

Class of 2014 will conclude this month. Entries received after Aug. 15 will be published inside the issue.



Class of 2014

See CLASS, B7



Katrina Fadrilan
Student Body President
San Mateo HS



Andrew Jison
Junipero Serra HS
San Mateo, Calif.



Gabriella Loren Gil
Hillsdale HS
San Mateo, Calif.



Zachary Aquino Ick
Junipero Serra HS
San Mateo, Calif.

Now officially Reserve brass

DALY CITY, Calif. – Following a year of technical training and service hours Daly City Councilman Mike Guingona was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the California State Military Reserve in a ceremony August 9 at Camp San Luis Obispo.

“I am honored to receive this commission as I am embark on a new venture to serve my community and state as an officer in the California State Military Reserve,” said Guingona. “My new role will

See NOW, B1



Daly City Council Member Mike Guingona earns his commission as Second Lieutenant in California State Military Reserve.

INSIDE

Overcoming denial of immigrant visa

A3

PH dancers bag gold at World Hip-Hop tilt

B2

Takashi offers Japanese cuisine in Pasig City

A4



FOR NINOY AQUINO PH Consulate gathering on 31st death anniversary

B4

Philippine News

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HAWAII PRIMARIES

FilAms lose Congress bid

BY CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

FILIPINO AMERICA's brightest hope to elect a Filipina to the United States Congress dimmed with the loss of Donna Mercado Kim in Hawaii's August 9 primaries.

Mercado Kim, the first Filipino American and woman state Senate President in the United States, placed second in the seven-way contest to represent the Democratic Party in November faceoff for the first congressional district.

Hawaii State Rep. Mark Takai topped the race with 52,719 or 42.6 percent of the votes. He will face Republican Charles Dijou and two other candidates in the general elections.

Mercado Kim took 33,649 or 27.2 percent of the total.

See FILAMS, A10



BALLOTPEdia

Democrats Donna Mercado Kim, Will Espero and Joey Manahan placed second, fifth and sixth in the November final race for Hawaii's first congressional district.

BRILLIANT AND SAD



STHANLEE MIRADOR

Oscar-winning actor Robin Williams with then-wife Marsha Garces and their daughter actress Zelda Williams at a 2007 Hollywood gala.

REMEMBERING ROBIN WILLIAMS

Comic battled serious condition

BY JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES
PHILIPPINE NEWS COLUMNIST

LOS ANGELES - “I am not that crazy in real life. I am pretty quiet,” Robin Williams, told us in our last interview with the comic genius.

Last August 11, the brilliant actor hung himself with his belt in a closet door in his home in Paradise Cay, near Tiburon, California and died of asphyxia due to hanging. He was 63.

Authorities say he battled severe depression for which he had therapy.

His death left us numb for a while since we loved talking to the man. Our 45-minute to an hour-interviews with him seemed too short all

Comic candidly discussed his family, his cancelled TV show...and his own eulogy with PNews columnist.

the time since he always seemed to be doing a one-act show just for us.

He was witty, sharp and was bigger than life with his rapid fire monologues, his hyperkinetic acts and spontaneous mimicry of people. There was no boring moment when you were with him.

This Cecile B. DeMille awardee, who has given us such memorable performances from “Mork and Mindy,” to “Mrs. Doubtfire,” from “The World According to Garp” to “Good Will Hunting,” never failed to make us laugh

See COMIC, B10

FANHS GEARS UP FOR 2015

Focusing on landmark law

From left, front row: Patricia Halagao, Kevin Nadal, Bobby Roy, and Judy Patacsil; middle row: Lourdes Markley, Patricia Brown, Dawn Mabalon, Pete Jamero Sr., unidentified, Christine Marasigan, Nena Calica, P. Emraida Kiram, and Ed Brotonel; back row: Romel Dela Cruz, Emily Lawsin, Veronica Salceda, Ron Buenaventura, Ray Obispo, Barbara Gaerlan, Pio De Cano, Mel Lagasca, and Bob Luna. Not in picture is Mel Orpilla, FANHS board president.



COURTESY FANHS

SEATTLE - The Filipino American National Historical Society's (FANHS) board of trustees at its national conference held in San Diego, approved the “50th Anniversary of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965” as its official theme for Filipino American National History Month in October, 2015. The historical society is planning a yearlong schedule of activities during 2015.

FANHS and its founding president, Dr. Fred Cordova, have been the

See FOCUSING, A10

‘BERDUGO’

1 of PH most wanted nabbed

BY BETING LAYGO DOLOR
MANILA BUREAU EDITOR

MANILA – He was hiding in plain sight all along.

Retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan was finally apprehended by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Santa Mesa, Manila at the start of the week after almost three years on the run.

Often called – and feared – by the Left as “berdugo” (executioner), Palparan had an outstanding warrant for his arrest for his alleged role in the kidnapping of two University of the Philippines coeds in 2006. The pair, Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeno, have not been seen since they were abducted by military men identified with Palparan.

Palparan repeated his claim that the evidence pointing to him as the mastermind of the kidnapping “was manufactured.”

See 1 OF PH, A10



GMA NEWS

Palparan, 64, repeated his claim that the evidence pointing to him as the mastermind of the kidnapping ‘was manufactured.’

Retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan had an outstanding warrant for his arrest for his alleged role in the 2006 kidnap of still-missing two UP coeds.

NaFFAA elects national leaders

THE NATIONAL Federation of Filipino American Associations composed of more than 500 Filipino community organizations in 12 regional chapters throughout the United States elected new national leaders at the conclusion of its National Empowerment Conference August 7 to 10 in San Diego.

Voted national chair was New York lawyer J.T. Mallonga, former NaFFAA national vice-chair, who succeeds outgoing national chair Ed Navarra of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Elected national vice chair, succeeding Mallonga, was Emraida Kiram of Madison, Wisconsin. Also elected were Mariella Fletcher of Seattle as national secretary succeeding Jelly Carandang from Chicago, Illinois; and Brendan Flores of Orlando, Florida who was unanimously elected national treasurer succeeding Bart Tubalinal of Chicago, Illinois. They will serve a term of two years.

Flores and Kiram were among those elected to the five vacancies in the National Board of Governors serving six-year terms. Also elected were Rozita Lee of Las Vegas, Merit Salud of New York, and Romeo Jurani of Las Vegas.

See NAFFAA, A10

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Stop waiting in line. Xoom it online.

When was the last time you visited the Philippines?

24% This year
22% In 2013
19% In 2012
26% Before 2012
9% Never



Source: Xoom Customer Survey, June 2014.

The Rizal monument.

ROBIN WILLIAMS 1951-2014

Family mourns ‘gentlest soul’

BY RYAN MACASERO
RAPPLER

MANILA – While children of the '90s may have lost their Genie – a character immortalized by Williams in the classic Disney movie Aladdin, and millions of fans around the world of the comedic actor Robin Williams, have lost an idol – one woman, Marsha Garces, has lost the father of her two children.

Garces, Williams’ Filipina-Finnish American ex-wife was married to Williams for 19 years.

Garces was quoted in a report by E! Online: “My heart is split wide open and scattered over the planet with all of you. Please remember the gentle, loving, generous - and yes, brilliant and funny - man that was Robin Williams. My arms are wrapped around our children as we attempt to grapple with celebrating the man we love, while dealing with this immeasurable loss.”

The Academy Award-winning actor and comedian was found dead in his San Francisco Bay Area home on the afternoon of August 11, due to apparent suicide, after a long battle with depression.

(PNews note: Authorities say Robin Williams was found in his bedroom with a belt around his neck with cuts one wrist.)

Garces was born in San Francisco to a Filipino father Leon Panteleon Garces from Bohol, and a Finnish mother.

According to a 2006 column by Janet Nepales in Philippine News, Robin jokingly described his then-wife as “Finnipino.”

Garces met Williams when she was working as a nanny for Williams’ first child, Zachary, with Williams’ first wife Valerie Velardi. The couple married in 1989, after his divorce from Velardi, to whom he was married for 10 years. Garces

and Williams had two kids together: Zelda Rae, who was born in 1989; and Cody, born in 1993.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, Garces worked as Williams’ personal assistant before becoming a movie producer.

Garces is listed as producer in at least four of Williams’ movies including: Mrs Doubtfire, Patch Adams, Jakob the Liar and Robin Williams Live on Broadway. The couple was married for 19 years before Garces filed for divorce in 2008 and was granted in 2010. Garces cited “irreconcilable differences” as the reason for the divorce. He married his third wife, Susan Schneider, in 2011 with whom he was living with in their Tiburon, California, home at the time of his death.

According to media reports, Williams’ two divorces cost a total of at least \$20 million. He admitted in an interview with Parademagazine that he had to downsize his life following the costly divorce: “Well, not all [was lost]. Lost enough. Divorce is expensive. I used to joke they were going to call it ‘all the money,’ but they changed it to ‘alimony.’ It’s ripping your heart out through your wallet. Are things good with my exes? Yes. But do I need that lifestyle? No.”

Williams openly talked about his struggles with alcohol abuse, which reportedly played a role in his divorce with Garces when he relapsed in 2006. Williams was also open about his struggle with cocaine abuse in the 1980s.

Their daughter Zelda, who is also an actress, reportedly named after the Nintendo game The Legend of Zelda, posted an emotional message to her father on Twitter.

“I love you. I miss you. I’ll try to keep looking up. Z.” Zelda said.

“Yesterday, I lost my father and a best friend and the world got a little grayer. I will carry his heart with me

every day. I would ask those that loved him to remember him by being as gentle, kind, and generous as he would be. Seek to bring joy to the world as he sought,” Zak Williams, 31, said.

“There are no words strong enough to describe the love and respect I have for my father. The world will never be the same without him. I will miss him and take him with me everywhere I go for the rest of my life, and will look forward, forever, to the moment when I get to see him again,” Cody Williams, 22, said.

Zelda, 25, added: “My family has always been private about our time spent together. It was our way of keeping one thing that was ours, with a man we shared with an entire world. But now that’s gone, and I feel stripped bare.

“My last day with him was his birthday, and I will be forever grateful that my brothers and I got to spend that time alone with him, sharing gifts and laughter. He was always warm, even in his darkest moments. While I’ll never, ever understand how he could be loved so deeply and not find it in his heart to stay, there’s minor comfort in knowing our grief and loss, in some small way, is shared with millions. It doesn’t help the pain, but at least it’s a burden countless others now know we carry, and so many have offered to help lighten the load. Thank you for that.”

She continued: “To those he touched who are sending kind words, know that one of his favorite things in the world was to make you all laugh. As for those who are sending negativity, know that some small, giggling part of him is sending a flock of pigeons to your house to poop on your car. Right after you’ve had it washed. After all, he loved to laugh too...

“Dad was, is and always will be one of the kindest, most generous, gentlest souls I’ve ever known, and while there are few things I know for certain right now, one of them is that not just my world, but the entire world is forever a little darker, less colorful and less full of laughter in his absence. We’ll just have to work twice as hard to fill it back up again.” – Rappler.com

NAFFAA from A1

At the first meeting of the NaFFAA National Board on August 10, Mallonga announced his appointment of Region 5 chair Giselle Rushford of Denver, Colorado as NaFFAA executive director. He also announced the reappointment of Rodel Rodis as NaFFAA General Counsel.

“The challenges we confront are formidable,” Mallonga said. “That’s why we need to bridge the intergenerational divide, forge partnerships and strengthen our capacity to address and advocate for the issues raised in this conference.”

He cited some of the challenges facing the community coming from the following issues: immigration reform, Temporary Protected Status for Filipino nationals, aid to families affected by SuperTyphoon Haiyan/Yolanda, health care and services to the elderly, affordable education, voter mobilization, and justice for Filipino World War II veterans.

“We must continue our advocacy role as the voice of the 4 million Filipinos in America,” said Mallonga, who is also the founder of the Filipino American Legal Defense& Education Fund.

Mallonga announced that together with former national chair Loida Nicolas-Lewis and general counsel Rodel Rodis, he was meeting in Washington D.C. on August 13 with a high official of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to lobby the U.S. government to grant Temporary Protected Status to at least 200,000 out of status Filipinos in the U.S.

The national conference was attended by more than 500 delegates and guests. NaFFAA was founded by the late newspaper publisher Alex Esclamado along with businesswoman Loida Nicolas Lewis, historian-lawyer Rodel Rodis, advertising pioneer Greg Macabenta and labor leader Gloria T. Caoile.

To honor Esclamado’s legacy, community service awards were given to four outstanding Filipino community organizations. Esclamado’s widow, Lourdes, flew in from Raleigh, North Carolina to present the Alex Esclamado Award for Community Service to the Council for Filipino American Organizations of Central Florida; West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service Inc. of San Francisco, California; Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Dallas Texas, and Pilipino American Unity for Progress Inc. or UNIPRO from New York.

Twenty-six-year-old Jason Tengco, the youngest senior advisor serving in the White House, led off the array of youth speakers. He bemoaned the glaring absence of Filipino Americans in the White House and federal agencies, and urged NaFFAA leaders to collaborate with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Island-



Officers of 12 chapters elect new leaders at San Diego conference.

ers (WHIAAPI) on the national and regional levels.

“I see a lot of Filipino cooks but not very many Filipino American staff doing policy,” he said. “We’re not even represented in the U.S. Congress. We must ensure that we have a place at the table so our voices are heard by Washington’s policy makers. NaFFAA needs to find and field FilAms in the highest levels of government.”

Entertainment entrepreneur Billy Dec, newly-appointed Filipino American commissioner to the WHIAAPI, also praised “the new movement of young Filipinos who have it together, whose talent and intelligence are being celebrated.”

He encouraged delegates to work together as a community, “share each other’s’ passions and continue to make history. Being the eyes and ears of the President of the United States, let’s all learn to collaborate so we can gain access to those who make decisions that affect our lives.”

Co-Chairs of the NaFFAA 2014 Empowerment Conference in San Diego Aurora Cudal (left) and Leezel Ramos receive a standing ovation at the Gala Ball. Looking on (from left) are Lourdes “Luly” Esclamado (seated), wife of NaFFAA’s founder; NaFFAA Board Member Rozita Lee, NaFFAA Founder Loida Nicolas Lewis, and NaFFAA National Director Gloria T. Caoile.

Youth leaders who organized the 2014 Empowerment Conference are introduced during the Gala Dinner.

Aurora Cudal, NaFFAA Region 10 Chair, drove home the point about collaboration between “young folks” and “older professionals,” by recounting how planning for this year’s conference came about. She recalled how more than a year ago Leezel Ramos, a 26-year-old student leader, offered to volunteer in the planning.

“I asked Leezel if she wants to help as secretary.” Cudal said. “Her response was an emphatic ‘No.’ She said she wants to be the chair. After recovering from initial shock, I realized she was serious, and that’s how our partnership with the young folks began.”

Ramos immediately formed a team of youth organizers who came up with the theme, “Breaking the Dawn: Master Planning the Future,” created a web site, and mapped out the logistics, outreach and program

for the conference. Other national youth leaders who provided support to the team included Steven Raga, founding president of UNIPRO; Juanito Amor, a community youth counselor; and young professionals Cesar Abueg, Karl Bruno, Julius Alejandro, Jessica Mercado, Alicia Ricafrente, and Romyn Sabatchi.

“Our intention may have been to infiltrate and assume leadership,” explained Ramos. “But what matters is the impact of our actions and the relationships we build. Our elders may have been wary at first but they were very supportive all throughout.”

“What’s notable about this year’s conference is the way we have opened up more opportunities for continued engagement between our seasoned veterans and the young folks,” said Greg Cendana, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance.”

Adds Ben de Guzman, an advocate for LGBT rights: “We have come a long way from 1997 when we couldn’t even talk about gay rights. Today, we have at least changed the way we hold conversations about issues that divide us. We need to learn from each other and have conversations with thoughtfulness and respect.”

Jose Antonio Vargas, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who revealed his status as an undocumented immigrant, drew a standing ovation when he shared his struggles and his efforts to educate the American public about the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Before he decided to “come out,” he sought out NaFFAA’s support and was assured of the organization’s assistance.

“I now look to NaFFAA to do everything it can to mobilize the Filipino American community and work for the passage of immigration reform,” he said.

Tony Olaes, board chairman of Gawad Kalinga USA, also challenged the delegates to be “proud of your Filipino-ness” and to celebrate the values of caring and sharing.

“The youth are now the messengers of these values, so we need to make sure they are connected to the motherland, because we are one Filipino rooted in one place, and our mission is to build and uplift the Filipino nation wherever we are,” he said.

Major General Antonio Taguba

1 OF PH from A1

He had been such a scourge to the Philippine communist movement that the New People’s Army (NPA) had openly admitted sending out a hit squad to assassinate Palparan.

Visibly thinner and donning long hair and a beard, the 64-year-old Palparan surrendered meekly when an NBI team raided the house where he had been staying in the early morning hours of Tuesday, Aug. 12 (Monday, U.S. time).

The retired general said he had “no regrets” about what he had done when he was active in the military.

After his retirement, he ran for a Senate seat in the 2010 elections but lost. He ran as an independent because no party wanted him as part of their Senate slates, according to Palparan. One year later, the court issued a warrant for his arrest.

It had generally been believed that Palparan was moving around in several provinces, protected by his retired and active friends from the Armed Forces of the Phils. He was even suspected to have left the country through the southern back door of Mindanao, where travelling by boat to nearby Indonesia and/or Malaysia is not difficult.

After his arrest, Palparan said he felt that his days on the run were numbered.

According to the NBI, the suspect was finally caught because of

FILAMS from A1

State Sen. Will Espero and Honolulu Council Member Joey Manahan, both Democrats and Filipino Americans, placed fifth and sixth.

The prize is the seat to be vacated by U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, who has beaten incumbent U.S. Sen. and former Lieutenant Gov. Brian Schatz in the primary for the post to which he was appointed.

The 50th state’s political horizon sparked heightened aspirations with the death of Senator Daniel K. Inouye in December 2012.

The dying Inouye reportedly sent a letter to Gov. Neil Abercrombie expressing his desire for Hanabusa to be named to his seat.

Abercrombie opted to appoint his then-second in command Lt. Gov. Brian Schatz over Hanabusa. Hanabusa in May 2013 announced she would challenge Schatz in the next election instead of running for re-election to the House.

The development in turn triggered an announcement by Mercado Kim of her intent to seek election to the first congressional district seat, which spans southern Oahu and includes the state capital of Honolulu.

“Yes, we’re very excited here because the congressional seat being vacated was held by my husband Wade’s first cousin,” 22-year-Hawaii resident Cecile Sebastian-Nobuhara told Philippine News. Hanabusa “was voted into that office in 2010 and we have been very busy campaigning to get her in the Senate where she can use her amazing legislative skills and her intellect to move our state and country forward.”

Sebastian Nobuhara said shortly before final results were posted that she was “also excited by the possibility” of Mercado Kim succeeding Hanabusa.

The Manila-born, Indiana and California-raised Sebastian Nobuhara has a private dental practice in two offices in Honolulu and Aiea with her husband, endodontist Wade Nobuhara. They have four children.

The Nobuharas exhibit political consciousness that distinguishes Filipino American residents of the islands from many of their counterparts on the mainland.

“Donna has been in public service for 29-plus years,” Sebastian

FOCUSING from A1

catalyst and major proponent of the month of October as a time dedicated to the history of Filipinos in America. This movement to recognize the experiences and achievements of the Filipino American community has steadily gained momentum and popularity within our community nationwide. Observances can be found on numerous college campuses, and with many state and local government entities. California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington are states that have officially made this recognition, as well as the U.S. Congress.

The Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) of 1965 was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 3, 1965. It dramatically changed the demographic landscape of America. The law abolished the National Origins Quota System; made family-based immigration the basis for U.S. immigration policy; and established a preference system for people with special occupational

his use of ATMs to withdraw funds. Two men were also apprehended and may be charged with coddling a fugitive. One of the two, identified as Rey Ladao, denied knowing that the man caught by the NBI was actually Jovito Palparan, one of the 10 most wanted men in the country.

An unidentified informant will receive the P2-million bounty for information leading to Palparan’s arrest.

As a high profile detainee, the Department of Justice said that Palparan will be under heavy security 24/7. But he will not be placed in a special detention facility.

While charged for the disappearance of the two UP students, Palparan also had a reputation for giving no quarters to the NPA as well as suspected communist sympathizers. In his last years of active service, Palparan vowed to “wipe out” the communist insurgents, whom he considered as terrorists. The umbrella organization of the extreme Left, the National Democratic Front, has accused Palparan of summarily executing communist sympathizers who are non-combatants.

For as long as he was secured by the government, Palparan said he would not try to escape. He is temporarily detained at the NBI headquarters in Manila, but is expected to be transferred to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa soon.

Nobuhara noted Mercado Kim’s record. ““She is a hard worker and does her due diligence and would have served us well in Congress. She has maintained her stance on many issues while other candidates have been switching sides to gain more votes.”

Sebastian Nobuhara said she was impressed by Mercado Kim’s “tenacity and conviction.”

She also praised 53-year-old Espero’s 30 years in public service, describing him as “very personable and has fresh ideas” he could have brought to Congress. Espero was born in Japan to parents from La Union and Ilocos Sur. His father served with the U.S. Navy for over 20 years while his mother was a nurse. They settled in Hawaii and operated restaurants and carehomes.

Manahan, 43, whom Sebastian Nobuhara said is “new in the political scene,” was born in Makati and came to the United States at age 10 with his mother. The family moved the Hawaii in the 1990s after his mother remarried. He served in the Hawaii state House of Representatives from 2007 to 2013.

Mercado Kim (she declines to state her age) was first elected to the Hawaii House of Representatives in 1982. Two years later she won election to the Honolulu City Council, holding the post still 2000, when she became a state senator.

Mercado Kim’s ascent to 13th President of the Hawaii State Senate followed the chain of events from Inouye’s death.

Her campaign for U.S. Congress touted endorsements by Emily’s List and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Critics blast her opposition to same-sex marriage. She was also accused of leaning in on the University of Hawaii president to accept her son’s application to the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Hawaii is among 14 states with an open primary system that does not require registered voters to be the members of a party to vote in the party primary.

Meanwhile in a stunning defeat, Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie bowed to state Sen. David Ige, becoming the first sitting governor in Hawaii to lose a primary for reelection.

skills to become permanent residents.

The Philippines, after Mexico, has been the largest beneficiary of the liberalized immigration law. According to U.S. Census and Homeland Security sources: in 2008 there were in the U.S. approximately 1.7 million foreign born Filipinos; and approximately 1.4 million native born Filipinos, most who were the children or grandchildren of one or both parents who arrived after 1965.

FANHS believes that it is time to call attention to the impact of this fourth wave of immigration from the Philippines. The significance of the INA passed 50 years ago continues to this day.

Established in 1982, FANHS has thirty (30) chapters nationwide with more pending. The historical society gathers and preserves documents, shares, and disseminates information about Filipinos in the United States with individuals and institutions.

For more information contact: Dorothy Cordova, FANHS Executive Director (206) 322-0204 / fanhsnational@gmail.com

(Ret), amplifying the theme of Filipino pride, spoke about the community rallying behind a national campaign to seek recognition for Filipino World War II veterans.

“We cannot close this dark chapter in U.S. history until these soldiers who fought bravely in service of America receive the Gold Medal Award,” he said. “We need to work together to make this happen.”