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The Year 2006  
Presidential Awards  
for Distinguished Individuals  
and Organizations Overseas

The cover page design is an ancient Philippine script which means *Gawad ng Pangulo*.  
(Reference: *National Museum*)

*The facts and accounts of circumstances that are contained in the profiles of the Year 2006 Presidential Awards were taken from the materials submitted to the Awards Secretariat for consideration of the nominations.*

MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA



*Message*

Time and again I have acknowledged the invaluable contribution of our overseas Filipinos to national development and nation building. They have shared their skills and expertise to enable the Philippines to benefit from advances in science and technology. Remitting more than \$70 billion in the last ten years, they have contributed significantly to our country's economic stability and social progress of our people. Overseas Filipinos have also shown that they are dependable partners, providing additional resources to augment programs in health, education, livelihood projects and small infrastructure in the country.

We pay tribute to Filipinos overseas who have dedicated themselves to uplifting the human condition, those who have advocated the cause of Filipinos worldwide, and who continue to bring pride and honor to the Philippines by their pursuit of excellence.

I ask the rest of the Filipino nation to join me in congratulating the 2006 Presidential Awardees who have shown the best of the Filipino. I also extend my thanks to the men and women of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the various Awards committees for a job well done in this biennial search.

*Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

*Gloria M. Arroyo*  
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Manila, 7 December 2006

Office of the President of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



## *Message*

Today, some 185 million men, women and even children, representing about 3 percent of the world's population, live or work outside their country of origin. No region in the world is without migrants who live or work within its borders. Every country is now an origin or destination for international migration.

The Philippines is very much a part of this phenomenon. Approximately seven to eight million Filipinos are helping governments, industries or parents in more than a hundred countries around the world. From our own experience in the last four decades, we expect to see more and more Filipinos leave to reside or work in other societies. And in their desire to achieve and do well, Filipinos overseas have become effective ambassadors of goodwill, helping to support not only our own economy but that of their host country as well.

It is only fitting that in this December, the Month of Overseas Filipinos, we honor 48 Filipino individuals and organizations overseas who have excelled in their work, or dedicated so much of their time and effort in the service of their fellow men here and abroad. We also honor foreign individuals and organizations to whom we are thankful for having voluntarily shared their resources for the benefit of less privileged communities here at home.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the recipients of the Year 2006 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. I also congratulate their families and friends who have inspired and supported them in their efforts to be of service to others. May you continue to inspire our *kababayan* to be globally competent, and continue to exemplify the best of the Filipino.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dante A. Ang'.

DANTE A. ANG  
Chairman

Manila, 7 December 2006

Office of the President of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS



## *Message*

We are very pleased to extend our greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the 2006 recipients of the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, whose exemplary work and achievements have made a difference in the lives of Filipinos here and abroad, and continue to bring a sense of pride to our country and people.

This year's Presidential Awards takes place as we commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> year since the 1906 arrival of fifteen Ilocano farm workers in Hawaii, probably one of the most important milestone in the migration of Filipinos to other shores. The landing in Hawaii started the first wave of sustained migration that also led to the migration of Filipinos to other parts of the United States. The same courageous spirit that emboldened Filipinos to sail for Hawaii a hundred years ago inspired our countrymen to settle or work in other overseas destinations starting in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, there is hardly any country or territory in the world where Filipinos do not make a contribution out of their talent, skill or industry.

While some eight million Filipinos have gone to live or work in many parts of the world, they continue to demonstrate a consciousness about their origins from a single country, and maintain an active interest in life and progress at home. It is this sense of community that makes possible and relevant the ties that we maintain with overseas Filipinos, and the honor we give to this year's awardees.

In congratulating the 2006 Presidential Awardees, we express our trust that through their eloquent examples, they will continue to inspire and influence others and help bring out the best from our countrymen everywhere.

Again, our sincerest congratulations, and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several large, overlapping loops and a final horizontal stroke.

**JOSE Z. MOLANO, JR.**  
Executive Director

Manila, 7 December 2006



## *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino*

*The Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Award is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their exceptional or significant contribution to reconstruction, progress and development in the Philippines*

### *Awardees*

**Gloria Ysmael Adams**  
*United States of America*

**Association Lending Assistance in  
Exigencies at Home, gem e.V.**  
*Germany*

**Stella S. Evangelista, M.D.**  
*United States of America*

**FEU - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of  
Medicine Alumni Foundation**  
*United States of America*

**Society of Philippine Surgeons in America**  
*United States of America*

**Honesto R. Tria**  
*United States of America*



## *Gloria Ysmael Adams*

*United States of America*

Education has always been viewed as an avenue to a better life. Unfortunately for many Filipino schoolchildren in rural areas and the countryside, public education is characterized by inadequate school facilities, lack of materials and textbooks, low level of technology and the like – which could not provide a good foundation for equalizing opportunities in the future. Thanks to Gloria Ysmael Adams, whose contributions have provided a meaningful impact on the lives of Filipino schoolchildren in some of the poorest areas in the country.

Ms. Adams who is a native of Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, has worked as a teacher, a school counselor, and a school administrator in both public and private schools in the Philippines and in US. In 1969, she became the first Filipino American counselor in Seattle, Washington. Determined to make a difference in her profession, she co-founded the Filipino American Exchange Educators' Program (FAME) in 1989. Through FAME, she has helped in the promotion of Filipino culture and heritage by facilitating the exchange visits of Filipino American educators to the Philippines. As head counselor of the Meany Middle School in Seattle, Ms. Adams organized and coordinated a highly successful ten-year Peer Tutoring Program and ensured the promotion of various cultures in this multi-ethnic school.

Amidst her experience with more advanced educational institutions abroad, Ms. Adams' noble desire to help promote educational progress in the Philippines grew all the more. In 1997, she established an organization that assists schools and community-based grassroots programs in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, and named it the Bartolome R. Ysmael Foundation, in honor of her father. Since then, Ms. Adams has adopted several schools and barangays of Cuyapo through educational assistance and livelihood grants.

Through her foundation, several schools in Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija have received donations of books, computers, encyclopedias, and other instructional materials, as well as musical instruments and allocations for school beautification and minor constructions. Her many school projects include the construction of Day Care centers in Barangay Mallneng, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija; the construction of an ecology garden, mini park and water facilities in Cuyapo National High School; construction of a school stage in Latap Elementary School; building of a Science and Mathematics garden at the Cuyapo Elementary School; and donation of computer and school band equipment to the Cuyapo National High School and selected elementary schools. Ms. Adams also initiated scholarships and cash grants for outstanding teachers and students of Cuyapo. An amount of \$600.00 a year is being given as an incentive for Cuyapo outstanding teachers. Four-year tuition grants, on the other hand, were awarded to four students under the *Future Teachers of Cuyapo Program*. There is also a yearly cash grant for first honor graduates, and a completion cash reward for outstanding 6<sup>th</sup> graders, a program she started this year.

Whether it is through her scholarship and teacher development programs, donation of school facilities, building improvement, donation of sports equipment or library materials, Ms. Adams has been helping schoolchildren of Cuyapo by developing their appetite for learning and the sense to improve their lives through education.

Aside from her educational assistance programs, Ms. Adams has also extended financial assistance to needy *barangays*, and caused the construction of a Retired Teachers Multi-Purpose Center in Cuyapo through a P300,000.00 donation. The total donation shared by the donor through her various projects from 2000-2005 amounted to P5 million.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award* to Gloria Ysmael Adams, the President recognizes her exemplary work to help improve the lives of her countrymen through the promotion of improved and better educational opportunities in her native hometown.

*Association Lending Assistance  
in Exigencies at Home, gem e.V.*  
Germany



The 1980s up to the early 1990s witnessed the unprecedented increase in the number of Filipino and Filipino-German associations in Germany. While most of these early associations were organized to bring together Filipinos during their annual social gatherings, a group of civic-minded Filipinos sought to direct their efforts and financial gains for a better purpose. Thus was born the Association Lending Assistance in Exigencies at Home, gem e.V. (ALA EH).

Knowing about the lack of school infrastructure, health and sanitary facilities in poor provinces of the Philippines where some of them in fact trace their humble beginnings, members of ALA EH sought to uplift the lives of their fellowmen by financing development projects and relief assistance to needy communities in the country.

Since inception in 1994, ALA EH has financed the construction of urgently needed infrastructure projects. In its commitment to address the health and sanitation needs of the community, the association built health centers and caused the renovation of existing ones, provided sanitation systems and public toilets, and built artesian wells where there is lack of safe and sustainable sources of clean water. In areas where children had to bear with dilapidated school buildings and congested school facilities, ALA EH funded the construction of several classrooms and Day Care centers.

Differing from many associations with similar objectives, ALA EH is dedicated to the principle of helping the needy and poor help themselves. Recipient communities are required to provide labor to complement the amount allocated by the association. The recipient community is likewise engaged by the association in identifying projects that are most urgently needed.

Besides funding several infrastructure projects in the Philippines, the association provides assistance to immediate victims of exigencies at home such as grave calamities and natural disasters. In 1995, when President Fidel Ramos appealed for help on behalf of the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, ALA EH rallied the help of Filipino-led associations in the North Rhine Westphalia to make a united response and successfully shipped a 20 x 20 foot container of used garments to the *Bigay Puso* Foundation which was tasked with distributing the relief goods.

While it is true that most of its founding members are Batangueños or those who trace their roots in this Southern Luzon province, ALA EH has carried out several projects outside the province of Batangas. Among the province-beneficiaries of this German-based organization are Cavite, Bataan, Pampanga, Quezon, Aklan, Negros Occidental, and Davao. To date, ALA EH has completed 21 projects throughout the country amounting to P4,000,000.

ALA EH's exemplary support of social projects in the Philippines has earned for its members the admiration and respect of foreign friends and fellow Filipinos residing abroad. Their zeal and dedication for each and every project they have undertaken is a testament of their commitment and dedication to the upliftment of the lives of their compatriots back home. Today, numerous projects are in the pipeline as the association shows no sign of slowing down in its commitment to serve their countrymen.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Association Lending Assistance in Exigencies at Home, gem e.V., the President recognizes its continued praiseworthy support to infrastructure projects, health care and relief programs to help the needy in remote provinces of the Philippines.





## *Stella S. Evangelista, M.D.*

*United States of America*

For Dr. Stella Evangelista who has spent her life doing much for others, success has nothing to do with what you have gained in life or accomplished for yourself. It is measured by what you do for others.

Born in Cebu City, Dr. Evangelista has been an outstanding student, graduating with honors in elementary and high school. She obtained her B.S. in pre-medicine magna cum laude from the Cebu Institute of Technology. She later moved to Manila and enrolled at the University of Santo Tomas – College of

Medicine, where she graduated *benemeritus*. In 1968, she, together with her husband, left for the United States to pursue post-graduate studies.

After earning her diplomate in Pediatrics in 1967, Dr. Evangelista was appointed member of the Michigan State Board of Medicine by Michigan Governor James Blanchard – a rare distinction and honor, she being the first woman to be appointed to that prestigious body. Dr. Evangelista practiced in Livonia for 25 years where she was Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at St. Mary Hospital for several years. She is currently the Administrator and Medical Director of Maple Manor Assisted Living and Maple Manor Rehabilitation Center, a 40-bed sub-acute care skilled nursing facility in Michigan.

Despite the relatively comfortable life afforded by a stable career and a successful family business in the U.S., Dr. Evangelista chose to be involved in many civic as well as philanthropic activities. She has chaired numerous fundraising activities such as the first Henry Ford Hospice Annual Fundraising, the City of Hope Charity Dinner, the Asian American Journalists Association Scholarship Drive, the Philippine Earthquake Relief Drive, and the Mt. Pinatubo Eruption Disaster Funds. In addition, she assisted the founding of the Cabalen Care Foundation with a \$25,000.00 donation to support medical missions and scholarships for underprivileged people in Pampanga.

Through her leadership, professional competence and commitment to the welfare of Filipino physicians in the United States, Dr. Evangelista led many professional and community organizations in the US. In 1993, she became the first woman physician elected to the Presidency of the Association of Philippine Physicians in America (APPA). As President of the APPA, she was able to raise \$50,000.00 to support the International Kiwanis Foundation's program of eradicating iodine deficiency in the Philippines, sponsor numerous medical missions to the Philippines, and ship a container load of medical/surgical supplies to Cebu City.

Through the help of generous donors and her able leadership of the University of Santo Tomas Medical Alumni Association in America (USTMAAA), and its Foundation, the USTMAAA endowment fund (now at over \$2.6 million) continues to grow and is now a success model for other medical alumni associations in America. The organization has distributed grants totaling \$1 million in building improvements, research grants, medical equipment, scholarships and faculty development. It has provided support for indigent patients through funding of *Lingkod ER*, St. Cosmas and Damian Indigency Trust Fund, as well as funding for the annual medical/surgical missions of the USTMAAA and the Save-a-Sight and Save-a-Heart in-house missions at the UST Hospital. In addition, the USTMAAA also has an on-going partnership with *Gawad Kalinga* to finance the building of a village with 100 houses in Bulacan.

Behind Dr. Evangelista's success as a physician, role-model, and community leader, are her six children and loving husband, Dr. Jose L. Evangelista, a 1993 *Banaag* awardee, who is also an active philanthropist and civic leader.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Dr. Stella S. Evangelista, the President recognizes her effective leadership and unselfish dedication to community service through her various charitable missions and activities in the Philippines.

*FEU - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of  
Medicine Alumni Foundation*  
United States of America



After reaping the rewards of an education that served as their own vehicle for success in the United States, a group of medical alumni of the Far Eastern University's Institute of Medicine decided to give back to their Alma Mater and establish the Far Eastern University - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation.

In the last three decades, the Alumni Foundation has become a formidable partner of the FEU Medical School in its pursuit of excellence in medical education, quality healthcare service, and medical research.

In 1982, it responded to the call of the FEU-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation and donated the sum of P10 million for the purchase of its own site and building.

When the Medical Foundation acquired its own physical plants for the school and hospital, the Alumni Foundation mobilized its efforts, and through the fledgling years of the Medical Foundation, donated thousands of dollars worth of life-saving machines and medical equipment such as an x-ray machine, a hemo dialyzer, an ambulance, an electrocardiograph, and various other hospital and school equipment. Through the support of its 21 chapters in the United States, the association was able to donate a total of P5.3 million in supplies and equipment to the Medical Foundation from 1985-2003.

The support of the Alumni Foundation has extended to both the faculty and students of the FEU Medical School. They have, for more than 15 years, established a fund in the form of additional faculty allowance amounting to P30,000.00 per annum as incentive for regular and part time faculty members of FEU. They have also made possible the exposure of some faculty members to further studies in the United States through fellowships, which have strengthened teaching capabilities. The Alumni Foundation's donation of books, LCD projectors, computers, audio visual materials, and other school improvements have not only benefited students but also further enhanced and modernized the teaching methods of faculty members.

The Alumni Foundation's scholarship project has made it possible for deserving but economically disadvantaged students to pursue medical studies with the understanding that they will eventually serve their town and province of origin. At present, this program supports 21 students in different years of medical education.

The members of the Foundation, in their patriotism, have in their hearts the willingness to assist not only their beloved Alma Mater but also their home country, by strengthening the medical services available to the nation, especially its indigent patient population. The Alumni Foundation has been regularly conducting medical missions in different provinces involving and taking along students to add to their exposure to community service. In December 1993, the first medical mission sponsored by the Alumni Foundation performed surgery for free on indigent patients at FEU Hospital in Manila. The succeeding medical missions were conducted in San Marcelino, Zambales; Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental; Calumpit, Bulacan; Vigan, Ilocos Sur; and Payatas, Quezon City. Aside from its medical missions, the Alumni Foundation has also been donating medicines and infant formula to the Pediatric Department of the FEU-NRMF since 1999. Individual donations made by different chapters of the Alumni Foundation have also benefited other medical institutions. Last year, its Texas chapter's donation of almost \$1 million benefited as well the charity patients of the Vigan Provincial Hospital and Philippine General Hospital.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Far Eastern University - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation, the President recognizes its exemplary dedication to our country through its immeasurable contributions to the faculty, students, and medical school of the Far Eastern University, as well as its charitable missions that have benefited indigent patients in the Philippines.





*Society of Philippine  
Surgeons in America*  
United States of America

One of the best things that happened in the history of Philippine medical associations in America was the birth of the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America in 1972. While other organizations are busy pursuing their social, economic, and political interests, SPSA has taken a different direction – one that focuses on the continuing medical education of its members and then, passing their knowledge and technology on to their counterparts in their homeland.

Founded by a group of Filipino surgeons practicing in the United States and Canada, SPSA has, in the past three decades, emerged to be one of the most potent forces among Filipino-American medical societies. This has been achieved mainly through its role in upholding the standard of the medical profession and encouraging expertise among its members through its annual continuing medical education (CME) program.

The continuing effort of its members to keep themselves abreast with the latest development and practices in their field through their annual CME is rooted in their desire to impart the same knowledge and skills to their colleagues back home, who will, in turn, translate these theoretical knowledge to benefit the larger Philippine populace.

Beginning in 1986, SPSA has been sponsoring fellows from the Philippines for post-graduate surgical training in the United States and Canada. This training includes visiting and observing the practice of surgery by various members of the society situated in different cities. A number of these trained surgeons have returned to the Philippines to render service to their countrymen through various medical and charitable missions.

Volunteer surgeons of the SPSA have been conducting their annual medical missions in various rural and marginal urban areas of the country despite difficult settings and poorly equipped environment. They have performed thousands of operations such as surgery for cataract, goiters, hernias, fibroid tumors, ovarian cysts, soft tissue tumors, cleft lip and palate, skin lesions and numerous pediatric procedures.

Indigent patients, especially those from the rural areas, who otherwise could not afford medical services due to the limited rural health services available to them, have benefited from the numerous surgical missions sponsored by SPSA in different provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. So far, the estimated financial benefit to the Philippines of all the medical and surgical missions spearheaded by the SPSA from 1993-2005 reaches about P95,790,000.00.

The impact of the SPSA's medical missions is staggering, not only in terms of its monetary contribution but also through the knowledge that this group of physicians has been able to impart to their local counterparts. The SPSA's surgical mission team insists on the participation of the local surgeons and physicians to ensure transfer of surgical knowledge and expertise. SPSA believes that teaching the local surgeons proper surgical techniques will enable them to continue to perform these major operations long after the surgical mission team leaves the area. The surgical missions place a high priority on teaching local surgeons and improving the medical facilities in the area.

At a time when the continued migration of Filipino health professionals abroad is said to be causing a severe dent in the delivery of medical services to local patient population, the work of the SPSA offers hope and consolation especially to less fortunate and underserved Filipinos.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award* to Society of Philippine Surgeons in America, the President recognizes its distinguished accomplishments and commitment to upgrading the standards of the medical profession, and providing surgical needs of the indigent population in various parts of the Philippines.

*Honesto R. Tria*  
*United States of America*



Most people aspire for a life of comfort and material wealth in their retirement years, but that is not the path of choice for 78-year old retiree and active philanthropist, Honesto R. Tria.

After moving for good to the United States of America in 1978, Mr. Tria continued to serve his less fortunate countrymen in the Philippines, particularly in the Bicol region by combining material resources, time and effort for them.

He is the man behind several organizations helping the people of the Philippines help themselves. In his more than 20 years of public service, Mr. Tria founded and led several charitable organizations such as *Save-a-Tahanan, Inc. (STI)*, *Save a Tahanan Movement Philippines (STMP)*, and the *Association of Former Meralco Employees (AFME)*.

In 1986, Mr. Tria and six other couples from Northern California who share roots in Calabanga, Camarines Sur, established the *Save-a-Tahanan, Inc. STI focuses on alleviating the poor standards of living in the Philippines through micro-finance, and values-oriented and skills enhancement seminars that teach beneficiaries the value of diligence, productiveness, honesty and integrity along with honoring their crafts and improving their businesses.* When STI was struggling in its efforts to help the Philippines, Mr. Tria was the glue that kept the organization together and the fuel that kept it going.

Not only did he go to extreme measures to raise funds for the Philippines, he also traveled at his own expense to work and make sure that donations were benefiting those in need. Through the effort of Mr. Tria and other volunteers, donors and friends of STI, more than 800 families in STI's 12 active chapters in the Philippines were provided the opportunity to live decently and become productive citizens of their communities.

During one of his numerous visits to the Philippines, Mr. Tria saw the dreadful living conditions of some of his countrymen. The garages, tool sheds and even dog houses in the U.S. seemed to be more livable than the makeshift houses that he saw. This experience prompted him to donate 5.5 hectares of his land in Sta. Cruz, Calabanga for the building of the *STI-Gawad Kalinga* socialized housing project. The project which was inaugurated in 2004 is now benefiting more than 100 families. More houses are still being built to provide decent houses to deserving beneficiaries. It has now become a growing multi-sectored partnership driven by a vision of a new Philippines — one without poverty.

Knowing and believing in the importance of education, Mr. Tria and his wife started a self-funded scholarship program, The Concerned Citizens Scholarship Program of USA, in 1996. To date, more than 30 poor students have benefited from the scholarship.

As a middle child from a family of eight, Mr. Tria was always told that he was better off mingling with the rich. But somehow, he always found his heart helping and being with the poor. Through his sincerity and integrity, Mr. Tria has inspired other people, in both the Filipino and American communities. Although he is thousands of miles away, more than 800 families in the Philippines sleep better at night knowing that a Filipino from Fremont, California has made a difference in their lives.

In conferring the *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* Award to Honesto R. Tria, the President recognizes his philanthropic and inspiring deeds to uplift the conditions of unfortunate countrymen, giving to them his own time, effort, and resources.



## *Kaanib ng Bayan*

*The Kaanib ng Bayan Award is conferred on foreign individuals or organizations for their exceptional or significant contribution to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development, or have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities*

### *Awardees*

**California Technological Care, Inc.**  
*United States of America*

**CORA - Filipino American Task Force / Advisory Board**  
*United States of America*

**Misao Hanazaki**  
*Japan*

**Ma'Ma Children's Center of Norway**  
*Norway*

**Robert Sommer Martens, Ph.D.**  
*Germany*

**Operation Rainbow Australia Limited**  
*Australia*

**Social Welfare Corporation Raphael Clinic**  
*South Korea*



*California Technological  
Care, Inc.*  
United States of America

In today's increasingly digital world, information and communication technology plays an important role in the progress and development of a nation. More than ever, the need to address the "digital divide" and provide universal access to today's information highway remains a complex issue, especially in poor and developing countries. For this, the Philippines has a lot to thank the California Technological Care (CTC) for.

Started in 1999 by two veterans of the telecommunications industry namely Albert "Sandy" Munroe and Dennis Punsalan, CTC aims to bridge the digital divide and combat computer illiteracy for those most in need. A public benefit organization that fights information poverty and electronic waste pollution through scalable programs, CTC recycles computers and sends them to disadvantaged communities, public schools, and NGOs in several countries, mainly the Philippines. Over the past six years, CTC is considered to have helped reduce electronic waste from entering landfills, provided educational programs that make it possible for people to move themselves out of poverty, and supported and strengthened families in the process.

In 2002, CTC in partnership with other organizations, started a program called *Cyberbarangayan*. The mission of the project is not only to bridge the digital divide between the Philippine *barangays* and the global community through computer literacy and internet access, but also to make available alternative livelihood opportunities among the underprivileged by developing skills and knowledge in computer technology. Several local government units, NGOs, public schools and religious institutions were recipients of the project, including several underserved indigenous communities such as the Aetas in Pampanga and Tarlac, the Mangyans in Mindoro, and the Manobos in Agusan del Sur. CTC now has established 70 computer learning centers in the Philippine countryside, in addition to the 12 in California. Through the learning centers, residents of *barangays* learn how to operate computers for free, thereby, increasing their job market value and their chances of getting a better job. It enabled the informed poor to develop knowledge whose use extends beyond their respective localities.

On its 5<sup>th</sup> year, CTC launched the "Technology Care Mission" as a community service mission allowing CTC volunteers to attend the opening of several CTC sponsored computer learning centers. Mission activities also included computer technology and entrepreneurship training and mentoring to help people develop the skills required to start and own a business. In addition, CTC volunteers mentored out-of-school youth, women reentering the workplace, senior citizens, and other disadvantaged individuals. CTC's technical training programs in the Philippines have graduated more than 400 students. In its pilot program in the province of Laguna, out of 44 CTC students who completed the basic computer training course, 22 were hired by a local US-based company. Moreover, CTC launched the *No Child Left Off-Line* which brings together public and private partners to help public schools in the Philippines join the information age.

CTC is said to have changed the landscape among disadvantaged communities by providing the poor with access to technology and education, making a difference in their lives. By making computers available to those who cannot afford them and operating learning centers, CTC volunteers are helping more people learn the skills they need to be competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. CTC's work is not only tremendous in its scope but visionary in its implications. Just as the Filipino nation showcases the perfect marriage of eastern and western cultures, CTC epitomizes the perfect marriage of technology and the classic Philippine spirit of *bayanihan*. In this digital age, it has been pivotal in ensuring that the Philippines is wired into cyberspace.

In conferring the *Kaanib ng Bayan* Award to California Technological Care, the President recognizes its exemplary work and commitment to bridge the digital divide in the Philippines, and provide many less fortunate Filipinos with skills and opportunities for employment.



*CORA - Filipino American  
Task Force / Advisory Board  
United States of America*



Domestic violence is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 15 and 44 in the United States, according to the California Department of Health Services. Immigrants often suffer higher rates of battering because they have less access to services than those born in the US. Believing that no one deserves abuse, the Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA) made it their mission to end domestic violence and abuse in San Francisco Bay Area through intervention and prevention.

CORA is the only multicultural agency in San Mateo County which provides free and confidential services to victims and survivors of domestic/dating violence and abuse, including child and teen witnesses. Its services include a 24-hour hotline, support groups, legal services, emergency shelter and transitional housing, among others, working in English, Spanish and Tagalog languages. It also has a fully funded Filipino American Outreach Program. About 10% of the clientele of CORA are Filipinos.

CORA's success and popularity in the US, particularly in the Filipino American community, is credited to 12 dedicated volunteers who call themselves the Filipino American Task Force / Advisory Board. Established in 2001 as a subgroup of CORA's Multimedia Advisory Group, the Task Force helps CORA's community education team widen its outreach to the county's most populous Asian groups.

The Task Force has been actively pursuing a community education program focused on domestic violence education among Filipino Americans. It has provided training workshops and orientation seminars covering topics on abuse, cycle of violence and effects on children to Filipino women in intermarriages. Its members have also served as resource speakers for Filipino Americans at health fairs and community events where communities are engaged to embrace the campaign to end domestic violence. The Task Force's information and education campaigns resulted in media exposure which paved way to a higher rate of Filipinos accessing CORA's services, and a parallel increase in the number of Filipino volunteer workers at CORA. Filipino Americans now realize that while domestic abuse and violence happen in Filipino American families, they can be prevented through a collective effort.

To strengthen the capacities of consulate officials and staff who deal with complaints and assistance-to-nationals' cases, the Task Force initiated the conduct of a domestic violence awareness and sensitivity training for the entire staff of the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco in 2006, a first for any Philippine diplomatic office. The Task Force was also the first to hold a commemoration of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month at the Philippine Consulate which became the launch pad for the first ever-public pledge against domestic violence. It also organized the first public testimony of a Filipino American domestic violence survivor which put the issue of domestic violence in the frontline of the Filipino American community's consciousness.

With the help of CORA and its Filipino volunteers, the stigma attached to domestic abuse is slowly being shattered. They reflect the understanding that abuse is not only physical, and it takes a community working together to end domestic violence. Indeed, CORA and the Task Force save lives, prevent women and children from becoming victims, and help build healthy homes. One of its beneficiaries claimed that with the help of CORA, she became a new person. She relayed, "I was once a victim, then a survivor. CORA has helped me become a hero."

In conferring the *Kaanib ng Bayan* Award to CORA-Filipino American Task Force / Advisory Board, the President recognizes its admirable humanitarian services in promoting the welfare of Filipino Americans, and empowering them to end domestic violence and abuse.



*Misao Hanazaki*  
Japan

*Nanohana-no-ie* may be one of the few places in Japan where abused, abandoned and troubled children of multicultural backgrounds can find what is missing in their lives – home and love. Founded by a Japanese philanthropist Misao Hanazaki, the children's home located on the outskirts of Kisarazu-City in Chiba prefecture, has provided a secure, home-like environment for hundreds of Japanese and non-Japanese children who are victims of child abuse, neglect and other inhumane treatment.

Ms. Hanazaki became interested in helping children in 1969, when she spent a year and a half volunteering at a refugee child center in Switzerland, where children of various nationalities sought refuge. Returning in Japan in 1971, she decided to adopt a 17-year-old girl, a refugee from the Indochinese conflict. Soon after, she was asked by a Japanese NGO to take in more refugee girls from Southeast Asia who needed care. In 1984, she founded *Ichiryu-kai*, a non-profit organization dedicated to the needs of children without adequate parental support. By 1985, she opened *Nanohana-no-ie* with facilities currently accommodating approximately 40 children aged two to 18, some of them came from Colombia, Kenya, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines. The facility was a pioneer in accepting children of various nationalities, acting as one of the first true international children's homes.

By living together in such a multi-cultural community, the children of *Nanohana-no-ie* learn the similarities and differences of other cultures. "*Nanohana*" means "wild flower" in Japanese. It is her wish to see the children grow up to be the strong and beautiful wild flowers, overcoming life's challenges. Many children, after flying the *Nanohana* nest, come back to visit. The love and support they have been given have helped them find employment, stability and love in their life away from *Nanohana*.

In 1991, Ms. Hanazaki founded another organization, Friendship Asia House Cosmos (FAH Cosmos), an asylum for unwed non-Japanese mothers with half-Japanese children. FAH Cosmos takes care of its residents who came from various countries including Cambodia, Iran, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Taiwan, Korea and the Philippines, many of whom are victims of domestic violence. While in the shelter, they acquire skills for independence and recover from abuse. FAH Cosmos also serves as a safe shelter for victims of human trafficking, having assisted a total of 12 Filipinas in their return safely to the Philippines. In 2004, she established the Family Center Viola which provides for child and family care services in the community level. The Center through its counseling and social services, has helped Filipinas in bicultural marriages to cope with domestic issues brought about by unsupportive Japanese partners. The Center also assists with issues on divorce settlements, child custody, employment, visa processing and other family matters.

Ms. Hanazaki's philanthropic services also extend to the Philippines. In 2005, the Family Center Viola became the primary support in setting up the Immaculada Conception Child Care Center in a slum area in Cavite. To date, 90 children have benefited from the day care classes along with their parents who have also attended parallel adult education classes. She also initiated the provision of support for the education of Filipino deaf children in Rizal, at the same time providing livelihood support for their parents.

Ms. Hanazaki's benevolent efforts have not gone unrecognized. She received awards and recognition from the UNESCO, and the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Emperor of Japan for promoting foreign diplomacy and cross-cultural communications. She is highly respected not only in the local community of Chiba, but also by the Japanese NGO communities and Japanese government bureaucrats dealing with human rights issues. Exceptionally, she is an epitome of kindness and service.

In conferring the *Kaanib ng Bayan* Award to Misao Hanazaki, the President recognizes her altruism and dedication in helping distressed Filipinos and their children in Japan, as well in supporting less fortunate people and children in the Philippines.



*Ma'Ma Children's Center  
of Norway  
Norway*



Everywhere one goes in the Philippines, the need to care for the poor is painfully obvious. It is simply amazing that halfway across the globe, a group of compassionate individuals from Norway has been opening doors, and building bridges with our country to serve the needy and the underprivileged. For this, Filipinos have to thank the Ma-Ma Children's Center of Norway (MMCCN).

The MMCCN is a non-profit Christian, charitable foundation that primarily serves the homeless and neglected children, unwed mothers, elderly and abandoned people in the Philippines. The foundation's objective is to "help people help themselves," by offering the poor section of the population means by which they can become financially independent and thus, escape from lifelong poverty. The foundation is managed by a board whose task is to organize fundraising and information services to all its generous supporters.

MMCCN was established by Rachel Trovi, who was born in 1927 in a small fishing village in Mid-Norway. Ms. Trovi, who as a teenager, developed an urge to help the needy decided to go to the Philippines and help the poorest of the poor after she came across the heartbreaking story of people living in Smokey Mountain in Manila. She started MMCCN in 1987, spreading her charity work into the country's slums and destitute areas. Ms. Trovi bought and handed out food, medicine and clothing, and treated children for infections from rat bites. Ms. Trovi also traveled all around Norway, giving speeches and lectures about poverty among the poorest people in Manila.

Ms. Trovi's work has expanded rapidly. After 18 years of operation, MMCCN now runs three orphanages in Hopes Haven, Gen. Trias, Cavite that take care of, educate, and give a bright future to orphans, street children and children from very poor families. The foundation also built hospices for the elderly, and a centre for abused children and unwed mothers.

To give these individuals a chance to begin anew and become productive citizens of the society, the foundation provides a livelihood training program through its sewing school. The school offers an eight-week sewing course leading up to seamstress certification. The sewing school serves as a production center for dressmakers who are normally single or abused mothers. They make work clothes for the Norwegian Jebesen shipping subsidiary, which has been an ardent supporter of the foundation and all its charitable programs for the poor. The center has also delivered boiler suits and other work garments to pupils and employees at the Osebakken upper secondary school in Porsgrunn, Norway. As a way to integrate the organization's activities, the goods produced at the center are then forwarded to the MMCCN's Center for the Elderly for quality assurance.

Aside from these activities, the foundation also collaborates with a local prison in helping child prisoners obtain special education via the MMCCN's drop-in centre.

From 1987 to 2005, MMCCN contributed over P200 million to the Philippines benefiting thousands of individuals from different provinces through a wide range of programs and activities providing basic needs, like food, clothing, shelter and free vocational training.

Through meaningful philanthropy, and the commitment of the volunteers and contributing partners of MHHN, poor children and other less fortunate individuals continue to hope for a better life and a brighter future, despite their circumstances.

In conferring the *Kaani ng Bayan* Award to Ma-Ma Children's Center of Norway, the President recognizes its exemplary work and dedication to easing the plight of unfortunate children and other people through charitable programs and activities in the Philippines.



*Robert Sommer Martens, Ph.D.*  
Germany

It is a wonder how a foreign individual who lives so far away from the Philippines could sustain his dedication to our country for so many decades. In the last 35 years, Dr. Robert Sommer Martens, a native of Hamburg, Germany, has actually taken on the tasks of promoting Philippine progress as well as the well-being of Filipinos in Germany.

Dr. Martens is a professor at the University of Hamburg. For more than three decades, he has been conducting University lectures on Geography, Culture, Health and Environment of Asia and South East Asia with particular emphasis on the Philippines. Among these are: Philippine Geography, Philippine History, Philippine Environment, Philippine Culture, Philippine Ecology and Philippine Landscapes.

In the 1990s, at the University of Hamburg, Dr. Martens headed the Monsoon Asia Research Group. As head of the group, he directed and coordinated the conduct of a series of researches on an ecosystem approach for the sustainable management of Laguna de Bay. It aimed to restore the natural quality of drinking water for Metro Manila. As head of the research group, he required all English speaking students in the group to acquire basic knowledge of Tagalog for communication with the local people involved in the study.

As a professor, Dr. Martens encouraged greater interest of young Filipino-Germans towards the Philippines. He has served as adviser to students for their masteral thesis and dissertations on a variety of research topics on Philippine geology, ecology, tourism, etc. He encourages his students to work with Philippine NGOs concerned with development and social welfare, and urges and inspires them to obtain a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the country by traveling and staying here for extended periods of time.

His personal warmth towards the Filipinos he meets and his sincere efforts to extend a helping hand to those who need it, is something that countless Filipinos who have met Dr. Martens either in his native Hamburg or elsewhere, have experienced. He provides advice to Filipino students and citizens on matters pertaining to study and living conditions in Germany as well as the rest of Europe. Dr. Martens also provided support to Filipinos in the preparation of their documents required by German authorities. His generosity and the wisdom he imparts to Filipinos trying to cope with life in Germany are gifts which his Filipino friends and acquaintances cherish.

To promote the welfare of Filipino students in Germany and the European Union, and to foster the academic and cultural exchange between the Philippines and the European Union, Dr. Martens initiated and co-founded PHILSTUD, a Philippine Students Association, in 1989. The activities of PHILSTUD included the conduct of regular scientific meetings (thesis, symposia) two to three times a year, the conduct of social gatherings among Filipino and German students; and the annual publication of a magazine in English, Tagalog and German. Also with a literary gift, Dr. Martens has been a regular contributor of poems at PHILSTUD's magazine. Another one of his notable achievements is the publication of a book of poems which reveal his deep personal affection for the Philippines and his hope that greater understanding between the two countries shall one day be achieved.

Finally, Dr. Martens who took every opportunity to encourage cooperation between Germany and the Philippines, co-founded the *Answering the Cry of the Poor (ANCOP)*, Germany. The association was founded in 2002 by Filipino and German citizens in cooperation with the Embassy of the Philippines in Berlin, Germany. It supports the activity of the Philippine ANCOP in restructuring slum areas in Philippine municipalities and cities through various fund-raising activities.

In conferring the *Kaanib ng Bayan* Award to Dr. Robert Sommer Martens, the President recognizes his lifelong dedication to support development efforts in the Philippines, the well-being of Filipinos in Germany and understanding and friendship between Germans and Filipinos.



*Operation Rainbow  
Australia Limited  
Australia*



Oral cleft ranks among the top 12 birth defects in the Philippines. An estimated two in every 1,000 Filipino children are born every year with a cleft deformity. While a 45-minute surgery is all that it will take to put a smile back on these children's faces, most of them could not avail of surgical treatment because of poverty. Thanks to the volunteer doctors of the Operation Rainbow Australia Limited (ORAL), these poor children now have a reason to smile.

ORAL is a non-profit, volunteer organization that provides reconstructive surgery and health care services to children and young adults suffering from facial and other deformities in third world countries including the Philippines, China and Guatemala. In addition to medical services, the organization provides education and training to physicians and other professionals to achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

Since it was founded in 1978 by Dr. William B. Riley of Houston, Texas, ORAL volunteers have been donating their time and skills to care for an average of 100 Filipino children suffering from facial deformities by cleft lips and other birth defects, every year.

Members of ORAL in Australia raise funds for their annual medical mission to the Philippines. In the last 14 years, ORAL has consistently conducted its medical operation in Quezon City, Manila, Cavite, Tariac, Pampanga, Dipolog, Camarines Norte and La Union.

Patients with problems too complicated to be operated on in their own countries are taken to Australia where the generosity of hospitals, surgical teams and community groups enables free treatment, along with full accommodation and transportation assistance to and from Australia.

In 1998, 23-year old Enrique Canlas, who suffered from third degree burns from his lower face to the upper torso when he was only three years old, was brought to Perth, Australia, through the efforts of ORAL to undergo a full surgical reconstruction.

In 2002, 10-year old Jenelyn Oval was likewise brought to Perth from Manila, accompanied by her mother, Marivic Oval, for a stage by stage surgical, facial, and dental reconstruction. Enrique and Jenelyn are just two of the thousands of patients who were relieved from hopelessness and desperation through the wonderful work that the organization has been doing. Through the efforts of its volunteers, ORAL has in many ways, transformed the lives of countless young individuals from a life of shame and ridicule to a life of hope and promise.

In the words of ORAL's volunteers, "It is truly amazing what a dedicated team of doctors can do, in barely an hour, to dramatically affect the life of a child."

Besides the treatment of indigent patients, medical education and training have become a paramount concern in ORAL's medical missions. ORAL trains the local surgeons to perform these operations by themselves, using the latest Western techniques. Mission doctors also advise the parents about caring, hygiene, diet and public health for the children after surgery. The Operation Rainbow team has developed a lecture and seminar series which they conduct in the countries they visit, as well as a student exchange and an international fellowship program. These activities broaden the experience of the doctors from poor countries and encourage the spirit of sharing between volunteer doctors of Australia and their local counterparts.

In conferring the *Kaanib ng Bayan* Award to Operation Rainbow Australia Limited, the President recognizes its enduring work and commitment to bring smiles to poor and unfortunate children in the Philippines through their gift of reconstructive surgery.



*Social Welfare Corporation*  
*Raphael Clinic*  
South Korea

In spite of the economic rewards of working overseas, migrant workers are becoming more and more aware that the search for a better life abroad entails a lot of sacrifices and difficulties. Aside from having fewer rights than other workers, foreign migrants battle loneliness and homesickness. Fortunately, for many Filipino migrant workers in South Korea, a local organization has made itself available to migrant workers in need.

Raphael Clinic began as an offshoot of the Catholic Association of Seoul National University which rendered free medical treatment service to the poor in 1958. The organization's main goal is to provide free, systematic and effective medical treatment to migrant workers in Korea who are otherwise excluded under Korea's medical insurance package.

In 2005, it received an official authorization from the Seoul City Government as a Social Welfare Corporation which allows Raphael Clinic to perform other activities such as the provision of free medical treatment in remote villages and free legal advice on labor related issues, as well as in providing shelter for abused workers.

As a social welfare corporation, it has now activated its supporters' association known as the *Angel Members* who donate money for the organization's numerous activities. To date, its core volunteers come from Korea University, Seoul National University, Ehwa Women's University, Catholic Student Union, The Catholic University of Korea, Center for Anthropology Education, Catholic Pharmacist, Bun-Dang So Mang churches, Seoul University Hospital Radiology and the He-Hwa Radiology Hospital. Raphael Clinic is supported financially by foundations such as the Lotte Foundation and the Kim-Nam-Ho Foundation. About 250 medical volunteers and 200 general volunteers work for the organization in carrying out its activities.

As the number of patients who came for treatment increased, the need for a more systematic system of operations became more evident. In 2001, the organization started implementing the Patient Reservation System in order to ensure that all who wish to get treatment were given the service that they required. It also adopted the sub-intern system to give patients the chance of overcoming the language barrier and get full-pledged medical treatment. Under this system, a patient is assigned a volunteer supporter who becomes his/her guardian while undergoing treatment. More than 20 students from the medical departments of Korea University, Seoul National University, Yonsei University and Ehwa Women's University participate as volunteer guardians.

On the average, about 70 patients are treated free of charge during small treatment days, whereas during big treatment days, school auditoriums are used as treatment places and generally require about 35 medical practitioners and 80 general volunteers. Raphael Clinic also carries out a mobile medical treatment activity which allows foreign workers in far-flung areas within Korea to have access to free medical treatment and consultations.

From 1997 to 2005, the Raphael Clinic provided free medical clinic to 74,159 people, about 15.5% or 11,494 of whom are Filipinos. A number of these beneficiaries are temporary workers who are suffering from serious illnesses such as cancer and most often could not afford the high cost of medical treatment in South Korea. There are instances when these patients are referred to better and well-equipped hospitals, and their hospital bills are paid for by generous donors of Raphael Clinic.

In conferring the *Kaani ng Bayan* Award to Social Welfare Corporation Raphael Clinic, the President recognizes its dedicated work and commitment for the welfare of Filipino migrants in Korea, and its support for indigent Filipino patients through its free medical services.



# *Banaag*

*The Banaag Award is conferred on Filipino individuals or associations for their contributions which have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities*

## *Awardees*

**Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.**  
*United States of America*

**Thelma Garcia Buchholdt, LI.B.**  
*United States of America*

**Lolita L. Farmer, LI.B., OAM**  
*Australia*

**Filipino American Medical, Inc.**  
*United States of America*

**Filipino Association of Singapore**  
*Singapore*

**Roman Ting Go**  
*China*

**Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.**  
*United States of America*

**Lahing Kayumanggi**  
*United Kingdom*

*Awardees*

**Vladimir James M. Manuel**

*United States of America*

**Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians**

*Canada*

**Eduardo J. Navarra**

*United States of America*

**Philippine American Group of Educators and Surgeons**

*United States of America*

**Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc.**

*United States of America*

**Edgardo R. Quinto**

*Switzerland*

**Loline A. Lualhati-Reed**

*United Kingdom*

**Justina L. Sales**

*Israel*

**Rosario B. Tigno, M.D.**

*United Arab of Emirates*

**Tuluyang Pinoy (Philippine Centre Zurich)**

*Switzerland*

**Veterans Equity Center**

*United States of America*



## *Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.* United States of America

In a world with many trials and temptations, libraries provide a haven where young minds are free to explore, imagine and learn in a healthy environment. Most importantly, they allow the young to see a world of unlimited potentials and exciting possibilities. *Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.*'s (BKP) mission and tireless work has made itself a custodian of children's dreams.

Established in Acton, Massachusetts in 1998, to foster a reading culture among children in poverty-stricken areas in the Philippines, BKP is a non-for-profit organization composed of dedicated volunteers brought together by a common desire to share their passion for reading and make every child a reader. It is a brainchild of Rowena Jimenez who first dreamt to develop an anti-poverty program for the children of Barangka, Marikina. Her experiences convinced her that the most effective way to assist the underprivileged was to help them obtain an education.

Despite being relatively new, BKP has funded the establishment of BKP mini-children's libraries in schools, community centers and churches in about 55 provinces all over the Philippines, providing over a hundred thousand children with access to colorful and enticing children's books and to BKP reading skills programs. BKP has also partnered with the local government and NGOs in setting up reading centers for children who live in extremely poor areas such as those who live in dumpsites of Payatas and Tondo. BKP believes that when children develop a love for reading, they will acquire good reading skills, and develop proficiency in English. Less privileged children who read proficiently and speak English fluently, are far better equipped to escape from poverty and to build a better future for themselves.

Aside from establishing libraries and reading centers, BKP also conducts regular reading sessions through its Read Aloud Program, where children listen to stories read by trained teachers and volunteers. To implement the program, BKP has funded the training and workshop of teachers and volunteers in the Philippines. In 2005, BKP conducted a series of Concentrated Language Encounter (CLE) read aloud workshops in Manila, Cagayan and Romblon. Developed by Rotarians from Australia and Thailand, CLE is a teaching method which has proven very successful in improving literacy rates, enabling communities to preserve and promote cultural strengths and qualities which too often, get lost in a fast-paced way of life. Moreover, BKP also supports reading programs of the Open Heart Foundation, Hope for the Youth Foundation, and other NGOs that cater to children in densely-populated-squatters and resettlement areas, as well as street children.

Beneficiaries have claimed that BKP's programs have positively shaped the children, not only to develop an understanding of the English language, but also a love for books and for reading. Whereas before, the students have nowhere to go or would just loiter around during break hours, now they would flock the library. The enthusiasm of the young has contaminated the idealism of the old for even the senior citizens have come to assist in the Read Aloud Program and teach the young.

BKP has touched the lives of so many children and have made a positive difference in their lives. In a situation of hopelessness, BKP has given these kids a ray of hope – that there is a world outside the slums, a world waiting to be discovered and conquered. BKP, indeed has opened a door through reading, a positive habit that could nurture them through adulthood. When children are able to read, they will be ready to learn and ready to lead.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to *Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.*, the President recognizes its invaluable contribution to literacy, in establishing mini-libraries and conducting educational programs to develop a culture for reading and promote literacy among underprivileged children in the Philippines.



## *Thelma Garcia Buchholdt, Lt. B.*

*United States of America*



Filipino American history has produced Alaska-based heroes. They were the men known as "Alaskeros" who worked in salmon canneries under some of the most difficult working conditions from early 1900s to 1960s. But one extraordinary Filipino rose, breaking barriers in America's Last Frontier and boosting the Filipino Americans' image in the rest of United States.

When Atty. Thelma Garcia Buccholdt was elected to the State Legislature of Alaska in 1974, she became the first Filipino American state legislator outside of Hawaii. Being the first Filipino American woman elected to a state legislature in any of the 50 states, it was remarkable that she was elected from a legislative district where Asian Americans constituted less than one percent of the population. Satisfied with her noteworthy performance, she was re-elected three times by her constituents, serving for a total of eight years.

Atty. Buccholdt became one of the most powerful women in Alaska as vice-chair of the House Finance Committee which prepares the preliminary state budget. Her legislative achievements included the funding of many capital improvement projects such as the Spenard Community Recreation Center, Loussac Library of the main Anchorage Library, Dempsey Anderson Ice Arena in Anchorage, and Filipino Community Hall in Juneau. She also funded the construction of several neighborhood parks and bike trails, as well as important bio-acoustical research on the bowhead whale population, allowing Alaska's Eskimos to maintain their subsistence rights to hunt this species of whale for food.

In 1980, Atty. Buccholdt pushed for the concept of a \$600,000.00 Asian Alaskan Cultural Center (AACC). The AACC now serves the cultural and education needs of Anchorage's Filipino and Asian communities. She has convened two Statewide Filipino Community Leadership Conferences which have attracted participants from Hawaii, Illinois, California, Oregon and Washington. In 1988, she became the first Asian American president of the National Order of Women Legislators. Having worked tirelessly for decades with a diverse collection of groups and people in Alaska, she was appointed by a fellow Democrat, Governor Tony Knowles, to serve as Director of the state's Office of Equal Employment Opportunity in 1995.

Ms. Buccholdt became one of the first trustees of the Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS) in 1986. Today, she is FANHS national president and continues to be among FANHS' strongest financial contributors. She founded and became president of FANHS' Alaska chapter in 1994 until the present. In 1999, she established the Filipino Arctic Folk Ensemble as the cultural arm of FANHS, dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the music and dance of the Cordillera region of the Philippines. While she has written numerous papers and commentaries, the feather in her literary cap is her book *Filipinos in Alaska, 1788-1958*. Published in 1996, the classic history book defines Filipino American history in Alaska. She also produced a 30-minute documentary film on *Filipinos in America's "Last Frontier"*.

A dedicated and influential leader, Atty. Buccholdt was also active in several local community organizations such as the March of Dimes, American Heart Association, and League of Women Voters. In 1973, she served as the first female president of the Filipino Community of Anchorage. For three decades now, she remains a member of the Alaska State Advisory Committee of the US Commission for Civil Rights. From time to time, she also provides medical, scholarship and educational assistance to her *kababayans* in Cagayan and Kalinga in the Philippines. To date, she is the only Philippine-born member of the Alaska Bar Association. She practices law in Alaska and shares an office with her husband who is also an attorney.

In conferring the Banaag Award to Atty. Thelma Garcia Buccholdt, the President recognizes her pioneering leadership in being elected as the first Filipino American state legislator in the US mainland, and for her effective advocacy of the Filipino culture and heritage in the State of Alaska.





*Lolita L. Farmer, U.B., OAM*

*Australia*

Atty. Lolita L. Farmer is a renowned and respected leader and professional who is known for her voluntary services to the Filipino-Australian community in New South Wales, Australia. Recognizing her invaluable contributions, the Philippine and Australian governments, and several private and religious groups have given her numerous citations and awards. Among them were the Community Relations Commission of New South Wales which conferred the "Award for Volunteering 2001" for her outstanding contribution to volunteerism in New South Wales. The same award was granted to her by

Prime Minister John Howard of Australia during the 2001 International Year of Volunteers. In 1982, the Philippine Ministry of Tourism and Philippine Jaycees chose her as one of the Outstanding Filipinos Overseas in the field of Humanities. In 1981, she was the first Filipino to receive the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) from Queen Elizabeth II for her services to the welfare of migrants.

Born in Catbalogan, Samar, Atty. Farmer obtained her Bachelor of Science in Education at the Sacred Heart College and Master in Public Administration at the University of the Philippines. After working at the Department of Education and the House of Representatives in the Philippines, she migrated to New South Wales, Australia in 1973. She took her Diploma in Law at the NSW College of Law and became a solicitor.

In order to better reach out to Filipinos, Atty. Farmer initiated the inclusion of the Filipino language radio program at the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS). The Filipino program keeps the Filipino-Australians abreast with the latest news from the Philippines and other issues which are of significance to the community. The Filipino program is one of the 68 language programs of SBS broadcast across Australia six times a week. Other than her contribution to broadcasting, she has also been a columnist of the Philippine Community Herald Newspaper since 1984. She was also a contributor of *Kawayan*, *Ethnic News Review*, *Pilipino Magazine* and the *Philippine Community News* from 1987 to 1993.

Being an influential voice in issues concerning women and migrants, Atty. Farmer was appointed by the Australian Federal and State Government as member of NSW Women Advisory Council and NSW Equal Opportunity Tribunal. She was also appointed as the United Nations representative of the International Pan Pacific South East Asia Women Association, and to various positions in the Western Sydney Region Advisory Council and the Parramatta Granville Sportsground Reserve Trust. She appears in government consultations which focus on the interest of Filipino immigrants.

Atty. Farmer was involved in organizing the *Voice Out, A Conference On, For and By Filipino-Australian Youth* which served as an opportunity for Filipino-Australian youth to interact and develop cross-cultural understanding. To empower women on their rights, she conducted a speakers' bureau on *Women and the Law* in partnership with the Law Society of New South Wales. Participants from women's group have raised their awareness and knowledge on topics of family law, domestic violence and discrimination issues. She initiated the establishment of *Hayas ng Bayan*, a child care centre for which she has lobbied funding from the Federal Australian government. *Hayas ng Bayan* is the only child care centre in Australia under Filipino management.

As President of the Philippine Community Council of New South Wales, Atty. Farmer thought of helping the victims of Payatas tragedy by establishing *The Filipino Australians in New South Wales Trust Banks* in partnership with the Opportunity International Australia. The program has raised funds that provided micro-credit, training and support facilities to the residents of Payatas, Quezon City.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Atty. Lolita L. Farmer, the President recognizes her exemplary work to uphold the rights of Filipino migrants and women in Australia, and her unique contribution to help residents of Payatas through the establishment of *The Filipino Australians in New South Wales Trust Banks*.

*Filipino American Medical, Inc.*  
United States of America



The blessing of good health is often easier to enjoy in developed countries where most people have access to recent medical breakthroughs and to hospitals with cutting-edge technology. For many of the poor in the Philippines, this is not the case. The sad reality is that millions of Filipinos never get proper medical care for lack of doctors in their area, or simply because they can not afford it. Fortunately, there is a group of Filipino American doctors who regularly come to the Philippines to provide the much needed care to the poor and needy.

Out of their desire to give something back to Filipinos at home, surgical nurse Niles Perlas with the help of her friends in New York City formed the Filipino American Medical, Inc. (FAMI) in 1999. In partnership with local medical teams and NGOs, FAMI has conducted annual medical and surgical missions, and donated medical equipment to various hospitals and health centers in the Philippines. The outstanding performance and humanitarian services of FAMI has attracted dedicated and noted medical professionals, which include general practitioners, surgeons, nurses, ophthalmologists, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, medical internists, and physician assistants from all over the US. The volunteers shoulder their airfares and other incidental expenses related to their participation in the medical missions. Their sacrifices often meant giving up their vacations, and undertaking long and hectic hours of non-stop medical procedures done in consecutive days, and with only the most basic and antiquated equipment.

Since its establishment, FAMI has provided around 39,000 free medical consultations, and performed over a thousand free surgeries, many of which are delicate procedures such as hernia repair, hydrocelectomy, myomectomy and thyroidectomy. In its eight years of service, FAMI has distributed almost \$5 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to Filipino poor. These deeds have touched the lives of others in countless ways. Children born with a cleft palate could lead normal lives after surgery. Gollers and tumors that patients have had for years were removed. Patients with no money or access to doctors and medicines get care that would otherwise be far beyond their reach.

FAMI's first medical mission which became a component of the Medical Mission Program of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, was conducted in Metro Manila in 1999. During the mission, surgeries were performed on 32 patients of the Jonelta Foundation of Perpetual Help Medical Center, and Rizal Medical Center. In the following years, FAMI conducted its annual medical missions in Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, La Union, Ilocos Sur, Negros Occidental and Marinduque. Among its hospital and health center beneficiaries are Quezon City General Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital, Marinduque Provincial Hospital, and Bago City Hospital. FAMI has also partnered with various foundations and NGOs such as the Philippine Cancer Society, Two Hearts Foundation, Bicol Medical Outreach Foundation, Emmaus Children's Home Foundation, and *Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko*, in delivering its services.

Concurrent with its medical missions, FAMI also conducts lectures on the latest medical breakthroughs and updates on health and medicine in select hospitals in the Philippines such as St. Luke's Medical Center, De Los Santos Medical Center, Ospital ng Makati, Makati Medical Center, Rizal Medical Hospital, and University of Perpetual Help Hospital.

Remarkably, FAMI has brought healing and hope to thousands of lives. The lives of the missionaries are changed and enriched by the experience as well, having had the opportunity to be of service to those who have less in life. Not expecting anything in return, they would return to the US with great satisfaction that they have been able to help their fellow men. The missions, in a way, have reminded them about why they became doctors in the first place.

In conferring the *Banag* Award to Filipino American Medical, Inc., the President recognizes its exemplary dedicated humanitarian service that has brought invaluable medical and surgical attention to many disadvantaged Filipinos.





# Filipino Association of Singapore

Singapore

Established on 29 August 1937, the Filipino Association of Singapore (formerly known as Singapore Filipino Association), is the oldest Filipino organization and the first to be recognized by the Singapore Registry of Society. Immediately upon its establishment, FAS organized several activities for the Filipinos. A charity night for the benefit of FAS and Poppy Day Fund was held at the Great World Show Cabaret which featured the newly formed 12-piece Filipino Swing Band composed of leading Filipino musicians. The following year, FAS organized a Gala Night Dance which featured Filipino artists and the Filipino Swing Band for the benefit of the China Relief Fund. When the Japanese occupied Singapore in 1942, the functions of FAS continued, although discreetly.

Existing even before the establishment of the Philippine diplomatic post in Singapore and even before the independence of Singapore, FAS has assisted a number of Filipinos in the area. In April 1947, FAS assisted seven Filipinos who survived from a shipwreck in Singapore by providing temporary shelter until their repatriation. In 1950, a group of Filipino Muslims who were bound to Mecca arrived in Singapore to purchase some necessities but were refused to enter the country by the local authorities. Through the representations made by the FAS officials, the group was allowed ashore by the Singapore authorities.

Given its good reputation and active role in uniting the Filipinos in Singapore, FAS was requested to assist in the establishment of the Philippine Consulate in Singapore. It was responsible for arranging the Consul's arrival in 1955 to the opening of his office and residence at Ardmore Park in 1956. Later, due to the impending change of the government status of Singapore, the Consulate was closed. FAS played a vital role in keeping the *bayanihan* spirit among Filipinos despite its diffusion. The Philippine Consulate General was finally re-established shortly after Singapore became a sovereign nation in 1966, and later became the Philippine Embassy in 1969.

Since then, FAS has been active in organizing several activities for the Filipinos in Singapore. Among its activities were the *Pistang Pilipino sa Sentosa* which is a whole day Filipino festival of food, songs and dances. It participated in the International Lantern Making Competition and in the Lantern Moon Festival Parade held in Chinatown. It also assisted in the concert, *Handog ng PNB*, sponsored by the Philippine National Bank which was held at Suntec Concert Hall. Since 2004, it has organized the annual *Search for a Filipino Star*. For its members, FAS organizes health screening, and Social Fridays which is participated in by the ladies of the Association for their social activities. It opened scholarship grants for members and their families. It also conducts Nursing Aide class as part of its Skills Training Program, to train household workers in skills other than domestic jobs.

Being a well-rounded organization, FAS was also involved in several fund-raising activities. Among its significant activities was the charity drive with the Philippine Embassy in Singapore which raised P6 million for the victims of the Mount Pinatubo calamity. It organized dental missions in Naga City in cooperation with the Domingo C. Albeus, Sr. Foundation and the Camarines Sur Dental Association, which benefited more than 450 indigent Filipinos.

The year 2005 was considered a fruitful year for FAS because of its remarkable achievements and contributions. FAS distributed relief goods to the typhoon victims in Bicol and Quezon Province. It participated in the Charity Bowling Tournament that benefited leukemia patients in the Philippines and street children in Batangas City. Filipino elementary students were awarded scholarship grants through the ABS-CBN Foundation-*Bantay Bata. Back 2 School-Libreng School Supplies sa Maralitang Naguena* was organized in Naga City which benefited 110 school children. A fund raising campaign was organized for the scholarship of the only child of a Filipina maid who was murdered in Singapore. It also sponsored Christmas feeding programs and distributed relief goods in Tabuco and Naga City.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Filipino Association of Singapore, the President recognizes its important and invaluable role in the history of migration of Filipinos in Singapore, and its contribution to uniting and promoting the interests and welfare of Filipinos in Singapore and in the Philippines.



*Roman Ting Go*  
China



Engr. Roman Ting Go is highly regarded as an entrepreneur, educator and expatriate in Xiamen, China. Well-known for his truly generous spirit and humility, he has undoubtedly contributed much to the upholding of the status of Filipinos in Xiamen.

Engr. Go, along with his wife, Dr. Mildred Go, who was also a recipient of *Banagay* Award in 2000, has been instrumental in establishing the Manila Xiamen International School (MXIS) which is the first Filipino owned international school in China. The school is a college preparatory co-educational day and boarding school accredited both by the Philippines' Department of Education and China's Ministry in Education. Early this year, MXIS also obtained accreditation from the Switzerland-based International Baccalaureate Organization.

As former Consul General to Xiamen, Renato L. Villapano cited, "the establishment of MXIS not only contributed in deepening the relations between Philippines and China but also to the employment of Filipino educators, and propagation of Chinese and Filipino languages among its students". More than 300 Filipinos have been employed and trained to teach students from 20 countries at the Manila Xiamen International School.

As chairman of MXIS since its inception in 1993, Engr. Go has implemented several programs to benefit Filipinos. He sponsored the trips of 10 Filipino education officials and made arrangements for their accommodation and itineraries, in order for them to observe the teaching method of MXIS and visit local Chinese schools. He opened the facilities of MXIS for the activities of the Filipino community such as sports competitions, bingo socials and family days on weekends, making MXIS the second home for Filipinos. As an incentive to students who excelled in sports and the performing arts, he provided free round-trip tickets to China to six high school students of St. Gabriel International School in Pasig, Manila. He also assisted the Commission on Filipinos Overseas by co-hosting the 5<sup>th</sup> *Conference of Philippine Schools Overseas* which was held in Xiamen in April 2006.

Apart from his tasks at MXIS, Engr. Go has been serving as the adviser of the Filipino Association in Xiamen (FAX) since 1999. He has consistently supported the projects of the Association financially in their regular activities and events. He also regularly supports the activities of the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen such as the Philippine Independence Day Celebrations and the Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day. Also, he has been extending his assistance by mentoring newly-arrived Filipinos in Xiamen and even coordinating with the Xiamen local police for the release of detained Filipinos in the area.

Given his good reputation in the academic and business circles, Engr. Go was conferred the distinction of being an *Honorary Citizen of Xiamen* by the Xiamen authorities.

In conferring the *Banagay* Award to Engr. Roman Ting Go, the President recognizes his eminent success in the pioneering establishment of the Manila Xiamen International School, the only Philippine school in China, and his genuinely altruistic efforts to help and support Filipinos in Xiamen and visitors from the Philippines.



*Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.*  
United States of America

Filipino Americans who were born and grew up in the United States, had little opportunity of experiencing firsthand, the richness and diversity of Philippines' culture and traditions. The opening of *Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.* (IP) has changed the picture.

An exemplar among the multitude of Filipino American organizations, *Iskwelahang Pilipino* has been registered by the Filipino American National Historical Society as the first and longest-running Philippine cultural school in the US. A place one can call home. IP boasts of its many graduates who are now successful professionals who still come back to the school to express their gratitude for developing in them pride and love for the Filipino culture, and better appreciation of multicultural communities. For 30 years now, IP has remarkably served the social, cultural and education needs of the Filipino community within the Boston area.

Founded in 1976 by a group of parents led by Cristina Castro, who wanted to create an environment where their children can develop a strong positive ethnic identity and have the chance to learn about their Filipino heritage, *Iskwelahang Pilipino* began operating nearby a church in Newton. Now, IP holds classes on four major programs namely music, folk dance, language and culture, and arts and craft at Bedford Center in Massachusetts. Many of its students have the chance to learn Filipino folk songs and dances, play indigenous string and percussion instruments, cook authentic Filipino dishes, and create native handicrafts. In order for them to appreciate their parents' upbringing and cultural background, Filipino language, history and culture are taught with emphasis. They were also taught about the similarities and differences between American and Philippine cultures, making them fortunate because they get to appreciate and choose the best of both worlds. Moreover, IP is open to interested foreign students who want to learn more about Philippine history and culture. IP accepts college students who work as volunteers and interns, interacting with the students for at least a semester.

*Iskwelahang Pilipino* is also proud to share Philippine culture and traditions with mainstream society. Since 1988, IP participated every year in Lowell International Folk Festival, the largest free folk festival in the US attended by around 150,000 participants. IP's involvement in the event has evolved into the school's largest annual fund-raiser, attracting year after year a long queue purchasing delicious native dishes, all made onsite. During the Philippine Centennial Celebration in 1998, IP participated in the first ever Philippine Independence Day Parade together with various Filipino American organizations in the Greater Boston area.

In 1986, the *Iskwelahang Pilipino* Rondalla Ensemble which grew out of the music program and developed into the performing arm of the school, was established. Composed of talented student musicians, the ensemble's varied repertoire is drawn from the rich folk music heritage, contemporary arrangements of traditional folk songs and original compositions reflecting the influence of Filipino American cultural identity. The ensemble has performed important state-sponsored cultural events and international festivals such as New England Folk Festival, Newton Asian Festival, Asian American Heritage Month, Philippine Festival Week, and Rondalla International Festival. It has also organized musical tours in the Philippines, The Netherlands, Belgium, England, Germany and Austria. The ensemble has performed very well in several concerts, and most of the proceeds were donated to charitable causes in the US and the Philippines. In 1995 and 2002, the ensemble released full length CDs, "Crossing Over" and "Pasko sa Amerika", respectively.

Indeed, *Iskwelahang Pilipino* has succeeded in its mission in bringing up children who value and share with others the Philippines' rich cultural traditions. The spirit of togetherness is perhaps the most wonderful of IP's many benefits, for it has served as a bridge in promoting better relationships not only between the children and their Filipino American parents but also among students, teachers and volunteers of different nationalities. Home to countless happy memories, the existence of IP in the East Coast is priceless.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to *Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.*, the President recognizes its outstanding contribution to enriching young Filipino Americans' appreciation of their Filipino heritage, and the celebration and promotion of Philippine culture in the Boston area.



## *Lahing Kayumanggi* United Kingdom



The Filipino soul is best mirrored in the passion for excellence with which Filipino art is creatively expressed. For more than a decade now, *Lahing Kayumanggi* has proudly represented and promoted Filipino excellence in music and the performing arts through its masterful repertoire of Philippine folk dance and music that has thrilled and introduced countless audiences to the Philippines' rich and diverse ethnic traditions and expressions. Without the participation of the *Lahing Kayumanggi* in *barrio fiestas*, community gatherings, and other events, the social and cultural life of the Filipino community in the United Kingdom would have been less colorful.

Formed in 1994 by professional dancer and choreographer, Ronnie del Barrio, *Lahing Kayumanggi* aims to promote Philippine culture and heritage through dance, music and songs in the UK and Europe. Mr. del Barrio claims that "although based on traditional folk dances, my aspirations for the company extend further; we interpret, adapt, improve, stylize and develop these forms and rhythms into highly visual and theatrical presentations without losing our authenticity or sense of tradition." True to its name which translates to "brown race", *Lahing Kayumanggi* evokes ethnic pride and national identity.

Starting as a small informal group, *Lahing Kayumanggi* has become a professional dance company currently with five professional artists leading 40 dancers and musicians. Its repertoire showcases the complex tapestry of Filipino culture ranging from the difficult bamboo numbers, *tinikling*, *singkil* and *pangalay* to the more light-hearted rural *fiesta*. The dance company's reputation for quality and innovation has led to wide acclaim for performances all over the UK, especially in London, Milton Keynes, Palace of Westminster, Nottingham and Edinburgh. Without question the UK's premier Filipino dance troupe, it has performed creditably before spectators at the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, British Museum of Mankind, Millennium Dome's McDonalds Theatre, Church Hill Theatre, Nottingham Playhouse, Novotel Hotel, St. Ermins Hotel, Centre for Filipinos, and American International School, among others. The dance company has participated in Filipino festivals and has appeared at some of the major Asian community festivals like the Bradford and Sheffield Festivals. It has also appeared in British television by becoming a regular feature of BBC's *Generation Game* for four seasons running from 1996 to 2000.

As a cultural pillar of the Filipino community in UK, *Lahing Kayumanggi* has not only impressed its audiences with its colorful and lively dances. It also prides itself in assisting through performances, a number of key fundraising events, including the "Lunch for a Cause" in aid of the victims of Mt. Pinatubo disaster in the Philippines. It has also supported the charity events of Coral Cay Conservation, Crowndale Health Centre, Royal St. Katharine, Children's Hospital in Milton Keynes, Caterham Rotary Club, and the Philippine Embassy in London. It has also been an active participant in the tourism projects organized by the Philippine Department of Tourism at World Trade Market, tourism trade shows and exhibitions. In effect, its members have transformed themselves into effective Philippine ambassadors of goodwill.

With a unique blend of its members coming from different cultural backgrounds, the dance company has also opened its doors to a younger age group, to encourage them to understand the culture of their Filipino parents, and discover their own colorful Filipino identity. This has helped to bridge the cultural gap between the two generations.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to *Lahing Kayumanggi*, the President recognizes its unwavering dedication to artistic excellence, raising the cultural awareness and ethnic pride of the Filipino community in the United Kingdom, and supporting cultural and humanitarian activities in the Philippines.





*Vladimir James M. Manuel*  
United States of America

Seeing the potential contribution of a new generation of Filipino Americans, Vladimir James M. Manuel has become the community's articulate voice for the youth. A dynamic and influential young leader, most of his initiatives encompass regional and national efforts focused on the unification of Filipinos in the United States, and the easing of the plight of the underserved segments of the community.

Mr. Manuel initiated and built the largest network of Filipino college students outside the Philippines - the Filipino Intercollegiate Networking Dialogue (FIND). Founded at Harvard University in 1991, FIND has aided in the development of regional networks in the US and Canada, and has provided the more than 3,000 students who attend its annual conferences with a strong sense of pride and ownership. In 2003, he co-founded and served as Chair of Collaborative Opportunities for Raising Empowerment (CORE), considered as the only young Filipino professional organization in the US. Established as an alliance among organizations, CORE strives to empower the Filipino young professional community through cultural education, social awareness, professional development, and community service. He is also founding member, and served as the recent Chair of the Filipino American Human Services, Inc. (FAHSI), considered the most active publicly funded non-profit Filipino organization in the East Coast. During his term, FAHSI started providing services at the Philippine American Center in Jamaica, New York. FAHSI now offers a multitude of social and cultural services for the youth, domestic workers, elderly, new immigrants, and the 9/11 victims, all of which are seen to have contributed to the betterment of Filipinos' conditions in the New York area.

A passionate leader committed to empowering young Filipinos in the US, Mr. Manuel has been involved in several organizations such as the United Filipino Youth Council, Filipino American National Historical Society, National Filipino American Youth Association, Filipino American Association of Rochester, Project Management Institute, Folklorico Filipino, Philippine American Chamber of Commerce, and Philippine Club for the Performing Arts. He served in several elected and appointed positions in student governments while working at Save the Children and New York City's Department of Housing and Preservation and Development through college. He also served as an assistant at the Philippine Consulate General in New York, assisting diplomats in planning and organizing fundraising activities, seminars, presidential visits, parades and exhibits. He was the action officer for the Science and Technology Advisory Council, *Balik-Scientist* Program, and the CFO's *Lakbay-Aral* Program. He approached several private firms, non-profit organizations and government agencies on how to penetrate and work in the American market. At age 20, he was the youngest to serve as the overall Vice Chair of the Philippine Independence Day Committee in 1990. Significantly, he authored the paper on which the principles of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) were based. To educate and inspire others, he has delivered speeches and given lectures on leadership, history and policy in several prestigious universities in the US including Harvard and Yale.

Mr. Manuel finished his graduate studies at Fordham University where he graduated at the top of his class and inducted into Alpha Mu Alpha and Beta Gamma Sigma National Honor Societies. He has received numerous awards from organizations such as US Department of Commerce, Queens Council on the Arts, and *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Serving as the current director of the Methodology and Assessment Solutions at the International Institute for Learning, Inc., one of the largest global consulting and training organizations, Mr. Manuel is not only blessed with a successful professional life, he is also happily married to Dr. Patricia V. Dimanlig-Manuel.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Vladimir James M. Manuel, the President recognizes his exemplary leadership in mobilizing the Filipino American youth for national objectives, in effectively advancing the cause of Filipino Americans, and for being a youth leader worthy of emulation.

*Markham Federation of  
Filipino Canadians*  
Canada



The Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians (MFFC) epitomizes the *bayanihan* spirit among Filipinos overseas. Established in 10 April 1989, its founding members initially planned activities to bring together the increasing number of Filipinos residing in Markham, Ontario, Canada. It was the start of MFFC's commitment to serve the Filipinos and contribute to the vitality of the town of Markham.

Recognizing the need for a center that will serve as home for family and group events however, MFFC started acquisition of a building in 1995, which was fully paid by 2003. Ethnocultural groups use the facility for their activities, and government agencies use it to hold functions when they reach out to Filipino communities. As a tribute to Dr. Jose Rizal, one of the function rooms was named Rizal Hall which regularly hosts a celebration with activities such as cultural presentations, symposia, arts, and literary contests to commemorate the birth and death of the national hero.

Fulfilling every Filipinos' dream of making a symbolic mark in its host country, MFFC succeeded in its lobby efforts in June 2004 when the Markham Town Council named a street Rizal Avenue in honor of Dr. Jose Rizal, known to be the only public recognition for a Filipino in Canada. It again worked successfully when the Markham Town Council proclaimed Philippine Week to celebrate the Philippine Independence Day in Markham. Every year, since 1989, MFFC has led the Filipino community in this celebration in the Greater Toronto Area ushering it with a flag raising ceremony at the town hall, and a cultural program showcasing Filipino arts, music and dance.

MFFC offers services to Filipino-Canadians from all walks of life – adults, children, youth, seniors, and newcomers. Among their significant activities are the Youth Mentorship Project, workshop on Cross-Cultural Understanding, lecture on Legal Rights for Seniors and the Newcomers Orientation Program for Filipino immigrants, workers and their families. It also helped in raising funds for Markhaven Home for Seniors, educational assistance for Filipino students in Canada, purchase of land for San Lorenzo Ruiz Filipino Community Centre and construction of a new building of YMCA in Markham. From 1995 to 1996, MFFC became a partner of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the immigration office of the Canadian government, in establishing an experimental "one-step processing and integrated sponsorship" project to shorten processing of pending application for family sponsorship. With this, MFFC assisted around 110 applicants in completing their application and several more continue to benefit from the project.

MFFC has led in advocating for the protection and welfare of the Filipino victims of crimes in Canada. It became the prime mover in the fight to address racism and harassment of Filipino youth at the Scarborough Town Center Mall in 1993. It was also at the forefront in seeking justice for the murder of some Filipinos in Canada, and raised funds for the scholarship of the surviving children of one of the victims. When a Markham politician made racist remarks against the Chinese, MFFC was the first to take up the cause and led the fight until it became an international issue.

Aside from its contribution to Filipinos in Canada, MFFC has organized several fund-raising activities that helped countrymen in the Philippines. Most notable was the *Love in Action, Fund-Raising Dinner for Philippine Disaster Relief*, a dinner event organized by MFFC in partnership with the Federation of Chinese Canadians and the York Regional Police in March 2006. The event which was attended by more than 450 dignitaries raised the amount of \$125,000.00 for the victims of mudslides in Guinsaugon, Leyte.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians, the President recognizes its outstanding contribution to preserving Filipino identity and values, and Filipino solidarity in Markham, Ontario, and its contribution and service to countrymen in the Philippines.





## Eduardo J. Navarra

United States of America

If Eduardo J. Navarra had been born a painter, he would be a realist. His writings illustrate real experiences and current issues of Filipinos who immigrated to the United States. He believes that "the power of the written word cannot be underestimated. As such, we perceive our role in the community as the harbinger of the good and sometimes ugly realities as we go about our daily lives."

Having served as a columnist for Illinois-based *Philippine TIME-USA*, California-based *Philippines News* and *Manila Chronicle*, Mr. Navarra has been the moving force in communicating various concerns affecting the Filipino American community, and educating his readers on issues relevant to their lives as immigrants, their rights and privileges, as well as their social and political responsibilities.

A community leader and activist, Mr. Navarra serves as the chairperson of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) - Region 3, covering nine Midwestern States from Michigan to Missouri. His ability to mobilize and lead the Filipino American community in this vast part of the US is evidenced by the success of the NaFFAA 6<sup>th</sup> National Empowerment Conference that was held in Chicago in 2004. The convention was not just attended by Filipino American leaders from other regions. It also galvanized the Midwest to action in support of Filipino American issues as well as raised the level of concern for assistance to the Philippines. For four years, he also served as chairman of the Filipino American Community Council (FILAMCCO), the umbrella organization of over 52 Filipino American organizations in Michigan. Among his accomplishments as head of FILAMCCO include spearheading the 1998 Centennial Celebration of Philippine Independence and Rizal Day celebrations in Michigan. He is also affiliated with various organizations such as Philippine American Community Center of Michigan, Filipino American Political Association of Michigan, National Federation of Filipino American Republicans, Council of Asian Pacific Americans, and Overseas Filipino Council, among others. He has led many initiatives in helping the less fortunate through fundraising activities, scholarship programs, housing projects, food and clothing drives, and legal and medical assistance.

Truly an artist and a lover of the arts, Mr. Navarra is a staunch advocate of Filipino culture and traditions. In one of his writings, he says, "Our artistic heritage is a product of the many cultural influences that came to the Philippine shores. The soul of the Filipino is imbued with aesthetic expressions." His passion for Philippine arts and culture is evidenced by his promotional work, such as showing of award-winning theatrical movies from the Philippines and presenting concerts and cultural shows, mostly for fund raising and charitable causes. Since 1988, he has been instrumental in inviting to Michigan performing artists and groups such as Lea Salonga, Gary Valenciano, Anthony Castelo, UP Concert Chorus, Ateneo Glee Club, Music Theater Foundation of the Philippines, Ballet Manila, and *Lahing Kayumanggi* Dance Ensemble, among others. He is also active in diversity cultural activities at Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, where he has worked for over 25 years. He wrote the biography of New York-based Filipino artist of note, Venancio Igarta.

A featured journalist in Isabelo T. Crisostomo's book *Filipino Achievers in U.S. and Canada*, Mr. Navarra is also a composer, dramatist and an art collector. He is happily married to surgeon and soprano singer Victoria, also a recipient of a Presidential Award in 2000. They are blessed with three children.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Eduardo J. Navarra, the President recognizes his having vigorously promoted the interests of Filipino Americans in the Midwest, and the advancement of Philippine culture and arts.



*Philippine American Group of  
Educators and Surgeons*  
United States of America



In developing countries like the Philippines, thousands of children are born each year with debilitating and disfiguring birth defects such as cleft lips and cleft palates due to various causes. Most who are too poor to afford corrective surgery often live a life ostracized from society, while having to endure health and emotional problems. The Philippine American Group of Educators and Surgeons (PAGES) comes as a blessing for ending the misery and restoring the smile to these children and their families.

Founded in 1990 by Dr. Benjamin Rigor and Mr. Vid Figueras, PAGES is composed of dedicated practitioners and volunteers from the US, Canada and the United Kingdom, and provides free reconstructive surgery to indigent Filipino children who are afflicted not only with cleft lips and cleft palates but also with burn contractures, meningococcele and other birth defect conditions. Mr. Figueras said, "We specialize in cases involving kids and young adults because the impact we make in their lives are for a lifetime. We change the child's life by freeing him from the stigma and giving him confidence." Inspired by the international program "Operation SMILE", PAGES' humanitarian mission was named "Operation HOPE" (Helping Other People Excel). Through "Operation HOPE", PAGES in partnership with the local government and hospitals, has performed approximately 7,500 free surgical operations on children who belong to the poorest among the poor families in the Philippines, especially in Luzon and Visayas. These children's lives are now changed forever. They can now attend school, play with other children, participate in sports activities and do other things without being ostracized, teased or ridiculed. Also changed are the lives of their parents who are no longer afraid that their children would come home from school crying, lose self-esteem, or develop an inferiority complex.

Along with its surgical and medical missions, PAGES also conducts a training program known as "Operation EXCEL" where seasoned veteran teachers from distinguished educational institutions in the US, provide lectures to the host hospital's physicians and nursing staff, medical and nursing students, and other personnel that provide medical care and services to the community. After each mission, all the solicited medical equipment and supplies brought by PAGES are voluntarily donated to various public hospitals and health centers. Among the beneficiaries have been Ospital Ng Maynila, Kawit Kalayaan Hospital, Laguna Provincial Hospital, San Pablo Colleges and Medical Center, Bauan Medicare and Community Hospital, The Legenda Hospital in Subic, Masbate Mining Hospital, Iloilo Mission Hospital, and Andres Soriano Memorial Hospital in Cebu. With this initiative, PAGES has also transformed basic non-existent, non-serviceable operating rooms into well functioning operating rooms. PAGES was also instrumental in building a wide unused open space to what is now a state-of-the-emergency room comparable to US standards at the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital in Trece Martires City, Cavite. Also, several tertiary hospitals were declared secondary hospitals because of PAGES' involvement in their continued upgrading.

Since 1998, PAGES in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, has also conducted gift giving programs called "Operation GRACE" to indigent families who can barely afford three square meals a day. In November 2004, upon learning of the landslide calamity that affected the town of Infanta, Quezon, PAGES immediately remitted funds and directed local PAGES team members in Manila to deliver truckloads of food and clothing which provided temporary relief to the affected community.

In conferring the *Banagay* Award to Philippine American Group of Educators and Surgeons, the President recognizes its dedication and generosity in performing free reconstructive surgery on thousands of indigent Filipino children, and providing medical services and related training for the benefit of underserved communities in the Philippines.



*Philippine Cultural  
Foundation, Inc.*  
United States of America

In 2001, a Filipino cultural jewel was unveiled in Tampa, Florida upon the completion of the *Bayanihan Arts and Events Center*, a \$4 million cultural and arts facility which showcases and propagates the richness and diversity of Philippine culture and heritage. In its six years of existence, the *Bayanihan Center* has hosted various cultural programs and activities such as Philippine festivals, classical and folk music performances, concerts, charity balls and Filipino language classes, enhancing the image and pride of Filipino Americans in Florida. It has a Filipiniana library for the use of the general public. The *Bayanihan Center* also gave other minority groups the opportunity to use the Center for their cultural and community events.

The realization of the *Bayanihan Center* is the work of a seamless, integrated fabric of talents that blended perfectly since the founding of the Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc. (PCFI), one of the foremost ethnic cultural organizations in the Tampa Bay area. Established in 1995, PCFI aims to preserve Philippine culture, arts and traditions as its legacy to future generations of Filipino Americans. PCFI owns the Philippine Cultural Enrichment Complex, a 10 acre-property to which the *Bayanihan Center* stands.

Aside from the *Bayanihan Center*, PCFI also built the Philippine Village or *Barrio Filipino* inside the Complex. The Philippine Village has pavilions housing different Filipino regional groups and other Filipino associations such as Philippine Nurses Association and Pilipino-American Association of Tampa Bay. It is also the venue for the annual "PhilFest", a Filipino festival of merriment, music, dance and other forms of entertainment such as Santa Cruzan and exhibits of Philippine arts and handicrafts. The "PhilFest" which has successfully run for 11 years, attracts an audience of around 20,000 from all over the US, Canada, Europe, and the Philippines, making the activity a major tourist event in Tampa and one of the most prominent cultural celebrations in the US. Indeed, the "PhilFest" has given the local Filipino community a national reputation, and at the same time kept customs and traditions alive for the younger generation of Filipino Americans, most of whom have never been to the Philippines.

To enchant their audiences with spectacular cultural performances, PCFI has resident performing groups such as the Philippine Performing Arts Dance Company, Philippine Choral Group, and *Indak Pambata* Dance Troupe. The groups perform at various events in Florida for Filipino American community and participate in other folk or cultural festivals. PCFI also established a 30-piece bamboo orchestra "*Musikong Kawayan*", which performs at the Florida Folk Arts Festival. Composed of young Filipino American members, *Musikong Kawayan* is recognized in reinforcing the cultural diversity of Florida.

Realizing the importance of cultural education, PCFI opened the Filipino Language School especially for the Filipino American youth who have little or no knowledge of the native language. The school offers conversational Tagalog classes not only for the children but also to foreign spouses of Filipinos, and Americans who are going to the Philippines either as workers, expatriates or missionaries.

PCFI and its projects are powerful influences on the lives of Filipinos and Filipino Americans, giving them the ultimate feeling of pride in being a Filipino, and a home that is not only beautiful but rich in heritage and culture.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc., the President recognizes its exemplary leadership, initiative and dedication in building the *Bayanihan Arts and Events Center*, and the Philippine Village in Florida, both of which exceptionally showcase the artistry and talent of Filipinos, and the richness of Filipino culture and heritage.



## Edgardo R. Quinto

Switzerland



The untiring service of Edgar R. Quinto to his fellow Filipinos in Bern, Switzerland is very worthy of praise. The assistance he extends to others may not be his official duty but he has made this his mission as a Filipino and a Christian. The Filipino community in Switzerland considers him their unsung hero. Thus, he has earned the title of *Mayor* because he is always ready to extend a helping hand.

Born in Tarlac City in 1962, Mr. Quinto left the Philippines in 1983 to work for the Senegalese Mission in Geneva, Switzerland. Through his perseverance, he was able to obtain employment in several foreign embassies and missions in Switzerland as a butler, driver, and office clerk.

Immediately upon his migration to Switzerland, Mr. Quinto dedicated himself to helping other newly-arrived Filipinos in Bern. He would often offer his house to those who are in need of temporary accommodation. He would also assist them in looking for employment by recommending them to prospective employers.

In order to bring together the Filipinos in Bern through sports, Mr. Quinto founded the Philippine Sports Club in Switzerland and the Mabuhay Bowling Club. He became first President of both clubs in 1989 and 1997, respectively. He has been consistently active in encouraging sports awareness among Filipinos, whose participation in various sports events such as bowling, billiards, basketball and biking has offered better opportunities for their integration in a multicultural Switzerland. He has also been an active organizer of the ASEAN Bowling League.

Mr. Quinto is also active in leading the Catholic community in Switzerland. He has been Council Member of the Bruder Klaus Church for the English-speaking community since the early 1990s. He organizes the choir for English mass on Sundays and became a well-recognized personality in this international group of parishioners. Since 2000, he has been the Chapter Head of the Couples for Christ (CFC) – Bern and has passionately served the Filipino community both as its spiritual and socio-civic leader. Through the years, the CFC has grown in numbers because of his tireless effort in promoting Christianity and its beliefs and values. As a result, his good deeds were recognized by the CFC which gave him the *Mustard Seed Award*.

Apart from Mr. Quinto's service to Filipinos in Bern, he also demonstrated his generosity by participating in fund-raising activities for needy Filipinos in the Philippines. In March 2006, he helped in raising funds for the mudslide victims in Leyte. In 2005, he was the Coordinator for the *Gawad Kalinga* project for the rehabilitation of Talisay, Camarines Norte and Iriga, Camarines Sur. In that same year, he also supported the *Classroom Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad (CGMA)* Project in building a classroom in Hindayan Primary School in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte. In 2004, another classroom was built in Dalipe Elementary School in North Cotabato under the CGMA Project. Also in 2004, two water well projects were built in Ragay, Camarines Sur through the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, with 47,743 beneficiaries, and Maasin and Tagbibi, Hindang, Leyte with 2,981 beneficiaries. He was also behind the reconstruction of Limasawa Church in Maasin, Leyte. Several students from Novaliches, Cavite and Dumaguete City were able to continue schooling through his support.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Edgar R. Quinto, the President recognizes his central role in fostering a sense of community among Filipinos in Switzerland, and his effective support and participation in fund-raising events for needy communities in the Philippines.





## *Loline A. Lualhati-Reed*

*United Kingdom*

For Filipinos, it was never easy to break into the upper class in Britain. But a very accomplished Filipina, Loline A. Lualhati-Reed managed to do so, gaining the admiration of well placed and distinguished people from an international background.

Ms. Lualhati-Reed's election as chairman of two of the most prestigious organizations, Welcome to London Club (WLC) in 1988 and Overseas Women's Club (OWC) in 1993, was a "first" for a non-caucasian to have penetrated the "glass ceiling" of the international women's organizations in the United Kingdom. The WLC is a chapter of the Welcome Clubs International with international friendship and understanding amongst the women of the world as its main objective. The OWC, on the other hand, was founded in 1959 with the aim of welcoming women regardless of nationality, creed, race or colour in the UK. It is the only international organization partner of the UK's Women National Commission. Given the responsibility to lead, she has shown that a Filipina can truly lead, inspire and spread goodwill.

Since 2002, Ms. Lualhati-Reed has acted as the International Liaison Officer between the English-Speaking Union (ESU) and ESU-Philippines. ESU, a London-based international organization with chapters all over the world, promotes global understanding through the English language. It was she who first broached the idea to the then Philippine Ambassador to the Court of St. James that the Philippines apply for membership in the ESU. Membership in ESU paved the way for the Philippines to participate in its international public speaking competitions, and every year she has played host and mentor to the Philippine participants.

During the mid-80s to early 90s, Ms. Lualhati-Reed was able to uplift the image of Filipinas when they were stereotyped abroad as mail-order brides or associated with the sex tourism industry. In promoting Philippine tourism to the international community, she brought the members of the ESU and OWC to the Philippines in 1997, 2001 and 2005. She worked with the Department of Tourism to ensure that the promotional activities would bring a positive view of the country to the delegation members. Through her efforts, the OWC was also able to organize a fundraising activity for the benefit of the Philippine Calamity Fund to help the survivors of the Guinsaugon, Leyte landslide disaster in 2005.

Ms. Lualhati-Reed served as the link between the Far Eastern University (FEU) and Scientific Exploration Society (SES), one of the established and leading British charity organizations in the field of exploration and conservation. Her lobbying efforts led SES to support FEU's "Tamaraw Quest" and "Mangyan Aid" conservation projects. SES will also provide funds for the installation of water wells in some of the Mangyan villages in Mindoro. She also donated funds for the purchase of school supplies and building of a new roof for a Mangyan school in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro in the early part of 2006.

In 1998, Ms. Lualhati-Reed with the help of her husband, set-up *Samahang Malasakit*, a cooperative of farmers and their families in Mulanay, Quezon. The couple also helps the cooperative members through medical assistance and funds for scholarships of their children. They have helped put up a health center, and supported 20 scholars in Mulanay.

Not only is Ms. Lualhati-Reed blessed with a happy family, she has also been bestowed with numerous accolades and awards. One she considers very precious is the Angel Award she received from the internationally renowned *Bayanihan Folk Dance Group* in 1995. Having been the youngest member of the first group of *Bayanihan* in the 1960s, she claims it was her membership and experience with *Bayanihan* that molded and shaped her into the person she is now.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Loline A. Lualhati-Reed, the President recognizes her noteworthy contribution to uplifting the image of Filipinas in United Kingdom, and for her selfless assistance in supporting worthy causes in the Philippines.

## *Justina L. Sales*

*Israel*

Having worked as a nanny/caregiver and housekeeper for more than 20 years for different diplomats in Jerusalem, Justina L. Sales understands the condition of the overseas Filipino workers in Israel. To help ease the feelings of homesickness normally experienced by Filipino migrant workers, she initiated activities and projects that involved the different Filipino organizations in Israel. As a result, she was able to unite several Filipino organizations and became the President of the Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel (FFCI), an umbrella organization of 17 Filipino organizations in the country.



Under Ms. Sales' leadership, the FFCI became the partner of the Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv in its activities. As the focal person of the Filipino community in Israel, she receives information from the Philippine Embassy regarding immigration policies, labor laws, security updates, and other significant projects and activities for dissemination to Filipinos. As the Coordinator of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Jerusalem, she provides immediate assistance to Filipinos having problems with their employers. She supported the launching of the SMS (text) Brigade for easier location of Filipinos involved in violent incidents, and in organizing the Filipinos during the *intifada* in 2000 by conducting survival training exercises. She also helped in organizing trade, cultural and tourism activities which aimed at promoting the Philippines in Israel.

Despite her significant responsibilities in the Federation, Ms. Sales still finds time to engage in other activities as a leader or member of some Filipino organizations in Israel. As the President of the Philippine Sports Association in Jerusalem, she organized sports activities for the Filipino community in that city. As the Coordinator and Adviser of the Good Shepherd Filipino Community in Jerusalem, she conducts counseling to Filipinos who experience adjustment and integration difficulties. She also provides financial, moral and spiritual assistance to Filipinos she visits in prisons and hospitals, and solicits clothes and blankets for distribution to the Filipinos in the Palestine area who have no means to buy these basic necessities.

With her numerous accomplishments, Ms. Sales was considered the pillar of the Filipino community in Israel and has earned the title, *Mother of the Filipino Community in Israel*. Like a mother to her children, she generously guides, protects and comforts Filipinos especially those who are in need. She never fails to show courage and determination to survive in a country where there are incessant threats of immediate danger. Unmindful of the sensitive security condition in Israel, she would give immediate assistance often using her own resources or raising money from the Filipino community for victims of violence or suicide bombings.

Ms. Sales did not limit her assistance to Filipinos in Israel but also extended it to her countrymen back home. She spearheaded the solicitation of contributions for the construction of seven classrooms in various provinces in the Philippines which benefited 350 schoolchildren through the *Classroom Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad* (CGMA), hog-raising livelihood project for the community of Dumagats in Sitio Malasya, Montalban, Rizal through the *Kooperatiba para sa mga Katutubo* program of Volunteers for Change, Inc., and financial assistance for street children in Manila through the Virianie Foundation, and for the mudslide victims in Southern Leyte.

In conferring the *Banaag* Award to Justina L. Sales, the President recognizes her invaluable contribution to uniting Filipino organizations through her leadership of the Federation of Filipino Communities in Israel, and her dedicated service to distressed Filipinos in that country.





*Rosario B. Tigno, M.D.*  
 United Arab of Emirates

Dr. Rosario B. Tigno is truly a global Filipino who exemplifies the bravery, industry and zeal of a Filipino migrant. Filipinos in Dubai refer to her as a *medical beacon* within the Filipino community and a *doctor-at-large* who is always on call whenever needed.

Born in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Dr. Tigno fulfilled her childhood dream of becoming a medical doctor by finishing her pre-medical studies at the University of Santo Tomas, and obtaining her medical degree from the Manila Central University in 1972. After schooling, she obtained her residency training at the Bulacan Provincial Hospital. In 1974, she joined the AFP Medical Corps and was commissioned as a Reserve Officer to serve with the Mindanao command, which was not an easy assignment for a woman doctor. She was awarded the Military Merit Medal for her meritorious service and outstanding performance of duties as member of the V. Luna Medical Center Surgical Augmentation Team.

Seasoned with her field experience, Dr. Tigno sought challenging opportunities in a foreign country. After working for four years in several hospitals in Iran, she left because of the Islamic revolution in 1979. She went back to the Philippines and practiced medicine for more than 13 years. An overseas opportunity again came, with Dubai, United Arab Emirates in 1992. She gained the distinction of being the first Filipino doctor to be issued a license by the Department of Health and Medical Services of Dubai. Since then, she has devoted herself to helping Filipinos in Dubai, specially the underprivileged.

Seeing that Filipino patients are more comfortable discussing their medical problems with Filipino doctors, Dr. Tigno founded the Filipino Health Care Provider in 1999, gathering around 50 Filipino volunteers who are all medical practitioners. She spearheaded the medical missions that provide free medicines, hypertension and diabetes screening, and dental and eye check-up in the different emirates in UAE. With the increasing number of Filipinos availing of their services, she decided to conduct the missions on a regular basis in order to reach out to as many Filipinos as possible. She also initiated the project, *Share Blood, Spare A Life*, a blood donation drive and information campaign on its benefits to the health of the donors. In recognition of Dr. Tigno's notable achievement in the field of medicine and her service to the Filipino community in Dubai, she was chosen as one of the *Ten Filipino Achievers* in 2001 by the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Tigno's dedication to helping her countrymen moved her to establish the Philippine Medical Center in 2003, the first Filipino-owned clinic in Dubai. Filipino patients were provided with discounts in professional fees and free service to those who could not afford to pay. Her service to the Filipinos would go beyond her being a medical doctor; she gives her counsel to Filipinos who bring her their problems. Having been an overseas Filipino worker herself for more than 18 years, she understands the predicament of being far from home.

She also initiated fund-raising projects for the Adopt-a-School Hometown Project of ABS-CBN Foundation; volunteered her medical service during the sports activities of Filipinos in Dubai; donated for the victims of the Quezon and Leyte landslides; and visited Filipinos who were confined in government hospitals in Dubai and helped their families in coordinating with the Philippine Consulate General for financial assistance.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Dr. Rosario B. Tigno, the President recognizes her tireless efforts in effectively inspiring medical practitioners to provide medical assistance to Filipinos by establishing the Filipino Health Care Provider and Philippine Medical Center in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

*Tuluyang Pinoy*  
*(Philippine Centre Zurich)*  
Switzerland



In 1988, a small group of Filipinos who met regularly after mass in Zurich, came up with the idea of establishing a center for Filipino migrants. Encouraged by a Filipino priest and with the support of various groups and individuals, both Filipinos and Swiss, *Tuluyang Pinoy* or the Philippine Centre Zurich opened its doors in February 1991.

For 15 years, *Tuluyang Pinoy* proudly accomplished countless projects to promote Filipino culture and heritage, and to foster Filipino identity and unity in Switzerland. One of its significant presentations was the *Musik, Mask and Magic*, a cultural/gala evening showcasing and explaining *Tuluyang Pinoy's* work, at the same time raising funds for its referral and counseling programs to benefit disadvantaged community members. It also organized several fund-raising projects such as the *Balik Ugat* which is a dance-drama presentation participated in by different Filipino cultural groups for the benefit of its community-based projects. It has also been the main organizer of the various concerts of University of the Philippines Singing Ambassadors and Loboc Children's Choir. It was also behind the successful production of *DH*, a play about the life of a domestic worker, and the launching of *Habagat at Niyobe* (Monsoon and Snow), an anthology of poetry, mostly about experiences of migrants written by one of its own members, Mr. Edgar Bacong.

To keep the Filipino community informed about various topics and laws affecting them as migrants, *Tuluyang Pinoy* has been organizing fora and round-table discussions on issues regarding women, health, taxation, intermarriages, domestic violence, immigration, and updates on their rights as Filipinos. Since 1992, it published *Tumbuli*, its official newsletter that covered issues and events affecting the Filipino community. It also maintains a website on similar issues, and conducts trainings, workshops and language courses which are open to members and non-members.

Realizing the Filipino community's need for information and counseling services, *Tuluyang Pinoy* undertook to offer this in 1993. Its in-house personnel conduct counseling for specific problems, language translations and intercultural mediation for Filipino clients, their lawyers, doctors, and school authorities, among others. In the effort to strengthen the spirituality of Filipinos, it organized monthly community and special masses which are usually followed by community and spiritual discussions. *Tuluyang Pinoy* also supported the fund raising campaign for the rebuilding of a parish in Sta. Maria, Zamboanga del Norte. It played an important role in assisting Bishop Precioso Cantillas of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines organize a meeting with Filipino pastoral representatives and committee members to discuss the possible assignment of a Filipino priest in Switzerland. Subsequently, Fr. Johann Dumandan, SDB, was designated head of the Filipino chaplaincy in the German-speaking region of Switzerland.

From 1992 to the present, *Tuluyang Pinoy* has been participating in advocacy and lobby work for migrants and women's rights in various Swiss commissions such as *Verbleib bei Ehemann Post-Beijing Conference* and *Koordinationsstelle fur Auslanderfragen*. In order to raise public awareness, it developed workshops on women's rights, and organized the *Emboldening the Silenced Women*, an event with film showing, book launching and forum that depicted violence against women.

As Chairman Lutgardo L. Labad of Bohol Arts and Cultural Heritage Council cited, "*Tuluyang Pinoy* deserves the greatest tribute for providing Filipino-Europeans anchor and roots for a unique cultural identity, and for providing the greatest service migrant Filipinos need in a foreign land – the sense of identity, self-respect, justice and dignity".

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to *Tuluyang Pinoy*, the President recognizes its successful efforts to promote Filipino solidarity, spirituality and identity, and Filipino culture and heritage in Zurich, Switzerland.





*Veterans Equity Center*  
United States of America

Community leaders and advocates for the rights of Filipino World War II veterans found a creative way to convey their call for justice, by establishing the Veterans Equity Center on Veterans Day in the United States of America on 11 November 1999. Certainly, Filipino World War II veterans have seen hope with the founding of VEC.

VEC plays a major role in organizing other national organizations to gather support for the passage of a Filipino Veterans Equity Bill that recognizes the services of Filipino veterans during the World War II and making them eligible to receive veterans benefits like their American veteran counterparts. Through the Center's advocacy, veterans receive free support services funded by the City and County of San Francisco. At state level, VEC was successful in organizing Filipino veterans in the Bay Area to oppose the proposal of the Governor of California to the California Veterans Cash Benefits (CVCB) for veterans who had gone home to the Philippines. Nationally, VEC has been instrumental in keeping the issue of veterans equity and the struggle to pass a Filipino Veterans Equity Bill alive. VEC also provides the veterans with information and updates on pending bills, laws and assistance that affect them.

Funded by the San Francisco Department of Aging and Adult Services – Office on Aging, VEC provides case management and community services to Filipino World War II veterans, their immediate family members and other elderly immigrants residing in San Francisco and its neighboring counties. Case management services include referral, counseling, and case monitoring on their conditions, particularly health related problems and concerns.

In partnership with the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach and a number of Filipino lawyers in the Bay Area, VEC provides free legal consultation to Filipino veterans and their families on cases regarding immigration law, benefits' appeal, tenants' rights, elder abuse, and referral services to other non-profit legal services on cases that do not fall within their lawyer's expertise. Regular workshops covering various topics on legal issues are being conducted at the Center.

Also, in collaboration with the San Francisco Food Bank, VEC distributes a supply of supplemental groceries to very low-income elders including the Filipino veterans and other minority elders who live in the South of Market and Tenderloin Districts in San Francisco. Over 200 Filipino elders with very limited income receive supplemental groceries to augment the food they are able to buy with their meager monthly Supplemental Security Income.

VEC initiated the *Mano Po Lolo Program* which is an inter-generational youth/student and elderly war veteran buddy program that provides various recreational activities including field trips for the veterans, to combat their isolation and loneliness. Group activities are also being organized at the Center for the socialization of the veterans.

As an effort to educate the community regarding veterans issues, VEC has established a Resource Center of literature and information materials relating to the history and current status of Filipino-American World War II veterans which is available for public view.

For its dedicated and service to Filipino World War II veterans and other elderly immigrants, VEC was a recipient of several recognitions and commendations from the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco, Senate of the United States, Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco, California State Assembly, and the California Legislature Assembly. The most recent recognition was the *Community Legislative Hero Award* given by the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Institute on 6 June 2006.

In conferring the *Banaag Award* to Veterans Equity Center, the President recognizes its invaluable contribution to the promotion of the welfare of Filipino American World War II veterans through its advocacy and campaign for their equity rights, and for its innovative programs to meet their urgent needs.

## *Pamana ng Pilipino*

*The Pamana ng Pilipino Award is conferred on Filipinos overseas who, in exemplifying the talent and industry of the Filipino, have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession*

### *Awardees*

**Adolovni P. Acosta**

*United States of America*

**Editha M. Ardiente**

*United States of America*

**Larry L. Asera**

*United States of America*

**Mayor Ruth U. Asmundson, Ph.D.**

*United States of America*

**Armando V. Baisas**

*Canada*

**Olegario D. Cantos VII, LI.B.**

*United States of America*

**Zenaida F. Cunanan**

*United States of America*



*Awardees*

**Michael A. Dadap**  
*United States of America*

**Vellie Dietrich-Hall**  
*United States of America*

**Carmen Z. Lamagna, Ph.D.**  
*Bangladesh*

**Gregorio B. Macabenta**  
*United States of America*

**Romulo F. Magsino, Ph.D.**  
*Canada*

**Consortio Don Manuel**  
*United States of America*

**Enrique M. Ostrea, Jr., M.D.**  
*United States of America*

**Jeffrey P. Rustia**  
*Canada*

**Emme A. Tomimbang-Burns**  
*United States of America*



## *Adolovni P. Acosta*

*United States of America*

Beethoven once said, "Music should strike fire in the hearts of men, and bring tears from the eyes of the woman." When music critics use the words "unfailingly perceptive", "compelling", "fresh" or "superb" to describe her performances, there is no doubt that the soul of music flows from the skillful hands of Adolovni P. Acosta.

An unusually gifted and famed pianist, Ms. Acosta has performed in many concert halls all over the world. After receiving her teacher's diploma in Music and her Bachelor's and Master of Music degrees from the University of the Philippines, she was awarded full assistantship in the World Music Program of Wesleyan University in Connecticut. She was a recipient of the John D. Rockefeller 3<sup>rd</sup> scholarship from the Julliard School and later became a member of its faculty pre-college division. She was also affiliated with the New York University, Department of Music and the Performing Arts Professions, Hunter College of the City University of New York Department of Continuing Education, Usdan Center for the Arts of Long Island, Brooklyn College Preparatory Center for the Arts, Bronx House Music School and 92<sup>nd</sup> St. Y. School of Music.

Ms. Acosta has extensively performed either on a solo recital or back to back with other renowned musicians in prestigious concert venues around the world including the Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center, Merkin Concert Hall and Steinway Hall in New York City, Wigmore and Purcell Halls in London, Salle Cortot in Paris, Hallwylska Museet in Stockholm, Odd Fellow Palaet in Copenhagen, Der BeethovenSaal in Bonn, Yamaha Concert Hall in Vienna, Centrepoint Theatre in Ottawa, Centro Cultural Recoleta in Buenos Aires and the Cultural Center of the Philippines. She has also held recitals in Mexico City, Brasilia, Berlin, Hamburg, China, Sweden, Qatar, Sabah and Brunei. Amidst her retinue, she finds time to conduct master classes at the Ho Chi Minh City Conservatory of Music in Saigon, University of Canterbury School of Music in New Zealand, Monash University School of Music Conservatorium in Melbourne, Australia, UST Conservatory of Music and Abelardo Hall of the University of the Philippines. Ms. Acosta also performed at the White House, before then First Lady Rosalyn Carter during an annual diplomatic corps dinner.

In 1982, Ms. Acosta made waves when she was named Outstanding Young Woman of America from New York. She went on to become one of the Ten Outstanding Young Women in America in the same year. For her outstanding musicianship, she has been featured in the *Chronology of Western Classical Music 1751-2000*. Since 1985, she has been featured in *International Who's Who in Classical Music*.

She is also the Founder and Executive Director of East and West Artists (EWA) International Auditions, a non-profit music organization founded in 1971 that promotes outstanding performers (soloists and ensembles) by holding annual international auditions in four states. Winners are presented in fully sponsored New York debuts/recitals in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall and given publicity. EWA has also presented Asian composers concerts that included works by Drs. Lucrecia Kasilag, Ramon Santos and Francisco Feliciano.

Fortunately for many, this artist also has a heart of gold. Ms. Acosta has dedicated her talent to various causes by raising funds for people affected by cancer and scholarship grants for Filipino students, among others. Another quote by Beethoven goes "What you are, you are accident by birth; what I am, I am by myself. There are and will be a thousand princes; there is only one Beethoven." For many, indeed, there is only one Adolovni Acosta.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Adolovni P. Acosta, the President recognizes her exceptional artistic mastery of piano, which has earned for her high accolades from musical critics and fellow artists from all over the world, truly a pride for the Filipino people.



## *Editha M. Ardiente*

*United States of America*



Filipinos have often shown the world that all things are attainable through ordinary talent and extraordinary perseverance. In the field of environmental management where business profitability often runs in conflict with environmental protection, Engr. Editha M. Ardiente's extraordinary qualities shine through.

Even as she graduated magna cum laude and valedictorian with a degree in chemical engineering, Engr. Ardiente was initially employed as a secretary in an engineering firm in Chicago upon her arrival in the United States. From her hard work and perseverance, she rose to the position of an engineering analyst three years later, and became senior chemical engineer shortly after that. By 1979, she became the Section Chief of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Management Division, managing a staff of approximately 70 people. Armed with a master's degree in environmental engineering, she accepted an offer to work for the private sector as manager of environmental affairs of Borg-Warner Corporation in 1986. A year after, she took on the position of Vice President of Environmental Affairs of International Truck and Engine Corporation (ITEC), and has remained with the company since then.

ITEC is a \$7 billion, Fortune 200 company with 16,000 employees and a market leader in the manufacture of heavy and medium trucks, school buses and smokeless diesel engines. Under Engr. Ardiente's leadership, ITEC has received over 70 environmental awards from US, Canadian and Mexican governments, and industry environmental organizations since 1992. The company boasts of having saved \$75 million on pollution prevention activities and has obtained international certification under the ISO-14001 Environmental Management System Standard.

Engr. Ardiente's reputation in environmental affairs has been recognized by the Institute of Technology's Stuart Graduate School of Business where she serves as Chair of the Environmental Management Program and member of the Board of Overseers. She reached one of the pinnacles of her career when she was elected President of the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) in 2005. AWMA is a 97-year old association of about 9,000 environmental professionals with operations in 65 countries, including the Philippines. For her consistent record in environmental protection, Engr. Ardiente received the Perry Fisher Award from the Air and Waste Management Association in 2002, and the Milestone Award from the Asian American Institute in April 2004.

An active Filipino community leader as well, Engr. Ardiente was a former president of the Philippine Engineers and Scientists Organization (PESO) in 1986 and was the first woman to have ever held the position in said organization. Her term marked the creation of a PESO student chapter and a fund to initiate technology transfer to the Philippines. PESO conducts an annual review for engineers and scientists to help them pass board examinations. The organization also gives out scholarships to deserving children of PESO members as well as to one outstanding high school graduate from the Philippines, every year. For her outstanding and dedicated service, she was given recognition by PESO on several occasions.

In 1993, Engr. Ardiente responded to the call of the United Nations and the Department of Foreign Affairs' Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) program. She served as TOKTEN consultant to the University of the Philippines National Engineering Center and consulted for Rightpak International, a subsidiary of San Miguel Corporation. Engr. Ardiente also visited Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority in Olongapo City to review some of the environmental issues associated with converting the former US naval base into a commercial area.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino Award* to Engr. Editha M. Ardiente, the President extols her exemplary achievements as an environmental manager who advocates balance between industrial progress and environmental protection, and her successful leadership of an international association of environmental professionals, the Air and Waste Management Association.



*Larry L. Asera*  
*United States of America*

The grandson of one of the Filipino immigrants who first settled in Hawaii in 1906 and then migrated to California in 1925, Larry L. Asera, dubbed as the energy czar of Vallejo, has accomplished many "firsts" for a Filipino in America in the fields of politics and business.

At age 24, Mr. Asera was elected the youngest member of the Vallejo City Council in 1973, the very first Filipino American to be elected in the US mainland. At 27, he became a member of the Solano Board of Supervisors and eventually the board chairman at age 29, the youngest chairman in the history of Solano County. In 1981, he was appointed by Governor Brown as Deputy Secretary of State and chairman of the State Building Standards Commission, making him the first Filipino American to serve in a state cabinet-level post in California and the US. He also became the first Filipino American to be engaged as legislative consultant to both the State Senate and the State Assembly. Mr. Asera's pioneering feats have inspired other Filipino American politicians to seek elective and appointive positions especially in the Bay area and nearby cities.

An engineer by education, Mr. Asera is a recognized technologist in the field of photovoltaic energy development, having been the recipient of numerous state and international awards, including California Energy Commission's State Energy Technology Award and the US Department of Energy's Award for Innovation. Previously, in his work as chief legislative consultant to both the Senate and Assembly Committee of California, he helped draft legislation that promoted the use of solar energy in state projects and the development of programs converting solid waste and garbage into energy, as well as other laws advancing the use of alternative energy in California. He authored the law establishing the California Solid Waste Management Board which is advancing the alternative energy use throughout California. In 2004, he was one of those instrumental for the favorable decision of CalPERS, the largest public pension fund in the US, to retain the Philippines in its "Permissible Emerging Markets" list, thus maintaining the status of the country as a viable investment destination.

After serving as vice president of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company which provides natural gas and electricity to most of Northern California, Mr. Asera founded the Asera, LLC Group of Companies, an international energy and environmental technology company specializing in the development of renewable energy resources to promote sustainable communities. His company recently entered in a co-venture agreement with the government of Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, to put up a \$55-million solar power plant in the city. When completed, the project will be the first-ever local government owned generation plant in the Philippines. A project to convert the Mare Island Naval Shipyard as the central source of new energy for the city of Vallejo, home to more than 120,000 residents, is also in the pipeline. He has worked with USAID, contributing to the effort in bringing power to remote areas of the Philippines, Mexico and Malaysia through solar and photovoltaic "eco-village" installations.

A graduate in Civil Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, and masters degrees in Environmental Engineering, and Business Administration from the University of California at Davis and MIT, respectively, Mr. Asera also teaches at the Department of Engineering Technology at the California Maritime Academy, a campus of the California State University.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Larry L. Asera, the President recognizes his pioneering leadership and accomplishments in being the first elected Filipino American to serve in various public offices in the United States mainland, his support for investment in the Philippines, and for his expertise in the development of renewable energy technologies in the US and other countries.



*Mayor Ruth U. Asmundson, Ph.D.*  
*United States of America*



Chemistry has played a big part in Ruth U. Asmundson's life. Obtaining a bachelor's degree in Chemistry at Adamson University in 1968, she went on to complete her master's and doctorate degrees as a Fulbright scholar in Wilkes University, and University of California in Davis, respectively. She returned to the Philippines to teach after her studies, but it was a different chemistry that led her to marry Vigfus Asmundson, a prominent lawyer in Davis, California who eventually became the city mayor in 1970. Little did she know that when she made that fateful decision to join her husband abroad, a different yet fulfilling path had been laid out for her.

A native of Isabela, Ruth U. Asmundson is the Mayor of the City of Davis, California. In her first try in local politics in 2002, she garnered the highest number of votes among her fellow candidates. Hence, she became mayor pro-tempore from 2002 to 2004 and sat as mayor from 2004 to 2006. With her late husband having served as Davis mayor from 1970 to 1972, the couple made Davis history by being the first husband-wife mayors of the city of Davis.

Prior to being elected, she served as a trustee on the Davis Board of Education for ten years. As proof of her ability to earn public trust, she also garnered the highest number of votes during her first election to the School Board in 1991. She was already a respected member of the Davis community prior to assuming public office, having been a founding member of the Davis Educational Foundation, Davis Public Schools Educational Foundation and the Filipino Association of Davis. She holds membership in the Davis Rotary Club, Davis Chamber of Commerce, Wilkes University Council, and International House of Davis. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area Council of Government as well as the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, and PBS TV station KVIE. In 1990, she was chosen as Davis Citizen of the Year.

Mayor Asmundson has advocated for stronger sister city relations throughout her tenure. Since her election, she had inked sister city relations with 4 cities in Asia, two of which are in the Philippines (Los Baños, Laguna and Muñoz, Nueva Ecija). The strong research and academic communities in both cities closely mirror that of the city of Davis. Under her stewardship, residents claim that the City of Davis took big steps in economic development with the opening of big businesses in retail, restaurant and service industries. Davis residents also cite improvements in the promotion of culture and the arts through the expansion of art venues and the conversion of Davis Varsity Theatre into an independent film venue.

California assemblywoman Lois Wolk succinctly describes Mayor Asmundson's service to the City of Davis when she wrote, "*Ruth is a smart, dedicated public servant who cares a great deal for our community and the people who live here... Ruth has served on a variety of appointed government boards and commissions, dealing with local and regional policy issues such as transportation, health care, and parks and recreation. She has always been a leader, never shying away from the controversial issues of the day, whatever they may be.*"

Appreciative of her roots, Mayor Asmundson also regularly visits the Philippines and has provided assistance to projects in her hometown. She and her husband were responsible for building and furnishing a community library in Mabini Gamu, Isabela in 1998. Since the early 1990's, Mayor Asmundson has provided annual scholarships for needy students and supported faculty scholarship chairs in Adamson University. Her alma mater conferred on her the Outstanding Alumni of the Year in 2000 and 2003 for her contributions to the university and her achievements as a public official.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Mayor Ruth U. Asmundson, the President recognizes her exemplary public service in promoting culture and the arts as citizen and Mayor of the City of Davis, and success in promoting sister city relations with cities in the Philippines.



## *Armando V. Baisas*

*Canada*

Skillfully shaping figures drawn only from the depths of his imagination, in a medium unforgiving of time or error, one Filipino culinary artist has prominently etched a reputation of being "as cool as ice." He is no other than Ontario-based Armando Baisas, a Filipino who creates intricate and exquisite food and ice carvings that deck big banquets and receptions all over the world.

Born and raised in Paete, Laguna, a city known for skills in carving, Chef Baisas received his Culinary Arts diploma in 1981 from the Samson Technical Fashion School in Manila. His excellence in his craft caught the attention of the Hilton International Hotels Group where he established a reputation as kitchen artist and garde manger, working in Hilton hotels in the Philippines, Kenya, Cyprus, Egypt and Sudan. In 1987, he moved to North America and took the position of Chef Decorateur Garde-Manger at the Vista International Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He then moved to Bonaventure Hilton International and to Hotel Vogue in Montreal, Quebec shortly after. It was in 1993 when he joined the staff of the Montreal Casino, where his talent as a sculptor was showcased.

Chef Baisas list of awards in culinary sculpting is extensive. He won second place in 1988 under the category of *Centerpiece Overall* at the Culinary Salon in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1991, he placed second in the Winterlude International Ice Carving Competition in Ottawa, Ontario. In 1992 and 1993, he won first place at the Individual Ice Carving Competition held in Plymouth Michigan and the gold medal and trophy as overall winner at the Salon Rendezvous in Montreal, Quebec, respectively. He also went on to duplicate his feat in Plymouth, Michigan in 1993 by winning the prestigious Carver's Choice Award at the International Ice Sculpture Competition.

For three consecutive years from 1995 to 1997, Chef Baisas won the gold medal at the Olympiad de Cuisiniers in Montreal, Quebec. In 1997, he took home first honors in ice carving at the Euro Expo, Coupe du Monde de la Patisserie in Lyon, France. He placed second and champion of *Individual Block Ice Carving* in 1999 and 2000 respectively, at the Winterlude International Ice Carving Competition in Ottawa, Ontario. He captured top honors in the same competition from 2001 to 2004, also bagging the Carver's Choice trophy in 2002.

Chef Baisas spent his year traveling, sharing his expertise and conducting demonstrations in 2004. He showed his carvings at the PIR World Gourmet show in Moscow, Russia. He then returned to North America at Baltimore to carve at different events for the International Association of Culinary Professionals annual conference. He flew straight to the Le Cordon Bleu School in Paris as a guest chef before swinging by Lebanon to carve an ice sculpture at a gala dinner for the President of that country. He launched the new Le Cordon Bleu/Wusthof knife collection in Germany and flew to exhibit his skills at the International Culinary Festival in Havana. He ended that year in Cannes, France at the *Gourmet Voice International Media Festival*.

In 2005, he continued his dominance in ice sculpting at the Winterlude International Ice Carving Competition, winning the first place and People's Choice Award. In the same year, he placed third in the National Restaurant Association Ice Carving Classic. He then traveled to North Korea to train government chefs in Pyongyang on carving and plate decoration. Since 2000, Chef Baisas has been affiliated with Le Cordon Bleu Ottawa Culinary Arts Institute as master chef sculptor/instructor. This Paeteanian has certainly come a long way.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Armando V. Baisas, the President recognizes his unusual talent and many achievements in the art of ice and food carving, which earned for him international acclaim from the tourism, hotel and restaurant industry in different parts of the world.



## *Olegario D. Cantos VII, LL.B.*

*United States of America*



While darkness may have been a constant in the life of Atty. Olegario D. Cantos VII, the opposite could be said about his distinguished career as a public official in the United States federal government and a staunch advocate for people with disabilities.

Blind since birth, Atty. Olegario Cantos VII is the first ethnic minority and first Filipino-American ever to serve as Associate Director on Disabilities of the White House Domestic Policy Council in the Executive Office of the President. He is the highest placed person with disability in the US federal government and is responsible for the coordination of national disability policy across federal agencies, briefing the United States President on issues related to the disabled community, advising on potential presidential appointments, representing the Administration at speaking engagements, and fostering ongoing dialogue with leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Prior to assuming his current post, Atty. Cantos worked at the US Department of Justice where he served as Special Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in March 2006. Working on a number of fronts to advance disability rights enforcement, he was a member of the Attorney General's Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities, Chairperson of the Technical Assistance and Outreach Subcommittee and member of the Incident Management Team of the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities, and other government interagency committees. He was responsible for facilitating greater compliance by businesses with federal disability rights laws, and establishing / strengthening cross-agency partnerships to promote full participation by people with disabilities in the society.

Atty. Cantos served as General Counsel and Director of Programs for the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the largest cross-disability national membership organization in the United States with a membership of over 120,000. One of Atty. Cantos' responsibilities was international coordination of Disability Mentoring Day, a broad-based effort to enhance internship and employment opportunities for students and job seekers with disabilities through "job shadowing" and hands-on career exploration. During his tenure, the program grew from 1,600 to 6,000 protégés in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and 18 foreign countries in five continents. He quadrupled the number of workplace mentoring organizations from 250 to almost 1,000.

Before joining AAPD, Atty. Cantos served as Staff Attorney and Director of Outreach and Education at the Western Law Center for Disability Rights in Los Angeles. There, he created the Case Aggregation Strategy Team to foster greater pro bono involvement by the legal community, made substantial progress in reaching out to people with disabilities from diverse ethnic backgrounds and developed and executed a comprehensive disability rights training curriculum for targeted audiences. He fostered an environment that promoted cross-organizational cross-disability collaboration when he led the Southern California Disability Rights Leadership Conference. The conference has since then grown to encompass partnerships at a statewide level, now known as the RespectAbility Conference.

He was recently awarded the US President's Volunteer Service Award from the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, the 2005 Distinguished Alumnus Award by Loyola Law School, the Founder's Award from Asian Rehabilitation Services and the 2005 Excellence in Diversity Award from the Federal Asian/Pacific American Council. Other awards include the 2004 Daily Point of Light Award from the Points of Light Foundation, 2004 California Big Brother of the Year, 2002 Leader of Tomorrow Award, and the 2002 Service Award from the State Bar of California, among others.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Atty. Olegario D. Cantos VII, the President recognizes his exceptional ability and indomitable spirit, which enabled him to become the highest placed person with disability in the United States federal government, and effectively carry out programs to benefit the disabled.



## Zenaida F. Cunanan

United States of America

Having been a teacher, medical technologist, and homemaker may have prepared Zenaida Cunanan to take on various roles, but only sheer hard work and determination could have prepared her to establish Galaxy Global Corporation (Galaxy Global), a leading design, engineering, analysis, testing, assessment, retooling and software improvement company in the United States.

Galaxy Global excels in several areas of systems and software engineering as well as verification and validation of products associated with the fast growing software development fields. It is an integral part of the NASA Software Independent Validation and Verification (IV & V) facility in Fairmont, West Virginia. Galaxy Global was one of the first small businesses assisting in the effort to provide verification and validation of critical flight and ground software. It also provides support to NASA as a subcontractor to AverStar Inc. on the IV & V Omnibus Contract that includes the international Space Station.

Galaxy Global developed and currently runs the Metrics Data Collection Program (MDP) for NASA which collects, validates, organizes, stores and delivers software metrics data. Now in its fourth year, Ms. Cunanan has been the driving force behind the idea, working diligently to obtain funding for the project. The MDP project has supported numerous other NASA projects mainly in the areas of metrics generation for tasking decisions. Some of these projects are THEMIS (study of colorful eruptions in the Northern and Southern Poles linked to energy releases in the Earth's magnetosphere), SDO (study on earth's magnetic fields and processes which influence space weather), and PHOENIX (part of Mars scout mission to study the geologic history of water for evidence that the planet may have sustained life).

Ms. Cunanan was also the driving force in the establishment of Criterion Independent Labs, a Common Criteria testing and evaluation laboratory. Common Criteria standard is used to assess vendor claims for Information Technology and Information Assurance products. The US government requires that all IT products used in systems containing classified information be assessed against these criteria. The Department of Defense requires that IT products used in any information system be likewise certified. Currently, there are only 10 certified laboratories in the US.

Galaxy Global has also been at the forefront of the Amber View 3D Imaging Project, designed to mass broadcast a digital 3D image of a missing/abducted child to law enforcement, media and private sectors via the internet within minutes of an official alert. Currently on its second phase, the project is expected to be upgraded to the national level by phase four. The company's future is bright, and its commitment to excellence in systems engineering in the software development field has led to the opening of two satellite offices in Pasadena, California and Cocoa Beach, Florida near the NASA Space Flight Center.

Due to her success as an entrepreneur, Ms. Cunanan has received many awards. She was selected as the Minority Small Business Person of the Year for 2005 by the US Small Business Administration. She received a Congressional Commendation in 2004 and won the Small Business Teaming Award in 2001. In the same year, she was a finalist of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year. She was voted Citizen of the Year in 1998 by the Shenston News and Journal. In 1996, she was awarded the Distinguished West Virginian Award by the Governor. She was featured in the American Biographical Institute's seventh edition of *Notable American Women* and the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of *Who's Who of Women* both in 1995. In 1992 she was chosen as the US Small Business Administration's Women in Business Advocate of the Year. For her outstanding contributions to the community, the City of Clarksburg has proclaimed a Zeny Fernandez Cunanan Day in her honor.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Zenaida F. Cunanan, the President recognizes her exemplary entrepreneurial success in establishing one of the leading software engineering firms in the United States, and providing data needs of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



## *Michael A. Dadap*

*United States of America*



For Maestro Michael A. Dadap, music is not limited to merely performing or playing a tune. Rather, music is a medium for one to gain more confidence, empowerment and a strong sense of completeness. This inspiring insight harmonized with his strong passion for music, have brought him to the limelight of success as an accomplished musician, performing artist, mentor and inspiration to the young. Hailing from a small town in Leyte, he worked his way to become an international virtuoso, making beautiful music with the world's great musicians and performers: at the same time sharing his talent with others as his contribution to make this world a better place to live.

An acclaimed classical and folk guitarist in the Philippines and the United States, Mr. Dadap has performed in hundreds of concerts in many parts of the world including New York City's most prestigious concert halls such as Carnegie Recital Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, Avery Fisher Hall, and the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. He comes home to the Philippines periodically to give concerts at the CCP and conduct workshops in educational and other performing arts centers. By including Filipino music as part of his concert repertoire, he has raised cultural awareness and national pride among Filipinos in many parts of the world. In 2000, he was awarded "Artist of the Year" by the Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts.

An accomplished and seasoned composer and conductor, he has written a significant number of original compositions and conducted major symphonic works by great composers of the romantic period to contemporary times. His early works include the patriotic piece, "*Huling Pagsamo*" which became popular among Filipinos in the United States during the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship in the early 70s. His "*Handurawan Suite*" won the first prize award from the Asian American Alliance for Culture and Arts in 1986. In 1998, he composed "*Sinulog*", a symphonic work for orchestra to commemorate the Philippine Independence Centennial Celebration. He also wrote the music of "*Yutao: A Musical Dula in Two Acts*", a theatrical piece designed for courses in culture and history which will be included in the curriculum of high schools in California and eventually in all high schools in the US. The play highlights the Filipino-American experience from their migration to the US a century ago, and during World War II. Moreover, his arrangements of music for the *rondalla* are now part of standard *rondalla* repertoire in the US and the Philippines. He is currently working with the Supreme Council of *Datus Alimaong*, the ethnic-based community group in the Visayas and Northern Mindanao, on a community cultural program by promoting the revival of the *bandurria* and *rondalla* music. His award-winning works commissioned by different Filipino communities, have been featured in various events in the US and other countries.

A passionate educator, he enjoys providing children with the best musical education and training by being the artistic and music director of the Children's Orchestra Society and *Iskwelahang Pilipino Rondalla* Ensemble. He believes that when exposed to music early in life, children develop a strong sense of self-esteem and personal discipline. In 1992, he founded the Young Symphonic Ensemble which has toured the US, Canada and the Far East. In 2004, he inaugurated the workshop series, "Music Appreciation and Participation Designed for the Hearing Impaired Children" at New York's Lexington School for the Deaf. Having established the philosophy and methodology, he is currently applying for patent for his music education approach for the hearing-impaired, as well as his invention of a distinct musical instrument specifically designed for them.

Beyond service to his school and immediate colleagues, he serves as a community consultant in producing special programs to celebrate Philippine culture and inspire Filipinos through community celebrations. He has also organized fund-raising concerts to help various community causes that have benefited among others the Mt. Pinatubo evacuees in 1991, and those affected by the Southern Leyte flood and mudslide in 2003 and 2006, respectively.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Michael A. Dadap, the President recognizes his remarkable achievements as a virtuoso musician, composer and music teacher, proponent of Philippine traditional music, and for promoting Philippine culture and causes through his work.



## *Vellie Dietrich-Hall*

*United States of America*

In the nation's capital and seat of power, a Filipina stands out as an effective political advocate who has helped raise the profile of Filipino Americans in the national landscape. She is Vellie Dietrich-Hall, one of two Filipino Americans on President George W. Bush's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Ms. Dietrich-Hall's leadership in community initiatives promotes the common good and advocates for the protection of minorities' rights. In her capacity as an advisor to the US President, she has contributed significantly to Asian communities in the US. Concurrently serving as the chair of the Entrepreneurship and Youth Outreach Committees, she is involved in several programs advancing economic and youth empowerment. In Northern Virginia, she conducts technical assistance seminars to reach out to Asian Americans in helping them learn financial literacy and the dynamics of putting up a successful business. She has established a sound reputation for service to the well being of children and families in Historic Filipinotown by providing health and human services, promoting community economic development, and organizing arts and cultural programs. She also collaborated with the Department of Justice to get the youth involved in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's internship program.

Her commitment to the political empowerment of Filipino Americans has inspired those who view public policy as a powerful instrument of change and led her to be the Founding President of Filipino American Republicans of Virginia (FARV). A nationally recognized and dynamic political organization, FARV became a pilot model for the minority groups at the Republican National Committee. She is also a member of numerous political organizations such as Northern Virginia Task Force, Republican Party of Virginia, Asian American Republicans of Virginia, Republican National Committee, National Asian American Republican Coalition, National Movement of Filipino-American Republicans, Monticello Republican Council of Republican Women, Republican Senatorial Inner-Circle and National Federation of Republican Women.

Politics, despite the obstacles, allowed Ms. Dietrich-Hall to touch many people's lives. She believes that "in order for us to affect policies, to affect the lives of our children, we need to be active in politics." Her colleagues say that she is an indefatigable leader, a great organizer and a people person. Her dedication to serve is exemplified through her affiliation with several organizations which include US Department of Commerce's Race and Ethnic Advisory Committee, Fairfax County School Board's Asian Achievement Focus Working Group, Virginia's Violence Gang Working Group, Board of Directors of Heritage Community Development Center, Association of Governing Boards of US Universities and Colleges, American Coalition of Filipino Veterans, Republican Business Forum, National Defense Industrial Association, *Gawad Kalinga* and ANCOP Foundation, among others.

Through sheer hard work and determination, she became the CEO of her own firm HPS Enterprises, an independent multimillion dollar consulting firm for the US Department of Defense. This feat made her one of the few leading businesswomen in a male-dominated industry. She also takes pride for being the first Asian American trustee of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, a premier educator of women in Lynchburg, Virginia, since its establishment in 1891.

Alongside her successful career, she is a dedicated mother to her daughter, Ayn.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Vellie Dietrich-Hall, the President recognizes her exemplary leadership, work and commitment for the advancement of Asian Americans, and the empowerment of the Filipino American community.





*Gregorio B. Macabenta*  
United States of America

Slowly but surely, American businesses are becoming aware of a largely well-off Filipino American consumer market whose purchasing power and average household incomes exceed that of the average white household in America. To tap that potentially profitable market, they turn to no other than media maverick and opinion-maker, Gregorio B. Macabenta.

A respected journalist, columnist, editorial cartoonist, editor, publisher and entrepreneur, Mr. Macabenta is the President and Creative Director of Minority Media Services, Inc., the only full-service Filipino advertising agency in the United States. As the creative force of the company, Mr. Macabenta conceived and created advertising campaigns for clients like the Wells Fargo Bank, Milo and Milkmaid which garnered several awards, among which are: the 1996 Gold Effie from the American Marketing Association for the most effective non-English campaign in the United States, the 1997 Horizon Awards for Best Print and Best TV ad, given by the Asian American Advertising and Public Relations Alliance, and finalists in the 1977 and 1980 Clio advertising competition, the most prestigious award giving body for print and TV commercials worldwide. In 2003, Minority Media Services was also named Outstanding Minority Owned Business by the Center for International Trade Development during the California International Trade Awards.

Acknowledged in the US and in the Philippines as the leading expert on the Filipino-American consumer market, Mr. Macabenta is the lone Filipino co-founder and charter director of the Association of Asian American Advertising Agencies which is now known as the Asian American Advertising Federation (3AF), the pioneer organization of Asian American advertising industry professionals. From 1978 to 1984, he also served as Secretary General of the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations, the official ad industry organization in the Asian region. He held this position for three terms.

Within the Filipino American community, Mr. Macabenta is probably best known as co-founder, charter member and immediate past National Vice-Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NFFAA), the largest umbrella organization of Filipino associations in the United States. His involvement with NFFAA enabled him to lend his media expertise in raising public awareness on issues confronting the Filipino American community, as well as in campaigning for empowerment of overseas Filipinos both in the United States and the Philippines. He is also actively involved in initiatives to assist Philippine development through the Ayalala Foundation USA and Books for the Barrios, which are organizations based in the US seeking to promote internet literacy and access, and facilitating book donations in the Philippine countryside, respectively.

In 2005, Mr. Macabenta's media career took another interesting turn when he took over ownership of *Filipinas Magazine*, the only nationally circulated (US) Filipino American monthly magazine and recipient of a special presidential citation from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in 2004. Mr. Macabenta is undoubtedly one of the most widely read Filipino columnists in the US and in the world because of his columns in *Filipinas Magazine* (worldwide), *Ang Panahon* (San Francisco), *Filipino Press* (San Diego), *Ang Peryodiko* (Los Angeles and Manitoba, Canada), *Filipino American Journal* (Phoenix), *Fil-Am Courier* (Hawaii), *Fil-Am Bulletin* (Seattle), *Sasta Pinoy News* (Florida), and *Philippine Star*, *Businessworld* and *Manila Times* (Philippines). Aside from his opinion columns, he has produced, directed and narrated a number of documentaries and TV features on the historic legacy of Filipinos in America. He has certainly become one of the most prominent figures to have highlighted the important contributions of the Filipino community in the United States.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino Award* to Gregorio B. Macabenta, the President recognizes his exemplary efforts to promote greater appreciation and awareness of specific issues concerning the Philippines and the Filipino American community, entrepreneurial success, and his distinguished leadership among Filipinos in the United States of America.

## Romulo F. Magsino, Ph. D.

Canada



Albert Einstein once said, "Setting an example is not the main means of influencing others, it is the only means." Having taught for more than forty years in various learning institutions in the Philippines and abroad, *educating by example* comes natural to someone like Dr. Romulo F. Magsino.

A graduate of Luzonian University in Lucena, Quezon, Dr. Magsino obtained his masters and doctoral degrees in education at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He is a prolific scholar and a recognized authority in education, having authored and edited nine books and monographs; published more than 70 articles in various books and journals; authored approximately 80 papers which were presented at international, national, regional, provincial and district conferences, and authored almost 50 papers which were presented at seminars, workshops and lectures. His research interests are varied, ranging from educational reform, multiculturalism, values, public and private education, teacher behavior, educational policy and practice, citizenship, and human/student rights, among others. He has served as editor or member of the Board of Editors of six journals including the *Education and Law Journal*, *Encounters in Education*, *Multiculturalism*, and *Paideusis*, the official publication of the Canadian Philosophy of Education Society.

Dr. Magsino is a strong advocate for the improvement of teacher education, largely through his administrative work as Head of Department and Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Manitoba. He also served as Chair of the Council of Deans and Directors of Education in Manitoba. He has been responsible for developing and revising undergraduate, masters and doctoral programs in the Faculty of Education. He is also responsible for evaluating teacher educational programs at three prominent universities in Canada (Queen's University, Simon Fraser University, and University of Regina). His efforts led to the enhancement of pre-service preparation of teachers in Manitoba. For his invaluable service to the University of Manitoba, Dr. Magsino was appointed *Dean Emeritus* (lifetime appointment) in June 2005.

Also an active Filipino community leader, Dr. Magsino is the President of the Philippine Canadian Centre, providing leadership in fund raising, planning, development, administration, and management of the Centre. It is largely a credit to Dr. Magsino's work that the Filipino community is proud to have its own Philippine Canadian Centre, a \$2.3 million facility which has become the site of cultural and other activities not only of the Filipino community but other ethnic associations as well.

Dr. Magsino is the chair of the Manitoba Ethnocultural Advisory and Advocacy Council, and holds membership at the Manitoba Immigration Council which involves working with different community leaders to promote the well-being of the cultural minorities, immigrants and refugees residing in Manitoba. As a result of his work, there has been an increased recognition and sensitivity to the educational needs of children of cultural minorities in the school system.

For his outstanding contribution to the Filipino community in Manitoba and efforts to create greater harmony among cultural minorities, Dr. Magsino was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. He is a recipient of a medal of honor conferred by the provincial government of Quezon in 2000. He was also one of the 100 Outstanding Filipino Canadians in 1999 and one of 20 Outstanding Filipino Americans in 1998 selected by *Filipino Image Magazine*. In 1998, he was chosen as the Most Outstanding Filipino Canadian by the *Binibining Pilipinas of North America Pageant*. The United Council of Filipino Associations in Canada gave Dr. Magsino the *Mabuhay Award* in 1982.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino Award* to Dr. Romulo F. Magsino, the President recognizes his lifelong commitment to excellence in higher education, and his leadership within the Filipino community which has raised awareness on the important role of immigrants in the cultural diversity of Manitoba.





## *Consorcio Don Manuel*

*United States of America*

It is said that solutions to the most complex problems are attained only through innovation. This could not be more true with Hawaii-based engineer Consorcio Don Manuel, whose state-of-the-art and breakthrough engineering designs has not only enabled his clients to establish their operations in Hawaii at a much lower cost, but also instilled the value of energy conservation as an important aspect of doing business.

A graduate of Mapua Institute of Technology, Engr. Manuel emigrated to the United States under a professional quota for engineers. Having been enlisted in the military, he specialized in guided missile electronics. After his stint in the Army, he returned to Hawaii where he eventually became president of Benjamin S. Notkin, Hawaii, Ltd., the state's largest consulting mechanical engineering firm. While with Notkin, he designed a cooling and ventilation system for a high-rise residential building housing US Navy personnel at Pearl Harbor in 1987. The system won the US Department of Energy's award for energy innovation. The 17-story building is cooled entirely by natural ventilation and has saved the Navy over \$1 million in construction costs.

Engr. Manuel was responsible for designing the first commercial solar water heating in Hawaii in 1974, the first "total energy system" resort hotel in the Pacific in 1975, the first heat pump A/C waste heat recovery application for domestic water heating in 1979, the first successful naturally ventilated high-rise building in the world in 1985, and the first full ice storage A/C in Hawaii in 1998. He was the chief engineer and designer in the construction of Schofield Barracks in Hawaii using solar energy for domestic water heating, the first large scale solar application in Hawaii in 1983.

He was the engineer and designer of the Star War Project in Diego Garcia, constructing a high-powered optics and equipment protection system from salt laden air in a top US Naval Base. Engr. Manuel was also the principal designer of a waste heat recovery system for the Hyatt Regency Kauai Resort Hotel, successfully utilizing low temperature waste heat from air conditioning systems for swimming pools and domestic water heating. The system resulted in energy conservation and fresh water savings of 85,000 gallons per day.

Engr. Manuel is also known for successfully applying the first thermal energy storage technology in Hawaii as principal designer of the Maryknoll High School Campus in Honolulu in 1998. His innovation provided central air conditioning for the campus that led to a \$1 million first cost savings and 58% monthly savings in electricity.

Other awards received by Engr. Manuel include the Engineering Excellence Award in 1988, 1992, 1995 and 1999 which were conferred by the Consulting Engineers Council of Hawaii. He also won the Award for Energy Engineering Excellence in 1984 from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (Hawaii Chapter). He was also a recipient of a citation from the Hawaii Congress in 1988 for his achievements in energy conservation. In 2000, he was selected Engineer of the Year by the Hawaii Society of Professional Engineers.

Truly, Engr. Manuel's design philosophy has underscored the importance of saving energy specially for large-scale businesses, a rare quality that sets him apart from other practitioners in his profession.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Engr. Consorcio Don Manuel, the President recognizes his distinguished and pioneering achievements in the field of engineering, having developed breakthrough energy conservation solutions for various applications in Hawaii and elsewhere.

*Enrique M. Ostrea, Jr., M.D.*  
United States of America



Rarely does one find a truly pioneering scientist among our people, and Dr. Enrique M. Ostrea, Jr. makes every Filipino's heart swell with pride.

This highly accomplished physician has been voted five times as one of the 500 "Best Doctors in America", and has been a member of nine major professional societies including the prestigious American Academy of Pediatrics and American Pediatric Society. In the last 15 years, he has published 62 original observations in different medical journals and 73 medical abstracts, and delivered 175 lectures in the United States and elsewhere. He has received four outstanding alumni awards from his alma mater, the University of the Philippines, and has been a recipient of 19 research grants from various state and federal agencies.

Dr. Ostrea graduated cum laude and class valedictorian from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine. For 30 years, he was Chief of the Hutzel Hospital's Department of Pediatrics in Detroit, Michigan and to now continues to be the Director of Hutzel's University Service Nurseries while concurrently holding a full-tenured professorship at Wayne State University's Department of Pediatrics.

A brilliant researcher and an expert clinician, one of Dr. Ostrea's foremost contributions to the field of pediatrics and neonatology is his invention of the meconium drug testing kit (Mectest), which is now considered a standard clinical test for illicit drug exposure in newborns, and the first of its kind to be approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration. In layman's terms, Dr. Ostrea's invention provides a way by which an infant's meconium (first stool after birth) can be analyzed so that the infant's exposure to drugs and alcohol while in the mother's womb may be determined. The invention earned for him and Wayne State two patents from the US Patent Office.

A few years later, Dr. Ostrea expanded his research to study fetal exposure to environmental toxins. This highly innovative research has earned for him million dollar grants from the US National Institute of Health and the National Center for Environmental Research, and has resulted in the infusion of over \$1 million in research monies to the Philippines.

Recently, Dr. Ostrea also invented a low-cost ventilator (PhilVent) for use by sick, premature infants in intensive care nurseries in the Philippines. The invention resulted from his observation of the plight of many newborn nurseries in the Philippines which use the patient's watcher or "bantay" as substitute for ventilators due to high cost of such machines. Undoubtedly, this invention will positively affect the delivery of vital care for sick and premature infants throughout the Philippines.

As if these achievements were not impressive enough, Dr. Ostrea is also an accomplished pianist, singer, conductor, and composer. Under his leadership as conductor and arranger, the Philippine Medical Association and Michigan Choir performed in the US premiere of the late great composer Lucio San Pedro's *Filipino Mass*. The choir has performed in various cities in the United States and Canada, and in Rome at the canonization of Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint.

While he is definitely one Filipino who has accomplished so much, Dr. Ostrea continues to look beyond what he has accomplished and do whatever he can to give back to his country and community. He spends as much time in the Philippines, sharing his medical expertise and experience with health care students and professionals in various schools and hospitals, and at the University of the Philippines where he earned his medical degree with high honors.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Dr. Enrique M. Ostrea, Jr., the President recognizes his outstanding and pioneering achievements in the field of pediatrics and neonatology, and his lifetime work in applying scientific knowledge to improving the health and condition of the newly born.





*Jeffrey P. Rustia*  
Canada

In the world of creative media, branding means everything. The image and design of every television network makes or breaks it. For TV networks looking for fresh and vibrant on-air identities, they turn to no other than Canada's TV branding guru, Jeffrey P. Rustia.

Jeffrey Rustia established Front in 1999, an international broadcast design and branding agency, responsible for creating the on-air identity of top global networks, including Nickelodeon Asia. His work in branding Nickelodeon, the 24-hour kids' channel, earned for Front a number of industry awards and a reputation for excellence in innovative branding which, by word of mouth, attracted

TV networks in many parts of the world.

Front's international reputation started to catch the interest of television networks not only in Canada but also those in other countries. In total, Front has worked for more than 30 different networks, many of which are based outside Canada including the USA Network, HBO, Cinemax, MTV, Astral Media, Rogers Television, Craig Media and Toronto One, Stampede, CPAC, A-Channel, CTV News, Pride, Vision TV, SCNN, APTN, Newsworld International and Vision TV.

In just two years, Front broke into the million-dollar a year sales bracket, and today, it is a multi-million dollar company with its own design building at the corner of King and Berkeley, that houses a dozen of the world's best creative producers and designers, and state of the art design equipment. Armed with a global vision and a culturally diverse team, Front has beaten a number of more-established design firms and advertising agencies for contracts worldwide.

Mr. Rustia has always known that he would pursue a career in television. His passion for acting followed him throughout his academic life. While at University of Toronto, Mr. Rustia studied Japanese film and theater. Outside of school, he directed, wrote, and produced Canada's first Filipino theater company. He has also worked as an actor appearing in popular Canadian sitcoms, plays and even music videos.

Mr. Rustia began his career with MTV Asia. After producing, editing, and working on the on-air graphics and promotional pieces for MTV, Mr. Rustia went on to HBO in Singapore, where he helped design its new look, worked for Nickelodeon Asia and then took over the creative department for two new CBC international channels before establishing Front. All of this he achieved before the age of 30.

In Canada, Mr. Rustia was featured by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) as a prominent and respected business and creative leader that has led the way for exporting a uniquely multicultural global design from Canada to other parts of the world, and also for embracing diversity in his business philosophy, strategy and staffing. In 2005, Mr. Rustia was dubbed by *En Route*, Air Canada's inflight magazine, as Canada's TV Branding Maverick.

Even before making waves in Canada, Jeffrey Rustia had made his mark in Asia. He became the first ever Filipino producer, director, and writer to work in Channel V, Star TV, Hong Kong. It was during his stint at the top-rated music video station Channel V that he created *Sigaw Manila*, a Filipino music video show that showcased Filipino talent, culture and all things Filipino to the rest of the world. *Sigaw Manila* was shot entirely in the Philippines featuring various cultural spots and venues for the world to see. As an added treat, the show utilized popular and upcoming Filipino celebrities from the music industry playing emcees to the program. The show was broadcasted to 53 countries in the STAR TV footprint, and was seen by 145 million households.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Pilipino* Award to Jeffrey P. Rustia, the President recognizes his exceptional creative abilities which led to the establishment of a highly successful international broadcast design and branding agency, Front, trusted by the world's largest television networks.

*Emme A. Tomimbang-Burns*  
United States of America



Once asked if she considered herself as Hawaii's answer to Oprah Winfrey, Emme Tomimbang-Burns jokingly said, "Ask Oprah if she knows me." Indeed, this former news anchor and Hawaii media royalty has her own cult-like viewer following in her native Aloha state, that many would not hesitate to say she is undisputedly the queen of talk in Hawaii.

A media personality since she was a child, Ms. Tomimbang-Burns is the executive producer and host of the TV show "Emme's Island Moments" as well as the owner of the production company EMME, Inc. (Emme Tomimbang Multi-Media Enterprises) which celebrated its tenth-year anniversary in 2005. She follows the footsteps of her father who was a pioneer in Filipino radio in the United States. At three years old, she tagged alongside her father at the radio station. She eventually landed in a show called Teenage Corner at age 10. She attended Leeward Community College and graduated from the University of Hawaii with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. While she had plans to become a teacher or high school counselor, everything changed when she worked for her father who was then running KISA, the first Filipino radio station in the US.

Ms. Tomimbang-Burns became KISA's "Morning Girl," broadcasting in English and playing Filipino music. From radio, she made the transition to television after being approached by KITV's top honcho. During her first 12 years at KITV, she worked as a reporter on the 6 o'clock news and soon became the evening anchor of the 10 p.m. news. She left KITV 4 in 1987 and joined Channel 2 as the Island Style reporter and later, as a morning news anchor.

Reaching another turning point in her career, "Emme's Island Moments" was conceived in 1993. The hour-long magazine television show features island people and aspects of island life. Segments of "Emme's Island Moments" can also be seen on in-flight programming on Hawaiian Airlines and Continental Airlines. Her shows have been aired on NBC and CBS, and are currently on the FOX network.

In 2003, Ms. Tomimbang-Burns had a weekly health and wellness show called "Emme's Island Living" which covered a variety of topics from diabetes to home improvement. Year 2005 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Emme, Inc., and the airing of six special episodes, a 90-minute special and an "Island to Island Moments" Concert Series, a testament to her public appeal and longevity in the media business.

Ms. Tomimbang-Burns was also appointed by the Filipino Centennial Commission to produce a two-hour documentary on centennial of Filipino migration to Hawaii entitled "Mabuhay with Aloha – The Hawaii Filipino Experience 1906-2006." The two-part documentary aired on KHON-2 in June 2006.

For her mainstream success, Ms. Tomimbang-Burns has earned many awards which include the 2004 Filipinas Magazine National Communications Award, 2003 Hawaii Filipino Woman of the Year, 2002 Toastmasters Media Award, Hawaii Women Lawyers President's Award in 2000, Telly Award in 1997 and a KITV Iris Award in 1984. The Telly Award honors outstanding local, regional and cable television commercials and programs, as well as the finest video and film productions, chosen from 12,000 entries from all 50 states. Ms. Tomimbang-Burns' special on the September 11 terrorist attacks entitled, "Hawaii to New York: The Aloha Spirit Lives" was selected to be part of the Hawaii International Film Festival.

In conferring the *Pamana ng Filipino* Award to Emme A. Tomimbang-Burns, the President recognizes her eminently successful career in media and journalism, a pride and inspiration for the Filipino community in Hawaii.



*The Year 2006 Presidential Awards for  
Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

*Awarding Ceremony and Testimonial Dinner  
07 December 2006, 6:00 p.m., Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace*

*Programme*

*Philippine National Anthem*

*Invocation  
Fr. Larino Bernardi*

*Message  
Chairman Dante A. Ang  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

*Launching of the Internet-Based Learn Filipino Program*

*Presentation of Presidential Citations (Lebanon and East Timor)*

*Presentation of Presidential Awards*

*Report on Behalf of the Awardees  
Dr. Carmen L. Lamagna*

*Dinner*

*Musical Number  
Ms. Adelovni P. Acosta*

*Ms. Cecilia Cruz Dizon  
Master of Ceremonies*

## *The Presidential Awards System*

The Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas is a biennial awards system intended to give recognition to Filipinos and other individuals or organizations that contribute to Philippine development and progress, or promote the interests of overseas Filipino communities. The awards are also given to Filipinos overseas who have distinguished themselves in their profession, and have brought honor to the Filipino people.

The awards system was institutionalized in 1991, with the signing of Executive Order No. 498. The awards have so far been extended to 235 Filipinos and private organizations overseas since its establishment. President Fidel V. Ramos conferred the first and second sets of Presidential Awards to 22 and 45 awardees in 1993 and 1996, respectively. President Joseph E. Estrada conferred the third and fourth sets of Presidential Awards to 30 and 59 awardees in 1998 and 2000, respectively. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo conferred the fifth and sixth sets of awards to 34 (with one special citation) and 45 awardees, in 2002 and 2004, respectively.

The Presidential Awards consist of four categories. The *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award* is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their exceptional or significant contribution to reconstruction, progress and development in the Philippines. The *Kaanib ng Bayan Award* is accorded to foreign individuals or organizations for their exceptional or significant contribution to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development, or have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities. The *Banaag Award* is given to Filipino individuals or associations for their contributions which have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities. The *Pamana ng Pilipino Award* is conferred on Filipinos overseas who, in exemplifying the talent and industry of the Filipino, have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession.

On December 7, 2006, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will honor 48 distinguished Filipino individuals and organizations based in 14 countries, who because of their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time-honored values of *pakikipag-kapwa*, *pagtutulungan*, and *pagkakaisa*.

The awardees include exemplars of Filipino excellence, individuals who have dedicated their work in the service of the Filipino people, stewards of community initiatives that promote cooperation for the common good, and advocates for the promotion and protection of the rights of others. Civil society organizations based overseas, whose programs for intervention have helped improve the lives of others, particularly the marginalized, will also be honored in observance of the timeless tradition of *utang na loob* and *bayanihan*.

This year's awardees were selected from a total of 158 nominations from 20 countries through 30 Philippine Embassies and Consulates. Of the 48 awardees, 30 are individuals while 18 are organizations. The awardees came from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Germany, Israel, Japan, Norway, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland, United Arab of Emirates, United Kingdom, and United States of America.



*The Year 2006 Presidential Awards for  
Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

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Chairman  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

VICE CHAIRMAN

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Undersecretary  
Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs

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**Atty. Richard N. Ferrer**  
President  
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company Foundation and  
Makati Medical Center

**Fr. Savino L. Bernardi**  
Director  
Apostleship of the Sea

**Ms. Belinda Olivares-Cunanan**  
Columnist  
Philippine Daily Inquirer

*The Year 2006 Presidential Awards for  
Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas*

*Technical Committee*

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**Mr. Ernesto Noel P. Calleja**  
Attache  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

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Deputy Executive Director  
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

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Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs  
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**Atty. Jose Eduardo E. Malaya**  
Executive Director  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Department of Foreign Affairs

**Ms. Emilie V. Tiongco**  
Deputy Executive Director  
National Commission for Culture and the Arts

**Dr. Virginia A. Miralao**  
Executive Director  
Philippine Social Science Council and  
Philippine Migration Research Network

**Mr. Gary L. Aligmayo**  
Department of Science and Technology



## *Gallery of Presidential Awardees*

### **Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino Award**

Ablaza, Saniel G.G., M.D.  
Cagas, Cosme R., M.D.  
Caolle, Gloria T.  
De Venecia, Guillermo B., M.D.  
Feed the Hungry, Inc.  
Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Inc.  
H.O.P.E. Foundation  
Ho, Jesus T., M.D.  
Ileto, Benjamin A., M.D.  
International Network of Filipinos Overseas  
Martin, Arsenio R., M.D.  
Montero, Juan II M., M.D.  
Nacario, Emanuel N.  
Navarra, Victoria C., M.D.  
Nihei, Mari Bernabe  
Philippine American Foundation  
Philippine Children's Charity Fund  
Philippine Cultural Organization in Saarland, E.V.  
Philippine Economic and Cultural Endowment  
Science and Technology Advisory Council  
San Francisco  
Tan, Elton See  
Tsalona, Alfredo T.  
Toric, Isabelo S., M.D.  
University of the Philippines Medical Alumni  
Society in America  
Vijungco, Jose G., M.D.  
Visayas-Mindanao Cultural Association e.V.  
World Bank / IFC-IMF Filipino Association

### **Kaakabay ng Bayan Award**

Aloha Medical Mission  
Balikatan sa Kaunlaran – Hong Kong Council  
Confederation of Filipinos Overseas Organization  
Filipino-American Community of Colorado  
Filipino Community in Thailand  
Filipino Community in the Commonwealth of  
Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)  
Filipino Community of Guam  
Foundation for Aid to the Philippines, Inc.  
Volunteer Business Counselors of Doha

### **Kaanib ng Bayan Award**

Anesvad Foundation  
Association Alouette  
Association Philippines International of Geneva  
Books for the Barrios  
Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation  
International Medical Help for Children  
Jules and Paul-Émile Léger Foundation  
Operation Smile International  
PAG-ASA Group – Japan  
Philippine Development Assistance Programme  
"Salamat Po Kai"  
Tsakos Shipping and Trading, S.A.

### **Banaag Award**

Acebuche, Nestor A.  
Acosta, Rodrigo C.  
Al Zedjali, Essa Mohamed  
Andes, Phoebe Cabotaje  
Angelical, Lilia  
Aranilla, Leticia R.  
Astillero, Moh'd Ali Carlito, M.D.  
Babaylan – Switzerland  
Balik Bohol Medical Mission  
Bautista, Antonio C.  
Bayoumi, Mohammad Ahmad  
Beatty, Estrella C.  
Benzon, Norma R.  
Berdos, Imelda Vollenweider  
Buhain, Wilfrido J., M.D.  
Bulos, Alice P.  
Casamina, Roland C.  
Centre for Filipinos  
Centre for Philippine Concerns – Australia  
Cheng, Sian Chun  
Compas, Lolita B.  
Concepcion, Zenaida S., M.D.  
Covarrubias, Grace F.N. (+)  
Cueto, Alex M., M.D.  
Cuizon, Virgilio G.  
Cunanan, Aguedo O.  
Cunina Organization

## *Gallery of Presidential Awardees*

### **Banaag Award**

Dasodas, Catherine D.  
De Guzman – Formoso, Ruby L., M.D.  
Dechaves, William D.  
Del Rosario, Sonia S.  
Dela Paz, James Allan  
Docoy, Fr. Eugene  
Evangelista, Jose L., M.D.  
Fiesta Filipina Dance Troupe of Canada  
Filipino American Human Services, Inc.  
Filipino Association in Brunei  
Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, Inc.  
Filipino Communities Council of Australia, Inc.  
Filipino Community Center, Inc.  
Filipino Cultural Club  
Filipino Ladies Association of Guam  
Florentino, Sr. Magdalena S., FMM (+)  
Fojas, Marcos R., M.D.  
Ginete, Alex Jose R.  
Go, Mildred Aires  
Goedicke, Charlotte  
Halasz, Fr. Luis, SVD  
Helbig, Aurea  
Hernandez, Carmencita  
Home-Reach Foundation, Inc.  
Hong Kong Bayanihan Trust  
Hyehwadong Filipino Catholic Community  
Ick, Claire R.  
Juele, Lilia R.  
Kalayaan  
Kanagawa Women's Space Ms. La  
Kawayan Philippine Language and Cultural School  
Kinderhilfe Philippinen  
Kinderhilfe Philippinen, E.V.  
Lammawin, Francis L.  
Lew, Bridget  
Lubang-Luoc International  
Maharlika – Switzerland  
Mangiona, Benjamin T.  
March, Marina Roma, M.D.  
Mataac, Celso Jr. T.  
McGuinness, Amor I.  
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception  
Miyake, Chiyo

### **Banaag Award**

National Organization of Professional  
Teachers – Hong Kong  
Natividad, Alicia  
Natividad, Cornelio Ruiz  
Natividad, Evelyn D.A., Ph.D.  
Nemivant, Emma Balquiedra  
Panday Tinig Chorale Ensemble  
Paragas, Rodolfo de Leon  
Paterno, Ramon A.P.  
Penang Support Group for Migrant Filipinos  
Philippine Association of Metropolitan  
Washington Engineers  
Philippine Australian Sports and Culture, Inc.  
Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii  
Philippine Heritage Band  
Philippine Institute of Certified Public  
Accountants  
Philippine School Bahrain  
Pilapil, Virgilio D.R., M.D.  
Quiblado, Conrada P.  
Racinez, Sr. Olivia, WCW  
Ramos, Angel T.  
Ravindranathan, N., M.D.  
Rizal-Blumentritt Society Austria  
Sabio, Fr. Raymond T.  
Salazar, Lourdes A.  
Search to Involve Pilipino Americans  
Seguritan, Reuben  
Sirmata (Vision) 2004  
Steiner, Mona Lisa L.  
Tahanan (Diocesan Center for Filipino  
Migrants)  
Talangbayan, Francis V., M.D.  
Tendencia, Benita B.  
Tenorio, Pedro P.  
Theresa, Ladeli  
Tomelden, Benjamin Jr. S.  
Tordjman, Paul Semo  
Uy, Emilio Y.  
Vargas, Orlando R.  
Verstraeten, Jean Paul  
Victorian Community in Belgium  
Zamora, Prospero C.



## *Gallery of Presidential Awardees*

### ***Pamana ng Pilipino Award***

Abad, Pacita  
Abella, Manolo I.  
Abinsay, Felipe Jr. P.  
Aguirre, Bayani S.  
Alcantra, Anacleto R.  
Antonio, Camilo C.  
Aquino, Belinda A., Ph.D.  
Aranda, Jacob V., M.D.  
Armit, Amelita Aranas  
Balcos, Ophelia G.  
Banatao, Diosdado P.  
Bebars, Evelyn Panganiban, M.D.  
Bernardo, Rodolfo S., ED.S.  
Bobis, Merinda  
Buhay, Wilfredo R.  
Cadawas, Eliodoro C.  
Camara, Jorge G., M.D.  
Carlota, Lupo T., M.D.  
Castrence, Pura Santillan  
Castro, Salvador P.  
Cayetano, Benjamin J.  
Chai, Ariene Joan  
Chen, Anita B.  
Ciani, Lina L.  
Cielo, Angel B., M.D.  
Clemente, Lilia Calderon  
Cordero, Paciente Jr. A.  
Cordova, Frederic and Dorothy  
De Asis - Benitez, Joanne  
De Guzman, Rodolfo A., M.D.  
Del Rosario, Remedios K.  
Dela Cruz, Cesar  
Diaz, Jose Duddley  
Esclamado, Alejandro A.  
Fernandez, Jovelle Laoag, M.D., Ph.D.  
Fitzsimmons, Edith Dizon  
Flores, Eddie Jr.  
Fuentes, Dante C.  
Garcia, Jorge M., M.D.  
Garcia, Manuel M.  
Garcia, Renato B., MBE  
Goh, Ma. Cynthia J.

### ***Pamana ng Pilipino Award***

Guingona, Michael Patrick L.  
Hagedorn, Jessica  
Haley, Ma. Luisa Mabilangan  
Ho, Anita Magsaysay  
Igarta, Venancio C.  
Kelly, Angelita Castro  
Layosa, Erlinda R.  
Lewis, Loida Nicolas  
Lim, Lenore R.S.  
Llamas, Antonio Garcia (+)  
Mandac, Evelyn L.  
Maulana, Nasser B.  
Medalla, David C.  
Menez, Ermani G.  
Moguel, Milagros K.  
Natividad, Irene  
Naton, Josie C.  
Pagtakhan, Rey D., M.D.  
Palls, Rosendo K.  
Pangilinan, Manuel V.  
Quiambao, Rodolfo C.  
Recana, Mel Red  
Rodriguez, Manuel Sr. A.  
Sagun, Teresita B.  
Salih, Sharifa Zeannat Alih  
Santos, Emmanuel T.  
Soriano, Edward  
Sunico, Raul M.  
Tabalba, Camilo M.  
Tabuena, Romeo V.  
Taguba, Antonio M., Maj. Gen.  
Uy, Constanca S., M.D.  
Velazco, Gundelina A.  
Veloria, Velma R.  
Viola, Arturo T.  
Zwaenepoel, Rev. Paul

### ***Special Presidential Citation***

Filipinas Magazine

## *Directory of 2006 Awardees*

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### LINKAPIL Awardees

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Gloria Ysmael Adams	502 21st Ave. East Seattle, Washington, 98112 USA	TN: (206) 323-0659	gloysmael@aol.com
ALA EH gem e.V.	c/o Juanito M. Endozo President Heckstr. 24, 45239 Essen, Germany  Stapenhorst 40, 45329, Essen, Germany	TN: (49) 201-344-623, 201-8379-880	nito.endozo@t- online.de
Dr. Stella S. Evangelista	4583 Lahser, Bloomfield Heights, Michigan, 48304 USA  7071 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 333, West Bloomfield, Michagan, 48322 USA	TN: (248) 644-8189, (248) 890-0683	STELLA445@aol.com
FEU - Dr. Nicanor Reyes School of Medicine Alumni Foundation	c/o Dr. Arsenio R. Martin President 2001, 9th Avenue, Suite 102, Port Arthur, Jefferson County, Texas, 77642 USA	TN: (409) 985-3207 FN: (409) 985-5233	ArsMartin@AOL.COM
Society of Philippine Surgeons in America	c/o Dr. Edgardo Santos- Barcelona President 41342 Mission Drive, Palmdale, California, 93551 USA	TN: (661) 992-5754 FN: (661) 945-6524	edbarcelonaamd@ verizon.net
Honesto R. Tria	40343 Robin St., Fremont, California, USA	TN: (510) 573-2908 FN: (510) 659-8908	rohaflo@juno.com, info@save-a- tahanan.org



## Directory of 2006 Awardees

### Kaanib ng Bayan Awardees

California Technological Care, Inc.	c/o Demos P. Punsalan and Albert Munroe Co-Founders 1799 Bayshore Blvd. Suite 120, Burlingame, California 94010 USA	TN: (650) 922-3426, (925) 765-2539 FN: (650) 777-0018	avillanueva@farmersagent.com, demospunsalan@ctcglobal.net
CORA Filipino American Task Force / Advisory Board	c/o Melissa Lukin Executive Director 1633 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, California, 94010 USA	TN: (650) 652-0800 ext. 115 FN: (650) 652-0808	Cherieqm@corasupport.org
Misao Hanazaki	1880-5 Mariyatsu, Kisarazu City, Chiba, Japan	TN: (438) 532-787, 533-453 FN: (438) 533-463	nonohana@sweet.ocn.ne.jp
Ma'Ma Children's Center of Norway	c/o Rachel Trovi General Manager P.O. Box 2, No. 3970 Langesund, Norway	TN: (47) 3597-3173 FN: (47) 3597-2004	fr-trov@online.no
Dr. Robert Sommer Martens	Peterskampweg 73, 22089 Hamburg, Germany	TN: (4940)-4607-1391 FN: (4940)-4607-1390	matagumpay@gmx.de
Operation Rainbow Australia Limited	c/o Lloyd S. Zampatti President 21 Fawcett Way, Warwick, Western Australia, 6024 Australia	TN: (08) 9447-5891, 0414-907264 TN: (08) 9447-5891	wilmad@ozemail.com.au
Social Welfare Corporation Raphael Clinic	Dr. You Young Kim Seoul University Medical School Annex 106, 199-1 Dongsoong-dong Jongno-gu, Seoul, 110-510 South Korea	TN: (822) 764-7595, (02) 763-7595 FN: (822) 741-0767	97raphael@hanmail.net

## *Directory of 2006 Awardees*

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### **Banaag Awardees**

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Bagong Kulturang Pinoy, Inc.	c/o Lea A. Sison Executive Director 263 Forest St., North Andover, Massachusetts, 01845 USA	TN: (978) 686-6567	bkp.org@gmail.com
Thelma Garcia Buchholdt	2607 Kona Lane, Anchorage, Alaska 99517 USA  731 I St., Suite 101, Anchorage 99501 USA	TN: (907) 243-1459, 272-6777 FN: (907) 243-2083, 274-1392	thelma@ buchholdt.com
Atty. Lolita L. Farmer, OAM	41 North Rocks Road, North Rocks NSW 2151, Australia  39 North Rocks Road, North Rocks NSW 2151, Australia	TN: (612) 9630-2039, 9630-4448 FN: (612) 9614-0763	lcfarmer@ bigpond.net.au
Filipino American Medical, Inc.	c/o Niles D. Perlas Founder and Chairman P.O. Box 161, New York, NY 10101 USA	TN: (212) 582-3304	info@ifam.org
Filipino Association of Singapore	c/o Ronnie R. Albeus President Afreight Cargo, 03-19 Lucky Plaza, Orchard Rd., Singapore	TN: (65) 9847-0974, 6235-1011	fassg37@yahoo. com.sg
Engr. Roman Ting Go	512 St. Paul St. along Sandoval Avenue, Palatiw, Pasig City  735 Long Hu San Lu, Zeng Cuo An, Shi Ming District, Xiamen, People's Republic of China	TN: (632)251-6370, 251-6373, 0917-9793467 FN: (632) 251-6370, 628-1022	MXIS@public.xm.fj.cn



## *Directory of 2006 Awardees*

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### **Banaag Awardees**

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Iskwelahang Pilipino, Inc.	c/o Patricia A. Yusah President 12 Mudge Way, Bedford Massachusetts, USA	TN: (781) 275-8225 FN: (781) 275-8225	yusah@ipbahay.org
Lahing Kayumanggi	c/o Manolito J. Maggay and Ronaldo Del Barrio 133 Banstock Rd., Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 9JH United Kingdom	TN: (440) 193-277- 9506 FN: (440) 871-242- 9731	info@lahing kayumaggi.com, lito.maggay@ukgateway. net
Vladimir James M. Manuel	14 Franklin St., 403 Rochester, New York, 14604 USA  110 East 59th St., 31/F, New York, New York, 10022 USA	TN: (917) 345-8519, (585) 262-4295 FN: (585) 546-1326	vladimir@manuel.org
Markham Federation of Filipino Canadians	c/o Yolanda G. Ladines Chair MFFC Centre, 1151 Denison St., L3R 3Y4 Markham, Ontario, Canada	TN: (905) 305-1320, (416) 880-7328 FN: (905) 508-1155	ygladines@yahoo.com
Eduardo J. Navarra	2898 Colonial Trail, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-1618 USA	TN: (248) 860-0124, (313) 322-5678 FN: (248) 334-1964	EJN0115@AOL.COM
Philippine American Group of Educators and Surgeons	c/o Vid M. Figueras Chairman 581 Westside Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07304 USA	TN: (201) 333-1232 333,4498 FN: (201) 333-0122	pageshope888 @aol.com
Philippine Cultural Foundation, Inc.	c/o Rudy D. Bautista Chairman Bayanihan Arts Center, 14301 Nine Eagles Drive, Tampa, Florida 33626 USA	TN: (813) 925-1232 FN: (813) 818-9599	info@bayanihanarts center.org

## Directory of 2006 Awardees

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### Banaag Awardees

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Edgardo R. Quinto	Jupiterstrasse 1/938, Bern-3015, Bern, Switzerland	TN: (4131) 941-0788, 359-2181	quintoe@hispeed.ch
	Schosshaldenstrasse 46, Bern-3006, Bern, Switzerland		
Loline A. Luaihati-Reed	9 St. Huberts Close, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 7EN United Kingdom	TN: (44) 7538-80452 FN: (44) 7538-92698	loline_reed@yahoo.co.uk
Justina L. Sales	1/27 Hagadim St, Jerusalem 94590 Israel	TN: (972) 544-539- 151, 0917-5460601 FN: (972) 262-535-71	justman96@ yahoo.com
Dr. Rosario B. Tigno	247-D Emirates Airlines Staff Accommodation, Al Ghusaï, Dubai, United Arab Emirates	TN: (9417) 264-0605, (97150) 645-6163 FN: (9714) 334-7970	tignogbt@emirates. net.ae, tignobt@yahoo.com
	P.O. Box 116008, Dubai, United Arab Emirates		
Tuluyang Pinoy (Philippine Centre Zurich)	c/o Rolando A. Ramos Overall Coordinator Hardstrasse 43, 8004 Zurich, Switzerland	TN: (4144) 401-1037 FN: (4143) 355-1459	tuluyangpinoy@ bluewin.ch
Veterans Equity Center	c/o Luisa M. Antonio Executive Director 1010 Mission St., Suite C, San Francisco, California, 94103 USA	TN: (415) 255-2347 FN: (415) 255-2358	sfvec2000@yahoo.com



## Directory of 2006 Awardees

### Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

Adolovni P. Acosta	310 Riverside Drive, Apt. 313 New York, New York, 10025 USA	TN: (212) 222-2433	adolovni.acosta@ juilliardalumni.net, risi_103@yahoo.com
Engr. Editha M. Ardiente	15314 Bunker Drive Orland Park, Illinois 60462 USA  International Truck and Engine Corporation, 4201 Winfield Road Warrenville, Illinois 60555 USA	TN: (708) 460-2264, (630) 699-2590 FN: (708) 460-2264, (312) 836-3925	edith.ardiente@nav- international.com
Larry L. Asera	164 Robles Way, PMB 252, Vallejo, California, 94591 USA	TN: (707) 644-0888, 246-7727 FN: (707) 648-7198	larry@asera.net
Mayor Ruth U. Asmundson	545 Miller Drive, Davis Yolo County, California, USA  23 Russell Blvd., Davis Yolo County, California, USA	TN: (530) 753-7884, 757-5602 FN: (530) 757-5603	ruasmund@dcn.org, rasmundson@cityof davis.org
Armando V. Baisas	136 Montclair Boulevard, Oatineau, Quebec, Canada  454 Louvier Avenue, East Ottawa, Ontario, Canada	TN: (819) 777-9672, (613) 236-2433	abaisas@ cordobleu.edu
Olegario D. Cantos VII	1200 Crystal Drive, Unit 811 Arlington, Virginia, USA  The White House, Washington, D.C., 20502 USA	TN: (703) 416-0579, (202) 456-5594	ocantos@who. eop.gov, OllieCantos@aol.com

## Directory of 2006 Awardees

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### Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

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|-----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Zenaida F. Cunanan    | 1117 University Drive,<br>Ste. 202 Morgantown,<br>WV 26505<br>/Monongalia, USA                 | TN: (304) 677-5931,<br>363-0602<br>FN: (304) 292-0803                         | zcunanan@<br>galaxyglobal.com |
|                       | 1000 Technology Drive,<br>Ste. 2230, Fairmont,<br>West Virginia 26554/<br>Marion, USA          |   |                               |
| Michael A. Dadiap     | 65-03 180th St., Fresh<br>Meadows, New York,<br>11365 USA                                      | TN: (718) 939-7024,<br>(917) 292-3711<br>FN: (718) 939-024,<br>(516) 869-9720 | Dayoncos@gmail.com            |
|                       | Children's Orchestra<br>Society, 1355 Northern<br>Boulevard, Manhasset,<br>New York, 11030 USA |   |                               |
| Vellie Dietrich-Hall  | 6746 Anders Terrace,<br>Springfield, Virginia,<br>22151 USA                                    | TN: (703) 642-6521,<br>786-3999<br>FN: (703) 642-8425,<br>604-3115            | vellegood@cox.net             |
|                       | 1550 Crystal Drive,<br>Arlington, Virginia,<br>22202 USA                                       |   |                               |
| Dr. Carmen Z. Lamagna | Hse. 45, Rd. 35, Apt. E1,<br>Pristine Palace, Gulshan-<br>2, Dhaka, Bangladesh                 | TN: (8802) 986-2658,<br>881-1749<br>FN: (8802) 881-3233                       | clamagna@aiub.edu             |
|                       | Hse. 58B, Rd. 21, Kemal<br>Ataturk Ave., Banani,<br>Dhaka, Bangladesh                          |   |                               |
| Gregorio B. Macabenta | 662 Carlotta Circle<br>Pinole, California,<br>94564 USA  |   | mmsil3@aol.com                |
|                       | 1580 Bryant Street,<br>Daly City, California,<br>94015 USA                                     |   |                               |



## Directory of 2006 Awardees

### Pamana ng Pilipino Awardees

Dr. Romulo F. Magsino	763 Lindenwood Drive, West Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada  Faculty of Education, Rm. 210A Education Bldg. University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2N2 Canada	TN: (204) 487-1012, 474-9741 FN: (204) 487-1012, 474-7564	magsino@ms. umanitoba.ca
Consortio Don Manuel	81-1039 Kaniha-Alii St., Kapolei, Hawaii 96707 USA	TN: (808) 674-2280, (808) 277-7995 FN: (808) 674-2280, 674-2280	cdonmanuel@aol.com
Dr. Enrique M. Ostrea, Jr.	27720 Old Colony, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48334 USA  Department of Pediatrics, Hutzel Women's Hospital, 3980 John R., Detroit, Michigan, 48201 USA	TN: (248) 761-7324, (313) 745-7230 FN: (248) 851-3995, (313) 993-0198	eostrea@med. wayne.edu
Jeffrey P. Rustia	5 Nevada Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  2 King St., E. Toronto, Ontario, Canada	TN: (416) 260-1498, (416) 203-8822 FN: (416) 260-1809	jrastia@front.tv
Emme A. Tomimbang- Burns	147 Mookua Street Kailua, Hawaii, 96734 USA  1357 Kapiolani Blvd. Suite 1420, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96814 USA	TN: (808) 947-6677 FN: (808) 947-6684	emmeinc@lava.net, emmeinc@hawaii. rr.com

# *The Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

The **COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS** (CFO) is an agency under the Office of the President which was established on 16 June 1980 through *Batas Pambansa* (Republic Act) 79, to strengthen ties with Filipinos overseas and promote their interests in the Philippines and abroad

## **FUNCTIONS OF CFO**

B.P. 79 mandates CFO to:

- Provide advice and assistance to the President and the Congress of the Philippines in the formulation of policies concerning or affecting Filipinos overseas;
- Develop and implement programs to promote the interests and well-being of Filipinos overseas;
- Serve as forum for preserving and enhancing the social, economic, and cultural ties of Filipinos overseas with the Philippine motherland; and
- Provide liaison services to Filipinos overseas with appropriate government and private agencies in the transaction of business and similar ventures in the Philippines.

## **CLIENTELE**

The distinct clientele of CFO includes the following:

- Filipino emigrants and permanent residents abroad;
- Filipinos overseas who have become citizens of other countries;
- Filipino spouses and other partners of foreign nationals leaving the country;
- Descendants of Filipinos overseas as defined in B.P. 79;
- Filipino youth overseas; and
- Exchange Visitor Program participants.

## **CFO PROGRAMS**

The work of CFO is conducted under a program framework of activities to serve Filipino communities overseas. This framework consists of the following four program areas:

### **I. Migrant Social & Economic Integration**

Ensures that all Filipinos migrating to other countries are adequately prepared to meet the practical and psychological challenges attendant to international migration.

Programs include the following:

- Pre-departure registration and orientation seminars
- Post-arrival services and assistance to Filipino nationals in distress
- Public information and community education
- Referrals on overseas inquiries

### **II. Filipino Education & Heritage**

Promotes education programs overseas, and provides younger generations of overseas Filipinos with opportunities to learn Philippine history, culture, language and institutions.

Programs include the following:

- Philippine schools overseas
- *Lakbay-Aral sa Pilipinas*
- Teaching of the Filipino language to children of Filipino migrants
- Internet-based courses on the Filipino language
- Filipiniana libraries and resource centers
- Increasing Filipino cultural visibility overseas

### **III. Filipino Unity & National Development**

Fosters better cohesion and purpose among the various overseas Filipino organizations, for the promotion of their own interests within a broader community of Filipinos.



## *The Commission on Filipinos Overseas*

Programs include the following:

- *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* (LINKAPIL) or Link for Philippine Development
- Publication and distribution of *Filipino Ties* and other information materials
- Awards and recognition for overseas Filipinos
- Exchange Visitor Program

#### **IV. Policy Development & Data Banking**

Provides a continuing study and review of the economic, social, legal and administrative environment that have a bearing on the status of overseas Filipinos.

Programs include the following:

- Policy review and formulation
- Advocacy and lobby efforts for the establishment of NCLEX testing center in the Philippines, full equity rights for Filipino veterans, and portability of U.S. Medicare benefits
- Studies and researches on absentee voting, retention of citizenship, anti-trafficking in persons, recognition of skills and professional competencies, promotion of Filipino culture, and business and investment opportunities for overseas Filipinos
- Annual stock estimation of Filipinos overseas

- Conduct of conferences and symposia on migration
- Data banking and computerization programs

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The CFO is headed by a Chairman with cabinet rank, and representatives of the following departments:

- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Trade and Industry
- Department of Labor and Employment
- Department of Education
- Department of Justice
- Department of Tourism
- Office of the Press Secretary
- CFO Executive Director

The CFO is supported by a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director. It consists of five (5) offices:

- Migrant Integration and Education Office (MIEO)
- Projects Management Office (PMO)
- Planning, Research and Policy Office (PRPO)
- Management Information System Office (MISO)
- Administrative and Finance Office (AFO)

#### **COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS**

Citigold Center, 1345 Pres. Quirino Avenue

corner *Dasmarinas Highway (South Superhighway)*

Manila, Philippines 1007

Tel. Nos. (02) 561-8321

Fax No. (02) 561-8332

Email: cfodfa@info.com.ph

Website: www.cfo.gov.ph

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