

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 4, 2020 ◆

YEAR-IN-REVIEW OF HFC'S TOP STORIES IN 2019

COVER STORY PAGE 4



Q & A

MEET PMAH NEW PRESIDENT, DR. MARIA "MAREL" VER

9



AS I SEE IT

UNDERSTANDING OUR PINOY TRADITIONS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

10



CANDID PERSPECTIVES

DONALD J. TRUMP, TIP, NOT RIP

11



HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HONOLULU, HI
PERMIT NO. 9661

EDITORIAL

Recapping the Top News in 2019

The top national storylines of 2019 echoed those in 2018 – all the controversies orbiting around President Donald Trump. But emerging to share the national limelight were the Democratic presidential contenders. Heavy coverage on the Democratic debates and campaign trails brought some balance to an otherwise overdose of Trump media coverage.

Internationally, the world famous Notre Dame Cathedral burned; New Zealand faced catastrophic tragedy when a white supremacist went on a shooting spree that left 51 worshippers dead at two mosques. Inspired by the New Zealand shooter, another white supremacist killed 22 in a border city in Texas – his specific targets were immigrants, a first ever mass shooting on the U.S. immigrant community.

In 2019, asylum seekers were placed in cage-like detentions and separated from their under-aged children, a Trump enforced policy that will go down in the history books as one of the country's darkest and inhuman moments. The U.S. federal government underwent the longest shutdown in U.S. history; scientists took the first photo of a Black Hole; and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) declared vaping a health emergency, linking vaping to 50 deaths, 2,000 cases of hospitalization spread across all 50 states.

Locally, Gov. David Ige and the State Legislature approved millions for building affordable housing and funding homeless programs. Lawmakers passed a bill reducing penalties for possessing small amounts of marijuana and a measure requiring vacation-rental platforms to collect taxes on behalf of hosts. Funds were appropriated to slightly expand public pre-school. But perhaps the bigger news of the 2019 State Legislature is what didn't pass, the highly contentious minimum wage bill or the legalizing of recreational marijuana use. E-cigarette regulations also failed.

Arguably the most emotionally charged news of 2019 in the state of Hawaii was the Thirty Meter Telescope protests over the selection of Mauna Kea as the site location for the Thirty Meter Telescope. Protestors picketed, set up blockades, and launched social media campaigns of their movement which is now global.

In 2019, Hawaii's Filipino community celebrated their most relied upon Filipino newspaper as the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle reached its milestone 25th Anniversary. Filipina lawyers gathered for a major empowerment event in Hawaii at the National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA) Pinay Powerhouse III conference.

Thousands of miles away the Philippines held its midterm elections which was a referendum on President Rodrigo Duterte's administration. Despite the controversies swirling around Duterte -- his strongman inclinations and violent anti-drug campaign -- Filipinos gave their approval, handing over the president even greater power by electing all his political allies in a clean sweep.

Long-standing issues that lingered into 2019 were climate change, gun violence, the opioid crisis, high cost of prescription drugs and medical care, high cost of education and student debt, and lack of affordable housing.

Biggest Misrepresented News of the Year

The biggest issue not making news or reported inaccurately in 2019 is the U.S. economy. It is not doing as well as touted by the media. Old benchmarks of unemployment rates and GDP to measure economic progress do not give an accurate assessment. They do not take into account underemployment, lack of quality jobs, low wages, double jobs, jobs replacement due to automation and technology or inflation.

The real news is that the economy is growing; but mostly going into the pockets of the few (top 1 percent) and less to workers. GDP does not show that. Why else is the gap of economic

FROM THE PUBLISHER



he world has never been more interconnected. Global financial markets are linked and when a major crash in one major hub occurs, it creates waves of uncertainty internationally. News is impactful in similar ways. In 2019, the world felt despair over the mass shooting in New Zealand when a white supremacist killed 22 worshippers at two mosques. Not only was that news emotionally palpable, but soon after a copy cat shooter, inspired by the New Zealand killing, targeted immigrants in a Texas border city, leaving 22 innocents dead. This is a tragic example, but it shows how powerful news can be and that we are in many ways one big world community. So when immigrants are targeted on the mainland, it matters to us even though we are far removed here living on an island

For our cover story this year, associate editor Edwin Quinabo recaps HFC's Top Stories of 2019. We see a diverse set of stories from the local-community level, internationally in the Philippines, and the history-making controversy swirling around President Donald Trump. What they all have in common is their relevancy in some way to our Filipino community (again, the power of interconnectedness). This year in review also gives our readers a chance to read summaries of stories they might have missed and later visit our website archives to see the full write-ups.

Also in this issue, we have a Q&A interview with the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) new president Dr. Maria "Marel" Ver, a surgeon at Pali Momi Medical Center. Dr. Ver grew up in Hawaii but received her medical training in the mainland from New York Medical College, the University of Illinois Chicago – Mount Sinai Hospital and Cleveland Clinic. She is a board-certified general surgeon and is the Trauma Medical Director at Pali Momi where she helped developed the hospital into a Level 3 trauma center. Dr. Ver previously served as a board member for the PMAH for five years so she knows very well the needs of the organization. One of her goals is to increase the organization's digital and social media presence. Congratulations Dr. Ver on your new leadership position. We wish you and PMAH much success under your tenure.

For parents who are raising their children to become bilingual, we have a book review on the bilingual children's book series "The Fabulous Lost & Found and the little mouse who spoke Tagalog" by Mark Pallis. HFC's Jim Bea Sampaga, who wrote the book review, says the recently released book is aimed at children between the ages of two to seven. It is available online on Amazon and the Barnes & Noble's website.

HFC columnist Atty. Reuben Seguritan contributes "DHS to Disclose Individual's Information to SSA." It's a new match-making program for agencies to share information with the SSA, which begins on Jan. 19, 2020. HFC columnist Melissa Martin, Ph.D. writes a powerful piece of the importance of protecting the freedom of the press, which is enshrined in our First Amendment and a part of the Bill of Rights. Also, be sure to catch the latest in Hawaii, Mainland and Philippines news.

Lastly, I'd like to wish all our readers and advertisers a very Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another year of presenting informative, impactful news and features that matter to our community. Until next issue, warmest *Aloha* and *Mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

inequality continues to widen (number of billionaires rising) while the middle class is shrinking? Why else is homelessness so rampant across the country? Corporate media has been negligent and promoting a false narrative. And more troubling, why is the "corporate" media not telling stories of the plight of working people? ■



Publisher & Executive Editor
Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.

Publisher & Managing Editor
Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Associate Editors
Edwin Quinabo | Dennis Galolo

Contributing Editor
Belinda Aquino, Ph.D.

Layout
Junggoi Peralta

Photography
Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant
**Lilia Capalad
Shalimar Pagulayan**

Editorial Assistant
Jim Bea Sampaga

Columnists

Carlota Hufana Ader

Elpidio R. Estioko

Emil Guillermo

Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

J.P. Orias

Pacita Saludes

Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.

Charlie Sonido, M.D.

Emmanuel S. Tipon, Esq.

Contributing Writers

Clement Bautista

Edna Bautista, Ed.D.

Teresita Bernales, Ed.D.

Sheryll Bonilla, Esq.

Rose Churma

Serafin Colmenares Jr., Ph.D.

Linda Dela Cruz

Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand

Amelia Jacang, M.D.

Caroline Julian

Raymond Ll. Liongson, Ph.D.

Federico Magdalena, Ph.D.

Matthew Mettias

Maita Milallos

Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D.

Renelaine Bontol-Pfister

Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

Jay Valdez, Psy.D.

Glenn Wakai

Amado Yoro

Philippine Correspondent:

Greg Garcia

Neighbor Island Correspondents:

Big Island (Hilo and Kona)

Grace Larson | Ditas Udani

Kauai

Millicent Wellington

Maui

Christine Sabado

Big Island Distributors

Grace Larson | Ditas Udani

Kauai Distributors

Amylou Aguinaldo

Nestor Aguinaldo

Maui Distributors

Cecille Piros | Rey Piros

Molokai Distributor

Maria Watanabe

Oahu Distributors

Yoshimasa Kaneko

Jonathan Pagulayan

Advertising / Marketing Director

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives

Carlota Hufana Ader

JP Orias

Intern

Mark Lester Sanchez

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published semi-monthly (twice a month) by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. and is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1829. E-mail: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

U.S. SBA SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST AWARDEE

MEMBER, SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

EDITORIALS

Duterte's Threat to Require Americans Get Visas to Visit the Philippines Is Excessive

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is threatening to require that all Americans intending to visit the Philippines must apply and secure a visa before they can enter the country. Currently, American travelers who spend 30 or fewer days in the Philippines do not need a VISA.

Should a illogical policy be adopted, those affected would be hundreds of thousands of Americans who travel to the Philippines each year, including the thousands of Fil-Ams in Hawaii who return to their ancestral homeland to visit family and friends.

According to government figures, the number of American tourists visiting the Philippines exceeded one million in 2018, making the United States the country's third-largest source of tourists.

Why would the president make such an absurd proposal and make it harder for Americans and harder for the Philippines' tourist market? Retaliation.

Tit for Tat

The threat is in response to a bill that was introduced by U.S. senators and signed by U.S. president Donald Trump, prohibiting U.S. entry for persons involved in the jailing of Philippines Sen. Leila de Lima, who is a prominent critic of Duterte's war on drugs. De Lima has been in jail since 2017 on drug charges. The U.S. provision was an item included in the US 2020 budget bill.

Firing back, Duterte also ordered the Philippines' Bureau of Immigration (BI) to prevent US Senators Dick Durbin and Patrick Leahy from entering the Philippines. The two senators led the filing of the provision in the U.S. Senate.

Philippines Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra said the ban on the two US lawmakers is effective immediately while the possible visa requirement for Americans still depends on how Washington

will implement its ban in relation to De Lima's case.

"It appears therefore that the President's countermove hinges on the actual implementation of the US travel ban against certain Filipino individuals," Guevarra said.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo contradicted the claim in the U.S. provision that recognized De Lima was incarcerated as a result of persecution by the Duterte administration.

"The case of Senator De Lima is not one of persecution but of prosecution," the Palace official said, pre-empting any attempt by the political opposition to use the provision to further their attacks against Duterte, whose drug war is being questioned before the International Criminal Court.

De Lima has been given due process under Philippine laws, Panelo said, disputing her claims of being politically persecuted by the President.

"In fact, it is already being heard by our courts. The Philippine Supreme Court, the highest court of our land, has affirmed the incarceration of Senator De Lima as valid and lawful," he said.

Panelo described Durbin and Leahy as "imperious, uninformed, and gullible American legislators."

David Carle, a spokesperson for U.S. Sen. Leahy, said the senator believes the charges against De Lima are politically motivated.

Carle explained, "This is about the right of Filipino citizens—and people everywhere—to freely express their opinions, including opinions that may be critical of government policies that involve the use of excessive force and the denial of due process."

De Lima has denied any wrong doing and called the drug charges against her as politically motivated.

U.S. Defending Democracy Guardians De Lima and Ressa

The U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations also passed on December 11 last year U.S. Senate Resolution

142, called the "Free Leila Resolution," which calls for the immediate release of Senator de Lima and condemned the Philippines government's alleged role in extrajudicial killings in the war on drugs.

Resolution 142 also called for the government to drop charges against Maria Ressa, the internationally known journalist and strong critic of Duterte, and against the online news Ressa works for, Rappler.

Both De Lima and Ressa are among the most prominent figures known for guarding democracy and free speech in the Philippines, at least in the eyes of the international community.

De Lima thanked the US Senate Committee in a handwritten statement from her detention on Camp Crame. "I've always believed that standing strong for one's conviction and fighting for what is true and just for human rights and humanity have many friends around the globe," she said.

De Lima is a Filipino lawyer, human rights activist, politician, and law professor. She served as Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Human Rights under former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and as the Philippines' Secretary of Justice under President Benigno S. Aquino III. In May 2018, Amnesty International conferred to De Lima the first ever "Most Distinguished Human Rights Defender" for her role in challenging Duterte's abuses.

Given De Lima's track record on human rights and justice, it's no surprise that a clash between her and the Duterte administration was bound to happen.

On Ressa, she was included in Time's Person of the Year 2018 as one of a collection of journalists from around the world. Like De Lima, Ressa also had been arrested. But she was able to post bail on charges of "cyber libel." Her charges by the government are still pending.

Hurt the Philippines

President Duterte's count-

er measure (VISA requirement for American visitors) to the U.S. ban does nothing more than to hurt the Philippines economy, which gets a big boost from tourism.

The move is self-defeating and foolhardy as it could deter Americans from visiting the country. On top of that, imagine how much the Philippine government would need to spend on additional staff to process hundreds of thousands of visas for American visitors. That would be money unnecessarily spent especially for a country in need of major infrastructure improvements.

Political gamesmanship of banning diplomats occasionally happens between countries as a form of protest. But Duterte went overboard, as he normally does, with the additional visitors' visa proposal.

It's a retaliatory ploy that will have limited influence on U.S. lawmakers, at best. And only affirms to the international community Duterte's infamous strongman reputation.

For the sake of all Filipinos living in the U.S., hopefully the visa proposal is just a crude misstep or bluff.

The Philippines has every right in defending itself and its sovereignty by responding to the U.S.' ban with a ban of its own. But the proportionate counter goes beyond tit-for-tat and extreme.

Duterte is actually fortunate that the U.S. hasn't taken even stronger actions. As a leader of the free world and democracy, the U.S. has historically taken tougher measures on countries that violate human rights and due process by enforcing harsh trade penalties.

The U.S. is right in not turning a blind eye to what's happening in the Philippines.

The U.S. sent a message (its ban) to Duterte that the U.S. will not tolerate certain levels of abuse. Some can even argue that the message wasn't strong enough.

The hope is for leaders of both countries to reach some kind of agreement. ■

visit our website@
www.thefilipinochronicle.com
 and enjoy the e-copy of the hawaii filipino chronicle



BALIKBAYAN BOXES
LBC HARI NG PADALA
GRACE LARSON
 BIG ISLAND AGENT of LBC
211 MAKANI CIRCLE
HILO, HI 96720
808- 640-1540
808-960-6006
Fax: 1-866-663-1453
raven_reuboni@yahoo.com



Drop-off Your Balikbayan Boxes at Two Big Island Courier locations!
 Come visit us at our Authorized Partner locations:

<p>HILO WAREHOUSE 831 Leilani St., Hilo, HI 96720</p>  <p>Business Hours: Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 10:00 am or 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Sundays at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm</p>	<p>KONA 73-4776 Kanalani St. Unit #12 Kailua Kona, HI 96740</p>  <p>Business Hours: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Sundays only</p>	<p>CALL TO SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP!</p> <p>Grace Larson (808) 640-1540 Joy Luea (Kona) (808) 937-0663</p> 
---	---	---

(800) 338-3424 | www.LBCexpress.com | [/LBCexpress](https://www.facebook.com/LBCexpress) | @LBCexpress

www.allparalegalservices.com

Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's Top News for 2019

By Edwin Quinabo

2 019 was another year of compelling news that the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle reported on – in international news the Philippines held its midterm election that resulted in a sweep for Duterte allies; in national news all things Trump were covered from his anti-immigrant policies to the year-end impeachment proceedings; and in local community news it was a banner year for ethnic media as the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC) celebrated its 25th Anniversary.

HFC presented cover stories, editorials and news of interest and consequence to the Filipino community. News that defined 2019 covered in the HFC were proud moments, inspiring stories, cultural and empowering events, humanitarian efforts, and pursuits to correct social-political injustices, particularly on the immigrant community. The following is a recap of HFC's top stories for 2019.

#1: Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

Through the years, the HFC has fortified a place in local media and flexed its muscle and gravitas on critical issues. In 2019, the newspaper celebrated its 25th anniversary – 25 years of advocating for the Filipino community and state on issues from immigration and healthcare, to social benefits and business.

HFC owners Dr. Charlie and Chona Montesines-Sonido invited the community to celebrate the newspaper's 25th anniversary in a grand event held at the Ala Moana Hotel on November 23, 2019. In appreciation of the unwavering support by the community, that evening HFC owners honored 35 individuals and organizations with the HFC Excellence Awards. The recipients all have made significant contributions to the community. Also that evening, the Sonidos awarded Alyssa Jacelyn Salangsang Acob of Kapolei with the first HFC Journalism-Mass Communications Scholarship. Acob received \$2,500 to go towards completing her education at Hawaii Pacific University.

Dr. Sonido said the HFC was established because “we wanted a reputable local Filipino newspaper immigrant Filipinos could learn not only about what is happening in the Philippines but also about Filipinos in Hawaii or on the

mainland. At the same time, we wanted non-Filipinos and local-born Filipinos to have a better understanding of the Filipino culture and experience.”

Chona, the tour de force who has driven HFC as its managing editor since inception, said “we are very grateful for the many blessings we have received from above and from our supporters, advertisers, families and friends who have helped us to continue our work to be the voice of the Filipino community through the newspaper.”

The HFC received numerous recognition for its 25 years of serving the community, including congratulatory proclamations from U.S. Senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz, Congressman Ed Case, Governor David Ige, Mayor of Honolulu Kirk Caldwell, and Consul General Joselito Jimeno of the Philippine Consulate, Hawaii.

#2 Filipino-American Role Models in the Spotlight

An ongoing theme of HFC is to feature outstanding Filipino-Americans. This year was no exception.

Jade Tabios Butay.

In the May 18, 2019 issue, HFC did a cover story on Jade Tabios Butay who was appointed Director of the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT).

Only a few people can say their work touches every

Hawaii resident, every visitor, every job, every day. Butay's role at the HDOT is just that, all-encompassing. Butay sits at the helm of the HDOT overseeing, managing, and maintaining 15 airports, 10 commercial harbors, and more than 2,500 miles of highways.

He leads a team of about 2,600 employees and collaborates with major stakeholders and partners that include the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), United States Coast Guard (USCG), United States Customs & Border Protection (CBP), the State Legislature, County Mayors, and numerous airline, harbor and highway user organizations, among others, on behalf of the state.

Butay says the HDOT is a very dynamic organization and always changing. He likens the Department's daily operation with life. He said, “things don't always happen sequentially. It happens all at once. Every day is different. No meeting or situation is ever the same. Sometimes decisions, many with long-term consequences, have to be made based on previous knowledge and calculated risks, with great uncertainty as to their outcomes, but using your best judgment.”

Butay's rise from immigrant, humble beginnings to being one of the state government's most influential lead-



ers reads like a classic success story.

HFC Excellence Awardees.

In the Nov. 2, 2019 issue, the 35 recipients of the HFC Excellence Awards were featured as a cover story. Each day people are empowered to change their communities. The Filipino community has no shortage of smart, energetic, charitable, courageous individuals who do just that -- making a positive impact for others to benefit.

Awardees were chosen for both their stellar accomplishments in their respective fields – law, medicine, government, business, education, entertainment, and so on – as well as their work as community-builders, as leaders working to uplift the Filipino community.

One of the awardees Roland Casamina is President and CEO of House of Finance, a company that has been in the top 20 largest residential lenders on Oahu for multiple years, according to Pacific Business News. His invaluable work in the community includes being one of the founders of the Filipino Community Center and serving as its first president.

The complete list of distinguished awardees included Abner Undan, Dr. Amelia Jacang, Ariel Flores, Dr. An-

thony Guerrero, Dr. Aurelio Agcaoili, Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, Dr. Carolina Davide, Bernadette Baraquio, Judge Catherine Remigio, Dr. Cecile Sebastian, Danny Villaruz, Edith Doctolero, Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii, Jeffrey Cudiamat, Kristian Lei, Chef Joel Navasca, Lito Alcantara, Rev. Larry Estrella, Margarita “Dayday” Hopkins, Mariabel Apuya, Melody Calisay, Norman Arancon, Ohana Medical Missions, Inc., Pacita Saludes, Philip Sabado, Filipino Association of University Women, Judge Randal Valenciano, Reynard Grauly, Roland Casamina, Peter Aduja (posthumous awardee), Romy Cachola, Rosalinda Malalis, Chef Sheldon Simeon, Associate Justice Simeon Acoba, and Judge William Domingo.

#3 To impeach or not to impeach President Trump

Calls for impeachment of the president swirled around two events. The HFC covered both as a cover story and in multiple editorials. The first push for impeachment arose after the release of the Mueller report that found 10 points of obstruction of justice. The report established that Russia attacked the 2016 elections to help Trump. It showed that

(continue on page 5)

COVER STORY

(from page 4)

Trump the candidate welcomed that help. And lastly, when Trump was investigated, he tried to obstruct the investigations.

But there wasn't enough evidence that Trump colluded with the Russians and obstruction alone wasn't sufficient to pursue impeachment to House leaders.

Trump seemed to be all but cleared after this controversy, until a second scandal arose later in the year that alleged Trump had sought the help from Ukrainian authorities to favor him in the 2020 U.S. presidential election by asking for an investigation into Hunter and Joe Biden involvement in Burisma Holdings. An impeachment inquiry was opened on Sept. 24 and after two months a House majority decided to impeach the president on Dec. 3, 2019, making him only the third president in history to be impeached. The president's impeachment case goes to the U.S. Senate for trial to determine if he will be removed from office.

#4 Duterte Allies Sweep Philippines' Midterm Elections

All eyes were set on the Philippines' Midterm Elections which was a referendum on President Rodrigo Duterte's administration. The midterms was the HFC cover story on June 1, 2019.

Critics of the president say the results of the May 13, 2019 midterms was disastrous for Philippine democracy. To a majority of over 60 million Filipinos who voted for Duterte allies this midterm, they viewed the election less about a waning democracy and more about continuity of what's good in the country -- the fairly bullish economy; "safer" drug-free streets, no matter the cost. Whatever the reason, a majority of Filipino voters have elected to brush off widespread condemnation of Duterte abuses and favor his hardline leadership.

Duterte allies won 12 of the 12 open seats in the Senate (11 if counting one independent), giving the president's ally count up to 18 of the 24 total Senate seats. In the House, pro-Duterte allies will

keep a 245-seat majority out of 297 seats. Allies of the president now have the might of a supermajority, control of all branches of government: the Senate (that was his sole opposition before the midterm), the House, and a Duterte-stacked Supreme Court (he appointed seven justices, including the current Chief Justice in just three years).

UH-Manoa Asian Studies professor Patricio Abinales, who grew up in the Philippines, forecasts what the midterm election could mean in the way of future policies under a Duterte supermajority. "At the domestic level it will be a continuation of the war on drugs and more extrajudicial executions, but now with the police or their hired assassins not having to worry about any possible Senate or congressional investigation or the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and the courts raising questions about legal procedures," said Abinales.

#5 American Safety Net Programs Under Assault

"It's a gut punch to the American middle class," said New York Senator Chuck Schumer of President Donald Trump's requested cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

President Donald Trump's wish-list for his 2020 budget proposal included a cut of \$845 billion from Medicare, \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid, and \$25 billion from Social Security.

Senate President Mitch McConnell (Republican-Kentucky) has already blamed entitlement programs for the country's colossal national debt, giving Americans insight into what his legislative priority would be after 2020. McConnell says the real drivers of debt are the entitlement programs. But these programs have not undergone major changes since McConnell became majority leader while the deficit has increased 77 percent since he became majority leader in 2015.

Senator Marco Rubio (Republican-Florida) expressed similar talking points: "You have got to generate economic

growth because growth generates revenue. But you also have to bring spending under control. And not discretionary spending. That isn't the driver of our debt. The driver of our debt is the structure of Social Security and Medicare for future beneficiaries."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's take on the GOP's move: "After exploding the deficit with his GOP tax scam for the rich, President Trump is once again trying to ransack Medicare, Medicaid and the health care of seniors and families across America," she said.

Hawaii Senator Brian Schatz (Democrat) hoped to draw a clear line on the partisan divide when he said, "One party wants to expand Medicare and Medicaid and the other wants to cut them."

Polls consistently show that the big three safety net programs remain popular among both Democrats and Republicans. Pew Research Center found just 15 percent of Republicans and 5 percent of Democrats supported a reduction in Medicare spending. In the same poll, just 10 percent of Republicans and 3 percent of Democrats want to see a reduction in Social Security funding.

#6-8 Filipino Community Events Showcase Culture, Unity and Empowerment

At the heart of the Filipino community events is a strong desire to preserve and showcase culture, reinforce unity, and build empowerment.

HFC published three cover stories on three major community events: 1) Pinay Powerhouse III, 2) the Filipino Fiesta, and 3) the Great Malunggay Festival and Parade.

Pinay Powerhouse III, "Shine on," a conference for empowering Filipina attorneys, took place on March 29-31 at the Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach. It is an annual event put together by the National Filipino American Lawyers Association (NFALA). The format of Pinay Powerhouse has been a rousing success. Reputable Filipina leaders from various fields of law – business, government, immigration, public service, the court's system – were invited

to speak and take part in panels where they talk about their expertise in their fields.

But what many attendees find most interesting is hearing these high-powered attorneys' personal experiences, how they got started, their obstacles, the steps they've taken to succeed. The conferences certainly cover topics of the law and its application; but also "real-life" stories of the work-culture where law is practiced, which is particularly meaningful for law students or newly-licensed attorneys. What's unique and perhaps what fuels inspiration at these conferences is that all these established attorneys are Filipinas.

Atty. Joanne Badua, a member of the Hawaii Executive Committee who helped put together Pinay Powerhouse III, calls Pinay Powerhouse a safe space for those that identify as a woman and Filipina, and support the mission and purpose of advancing Filipina women in the legal field.

Filipino Fiesta. The FilCom Center presented its 27th Annual Filipino Fiesta and 7th Flores De Mayo, the largest Filipino event in the state each year, and one of the largest Filipino fiestas in the U.S. As usual, the Fiesta was held in the first week of May and for the second time at Kaka'ako Gateway Parks. Keeping with its popular format that draws over 10,000 attendees, the Fiesta once again had authentic Filipino food, riveting ethnic and multi-genre entertainment, cultural booths showcasing indigenous crafts, art, and history, business vendors, children's games, non-profit advocacy, and a community health fair.

Brandon Dela Cruz, who handles marketing for the Fiesta, explains the Fiesta started as a way to bring public awareness to garner support for the building of the FilCom Center, which many in the community see as a symbol of our community.

"On a larger cultural scale, the event embodies the essence of a celebratory time in the Philippines known as 'Flores de Mayor' or 'Flowers of May' which is a festival held in the Philippines in the month of May. The Flores celebration has also taken an additional

meaning with Hawaii's largest Filipino event's founder Eddie Flores, who coincidentally shares the same name," said Dela Cruz.

Great Malunggay Festival and Parade. In its 5th year, the Great Malunggay Festival and Parade took place on March 16, 2019, at the FilCom Center in Waipahu. The family-friendly event will donate part of its proceeds this year to the Youth and Young Adults Program of the Filipino Church of Christ, Waipahu and the Agape Youth and Young Adult Ministry of St. Joseph, Waipahu. In the past, organizers have donated to other worthy causes, including assisting Filipino students with their educational needs at Leeward Community College.

Al Simbahon, producer of the Malunggay Festival and Parade explains why he put together the event, "Since 1995 and the recent closure of Maui's sugar plantations, reality and sadness struck, changing a way of life for so many. We lost our beloved sugar cane, but not our malunggay trees which were brought here to the islands by our elders in the Philippines.

"I envisioned on old Waipahu Street, a parade floatilla graced with the branches of the malunggay, cheering on as the parade passes by with a king and queen, their court and parade-goers. It has become a reality, beginning with our very first Great Malunggay Festival and Parade."

Organizers have put together a diverse lineup of riveting entertainment and food and cultural vendors.

(continue on page 6)

Keep updated on the latest Filipino-American news in Hawaii!

FOLLOW and LIKE the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle on





OPINION



By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

When Freedom of the Press is Imprisoned

Jailed journalists around the globe. How can it be? First Amendment aggressions in the United States. How can it be? When words and voices are held hostage, humanity suffers.

Devious despots misusing power and preying upon humanity—withholding information because knowledge is power. Silencing the other side of the story. Fear of losing control feeds their depravity. Dictators hiding behind castle walls and armies of destruction for those who dare criticize.

Freedom of the press is held hostage as journalists observe through prison bars. The courageous story-tellers that sacrifice personal safety

for the human rights of others. But their lips will not be nailed shut like a wooden coffin. Truth finds a way to seep out of the cracks and crannies of the grave.

Duvar English, an independent newspaper in Turkey, revealed the following facts in a 2019 article. “There are 250 imprisoned journalists in the world, nearly 50 of whom are in Turkey, according to a report by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ). Turkey follows China with the second largest number of journalists jailed with 47, marking a decrease from 68 last year...Penned by CPJ editor Elana Beiser, the report noted that over 100 news organizations have been closed under the current Turkish government and that many working journalists are being accused of terrorism and are in legal battles...Saudi Arabia and Egypt tied for third place with 26 journalists incarcerated.” www.duvarenglish.com.

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) lends bulletproof vests and helmets at no cost to journalists travelling to dangerous areas.

Freedom of Press in USA

“Before the thirteen colonies declared independence from Great Britain, the British government attempted to censor the American media by prohibiting newspapers from publishing unfavorable information and opinions.” www.history.com.

The First Amendment, which protects freedom of the press, was adopted on December 15, 1791, as part of the Bill of Rights.

“The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, which documents First Amendment aggressions in the United States, has collected student journalism-based incidents at both the university and high school levels. Since its launch in 2017, the Tracker has documented five cases of high school newspapers being

censored or placed under prior review for their coverage of controversial topics. At the university level, it has collected two arrests, two physical attacks and three border stop involving student journalists, as well as three cases of subpoenas or legal orders.” www.freedom.press.

What Can Citizens in the US Do?

Support your local newspaper and pay for the news you consume. Read local, state, and national newspapers and write Letters to the Editors about free press issues.

Join or donate to Reporters Without Borders at www.rsf.org. Reporters Without Borders USA (RSF USA) is the US office of the global organization. Read about the 100 Information Heroes from countries abroad.

The Committee to Protect Journalists is an independent, nonprofit organization that promotes press freedom

worldwide. CPJ is made up of about 40 experts around the world, with headquarters in New York City. When press freedom violations occur, CPJ mobilizes a network of correspondents who report and take action on behalf of those targeted. www.cpj.org.

Be aware of fake news outlets and fake news on social media. PolitiFact is a fact-checking website that rates the accuracy of claims by elected officials and others at www.politifact.com. Snopes.com is an independent publication fact-checking site online. Fact-checking and accountability journalism from AP journalists around the globe at FactCheck@ap.org.

“Freedom of the Press, if it means anything at all, means the freedom to criticize and oppose.”—George Orwell ■

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

(COVER STORY: Hawaii Filipino Chronicle’s Top News...from page 5)

#9 Mass Shooting-Gun Violence and New Background Checks bill

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). Mass shootings have also become epidemic. 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.

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 background checks bill passed the House and sits in the U.S. Senate for deliberation.

The current law requires only federally licensed gun dealers to perform background checks. But the new bill, 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.

On Aug. 3, 2019, gun violence erupted in El Paso, Texas in a first-ever mass shooting

that specifically targeted immigrants. HFC ran a cover story on it in the Aug. 7, 2019 issue. The hate-driven carnage in El Paso resulted in 22 people killed and 27 injured. It goes down as the seventh deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Thirteen hours after the El Paso shooting, another mass shooting broke out in Dayton, Ohio, in which 10 people were killed and 27 injured. Just one week prior to both these shootings, there was another mass murder in Gilroy, California; four were killed and 13 injured. Like the shooter in El Paso, this gunman is believed to have been a white supremacist. The mass murders, occurring so close in time, reignited calls for tougher gun measures.

University of Hawaii Manoa Professor of Ethnic Studies Jonathan Okamura believes the anti-immigrant environment largely instigated by President Trump could have influenced the El Paso attack. He said, “the targeting of Mexican Americans by the gunman at El Paso can be

readily connected to his ongoing efforts to build a wall along the border with Mexico and his demonizing of Mexicans as rapists and criminals the day he announced his presidential campaign.”

#10 Ohana Medical Mission Helps Indigent Communities in the Philippines

The Hawaii-based Ohana Medical Mission, Inc. (OMM) visited Cebu and Davao, Philippines, Aug. 1 through 13 (Aug 4-11, site visits). For the OMM team of medical and lay volunteers, the near two-weeks mission – that required hundreds of hours of logistical planning, coordination, and fundraising – took over two years of preparation.

The locations they visited were Carcar Municipal Hall, Maharlika Gym, Sambag II, and Taptap Gym in Cebu City; and Boulevard Trading Gym and Tugbok Proper Gym in Davao City; and Babak Gym, Samal.

Dr. Russell Kelly, president of Ohana Medical Mis-

(continue on page 10)



McMANN EYE
INSTITUTE

- COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE
- CATARACT SURGERY
- GLAUCOMA
- DIABETIC EYE CARE
- PTERYGIUM
- MACULAR DEGENERATION
- LASIK VISION CORRECTION
- ADVANCED CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION
- SUNGLASSES, EYEGLASSES & CONTACT LENSES



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

BOARD CERTIFIED
FELLOWSHIP-TRAINED
EYE SURGEON



Queen’s Medical Center West - POB West

91-2139 Fort Weaver Rd. Sulte 202 | Ewa Beach

677-2733

FREE Parking / Next to The Bus Stop

Staff speaks TAGALOG & ILOCANO

WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel S. Tipon

2019 Year-end Immigration Quiz

The following questions for our 2019 Year-end immigration quiz are based on Atty. Emmanuel S. Tipon's articles written in 2019.

If you are the first person to answer all 10 questions correctly before January 6, 2020, we wish to congratulate you in person and honor you and your significant other to dinner at Morton's Steakhouse in Honolulu or send you a check for \$200. Answers must be sent by email to: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Write on the subject line: Answers to 2019 Year-end immigration quiz.

1. The issue of whether a marriage is in good faith (bona fide) usually arises in:

- (a) Adjustment of status proceedings.
- (b) Naturalization proceedings.
- (c) Fiancee visa petitions.
- (d) All of the above.
- (e) None of the above.

2. The test of the bona fides of a marriage is:

- (a) Whether the couple had sexual relations at least 7 times after the marriage.
- (b) Whether the couple intended to establish a life together at the time of the marriage.
- (c) Whether the man is older than the woman.
- (d) All of the above.
- (e) None of the above.

3. President Trump was "impeached" (charged) by the House of Representatives for "abuse of power" because during a telephone conversation with President Zelensky of Ukraine, Trump asked the latter:

- (a) To introduce Trump to a beautiful Ukrainian girl.
- (b) To find out if Joe Biden, when he was Vice Pres-

ident under Obama, stopped the prosecution of Biden's son in Ukraine.

- (c) To find out why Joe Biden's son was appointed a director of a Ukrainian gas company.
- (d) All of the above.
- (e) None of the above.

4. Under the U.S. Constitution, a President shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of:

- (a) Treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.
- (b) Treason, bribery, other high crimes and misdemeanors, or abuse of power.
- (c) Treason, bribery, other high crimes and misdemeanors, abuse of power, or obstruction of Congress.
- (d) All of the above.
- (e) None of the above.

5. The billionaire principal owner of a football team who was being prosecuted for soliciting another to commit prostitution filed a motion to suppress video surveillance tapes showing him in a massage parlor allegedly engaging in illegal sexual activity on the ground that:

- (a) The pictures were fuzzy and it could not be determined if he was the person shown in the tapes.
- (b) The tapes were fakes.
- (c) The Fourth Amendment provides that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated.
- (d) All of the above.
- (e) None of the above.

6. What are some of the ways to minimize immigration processing delays?

- (a) Ask God to help you.
- (b) Ask your Congressman or Senator to follow up your application.
- (c) Tell USCIS you will file a mandamus petition if it does not act.
- (d) All of the above.
- (e) None of the above.

7. An alien refugee can win asylum and remain in the U.S. if the refugee can show that he/she is unable or unwilling to return to the country of such person's nationality because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of:

- (a) Race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.
- (b) Race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, or sexual orientation.
- (c) Race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, political opinion, sexual orientation, or having been a victim of sexual abuse.
- (d) All of the above.
- (e) None of the above.

8. Immigration and Customs Enforcement cannot be defeated because it has plenty of resources to deport

aliens who have violated immigration and criminal laws.

- (a) True.
- (b) False.

9. President Trump's Executive Order on January 25, 2017, directing federal agencies to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border, and for the immediate construction of a physical wall was upheld by the Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, reputed to be a liberal court.

- (a) True.
- (b) No.

10. Can a naturalized US. Citizen be stripped of such citizenship in a criminal proceeding based on an immaterial false statement previously made to immigration authorities?

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.

THE CORRECT ANSWERS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE SUCCEEDING ISSUE OF THIS PUBLICATION. ■

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.tiponlaw.com>, <https://www.hawaiianimmigrationattorney.com>, <https://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

120 Homeless Die on Honolulu Streets in 2019

About 40 people attended a Saturday night service at Central Union Church to commemorate the deaths of over 100 people who died on the streets of Oahu or in homeless shelters in 2019.

The fifth annual service known as "Blue Christmas" or "The Longest Night" was held during the winter solstice, the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

About 120 light blue orna-

ments, each bearing the name of a deceased person considered homeless when they died, were placed on three Christmas trees positioned in the church chancel, and the names on the ornaments were called out individually as they were.

The Honolulu medical examiner had reported 94 people who were considered homeless died by the end of 2019.

The 94 deaths reported by the medical examiner is the highest in the past five years.

Office of Housing Exec-

utive Director Marc Alexander said the upward trend was disturbing and noted that the average age of death of those considered homeless is under 53, nearly 30 years fewer than the average life expectancy in Hawaii.

"This is one reason why we do not want people to be unsheltered on the streets. This is why Mayor Caldwell pushes 'compassionate disruption,'" Alexander said, referring to the mayor's policies to limit homeless people's occupation of public spaces.



Insure. Invest. Retire.

Taking care of your family – that's being good at life.



Contact me to learn more about securing your family's financial future.

Ditas Guillermo Udani
Agent, Financial Services Professional
New York Life Insurance Company
1510 Kilauea Avenue
Hilo, HI 96720
808-895-2398
fudani@ft.newyorklife.com

Registered Representative offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (Member FINRA/SIPC), A Licensed Insurance Agency, SMRU1713827 (Exp. 10/25/2018)
©2018 New York Life Insurance Company, 51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010

Be good at life. 

BOOK REVIEW

UK-BASED WRITER RELEASES TAGALOG VERSION OF BILINGUAL CHILDREN'S BOOK SERIES, THE FABULOUS LOST & FOUND

By Jim Bea Sampaga

Released just earlier this month, bilingual children's book series *The Fabulous Lost & Found* releases a Tagalog version titled *The Fabulous Lost & Found and the little mouse who spoke Tagalog*.

Aimed at children between the ages of two to seven years old, the bilingual book series uses a unique learning method called "Story-powered Language Learning." According to the UK-based author Mark Pallis, the learning method helps build empathy and a positive attitude towards speakers of a different language. "We create an emotionally engaging and funny story for children and adults to enjoy together,"

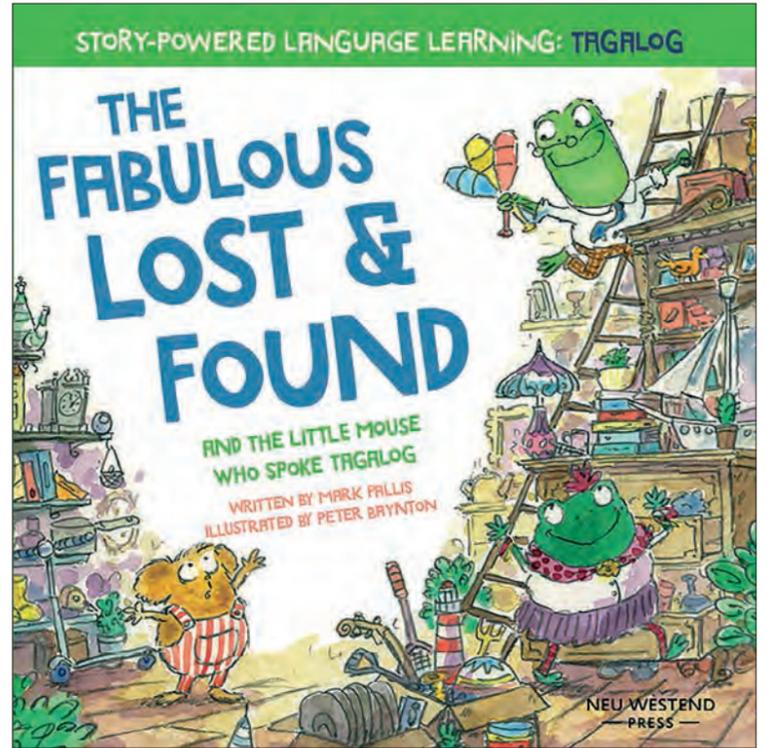
Pallis said. "Through the story, we introduce a relatable character who speaks only in the new language."

As the child connects more to the characters, the child will learn fun new words in a different language that the character can only speak. "Strategic use of humor ensures that this subconscious learning is rewarded with laughter," Pallis explained.

The Fabulous Lost & Found is also available in other languages such as Spanish, German and Italian. Pallis thought it was time to release a Tagalog version of his bilingual children's book series. "I have many Tagalog speaking friends and so I wanted to do something that they could share with their children," Pallis shared.

Pallis wants every book to be authentic and genuine, so he made sure that the mouse's dialogues are simple, easy to follow and natural in the native foreign language. "The mouse's simple sentences are first translated by one translator, then checked by another, and then finally workshopped by a native speaker just to make sure everything is correct and feels very natural," Pallis explained.

Pallis is a seasoned writer in the UK where he served as a story editor for award-winning BBC TV drama *Garrow's Law* and writer for Daytime Emmy Award-winning children's show *Tales of Peter Rabbit*. He started writing his *The Fabulous Lost & Found* series because of his desire to teach children to show em-



pathy between people from different countries.

Illustrated by award-winning London-based animator Peter Baynton, *The Fabulous Lost & Found and the little mouse who spoke Tagalog* was translated to Tagalog with the help of Philip-

pine-based children's book writer Amae Dechavez-Barcia.

"*The Fabulous Lost & Found and the little mouse who spoke Tagalog*" by Mark Pallis is available online on Amazon and Barnes & Noble's website. ■



- POOL
- 24 HRS SECURITY
- PRIVATE GARDEN
- FITNESS CENTER
- OUTLETS
- CAR PARK

Move-in ready fully-furnished new condo residence on the ground floor with 114.5 sq. meters with parking stall and a lanai that opens to a private garden. Price reduced from \$230,000 to \$150,000 and includes range/oven, microwave, refrigerator, air conditioning unit, exquisitely designed new wooden furniture, wall mirrors, beds, chairs, coffee table, sofa, dining table, and elegant lighting fixtures. Located within the 60-hectare exclusive Lakefront development in Sucat, Muntinlupa City, Philippines. Presidio has fully-airconditioned buildings (interior hallways included), has function rooms ideal for big gatherings, clubhouse with swimming pools and fitness center, with surrounding commercial outlets like Jollibee, Pure Gold, Bank of P.I. and other retail stores in the condo premises.

A comfortable and spacious lakeside setting on Laguna De Bay's lake. Utterly secluded but warmly social.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

CALL NOW! CHARLIE at 808-225-5739 or 808-330-8981



Q & A

Meet PMAH New President, Dr. Maria “Marel” Ver

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

Dr. Maria “Marel” Ver, a surgeon at Pali Momi Medical Center, is the new president of the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH). She was raised in Pearl City and graduated from Maryknoll Schools in Honolulu, then went on to receive her medical training on the mainland. She earned her medical degree at New York Medical College, her general surgery residency at the prestigious University of Illinois Chicago – Mount Sinai Hospital, and her fellowship in advanced laparoscopic and bariatric surgery at the renowned Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Ver comes into the top leadership position at PMAH already having served on the PMAH board for five years.

What’s in store under her tenure? She wants to increase membership for PMAH and enhance the organization’s digital and social media presence. She has other ideas on addressing important matters facing Hawaii’s medical community such as physician burnout, doctors’ shortage, and a need for increased mentoring. The following is Dr. Ver’s Q&A interview with the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.

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

DR. VER: I feel very privileged and humbled to have been chosen to take on this position.

HFC: What are your roles and responsibilities as PMAH president?

DR. VER: The PMAH board meets at least on a monthly basis. These board meetings are very fruitful, as we are often planning for upcoming PMAH events, which are several per year. As president, I am responsible for keeping the meetings organized and efficient. We do have lively debates on issues and have discussions on what the right thing to do is. For me, I take any leadership position I am in very seriously, and very personally. As PMAH president, I believe I have the upmost responsibility to be a role model for those around me, as well as be very visible to the community on behalf of PMAH.

HFC: What will be your top priorities during your term?



DR. VER: I have been on the PMAH board for five years now and I’ve seen and experienced the changes in leadership and styles, and changes in medicine. I believe that we, as an organization, must evolve with the times. Therefore, my top priorities are to redefine the mission of PMAH, increase membership for PMAH and its affiliates, and give our members the opportunities to be active and have a voice. I’d like to increase our digital and social media presence highlighting our past, future, and plans for beyond. The world

should know the great things PMAH has achieved over the years and what we’re doing now. With this, I hope to gain more community support that will sustain PMAH and its affiliates for many years to come.

HFC: How would you describe your leadership style?

DR. VER: I am an observer. I like to listen. I like to think. I like to challenge. I am very transparent. I believe my leadership style is thinking deeply from all angles and perspectives and connecting the

(continue on page 12)

WAIPAHAU THERAPY CENTER

Waipahu Therapy Center, LLP

Ariel "Jay" Flores, PT, DPT, and Shirleen Flores, PT are co-owners of Waipahu Therapy Center, LLP, a physical therapy practice and massage establishment specializing in the treatment of musculoskeletal conditions.

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays
8 AM to 1 PM and 2 PM to 7 PM

Waipahu Office: 94-229 Waipahu Depot Road Suite 304 Waipahu, HI 96797	Honolulu Office: 1810 N. King Street Suite E-1 Honolulu, HI 96819
--	--

Telephone: 391.7678
Facsimile: 206.1278

WEST SHORE NEUROLOGY, LLC

RAY R. ROMERO, M.D., FAHA

- Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- Fellow, American Stroke Council
- Member, American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine

**94-216 Farrington Hwy Suite A103
Mailbox #203 Waipahu, Hawaii 96797**

**Phones: 808-680-0558
808-680-0559
808-680-0554**

Fax: 808-680-0500

**Physician’s Exchange:
808-524-2575**

**M-F 8:30-5:00 except Wed 8:30-12:00
Accepts all health insurances except Workmen’s and No Fault**



By Elpidio R. Estioko

Understanding Our Pinoy Traditions on New Year's Day

For 22 years as US immigrants, my family and I welcome the New Year every year as Pinoys in America. So, we stayed together during New Year's Eve at our home in Milpitas, California following some traditions and superstitions to make the celebration more fun, enjoyable and memorable hoping that the new year will bring plenty of joy and blessings in our life as we pin our hope on year 2020 for a better life!

On the eve of December 31, we dined as a family together physically and mentally: my wife Delia, children Jayson, May with her boyfriend Steve Law, and Tweety and her husband Jonathan, (who are on their Christmas vacation here and will be going back to Oahu, Hawaii on January 2), celebrated together at home. Then we talked over the phone with our son Jojo, his wife Alvi and grandchildren Kayla and Bibay who are

in Jacksonville, Florida. On Face time, we talked to our son Paul who went back to Oahu, Hawaii last Sunday. Then we were on the air talking to our eldest Gigi and her husband Eric who are in Sydney, Australia. That's how we celebrated together, because the internet knows no boundaries on New Year's Day!

We still remember and believe on some traditions our parents taught us when we were young. We have pansit (long noodles) and spaghetti on our table on New Year's Eve bringing long life and luck. Historians say, according to old New Year's tradition in the Philippines, the Chinese settlers introduced Chinese noodles on New Year's Day representing good health and long life. And... I found out that 80 percent of modern Filipinos still practice the tradition.

My wife made sure we had sticky rice like biko and bilo bilo on our table living up to the belief that eating sticky rice will help improve relations and bond of the family. In addition, we also had kutsinta, bibingka, suman, and puto paw.

This made our bonding even more pronounced as my children learned to eat them ... reminding them they used to eat them when they were little while we were still in the Philippines. My youngest was 4 years old when we immigrated to the US and he is now 27 years old.

Also, my wife made sure we had a variety of round-shaped fruits (such as gapes, pears, pomelos, oranges, watermelons, apples, and kiwi) symbolizing prosperity in Filipino and Chinese traditions. We were told that each fruit represents a month in the New Year (12 different fruits representing a month) so that you will be prosperous all year round.

Another thing, instead of fish and chicken, which are definitely no-no in Filipino New Year's traditions, we had spare ribs and pork barbecue. Again, we were told that Filipinos usually don't eat fish and chicken dishes during New Year's Eve because these symbolize scarcity of food. Well, whatever that means... this was what we're brought up by our old folks.

We jumped when the clock struck 12! Kids in the Philippines, are encouraged to jump high as they can when the clock hits 12 because old folks believe that it will help their youngsters



grow taller. I know there is no proven scientific explanation to back this belief, but whatever its worth, it's worth a shot! So, together with the kids, I jumped... why not! Besides, jumping while screaming your heart out, is a fun and joyous way to welcome the New Year!

Simultaneously jumping, we threw coins, also at the stroke of midnight! I remember my old folks saying it symbolizes wealth and financial stability throughout the year.

We stayed at home for the first day of the year, to avoid spending a coin or a dollar. Again, this symbolizes not shelling out a great deal of cash in the year to come. January 1, in the Filipino New Year's traditions, I was told, is a day that dictates everything in your life for the rest of the year. This implies that the things we do on this day will embody every aspect of our life for this year. My friends say this is already outdated, but we do it anyway as my old folks did who handed the same practice from generations to generations.

We also opened our doors, drawers, cabinets, and windows to let the pos-

itive vibes and good fortunes come in. We opened our doors to "manna from heaven"...so to speak.

Also following South-east Asian traditions, which is just the opposite of opening the doors, is cleaning the house during New Year's Day. As old Filipino custom suggests, cleaning the house may sweep away good fortunes that came in during the New Year's Eve.

Well, how about wearing polka dots? We didn't wear them but polka dot attires. We were told, are actually a big hit during this jolly yearly event across the Philippines, according to tradition. In Filipino New Year's tradition, polka dots epitomizes prosperity in the coming year.

Wherever you are in this world, let's face the New Year, embrace it, and let's do it with the hope that it will help us for the better! And... don't forget our traditions that go with the New Year. Know your roots!

Welcome 2020! ■

ELPIDIO R. ESTIOKO was a veteran journalist in the Philippines and an award-winning journalist here in the US. For feedbacks, comments... please email the author at estiokoelpidio@gmail.com.

LEEWARD OAHU REHAB SERVICES

We offer the following services:

WORK AND NO-FAULT RELATED INJURIES

RECONDITIONING

ORTHOPEDIC EVALUATION AND REHABILITATION

NECK PAIN

BACK PAIN

Business Hours:

Tues. & Thurs., 3 - 6 PM

Sat., 2 - 5 PM

94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., WAIPAHU, HI 96797

(808) 671-5928



VILMA D. FUENTES, Doctor of Physical Therapy

(COVER STORY: Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's Top News...from page 6)

sions, Inc., said a total of 70 volunteers (26 from Honolulu and Manila) worked on each site. He headed eight physicians; Dr. Salvador Cecilio led three surgeons. Executive director JP Orias coordinated with local specialists and volunteers in Cebu and Davao to assist the OMM team.

This latest medical trip was OMM's ninth mission. OMM provided a wide range of medical services to treat various medical conditions. Medical volunteers did some minor lymphoma, circum-

cision, and other surgeries. They did dental extractions and dental hygiene procedures. OMM brought with the team more than \$100,000 worth of medicines and vitamins to help patients.

"The mission is very rewarding for me. There are so many real life vignettes that you get from the mission that make you feel you're doing a good job. You see, OMM also gives away humanitarian gifts to underserved communities in addition to medical and surgical services. Last mission, I

experienced the spontaneous joy of a little boy telling his dad 'Wow, we now have spaghetti for Christmas.' Reactions like these make the mission priceless," said Dr. Kelly.

Like other organizations that do medical missions, OMM targets underserved communities, mostly in rural areas where medical needs are not being met. They serve locals who are either too poor to afford medical treatment; and serve communities far away from hub hospitals or clinics. ■

CANDID PERSPECTIVES

Donald J. Trump, TIP, Not RIP



By Emil Guillermo

You half expected it, didn't you. At some point, everything you heard the Democrats accusing Trump would be recycled by the Gaslighter-in-Chief himself.

So are you surprised that over the weekend, Trump has falsely accused Democrats of "violating the Constitution" by not following the guidelines for impeachment?

It was at the Turning Point USA conference in West Palm Beach, Florida.

"That's so unfair," the president said.

And so not true.

The president is becoming unraveled. He is after all not merely POTUS.

By the actions of our U.S. House of Representatives, he is Donald J. Trump, TIP.

TIP? Yes, "The Impeached President."

It hurts even saying the phrase.

There have only been three in the 243-year history of our country.

That's nothing to gloat about.

As Nancy Pelosi has said, no one comes to Washington to serve in Congress to impeach a president. Yet now that it's been done, I think it's helpful to define what we call the guy going forward—besides a few choice nouns and adjectives you should keep to yourself.

Instead, I want to lead us in a show of compassion and respect for the president by throwing him an acronymical fig leaf.

Three letters. T-I-P.

Instead of names like "45 (with an asterisk)" or something else you may have heard, let's give him a designation.

Kind of like Ph.D, MBE, MBA, or CPA.

But not exactly.

Just TIP. One hell of a credential. "The Impeached President."

TIP is definitely not RIP. Or VIP.

TIP honors the office while still acknowledging the infraction. It's both discreet and a visually descriptive metaphor too. Cow-tipping is an ag college frat boy prank. In DC, when you get too big and full of yourself for the Constitution, president-tipping is the last resort of the majority of the House of Representatives.

As House Speaker Pelosi said, "It is tragic that the president's reckless actions made impeachment necessary. He gave us no choice."

Trump got tipped.

Let's see if it sticks. Because the blemish of impeachment always does.

It's like getting permanent orange hair dye that never fades.

Impeachment stains Trump forever.

Even if Trump doesn't go away immediately, or is allowed to stay by a rigged jury process that Sen. Mitch McConnell and his ilk are trying to cook up with the help of the president's legal staff, Trump is still tippy.

Mind you, the House withholding the articles of impeachment until the Senate announces its rules is legal and Constitutional. In fact, nothing in the Constitution suggests the articles must be sent over for a speedy trial.

The key word is trial.

TIP and the people have a right to a speedy trial. Not some fake trial where Republican Senators, who act as jurors, have already proclaimed they aren't impartial but biased to the president.

I have no doubt the articles will eventually be passed on. But it may not be until January. And how delicious to have TIP give the SOTU address.

Even if the president is not removed, he's still TIP. That means voters can give him the real nudge in November.

For now, t the vote that matters fs the one taken by the House last week on that historic Wednesday night.

The House Vote

The Republicans were in



lockstep, going down with the president.

216 votes were required. The Democrats got more than they needed.

On the first article, 230 voted yes, and 197 voted no, with 1 voting present, Democrat Tulsi Gabbard of Hawaii.

It provided a clear majority to impeach Donald J. Trump on the first article of impeachment, abuse of power.

On the second article of impeachment, obstruction of Congress, the vote was 229 yes, 198 no.

Again, one member voted "present," Hawaii's Tulsi Gabbard, who explained to a reporter that she was against Trump's actions, but she wasn't for an impeachment process that was not bipartisan.

What's Gabbard doing? Keeping her options open to be the next Linda Lingle or an adoptive member of the Trump GOP?

Certainly, I had hoped to see some crossover votes of conscience, but it didn't materialize.

Instead of looking at whether Trump honored his oath of office, or protected and defended the Constitution, we had a Republican party that threw principles out the window and chose to be loyal to an all-powerful, above-it-all Trump.

For political self-preservation? Where was the courage to say Trump had done something wrong in the Ukraine matter and should be punished?

While the Democrats looked at the facts, Republicans looked at preserving their jobs and power.

The Republicans stayed locked in with TIP, the man who seemed to come undone

would be compact and understandable. Why not bribery? What about Mueller's report? This was intended to be simple. All the House had to prove was "high crimes and misdemeanors," crimes against the Constitution.

So at the start of the debate were Asian Americans, like California's Ted Lieu and Washington state's Pramila Jayapal, who again said Trump himself was "the smoking gun."

"This is the day of accountability and defending our democracy," she said. "The facts in front of us are clear. This President Donald J. Trump coerced a fragile foreign ally (Ukraine) to investigate his political opponent (Joe Biden) and interfere in our elections. And he leveraged critically needed congressionally approved military aid to Ukraine."

The president was using his office for personal gain. The abuse of power was clear.

Republicans never disputed the facts in article one. The president said it was a "perfect" call, and Republicans nodded. And they failed to mention that Trump, unlike any president before him, failed to cooperate with Congress' investigation, preventing witnesses from appearing and withholding needed documents.

This, of course, proved the second article of impeachment, obstruction of Congress.

(continue on page 15)

The final Floor Debate

If you watched any of the hours upon hours of hearings during the last few weeks, the party line vote wasn't much of a surprise. (Go ahead check it out on CSPAN to see what you missed. It's a civics lesson).

The final House debate on Wednesday was like a repeat of all the refrains that had been heard before.

But this is why the focus was kept on Ukraine, so it

IMPORTS GIFT SHOP & MINI-MART
82 Ala Malama Street
Kaunakakai Hawaii 96748
PHONE NO: 553-5734

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baskets, Lauhala Mats • Books, Notecards • Fine & Fashion Jewelry • Groceries • Handbags, Hats • Hawaiiana • Jewelry Repair, Resetting & Resizing • Molokai Arts, Crafts, Supplies • Philippine Products Dried & Frozen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quilts & Notions • Refreshments • Seashells • Shoes & Accessories • Sport & Dress Clothing • Surfing Line • Surfwear & Surfboards • Sundries • T-shirts, Sweatshirts
---	--

ONE STOP SHOPPING!

OPEN 7 DAYS
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

After a Cloudy 2019, New Year Looks a Bit Brighter

(Editor's Note: The following Business Outlook 2020 was prepared by UHERO (The Economic Research Organization at the University of Hawaii)

Hawaii's economy has entered a soft patch. Falling real visitor spending and a declining population have suppressed demand and halted growth in nonfarm payrolls. But the construction industry is holding up, and the number of visitor arrivals continues to grow. Following this year's weakness, we expect some improvement in the external environment, which will help us edge back onto a positive, if restrained, growth path.

- The global economy has been dragged down by the trade war and softness in a number of large countries, resulting in the weakest growth since the global financial crisis. After a tax-cut-induced pickup last year, US growth has fallen back. Exports and investment have contract-

ed, pushing US manufacturing into recession. Low unemployment rates and interest rates are supporting consumer spending, now the economy's sole support. Slowing in the US has acted as a drag on Canadian growth.

- Japan's economy has taken a hit from global trade and another from the November consumption tax hike. Trade woes are also weighing heavily on Korea and many emerging Asian economies. In China, slowing has been exacerbated by government efforts to halt a buildup of debt. In Australia, the central bank has moved to cut interest rates in response to macroeconomic weakness. Relatively poor prospects for the world's largest economies will mean only a slow global pickup over



the next several years.

- Visitor arrivals are heading for another record, set to exceed ten million this year for the first time. All of the strength is on the domestic side, with arrivals from emerging international markets lower than a year ago. Inflation-adjusted visitor spending has fallen off, down more than four percent in daily per-capita terms. While arrivals will continue to grow at a modest pace, real visitor spending will break even at best next year.

- The local hotel industry is performing better than the national average. While regulatory changes implemented in August substantially reduced the supply of transient vacation rentals on Oahu, the statewide supply of TVRs has continued to grow, as other islands (particularly Maui) see an ongoing expansion of listed units. Airline capacity is also rising on both interisland and mainland routes, following the entry of Southwest Airlines. International airlift remains weak.

- The state's population has been declining for the past three years, in part because of outward migration. Payroll job growth has dropped below zero this year, according to UHERO estimates of the government benchmark

revision. While the softness in jobs is most pronounced in sectors linked to tourism, the slowdown is widespread, touching a number of key industries. Only very modest growth is expected in 2020 and beyond.

- Despite the decline in payrolls, the unemployment rate remains low by historical standards, and labor income growth remains healthy. Relatively stable oil prices and moderately rising shelter costs will keep overall inflation subdued.
- Risks of a more negative downside have grown, including global weakening, ongoing trade disputes, and political uncertainty. Still, we think the odds favor a return to modest expansion for the next few years. ■

Q & A: MEET PMAH NEW...from page 9)

dots to solve the problem at hand. I think and plan for the short-term as well as the long-term. More importantly, I believe that being a leader means putting together an all-star team of leaders, and allowing these people to shine. My leadership style is to bring the best out in people by providing them the motivation and support that they need.

HFC: Why did you join PMAH and would you recommend new Filipino doctors to join the organization and why?

DR. VER: I was raised in

Hawaii, but completed all my medical training in the mainland. Therefore, upon coming home, I had few medical contacts, and had minimal idea on how to start a practice. But I knew, being Filipino is a powerful thing and I hoped it would help me in terms of referrals. So, I first joined PMAH to network with Filipino doctors who could help grow my practice, but instead find myself surrounded by great people and new friends, (and many referrals!). I am very grateful to have like-minded physicians around me who appreciate the importance of cultural sensi-

tivity. I recommend new Filipino doctors to join PMAH for the same reasons.

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

DR. VER: There are obstacles that I recognize in the PMAH; but also many challenges facing our state and the medical community at large. For instance, there is physician burnout and the severe doctor shortage. Our current board is aggressively addressing the doctor shortage by reaching out and mentoring Filipino

high schoolers, premeds, and medical students, so that they experience the value and joy of practicing medicine, and especially how it positively impacts the Filipino community. I believe that a huge part of tackling physician burnout is refocusing on our purpose and passions, so that practicing medicine is not just a job, but a rewarding fulfillment of our purpose. I must say for PMAH, I see a generational and cultural gap, as the more established doctors were trained in the Philippines, and the new ones trained here in the United States. Therefore, priorities and perspectives on life and medicine may be different. As president, I'd like for these two worlds to come together and have open-minded collaboration to reach our common goals.

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

DR. VER: The Filipino community is very strong. 20% of the state of Hawaii

is Filipino, but interestingly, less than 5% of Hawaii doctors are Filipino. The cultural bond between a Filipino doctor and Filipino patient is very unique. We physicians of PMAH understand that. Servicing the community is part of our physicians' oath and is the heart of doctoring. The Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls offers free medical and dental services to those in need. The Ohana Medical Missions travels to the Philippines to provide much needed healthcare services and education to the indigent population. The PMAH Foundation is helping to develop and support the next generation of Filipino physicians through mentorship, education, and scholarships.

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

DR. VER: I was born in Manila, and came to Hawaii in 1986 due to political unrest in the country. I was five

(continue on page 14)

Listen To KPMW
The WILD 105.5 FM
(808) 871-6251
Request call (808) 871-6933

Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.



Office.
 For Advertisement
 (808) 871-6251

Request Line
 (808) 296-1055

LEGAL NOTES



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

DHS to Disclose Individual's Information to SSA

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin sending certain information through the Benefits Information System (BIS) to the Social Security Administration (SSA). The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Integrated Database (EID) will also send information to the SSA.

The information will contain the names, social security numbers, dates of birth, Alien Registration Numbers ("A" number), country of birth, dates of departure and expected length of stays of lawful permanent residents (LPRs) who leave the United States voluntarily or are removed or deported from the US. The information will also contain

the country to which the LPR was removed, date of removal, and final removal charge code. The SSA will match the names and information in the BIS and the EID with its Enumeration System, Master Beneficiary Record (MBR), SSA rulings (SSR), SSA Master Files of Social Security Numbers Holders, SSN Applications and Supplemental Security Income Record and Special Veterans Benefits.

The goal of this information sharing and matching program is to provide the SSA with proof of ineligibility for Social Security benefits to LPRs. The SSA will implement this matching program beginning on January 19, 2020 or a minimum of 30 days from publication of the notice. The matching program will be in effect for a period of 18 months.

The SSA is required to verify declarations of applicants for and recipients of Supplemental Security Income

(SSI) payments before making a determination of eligibility and payment. With the information from the DHS, the SSA will have the basis for the suspension or nonpayment of benefits or recovery of overpayments to ineligible LPRs who have voluntarily left the US or have been removed or deported from the US.

LPRs eligible for SSI payments may receive payments for any month in which they reside in the United States. For purposes of the SSI, the United States is the 50 States, and includes the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands. This means that an LPR is ineligible for SSI benefits for any month during all of which he/she is outside the US. Likewise, if the LPR is absent from the US for 30 consecutive days, the SSA will treat him/her as residing outside the US and not give the benefits. The LPR must return to the US and reside for a period of at least 30 consecutive days to be eligible as a resident of the US to SSI payments.

The law also allows the

SSA to suspend SSI payments when the rules require the recipient to be a resident of the US, but he/she is not. Other provisions require the SSI recipient to be a US citizen, and hence the SSA will not give payments if the recipient is not a US citizen.

The SSA will not pay any amount whether as retirement or disability insurance benefits to LPRs, known as number holders (NH) in the system, who have been removed or deported from the US. The payments will stop for the month after the month in which the DHS notifies the SSA of the LPR's removal. The payments will resume after the month in which the LPR is subsequently lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

The SSA will also not pay auxiliary or survivors benefits to people who are eligible because of the LPR, if such LPR has been removed or deported from the US. The payments will stop when the LPR is not in the US. The benefits will only resume when the LPR has been

lawfully admitted back to the US for permanent residence.

There is a separate and existing Interagency Agreement (IAA) between the SSA and the DHS which is not part and will not be affected by the Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act, as amended. The IAA allows the SSA access to the DHS's Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program which utilizes the Verification Information System so it can confirm who are US citizens by naturalization or by derived citizenship, the current immigration status of applicants or NH, and those who have been removed or deported. The SSA is also allowed to use the Prisoner Update Processing System (PUPS) and the Unverified Prisoner System (UPS) to manually search for SSN of LPRs who have been removed or deported. ■

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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Case Introduces Bills to Amend Jones Act

Congressman Ed Case (HI-01) has introduced three bills in Congress to reform the century-old Merchant Marine Act of 1920 (commonly referred to as the "Jones Act"), which is widely credited with artificially inflating the cost of shipping goods to Hawai'i.

The Jones Act mandates that all cargo shipping between U.S. ports occur exclusively on U.S., not foreign, flagged vessels. Additionally, the law requires that these vessels are built in the U.S. and owned and crewed by U.S. citizens. Because Jones Act shipping has shrunken and international shipping has increased dramatically, especially in the last quarter-century, the Jones Act results in a very few carriers serving all domestic shipping needs.

"My three bills aim directly at one of the key drivers of

our astronomically high cost of living in Hawai'i and other locations in our country that are not part of the continental U.S.," said Case. "Because the Jones Act severely limits the supply of shipping to and from our communities, it has allowed a very few companies to control our very lifeline to the outside world and as a result command shipping rates way higher than the rest of the world.

"In the rest of our country, if shipping rates are too high then there are transportation alternatives like trucking and rail that act as a market check on the shipping companies," continued Case. "But that is not a choice in our noncontiguous jurisdictions, and if there are artificially limited numbers of shippers then the price of virtually everything we need is jacked up."

Case points to Hawai'i as a classic example. Located al-

most 2,500 miles off the West Coast, the state imports well over 90 percent of its life necessities, including food and other consumer goods, construction and housing supplies, and raw materials for Hawai'i industries like agriculture, by ocean cargo only.

"At a basic level, the everyday goods that we rely on in Hawai'i cost much more than on the Mainland. As just one example, yesterday there was a 30 percent difference in a gallon of milk at Safeway grocery stores in Honolulu and Long Beach, California. My constituents pay \$6.39 for a gallon of whole milk, while those in Long Beach, one of the major ports where Hawai'i's good come from, pay \$4.49. That difference of fully 30% is only about shipping, way above world prices, and is unacceptable."

"There are plenty of international cargo lines who

could and would compete for a share of that market. Yet in Hawai'i's case only two U.S. flag domestic cargo lines - Matson and Pasha - operate a virtual duopoly over our lifeline and they do not act as an effective market check on each other," said Case.

Case's three measures and their proposed amendments to the Jones Act are:

- the Noncontiguous Shipping Relief Act, which exempts all noncontiguous U.S. locations, including Hawai'i, from the Jones Act;
- the Noncontiguous Shipping Reasonable Rate Act, which benchmarks the definition of a "reasonable rate" which

domestic shippers can charge as no more than ten percent above international shipping rates for comparable routes; and

- the Noncontiguous Shipping Competition Act, which rescinds the Jones Act wherever monopolies or duopolies in noncontiguous Jones Act shipping develop.

Case said: "Essentially, my bills are intended to lay out options for providing relief for our U.S. noncontiguous areas. We can resolve the issue in many ways, but we must change the status quo which has had such a negative impact on my state and the other jurisdictions beholden to the Jones Act."

Hawaii Filipino Chronicle,
Your connection to Hawaii's Filipino
Community Is on the Web!
Check us out at
www.thefilipinochronicle.com



Q & A

(from page 12)

years old at that time. I was raised in Pearl City, Hawaii, living with my parents and younger brother. My parents worked multiple jobs so that I could go to Our Lady of Good Counsel School for elementa-

ry and then to Maryknoll for high school. I completed my Bachelors of Science in Kinesiology at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Then for two years, I worked in a lab doing scientific research on diabetes and in-

sulin at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Subsequently, I was accepted into medical school at New York Medical College. After that, I completed my general surgery residency at the one of the busiest trauma

centers in Chicago - the University of Illinois Mount Sinai Hospital. I then completed my advanced laparoscopic and bariatric surgery fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. After working locums for several months in the mainland, I finally came home in late 2014 to practice surgery at Pali Momi Medical Center. I am a board-certified general surgeon who does various operations including breast cancer, colon cancer, gallbladder surgery, intestine surgery, lumps and bumps, wound care, and emergency surgery. I am a specialist in bariatric metabolic (weight loss) surgery. I am also trauma medical director and developed Pali Momi into a Level 3 trauma center.

practice, I pay it forward by being available to premed student shadows, medical students, and residents, as I want them to experience medicine from my perspective, so then they too can start thinking and asking about themselves.

HFC: Why did you choose to become a doctor?

DR. VER: To be honest, I really fought myself about the whole doctor thing for a long time. The road to becoming a physician is long, and mentally, physically, and financially exhausting... But something inside my head told me to keep going forward. Even in medical training, it was a process of elimination when it came to what I actually did like in medicine. When I finally did my med school rotation in surgery, that's when I figured out that my head and my heart were finally in the same place. Being a surgeon allows me to immediately cure with my own hands, and that's so gratifying. It's worth noting, that I've also realized that we physicians already have the social status and trust of the public that we have opportunities to be influential outside of the clinic. I use this to my advantage for community outreach and mentorship whenever I can, so I can share my knowledge and experience, exude positivity, and give thanks.

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

DR. VER: I have random talents. I love arts and crafts and projects. I would see myself as a producer of a

(continue on page 15)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippine Demands Justice for Slain OFW in Kuwait

By Pia Lee-Brago
Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2020

MANILA, Philippines — Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. is demanding justice for Jeanelyn Villavende, a Filipino household worker in Kuwait killed by her employer's wife, citing "an eye for an eye, a life for a life."

"She bashed her head. So I want the head of the employer's wife who murdered their Filipina maid," Locsin tweeted on Tuesday.

Locsin summoned Kuwaiti Ambassador Musaed Saleh Ahmad Althwaikh to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Tuesday to convey the Philippine gov-

ernment's outrage over the death of the Filipino domestic worker in the hands of her employer's wife.

"The friendship between your country which gives our people the jobs they cannot find at home and our people whose faithful service makes the life of your people easier depends on justice being done the murdered maid," Locsin was quoted as telling the ambassador.

"An eye for an eye, a life for a life," he added.

The DFA summoned the ambassador to protest "the seeming lack of protection of our domestic workers at the hands of their employers" and called for "complete transparency" in the investigation of

the case and the "swift prosecution of the perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law."

"I beg you give her justice. We will go after the Filipino recruiters and government officials who put her in harm's way," Locsin said.

lling of the Filipina, according to the DFA, is a violation of the agreement signed by the Philippine and Kuwaiti governments in 2018 for their protection.

The DFA said the continuing incidents of violence and abuse of Filipino domestic workers in Kuwait violate the spirit of the agreement signed in May 2018 that seeks to promote and protect their welfare.

Malacañang yesterday vowed to work for justice for Villavende's death. (www.philstar.com)

philstar.com
The Filipino Global Community

shines even brighter
for the Filipino Global Community

Join us as we journey into a new home!

Log on to www.philstar.com

(Solution to Crossword No. 12 | December 21, 2019)

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PMAH 42ND INAUGURAL GALA AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS | Saturday, January 18, 2020; 5:00 PM | Alohilani Resort Waikiki Beach, Honolulu | Contact JP Orías at jporias808@aol.com for more details

OHANA MEDICAL MISSION | February 6-15, 2020 | Pasuquin, Sarrat, Cabugao, Sinit, San Esteban and Bagong Silang, Caloocan | For details, contact JP Orías at jporias808@aol.com

(CANDID PERSPECTIVES: DONALD J. TRUMP...from page 11)

In the six hours of floor debate on Wednesday, there were some histrionics at the end. But I found the most effective were the shortest and bluntest speeches.

Susan Davis (D-CA): "Make no mistake, we are not impeaching a president. He is impeaching himself. If you are the president and you obstruct justice, try to bribe a foreign leader and threaten national security, you're going to get impeached. End of story."

Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) was effective just by having a moment of silence for "Disenfranchising the 63 million who voted for Donald Trump."

It was more effective because it got everybody to shut up for once during the contentious six-hour floor debate.

Calling impeachment the undoing of the 2016 election, or the Demo-

crats' coup, were popular lines of defense for Trump Republicans, who believed the proceedings were a sham.

It was anything but.

It was just an historic day in our democracy.

A president who committed a crime against the Constitution was caught red-handed. And then Congress did its job and protected the rule of law, by providing a major check on the executive branch.

We should all be proud. Wednesday, December 18, 2019 is a serious and somber moment. As historic a moment as any patriotic event in our history.

The president was stopped from becoming an unabashed strongman, prone to corruption.

Just think how much stronger

the country and the economy would be without Donald J. Trump, TIP.

Merry Christmas!

Dear Readers: Thank you again for allowing me to speak to you through these columns in the Filipino Chronicle. I am especially humbled after seeing many of you at the big 25th Anniversary celebration of the paper in November. It was the highlight of my year!

The best of the season to all of you and may 2020 be a special amok year for you and your family. ■

EMIL GUILLERMO is a veteran journalist and commentator. He was a member of the Honolulu Advertiser editorial board. Listen to him on Apple Podcasts. Twitter @emilamok.

(Q & A: MEET PMAH NEW...from page 14)

play, musical, or event. I could also do large window displays for big department stores or putting together commercials. I'd probably be running my own business or non-profit organization.

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

DR. VER: My free time is to quiet my mind as it is always going 100+ mph for majority of the day. I like my

silent time in front of the TV, or taking long walks in the neighborhood, or being out in the middle of the ocean on my paddleboard, and then having a nice home-cooked dinner with my husband Bryson Kamakura.

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

DR. VER: I'd like to leave

a legacy knowing that PMAH will continue to be and be even more successful as an organization. I'd like to have members who have special talents and interests on the board. I want our website and social media pages to be highly visited and used. I'd like our events to continue to be organized, well-attended, meaningful, and fun. Overall, I want to leave blueprints for others to follow. ■

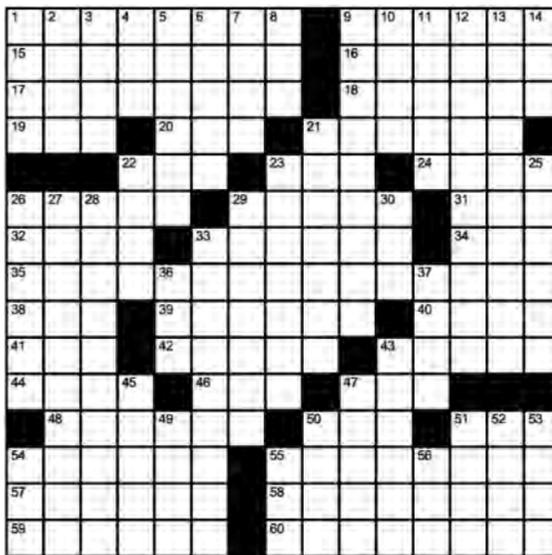
KROSWORD Blg. 12
ni Carlito Lalicon

PAHALANG

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Eksplosibo | 33. Sandali |
| 9. Bayo | 34. Sagot |
| 15. Imitahan | 35. Lambang |
| 16. Kagandahang-asal | 38. Inang |
| 17. Kaning tinusta sa mantika | 39. Palibhasain |
| 18. Ukit | 40. Tinto |
| 19. Pagka-maaga | 41. Lata |
| 20. Utab | 42. Bagsak |
| 21. Baba | 43. Isang uri ng bangka |
| 22. Mayroon | 44. Halamang-tubig |
| 23. Kaibigan | 46. Apog |
| 24. Paggugutay-gutay | 47. Pang-ukol na ginagamit sa pagtukoy sa pangalan ng tao |
| 26. Kayuyo | 48. Ngala-ngala |
| 29. Beso | 50. Kuno |
| 31. Serbesa | 51. Tukso |
| 32. Maamo | 54. Iwan |

PABABA

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Kalbaryo | 10. Silag |
| 2. Pagyugyog sa isang taong natutulog | 11. Pitas |
| 3. Pangmaramihan | 12. Magkaalit |
| 4. Ad-ad | 13. Alumana |
| 5. Tig-isang-daan | 14. Huwego ng mga kasangkapan |
| 6. Alingasngas | 21. Baluktot |
| 7. Tata | 22. Isang uri ng kape |
| 8. Pantukoy na ginagamit sa pangalang pambalana | 23. Inip |
| 9. Konsumihin | 25. Panikala |
| | 26. Muwestra |
| | 27. Umungul-ungol |



- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| 55. Isang uri ng punongkahoy | 58. Pakinggan |
| 57. Yaman | 59. Ilaw |
| | 60. Sa ibaba |

- | | |
|--|---|
| 28. Sandat | 49. Gisado |
| 29. Hiram | 50. Drama |
| 30. Abrigo | 51. Isang uri ng punongkahoy na ang balat ng puno ay ipinansasabon sa buhok |
| 33. Mabahiran | 52. Amin |
| 36. Pinakamahabang pakpak sa buntot ng tandang | 53. Barkada |
| 37. Agapay | 54. Kalidad |
| 43. Asistant | 55. Isang uri ng malaking sasakyan |
| 45. Huling anlaw | 56. Utang |
| 47. Pitik o palis ng mga daliri | |

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

Have your organization's events listed in our community calendar. It's recommended to submit press releases a month in advance of your organization's event. Send information to filipinochronicle@gmail.com.

visit our website@
www.thefilipinochronicle.com
and enjoy the e-copy of the hawaii filipino chronicle

CLASSIFIED ADS

CAREGIVER NEEDED FOR IMMEDIATE JOB
I am offering 25\$ per Hour for 4-5 hours daily for a Dementia Father.
Applicants should email their Resume and Reference (talk2amanda75@gmail.com)

PART TIME CASHIER, FULL TIME CASHIER, FULL TIME COOK
WAIMANALO L&L – Now Hiring ASAP
Medical Provided for Full Time Employees
Please Contact Fanny at 808-386-6898

HELP WANTED FOR CLEANING COMPANY
Legendary Cleaners pay depends on years of experience. Must be reliable, prompt and not afraid of hard work. Experience a plus. Willing to train. Contact John Kim 808 392-5597

BECOME A FRANCHISEE fast pace cleaning company legendary cleaners with over 16 years in business. Franchise fee 15706.80. 10 year contract. Contact John Kim 808 392-5597

SEA of GREEN Help Wanted: Landscape Maintenance/Gardener
Full time; Experienced preferred; Motivated; Willing to learn; Knowledge of Plants & Irrigation
Conscientious & Quality Oriented;
Ilocano/English speaking,
Excellent Benefits: Paid Medical/Dental/Vision, Vacation Pay, 15 Paid Holidays, & Sick Pay.
Pay rates begin at \$13/hr. for non drivers & begin at \$14/hr. for drivers depending upon experience.
Call : 808- 486-0111

Hawaii Filipino Chronicle.
Your connection to Hawaii's Filipino Community Is on the Web!
Check us out at
www.thefilipinochronicle.com

Benefits for You:

- Employer-paid medical coverage for team member
- Paid-Time Off (PTO)
- 401K option & much more!

THE PLAZA
Assisted Living

DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL.
Join The Plaza Assisted Living Team
We want you!!! Come join our team to care for Hawaii's seniors that have done so much in their lifetime. The Plaza works with seniors in many different capacities to provide them a stimulating and caring environment.
APPLY NOW
www.theplazaassistedliving.com/employment
or email resumes to ayokoyama@plazaassistedliving.com

Primary Care Clinic of Hawaii

Bringing Competent, Compassionate and
Culturally-Sensitive Medical Care to the Filipino Community.

We would like to welcome our new doctors who are ready to
serve your primary care needs!



Dennis Rainier Bautista, M.D.
Board Certified, Family Medicine
Assistant Clinical Professor, UH



Jon Avery Go, M.D.
Board Certified, Internal Medicine
Magna Cum Laude, UST



Charlie Y. Sonido, M.D.
Board Certified, Internal Medicine
Hypertension Specialist,
American Society of Hypertension
Assistant Clinical Professor, UH

New Patients Are Welcome!

Primary Care Clinic of Hawaii

1807 North King St., Honolulu, HI 96819

Tel. No.: (808) 841-4195

www.primarycareclinichawaii.com