adjusted than of opposite-sex parents.

Ultimately, the argument surrounding same-sex marriage transformed to one of traditional religious values against moral and civil rights of a group of people. Since the U.S. is not a theocracy and practice separation of Church and State, it became more compelling in time that same-sex couples could not be denied equal rights based on religious values. A major shifting in popular opinion in support of same-sex marriage also helped to turn the tide.

The last and desperate attempt by strongly conservative states that prohibited same-sex marriages was turning the argument to one of jurisdiction and challenged the federal government, saying a state has its own right to enact its own laws on the issue. With this U.S. Supreme Court decision, that is no longer a viable argument.

Future Battles

For the religious right opposed to same-sex marriage, the next battle will be testing the limits of religious freedom pertaining to the enforcement of this newly recognized federal law. For example, some county clerks in these conservative states have already refused to issue same-sex couples a marriage license, claiming it is their religious right to refuse them of a license, even though it is now the law of the land to do so.

This strategy will eventually prove to be George Wallace-like, the former governor of Alabama who refused to enforce Federal laws prohibiting segregation nationwide. Remember that pro-segregationists in the South also conveniently used religion to backup their practice of segregation. They eventually gave up on their losing cause.

For the gay community, much of their focus will be shifted to other areas where in-

(continued on page 7)

EDITORIALS (from page 2. **FILIPINO...**)

Reunification Act of 2015, which interestingly enough was his first bill as a congressman. Supporters of Filipino veterans' rights also owe a debt of gratitude to members of Hawaii's congressional delegation, both past and present, for introducing similar measures over the years. Compassion and the importance of keeping families together were often their guiding principles.

The bottom line is that this new policy is simply the right thing for the U.S. government to do. Expediting the reunification process not only treats these veterans fairly and with respect, but also allows them to live out their remaining years surrounded by their family members. It's the least that the U.S. can do to honor these gallant Filipinos who put themselves in harm's way for the sake of America's freedom.

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COVER STORY

SOS to Make Triumphant Return to Hawaii

By Dennis Galolo

Of you're in the mood for an evening of spectacular music, fun, Broadway show tunes and dynamic vocals, make plans now to see the Society of Seven (SOS), which is returning to Hawaii after a successful homecoming last October 2014.

Billed as the last of the great show bands, SOS is scheduled to perform at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center's Castle Theater on July 31, 2015 at 7:30 pm. The group last performed on the Valley Isle 15 years ago.

On Oahu, the SOS will do two evening shows at the Ala Moana Hotel's Hibiscus Room on August 1, 2015 at 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. An additional lunch show will be offered on August 2nd with the doors opening at 11 am and the show starting at noon.

SOS is led by founding members Tony Ruivivar and Bert Sagum. The group will feature sensational song stylist Lhey Bella as their special guest vocalist. A few years ago, she came to see one of their performances and fell in love with the group. After auditioning, she was invited to

perform at their next gig.

"She fit in wonderfully and quickly became 'one of the boys,' Sagum says. "She has no fancy airs and doesn't act like a diva."

Talent-wise, Sagum describes Bella as "Whitney Houston and Billie Holiday rolled into one."

"She's a quick learner and very versatile as a vocalist with tremendous range and a fantastic ability to ad-lib," Sagum says. "She has a blues background. They can handle a serious ballad and sings some terrific duets with our lead singer Michael Laygo."

Ruivivar says SOS has worked hard on new material that their fans are sure to enjoy.

"We'll rock and delight you with Broadway showstoppers, top hits and comedy," he says. "You'll be in for a treat."

Sagum says SOS members are looking forward to their Hawaii homecoming.

"We'll be having a blast on stage and poking fun at some of your favorite celebrities," he says.

The Society of Seven group includes

- Jun Estanislau (drums)
- Michael Laygo (lead singer)
- Hoku Low (bass, trumpet, vocals)
- Tony Ruivivar (guitar, vocals)
- Bert Sagum (percussion, vocals)
- Roy Venturina (keyboards)
- Wayne Wakai (keyboards, alto sax, guitar, vocals)
- Lhey Bella (special guest star)

For over three decades, SOS was at the top of the local entertainment scene and headlined at the Outrigger Wai-kiki Main Showroom, where they played several shows a night, six nights a week. The group delighted audiences, including visitors and kamaaina alike. Locals who usually avoid driving into Waikiki suddenly didn't mind braving the traffic and tourists to see the original Filipino boy band.

One of SOS' biggest fans is Punchbowl Street resident and small business owner Edith Doctolero. She arrived in Hawaii in 1971 from the Philippines and recalls that the group was already a big hit locally.

"We would always bring our guests from out of town to see their shows at the Outrigger," she says. "We laughed and enjoyed their shows be-



Photo courtesy of SOS

cause they are really good entertainers."

There was a time, Doctolero recalls, when she and her friends saw SOS perform every week. She says audiences enjoyed seeing them in wigs and costumes, imitating Michael Jackson, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and other noted celebrities and recording artists. Members of the audience would also be selected at random and brought on stage during one of their routines.

Another long-time SOS fan is Roland Casamina, who first saw SOS perform at the Outrigger during the early 1970s when he was still in high school. He was hooked from that very first show.

"As a teenager, I was so impressed with them," he says. "During the 1970s and 1980s, SOS was the show to take your date to—if you could get in. Each of their three nightly shows had long lines that you had to wait in for tickets."

A member of Farrington High School's Class of 1972, Casamina and his classmates from Farrington and six other Oahu public schools held their

50th birthday bash in Las Vegas. The celebrants invited none other than SOS to perform at their big celebration.

"We were so honored to have them as guest performers," says Casamina, who eventually became good friends with the band members. To his day, he stays in regular touch with them.

Sending Out An S.O.S.

The nucleus of SOS got its start in Hong Kong during the 1960s. As teenagers, Ruivivar, Sagum and the other members would gather on the rooftop of their apartment building and sing the top hit songs accompanied by guitars and ukuleles. Being of Filipino descent was not a requirement.

"From the beginning, we had a bass player who was Scottish," says Ruivivar. "Later on, we had a variety of nationalities including Americans, a Hawaiian-Chinese and a local Japanese boy."

As members of the group came and went over the years, auditions were held for new additions who were selected

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, SOCIETY)

based on the shoes that needed filling.

“We like performers who are versatile, sing well and are able to play a number of instruments,” says long-time manager Frances Kirk. “Personality develops in time.”

The group has performed at a number of well-known venues, including the Copacabana in New York, the Palmer House in Chicago and the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas, where their “star” is located right outside on the sidewalk.

SOS has even delighted audiences in the Philippines. From December 4-13, 2002 they performed in a series of concerts in Manila, prompting then-mayor Lito Atienza to proclaim December 3, 2002 as Society of Seven Day.

“Mayor Atienza had a brass band performing at the airport to welcome us,” says Sagum. “When we visited City Hall in Manila, we were greeted by another brass band. The mayor and Tony Ruivivar were classmates at Ateneo de Manila University.

“We have fond memories of many other places where we performed, but they are too



Photo courtesy of SOS

many to name.”
Staying Power

Music groups come and go over the years, so for SOS to thrive over a four decade-plus span is nothing short of amazing.

Kirk says that the secret to SOS’ longevity is that the members enjoy what they’re doing and it shows in their performances. They also have regular “creative meetings” where ideas are presented. Some are hits, while others are misses.

“The secret to their suc-

cess is knowing what the public wants and staying current,” she says. “Having been in showbiz for so long, we find that there always something new to learn every day.”

It helps, Casamina says, that the group continually changes up its routines to keep things interesting.

“I’ve seen their shows many times and I’ve never gotten bored,” Casamina says. “They have a variety of acts, songs and comedy routines, which keeps it interesting from the beginning all the way to the

end. It makes you want to keep coming back to see more.”

Ruivivar hopes that the Filipino community will come out and see them perform.

“We are a symbol of Filipino pride,” he says. “We work hard to put on a good show and deserve their support. We’ll also give them a good time. We knock ourselves out for our audiences because without them we are nothing.”

Doctolero, who last saw SOS perform in 2009 at the Outrigger, is eager to see them again.

“I will try my best to go,” she says. “I even invited my Japanese and Portuguese friends to come with me. I’m a big fan and really proud of them because they are such good entertainers.”

For ticket information, visit the Society of Seven website at: www.societyof-seven.com or contact Fran Kirk at (808) 271-3330. Reservations for the Oahu shows can be made by calling 944-4333. Maui residents can call (808) 242-SHOW or go online at: www.mauiarts.org.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

HART Seeks Applicants for Board of Directors Vacancy

The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation’s (HART) Board of Directors is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the board for a term that expires June 30, 2018.

The HART Board of Directors, which was established by City Charter on July 1, 2011, is responsible for establishing policies pertaining to the construction, operation and maintenance of the rail transit system.

“We are looking for an individual who recognizes the importance of public transportation, who supports rail transit and who has a passion for public service,” says HART Board Chairman Ivan Lui-Kwan. “We welcome ap-

plications and look forward to receiving a strong pool of well-qualified candidates.”

Under the City Charter, HART Board members serve as part-time volunteers and have a policy-making role. The Board of Directors includes: three members appointed by the mayor; three members appointed by the Honolulu City Council; and both the city director of transportation services and the state director of transportation. They will collectively choose a ninth voting member of the board. The director of the City’s Planning & Permitting Department serves as an ex-officio non-voting member of the board.

Applicants must submit a HART Board Application

(continued on page 6)

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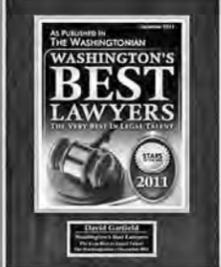
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SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Social Security Board of Trustees: Trust Fund Reserve Gains One Year for Projected Depletion Date

By Jane Yamamoto-Burigsay

The Social Security Board of Trustees today released its annual report on the long-term financial status of the Social Security Trust Funds. The combined asset reserves of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Funds are projected to become depleted in 2034, one year later than projected last year, with 79 percent of benefits payable at that time. The DI Trust Fund will become depleted in 2016, unchanged from last year's estimate, with 81 percent of benefits still payable.

In the 2015 Annual Report to Congress, the Trustees announced:

- The combined trust fund reserves are still growing and will continue to do so

through 2019. Beginning with 2020, the cost of the program is projected to exceed income.

- The projected point at which the combined trust fund reserves will become depleted, if Congress does not act before then, comes in 2034 – one year later than projected last year. At that time, there will be sufficient income coming in to pay 79 percent of scheduled benefits.
- The projected actuarial deficit over the 75-year long-range period is 2.68 percent of taxable payroll -- 0.20 percentage point smaller than in last year's report.

“While the projected depletion date of the combined OASDI trust funds gained a year, the Disability Insurance Trust Fund's projected depletion year remains 2016. I agree with President Obama, we have to keep Social Security strong, protecting its future solvency. President Obama's

FY 2016 budget proposes to address this near-term Disability Insurance Trust Fund's reserve depletion. By reallocating a portion of payroll taxes from Old Age Survivors to the Disability Trust Fund – as has been done many times in the past – would have no adverse effect on the solvency of the overall Social Security program,” said Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security.

“We believe that Congress must take action to reallocate a portion of the payroll tax rate between the trust funds to avoid deep and abrupt cuts or delays in benefits for individuals with disabilities who paid into the system while they worked and now need the benefits they earned to support themselves and their families,” Colvin said.

Other highlights of the Trustees Report include:

- Income including interest to the combined OASDI Trust Funds amounted to \$884 billion in 2014. (\$756 bil-

lion in net contributions, \$30 billion from taxation of benefits, \$98 billion in interest, and less than \$1 billion in reimbursements from the General Fund of the Treasury—almost exclusively resulting from the 2012 payroll tax legislation)

- Total expenditures from the combined OASDI Trust Funds amounted to \$859 billion in 2014.
- Non-interest income fell below program costs in 2010 for the first time since 1983. Program costs are projected to exceed non-interest income throughout the remainder of the 75-year period.
- The asset reserves of the combined OASDI Trust Funds increased by \$25 billion in 2014 to a total of \$2.79 trillion.
- During 2014, an estimated 166 million people had earnings covered by Social Security and paid payroll taxes.
- Social Security paid benefits

of \$848 billion in calendar year 2014. There were about 59 million beneficiaries at the end of the calendar year.

- The cost of \$6.1 billion to administer the program in 2014 was a very low 0.7 percent of total expenditures.
- The combined Trust Fund asset reserves earned interest at an effective annual rate of 3.6 percent in 2014.

The Board of Trustees comprises six members. Four serve by virtue of their positions with the federal government: Jacob J. Lew, Secretary of the Treasury and Managing Trustee; Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security; Sylvia M. Burwell, Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Thomas E. Perez, Secretary of Labor. The two public trustees are Charles P. Blahous, III and Robert D. Reischauer.

View the 2015 Trustees Report at www.socialsecurity.gov/OACT/TR/2015/.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City Begins Repaving Work for Kamehameha IV Road, Liliha Street

With the start of school classes just a few weeks away, City crews are set to begin the repaving of two busy streets in the Kalihi area—Kamehameha IV Road and Liliha Street.

The work began July 21, 2015 and is expected to run through March 2016. The City awarded Road Builders Corporation a \$4.6 million contract for the work, which is expected to be done 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Mondays through Fridays.

Officials have reminded area residents that on-street parking will be prohibited at times. “No Parking Tow Away” signs will be posted a minimum of 24-hours in advance. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed at the owners' expense.

The rehabilitation of

Kamehameha IV Road in Kalihi Valley will incorporate “Complete Streets” features to make the major thoroughfare safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, motorists, and persons with disabilities.

Dole Intermediate, Kaewai Elementary and Kalihi Valley District Park are all located on Kamehameha IV Road which has two lanes of traffic in each direction. The proposed layout calls for one lane in each direction with a center turn lane and bike lanes, with a goal to maintain on-street parking.

“Complete Streets is

about public safety,” says Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell. “Kamehameha IV Road is regularly used by vehicles, cyclists, and pedestrians, especially keiki. At the urging of the community, we decided to revisit the striping plans for the road to make Kalihi Valley safer for all.”

The work is latest in the Caldwell administration's efforts to repave 1,500 lane miles of City roads by the end of 2017. As of July 1, 2015, approximately 820 lane miles have been repaved since Caldwell became mayor in 2013.

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from page 5, HART....)

Form, along with a cover letter and resume via email by August 7, 2015 at 4:30 pm to HART Board Administrator Cindy Matsushita at: cmatsushita@honolulu.gov. Materials can also be mailed to: HART Board Administrator, 1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1700, Honolulu, HI, 96813

and must be postmarked by August 7, 2015. All applications must include a current mailing address and a daytime telephone number.

To download an application form, go to: <http://honolulustransit.org/media/353419/20150714-hart-board-application-form.pdf>.

The only Filipino to serve as a HART board of directors member was former State Sen. Robert Bunda, who stepped down from his post effective June 30, 2015. He had served on the HART board of directors since September 2011 and was appointed to a five-year term in 2013.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

Obtaining Proof of U.S. Citizenship for USC's Foreign Born Child



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

The generally accepted documents to establish a person's U.S. citizenship are: (1) Birth Certificate issued by a U.S. State for persons born in the U.S.,

(2) Naturalization Certificate issued by USCIS to a lawful permanent resident who became a U.S. citizen through naturalization proceedings, (3) Certificate of Citizenship issued by USCIS for children born outside the U.S. who derived or acquired U.S. citizenship through a U.S. citizen (USC) parent, (4) Consular Report of Birth Abroad issued by a Consulate for children born abroad to a U.S. citizen parent, and (5) U.S. Passport issued by the Department of State to U.S. citizens. See <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/A4en.pdf>

Here is a case showing what happens when a person does not hire an excellent and experienced attorney to obtain proof of citizenship.

Ashton, a USC, worked abroad during which he fathered a son, Robert. Ashton is named the father in Robert's birth certificate. Ashton lived with Robert and his mother. In

2001, Robert entered the U.S. on a visitor's visa.

Ashton retained an attorney to file paperwork to have Robert declared a U.S. citizen. Ashton completed and submitted to his attorney, Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship. The attorney instead filed Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. It was denied for failure to submit further documentation. The attorney filed an appeal of the denial but never filed a brief or any further materials. The BIA denied the appeal in 2007. The attorney assured them that the matter was moving forward. In 2011, Ashton contacted a second attorney to check the status of Robert's citizenship. The second attorney, after contacting the first attorney, told Ashton that everything was being handled properly. Ashton hired a third attorney who quickly uncovered the first attorney's deficient performance and moved to reopen the I-130 denial on the ground of ineffective assistance of counsel. The BIA denied the motion to reopen, concluding that Ashton failed to show due diligence after contacting the second attorney in 2011, and that Ashton failed to make a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel against his second attorney.

The Court of Appeals held that it had no jurisdiction over Ashton's petition for review of the denial of the motion to reopen his visa petition because

its jurisdiction is limited under 8 USC §1252(a)(1) to reviewing "a final order of removal" which is an order in which the Attorney General concludes that the alien is deportable or orders deportation. 8 USC § 1101(a)(47)(A). Robert had never been in deportation proceedings.

The court pointed out that relief from an adverse BIA action on an I-130 petition may lie in the district court under the Administrative Procedures Act, which provides a right of action for an individual "suffering legal wrong because of agency action." 5 USC § 702. Jurisdiction for such claims exists in the district court, 28 USC § 1331, and they must be brought within six years. 28 USC § 2401(a).

28 USC § 1631 provides that when an appeal "including a petition for review" is filed in a court that lacks jurisdiction, the court shall, if it is in the interest of justice, transfer such action to any other such court in which the action could have been brought at the time it was filed or noticed. The court said that the "interests of justice" did not require transfer. While Ashton was acting in good faith, pursuing the denial of the motion to

reopen the I-130 proceedings in the district court is fruitless. An I-130 petition does not and cannot lead to the result desired by Ashton which is to help his son gain U.S. citizenship. No factfinder has ever reviewed Robert's claim of citizenship because Ashton has never filed the appropriate forms. *LeBlanc v Holder*, No. 13-2474, 04/21/2015 (CA4).

RECOMMENDATION: One procedure to obtain recognition of a claim of citizenship for a foreign born child of a U.S. citizen is to file Form N-600 with USCIS and comply with the requirements of the law, particularly 8 USC §§ 1431, 1432, and 1452. For forms and instructions, go to <http://www.uscis.gov/n-600>.

USC parents of a child born abroad may apply at a U.S. Consulate for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) on Form FS-240. The parents may also apply for a

U.S. passport for the child. For forms and procedure, go to <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/abroad/events-and-records/birth.html>

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OPINION (from page 2, **SAME-SEX...**)

equality exists such as workplace discrimination. Sexual orientation is not protected in workplace discrimination laws, nor is it in other areas such as Equal Credit Opportunity Act and the Fair Housing Act. Only 19 states have made discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity illegal. The fight for national uniformity on all of these federal Acts to include sexual orientation shouldn't be as emotionally charged as the same-sex marriage debate.

Amidst all the religious conflict and hate around the world between countries, and even internally, among country-states where religious leaders are fighting against non-sectarian leaders, it bodes well for the future of America to

reaffirm its commitment to separation of Church and State. A theocracy, or religious state where our rulers place their interpretation of the Bible over the U.S. Constitution, would be ripe for dictatorship and chaos. This ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on same-sex marriage also could be viewed as a rejection of such a scenario playing out for the future of our country. A civil, democratic, free, non-sectarian society is always preferred over a non-democratic theocracy. A simple look at the Middle East situation proves this point. The beauty of religion has its place in the homes, churches, and in the hearts and minds of the people. But that beauty could quickly turn ugly when it is one with the state.



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BALLET PHILIPPINES TO PERFORM AT UH KENNEDY THEATRE

By Dennis Galolo

Ballet Philippines, one of the great dance ensembles of the Philippines, will perform at the Asia Pacific Dance Festival from July 25-26, 2015 at the University of Hawaii-Manoa's Kennedy Theatre.

Ballet Philippines' July 25th performance is scheduled for 7:30 pm and at 2 pm on July 26th. The Festival is a co-production of the UH-Manoa Outreach College and the East-West Center Arts Program, in cooperation with the UH Department of Theatre and Dance.

The Asia Pacific Dance Festival showcases the finest dances, dancers and choreographers from across Asia and the Pacific. The Festival began in 2011 and is offered in the summer of every odd-numbered year.

Ballet Philippines will perform along with the Oceania Dance Theatre from Fiji and Halau I Ka Wekiu—overall winner of the 49th annual Merrie Monarch Festival. A committee that reviewed a list of potential performers for this year's event came away impressed with Ballet Philippines, according to Festival Director Tim Slaughter who worked with the dance troupe during its last performance at UH during the late 1990s.

"Anyone who's involved in dance knows of Ballet Philippines' reputation," says Slaughter. "We were also impressed with their current artistic director Paul Morales. It was an easy decision for our committee to invite them if they were available and it turns out that they were. We're excited to have them."

Pearl City resident J.P. Orias has watched numerous videos of Ballet Philippines but has yet to see them live on stage. He is definitely planning to take his wife to see one of their performances.



"I think that they are very good," says Orias, who served as artistic director for several local Broadway musicals by Doctors-On-Stage. "Their performances combine modern and classical steps, which makes them very unique."

A Proud History

Ballet Philippines was founded in 1969 by renowned Philippine dancer-choreographer Alice Reyes and Eddie Elejar from the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It holds the distinction as the country's first professional dance company and the first, as well as the longest running dance ensemble in Southeast Asia.

Currently in its 46th season, Ballet Philippines is widely-recognized as the country's flagship company for ballet and contemporary dance. With a treasure trove of nearly 500 works, Ballet Philippines' wide ranging, eclectic repertoire is unparalleled in Asia. From full-length classical ballets and internationally-recognized masterworks to indigenous works of Filipino folklore and social issues, the company weaves a colorful tapestry of the Philippines' rich and diverse cultural

heritage, which is uniquely and distinctly Filipino.

As the dance company in residence at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Ballet Philippines' year-long program of professional and developmental dance nurtures the very best of Filipino dance. Its official school, the Ballet Philippines Dance School, continues each year to produce dancers of international caliber.

According to artistic director Morales, Ballet Philippines has performed in venues all over the world. In 2014, the group performed in six cities along the West Coast, from Los Angeles to Vancouver.

"We were the first Filipino company to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC as part of the Philippine Centennial in 1998," Morales says. "We also represented the Philippines at various World Expos, including recent ones in Japan, China and Korea."

From Hawaii With Aloha

The number of Ballet Philippines' overseas performances varies annually.

Later this year, the group will perform in five cities in the Middle East and three in China.

But the opportunity to perform in paradise was a no brainer, says Morales, who is impressed with Hawaii's natural beauty and emphasis on local culture, particularly hula and the native Hawaiian language.

While its normal touring group averages between 23-30 people, Morales brought only a small contingent of only 10 dancers for their Hawaii performance. A large portion of their expenses was covered by Festival organizers, along with financial support from Philippine Airlines and the Philippine government's National Commission on Culture and the Arts.

"It takes a village and a community to support dance," says Morales.

According to Morales, being a member of Ballet Philippines requires much dedication and sacrifice. One must be highly-disciplined, athletic, musically-inclined and have a love for art and dance.

Auditions are held for prospective dancers, and an

apprenticeship and scholarship program offered. Practices are also intense, lasting up to 8 hours a day, 5 days a week when there are no performances.

The group's focus is primarily on Filipino dancers, but in the past, Ballet Philippines has allowed guest dancers from other countries to join its ranks. Dancers and support staff are also paid, thanks to the generous support and contributions from many private individuals and companies.

"We always work hard to further improve the status and condition of our dancers, artists and staff," Morales says. "It's an honor for our country to be highlighted in this year's festival. Our goal is to showcase our own culture and to also put on display Filipinos' great talent for dance."

Morales believes that ballet and the performing arts in the Philippines are enjoying a renaissance of sorts. As a testament to this "creative boom," Manila now has three full-time ballet companies, which is more than any other Asian city, he says. However, more support is always needed and appreciated.

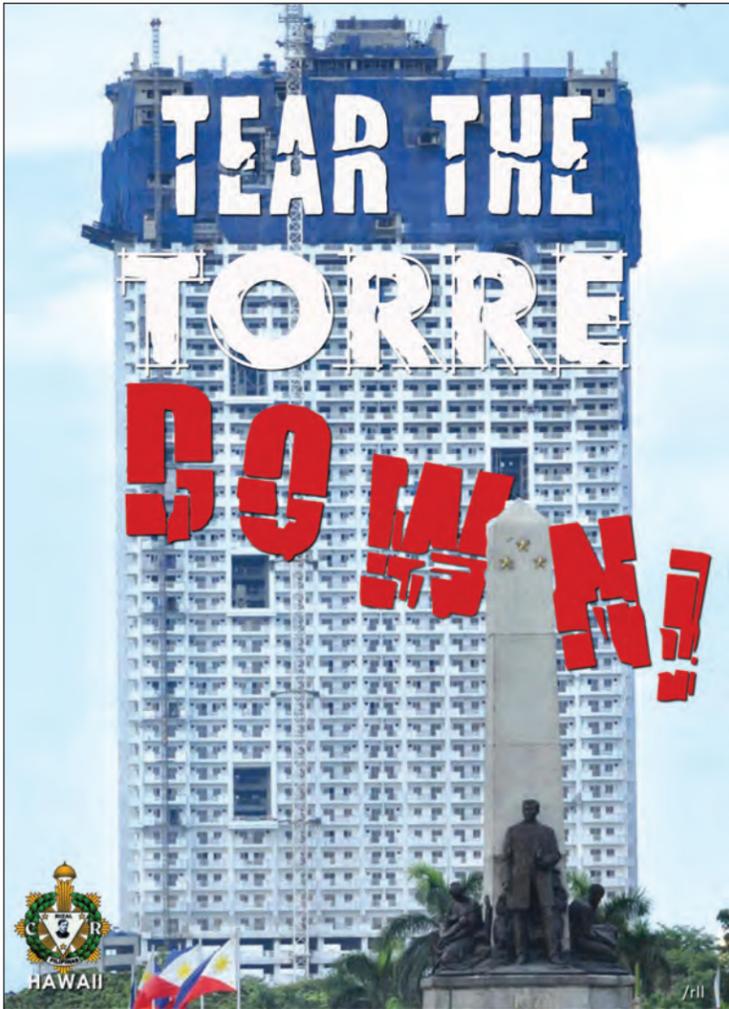
He hopes that Hawaii's Filipino community will come out and support Ballet Philippines' performances at UH.

"Dance is truly one of our great talents and Filipino dancers have always excelled on the international stage," he says. "Watching a Filipino company is a great way to find pride in our culture and to feel a sense of home."

For more information on the Festival, call 956-8246. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, with discounts for youth and students, UH faculty, staff, alumni, seniors and military. Tickets are available online at <http://outreach.hawaii.edu/community/asiapacific>, by phone at 944-2697 or at the Stan Sheriff Center and UH Manoa Campus Center box offices.

COMMENTARY

“Torpe de Manila” and the Politics of “Paikot”



By Raymund Li. Liongson, Ph.D.

To resolve the issue on the destruction of the visual vista of the monument of Dr. Jose Rizal in Luneta as a result of the construction of “Torre de Manila,” Manila Representative Amado Bagatsing stated he intends to propose a bill to have the national hero's monument be turned around 180 degrees -- an idea many find to be irreverent, stupid and ludicrous. If Rizal were alive, he would perhaps slap the legislator's face with his two immortal novels - - "Noli Me Tangere" (Touch Me Not) and "El Filibusterismo" (The Reign of Greed).

Politics and culture of “Paikot”

It is typical of many politicians to spin around people, their minds, and facts. In Philippine politics, society and culture, this phenomenon is often referred to as "paikot".

Paikot takes many forms -- from “going around the bush” and not being direct to twisting facts with the intention of confusing others to outright spinning around reality and

recreating a new preferred world. In most cases, all these forms of “paikot” are accompanied by bad faith, lies and self-interest.

The first form of “paikot” involves not being outright frank and honest. One achieves this by invoking seemingly related experiences, incidents, thoughts or narratives that do not directly address the issue. In some instances, euphemism is employed to describe a situation in a more “socially acceptable” manner. In both cases, the situation is presented vaguely and ambiguously. One does this apparently to describe a situation in a more likable or less shaking manner. It is not unusual, however, to have the audience complain: “pina-paikot mo lamang ako” (you are just spinning me around).

Twisting the facts is a common political ploy of many unscrupulous politicians. From election to running their offices, corrupt politicians learn to master information manipulation to their advantage. This is a critical ingredient of plunder and corruption as politicians translate political power to economic control. The use of

fronts and dummies, multiple financial records -- perhaps one for public and tax purposes and another for real transactions, and influence if not control of the media are among the tools many politicians employ to twist the facts and confuse the people.

In many other cases, politicians, aided by wealthy oligarchs and corporations, twist reality around and recreate a society that can better serve their interest. This is particularly true with the increasingly globalized economy dominated by rich local and transnational corporations. In the name of “development,” projects are undertaken -- regardless of how they may impact the general population. Never mind that their actions may displace people from their ancestral lands, flood or erode their homes due to environmental destruction, disrespect their history and heritage, or violate existing laws. Profit and control have become the ultimate measure of success.

Torpe de Manila

The “Torre de Manila,” a high-rise condominium tower developed by DMCI Homes, is one particular example of this “development project.” Towering behind the Rizal monument in Luneta, it rose up to 49 floors ruining the visual line of the national historical shrine. In spite of a Cease and Desist Order from the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts, cited violation of existing laws, questionings and requests of work suspensions from the Manila City Council and the

Philippine Senate, DMCI continued the project until the Supreme Court issued a Temporary Restricting Order following the case filed by the Order of the Knights of Rizal.

Critics have dubbed the project as “Terror de Manila” or “national photobomber.” I like to call it “Torpe de Manila”, referring to both levels of torpe definition: timid and dumb. The Torre will be a monument of Filipino submissiveness and timidity to rich developers and powerful politicians. The project is also a dumb and insensitive decision in the sense that it disrespects heritage and history, offends the sensibility of a people, and sprouts from an already heavily congested area. But of course, to the developers, this is a smart decision as “Torpe de Manila” will benefit from the very harm and injury it has inflicted upon the submissive and gullible population.

The 49-story project was questionable from the very

start. The height of the structure is way beyond the zone limit of seven floors. But through bureaucratic machinations, a questionable permit was obtained from the Manila government. Whether pressure, bribery and how much was exerted, we can only speculate. As social and legal pressures mount, government officials are now washing hands and are pointing blame on one another without owning responsibility of their own negligence and culpability. We now see this dynamics of fault-finding and “paikot” between former and incumbent Manila mayors Alfredo Lim and Joseph Estrada.

We take pride in saying "only in the Philippines!" -- referring to the hospitable, creative, kindhearted character of the Filipinos. But it is also infuriating that corrupt government officials in all levels and branches, fed by the almost limitless resources of rich and

(continued on page 10)

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Int'l Banks Pick 'Market Positive' 2016 Presidential Bets

by Patricia Lourdes Viray
Wednesday, July 22, 2015

MANILA, Philippines — A report by a Washington-based group of financial institutions noted that a presidential victory for either Sen. Grace Poe or Interior and Local Secretary Mar Roxas would be market positive.

The Institute of International Finance (IIF) said in an analysis that an administration under the leadership of either Poe or Roxas will continue the Aquino administration's current agenda.



L-R: Sec. Mar Roxas, VP Jojo Binay and Sen. Grace Poe-Llamanzares

"A victory for Poe or Roxas would favor continuation of the current administration's agenda and would be market positive," the IIF said in a June dispatch on the Philippine economy.

While the pre-election infrastructure investment would

surge in favor of Roxas, who was Aquino's running mate in 2013, investors would likely wait to see how the new administration would shape up.

The IIF also noted the possibilities following a presidential win of Vice President Jejomar Binay, saying he

might undermine the current administration's Public-Private Partnerships if he takes office.

The group, however, admitted "it is too early to tell how the market would react if Binay wins."

Despite having no formal announcement of her plans for the forthcoming elections, Poe topped the latest presidential preference polls, followed by Binay.

According to the IIF, the 2016 national elections would also allow a short-term economic boost through government spending and investment.

Poe is also the potential presidential contender preferred by bankers and financial analysts, according to a

survey by Bloomberg.

The survey conducted last month showed that 12 out of 23 analysts and bankers see Poe as the best bet to steer the country's economy after Aquino steps down from office next year.

Roxas, meanwhile, earned four votes while Binay got three votes.

BDO Unibank Inc. chief market strategist Jonathan Ravelas told Bloomberg that Aquino gave the country a second chance to become a tiger economy but noted that the next president should have the will to stop corruption.

"In the case of Grace Poe, people perceive her as honest, somebody who will protect the anti-corruption drive," Ravelas added. (www.philstar.com)

Noy Cleared; Purisima, Ex-SAF Chief Charged

by Michael Punongbayan
Thursday, July 23, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - The Office of the Ombudsman yesterday cleared President Aquino of any liability in the Mamasapano incident that led to the death of 44 policemen last January.

Fact-finding investigators of the anti-graft agency said the highest official of the land did

not commit any criminal or administrative act.

The Office of the Ombudsman's Field Investigation Office (FIO), however, recommended the filing of charges against dismissed Philippine National Police chief Alan Purisima, former PNP-Special Action Force (SAF) commander Director Getulio Napeñas and nine other police officers.

Assistant Ombudsman As-

ryman Rafanan told a news conference yesterday that the President was not among the respondents in the charge sheet.

Rafanan said Purisima, Napeñas and Chief Superintendent Fernando Mendez Jr. are facing charges of grave misconduct and violation of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Purisima, who resigned

following the fallout over the Mamasapano incident, also faces a charge of usurpation of official functions under Article 177 of the Revised Penal Code.

The ombudsman recently ordered the dismissal of Purisima from the service in connection with the alleged anomalous contract with courier firm Werfast over the delivery of gun licenses.

Napeñas, on the other hand, retired from the police

service last weekend. He is said to be planning to run for the Senate in the elections next year under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL).

Both Purisima and Napeñas are also charged with neglect of duty along with Chief Supt. Noli Taliño; Sr. Supts. Richard dela Rosa, Edgar Monsalve, Abraham Abayari, Raymund Train, Michael John Mangahis, Rey Ariño; and Sr. Insp. Recaredo Marasigan.

(continued on page 12)

COMMENTARY (from page 9, "TORPE DE MANILA"....)

greedy oligarchs and corporations, continue to shamelessly bastardize this Filipino character. And as illegal, immoral, and unethical practices continue to be ignored and unpunished, this culture of greed and corruption is infecting the entire population. The social cancer that characterized the

Philippine society during Rizal's time continues to metastasized -- and now has become worse not only because of external factors but because of internal elements (its own people). And this is the saddest part of it.

Symbolic and Real Fight

All Filipinos and principled citizens of the world who believe in respecting history and heritage, laws and regulations, and who abhor corporate greed and arrogance, government corruption and dishonesty should stand firm against this project. This fight is both symbolic and real.

In an effort to remedy the

situation, some people have come out with proposed remedies like painting the entire façade of the Torre to resemble a giant Philippine flag or renaming it Torre de Rizal and having the signature of the national hero imposed on the front of the building. The idea of turning the Rizal monument 180 degrees is also another impending proposal.

All these, however, are band-aid treatment to a social cancer as manifested in corporate greed and arrogance, government dishonesty and corruption. Such a social cancer requires more than an aesthetic band-aid. It demands a surgical procedure that roots out the very nucleus of the disease. A strong categorical message needs to be sent out. And this requires a strong political will to fulfill it.

There is only one response

to the construction of the "Torpe de Manila." We ask the Philippine Supreme Court to extend its Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) on the project and have it DEMOLISHED. A strong statement must be made: Respect the laws of the land. Respect our history and heritage. End corporate greed and arrogance. Stop bribery and corruption. Restore the grandeur of the Rizal Park!

Anything less is a perpetuation of the reign of greed.

RAYMUND LIONGSON, PHD is an associate professor in Philippine Studies, author of *Sulong Aral*, and adviser of KASAMA at UH-Leeward CC. The founder and adviser of the Rizalian Youth Council-Hawaii, he is also the Area Commander for the Western USA (Hawaii), Order of the Knights of Rizal. Dr. Liongson obtained his PhD from the University of the Philippines-Diliman as a San Miguel Educational Foundation Scholar.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVE



By Emil Guillermo

HED: For Filipino Veterans of WWII in Hawaii, and Elsewhere, Family May Be on the Way

Ot may have seemed to be the impossible dream—to be reunited with your older kids still in the Philippines.

But for Filipino Veterans of World War II, who stuck it out since 1946 to fight the U.S. for benefits denied, one of the easiest benefits to grant was never made into a priority.

That is until the aging vets needed it.

And they do now.

Among the vets who ultimately were granted citizenship and came to America, many immigrated alone and now find themselves waiting for family members to get through the long wait in the immigration line on their own.

Right now, the wait is es-

timated to be 20 years or more.

Absurd, right?

Especially with the veterans in their 80s and 90s.

By the time their children get through the immigration process, their petitioner/veteran will have likely succumbed to new kind of illness: Death by bureaucracy.

But what else do you expect considering the way the veterans have been treated by the U.S. since the Rescission Act of 1946?

Thank goodness for the broad immigration debate. With the recognition of a broken system, the White House asked for recommendations on how to fix things, and community groups responded.

Even as immigration advocates like Asian Americans Advancing Justice put together a report on the use of “parole”—a tool used to enable

the veterans’ relatives to beat the long wait—the key veteran’s group in the U.S. was completely unaware of the initiative.

“Glad you brought this proposal to my attention,” Eric Lachica of the American Coalition of Filipino Veterans based in Washington said to me when that proposal was released last month. He added that the humanitarian use of parole was not unprecedented. “Since Obama recently issued executive orders granting Temporary Protective Status to various immigrant groups from Haiti, Guatemala, West Africa, Syria, Iraq, et al, why not the family members of lonely elderly heroes?”

Obama’s White House, of course, has always been seen as a natural for doing something for the vets.

Obama had supported the Filipino Veterans Equity bill

since 2007 when he was a senator and signed it into law in 2009 after he became president.

And when the White House issued its recommendation last week directing the Department of Homeland Security to begin set up of the program, Lachica beamed.

“It would be part of Obama’s legacy if he seized this historic opportunity to right a terrible wrong,” Lachica told me.

If there’s some slight skepticism in his answer, it’s because there is.

Lachica’s saw the language in the report to allow “certain family” members to “provide support and care” and told me he’s concerned there could be conditions put on participation.

For example, would a veteran have to be disabled? Would general care for healthy but aging seniors count? Would family members have to be qualified as caretakers? Older children only? The final guidance for the program will be drawn up by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service and the State Department.

In other words, it’s not like the White House simply turned on a green light and said come on in.

But of all the things it could do, it was really the “low hanging fruit.”

For veterans like Art Celada of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, it may be exactly what he needs to get his three older children from the Philippines to be with him in the United States.

Celada was visiting relatives on the East Coast when I called him. “It’s a breakthrough,” he told me.

But the 91-year-old will have to wait to see if it’s everything the deal seems to be.

Still, there’s real hope that the recommendation will be better than the 20-plus years of waiting for relatives who are immigrating to help care for the veterans.

Unlike an executive order, or legislation, the use of parole has been a time-honored device used for humanitarian reasons.

It’s about time for the veterans to catch a break.

For too long they’ve been subjected to “death by bureaucracy.”

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.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Commission on Overseas Filipinos Offers Online Legal Counseling

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the Arellano Law Foundation signed a Memorandum of Agreement for the creation of *Itanong Mo Kay Ato!*—an online legal counseling focused on human trafficking, illegal recruitment, mail-order bride schemes and other cases.

CFO and OLA officials recognize that technology is the fastest and most efficient mode of communicating with Filipinos in the Philippines and abroad. The signing of the MOA was held at the Arellano University School of Law Campus in Pasay City. Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas represented the Commission, while Executive Director Atty. Gabriel Dela Peña and Atty. Roberto Rafael Pulido represented the Foundation.

CFO currently supervises the operations of 1343 Action-



line against Human Trafficking—a 24/7 national hotline primarily dedicated to campaigning against human trafficking and other related acts. The new online legal counseling is in line with the CFO’s mission.

Filipinos who access *Itanong Mo Kay Ato!* will receive free legal advice 24/7 from attorneys through live chat or emails. All information will be kept private and confidential.

The goal of the web appli-

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Studies: Better Sleep May Be Important for Alzheimer's Risk

By Lauran Geergaard (AP)

WASHINGTON — New research suggests poor sleep may increase people's risk of Alzheimer's disease, by spurring a brain-clogging gunk that in turn further interrupts shut-eye.

Disrupted sleep may be one of the missing pieces in explaining how a hallmark of Alzheimer's, a sticky protein called beta-amyloid, starts its damage long before people have trouble with memory, researchers reported Monday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

"It's very clear that sleep disruption is an underappreciated factor," said Dr. Matthew Walker of the University of California, Berkeley, who presented data linking amyloid levels with people's sleep and memory performance. "It's a new player on the scene that increases risk of Alzheimer's disease."

Sleep problems are treatable — and a key next question is whether improving sleep can make a difference in protecting seniors' brains.

"Sleep is a modifiable factor. It's a new treatment target," Walker said.

Enough sleep is important for good health generally — seven to eight hours a night are recommended for adults. When it comes to the brain, scientists have long known that people who don't get



enough have trouble learning and focusing. And anyone who's cared for someone with dementia knows the nightly wandering and other sleep disturbances that patients often suffer, long thought to be a consequence of the dying brain cells.

The new research suggests that sleep problems actually interact with some of the disease processes involved in Alzheimer's, and that those toxic proteins in turn affect the deep sleep that's so important for memory formation.

"It may be a vicious cycle," said Dr. Mirosław Mackiewicz of the National Institute on Aging, who wasn't part of the new work.

Walker's team gave PET scans to 26 cognitively healthy volunteers in their 70s to measure build-up of that gunky amyloid. They were given words to memorize, and their brain waves were measured as they slept overnight.

The more amyloid people harbored in a particular brain region, the less deep sleep they got — and the more they forgot overnight, Walker said.

Their memories weren't transferred properly from the brain's short-term memory bank into longer-term storage.

What's the risk over time? Two sleep studies tracked nearly 6,000 people over five years, and found those who had poor sleep quality — they tossed and turned and had a hard time falling asleep — were more likely to develop mild cognitive impairment, early memory problems that sometimes lead to Alzheimer's, said Dr. Kristine Yaffe of the University of California, San Francisco.

Sleep apnea — brief interruptions of breathing that repeatedly awaken people without them realizing it — caused a nearly two-fold increase in that risk, Yaffe said. She recommended that people at risk of Alzheimer's be screened for sleep disorders, especially apnea, which has effective treatment.

"There's a lot of evidence that we need to pay more attention" to sleep in seniors, she said.

Animal studies give clues to the biology behind these

changes. Dr. David Holtzman of Washington University in St. Louis reported a series of mice experiments that found amyloid production is highest during waking hours and lowest during deep sleep. Depriving mice of sleep spurred toxic amyloid build-up and, intriguingly, once those deposits began, the mice stayed awake longer on their own. Holtzman also checked Alzheimer's other bad actor, the protein tau that forms tangles in the brain, and found the same effect on deep sleep.

Another hint came a few years ago, when University of Rochester scientists reported that the brain uses sleep to flush out toxic debris. They injected mice brains with amyloid and watched it clear faster while they slept.

The work comes as researchers hunt ways to prevent a coming wave of Alzheimer's as the population ages, driven by the baby boomer generation that begins turning 70 next year. More than 5 million Americans al-

ready have Alzheimer's, a number expected to more than double by 2050. Changes that lead to Alzheimer's can begin 20 years before memory lapses, and scientists are studying drugs in people at high risk in hopes of finding preventive treatment.

But so far, lifestyle changes are the main recommendation, and starting early seems important. Yaffe also reported Monday that younger adults who get little physical activity have worse cognitive functioning by middle age. In Sweden, Karolinska Institute researchers tracked down seniors' long-ago report cards to find that school performance at age 9 or 10 predicted who was already building a better "cognitive reserve" to guard against later-in-life decline.

"There are lots of risk factors we might be able to change. Sleep is one," said Alzheimer's Association chief science officer Maria Carrillo. Together, the new research emphasizes how "sleep is critical as we age." (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS (from page 10, NOY CLEARED....)

Rafanan, however, did not elaborate on the specific charges against Purisima under Section 3(a) of RA 3019. The law penalizes acts of "persuading, inducing or influencing another public officer to perform an act constituting a violation of rules and regulations duly promulgated by competent authority or an offense in connection with the official duties of the latter, or allowing himself to be persuaded, induced or influenced to commit such violation or offense."

Sources said Purisima is accused of persuading other PNP officials to break the chain of command as he was under preventive suspension when the Mamasapano operation commenced.

Purisima, during his suspension, continued his active involvement in the planning and implementation of the operation to capture Malaysian terrorist Zulkifli bin Hir alias Marwan and Akmad Ahmad Batabol alias Basit Usman who were

hiding in a remote village in Mamasapano, Maguindanao.

Although the main target Marwan was neutralized, the operation went awry after the SAF commandos figured in a firefight with Muslim rebels while on their way out of the area. A total of 60 people, including the 44 SAF policemen, rebels and civilians were killed in the firefight.

Then acting PNP chief Leonardo Espina and Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas II were kept out of the loop and were only informed after the operation went sour.

Rafanan said the complaints filed by one Pedrito Nepomuceno and former Iloilo congressman Augusto Syjuco Jr. did not implead President Aquino.

Aquino had been criticized for allegedly allowing Purisima, despite under preventive suspension, to participate in the planning of the Mamasapano operation. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES

Fiancé(e) Visa for Same-Sex Couples



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in U.S. v. Windsor in June 2013, immigration benefits available to heterosexual couples are also now available to same-sex couples, including obtaining a K-1 nonimmigrant visa for a foreign fiancé(e).

The K-1 visa, also known as fiancé(e) visa, allows a U.S. citizen to bring a foreign national fiancé(e) into the United States.

Almost six months after the Windsor ruling, the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines granted to Noel “Aeinghel” Amaro and Robert Cotterman, its very first fiancé visa issued to a same-sex couple. Robert Cotterman is a member of the U.S. military. They also issued a visa to another couple, Maria Cecilia Limson Gahuman and

Maria Carla Antonio, a U.S. citizen.

The K-1 fiancé(e) visa process starts with the filing of a petition made on Form-129F with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Before the USCIS approves the K-1 petition, the petitioner and the beneficiary must satisfy certain requirements.

First, the parties have to prove that they have previously met in person within two years prior to filing the petition, unless a waiver is granted. Secondly, they must prove that they have a good faith intention to marry each other. Lastly, they have to prove that they are free to enter into a valid marriage in the U.S. within 90 days from the fiancé(e)’s arrival.

The parties must marry during the 90-day period. If not, the beneficiary will have to return back to his/her home country. No extension of stay is permitted. If they get married during that time frame, the beneficiary can then apply for permanent residency here in the U.S. and will be given the

two-year conditional status.

If the K-1 beneficiary has children, the minor unmarried children may also enter the U.S. on a K-2 visa and apply for permanent residence just like the fiancé(e) parent. They should be included in the I-129 form as accompanying or following to join the beneficiary.

Under the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act (IMBRA), K-1 petitioners must disclose information about any criminal convictions for specified crimes such as domestic violence, child abuse, stalking and sexual assault. They are also required to inform the USCIS of the involvement of any international marriage broker.

Approved K-1 petitions are forwarded to the National Visa Center (NVC). The NVC will then forward the cases to U.S. embassies abroad and will notify applicants by mail when it does. The NVC reports that from July to September 2014, it received around 2,600 fiancé(e) visa cases every month.

The beneficiary will need

to pay the visa fee before scheduling an appointment for visa interview. The beneficiary must bring following documents during the interview: DS-160 confirmation page, valid passport, birth certificate, evidence of termination of prior marriages, certificate of no marriage record, if applicable, police clearance or certificate, medical examination record and financial records to show that he/she will not become a public charge, among others.

In instances where the beneficiary comes from a country where same-sex relationships are banned or declared unlawful or where public knowledge of the relationship could put the beneficiary in danger or at risk of physical harm, the beneficiary or his/her attorney may request the NVC to forward the case to a U.S. consulate in another country other than where the beneficiary is residing.

According to Secretary of State John Kerry, “The State Department, which has always been at the forefront of equality in the federal government... is tearing down an unjust and unfair barrier that for too long stood in the way of same-sex families being able to travel as a family to the United States.”

At present, same-sex couples can marry in 36 states, namely, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming. They can also marry in Washington, D.C.

Although a federal court in Alabama struck down as unconstitutional the state’s ban on gay marriage, the Alabama Supreme Court on March 3, 2015 ordered the probate judges to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The case will ultimately be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. Oral arguments on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage bans in Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee are also scheduled to be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court next month.

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

Filipino Group Hails California Law Honoring Larry Itliong

The Filipino Community Alliance for Immigrant Advancement (Fil-CAIA) applauded California Governor Jerry Brown for recently signing into law a bill proclaiming October 25 as “Larry Itliong Day.”

The new law also encourages the state’s public schools and educational institutions to remember Itliong’s life, accomplishments and contributions. He led the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, which was the first to go on strike for improved wages and working conditions in Delano, California in 1965, launching the state’s farm labor movement.

A group of 1,500 Filipinos led by Itliong went on strike for eight days and suffered from violence imposed by grape



Larry Itliong

growers’ hired hands and the sheriff’s department, and being thrown out of the labor camp.

Fil-CAIA members also thanked California Legislature and Assemblymember Rob Bonta for introducing the measure. Bonta is the first and only Filipino American ever elected to the California State Assembly.

“Larry Itliong Day honors the contributions that Filipino immigrants made to the farm labor movement, a fact that is often overlooked in California history,” says Wendy Ho, Fil-CAIA co-chair. “The farm labor movement is one of the best examples of collaboration among different ethnic groups toward a common goal. Fil-CAIA strives to model that collaboration with other immigrant groups in our collective work to uplift communities.”

Fil-CAIA is an alliance of Filipino-American community members based in Santa Clara county. Its mission is to inspire hope, cultivate trust and build unity to ensure that the Filipino immigrant community has access to responsive, culturally and linguistically competent services.



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BOOK REVIEW

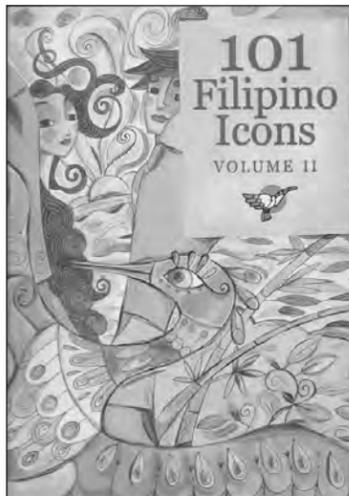
101 Filipino Icons, Volumes 1 and 2

By HFC Staff

Do you know what the *Manunggul* jar looks like? How does one dance the *Tinikling*? What is the oldest *masjid* in the country? Why is the Metropolitan Theater renowned in Asia?

The answers to these questions and more can be found in “101 Filipino Icons” Volumes 1 and 2, which contain a comprehensive survey of people, places, things and events that make the Filipino unique.

All Filipinos—including those seeking to rediscover their heritage—will relate to these historical and cultural icons. The 101 icons in each volume represent the Filipino



persona, a part of Filipino history, or an aspect of Filipino culture that would make every Filipino proud.

Each of the icons are arranged historically, according to the time in history where they emerged as part of the Filipino’s consciousness.

The icons are described mostly in English but some are in Tagalog/Filipino. On some pages, there are suggestions for teachers or parents on how they can carry out discussions or activities that may resonate with the youth.

Since the first volume

could not cover all icons, a second one was prepared, with the sequel following the format established in the first volume.

Both volumes are 9 by 12 inches, fully illustrated with photographs and appropriate graphics. It is a good keepsake for families that want to perpetuate the Filipino culture since the icons in the book can serve as a tool to generate discussion or serve as a reference source or a device to trigger memories.

The volumes were edited by Ani Rosa Almario and Virgilio Almario, and published by Adarna House and Bench in 2009, and are in softcover with color illustrations and archival photographs.

Adarna House is an established publisher of Filipino

children’s literature, while Bench is one of the Philippines’ top retailers. The two companies have partnered on these two volumes as Bench noted in the introduction to “highlight what is best about being Filipino from our creativity and resourcefulness, to our unbreakable spirit...to create a book that will be a source of hope for Filipinos” not just for those who remained in the Philippines, but for all including those in the Filipino Diaspora.

Both volumes are available at Kalamansi Books & Things (www.bookbook.com). For more information, send an email to: kalamansibooks@gmail.com, or call (808) 358-2868 or 808 239-6365.

MAINLAND NEWS

100 Gold Artifacts from Mindanao to Be Showcased in New York Exhibit

MANILA, Philippines - A Town Hall Meeting on the Philippine Gold Exhibit was held on June 15 at the

Kalayaan Hall of the Philippine Center to promote the forthcoming exhibit titled “Philippine Gold: Treasures of Forgotten Kingdoms”

The exhibit, scheduled on September 11 to January 3 next year at the Asia Society, New York will feature over 100 gold artifacts from Bu-



Gold Necklace in a British Museum. Kotomi_/CC-BY-NC

tuan in Mindanao. These artifacts date back to the 12th century, way before the Spanish colonizers came to the Philippines and when the wealth and prominence of Butuan reached its peak.

It will include gold necklaces, chains, waistbands, bangles, ritual bowls, implements and ceremonial weapons that illustrate the early use of gold throughout the Philippines

During the meeting, Philippine Consul General Mario L. de Leon, Jr. underscored that the exhibit will mark for the first time in many years that Philippine culture, history and heritage, as well as the skill and artistry of its people, will be highlighted in New York.

The exhibit will also be “celebrated in a way that is not only prestigious, but one that will promote a higher

level of understanding and appreciation of the Philippines by the U.S. mainstream community,” he said.

Meanwhile, Asia Society’s Tom Nagorski thanked the Filipino-American community for their energy in planning the exhibit and expressed the Society’s readiness and honor to host the Philippine Gold collection and make its venue a home for Philippine culture.

Dr. Nina Capistrano-Baker, Consulting Curator of Ayala Museum also attended the event to give a very comprehensive presentation about the “kingdom of Butuan” in northeastern Mindanao during the 10th to 13th century, and other early polities and chiefdoms in neighboring islands such as Samar, Cebu, Leyte, Mindoro, Marinduque and other parts of southern Luzon. (www.philstar.com)



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION 36TH NATIONAL CONVENTION | July 22-26, 2015 | HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE, WAIKIKI BEACH RESORT | For more information, contact Tina Salvador @ 778-3832 or 426-6183

MISS HAWAII FILIPINA CORONATION DINNER, UNITED FILIPINO COUNCIL OF HAWAII (UFCH), | July 25, 2015 | PACIFIC BEACH HOTEL BALLROOM | 6:00 PM | Contact: UFCH Pres. Maria Etrata @392-2962

CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATION (COVO) ANNUAL CONVENTION | August 18, 2015 | DAYTIME SESSION WILL BE HELD AT THE KING KAUMU'ALI'I ELEM. SCHOOL CAFETERIA (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM), EVENING BANQUET AT THE KAUAI BEACH RESORT HOTEL | 6:00 PM | Contact: Firmo Dayao. 206-5301 | Contact: May Mizuno at 741-4503

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB MARIA CLARA BALL | September 12, 2015 | POMAKAI BALLROOMS, DOLE CANNERY | 6:00 PM | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090 or Cecilia Villafuerte @ 371-8538

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA FUNDRAISER | September 18, 2015 | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | 5:30 PM | Interested in volunteering and for details, please contact Exec. Director Donnie Juan at 808-680-0451.

MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN CORONATION AND DINNER PROGRAM | October 24, 2015 | Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel & SPA | Theme: Keeping Ilocano Tradition alive.....Five Finalists representing Cabugao, San Juan Lapog, Sto Domingo, Vigan and Santiago will be competing for the MRS ISAH 2015 crown. Part of the proceed will be

used for the ISAH Medical and Homecoming Mission December 2015 to the participating town of Ilocos Sur. Donation for the event is \$75.00 | Contact Danny Villaruz 778-0233

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S KIMONO BALL AND FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD | November 14, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS ROOM | Contact: Nancy A. Walch @778-3882

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Navy Commissions 2 Landing Craft Heavy Ships from Australia

by Alexis Romero
Thursday, July 23, 2015

MANILA, Philippines — The Navy on Thursday commissioned into service the two ships donated by Australia in a development seen to boost the Philippines's disaster response capabilities.

The two Landing Craft Heavy (LCH) vessels were formally handed over to the Philippines in a ceremony held in Cairns, Australia, Navy public affairs chief Commander Lued Lincuna said.

A memorandum of understanding transferring the two ships to the Philippines was signed by Navy chief Vice Adm. Jesus Millan and Royal Australian Navy chief Vice Adm. Tim Barret.

The LCH vessels are expected to arrive in the Philippines in the first week of August.



Vice Adm. Jesus Millan and Royal Australian Navy chief Vice Adm. Tim Barret signed a memorandum of understanding transferring the two ships to the Philippines in a ceremony in Cairns, Australia. Philippine Navy/Released

In his acceptance speech, Millan thanked the Australian Navy for donating the ships to the Philippine military, one of the weakest in the region.

The two LCH vessels are expected to enhance the Philippines's capability to transport personnel, equipment and aid during humanitarian assistance and disaster

relief operations. "The vessels will also be useful in transporting troops from one operational area to another," Lincuna said.

The two ships will be named after indigenous tribes of the Philippines. It is a tradition of the Navy to name landing craft ships after tribes.

One of the ships will be

named BRP Ivatan after an indigenous group in Batanes

while the other will be called BRP Batak after a tribe in Palawan. The two former vessels of the Royal Australian Navy used to be known as HMAS Tarakan and Brunei.

In an earlier interview, Millan said the Navy has five LCH in its inventory but only three of them are operational.

The Australian government announced its plan to provide the two transport ships to the Philippines in January. The donation will include a package of spare parts, according to the Australian defense ministry.

The two vessels were turned over to the Philippine Navy after being refurbished

with new safety and navigation equipment.

The vessels were decommissioned from Australian service at a ceremony in Cairns on Nov. 19, 2014.

The Australian Embassy previously said the lack of sealift capability hampered efforts to help Philippine coastal areas hit by typhoon "Yolanda" (international name "Haiyan") in 2013.

The Philippines is one of the countries most vulnerable to disasters because of its location. About 20 typhoons, five to seven of which are destructive, enter the country every year. (www.philstar.com)

Iglesia ni Cristo Expels Leader's Mother, Brother

by Patricia Lourdes Viray
Thursday, July 23, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) on Thursday announced that the mother and brother of executive minister Eduardo Manalo will be expelled.

Tenny and Angel Manalo recently released a video asking for help, claiming that their lives are in danger.

Tenny, the widow of INC former executive minister

Eraño "Erdy" Manalo, also claimed that some of the religious group's ministers have been abducted.

"Saklolohan ninyo ang aking mga anak na sina Angel at Lottie at ang kanilang mga kasama," Tenny said in the video.

The elder Manalo also called on her son Eduardo, the current INC executive minister, to talk to her.

In a press conference, INC General Evangelist Bienvenido

Santiago denied Tenny and Angel's claims and accused them of trying to gain sympathy to get back in power.

Santiago stressed that INC is a religious group and not a corporation. He added that Tenny and Angel both violated the regulations of the religion.

The INC official did not confirm if there is a rift within the Manalo family but admitted that Tenny, Angel and Eduardo, the current INC executive minister, have not yet talked to each other.

(www.philstar.com)

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