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# FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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# GETTING TO KNOW THE HONORABLE JUDGE CATHERINE REMIGIO

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## EDITORIALS

## “If We Can Lift Up One Young Person--There is a Future for All of Us.” - Judge Remigio

**W**hether it's a reflection of today's reality or the nature of being critical, the media spends a great deal of time reporting on problems. Given that the Russia investigation, North Korean nuclear build-up, and incessant Trump transgressions, bombard news cycles daily, it is refreshing for the media to pause from biting analysis and report on inspirational stories once in a while. There are ample sources of positive news to write about in our communities, from charitable organizations that uplift the lives they touch to role models who spark hope and a belief that anything is possible with hard work. In ethnic and immigrant communities, our leaders play an even greater role as trailblazers. Their lives impress upon us a sense of pride because their upbringing is similar to ours, and despite hardship, they've made right choices to excel in their respected professions and break glass ceilings every step of the way.

In the legal profession where Filipinos continue to make strides, the honorable Judge Catherine H. Remigio is among our community's role models. Remigio is a Senior Judge to the First Circuit Court who supervises 10 full-time Family Court judges and up to 15 part-time judges who preside over cases ranging from divorce, paternities, child welfare services, juvenile criminal and status offense, among others. While practicing law, she recalls that most of her counterparts were male, and a few of her colleagues were Filipino. But, she says, she has never felt disadvantaged.

“When a young person who has been abused or neglected by those he/she should absolutely be able to trust and love, when this person looks at me with hope in their eyes and a belief that they can, and deserve, to have a future full of joy and accomplishment -- that is why I became a judge. There is not enough charity or love or kindness in this world, but if we can lift up one young person -- there is a future for all of us,” said Remigio.

We are happy to share with our readers Judge Remigio's story. We all can learn something about perseverance and moving forward despite whatever fears we may have or limitations people and society have placed on us. To our youth, remember naysayers will always have doubt. They will tell you: you can't do that, you don't belong, you're not smart enough, and on and on. But remember: we are in control of our own destiny, our own happiness, and our own limitations. Walk boldly and achieve your heart's desires. We are not meant to just be money-making machines. Pursue endeavors that make a difference in society, that express creativity, that show the world the unique self you are. As you chase after your dream, you will feel discomfort, even fear, but those are signs that you are doing something right. Personal growth is uncomfortable, but that hasn't stopped successful people from doing good for themselves and for others.

As many successful people say, Judge Remigio also points to education as the great equalizer. That is where it begins first. She said, “It will expand your choices and your life experience. Just because you are educated doesn't mean you are better than anyone else. It just means that you have given yourself more options in life, and a better opportunity to succeed.” Thank you, Judge Remigio, for your service to our community and state.

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

**T**here is a common saying: “Pick your role models wisely.” There are role models we try to emulate in our careers. Then there are people in our life like a father, mother, or older sibling whom we consider as primary role models. As part of our newspaper's mission, we often like to present stories of role models in our community.

For our cover story this issue, we have a Filipina, judge, mother, attorney, and stellar citizen in our community. HFC's contributing writer Sheryll Bonilla, Esq., interviewed Judge Catherine H. Remigio who serves on the Oahu First Circuit Court. Remigio was appointed by Gov. David Ige to the First Circuit Court in 2017. Remigio was Judge in the First Circuit Family Court from 2011-2017. Prior to that, she served in the Judiciary and also practiced law in several private firms, including as a partner at Bryant & Remigio, LLC. She graduated from Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service; then went on to earn her JD at the UH William S. Richardson School of Law in 1992. We hope you enjoy this interview with the inspiring judge.

Also in this issue, HFC columnist Emil Guillermo writes about President Donald Trump's surprising inaction over the ballistic missile false alarm in Hawaii that caused widespread panic. The whole nation and media were talking about what happened. Yet, Guillermo writes, Trump offered no comfort to reassure the people of Hawaii. The Saturday fiasco, that Hawaii residents will remember for a long time, is a sad reminder that a nuclear incident is credible these days, given the dangerous rhetoric Trump helped to escalate.

In our news section, the roller coaster ride on immigration continues. We have two good news to report. The first is a ruling by federal judge William Alsup who granted a request by plaintiffs to temporarily block the Trump administration's order to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The judge sided with the state of California and other plaintiffs, ordering that the administration resume receiving DACA renewal applications until the courts decide on the matter. The second good news to immigration advocates is that the Trump administration has changed its position on deporting H-1B visa holders. The U.S. grants 85,000 H-1B visas every year to highly skilled applicants. Previously, the Trump administration was thinking about scrapping this program.

In Atty. Reuben Seguritan's Legal Notes column, he writes about a recent ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that held that minor falsehoods committed cannot be the sole basis for revoking a person's U.S. citizenship.

Lastly, on the lighter side, HFC columnist Seneca Moraleta writes about the excitement of the new year, the power of staying in the present, and being grateful to God for all the blessings we receive in life. We all have challenges, but we can meet each one with joy and faith, she encourages us.

We look forward to another excellent year of reporting on the issues that matter to you. Until next issue, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

*Chona A. Montesines-Sonido*


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- Letters containing information contrary to the established fact will be followed by an editor's note correcting the error.

EDITORIALS

# Wall Funding and Ending Family Immigration for a DACA Solution Is Not Acceptable

**O**mmigrant supporters, pay close attention -- the next three months of this year will be critical and could affect the lives of millions of Dreamers and would-be future immigrants.

The deadline for Congress to come up with a long-term solution for undocumented immigrants protected by DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), otherwise known as DREAMERS, is fast approaching. If Congress does not come up with a permanent DACA solution by March, 800,000 DREAMERS (brought to the U.S. as young children by undocumented parents) could face sweeping deportations.

How could millions of other future immigrants be affected?

President Donald Trump and Republicans are engaged in heavy deal-making to broker a tradeoff with Democrats. Trump and the GOP propose to agree to a long-term DACA solution to satisfy Democrats in exchange for funding of a southern border wall; and even more drastic, an end to what Trump is now calling "chain migration," which is actually a euphemism for legal family-based immigration. Remember,

whenever Trump, the GOP, and anti-immigrant PACs now refer to "chain migration," it is a soft-pedal, code word that attempts to mischievously take out the word "family" from policy. Chain migration is "family-based" migration -- and has been the cornerstone of U.S. immigration for decades and the number one means of coming into the U.S. for most immigrants.

Trump put it this way: "The Democrats have been told, and fully understand, that there can be no DACA without the desperately needed WALL at the Southern Border and an END to the horrible Chain Migration & ridiculous Lottery System of Immigration etc. We must protect our Country at all cost!"

What Trump and the GOP is attempting to do is force a heavy hand and tact on fundamental changes to legal immigration (that could jeopardize millions of future immigrants from entering) that failed in last year's RAISE ACT to save 800,000 DREAMERS.

This tradeoff is not acceptable, non-negotiable, and Democrats must hold firm in protecting family-based and any other fundamental shifts aimed to minimize legal immigration.

Funding for a border wall should also be off the bargain-

ing table. Billions of dollars for a wall is unnecessary and a poor use of government funds especially after the passage of a Tax bill that is expected to raise the deficit by potentially trillions. Remember, polls show that a majority of Americans do not favor a border wall. Polls also show that a majority of Americans favor a long-term solution that allows DREAMERS to stay in the U.S. legally. What Trump and Republicans are trying to force through are unpopular ideas and feel enormous pressure to accomplish them before they will become, once again, the minority political party, which could come as soon as this year in the midterm elections.

### Riding on a Tax Bill High

It was only a few months ago in mid-September last year that Trump announced with Democrat leaders -- Sen. Chuck Schumer and U.S. Rep Nancy Pelosi -- that they've reached an agreement to "enshrine the protections of DACA into law quickly, and to work out a package of border security, excluding the wall, that's acceptable to both sides."

In this initial agreement, Trump supported a long-

term solution for DACA in exchange for additional funding for border security, no funding for the wall or no mention of changes to "chain migration" or family-based legal immigration.

Trump tweeted after the deal with September, "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military? Really! They have been in our country for many years through no fault of their own -- brought in by parents at young age, Plus BIG border security."

So, what changed from September to January? Trump and the GOP's victory on the hill in getting Tax Reform passed. Now that POTUS managed to get his first and only (albeit major) legislation passed, he is willing to play hard ball, using the fate of DREAMERS to accomplish his other goals promised to his base.

Last year's September

deal was nothing more than a publicity stunt at a time when Trump had nothing under his belt, legislatively. His new demand of \$18 billion for border funding in exchange for a DACA solution shouldn't be trusted as well. It's estimated that it will cost at least \$70 billion to build a border wall. Once Democrats agree to partial funding of the wall, it opens the door to further demands for additional funding. And Democrats would have lost a principled argument to refuse more money for the wall after they've already granted partial funding.

It's clear this ever-shifting president's word is as solid as quick sand. Trump's new attempt to parlay funding for a border wall and changing family-based legal immigration into a DACA deal is yet another example. DREAMERS must be shielded from deportation after March, but there must be another way than to give into these two demands. No deal!

## POEM

# "EARTH IN SHADOWS"

By Matthew Mettias



Oil painting of Matthew Mettias

All else leaves the daylight  
Dimmer and dimmer

The night arrives

The most awaken drag their feet  
Across the floor  
And the fearless go to their corners

The last duties are done  
The lips of the mother gently meet  
the forehead of her son  
And that is all

The roar and the rumble of the day  
Leave within a simple second

The skies stay in stale stillness  
It is the stalemate of sorrow and scariness  
Awaiting a new beginning

The night departs

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Steven Rhee, D.O. earned his medical degree at the University of Medicine and Dentistry, New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed training in ophthalmology (medical and surgical eye care) at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and pursued additional sub-specialty training in cornea and external disease at the prestigious Tufts-New England Eye Center in Boston. Dr. Rhee is an accomplished cataract and corneal surgeon with more than ten years of experience. Dr. Rhee has been working closely with Dr. Christopher Tortora at the Hawaiian Eye Center for the past 8 years.



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## COVER STORY

# Meet The Honorable Judge Catherine Remigio

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

**T**he following Q&A is with the honorable Judge Catherine Remigio. Last year, Gov. David Ige appointed Remigio to serve on the First Circuit Court, as Deputy Chief Judge, Family Division; and Senior Judge, Family Court. She will serve a 10-year term beginning April 7, 2017 until April 6, 2027. Born and raised in Hawaii, Remigio grew up in Waipahu and graduated from Kamehameha Schools. She received her Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and later her JD from the UH William S. Richardson School of Law. In this interview, Remigio candidly talks about her childhood, her experience as an attorney, and the demands and responsibilities as a judge. She offers gems of wisdom to young attorneys, and to all youths. She is truly a role model.

**HFC:** What led you to a career in law?

**REMIGIO:** I originally intended to be a foreign correspondent. I graduated from the School of Foreign Service and decided to take a break and work for 2 years. I ended up in San Francisco where I worked for an alternate energy company, in the legal department. My roommate's boyfriend was a Prosecuting Attorney stationed out of Oakland. We would watch LA Law (TV program) and have heated debates about criminal law. He told me I should take the LSAT and consider law school.

**HFC:** What did you do before?

**REMIGIO:** Before I became an attorney, I worked as a legal assistant, legislative aide, law clerk for various

firms, and a Circuit Court law clerk.

**HFC:** What do you feel is the experience of Filipino lawyers?

**REMIGIO:** I don't know that Filipino lawyers have different experiences from other lawyers. Cultural understanding and sensitivity are necessary for all ethnicities.

**HFC:** What about for Filipino female lawyers?

**REMIGIO:** There are few female attorneys in litigation, much less Filipino female attorneys. When I practiced law, I was aware of the fact that most of my counterparts were male, and few of my colleagues were Filipino. I have never felt at a disadvantage, however. The quality of work and success of a case depends mostly upon preparation, skill and the

ability to adapt in court. These are things that I have worked hard to achieve.

**HFC:** Filipinos tend to work as solos rather than at firms. What do you feel are the advantages or disadvantages or qualities of such a practice? Have you experienced other law practice settings? What do you prefer?

**REMIGIO:** I have worked in civil firms, as a government attorney, and in a partnership (2-person firm). The advantage of working in a firm (civil or government) is the ability to learn from others who have more experience and to develop skills and be trained. I would encourage new attorneys to seek this type of work when they are first out of law school. Clients expect and demand attorneys who are able to successfully handle their cases because they have



Honorable Judge Catherine Remigio

the knowledge and skill to do so. It is every new attorney's job to become knowledgeable and skilled in his/her area of practice. As I got more experienced, I decided to run my own firm with one other attorney. This provided me with more flexibility in picking cases, in how much I earned each month, and in the pro bono cases I wanted to pursue. So, my preference depends on the level of experience an attorney has.

**HFC:** Anything else you'd like to say?

**REMIGIO:** Being an attorney is an honor and a privilege. People depend upon attorneys to help them with serious legal issues. Simply obtaining a law degree is not enough and does not make one a good attorney. Diligence, hard work, developing skills, and experience are all necessary. If you want to practice law, you need to have an attitude of service. Good attorneys make profound differences in the lives of those they help. If you are able to make a living and also help others, you have achieved something worthwhile.

**HFC:** What are some of your responsibilities as judge to the First Circuit Court?

**REMIGIO:** As Senior Judge, I supervise 10 full-time Family Court judges and up to 15 part-time judges who preside over cases ranging from divorce, temporary restraining orders, paternities, child welfare service, juvenile criminal and status offense, adoptions, etc. We handle a high volume of cases, so I also work on policies and procedures to ensure we run as efficiently as possible while providing assistance to those who come before the court. I myself handle high conflict divorce trials, juvenile sex assault trials, and other cases that are either complex or present a conflict to the assigned judge. I also have a regular TRO motions and review calendar.

**HFC:** How did you feel about your appointment by Gov. David Ige?

**REMIGIO:** It was, and is, a great honor to be appointed. Many skilled and qualified judges and attorneys applied for the position and I am grateful to have been chosen from such a distinguished group.

**HFC:** Why do you think you were chosen?

**REMIGIO:** If I had to

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, Q & A...)

point to one thing, I'd say my experience.

**HFC:** *You also served as a judge in Family Court. Can you briefly describe your work under that capacity?*

**REMIGIO:** I spent 2-1/2 years handling divorces, and 3-1/2 years handling CWS (Child Welfare Services) cases and juvenile criminal and status offense cases. I also chaired several committees, most importantly the Child Support Guidelines Committee, the Truancy Court Pilot Project, and Imua Kakou.

**HFC:** *Knowing that your decisions have a tremendous impact in the lives of people, what does it take to be a good judge in terms of character?*

**REMIGIO:** A judge needs to know the law and be committed to follow the law - first and foremost. Because Family Court judges also exercise discretion, we must also have empathy, patience, and a basic understanding of the human condition. We are judges, but that does not mean we should be judgmental. We must also provide reasoned decisions in a timely manner so that families can move forward in their lives.

**HFC:** *What are some of the challenges that a judge faces?*

**REMIGIO:** In Family Court, the biggest challenge is dealing with trauma. Those who come before us are under tremendous strain and are experiencing or have experienced trauma. A judge can be called to handle 5-20 such cases a day. When you multiply that by weeks and years - judges can start to experience vicarious trauma. This can hit hard for a judge who is deciding cases within the boundaries of the law, but also has a considerate and understanding disposition.

**HFC:** *Can you share a memorable case (without names) that moved you and reminded you of the importance of your work?*

**REMIGIO:** For several years I was the sitting judge on the Imua Kakou calendar (continuing assistance to foster



**Judge Catherine H. Remigio with husband Joel Wintjen (left) and her father who is her role model, Andres Remigio.**

youth after they age out of the system at age 18). When youth first come into the program, when asked what their goals are - they simply want a place to live, a job, food, clothing -- all basic needs. Once these needs are met, they start to think about higher education, vocational schools, and careers. Many youth have, during the course of our interaction with them, decided to now attend college, or nursing school. Several have changed their career path to social work so they can assist other foster youth. When a young person who has been abused or neglected by those he/she should absolutely be able to trust and love, when this person looks at me with hope in their eyes and a belief that they can, and deserve, to have a future full of joy and accomplishment -- that is why I became a judge. There is not enough charity or love or kindness in this world, but if we can lift up one young person -- there is a future for all of us.

**HFC:** *Did you always want to be a judge growing up? Why did you enter the legal profession?*

**REMIGIO:** Consistent with my previous answer regarding why I went to law school, growing up, I never wanted to become an attorney, therefore I never wanted to become a judge. It was simply not on my radar as a youth. I wanted to be a writer. But circumstances I could not foresee or control led me down this path.

**HFC:** *What was your childhood like? Where were you raised?*

**REMIGIO:** I was born in

Honolulu, Hawaii. My early years were spent in Kalihi being raised by my parents. Around age 4 or 5, my parents divorced and my father moved me and my sister to Waipahu. My father was a single dad until he remarried when I was around 13. My stepmother brought 3 children to the family: 2 step brothers and 1 step sister - all younger than me and my sister. With 5 children and my father the only one working full time, funds were tight. But we did a lot of family activities like camping, hiking, going to the beach, etc. My siblings and I are very close and we are a tight knit family. I attended Catholic school until the 7th grade, when I was accepted into Kamehameha Schools - where I graduated high school. My dad and stepmother still live in the house in Waipahu.

**HFC:** *Can you tell us a story growing up that has influenced you to be the person you are today?*

**REMIGIO:** Before my dad met my stepmother, he raised me and my sister by himself. He would wake up early, drive us to school, work a full day, come home and cook dinner, then go to night class at Leeward Community College so he could get better pay. Then he'd get up the next day and do it all over again. One day, he was chopping vegetables for dinner and looked out into the front yard to check on me and my sister. This caused him to cut his finger on his right hand almost entirely through. We had an old stick shift Datsun at the time and we needed to get to town immediately to see the doctor. He couldn't maneuver the shift with his right hand which was

bleeding profusely. When my sister (2 years older than me) was not able to work the shift, he asked me to come up front and try. I was about 6 or 7. We drove to town with him telling me when to shift and what gear to shift to. This incident did not affect me until I moved away to college away from my family and support. It not only gave me more respect for my dad - who will always be my hero - but drove home to me the need to be self-sufficient, reliable and practical. More importantly, it gave me a sense of what it means to sacrifice for your family and loved ones.

**HFC:** *Who was your role model growing up?*

**REMIGIO:** My father.

**HFC:** *Outside of law, what are you passionate about?*

**REMIGIO:** My husband and my family. I also like to read, go to the beach, work out and spend time with my dog.

**HFC:** *Do you have a life philosophy that speaks to the core of who you are?*

**REMIGIO:** I don't have a philosophy per se that I employ in every situation. I think that each situation should probably be evaluated in light of the circumstances present. I do try to balance my need for discipline and order with the need to be compassionate and patient. But the action I take ultimately depends upon each situation.

**HFC:** *Can you give advice to our youth who are thinking about entering the legal profession?*

**REMIGIO:** Yes. The legal profession is a service profession. This means you are there to help people. This means they are entrusting you with their problem in hopes that you will provide solutions and make things better for them. While you have a right to be paid for your services, you have an absolute duty to solve their legal problem in a professional, efficient and conscientious manner. Being an attorney is not about status and pay and privilege. It is about service.

**HFC:** *Lastly, do you have a message you'd like to share with our Filipino community?*

**REMIGIO:** Education is the great equalizer. It teaches us what we don't yet know, and gives us the confidence to understand all of our options. Whatever it is that you want to accomplish in life, get an education first. It will expand your choices and your life experience. Just because you are educated doesn't mean you are better than anyone else. It just means that you have given yourself more options in life, and a better opportunity to succeed.

*Chona Montesines-Sonido contributed to this article.*



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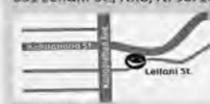
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## HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

# Students Selected to I.M. Ready Study Abroad Program

**K**AHULUI, HI--The University of Hawaii Maui College officials announced Alickzander Pasalo, Princess Cainguitan, Sam Peralta, and Mickhaela Valite were selected to the inaugural I.M. Ready study abroad program. The four students were introduced at a fundraising dinner on January 19 at the Leis Family Class Act Restaurant.

The students will be attending classes in top universities in the Philippines, such as the University of the Philippines, Ateneo De Manila University, Mapua University, University of Asia and the Pacific and Polytechnic University of the Philippines. Representatives from the universities were in attendance at the dinner.

The I.M. Ready immersion program, which stands for 'International Mobility,' aims to empower students by providing them opportunities to gain global experiences, expand their network, and build lasting relationships beyond the islands of Maui County.

**Alickzander Pasalo** – Pursuing a bachelor of science degree in Sustainable Science Management, Alickz plans to attain a master's degree in either business or planning with a focus on sustainability. He is interested in learning about different farming techniques to help grow his family's farm. He served in the Hawaii Army National Guard for six years and currently works as a Technical Services Student Assistant at the college library. As a student and community leader, Alickz volunteers in events



(L to R) are: Alickzander Pasalo, Princess Cainguitan, Sam Peralta and Mickhaela Valite

that perpetuate Filipino culture on Maui, and he has a passion for photography and videography. Most important, he has not forgotten his family's roots in Ilocos Norte, Philippines.

**Princess Cainguitan** – Princess is a hospitality and tourism management student with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in Applied Business and Information Technology. Moving to Hawaii when she was only 10 years old and being separated from her family in the Philippines were bold steps to expand her knowledge and opportunities. Princess practices judo, performs Filipino dances in community events and works in a local restaurant. She is determined to excel in her field, start a business in the Philippines and help her family, as well as give back to the community.

**Sam Peralta** – Sam is a Hawaiian Studies major, a community leader and activist. He currently serves as president of UH Maui College's Filipino student organization called Kabatak Club. Sam is an active community collaborator and has worked with various nonprofits on Maui. He has led and inspired groups during foreign missions to var-

ious countries, but has never been to the Philippines. As a Filipino, Sam hopes to understand his roots, build relationships and become a better leader with the I.M. Ready experience.

**Mickhaela Valite** – As a current liberal arts student, Mikee dreams on becoming a commercial architect. She has a knack for graphics and de-

sign, and enjoys drawing landscapes. Mikee also wants to start a foundation in the Philippines to help those in need. She volunteers in local social service programs, helping feed and provide emotional support to the homeless, as well as mentoring kids in her church. Mikee hails from Bicol, Philippines and moved to Maui when she was seven.

Worried that ties to her Filipino heritage would "slowly fade away," she looks forward to participating in I.M. Ready in the Philippines.

The I.M. Ready program is part of the UH Maui College International Center of Innovation and Research, which aims to bring the local and international community to the college as a hub of applied research and innovation, and expand opportunities for both students and faculty for global engagement.

Corporate and individual partners are invited to support the program by making a tax-deductible donation to UH Foundation. For more information, contact Kit Zulueta at [zulu@hawaii.edu](mailto:zulu@hawaii.edu) or (808) 984-3398.

## VA Approves License Insurance Exam Reimbursement for Veterans

**I**f you are a veteran and thinking about a career in the insurance industry, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs ("VA") approved examination fee reimbursement under the GI Bill® Reimbursement Program, effective Jan. 1, 2018.

Veterans who take a Hawaii insurance licensing examination required by the Insurance Division can be reimbursed for the cost of the exam. However, the VA will pay only the examination fee. Fees associated with obtaining a license are not reimbursable. Payment will be issued after required information is submitted to the VA.

"We are appreciative of this approval," said Hawaii In-

urance Commissioner Gordon Ito. "We want to encourage and assist our veterans to pursue a career in insurance. Employment in the insurance industry is not often considered. However, the industry, even on the regulatory side, provide excellent career opportunities. With the looming retirement of many in the industry, upward mobility is evermore present."

The following insurance licensing examinations qualify for reimbursement: HI Life Producer, HI Accident & Health Producer, HI Property Producer, HI Casualty Producer, HI Surety Producer, HI Title Producer, HI Personal

Lines Producer, HI Adjuster, HI Workers Comp Adjuster.

The VA will reimburse veterans for the cost of each licensing examination taken. There is no limit to the number of examinations taken or number of times an individual takes the same test. The examination fee will be reimbursed by the VA even if an individual fails the examination.

For more information about the reimbursement of licensing examination fees, or to apply for reimbursement, visit the VA's website at: [https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/licensing\\_certification.asp](https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/licensing_certification.asp) or call 1-844-MyVA311 (1-844-698-2311).

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## ALS Added to Qualifying Condition for Medical Cannabis Use

**A**myotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) to the list of qualifying conditions for medical cannabis use, announced the Hawaii Department of Health. ALS was approved after a rigorous review and analysis of written and oral testimony, a public hearing, and peer-reviewed scientific evidence.

Of the 29 states and U.S. jurisdictions that permit medical cannabis, 19 include ALS as a qualifying health condition.

Although the Hawaii Department of Health found little evidence to support the value of medical cannabis for ALS; DOH determined medical cannabis may be appropriate for patients diagnosed with ALS after receiving a comprehensive assessment by a patient's physician or APRN and a risk-benefit discussion.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

# Trump Unspoken Nuclear Message to Hawaii: "Aloha, Suckers"

It's just hard to see the White House try to argue its way out of this hole. From the very beginning there was no denial, forceful or otherwise, from the White House for several news cycles. There was no definitive, he did not say "shithole" in reference to immigrants from countries in Africa, Haiti and El Salvador.

So of course, Trump said "shithole." No doubt.

Is he racist? Not in a KKK Grand Wizard, or even in a Richard Spencer white nationalist sense. Trump is too undisciplined, too opportunistic, too business oriented to be an out-right racist.

He'll say anything. He's just not afraid to say whatever he needs to get whatever he wants.

It means he's prone to miscalculation and being wrong. It means he figured it would play well with his base, even reportedly called supporters and allies to see how the world was reacting. When it all blew up, Trump personally began denials.

Too late. But this is the way of Trump.

It's the art of the extremely dangerous deal.

### That alarming alarm

So Donald Trump doesn't think much of Haiti, El Salvador or African countries.

He doesn't think much of paradise either.

Trump's decision to play on—in yet another episode of "Trump: The Golfing President"—is particularly telling.

That Hawaii had to go through a harrowing nuclear reality show, is inexcusable.

Was Hawaii too far? Was it too Democratic? Did he just not care for the most Asian American state by percentage population?

Add Trump's inaction on Hawaii to the list of transgressions toward people of color that make up his own country's great sense of diversity.

But compounding the mistake is Trump's inability to see



he has a responsibility to reassure the people of Hawaii about what should be inconceivable.

Of course, that's the joke. The inconceivable (thermonuclear war) is all conceivable in a presidency that is like no other that Americans have ever experienced.

The calm, the moral certitude of the leader of the free world?

Not from Trump.

Trump is the vulgar, uncaring, un-presidential person occupying the White House.

He's destroying any sense of faith in the office of the presidency and in his ability to lead.

Consider that any nuclear warning is credible these days, thanks to Donald Trump.

Trump is the one responsible for raising the temperature in these life and death matters.

Who is the person who calls North Korea's Kim Jong Un "Little Rocket Man"?

Who is the person who responds to Kim with the taunting my button is bigger than yours rhetoric.

When Trump raises the rhetoric, he puts everyone on high alert unnecessarily.

The trigger is always ready. Mistakes can and will happen.

Donald Trump created this world. A year later, his election must be considered a grave mistake by all Americans.

The Saturday warning is the alarm to our country and to the world.

Of course, Trump can't be bothered—especially while

golfing. I imagine him off in the woods searching for a dimpled white ball—surely not a yellow one. Trump may be a better golfer than in my imagination, but he surely is not a better president.

Hawaii didn't even rate a tweet.

Not even a "no harm, no foul."

Essentially, the deafening silence was loud and clear.

Nothing for 38 minutes. And then nothing after?

I think Trump's silent message was pretty clear: "Aloha, suckers."

On the bright side, put on the brink of annihilation for 38 minutes, at least we can now say there is no more need for any more examples.

We have the proof.

The alarm has been sounded for all to hear.

Donald Trump is unfit to be our president.

If you even think about voting for Trump next go round, meditate for 38 minutes. Remember Saturday.

Give him a first. Has any state ever given a sitting president less than 1 percent of the vote?

**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. Listen to his podcast: *Emil Amok's Takeout* <http://emilamoktakeout.libsyn.com/website>

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### International Debate: Whether Trump said "shithole"?

That Donald Trump has a problem with people of color is by now indisputable. The pattern is there all throughout his public life. And now we have a full blown "shithole" debate. Do you really believe Republican senators currying favor by sticking up for Trump, the self-proclaimed least racist man in the room?

It's become a kind of "shithole" litmus test for Republicans who want in on the sinking ship. Did he or didn't he?

This is truly a remarkable point in American political history.

# Federal Judge Rules DACA Must Stay in Place

## Ruling allows current DACA recipients to renew their enrollment

**A**MID the intense fight over the protections of DREAMers, a federal judge issued a nationwide directive late Tuesday night, January, 9, ordering the Trump administration to restore the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

United States District Judge William Alsup of San Francisco, likely halting the fierce debate since DACA was terminated by President Donald Trump on September 5, 2017, challenged the administration's stance that DACA was illegally implemented.

In 2012, former President Barack Obama signed an executive order instituting DACA, which has provided work authorization, protection from deportation and other benefits to undocumented youth who came to the U.S. illegally as children.

Calling the rescission of DACA "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion and otherwise not in accordance with the law," Alsup noted that the sudden termination of the program "deprived DACA recipients of constitutionally-protected property and liberty interests without due process of law."

The breakthrough ruling comes after major moves have been made on Capitol Hill on Sunday, January 7, where a bipartisan pair of Congress members unveiled a bill that would provide a legislative solution for DACA — the program was temporary and only valid for two years with an option to renew.

The bill introduced by Reps. Will Hurd (R-Texas) and Pete Aguilar (D-Calif.) would offer eligible DREAMers the ability to apply for a green card and — after years of conditional residency — a pathway to citizenship, given they meet the requirements, including a background check and proof of work, education and/or military service.

On Tuesday, Trump pledged his support for a "clean DACA bill" provided it included strengthening the U.S.-Mexico border — in other

words, his controversial, long-awaited border wall.

"You folks are going to have to come up with a solution," Trump told 25 lawmakers in a negotiation at the White House on Tuesday. "A clean DACA bill to me is to take care of the 800,000 people. We take care of that, and we also take care of security. And then we can go to comprehensive [immigration reform] later on."

At a meeting at Camp David on Saturday, January 6, Trump said, "We all want DACA to happen, but we also want great security for our country."

Alsup's ruling was welcomed as a triumph for DACA advocates who condemned the president's termination of the program, including many Democratic lawmakers.

Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) said that the ruling was "further evidence that the Trump Administration's decision to pull the rug out from under these young people by ending DACA was not only immoral, but illegal."

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Calif.), a longtime immigrant rights advocate, praised the federal court's ruling but urged the passage of the Dream Act, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth.

"A California judge rightfully recognized that Trump was 'arbitrary' and 'capricious' in terminating DACA. There was no reason for Trump to end the program other than to sow mayhem in immigrant communities across the country," Gomez said in a statement released on Wednesday, January 10. "But this ruling does not provide DREAMers with the certainty they need. DREAMers deserve peace of mind, not the sickening instability that Trump has purposely inflicted. With Trump already hinting at an appeal, we need to keep the pressure up — and pass the Dream Act now."

### Current DACA recipients will be able to renew enrollment

When the Trump adminis-

tration announced it was terminating DACA, it noted that it was no longer accepting new applications as of September 5, 2017, and recipients whose permits expired after March 5, 2018, were not permitted to apply for renewal.

Moreover, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) had set a deadline, October 5, 2017, for anyone whose work permit was going to expire after March 5 — due to U.S. Postal Service delays, roughly 22,000 DACA recipients missed this deadline, which the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services deemed "narrow."

Though the ruling doesn't allow people who applied for DACA before the administration stopped accepting applications on September 5, current DACA recipients are able to renew their enrollment.

However, the government could still prevent DACA re-

ipients from returning to the U.S. if they leave the country.

It remains to be seen how this affects legislation, but Alsup's order puts a strain on the Trump administration, which is likely headed for a major legal battle, not unlike the intense back and forth between the courts and the Trump administration regarding the travel bans last year.

### Economic impact of DACA

In five years, the program has more than 800,000 enrollees, many of whom reported back greater career and education opportunities that were otherwise inaccessible.

The termination of DACA in September orchestrated an outcry from immigrant rights activists as well as economic experts who emphasized the program's positive economic impact, and the newfound permission to work has opened up economic opportunities for

the country as well as the beneficiaries and their families.

An August 2017 study by the Center for American Progress (CAP) found that 91.4 percent of DACA recipients were currently employed whereas, before DACA, 56 percent were not able to work.

"So when I think about the data and what it all points to, it makes clear that DACA works, that DACA not only improves the lives of individual recipients and their families, but positively affects the American economy and society," Tom Wong, associate professor of political science at UC San Diego, said in a press call on Thursday, September 7.

The libertarian-leaning Cato Institution reported in January 2017 that terminating DACA — which would mean deporting those enrolled — would cost the federal government \$60 billion and diminish economic growth by \$280 billion over the next 10 years. ([www.asianjournal.com](http://www.asianjournal.com))

## Trump Administration to Ask Supreme Court to Allow End of DACA

**T**HE Justice Department said on Tuesday, January 16, that it would ask the Supreme Court to overturn a California judge's ruling in a move it described as a "rare step."

The overturn would provide a way for the Trump administration to put an end to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which has taken center stage in the country's most pressing legal disputes.

The administration said it appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, an injunction made last week by San Francisco-based U.S. District Judge William Alsup.

On Tuesday, January 9, Alsup blocked Trump's plan to end DACA protections, allowing those previously protected by the program to apply to renew their status. The ruling does not though, require the government to accept new ap-



plications.

In carrying out the ruling, Alsup said the plaintiffs "have clearly demonstrated that they are likely to suffer serious irreparable harm absent from injunction."

"Before DACA, Individual Plaintiffs, brought to America as children, faced a tough set of live and career choices turning on the comparative probabilities of being deported versus remaining here," he said in his decision. "DACA gave them a

more tolerable set of choices, including joining the mainstream workforce."

Now, the Justice Department said it will also be petitioning the Supreme Court to intervene the case later this week.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said in a statement that the ruling "defies both law and common sense."

"We are now taking the rare step of requesting direct

(continued on page 10)

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

# GREATER 2018...DEFINITELY!

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

**2**

017 was great... 2018 will be greater, definitely. Different people do different things according to their beliefs when a new year begins. Some jump thinking that doing this can make them taller. Some wear polka dots and prepare round fruits to bring in luck. Some write down their resolutions.

At the start of each year, my husband and I sit down together to thank God for the year that was and praise Him for the year ahead. We take time to write down our faith goals or the things that we believe God has in store for us as we face the new year. We list down our goals for our family, our career, our ministry and even personal ones. We try to be specific as much as we can -- places we want to go to, things we want to accomplish,



material things we want to acquire and so much more. The most important thing that we do as a couple is to pray, fast and entrust our lives and our family to the One who we know holds our lives in His hands. And even before we receive the answers to our prayers, we thank Him for the answered prayers as an act of faith.

Facing another year can be exciting and thrilling but at the same time worrisome and terrifying. Because one thing is certain -- life is uncertain. We do not know what lies ahead.

The only thing we can do is trust that He is still sovereign and in control. He holds the past. He holds the present. And He holds, even the future.

Indeed, 2018 is a year we can look forward to. We have seen and experienced God's goodness and faithfulness in our lives for the past years and in all seasons of our lives. His protection covered us, His provision overflowed, His wisdom guided us, His grace and His mercy sustained us. And He still continues to do so.

This year, after several years of spending the holidays

in South Korea, we went home to the Philippines to celebrate the New Year and spend precious time with our families. There's one thing I took home to Korea with me, which I learned from my father who lives alone -- and this is to live in the present. As much as 2018 is a year to look forward to, he reminded us to live in the present. Enjoy and cherish each moment. To live today as if it's the last day because we don't know what tomorrow holds. He taught me this not just through words but also by example. He enjoys his food every mealtime. He makes sure that every day is well spent. He lives in the present. He enjoys today. He values the now.

Living in a fast-paced society, I live by schedule. I always think about what's next. I tend to hurry and worry. When you think of it, this is not a bad thing, not at all. But many times, I miss out on more important things in the 'now' because of always looking

forward to 'tomorrow.' This 2018, I look forward to greater things. I look forward to exploring many places, meeting new people, accomplishing new things. I am excited and expectant. I have big faith that this year will be a year of breakthroughs and successes.

This 2018 too, I will choose to live in and relish each moment. I will make time to build stronger relationships. I will enjoy what each day brings. I will live in the now.

As each day of 2018 unfolds in your life, this is my prayer -- that you will have eyes to see the joys that life brings despite its challenges, that you will cherish and enjoy every relationship that you have, that you will have hope in the midst of trials, that you will have faith to believe for impossible things. It is my hope that each of us will live each day to its fullest, as if it's our last.

Cheers to a prosperous new year! May 2018 be hope, faith and love-filled!

2018 will be greater and better, definitely!

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# Melveen Leed to Receive 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award

Legendary Hawaii entertainer Melveen Leed has been chosen to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pan Pacific Southeast Asian Women Association of Hawaii (PPSEAWAH). The organization's president, Mary Tori Keegan, said Leed will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, March 24, 2018, 6:30 p.m., at the Hawaii Convention Center. She is only the second recipient from Hawai'i to receive the

award in the PPSEAWAH's 90 years of service in the Pacific. PPSEAWA-Hawaii's Lifetime Achievement honoree is selected from a list of distinguished Pacific iconic figures.

Legends of the entertainment industry who have worked with Leed in the past 50 years in Hawai'i, Tahiti, Tonga, Samoa and around the Pacific will converge at the Hawaii Convention Center to honor the international entertainer.



Melveen Leed

"I'm very humbled to receive such honor," said Leed. Born in Honolulu in 1943

and raised in Moloka'i, she is a multi-talented and versatile vocalist and musician who plays the 'ukulele, guitar, piano, congas, mandolin, accordion, marimba and many other ethnic instruments. Her music genres cross from Hawaiian and Polynesian to jazz, country, gospel, Latin, pop, reggae, folk and blues. She also sings in 18 languages.

Leed is also known for her philanthropic work in the past 50 years. She has done charitable music tours and concerts around the world, the U.S., Pacific, Asia, Russia and Europe,

representing Hawaii as an ambassador of aloha.

According to PPSEAWAH President Keegan, "Melveen epitomizes the spirit of aloha and the ultimate ambassador of Hawai'i to the world."

The televised ceremony will include Leed's music star friends from around the Pacific. PPSEAWAH has retained the services of Daniel Sataraka to direct the ceremony and entertainment productions for award ceremony.

Donation is \$75 per person or \$750 per table of 10. For more information, call Tori Keegan, PPSEAWAH President, at (808) 294-5960.

## Free Events at Hawaii Libraries

The Hawaii State Public Library System announced the following libraries will present free educational events in January 2018:

### OAHU

**Mililani Public Library** – January 22, 5:30 p.m.

eBook Class for Adults – "Meet Libby"

Learn how to use the new Libby app to access over 54,000 eBooks and 14,800 eAudiobooks.

*More information:* <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/event/ebook-class-for-adults-meet-libby/>

**Waianae Public Library** – January 24, 6:30 p.m.

The Impact of World War I in the U.S. and Hawaii

World War I brought significant social and economic changes to the U.S. and Hawaii. Attend this one-hour panel discussion and explore the impact of "The Great War" on foreign policy, free speech, gender, & race relations.

*More information:* <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/event/the-impact-of-wwi-in-the-u-s-and-hawaii/>

**Hawaii State Library** – January 27, 10:00 a.m.

Hobby Month Swap  
Looking for a new hobby? Do you have a hobby to share? Bring in your hobby supplies in good condition and pick up new hobby supplies.

*More information:* <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/event/hobby-month-swap/>

**Hawaii Kai Public Library** – January 27, 10:30 a.m.

American Roots and Bluegrass Music

Saloon Pilots will perform American roots music and bluegrass in contemporary, rhythmic arrangements on the fiddle, 5-string banjo, guitar, and bass.

*More information:* <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/event/american-roots-music-and-bluegrass>

**Mililani Public Library** – January 29, 5:30 p.m.

RB Digital Informational Session

Learn how to use the new RB Digital app to access hundreds of popular eMagazines and eAudiobooks. Participants are encouraged to bring their own mobile device for use during the class.

*More information:* <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/event/download-magazines-audiobooks-rbdigital-class/>

**Waianae Public Library** – January 31, 3:30 p.m.

Knit One  
Teens and adults are invited to learn how to knit. All materials

& tools will be provided. Registration is required.

*More information:* <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/event/knit-one-waianae/>

### MAUI

**Kihei Public Library** – January 27, 10:30 a.m.

BookFlix Storytime  
BookFlix is a family-friendly reading tool that can be used to create meaningful, high-quality interactions among families. Learn about this free resource and experience a BookFlix story.

*More information:* <https://www.librarieshawaii.org/event/bookflix-storytime/>

### MAINLAND NEWS (from page 8, TRUMP....)

review on the merits of this injunction by the Supreme Court so that this issue may be resolved quickly and fairly for all the parties involved," said Sessions.

Sessions had announced the federal protection's end in September 2017, before giving Congress six months to find a fix. That gives Congressional members until March 5 to make a decision.

The action comes as Capitol Hill approaches a January 19 deadline for avoiding what could be the first government shutdown since 2013. Advocates for the nearly 800,000 (former) DREAMers have been pushing for a DACA fix to be included in the solution.

Filipino Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas, who outed himself as an illegal immigrant in a 2011 essay in the New York Times Magazine, took to Instagram Tuesday encouraging those that

may be affected to take a vacation day from work and get needed paperwork done.

"If you're an employer, I encourage your teammates to prioritize this (and not have them request a vacation day but just do it)," said Vargas.

"As predicted, Jeff Sessions just provided notice of their intent to appeal directly to the Supreme Court on the CA decision so we have no idea to know if this re-application window will close and if yes how quickly," he added. "Not trying to induce panic, just trying to induce expeditious behavior in a very unknown crazy unfair and cruel period of time."

According to data from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, nearly 5,000 applications from undocumented Filipinos have been approved since 2012 when the program was established by former President Barack Obama.

Trump had rejected last Thursday, January 11, a bipartisan proposal for DACA that was introduced by Democratic Senators Richard Durbin, Michael Bennett, and Robert Menendez and Republican Senators Lindsey Graham, Jeff Flake, and Cory Gardner.

The six said in a statement before the deal was rejected that they had "reached an agreement in principle that addresses border security, the diversity visa lottery, chain migration/family reunification and the DREAM Act."

In a succession of tweets posted Friday, January 12, Trump called the proposal a "big step backwards." He argued that it did not fund the wall, it slackened policies family-based immigration "chain migration," as well as the diversity visa lottery system. He maintained he wanted a merit-based system of immigration.

([www.asianjournal.com](http://www.asianjournal.com))



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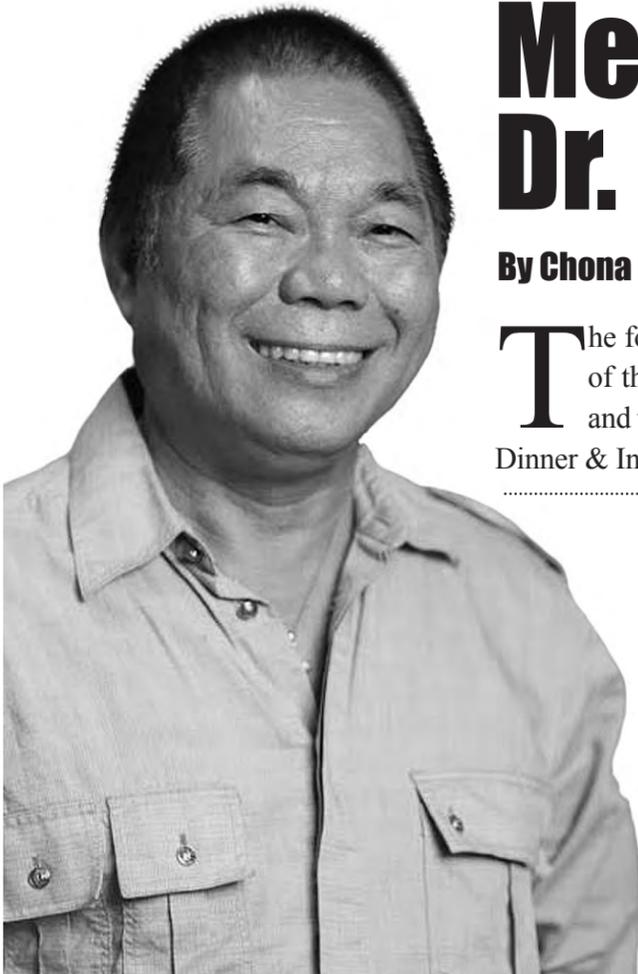
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Q & A

# Meet PMAH New President, Dr. Nestor Del Rosario

By Chona Montesines-Sonido



The following is a Q&A with Dr. Nestor Del Rosario, the incoming president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH). Dr. Del Rosario and the rest of the 2018 incoming officers will be installed at the PMAH Gala Dinner & Installation event at the Filipino Community Center on January 27, 2018.

**HFC: Congratulations on being named as the incoming president of PMAH! How does it feel to be leading the premiere professional organization for Filipino doctors in Hawaii?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** Nerve wracking!

**HFC: What will be your top priorities during your term? Any new projects you would like to pursue?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** As my motto says: Selfless service... I am hoping to have our group do more services for the community and to steer it back to the tradition instilled by the PMAH founding fathers.

I am hoping to do things, events and opportunities that interest the members and even the community to participate more.

**HFC: How would you describe your leadership style?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** I am a no-nonsense person. I criticize if I can offer a solution or a way to improve but yes, I can be non-politically correct in my opinions and I can be brutally honest in my evaluations.

**HFC: What is the number one challenge facing the PMAH? How do you plan on addressing this challenge?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** The

number one challenge of a leader is how to include our members more actively in many of our activities, how to improve the lackadaisical, the ningas-kugon, attitude and the indifferent nature of many of us. We need to be induced to actively participate, enjoy, and yet, still offer something of us to the organization.

**HFC: PMAH has undertaken numerous philanthropic activities. Why is giving back to the less fortunate so important for the PMAH?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** As we start our lives and ventures, we are touched by so many people. When we give back, it is not that we give back to specific people, but we give back to those who need our help. In so doing, they, as a whole would strengthen the whole fabric of the community we serve. Those who are not in need may not perceive they are touched by our gesture, but the fact is that we all are included.

**HFC: Tell us about your background—where you hail from, where you received your medical training and your family.**

**DEL ROSARIO:** I was born in a small barrio called Magsaysayin, the lazy town of Sinait, Ilocos Sur, Philippines.

I finished medical school at Easter Virginia Medical, residency at UCLA and fellowship at UC Irvine.

**HFC: Who was one of your early role models in life? How did that person impact you?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** I hail from a poor, simple family who were mainly farmers and jack of all trades father.

My grandmother raised me, and she instilled in me all that is my basic sentiments growing up.

**HFC: Why did you choose to become a doctor?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** I became a doctor because I idolized the country doctors who came around to see us pay with eggs and vegetables.

**HFC: If you were not a physician, what do you think you'd be doing at this moment?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** Funny, I tried to skip that question because many people who know me may laugh. I initially did not want to be a doctor. I wanted to be foremost, a priest, and as an alternative, a lawyer. If I had become a priest, I still think I would have been touching many souls just like now. If I had become a doctor, I think I would have to smash many souls (grin).

**HFC: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** I mostly enjoy more being with my family and friends especially my grandchildren.

**HFC: When your term is done, what legacy do you want to leave behind?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** I am not into reward but we all

want to be appreciated. I wish I could be remembered as the one who brought back the family and camaraderie spirit into PMAH.

**HFC: What advice do you want to give to our youth who would like to pursue a medical profession?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** One who wants to become a doctor has to be ready with the hard work required by the education process. Most of our education as real physicians come after medical school and residencies and fellowships. We learnt the skills of the trade from them, but we learn the skills of being a real physician from the experience we encounter after the trainings we have. I always have told the

ones I mentored that to do well, we have to look at all patients as one of our family members and treat them as such. Even when we have disagreements with our brothers, for example, the love we have for them never wane when it comes to treating them, that's how we should look at all our patients. Also look at each patient as a teacher who imparts to us some part of lives, our learning...not as just part of our livelihood.

**HFC: What is your message for those doctors who will take leadership position at PMAH?**

**DEL ROSARIO:** Organizations like PMAH, being a rather small organization should not be based on a "corporate" agenda, but it should be viewed not as a "work" but rather a group doing the "work" to have fun, friendship, and what comes out as good is the work of the invisible hand.

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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

# Hawaii Sues to Protect Net Neutrality

Hawaii joined 22 other states in filing a multistate lawsuit to block the Federal Communications Commission's illegal rollback of net neutrality. The coalition filed a petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, formally commencing the lawsuit against the FCC and the federal government.

What is net neutrality? Approved in 2015 by the FCC, net neutrality requires that internet service providers (such as Verizon, AT&T, Comcast) must treat all online content the same and cannot speed up or slow

down traffic from specific websites or apps, nor can they put their own content at an advantage over rivals.

Hawaii Attorney General Chin said, "Big business must not be deciding what people in Hawaii can access on the Internet and how easily we can access it. This lawsuit challenges the rushed attempt, riddled with irregularities, by the Trump Administration to rollback net neutrality."

The repeal of net neutrality would have dire consequences for consumers and businesses in Hawaii and across the country that rely on

a free and open internet - allowing internet service providers to block certain content, charge consumers more to access certain sites, and throttle or slow the quality of content from content providers that don't pay more.

Under the Administrative Procedure Act, the FCC cannot make "arbitrary and capricious" changes to existing policies, such as net neutrality. The FCC's new rule fails to justify the Commission's departure from its long-standing policy and practice of defending net neutrality, while misinterpreting and disregarding critical

record evidence on industry practices and harm to consumers and businesses.

Moreover, the rule wrongly reclassifies broadband internet as a Title I information service, rather than a Title II telecommunications service, based on an erroneous and unreasonable interpretation of the Telecommunications Act. Finally, the rule improperly and unlawfully includes sweeping preemption of state and local laws.

The lawsuit is led by New York Attorney General Schneiderman, and joined by the Attorneys General California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mas-

sachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

Ajit Pai, the FCC chairman who is a former employee of Verizon (internet service provider) favored the repeal as a way to get government from "micromanaging" and claims net neutrality hampers investments and innovation. Pai was appointed by President Donald Trump. The 3-2 vote was bipartisan. Pai and Republicans at the FCC claim ending net neutrality will allow companies like Verizon and AT&T to provide faster, cheaper internet to consumers.

# Shingles Prevention Act Introduced to Eliminate Out-of-Pocket Costs

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Congress introduced the bipartisan Protecting Seniors through Immunization Act (or "Shingles Prevention Act") legislation that would eliminate Medicare Part D beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs for the shingles vaccine and raise awareness about the importance of getting vaccinated.

Senators Mazie Hirono and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.) and Representatives Gene Green (D-Texas) and Larry Bucshon (R-Ind.) introduced the bill.

One in three Americans will develop shingles in their lifetime.

"Financial barriers shouldn't keep our kupuna from accessing

the shingles vaccine," said Senator Hirono. "It's critical that seniors in Hawaii and across the country can protect themselves against the shingles virus regardless of their ability to afford a vaccine."

Shingles is a painful disease that affects nearly 1 million Americans annually, with one out of three Americans developing shingles during their lifetime. However, the risk of getting shingles is significantly higher for individuals who are 50 years of age and older. In fact, according to the CDC, the number of adults developing shingles is on the rise. The great news is that seniors can protect themselves from shingles simply by

receiving a vaccine. The bad news is that too few seniors receive the vaccine or don't even know that it's an option.

The Centers for Disease

Control (CDC) recommends that seniors over 60 receive the shingles vaccine. However, because of high out of pocket costs and other barriers to access, only about a quarter of seniors get vaccinated for the virus. The Protecting Seniors through Immunization Act provides the

shingles vaccine free of charge for Medicare Part D beneficiaries, and improves outreach to these seniors on the importance of getting vaccinated while directing the Department of Health and Human Services to study to effectiveness of vaccines in the United States.

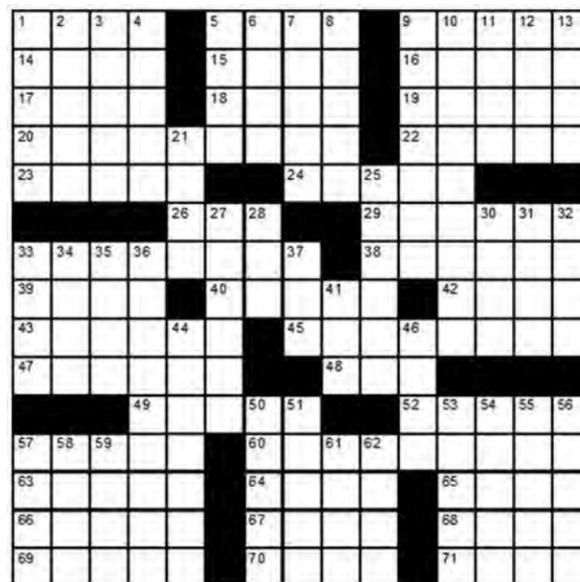
## KROSWORD ni Carlito Lalicon

### PAHALANG

1. Bulos
5. Tapak
10. Pula
14. Pulo
15. Lipat ng petsa
16. Bilot
17. Laho
19. Sakit sa balat
20. Ibalik
21. Sige
23. Bawa't isa sa sangkatauhan
24. Tagapag-alaga
26. Kuliling ng kampanilya
28. Galing
33. Ano
34. Bahagi ng katawan
35. Bagay na maanghang
37. Balunlugod
38. Himlay
41. Biya
43. Isang uri ng baging
45. Mahal ni ama
46. Putting pekas sa balat
47. Inaugurasyon
51. Magpastol
53. Unlapi para sa isa o isang lupon o grupo
54. Utusan
55. Bawal
57. Patrimonyo

### PABABA

1. Angkan
2. Dahong tuyo ng punong tubo, mais, atb
3. Halamang-tubig
4. Bulalas ng damdamin na galing sa dalawang salitang 'ina ko'
5. Masiyadong napitpit
6. Atin
7. Upang
8. Pagmomonopolyo
9. Isang uri ng punongkahoy na maasim ang bunga
10. Hukay
11. Bahagi ng Metro Manila
12. Sugatan
13. Saluysoy
18. Pinong kikil para sa ngipin
22. Pagsasalitaang mas malakas sa bulong
25. Pinuno ng isang monasteryo
27. Patiktik
28. Unlaping ginagamit sa pagpapahiwatig ng paghanga sorpresa atb
29. Likor



62. Turno sa pagtatrabaho
64. Mantinimyento
66. Apaw
67. Kapal
68. Kasalungat ng laki
69. Nasaan
70. Idolatriya
71. Yunit ng timbang

30. Implakable
31. Isang uri ng prutas
32. Embes
36. Mahal ni Inay
39. Pag-unat ng mga bisig o braso pagkagising
40. Puno ng kaguluhan
42. Nag-aapuhap
44. Pugot
48. Sandok
49. Alambike
50. Pagsalok ng tubig
51. Ang isa naman
52. Alagad ng batas
56. Piksi
58. Walang-bisa
59. Hain
60. Hangad
61. Ita
63. Aspile
65. Pamalo ng bola

(Ang sagot ay ilalabas sa susunod na isyu ng Chronicle)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

# Minor Falsehoods Can Not be Basis for Citizenship Revocation

**O**ntentionally concealing the truth or knowingly lying to an immigration officer or to any official in the US or on any document submitted could lead a US official to conclude that there was misrepresentation. If the US official finds that the applicant has given a false statement, this could lead to the termination of any immigration benefit given or denial of any immigration benefit.

If the immigrant has a green card that was obtained through the false statement, then the green card may be revoked. If the immigrant has already become a US citizen when the false statement is discovered, the naturalization may be revoked because the immigrant was not entitled to naturalization in the first place. In both scenarios, the immigrant

could be deported or allowed a voluntary departure because their status is no longer valid in the United States. However, in a recent case, the US Supreme Court restricted the power of the US government to revoke the naturalization of a US citizen on the ground of giving a false statement. The Supreme Court held that minor falsehoods committed cannot be the sole basis for revoking a person's US citizenship.

The case involved Divna Maslenjak, an ethnic Serb who resided in Bosnia during the 1990's. At that time, there was a civil war between the Muslims and the Serbs. In 1998, she and her family sought refugee status in the United States. Maslenjak was interviewed under oath and said that she and her family feared persecution from both sides of the conflict. The Muslims would attack them because of their ethnicity. On the other hand, the Serbs would chastise them because Maslenjak's husband had evaded service in the

Bosnian Serb Army. The US officials granted Maslenjak and her family refugee status.

Six year later, she applied for, and was granted US citizenship. In her application, she swore that she had never given false information to a government official while applying for an immigration benefit or lied to an official to gain entry into the United States.

However, after becoming a US citizen, it was discovered that she had lied. It turned out that her husband was an officer in the Bosnian Serb Army and participated in the war for years. In fact, he had served a brigade that participated in the Srebrenica massacre—a slaughter of some 8,000 Bosnian Muslim civilians. This discovery led the US government to charge Maslenjak with violations of the immigration laws namely, knowingly “procures, contrary to law, (her) naturalization” and knowingly making a false statement under oath in a naturalization proceeding. When someone is

convicted of unlawfully procuring her own naturalization, her citizenship is automatically revoked. The District Court instructed the jury that a conviction was proper so long as the Government “prove(d) that one of the defendant’s statements was false”--- even if the statement was not “material” and “did not influence the decision to approve (her) naturalization”. The jury ruled in favor of the US government and convicted Maslenjak of violating the immigration laws. The District Court then revoked her US citizenship. On appeal, the Sixth Circuit affirmed the conviction. Maslenjak appealed the case to the US Supreme Court.

The US Supreme Court held that the US government must establish that an illegal act by the defendant played some role in her acquisition of citizenship. When the illegal act is a false statement, that means the government must demonstrate that the defendant lied about facts that would have mattered to an immigration official, because they would have justified denying naturalization or would have predictably have led to other facts warranting that result.

The Supreme Court stated that the jury instruction was in error. The jury needed to find more than an unlawful false statement. The false statement must be itself a reason to deny naturalization, because it counted as “false testimony for the purpose of obtaining (immigration) benefits” and thus demonstrated bad moral character. Another standard would be for the jury to convict if there was (1) knowledge of that prior dishonesty would have led a reasonable official to make some further investigation (into the circumstances of her admission), (2) that inquiry would predictably have yielded a legal basis for rejecting her citizenship application, and (3) Maslenjak failed to show that (notwithstanding such an objective likelihood) she was in fact qualified to become a US citizen.

In this case, Maslenjak was not convicted by a properly instructed jury of “procuring, contrary to law, (her) naturalization.” Hence, the Supreme Court vacated the judgment of the Court of Appeals and remanded the case to the lower court for further proceeding.

**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](http://www.seguritan.com)

## MAINLAND NEWS

# H-1B Visa Holders Spared from Deportation

**W**ASHINGTON, DC.-- After mounting pressure from business, technology, and government leaders, the Trump Administration has reportedly backed off from earlier plans to deport H-1B holders.

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard urged President Donald Trump to reject a proposal to deport H-1B holders awaiting permanent residency processing.

“H-1B visa holders, many of whom become small business owners and job creators, drive innovation and help build and strengthen our U.S. economy,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, the Democratic Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans.

“The Trump Administration’s decision to back off this counterproductive proposal is a

positive step forward. While it remains a priority to invest in training and create a pipeline of skilled American workers, we must continue to leverage the talent and expertise of the hundreds of thousands of H-1B visa holders to fill the gaps in our domestic workforce,” said Gabbard.

The United States grants 85,000 H-1B visas every year to highly skilled applicants, including roughly 70 percent for Indians, seeking employment and educational opportunities. According to the National Foundation for American Policy, more than half of privately-held companies worth \$1 billion or more in the United States had at least one immigrant founder – with many having come to America on an H-1B visa, including the CEOs of both Microsoft and Google.

“I have seen personally how high-skilled immigrants

have helped my community and so many others across the country by filling critical labor shortages in specific industries, preventing employers from fleeing overseas to fill them,” said Congressman Kevin Yoder, member of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. “Plus, many of these immigrants hope to eventually start their own businesses and create new jobs here in the United States. These are the people who have helped America grow and thrive as a nation of immigrants and we need to make sure our system continues to value those who are following our laws and doing the right thing.”

Alok Madasani, an H1B visa holder and survivor of last year's shooting in Olathe, Kansas, said, “America has provided me and many hun-

(continued on page 14)





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PHILIPPINE NEWS

# SEC Closure Order of Rappler Draws Outrage

by Delon Porcalla  
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

**M**ANILA, Philippines — More denunciations greeted yesterday the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)’s revocation of the license of Rappler.

Media and human rights groups as well as opposition lawmakers condemned the SEC ruling, saying it could signal more and fiercer attacks on basic freedom.

In canceling Rappler’s license, the SEC cited the online news platform’s violation of the constitutional provisions on foreign ownership.

The Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) said the decision has a chilling effect on media organizations in the country.

“Journalists must be able to work independently in an environment free from intimidation and harassment. An assault against journalists is an assault against democracy,” Focap said in a statement.

The Photojournalists’ Center of the Philippines

(PCP) urged the SEC to review its decision.

“We acknowledge the regulatory power of the state over media companies in the country, however, we firmly stand with the promotion of press freedom and people’s right to information,” PCP said.

“PCP strongly condemns any form of intimidation and harassment of media practitioners behind the SEC decision that can serve as precedent to silence other media outfits,” it added.

Luis Teodoro, former dean of the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication and national chair of Altermidya, also scored the SEC for undermining press freedom and freedom of expression.

The decision, he said, was issued “amid such glaring indications of rising dictatorship as the threat of term extension with the impending Charter change, the no-elections scenario and the hasty approval of the extension of martial law in Mindanao.”

Ironically, he said, President Duterte had declared his support for foreign ownership

of Philippine media entities.

“We have always been supportive of the constitutional ban on foreign ownership of media, but will oppose its use to silence the press,” Teodoro said.

“The decision to suppress Rappler for supposedly violating the constitutional prohibition on foreign ownership of media can only be interpreted as part of a scheme to silence critical media and to instill fear among media practitioners committed to reporting the truth in behalf of transparency in the current regime, and to hold it to account,” he added.

The Commission on Human Rights (CHR), for its part, expressed fear the SEC decision would be followed by bolder infringement on press freedom.

“If the statement of Rappler is true as regards its ownership and due process was not observed, then this is something that is deeply concerning in the context of press freedom,” CHR spokesperson Jacqueline de Guia said.

“The field of journalism has provided propagation of truthful insights, educating

and inviting the attention of the curious, including the less knowledgeable,” she said.

“The Philippines, being a democratic and republican state, subscribes to the thesis that human dignity is best determined when there exists freedom in exchanges of views,” she added.

Phelim Kine, deputy director for Asia of Human Rights Watch, said the SEC decision suggests a sinister use of state regulatory powers to stifle critics.

“The Philippine media is just the latest in a growing list of institutions and individuals – including United Nations officials – who have been vilified by Duterte for seeking accountability for human rights violations,” he said.

“If Duterte succeeds in silencing Rappler, it will have a profound chilling effect on Philippine media freedom, encouraging self-censorship by reporters and media outlets fearful of government reprisals for critical reporting at a time when the watchdog role of a free press is more urgently needed than ever,” he added.

Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon said the SEC could have just directed Rappler to correct its mistake – if at all there’s any – instead of cancelling its license outright.

“I don’t want to comment on the merits but procedurally, couldn’t the SEC have given Rappler an opportunity to correct the structure, if indeed there was a violation?” Drilon said.

“As I’ve said, the way I understood it, there was an equivalent of a foreign equity; wasn’t it reasonable for the SEC to say, ‘we find you in violation and give you time to correct this violation,’ meaning to change the structure. This sends a chilling effect on the freedom of the press,” he added.

Sen. Leila de Lima said the SEC move could be “an alarm that signals state repression of the freedom of the press.”

De Lima, who is in detention, said that the SEC, which is supposed to be an apolitical institution, appears to have ignored the repercussions of its decision on constitutional liberties.

By coming out with the order, De Lima said that the SEC had allowed itself to be

**Why the rush?**

*(continued on page 15)*

**MAINLAND NEWS (from page 13, H-1B....)**

dreds of thousands of folks on H1-B an opportunity to further our careers after education. America also taught us that if you are determined and hard-working and follow the established process, there are opportunities for everyone. There are folks who moved here decades ago and have kids going to school here, the place they call home. Every process can be improved continuously for maximum output and cur-

rent H-1B process can also be improved but eliminating it on a whole affects much larger audience. I’m grateful the administration has reconsidered these changes to H-1B extensions for folks with pending green card applications and I appreciate Representatives Yoder and Gabbard’s efforts to help us and our families continue staying together here in USA and continue contributing to the society.”

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**PHILIPPINE NEWS**

**New York Times, Wall Street Journal Blast Duterte's Media Assault**

**M**ANILA, Philippines — Two of the biggest American newspapers on Wednesday criticized the decision of a government regulatory agency to cancel the operating license of news website Rappler and slammed President Rodrigo Duterte for his assault on free and independent press.

In separate editorials, The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal denounced the decision of the Securities and Exchange Commission on Monday to cancel Rappler's license following its supposed infringement into the Philippine Constitution's prohibition on foreign ownership of local media.

According to the Times, Rappler's shutdown order was just the

"tip" of Duterte's assault on his media critics, pointing to the deluge of fake news, conspiracy theories and online harassment in the Philippines.

The Times said that Duterte's denial of complicity in the SEC order was predictable just as his refusal to condemn the proliferation of fake news and denied his involvement in their creation.

"Even among that cast of illiberal leaders who rouse mobs with their ruthless policies and disdain for democratic protections, President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines stands out for his viciousness," the New York newspaper said in its editorial.

"Exposing such brazen abuse of power is a hallowed mission of a

free press, so it should come as no surprise that authoritarians like Mr. Duterte usually go after independent media," it said.

WSJ meanwhile labeled the decision as the latest in a series of actions by the president that undermined democracy and accused the hot-tempered Philippine leader of using the playbook of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to silence media critics and punish political foes.

"Mr. Duterte's praise for late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and alliance with the Marcos family are clues to his intent," the business paper said. "The misuse of government power to silence media critics and punish political foes is straight out of the Marcos playbook."

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com))

(from page 14, SEC CLOSURE....)

used as an instrument of the state to attack a media organization critical of the administration.

"Never was a media entity stripped by government of legal protection since the Marcos dictatorship. This fact alone should alarm each and every member of the media that the formality of their organizations' corporate existence can now be threatened by this regime through the SEC with the Damocles' Sword of juridical delegitimization," De Lima said.

"We are thus fast approaching another fascist era in the Philippines. Before any hope is lost, the Filipino people must act in support of a free press and call for the restoration of democratic values in our government institutions," she added.

Militant and opposition House members have also denounced the SEC decision.

"SEC's cancellation of Rappler's registration is a sick affront on press freedom!" Bayan Muna Rep. Carlos Isagani Zarate declared.

His colleagues, Reps. Ariel Casilao of Anakpawis, Antonio Tinio and France Castro of the party-list Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) and women's group Gabriela, raised the same view.

"SEC's decision revoking Rappler's registration is an authoritarian measure and an attack against press freedom. This is a confirmation that the Duterte government is intolerant of a critical institution, especially from the media sector," Casilao stressed.

"We denounce in the strongest terms the Duterte regime's order to shut down Rappler. This is the most vicious attack yet on press freedom, spearheaded by no less than President Duterte himself," Tinio said.

"SEC's revocation of the certificate of incorporation of Rappler is an outright slap at the constitutionally protected freedom of expression and the right of the people to information," Castro said.

Gabriela said the license revocation "constitutes one of the gravest attacks to press freedom in

the post-1986 EDSA uprising period and projects a chilling reminder of the media crackdown under the Marcos dictatorship."

"We are alarmed that the SEC has chosen to nitpick on Rappler's alleged violation of the constitutional provision on foreign equity restrictions in order to shut down an entire media outfit, which has been openly criticized by President Duterte on several occasions," it said.

Rep. Tom Villarin of party-list Akbayan, a member of the "Magnificent 7" bloc, called the SEC decision a "big blow to democracy."

"Press freedom is a bastion of democracy, a cornerstone embedded in our Constitution, and a beacon for our freedoms to shine," he said.

"The Duterte administration is going on a killing spree, including that of a free press. It is a mockery of our freedoms and will lead to more repressive measures. A government that kills the truth will kill political dissent," he said.

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(Crossword solution | January 6, 2017)

E	L	A	N		D	E	E	P		U	P	P	E	R
L	A	M	A		A	N	A	L		N	A	I	V	E
E	Y	E	D		T	O	G	A		C	I	T	E	D
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A	T	M	A	N		U	R	G	E		G	L	O	M
T	H	E	F	T		M	E	S	S		E	T	N	A

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