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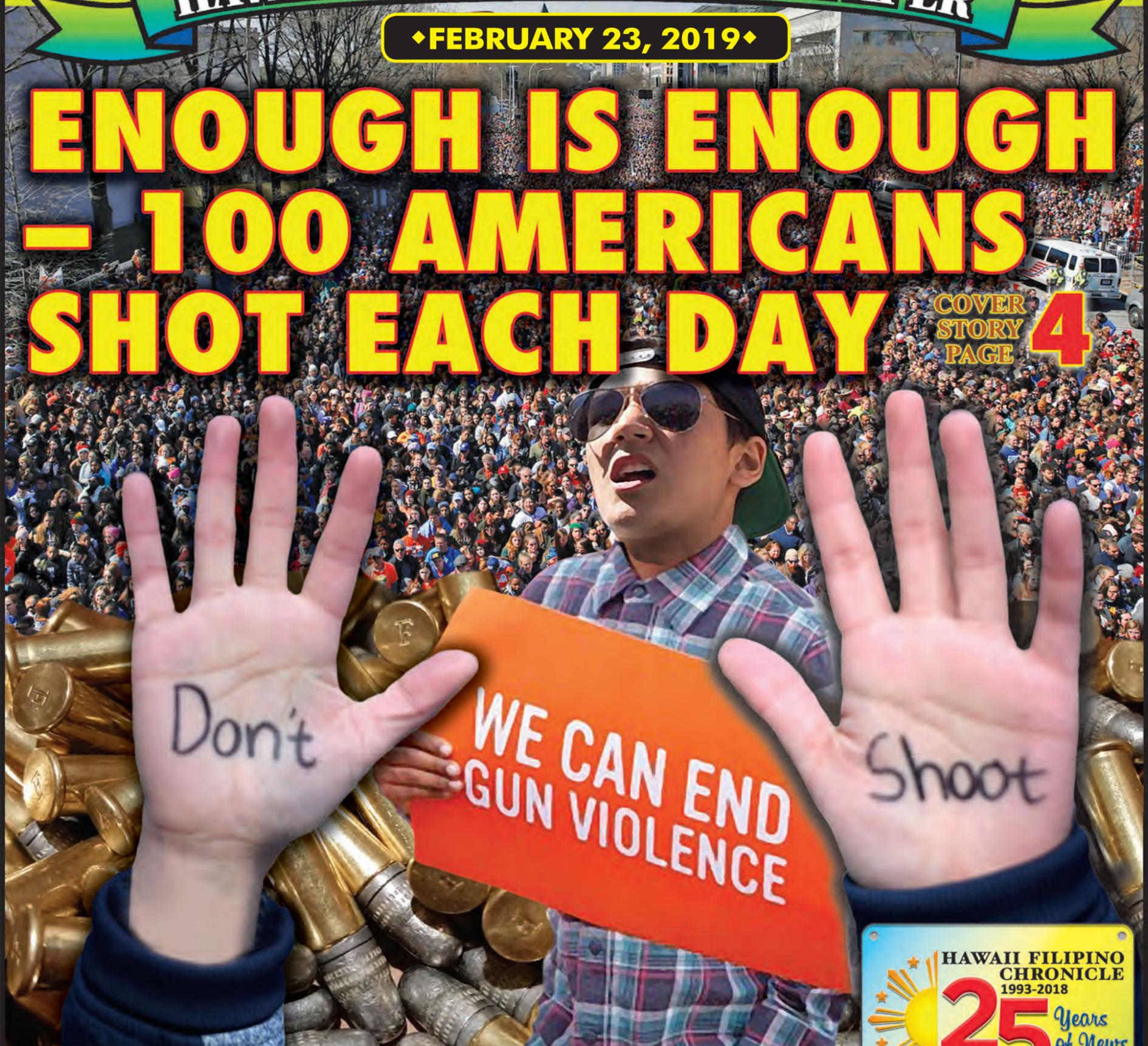
FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ FEBRUARY 23, 2019 ◆

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EDITORIALS

Toughening Universal Background Checks for Guns Is A No-Brainer

Far too often guns get into the hands of wrong people. Statistics show there is a correlation between the high number of guns in the U.S. and the high rate of firearm deaths each year that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now has at 40,000. In countries such as Japan, Germany, and Canada, where gun ownership is low, the incidences of gun deaths are also low. The inverse is true for the U.S.

Despite the human tragedy caused by guns – mass killings, crimes of passion, suicides, gang violence – the political will to legislate better gun control laws, even to simply ban combat-style automatic weapons, has failed or accomplished minimal success due to debates over the second amendment and individuals' rights to gun ownership.

Finding a balance between protecting the community with tougher gun control laws and the constitutional liberty to own them has been painstakingly slow and extremely contentious. In some parts of the country, this issue has won or lost elections for candidates; and continues to be so divisive that politicians for many years feared taking on gun control legislation because of the political toxicity surrounding the issue. All the while, incidences of gun violence keep rising annually; and 2018 was the fourth consecutive year that firearms deaths have gone up.

Universal Background Checks

While the battle to ban guns or certain types of guns (a debate over the second amendment) continues, at the very least, lawmakers can immediately work on strengthening laws that control who can and cannot have access to guns.

This is where the political will to legislate should come easily because of the overwhelming public support for tougher universal background checks. Almost everyone – not connected to the NRA or in the business of gun sales or trade – can agree that criminals and the mentally instable should not be able to purchase guns as a matter of public safety.

Countless of surveys show broad public support. In a Quinnipiac University Poll in February 2018, 97% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. 99% of Democrats, 97% of Republicans, 97% of gun owners, and even 74% of NRA members all supported the idea.

Closing Loopholes

House Democrats recently introduced H.R. 8 that expands the National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS) established in 1994 under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

H.R. 8 aims to require background checks for nearly all firearms, including those sold on the internet and gun shows. Current federal laws requires only federal licensed gun dealers to perform background checks. But the loophole has been that millions of people would purchase guns via the internet or at gun shows where background checks are not required. It's estimated that 1 in 5 gun owners have used methods of acquiring gun without having to go through background checks.

Should H.R. 8 pass, it would close a major loophole in the current law and potentially save thousands of lives.

Political Reality

The new Democrat House majority has made strengthening universal background checks on guns a priority. In the recent past, even under Obama and definitely while Clinton was president, Democrats have skirted legislations related to gun control due to political trepidation.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

The nation is once again in mourning over yet another mass murder; this one taking place in Aurora, Illinois where a gunman opened fired at his place of employment, killing 5 people and injuring police officers. Gun violence has become so prevalent that they've occurred with frequency at the workplace, churches, movie theaters, nightclubs, malls, concerts and schools. It seems there is no safe zone. If there were a real national emergency that existed, it would be the epidemic of gun violence in our communities.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo writes about a new expanded legislation that would require background checks of nearly all firearms, including those sold on the internet or at gun shows. The current law requires background checks for all licensed gun dealers. But for years, gun safety advocates point to loopholes where people who would not pass background checks resort to buying guns online or at gun shows. This important legislation before Congress aims to prevent such sales without proper vetting. Surveys show there is overwhelming public support for strengthening universal background checks. The obstacle to making this a reality, as it had been for now decades, is the gun lobby NRA and Republican lawmakers. But there is hope for this bill because it's a clean legislation without any highly controversial attachments; and Democrats are now making tighter gun control a top priority.

Also in this issue, HFC's contributing editor Belinda Aquino, Ph.D., features Dr. Arnold Villafuerte who has announced his retirement after many years as a health professional and community advocate. Among his numerous contributions to the community, Dr. Villafuerte has helped newly-arrived immigrants access medical care through the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls. He has also extended his medical expertise on various projects of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), including going on medical missions to the Philippines to help medically underserved communities.

In our news section, read about the arrest of award-winning Philippines journalist Maria Ressa which many believe was an attempt to silence journalists from speaking against President Rodrigo Duterte. The reaction to her arrest has been widespread; even Hawaii's Senator Brian Schatz expressed his deep concern. Just last year Ressa was named one of Time magazine's Persons of the Year.

Lastly, continuing our 25th year anniversary coverage, we have two contributions by HFC staff who share their memories of how they got started writing for the newspaper. Associate editor Dennis Galolo talked about how writing for the HFC had helped him to learn more about his Filipino heritage; and how one memorable cover story he had co-written led to members in our community calling for a boycott against a local comedian known for his arguably offensive ethnic jokes. That cover story written many years ago was a harbinger of the PC (political correctness) movement of today when minorities can no longer be targets of gross insensitivity without consequence. HFC columnist Seneca Moraleda-Puguan shares how writing for the HFC fulfilled a dream of hers of having a platform to touch others' lives.

We hope you enjoy this issue. As always, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support. Until next time, warmest *Aloha and Mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

This new Democratic leadership have shifted their position and Democrats are finally taking a strong stand and listening to public demands for tougher vetting.

Americans' attitudes toward gun violence have transitioned from indifference to urgency in recent years as more Americans, unfortunately, have encountered personal experiences of



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EDITORIALS

Trump's National Emergency Declaration for Border Funding Is Unconstitutional

President Donald Trump didn't think funding for a border wall was a national emergency two years ago when he had both chambers of Congress in his hands to start building a wall; and it's doubtful that he sincerely thinks there is a real national emergency at the southern border now.

The brouhaha is really just about politics.

Building a wall started as a political stunt from the time he first mentioned Mexico would pay for it; and he is now double-tripling down on this stunt by declaring a national emergency to get funding.

Going against the Constitution

But what the president is really doing is far more dangerous than most realize by trying to undermine the Constitution -- that says Congress has the power to appropriate funds, not the president.

The Constitution had been written in a way that ensures the three branches of government are equal and have equal ability to veto the other as a grand design of separation of powers, checks and balances.

The Constitution reads, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriation made by Law."

Trump's unilateral move to build a wall without congress-

sional approval by claiming a national emergency is unconstitutional.

Insiders say the president will be using the National Emergencies Act of 1976 to justify his action. One provision says that if there is a national emergency, funds in the Defense Department budget that are not "obligated" can be used for construction projects to support the armed forces.

Trump's wall doesn't meet this statute's requirements.

National Emergencies had been declared in the past but not like this...

Conservative spin-analysts say both Democrat and Republican presidents in the past declared national emergencies. This is true. But on very rare occasions; and usually on matters dealing with natural disasters, public health crisis, or international sanctions, not in the scope of appropriations and funding for major projects which Congress had always been tasked to do. And in almost all cases when a national emergency was used in international sanctions, they came with a level of "bipartisan" support.

This is not the case here; and invoking a national emergency for something Congress specifically disapproved of in principle and in funding is actually a political anomaly.

But, the president, as usual, in announcing his plan at the

White House to declare a national emergency, misled the public by misrepresenting declarations of national emergencies as being common, as almost a business as usual matter -- which is furthest from the truth.

Trump was perhaps embolden to circumvent Congress because there is no legal criteria of what a national emergency is. This is where the courts will decide the legality of Trump's border funding. It might be that Trump thinks he could receive a favorable ruling given all his conservative political appointments to the high courts.

But most experts believe that the law cannot allow that a president declare an emergency whenever he sees fit, especially in cases that require billions in funding.

If this were the case, Obamacare didn't have to go through Congress to get passed or later confirmed by the Supreme Court to be constitutional. President Obama could have just easily declared a national emergency -- if the process is as what Trump believes is possible.

Going forward, much more pressing issues such as stopping the epidemic of gun violence, climate change,

or ending severe poverty, could also be bypassed from Congress if a future president chose to do so. The examples are endless.

And how ironic would it be in the future that all these "liberal" issues potentially be passed all because President Trump had set this precedent of funding without congressional approval. Conservatives, beware.

What use eventually would there really be in having a Congress or Judiciary should a president be entrusted with such unlimited gravitas, unlimited power?

Trump's declaration of a national emergency (specifically for this purpose) is truly the act of a dictator. It threatens to upend the very system of checks and balance in the U.S.

It's almost improbable that this declaration will pass muster in the courts, even if the case (there are already multiple lawsuits filed) goes to the Supreme Court where Trump appointed two justices.

A political gamble

The declaration is really about saving face for the president. He lost his first major political battle when the Democrats regained the House, and was willing to make a political gamble by insisting on border funding.

The president thought even after the midterms he could get what he wanted under the new Democrat majority; and he did not truly understand the limits to his office when faced with opposition.

He was politically outmaneuvered and outsmarted by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, looked like a political novice and villain after the government shutdown with most public opinion polls showing that he was to blame for it, then came up with this declaration based on false premises.

Americans should know that the president's use of any funds not dedicated for the border wall by Congress is unconstitutional.

TOUGHENING...from page 2)

gun violence, especially in cases of a loved one committing suicide (suicides make up a large percentage of gun deaths).

Now that Democrats finally resolved to make gun-safety a priority, Republicans ought to do the same. Having a strong comprehensive background system does not imperil Americans' second amendment rights; it just restricts this right to criminals who lost their right when they've committed their crimes. Just as criminals forfeited their rights to voting and their freedom when they've committed their crimes -- access to guns should be no different.

Nor surprisingly, the NRA opposes H.R. 8. But support for the gun lobby has waned dramatically. The GOP-controlled Senate must also

recognize this and passing H.R. 8 is a politically "safe" risk because it's a clean legislation without attachments of banning any firearms.

The bottom line is something needs to be done. If there were a national state of emergency that truly existed -- something that's been talked about a lot lately -- it would be gun violence. This is not to say that it should be declared to circumvent legislation.

H.R. 8 will face a steep uphill battle in the Senate once it passes the House. The President is likely to veto it should it even pass the Senate. But there is hope and potential for bipartisanship.

The days of bowing to the NRA is over. There should be no quarrel over something as basic as toughening background screenings for guns and passing H.R. 8 should be a no-brainer.

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COVER STORY

Lawmakers Push for Tougher Background Checks on Gun Sales

By Edwin Quinabo

The lives lost to firearms in this nation is startling. For a fourth consecutive year, the rate of firearm deaths rose in the U.S. with around 40,000 people killed in shootings annually, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The U.S. ranks among the top six in the world for firearms deaths per capita alongside developing nations known for widespread violence; while in countries like Japan, the UK, Germany, Canada and most developed nations, firearms deaths ranked low.

The latest mass shooting just occurred this month in Aurora, Illinois when gunman Gary Martin killed five co-workers and injured five police officers at his workplace at the Henry Pratt. Co. plant.

The human tragedy caused by the epidemic of gun deaths is so alarming that more Americans are demanding action to prevent gun violence. Prayers, sympathies, rhetoric when senseless shootings occur: now, are simply not enough — victims of gun violence are saying to lawmakers.

Many newly elected Democrats ran on the issue of enacting tougher gun control laws; and the time of reckoning could be unfolding at this very moment.

Less than one week after taking control of the House of Representatives, House Democrats unveiled a bill that aims to significantly expand the requirements for background checks on gun sales.

The new legislation, if passed into law, would be by far the most wide-scoped ever for requiring background checks to own a gun.

The expediency in taking up this legislation signals that the new House Democratic majority is making it a top priority.

“Today we take a decisive

step to help save lives right away,” said Representative Mike Thompson, Democrat of California and the bill’s chief sponsor, adding, “From public polling to the ballot box, the American people have spoken up and demanded action.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said: “We say enough is enough by finally bringing bipartisan, commonsense background check legislation to the floor of the House.”

Peter Ambler, executive director of Giffords Law Center, said: “We should not be afraid to send our kids to

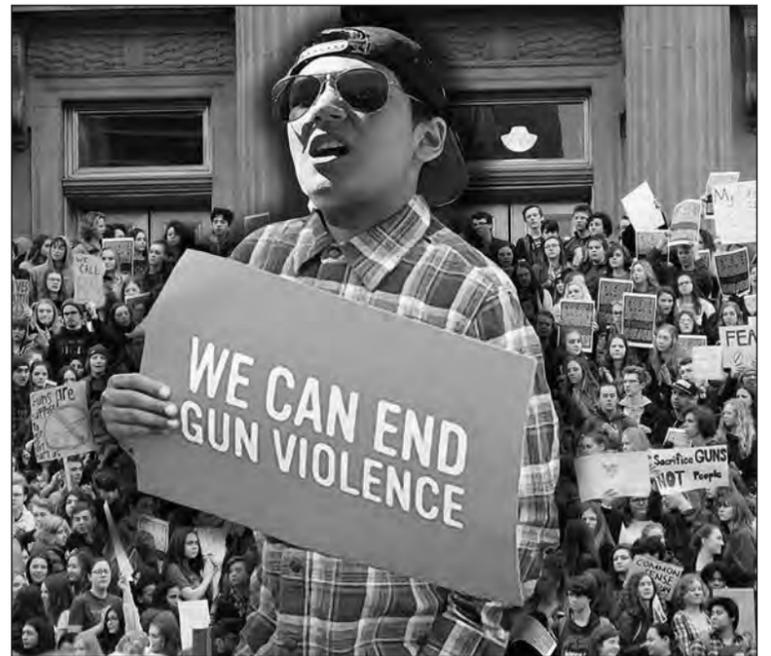
school—or go to the office, or go to a movie, or take a walk—because of the threat of gun violence. But these are fears that too many Americans live with every day. And these are fears that too many politicians have ignored as they’ve taken campaign contributions from the gun lobby.

“But there’s good news: The days of watching the House of Representatives stay silent as Americans demand action on gun violence are over. This is a new era for Congress, with a new majority committed to our safety. These leaders understand that with over 100 Americans shot every day, we cannot wait. That’s why today they are sending H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 to the House floor. That’s why they are responding to our gun violence epidemic, not only with thoughts and prayers, but with policy and action.”

H.R. 8

In 2014, Sharon Kay Berkshire, 39, was shot to death by her ex-boyfriend Jody Hunt. Along with Berkshire, Hunt killed three other people in a shooting spree. The Berkshire murder garnered extra attention than other deadly crimes of passion because it brought to light a loophole in firearms background checks.

Hunt had multiple felo-



ny convictions and would not have been able to acquire a gun at a licensed vendor under current federal law. But he was able to legally purchase firearms over the internet where background checks are not required.

Crimes such as the Berkshire murder is what H.R. 8 would like to prevent.

H.R. 8 expands the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) established in 1994 under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

The current law requires only federally licensed gun dealers to perform background checks. But the new H.R.8 would also require background checks of nearly all firearms, including those sold on the internet or at gun shows. But it still allows private citizens to sell and transfer guns to each other without a background check.

H.R. 8 aims to tighten any loopholes of the existing law and would make it more difficult for criminals to evade scrutiny as in the Berkshire case.

Gun safety advocates have been lobbying to tighten federal requirements on background checks because they say it’s still easy to acquire guns without any checks at all through the internet and gun shows. Many gun sellers at gun shows are not federally licensed to sell guns.

Acquiring guns without a

background check this way is so common that people refer to it as the “gun show” loophole. Internet sales of guns have also been rising steadily, and gun safety advocates say it too has become another major loophole to background checks.

Studies show an estimated 22% of Americans (about 1 in 5) who bought a gun in recent years did so without a background check. What this translates to, says the Giffords Law Center, is millions of Americans acquiring millions of guns, no questions asked, each year.

The existing background check system has been making a difference. Since its implementation in 1994, the current NICS system has shown to be effective in blocking 3.5 million gun sales to felons, domestic abusers and others prohibited from buying firearms. The new law aims to get that number even higher.

Advocates say it’s a common sense law — making it tougher for people who aren’t suppose to have guns, to not acquire them.

Limitations

In order for the bill to get a better chance to the finish line and passed, House Democrats intentionally did not include in H.R. 8 other more controversial provisions such as a ban on assault rifles or high-capacity magazines.

While this makes political

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COVER STORY

(from page 4)

sense, critics point out that in limiting H.R. 8, it also limits its utility, specifically in preventing mass shootings. The killers in the recent mass shootings in Pittsburgh; Parkland, Fla.; Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Las Vegas; and Sutherland Springs, Tex. — all had passed background checks when purchasing their weapons. A ban on assault rifles would have had greater utility in all these cases.

But lawmakers insist the best chance of getting a tough national background check is to get a clean bill pushed forward as a first step.

On the Senate side, Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) introduced a separate bill that revives a ban on semiautomatic rifles and the sale of high-capacity magazines. That bill faces a steeper uphill battle to get passed.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) spokeswoman Jennifer Baker said of H.R. 8, “So-called universal background checks will never be

universal because criminals do not comply with the law.

“Instead of looking for effective solutions that will deal with root cause of violent crime and save lives, anti-gun politicians would rather score political points and push ineffective legislation that doesn’t stop criminals from committing crimes.”

The NRA’s claim has some validity because statistics show most criminals do not buy guns at licensed vendors and avoid background checks altogether. Eighty percent of all firearms acquired for criminal purposes are obtained through private-party transfers (an area untouched in H.R. 8 due to its potential political toxicity).

Gun safety advocates say there is also a problem of lying, or what they call “lie-and-try.” Background check liars desperate to acquire guns risk facing jail time. One reason they take the risk of lying on their application is because it’s a known fact that liars are rarely

prosecuted.

The FBI, in reviewing instant background checks for firearm purchases, detected 112,000 lie-and-try crimes in 2017 alone, and federal investigators had names and addresses on the filled-out forms. Out of the thousands of liars, only 12 of them were prosecuted for lying, according to a recent Government Accountability Office report.

Public Opinion

Requiring background checks for all gun buyers commands broad public support. A recent survey shows 85% of Americans, including 79% of Republicans, support background checks.

In another Quinnipiac University Poll in February 2018, 97% of Americans support requiring background checks on all gun sales. 99% of Democrats, 97% of Republicans, 97% of gun owners, and even 74% of NRA members all supported the idea.

Broad public support has not come easily. The growing movement to control guns access took a major shift after the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook elementary school which left 20 children and six educators dead.

Each year since then, high-profile mass killings — the Las Vegas massacre, the Florida nightclub shooting, the Parkland, Florida high school attack, the Baptist Church killing in Texas, to name a few — have chipped away at the idea of carte blanche access to guns.

Killings that could have been prevented

If a strong federal universal background check requirement

“We should not be afraid to send our kids to school—or go to the office, or go to a movie, or take a walk—because of the threat of gun violence. But these are fears that too many Americans live with every day. And these are fears that too many politicians have ignored as they’ve taken campaign contributions from the gun lobby.”

— PETER AMBLER,
Executive Director of Giffords Law Center

was in place without the loopholes, gun safety advocates say many of the high-profile mass killings would not have taken place.

The gunman who murdered nine people last year at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston was able to obtain a handgun, even though he would have been prohibited to do so due to a previous arrest. But because federal law allows sales to proceed by default if a background check isn’t completed within three days, the killer was able to obtain his gun.

H.R. 8 also proposes to extend the time to complete a background check before a default kicks in.

Democrats Shift in Priority

Democrats’ political will to take on gun control fervently is arguably just beginning. In the not-to-distant past they’ve shied away from it, even as recent as the Obama administration. The Bill Clinton era avoided the issue entirely. Hillary Clinton herself during her last presidential campaign was soft on it.

“You look at those years,

2009, 2010, when you had Barack Obama in the White House, 60 Democratic votes in the Senate, a big Democratic majority in the House, and not only did nothing happen, but it wasn’t even on the table,” said Ambler.

So the fact that H.R. 8 has been given high priority and quickly pushed forward (practically the first major legislation introduced by the new House majority), signals a new shift for Democrats.

Why? Public opinion on gun control is at an all-time high and the millennials, the generation that grew up in the era of mass killings, are demanding changes. Politically, the millennials, are coming of age and flexing their political clout.

To them, as most Americans believe, the hands-off approach to gun control is a thing of the past. Gun safety advocates urge that the Republican party also turn the corner and make gun control a priority as Democrats have.

H.R. 8 would be the test for Republicans as it passes the House and moves to the GOP-controlled Senate.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Senator Schatz Offers Support to Philippines Journalist Ressa

Senator Brian Schatz offered his support for award-winning Philippines journalist Maria Ressa who was arrested on February 13 and charged with a libel lawsuit. Ressa has since been released on bail but controversy over press freedom in the country under President Rodrigo Duterte remains.

Senator Schatz said, “I am deeply concerned by reports that journalist Maria Ressa has been arrested on trumped-up charges in the Philippines. These charges should immediately be dropped, and Ms. Ressa should be free to go about her work. Instead of trying to silence journalists who are accurately reporting the news, the Filipino government should focus on protecting democracy and defending the country’s constitution, including its commitment to a free press.

“I also call on the U.S. government to condemn this arrest, and stop giving cover to strongmen who want to erode press freedom.”

Ressa, who was one of Time magazine’s Persons of the Year in 2018, is co-founder and editor of online news outlet Rappler. She has been a strong critic of President Duterte and his brutal war on drugs.

Duterte has consistently attacked journalists who write unfavorable stories on him. Rappler’s reporting on Duterte has made the site -- and its journalists -- targets of his supporters.

Ressa was charged with a lawsuit relating to a story written in 2012, which alleged that businessman Wilfredo Keng had links to illegal drugs and human trafficking. However, the article was published by Rappler two years before the new cyber libel laws came into effect in the Philippines.

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OPEN FORUM



By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

Trump's Wall Brawl

emergency.” Is he planning a cabal over the wall?

“There should be an honest attempt at the reconciliation of differences before resorting to combat.”—Jimmy Carter

And why is one human being, a politician with power, so obsessed over a wall? During elections, candidates make campaign promises they know they can't keep. It's hype and hyperbole. It's publicity and propaganda. It's styling and profiling.

“The wall is a metaphor. But it's a metaphor for racism, nationalism and white supremacy. The wall Trump desires isn't made of concrete or steel,” surmised a 2019 article in the Sacramento Bee.

What are a president's emergency powers? Is money for a wall considered an emergency? Would this be considered an abuse of power?

“In the mid-1970s, Congress passed a law designed to provide some check on the

president's power while also preserving flexibility to act in an emergency,” according to a 2019 article on the NPR website.

Hmmm. Did Congress foresee a rogue leader? How can the National Emergencies Act of 1976 be used for an unwise presidential decision? Can a president declare an “immigration emergency” under the Immigration and Nationality Act?

The media is buzzing with the question: Does a president have the authority to use presidential emergency powers to obtain federal funding without congressional approval?

“Congress can terminate a declared emergency, but it requires a joint resolution – a high hurdle. House Democrats, now in power, would have to convince Senate Republicans, who still control their chamber, to join them in blocking Trump's move. Then they would have to get a sig-



nature from the president, the same person who declared the emergency in the first place, or override his veto,” according to a 2019 article in USA Today.

Trump is threatening to use “emergency powers.” Is he planning to don a red cape and leotards and circle the White House?

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall;

All the king's horses and all the king's men

Couldn't put Humpty together again.

How will Trumpy Dumpty fare if he abuses his presidential powers to coerce Congress and the American people into a further wall brawl on

February 15?

“Thoughtful criticism and close scrutiny of all government officials by the press and the public are an important part of our democratic society.”—Jimmy Carter

Take the 2017 book off your shelf: *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump: 27 Psychiatrists and Mental Health Experts Assess a President* and read it again.

“Human rights is the soul of our foreign policy, because human rights is the very soul of our sense of nationhood.”—Jimmy Carter

MELISSA MARTIN, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio. www.melissamartinchildreauthor.com.

On the 35th day of the longest government shutdown in USA history, President Donald Trump came to his senses. Or he's come up with another strategy to get federal funding for his Border Wall.

February is here. What will happen if President Trump does not get his way again? Another wall brawl?

Another Trumpian threat: “If we don't get a fair deal from Congress,” Trump said, “the government will either shut down on February 15 again or I will use the powers afforded to me under the laws and the Constitution of the United States to address this

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS: SENATOR SCHATZ...from page 5)

“Constitutionally you can't have a law go retroactively,” said Ressa.

The National Bureau of Investigation ruled in January that because the report preceded the law, Ressa could not be charged. But that judgment was later overturned by the Department of Justice on the grounds the article was updated in February 2014.

The Hawaii Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (HiCHRP), a network of individuals and organizations in Hawaii who are concerned about human rights in the Philippines, lauded Senator Schatz for being outspoken on the Ressa case.

“We, members of the Hawaii Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (HiCHRP), applaud U.S. Senator Brian Schatz for taking a stand for human rights in the Philippines by condemning the recent arrest of Maria Ressa,” HiCHRP said in a statement.

“The message that the government is sending is very clear: Be silent or you're next,” said Ressa. “So I'm saying, and I'm appealing to you, not to be silent.

“Press freedom is not just about journalists, right? It's not just about us, it's not just about me, it's not

just about Rappler. Press freedom is ... the foundation of every single right of every single Filipino to the truth, so that we can hold the powerful to account.”

Amnesty International Philippines said Ressa's arrest was based on a “trumped up libel charge.”

“This is brazenly politically motivated, and consistent with the authorities' threats and repeated targeting of Ressa and her team,” it said.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said the arrest was “clearly a desperate move of the government to suppress the media” and dissent from the government.

The Malaya Movement, a U.S.-based human rights group, also condemned Ressa's arrest. It issued a statement: “The Malaya Movement calls on all freedom loving Filipinos and the American people to raise our voices against these tyrannical moves by the Duterte regime. We reiterate our call to the American government to end all forms of support to the Duterte regime, especially the sending of our tax dollars to fund the Philippine military and the Philippine national police. We must let the world know we stand behind progressive media outlets and journalists who lay their lives on the line to get the truth out especially under these fascist conditions.”

WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel S. Tipon

Trump Wins First "Wall Construction" Case

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun."
- Ecclesiastes 1:9. (KJV)

The Trump administration won the first case challenging the construction of a wall on the southern border on February 11, 2019. Center for Biological Diversity, et. al. v. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, et al. No. 18-55474 (9th Cir. 02/11/19). The decision was rendered by the Court of Appeals 9th Circuit, which is reputed to be a liberal court. You did not hear about it? The liberal pro Democratic media did not publish it.

The appeals court affirmed the district court's summary judgment in favor of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") in cases filed by three sets of plaintiffs in-

volving the State of California and certain environmental groups challenging DHS's authority to expedite construction of border barriers near San Diego and Calexico, California, and the Secretary of DHS's waivers of applicable environmental laws.

The Court pointed out that under the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 ("IIRIRA"), the Secretary of the DHS has long had the authority "to install additional physical barriers and roads . . . in the vicinity of the United States border . . ." IIRIRA § 102(a). The Secretary also has "the authority to waive all legal requirements" that, in the "Secretary's sole discretion," are "necessary to ensure expeditious construction" of those barriers and roads. Id. § 102(c)(1).

PRESIDENT TRUMP ORDERED CONSTRUCTION OF WALL

On January 25, 2017, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 13,767, directing federal agencies to "deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border." 82 Fed. Reg. 8793. A focal point of that directive was

"the immediate construction of a physical wall," to be planned, designed, and built "[i]n accordance with existing law, including . . . IIRIRA." The "wall" was to be a "secure, contiguous, and impassable physical barrier" along the "contiguous land border between the United States and Mexico, including all points of entry."

Pursuant to Executive Order 13,767, the Secretary of DHS invoked section 102(c) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 ("IIRIRA") to waive federal laws with respect to border barrier construction projects along the border between the United States and Mexico.

The plaintiffs' "ultra vires claims" alleged that DHS exceeded its statutory authority in working on the border barrier projects and issuing the related waivers in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"). Rejecting this claim, the Court held that the plain text of section 102(a) of IIRIRA granted DHS authority to construct the border barrier projects, and that grant of authority was not limited by section 102(b) of IIRIRA.

The plaintiffs' "environmental claims" alleged that in planning and building the border barrier projects, DHS violated federal environmental laws. The Court also rejected this claim, holding that the environmental claims were precluded by the Secretary's waiver of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the APA. The Court said that it lacked jurisdiction to consider any argument challenging the waivers themselves.

Meanwhile the anti-Trump and pro illegal alien elements of American society filed on President's Day new cases against President Trump and the Department of Homeland Security to stop the construction of a wall on the southern border. "Where's the beef?" If the most liberal court in the country has upheld the construction of a wall citing solid legal authority, do these new plaintiffs expect a different result?

"The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, but expecting different results"- Albert Einstein.

"History repeats itself" because many people have not

learned the lessons of history." – Emmanuel S. Tipon

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. His current practice focuses on immigration law and appellate criminal defense. He writes law books for the world's largest law book publishing company and writes legal articles for newspapers. Listen to *The Tipon Report* which he co-hosts with son Noel, the senior partner of the Bilecki & Tipon Law Firm. It is the most witty, interesting, and useful radio program in Hawaii. KNDI 1270 AM band every Thursday at 7:30 a.m. Atty. Tipon served as a U.S. Immigration Officer. He co-authored the best-seller "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.," an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Atty. Tipon has personally experienced the entire immigration process. He first came to the United States on a student/exchange visitor visa to study at Yale. He returned to the Philippines to resume practicing law. He came again to the United States on a non-immigrant work visa to write law books, adjusted his status to that of a lawful permanent resident, and became a naturalized citizen. Atty. Tipon was born in Laoag City, Philippines. Tel. (808) 800-7856. Cell Phone (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: <https://www.hawaiiimmigrationattorney.com>, <https://www.hawaiiimmigrationattorney.com>, www.bileckilawgroup.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No attorney-client relationship is established between the writer and readers relying upon the contents of this article.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Governor Ige appoints Leo Asuncion, Jr. to PUC

Gov. David Ige has appointed Leo R. Asuncion, Jr. to the Public Utilities Commission.

"Leo's wealth of knowledge and experience will be an asset to the Public Utilities Commission. I have the utmost confidence that he will serve the State of Hawai'i well," said Gov. Ige.

Asuncion currently serves as planning program administrator for the state's Office of Planning, overseeing the overall management, administration and operations of the Planning Division. He also served as director and interim director of the Office of Planning from 2015 – 2018.

Previously, Asuncion was



a senior regulatory analyst and senior integrated resource planning analyst at Hawaiian Electric Company; a project planner/manager at SSFM International, Inc.; a planner for the Planning and Program Evaluation Division at the Hawai'i State Judiciary; and a state planner at the State Land Use Commission.

Asuncion's appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

Film Screening and Honoring Filipino Vets at FilCom

The Philippine Consulate General will commemorate the 77th Anniversary of the Araw ng Kagitingan or Day of Valor, to honor Filipino veterans of World War II by showing two WWII

documentaries – "Corregidor: the Road Back" and "Manila 1945: the Rest of the Story."

The commemoration and film screening will be on Sunday, April 7, 3-6 p.m. at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu.

For more information, contact Ma. Romina Bautista at pcghonolulu.culturalsection@gmail.com or call 808-595-6316 to 19 ext 112.



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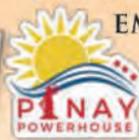
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FEATURE

Man for All Seasons Arnold Villafuerte Retires

By Belinda A. Aquino, Ph.D.

As the popular saying goes, “All things must come to an end.” When the news came that Dr. Arnold Villafuerte was retiring after several long years as a health professional, community advocate and supporter of numerous community projects, some of his colleagues and friends were a bit incredulous. Really? Is this for real?

They have been so used to seeing Villafuerte as a man-about-town engaged in a variety of programs and activities with remarkable energy, clear understanding, and a sense of accomplishment. He has been especially passionate about health care of newly-arrived immigrants who do not have any access to health coverage.

Through Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls and in cooperation with the Department of Health’s Bilingual Health Services Section, Villafuerte and his colleagues have assisted immigrants to access health services from various institutions. In addition to medical insurance coverage, these underserved migrants are able to avail of transportation services, assistance in overcoming language barriers and other issues in their new communities.

Villafuerte also has been a mainstay in the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH), which undertakes medical mission trips to the Philippines annually to communities that do not have access to health facilities and services. In Hawaii, the PMAH renders free consultation and administers simple tests for individuals attending events like the annual Filipino Fiesta.

IMPRESSIONS ON ARNOLD AND HIS WORK

Tina Salvador, founding president of the Philippines

Nurses Association of Hawaii (PNAH) and current member of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Nurses Association of America (PNAA), said she respects Villafuerte for his remarkable work ethic in dealing with patients who have been under his care in the DOH’s dialysis program.

“He has great rapport and working relationship with the health personnel on board,” said Salvador.

Villafuerte worked at Dialysis in Saint Francis Medical Center and also as Director at the Lanakila Health



Dr. Arnold Villafuerte

Center of the Department of Health.

Salvador, who works

as a Nursing Coordinator at Kuakini Hospital’s Geriatric Care division in Honolulu, also makes note of Arnold’s social and professional skills in dealing with patients in the dialysis program at the DOH. She is quite familiar with Villafuerte’s work with this particular group of patients under his care and says she really appreciates his performance as a doctor.

Cecilia Villafuerte (no relation to Arnold) had glowing words for Arnold, “He is one of the most gentle people I have known. He is very compas-

sionate and cares for the community, not only for his own Filipino group but beyond.”

Arnold has supported countless community charity goals and has advocated and worked for more scholarship programs for the younger generation of Filipinos in Hawaii, believing that the future leadership of the community will come from their ranks.

He has also been active in humanitarian causes, such as fundraising for natural disasters in the Philippines, which occur quite frequently in a

(continue on page 15)



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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

My Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Story

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

I have always loved writing. When I was in elementary and high school, I joined press conferences and wrote for my schools' papers. I even pursued Broadcast Communication in college with the hope of becoming a broadcast journalist. But that dream never became a reality. I became a wife, a mother, and a missionary. Life is beautiful just the same, but the passion for writing still preoccupies my mind. Thanks to social media, I have been given a platform to express my thoughts, even though brief and short.

But beautiful opportunities do come in surprising ways. And this was how my journey with the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle began. It started in 2014 with an article about my love story, my wedding that was a few months fresh.

Since then, I have become a contributor to the newspaper writing personal reflections once a month. And it has been an amazing journey.

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle has become a witness to the seasons of my life. I was able to share my story of becoming a wife and becoming a mother. It also allowed me to tell the stories of amazing people who have made a mark in their communities. The Chronicle gave a voice to an ordinary person like me to be heard. It has given me, an aspiring writer, the power to reach my dream.

But more than the fulfillment of a dream, what makes writing for Hawaii Filipino Chronicle fulfilling is the thought that it can bring hope and encouragement to those who are able to read my articles. It is a wonderful platform to touch lives. We all have stories to tell, and our stories matter. We never know when and how the stories of our lives can make

a difference in other people's lives. I have gained a friend from miles away and generations apart just because I simply wrote a sincere letter to my unborn child then who is now three years old. It was a simple gesture, a seemingly ordinary article that led to a touched life and a beautiful friendship.

Truly, we all have been given talents to share to the world. To some, it can be singing or dancing. To others, it's the gift of entertaining or simply listening. I am grateful to have been given the skill to play with words. I am more grateful that I have been given the opportunity to share it with the world through the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.

I believe that I am just one of the many writers of this newspaper who have been given the opportunity to have their voices heard and make the community aware of their surroundings. We, too, have become the voice of the Filipinos living in Hawaii and even



overseas. I trust that all of us have become better individuals along the way- not just in terms of skill but character. I am hopeful that the readers, especially the Filipinos in Hawaii will continue to support us and the Chronicle.

Though I only write once a month, I am blessed that someone saw my potential as a writer. I have still so much to learn. In fact, many of my articles needed meticulous editing, but I am glad because the publishers of the Chronicle didn't give up on me. They looked beyond my writing skills and saw the potential in each sto-

ry. Truly, I am beyond grateful to the publishers, especially to Ms. Chona Sonido for trusting and believing in me. It means so much to me.

I am going to be a mother again soon. By the time this has been published, I have become a mother of two. Life will be more complicated. Motherhood may have consumed my every waking moment and my mundane days. But as long as I have a story to tell, as long as there are words to be played with, as long as there are readers to be encouraged, and as long as there are leaders who believe, I will continue to write.

(continue on page 13)

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FEATURE

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE: A LOOK BACK AT THE PAST 25 YEARS

By Dennis Galolo

On the sci-fi movie “The Matrix,” the central character Neo, played by Keanu Reeves, is faced with choosing between the blue pill or red pill. The former would allow him to wake up and go on with life, while the latter would keep him in “Wonderland” and just like the fairy tale character Alice, find out just how deep the rabbit hole goes.

In a similar, but less dramatic fashion, my colleague Danny Campos from the University of Hawaii-Manoa’s venerable Operation Manong (OM) program, invited me to join a new Filipino community newspaper. I had just graduated with a bachelor’s in journalism and economics and completed an internship at Pacific Business News. I also worked at Ka Leo O Hawaii, the UH student newspaper—first as a general assignment reporter, then city desk editor, so the idea of a Filipino community newspaper intrigued me.

But the biggest attraction was the opportunity to learn much more about my Filipino roots which I knew very little about. I had attended a private school with very few Filipino students and grew up in a neighborhood with mostly Chinese families.

So like Neo who chose



the red pill, I took a giant leap and joined the Chronicle. That was 25 years ago. The journey down the rabbit hole has been more than I’ve imagined as I found myself immersed in many aspects of Philippine culture, history and its people.

As a staff writer, I dug deep for background info on my assigned stories and along the way learned about Philippine myths and folklore, the secrets of *sabong*, iconic Filipino foods like *malunggay* and *halo-halo*, historical figures like Jose Rizal, Christmas and other holiday traditions—to name just a few. I also interviewed a host of interesting people from all walks of life...from a multi-millionaire to a janitor to a recovering big time gambler, to well-known entertainers and media personalities, to a stunningly beautiful flight stewardess, to a hard-working farmer, etc.

But what I remember most were the early days when the original members of the editorial board and two consultants would meet weekly in the 2nd floor office of a building directly across Farrington High School to plan issues and cover stories. We’d begin in the early evening and enjoy take out food ordered by Dr. Charlie Sonido and Chona. Like one big happy family, we’d enthusiastically work until the wee hours of the morning, editing issues and bouncing ideas off each other. It was tiring but also fun!

One of my more memorable cover stories was co-written by fellow staff writer Rex Quidilla on Frank DeLima’s “A Filipino Christmas” which we felt made fun of the Filipino accent, cuisine and beloved Christmas traditions. Our story angered some in the Filipino community who called for a boycott

against the local comedian.

The Chronicle also covered important milestones like Ben Cayetano’s landmark election victory as governor in 1994, his subsequent re-election and unsuccessful bid for Honolulu mayor. We dedicated entire issues and special supplements to local and national election coverage and provided expert and insightful analyses for our readers. The Chronicle’s Primary and General Election telephone surveys, adroitly handled by associate editor Edwin Quinabo, accurately predicted the outcomes as well as the Filipino community’s choice in the “big ticket” races.

Additionally, we featured exclusive interviews with Philippine President Nonoy Aquino, consul generals, visiting dignitaries from the Phil-

ippines, together with “A Day in the Life Of” profiles of inspirational Filipino entrepreneurs, scholars, athletes—you name it, we covered it.

The Chronicle’s contributing writers, columnists, friends and supporters have come and gone over the years, but what has remained constant is the Chronicle’s unwavering commitment to serving as a voice and dependable source of news for the Filipino community.

The past 25 years have been a thrilling ride as we’ve watched the Filipino community grow up right before our very eyes into a dynamic and responsible member of Hawaii’s multi-ethnic community. The Chronicle was there to document much of its growth and with the steadfast support of the community, our friends, readers, subscribers and advertisers will continue to do so for the next 25 years and beyond.

MAINLAND NEWS

Bill to Give Federal Workers a Raise Introduced

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai‘i) and Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) reintroduced the Federal Adjustment of Income Rates (FAIR) Act, a bill that would provide federal employees with a 3.6 percent pay increase in 2020. Schatz and Connolly introduced similar

legislation last Congress.

“The shutdown was insult on top of injury. For years federal workers in Hawai‘i and across the country have watched their earnings get cut as a result of sequestration and a freeze on pay. Then they had to suffer through the longest government shutdown in history. It’s time to do right by

federal workers,” said Senator Schatz. “Our bill would help give these public servants the raise they deserve.”

The House passed legislation introduced by Connolly that would provide federal employees a 2.6 percent pay increase for the remainder of 2019. Schatz is a cosponsor of the Senate companion.

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The Hawaii State Judiciary is seeking individuals who speak English and another language, as well as certified sign language interpreters to become court interpreters. Interested applicants must attend one of the mandatory workshops to become a court interpreter. Oahu: Feb. 23-24 or March 23-24 at Ali‘iolani Hale (Supreme Court Building) in downtown Honolulu; Kauai: March 5-6 at Pu‘uhonua Kaulike Building (Kauai Courthouse) in Lihue; Hawaii island (Hilo): March 14-15 at Hale Kaulike (Hilo Courthouse). Registration forms are available on the Judiciary’s website and from the Office on Equality and Access to the Courts at 808-539-4860.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Will Trump's Wall Tumble From the Push-back on the Power-grab

Hawaii knows about Kings and Queens. But King Donald? The man whose chaotic policy style has been to create a more anxious and more divided America, has now forced the hand of individual states to challenge the president on his misuse of power.

Can Trump really go-around Congress to build his border wall?

"We're suing President Trump to stop him from unilaterally robbing taxpayer funds lawfully set aside by Congress for the people of our states," said California Attorney General Xavier Becerra in a statement.

Joining California is Hawaii and 14 other states including, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Virginia, and Michigan.

These are the states that understand that challenging Trump's right to bypass Congress to get money for his spending wall right now is essential.

If Trump gets away with clear usurping of power, then the U.S. becomes a de facto monarch.

That's not what the Founder envisioned.

Trump has desperately created a fake crisis, declaring a national emergency in order to suit his political needs. He promised a wall, so he continues to lie and exaggerate the seriousness of the problems along the southern border. Instead of facts, he panders to his base and parades sobbing "Angel Moms," who have lost sons and daughters at the hands of undocumented criminals.

Sure, it's sad. But did he mention "Angel Asians," the families of the victims of the Seaport Buffet triple-murder, hatchet job in Brooklyn, where three Asian immigrants were

killed by a hatchet wielding mad-man? Far more brutal and despicable than any recent hate crime in recent memory, it was perpetrated by a white immigrant from Estonia.

What about us, Mr. President?

The fact is, there is no emergency on the southern border.

Trump's like a fireman with his hose unfurled and no fire to put out. But since he's rolled it all out, he feels compelled to shoot water on something.

How about the Constitution? In his mind, it could use some watering down.

And that's the real emergency: A bona-fide constitutional crisis.

Francis Boyle, professor of international law at the University of Illinois College of Law, cites three sections: (1) Article 1, Section 7 of the U.S. Constitution: "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives....," (2) Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law....," and (3) the Federal Anti-Deficiency Statute."

These provisions could be the cornerstone for a Bill of Impeachment.

"This should be initiated immediately," Boyle told the Institute for Public Accuracy. "All you need is one brave member of the U.S. House of Representatives to meaningfully assert that body's Power of the Purse." He added that overriding legislative power is "illegitimate and dangerous and subverts a fundamental premise of the Constitution."

That's how serious we should take the declaration of the fake national emergency. It was a way around another Trump dilemma—how to explain away agreeing to a compromise that gave him less border wall money, but prevented another government shutdown. The emergency declaration allows him to get his border

wall money by taking already appropriated money from the military budget, something that actually could cause a national security concern.

Put it all together and it's a patchwork Trump "victory."

All he had to do was lie a little bit and trample on the Constitution.

That's not what we do in a democracy.

Pelosi and Schumer are livid. Neither is gung-ho on impeachment. But there's a clear pathway, and it has nothing to do with Russia or Mueller. It has to do with a president who thinks he's above it all ignoring Congress' power of the purse.

Is there one brave legislator out there willing to challenge a president whose actions defy the basic principles of our Constitution?

Not sure on the House side. But Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii is looking for a bipartisan response to Trump.

"Donald Trump is putting his vanity wall above the Constitution and the American people," said Senator Hirono. "Let's call today's action what it is: a blatant, illegal power grab that steals money from our military to advance Donald Trump's personal agenda."

There are enough Republicans concerned with the prec-

edent Trump is setting. Works both ways. What if a future Democratic president wanted to declare climate change or gun violence a national emergency? Republicans wouldn't like that. Hirono may get bipartisan recognition that the emergency declaration must be terminated.

But if there's one brave member in the House, why stop there?

All that and the lawsuit by the states. It's Trump style, unnecessary, unwarranted, and definitely undemocratic.

EMIL GUILLERMO is a veteran journalist and commentator. He was on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser, and a columnist for the Starr-Bulletin. Twitter @emilamo

KROSWORD *Blg. 2*

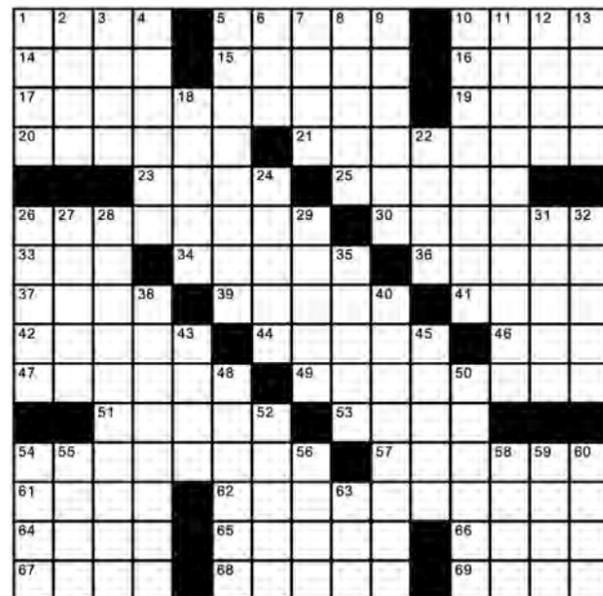
ni Carlito Lalicon

PAHALANG

1. Tatak sa balat
5. Ubos
10. Pagsasalitaang mas malakasa sa bulong
14. Kutya
15. Agraryo
16. Tigatig
17. Lait
19. Panot
20. Laywan
21. Balita
23. Ikli
25. Malakas mabilis at tuluy-tuloy na salita
26. Sigsag
30. Gilit
33. At iba
34. Dapa
36. Apimatiba
37. Talaguhitan
39. Kaibigang babae
41. Nara
42. Baklas
44. Banta
46. Kiskis
47. Mananangal
49. Pagsusuri
51. Kabaong

PABABA

1. Kordero
2. Hayan
3. Pagpili ng mga taong gagawa sa isang piling trabaho
4. Iwan
5. Bai
6. Bangungot
7. Krusipihon
8. Paril
9. Barandilya
10. Ipagsumbong
11. Eksorbitante
12. Amag
13. Bigo
18. Medalyon
22. Pangongolekta ng pera o ambag
24. Kabitan
26. Pag-iinit ng bagay na yari sa luad o malagkit na putik



53. Huling kataga sa dasal o panalangin
54. Kortadura
57. Agaw-aw
61. Sige
62. Matarik
64. Sagwan
65. Hangal
66. Ninyo
67. Buriko
68. Iukol
69. Pagtatanong sa lugar
27. Galaw o kilos na paurong
28. Pag-alis sa kinalalagyan
29. Tuntunin ng moralidad
31. Antas
32. Hihip ng hangin
35. Nara
38. Pinilakan
40. Poklor
43. Pag-unat ng mga bisig o braso pagkagising
45. Halamang namumulaklak ng biyuleta
48. Bahay
50. Kaltas
52. Domestik
54. Balaraw
55. Pag-aasinan
56. Kahimanawari
58. Aseyte
59. Tulong,
60. Diyan
63. Totoo ba

LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa

In some cases, a waiver of the two-year home residency requirement may be obtained from the home country.

J-1 programs are administered through the US Department of State (DOS). The applicant must have a program sponsor in the US who is approved by DOS to sponsor J-1 trainees and interns who will be working for the third party "host" employers. These hosts will be the ones to train and/or educate the trainee. The J-1 program is available for the following fields: arts and culture; business, management, commerce and finance; sciences, mathematics, architecture, and industrial occupations; information, media and communications; public administration and law; education and social sciences; hospitality and tourism; and agriculture, forestry and fishing.

The host employer (or employing organization) must meet certain criteria: He must have a valid Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) and must have been operating for at least one year. He must offer proof of valid workers compensation or an exemption for such and may not use the intern/trainee program for ordinary employment or staffing. He must sign a statement stating that he does not intend to

assist the trainee in remaining in the US beyond the authorized program dates or change status to another category in order to remain in the US. This is required because some host employers might attempt to overcome the H-1B (nonimmigrant work visa) cap or other immigration hurdles by getting J-1 visa trainees instead.

It is easier for companies and organizations to apply for designation as a J-1 sponsor for training/internship programs. This is because they can sponsor trainees/interns directly and such trainees/interns will then apply for J-1 visas at the US consulate in their home countries.

US citizens, US permanent residents and other legal entities in the US can also become program sponsors. They must show the following in order to become program sponsors: 1. They have the ability to comply and remain in continual compliance with all applicable provisions of the regulations; 2. That they can meet at all times their financial obligations and responsibilities attendant to successful sponsorship of their exchange visitor program; 3. That the entity or proposed responsible officers has no fewer than 3 years experience in international exchange. They have to provide biographic infor-

mation regarding the proposed responsible officer and detailed information describing experience in the selection, screening, orientation, placement, and oversight of foreign nationals in exchange activities is required. They should also provide audit report or compilation performed by an independent certified public accounting firm to show financial stability. They should submit the training plan.

The newly approved J-1 sponsor must appoint adequate staff and support services with the qualifications and training to administer the program. The

organization must have one responsible officer (RO) and an alternate responsible officer (ARO) to administer the program under the supervision of the RO. The Sponsor must devise a method and criteria for selecting participants for the programs, which include the suitability of the program for prospective participants, and that participants have sufficient proficiency in the English language to participate in the programs.

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

The J-1 exchange visitor visa allows a foreign national to remain in the US for a specific period of time for training purposes. After the completion of the training program, he must leave the US and return to his home country in order to share the knowledge and skills he gained to his countrymen. Examples of exchange visitors are physicians, professors or scholars, research assistants, students, trainees and teachers.

There is a two-year home residency requirement for a foreign national who was financed to go to the US by his home country or the US government itself, or if the skill gained in the training program is needed in his home country, or if he is a medical graduate who participated in a residency in the US. This residency requirement states that he must return to his home country for at least two years after the end of the training program before becoming eligible to change status in the US or receive a nonimmigrant work visa or an immigrant visa.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS: MY HAWAII...from page 10)

Someday, when my children can already read and understand, I will show them the stories that I wrote for the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. I will excitedly tell them that a dream of their mother has been fulfilled. And hopefully, they

too will pursue their passions and dreams. It is my prayer that they, like their mother, will have many great opportunities to tell the world their stories and make a mark in their generation and many nations.

To Hawaii Filipino Chron-

icle, thank you for touching many people's lives for 25 years now. You have definitely reached a lot of readers. You have surely made a mark in my life. Again, thank you and wishing you all the best in the next 25 years and more.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce to Hold Business Mixer

Want to learn more about tax updates and meet Filipino business leaders? The Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce is holding a business mixer on the final regulations for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act issued for the Qualified Business Income Deduction.

The event is open to the

public and will be held on February 20, 5:30 p.m. at Tante's Fish Market. Tickets are \$20 per person and heavy pupus will be served.

The evening's keynote speaker will be Leizl Tabon of Levin and Tabon, LLP. Ms. Tabon is a graduate of Maui High School, has earned a Bachelor

of Science in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco, and is currently a certified public accountant and partner at Levin & Tabon, LLP. The event is sponsored by All Access Entertainment and Tante's Fish Market.

For more information, email mauifilipinocc@gmail.com or call Sharon Zalsos Banaag at (808) 359-1616.

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Pebrero Bulan Dagiti Puso



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes



Kaaduanna ti mangur-uray iti daytoy a bulan a kunada nga aldaw dagiti puso. Adu dagiti mangsegsegga ti ur-urayenda nga ayat kasta met dagiti babbalasang a mangur-uray ti panawen

a panangitinnagda ti ayat a maiyud-ud-od kadakuada. Dakkel ngamin ti kaipapanan daytoy ng aldaw. Nupay no adu dagiti nagballaigi adu met dagiti napaay.

Mainanama ngamin a daytoy a bulan ti aldaw dagiti pudno a pamunganayan ti

napudno ken natalged nga ayat. Pudno man ken saan ipagaruptay lattan. Dakkel ngamin ti kaipapanan ti aldaw dagiti puso kadagiti kaaduan a mangsursurot ti kaipapanan ti napudno nga ayat. Nupay padpadto laeng kadagiti seknan ti ayat. Adda met dagiti pudmudno ngem adda latta met dagiti mapaay. Ta ania ngamin aya ti makuna a napudno nga ayat? Daytay kunada nga uray ania ti mapasamak no napudno dagiti agayan-ayat nga agbanag latta a nasayaat.

Nupay adda met dagitay pagsasao dagiti nataengan a no agkurang ti panangnamna ad-adda a saan a maitungpal. Nupay pagsasao laeng dayta adda met laeng kadatayo ti pannakaitungpal dagiti nasayaat ken natalged a plano a mangitungpal ti amin a banag a sipupudno nga irusar.

(Solution to Crossword No. 2 | February 9, 2019)

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

DAGITI MANNURAT ITI HAWAII

Binukeldaka manipud ramut ti kinatakneng Kinadarisay puso, rimat, isip ken panawen Aldaw rabii bannog ken puyat di samiren Tapno panagsangtakmo saan a nakuriteng

Minulidaka babaen anus, di agati a pammateg Gaput natarnaw, nadalus, napasnek dagiti panggep Dagiti langto ti arapaap iburaynat kinangayed Dinto agati nga ayat a kabulon nabuslon a ling-et

Tinagibidaka a siaalikaka tapno nasam-it ti bunga Inaladandaka ta paglenmi a di mawasap ta sampaga Panagbukarmo, naayamuomka, nasayup, ap-apalanda Matmaturog riingem, bumarinkuas, kalakalendaka

Nabalitukan a sagudaymo masapul a salimetmetan Kadagiti laeng puso a natarnaw, saan a naagum dayaw Mangbukod, mangsakup ti law-ang dagiti kayaw Rinaatam a dana, agparangda a nalibnos gapu iti dayaw

Italimengdaka iti ikut ti natalged a pannaranay Iti laksid nagduduma a maris inkam masaklaw Bayat panagbiagmi di koma matibnukan ti allilaw Tapno masaluadan dagiti napapateg a tarigagay

Kabayatan dagiti panaglabas ti adu a tawen Tartarabayendaka tapno maitungpal dagiti gandat Dagiti birtud nga idasdasarmo adu ti maklaat Ipagarupda a di matungpal dagiti naisawang a gandat

Nanumo dagiti naaramidanen a gapuanan Ngem nalinteg, nadalus nadalimanek a bagibasaran Saan a tinulad wenno palpalaguad ngem pudno a naaramidan Sitatalged, bukod nga isip ken kabaellan ti nagitungpal

Panaglabas dagiti adun nga aldaw ken tawtawen Dagiti gapuanan ken naaramidan saan a maisardeng Dagiti pluma ad-adda ketdi a tumadem di mailemmeng Warnakan, libraria ken adu a pagtaengan, addaka!

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII (FCCH) FILIPINO ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR | March 23, 2019; 6 PM | Ala Moana Hibiscus Ballroom | For more details call: Rose Galanto at 688-4458, Vanessa Tan Kop at 441-0509

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OFCC) PRESENTS THE MISS OAHU FILIPINA 2019 | June 1, 2019; 6 PM | Marriot Waikiki Beach Resort | For more details call: Calvin Bagaoisan at 266-4334, Maricelle Redona at 295-5233, Raymond Sebastian at 799-6080

77TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAW NG KAGITINGAN OR DAY OF VALOR | April 7, 2019; 6 PM | Filipino Community Center in Waipahu | For more details call: Ms. Ma. Romina Bautista at 808-595-6316 to 19 ext. 112 or email: pcghonolulu.culturalsection@gmail.com

FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HAWAII (FNOH) EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARDS | August 10, 2019; 6 PM | Hilton Hawaiian Village Resorts Coral Ballroom | For more details call: Lolita Echaz Ching at 387-7635, Luanne Long at 754-0594

GLOBAL NEWS

West Philippine Sea Advocates Protest China in Spratlys



SAIPAN, Northern Marianas – The Philippine government – and the Filipinos – should once and for all send a strong message to China that the West Philippine Sea belongs to the Philippines and it should be respected, said Dr. Cecilia Lamkin speaking on behalf of the National Youth Movement for West Philippine Sea (NYMWPS).

“We join all patriotic Filipinos in protesting the blatant disrespect of our sovereignty and the continued bullying by China despite the July 12, 2016 decision of the UN Arbitral Tribunal that the Philippines has territorial jurisdiction over the West Philippine Sea,” Lamkin added.

The NYMWPS, headed by Lamkin as its global chairperson and

founder, joins Philippines Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in calling for a protest amidst reports that China is opening a “maritime rescue center” to supposedly “offer better support to maritime rescue operations in the southern part of the South China Sea.”

“We call on the Duterte administration to stop kowtowing to China in the guise of maintaining a favorable diplomatic relations. It is about time that it sends a strong

message to China that Pangani-ban Reef (Mischief Reef), Kagitingan Reef (Fiery Cross), and all those islands that they have built within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone belong to us. The obviously lame and lackadaisical stance of the government despite the massive reclamation and building of military structures in the area is sending a wrong message that the Philippines is consenting to China’s intrusion to our sovereign territory,” NYMWPS said.

(FEATURE: MAN FOR ALL SEASONS...from page 9)

country that lies smack on the Pacific Ring of Fire.

On a lighter vein, Cecilia also makes special mention of Arnold as a “special GQ model.” For those unfamiliar with “GQ,” it stands for “Gentlemen’s Quarterly.” It’s a fashion and culture magazine for men. The characterization is a bit “sexist” but Cecilia says it’s a compliment to describe Arnold’s personality.

She says, “who could miss Arnold in a Filipino community event in his colorful ‘Barong Filipino’? -- which he carries with sartorial elegance and aplomb! He is easy to spot because as tall as he is, he stands out in various beauty contests for men with the best ‘barong’ and other ethnic attires. He has won the ‘Mr. Barong’ title a number of times in major Filipino cultural events.”

Cecilia herself, quite a visible personality in the community and current president of the Filipino Women’s Civic Club Foundation of Hawaii, can comment with authority on the people she has worked with. She says she’s grateful to Arnold for having supported her in various functions in the Filipino community.

Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch is

another longstanding friend and colleague of Arnold’s having been her former classmate. She adds a delightful touch to her “Tribute to Arnold,” in which she characterizes him with traits and values corresponding with his first name ARNOLD. In Nancy’s own colorful descriptions, she wrote of Arnold:

A - Always striving for excellence. We did school projects so well because we were always on the same wavelength as far as excellence is concerned. We always wanted to be the best in class!

R - Responsible. Once you have worked with Arnold, you will always like him to be on your Team because he takes his duties seriously and responsibly.

N - Numerous Talents and Skills. You want him around when you go camping!

O - Outcome-Oriented. Doing projects with Arnold is reassuring because you will always be proud of the quality of what you will accomplish.

L - Loyal and Loving. If you are a friend of ARNOLD’S, you know deep in your heart that he

will always be loyal and loving; he will never disappoint you.

D - Dependable to a reassuring degree. Most of all, you can depend on him when you need support such as in times of need and crisis.

There is more that Arnold has done in his life and career. He has also been an active member of the Knights of Rizal (KOR) Hawaii chapter.

On this momentous occasion of Villafuerte’s retirement, it is our pride to wish him the best of everything for and in his future life as one who has done his duty to humanity extremely well and with great dignity and honor

DR. BELINDA AQUINO is currently Professor Emeritus at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she served as Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies, and Founding Director of the Center for Philippine Studies for nearly 40 years. She is internationally recognized as an authority on contemporary Philippine society and culture, and has served as visiting professor, scholar, research fellow, lecturer and consultant in various foreign institutions in the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, and Indonesia. She was the Vice

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President for Public Affairs of the University of the Philippines in 1989 - 91. She was the first recipient of the Jose P. Rizal Award for Peace and Social Justice in 2012.



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Kung mayroon kayong **Medicare** at **Medicaid**, piliin po ninyo ang **Hawaii Senior Medical Group** para sa inyong kalusugan at madaling pagsangguni sa mga espesyalista.

Ang **Hawaii Senior Medical Group** ay may kontrata sa Medicare at Medicaid. Ito ay binubuo ng mga doctor, hospital at espesyalista upang magbigay ng mahusay at matapat na serbisyong pangkalusugan sa lahat.



Hawaii Senior Medical Group

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