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IMMIGRANTS MAKE U.S. ECONOMY STRONGER

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EDITORIALS

Don't Buy into Myths: Studies Show that Immigrants Are Good for the Nation's Economy

Since President Donald Trump's misinformation PR campaign started to discredit the role of immigrants in the U.S., the American public has been led to believe that immigrants are a burden to this country. While most Americans are in support of immigration as being one of the nation's founding principles, many others remain politically on the fence because of the myths surrounding immigrants, particularly their alleged detriment to the American economy.

The fact is -- as many economists conclude based on solid research -- immigrants are vital to the nation's economy. Americans must know these facts and be encouraged to stop standing on the sidelines and join the fight to protect legal immigration that is, more than ever, in danger of damaging reform.

The economic contributions of immigrants far outweigh the cost that right-wing politicians constantly bring up -- that immigrants are a burden to the economy because they take a toll on healthcare, the public education system, and welfare. With the aging of the workforce and Baby Boomers already into retirement, more labor is needed that immigrants provide.

Two reasons why immigrants are used as scapegoats -- that they are taking native-born workers jobs and depressing wages -- are found to be false, according to studies from the Economic Policy Institute and the Bureau of Labor Statistics Standard. Due to limited English proficiency, immigrants are found not to be substitutes for native-born workers. What studies show is that immigrants are more likely to compete for jobs that immigrants already hold. Where there is some competition for jobs between immigrants and native-born workers are jobs that require only high school education.

Immigrants contribute to the economy also as leaders in innovation. They are a big part of the U.S. dominance in high-technology. They are overrepresented in research at top universities and institutions.

When it comes to small business, immigrants represent a higher percentage of entrepreneurs than the native-born population.

Immigrants help to underwrite government services, transportation, health care, and education because they pay income taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, and social security. Illegal immigrants get the shortest end of the stick as contributors to federal and state taxes, social security and sales taxes but are ineligible for any government benefits or social security.

Scholars agree that immigrants' contribution to the economy overall is net-positive, meaning that what they put into the economy is greater than what they receive. It is true, however, that in some regions, mostly bigger cities, where a higher percentage of lower educated immigrants settle, there is a net-negative factor.

But experts say that this is off-set in the long run when factoring in the contributions that immigrant children (second-generation Americans) have on the economy, when the net-positive benefit is even greater.

There are so many success stories of immigrants in every community.

Instead of vilifying immigrants, Americans ought to be grateful for their presence, and, yes, be grateful for their contributions to the economy. When Americans are aware of the facts of immigrants' net-positive economic contributions, it becomes even more suspect as to why Trump and the GOP want legal immigration to be cut in half. Could it be cultural and political xenophobia? Perhaps, but it's clear that the economy simply cannot be a reason.

For now, Trump's dangerous "Four-pillars of Immigration Reform" plan hasn't moved forward only because his immigra-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

For political reasons and in an attempt to pass anti-immigrant legislation, President Donald Trump and some GOP lawmakers have created a false image of the U.S. immigrant population, mainly that immigrants are an economic burden and that they are stealing native-born workers' jobs.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo researched illuminating facts (both national and local) about immigrants' economic contributions to our country. He lists credible sources from multiple government and private think-tank groups to back up the fact that immigrants are net-positive contributors to our economy -- meaning that immigrants put into our economy far more than they take away, contrary to popular beliefs. In fact, should President Trump have his way in cutting legal immigration in half, the impact on the economy would be devastating.

In light of the constant vilifying and barrage of misinformation directed at immigrants, the HFC editorial board believed it was time to do a cover story like this. In the past, we've defended immigrants using political and moral arguments. We also have reported on personal immigrant stories. The focus of this cover story, convincingly constructed and framed by Quinabo, is to dispel myths and to highlight facts that show how valuable immigrants are to our country's economic staying power. Where much of the misinformation for political ends take place is when only select data are used to present a false and narrow picture. This cover story takes on a comprehensive approach.

Also, in this issue, HFC columnist Atty. Reuben Seguritan writes that DACA bills failed to pass in the U.S. Senate. On February 17, 2018, the Senate did not pass any of the four bills presented on the floor for a vote, three of which included a post-DACA plan for the Dreamers. In the meantime, two federal judges' injunctions that prevent the DACA program from being fully cancelled are still in place. And Congress still might include Dreamers in an upcoming funding resolution on March 23, this month.

Following the deadly school shooting that left 17 students and teachers dead at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, once again, there is a national movement for tougher gun laws. HFC contributor Sheryll Bonilla, Esq. in her Commentary calls for an end to the violence. She highlights some of the deadliest mass shootings. What each of these incidences had in common was the use of high-powered semi- or automatic weapons. She writes: "Our Enemy is the Automatic Weapon."

In our second editorial on the same subject, we call for specific action: vote out politicians who receive money from the NRA and support Hawaii's SB2046 that bans "Bump Stocks," devices that convert regular guns to fire off as automatic weapons.

Lastly, be sure to read our other columns and news sections. Thank you for your support. Until next issue, warmest *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

tion reform would need a supermajority vote with at least some Democrats siding with Republicans. Democrats, at least for now, are not willing to dramatically overhaul immigration in exchange for a DACA deal.

Trump's proposed cuts to legal immigration, particularly doing away with family-based immigration, is too deep a sacrifice and would change who we are as a nation (demographic shift) and what we stand for. Ending family-based immigration, which has been the cornerstone of U.S. immigration for decades, is non-negotiable.

But should Republicans win a supermajority in the mid-term elections, legal immigration as we know it, no doubt, will end. This is what's at stake. All immigrant supporters must gear up, mobilize coalitions, and turn out to vote in this year's mid-term elections to prevent this from happening.



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EDITORIALS

Support Hawaii's SB2046 That Bans "Bump Stocks"

"President Trump, we need action, we need change. Get these guns out of the hands of these young kids and get these guns off the streets," said Lori Alhadeff, whose daughter Alyssa, 14, was one among 17 people killed recently by a gunman at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

The 19-year-old suspect used an AR-15 rifle, a semi-automatic rifle that has been used in many mass shootings, including in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, 2012 Aurora shooting, 2015 San Bernardino attack. The AR-15 has become the most vilified weapon to pro-gun control advocates.

According to data from Everytown for Gun Safety, the Parkland, Florida shooting is the 17th school shooting in the U.S. this year. The Associated Press says the Florida shooting is the deadliest school shooting in five years.

Since the infamous Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012 when a gunman killed 20 first graders and six adults, there have been 239 shootings nationwide, 438 people shot in those episodes, and

138 killed, according to Gun Violence Archive.

Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools Robert Runcie did not mince words, saying: "Now is the time for the country to have a real conversation on sensible gun controls in this country."

Only a few months ago in October 2017 the nation watched in horror as a gunman opened fired on a crowd at the Harvest music festival in Las Vegas that left 58 people dead and 851 injured. Back then, many Americans called for, as they are doing now, to end the insanity and enforce stricter gun laws.

Will Politicians Listen This Time?

Immediately after the Las Vegas massacre, President Donald Trump and republican House Speaker Paul Ryan said that it wasn't the appropriate time to talk about gun legislation.

Now, after the Florida school shooting, House Speaker Ryan apparently hasn't changed his position. He said in an interview that public policymakers "shouldn't just knee-jerk before we even have all the facts and the data. We need to think less about taking sides and fighting each other politically, and just pulling together."

Really, facts and data on gun violence and mass shootings from automatic rifles have been piling up and readily available for years. The President is also keeping with the same script; and did not even mention guns in his initial speech after the Florida attack. Instead, he proposed an ill-thought out distraction to arm school teachers that could hardly become a reality.

When will it ever be time? "At some point, we've got to say enough is enough," said Democrat Senator Bill Nelson of Florida.

Enough is Enough

The political reality is the only way for tougher gun restrictions to get passed is by first placing this issue very high in priority and second voting out politicians connected at the hip with the powerful gun lobby National Rifle Association (NRA). Time and time again, the NRA has resisted real gun reform against over-the-top, high-powered automatic weapons that really have no practical use outside of engagements of war.

If politicians are receiving PAC money from the NRA, rest assured, as Americans have witnessed over and over, these politicians will be quick to

offer condolences and prayers to families and victims of mass murders, but don't expect anything else. These politicians have shown how they will vote on gun issues the minute they've accepted NRA money.

A majority of Americans are tired of inaction, tired of listening to arguments over the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms. Yes, that right is clear, but when those laws were created, the technology of guns were basic and not the high-tech killing machines available today that are being used in mass shootings. Gun laws must be updated as technology advances. Otherwise, how far will we allow the right to bear arms go? -- freewheeling and largely unchecked to a time when gun-technology advances even further in achieving greater deaths per second? Guns as defensive weapons to protect oneself and one's family is an entirely different matter and is not being called into question here. Automatic rifles and bump stock technology are the problem and ought to be banned.

Hawaii Senate Bill 2046

Introduced by State Sen. Karl Rhoads, SB2046 aims to ban "bump stocks," a device used in last year's Las Vegas massacre. The bill prohibits trigger modification devices that accelerates the rate of fire

of a semi-automatic firearm and would make possession of these devices a felony punishable by up to five years in prison. This bill prohibits people from circumventing automatic-firearm regulations.

A bump stock is a slide mechanism attached to a modified rifle stock that can be swapped with the original stock of a weapon. When the modified rifle is fired, it simulates automatic firing.

The bill is backed by the Honolulu Police Department and other law enforcement officials and private citizens; but it is being opposed by the NRA, no surprise.

There has been some confusion in Hawaii gun laws over the legality of "bump stocks." Former Atty. General Doug Chin opined they already are banned under existing Hawaii law that prohibits modifying firearms to convert them into automatic weapons. Pro-gun advocates disagree.

But passage of SB2046 aims to make it explicitly clear that "bump stocks" and similar devices are to be banned.

We encourage Hawaii lawmakers to support this bill. If it doesn't move forward this session, it should be brought back and passed next year. Hawaii's citizens, and our children and teachers, shouldn't have to wait for a devastating mass shooting to occur in our community for lawmakers to ban such potentially deadly devices.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Attend Consumer Education Fair, March 7

To commemorate National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW), the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) will host a free Consumer Education Fair on March 7, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the courtyard of the King Kalakaua Building at 335 Merchant St. The building is the location of the downtown Honolulu Post Office and metered parking is available for the public.

"The purpose of NCPW is to promote consumer education by providing free information that will help protect people's privacy, manage their money and debt, and avoid identity theft, frauds and scams," said DCCA Director Catherine Awakuni Colón. "We encourage residents to attend the free

fair as a one-stop-shop for consumer resources. We will have representatives from over two dozen government and nonprofit agencies available to answer questions."

Consumers can pick up their free copy of the Consumer Guide to Healthcare Providers and Military Consumer Fraud Guide. These booklets focus on issues relating to consumer rights regarding healthcare issues, basic consumer issues, and what to do if consumers need to file complaints.

Agencies participating in the March 7, Consumer Education Fair include: AARP, Alzheimer's Association, Aloha Chapter, Better Business Bureau of Hawaii, Department of the Attorney General, Crime Prevention & Justice Assistance Division, Hawaii Credit Union League, Hawaii Fire Department, Hawaii Home-

ownership Center, Hawaii SHIP, Hawaii State Public Library System, Hawaii State Tax Department – Taxpayer Advocate, Hawaiian Community Assets, Hawaiian Electric Company, Honolulu Fire Department, Internal Revenue Service, IRS – Taxpayer Advocate Service, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, SMP Hawaii, Social Security Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Postal Service, The State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), Business Action Center, Cable Television, Consumer Education Program, Division of Consumer Advocacy, Hawaii Post-Secondary Education Authorization Program, Insurance Division, and Office of Consumer Protection.



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COVER STORY

Immigrants Are Huge Contributors to Our Nation's Economy

By Edwin Quinabo

Apple's co-founder Steve Jobs is the son of a Syrian refugee. Google's co-founder Sergey Brin is an immigrant from Moscow. Even President Donald Trump's mother is British-born. There are endless examples of immigrants or recent immigrant descendants who are major contributors to the nation's economy. What many Americans underestimate is just how vital immigrants are to the United States' economic strength; and dramatically reducing immigration by half, as President Trump proposes, would devastate the economy.

"If all immigrants were just to disappear from the U.S. workforce tomorrow, that would have a tremendous negative impact on the economy," said Daniel Costa, the director of immigration law and policy research at the Economic Policy Institute, an economic research think-tank based in Washington, D.C.

"Immigrants are overrepresented in a lot of occupations in both low- and high-skilled jobs," he said. "You'd feel an impact and loss in many, many different occupations and industries, from construction and landscape to finance and IT."

Hawaii is the perfect place to see how immigrants historically have contributed to the economy and helped to build the state to what it is today.

President and CEO of House of Finance Roland Casamina has a typical story of generational immigrants in his family who've contributed to the state's economy. Today, Casamina is a successful entrepreneur who owns a thriving

lending company; but like many immigrants, he worked hard to break out from his humble beginnings.

"My official first job was working as a bus boy at a restaurant in Waikiki at the age of 15," said Casamina. Even before that job, he cleaned yards and office buildings.

In 1922, Casamina's grandfather, who is from the Philippines, came to Hawaii in 1922 to work as a plantation laborer. "Subsequently, my uncles came as part of the sakadas in 1946, who eventually brought my father in 1966, who in turn brought us in 1968," said Casamina.

He and his family were able to immigrate to Hawaii under the family reunification feature of legal immigration, or what President Trump calls "chain migration," a long-standing tradition he wants to end. Many of Hawaii's immigrant families arrived in the late 1960s and early 70s by way of family-sponsored petitions from their earlier sakadas

relatives.

The Casaminas rented a place in the beginning years and never resorted to receiving government assistance. From the time of his grandfather, to his parents' generation, up to the present, there was a pattern of hard work over many years. They were economic contributors to their community. Their immigrant story is similar to many immigrant families in Hawaii, and in other parts of the nation.

As workers, small business owners, CEOs of top corporations, innovators and researchers at top universities, major consumers of goods and services, and taxpayers, immigrants are helping to keep the engines of the economy purring and government coffers full.

How many immigrants are in the U.S.?

The U.S. is home to the largest immigrant population in the world.

In 2015, there were 43.3



million immigrants living in the US. That is 13.5 percent of the total population. Immigrants' children, who are American-born, are an additional 40.6 million. Together, immigrants and their families, make up about 81 million, or 25% of all U.S. residents.

Add to that, there is about 11.1 million undocumented immigrants. Eight million of them are in the workforce.

In Hawaii, one in five Hawaii residents is an immigrant. The American Immigration Council says that most of Hawaii's immigrants are from the Philippines (46.1 percent of the total), followed by China (8.5 percent), Korea (7.9 percent), Japan (7.7 percent), Vietnam (3.8 percent), and others.

Nationally, the countries with the highest number of immigrants to the U.S. are India, China, Mexico, Canada, and the Philippines, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Just by looking at the massive percentage of the population that immigrants make up, it's easier to understand why this group is deemed a political threat at the national level. If a majority of eligible or soon-to-be eligible immigrants voted, they could conceivably be one of the largest voting blocks in the country.

What's keeping this group from being a force is a fear that their recent status as a new-

comer could be jeopardized in some way, or worse yet, they could be deported, even if legally they are safe from being deported and are already U.S. citizens. To immigrants, they've gone through a very lengthy process to become legal. Each step of the way, many immigrants say, is stressful and frightening. The thought that something could go wrong in the paperwork and waiting process is always in the back of immigrants' minds. Finally, when they've become U.S. citizens, the last thing they think to do is to assert their rights.

Patricio Abinales, professor at UH Manoa's School of Pacific and Asian Studies, said immigrants are the "easiest scapegoat because they are still 'foreigners' and some are hired on a contractual basis." He says immigrants (who are not yet U.S. citizens) know that "they can be sent back to their home countries should the government think of them as economic or political threats."

Abinales elaborates, "In times of economic crisis, the racists and ultra-nationalists of a given country can blame them for 'stealing' the jobs of local citizens or taking over 'small businesses' that supposedly, (that opportunity) should go to locals. Think of the anger over Korean stores in Los An-

(continued on page 5)

A POPULAR RESTAURANT IS FOR SALE

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

A popular spot for tourists as well as local people.

Owners want to retire.



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, IMMIGRANTS...)

geles. This is not unique to the U.S.”

The idea of immigrants stealing jobs or opportunities or that they are a financial burden to the country are among the myths many Americans deeply hold, which in turn, give rise to the current wave of anti-immigrant sentiments. But the facts tell a different story.

Facts show immigrants are vital to U.S. Economy

Fact: Immigrants' tax contributions are huge. Studies show that immigrants pay more in taxes over a lifetime than they consume in government services. Immigrants pay income taxes, sales taxes, state and county taxes, property taxes, and social security. These taxes collected help to underwrite transportation, health care, education and other government services for themselves and other Americans.

Immigrants contributed \$105 billion in state and local taxes and nearly \$224 billion in federal taxes in 2014, according to the Partnership for a New American Economy.

In Hawaii, immigrant-led households paid \$1.2 billion in federal taxes and \$668.5 million in state and local taxes in 2014.

The American Immigration Council estimates that undocumented immigrants in Hawaii paid an estimated \$32.3 million in state and local taxes in 2014.

Fact: Immigrants help to grow the economy and are vital to our workforce. Immigrants are a sizeable chunk of the overall workforce and help to grow the nation's GDP. Immigrants make up 13 percent of the U.S. population, but they contribute nearly 15 percent of the country's economic output, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Immigration economist George Borjas says “immigrants help to grow the economy by 11% larger (\$1.6 trillion) each year.”

As baby boomers have begun moving into retirement, experts say a continual inflow of immigrants are needed (not cutting legal immigration) to

stabilize the economy. If the rate of new immigrants is cut by half, experts estimate it would reduce U.S. economic growth by 12.5%.

In Hawaii, there are 150,000 adult immigrant workers, comprising 21.2 percent of the labor force, according to the American Immigration Council.

Where do immigrants work? The Council reports that Hawaii immigrant workers were found most often in the following occupation groups: building and grounds cleaning and maintenance (25,600), sales and related (22,453), food preparation and serving-related (18,034), office and administrative support (16,833), and management (13,279).

Fact: immigrants are huge consumers. Immigrants earned \$1.3 trillion annually and their wages go toward purchasing homes, food, electronics, and all kinds of goods and services that expand the domestic economy. In turn, their spending helps to create more jobs.

After taxes are paid, Hawaii immigrants wield a whopping \$5 billion in spending power, according to the American Immigration Council.

Fact: immigrants are not taking native-born workers jobs. The Economic Policy Institute found that immigrants are not substitutes for native-born workers in the U.S. labor markets. They do not compete for the same jobs, in part, due to limited English proficiency. Studies show immigrants are competing for jobs occupied by immigrants, and that immigrants are pushing U.S.-born workers up in the labor market.

Another source, the Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, also found that immigrants tend to complement American-born workers than replacing them.

In some areas like agriculture, immigrants fill a much-needed gap in the workforce. Studies show that native-born workers do not want to work as crop pickers. Native-born workers in this field have a high turnover rate and most eventually quit after a short pe-

"If all immigrants were just to disappear from the U.S. workforce tomorrow, that would have a tremendous negative impact on the economy. Immigrants are overrepresented in a lot of occupations in both low- and high-skilled jobs. You'd feel an impact and loss in many, many different occupations and industries, from construction and landscape to finance and IT."

- DANIEL COSTA,

DIRECTOR OF IMMIGRATION LAW AND POLICY RESEARCH,
ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

riod. What we have in this industry is immigrant workers filling a need. Agriculture field workers are mostly immigrants, or temporary immigrants on visas contracted by Americans farms, or undocumented immigrants. They are the backbone of this industry.

According to the Pew Research Center, 26% of agriculture workers are undocumented immigrants. But in some areas of the country, that number is higher. Robert Guenther, senior vice president for public policy for the United Fresh Produce Association, estimates “undocumented farm workers in some regions are at 50 to 70%.” The Department of Labor is less conservative than Pew and puts the number of undocumented agriculture workers at 46%

Fact: Immigrants are not making wages cheaper. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Standard found that higher labor supply caused by immigrants only initially depress wages, but over time, companies increase investment to restore the amount of capital per worker, which then restores wages.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine studies the wage impact of immigrants over periods of ten years or more and found immigration has only a small effect on wages of native-born workers. Those who are likely to have their wages negatively affected are prior immigrants or native-born workers without a high school degree.

A study from Penn Wharton, University of Pennsylvania's school of business, made a similar conclusion. The Penn Wharton study says immi-

grants have had little effect on Americans' wages in the long run since the 1970s.

David Kallick, the director of Immigration Research Initiative at the Fiscal Policy Institute, said “It may seem surprising, but study after study has shown that immigration actually improves wages to U.S.-born workers and provides more job opportunities for U.S.-born workers. The fact is that immigrants often push U.S.-born workers up in the labor market rather than out of it.”

Fact: Immigrants are leaders in innovation that boosts economic progress. They make up a disproportionately high share of patent filings, science and technology graduates, and senior positions at top venture capital-funded firms. 76% of patents from top 10 U.S. patent-producing universities had at least one foreign-born author. There is a historical link that innovation grows the GDP.

Professor Abinales mentioned Diosdado Banatao among the Silicon Valley movers-and-shakers. Born in Iguig, Cagayan, Philippines, Banatao moved to Silicon Valley to become a venture capitalist and technology innovator. Back in the Philippines, and here in the U.S., he is known as the “Pinoy Bill Gates.”

Fact: Immigrants contribute to the economy as entrepreneurs and small business owners. Immigrants are more likely to own businesses than native-born Americans. An analysis from the Small Business Administration found that 10.5 percent of U.S. immigrants own a business, compared with 9.3 percent of native-born Americans.

In Hawaii, nearly 20,000 immigrant business owners accounted for nearly a quarter of all self-employed Hawaii residents in 2015, generating \$384.7 million in business revenue.

Fact: Immigrants play a major role in corporate America. About one-third of companies that go public had at least one immigrant founder. Of the 87 privately held companies currently valued at over \$1 billion, 51 percent had immigrant founders, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

A report from the Partnership for a New American Economy shows that immigrant entrepreneurs are overrepresented on the list of founders of Fortune 500 companies. More than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children.

The Net Positive Effect

When analyzing data scholars look at all the interrelated parts and come up with a net-positive or net-negative effect. Where much of the misinformation for political ends takes place occurs when only select data are used to present a false picture. Analyzing multiple positive and negative data then making a conclusion renders greater accuracy. Immigrants' positive tax contributions to consumer spending to workforce roles in addition to the negative losses of welfare assistance, public education, and temporary depression of wage must all be considered to determine a net-positive or net-negative effect.

A study from Penn Wharton, University of Pennsylvania's school of business says

(continued on page 10)

The Parkland High School Survivors Seek Safety

By Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

Seventeen students won't shout with joy over the acceptance letter they earned from the college they wanted to attend this fall. Seventeen families won't plan graduation celebrations this May. Seventeen sets of parents won't be trying to figure out how to pay the college tuition for their beloved teenagers. An AR-15 brought all of that to an end on Valentine's Day 2018.

The dead are the starkest victims, but they are not the only ones. The students of Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School heard the shots, ran into classrooms, huddled in fear, and will never be the same. This last week they buried classmates and friends who they will never see or talk to again. The parents of those murdered will never see their children come through the door at the end of the day and ask them, "How was school?" Parents of those who survived will never again be free of the fear that they might get the phone call that says "I'm sorry..."

These passionate students and thousands of their colleagues across the nation are demanding that we adults take action to stop the violence.

The deaths and wounds of hundreds of innocent lives are the result of the refusal to stand up to the 5 million members of the NRA, who insist their right to possess war zone weapons is more important than the lives of Americans. High schoolers and those seeking to prevent future violent mass murders will march in Washington, DC on March 24.

This is not a school safety issue. Mother Jones magazine published a comprehensive database by researchers at Harvard University of mass shootings in the U.S. from 1982-2018 ("US Mass Shootings, 1982-2018"), corroborated by an FBI study. At least 97 mass shootings have taken place in the past 35 years. The data show the incidence of mass shootings is rising. Twelve of the 97 attacks took place in schools. Twenty massacres occurred in the workplace. Thirty others were leveled in shopping malls, restaurants, places of worship, and government buildings. The average age of the killers was 35. Here are some of the deadliest:

- 26 dead, 20 injured, Texas First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, Texas, November 2017
- 58 dead, 546 injured, open air concert, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 2017

- 14 dead, 21 injured, San Bernadino, California, December 2015
- 12 dead, 8 injured, Navy Yard, Washington, D.C., July 2013
- 12 dead, 70 injured, movie theatre, Aurora, Colorado, July 2012
- 13 dead, 30 injured, Fort Hood, Texas, November 2009
- 14 dead, 4 injured, classroom, Binghamton, New York, April 2009
- 32 injured, 23 dead, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia, April 2007
- 15 dead, 21 injured, high school, Columbine, Colorado, 1999

More than 75% of the weapons in these 97 massacres were obtained legally: dozens of assault weapons and semi-automatic handguns with high-capacity magazines. A .40-caliber Glock ended 10 lives at a school in Red Lake, Minnesota in 2005. A .40-caliber Glock and AR-15 assault rifle executed 15 in a dark movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado. A .223 Bushmaster semi-automatic assault rifle was used to gun down 20 school children and six adults in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. Of 143 weapons used in these 97 massacres, 71 were semi-automatic handguns and 28 were rifles. The 2013 Assault Weapons ban, blocked by Republicans in Congress, would have outlawed 48 of those weapons – 42 high-capacity magazines

and 20 assault weapons.

After an AK-47 was used to kill five children and injure 29 more at a school in Stockton, California, Ohio Democrat Senator Howard Metzenbaum introduced the original assault weapons ban bill in 1993. With New York Congressman Charles Schumer, their attempt to stop the bloodshed was politically ahead of its time. Its "kitchen sink" solutions included licensing and weapons to be banned. In 1994, Rep. Schumer and New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley introduced a bill aimed at stopping illegal gun trafficking. Almost all handguns on America's streets start as legal weapons, then are stolen or sold through shady deals or bought by those without proper documentation or through straw buyers, who then turn them over to illegal dealers to be sold on the streets as weapons of death. The Republicans who controlled Congress stopped both bills in their tracks.

Then two other back-to-back mass shootings happened. At a San Francisco, California law firm, eight were killed and six injured, while on a Long Island, New York railroad train, five died and 19 were wounded. Senator Diane Feinstein said the shooting at 101 California Street in her home state "made clear that increasing sophistication of weapons had made it possible for a mass shooter to murder large numbers of people in a matter of minutes." President Bill Clinton signed into law her assault weapons ban. The 1994 law banned 18 specific assault weapons, firearms with military-style features like a bayonet mount, a flash suppressor or a folding stock, and high-capacity magazines holding over 10 bullets. (Washington Post, 2/22/18, "The Real Reason Congress Banned Assault Weapons in 1994 – and Why It Worked.") Intended to reduce deaths by mass shootings, statistics showed the law worked. From 1994-2004, incidences

dropped to 12 and deaths to 89. After the law expired in 2004, between 2004-2014, incidences rose to 34 and deaths skyrocketed to 302.

Congress has not, since 1994, been willing to act to protect Americans. President Obama made it harder for the mentally ill to obtain these weapons, by executive order because Congress refused to care about our safety. His effort was overturned last year by a bill from Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa and signed by President Trump, making it again easier for the mentally ill to buy assault weapons by preventing their inclusion on the FBI background checks list. Republicans in Congress send their prayers, but insist on "Second Amendment rights". After each mass shooting, leaders such as Paul Ryan, tell us we are having knee-jerk reactions and that it is not time to take action.

Lawmakers entrusted with protecting Americans cannot continue allowing the carnage. We are not restricting anyone's right to own guns. We are simply trying to make it less possible for massacres to happen and less deadly if these do.

In the face of Congress's 24-year long refusal to act to protect our citizens, we ask the 50 states to introduce and pass strict laws to stop machine gun massacres. Americans should be able to go to movies and concerts, shopping malls, workplaces, and church without fear that a killer with an automatic gun or rifle will cut our lives short. We should be able to send our children to school without fear they will be gunned down by a legally obtained weapon capable of rapid murders.

We are Americans. We need to stand together for our common defense and protection. Our enemy is the automatic weapon. Too much blood has been spilled, too many lives lost. This is not a knee jerk reaction. This is an imperative for our nation's survival.

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

"Here, as in many other areas, honesty remains the best policy." — U.S.

v. Tatoyan, 474 F.3d 1174 (9th Cir. 2007) (criminal prosecution for failure to declare more than \$10,000 in cash the defendants were carrying).

On February 13, 2018, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers were conducting an inspection of a private plane at the Honolulu International Airport. The plane was carrying 2 crewmembers and 4 passengers, including one who reportedly claims to be the "Appointed Son of God" and FSS, the alleged "business manager" of their religious organization. (Didn't you know that religion is a business?) They were destined for the Philippines. A CBP officer provided the passengers with a currency reporting form. Passenger FSS declared she was carrying \$40,000 in U.S. currency. Another CBP officer then provided FSS a FinCEN Form 105. FSS completed the FinCen Form 105 and declared \$40,000 U.S. Currency and 1,000 PH Pesos. See U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii. MAG. NO. 18-0130 KSC.

A supervisor and another officer inspected a black rolling carry-on luggage inside the plane and found numerous black socks neatly bundled. They opened the socks and found stacks of \$100.00 bills within the socks. The officers asked the passengers to identify their luggage. FSS identified a blue purse and the black rolling carry-on luggage as her property. Officers counted \$335,000 and \$9,000 Australian dollars inside the black rolling carry-on luggage. None of that money was reported by FSS to the CBP officers as required by 31 U.S. Code § 5316.

31 U.S. Code § 5316 pro-

Smuggling Dollars or Carrying Valentine's Day Gifts?

vides that a person or an agent or bailee of the person shall file a report when they transport, or about to transport, or has transported monetary instruments of more than \$10,000 at one time, from a place in the United States to or through a place outside the United States, or to a place in the United States from or through a place outside the United States; or receives monetary instruments of more than \$10,000 at one time transported into the United States from or through a place outside the United States. The report is filed on a form issued by the Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network - FinCEN Form 105. <https://fincen-form-105.pdfFiller.com/>

The following day, Valentine's Day, a CBP officer filed a Criminal Complaint against FSS with the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii. MAG. NO. 18-0130 KSC, alleging, among others that on February 13, 2018, in the District of Hawaii, FSS, with intent to evade a currency reporting requirement under 31 U.S. Code § 5316, did knowingly conceal more than \$10,000 in currency, namely, approximately \$335,000 in U.S. dollars and \$9,000 in Australian dollars, in an article of luggage and did attempt to transport such currency from a place within the United States to a place outside the United States, in violation of 31 USC § 5332(a).

31 USC § 5332 provides: (a) (1) Whoever, with the intent to evade a currency reporting requirement under section 5316, knowingly conceals more than \$10,000 in currency or other monetary instruments on the person of such individual or in any conveyance, article of luggage, merchandise, or other container, and transports or transfers or attempts to transport or transfer such currency or monetary instruments from a place within the United States to a place outside of the United States, or from a place outside

the United States to a place within the United States, shall be guilty of a currency smuggling offense and subject to punishment pursuant to subsection (b).

Penalty for currency smuggling

A person convicted of a currency smuggling offense under subsection (a), or a conspiracy to commit such offense, shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years. In addition, the court, in imposing sentence under paragraph (1), shall order that the defendant forfeit to the United States, any property, real or personal, involved in the offense, and any property traceable to such property.

I discussed this case on our radio show, the Tipon Report, on KNDI last February 15. A number of listeners asked how I would defend such a case. I told them to better ask my son, Noel Tipon, since he has experience in this kind of case and saved his clients from going to jail and recovered almost all of the money that was seized.

CBP officers will want to ask the suspect a lot of questions. From whom did you get the money? To whom do you intend to give the money? Why were you carrying cash? Who are involved with you? Did you report this money to the IRS? Have you ever done this before? Etc.

CBP officers will ask proof of your claims. If you claim you earned the money, they will want to see your income statement.

The most important thing for a person whose money has been seized is to follow Senator Gene Magsaysay's motto: "Less talk, less mistake. No talk, no mistake." Ask the officers to give you an opportunity to talk to a lawyer before you answer their questions.

Unfortunately, many lawyers will take the line of least resistance and advise you to plead guilty or no contest even without reviewing the evidence and evaluating the case.

Does the lawyer you have interviewed know the elements of the offense that must be proved by the government beyond a reasonable doubt? Does he know whether it must be proven that the alleged offender "knowingly concealed" or simply "concealed" the money? Does he know whether the government must prove "willfulness" or not?

Does the lawyer know whether the alleged offender can introduce evidence of the apparently legitimate source of the confiscated money or the benevolent purpose of such money, like Valentine's Day gifts? Can the alleged offender introduce evidence that she had no evil intent? Is that a defense? See U.S. v. Tatoyan, 474 F.3d 1174 (9th Cir. 2007).

Can the alleged offender claim that the money in her luggage was not hers and claim ignorance of how the money got there?

Will the complaint be amended to include the other passengers in the private jet? Will the complaint be amended to include additional charges, like violation of 31 USC 5316 (currency reporting requirement) or 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (making false statements)? Will the private jet be forfeited to the U.S. government?

Crime involving moral turpitude?

Is dollar smuggling a crime involving moral turpitude, thereby subjecting the offender to deportation? There is an unreported decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals saying that it is not.

If you plan to hire a lawyer, interview him/her well and determine the knowledge and experience he has and whether he is the "abogado de plead guilty" variety. If the lawyer spends more time convincing you to surrender rather than fight, say "adios" and look for another.

Remember that the penalty is imprisonment for 5 years, not imprisonment or fine. The court is not authorized to impose just a fine.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: American Savings Bank Tower, 1001 Bishop Street, Suite 2305, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. 808 225 2645 E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not inized United States citizen

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IRS Warns of New Tax Refund Scam

by HFC Staff

It's tax season and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is warning taxpayers about a new - and growing - scam involving erroneous tax refunds being deposited into real taxpayer bank accounts. Then the crooks use various tactics to con taxpayers into turning over the funds.

The IRS says it's a new twist on an old scam. The difference? Unlike previous variations on the scams, there is "proof" that the call from the alleged IRS representative is for real: The taxpayer typically does have a bogus tax refund in his or her bank account.

How it works. Thieves are using phishing and other schemes to steal client data from tax professionals. Then, using that data, they file fraudulent tax returns and use the taxpayers' real bank accounts

to deposit erroneous tax refunds. Finally, the thieves, posing as IRS or other law enforcement, call attention to the error and ask taxpayers to return the money to them.

To get the funds from real taxpayers, thieves use various tactics. In one version, criminals posing as debt collection agency officials acting on behalf of the IRS reach out to taxpayers to say a refund was deposited in error, and ask the taxpayers to forward the money to their collection agency.

In another version, taxpayers who receive an erroneous tax refund receive an automated call with a recorded voice claiming to be from IRS; the caller threatens taxpayers with criminal fraud charges, an arrest warrant and a "blacklisting" of their Social Security number. The recorded voice then gives the taxpayer a case number and a telephone number to call to return the refund.



"It's super-sophisticated," said Luis Garcia, a spokesperson for the IRS in Detroit.

"If you haven't filed your taxes — especially if you're not expecting a refund — and money shows up in your account, don't touch it."

Taxpayers who file electronically may find that their tax return is booted back because a tax return with their Social Security number has already been filed. In that event, follow the steps outlined in the Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft. Taxpayers who are

not able to file electronically should mail a paper tax return along with form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit (downloads as a pdf), with a statement that they were victims of a tax preparer data breach. For more on tax-related-identity theft, click here.

The IRS warns that versions of the scam may continue to evolve. The number of potential taxpayer victims has already jumped from a few hundred to several thousand in just days. The IRS Criminal Investigation division is continuing its investigation into the scope and breadth of this scheme.

Many times, scammers try to use direct deposit. But some could have a fraudulent refund check mailed to your home. They're hoping you cash it — and don't spend it — and then hand over the money. Or maybe they're planning to steal that check out of your mailbox.

If this happens to you - and you do have a bogus tax refund in your bank account - here's how the IRS wants you to return the funds and avoid being scammed:

If the erroneous refund was a direct deposit:

*Contact the Automated Clearing House (ACH) department of the bank/financial institution where the direct deposit was received and have them return the refund to the IRS.

*Call the IRS toll-free at 1.800.829.1040 (individual) or 1.800.829.4933 (business) to explain why the direct deposit is being returned.

If the erroneous refund was a paper check and hasn't been cashed:

*Write "Void" in the endorsement section on the back of the check.

*Submit the check immediately to the appropriate IRS location listed below. The location is based on the city (possibly abbreviated) on the bottom text line in front of the words TAX REFUND on your refund check. Don't staple, bend, or paper clip the check.

*Include a note stating,

"Return of erroneous refund check because (and give a brief explanation of the reason for returning the refund check)."

If the erroneous refund was a paper check and you have cashed it:

*Submit a personal check, money order, etc., immediately to the appropriate IRS location listed below.

If you no longer have access to a copy of the check, call the IRS toll-free at 1.800.829.1040 (individual) or 1.800.829.4933 (business) (see telephone and local assistance for hours of operation) and explain to the IRS representative that you need information to repay a cashed refund check.

*Write on the check/money order: Payment of Erroneous Refund, the tax period for which the refund was issued, and your taxpayer identification number (SSN, EIN, or ITIN).

*Include a brief explanation of the reason for returning the refund.

Act quickly: Repaying an erroneous refund in this manner may result in interest owed to the IRS (remember, it's not your money to begin with).

In addition to returning the erroneous tax return, the IRS encourages taxpayers to discuss the issue with their financial institutions. Since the bad guys have access to your bank accounts, there may be a need to close those accounts. Taxpayers receiving erroneous refunds should immediately should contact their tax preparers.

The IRS reported that cybercriminals had been targeting tax professionals. According to the IRS, there were 177 tax professionals or firms that reported data thefts involving client information relating to thousands of tax filers from January 2017 through May 2017. Much of that theft started with a phishing e-mail sent to the tax professional posing as a potential client to gain access to the professionals' computer systems and collect the personal information of existing clients.

BOOK REVIEW

Know the Philippines' Territory

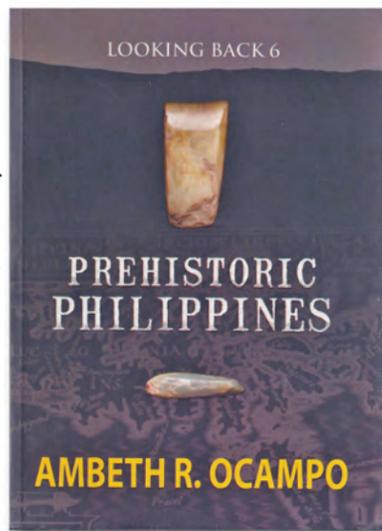
by Rose Churma

Tina Cuyugan, author and editor notes in the back cover that "... these beguiling essays on what lies beyond the fringes of Philippine recorded history—whether pointing out the laughing carabao on the margins of a centuries old map or combing for shards of Ming porcelain on a coral beach—Ocampo reminds us that the endless gathering and joining and breaking apart of 'useless' bits is, after all, what makes us what we are, and connects us with others in their own quest for identity."

Ambeth R. Ocampo is Associate Professor at Ateneo de Manila University and served as the Philippines' Chair of the National Commission of Culture and the Arts (NCCA)

from 2005-2007 and Chair of the National Historical Commission from 2002-2011. A prolific writer and a popular lecturer, he also moderates a growing Facebook page <<https://www.facebook.com/Ambeth-R-Ocampo-47261762634/>>

The first essay in the book is "Mapping the Nation," on the two maps originally drawn by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay in 1734, based on an earlier map by the Jesuit Pedro Murillo y Velarde. The large format Velarde Murillo map of 1734 is quite rare considering there are only 50 known copies of this. The other map is a reduced version of this large format map, engraved and signed by Nicolas de la Cruz Bagay in 1744. This version has embellishments which include a charming depiction of the Filipino people in their native attire



decorated with local fruits and flowers and a smiling carabao. The photographs of the maps illustrate the essay. The author concludes that "Filipinos should know the complete territory of their country..." (emphasis by the author).

Perhaps by knowing the complete extent of the country's territory, its leaders will also show more spine in asserting ownership.

Copies of the book are available at Kalamansi Books & Things <kalamansi-books@gmail.com>.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

TIBIAO, ANTIQUE: RIVER TUBING & KAWA BATHS

by Catherine Talavera

The municipality of Tibiao, Antique is eyeing to attract adventure enthusiasts as it establishes a festival to promote one of its rivers.

Last weekend, the municipality of Tibiao held the first Tibiao River festival, which coincided with the first National Extreme River Tubing Race. River tubing is a recreational activity where individuals ride on a inner tube to navigate a river.

Tibiao water festival director Flord Calawag told reporters they only discovered the potential of the Tibiao River when Australian organizers of a previous kayaking event made them aware of it. Tibiao is classified as grade 4 river in terms of adventure, which means it's ideal for white water and extreme sports.

The festival aims to promote the Tibiao River's potential for water sports.

Calawag added that the number of ecotourists visiting the Tibiao River has been growing.

"As a matter of fact, almost everyday we're getting ecotours, Russians, Americans, Australians that come here," he said. "A lot of foreigners now want to experience Filipino hospitality through these activities. So it's like an immersion of nature, adventure and culture."

Around 100 to 150 participants took part in the sports activities of the festival. Each participant paid an environmental fee, which will be used to maintain the tourism sites in the municipality.

"All of the resort owners and our partners and sponsors are environmentalists. So we're very keen on solid waste management," the festival director said.



Antique's unique kawa bath is a relaxing experience.

In addition, the members of the community will be given livelihood with the celebration of the festival, such as the drivers of vans and tricycles that will transport participants and visitors to the venue.

The national extreme river tubing race will henceforth be held twice a year, in February because it's the municipal fiesta, and October because of

the rainy season, which is ideal for the sport.

Antique is also known for its kawa bath, wherein a kawa, a huge kettle previously used in sugar mills, is filled with water, herbs and flowers and heated by a wood fire to the desired temperature. Guests enjoy a nice warm soak, usually for 30 minutes, but many opt to extend the relaxing bath.

Apart from its mountains and rivers, Antique is also home to a number of island destinations such as the Maraisson and Nogas, among others.

Last year, Antique visitor arrivals numbered 162,925. Antique is eyeing to grow its tourist arrivals by 20 percent this year as it banks on its sports and eco-tourism offerings. (www.philstar.com)

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Serving Filipino Food in America

by Sharwin Tee

When I first started doing popup dinner events in the United States two years ago, one of the biggest dilemmas I faced was what kind of Filipino food I would feed the American public.

Cooking traditional, classic Filipino food seemed like the best way to go about it. After all, if indeed Filipino food was “not as popular” as other cuisines at that time, wouldn’t cooking traditional be the best way to educate them?

There were also questions on “modernizing” the recipes or changing the presentation. If

I did, would I be straying too far from tradition and therefore not be cooking “real” Filipino food? The other thought was to avoid the “weirder” flavors and concentrate on flavors that were easier to digest, like the adobos, the sinigangs and kinilaws, and avoid the dinuguans and papaitans. That way, Americans could be eased into the cuisine.

When I landed in San Francisco to do my first popup (in collaboration with Filipino Kitchen), I was immediately whisked into the Filipino com-

munity, particularly the Pinoys deep into Filipino cultural work.

Filipino Kitchen helped me realize how far Filipino food and culture had come. Forget about easing people into the cuisine; even non-Filipinos know what adobo, sisig and kinilaw are. In as much as some loved to claim that Filipino food was “the next big



Wagyu Tartare with Maguindanao Palapa

thing,” it was already there. Cooking well-known, traditional Filipino food was something I could do, which would be nice, but it was time to cook beyond that.

In my last popup held last October in Detroit, Michigan, as I composed the menu with my collaborators, Sarap Detroit and Filipino Kitchen, I decided it was time to add a dish I had been working on for over a year. After learning about Sorol on a trip to Camiguin, I worked on a slightly modified version of this dish, hoping I could master it and use it at the proper time.

That was the proper time. I was heartened to see the positive reactions to the Sorol, as the diners, Filipino and non-Filipino alike, loved the rather unconventional flavor combination of coconut milk, ginger and Mexican oregano, and they were curious about a dish they had never heard about. I gladly told them the story of how I learned to make the dish from an unassuming carinderia beside the soda pool resort in Camiguin. It was amazing to see how a dish from Camiguin and its accompanying story would end up in the Eastern Market in Detroit.

Just recently, another team of chefs brought a stream of delicious Filipino dishes into another venue. It wasn’t just any venue, though; it was the James Beard House. Known as a

venue that has housed many great chefs, it was another sight to behold as five chefs delivered a multi-course Filipino dinner to a sold-out foodie audience.

What I was most excited about was that there was no adobo and no sinigang on the menu. These chefs brought in a host of dishes that would make even the most hardcore Filipino foodie proud. Labeled as a “Regional Filipino Dinner,” the menu was filled with dishes abundant in the chefs’ personal stories or origins: Pancit Isabella from Miguel Trinidad of Jeepney and Maharlika in New York, Octopus Escabeche from chef Lou Boquilla of Perla in Philadelphia, and Salmon Sarciado from Melissa Miranda of Musang in Seattle were just some of the dishes that amazed and impressed that night.

Then, if you want to talk about unabashed Filipino flavors, Francis Ang of Pinoy Heritage in San Francisco dropped in a Wagyu Tartare that was flavored with Maguindanao Palapa (a spice paste Mindanao is famous for).

To top it all off, Carlo Lammagna, whose Magna Restaurant is set to open in Portland in the summer, decided to drop all inhibitions and proudly served up his Dinardaraan with Pig’s Ear Chicharon, the Ilocano version of dinuguan.

(continued on page 15)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filipino Jaycees to Hold 45th Reunion

Formerly known as the Oahu Filipino Jaycees, the Filipino Junior Chamber, will hold its upcoming 45th reunion to be held Saturday, May 5, 2018 6:00 pm at the newly renovated Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach (formerly known as Pacific Beach Hotel).

Event Chairman Larry Ordonez who served as Jaycee Chapter President 35 years ago said, “The reunion is aimed at paying tribute to the many accomplishments by past and present Filipino Jaycee members in the State of Hawaii. We want to bring Jaycees from 1973 to present together in a fun-filled room,

aiming to create relationships and mentorships that will open opportunities for both young and seasoned professionals, ultimately effecting a positive impact and on the future of Hawaii.”

The Filipino Jaycees have ran community service projects and individual development projects including: Ten Outstanding Pilipino Students Scholarship Awards (TOPS) which recognizes ten deserving high school students throughout Oahu; Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) where chapter members trained by the Internal Revenue Service prepare income tax returns free of charge; Muscular Dystrophy Association Fundraising; Adopt a Highway Program; the Filipino Fiesta Parade; Parliamentary Procedure; Financial Management; “Speak-Up” to improve public speaking and presentation skills; and, Spiritual Development, just to name a few.

Net proceeds from the reunion will be used to fund community and individual development projects of the Filipino Junior Chamber.

For more information, call David Floirendo at 808 748-9904.



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COVER STORY (from page 5, IMMIGRANTS...)

overall immigration (documented and undocumented) has a net-positive effect on combined federal, state, and local budgets. But the study recognizes there are regional differences by state and counties with large populations of less educated, lower-income immigrants showing net-negative costs due to heavier use of public services, especially public education.

In just tax contributions alone, the National Academy of Sciences says the average immigrant contributes over the span of a lifetime at least \$92,000 more in taxes compared to the benefits that he or she claims

from the government.

While much of the national debate over immigration is focused on political and cultural issues, the economic effects immigrants have must also be considered. The problem is that when they are mentioned, select data is used to fuel myths without consideration of overall contributions. The bulk of scholarly research shows that immigration is beneficial to the U.S. economy when weighing in all their contributions and losses. The long-term impact to the economy from immigrants is broadly positive -- this is what Americans should know of today’s immigration.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Diversity Breakthrough Averted, Winter Olympics Still White as Snow

How did it feel to be in Hawaii, where shave ice passes for snow and watching the Winter Olympics is kind of, meh?

Frankly, I remember being in Honolulu during the 2006 games and really getting into curling!

What do you know? 12 years later, the U.S. wins Men's Curling gold!

It's a big deal if you know the trouble you go through to get a perm.

Here's a thought: Why is it that little Norway, population 5 million--less than the size of a major American city-- is so dominant in the winter games? Genes? Jeans? The cold?

Well there may be hope in a generation or two as Filipinos are the second largest Asian immigrant group to Norway, with nearly 20,000 Noweepinos.

I can feel it coming someday. Filipino skeleton racers sliding to gold.

But for now, I wish I could have hung on to the Chloe Kim snowboarding victory in the opening days, and let it last the entire Olympic period.

You may have noticed, this was supposed to be an Asian American Winter Olympics in Asia, especially the way NBC was pushing both Kim and men's figure skater Nathan Chen.

We know about the Asian American Olympians of the past from Kristi Yamaguchi and Michelle Kwan. Asian American women are hell on blades.

But would these be the games where Nathan Chen creates a new Asian American male stereotype? Would we be transported from the one-inch punching Bruce Lee to the new King of Quads in a Vera Wang costume (one that doesn't malfunction)?

Perhaps in 2022. Not quite this time.



Chloe Kim

After Kim's scintillating snowboard run that lasted less than a minute, Chen took the spotlight and stumbled in the team competition. He helped to win Bronze there, but that was well short of the goal.

The graceless tumbling continued for the women skaters. As they say in the school rhyme, they all fell down.

Though Mirai Nagasu nailed an historic opening triple axel and was lauded in the team skate, she struggled in the individual skates along with teammate Karen Chen and bot-tomed out the top ten.

Nathan Chen tried to rally with a tremendous quad performance in his individual long skate, but it wasn't enough to medal.

After Kim's smashing start, we only had the ice dancing Shibutanis' Bronze in ice dancing to cheer.

And what a coincidence: Alex and Maia medaled and took their star turn around the same time as the 76th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

Asian Americans of Japanese descent weren't foreigners then or now.

At these games, here were the #ShibSibs representing all of America.

Of course, they were third best at these games. But with the America-centric coverage, it was hard to tell. The ShibSibs tended to get more air time on NBC than the Gold medalists Virtue and Moir of Canada. (But hey, they have better health care; they will survive).

But I found how you really

couldn't tell a person's nationality or ethnicity at these games without a score card, passport, or blood test.

That's for certain when it came to drugs. The official name for Putin's team was The Olympic Athletes of Russia. I added an N.O.D., for "Not on Drugs." It was quite a statement at the games--especially when a Russian curler was disqualified for testing positive during the competition itself.

Watching them throughout, they could have easily been Russian immigrants to the U.S. They were mostly all white. In these Olympics, you could be an American with dual citizenship and race for the country of your family's heritage.

American Filipinos Asa Miller, a 17-year-old skier from Oregon, downhill skied for the Philippines team and finished 70th.

His teammate was Los Angeles-based Michael Christian Martinez, who finished 28th in the men's individual figure skating competition.

I kept wondering why Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte couldn't place himself on the Philippine team in the Biathlon, considering his renowned shooting skills. Just try to stop him.

The loosened rules, especially those allowing dual citizens through birth and immigration to compete, were actually a refreshing thing about these games.

Americans competing on other countries' teams? You mean like Trump not acting on Russian meddling in our elections as if he's on Team Russia?

Can I get an "America First?"

For me, it's these little things that will mark the 2018 Olympic games. Images of VP Mike Pence in close proximity to the sister of Kim Jong Un. The North Korean cheerleading squad. And the combined Korean team playing on the same hockey team.

The North Koreans got what they wanted out of these games. But who knows if its semi-soft diplomacy will thwart or hasten the start of a major war.

And then there was this little colonial act by NBC.

Colonial tounge

Now that it's over, Pyeongchang, South Korea shall return to what it was called before it got Olympic ringed and played by NBC.

The city will be known once again by its pre-colonial pronunciation.

That would not be Pyeong-CHANG, but rather the correct Korean pronunciation "Pyeong-Chahng."

As my fellow Asian American Journalists Association members put out in a video guide, it's more "Ch-AHNG," with a definite "AH," sound, the kind you'd make to a doctor if you wanted him to correct your pronunciation.

Definitely, it's not the hard sound "CHANG," as in "you rang?"

For the last two weeks, we've been "chang"-ed to death, which is no big deal, unless you are concerned with the truth, accuracy, and authenticity. You know, the stuff journalists should care about.

Perhaps that's not as bad as getting North and South Korea confused. One is the country that makes your smart TV and Android devices.

The other is the home of Trump's "Little Rocket Man."

But pronunciation is an entirely different matter, and it's a big deal when it comes to a broadcast medium.

It's like being in a concert and hearing the same bad note repeated over and over whenever people on NBC said exactly where they were--which, of course, was in a place no one

(continued on page 14)

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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.

MAINLAND NEWS

Sen. Schatz Calls for Full-benefits Owed to Filipino WWII Veterans

WASHINGTON-- U.S. Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, introduced the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2018. The bipartisan legislation would restore the U.S. government's promise to Filipino World War II veterans and ensure those surviving are fully eligible for the benefits they earned.

"Our broken promise to Filipino WWII veterans and their families is a stain on our

nation's history. And while we've tried to right that wrong, there are still far too many who have not received the basic veterans' benefits they earned," said Senator Schatz. "Time is running out, and for some, it is already too late. We must act quickly to pass this legislation and fully honor the men and women who fought with us and served so bravely when we needed them."

The Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2018 would eliminate the distinction between the Regular or "Old" Philippine Scouts and the other three groups of veterans — Commonwealth Army of the Philippines, Recognized Guerrilla



Forces, and New Philippine Scouts. It would also allow Filipino veterans' spouses and children to qualify for the same Dependency and Indemnity Compensation that current U.S. veterans receive.

More than 250,000 Filipinos served under the U.S. flag in the Pacific during the Second World War. As citizens of a U.S. commonwealth during the war, Filipinos were promised full veterans benefits for serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. However, because of the Rescission Act of 1946, most Filipino World War II veterans did not receive these benefits and have been largely under-recognized for their wartime efforts. The Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2018 would fulfill the moral obligation of the United States to take care of its veterans and their families.

"NaFFAA stands tall and

proud in support of the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act," said Brendan Flores, National Chairman of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA). "Just as our Filipino veterans fought bravely to defend the American flag during World War II, it is our duty to fight to ensure that they receive the compensation and benefits that they deserve. NaFFAA remains committed to working with Members of Congress and community partners to honor our veterans for their sacrifices."

Today, there are an estimated 17,000 living Filipino veterans of World War II, now in their 80s and 90s.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii AG Opposes Citizenship Question on 2020 Census

Acting Attorney General Russell Suzuki, part of a coalition of 19 Attorneys General and the State of Colorado, urged the U.S. Department of Commerce to reject the addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 decennial Census, which would directly threaten states' fair representation in Congress and the Electoral College, as well as billions of dollars in critical federal funds for programs like Medicaid.

Under the Constitution,

the Census Bureau has an obligation to determine "the whole number of persons in each state." Yet the addition of a citizenship question to the Census is expected to depress participation among immigrants, causing a population undercount that would disproportionately harm states and cities with large immigrant communities. Non-citizens are counted in the Census for the purposes of federal funds, apportioning of congressional seats and Electoral College votes, and the drawing of state

and local districts.

On December 12, 2017, the U.S. Department of Justice requested that the Census

Bureau include a citizenship question on the 2020 census form sent to every household in the United States, even

though the Census is supposed to count all persons—citizens and non-citizens alike.

CROSSWORD by Carlito Lalicon

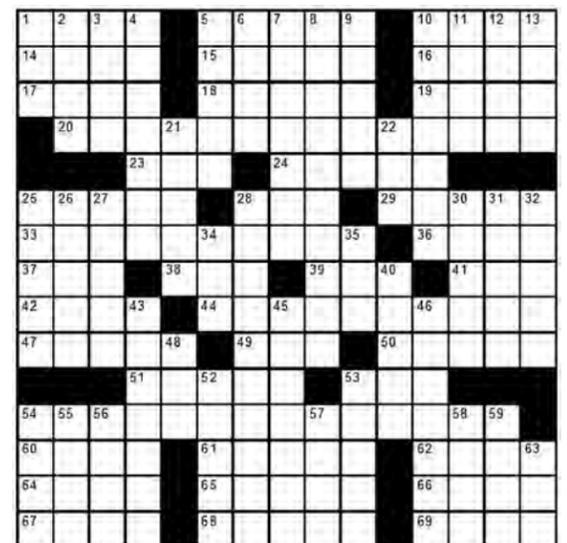
No. 7

ACROSS

- 1. "The Sound of Music" backdrop
- 5. Foundation
- 10. Beast
- 14. Bust maker
- 15. James Bond, for one
- 16. Musical instrument
- 17. Gulf V.I.P.
- 18. Strainer
- 19. Bite
- 20. Province in CARAGA
- 23. Babylonian god of the earth
- 24. Sound made by a cat
- 25. Arise
- 28. Witty amusing person who makes jokes
- 29. Basic unit of money in Nigeria
- 33. Brazilian cocktail
- 36. Denials
- 37. Big bang maker
- 38. Homosexual man
- 39. Any doctrine
- 41. 40 winks
- 42. Again
- 44. Kind of verb
- 47. Text of a popular song
- 49. .000001 joule
- 50. Kitchen gadget
- 51. Breakfast bread
- 53. Atlantic catch
- 54. Finality

DOWN

- 1. Bibliographical suffix
- 2. Dalai ____
- 3. Bluenose
- 4. Wash thoroughly
- 5. Of primary importance
- 6. Against (Dialect)
- 7. Dealer in seeds
- 8. Inveighing
- 9. Grave marker
- 10. Old World bunting
- 11. Reverse, e.g.
- 12. Lease
- 13. Advantage
- 21. Printing flourish
- 22. Mother Teresa, for one
- 25. In base 8
- 26. Shrewd
- 27. One who cites
- 28. Discursive



- 60. Brightly colored fish
- 61. In heaven
- 62. Casanova
- 64. All-night party
- 65. Stop (nautical)
- 66. Brain wave
- 67. Argued
- 68. Slow (musically)
- 69. Actor's goal

- 30. Charged, in a way
- 31. Steal goods
- 32. According to
- 34. Backstabber
- 35. Beast of burden
- 40. Fielding position in cricket
- 43. Enchanted
- 45. Skilled worker
- 46. Countercurrent
- 48. Newspaper div.
- 52. Acoustic
- 53. Literary or a musical composition
- 54. Large company, for short
- 55. Birthstone after sapphire
- 56. Church part
- 57. Clothe
- 58. Fizzy drink
- 59. Litigant
- 63. Consume

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

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LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

DACA Bills Fail to Pass in Senate

The Senate has failed to pass any of the four bills presented on the floor for a vote, three of which included a post-DACA plan for the Dreamers.

On February 17, 2018, Senate failed to come to a consensus as to the fate of undocumented immigrants known as 'Dreamers'. Their decision could have sealed the deal for these young immigrants who came to the US as children without immigration documentation or inspection. It may be recalled that President Donald Trump announced last year that Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program would end on March

5. Without any consensus from the lawmakers, the dreamers are now left in a limbo.

The first bill called the "Clean Dream Act", sponsored by John McCain (R-AZ) and Chris Coons (D-DE) proposed to legalize the status of dreamers without immediately increasing funding for border security and immigration enforcement. Unfortunately, this failed to obtain the necessary number of votes as it only garnered 52 votes with Republicans almost unanimously voting against it. This underscored the reality that without any funding for Trump's wall, any DACA bill would not pass through a Republican-dominated Senate.

The second bill was proposed by a bipartisan group in the Senate called the Common Sense Caucus led by Senator

Susan Collins (R-ME) and supported by Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Jeff Flake (R-AZ) and Dick Durbin (D-IL). Their bill would create a path to citizenship for the Dreamers even though they would not be allowed to petition their parents to obtain legal status. Their bill likewise promised to give \$25 billion to fund border security over the next decade. This bill got 54 votes, also short of the 60 votes required for it to pass the Senate. Despite looking like it was trying to have the best of both worlds—a solution to post-DACA situation while giving in to White House demands, the latter unfortunately repeatedly threatened to veto this bill, making it hard for some Republicans to give their votes.

The third bill, which was sponsored by Chuck Grassley (R-IA), would create protec-

tion for the Dreamers by providing a path to their citizenship. The bill also proposed an end to 'chain migration' by removing some family-sponsored visa categories. It also proposed an ending to the visa lottery program and offered \$25 billion to fund a southern border wall. This was the bill that had the President's seal of approval but it only obtained 39 votes in its favor.

The fourth bill introduced by Senator Pat Toomey (R-PA) was meant to punish so-called "sanctuary" cities but also failed by 54 to 45.

In his State of the Union Address last month, Trump announced an overhaul of the legal immigration system by ending the family sponsored preference categories for parents, sons and daughters over 18 years old and siblings of US citizens and unmarried children over 18 years old of

lawful permanent residents.

This was adopted by the Grassley bill and this had the lowest support even among the GOP membership.

With what happened last Thursday, Dreamers are now placed in a limbo. Two federal judges issued an injunction against the government, preventing it from fully cancelling the program on March 5th but the federal government challenged the injunction in the Supreme Court. This could buy time for the Dreamers until Congress votes on another funding resolution on March 23rd and hopefully DACA will still remain a part of the funding negotiations.

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

MALAYA Launches to Oppose Duterte and Commemorates EDSA 32nd Anniversary

NEW YORK CITY--A new U.S.-based alliance, called MALAYA, was launched to oppose Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's extrajudicial killings, to oppose dictatorship, and to promote democracy in the Philippines. The group is comprised of representatives from all regions in the U.S., community leaders, faith leaders, academics, attorneys, youth leaders, business owners, and human rights advocates.

MALAYA also hosted a forum to commemorate the 32nd Anniversary of the EDSA People Power Uprising that led to the ouster of former President Ferdinand Marcos. The forum was not only a commemoration of EDSA, but a call to action to Filipinos in the U.S. to fight another dictatorship.

The forum concluded with a call to action to sign the petition to stop the killings and dictatorship in the Philippines.

There was also a call to organize events and actions to build the broad movement of Filipinos in the U.S. in opposition to Duterte's dictatorship. After the forum, there was a community singing of "Bayan Ko," which was sung and continues to be sung by Filipinos all over the world who believe in democracy.

MALAYA pledged to mobilize more people in the U.S. to stand up for human rights. Malaya is the Filipino word for "free."

Co-Lead Convener, Dante Simbulan, Ph.D., a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (1952), turned activist during the Marcos Dictatorship, states:

"MALAYA was successfully launched in the U.S. with conveners coming from all over the U.S. (West Coast, Mid-West, East Coast). This is a timely response to the escalating social, economic and political crises brought about by the mistakes, ineptness, and

crimes of Duterte and his minions in both the civilian and military bureaucracy.

Extra-judicial killings (EJKs) or summary executions without due process goes unabated. The internationally-recognized national human rights organization Karapatan (Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights) continues to receive reports from its offices all over the country of killings perpetrated by the military and the police of Duterte. Reports from international human rights groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have also confirmed the Duterte Administration's disgraceful number of extrajudicial killings and gross human rights violations.

Recently, the International Criminal Court, through Special Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda started an investigation of Duterte. The ICC was established in 2002 as a permanent tribunal to prosecute individuals for genocide, crimes against

humanity, war crimes, etc. We welcome this development and view it as recognition by the international community that something must be done to end the impunity which is running rampant under Duterte."

MALAYA cited a long list of attacks on the rights of the Filipino people, including:

- over 14,000 people mostly

from the ranks of the poor killed under Duterte's drug war

- a war on the Moro people, indigenous people, and extended martial law throughout Mindanao
- politically-motivated killings, arrests and detentions on fabricated charges

(continued on page 15)





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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Piesta Ti Kailokuan Iti 2018



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Kanayon a Pebrero iti tawen ti panagpiesta ti GUMIL ngem naiyalis ita iti bulan ti Marso 10, 2018, 5:00 p.m. a maaramid iti Poomaikai Ballroom iti Dole Cannery, Iwilei. Ditoy ti intay manen pakabuyaanan kadagiti sagana ti GH ken AKA. Babaen ti direksion dagiti dua a Presidente, da Froebel Garcia ti GH ken Presidente Raymond Sebastian ti

AKA. Makuronaan ditoy ti Mrs. ken Miss AKA kasta met ti Mrs. and Miss GH 2018.

Ditoy pay nga agsapata dagiti kappili nga opisyalis ti GH: Pres, Froebel Garcia; Bise-Pres, Gloria Raquedan; 2nd Vice-Pres: Emy Espiritu; Sec, Paz Labtingao; Corresponding Sec: Marlene Espiritu; Treas, Lilia del Rosario; Auditor: Albina Gamponia; PRO: Fely Cristobal ken Ador Udani; Business Manager: Andrea Mendoza, Rita Sagucio, Fely Alejandro; Sargeant-at-Arms: John Espiritu, Ancelmo Acidera, Eugene Fontanilla; Board of Directors: Dr. Aida Martin, Mercedes Garcia, Charles

Domingo, Abraham Flores, Raymond Sebastian; Consultant: Dr. Lindy Aquino; Advisers: Pacita C. Saludes, Edith Pascua, Roland Salvador Ubaldo, Jr.

Dagitoy met ti ANNAK TI BADOCC newly elected officers. They will have their reaffirmation ceremony on March 17, 2018 at Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom at 410 Atkinson Drive, Honolulu, HI 96814.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 11, DIVERSITY....)

in Korea, North or South, had ever heard of.

It was just a clinker. More than a display of ignorance. It was an insistence on the wrong pronunciation. An act of defiance.

It was back in November when Sports Business Journal first pointed out the inconsistency of NBC's pronunciation, noting that host Matt Lauer could go from Pyeong-"chung"

(Not enough "ah," so just 85 percent correct) to Pyeong-"chang," as in bang (positively incorrect), almost in the same breath.

Of course, that's not what got Lauer fired.

The Business Journal's Ben Fisher asked NBC, which essentially showed how much it cared about accuracy.

Its view came down to this: Screw authenticity. To hell with

truth, NBC bought the rights, and they can bastardize the games whatever way they want. Even mispronouncing the name of the Olympic site.

Mark Lazarus, chairman of NBC Broadcasting and Sports, said NBC's official pronunciation was "chang" as in "bang" and that was that.

"It's cleaner," Lazarus told Fisher. Cleaner. And wrong-er.

It's not a matter of being PC. Pyeongchang isn't even capitalized in the middle.

But this is what you get when the rights are bought and sold to the highest bidder. The Olympic spirit comes filtered through a colonial tongue that chang-bangs us relentlessly.

It couldn't end soon enough.

You wouldn't call a bronze the "brown medal," would you?

And that medal of Chloe Kim's wasn't yellow. It was gold.

Alas, we shall wait our turn. IT's coming. The rise of the Norweepinos.

EMIL GUILLERMO is a journalist and commentator. He was the first Filipino to host a national news show when at NPR's "All Things Considered." He formerly was on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser.

(Sagot sa Krosword No.6 | February 17, 2018)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018 WOMEN OF WONDERS FILM FEST | Presented by the Hawaii Women in Filmmaking | March 1, 2018 | 7:30 - 9:30 pm | Doris Duke Theater | More info on the screening can be found at: www.hawaiiwomeninfilmmaking.org/wow

26TH ANNUAL FILIPINO FIESTA & PARADE | May 5, 2018 | 9 am - 5 pm | Kaka'ako Gateway Park | Contact FilCom Center @ (808) 680-0451 or visit www.filcom.org for details

FILIPINO JAYCEES 45TH REUNION | May 5, 2018 | 6:00 pm | Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach (formerly known as Pacific Beach Hotel) | Contact Larry Ordenez at (808) 392.4890 or

Email: filipinojaycees45threunion@gmail.com for more info

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CLUB OF HAWAII FOUNDATION ANNUAL TERNO BALL | May 19, 2018 | 6:00 pm | Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom | For more info contact: Adela Salacup 723-4639, Carlota Ader 797-4381, Cora Baclig-Credo 927-4081, Carmen Cabrerros 358-3845, Cherry Reganit 358-3598

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (PNAH) INDUCTION GALA | May 29, 2018 | 6:00 pm | Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom | For more info contact Ramon Sumibcay 489-7148

MAINLAND NEWS

CHRONIC Care Act Passes Senate

WASHINGTON--As part of the two-year budget deal, the CHRONIC Care Act, was passed by the U.S. The Act, with key provisions authored by U.S. Senators Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), will improve access and quality of care for Medicare patients and save taxpayer money.

"Almost every other part of our health system uses technology to improve health and save costs. It's

long past time for Medicare to catch up," Senator Schatz said. "This legislation will improve health outcomes for Medicare patients, especially those who live in rural areas or have to make a big effort to get to the doctor's office, and will make sure that Medicare is ready for the future, when telehealth plays an even bigger role in health care. I'm glad that Congress is making a bipartisan effort to make sure no one gets left behind from the promises and benefits telehealth has to offer."

According to studies, telehealth has been shown to improve care and patient satisfaction while reducing costs. The CHRONIC Care Act lifts outdated restrictions that limit Medicare from reimbursing for telehealth. The telehealth provisions of the CHRONIC Care Act will expand the use of telehealth in accountable care organizations and Medicare Advantage, as well as for home dialysis patients and the evaluation of an acute stroke.

"The most recent statements by him continue to disrespect women. It encourages government sanctioned processes to commit deep sexual violence during armed conflict and struggle. It is a blatant violation of the dignity and rights of women, and indeed a violation of international humanitarian law. Parallel to the struggles of women on the west, Pinays continuously being denigrated and seen as less than, we must rise against systemic oppressive forces."

land and strategic enterprises, and remove the ban on foreign bases without Senate concurrence

- Attacks on press freedom, with administration moves to discredit and shutdown independent media outlets which have questioned Duterte's actions

Dr. Alma Trinidad, Co-Lead Convener of MALAYA and Board President of the Foundation for Philippine Progress remarked:

(from page 13, MALAYA....)

against opponents critical of Duterte's policies and cause-oriented groups struggling for reforms, under the guise of counter-insurgency and the war on terror

- Charter Change to consolidate executive powers, extend terms of elected officials, dissolve congress, exempt lawmakers and administration officials from paying taxes, remove restrictions on 100% foreign ownership of

FOOD & LEISURE (from page 10, SERVING....)

"Because of my Ilocano heritage, I chose to do a play on one of my dad's favorite dishes, dinardaraan," says Carlo.

By all accounts, the diners left full, happy, impressed and with plenty of food for thought. In fact, there was already clamor for another Filipino food event at the James Beard House.

"I believe people are starting to understand Filipino food," says Joanne Boston, who, along with the Filipino Food Movement and Kim Boral, chaired the Regional Filipino Dinner at the James Beard House. "You and I know that Filipino food is great, right? Non-Filipinos are now reacting. To think, Carlo served 'chocolate meat!' One of the most infamous Filipino dishes and he served it! Everyone was happy. Empty plates."

The answer to the question, "What kind of Filipino food do we

cook in the US?" then is simple. It isn't about classic versus modern. "With regard to traditional vs. modern, I think there is a place for all Filipino food in its many forms," says Carlo. "I don't think we need to shy away from our ingredients and flavor profiles, but to consider cooking seasonally and locally to maximize flavor, and to cook with balance in flavor. Our cuisine is evolving, not fusing, and we would be foolish to not go with the flow."

It isn't about traditional versus non-traditional. It isn't just about the presentation. It definitely isn't about popular versus "weird" flavors anymore. With these two Filipino diners, the answer is to serve Filipino food together with the stories that fortify them.

"The interesting thing is that Filipino food is evolving here in the United States," says Joanne. "I cannot stress enough that Filipino food

in the States and anywhere outside of the Philippines is different from the food found in the Philippines. It's because the chefs are using their personal experiences and their learned techniques from school and kitchens here in the States in their food."

In an environment that hosts some of the world's biggest foodies, there is room for traditional and non-traditional dishes, familiar and unfamiliar flavors. What is important to remember is that people are hungry for the stories. As Natalia Roxas and Sarahlynn Pablo of Filipino Kitchen always tell me, "Filipino food is history on a plate."

Take it from Carlo: "I believe that at the core of any chef cooking Filipino food, that the soul must still be there. The connection and story are more important than anything, because food without soul is simply sustenance, but food with soul can be an experience." (www.philstar.com)

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