The CAVALIER
COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY
A PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.
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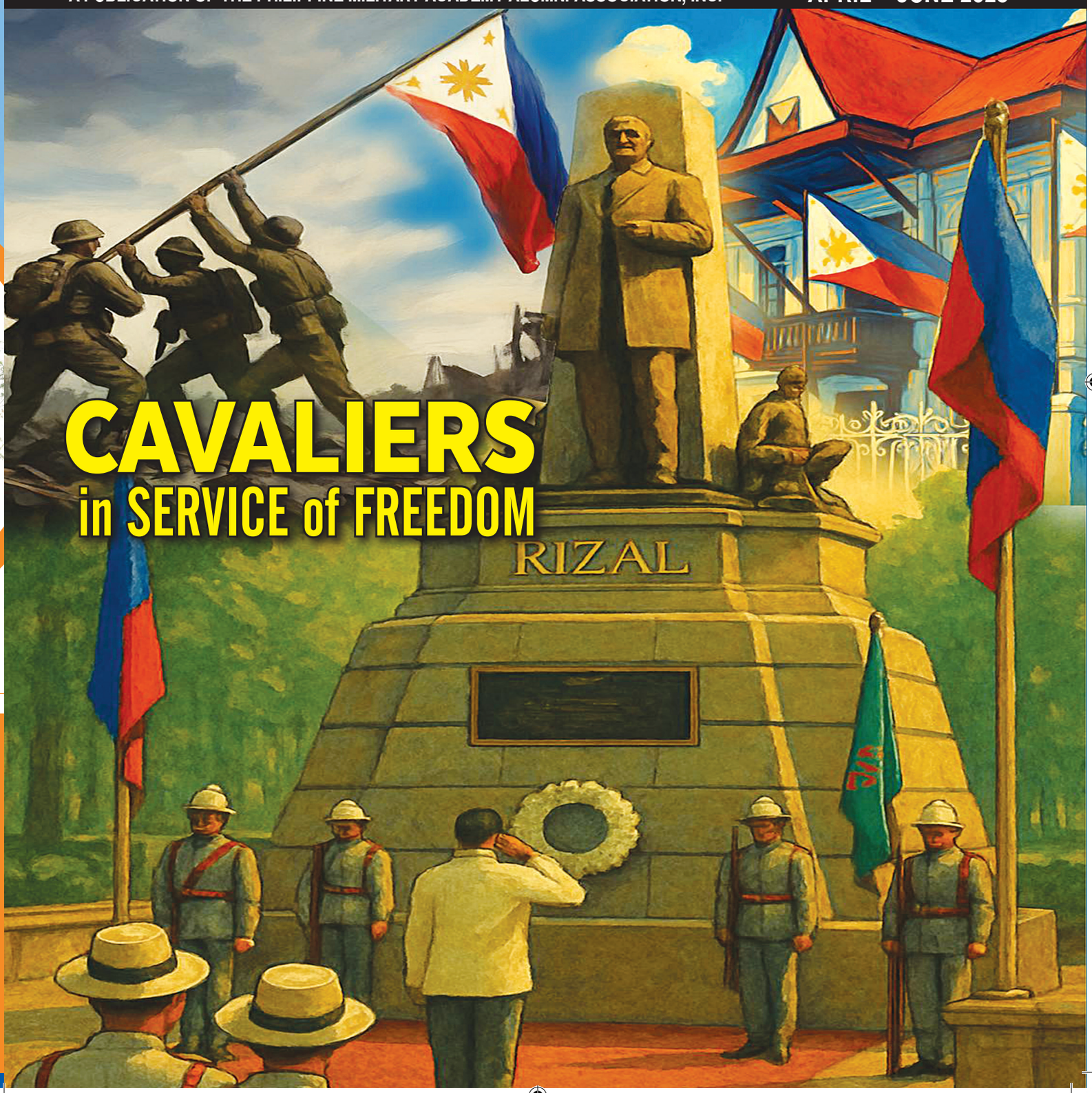
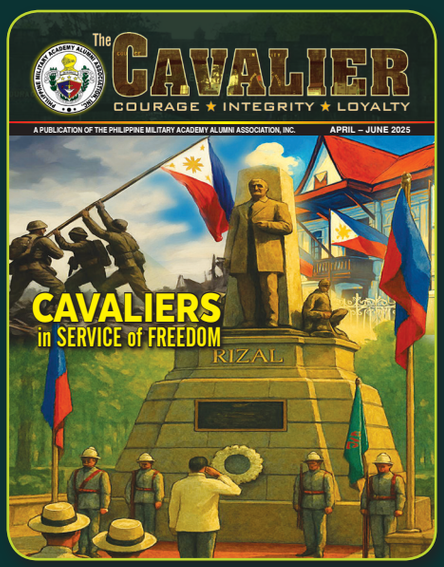


CAVALIERS in SERVICE of FREEDOM

ABOUT THE COVER



With the theme "Cavaliers in Service of Freedom," the cover emphasizes the enduring values of courage, integrity, and loyalty that define the PMA alumni's commitment to serving the country and preserving its hard-won liberty.

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The CAVALIER

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The CAVALIER *Magazine is a professional journal published quarterly by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), to provide a general forum for the alumni of the Philippine Military Academy. The views and opinions expressed in articles and contributions within Cavalier Magazine are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance or endorsement of the PMAAAI. The Association disclaims any responsibility for the content provided by individual contributors.*

Readers are encouraged to form their own opinions based on the information presented and are advised to consider diverse perspectives.

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76

Cavaliers in Service of Freedom

Brothers and Sisters of the Long Gray Line,

As we turn the pages of this quarter's Cavaliers Magazine, let our hearts beat in unison with the enduring creed that binds us all - our unwavering commitment to the Service of Freedom.

This sacred ideal, forged into the very soul of the Philippine Military Academy, continues to burn brightly through the actions and sacrifices of our Cavaliers. From the hallowed grounds of Fort del Pilar to every post where our graduates serve, the call to defend our nation's sovereignty echoes with steadfast resolve.

"Cavaliers in Service of Freedom" is more than just this quarter's theme - it is the essence of who we are. It reflects the deep patriotism that runs through our veins, the leadership honed by relentless training, and our enduring dedication to upholding the liberties of our fellow Filipinos. Every Cavalier - whether donning the uniform at the frontlines or contributing expertise behind the scenes - embodies this sacred trust. They are living testaments to the Academy's solemn oath to serve the nation.

How do we, as Cavaliers, live up to this profound responsibility? By embracing the twin pillars of our tradition: unity and excellence. Unity - our enduring bond, forged through shared PMA experiences - makes us one formidable force, regardless of class or service branch. Excellence - our constant pursuit - drives us to give our utmost in every endeavor, making our service not only effective but honorable and sincere.

Let us honor the bravery of Cavaliers who stand firm against threats to our territorial integrity. Let us also recognize the quiet strength of those working behind the scenes - whose skill, commitment, and silent sacrifices form the bedrock of our national defense. Each role, no matter how visible or humble, upholds the spirit of the Cavalier in service of freedom.

Within these pages, you will find stories of valor, principled leadership, and steadfast dedication. These narratives are more than mere recollections - they are reminders of the sacred responsibility we carry as graduates of this revered institution. May we draw strength and inspiration from the lives and legacies of our fellow Cavaliers, and with renewed conviction, rededicate ourselves to the ideals that bind us together and propel us forward.

The service of freedom is not static - it demands that we grow, adapt, and rise to meet the ever-evolving challenges facing our nation. By forging unity among ourselves and pursuing excellence in all we do, we, the Cavaliers, will remain the vigilant guardians of our sovereignty and the resolute champions of our nation's most cherished freedom. It is our enduring oath.



President's Corner

CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO '96

Steadfast in Freedom: Cavaliers Leading with Unity and Excellence

My warmest greetings to all Cavaliers across the country and around the world!

As we enter another pivotal quarter in our journey as an organization, I am honored to address you through the President's Corner of the Cavalier Magazine. It is both a privilege and solemn responsibility to serve as President of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), and I thank you for the trust and support you continue to extend to our leadership team.

The overarching theme for our association this year - Fostering Unity and Excellence - resonates deeply with the challenges and aspirations we face as a community. Unity is the foundation of any strong organization, especially one composed of leaders trained to stand firm amid adversity. Excellence, on the other hand, is the enduring hallmark of the PMA graduate - a product of rigorous training, unwavering discipline, and a lifelong commitment to honor and service.

In this second quarter of 2025, we also highlight a timely theme: "*Cavaliers in Service of Freedom*." As we prepare to celebrate our nation's Independence Day, we reflect on the enduring legacy of service, courage, and patriotism that Cavaliers have consistently demonstrated in upholding the sovereignty of our country.

This tribute to our fellow alumni is more than a ceremonial nod to history – it is a call to remember, to honor, and to emulate. From the battlefields of the past to the frontlines of today's modern challenges, Cavaliers have always stood as sentinels of freedom. Whether in uniform or as civilian leaders, they have shown what it means to live a life anchored in love of country, rooted in integrity, and driven by a deep sense of mission.

The stories featured in this issue of Cavalier Magazine are powerful reminders of that legacy. They bring to light the courage and quiet heroism of our alumni - from those who led decisive military operations to those who served in diplomatic, humanitarian, or civil capacities with distinction and humility. These narratives highlight not only battlefield valor, but also the evolving, multidimensional role Cavaliers play in today's world.

Indeed, in a time when freedom is being tested in new and complex ways - by disinformation, economic inequity, foreign encroachment, or political discord - the service of Cavaliers remains as vital and relevant as ever. Freedom is not static. It must be continually defended, nurtured, and refined. And this requires leadership, collaboration, and the moral compass that PMA has long instilled in its graduates.

It is in this context that our core mission - to foster unity and excellence - becomes not just a goal, but a necessity.

Across PMAAAI, we are seeing more chapters and committees engaging in open, constructive communication, bridging gaps and strengthening our institutional fabric. We are witnessing greater coordination among classes, increased participation in outreach, and a stronger sense of belonging among members. This renewed spirit of collaboration is laying the groundwork for a more inclusive and responsive association - one that truly represents the voice and values of all its members.

Our pursuit of excellence must go hand in hand with unity. We cannot be content with past accomplishments. Instead, we must continuously strive to innovate, improve, and adapt - just as the threats to our nation continue to evolve. Excellence in service, leadership, and in how we govern ourselves must remain our guiding principles.

We have introduced reforms and enhanced transparency in decision-making. We have embraced technology to improve access and participation. And more importantly, we are actively listening - to your ideas, concerns, and aspirations for what PMAAAI can and should become.

To our younger alumni, I extend a special invitation: become more involved. Your voices, experiences, and energy are vital to the future of this organization. Let us create more opportunities for mentorship, intergenerational collaboration, and mutual learning - so the strength of our association reflects the strength of all its members, across all classes and chapters.

To our senior members and veterans of service: your wisdom and example continue to inspire. The torch you carry is one we must pass on thoughtfully and proudly. Your stories - like those we feature in this issue - serve as both guide posts and beacons for those who follow.

And to all Cavaliers, wherever you are or whatever you do, know that you are part of something larger than yourself. PMAAAI is not just an association - it is a living network of service, solidarity, and shared purpose. As Cavaliers in service of freedom, we are bound not only by our alma mater, but by the ideals we swore to uphold when we first took our oath.

Let us move forward with unity as our strength, and excellence as our standard. Let us remember that true freedom is not only about sovereignty - it is about ensuring every Filipino lives with dignity, security, and opportunity. As graduates of the Philippine Military Academy, we are uniquely positioned to help realize that vision.

This Independence Day, may we honor our heroes not just in word, but in deed. May we rededicate ourselves to the service of country and the defense of democratic ideals. And may we, as Cavaliers, continue to be steadfast guardians of freedom in all its forms. It is for our future forged together.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment, and may our collective efforts continue to uplift our association, our nation, and the generations of Cavaliers yet to come.

Mabuhay ang PMAAAI. Mabuhay ang mga Cavaliers. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR) PMAAAI AWARDS POLICY

Pursuant to PMAAAI Board Resolution No. 25-15, the PMAAAI Board of Directors during its regular Board meeting on 25 June 2025 approved and promulgated the following Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the PMAAAI Awards Policy which shall take effect immediately:

I. POLICY STATEMENT

PMAAAI shall confer the following awards in accordance with its By-Laws and these IRR:

- **Cavalier Award**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award**
- **Valor Award**
- **Outstanding Achievement Award**

These awards recognize exemplary performance and service of regular members of PMAAAI.

II. AWARD CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

1. Cavalier Award

Conferred annually to up to twenty (20) outstanding regular members for exemplary performance in the last five (5) years in the following categories:

- **Command and Administration** – For commanders of AFP/PMP/PCG units with TO rank of O-7 and above (excluding CSAFP, CPNP, CPCG, and AFP Major Service Commanders) who led units with exceptional effectiveness and strategic outcomes.

- **Staff Function** – For staff officers in AFP/PNP/PCG units with the rank of O5 to O6 for outstanding performance in staff roles, recognizing their significant contributions to planning, coordination, and support functions that enable operational success and institutional advancement.

- **Operations:** For officers with the rank of O5 to O6 who have demonstrated outstanding operational performance in their respective warfare specialty or field, as defined below:
  - **Army Operations:** Ground combat operations, including Infantry, Armor, Artillery, Engineers, and Air Defense. This includes integration of enabling capabilities such as Cyber Operations, Electronic Warfare (EW), Information Operations, and Civil-Military Engagement.
  - **Navy Operations:** Maritime warfare specialties such as Surface Warfare, Submarine Warfare, Amphibious Assaults, Naval Aviation, and Maritime Interdiction, including those supporting operations through Cyber and EW domains.
  - **Air Force Operations:** Air domain operations including Air Combat, Strategic and Tactical Airlift, Air Defense, and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), with operational integration of Cyber and EW capabilities in joint settings.
  - **Police Operations:** Internal security and law enforcement functions, including Counter-Terrorism, Criminal and Intelligence Investigations, Crowd Control, Crisis Response, Cybercrime Prevention, and Community Policing.
  - **Coast Guard Operations:** Maritime safety and security operations, including Search and Rescue (SAR), Environmental Protection, Maritime Law Enforcement, Anti-Smuggling, Port and Coastal Security, and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response (HADR).
  - **Special Operations:** Officers from any service branch (PA, PN, PAF, PCG, PNP) who are specially trained and qualified in high-risk, precision missions. These include Direct Action, Counter-Terrorism, Hostage Rescue, Special Reconnaissance, Unconventional Warfare, and Strategic Targeting under joint or independent operational contexts.

- **Private Enterprise** – for entrepreneurs or managers in the private sector who excelled through ethical leadership and delivered productive outcomes with community impact.

- **Public Administration** – two (2) awardees for government or GOCC service who made distinguished contributions through public policy, reform, and service excellence

- **Alumni Affairs** – given to alumni whose initiatives measurably advanced PMA alumni programs, engagement, and legacy-building.

- **Special Fields** – recognizes alumni who achieved national or global distinction in non-defense sectors such as sports, arts, literature, music, science & technology, culture or other meritorious fields

Additional Cavalier Awards may be conferred to **Outstanding Junior Officers (O-1 to O-3)** in:

- Army Operations
- Naval Operations
- Air Operations
- Police Operations
- Coast Guard Operations
- Special Operations

2 **Lifetime Achievement Award**

Conferred to members who:

- Have rendered at least fifty (50) years of exemplary, unblemished service
- Have served as head of a government or non-government organization for at least two (2) years
- Have been a recipient of any of the other association award

3 **Outstanding Achievement Award**

For members appointed or elected to the following high national positions:

- President, Vice President, Senator, Speaker of the House of Representatives
- Ambassador, Department Secretary
- AFP Chief of Staff, PNP Chief, PCG Commandant
- AFP Major Service Commander

4 **Valor Award**

Conferred to members who are **recipients of the Medal of Valor**

III. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the **Cavalier Award**, a nominee must:

- Be a regular member in good standing
- Uphold the PMA motto: Courage, Integrity, Loyalty
- Maintain an honorable and unblemished record, validated by official sources

IV. DISQUALIFICATIONS

Disqualified from receiving the **Cavalier Award** are:

- Self-nominations
- Previous awardees in the same category within the last ten (10) years
- Current members of the PMAAAI Board of Directors, Awards Committee, and Chapter Board of Directors (PA, PN, PAF, PCG, PNP, PMARAI)

V. SELECTION PROCESS

A. Nomination Process

- Deadline: Last working day of July of each Association Year (AY)
- Nominators: Individual Members, Classes, or Chapter Presidents
- Required Submissions:
  - By Nominators:
    - Nomination letter to the PMAAAI Chapters (PA, PN, PAF, PCG, PNP, and PMARAI)
    - Supporting documents:
      - Curriculum Vitae
      - Authenticated record of achievements (last 5 years)
      - Justification letter
  - By Chapters:
    - Letter of Recommendation to the PMAAAI (Attn: Awards Committee)
      - Chapter resolution and minutes of deliberations (including Matrix of Deliberation)
      - Certificate of Good Standing (PMAAAI)
      - Certificate of No Pending Case (Ombudsman/Sandiganbayan/ appropriate authorities)
      - 100-word write-up for *The Cavalier Magazine*
      - One hard copy and soft copy email to cavalier.award@pmaaa.org

B. Chapter Search Committees

- Each Chapter shall form a 5–7-member search committee:
  - At least one (1) company-grade officer
  - At least four (4) field-grade officers
  - Preferably based in Metro Manila, Region III, or Region IV
- Submit results of deliberation to the PMAAAI Board (Attn: Awards Committee) with:
  - Two (2) candidates for chapter-specific Cavalier Awards
  - One (1) candidate for common categories
  - Not later than 1st week of October of each Association Year (AY)

C. PMAAAI Awards Committee

- The Committee shall be composed of the Presidents of the PA, PAF, PN, PCG and PCAI Chapters; the Chairman of the PMARAI Awards Committee; and shall be chaired by a designated PMAAAI Board Member.

- Functions:
  - Evaluate eligibility and merit
  - Publish initial nominees in the 3rd Quarter issue of *The Cavalier Magazine*

- Submit final list of Primary and Alternate candidates by November

D. Rating and Evaluation

- Criteria:
  - Contribution to PMA/PMAAAI prestige
  - Impact on AFP/PNP/PCG missions
  - Contribution to national/community welfare
- Justification is required for:
  - Scores of 100% or below 70%
  - Score discrepancies greater than 10 points
- Evaluation shall follow the attached **Quantitative and Qualitative Rating Matrix**

E. Final Deliberation

- Final list (Principal and Alternate Nominees) shall be submitted to the Board
- Board convenes in December to vote
- Awardees must obtain a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote (13 of 19 members)
- Results to be published in the 1st Quarter issue of *The Cavalier*

VI. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

- **Cavalier and Lifetime Achievement Awards**: Presented during the PMAAAI Alumni Homecoming Parade (February)
- **Outstanding Achievement Award**: Presented during the Annual General Membership Meeting (January)
- **Valor Award**: Presented during a special awarding ceremony

VII. TIMELINE FOR EACH ASSOCIATION YEAR (AY)

DATE	ACTIVITY
March – July	Search for nominees
Last working day of July	Deadline of submission of nominees to Chapters
August - September	Chapter deliberations
First week of October	Submission of nominees to Awards Committee and Publication
October - November	Awards Committee deliberations
Second week of November	Submission of recommendations to the Board thru the Execom
First week of December	Board deliberation

Quantitative and Qualitative Board Rating Matrix

Objective Assessment – Total Score: 20 points max

Category	Basis	Scoring Guide / Notes	Score (1–5)
1. Highest Command Position Held	Rank or level of command attained	5 – National Level Command 4 – Regional Command 3 – Brigade/Equivalent 2 – Battalion/Company 1 – Staff/Administrative	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
2. Military Awards Received	Number and level of official awards	Weighted by award type: 5 – Medal of Valor 4 – Distinguished Service Star 3 – Gold Cross, etc. Total score reflects **cumulative weighted value**	[ ] (sum)
3. Educational Attainment	Military and civilian academic qualifications	5 – PhD or War College Graduate 4 – Master's Degree 3 – CGSC 2 – Advanced Specialized Mil Trng 1– Short-term/basic courses	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
4. Service Reputation Score	Peer reviews, commendations, ratings	Based on performance ratings or normalized average from peer/ executive evaluations Scale of 1–5	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Total Objective Score: _____ / 20

Interview Evaluation Form

Subjective Assessment – Score each category from 1 to 5

Category	What to Look For	Score (1–5)
1. Communication Skills	Clarity, confidence, coherence, and professionalism in verbal expression	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
2. Leadership Style	Self-awareness, decision-making approach, and ability to influence and inspire others	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
3. Impact & Contribution	Specific achievements with measurable or high-impact outcomes	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
4. Innovation & Problem-Solving	Examples of creativity, initiative, adaptability, and introducing improvements	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
5. Integrity & Values	Ethical reasoning, consistency in behavior, and value-based decision-making	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
6. Future Contribution	Intent and potential to serve in community or leadership roles after retirement or award	☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Total Score: _____ / 30

Evaluator Comments (optional):



PMAAAI Holds Turnover of Chairmanship Ceremony for AY 2025–2026

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) officially welcomed its new Board of Trustees for Association Year 2025–2026 in a turnover ceremony held on 28 February 2025 at the Veterans Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.



Outgoing Chairman and CEO Cav Raul S Gonzales ’75 formally passed the baton of leadership to Cav Ramon T Punzalan ’76, the incoming Chairman and CEO. The event marked the culmination of a year of dedicated service by the outgoing board and the beginning of a new chapter under the incoming leadership.

Other newly inducted officers include:

Cav Ricardo A David, Jr ’77 – Vice Chairman
Cav Pedro S Agapito ’96 – President and COO
Cav Wilfredo B Manalang III ’97 – Vice President
Cav Jose Mari F Torrenueva II ’96 - Corporate Secretary
Cav Michael G Barrion ’97 - Treasurer
Cav Inocencio C Rosario Jr ’96 - Corporate Auditor

Other members of the Board are:

Cav Fortunato C Corachea ’56
Cav Manuel P Espejo ’66
Cav Magtanggol B Gatdula ’76
Cav Robert A Empedrad ’86
Cav Westrimundo D Obinque ’92
Cav Stephen L Cabanlet ’96
Cav Denis S Mangcoy ’96
Cav Jesselito L Castro ’98
Cav Carlos Ely C Tingson ’06
Cav Joey L Olaguer ’16, and
Cav Jennymor C Amod ’17

The ceremony commenced with the singing of the National Anthem, followed by a Cavalier Prayer and Pledge led by Cav George M Bergonia ’95, outgoing PMAAAI President. Cav Sidney N Villaflor ‘92, delivered the welcome remarks.

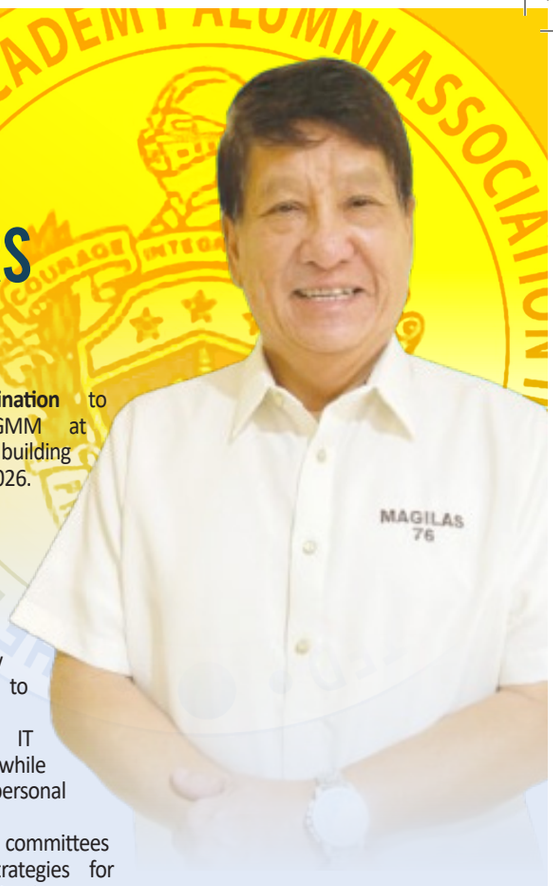
During the awarding portion of the program, members of the outgoing PMAAAI Board of Trustees for AY 2024–2025 were honored with Plaques of Distinction in recognition of their exemplary service. The PMAAAI Secretariat and PCAI were also recognized for their support and contributions. Former Chairmen Cav Querol ’73 and Cav Abinoja ’74 were each presented with a memento titled *“The Chairman.”*

The formal turnover segment included the reading and signing of the Termination Order for Cav Gonzales and the Assumption Order for Cav Punzalan. Symbolic elements such as the presentation of the PMAAAI Flag and Financial Reports were conducted, along with the giving of mementos.

The event’s highlight was the message of the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Cav Rommel Francisco D Marbil ’91, Chief of the Philippine National Police, who was represented by Cav Robert I Rodriguez ’91 who expressed his congratulations and reaffirmed the PNP’s support to the incoming board. He also received a commemorative memento in appreciation of his participation.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the PMA Alma Mater Song, followed by a fellowship lunch. CDR Enrol N Dela Cruz ’06 served as the event emcee.

CHAIRMAN'S GUIDANCE for AY 2025-2026 to BOARD MEMBERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS



As we embark on a new association year, I am providing the following guidance to ensure the successful implementation of our programs and activities. Our collective commitment, teamwork, and adherence to these directives will be critical in achieving our strategic objectives.

1. UPHOLDING OUR CORE VALUES

PMAAAI is built on **courage, integrity, and loyalty**. Every initiative must reflect these values, fostering an inclusive and positive environment that upholds the high standards of our association.

2. PROMOTING UNITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Our theme for the year**, "Fostering Unity and Excellence: Strengthening Bonds and Advancing Traditions**,"underscores the importance of collaboration. Open communication and coordinated efforts across all committees and chapters will be key to our success.

3. CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Committee chairs must:

- Ensure clarity in all communications with the board and members.
- Provide regular updates on activities, challenges, and adjustments.
- Maintain transparency in financial matters and event planning.
- Keep stakeholders informed through meetings, newsletters, or emails.

4. TIMELY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

All committees must adhere to agreed-upon timelines for their programs. Key events include:

- **Search for Cavalier Awardees** – March to December 2025
- **Cavaliers' Cup** (formerly Indoor Sports) – May to June 2025
- **Game of the Cavaliers** – October 2025
- **Inauguration of PMAAAI Building** – 01 December 2025
- **Christmas Party** – December 2025
- **Family Sportsfest** – 17 January 2026
- **AGMM** – 24 January 2026
- **Homecoming** – 21 February 2026

Committee Responsibilities:

- Plan early for promotion, coordination, and follow-up.
- Deliver programs on time, within budget, and at expected quality standards.

Chapter Responsibilities (Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, PNP and PMARAI):

- Actively participate in all activities.
- Contribute to the association's initiatives.
- Ensure respective Presidents are part of the Executive Committee (EXECOM).

5. ALIGNMENT OF PROGRAMS WITH PMAAAI OBJECTIVES

All programs and activities of **Chapters, the Council of PMA Class Presidents (CPCP), Affiliate Foundations, and Ancillary Organizations** must align with **PMAAAI's mission** of fostering camaraderie, professional development, and service to the alumni community.

6. OVERSIGHT OF PMAAAI BUILDING FIT-OUT

The PMAAAI Building is a major undertaking. The board must ensure:

- **Timely completion** of the fit-out.
- **Financial transparency** and cost efficiency.
- **Proper coordination** to host the AGMM at the new building on 24 January 2026.

7. STRENGTHENING MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

With only **51% of members in good standing**, we must actively implement initiatives to enhance engagement:

- Strengthen IT infrastructure while safeguarding personal security.
- Encourage all committees to propose strategies for increasing participation.

8. ENSURING POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

The association remains **non-partisan**. While members may engage in civic affairs, PMAAAI will not **endorse or oppose** any political party or candidate. Our focus remains on the **professional and social well-being** of our members.

9. PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY

All activities and programs must be inclusive, ensuring engagement across **active and retired members**. Family-oriented events such as **Family Day** and the **Christmas Party** will further strengthen our community bonds.

10. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

All committees must:

- Operate **within approved budgets**.
- Seek approval for **unplanned expenditures**.
- Ensure **transparency in fundraising and financial initiatives**.

11. FEEDBACK AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Regular evaluations must be conducted to identify areas for improvement. Committees should remain agile and open to adjustments to maximize impact.

12. LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Committee chairs are expected to:

- Lead with **responsibility and vision.**
- Make decisions **in the best interest** of PMAAAI.
- Foster a **collaborative environment** where all members feel valued.

Conclusion

I have great confidence in the capabilities of this board and our committees. Through our collective efforts, **AY 2025-2026** will be a year of **meaningful engagement, growth, and success.**

For further clarification or support, please reach out to me directly. Let us move forward with **enthusiasm and dedication.**

Game of the Cavaliers - Homecoming Edition:
A Successful Celebration of Camaraderie and Competition

The Game of the Cavaliers (GOC) – Homecoming Edition was successfully held on February 14, 2025, at the prestigious Camp John Hay Golf Club in Baguio City. This highly anticipated event, organized as part of the PMA Homecoming celebrations, brought together Cavaliers from different classes for a day of fellowship, friendly competition, and the enduring spirit of sportsmanship.

A Day of Golf and Brotherhood

With a shotgun tee-off at 6:30 a.m. and 12 n.n., the tournament featured an impressive turnout of players eager to test their skills on the challenging but scenic fairways of Camp John Hay. The event followed the System 36 scoring format, ensuring a fair and exciting competition for all participants. The day was more than just competition but also about strengthening the bonds of brotherhood that Cavaliers share. The picturesque surroundings and perfect golfing weather further elevated the experience, making the event enjoyable for both seasoned golfers and newcomers alike.

Champions and Standout Performances

After an exhilarating round of golf, the following players and teams emerged victorious:

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Members:

Category	Champion	Score
Lowest Gross	Cav Ramil Daet '03	Gross 65
Lowest Net	Cav Manny Velasco '85	Net 64 with 8 Pars

Category	Champion	Runner Up
Class A	Cav Roel Obusan '86 Gross: 72 HDCP: 8 Net: 64 with 6 Pars	Cav Rwin Pagkalinawan '88 Gross: 75 HDCP: 11 Net: 64
Class B	Cav Renato Capili '03 Gross: 84 HDCP: 17 Net: 67 with 4 Pars	Cav Rey Luna '88 Gross: 82 HDCP: 17 Net: 67
Class C	Cav Dave Diciano '85 Gross: 85 HDCP: 18 Net: 67	Cav Llewillyn Banaag '91 Gross: 86 HDCP: 18 Net: 68

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Guests:

Category	Champion	Runner Up
Men	Vic Marrion (G) Gross: 79 HDCP 12 Net: 67	Lowell Hayno (G) Gross: 86 HDCP: 18 Net: 68
Ladies	Tanya Marin (G) Gross: 85 HDCP: 17 Net: 68	Aubrey De Vera (G) Gross: 85 HDCP: 16 Net: 69



SPECIAL AWARDS

Category	Champion	Distance
Longest Drive	Cav Ryan Samonte '06	289 yrd
Most Accurate Drive	Aldrin Alcantara (G)	Touched the Line
Nearest to the Pin	Cav Roel Obusan '86	35 cm

EAGLE AWARDS

Name	Hole Number
Cav Manny Velasco '85	12
Cav Loumer Bernabe '87	16
Cav Roel Obusan '86	16
Cav Rwin Pagkalinawan '88	16
Ernie Sabarre (G)	12

TEAM AWARDS

Category	Champion	Runner Up
Team	Class 2003	Class 1985

Gratitude and Looking Ahead

A heartfelt thank you to all Cavaliers who participated and supported the event. Special appreciation goes to our sponsors, partners, and the hardworking organizing committee for making the tournament a resounding success. With the overwhelming positive feedback from participants, the Game of the Cavaliers continues to be a cornerstone event of the PMA Homecoming. Plans are already in motion for the next edition, with expectations of an even bigger and more exciting tournament ahead. As we wrap up another successful GOC, we look forward to more opportunities to engage, compete, and uphold the traditions that define the Cavalier spirit.

PHOTO GALLERY: GAME OF THE CAVALIERS - HOMECOMING EDITION



PMAAAI Holds Annual Alumni Homecoming



Mr. Alejandro Tengco with the PMAAAI Board of Directors

The 2025 PMA Alumni Homecoming was held on 15 February 2025, at the Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. Approximately 2,000 cavaliers attended, and the Association Awards were conferred to outstanidng cavaliers who have brought honor not only to themselves but also to their Association. The PMA graduates marched at the hallowed grounds of PMA's Borromeo Field, headed by Cav Raul S Gonzales '75, PMAAAI Chairman and CEO. Invited guest of honor and speaker was Alejandro Tengco, PAGCOR Chairman and CEO.

This year's Cavalier Awardees included: Cavs Alan M Javier '92 for Command and Administration; Joel A Inacay '94 for Staff Functions; Joseph Jeremias Cirilo C Dator III '97 for Special Operations; Louie G Dema-Ala '99 for Army Operations (Senior Category); Nursaif N Radia '14 for Army Operations - Junior Officer Category; Omar Fridzkhan S Alpa '00 for Air Operations - Senior Officer Category; Lawrence B De Castro '10 for Air Operations - Junior Officer Category; Homer D Gonzalez



Mr Tengco administers the oathtaking of incoming PMAAAI Board of Directors



The Association awardees for AY 2024-2025

'98 for Naval Operations - Senior Officer Category; Dwight Kent D Payosalan '15 for Naval Operations - Junior Officer Category; Sidney N Villaflor '92 for Police Operations; and Rommel A Supangan '95 for Coast Guard Operations. For Special Field: Retired Category the award was given to Cavs Tiburcio N Fusilero '71 - Special Field on Environmental Protection and Pedrito S Cadungog '75 – Special Field on Education Category. Cav Romulo II DG Dimayuga likewise was a recipient of Special Field in Active Service Category.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred to Cavs Ernesto Clement L Sacro '64, Eduardo Ma R Santos '66, Isaias F Begonia '69, and Marciano A Paynor Jr '71. Likewise, the Outstanding Achievement Award was also conferred to Cavs Eduardo M Año '83, Carlito G Galvez, Jr '85, Arthur M Cordura '90, Rommel Francisco D Marbil '91, and Jose Ma Ambrosio Q Ezpeleta '92. The Valor Award (Posthumous) was awarded to 1Lt Dhelljhun C Evangelista '06.

During the Alumni Homecoming, the PMAAAI also gave special recognition to members of PMA Class of 1965 as Diamond Jubilarians; Class 1975 as Golden Jubilarians; and Class 2000 as Silver Jubilarians.

Host classes for this year were Class 1995, as Lead Host Class; Classes 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020.



Cav Eduardo Ma. R Santos '66 with his wife receives his Lifetime Achievement Award from Cav Gonzales, PMAAAI Chairman and CEO and Mr. Tengco



Donning of the diamond medallions on the Bigatin (Class 1965) by their respective ladies.









PMAAAI LEADERSHIP TEAM (AY 2025-2026)

The Officers



CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN ’76
Chairman and CEO



CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR ’77
Vice Chairman



CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO ‘96
President and COO



CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III ‘97
Vice President



CAV JOSE MARI F TORRENUEVA II ’96
Corporate Secretary



CAV MICHAEL G BARRION ‘97
Treasurer



CAV INOCENCIO C ROSARIO JR ’96
Corporate Auditor

PMAAAI LEADERSHIP TEAM (AY 2025-2026)

Committee Chair



CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO '96
Executive Committee



CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR '77
Awards Committee



CAV MAGTANGGOL B GATDULA '76
Professionalism & Ethics Committee



CAV ROBERT A EMPEDRAD '86
Membership & Welfare Committee



CAV MICHAEL G BARRION '97
Finance Committee



CAV DENNIS S MANGCOY '96
Convention & Homecoming Committee



CAV INOCENCIO C ROSARIO JR '96
Ways and Means Committee



CAV STEPHEN L CABANLET '96
Sports & Fellowship Committee



CAV JESSELITO L CASTRO '98
Public Relations Committee

PMAAAI LEADERSHIP TEAM (AY 2025-2026)

The Directors



CAV FORTUNATO C CORACHEA '56
CPCP Representative



CAV MANUEL P ESPEJO '66
CPCP Representative



CAV MAGTANGGOL B GATDULA '76
Chairman, CPCP



CAV ROBERT A EMPEDRAD '86
CPCP Representative



CAV WESTRIMUNDO D OBINQUE '92
PNP Representative



CAV STEPHEN L CABANLET '96
Navy Representative



CAV DENNIS S MANGCOY '96
Air Force Representative



CAV ALDRIN F OREJUDOS '96
CPCP Representative



CAV JESSELITO L CASTRO '98
PNP Representative



CAV CARLOS ELY C TINGSON '06
CPCP Representative



CAV JOEY L OLAGUER '16
CPCP Representative



CAV JENNYMOR C AMOD '17
Army Representative



CAV EDGARDO D TAMAYO '80
President, PETFI



CAV ERICSON T VELASQUEZ '85
President, PFTJI



CAV LEO ANGELO D LEUTERIO '88
Chairman, PMAFI

PMAAAI LEADERSHIP TEAM (AY 2025-2026)

Ex-Officio Directors



CAV RAUL S GONZALES '75
FORMER CHAIRMAN, PMAAAI



CAV ROLANDO G BORJA '82
PRESIDENT, CAVLA



CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90
SUPERINTENDENT, PMA

Ad Hoc Committees



CAV ROLANDO G BORJA '82
Chairman, Ad hoc Committee on
Bylaws and Amendments and ACES



CAV ERICSON T VELASQUEZ '85
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee on Merger



CAV DANILO ESTRAÑERO '94,
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee
on the PMAAAI Building

Administrative



CAV MARCES T GAYAT '93
Editor-In-Chief, CAV MAG



CAV CARLOS ELY C TINGSON '06
IT Administrator



CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85
Executive Director

PMAAAI Strengthens Ties with Philippine Army; Convenes Board Meeting 25-03

22 May 2025, HPA, Taguig City

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), led by Chairman CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76, paid a courtesy call on LTGEN ROY M GALIDO PA, reaffirm the Association's strong partnership with the Philippine Army.

Chairman Punzalan expressed gratitude for the Army's ongoing support, especially the deployment of RESCOM and NCRRCDG personnel for PMAAAI Building security and the technical assistance extended by various Army units including OACE, OG4, AREC, HHSG, the Army Regiment, and the Judge Advocate's Office.

Updates on PMAAAI's flagship project—the construction of its new building—were also discussed. Phase 1 (Bare Shell) is nearing completion, while Phase 2 (Interior Fit-Out) is set to begin in June 2025. The Association also sought support for a temporary parking area and the endorsement of a Usufruct Agreement for a long-term multilevel parking facility.



Chairman PUNZALAN was joined by PMAAAI Board and Committee Members:

CAV MANUEL ESPEJO '66
CAV RAUL S GONZALES '75
CAV MAGTANGGOL GATDULA '76
CAV RICARDO DAVID JR. '77
CAV DOMINGO TUTAAN, JR '81
CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR. '85
CAV MARCES T GAYAT '93
CAV DANILO E ESTRANERO '94
CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO '96
CAV STEPHEN CABANLET '96
CAV ALDRIN OREJUDOS '96
CAV DIOSDADO CARLOS PAMBID '96
CAV RAYMUNDO ROSARIO '97
CAV BEN DOMINGO III '98
CAV REYNALDO B BALIDO JR. '99
CAV GEMMA DV DALID '06
CAV JENNYMOR C AMOD '17

Following the courtesy call, the Association convened its Regular Board Meeting No. 25-03 at PAICOE, hosted by the PA Chapter, with opening remarks from Chapter President CAV DCD PAMBID '96.



A Plaque of Commendation was awarded to CAV FREDERICK EVANS L RAMOS '84 by former Chairman CAV RAUL S GONZALES for his key role in securing PAGCOR support for the PMAAAI Building and 2025 Homecoming initiatives.

Key Meeting Highlights:

- Reports from the Superintendent and PMAAAI President
- Updates on:
  - Convention and Homecoming Planning
  - Cavalier Awards Process
  - Membership and Welfare Programs
  - Finance and Fundraising
  - PMAAAI Building Status
  - The Cavalier Magazine Editorial
  - Executive Director's Admin Report
- Update on the ongoing PMAAAI–PMARAI–CPCP Raffle Project by CAV DJ TUTAAN JR. '81
- Ten (10) board resolutions approved supporting the Association's strategic goals.



CAV FREDERICK EVANS L RAMOS '84 receives a Plaque of Commendation from former PMAAAI Chairman CAV RAUL S GONZALES '75, together with current Chairman CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76.

PMAAAI Leadership Pays a Courtesy Call on Secretary of National Defense

Forging Stronger Ties for Service, Unity, and Legacy

QUEZON CITY, May 26, 2025 — The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to national service and institutional collaboration during a courtesy call on Secretary of National Defense GILBERT C TEODORO, JR. at the Department of National Defense (DND) Headquarters in Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo.

The visit highlighted PMAAAI's strategic priorities for Association Year 2025–2026 and underscored its continuing support to DND's mission and initiatives.

SECRETARY TEODORO was joined by distinguished PMA alumni currently serving in key leadership roles within the Department:

- CAV IRINEO C ESPINO '79, Undersecretary for National Defense
- CAV IGNACIO B MADRIAGA '88, Undersecretary for Strategic Assessment and Planning
- CAV CESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90, Superintendent, Philippine Military Academy

Leading the PMAAAI delegation was Chairman and CEO CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76, accompanied by members of the PMAAAI Board of Directors for AY 2025–2026:

CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR. '77, Vice Chairman
CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO '96, President and COO
CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III '97, Vice President
CAV JOSE MARI F TORRENUEVA II '96, Corporate Secretary
CAV MICHAEL G BARRION '97, Treasurer
CAV INOCENCIO C ROSARIO JR. '96, Corporate Auditor
CAV MANUEL P ESPEJO '66, Director
CAV STEPHEN L CABANLET '96, Director
CAV CARLOS C TINGSON '06, Director
CAV LEO ANGELO D LEUTERIO '88, Chairman, PMAFI
CAV DANILO E ESTRAÑERO '94, Chair, Ad Hoc Cmte on PMAAAI Building
CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR. '85, Executive Director
CAV MARCES T GAYAT '93, Editor-in-Chief, CAV MAG

During the dialogue, SECRETARY TEODORO stressed the need for the Philippine Military Academy to evolve in response to emerging global defense paradigms and technological advancements. Echoing earlier points raised by PMA Superintendent Valencia, he emphasized the importance of producing graduates who are adaptive, visionary, and capable of leading in a rapidly changing security environment.



Group photo with the Secretary of National Defense during the PMAAAI Courtesy Call held on 26 May 2025 at the Department of National Defense.

In turn, the PMAAAI leadership expressed strong support for institutional transformation efforts and pledged closer collaboration with the DND to sustain PMA's role as the country's premier leadership training institution for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The meeting also served as a platform to thank the DND for its ongoing support of PMAAAI programs, particularly those aimed at enhancing the welfare of military retirees.

As it moves forward, PMAAAI remains committed to being a unifying force for the alumni community, a partner in national defense, and a steward of the Academy's legacy of service, honor, and loyalty.



PMAAAI Launches Phase 2 of THE CENTER OF LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE

Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, 10 June 2025

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) successfully launched Phase 2 of its flagship building project, The Center of Leadership and Excellence, on 10 June 2025, at its site in Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City.

This milestone marks the start of the interior fit-out and operationalization of the six-storey building, following the completion of Phase 1, which involved the construction of the bare shell. The Center is envisioned to serve as a premier venue for leadership training, alumni engagement, and institutional advancement.

Funded with a ₱300 million budget — the same amount as Phase 1 — Phase 2 is made possible through the continued support of PAGCOR, in partnership with Newport World Resorts Foundation Inc. and Travellers International Hotel Group Inc. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed on 6 March 2025 at the AGFO Building, Camp Aguinaldo, formalizing this vital partnership.

The launch program featured key messages from project stakeholders:

Message of Commitment from Mr. Nilo Thaddeus P Rodriguez, Chairman and President of Newport World Resorts Foundation Inc. and President/CEO of Travellers International Hotel Group Inc., delivered by Cavalier Luna.

- Message of Support from Mr. Alejandro H Tengco, Chairman and CEO of PAGCOR.
- Message of Gratitude from Cavalier Ramon T Punzalan ’76, Chairman and CEO of PMAAAI.

Chairman Tengco also reaffirmed PAGCOR’s continued support for PMA and PMAAAI programs, as highlighted during the PMA Alumni Homecoming in February 2025.

The launch of Phase 2 is a testament to the enduring Bayanihan spirit of the PMA alumni community. Once completed, the building will stand as a centerpiece for leadership, excellence, and service to the nation.



“Message of Commitment” delivered on behalf of Mr. Nilo Thaddeus P Rodriguez, Chairman and President of Newport World Resorts Foundation Inc. and President and CEO of Travellers International Hotel Group Inc., by Cavalier Alex DC Luna ‘89.



“Message of Gratitude” from Cavalier Ramon T Punzalan ’76, Chairman and CEO of PMAAAI.



“Message of Support” from Mr. Alejandro H. Tengco, Chairman and CEO of PAGCOR, delivered during the Launching Ceremony of Phase 2 of the PMAAAI Building



Chairman Tengco signs the Board of Commitment during the ceremonial event, affirming his support alongside key officials and representatives.



THE CENTER OF LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE



(Ongoing Works in the Third Floor)





(Ongoing Works in the Fifth Floor)





(Ongoing Works in the Fourth Floor)



(Ongoing Works in the Sixth Floor)



The 1st CAVALIERS' CUP Opens with Unity and Excellence

21 June 2025 | PAF Villamor Airbase Grandstand and Oval, Pasay City



Participants of the 1st Cavaliers' Cup proudly gather during the Opening Ceremony at Villamor Air Base, symbolizing unity and camaraderie among PMA alumni from across the uniformed services.



The Navy Cavaliers Basketball Team celebrates their victory over the Air Force in the opening round of the tournament.



The Navy Cavaliers Swimming Team dominates the pool, capturing top honors in all swimming events and emerging as the overall swimming champion.



The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), in partnership with its PAF Chapter, formally launched the **1st Cavaliers' Cup** on Saturday, 21 June 2025, at the Villamor Air Base Grandstand and Oval. This landmark event marks a milestone in PMAAAI's continuing mission to promote physical wellness, sportsmanship, and the enduring spirit of service among Cavaliers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Philippine Coast Guard, and PMARAI.

The program commenced with a **Parade of Colors**, followed by the formal march-in of participating chapters representing the **Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, PNP**, and **PMARAI**. Each delegation stood tall in their service colors, showcasing esprit de corps and pride in their respective units.

Cavalier Ulysses S Mancao '96, President of the PAF Chapter, welcomed the athletes and supporters, emphasizing the importance of unity in sport. In his keynote address, **Cavalier Ramon T Punzalan '76**, PMAAAI Chairman and CEO, urged all Cavaliers to pursue excellence in every arena—whether in service, leadership, or sport.

A symbolic highlight followed, as Cav Punzalan raised the PMAAAI banner, officially opening the tournament. **Cavalier Stephen L Cabanlet '96** then led the athletes in the **Oath of Sportsmanship**, reinforcing the event's core values of fairness, discipline, and integrity.

The energy soared with a spirited **Taebo exhibition** by the AFSSG Team. The event concluded with a shared **boodle fight**, reviving a cherished PMA tradition and reinforcing bonds of fellowship.

Basketball – First Round Results

- **Army** defeated **PCG**
- **Navy** defeated **Air Force**

Swimming Finals Results

- *50m Freestyle*: 1st - Navy, 2nd - Air Force, 3rd - Army
- *4x50m Freestyle Relay*: 1st - Navy, 2nd - Army, 3rd - Air Force
- *100m Freestyle*: 1st - Navy, 2nd - PCG, 3rd - Army, 4th - Air Force

The **Philippine Navy Cavaliers** opened strong, winning their basketball debut and sweeping the swimming events—earning the title of **Overall Champion in Swimming**.

As the Cavaliers' Cup enters its succeeding stages, it continues to serve as a vibrant celebration of Cavalier identity—anchored in **excellence, unity, and lifelong brotherhood**.



Executive Director's REPORT

CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85

STAYING ON COURSE:
Implementing the Chairman's Guidance for AY 2025–26



Newly improved PMA Alumni Center – a more functional and welcoming space for daily operations and alumni engagements.

As we navigate Association Year 2025–26, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) remains firmly aligned with the strategic direction set forth in the Chairman's Guidance. This roadmap has sharpened our focus on governance, program execution, operational readiness, and member welfare—with real progress already taking shape.

We began the Association Year (AY) by reinforcing our foundation: setting a clear governance calendar, aligning committee mandates, and finalizing a time-bound execution plan. Each committee was given defined roles and deliverables, ensuring accountability at every level. Among the standout achievements: consistent monthly Committee and Board meetings, effective planning sessions, and the rollout of key programs including the most awaited completion of the new PMAAAI Building, Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM), PMA Alumni Homecoming, the 1st Cavaliers' Cup (expanded Indoor Sports), and preparations for Game of the Cavaliers 2025. Fundraising efforts also gained momentum through the class-driven Raffle Project launched in April.

Additionally, member support programs remain active. To date, we have extended medical assistance to seven (7) Cavaliers

amounting to ₱270,000, and provided mutual aid totaling ₱1.1M to the families of 19 deceased alumni.

A snapshot of program implementation shows strong progress across the board—from award searches and sports events to welfare programs and long-term engagement initiatives such as the Balik Alumni concept.

Program Implementation Snapshot:

Program	Committee	Status
Cavalier Award Search	*Award Committee*	*In Progress*
1st Cavaliers' Cup	*Sports and Fellowship*	*Opening Ceremony on 21 June 2025 at PAF*
Game of the Cavaliers (GOC) 2025	*Sports and Fellowship*	*Preparations Ongoing*
PMAAAI Building Inauguration	*Ad Hoc Committee on PMAAAI Bldg*	*Fit Out Phase to Start 9 June 2025*
Family Sportsfest/Closing	*Sports and Welfare*	*Planning Phase*
AGMM	*Convention and Homecoming*	*Identification of GOHAS and venue*
PMA Alumni Homecoming	*Convention and Homecoming*	*Identification of GOHAS*
Balik Alumni Program	*Membership and Welfare*	*Crafting of IRR*
Raffle	*Ways and Means*	*Launched last April. Draw date: 13 June 2025*

Internally, management pursued reforms to boost efficiency and staff well-being. Energy-saving protocols were enforced, shared utilities reinstated, and facility upgrades—including repainting, ventilation improvements, and roof maintenance—were completed. Staff reorganization and a reinforced welfare package (birthday incentives, leave benefits, and weekly Athletics Day) elevated team morale and productivity.



At Hundred Islands, Alaminos – A day of camaraderie, collaboration, and fun under the sun!

A key highlight was the 2025 PMAAAI Employees Team Building held in Bolinao and the Hundred Islands. The activity promoted camaraderie among employees and their families through shared meals, travel, and recreation—carefully managed within budget constraints.

While we celebrate these gains, we are not slowing down. Ongoing projects—from system upgrades to expanded chapter outreach—require sustained coordination and focus. As we move forward, our commitment remains clear: to serve the alumni and the nation with purpose, professionalism, and unity.



PMAAAI Employees Team Building at Bolinao Falls – Strengthening bonds and enjoying nature's beauty through teamwork and adventure.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90

PMA builds leaders of today and defenders of tomorrow

This Independence Day celebration, we remember the brave men and women who fought with unwavering dedication to win the freedom we now enjoy. We reminisce and reflect on their efforts and sacrifices, as these serve as a powerful reminder of our responsibility to preserve the liberty they valiantly fought for. In this light, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) shines as a vital institution, dedicated and remarkably producing heroes of the next generations - the Cavaliers in the service of freedom. The institution has ensured that each cadet who graduates from the Academy emerges with a strong sense of character, a deep love for country, and a warrior ethos rooted in service and sacrifice.

At the core of PMA is character development. True to its guiding motto, Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, PMA molds young men and women into officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who are skilled, capable, and deeply committed to the nation's ideals. Cadets are immersed in a culture that prioritizes Leadership, discipline, and responsibility. Values that are not only taught in the four-cornered room but embedded in daily life through structured activities and experiential learning.

Mentoring activities, Voices of Leadership, and Leadership Forums that provide cadets with real-world insights from seasoned officers of the different branches of service and public servants, not to mention their Leadership Huddles that created an avenue for reflection, accountability, and peer support - fostering a leadership mindset anchored in humility, camaraderie, and empathy. The character-building process is also seen in the Close Order Drill (COD) Competition, where cadets demonstrate precision, discipline, and unity as it fosters their respective Leadership and followership roles. But beyond the synchronized movements is a deeper layer of growth, the modeling and mentoring by upper-class cadets, the development of military bearing, personal grooming, responsibility over uniforms and weapons, and the embodiment of discipline in every aspect of daily life.

PMA does not merely shape and mold officers but also nurtures patriotic heroes. Cadets are constantly reminded of the significance of the flag they salute, the flag they wear on their shoulders, and the people they are sworn to protect.

The Basic Cadet Training (BCT) and various Leadership Courses highlight the Love of God and Love for Country, which are integrated into every lesson and activity aside from what they study in history, participating in traditional ceremonies, and reflecting on the sacrifices of national heroes. Our freedom should be safeguarded, especially by those in uniform. PMA ensures that every graduate carries with them not just a sense of duty but a burning torch of passion for serving, defending, and upholding the values enshrined in the institution.

While PMA cultivates leaders of character with patriotic hearts, it also develops a robust warrior ethos—a mindset of discipline, perseverance, and an unyielding commitment to the AFP mission and vision. This ethos is not limited to combat readiness but it encompasses the courage to serve, the strength to lead in crisis, and the resilience to endure hardship.

Through intensive Physical Development Courses and a series of Military Courses—including BMT, SSDC, LDC, and OPC/OJT cadets are forged into warriors capable of facing the challenges of military life. Programs such as the Military Skills Enhancement Program (MSEP) further hone tactical abilities and CCAFP Intramurals that feature both team and combat sports, reinforcing the values of unity, endurance, and sportsmanship.

This warrior ethos ensures that PMA graduates are not just defenders in conflict but dependable responders during peace and crisis - whether in natural disasters, humanitarian missions, or peacekeeping operations, indeed heroes in between.

The Philippine Military Academy holds a vital responsibility - to shape and produce the cavaliers of today and tomorrow - these men and women carry the weight of the Philippines' future on their shoulders, they are the leaders of today and defenders of tomorrow.



Baron's Dissemination

RONCHER L BERNABE
Cdt F/Cpt 1CI "A" Co, CCAFP
Regimental Commander

The Philippine Independence Day is more than just a celebration, it is a powerful symbol of the sacrifices and hard work of those who came before us. It represents the enduring spirit of a nation that once fought, suffered, and rose together in the name of freedom. The path to independence was never easy, but it was through that journey that we learned resilience, to persevere and hold on to hope, even in the darkest of times.

For over a century, the Philippine Military Academy has produced selfless and dedicated officers, ready to serve the nation with honor. It has continuously transformed deserving civilians into officers worthy of the people's trust and respect. These individuals do not earn respect merely through titles or the ranks displayed on their shoulders, but through unwavering dedication, sacrifice, and a commitment to serve the country above all else.

At the core of every PMA cadet are three foundational values, courage, loyalty, and integrity. These are not just words, they are principles that shape us into both leaders and public servants. Courage means pressing forward even when the odds are against us. It is the strength to stand up for what is right and to face uncertainty with a steady heart. For us, surrender is not an option. We either prevail in battle or fall knowing we gave everything for the nation. Next is loyalty, it begins with our comrades, never leaving anyone behind. It extends to our families, through steadfast faithfulness and unwavering support. Most importantly, it is loyalty to the Constitution. Our allegiance lies not with positions of power, but with the laws and principles that uphold our democracy, even in the most trying times. Lastly is integrity, doing the right thing even if no one is looking. It is our way to earn respect and to maintain the highest standard of values as the guardians of the land.

Courage means pressing forward even when the odds are against us. It is the strength to stand up for what is right and to face uncertainty with a steady heart. For us, surrender is not an option. We either prevail in battle or fall knowing we gave everything for the nation.

As we embark on yet another journey into uncertainty, we acknowledge that conflict will always be a part of our path. Yet, these Cavaliers remain steadfast in their mission, choosing service over self, every single day. Our adversaries may possess superior military capabilities, but we hold a far greater weapon, an unwavering will to fight for what is rightfully ours. For no weapon can surpass the power of a righteous cause and a fearless heart.





Unveiling of Class Crest and Ring Ceremony of PMA "Siklab-Laya" Class of 2025

The 266 graduating Philippine Military Academy cadets of "SIKLAB-LAYA" Class of 2025 took their oath on the Long Gray line on 13 May 2025. The Salute to the Class and Ring Ceremony was led by PMAAAI President and COO, CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO '96 as Keynote Speaker. PMA Superintendent, CAV CAESAR BERNARD VALENCIA '90, also graced the event to show his unending support and guidance to the graduating cadets. The ceremony, dubbed as "*The Salute to the Class*," is a symbol of the graduating class acceptance of bigger challenges and responsibilities as they shift from being members of the Cadet Corps AFP to being full-fledged members of the AFP and the PMAAAI who are ready to serve the Republic of the Philippines and its people.

During the unveiling of the Class crest, CAV AGAPITO said in his speech, …*To the "SIKLAB-LAYA" Class - today, you don't just reveal a crest or wear a ring. You mark your transformation. The crest you unveil is not just a symbol—it is a story. A story of endurance, sacrifice, and solidarity.*

Your class crest is a banner—not only of your collective identity, but of your struggles, your victories, your unity. Every symbol and color reflects the countless hours of training, the tears shed in silence, the laughter shared with your mistahs, and the unbreakable bond formed by hardship and honor.

And the ring? That ring is sacred. One day it will bear the scratches and wear of time—but it will never lose its meaning. It will be a silent witness to every mission, every battle, every success, and yes—even to your moments of failure. But let it always remind you of the fire from which you were born. The fire that still burns in your name "SIKLAB-LAYA."



The ceremony concluded with the giving of memento to the President, PMAAAI.



PBBM Graces PMA Graduation 2025

President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr. attended the commencement ceremonies of the Philippine Military Academy "*Siklab-Laya*" Class of 2025 at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City on 17 May 2025. In his address, Pres Marcos lauded the graduates for their "perseverance, strength of will, and dedication" in their journey to becoming full-fledged officers committed to serving the nation. He reminded the cadets that modern warfare now extends beyond traditional domains.

"…Beyond recognition, the most important lesson you carry is the understanding that warfare today goes beyond land, seas, and skies," he said, noting that the new battleground takes place in cyberspace.

"We have battles that are invisible to radar – ones that take place in cyberspace, in protecting information, in safeguarding the environment, and in helping communities during crises."

He said that physical strength and agility are no longer enough and he advised them to apply what they have learned during their training and courses in the academy, especially in such areas as artificial intelligence, drone technology, strategic thinking, and ethical leadership.

The 266 first-class cadets of Siklab-Laya Class consist of 212 men and 54 women.

About 137 of the 266 graduates will join the Philippine Army, 71 will serve in the Philippine Navy, and 58 will be part of the Philippine Air Force.

The **class valedictorian, Cadet 1st Class Jessie Ticar Jr**., is the fourth cadet to graduate summa cum laude and has the highest average among all graduates. He is set to join the Army.

Cadet Ticar received the Presidential Saber from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr; the Philippine Army Saber and the Jusmag Saber. His other awards include the Tactics Group Award, Natural Sciences Plaque, Army Professional Courses Plaque, Army Saber, Australian Defense Best Overall Performance Award, General Antonio Luna Award and Humanities Plaque.

Cadet 1CL Murthan Zabala of Cebu City is the **class salutatorian**. He received the Vice Presidential Saber and the Armed Forces Saber. Zabala who will be joining the Philippine Army, was also conferred with the Academic Group Award, Management Plaque, National Security Studies Plaque, Spanish, Information Technology Plaque and Social Sciences Plaque.

No. 3 of the class is Cadet **1CL Joana Marie Viray** of Pasay City, a Cum Laude. She received the Philippine Navy Saber, Secretary of National Defense Saber, and the Australian Defense Best Overall Performance.

No. 4 is Cadet 1CL Carlo Badiola of Camarines Sur who will join the Philippine Army.

Fifth in the rank is Cadet 1CL Jetron Giorgio Nazareno of Oriental Mindoro, a Cum Laude, and a recipient of the Navy Professional Courses Plaque.



Cadet 1CL Kobe Jo Ann Pajaron of Negros Oriental **ranked 6th** . She received the Philippine Air Force Saber, the Australian Defense Best Overall Performance Award and the Department of Leadership Award. She graduated as a Cum Laude

Rank 7 is Cadet 1CL Malvin Brian Dapar of Bohol, a Magna Cum Laude, and a recipient of the Association of General and Flag Officers (AGFO) Award.

No. 8 is Cadet 1CL Elzur Salon of Nueva Vizcaya received the Air Force Professional Courses Plaque.

In **9th** spot is Cadet **1CL Aprilyn Magsigay** of Agusan del Sur while **Rank 10 is Cadet 1CL Kristine Kate Senados** of Zamboanga Sibugay who is the recipient of the Aguinaldo Saber.

Cav Ramon T Punzalan administers PMAAAI Membership Oath to Class 2025





Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76, PMAAAI Chairman and CEO, administered the oath of PMAAAI membership to the 266-strong *"SIKLAB-LAYA"* Class of 2025 after their Commencement Exercises on 17 May 2025. As regular members of PMAAAI, they swore that they will faithfully perform their duties and responsibilities; abide to its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; obey the rules and regulations promulgated by its Board of Trustees; uphold the PMAAAI Code of Ethics; and be guided in all their undertakings in life by the PMA's motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

As members of PMAAAI, they are entitled to the benefits and privileges due to members in good standing including, among others, "*abuloy*" in the amount of P60,000.00 to the next of kin upon death of members; medical assistance for members who are suffering from a serious or dreadful disease or a serious injury and legal assistance and services who are facing criminal, civil and/or administrative charges before any courts, administrative bodies or any other tribunals for acts done in connection with or arising from the lawful performance of official duty.

3rd PMAAAI-PMARAI Invitational Fellowship Golf

The 3rd PMARAI-PMAAAI Invitational Fellowship Golf was successfully held on 08 April 2025, at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo Golf Course, with 80 participants representing PMA Classes up to 1992. The event served as a meaningful platform to promote camaraderie and strengthen the bonds of fellowship among members of the PMARAI community.

Organized by PMARAI, the largest chapter of PMAAAI with over 2,800 members from the AFP, PNP, and PCG, the tournament was not a formal competition, but rather a relaxed and enjoyable game celebrating shared values, good sportsmanship, and enduring friendships.

The event concluded with a fellowship lunch, allowing participants to reconnect, network, and enjoy one another's company in a warm and informal setting.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Chief of Staff, AFP; Flag Officer-in-Command, Philippine Navy; Commanding General, Philippine Air Force; and the Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard, for their support and partnership. Your backing was instrumental in making this event a success and in upholding the spirit of unity and brotherhood among Cavaliers.

Mabuhay ang PMARAI. Mabuhay ang PMAAAI. Mabuhay ang Cavaliers!



PMA "Makatarungan" '78 share camaraderie during the PMAAAI-PMARAI Invitational Fellowship Golf.



Flight of "Magilas" '76 at Hole No. 1, moments before teeing off during the 3rd PMAAAI-PMARAI Invitational Fellowship Golf.



Organizing staff of the 3rd PMAAAI-PMARAI Invitational Fellowship Golf pose together after a successful staging of the tournament.

Empowering Retirees Through Sustainable Livelihoods: PMARAI hosts Agarwood Farming Webinar

The Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) recently conducted a special webinar titled *"Agarwood Farming for Retired Military and MUP II (FARMUP),"* introducing a promising livelihood option for retired military and uniformed personnel. Held via Zoom on 23 May 2025, the event drew active participation from over 30 Cavaliers across the country.

The program opened with welcome remarks from CAV MARCELINO J LLORCA JR. '83, Professionalism and Development Committee Chairman, who underscored the value of continuous learning and entrepreneurship in retirement. He also introduced the day's resource speaker, CAV SALVADOR B CALANOY IV '84.

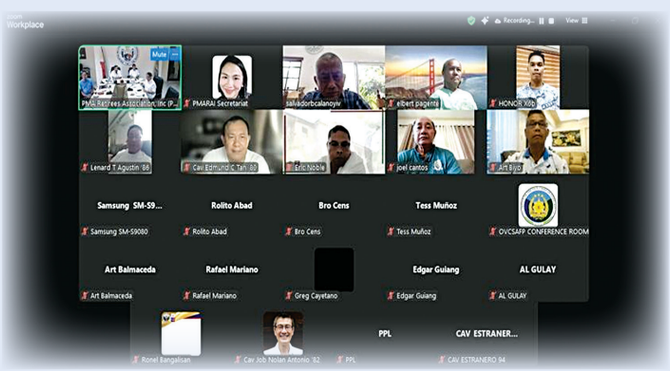
In his engaging presentation, CAV CALANOY shared his expertise on agarwood farming—an emerging and high-value agricultural venture. He discussed the crop's cultivation process, economic potential, and international market trends. The presentation sparked a lively Q&A session, with participants eager to learn about startup requirements, harvesting practices, and marketing strategies.

"This initiative is part of our broader mission to promote professional development and meaningful post-service engagement for our members," said Cav Llorca. *"We hope more retirees will explore sustainable ventures like agarwood farming."*

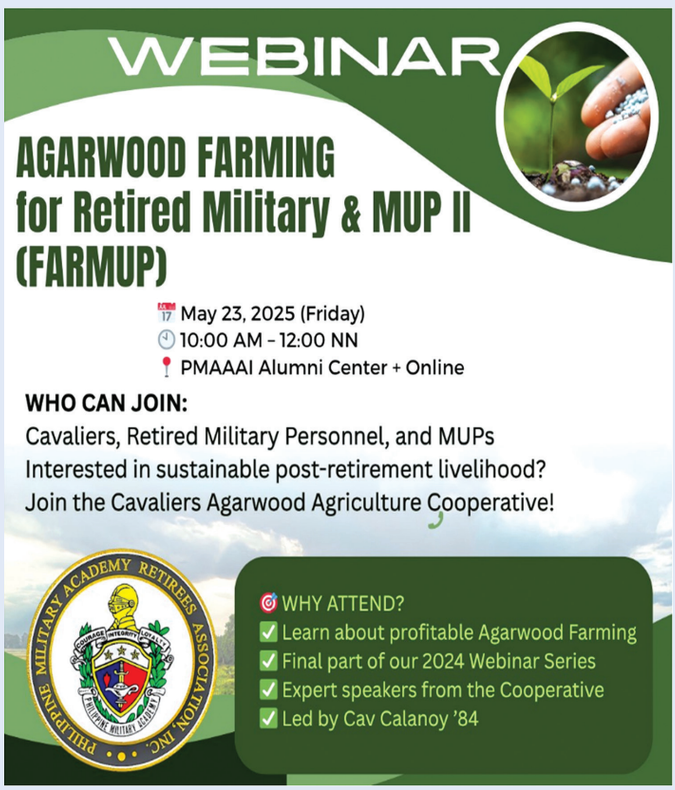
A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the guest speaker, followed by a virtual group photo that captured the spirit of camaraderie and shared learning.

CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR. '77, PMARAI Chairman, closed the webinar by reaffirming the organization's support for the well-being of its members. "*PMARAI remains committed to creating opportunities that enrich the lives of our retirees. Innovative and sustainable projects such as FARMUP are avenues for both personal fulfillment and community contribution*," he said.

The FARMUP webinar is one of several initiatives under PMARAI's continuing efforts to empower retirees with tools and knowledge for a productive and purposeful life beyond military service.



Over 30 Cavaliers attended the event online via Zoom.





CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR. '77, PMARAI Chairman, delivers his closing statement. Attending in person were CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76, Chairman of PMAAAI; CAV MARCELINO LLORCA '83, Chairman of the Professionalism and Development Committee, PMARAI; and CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR. '85, Executive Director, PMAAAI.





New Leadership Takes the Helm: PMAAA-Army Cavaliers Chapter Inc. Holds Oath-Taking Ceremony

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association - Army Cavaliers Chapter Inc. (PMAAA-ACCI) ushered in a new era of leadership during a solemn and significant oath-taking ceremony held on April 22, 2025 at Silid Andres Bonifacio, Fort Andres Bonifacio, Taguig City with **LTGEN ROY M GALIDO PA**, Commanding General, Philippine Army, as the Presiding Officer.
The ceremony marked a pivotal moment for the Army Cavaliers Chapter, as the new set of officers assumed their leadership roles with a unified vision to further strengthen the bonds of camaraderie, service, and commitment among PMA alumni serving in the Philippine Army. The presence of the Commanding General, PA, not only honored the occasion but also highlighted the strong bond between the alumni association and the active leadership of the Philippine Army.

The oath-taking ceremony itself was a powerful moment, symbolizing the formal assumption of duties and responsibilities by the newly appointed officers. Members, with hand raised, affirmed their dedication to uphold the association's constitution and by-laws, foster camaraderie among members and contribute to the continued welfare of the Philippine Army and the nation as a whole. The echoes of their pledges resonated within the hall, signifying a renewed commitment to the core values of "Courage, Integrity, Loyalty" that define every PMA graduate.

Following the oath-taking, the Commanding General, PA, delivered an inspiring message to the new set of officers and the assembled alumni. His address likely touched upon the crucial role of the PMAAA-ACCI in supporting the Philippine Army's mission, fostering esprit de corps among its officers, and contributing to national development. He also emphasized the importance of ethical leadership, unwavering integrity, and selfless service in the face of evolving challenges. His presence and words served as a powerful reminder of the





responsibilities of leadership and the enduring impact of the PMA experience.

The PMAAA-ACCI plays a vital role in maintaining the strong bonds among PMA graduates who have chosen to serve in the Philippine Army. Through various initiatives and activities, the chapter provides a platform for networking, mentorship, and mutual support. It also serves as a conduit for alumni to contribute their expertise and resources to the active military, ensuring a strong and cohesive fighting force. The newly inducted officers are expected to build upon the legacy of their predecessors, spearheading programs that further strengthen these ties and contribute to the professional development of Army officers.

The successful oath-taking ceremony marks a significant milestone for the chapter. With their new leadership's guidance and the Philippine Army's continued support, they are poised to embark on a new chapter of service and contribution. The event served as a powerful reminder of the enduring spirit of the army cavaliers and its unwavering commitment to the country's defense and progress. The new set of officers of PMAAAI-ACCI are the following:

President: CAV DIOSDADO CARLOS D PAMBID '96
Vice President: CAV LEAH L SANTIAGO '97
Athletic Officer: CAV BEN C DOMINGO III '98
Asst Athletic Officer: CAV JENNYMOR C AMOD '17
Public Relations Officer: CAV REYNALDO B BALIDO JR '99
Auditor: CAV JASON P PANALIGAN '01
Secretary: CAV JONAIRE R TRILLANA '12
Asst Secretary: CAV MARY CLAIRE P MAYO'18
Treasurer: CAV GEMMA DV DALID '06
Asst Treasurer: CAV MA GLAIZA L RONCAL '08

PMAAAI PAF Chapter News

Fairways and Fellowship Shine at 2nd Golf With The Stars

Villamor Air Base, Pasay City — Under the golden glow of the early morning sun, the Villamor Air Base Golf Course (VABGC) came alive on 03 May 2025, as the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) – Air Force Chapter hosted its much-awaited **2nd "Golf with the Stars"** — a spectacular convergence of military honor and celebrity charisma.

The event teed off as early as 5:00 a.m., with golfers from various Philippine Air Force (PAF) bases and units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) checking in, ready to swing into a day of camaraderie and friendly competition. Among the early arrivals were prominent personalities from the entertainment and sports industries — united in support of PMAAAI – Air Force Chapter's commitment to fostering unity and engagement among its members and partners.



The ceremonial tee-off officially launched the tournament, led by **CAV GENERAL THAD RUFINO P CANDELARIO '93**, Air Force Inspector General, who graced the event as Guest of Honor. Adding star power to the opening swing were entertainment legends **Randy Santiago** and **Beethoven Bunagan**, more famously known as **Michael V.**, whose presence drew cheers and excitement from the gathered cavaliers and civilian guests.

As the players took to the course, the fairways echoed with laughter, light-hearted competition, and a sense of shared purpose. Under clear skies, golfers navigated the scenic Villamor greens, fostering inter-service camaraderie and shared enjoyment of the sport.

Following the on-course action, participants gathered at the VABGC Main Ballroom for a well-deserved lunch and fellowship program. **CAV ULYSSES S MANCAO '96**, Acting President of the PMAAAI– Air Force Chapter, extended a warm welcome, expressing his heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their unwavering support. He underscored the importance of such events in uniting the PMA alumni community and forging stronger ties with civilian stakeholders.









The event's highlight came with the awarding ceremony, where top performers in various golf categories received trophies and recognition. The room buzzed with celebration as names were announced and winners stepped forward amid applause and camaraderie.

In his closing message, CAV CANDELARIO '93 returned to the stage with words of inspiration and appreciation. He lauded the PMAAAI–Air Force for its continuous efforts in building a vibrant, inclusive, and engaged alumni community. He also paid tribute to the celebrity guests who brought added joy and enthusiasm to the tournament, reinforcing the bridge between the military and broader society.

Indeed, the **2nd "Golf with the Stars"** was more than just a sporting event — it was a powerful statement of unity, gratitude, and shared ideals. The PMAAAI–Air Force Chapter looks ahead to more opportunities to engage its members and partners in meaningful initiatives.







PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI)

PETFI: Best at Being Strong, Resilient, and Upright

President's Annual Report 2025

• **Cav Guillermo Molina Jr II '86**, President, PETFI

(*Delivered on 30 April 2025 during the PETFI Annual Membership Meeting and General Elections at PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.)*

Today I share the honor of rendering PMAAAI Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) annual report, essentially a summary of what we have done from May 2024 to April 2025, covering one mission-driven, professionally challenging and morally rewarding year of trusteeship duties.

The President's Annual Report, PAR for short, instantly reminds me of the "phrase par for the course" and this might be a good way to frame our accomplishments within the context of expectations based on what we had set out to do beginning last year.

Lines of Effort

Keen to our vision of becoming a financially strong and stable educational foundation for the benefit of the orphans of fellow Cavaliers as well as dependents of the disabled, we took off last May 2024 on all cylinders, committed to reach milestones in eight (8) well-defined lines of effort, namely, 1) full class membership; 2) sustainable fund generation; 3) targeted endowments, grants and sponsorships; 4) strategic partnerships; 5) propagation of integrity and excellence; 6) community building; 7) prudent investment; and 8) effective governance and management.

With six (6) Standing Committees and two (2) Special Committees duly manned and charged this time by a 15-member Board, and an approved new PETFI Manual of Operations in effect, your Board of Trustees moved full throttle forward every month to deliver results on key goals and objectives. Today, having completed one fiscal cycle, and coincidentally my last term as President, PETFI is proud to report the highlights of our accomplishments.

Full Class Membership

In membership, the Membership Committee, led by Cav Mike Rodriguez '80, successfully staged the 100% class membership pitch beginning right there at PMA before the upperclass 1 corps of cadets on the resonant theme of a fully loaded "We've Got You Covered" campaign. He encouraged all Class Presidents to account for the PETFI membership all their mistahs, personally called on PCG Commandant Ronnie Gavan and enjoined all PCG Cavaliers to come aboard, and rounded the year with 279 new members, marking a jump of 4.94% percent over last year's intake. PETFI now proudly counts a total of 6,094 members, comprising 5,916 regular and 178 affiliate members.

Sustainable Fund Generation

In sustainable fund generation, the Ways and Means Committee under Cav Earl Reyes '93 proposed the accreditation of PETFI with the Philippine Council for NGO Certification to be recognized as a qualified donee institution by the BIR to the cost advantage of both donor and donee organizations, and looked for new opportunities to generate funds for the foundation in the long term. However, due to conflicting schedules and the Board's priority to resolve a discovered administrative issue, our annual Drive-for-Orphan Scholars golf fundraising tournament was not scheduled.

Targeted Endowments, Grants and Sponsorships

In targeted endowments, grants and sponsorships, Chairman Cav Gatdula '76 led the way in gaining the support of major





PETFI info drive in PMA

services through courtesy calls on key service commanders, notably the Chief, PNP, the FOIC, PN, and Commandant of PCG, which yielded a total of P700,000.00. The Coast Guard, in particular, came aboard PETFI's educational platform and looked to support our scholars and PCG beneficiaries. Other civilian business organizations expressed interest and agreed to pledges. Adding the support given by major services, PETFI's receipts for FY 2025 amounted to P3.8 million, bettering last year's P3.1 million revenue mark.

Strategic Partnerships

In strategic partnerships, Cav Joey Lalisan's '71 Scholarship Committee sustained key initiatives with some state colleges and universities, notably with the National University and University of Visayas, for the grant of educational assistance to our deserving scholars. NU officials committed to consider students in their roll who qualify under PETFI's program through an MOA and supported one scholar. Similar opportunities for non-cash support were sought throughout the year in exploratory meetings with school administrators.

Propagation of Excellence and Integrity

Propagating the beacon of integrity and excellence in academic achievements, PETFI welcomed eight new scholars for School Year 2024–2025 – one in college, four in high school, and three in elementary school. Remarkably, a senior high scholar, Bianca Marie Sacramento, shone the brightest as she won math competitions internationally and excelled as well in an international journalism competition. At present, PETFI supports a total of 40 scholars, with 13 in college, 16 in high school and 11 in the grade years. In recognition of their needs, PETFI even increased stipend support to ₱42,000 for scholars in college, ₱30,000 for those in high school, and ₱24,000 for elementary grade schoolers.

Community Building

In community building, on Cav Lalisan's initiative, the Board gathered and held a dialogue for the first time with the beneficiaries of our core program at the Veteran's Center in Camp Aguinaldo - which revealed how some single moms could not quite move on years after. Through our "Meet and Greet the Scholars" event and reminders for them to visit our office or call Jane, we got to hear and understand the issues and concerns related to their studies. On several occasions, PETFI extended additional support as warranted and approved by the Board. We also encouraged them to get acquainted with one another as PETFI scholars through a social meeting platform for all its worth.

More importantly, every time we learned of a passing of a Cavalier, we were there to promptly reach out to the bereaved family - like we did when Cav Caga-anan Cl '02 fell in line of duty last year, or when Cav Corong Cl 00, Cav Belen Cl 10, and Cav Dela Vega Cl 93 - each left behind a grieving wife and helpless children. Six of their orphans have since become our scholars.

Prudent Investment

In prudent investment, Treasurer Cavalier Jong Jurado '86 and the Investment Committee judiciously managed all our interest-bearing financial assets. On his recommendations, the Board took heed of all maturity schedules, made the best arrangements with banks and financial institutions, and increased investments by 6M from 38M in 2024 to 44M in 2025. As a result, PETFI realized dividends totaling P185,000.00 and interest income of over P2.37 million for the total amount of P2.56M in earnings. Already a record achievement, the full impact of these earnings will still be felt in fiscal year 2026 when PETFI shall have gained P3.46M in interests and dividends alone.

Effective Governance and Management

In effective governance and management, the Board, seeing greater strength and wisdom in numbers right from the start, increased board seat occupancy from 12 to 15, to include four Trustees in active service, two of whom are female - Cav Francel Margareth Padilla-Taborlupa '00, and Cav Charo Espanola '06. With more trustees from the active ranks, the Board strengthened its links for liaisoning with the major services, including with the Coast Guard, and embarked on a review and assessment of its governance structure and management processes. The Board stood firm in its position on the lingering merger issue with PMAAAI even as we intensified our support and participation in PMAAAI's programs and activities and committed to occupy business space at the new Alumni Center along Lawton Avenue in the Fort Bonifacio area.

New Control Policies

In the same context of proper governance, the Policy Formulation Committee, headed by Cav Ed Tamayo '80, reinforced



our reform agenda with new or supplemental policies on prudent investment and conduct of financial audit - plus a forthcoming one on records management. Of great significance to the foundation is the Board's enforcement of "no rider accounts" as part of PETFI's new investment policy and guidelines which came into effect in 2021 and terminated all rider accounts. In the context of prudent investment, Cav Tamayo consistently emphasized that no individual person should benefit pecuniarily from any investment in the name of PETFI. This applies whether used as part of a combo account in the name of a PETFI member or not.

Complete and Thorough Audits

Quietly doing his share, Auditor Cav Ninoy Aquino '83 initiated the conduct of quarterly audits and completed the thorough examination of PETFI's books, financial resources, properties and equipment, particularly when the Board decided to separate and demarcate its office from PETFI's erstwhile shared space with PMAFI in November 2024. In the wake of our findings related to an outstanding administrative case, Cav Aquino helped restore the responsible use of PETFI's funds and maintain transparency and accountability - and set the record for 100% attendance in all board meetings and other special meetings combined.

Effective Communication Management

Equally important has been the unpraised work of our Board Secretary, Cav Ato Jimenez, who not only managed all board meetings, recorded all the minutes and facilitated board and inter-committee communication, but also helped to ensure legal compliance with respect to PETFI's obligations to regulatory agencies. Through his hands-on involvement, the functions of the Chairman's executive secretary were significantly streamlined and improved for efficiency and transparency. As former PETFI Auditor, Cav Jimenez proved instrumental in the resolution of several audit and accounting inconsistencies, as well as the development of an introductory virtual office management system for PETFI.

Corrected Financial Statements

But if we thought he was excellent enough, our outsourced accountant who goes by the name of Mrs Gina Jimenez proved to be the far snappier and better version of him. Without her forensic accounting talents, the Audit Team would not have identified and managed to collect over 72% of the outstanding receivables last year, which initially stood at P4.3M before settling at P3.1 million. Given her expert assistance, the Board was able to complete PETFI's financial statements for 2022, 2023 and 2024, and even got to see the consolidated picture of the foundation's financial performance from 2024 threaded all the way to 2021.

Protected Integrity

Beyond the normal scope of PETFI's accomplishments, what stands above all is the work of the Integrity and Discipline Committee, an Ad Hoc Special Committee created in June 2024, to examine all issues related to the findings of a special audit team. The IDC exhaustively investigated an internal matter of potentially disastrous consequence to PETFI and, within six months, not only averted the impact of grave financial accounting errors in previous years, but helped to altogether save the foundation from the prospect of closure by the SEC.

The IDC's accomplishments included, among others, the completion of a root cause analysis of previous irregularities, writing of a comprehensive 80-page report to the Board with recommendations for sweeping changes, and evidentiary assistance to the Board in elevating its findings to the PMAAAI for the overdue, but proper administration of justice.

It is a disservice to IDC's work if I fail to mention its Chairman who persistently untied knotty issues, supervised the investigation proceedings like a kind and patient yearling, and pushed five for the institution of major reforms, particularly bearing on due diligence, transparency, and accountability - IDC Chair and PETFI Vice Chairman Cav Mike Rodriguez.

Excellent Leadership

All of these, of course, would not have come to positively and powerfully bear without the person who personally took the bull by its horns - Cav Magtanggol Gatdula, our PETFI Chairman and "Immaculate" at the top. We remember how, upon being appraised of the very same issue of unaudited series of FS in 2023, he immediately directed the conduct of a special audit to decisively fix the problem the following year – "during our time, during our watch," he stressed.

Cav Gatdula thus set the direction of the Board and personally led PETFI to breakthrough results, even setting targets to achieve in terms of endowments, grants and donations from people and organizations of influence, and morally supporting the services of a new external audit firm. Throughout the year 2024 to date, the Chairman's personal presence in meetings, gravitas as PETFI's ambassador, progressive, "forever young" outlook, ethical guidance, practical wisdom and fair but decisive control palpably influenced the outcomes of our engagements. Today, as a reconfigured and newly polished PETFI, we are who we are because of his excellent leadership.

Organizational Metamorphosis

At this point, allow me to end this President's Annual Report with the same summation I made for VIP Cavaliers a few months back this year, who wanted to know how we are today. The short answer is: We have grown strong and resilient not only last year, but through the past 49 years. But may I add the word 'upright' to that and complete the sentence. PETFI is best today at being strong, resilient and upright.

Indeed, for all the good reasons, we have changed in many ways:

- From the original Board of Trustees of 12 to the current Board of 15;
- From one (1) Executive Committee with three (3) Standing Committees to one (1) Executive Committee, seven (7) Standing Committees, and one (1) Special Committee;
- From one shared office and office resources with PMAFI, including personnel, to one small, but autonomously staffed management office – and soon enough to a better office at the new PMA Alumni Center along Lawton Avenue;
- From dependence on old handed-down board practices to new governance standards and management controls;
- From the small number of class members in the seventies to the current regular membership strength of 6,094 members, comprising 5,916 regular and 178 affiliate members;
- From the optional class membership until 2009 to the fully loaded 100 percent class membership that now covers all PMA Classes from 2010 to 2023;

- From a focus on orphans and casualties to anticipated coverage for the dependents of all young cavaliers who or whose fellow comrades might fall in combat or line of duty; and
- From more or less 10 sustained scholars in a given year to the 40 we have right now.

Exemplary Stewardship

Not only that. Today, PETFI demonstrates financial stability, transparency, and effective stewardship of its resources like it had never done before. In our Treasurer's latest financial statement for FY2025, the foundation has total revenues of P3.8 million, primarily sourced from interests and dividends from investments, membership contributions and individual donations. As of this report, our operating expenses totaled P3.69 million, with percentage allocations to program services, administrative costs, and transportation expenses, reflecting a healthy ratio that prioritizes mission-driven activities.

Strong Liquidity

On the balance sheet, PETFI so far has accumulated total assets of P49.534 million, including P5.16 million in cash and cash equivalents—suggesting a strong liquidity position. Investments account for P44 million, strategically placed in low-risk, high yield time deposits. Liabilities – listen to this – are at an all-time low of P499,000.00, primarily in the form unclaimed stipends. Hit pause and reflect on that again. P49.5 million in assets versus just 499-thousand pesos in liabilities. And next year, that will almost be gone when a new disbursement system for stipends is operated in place. Given our remarkable liquidity and current assets, we are, for the record, well positioned to cover the whole year's operating expenses, to support all stipends as well as to weather economic fluctuations.

Best Performance So Far

Summing up, PETFI's best performance in numbers within a measure of one year may be gleaned from its increase in membership strength from 5,815 to 6,094 members; net increase in the number of scholars from 38 to 40; timely releases of 95 percent of stipends amounting to P1.247 million; growth in total long-term investments from 38M to 44M; modest increase in fund balance from P48.7 million to P48.9 million; drop in total liabilities from P2.4 million to P499,000.00; sustainment of high liquidity at 5.17 million; identification and collection of AFS 2021 receivables in the amount of 3.1M and projected interest and dividend receivables of P3.47 million by next year.

These all happened even as board seats expanded to 15, operational activities entailing expenses were added, stipends for scholars at all levels were increased, new office equipment were purchased, and major fundraising activities were cancelled.

Fraud and Waste Stopped

It is worthy to note that the Board's decisions to overhaul internal processes basically drove up those numbers, particularly in implementing overdue reforms in accounting procedures and disbursement system which unexpectedly uncovered tons of fraud, waste and abuse of PETFI's resources. Without the Board's discovery of outstanding issues going back to 2021 and resolute pursuit of actions to correct the course, the framing of our performance would have been misguided.

This is to say that our conduct of a yearlong special audit, completion of a root cause analysis, investigation on unreported rider accounts and concealed passbooks, tightening of voucher controls, new security arrangements with banks and financial institutions, transparency reporting on ledgers, recovery of at least P3.1 million in receivables, and pursuit of an administrative case against an erring employee – all of these and more – did not come from any preconceived notions of "snappity" or the drive to perform better than others. Chairman Gatdula, Vice Chair Rodriguez and the PETFI Board simply, but firmly responded to the call upon being confronted with a festering problem and realizing what needed to be f ixed with the system and the prevailing culture at the office – as any Cavalier would.

Thus, at the end of the day, our best performance yet – seen on record with the filing of our Audited Financial Statements for FY 2022, 2023 and 2024, updated GIS, cleansed records, corrected official documents, and a newly overhauled board administration and management system – reflected the way the whole Board seriously minded and took care 8 of fiduciary duties, particularly the duty of care, duty of loyalty and duty of prudence and diligence. Indeed, the Board's responsible governance, meticulous scrutiny of business matters, mindful decision making, protection of PETFI's interest, and commitment to its sustainable success underpinned PETFI's record-setting achievements.

Sustained Long Service

Finally, in the service dimension, the question might be asked: What have we really got to show to perpetuate our mission? Well, here it is. Since its establishment in 1976, PETFI has touched the hearts and held the hands of the families of 325 deceased and disabled cavaliers, covered 85 PMA classes, supported 556 scholars, and helped achieve the dreams of 329 baccalaureate degrees. This includes the eight (8) orphan scholars we admitted this year, with three grade 6 schoolers as our youngest wards, including the daughter of Cav Jessie Miller '10. While we pray that the numbers of those who fall do not exceed or come before the ones who fade away, PETFI is prepared nonetheless to increase support for the education of all deserving dependents of fellow Cavaliers.

Faith Restored

Fellow members of PETFI, I need to mention that getting to this stage deliberately allowed us to gain strength and find balance and stability. But more than that, through the challenges we encountered and chose to face, instead of ignore, we helped to somehow restore the Cavalier's faith in the Cavalier's ability to do right by our Trustee oath and by our Academy motto of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty.

If only for the given opportunity to have contributed a little part to that realization, and to the fact that PETFI has truly performed to its unprecedented best in the four years of my involvement, first as Vice President, then as President, I am hugely grateful. Indeed, I am honored to have been part of all these, and to have been associated with such snappy Cavaliers and servant leaders like the members of the PETFI Board of Trustees. I therefore leave with only my highest respect and admiration for all of you, Sirs.

This officially ends my report - and my tour of duty as President. It's been an honor to serve. Maraming salamat. God bless PETFI.

FEMALE CAVALIER SEGMENT

CAV LADY CHATTERLY ALVARO-SUMBELING '06

A Cavalier's Call: The Inspiring Journey from Media Light to the Naval White



The Philippine Military Academy (PMA), a molding ground of leadership and tradition, has sculpted countless defenders of our nation. Among its graduates shines a remarkable lady cavalier, a woman whose journey charts an inspiring course from the vibrant world of media to the profession of a Naval Officer – Lieutenant Commander Lady Chatterly Alvaro-Sumbeling PN. A powerful testament to the ever-evolving role of women within the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).



Echoes of Duty, Whispers of Dreams

"You'll be a PMAer, anak," her father's hopeful words. A vision sparked by the Academy's groundbreaking decision in 1993 to embrace women into its ranks. Yet, her youthful aspirations danced to a different rhythm – the captivating realm of media, where she envisioned herself a poised newscaster or an artist of her sister's caliber. But destiny often composes unexpected melodies. During her senior year, her mother presented her with a PMA entrance exam application. *"Just try it, anak,"* she gently urged, *"Let's see what you can do..."* With a compliant shrug, she accepted, viewing it as a mere formality.

The arrival of the exam permit during her freshman year at UP Baguio came as a surprise. Approaching the test with a carefree spirit, she passed, a result that ignited a spark of excitement within her family. The subsequent physical and medical evaluations at V. Luna Hospital presented another challenge, navigated with her mother's strategic encouragement: *"Just see if you're truly fit, anak."* Passing once more, she stood at a crossroads, facing a path drastically different from her envisioned future. A wave of hesitation washed over her. Her family, deeply rooted in entrepreneurship and the arts, had no military ties. The Academy, a world of rigid discipline and profound sacrifice, felt foreign. Sensing her apprehension, her parents offered a simple yet profound reassurance: *"Just report there, anak, and if it's not for you, you can always choose another way."* And so, on April 1, 2002, she stepped onto the revered grounds of PMA, embarking on a transformative journey that would culminate in her graduation with the esteemed PMA Mandala Class of 2006.

The Crucible of Corregidor in Miniature

Her years within PMA's walls proved a crucible, forging within her an unyielding resilience and unwavering determination. Hailing from a non-military background, she encountered unique trials. As one of the pioneering female cadets, she and her sisters-in-arms navigated



an environment where everyone, including themselves, was adapting to their presence. A deep-seated need to prove her mettle spurred her to emulate her male counterparts in bearing, speech, and especially physical prowess. The physical demands were relentless, and the pressure to demonstrate unwavering capability was constant.

Academically, the rigorous curriculum, a demanding fusion of military science and standard college education, proved incredibly challenging. This, coupled with the constant pressure of upholding cadet conduct, adhering to the sacred Honor Code, excelling in difficult physical fitness tests, and balancing familial responsibilities, often felt overwhelming. The thought of resignation flickered, particularly during academic setbacks. Yet, her parents' steadfast encouragement to persevere, intertwined with the reality of family finances, fueled her untiring resolve. Through sheer dedication, steady discipline, and invaluable life lessons etched in her heart, she graduated – a resounding victory that instilled within her an unshakeable belief in her own capabilities: "I conquered PMA; I can undoubtedly conquer anything!"

A Palette of Service, A Symphony of Skills

Her military career is not just a climb up the ranks; it's a vibrant tapestry woven with threads of unwavering service and innate creativity. While navigating the demanding military hierarchy, she has also nurtured the precious bond of family, a delicate balance made possible by the steadfast support of her husband and loved ones. Her journey is deeply etched with a profound commitment to Civil-Military Operations (CMO), a field where her unique ability to blend artistic talents with strategic military objectives has truly shone.

For over 14 years, her dedication to CMO has been a wellspring of profound fulfillment. Joining the Civil Relations Service, AFP (CRSAFP) in 2011, she immersed herself in the art of strategic communications and community engagement, recognizing the potent force of narratives in shaping perceptions and bolstering organizational goals. She became a firsthand witness to the transformative power of information support operations in achieving mission success, particularly during the implementation of the vital OPLAN BAYANIHAN, where words became as crucial as any weapon.

Her creative spirit, nurtured since childhood, has also blossomed within her military service. Her pen gave birth to the stirring theme song for the AFP IPSP Bayanihan, brought to life by a renowned artist's voice, Sarah Geronimo, earned her the prestigious Outstanding Achievement Medal Award. She continued to compose inspirational anthems for other AFP initiatives, melodies that fostered unity, echoed the call for peace, ignited patriotism, and championed positive national values, proving that art could be a powerful force multiplier in the defense of the nation.

To this day, the seeds of LCdr Alvaro-Sumbeling's potential continue to blossom in her purposeful military service. Though the spotlight of a news desk or the microphone of a recording studio were not her final stage, she has forged a remarkable path where artistry and military service harmonize towards a greater purpose – the pursuit of peace, one resonant song at a time.





YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES

FORGING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP:
How the Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine Army Shaped
2LT RHYLL L. ROMEROSA '23



2LT Rhyll L. Romerosa, a distinguished member of Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 2023, embodies the essence of an exceptional military leader. His journey from a cadet at PMA to a platoon leader in the Philippine Army's 59th Infantry Battalion exemplifies how determination, rigorous training, and steadfast commitment to service can shape a leader who stands ready to serve and secure the nation. This article delves into how PMA molded him, the significance of courage, integrity, and loyalty as his foundation, his motivations in the Philippine Army, and how his pursuit of excellence has driven his tactical success.

A Foundation of Leadership at the Philippine Military Academy

PMA has long been the cornerstone of military leadership in the Philippines, and for 2LT Romerosa, it was the ultimate proving ground. From the beginning, he envisioned a career dedicated to the Philippines' defense, and PMA gave him the platform to turn his ambition into reality. As a cadet, Romerosa consistently demonstrated academic excellence, securing spots on both the dean's and commandant's lists. Leadership roles soon followed, with appointments first as the First Sergeant and later as Company Commander of Alfa Company, one of the academy's most prestigious positions.

Through these formative roles, PMA ingrained in him the discipline, resilience, and responsibility that are paramount to effective leadership. He graduated cum laude in May 2023, reflecting not only academic and military competence but also a commitment to serve with distinction.

The Power of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty

The PMA motto—Courage, Integrity, Loyalty—is more than a slogan for cadets; it is a lifelong creed. For 2LT Romerosa, these values became the foundation of his character and leadership approach. Courage enabled him to face challenges head-on, from rigorous training exercises to real-life encounters on the battlefield. Integrity guided his decisions and interactions with his team, ensuring trust and respect were central to his leadership style. Loyalty, to both his platoon and his nation, anchored his motivations and strengthened his resolve to perform his duties honorably.

In his service, Romerosa's adherence to these principles has been instrumental. Whether during high-stakes operations or daily interactions, he lives by these values, inspiring his men to follow his lead with dedication and pride.

Choosing the Philippine Army: A Calling to Serve and Secure

Joining the Philippine Army was a decision deeply rooted in Romerosa's desire to be on the front lines, serving the people and defending the nation's sovereignty. The Army's mission—"Serving the People and Securing the Land"—resonated with him, aligning with his goal to make a tangible impact in the country's most critical areas.

For Romerosa, the choice to enter the Army was more than just a branch selection; it was a calling. He saw in the Army a unique opportunity to directly engage with communities, bring peace to conflict areas, and protect the nation's most vulnerable regions. His deployment to Batangas as a platoon leader exemplified this commitment, where he quickly demonstrated his resolve and tactical acumen by leading successful operations against insurgent forces.

Motivated by the Army's Core Purpose: A Driving Force Behind Tactical Success

The Philippine Army's core purpose has become a defining motivation for 2LT Romerosa. His first months in deployment brought

him into direct combat, a reality that tested his training and leadership. During a clash with the Communist Terrorist Group in March 2024, his platoon emerged victorious without casualties, marking a testament to his leadership and meticulous preparation. For his bravery and decisive action, he was awarded his first Gold Cross Medal, one of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' highest honors.

The Army's mandate to "Serve the People and Secure the Land" empowered Romerosa to approach each mission with resolve and commitment. With each operation, his sense of purpose strengthened, culminating in a second Gold Cross Medal for a successful mission against the Communist Terrorist Groups. These experiences reinforced his belief in the importance of service, instilling in him the confidence and clarity to lead his platoon effectively.

The Pursuit of Excellence: A Path to Tactical Achievement

For 2LT Romerosa, excellence has been both a goal and a motivator. His journey reflects a relentless drive to achieve the highest standards, beginning with his academic accomplishments at PMA. Entering active service with a record of achievements, he was determined to set an example and maintain the same level of excellence on the battlefield.

This pursuit of excellence has been a critical factor in his tactical successes. In March 2024, shortly after his deployment, Romerosa led his platoon in a successful engagement with insurgents, emerging victorious without any injuries to his men. This encounter resulted in the neutralization of three enemy combatants, including high-ranking members, and the seizure of essential weapons and documents, marking an impressive operational achievement for such a young officer. His courageous leadership and precise execution during this mission earned him his first Gold Cross Medal, the third-highest combat award in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Just three months later, he led another successful operation against members of the Communist Terrorist Group, resulting in the capture of two additional enemy combatants, high-powered firearms, and significant subversive materials. This second outstanding success in a short span further demonstrated his strategic abilities and earned him a second Gold Cross Medal. His ability to plan and execute these high-risk operations with a high level of professionalism and tactical skill reflects his dedication to not only meet but exceed expectations, proving that a strong start in his military career was the foundation for continued excellence on the ground.

Excellence has become one of his defining attributes, contributing significantly to his tactical successes. With each mission, he meticulously planned and executed strategies that minimized risks to his platoon and maximized mission effectiveness. His ability to



adapt quickly, coupled with strategic planning, allowed him to make rapid yet calculated decisions, proving invaluable in combat scenarios. These successes speak of his dedication to not only meet but exceed the expectations placed upon him, illustrating how a strong start in his military career laid the groundwork for sustained achievement.

A Leader Committed to Service, Guided by Faith

Though his accomplishments are rooted in rigorous training and an unwavering commitment to duty, Romerosa attributes his success to his faith, his family's support, and his philosophy of viewing each new role as an opportunity for growth. His perspective on new roles—embracing challenges, learning quickly, and adapting—has empowered him to lead effectively, even as a young officer. Romerosa's journey reflects a balance of faith and strategic insight, showing that leadership is as much about inner strength as it is about tactical skill.

2LT Rhyll L. Romerosa's journey from the halls of the Philippine Military Academy to the battlefields of Batangas is a testament to how courage, integrity, and loyalty can shape a remarkable military leader. Guided by the Philippine Army's core purpose, he has proven his commitment to serving the people and securing the land. His story is one of inspiration, reflecting how values, purpose, and a commitment to excellence can forge a legacy in the service of the nation. As Romerosa continues his career, he embodies the finest traditions of the Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine Army, setting a powerful example for future generations of military leaders.



VISITOR'S ACCOUNTS

RET. COL ARIEL QUERUBIN:

Brave Heart

By Francine Y Medina

(Note: This article was first published at Stargate People Asia Magazine on 08 February 2025)

Away from the frontlines, the Medal of Valor recipient is taking up another fight. His new mission: to promote health and financial preparedness among members of every generation — all as he inspires his fellow senior citizens to turn their sunset years into the most fulfilling chapter of their lives.



Retired Colonel Ariel Querubin's unassuming demeanor stands in stark contrast to his turbulent life on the frontlines in major conflict zones in the Philippines.

Heads turned when he walked into the room for this interview. At 68, Querubin looks admirably trim — the fruit of his daily routine, which includes doing 200 or more non-stop push-ups.

Getting groomed and dressed up by stylists and being directed to pose for his *PeopleAsia* photo shoot would have been unheard of decades ago when his daily reality meant facing unimaginable scenes of bloodshed as he led troops to fight against terrorism and insurgency.

Beneath the blazer and pants that he wears so well today are the 67 gunshot and artillery wounds he stunningly endured during his military career. Querubin, according to an article written by Tony Lopez and published in 2022, is the most decorated soldier in the Philippines, with 49 medals and decorations, including the Medal of Valor — the country's highest military honor for courage.

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, he was a Philippine Marine Corps officer when he retired in 2010.

The retired colonel is at ease before the camera. "*I can smile a lot now compared to when I was still in the military. I've been asked before why I hardly smile. It's because I had so much hatred then. I was fighting on the battlefields. But now, I'm at peace with myself, my family and God*," he says.

New missions

From the battleground to a new front, Querubin has embarked on a different kind of fight — championing health and empowering fellow Filipinos to secure their future.

"*When I entered the military, I was in it for my family to give them a secure future. And now that I'm known as a health advocate, I would still say I'm doing it for my children and grandchild*," says the proud family man, who wants to spend more quality years with his loved ones. "*I also tell my colleagues to do the same, to invest in health and avail themselves of a good insurance plan.*"

Just the same, Querubin's passion to serve the country never waned. He's taking another bid for a senatorial post in the forthcoming 2025 national elections. In 2009, he retired from the military to run for the first time. He is back on the road, traveling across the country and building momentum since announcing his candidacy in July.

He said he would like to inspire Filipinos to embrace patriotism and take an active role in building peace. With his Medal of Valor as proof of his steadfast courage, Querubin admits, "*Of course it's a great honor to receive the award. At the same time, when people tell me that I'm a living hero, I tell them we can all be heroes in our own way. It just so happened that in my profession, I'm on the frontlines serving the country.*"

In one interview, he shared his mixed emotions about receiving the Medal of Valor. "*It's a bittersweet victory. I tend to question it sometimes and say, what's the use of the award if I've lost my peers along the way and we're fighting our fellow Filipinos? Why are we fighting when surely we could have come together for more peaceful terms?*

"Every time I get the opportunity, I always say, why can't we sit down and talk? If we continue fighting, we will not progress. Take it from me; I've seen it all."

Shaping history

Querubin's astonishing feats on the battleground have undoubtedly shaped the course of national history. In March 2000, he led the battalion that staged the 24-hour firefight against an estimated 300 fully armed men from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte. Querubin's brigade was able to capture the MILF Camp John Mack. For these acts of bravery, he was awarded the Medal of Valor.

"*We were very exhausted. The dark rain clouds weren't going away. But I prayed hard for the sky to clear. And then it did. We could see more clearly and we were able to enforce our strategic maneuvers*," he recalls.

He was once presumed dead after being hit by a Sikorsky helicopter gunship rocket. He showed no vital signs and was already taken to a morgue. But a doctor saw his finger twitch and he was rushed to the AFP Medical Center to be revived.

Showing his deep loyalty to his country, he says, entails standing up for what is right. He was among the leaders of the 1989 coup attempt and the 2006 marine standoff in Fort Bonifacio for which he was incarcerated for four years. He was granted amnesty by the late President Benigno Aquino III and was released from prison in 2010.

Citizen Ariel

In contrast to such perilous life, he has also experienced countless tender moments. When he was recovering at the ICU after being presumed dead from sustaining serious injuries, he opened his eyes and saw the angelic face of a doctor. He thought he was in heaven and thanked God for it. The woman, Dr. Loreta



Cercenie, became his first wife but, sadly, she passed away in 1994 at the age of 31.

Querubin found love the second time around and has been with his second wife Pong Azcarraga for 25 years. The couple has seven children, all accomplished in their professions and studies. Pong has two sons from a previous union — Cocolife president and CEO Jose Martin Loon and Marine Capt. John Michael Loon. Querubin has two children as well — Alfred Benjamin and Francesca Eufrosina. Pong and Querubin have three children of their own — Jose Ariel, Ariel and John Ariel.

"Whenever I look back, I always say, God carefully planned my life. I would have been the first general in my (PMA) class. In one or two weeks I would've been general. But I stood for my officers and men. I fought for my principles and was jailed for four years. I was jolted by the Lord."

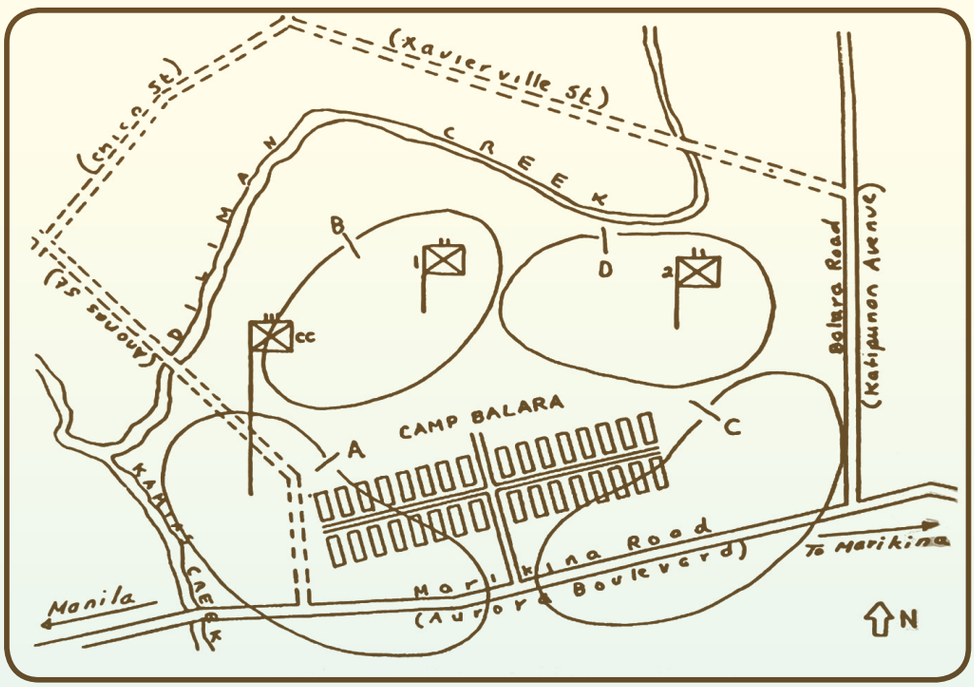
"He taught me that life isn't just all about work but also about making time for family. That's what I hope to do now, to spend more time with my children and grandchild. I also believe that God created my destiny to meet Pong. She is a very strong woman who was always there to take up the cudgels, not just for me but for our children, especially when I went through those dark times."

He's ready to get out of his comfort zone again. These past years, he has been moving in the corporate world as a consultant for a Philippine multinational conglomerate and as a brand ambassador for insurance company Cocolife.

On his social media page, he shares glimpses of his daily life, from his push-up workouts to playful moments with his adorable Puggle puppies.

In August this year, Querubin was reunited with his fiercest enemy in Kauswagan, Commander Bravo, who is now a politician and member of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament. It was an emotional meeting as the two men hugged each other: "I *was telling him, why did we have to go through the in-fighting when we can talk about peace after all? War has done nothing for us. But with peace, we can really do a lot for our country and our people*."

Fortified by his life-changing experiences, Querubin is ready to march forward again with a new crusade. "*I've often been asked why I think I've survived all that I've been through. I believe it's because of God. He's telling me that I still have a mission on this earth. And that is to share my knowledge, my blessings and to serve the country again*."



Encounter At CAMP BALARA

• **Cav Wilfredo B Manalang III '97**

Arrival of the Japanese

As December 1941 rolled on, the senior cadets were looking forward to the December holiday break to be spent with their loved ones. Monday, 8 December 1941, began uneventfully as the cadets marched off towards the Mess Hall for breakfast at six o' clock in the morning. During that time, Albert Hall, the Cadet Mess, was filled by the grunts and shouts of the plebes and accompanied by the radio playing Glen Miller's *Sunrise Serenade*. At that very moment, the broadcast was interrupted by an announcement. It was announced that Pearl Harbor was successfully bombed by the Japanese. The cadets discerned that this unfortunate news about the surprise attack by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii practically rendered the entire American Asian-Pacific Fleet ineffective. After the announcement, the cadets broke into loud cheer (Rio, 1999) innocently envisioning the end of academics and drills for them at the Academy. Since there was no official announcement of any changes in their daily routine, the cadets still proceeded to the Academic Building at Academic Hill for their accustomed classes.

The Japanese's presence was felt in Baguio at eight o' clock in the morning that same day while the cadets were busy with their academic classes. Deafening explosions was heard from the direction of Camp John Hay, then occupied by the Americans, acting as their rest and recreation center, and at Loakan Airport. Later, warplanes were sighted and heard proceeding towards these directions. Cadets who saw the planes immediately thought that they were American planes who were probably conducting military exercises. Some were even amused of how low they were flying. (San Juan, 2006) Several of them even attributed the explosion to artillery practices. It did not really entered their minds that the Japanese may actually be attacking Baguio City at that precise moment. It was only later when the Cadet Officer of the Day (OD) announced that Camp John Hay was bombed and when several cadets sighted the emblem of a red circle with a white background found in the tail of Japanese planes did it dawn on them that they are being attacked. The Japanese that attacked Baguio City were composed of a squadron of four-engine bombers belonging to the Japanese Army that flew above Baguio City in perfect V formation.

Classes were immediately suspended and the cadets went out to see the Japanese planes. This squadron also dropped a bomb at Teacher's Camp which narrowly missed the Academic Building.

Cadets immediately changed to their full combat uniforms, Drill Gray with arms and cartridge belts, and were ordered to dig foxholes around Teacher's Camp in anticipation of further Japanese aggressions. Perimeter defense was then set-up with the Cadet Corps assigned specific sectors of defense.

Flight from Baguio to Manila

At that time, the Japanese forces have already established secured beachheads at La Union and Aparri in order to secure the approach of their main forces that would land at Lingayen, Pangasinan. The Japanese were able to land the 2,000-man strong Fourteenth Army forces belonging to the Tanaka Detachment, 2nd Formosa Regiment, 48th Division at Aparri, Cagayan on 10 December 1941. Simultaneously, another unit with the same strength belonging to the Kanno Detachment landed at Vigan, Ilocos Sur where they expeditiously established advance airfields. These movements by the enemy would somehow cut-off the main exit route of the cadets if they do not move out of Baguio immediately.

The decision to vacate Teacher's Camp was given around seven o' clock in the evening of Friday, 12 December 1941. Classified orders coming from Manila were given to move all the elements of the Academy to an undisclosed area in Manila. For this reason, quick preparations were made to move out that night. They were instructed to prepare a "full pack" (Rio, 1999) that can take as many of their personal clothing as possible. Their dinner consisting of sandwiches and some fruits were distributed by packs. The cadets were not permitted to make any phone calls (only one telephone set per building was available then) to their relatives in order to maintain secrecy of their planned movement. The movement was led by the PMA Superintendent, Colonel Fidel V Segundo, Sr.

The guarded cadets and faculty staff left at night under blackout conditions. Civilian buses, specifically the Benguet Auto Lines, each with a platoon of cadets were commandeered for the military movement. The upper-half side of the headlights of the buses was painted black in order to deny lights from glaring up. The lower side was to help the drivers in their most difficult movement. Spacing between buses at five minute intervals was strictly implemented while noise

and light discipline, to include cigarette smoking, was firmly enforced. A Tactical Officer was designated as Bus Commander for each bus and he sat next to the driver. Though with limited illumination, still the buses proceeded to their destination at an alarming speed. Yet, the cadets, though agitated, place their trust on the drivers knowing fully well that they have plied these routes for years and by now were very familiar with them.

The route usually taken in traveling from Manila to Baguio is to take the train at Tutuban Railroad Station to Damortis, La Union and then to be ferried from there by organic buses. However, for this secretive movement, they went down using Kennon Road in going to Manila. They reformed at the south of the Agno River in Tarlac, Tarlac. They then arrived at Manila before daybreak proceeding immediately to Camp Balara.

Encampment at Camp Balara, Diliman

Camp Balara was bounded by the Diliman Creek on the north, Marikina Road (now Aurora Boulevard) on the south, Balara Road (now Katipunan Avenue) on the east and Kamias Creek on the west and had its axis parallel to Marikina Road. (Scribe, 1999) It was formerly used as a training ground and jump-off area of the Army due to its close proximity to Camp Murphy (now Camp Emilio Aguinaldo) which is two kilometers away. At that point, Camp Murphy houses the 1st Infantry Division and elements of the 6th Pursuit Squadron. The bivouac area is approximately one-half kilometer long and a kilometer wide with a makeshift barracks. However, due to defensive reasons, the cadets were made to pitch tents formed by company in order to avoid a single bomb to kill majority of them. Each Cadet Company was given a sector to man with Alfa Company manning the southwest area, Bravo Company the northwest area fronting Diliman Creek, Charlie Company the southeast area and Delta Company the northeast area. The open areas adjacent to their areas served as Company defense sectors and were further designated as dispersal areas.

They were issued Springfield Cal .30 bolt-operated rifles that they mainly used during parades, a packed cartridge belt loaded with ammunitions and extra bandoleer belts. Their only anti-aircraft weapon was four Cal .30 Browning water-cooled machine guns that they mounted on pedestals.

Encounter at Camp Balara

On 13 December 1941, shortly after the cadets had their breakfast and while they were busy fortifying their camp, Japanese planes, belonging to the Japanese 11th Air Fleet, were spotted approaching their direction. The Japanese standard fighter plane, known as the ZERO Mitsubishi A6M "Zero-Sen" escorting bigger twin engine bombers, were armed with two forward-firing 7.7 mm Type 97 machine-guns in the upper fuselage and two wing-mounted 20 mm Type 99 cannon with two external 132 lb (60 kg) bombs. (Dwyer, 2003) The ZERO is considered as the Japanese' main fighter planes. With its tight turning radius, it was an extremely deadly weapon in a dogfight, and was famous for its ability to outmaneuver its western counterparts. The planes were there to carry out bombing missions at Nichols Field (now Villamor Airbase) and at Camp Murphy.

Upon being alerted by the posted Forward Observers, the cadets immediately sped towards the dispersal area and occupied their positions thereat. Two fighters suddenly appeared above the tree line south of the improvised Camp. They were recovering from strafing dives over the barracks at Camp Murphy. Obviously, the Japanese did not expect any encampment at that area hence they came in at low altitude. Upon seeing the planes, the cadets immediately started shooting at the bellies of the fighter planes as they passed by. Surprised by the sudden shower of ground fire, they switched their bombing raids from Camp Murphy to Nichols which they also bombed days earlier. Soon, Nichols was left in flames and utterly devastated. After wrecking havoc at Nichols, the Japanese return towards the direction of Balara possibly to avenge the shooting at them of the cadets earlier. They strafed the camp of the determined cadets from west to east. Two planes at a time delivered deadly hail of bullets to the near-defenseless cadets. Though dodging the bombs debris, the cadets, specifically those not in the direction of the planes' fire, still manage to return fire as the planes passed by. The cadets were also able to utilize their emplaced Cal .30 Browning machine guns with



the Cadet Baron, Cadet First Captain Restituto F Joson, PMA Class 1942, doing most of the damage. He literally removed the machine gun from its tripod and fired continuously till one of the planes that passed over him emitted smoke. (Scribe, 1999) The damaged plane never recovered from its dive and crashed into the high grounds now known as Loyola Heights. (Sword PMA 1944)

The encounter lasted for 30 minutes as the Japanese planes headed north at high altitude. No casualty was reported on the cadet side; however, the camp was left at a woeful state. Oddly however is the inability or hesitancy of the Japanese to use their bombs on the position of the cadets.

By noon, the cadets were given a surprise visit by the Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon accompanied by the Chief of Staff, Major General Basilio J Valdes. The President conveyed to the cadets his appreciation to the Corps for their exceptional conduct and achievement during the air attacks in Camp Balara.

Realizing fully well that the area is indefensible, the area being open and with rice paddies as its lone cover is susceptible to Japanese bombs, and fearing more Japanese reprisals in the area, the cadets were hauled off by military trucks in the evening towards the University of Santo Tomas. They were then billeted at the second and third floor classrooms of the Main Building in UST. By December 16th, a Commissionship and acceleration ceremony for PMA Class 1942 and 1943 was held at UST; however, PMA Classes 1944 and 1945 were told to go home, the PMA was eventually closed and its staff and faculty were deployed to front line units.

Post Encounter Analysis

Camp Balara placed the cadets at a disadvantage to aerial bombardment due to its wide open area and lack of cover and concealment. Roughly one kilometer long and one-half kilometer wide, the Camp had its axis parallel to Marikina Road. The makeshift barracks arrayed in an east-west axis was surrounded by dried-up paddies. Therefore, in the event of an aerial attack, the cadets will have to scamper towards the dispersal area since their makeshift barracks will not be able to provide them with an effective shelter. Despite their lack of equipment and facilities at Balara, their bivouac area was transformed into a strong defensive position that was able to repel a far more superior Japanese aerial aggression. This is mainly due to the full utilization of all elements for defensive ends. However, due to lack of time, no trenches, foxholes or dugouts were made. Further, confusion ruled in the first few moments of the Japanese attack at Camp Balara since no formal organization or Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) was established that showed how the group will react to ground or aerial aggression nor a manning organization was delineated. It was only through the timely decision of the most ranking cadet that saves the day for the group when he ably manned the Cal .30 Browning machine gun that downed a Japanese plane.

Their actions at Balara showed the inexperience of the cadets in warfare. They were considered still raw in the inhumane art of war, with all its brutality and gruesomeness. Hence, their Balara encounter was considered as their baptism of fire. Though they knew that their chances of inflicting damage was remote, they still fired at the Japanese planes "with gusto" to guarantee that the planes will know that they are in for a fight and to avenge what they did to Camp Murphy and Nichols Fields.

Their rigid life as a plebe once plus the excellent athletic program they underwent hardened the cadets physically and mentally. They were also able to apply the military tactics and marksmanship training given to them by their Tactical Officers.

Postscript

This chapter in the history of the Philippine Military Academy can only be found in the pages of the annuals, commonly referred to as Sword Books, of the war classes and at the Academy Scribe published by the Presidium of Academy Scribe. Such a proud and gallant stand by the cadets can be found nowhere in our history books which is lamentable considering that the history of our nation during World War II is replete with the heroics and sacrifices of our guerrilla leaders many of whom were present during the above-cited incidents. This event was their baptism of fire hence their story began with the end of the Pre-War period of PMA.

The Cadet Corps has shown that though they may be considered as raw and inexperienced; however, they more than made up for it through their education and training as military cadets and their sheer will to fight, and albeit die, for their country's continued freedom. The confidence and leadership of the senior cadets were evident as exhibited by their foremost leader, the cadet Baron. They have shown true and indomitable spirit of fighting men, the Do or Die motto (of Delta Company CCAFP), were intensely instilled in them.

About the Author-Researcher

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He took up his Command and General Staff Course at the AFP Education, Training, and Doctrine Command (AFPETDC) in 2018 graduating as the recipient of the The Deputy Chief of Staff AFP Award for graduating as the #3 in his CGSC Class 64. He holds three Masteral degrees: a Masters in International Studies (MIS) degree from the University of the Philippines - Diliman in 2015, a Masters in Public Management major in Development and Security (MPM Dev-Sec) from the DAP in 2019, and a Master in National Security Administration from the NDCP in 2024. Likewise, he holds a Certificate Course in Geopolitics and International Relations from DAP in 2021. More importantly, he is a PhD-Candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy in Peace and Security Administration (PhD PASA) from the Bicol University. He is presently awaiting schedule for his Dissertation Defense.

An amateur historian by vocation, he specializes on the Fil-American War and on World War II history. He has authored twenty-eight (28) various articles published on the following international and local publications: Army Journal (6), Cavalier Magazine (18), Army Trooper's Magazine; Focal News Magazine (Israel), Aghamtao Journal (Anthropology), and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, one of which was the basis of this updated and expanded article.

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Beyond the Academy: The Journeys of PMA Class 1965

• Cav Onofre Q Marcelo '65

The First March: From Entrance Examination to PMA Graduation

It all began in 1960 when around a thousand Filipino teenagers took the PMA entrance examination. Out of these, only 99 were accepted as new cadets in 1961. After four years of rigorous training, only 34 of the original 99 graduated in 1965. However, the total number of graduates was 57, as some upperclassmen who had been turned back due to academic deficiencies joined the class.

Fourteen members joined the Philippine Army, nine went to the Philippine Air Force, 18 became Philippine Navy officers, and 17 joined the Philippine Constabulary. Additionally, a West Point graduate joined the Army group after his graduation from the USMA.

After serving in the AFP for several years, some members of the class ventured into business and other fields. They established their own businesses, while others became corporate officers in well-known companies, both local and international. The remaining members continued their service, with many retiring as admirals, commodores, lieutenant generals, major generals, and brigadier generals in the AFP and the Philippine National Police.

Achievements Towards National Security and Peacekeeping

When the PMA Class of 1965 graduated, the country was relatively peaceful. The **Hukbalahap**, a communist guerrilla group, posed minimal threat, and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a Muslim secessionist movement, was still in its organizational stage. However, in 1968, the Communist Party of the Philippines established its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), which marked the beginning of significant security challenges. Shortly thereafter, the MNLF began to create disturbances in Cotabato, Sulu, and other Muslim-dominated areas of Mindanao. With these two emerging threats, the national security situation began to deteriorate.

Members of the class who belonged to the Philippine Army, Philippine Constabulary, and the Philippine Navy were heavily involved in fighting these twin threats. They fought these threats when they were First Lieutenants up to the time that they became senior officers or Generals.

AFP Operations Against Muslim Rebels

Notably, the class had Battalion commanders/Group Commander/Brigade Commanders (**Lapus, Olay, Padiernos, Solquillo**) and ship captains/Naval Task Group commanders (**Marcelo, Tucay, Borje, Bruce**); PC/INP (**Superable, Capitan, Fernandez, Alejandro)** who were involved in the battles against the MNLF in Mindanao. Most of the class members who participated in the AFP's efforts to neutralize the Muslim secessionist movement have been successful and were awarded the appropriate medals.

The names of **Padiernos, Lapus, Solquillo and Olay** are well remembered in the battle against the MNLF in Mindanao. They all started as junior offices in the PA battalions which fought in the jungles of Jolo, Cotabato, and Basilan. **Padiernos** and **Solquillo** started as junior officers in 14th Inf Bn, and after a period of many years, **Padiernos** ended up as commanding general of Southern Command, with rank of Lieutenant General (note: only him and Superable of PNP have attained this rank). The four classmates were all bemedalled. Padiernos's battalion was recipient of Best Battalion plaque for three years, and Best Tactical Brigade for two consecutive years. **Olay, Solquillo, and Lapus** were also exceptional, with **Olay** being believed to be the next probable choice for CSAFP considering his overall performance and young age.

Combatting Criminality and Terrorism

While the Muslim secessionist was being fought in Mindanao, the AFP/ PC /INP were also deeply involved in fighting the CPP/ NPA terroristic and criminal activities of syndicates in Luzon and Visayas. Many members of the class participated in this campaign: Foremost among them were **Lapus, Olay, Padiernos, De Leon, Tapia** of the Phil Army; and **Nartatez, Fernandez**, **Bulan, Nicolas, Arque,** and **Alejandro** of the PNP; and **Sacro and Habos of the PAF; and Marcelo**, **Tucay, De Leon and Tangan** of the Phil Navy.

The PNP Regional Command in Visayas under **Nicolas** had achieved significant gains in its fight against CPP/NPA, such as the capture of the entire CPP/NPA regional hierarchy in Region 6, disbandment of criminal syndicates, and the surrender of 400 insurgents in Iloilo.

AFP operations against the CPP/ NPA in Northeastern part of Luzon was also a big problem for the government because of the involvement of priests and religious personalities in fighting the government. One of them was **Fr Conrado Balweg** who was one of the targets of **Sacro**, who was the top intelligence officer of NOREASCOM

Turbulent Times: Class 65's Efforts Against Destabilization

The period from 1986 to mid-1990 marked a turbulent chapter in Philippine history. It began with a group of idealistic, mid-ranking officers from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) organizing the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and initiating a coup d'état against the late President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. Leading this movement were charismatic and credible officers, most notably **Colonel Gregorio Honasan** and **Captain Felix Turingan**, a devoted and respected Philippine Navy officer from PMA Class 1965.

The new President, **Corazon Aquino**, soon proved to be a disappointment to RAM. Moreover, some Class 1965 members closely associated with the previous administration, like Abadilla, Bulan, and Mendoza, were summarily relieved from their posts without justifiable reason. Other factors, such as the perceived inclinations of the Cory administration towards the left, triggered RAM's disaffection towards President Aquino. Consequently,

RAM, already labeled by the government as the Ultra-Rightist Group (URG), launched several coup attempts to overthrow her administration.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) countered the URG with significant support from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) and the intelligence units of the Philippine Navy, Philippine Army, and Philippine Air Force. The URG concentrated their violent efforts in Metro Manila, the seat of government, and nearby cities. Consequently, AFP intelligence efforts were also focused in these areas.

Two members of PMA Class 1965 played active roles: **Padiernos** of the Philippine Army and **Marcelo** of the Philippine Navy, who served twice as Commander of the Naval Intelligence and Security Force in 1987 and 1990. Both their units had nationwide areas of operation, but their primary focus was on the seat of national government and the safety of the headquarters of all major services, including the PNP.

Marcelo and Padiernos achieved notable success in capturing military rebels and persuading many to surrender. While Honasan and some of his close associates were captured, Turingan remained elusive, surrendering only after amnesty was granted to all URG members. Turingan retired after receiving amnesty and chose not to rejoin the AFP, unlike some of his companions. Several amnesty grantees were promoted to generals or secured employment as top executives of government-controlled corporations. Other URG personalities, having gained significant popularity, entered politics, with two of them becoming senators.

Turingan merits some recognition from the class. He served as the Regimental Commander (Baron) of the Corps of Cadets in our final year at the Academy, graduating in the top 10 of our class. His naval career, which was initially aboard ship, was unfortunately interrupted by his confinement to the V. Luna Medical Center due to kidney disease. Subsequently, he was assigned to the Department of National Defense, where he met Honasan and other Barons and several peemayers from younger classes. Turingan was an idealistic, honorable, and respectable officer. His decision not to rejoin the AFP, perhaps influenced by disappointments over the considerable damage caused by the URG on the AFP and its institutions, stands as a testament to his principles.

Incidentally, Padiernos, Marcelo, and Turingan were all members of the Regimental Staff of the Cadet Corp, together with Camacho and Tapia.

Journeys in Government Service, Business and Entrepreneurship

Some members of the class left the service early to make their mark in the corporate world. Abesamis, Acenas, Santos, Solis, Duque, Tucay, Mendoza, Camacho,Nartatez, Bulan, Alejandro and Malig were among them. They had proven themselves capable in treading into the world for jobs which the Academy was not equipped to teach us.

Malig of the PN became the first Filipino Managing Director of the shipping company, American President Lines, and later as President of Lorenzo Shipping Lines. Before joining the shipping industry, he was the District Collector of Customs at the Manila International Airport. Before that, he was the Director of National Customs Police. His departure from the military was a gain of the industry.

Duque who retired from the navy at the age of 43 migrated to Guam where he ventured in the insurance business and estate planning and was able to achieve success in the business. He was active in Guam, becoming the President of Fil-Am Chamber of Commerce. He was also the Vice President of the Filipino community in Guam. He is a writer, author, a singer, and an entertainer.

Mendoza who was an accomplished staff officer, retired as colonel and migrated to Australia. He put up a Seven-Eleven store in Melbourne, and soon after coming back to the Philippines, he was employed as Executive Vice President of the shipping company Sweet Lines. He was also employed as Executive Vice President of the Australia-based tech company, Easycall. At present, he is the president of his own service company, Hapi Day Corporation.

While still with Phil Army, Mendoza was appointed as General Manager of the Metro Manila Transit Corp. Concurrently, he was appointed presidents of California Bus Line, Manila City Bus Corp, and chairman of the Filipinas Transit Corp, and Director of DM Transit Corp. His journey in the business arena is quite remarkable.

Solis after graduating from the Asian Institute of Management, was appointed as Manager of the Port of Manila. After the assumption of President Cory Aquino, he was appointed as General Manager of Philippine Ports Authority. He served the PN for a few short years, devoting much of his productive years in government executive positions.

Abesamis was a graduate of Westpoint, who upon his optional retirement in 1981, joined ICTSI which specialized in seaport operations. Although much of his earlier years were spent doing office work and as a professor in PMA, he was able to quickly develop expertise in setting up port operations. He did this in Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil, Pakistan, China Indonesia, and in the Philippines, bringing credit not only to himself but also to ICTSI . Abesamis can be best described as a gentleman with prim and proper personality.

Tucay retired from the Philippine Navy sometime in 1987 and became a US citizen. While in the US, he worked in various capacities as infrastructure network engineer, and software engineer at MCI Telecommunication, and with federal government agencies. Tucay established a modest company, DXT (Domingo Extra Technology) in the US. His experiences in the military service include assignments in Intelligence, as captain of patrol ships, and as Philippine Defense Attache in Washington DC. Tucay is a very likeable fellow in social and professional circles, and could have been a strong contender to the highest position in the PN hierarchy.

Santos, a PAF pilot, who died in 1989, worked with a local company whose line of business was servicing the requirements of Filipino OFWs in the Middle East. While in the service he was appointed as governor of the lucrative barter trade in Zamboanga city. He died while playing tennis, his favorite game since cadet days.

Alejandro, who was retired prematurely as PNP officer, got a job as consultant in a mining firm in Mindanao. He ventured into entrepreneurship by establishing Alejandro's Dairy and Beverage Products. His company was famous for its durian ice cream. He was also employed as Vice President of Philtranco Bus Lines.

Bruce, who graduated Nr 2 in the class, migrated in 1986 to the US where he had been quite successful in the Insurance business. In the US, he was a chartered financial consultant, the president of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, and President of the National Insurance Marketing Organization. Before migrating to the US, he was consultant to the Export Processing Zone Authority and consultant to EPZA. He was the Head of Bureau of Customs Computer Center. He was consultant to the Ministry of Muslim Affairs. His years in the Philippine Navy was highly remarkable, having garnered many distinctions as ship captain. He could have risen to the position of Flag Officer in Command of the PN had he remained in the service

In 1982, he published his book, **Ang Banal na Koran**. This was a notable accomplishment considering that his conversion to Islam was a late occurrence in his life.

Acenas, after opting to optionally retire in 1981 found a job as General Manager of the Maritime Service Corporation. Later he was appointed as Marine Manager of Shell Petroleum Corporation. He was the Vice President of Ship Management, Magsaysay Marime Corporation; and Manager of WISE (Waterborne Industry Spill Equipment). While in the PN, he spent some time aboard patrol ships, and in staff assignments in logistics and in personnel administration. He was widely admired by associates and subordinates alike for his jolly demeanor and never-ending sense of humor and wit.

Camacho, a PAF pilot, retired in 1982, migrated to Canada and worked with the Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd in 2021. While he was in the AFP, he was appointed as President of JISSCORP in 1979. Later, he worked as executive at Minsteel. After retirement, he was appointed as AVP of the Philippine Veterans Bank where he was highly recognized for his contribution towards improving the transparency of the bank.

Camacho graduated nr. 1 in mathematics and a holder of masters in mathematics from UP. He taught mathematics in PMA and at the same time, served as Master of the Sword. Obviously, the AFP did not have the opportunity to benefit much from his talent and experience in logistics because of his early retirement.

Nartatez left the PNP in 1993 and subsequently took on the role of Vice-President and Security Officer at Banco Filipino. He later established an enterprise providing logistic support to various PNP units. Nartatez has been actively involved in service and social organizations, particularly Rotary International, where he was honored as the Centennial President for the year 2004-2005. Known as a well-liked Mulawin, he is hardworking, friendly, and always ready to accept responsibility in planning and operationalizing class activities.

On a lighter note, Nartatez humorously claims he should have received the Most Improved Cadet award during graduation, instead of De Leon. This award is typically given to the candidate with the lowest score in the entrance examination. Nartatez passed the PMA entrance examination but was admitted only as one of the 13 late entrants following the dismissal of seven members of Class 1964 for hazing, including Duque. Of the 13, only Nartatez graduated in 1965, along with Duque, who was readmitted to Class 1965.

Bulan retired from the PNP in 1995 while holding the third highest leadership position. His service record is truly outstanding, having received numerous NISA awards, including the Outstanding Regional Station Award and the Regional Director Award. His roles in the PNP hierarchy included Director of Intelligence, Director of the Special Action Force, Director of the PNP Computer Center, Director of Personnel, and Director of Logistics. Upon his retirement, he was appointed Vice-President for Security Affairs at one of the largest banks, BPI.

Bulan will always be remembered as the tallest member of the class and as a kind, reticent, and well-mannered member of PMA Class 1965.

Lapus, a highly decorated Philippine Army officer, was fortunate to gain business exposure while still in service. He was appointed President of Mindanao Steel Corporation in 1980 and Vice President of JISSCOR, a government-sequestered company, in 1981. Lapus is remembered by many of his subordinates as a well-respected, no-nonsense officer, highly professional and somewhat intimidating.

Three Classmates: One Journey

A unique situation happened in the case of **Solquillo, Marcelo, and Delos Santos**. They were appointed one after the other by three different CSAFP as Presidents of AFPMBAI, Chairmen of AFP General Insurance Corporation, and Board members of the Centennial Bank. They all retired as Major Generals (Marcelo was Rear Admiral) at the time of their appointment. While in the service, Marcelo and Delos Santos, a jet fighter pilot, were Vice Commanders of the PN, and PAF, respectively

Solquillo, a Vietnam veteran, is a highly decorated staff officer and commander. He has a wide exposure in the business field. After retirement he was appointed as the President of Bataan Technology Park, and later as Chairman of Goodfit Manufacturing Corporation. He was also the Chairman of Riviera Golf Club, and consultant of the Philippine National Bank.

His participation in various AFP organizations is astounding. A Director of AGFO, a founding member of AGFO foundation, a member of Board of Trustee of RSBS, President of AFPCGSC Foundation; President of PMA Foundation (2003-2010); EVP PMAAA Development Foundation: Secretary of PMAAA Development Foundation; and Chairman of PMAAAI in 2014. Solquillo is a humble and reticent, prim and proper officer and a gentleman.

Solquillo, Marcelo, and Delos Santos performed well in their designations, contributing to the continuing growth of the AFPMBAI.

Uncommon Achievements

Class 1965 takes special pride in the unique accomplishments of some of its members. They distinguished themselves not only by their unique accomplishments but also by their reputation, their actuations and their personal behavior and attributes.

Most Feared Crime Fighter and Politician

In the fight against criminality in the National Capital Region, the leading figure was **Abadilla** of the PNP. His accomplishments include, solving the Padilla arms cache, and the four sensational kidnapping cases involving Mr. Foo, the Lim children, Mr. Ngo, and Robina Gokongwei. He was fearless in his efforts to hunt down criminal elements, communist terrorists, particularly the ABB/NPA, leading to his assassination by the ABB on June 13, 1966.

It is worth mentioning that his accomplishments have impressed Gen Fabian Ver, AFP Chief of Staff and President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr, and as result of which he was promoted along with class 1962 to full colonel, very much ahead of his classmates, making him in line for the position of Chief, PNP.

Abadilla's military career history reflects his complex character. He was one of the two PC officers, both class 65 members, who were selected to train in Corregidor Island for the **Project JABIDAH**. Our classmate, **Nepomuceno**, was killed during training. Problems during training compromised the supposedly secret project. Consequently , the project was denounced by Sen Aquino in the halls of the Senate, leading to the court-martial proceedings against all the officers assigned in the project. But luckily, all were acquitted.

While in the service, he participated in professional car racing and was quite good at it. He was a leading figure in the Automotive Racing Association of the Philippines. He retired after the downfall of Marcos and Gen Ver, and went into politics and won the vice governor post in the province of Ilocos Norte.

The Evangelical Bishop

Sacro is a rarity among Philippine Military Academy (PMA) graduates. A retired colonel of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), he is notable for his deep spiritual journey, now serving as an evangelical Bishop and an AFP auxiliary chaplain. He and his team have visited numerous AFP camps, bases, units, and headquarters, spreading the word of God and distributing Bibles to AFP personnel. Sacro holds a PhD in Business Management, a

Master's in Public Administration, a Master's in Defense Studies, and a Master's in Chaplaincy.

Early in his career, Sacro was a highly skilled, combat-ready jet fighter pilot stationed at Basa Air Base and a member of the Red Aces aerial demonstration team. He later served as Dean and Deputy Commandant of the AFPCGSC, with his final major staff assignment being Adjutant General of the AFP. His exemplary service is highlighted by his receipt of the Cavaliers Award twice: once in 1978 for military operations and again in 2007 for Military Christian Fellowship.

Before becoming a bishop, Sacro was the chief intelligence officer of the Northeastern Command. In this role, he played a crucial part in efforts to persuade the rebel priest **Conrado Balweg** to surrender. During a negotiation attempt, Balweg and his followers ambushed Sacro and his team, resulting in the death of a **female negotiator**, the mortal wounding of a senior officer, and injuries to **Sacro**. The timely arrival of a rescue team saved Sacro's life.

Ten years earlier, in December 1972, Sacro encountered **Solquillo** in the Sierra Madre mountain range. Solquillo and his men, the 20th IB Charlie Company, were in a dire situation. They had been lost in the jungle for several days due to bad weather. Sacro, using a light aircraft, located them, provided supplies, and facilitated their rescue by helicopter.

The City Mayor

Papa, our plebemate, distinguished himself in the insurance business after he became a working professional. He was appointed as Vice President of First QC Insurance. He was also the President of Allied Port Services and Dangerous Cargo Warehousing at the Port of Manila. Most significantly, the people of **Taguig** will always remember him as their former mayor.

The International Marketeer

Egay Velasco, another plebemate, is certainly beyond compare among top corporate executives. Even before his graduation from Ateneo, Proctor and Gamble recognizing Egay's potential already offered him a job before his graduation. He proved his mettle as a marketeer by making P&G products, like Safeguard, Tide, Ariel, etc. the top performers in the Philippine market. A few years later he was pirated by Richardson Vicks, manufacturer of Vicks products.

He was deployed to Indonesia three times, staying there as expatriate for a total of 20 years, working as marketing director of Vicks during his first deployment, and Corporate Marketing Services Director for Indonesia's largest food conglomerate on his second deployment to Indonesia. His third deployment to Indonesia was as Gen Manager of Universal Robina Corporation based in Indonesia.

The other 10 years of his overseas stint were spent in Singapore and Taiwan where he worked as a Development Manager for Kraft General Foods, and as General Manager Premierfoods corporation. During the next 10 years of his overseas career, he worked as a Development Manager for Kraft General Foods in Singapore and as General Manager for Premierfoods Corporation in Taiwan. Velasco, a soft-spoken and self-effacing gentleman, has been providing valuable service to class activities and managing class finance.

The Entrepreneur

Chee, in addition to his distinguished career as a line officer with extensive expertise in naval communications, electronics, and weapons research and development, has successfully ventured into entrepreneurship and agriculture. He established a manufacturing business that supplies products to the Philippines' largest supermarket chain, SM. Furthermore, he is a sugar planter based in Negros Occidental. His entrepreneurial acumen caught the attention of a Chinese businessman, who contracted him to assist in building a manufacturing plant in China to produce the same high-quality products he manufactures in the Philippines. Chee is a quiet and self-effacing and friendly person and one who is ready to assist friends in need.

The Elites: Presidential Aide-de-Camps and Military Attaches

Class 1965 has the distinction and good fortune of having two Aide-de-Camps serving President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Sr., and First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

Azurin was assigned as Aide-de-Camp to President Marcos on the eve of the declaration of martial law in September 1972. He continued to serve President Marcos until 1987, when he and the rest of the Malacañang boys were dropped from the rolls, deprived of all their pay and benefits. Before the EDSA Revolution, his life in this assignment was good. He enjoyed perks that his classmates did not have. He pursued a Master's degree in Business and Government Administration and was concurrently appointed as a member of the executive committee of MARINA. Life after the downfall of Marcos was challenging, but through sheer grit and determination, he persevered. His service to Marcos during the latter's final days in Hawaii exemplifies his professionalism and charitable nature.

De Guzman became the Aide-de-Camp of Imelda Marcos. He was fortunate to serve Imelda, who traveled abroad many times, mostly in an official capacity, representing Marcos at foreign state events. Igoy had many unique memories of these travels. It gave him a once-in-a-lifetime experience of shaking hands with the Pope, President Sadat of Egypt, President Gaddafi of Libya, King Juan Carlos of Spain, President Fidel Castro of Cuba, and a few others.

Three members of the class were appointed as Attaches: Cauton in Paris, Tucay in Washington DC, and Leonardo in Singapore. Their roles as attaches allowed them to circulate in circles where ordinary officers could not, meeting important dignitaries in the process.

Cauton and his family had the privilege of living in one of the world's most romantic cities, Paris, for seven years - a testament to his exceptional performance and dedication. He was a trusted officer under Marcos, evidenced by his appointment as the first Sergeant-at-Arms of the Interim Batasang Pambansa. After opting for early retirement, he worked as a management consultant for several private corporations in the Philippines.

He is a serious and hardworking professional, blessed with a wife and children who are all successful in their own right. His integrity is beyond reproach, having served on the Honor Committee of the Cadet Corps for four years, including as Chairman in our final year. He is a true gentleman, with a good sense of humor reminiscent of his relative, Dolphy, the beloved top comedian of the local movie industry.

With his excellent service reputation, Cauton could have risen to top positions in the PNP had he remained. However, he chose to leave, feeling that his identification as a Marcos and Ver loyalist would hinder his advancement.

Tucay was posted as Naval Attache and Assistant Defense Attache in Washington DC from 1982 to 1986, when he opted for early retirement. After his retirement, he worked in civilian tech companies and various US government agencies. Tucay, a recently widowed member of the class, thrived well in the US after his retirement, as evidenced by his employment in US technological companies and various government agencies. Tucay

is a well-liked gentleman, a faithful husband to his late wife, and a good father to his children.

Unfulfilled Destinies: Outstanding Members Who Could Have Reached the Top

The mark of success for a particular class in the PMA is often seen in its members attaining the highest positions in the AFP and PNP, such as the CSAFP, CG, PA, Chief PC/ DG PNP, CG, PAF, and FOIC, PN. Unfortunately, Class 1965 did not have any member reach these top posts. It is a pity because, man for man, the members of our class are just as qualified and deserving in terms of accomplishments and service reputation. However, fate was not on our side. Despite this, many members of Class 1965 are worth mentioning, with the following standing out:

Abadilla: Had Marcos and Ver not been ousted, Abadilla was a sure candidate for the top post of the PNP. In terms of accomplishments and service reputation and having been promoted to Colonel along with Class 1962, there was no doubt he would have made it. He retired early because his connection with President Marcos and General Ver would have hindered his advancement in the service.

Olay: An outstanding commander and staff officer, Olay was often compared to more senior army officers for his exceptional capabilities. It was even rumored that a Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP) once mentioned Olay as a potential successor. Tragically, he died in a helicopter crash in Samar. Had he lived, he would likely have become the CSAFP, paving the way for his classmates, such as Lapus and Solquillo, to attain top positions as well.

Padiernos: Equally outstanding, Padiernos was one of the two members of the class who attained the rank of Lieutenant General. As the Commander of Southern Command, he could have easily made it as CG, PA. However, he was not favored by his superiors, who were wary of his tendency to criticize them.

Bruce: Known as the best ship captain in the Philippine Navy, Bruce received the "Ship of the Year" award for four consecutive years. Many in the navy believed he would be the next Flag Officer in Command due to his numerous accomplishments, personal demeanor, and high level of intellect. He left the service in 1986, disappointed by the favoritism in the practice of granting temporary promotions in the AFP. Many navy officers who had never commanded a ship or had the required sea duty were temporarily promoted ahead of him.

Bulan: With a solid list of accomplishments and a wholesome service reputation, Bulan was well-qualified for the top position in the PNP. He is a kind and God-fearing general with a solid reputation among his peers and subordinates. He decided to leave the service early because he felt he could not reach the top due to his earlier association with General Ver.

Nartatez: With a solid record of accomplishments in police operations and investigation and in the various campaigns against criminality that resulted in the conviction of arrested criminals and having thoroughly prepared himself in terms of training and education, he was considered as one of the future candidates for the position of Chief PNP. He and Enri Bulan were the first 65ers in the PC who were promoted to generals, together with some members of Class 62 and Class 63. But, as fate was not to be, Nartatez' retirement in 1993 before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 56 resulted in just considering him by most of the former Chiefs of the PNP and other Senior Officers as the Best Chief PNP that the PNP never had.

Surviving the Sierra Madre: Delos Santos' Tale

Delos Santos: In May 1972, during a proficiency flight in his F-5 jetfighter over the Sierra Madre mountains, his plane suddenly spiraled out of control, forcing him to eject. He lost consciousness almost instantly. When he regained consciousness, he found himself hanging from a large tree. His parachute and flight suit were torn, and his body was covered in leeches, spiders, and mosquitoes, all in the heart of the dense jungle of the vast Sierra Madre mountains.

Without a map or compass, he struggled to find his way down the mountain, following a river. After several hours of walking, he met a kindhearted Ifugao native who offered to help in exchange for his parachute and other flight gear. For three days, the Ifugao guided, fed, and protected Delos Santos until they reached civilization. During their journey, the Ifugao mentioned that Delos Santos was fortunate not to have landed near headhunting natives or crossed a crocodile-infested part of the river.

During the 3-day absence of Delos Santos, nobody in the AFP knew the whereabouts of Delos Santos and his plane. Divers were sent to scour lake Laguna de Bay and search aircrafts were dispatched to search for the plane. Failing in all the efforts to locate the plane, it created speculation within the AFP intelligence community that Delos Santos, a half-chinese Filipino, flew to North Vietnam to sell the aircraft. Even **President Marcos** was disturbed by this speculation that he personally questioned **Delos Santos** about the incident.

Spotlight on Academic Achievements

Three members became lawyers while still in the service (**Arque, Limon, and Nartatez**). Nartatez finished his law as a working student with Academic Excellence and he passed the Bar Exams in 1978 with a rating of 82.26

Nineteen had finished postgraduate degrees: **Abesamis**(Economics); **Bruce** (Computer Science); **Camacho** (Masters in Mathematics); **Cauton (**Masters in Business and Industrial Engineering); **Duque (**Economics), **Habos** (Management); **Guzman (**MS OR and Sys Analysis): **Malig** (Computer Science**); Nartatez (MBA): Robles** (Mechanical Engineering); **Rosal** (Logistics Management); **Sacro** (PhD and three Masters degrees); **Delos Santos** (MBA); **Solis** (MBA); **Tucay** (MBA); **Turingan** (Computer Science); **Velasco** (MBA); **Mendoza** (Logistics Management, with GPA 4.0).

Several members were able to finish their Command and General Staff Course and advance military courses abroad: **Candelario** (England**); Fernandez, Padiernos and Solquillo, Flor** (United States); **Marcelo, Nartatez, Olay** (Australia); **Tapia** (Indonesia); and **Toling** (Germany).

Three members graduated at the AFPCGSC, two of whom - **Marcelo** and **Robles -** graduated topnotchers of their respective classes, and **Sacro** who graduated with honors in his class.

Lifelines of Hope: Assisting Those in Need

Following the defeat of South Vietnam in 1975, the Philippines faced a significant influx of Vietnamese refugees. The first to arrive was the steel-hulled vessel, Tong An, carrying mostly well-to-do Chinese Vietnamese. Soon after, numerous small wooden-hulled fishing boats, overloaded with Vietnamese refugees, began to reach Philippine shores. Unfortunately, many of these boats did not survive the rough seas, resulting in numerous casualties. At that time, it was estimated that over a thousand refugees had arrived in the Philippines, necessitating immediate provisions for their food and shelter. The Philippine Navy was among the lead agencies tasked with accommodating and feeding these refugees.

Helping South Vietnamese Refugees

Marcelo, who was the Deputy Head for Home Defense (N7), was tasked by Chief N7 with the responsibility of administering

the refugees in **Tara Island**, near Mindoro, where a hundred refugees were temporarily settled. The office of Home Defense, HPN had to develop the unpopulated island, put up living spaces, organize the refugee community, and plan the logistic support system. Every aspect of the job was extremely difficult due to the difficulties in communications, reprovisioning and the violent and criminal inclinations of some of the ethnic Vietnamese refugees. Also problematic was language problem and our lack of institutional experience in managing refugees. Later, because of the remoteness of Tara Island, the refugees were transferred to refugee centers in easily accessible locations in Bataan, and Puerto Princesa Palawan.

In 1988, while attending a course in Melbourne, Australia, He and was greeted by one of the refugees who lived for a while in Tara Island . He did not recognize the Vietnamese as he was already decent looking, ut the Vietnamese easily recognized him.

Civic Action in South Vietnam

Seven members of Class 1965 (**Lapus, Solquillo, De Leon, Daza, Ortiz, Limon, Toling** and **Dunque**) performed civic action duties in South Vietnam during the Vietnam war in late 60's to early 70's as members of Philippine Army Civic Action Group (PHILCAG), as part of the Philippine government's commitment to assist the South Vietnam government in providing medical relief and assistance to the affected people of South Vietnam. Also, members of PHILCAG were young military nurses, one of whom, Lt. Nita Solquillo, became the wife of a PMA Class 65 PHILCAG member, Lt. Jose Maria Solquillo.

Assistance to Typhoon Victims

Marcelo, during his tour of duty as Commander Naval Forces North, was frequently involved in search and rescue of residents in many areas of Pangasinan every time a strong typhoon hits the country. He organized teams of PNARTS (Philippine Navy Assistance and Rescue Teams) to be deployed in various parts of Pangasinan which were prone to perennial flooding. These PNARTS were a big help to the people and were highly praised by the local governments of the affected municipalities and barangays. In almost four years of his term as Commander of Naval Forces North, he had deployed his PNARTS every year in Pangasinan, and in Cagayan province.

Rescue of the crew of ill-fated RPS BADJAO

During a stormy mid-October in 1975, a catastrophe struck the waters off Ilocos Norte with the sinking of the coast guard ship, **RPS BADJAO**. Hours before the ship sank, **Marcelo, then the Commander of Naval Forces North**, urgently requested J3, GHQ to dispatch helicopters for the crew's rescue. Unfortunately, the PAF helicopters were delayed, waiting for the severe weather to subside. About seven hours later, the ship's captain gave the orders to abandon ship, and it sank shortly thereafter.

Marcelo, stationed on the beach, was organizing rescue teams of local swimmers and divers. With no other options, he utilized a small BO105 helicopter- -which can accommodate only three passengers - to undertake the rescue of the 37 officers and men already in the water, exhausted and weak. It was heartbreaking to watch them from a distance, gradually being swept away by the wind and current, drifting further from the shore. Thanks to the daring and exceptional skills of the two young pilots, who risked the lives maneuvering close to the large waves, all the men struggling in the heavy seas were rescued. Ironically, the four PAF rescue helicopters arrived only after all the crewmembers had been safely brought to the shore and resting on the beach. Incidentally both pilots were PMA graduates.

Journey's End: The Flame Still Burns

In 1999, the last member of PMA Class 1965 retired from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, marking the end of our illustrious careers at the age of 56. Sixty years have passed since our graduation, and today, only 28 of the original 57 members remain with us. Many of us are bravely facing health challenges as we approach the twilight of our lives.

Few among the younger classes remember Class 1965, as we have become, in military lingo, "old fogeys." As we prepare to fade into history, we leave behind few relics of our service, but our legacy endures in the hearts and minds of those who knew us. Our stories, our sacrifices, and our camaraderie will be remembered, even as we step into the annals of time.

Our class is proud to have achieve these:

Ranks Attained:

2 Lieutenant Generals
12 Major Generals/Rear Admirals
7 Brigadier Generals/Commodores

Medals and Awards:

4 Legion of Honor Medals
15 Gold Cross Medals
44 Distinguished Service Star Medals
13 Outstanding Achievement Medals
1 Outstanding Achievement Medal awarded by the US Secretary of the Navy
2 Distinguished Navy Cross Medals
3 Distinguished Aviation Cross Medals
17 Bronze Cross Medals
104 Military Merit Medals
9 PMAAAI Cavalier Awards (with Solquillo and Sacro each receiving the award twice)

FROM CADET DREAMS TO LASTING BONDS

By RADM ONOFRE Q MARCELO

Through decades long, our paths did wind,
With honor and duty, our hearts aligned.
From fields of war to corporate halls,
We answered the nation's calls.

Now, as the sun sets on our storied past,
We gather memories that forever last.
Brothers in arms, in peace and strife,
We celebrate a well-lived life.

With gratitude for the bonds we've made,
And the legacy that will never fade,
We bid farewell, with heads held high,
To the journey's end, under the sky.

For in our hearts, the flame still burns,
Of lessons learned and honors earned.
PMA Class of '65, we proudly say,
Our journey ends, but our spirit stays.



Presidential Peace Adviser Secretary Carlito G Galvez, Jr. embraces a former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) combatant, a gesture symbolizing genuine reconciliation and unity, during the launch of the MNLF Transformation Program held in Lamitan, Basilan on September 30, 2023.

OPAPRU, at the Forefront of Philippine Peace Process

For decades, internal armed conflict has exacted a heavy toll on the Philippines. It has claimed thousands of lives, displaced millions of people, impeded community development, and diverted significant funds which could have been used to provide vital public services to communities across the country.

Recognizing the urgent need to achieve genuine and long-lasting peace, the Philippine government has made peacebuilding a top priority and a cornerstone of its policy agenda. In 1993, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) was established to craft, implement and monitor the nation's peace initiatives.

Over the years, the mandate of the peace agency has evolved based on emerging realities. With the issuance of Executive Order No. 158 in 2021, OPAPP was renamed as the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU). The office's mandate is not only to ensure the implementation of peace agreements but also to actively promote reconciliation and unity among the Filipino people.

This expanded role aims to ensure that the OPAPRU will build upon the successes of its peace interventions and focus on long-term peacebuilding interventions that address the root causes of conflict, and reflect the government's steadfast commitment to using a comprehensive approach that goes beyond merely ending hostilities.

Marcos Admin's Five-Point Peace Agenda

To steer the national government's peace policy and peacebuilding efforts towards its collective vision of realizing a just and lasting peace, the OPAPRU adopted the Marcos Jr.

Administration's 5-Point Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity Agenda.

Anchored on a whole-of-nation, whole-of-society approach which involves the active participation of all sectors of society in the peacebuilding and development process, the agenda focuses on the following:

1. Completion of peace agreements with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and Moro National Liberation (MNLF) to foster healing and reconciliation in the Bangsamoro region;
2. Ending of local communist armed conflict by expanding the transformation programs for local conflict peace process and exploring political settlements;
3. Completion and sustainment of the gains of the signed peace agreements with the Cordillera Bodong Administration-Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CBA-CPLA) and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido Manggagawa ng Pilipinas/Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade-Tabara Paduano Group (RPM-P/RPA/ABB-TPG);
4. Enhancement of the resilience for peace of communities and vulnerable groups through social healing and peacebuilding approaches to support ongoing peace processes; and
5. Enhancement of the delivery of Conflict-Sensitive and Peace-Promoting (CSPP)--compliant socio economic interventions in addressing the key drivers of conflict through convergence and complementation in support of the peace processes.



Presidential Peace Adviser Carlito G Galvez, Jr. gestures as he discusses with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. the key points of the Small Arms and Light Weapons Program, a component of the Normalization Track under the Bangsamoro peace process. The discussion took place during the Panabang Kasanyagan Monument Peace Offering Ceremony held in Sumisip, Basilan on March 2, 2024. Also in the photo are National Security Adviser Sec. Eduardo Año, BARMM Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua, and BARMM Governors Mamintal Adiong, Jr. of Lanao del Sur and Yshmael Sali of Tawi-Tawi.

The Five-Point Agenda essentially provides a framework wherein the OPAPRU's can effectively fulfil the national government's commitments under existing peace agreements, while preventing the resurgence of future armed conflicts.

More tools in the toolbox

As the adage goes, "If the only tool you have is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail." The battle against the decades-long communist insurgency has vastly evolved over the past 50 years. In response, the government has recalibrated its policies and strategies to address the threat of the communist group using a 'whole-of-government' approach.

Fighting a decades-old battle with the same mindset and methods that we used 50 years ago will not only be counterproductive; it puts the government and the security sector at a major disadvantage.

As we entered the 21st century, we broadened and reframed our way of thinking and methodologies. We realized that the communist insurgency is not a 'stand alone conflict.' It is a complex one that is deeply rooted in poverty, absence of economic opportunities, and a lack of trust in the government.

It was clear that we cannot view communist insurgency as a problem that can be addressed by military solution alone. A multi-pronged approach is needed to a holistic solution to the problem.

The termination of the formal peace process between the Philippine government and the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP/NPA/NDF) in 2017 paved the way for the government's shift to a whole-of-nation, whole-of-society approach.

This strategy integrated the efforts of various national and local government agencies and stakeholders to resolve the key drivers of conflict. More importantly, local government units were involved and capacitated so that they could effectively engage directly with insurgents who were willing to lay down their arms and return to the folds of the law.

This whole-of-nation approach gave birth to Localized Peace Engagement (LPE) and its Transformation Program (TP). The LPE is a community-based, community-driven method wherein local government units and the residents are at the forefront and actively involved in the peacebuilding process.

AFP and the peace process

Since its implementation six years ago, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), a member of the National Task Force to Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict's (NTF-ELCAC) LPE cluster, has played a vital role in addressing not only peace and security but also socio-economic gaps in far-flung, underdeveloped communities.

The AFP has been helping bring basic essential services closer to the people, facilitating the surrender of combatants, and implementing deradicalization programs for former rebels.

It must be made clear, however, that these efforts do not mean that the AFP will discontinue the conduct of military operations nor has it declared a commitment to a ceasefire. In fact, efforts to dismantle the remaining weakened guerilla fronts remain the AFP's priority.

At the broader picture, the military must continue supporting the national government's efforts to transform communities that have been declared insurgency-free and are transitioning from conflict, as the organization continues to carry out its own peacebuilding efforts to help uplift the conditions of former rebels, their families, and communities.



Former Bangsamoro Interim Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim presents a decommissioned weapon belonging to a former MILF combatant to Special Assistant to the President Secretary Antonio Ernesto F. Lagdameo, Jr. and Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity Secretary Carlito G Galvez, Jr. during the third phase of the decommissioning process held on August 3–12, 2023, in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao. Also in the photo is Independent Decommissioning Body Chairperson Ambassador Suat Akgun.

Reviving national peace engagements

Six years after the national government ended its peace negotiations with the CPP-NPA-NDF, they agreed to a "principled and peace resolution of the armed conflict and to end the armed struggle," as contained in the Joint Oslo Communique they signed on November 28, 2023 in Oslo, Norway.

Both parties were one in their belief that the nation must unite so that the national government can focus on addressing emerging socio-economic and political challenges, while the military directs its manpower and resources in dealing with external threats and protecting our country's sovereignty.

The issuance of the Joint Statement was a historic development, as this is the first time that the communist group agreed to engage in future peace discussions with the government to address "deep-rooted socio-economic and political grievances" and develop a framework for peace negotiations that prioritize achieving social, economic, and genuine political reforms.

Most importantly, the CPP-NPA-NDF pledged to resolve armed conflict, put an ultimate end to armed struggle, and allow themselves to transform into a political movement.

It is crucial, however, to underscore that the Joint Communiqué does not constitute a peace agreement. Rather, it signifies a shared vision or commitment by the parties to engage in exploratory talks aimed at finding genuine solutions to the problem.

The determination of the Philippine government over the past years to reach a political settlement with the communist insurgents does not diminish the key role of the military in peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Without a doubt, if not for our military forces' relentless pursuit to end the insurgency, we would not be in a position of strength to negotiate with the NDF.

In his second State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. stated: "We have now progressed together towards peace and development. We have incorporated capacity-building and social protection into our reintegration programs to guarantee the full decommissioning of former combatants."

To ensure the holistic transformation of these ex-fighters, the President also underscored the importance of granting them amnesty. Thus, during a press briefing in December 2024, a week shy of the CPP/NPA/NDF's anniversary, I called on the members of the communist group to completely abandon armed struggle and take advantage of the amnesty program of the Marcos administration. We want to underscore that this amnesty program is the government's offering to them.

Completing all commitments under existing signed peace agreements continues to be a cornerstone of the Marcos administration's peace agenda — demonstrating a clear and enlightened path that will enable the country to resolve all armed conflict and move forward through healing and unity.

With localized peace engagements continuing to gain momentum and the vast potential of the proposed peace discussions between the national government and the CPP-NPA-NDF, let us be inspired by President Marcos' guidance as we carry out these dialogues: "For us to move forward as a strong, undivided nation, the government will continue to pursue a principled and peaceful resolution to internal armed conflicts, with neither blame nor surrender, but with dignity for all."

A Legacy of Service: The Journey of MAYOR LEOPOLDO N BATAOIL



Upholding Leadership, Duty, and Excellence

A Golden Jubilarian of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) reflects on his journey, not as a completed chapter but as a continuous commitment to leadership, duty, and excellence. Leopoldo N Bataoil, the current mayor of Lingayen and a former congressman, has embodied these values throughout his career. Recognized twice with the prestigious PMA Cavalier Award—first in 2010 for his exemplary military service and again in 2021 for his outstanding achievements in public service—Bataoil has remained steadfast in his service to the nation.

Championing Environmental Conservation and Sustainability

Beyond his distinguished careers in law enforcement and public administration, Bataoil has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable development. His leadership in Lingayen has brought numerous initiatives addressing climate risks and ecological preservation.

Among his notable accomplishments was establishing Daang Kalikasan and Daang Katutubo in Mangatarem and Aguilar. The conduct of tree planting as part of the Billion Tree Planting project in these locations aimed to combat illegal logging, kaingin, and charcoal making while preventing forest fires and restoring the remaining forest cover. Through stricter conservation efforts, these areas are now being preserved for future generations, ensuring the rehabilitation of trees, plants, wildlife, and overall biodiversity.

Furthermore, through his commitment to national programs, he has actively supported mangrove and nipa plantations, ensuring coastal resilience while fostering local livelihoods in Lingayen. These initiatives provide a natural shield against typhoons and rising sea levels while serving as habitats for marine biodiversity such as crabs, shrimps, and other crustaceans.

Meanwhile, his advocacy for eco-tourism and sustainable infrastructure is evident in the constructed Eco-Tourism Bypass Road. This project enhanced interconnectivity between the towns of Lingayen, Binmaley, and Dagupan, providing a faster and more convenient route for travelers and businesses. By integrating lanes for joggers and bikers, the initiative not only reduced traffic congestion but also promoted green mobility, lowering gas emissions while fostering economic development through trade, commerce, business, and tourism. The road serves as a model for sustainable urban planning, ensuring that development aligns with environmental responsibility.

Preserving Heritage and Promoting Tourism

Understanding the historical and cultural significance of Lingayen, Bataoil spearheaded the Lingayen Gulf Baywalk Project to preserve the site of the historic Allied landing during World War II. This project also plays a crucial role in maintaining coastal integrity and preventing further encroachment on public shorelines—effectively addressing the growing number of illegal settlers. Consequently, it has become a landmark destination, attracting visitors who seek to honor the sacrifices made during the war while enjoying the scenic beauty of the Lingayen Gulf.

As part of this innovation, a massive tree planting of coconuts along the shorelines of the Lingayen Gulf has been successfully initiated. This effort simultaneously supports residents' livelihoods and environmental development.

Revitalizing Agriculture and Economic Growth

The rise of major perfume-producing countries gradually overshadowed the Philippines' role as a leading source of ylang-ylang essential oil, changing its history. Meanwhile, a visionary in agricultural and economic revitalization, Bataoil untiringly initiated the rebirth of ylang-ylang in the Philippines during the 15th, 16th, and even 17th Congress. Soon, his efforts led to the re-establishment of ylang-ylang plantations in the country. As an initial implementation, he planted 500 seedlings around the Congress compound, allowing him to coordinate with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to gain accreditation for its People's Organizations in the 2nd District of Pangasinan. Shortly, ylang-ylang became one of the timber species planted, as part of the nationwide implementation of the National Greening Program. Through further collaboration with military commanders, the ylang-ylang plantation was also implemented in all camps in Metro Manila and various golf courses.

The initiative not only revives a once-forgotten agricultural resource but also provides new livelihood opportunities for local farmers, boosting the economy while promoting sustainable practices. Notably, as part of the recent development of the Ylang-Ylang revival, a foundation has now set up a factory for its essential oil extraction.

Uniformly, Bataoil and his Lingayen LGU team distributed 50 kilos of vermicompost to barangays across Lingayen to encourage



organic farming and soil enrichment. Such is essential to reduce the risk of harmful chemical residues in food, making it safer for consumption. This also nurtures natural pest control and crop rotation, improving overall ecosystem balance and resilience.

Advocating for Climate Action and Renewable Energy

His contributions to climate action have been recognized by the Presidential Commission on Climate Change, which honored him as a Climate Change Hero for his leadership in waste management and renewable energy initiatives. In support of the national programs, Bataoil has actively promoted waste segregation, renewable energy solutions, and carbon footprint reduction at the local level.

Hence, in 2023, a groundbreaking step was taken with the launch of the first Green and Sustainable Waste-to-Energy Facility in Pangasinan, in partnership with the Philippine Globe Energy Development Corporation (PEDECO) and the Climate Change Commission. This facility processes various wastes into renewable energy, producing biofuel and methane as by-products. Not only does this address the growing problem of waste disposal, but it also contributes to renewable energy production efforts.

Additionally, given Lingayen's coastal location, the accumulation of waste along the shoreline—drifted trash and litter left by visitors—has raised concerns for Bataoil and the local government of Lingayen. Coupled with the increasing flooding risks, they have initiated regular clean-up drives as part of their environmental plans, programs, and activities (PPA).

With support from the US Peace Corps Volunteers on Coastal Clean-ups, as well as partnerships with PMR Wildlife Center and Lagoon Park, Bataoil has secured funds for the abovementioned initiatives. Consequently, this has paved the way for the proposed establishment of an affordable and accessible office for the Local Youth Development Officer (LYDO).

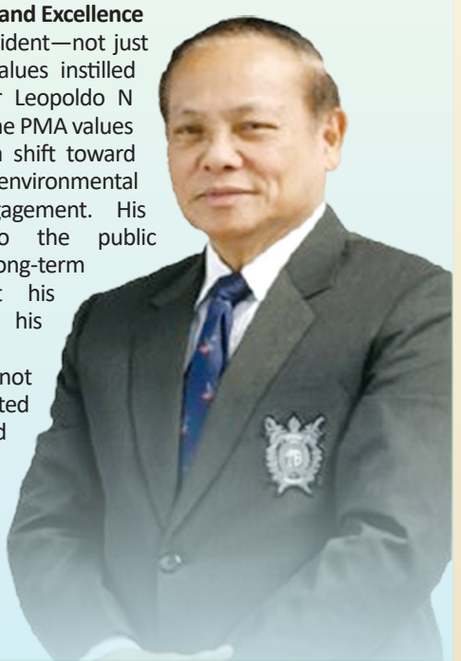
Moreover, dredging operations have been proposed for various water bodies, including the Limahong and Agno River Channels. These operations aim to deepen waterways, restore aquatic ecosystems, and prevent future flooding incidents. Collaboration with the Engineering Office and the Lingayen Disaster Risk Reduction Municipal Office has resulted in several flood control and drainage project proposals to enhance the municipality's resilience against flooding.

Engaging the Youth in Environmental Advocacy

Bataoil's dedication to sustainability goes beyond policy and infrastructure—it extends to empowering the next generation through youth engagement. He established the Young Environmental Advocates of Lingayen (YEAL), a group committed to ecological awareness, governance accountability, and active environmental stewardship. Through YEAL, young individuals participate in coastal clean-ups, tree-planting activities, waste management campaigns, and climate change education programs. By fostering their involvement, Bataoil ensures that environmental responsibility is ingrained in future leaders, creating a lasting impact. His vision is not just about short-term solutions but about cultivating a culture of sustainability that will thrive for generations to come.

A Lasting Legacy of Leadership and Excellence

In Lingayen, progress is evident—not just in infrastructure but in the values instilled within the community. Mayor Leopoldo N Bataoil's leadership, rooted in the PMA values as an alumnus, has inspired a shift toward responsible governance, environmental stewardship, and civic engagement. His unwavering commitment to the public resulted in a foundation for long-term development, ensuring that his initiatives continue beyond his tenure.



True leadership is not measured solely by completed projects but by the habits and mindsets shaped along the way. As Lingayen moves forward, his vision remains—guiding future generations to uphold integrity, sustainability, and the relentless pursuit of a better tomorrow.





Senator Ping Lacson Did it Again, Without PDAF

• CAV MANUEL P OXALES '60

Ping Lacson, a senator for 15 years from 2001-2013 and 2016-2021, got elected for the fourth term ranked number 7 among 12 winners, garnering 15,106,111 votes.

What is very significant in his tenure as a senator, a unique feat among legislators, he never availed of his Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) from which each of the 24 senators is entitled to receive P200M yearly and 255 congressmen P70M. An oddman out he waived his PDAF derisively labelled as pork by critics, as " a political tool used by some politicians" for getting elected in the guise of putting up projects and rendering services.

He proved that he could be elected without distributing PDAF and other so called legislated cash assistance programs to LGUs, various sectors and beneficiaries real and imaginary. Unfortunately, records show PDAF funds have been a source of massive corruption, wasteful and misuse of the government treasury. Cash assistance programs are vulnerable to mishandling, misappropriation and various forms of graft.

Recently he announced his priority bill for the 20th Congress. He wants to amend RA.11310 and integrate all government cash assistance programs under the Pilipino Pamilya Pantawid Program, 4Ps.to include other aid programs such as TUPAD P28.9B, P26.B, AKAP P26.7B, AICS P34.3B which amounts were provided in the 2025 national budget obviously timed as vote getting gimmicks.

He reasoned that unlike other cash assistance programs 4Ps is supported by a verified list of benefeciaries and backed up by studies from government agencies like DSWD and DOLE . The program has been an effective assistance in providing education and enhancing skills among the marginalized members of society, opening opportunities for employment thus alleviating poverty. It is found in many countries, supported by NGOs and hailed by international bodies.

By law and as ruled by Supreme Court, the disbursement of PDAF shall be implemented by the Executive Department. Hence legislated cash assistance programs shall be disbursed by the Executive as well. Integrating them with the 4Ps is a sound proposition.

Welfare programs to be effective should be institutionalized, an on-going activity and not to appear as doleouts or "ayuda" timed for elections or visits of government officials. People should not appear as mendicants and be personally grateful, "parang maka utang loob." I recall a poor laborer who needed a kidney operation told me he had to line up with many other patients in an office of a congressman to get a guarantee letter for his hospital bills. He got it after three visits as the Congressman wanted to hand it to him personally. Alas! the congressman lost in his relection bid. His guarantee letter may turn out a bounced check as the winning lawmaker may not fund it. So he had to bear the discomfort and pain from a partially functioning kidney. He further said there are private doctors and even government hospitals which are reluctant in accepting guarantee letters.

Senator Lacson is a member of the PMA Class 1971 (a classmate is Senator Greg Honasan who with then Minister Juan Ponce Enrile led the breakaway from his patron President Ferdinand E Marcos in the February 1986 Revolution hailed and acclaimed by the world community for its nonviolent transition of power).

Still strong at 76 the former law enforcer and Chief of Police is full of idealism and drive. He is a modern Don Quizote riding a horse wearing an iron helmet that covered his head and face, resplendent in shining full body armor and armed with a long sharp spear.

Certainly the spear will prick many bodies.

CAVALIER'S POETIC WORDS AND WHISPERS

Scent of Roses

• CAV RAMON C LIWAG '79

Red roses and morning mists
A subtle scent a nature's gift
An empty heart's fervent wish
A miracle to end her tears.

Falling leaves and ticking clock
Mute witnesses to a desperate life
Never ceasing and unyielding
Unanswered prayers of a weary heart.

A frail moon hides behind the clouds
Waiting patiently for her heart's delight
Touching love, a pour of water in the sand
Not a sound or shadow in the dark.

War rages in a distant land
Men of courage give their lives
Always believing that he will come back
A dream of love deep in her heart.

Nightmares she dreads in the dead of night
A single thought of death pierces her heart
Can no longer endure such suffering oh God
Take away this misery and spare a life.

A shooting star lit the sky last night
And spring time brought colors to the park
Ice melted as they frolicked along the rocks
An old familiar scent to end a long twilight.

As the sunsets darkness loomed to strike
Till a ship in the horizon finally arrived
A scene long awaited by a lonely heart
Without warning came to life.

Three red roses in a man's hand
To fulfill a promise to a lovely bride
She dashed to him laughing with tears
A hopeless heart, happy at last.

God gave you the courage to lead a platoon, but He also gave you the grace to lead a family. We are who we are because of the man you chose to be. Dad, Happy Father's Day.

Oh, proud and bold you stand
Bright beacon of the land...

...May thy sons ever be men of integrity, courage and loyalty.

CLASS CALL

JUAN M SANCHEZ
President
ROSS JOSEPH S ALQUIZA
Secretary (2nd Generation)

Diamond Graduation Anniversary

Last March 23, 2025, the PMA Class '55 celebrated its 70th graduation anniversary at Dimalupig B social hall of AFP Commissioned Officers Club (AFPCOC) in Camp Aguinaldo.

This diamond celebration was hosted by Class '55 Foundation led by its President, Col Juan Sanchez (Ret). The event started with a thanksgiving mass officiated by the class' very own Fr Crispin "Cris" Cordero SVD, son of the late Col Eusebio Cordero. After the thanksgiving mass, the Foundation's Vice President, Gen Ernie Ravina Jr (2nd Generation/ Class 1984) delivered the welcome remarks on behalf of the President. Col Juan Sanchez (Ret) who was unable to attend as he was out of town with his family.



Fr. Crispin Cordero SVD officiating the thanksgiving mass.



BGen Ernesto Ravina Jr giving the welcoming speech.

Out of the five surviving members of Class '55 namely, Col Ponciano Allanigue (Ret), BGen Rosalino Alquiza (Ret), BGen Renato Ecarma (Ret), Col Juan Sanchez (Ret) and Capt Renato Tanseco (Ret), only BGen Alquiza (Ret) was fortunate to attend.



Class '55 member and ladies (1st generation members).

Left to Right: Sally Arceo, Remy Facto, Ione Mison, Arfeli Ecarma, Georgie Solina, Vangie Rivera, Nita (BGen Alquiza's carer), BGen Rosalino Alquiza (Ret).

2nd Generation members present during the 70th Graduation Anniversary were the following:

Daisy Allanigue-Sta. Cruz and husband Gilbert
RJ and sister Avi Alquiza
Leah Arceo - Plucena
Fr. Cris and brother Joni Cordero
Annette Ecarma – Favila and sister Andrea Ecarma-Escalona
Susan Facto
Paul Isaac and sister Agnes Isaac-Bañez
Bing and sister Sarah Miranda
Ernie Ravina and wife Amor
Carlo Rivera and wife Joni
Marc Rivera
Rene Santos and wife
Joy Solina
Jun and brother Fred Mison

In Memoriam

Last March 31, 2025, Mrs. Letty Jotie, wife of the late Col Rafael Jotie, passed away at the age of 96. The memorial service was held at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina. Mrs. Jotie is survived by her son Greg and his wife Tet, and their two sons Jonathan and Jeremy.



Some of the Class '55 Foundation members paid their last respect to the Jotie family.

Not included in the picture were BGen Ernie Ravina Jr, Sarah and Bing Miranda, Grace Alcañeses and daughter Veronica.

In times of joy and sorrow, we, the fruits of PMA Class '55, side by side with our roots, are always there to support each other. / *rj alquiza (2nd generation)*



Left to Right: Bobby Sanchez, Gunner Parado, RJ Alquiza, Col Juan Sanchez (Ret), Greg Jotie, Teng Zaide-Garnace, Vangie Rivera, Sally Arceo, Didi Parado-Baladad.

A Tribute to Commodore Plaridel C. Garcia

I was not expecting to lose my dad anytime soon but unfortunately he passed on last March 4th.

He was known as "Garic" by his PMA Mistah's and the Officers in the AFP. He is known as Ed or Eddie by close relatives and friends. Where military officers are often called by their acronyms, my dad was referred to as "PCG." But navy brat, Vicky Viray, would address him as "RPG," to honor my dad's first name "Rufino."

The message to me by Vice Admiral Emilio C Marayag Jr (AFP Ret) was about my dad's passion for National Interests. He was one of the conveners of the Advocates for National Interest (ANI) organization together with Tito Chuck Agustin and Tito Del Abaya.

I also understand he submitted a monograph to the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) with the title of "Essays on National Interests."

For his Maritime contributions, aside from serving the Philippine Navy for more than 33 years, he left a mark on being part of the Committee on transferring the Philippine Coast Guard from the Philippine Navy to the Department of Transportation which was called the Department of Transportation and Communication back then.

In a Maritime Review article by Aux CDR Mark Condeno PCG titled, "From Kang Won to Incheon: A Brief History of the Philippine-South Korean Naval Connection," he was mentioned: *"In the early 1990s, when the U.S. troops pulled out from Subic Bay and Clark Air Force Base, ROK made an offer to help the Philippines by selling more than a dozen used but well-maintained 84-footer and 105-footer fast attack patrol boats at $100 each. Commodore Plaridel C Garcia led a 3-man team with CDR Petronilo Magno and LCDR Emilio Marayag Jr to ROK Defense Ministry to negotiate the arrangements. A few months later, CDR Emilio Marayag Jr, LCDR Tomas Baino and LCDR Zyril Carlos conducted a month-long ocular inspection at the Chinhae Naval Base near Pusan. These boats augmented the Philippine Navy's littoral patrols all around the archipelago,"* VADM Emilio C Marayag Jr (AFP Ret) recalls.

If I may humbly say, as a consultant to both Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Antonio



Picture of us together in a Maritime League forum.

Trillanes IV, dad also contributed to some pertinent bills like the Baselines Law, and the Coast Guard Law among others, which were all works of team effort, needless to say.

He leaves us a legacy of writing. During the eulogy by his former Aide de Camp Retired Rear Admiral Sean Villa, he mentioned that my dad's passion IS writing, and suddenly the words from the song "Leader of the Band" dawned upon me. The most memorable line of the song that reminds me of my dad is "I am the living legacy to the leader of the band."

With the Marching Orders from the Leader of our family, I will soldier on by writing for the prestigious Maritime League, and by being active in their annual BEACON international maritime exhibition.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Dad!



MANUEL B MARIANO
President
RAYMUNDO L LOGAN
Secretary

A Night to Remember: Celebrating Love, Life, and Friendship

It was an evening filled with joy, nostalgia, and heartfelt celebrations as family and friends gathered at the Marriott Hotel on December 17, 2024, to honor three remarkable milestones. The night was a special tribute to 55 years of love and commitment of Mistah Joel and Rio Hinlo as well as two significant birthdays—Rio's 85th and Joel's 90th. The celebration was graced by loved ones from near and far, all eager to witness and be part of such a momentous occasion. It was a touching sight to see so many familiar faces, each one adding warmth and laughter to the gathering. Class of '62 was also well-represented, bringing back fond memories of shared history and lifelong friendships. Seeing the class come together again in this setting made us wonder—perhaps this could be a tradition, one of our class activities in the future? As the evening unfolded, stories were exchanged, toasts were raised, and the spirit of togetherness filled the room. It was a reminder that while the years may pass, the bonds we've built over time remain strong. To everyone









who joined and made the occasion unforgettable—thank you. Your presence, love, and well-wishes made this milestone celebration even more special.

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Speech of Cav Manuel Mariano last Feb 13, 2025 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani commemorating the death anniversary of 13 members of PMA Class 1992

Ladies and Gentlemen, my friends good afternoon. We congratulate your Class, the PMA Class of 1992 for initiating, maintaining and sustaining every year for the last nine years this activity of remembering and honoring your memorable and glorious past with your classmates who passed on the other side. One of them was my son, Christopher Alexis L Mariano. We, the families of your classmates being honored every year should be encouraged to attend this solemn and memorable activity being celebrated by PMA Class of 1992.

Now for us the living, we want to share three messages for our information and reflection, also a good guidance at the pinnacle of your careers mga Cavaliers.

The first lesson is in the pursuit of what is right, we sometimes face danger from those who do not agree with us. We, therefore have to find allies who share our values and dreams. But we must hold on to our moral values as the north star that will guide us for the rest of our lives. —**Vicky Garchitorena**

The second lesson is that the truth is this: By learning from your mistakes and experiences and by evolving through them you practice the greatest form of self love, which is to grow.—**Roxie Nafousi**

And finally, the last lesson is that we are reminded that power can be intoxicating and could corrupt the best of us. It was therefore important for us to provide support mechanisms to those who are appointed to high positions to strengthen everyone's moral fiber against all forms of temptation.— **Vicky Garchitorena**

Thank you and good afternoon. Mabuhay tayong lahat!



RUPERTO ANDAYA
President
BEN ROALLOS
Narrator

May I make a post that the magnificient seven who reported on 17 February 2023 are Cavaliers Regino Lacson, Billy Enerio, Merardo Abaya, Alberto Orevillo, Robert Manlongat, Ruperto Andaya, and yours truly who recieved a medallion from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. all alive and kicking.

But I have to come out in the open because of what happened in the last election where the supervision and transmission of voters preferential results were not properly made due to lack of electronics facilities like very small assesture satelites (VSATS) needed on areas where fixed telephone gadgets are not available.

May I state that I had the privilege of installing at least 65 units of very small apperture satellite for the Philippine Army under Operation Plan Rendezvous which is the Philippine Army Satellite Communication System (PASCS) where I was awarded a Distinguished Service Star (DSS) by General Lisandro Abadia then AFP Chief of Staff GO # 140 Dated 14 February 1994 at the time that there was no personal communication means available there except the pager, cellphone was then understudy.

Operation Plan Rendezvous was approved by former President Aquino for small appertute satellite procurement in the United States by commercial basis and

not through foreign military sales (FMS) at a time when Senate of the Philippines was about to abrogate the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty. I happened to represent the Philippines in the planning of operation "Dessert Shield" in the occupation of IRAQ the country of Kuwait and "Operation Desert Storm," the liberation of Kuwait and the "Frontal Envelopment Attack" by United Nations troops of IRAQ in 1991 using very small apperture satellite (VSAT) as means of communication.

From the battlefields in the Middle Eastern Countries bundled messages from the headquarters of UN Troops in Galon Heights, Kuwait and Iraq borders were captures by the 6th US Naval fleet mediterrian and sent to US, Naval base in Diego Garcia Islands Indian Ocean and Yokota US Airforce base Yokota Tokyo; the US Naval fleet in Subic Bay Zambales: Clark Air Force Base Pampanga; re-sent to Australian Desert Base, Alico Springs; then US Marine Corps headquarters Honululu Hawaii; to US Air Force Base, Thavis San Francisco, California and US Naval San Diego California sent to Larido Air Force Base Texas; relayed to US Airforce base Mississipi; Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama then to US Army Signal School, New Jersey to Washington D.C. and back worldwide. Ed Lingao, an ABS-CBN Correspondent in IRAQ even flashed in



the TV in the Philippines the marching of King Sadam Husseins Palace Guards along the banks of the Tignis- Euphrates River in Baghdad, IRAQ.

I worked for the immediate delivery of the 65 VSATS. (certificate J. Preston Wendus Jr., President Fairchild Data Corporation, dated March 2, 1992) telecommunications companies like PLDT took advantage of the 100 units each for the Philippine Air Force Philippine Navy and Philippine Coast Guard plus 10 VSATS for PNP Naval Stations not funded by the new administration of President Ramos in 1992.



***OH!* PROUD AND BOLD**
THEY STILL STAND
o *Jorge Agcaoili* Winston Arpon**
Santiago Bunoan* Santiago Dino*
Renato Garcia*
o *Clemente Mariano* Leonardo Odoño**
Rolando Pabellano* Ernesto Padilla*
o *Salvador Peran* Reynaldo Reyes**
James Valeros* Ismael Villareal*





BIRTH

Apr: 9/1980 - ***Jim Vandevoort***; 21/1935 - ***Buddy Peran;*** 30/1942 - ***Sophie Diño***

May: 21/1946 - ***Sandy Reyes***; 22/1976 - ***Nida Garcia***

Jun: 20/1941 - ***Rolly Pabellano***; 26/1941 - ***Rene Garcia***

WEDDING

May: 18/2012 - ***Rene and Nida Garcia***; 24/1965 - ***Arfs and Iday Arpon***

OTHERS



May: 1/1960 – Reception Day of the PMA Class of 1964 at Borromeo Field, Fort del Pilar.

"First of May 1960" was written later by ***Arfs Arpon***, in remembrance of that milestone. An adaptation of a popular song by The Bee Gees in 1969.

23/2003 – **Jim Vandevoort**, US Naval Academy

28/1964 – ***Mike Santos*** did not survive a vehicular accident. The first casualty of the class, barely a couple of months after graduation day.

First of May, 1960

We felt so small
'midst pine trees oh so tall
The first of May
Our first at P-M-A.

Don't ask us now
But we survived somehow
Harassed and pressured
"Tackled" all the way.

The Baguio chill and the anxiety
Ninety-five boys to men transformed that day.

And thus was writ
May 1st, nineteen-sixty
A page engraved in our history.

(chorus)
So we recall
each moment of that day forever etched in our memory.
Class 64 still proudly standing tall
to celebrate that first of May.

We felt so small
'midst pine trees oh so tall
do do do do do do do do do do..
Don't ask us now
But we survived somehow

Harassed and pressured
"Tackled" all the way.....
Mmm...mmm...mmm...mmm. ..mmm

#####

Vikings Aura was once again the choice venue for the celebration of our 61st graduation anniversary celebration on March 21, 2025. Four of the 13 surviving members of the class - ***Clem, Rey, Jorge*** and ***Billy*** – were in attendance, along with wives Sandy and Beth. Also present were



widows **Ellen, Susan, Grace, Lina** and ***Emmet.***

Emmet extended an invitation for the following week's inauguration of the new ***Avelino B De Guzman*** building at the San Miguel Academy in Masantol, Pampanga, in honor of ***Emmet's*** beloved, ***Guzi***.



From afar in his home base in Chicago, ***Tagoy*** has been a constant source of interesting stuff for our Class Call, regaling us with accounts of evidently busy social life for him and ***Sofie***. Together, they are a dancing couple to watch. This time, ***Tagoy*** reveals one of their secrets – regular exercise. Class Call 64 quotes him here verbatim, before TikTok beats us to it and it goes viral in social media.

Sofie rolls the large ball with her feet for five minutes; then she rolls it with her both hands for another five minutes. Both routines are to correct lower back pain. I raise my legs ten times in this apparatus to reduce my waistline. The routine is repeated five times. This is very helpful. My waist size used to be 44 inches; now it is 37. (Of course, smart diet complements this routine. No more rice, plate half-full of fresh veggies, six oz of protein, a slice of toasted wheat bread for carbo. Half glass of unsweetened milk. Eight glasses of water daily.)



Clem recently accepted to be a party of the Chat Group of C6-4567, joining ***Rey*** and ***Arfs***, and expecting other mistahs to join, by accepting invitations to the Chat Group. C6-4567 is an informal group formed from



graduates of four contiguous PMA Classes in the mid-60s, specifically 1964 1965 1966 and 1967. Their motto: ***Back to the Slope***. They meet regularly for a Breakfast Forum every Tuesday, normally at Serendra in BGC.

Come on C6-4ers and be one of the BACK TO THE SLOPErs! @waga cc64-02





OUR LAST HURRAH:
AS DIAMOND JUBILARIANS

It was an event that was both joyful and filled with nostalgia. After all, we the members of PMA Class of 1965 travelled all the way to Fort del Pilar to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, which marked the 60th year of our graduation from the Philippine Military Academy, and 60 years of service excellence, resilience and tradition.

But with the inexorable marching of time, there was expectedly far less of us that made it to our homecoming in February 2025. Among those who attended our Golden Jubilee in 2015, only four (Guy Camacho with wify Livy Flores-Camacho; Robert Abdul Bruce with his lovely Lorna; Doming Habos, the first and original Colonel of the class and his OAO Mimi; and Jun 2ks Tucay, now single); of the nine foreign-based classmates and seven (Tates with OAO Lynn Nartatez; Ofring with supporting wife Lita Marcelo; Joe with his young and lovely wife Janette Lapus; Warly and wife Lorna Chee; Pat aka Cris with his lovely Hulla dancer Baby Duque; Ernie The Bishop Clement L Sacro and Rolly V Cauton) of the 17 locally based Mulawins and three (Gadoy Bergado with wife Gloria; Noli with OAO Chit Fabic and Benson with Ellen Rimando) of the five Associates - were able to come for the Diamond Jubilee celebration. Happily making up for it were the 14 children, grandchildren and siblings of Class 1965 that joined us, lending their youthful vitality to the occasion.

For us PMAYERS, this deeply significant milestone does not only celebrate the history of our Alma Mater but also pays tribute to the institution's enduring legacy of producing disciplined, principled and dedicated leaders for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and beyond. And just like a dazzling diamond that has withstood the test of time, upholding the values of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, our Diamond Jubilee symbolizes strength and brilliance.

It is also a time and a gratifying opportunity to reflect on the PMA's achievements, honor the sacrifices of its alumni and inspire future generations of cadets.





For the Magnanimous and Proud members of PMA Class 1965 - and other Alumni - that we were, our Diamond Jubilee serves as a time to reunite, reconnect and reaffirm our commitment to the ideals instilled in us more that six decades ago.

Touting such idyllic values as we returned to our beloved PMA on our Diamond Jubilee also gave us a chance to recognize how our dear Academy has evolved while staying true to its mission of developing future officers with unwavering dedication to duty and country.

Beyond nostalgia however, a Diamond Jubilee calls for gratitude to the mentors who shaped the cadets, the families who supported them and the nation that entrusted them with leadership. It is a celebration of camaraderie, honor and the lasting impact of a PMA education.



MANUEL P ESPEJO
President
FREDELINO S BAUTISTA
Secretary

PAMBUNGAD

Maaaring di natin namamalayan, lumalaki ang ating interest sa taong darating na nagsimula pa dalawang taon na ang nakalipas. Ang dahilan, ang 2026 Alumni Homecoming ang "last hurrah" ng Class '66. Kaya naman, pati na ang tinatawag na "Brats 66" (walang malisya sa termino, may mas nauna mga Klase ang pinatatakbo ng kanilang mga "brats." Masdan ang larawan sa kanan – ang





pagpupulong ng Core Group (Planning group) para sa Homecoming 2026 noong ika-3 ng Mayo.

Dalawa sa kanila ay sixty-six "brats" (of course, 'yong mga pinakabata – Mara at Christine).

PREPARATIONS FOR THE "LAST HURRAH"

In essence, the Class Core Group (those who are around during meetings), has been preparing for the Diamond Anniversary of graduation. And thanks to President Noli Espejo and primer movers Louie Fernandez, Edd Santos and Bing Rivera, the 66 brats have been mobilized to take active part. This was clearly manifested early on in their active involvement in the Christmas Program in December 2024 at the PN Officers Club, PN Marines Area, Fort Bonifacio. (See the Jan-Mar 2025 issue of the Cavalier Magazine – one of the most attended Christmas programs so far).

The Core Group would be meeting regularly, or as needed to make adjustments in the initial plan drafted by Bing Rivera early on, the last one on 03 March 2025 at Coffee Beans and Tea Leaf, Bonifacio Global City. On a bright note the homecoming plan became clearer and more achievable. Nonetheless, the Core Group decided to have two more meetings with the brats – one midyear and one before year-end. In short – all system go!

THE CLASS PARTICIPATION IN HOMECOMING 2025

The Class participation in February 2025 is a source of inspiration. For one, it shows that the Class has still the will to be counted among the alumni trooping back to PMA, even for sentimental reasons. Not so many are aware that there have been changes in the old PMA at least physically, and more. For another reason, and the more important one, to applaud and derive inspiration as Edd Santos was awarded the prestigious PMAAAI Lifetime Achievement Award which is given to alumni who have rendered 50 and more years of continuous government and non-government service. In the case of Edd – 35 years in the PN where he retired in 1999 as FOIC, and 26 years as President, Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific, a post given to him by the owner Associate Marine Officers and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) not long after his retirement. (See the write up of the award in the January to March 2025 issue of the Cavalier.)

Four mistahs were around to cheer Edd, led by Class President Noli Espejo, accompanied by Tony Romero, Bing Rivera and Fred Bautista. Their spouses were also around, namely: Doris, Elsie and Paz, respectively, and a number of brats. The picture on the left tells the rest of the untold story, mostly on the old parade ground – Borromeo Field.

THE TRIP BACK HOME

All is well that ends well.

Much as the group would like to savor the Baguio City rural scenery some



more, they had to prepare for the trip back home. To prepare for the trip, gracious hosts, Edd and Lil prepared a sumptuous meal in a scenic home restaurant known as Raquel's Cuisine, Forest House, Marcos Highway. What a nice place, so serene and Eden-like, overlooking a beautiful lower mountainous rolling terrain laced with pine trees and other vegetation. To top it all, the food was delicious, plentiful but healthful. To top it all, Lil gave each spouse a take home food pack. The lower right picture on p.64 shows a happy group, made more handsome and pretty by giant trees and lush vegetation no longer seen in Metro Manila.

THE 2025 ALUMNI CONVENTION

This time, the annual membership meeting of alumni was held at a familiar place, the AFP Officers Club, which by itself, could be considered already a cultural heritage site, maybe, more years from now. As usual, kudos to the PMAAAI Board, the convention was business-like, as in the previous ones, consisting of reading of minutes, approval of resolutions and the like, and comments from the floor pertaining to burning issues.

The Guest of Honor was well known businessman, Manuel V Pangilinan, Chairman/CEO, Metro Pacific Investment Corporation. Hopefully, he inspired the alumni who listened to his speech. On the other hand, it probably made the PMAAAI, more known to powers that be as a group to reckon with. Shown in the picture below were some of the attendees in the convention.

ANOTHER SAD NEWS

In the evening of 03 May 2025, members of the class were shocked by another sad news. Robert Sabularse passed away after more than a month of medical consultation and eventual confinement at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. It was an unexpected news since Sabu, as he was fondly called by many, seemed so healthy, an avid golfer up to this time and able to walk home after many breakfast meetings with the so-called Class Walking Group, from restaurants at Bonifacio Global City.



He was brought to the Villamor Air Base Mortuary, where he was accorded the traditional Arrival Honors by the PAF honors unit. (Since this sad news reached us after the Class Sixty-Six Class Call article had been submitted earlier to the editorial staff, the writeup of the Necrological Services on 14 May and the military burial the next day, will be featured in the next issue of the Cavalier Magazine.



Attendees in the Convention from left to right: Urgello R, Romero T, Rivera A, Bautista F, Santos E, Belleza Z, Dauz O. Not in the picture, Espejo M (In a conference with PMAAAI Board).

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

To complete our quaterly report, our Class would like to extend its greetings to those who celebrated/will celebrate their natal days in the following months:

APRIL – Gerry Cunanan (6), Rudy Eco (6), Noli Espejo (18), Luz Baylon (07), Edna Gopilan (10), April Fernandez (21).

MAY – Rey Gopilan (29), Buddy Perez (26), Tony Romero (3), Raul Urgello (5), Magda Atienza (28).

JUNE – Bert Sabularse (08), Rec Sarmiento (27), Elsie Rivera (09), Dee Cagurangan (13), Agie Bantolo (23), Dolly dela Cuesta (05), Wilbur Chan ( ), Oca Barrientos ( ).



MARIANO R SANTIAGO
President
ROSAURO V SIBAL
Secretary

True to its tradition, the Class celebrated the birthdays of the following Dimasupils and Tagasupils for the months of January, February and March 2025 at the NIU Restaurant at the Podium Mall as follows:

January: Myrna Espinosa (1), Hedy Duenas (2), Bobby Lastimoso (4), Lita De Guzman (5), Queenie Enriquez (6), Cora Tomas (9), Edsel Salvana (14), Warlie Sadiarin (16), Joseph Young (16), Myrna Cordero (20), Ernest Escaler (23), and Jun Avenido (24).

February: Ernie Dionisio (3), Myrna Andaya (5), Lou Ibanez (11), Bay Obillos (18), and Linz Gabuna (26).

March: Lea Vallejera (5), Ching Aguana (8), Josie Dela Cruz (12), Nic Parena (20), Jun Ibay (21), Benny Ventura (21), Rody Duterte (28), Mely Gatmaitan (30), and Manny Dalipe (31).

Jun A, Bobby L and Joseph Y took charge of the January affair, while Dionix D and Manny D coordinated the joint February and March celebration to coincide with the 58th anniversary of our graduation from PMA where we presented Jun A with a Plaque of Appreciation for his 22 years of dedicated service as our President.

Manny D, much as he wanted and upon the suggestion of Jun I, did not bring seafoods anymore, especially curacha, because of problems about its handling.

PMAAAI Annual Meeting: (25 January 2025) The Class was ably represented by Jun Avenido, Mar Santiago, Jun Ibay, Louie Sanchez, Sergs Austria and Libbie Brawner.

PMA Alumni Homecoming: (15 February 2025) We were represented by Mar S, Jun I, Manny D, Sergs A, Louie S, with Beth S, Alice A and Linz G. Some of us joined the carpool to Baguio courtesy of Alice A. Jun I took care of our transportation to and from Fort Del Pilar, courtesy of the BCDA John Hay, where he served as Director and Chairman from June 1, 2016 until last year, April 2024.

Tidbits: We extend our thanks to Joe A who gifted those Dimasupils present last March with shaving kits. We also acknowledge and thank Louie S and May for giving out cashew nuts in all our celebrations where they are



PMAAAI Annual Convention Jan 2025 Dimasupil delegates.



Dimasupil Ladies on Jan 2025 Birthday DMF.



Dimasupil Delegates to the PMA Alumni Homecoming Feb 2025.



Dimasupil Alumni Homecoming Dinner Feb 2025.



DMF Jan 2025 Podium with Agnes and Jun A receiving bouquet of flowers and Plaque of Excellent Performance from Dimasupil, respectively.



DMF 19 March 2025 Podium celebrating Manny D and Jun I's birthdays (Pareng P absent) and our PMA 58th graduation anniversary.



Slow Progress. Whole Ibay family walking with Ronnie after a stroke on 20 Oct 2025. She's ok. Just drank one whole bottle of cold water after our walk. Thank you all for your prayers.

present. In the past, Andy Reyes had also gifted us with beautifully crafted Dimasupil umbrellas and digital blood pressure units for those without them.

We wish Mistah Rodrigo Duterte good health and peace of mind at the Hague and speedy resolution of his case.

We have lost contacts with the following Dimasupils, namely: Bay Gabison, Moises Boquiren and Archie Balboa, among others. Let us exert efforts to locate and communicate with them.

The Dimasupil Board of Directors: (1) Aliño (2) Andaya (3) Austria (4) Din (5) Dionisio (6) Espinosa (7) Gatmaitan (8) Ibay (9) Lastimoso (10) Patino (11) Sales (12) Santiago and (13) Sibal

HONORIO S AZCUETA
President
WILFREDO G NUQUI
Secretary

1. The Class elected the members of the Class Board of Directors for CY 2025, namely: Honorio S Azcueta (President), Melchor P Rosales (Vice President), Wilfredo G Nuqui (Secretary), Rodolfo R Rabago (Treasurer) and Roberto P Santiago (Auditor) on Jan 25, 2025. Volts Gazmin, Art Carrillo (the immediate past president), Oscar Cabaron, Sony Penilla and Jing Caballero joined the election.

2. On Feb 17, a group of 11 class members namely Nori, Volts, Rudy and Oscar and ladies (Candy, Rhodie, Arlene, Gigi, Angging, Tess P. and Julie) were warmly hosted in a brief tour of climate-pleasant and nature-blessed Tanay by Bobby and Puring. They had welcome drinks, a guided tour and a delicious lunch. It was indeed a fruit-full and heartfelt visit.

3 Our dear CM Tony Siapno joined our Lord on Mar 14. His loving wife Mae was always at his side. May he and our departed CMs rest in eternal peace. CMs who attended his wake and/interment were Nori, Art J, Abe, Oscar, Volts, Rudy, Patrick, Willy, Mel and Bert. Surviving Class members number 25 (44.6%) out of the 56 graduates in 1968.

4. On March 24, we celebrated the 57th anniversary of our graduation from PMA wherein the late President Ferdinand Marcos was our honored guest. We held the event at the Cavaliers Resto Bar. Nine CMs participated namely Nori, Mel, Rudy, Willy, Volts, Art J, Oscar, Abe and Art G. Fourteen ladies likewise joined. Lunch

was preceded by prayers for our departed 35 CMs and 11 ladies. Thanks to Nori and Candy for the excellent choice of the lunch venue and menu. *Adobong kambing* was easily the unanimous food choice of CMs.

5. The PMAAAI and PMARAI raffle tickets assigned to the Class were fully subscribed. Good luck to those who purchased tickets which shall be drawn on June 13, 2025.

6. We heartfully join in praying for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. His papacy was characterized by a rich legacy of reform, global outreach, inclusion and humility. He personally shared his compassion and blessings to Filipinos including victims of super typhoon *Yolanda*.











JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JESUS B DULLER
Secretary

Summer Birthday Greetings to our Suaviter celebrants in the Second Quarter 2025: JimmyD – 2 Apr, SmokeyC – 11 Apr, +RichardS – 14 Apr, JessR – 19 Apr, OliveR – 20 Apr, +VicT – 26 Apr, LilyG – 2 May, +GusA (Kayong) – 5 May, LuzL – 8 May, +EdM – 12 Jun, MarilynSua – 18 Jun, +FerdieL – 18 Jun, IndayB - 21 Jun. *Taken from Bingbo's vault file. Thank you.*

****

Jess Regala's 80th Birthday Pictorials at the Vikings



The celebrities: Birthday celebrants, Jess (Apr 19) and Olive (Apr 20).



Joey, Nonoy, Ike, Rene, Benjie, Jimmy, Jess and Jus. Still looking good, guys. Who would believe you are in your 80s or late 70s.



… and, of course, with the ever supportive, smiling Ladies!



Happy Birthday, Jess! 80 years young! Still going strong and kicking!



L-R: Odette and companion, Ellen, Ging, Len, Sol, Vicky, Meg, Mone, Tere, Lulu and Olive. (Sorry for any omission or mistake)



More poses … different time of day, different angle.



A big day at Tim Ho Wan: April 2 Birthday Bash for JimmyD!



Here's the pose that warms the heart and brightens the day! Big turnout from Suaviter Ladies!

Happy Easter to the Suaviters and Families! Here are some pictorial greetings, wishes and reflections:

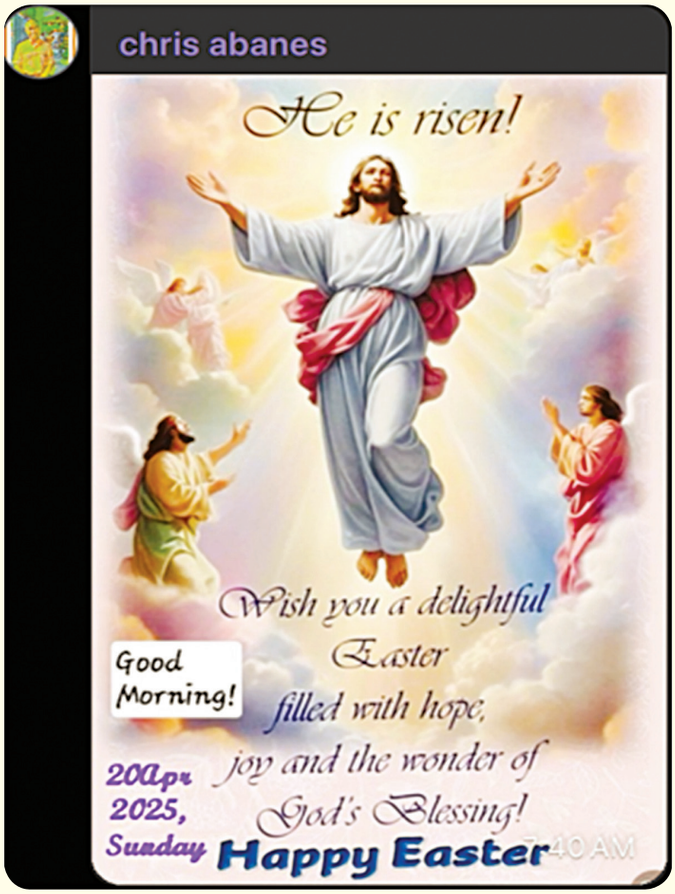


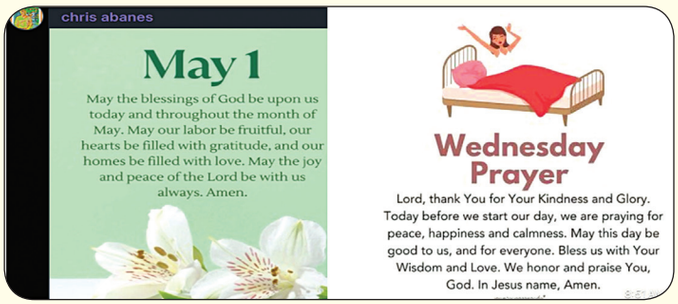


Met with Fausti Tambunting, close friend of the late Richard, Rey, Larry and RJ for lunch hosted by Tom. He intimidated a probable executive position in government. His mother was a former blue lady of FLIM.



From Cris' Prayer Corner: *This tribute honors Cris, who consistently offers collective spiritual prayers for Suaviters, individually or as a group. Thank you so much, Cris. We are humbled by your selfless inclusive intercession and supplication. Keep it going.*





Dear Heavenly Father, as I come to the last day of this April month, I thank you for all your blessings I am grateful for your guidance, protection, and love throughout the past month. I ask for your continued protection over my families, friends, and loved ones. As we, our children, families and friends, enter a new month, we surrender ourselves into your care, trusting in your wisdom and guidance. We ask for forgiveness for any mistakes we may have made and for the strength to learn from them.

Bless us and our families with your abundant grace and love. I pray all these things in the precious name of Jesus Christ. AMEN



Magiting 55th Emerald Anniversary and Homecoming

Another Superb Attendance

Magitings once again attended in remarkable numbers just like they did in the 50th Golden Anniversary in 2020. Flying in from the U.S. and Canada were Ed and Bendie Castellanes, Ernie and Cecile del Rosario, Albot and Espie Alvez, solitaries Ed Jonson and Bob Ingco. Irwin and Gemma Ver arrived for the event too but caught severe colds and had to beg off.

It's so good to recall that during the 2020 Golden Anniversary immigrants Mao and Ding Mauricio, Rody and Maritess Castro, Rudy (†) and Len Maluyo, Pitong (†) and Annie Heredia, residents Jack (†) and Len Ligot, and Dodong Resos (†) as well as Willie (†) and Alice Parayno joined the homecoming five years ago. Time marches on.

The locals present during the homecoming were Gov. Jun and Alma Ebdane, Nesty and Au Carolina, Dionet and Hermie Santiago, Egay and Nene Galvante, Santi and Enya Santillan, Vic and Marilyn Signey, Teddy and Beth Delarmente, Rudy and Cecile Garcia, Mar and Baby Ilagan, Ramsey and Esther Ocampo, Sonny and Tess Atienza, Ed and Jessie Israel, Boots and Emmy de Veyra, Clyde and Susan Fernandez, Julius and Tessie Javier, Bert and Nona Tagayuna, Bob and Taj Nuqui, plus Romy and Remy Gojo. The solitaries were Roy Cimatu, Danny Sta. Clara, Bang Adriano, Al Suemith, Primo Esguerra, Dina Gaerlan, Nancy Pipo, Malou Ugale, Irene Perez, Zaida Francisco, Alice Parayno plus honorary members Efraim Genuino and his lovely wife, and Orly Mercado.



Hon. Romy Acop was too occupied at Congress, Mel Madrid was on duty with his student pilots at Clark while Eloy Garcia and Cesar Garrick were tied up with grandfathering. U.S./Canadians Cesar Alvarez, Jimmy Mauricio, Flor Domingo, Rody Castro, Ipe Villafranca and Emil Ermio rued their absence during the homecoming event. All were held up with sundry tasks.

From the grandstand, loud chants and cheers from Mas Magitings boomed as the boys completed a full circle in the parade ground. After the parade, the class gathered at the site of *The Beacon* to view the newly updated marble markers.

In sum, the tally for the Emerald anniversary homecoming was 59 Magitings and Mas Magitings, 12 from abroad and 47 other residents. *Let's Go Diamond 60th!*

Updated Markers of The BEACON

The base of *The Beacon* has four sides. Its metal marker plates were updated by Boots de Veyra in time for the 55th Anniversary Homecoming. The main facet of the Beacon













features the crests of the PMA, PMAAAI and Magiting 70. The *Courage* quadrant narrates the rationale of *The Beacon*. Its *Loyalty* flank bears the nostalgic roster of fallen Magitings. This side also lists the Beacon's Project Team as well as associate and honorary members. The *Integrity* aspect is adorned with our Flag and *The Cavaliers' Pledge* which is now a part of PMAAAI protocol.

A Reunion/Valentine Celebration

The class was billeted at the Brent Cottages, Residences and Suites. Food was catered by Mario's. After the homecoming event, the customary Reunion/Valentine party was held at the Dining Hall of Brent Cottages on February 15th. The celebration featured continuous music by Michael Golez's solo band, guest dancing pros, baritone renditions by Boots de Veyra and blended voices by a trio teasingly called the *Elderly Brothers* made of Egay Galvante, Boots and Rudy Garcia. Nesty and Au won the *How Much Do You Know Your Partner* parlor game with a token sum.

The party was a fitting opportunity for the class to appreciate the fine billeting amenities and sumptuous dining graciously provided by Gov Jun Ebdane and Alma. A Plaque of Appreciation was extended to him by a grateful class represented by prexy Nesty Carolina, past class presidents and chairman emeritus Roy Cimatu.

Despedida for Magiting Expats

Back in Manila, Magiting and Mas-Magiting expats were feted with a Despedida Party at the newly refurbished Philippine Army Officers' Club, Fort Bonifacio. It was time for good byes and optimistic prodding to better the 55th Emerald Anniversary with an even greater attendance next year. Trying to outdo one another, everyone's challenge



was to meet up during the 60th Diamond Anniversary. Magitings Garrick Cesar, Jorge Consunji and Uly Sevilla joined the send-off.

Recognition of Magiting's Role in the M70WW

Not to be forgotten are Magitings who devoted time and resources in the successful construction of the Magiting 70 Wellness Wing (M70WW). The despedida was a timely occasion to recognize Mistahs Jorge Consunji, Alo Murillo, Bert Tagayuna, Uly Sevilla as well as DMCI partner Tony Olizon and, DMCI engineers Gerry Punzal and Arjay Evangelista. Each of them welcomed his Plaque of Recognition.

Magitings Attend the PMAAAI General Assembly Meeting

Former PMAAAI President Rufo de Veyra and Class President Ernesto Carolina with Glenn Rabonza, Danny Sta. Clara and Bob Nuqui attended the annual meeting of PMAAAI on January 25, 2025. Nesty gifted Guest of Honor Manuel V. Pangilinan with a book entitled *Beyond Leadership* about Cavaliers.

Magiting Milestones

DILG Award

Zambales Governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. officially received the provincial government's 2024 *SubayBAYANI* Award LGU Exemplar from DILG-Zambales on January 8, 2025. The award is a recognition of good practice, innovation, and excellence in the governance of infrastructure, services and programs of LGUs.

Zambales 2025 SOPA

Governor Jun Ebdane Jr. delivered his State of the Province Address (SOPA) at the Botolan Peoples' Plaza on March 19, 2025. It was titled *From Adversity to Breakthrough:*





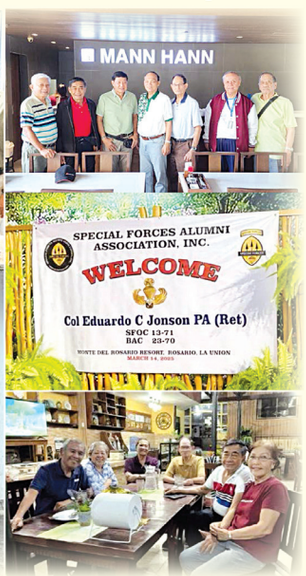


Sustaining Growth, Self-Reliance, and Transformation for Future-Proof Zambales.

Foremost, a redirection by the leadership turned Zambales into a *First Class Province* under RA No. 11964 in 2023. In 2024, local income exceeded P1.2 billion. This was achieved through strategic river rehabilitation, revitalization of quarrying process and proper revenue collection.

The Zambales Green Mango Valley Development Project was established to improve mango protocols into world class quality to become a part of the value chain with agro-industrial estates, fish canning and tourism circuits. Relatedly, P1 million was allocated to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise units being a key component of the value chain.

The Zambales Youth Innovation Program was launched to motivate youth-led projects in technology, agriculture, education and social change.

Social and medical services were boosted with the upgrade of existing facilities and a robust infrastructure program. These projects include the New Zambales Capitol Building, New Capitol Annex, Zambales Sports Stadium, and the expansion of Magsaysay Memorial Hospital with an annex, expansion of San Marcelino District Hospital, Candelaria District Hospital, and the *Ospital ng Sta. Cruz*. These projects are either completed or have reached 80% completion with a budget of P2.6 billion. Medical assistance for indigents reached P324 million. Educational assistance through *Handog Edukasyon* was also extended to deserving students.

The Electronic Real Property Tax Administration System and the Integrated Hospital Operations and Management information System Plus are now operational to serve as coordinated platforms for accessing public services, business data base and social assistance.

Finally, the SOPA was Gov. Ebdane's renewal to his commitment to govern with







truth, to lead with compassion and to serve with humility.

Promotion

Mistah Antonino Ilagan has been designated as the BIR RR13 Regional Director for Cebu on February 21, 2025. Tony was previously assigned as the Deputy Regional Director in Quezon City.

Bert Lina Writes 76

Mistah Alberto David Lina took his final journey on February 27, 2025. Santi and Enya, Mar and Baby, Boots and Emmy, Nesty and Au, Clyde, Teddy, Egay, Al and Glenn represented the class in a homage to a Mistah. Nesty delivered a short tribute to Bert's exemplary deeds. Bert's father was a veteran, very fittingly he donated a building and its computers to digitize the records of AFP veterans. He served as Commissioner of Customs in 2005, founded courier service Air21, ventured in Burger King Philippines, and was a partner of Manny Pangilinan in PLDT and Jollibee Group.

After the memorial mass, Santi and Enya took everyone to dinner at Palms Country Club, Alabang.

Bang Adriano Makes Final Flight at 77

Athletic Saber Awardee for 1970, daredevil pilot, corporate executive and devoted Magiting Fiorello Samson Adriano pushed the throttle to his final flight to meet the Almighty on April 13, 2025. Bang is as diminutive as his character was a font of big, explosive ideas. He was a creative debater and an infectious cheerleader in or out of sports. He will be remembered for his youthful aura and sparkling demeanor. He is survived by softspoken wife Tina, children Fiorello Jr., Martin and Francisca.

Magiting classmates Ernie, Danny, Mar, Ramsey, Santi, sisters Nina and Belle delivered celebrated memories of Bang amid classmates, relatives and friends at the AFP Mortuary on April 23, 2025.



Magiting Chairman Emeritus Roy Cimatu GOH at Paggunita sa Capas

A son of veteran Fidel Cimatu Sr., (†), a former CSAFP and erstwhile Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, Roy Cimatu embodied the ideal Guest of Honor in the *Paggunita sa Capas* at the Capas National Shrine, Tarlac on April 10, 2025. Also present during the event was Nesty Carolina, former PVAO Administrator of three Presidents.

Magiting Rangers Reunion

US-based Ed Jonson's attendance in the homecoming ushered a nostalgic reunion with fellow Ranger Brig Gen Freddie Rabarra who had been asking about him for many years. Fifty-five years ago, Freddie and Magiting Rangers were classmates in SFOC 13-71 and BAC 23-70. Ed met up at once with Ranger buddies Freddie, Glenn, Nesty, Dionet, Godo and Julius in BGC on March 13, 2025. Next day a second reunion brought Ed to the resort of Freddie at Rosario, La Union.

Fairway Habitues

North and South Golfers

For many years past, golf was just an intermittent pastime for many Magitings. Nowadays golf had become a way of life almost like a case of *Till Golf Do Us Part*. Inextricable North golfers Egay, Vic, Eloy, Rudy and Primo at the Veterans Golf Club appear to have more playing days than South golfers Boots, Ed, Roy, Santi, Nesty, Glenn, Dionet and Bob at the Navy, Army and Air Force golf clubs but wait, it's only because the North is very lax in taking pictures.

Golf in Baguio

Before the Homecoming event Canada based Ernie de Rosario, Vic, Egay, Roy, Boots, Glenn, Ed and Fidel Cimatu Jr. '77 played at the Baguio Country Club and at Pinewoods on February 13, 2025.

PMAAAI-PMARAI Golf Invitational

The fellowship game was played at CGEA Golf Club on April 8, 2025. Ed, Boots, Glenn and Bob made up the Magiting team. Dionet later joined the lunch fellowship to share his birthday and to play in the afternoon with gangmate Bernard Bobadilla.

Corps of 70 Fellowship Tournament

Classes Masigasig 72 and Maagap 73 hosted the first quarter game for 2025 on May 13th at PNGC. The second quarter sortie will be played sometime in June.

JOSE C LALISAN JR
President
ARTHUR G BALMACEDA
Secretary

Congratulations to the Graduates of PMA "Siklab-Laya" Class of 2025! May the ideals you dreamed of come into reality and may your service be imbued with Courage, Loyalty, and Integrity. Mabuhay!

Our First Quarter Birthday Fellowship or "We" time

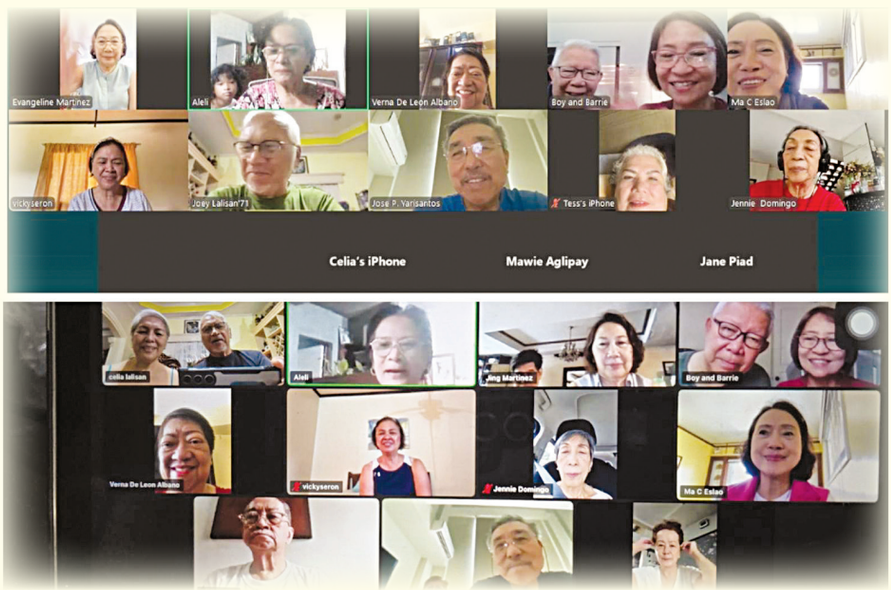
The Matatags and Mas-Matatags gathered during the first quarter birthday celebration and fellowship last 23 March 2025. It was held at the Navy Golf Clubhouse. Before the fellowship commenced, there was a mass held celebrated by Fr Paul Flores for the birthday celebrators and all attendees. Lunch was served thereafter. Emceed by Class Prexy Joey Lalisan, the fellowship started with the blowing of the candles by the celebrators while the happy birthday song was sung by all attendees. Then the ladies started it all. What surprised us was the initiative of some Mas-Matatags in going to the front, grabbing the mike, and asking the band to play their selected songs. In the past, this was not so. You have to drag them to the front. They were even willing to pay the fine of 500 pesos so that they will not be called to sing. But now…*iba na.* No more shyness or hesitation, no more *pilitan.* These braver MMs now singing with gusto were Nina delos Reyes, Aleli Belonia, Rochee Domingo, Jo Galvez, Puring Cruz, Fe Domingo, and Sandy Navida. They are our newly discovered talents. Keep it up ladies! Of course, there were displays of dancing and group singing. The fellowship ended with the Matatag's final song of the Kaydet Girl. Other attendees were former Sec Greg Honasan, Tex Balmaceda, Teody Viduya, Ruben Domingo, Aris delos Reyes, Oca Martinez, Marte Chioco, Ruben Domingo, Wency Cruz (our DI that day), Rey Acop, balikbayan Dan and Chato Perico, MMs Prexy Celia Lalisan, Lita Gil, Jing Martinez, Rey and Mina Alcasid, Beng Ibo, Dong Tabamo, and DG, NICA Dick de Leon.

Hampaslupa'71 Events and other Gatherings

The Matatag golfers, known as Hampaslupa'71, showed their skills in playing golf in the fairways of Camp Aguinaldo, Navy, Villamor, and Veterans GCs. Some of the players were so competitive that golf rules were strictly observed and often *"bantayan"* pa. Strictly sticking to the rules was mistah Tex Balmaceda, who had participated on several occasions as an official in the Sony Open in Hawaii where he stayed there for almost 38 years. He bragged that he made a hole-in-one there and locally, he made a hole-in one in Canlubang GC and in Veterans. *Matanda na at mahusay pa*. He could even out-drove us younger players. As explained by HL'71 Prexy Rey Acop, iba ang blood line ng mga



Birthday golf fellowship of Bing Alano



Prayer warriors at work

taga Tabuk (birthplace of Tex). Tex's nemesis though is mistah Teody "Baroque" Viduya from La Union and Baguio. These two guys really played seriously for a measly bet of P300.00 ... hehe. Active players during this quarter were Bing Alano, Oca Martinez, Twiggy Zubia, Rollie Garcia (if he is not busy in his motorcycle rides in Cebu), Marte Chioco, Caloy Garcia, Tex, Teody, Prexy Joey, Jun Fabros, Rex Piad, Dong Tabamo, Rey Alcasid, Rey Velasco, and our civilian friends Robert Alcasid and Francis Pua.

The class attended the birthday celebration of mistah Gel Molato last 1 April 2025 at the Orchards Golf and Country Club. At 75 years old, he is the youngest member of class '71. It was a joyous occasion specially when the daughter of Gel and Lyn rendered beautiful songs to the delight of the attendees. We did not know that there are good singers in the Molato family. Not to be outdone, Gel belted rock songs accompanied by the family. It was a happy occasion indeed where attendees went home with game prizes and giveaways. Those who attended were Greg and Jane Honasan, Bob Sacramento, Lita Gil, Dong and Lulu Tabamo, Wency and Puring Cruz, Rollie and Malou Garcia, Dick de Leon, Verna Albano, Lita Gil, Aleli Belonia, Jennie Domingo, Rex, Aris, Rochee Domingo, Bobby and Chit Yarisantos, and Ed Elona.

Last 11 April 2025, mistah Bing Alano hosted his birthday at the Veterans GC after a golf game for the HL'71 players. Lots of boodles and hot darns were served. Aside from the Matatag golfers, some Mas-Matatags also joined in the fellowship. Jinggoy and Oca even served an extra viand of steak. The attendees were HL Prexy Poca, Class Prexy Joey, Teody, Tex, Marte and Tetet, Caloy, Fabric, Dick, Rey Al and brother Robert, Oca and Jing, RolGar and Malou, Jie Rivera, Ka Twiggy, Aris and Nina, Jane and Greg Honasan, Jo Galvez, Jennie Domingo, and Rochee Domingo. Winners in the tournament received loaves of raisin bread courtesy of Teody Viduya.

Prayer Warriors

The Mas-Matatag Prayer warriors continued their rosary novena every first Saturday of the month. The latest one was last 3 May 2025, their 20th praying day. The intercessions were for our mistahs and MMs who have health issues and for the well-being of all including the prayers for our mistahs who are candidates in this 12 May elections namely Ping and Greg for senators and bunkmate Egay as Governor of Cagayan Province. Good luck mga mistahs!

Quote for this Issue: ***We must learn to live as brothers or perish together as fools*** **– Martin Luther King, Jr /JCL/4 May 2025//**



Birthday bash of Mistah Gel Molato.



2nd Quarter 2025 Birthday Fellowship.



The mas-Matatags in their campaign sortie in Lucena.



MARCIAL O CONACO
President
CELSO G DE CASTRO
Secretary

Hello and warm greetings to all.
Here are the highlights of our class activities for the months of January to April 2025 for your information and reading pleasure.

January:

The Board of Directors/Class Officers convened last 09 Jan at Closed Mess, AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo. The main agenda of the meeting were focused on the preparations for the 2025 Alumni Homecoming on 15-16 Feb as approved by the Board,

a. Hotel accommodations/reservations: Microtel was chosen once more as the official Hotel. Based on the SOP, the Class will subsidize one (1) overnight stay only. Extra stay will be shouldered individually to include foods and drinks. The Class Sec made early reservations for 35 rooms.

b. Transportation: There will be no buses to ferry and return those attending. We go with our own cars, so we encourage carpooling.

c. Schedule of activities(tentative):

13 Feb: Check in at Microtel (for early birds}
: Free time
14 Feb: Check in
: Class fellowship golf at Pinewoods
: Lunch/ Valentines party/fellowship
: Free Time
15 Feb: Alumni Homecoming activities

d. Attire/Uniforms:

Masigasigs: Dark suits, khaki/ beige pants, white shirts, no necktie, appropriate footwear and Fedora hats.

Mas/Ladies: White blouse, dark pants and appropriate footwear.

February:

A total of 41 Mistah/Mas including three balikbayan (Willie, Lenny and Dulce) trekked



to Baguio and attended the Homecoming last 15 Feb. In terms of percentage, our Class is one among the senior classes attending the Homecoming regularly. A fellowship golf tournament was held on 14 Feb at Pinewoods Golf Club. After golf, a simple lunch was served at the Club House followed by impromptu greetings for Jan-March celebrants. Since it was Valentines Day, the Mas were surprised when the Masigasigs started singing Kaydet Girl and handed bouquets of red roses to their respective lovely mates. It was a very touching and teary moment for all. What a shot. To end the celebrations, our snappy Prez Yaric delivered a well-meaning impromptu message with rounds of applause from appreciative audience.

On Dday, 15 Feb, Masigasig/Mas departed from the hotel earlier for the homecoming activities at Fort del Pilar. Aside from personal cars, the Class hired two vans for transport of those did not use their cars. After registration at Melchor Hall, everybody proceeded to Bahay Masigasig for more fellowship and chit chats over cups of hot coffee or cold drinks. For boodler's delight, they feasted on ensaymada and hot baked empanada (again courtesy of Prez Yaric). Later, everybody proceeded to Borromeo Field for fellowship with young and old Cavaliers before the traditional parade.

Sumptuous lunch was served at Bahay Masigasig, courtesy of Supreme Hotel, our loyal caterer. Foods and drinks were in abundance to satisfy everybody's gastronomic urge. The traditional Class meeting followed after lunch presided by outgoing Prez Yacia. In his final message, he expressed his thanks, to BOD and the Class for the unmeasurable support bestowed on him as President. Before he officially turnover the Presidency to Omar Conaco, he moved thru a motion of permanently designating Bing Valencia and Celso De Castro as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. Mistah Eric Evangelista was elected unanimously as Vice President for CY 2025-2026. All Directors will remain at their posts unless they resigned their positions.

The whole Masigasig family extend its wholehearted thanks and gratitude to Prez Yaric, BOD and members of Ladies Technical Working Group for the job well done. Mabuhay kayong lahat.

March:

Prez Omar presided his first BOD meeting last 11 March 2025 at Closed Mess, AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo. The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Opening Statement: Class Prez.
- Finacial report: For security considerations, financial figures cannot be divulged in this forum. For transparency, kindly communicate with Treasurer for details.
- Fellowship/Social activities: The Board to limit frequent fellowship/social activities to moderate Class spending to maintain stability of Class fund. Instead of dinners, maybe merienda cena is practical to generate savings. The next fellowship/social will be in July; date and details to follow.
- Health and Wellness: The Class continuously provide financial assistance for medical, and hospitalization of sick Mistah/ Mas based on the current SOP to include











burial and wake assistance just in case. The Class will support physical fitness programs for everybody.

- The Board approved the construction of holding rails at the entrance of Bahay Masigasig for safety consideration. Details to be worked out in coordination with OCE, PMA.
- Board to review the existing policy on the management of VCGs for pleasant and enjoyable usage.

Before we end, let me share to you the posting of Mistah Roger Favis about the lyrics of the song "What a Wonderful World". Not everybody knows that Mistah Roger is a prolific and poetic writer in his cadet days. And Annie was mesmerized by his talent.

From Roger:

" I always relate this song to my days in the Academy. Once in a while I sing this song wherever no one can hear but me. Through the years, many vocal icons have recorded versions of this beloved song. Top grossing movies have also used this as a soundtrack. Aside from the rainbow, the lyrics in the song mentioned only four colors. What is amazing to me is that these colors happened to be our Company colors:

Trees of Green (Alpha)
Skies of Blue (Delta)
Clouds of White (Bravo)
And Red Roses too (Charlie)

This classic song was the bestselling single in 1968, the year we entered the Academy. The year was the beginning of a new life for us. We all left home, and the Academy became our world. The Corps, the lovely people from a once beautiful place called Loakan, the joys of youth and the awesome experience and learning that we went through. Those were just a few of the beautiful memories I have from my young life.

Fifty-three y*ears ago on March 26, 1972 we left that world. A world now long gone but never forgotten. My life has been with these memories. It was a Wonderful World." -* ***Roger F***

Till our next Class Call. Happy reading to all...Oslec




AVELINO I RAZON, JR
President
BENIGNO T CABRIETO, JR
Secretary

PMA Class of 1974: First Quarter 2025 Highlights

We kicked off 2025 with a meeting of our Class Board of Trustees on January 13 at the AGFO boardroom, led by our Class President, **Sonny Razon.** It was a productive session where we checked on the status of our class fund and mapped out the activities for the first quarter. As always, one of the highlights is our quarterly birthday celebration—a tradition that continues to bring smiles and strengthen the bond among classmates and their spouses.

Around this time each year, many of our classmates based in North America come home to escape the cold winter and take part in the PMA alumni events in February. This year, we were especially happy to welcome back **Oca Mallabo**, **Tony Ramos**, and **Ching Lagrimas**.

Even though we didn't officially join the 2025 PMA Alumni Homecoming - since we had such a big celebration last year for our Golden Jubilee - the presence of our balikbayan classmates didn't go unnoticed. Their homecoming sparked small, intimate reunions mostly organized by their own major service groups. These get-togethers were filled with warm conversations, shared memories, and plenty of laughter - a true reminder of the lasting friendships we've built through the years.

Our first quarter birthday celebration of the year was held on March 13, once



Ching Lagrimas and Tony Ramos with the PNP group



PMA Marangal Class of 1974, Inc. Board of Trustees meeting



Oca Mallabo with the Navy group



Oca Mallabo and Tony Ramos in a lunch hosted by Pons Crucero



Birthday celebrators for the 1st Quarter



Marangal Ladies 1st Quarter birthday celebrators









again at AGFO - a place that now feels like a second home to many of us. As part of the fun, everyone was required to wear one of our many class uniforms from over the years. Ironically, we were all in uniform, but not wearing the same one - so in a way, we weren't really in uniform at all! The night was lively, filled with music, dancing, and meaningful conversations.

Here's a toast to our 1st quarter birthday celebrators who attended:

Birthday Boys: Manny Carta, Boy Bernal, Pete Fernando, Ace Tolentino, Ed Doromal, Jun Esperon, Benny Cabrieto, Rene Rieza, and Junio Lopez.

Birthday Girls – Marangal Ladies: Lulu Dauz, Jeng Tolentino, Malou Crucero, Becky Aromin, Judy Gutierrez, Jo Cabrieto, Chato Bernal, and Nurjim Valencia.

As always, the one-man band did a great job setting the mood. He had everyone tapping their feet, singing along, and even showing off some dance moves with a little help from dance instructors. There was great music, spontaneous performances, hearty laughter, and of course - plenty of delicious food and drinks to go around. These are the little things that make every Marangal gathering something to look forward to.

Events like this show just how strong our connection is. Every birthday we celebrate isn't just about the years we've added—it's about the lives we've lived, the memories we've made, and the brotherhood that has stood firm through all these years.

Looking forward, we're filled with gratitude and hope, excited for more chances to be together and share more meaningful moments.

Mabuhay ang PMA Marangal Class of 1974!

JEFFREY SODUSTA
President
CHARLIE ALEJANDRINO
Secretary

A RETROSPECT OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

Kudos to all Makabayans and their ladies for the very successful and memorable Golden Jubilee celebrations. Special mention goes to Cav Raul Gonzales, our past class president and chairman of the PMAAAI. His leadership in steering the class officers and the PMAAAI Board of Directors in accomplishing this gigantic task is worth emulating and rewarding. So goes with the officers and the ladies who made all these things possible.

The golden jubilee year celebration was put into motion starting on the 13th of February when the Makabayans and their ladies including the widows of departed classmates were checked-in at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City. Of the 45 members in attendance, 30 were locally based, 10 from abroad and six were associate or honorary members. The remainder of the day was designated as free time while golf enthusiasts enjoyed the cool breeze on the fairways. In the evening, a Welcome Dinner and Dance was held. A video presentation highlighting the history of the Makabayan Class over the past 50 years since their graduation was shown.

At 7:00 a.m. the following day, Valentines day, the Makabayan golfers teed off at BGCC. In the afternoon, the class joined the other members of the PMA Cavaliers in paying tribute to all departed alumni. They paid their respects by presenting flowers during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Alumni Monument in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. Cav Raul Gonzales, PMAAA Chairman and President of Makabayan, led the floral offering.

In the evening, during a Valentine's dinner at Mama's Table Fine Dining Restaurant hosted by Cav Jeff and Nitz Sodusta, the ladies received red roses from their Makabayan hubbies. On February 15, 2025, the Golden Jubilee celebration began. The Makabayan jubilarians, with their spouses and families, were ferried in six PMA buses from BGCC to the PMA ground. The men were dressed in barong Pilipino and wore their signature tabungao while the ladies were in their elegant dresses. The usual homecoming program began with a parade and review at the Borromeo field, followed by the Cavalier awarding ceremony in which Cavalier Pete Cadungog received his award in the Special Field of Education category. The award gave the Makabayan Class of 1975













the recognition of having the second most number of Cavalier awardees, next only to Class 1951. Following this ceremony, the most anticipated event took place – the donning of the golden medallion on the Makabayans by their respective ladies. by their respective spouses. After the Borromeo Field ceremony, luncheon followed at Lopez Hall and where the golden medallions were also bestowed upon the widows of departed mistahs.

ELECTION OF MAKABAYAN OFFICERS FOR 2025-2030

In the evening, the class held the election of Officers for 2025 to 2030. Leo Bernabe acted as chair of the election committee assisted by Secretary Dante Ferrer and Ernie Boac. Elected/appointed to the positions were the following:

President Cav Jeffrey Sodusta





Vice Presidents
- Airforce Cav Willie Palugod
- Army Cav Arsenio Arugay
- Police Cav Leo Bernabe
- Navy Cav Sammy Samuya
- International Cav Walter Villagonzalo

Secretary Cav Charlie Alejandrino
Treasurer Cav Gerry Doria
Sports Coordinator Cav Ernie Boac
Legal Advisers Cav Leo Bernabe
Cav Willy Dulay

The activity became truly heartwarming as generous classmates led by the newly elected president Jeff Sodusta, Alandy Mesa, Pete Cadungog and Ding Luna donated seed money to start with and reinforce the class fund.

OATHTAKING OF NEW SET OF OFFICERS

April 8, 2025 was the date set for the oathtaking of the new Makabayan Officers at the Midas Hotel, Manila who will serve from 2025 to 2030. But it was no ordinary day because that day happened to be the 72nd birthday of the new president Jeff Sodusta and that the following day was first lady Nitz natal day. It was no coincidence that



the oathtaking was scheduled on that day but the occasion became a double birthday celebrations hosted by Prez Jeff and wife Nitz.

The evening program was emceed by Atty. Cynthia Guligado and friend of the class Pau Jacob. In accordance with the prepared programme, Veep for the Army Sen Arugay gave the welcome remarks followed by the outgoing president Raul Gonzales handing the Plaques of Appreciations to the outgoing officers and members including the ladies who worked hard in the successful conclusion of the Golden Jubilee celebration. Next was his short speech exhorting the incoming officers and all the members to prepare for the Emerald Jubilee year five years hence. Then, in his capacity as Chairman of the PMAAAI, Cav Raul presided the oathtaking of the new officers of the class.

THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

On April 8, 2025, the elected officers of the class held the oathtaking and induction of officers at the Midas Hotel, Manila. The occasion was jibed with the dual birthday celebrations of president-elect Jeff Sodusta and wife Nitz. Not only that they sponsored the event but also included all the January to April birthday celebrants in the program. The couple gave away their birthday gifts to all the celebrants – wine for the men and personalized bags to the ladies plus a meter long bar chocolates each. The birthday celebrants were the following:

MAKABAYAN GENTLEMEN

Leo Bernabe	Mar 08
Dante Ganir	Mar 08
Meynard Santiago	Mar 11
Benny Brizuela	Mar 22
Dick Capuyan	Mar 25
Nitoy Samuya	Mar 27
Reuben Crisologo	Apr 12
Isagani Garcia	Apr 26
Sen Arugay	Feb 06
Mar Soriano	Feb 09
Willy Dulay	Feb 14
Ernie Boac	Feb 15
Dante Ferrer	Feb 22
Charlie Alejandrino	Feb 24
Geary Barias	Mar 01
Ray Roderos	Mar 02



MAKABAYAN LADIES

Baby Cunanan	Jan 03
Bennie Pabalan	Jan 04
Len Wong	Jan 09
Baby Doria	Jan 15
Au Claudio	Jan 17
Myrna Castro	Jan 27
Tess Crisologo	Feb 06
Girlie Baltazar	Feb 27
Cynthia Guligado	Mar 10
Joyce Luna	Apr 06
Ollie delos Santos	Apr 12
Nitz Sodusta	Apr 19

A violinist brought in by Baby Doria added birthday serenade music to the celebrations. After dinner, two DIs led everyone onto the dance floor. The evening concluded with everyone feeling content and fulfilled. Included in the programme was the donning of the golden medallion to Emma Regis in behalf of the late Dennis Regis.

GOLF, PLEASURE AND CLASS ACTIVITIES

President Jeff has a plan for managing class activities. Every major golf game, held at least once a month, will coincide with the board meeting, and all class members are invited to attend. The meeting is scheduled for lunchtime following the game, and the venue will be determined as suitable. His administration's focus will be on the 2030 Makabayan Emerald Jubilee year, and preparations are already underway.

On Golf, immediate past president of the class and past chairman of the PMAAA, Raul Gonzales has proven that age does not matter. In the 2025 – 1st of the FPASG Golf Tournament hosted by Pradera Verde Senior Golfers Association held on April 10, 2025, he emerged as champion.



MAGTANGGOL B GATDULA
President
LUIZO C TICMAN
Secretary

The first quarter of 2025 was a vibrant period filled with memorable milestones and heartwarming gatherings that underscored the deep camaraderie, unwavering leadership, and strong family values upheld by the PMA Magilas Class







’76 Association, Inc. These events not only brought together members of the class but also reinforced their commitment to the broader mission of service, unity, and brotherhood.

On January 30, 2025, the Board of Trustees (BOT) celebrated at Tsukiji Restaurant the birthday of Mistah Sandy “Andoks,” Javier. Fellow Mistahs honored Sandy’s enduring legacy of generosity and humility with Class ‘76.

On February 14, 2025, the Board of Trustees (BOT) and other Mistahs journeyed to Lingayen, Pangasinan. They took part with the Kasalang Bayan, a mass wedding initiative spearheaded by Mayor Pol Bataoil.

The following day, February 15, 2025 was a momentous occasion as the Magilas Class ‘76 gathered in Baguio City for the much-anticipated PMA Homecoming 2025 at Fort Del Pilar. The event was a powerful celebration of shared history and tradition, where alumni stood shoulder to shoulder in honor of their alma mater. The nostalgic atmosphere was enriched by the ceremonial parade, class formations, and commemorations. For the Magilas Class ’76, it was also an opportunity to reflect on their collective journey and renew their commitment to courage, integrity, and loyalty.

A pivotal event in the leadership of the PMAAAI took place on February 28, 2025. The Change of Command Ceremony officially installed Mistah Mon Punzalan as the new Chairman of the PMAAAI. The solemn yet optimistic ceremony was marked by messages of continuity and progress. Chairman Punzalan articulated his vision for a more transparent, inclusive, and responsive leadership, signaling a renewed era of collaboration and innovation within the organization. Cav Punzalan’s assumption of leadership was met with overwhelming support and enthusiasm from the alumni community.

On March 21, 2025, the General Assembly Meeting of PMA Magilas Class ’76 was convened. Members gathered not only to reconnect but also to actively engage in meaningful discussions on class initiatives and upcoming activities. Among the highlights were the updates and planning sessions in preparation for the Golden Anniversary celebration in February 2026. Attendees included Alfa Company: Raul Caballes, Ely Dela Paz, Josefino Solidum, Efren Lagdamen, Sonny Cachuela, Paco Francisco, Boying Alarcio, Joel Goltiao, and Romy Hilomen. Bravo Company: Edong Acuna, Bong Ibrado, Joey Salvacion, Jiggs Dasallas, Abner Cabalquinto, Lhen Calderon, Ben





Dolorfino, Sammy Narcise, Joey Paz and Eppie Comahig. Charlie Company: Vic Boco, Mon Punzalan, Nelson Allaga, Rey Ramirez, Willy Lino, Cholo Carlos, Macky Maclang, Jimmy Caringal, Jess Verzosa, Chris Tanabe and Byron Tabangay. Delta Company: Carly Divinagracia, Jun Sanchez, Tanggol Gatdula, Louie Ticman, Gerry Defensor, Ed Lacanienta, Paul Mata, Joseph Bernardo, Jogy Fojas, Raffy Dacanay, Toto Golez, and Efren Daquil. Zoom Attendees are Retep Labiano, Jaems Sin, Mariano Busa, Antonio Fontanilla, Allan Bontuyan, Armando Rodriguez, Efren Veran, Mon dela Cruz, Alex Resngit, Sendong Ferrer, Caloy Cagaanan, Adiong Abadiano, Ed Gurrea, Emil Lucero, Alex Yano and Rolly Doroteo.

Crowning this vibrant quarter was a cherished family milestone. On April 5, Mistah Cholo Carlos and his family celebrated the wedding of his son, PAL A321 Capt. Paolo Carlos, to Donna Sebastian, a PAL flight attendant. The joyous celebration brought together family, friends, and fellow Mistahs.

In summary, these events offered a resounding testament to the values that the PMA Magilas Class '76 live by.

Reminder: The measurement of the ladies' outfit is ongoing up to June with Danny Baron at Loyola Grand Villas. The ladies, particularly those out of town and out of the country, are requested to send their measurements online.



ORLY PESTANO
President
OGIE DAHAN
Secretary

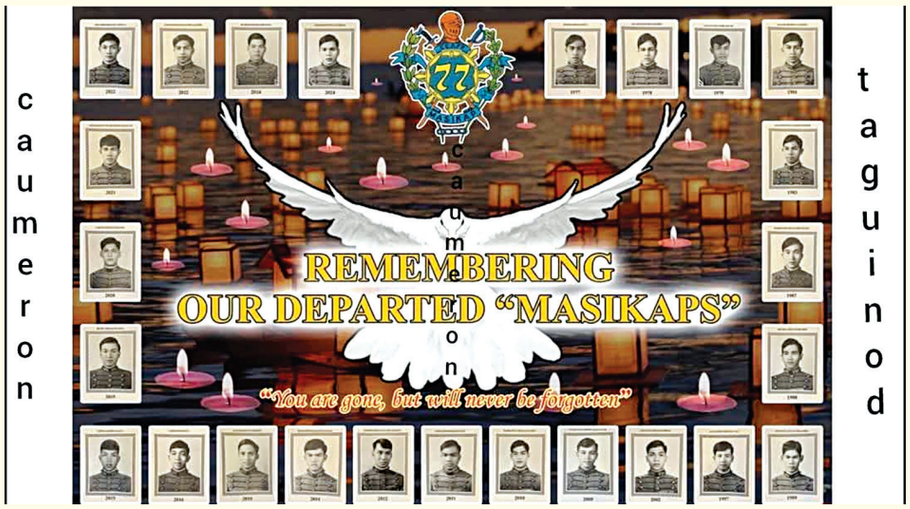
Time flies as fast as we can catch up! Before we know it, we will be the golden jubilarians already- 50 years since we graduated from the academy! This is one portion of our career in life that is so valuable and most wished and thankful we have reached such timeline!

As the Masikap Class of 1977 will be the Golden Jubilarians by 2027, preparations are in full swing to make such event successful!

The Masikaps employed the division of labor involving most, if not all, members to participate in the preparations. As early as January this year, the Class started to prepare for this event starting with the crafting of the Masikap Golden Sword 2027 where Cav Joone de Leon is designated as the Editor in Chief. The ever enthusiastic and diligent mistah, Cav Romulo "Butch" Supapo took the cudgels of following up every Masikap member to comply with the requirements of the Golden Sword to assure everyone that the output would be as beautiful, acceptable and convenient to all. Each Branch of Service is assigned a member-in-charge of following up compliance within their group. The Army is led by Cav Nes Ochoa, PNP by Cav Andy Caro, the AirForce by Cav Art Mancenido and the Navy by Cav Dan Cortez.

Cav Ric David earlier vacated his position as class president to focus on PMARAI and PMAAAI matters. He is now currently the Chairman of the retirees association – PMARAI – and will eventually be the Chairman of PMAAAI by March 2026 for our Golden Jubilee in 2027. As a result, a new set of class officers was formed with the indefatigable Cav Orly Pestano as President, Cav Nes Ochoa as Vice President, Cav Ogie Dahan as Secretary and Cav Ned Goseco as Treasurer. The Board regularly conduct its meeting which is normally jibed with the Chicken Club and occasionally with the round golf game. It has actually deliberated on the memberships of Nebu Alejandrino, Ed Masangcay, Art Olavario, Father Danny Locquiao and US based Jun Espanola.

Last Alumni Homecoming, February 15, 2025, only four members of the class attended the event, Cav Ric David, Cav Sunny Pequiras, Cav Fidel Cimatu, and Cav Orly Pestano; where a simple dinner with the Masikap Ladies at Canto Resto beside Burnham Park the night before the Alumni Parade. It is desired that comes our time to be the Golden jubilarians in February 2027, all our able and available members could still participate during this Alumni Parade.



The Class never forget those who have gone early to meet our Creator. Every May 1 each year, initiated by Cav Roy Camagay few years ago and jibed with the National Labor Day, Masikaps pay homage to our deceased mistahs by visiting their graves, (at least for those laid at the Libingan ng mga Bayani), to offer prayers and flowers. This is followed by a Mass celebrated by our adopted Mistah Fr Danny Locquiao and lunch at the LNMB Gazebo. The Class also extends its heartfelt condolences to Cav Bob Noblefranca and family for the untimely demise of his wife Janice last April 22, 2025.

Some members of the Class were invited and participated in the celebration of PMA Class 1979 Golden Plebe year last April 1, 2025, which was held at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City. It was a reenactments of how Class 1977 received the Class of 1979. Some 50 years ago in the hallowed grounds of PMA. It was a nostalgic and very memorable event refreshing the fellowship and camaraderie between the two classes recalling how Class 1979 sympathized with Class 1977 during the latter's fight for the Honor System and Code when it was being challenged and used against the Cadet Corps.

On health concerns, the Class is pursuing its project of putting up or sponsoring a ward at the Veterans



Memorial Medical Center. Initiated and pursued by Cav Dick Morales, with Cav Ned Goseco, whose concern for the health of every Masikap is paramount, the project is gaining ground and hoping that its realization will eventually come. The ward is intended to provide a room for our mistahs who may be confined or admitted because of sickness. As has been the experienced before, a comfortable room at the medical facility if one is sick and needing medical attention, is very hard to find. With this project, the Class will be assured that such dilemma will be avoided.

On other matters, it's election time! Let's select our leaders who are qualified and could lead us to good governance! Go out and Vote!

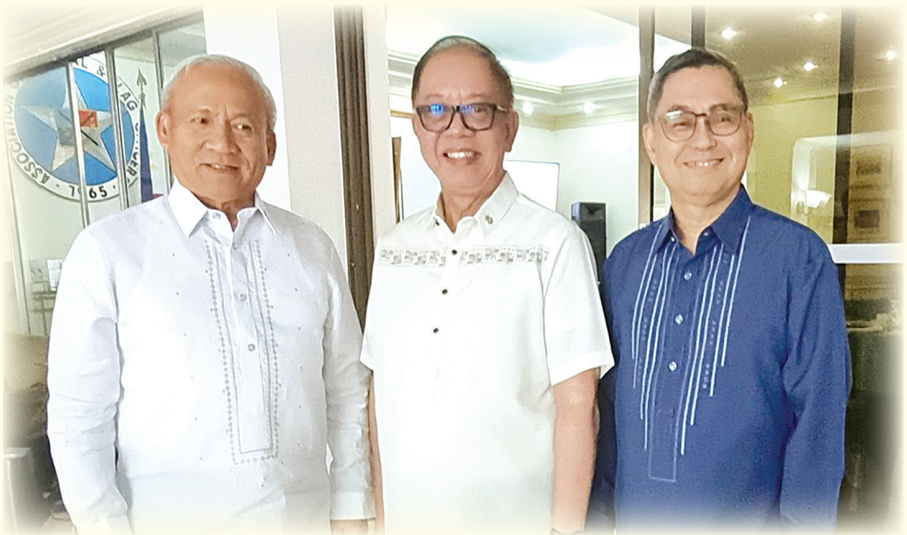




ROMEO D LUSTESTICA
President
REYNALDO M ORDONEZ
Secretary

Makatarungans Attend AGFO 1st Quarter Forum

Oca Rabena, Romy Lustestica and Resty Aguilar joined the AGFO 1st Quarter Forum last March 25, 2025. Forum speaker Lt Gen Ed Adan (Ret) exposed China's use of non-military means to impose its will in the WPS through strategic deception, diplomatic pressure, false narratives, harassment and fake news. The Philippines must continue to uphold a rules-based order in the region, work with allies and develop doctrines to defeat the asymmetrical strategy of China.



1st Quarter VAGC Golf Tournament

The 1st Quarter 2025 Villamor Air Base Golf Course Golf Tournament concluded with a standout performance from Cav Romy Prestoza, who emerged as the Champion by recording the lowest net score. Defying age with grace and grit, Cav Romy proved that perseverance never fades. Despite being one of the more senior players in the field, he continues to be competitive and remarkably spry on the course. His victory is not only a testament to skill but also to his enduring spirit, inspiring fellow golfers young and old alike.



Remembrance Day

This year, on April 11, the PMA Makatarungan Class of 1978 and their ladies celebrated Remembrance Day at the Bulwagan Hall, Libingan ng mga

PMA 78 Remembrance Day 2025







Bayani. The Class remembered and offered prayers for the 42 fallen Makatarungans to include eight departed Makatarungan ladies. The Class held wreath laying, candle lighting and prayer offerings on 15 gravesites at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani, led by the widows when available or organized volunteer groups. The Class symbolically offered flowers and lighted candles for those who were not buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. Lastly, five volunteer speakers described the life of five fallen Makatarungans, how they lived, how they affected fellow classmates and how they contributed to the betterment of the whole class. And before I forget, the event was planned and executed by the Makatarungan ladies.

The Fallen One

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved mistah, MGen Carlix Donila, who departed on April 26, 2025. He had a brief but courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, which he was diagnosed with in March of the same year. At the time, he was serving as the acting director of the John Hay Management Corporation, a position he resigned from due to his declining health. A respected leader and dedicated public servant, MGen Donila's legacy is marked by his unwavering commitment to duty and selfless contributions to our country. His





passing is mourned by colleagues, friends, and the nation he served with honor. Necrological service was held at Villamor Air Base Mortuary on May 2, 2025 with mistahs, PMA78 Chairman Romy Prestoza and Roland Detabali giving their eulogies. Inurnment was held the following day at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani with full military honors.



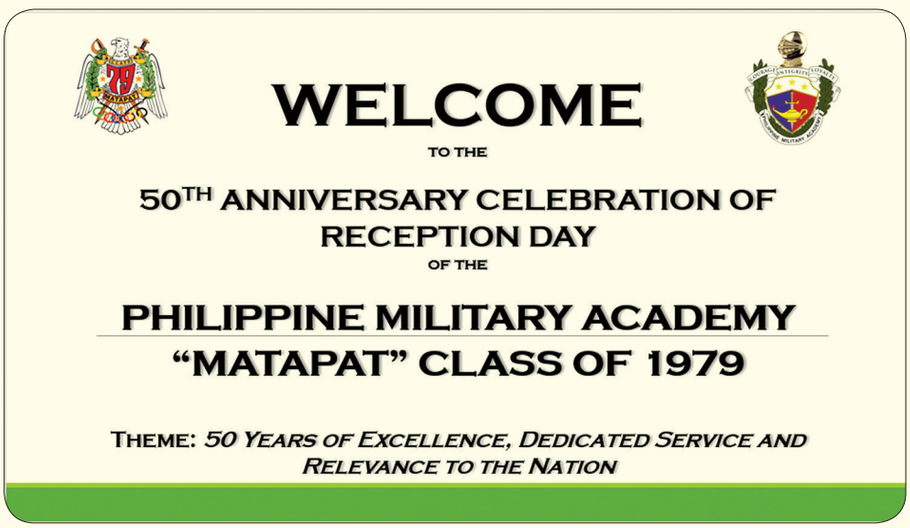
TRISTAN M KISON
President
JOSE TONY E VILLARETE
Secretary

On April 1, 2025, we commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Reception Day of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1979. The Program was in two parts: Part I was the Reenactment of the Reception Day at the NCRCOM Grandstand, CGEA and Part II, Program and Dinner at the AFP Commissioned Officers Club, CGEA. The reenactment was meant to honor the day when 197 young men embarked on a journey to become future leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The reenactment allowed us to relive a defining moment in our lives, our first steps into the hallowed traditions of the PMA. The commemoration was graced by Cavalier Oscar T Martinez '71, as the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Cavalier Ramon T Punzalan '76, Chairman of the PMAAAI, Cavalier Ricardo A David Jr. '77, Chairman of PMARAI, and some distinguished members of PMA Class of 1977 namely: Cavalier Nestor Z Ochoa, Cavalier Vicente M Agdamag, Cavalier Felizardo M Serapio Jr., Cavalier Alejandro T Camagay Jr., Cavalier Ricardo C Morales, Cavalier Orlando L Pestano, Cavalier Edmundo F Gammad and Cavalier Armando I Taluban.

If we may recall our Reception Day of April 1, 1975, 197 young men, filled with dreams and aspirations, reported to Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City and Camp Henry T. Allen, Baguio City. From there, we embarked on a journey that would test our limits, shape our character, and forge us into leaders. We traveled by PMA buses to Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City where we had our last moments as civilians over lunch at the Picnic Groove, Fort Del Pilar. Then came the defining moment – the march to Borromeo Field, where we were turned over to the Plebe Detail from PMA Class of 1977, in a solemn and traditional Reception Day Ceremony.

On March 10, 1975, the Armed Forces of the Philippines released the list of 197 candidates qualified for appointment as cadets of the Philippine Military Academy. We were selected out of more than 10,000 young and dashing Filipinos from all walks of life. We were subjected to a two stage selection challenge of cadetship in PMA – the Written Examination, done at the different testing centers nationwide, and, the Physical and Medical Examinations undertaken at the V. Luna Medical Center, now known as the AFP Medical Center.

Out of these numbers, only about four percent (4%) of 400 aspirants passed the first stage and qualified for the second



PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY "MATAPAT" CLASS OF 1979
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE RECEPTION DAY
NCRCOM Grandstand
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
April 1, 2025

Theme: *50 Years of Excellence, Dedicated Service and Relevance to the Nation*

With

CAVALIER OSCAR O. MARTINEZ PMA '71
Guest of Honor and Speaker

REENACTMENT OF RECEPTION DAY

PROGRAM

- Invocation – Ms. Maria Blesilda "Blessie" Munoz - Kison
- Singing of the National Anthem
- Introduction of the Guest of Honor–Cav Ariel O. Querubin '79
- Message of the Guest of Honor – Cav Oscar O. Martinez '71
- Reception Rites Reenactment
- End of Reception Rites
- Singing of the PMA Plebe Song
- Picture Taking
- Recessional

PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY "MATAPAT" CLASS OF 1979
50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE RECEPTION DAY
AFT Commissioned Officers Club
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
April 1, 2025

Theme: *50 Years of Excellence, Dedicated Service and Relevance to the Nation*

With

CAVALIER OSCAR O. MARTINEZ PMA '71
Guest of Honor and Speaker

PROGRAM

PART I

1. Invocation – Cav Roland S. Recomono '79
2. Tribute and Prayer for Departed Members of PMA '79
3. Welcome Remarks – Cav Tristan M. Kison, President, PMA Matapat Class of 1979
4. Brief History of PMA Matapat Class of 1979 (A Video Presentation)
5. Recollection

- Cav Samuel D. Pagdilao Jr. '79
- Cav Alejandro H. Estomo '79
- Cav Arturo B. Ortiz '79

6. Response

- Cav Ricardo A. David Jr. '77
- Cav Ricardo C. Morales '77
- Cav Alejandro T. Camagay '77

7. PMA '79 Tribute to the Filipino Soldier (Composed by Ramon C. Liwag '79)
8. Inspirational Message – Guest of Honor and Speaker, Cav Oscar O. Martinez '71
9. Singing of the Alma Mater Song

PART II

Dinner and Socials

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Lourdes "Doddie" Fernandez - Felix

and final stage of the selection process. The final stage yielded a total of 197 strong successful examinees, earning us a four year scholarship, military and academic training program in the Academy.

We were later joined by four foreigners namely: Gary Smith from the United States of America; Michael Siew Kiat Goh from the Republic of Singapore; Nien-Sad Tseng from the Republic of China (Taiwan); and Supakit Wanpenn from the Kingdom of Thailand. This led to a total of 201 new PMA cadets to comprise the PMA Class of 1979.

During our four year training period, some left the Academy for various reasons, and while others initially belonging to upper classes joined the Class. One hundred twenty-seven (127) of us made it to graduation day on February 25, 1979, including Michael Siew Kiat Goh from the Republic of Singapore, the only foreign cadet out of four, to graduate with Class of 1979.

During the reenactment at the NCRCOM grandstand, members of the Class who were received ahead as they belonged to earlier classes but reentered PMA to join PMA Class of 1979, led the march off to the grandstand. They were in the front row as the Class would like to express its appreciation for their efforts in guiding and supporting us, their new classmates, during our plebehood. Their leadership, resilience, and willingness to extend a helping hand made a significant difference in the journey of PMA Class of 1979.

After we were formed directly in front of the grandstand filled with our families, friends and AFP personnel and of course the Guest of Honor and Speaker flanked by The Chairman of the PMAAAI; Chairman of the PMARAI, our Class Adviser, Cavalier Ernesto Carolina, and our very own Ariel Querubin, who was tasked to introduce the Guest of Honor, members of PMA Class of 1977, our Plebe Detail, marched off toward the center in front of the grandstand. The success of PMA Class of 1979 was shaped in part by the guidance and discipline instilled by the Plebe Detail, the PMA Class of 1977. We invited as many members of PMA Class of 1977 to join us in this momentous commemoration, but only nine (9) of them were able to make it. The occasion served as a way of expressing





our deepest gratitude to them for their role in this journey.

The journey of PMA Class of 1979 would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and leadership of the Plebe Detail-the PMA Class of 1977 -whose guidance during those early and formative days of Reception Day and the Summer Camp Training left an indelible mark on the class. Through their firm discipline, mentorship, and example, the Class of 1977 instilled in us plebes the values of resilience, excellence, and camaraderie that became the bedrock of our development. Their pivotal role in shaping the character and fortitude of the Class of 1979 laid the foundation for the class' future successes, both within the Academy and in the years of service to the nation.

After the reenactment activities at the NCRCOM grandstand, the Program and Dinner was held at the AFP Commissioned Officers Clubhouse where recollections of PMA '79 and responses of PMA '77 were made. The evening was capped by the inspirational message of the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Cavalier Oscar T Martinez. All of the speeches and the music provided by the HSC Acoustic Band, evoked a sense of nostalgia to everyone. It was a day to remember for the PMA Matapat Class of 1979. During the Dinner, our President, Titan Kison, distributed to all attendees to include the support personnel present, a bunch of Gardenia Whole Wheat Bread with the accompanying Plebe famous Bukayo.



The 50th Anniversary of the Reception Day of the PMA Class of 1979 was a momentous occasion that celebrated the enduring legacy, camaraderie, and values of the class. As we reflected on our shared journey, it marked not only the passage of time but also the unwavering commitment to duty, honor, and service that has guided us throughout our careers and lives. This milestone served as a testament to the strength of the bonds forged within the Philippine Military Academy and their continuing contributions to the nation. It was a reminder that the spirit of leadership, integrity, and excellence, which began 50 years ago, remains a beacon of inspiration for future generations.



CAESAR RONNIE F ORDOYO
President
EDMUND C TAN
Secretary

PMA Homecoming 2025

After weeks of anticipation and preparation, the Class with alacrity joined the PMA Homecoming in Fort Del Pilar on 15 February 2025 to celebrate our 45th Year Anniversary as Sapphire Jubilarians.

Forty-nine (49) Mapitagans went up to the City of Pines along with 40 Ladies and about 75 Dependents. Five Mistahs from abroad came with their respective spouses, namely: Oby and Chona Antonio, Alex and Cora De Guzman, and Noel and Nanie Dominguez from the US; Jess and Blue Lomeda from Vancouver, Canada; and Bobby and Lou Ramos from Vienna, Austria.

A surprise attendee was Willie Campos who, finally, popped out of his lair after being unaccounted for for so many years. Willie came with his three children.

To enliven the event, a Homecoming Party was held which coincided, intentionally, as tribute to the Mapitagan Ladies, with Valentine's Day at the FVR Hall in Baguio Country Club on 14 February 2025. And before we wound up the trip to the country's summer capital, a Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on 16 February 2025 at the Hotel Grande where most of the class members were billeted. The mass was officiated by Fr. Gerard Deveza, whom Jess Lomeda had requested.

Mapitagan Fellowship Dinner

On 29 March 2025, a Class Fellowship Dinner was held at the Quezon City Sports Club in honor of the birthday celebrants of the first quarter of the year. In attendance were 26 Mistahs of which 11 were birthday celebrants: Boy Bolo, Bong De Asis, Mie

Mendoza, Noel Coballes, Bogs Abogado, Judge Mike Asuncion, Ted Torralba, Herbert Yambing, Nicky Bartolome, Onell Lleno and Danny Saberon. USec Mandy Espineli graciously co-hosted the affair with the 1st Quarter Birthday Boys, livened up as usual with Mapitagan songsters overwhelming the provided singer and computer arranged music.

Celebration of Life for Efren and Irene Yebra

Just a week later, Efren and Irene Yebra celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary and joint birthdays on 5 April 2025. The couple hosted a luncheon at the Merino Function Hall in Seda Vertis North, Quezon City. Fourteen (14) Mistahs attended the affair together with seven ladies. It was a fun-filled event with exciting entertainment provided by veteran balladeer and actor Bimbo Cerrudo. Our congratulations and best wishes to Efren and Irene for this milestone in their lives together, for their remarkable endurance and faithfulness.

Passing Away of Eldon Nemenzo and Joel "Epoy" Marayag

Just after the Homecoming activities in Baguio City, sad news dampened our spirits during this momentous and cheerful time of the year. Our beloved Mistah Eldon Nemenzo finally joined our Creator on 18 February 2025, a day after his 68th birthday. Eldon had been bedridden for more than 10 years after suffering a debilitating stroke. His peaceful passing on to the Great Beyond was a relief from the suffering he endured throughout his illness.

Eldon was laid to rest at their family mausoleum in Rolling Hills Memorial Park, Bacolod City on 01 March 2025. Ten Mistahs flew from Manila on board a PAF plane arranged by Larry DLC, with Alex De Guzman tagging along Cora, to pay their last respects. Prior to that, his wake lay at the St. Peter's Chapel in the same city, with the necrological service held the night before on 28 February 2025. It was attended by Prez Ces Ordoyo, Tony Baraquiel and King Reyes. Also, Emil Gupana and Cesar Yano with King came earlier to pay their last respects to Eldon.



The Mapitagans at the Terraces '80 in the Class Picnic after the PMA Homecoming Parade at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City on 15 February 2025.



The lovely Mapitagan Ladies in their bright red scarf, while watching the PMA Homecoming Parade from the Grandstand.



In photo are the 11 of the 26 Mistahs who attended the Class Fellowship Dinner for the 1st Quarter birthday celebrants co-hosted by USec Mandy Espineli at the Quezon City Sports Club on 29 March 2025. Left to right: Bong De Asis, Orli Beltran, Boy Bolo, Onell Lleno, USec Mandy, Emil Sarmiento, Ome Carbonell, Edmund Tan, Nick Batolome, Honorary Member Ian Sy and Benji Mantele.

After three months, on 11 May 2025, we were shocked again to learn about the untimely demise of Mistah Joel "Epoy" Marayag. Reportedly, he was resting in their house in Fairview after doing some exercise on a stationary bicycle, when he collapsed. He was rushed to the nearest hospital, but all efforts to revive him were all for naught. He had, notably, undergone an angioplasty two years ago and was well on his way to recovery. But, as we all have accepted with great humility, that if it is God's will, it shall come to pass, and no human endeavor can prevent it.

Epoy's wake was held at the Villamor Air Base Mortuary in Pasay City. Thirty-five Mapitagans and 15 ladies joined the family, relatives, and friends of our late mistah during the necrological service held at the



Taken during the Celebration of Life of Efren and Irene Yebra on 5 April 2025 at the Merino Function Hall, Seda Vertis North, Quezon City. In photo seated in the table from left to right: Raffy Torres, Ted Torralba, Edmund Tan, Judge Mike Asuncion, Gil Meneses, Benji Mantele, Vic Caragan, Ric Pasamba and Paco Francisco. Standing are: Jeff Tupas and the celebrants Efren and Irene Yebra.



Ladies who joined the Celebration of Life of Efren and Irene Yebra. Seated from left to right: Tett Tupas, Marie Torralba, Joy Mantele, Baybee Francisco, Ella Caragan and Connie Asuncion, with the celebrants.

Our Lady of Loreto Chapel in Villamor Air Base on 16 May 2025. The following day, he was finally laid to rest at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani.

True embodiments of courage and integrity, Eldon and Epoy, both accomplished Philippine Air Force pilots, served with unwavering dedication, honor and distinction in their respective careers. Their legacy as patriots and leaders will forever inspire us all.

Our thoughts and prayers are with their respective families especially to Lita, the loving wife of Epoy, and their children during this difficult time. May Eldon and Epoy rest in eternal and perfect peace.

Gerry Layug as new PETFI Director

On a joyful note, we congratulate Gerry Layug for winning a seat as Director of the PMAAAI Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) in the election held during the Foundation's Annual Membership Meeting on 30 April 2025 at the PMA Alumni Center in Camp Aguinaldo, QC and thru zoom. Mistahs who are members of PETFI attended in full force to support Gerry, who came out on top as the candidate who garnered the highest votes. Kudos to Gerry as this is another laurel to his cap aside from being the Chairman and President of AGFO. We are so proud of you, Mistah!

Mapitagans in the PFTJI Board

A month earlier, on 20 March 2025, three (3) Mistahs, namely: Gil Meneses, Mike Asuncion and Efren Yebra, were elected again as Trustees of the Board of the PMAAAI Foundation for Truth and Justice, Inc. (PFTJI) during its hybrid Annual Membership Meeting and Election. Big congrats to the three Mapitagans. They have been with the PFTJI Board for quite some time, serving and helping fellow Cavaliers on their legal woes while in the performance of their duties. Indeed, Mapitagans are very proud and happy for the unselfish services they have been providing all these years!

Upcoming Events of the Class

The Class is preparing for two important upcoming events: the 50th Year Anniversary of our Reception Day on 01 April 2026, and the Golden Jubilee celebration of our graduation in February 2030. Plans are afoot to re-enact our Reception Day that transformed us from a loose civilian life to a rigid military life, and molded us into who we are today. We hope everyone will support these two endeavors, as well as our forthcoming fund-raising activities to help cover our expenses.

Message From Our Class President Ces

"I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you, especially to those who took the time, made the effort, and showed your unwavering commitment by participating in the PMA Alumni Homecoming last February 2025. Your presence, energy, and support greatly contributed to the success and significance of the event. It was truly a heartwarming moment to see so many familiar faces gathered once again in the hallowed grounds of Fort Del Pilar, celebrating not only our shared history but also our enduring bond as a class.

Your contributions—whether in preparation, coordination, or simply showing up with pride—did not go unnoticed. They reflected the true spirit of brotherhood and unity that has always defined our class. Thank you for keeping that fire alive.

As we look ahead, I strongly encourage everyone to continue supporting the future activities of our Mapitagan class. Most especially, let us begin to prepare for one of the most significant milestones in our lives—the reenactment of our Reception as Plebes 50 years ago. This symbolic event will serve not only as a trip down memory lane but also as a celebration of how far we have come, both individually and collectively.

Moreover, we eagerly anticipate our Class Golden Jubilee Anniversary in 2030—a once-in-a-lifetime event that deserves nothing less than our full participation and commitment. Let us all do our part to make it truly unforgettable.

The strength of our class lies in our unity, our shared experiences, and the values we have carried since Day One at the Academy. Let us honor that legacy by staying involved, staying connected, and showing up—for each other and for the generations that will follow.

Mabuhay ang Mapitagans! May we continue to serve with honor and lead with heart."

ROMEO V POQUIZ
President
JOEL JESUS M SUPAN
Secretary

PMA DIMALUPIG CLASS 1981 TRIVIA

The Dimalupig Military Blood Line

Some members of the Dimalupig Class are living up to the proverb "a fruit doesn't fall far from the tree." This proverb means that children often inherit traits, characteristics, or talents from their parents. It is a saying that a child may resemble their parent in behavior, appearance, skills, or life choices as influenced by their upbringing or environment. Twenty-one of the members of the Dimalupig Class have sired 22 children (Cav Rene Samonte has two sons), who now don the Military or Police uniform to continue the Dimalupig bloodline of service and patriotism. It is also worth mentioning that a lot of members of the Dimalupig Class are sons, grandsons, nephews, brothers or cousins of Military Officers. Here are the children of the members of the Dimalupig. Even if their names were not included, one would know their fathers by their "looks" alone or, maybe not.

For the rest of the members of the Class, their children may not have carried on in donning the uniform unlike their fathers. But in their veins run the same patriotic military blood that influences their aspirations to serve not only the country but humanity. Some came to be doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs and other fields of productive endeavor to serve the country they inherit from their forebears. And this is what the Dimalupig Father say to his children....



JOSHUA C. AGANON
US Coast Guard,
USCGA 2016
Son of
Cav. Gerry Aganon



MA, MINERVAM. BOAC
Medical Corps, Phil. Navy
Daughter of
Cav. Raul Boac



JOHN JAY R. CARBONELL
U.S. Navy
Son of
Cdt. Edwin Carbonell



JOSE VIC CASTILLO
U. S. Marine Corps
Son of
Cdt. Eduardo Castillo



PATRICK Q. DE VERA
U.S. Army
Son of
Cav. Remigio De Vera



JOSE ROY M. N. DIZON
Philippine Army
PMA Class 2000
Son of
Cav. Rolando Dizon



PAUL M. B. DOLINO
Philippine Navy
PMA Class 2008
Son of
Cav. Rex Milton Dolino



LIANDRO J. DOLOJAN
Philippine Army
Medical Corps
Son of
Cav. Nicanor Dolojan



KEVIN A. ESTILLES
Phil. National Police
PMPA Class 2015
Son of
Cav. Napoleon Estilles



LORENZO M. B. GADOR
Philippine Navy
Nurse Corps
Son of
Cav. Isabelo Gador



ESTOR A. GENUINO III
U.S. Army
Son of
Cav. Nestor Genuino, Jr.



JOSE MARI O. MANALO
Philippine Air Force
PMA Class 2007
Son of
Cav. Eusaquito Manalo



LEE A. C. MENDOZA
U.S. Air Force
Son of
Cav. Antonio Mendoza,



VIKTOR I. I. MENDOZA
Philippine Army
PMA Class 2009
Son of
Cav. Emmanuel Mendoza



HARRISON SG. OCHOCO
U.S. Army
USMA Class 2025
Son of
Cav. Harold Ochoco



JOHN RENDLE S. PASION
Philippine Air Force
PMA Class 2011
Son of
Cav. Roberto Pasion

"Every action, every sacrifice your fathers made has led up to you being who you are today. Don't let your fathers down. Get to work." *-ctto-*



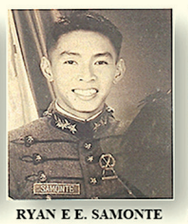
BRETT PUNAY
U.S. Army
Army Aviation
Son of
Cav. Edgar Punay



GERARD QA C. RAMOS
Philippine Army
PMA Class 2006
Son of
Cav. Eligio Ramos



RENMAR E E. SAMONTE
Philippine Air Force
PMA Class 2012
Son of
Cav. Rene Samonte



RYAN E E. SAMONTE
Philippine Army
PMA Class 2006
Son of
Cav. Rene Samonte



RAY JASON A. SORIANO
Philippine Air Force
PMA Class 2008
Son of
Cav. Mario Soriano



ARTHUR V. A. VIDAD
Philippine Army
PMA Class 2014
Son of
Cav. Arturo Vidad

"For hearts will live and die for thee,
Forever live in thee…
Young blood shall come to carry on
When too old strong "Dimalupig" *hearts are gone…*

LYSANDER A SUERTE
President
ROLANDO G BORJA
Secretary

SANDIGAN IN 2025 Spectacular 2025 Election Results! The Sandigan Family proudly congratulates our Mistahs for their electoral victories in their respective areas:

1. Cong. Bojie Dy, Isabela;
2. Cong. Richard Gomez and his wife, Mayor Lucy, Ormoc City, Leyte;
3. Cong. Roy Loyola and his wife, Mayor Dahlia, Carmona, Cavite
4. Cong. Jay Vergara and his daughter, Mayor Myca, Cabanatuan City
5. Mayor Rambo De Gracia, Sta. Teresita, Cagayan
6. Mayor Elmer Soria, San Marcelino, Zambales; and,
7. Mayor Benjie Magalong, Baguio City.

Among the recent significant achievements in our class history is the re-election of Cavalier Benjie Magalong for his 3rd-Term in the City of Pines and Home of our beloved Alma Mater, Baguio City.

Notwithstanding the victories, we also suffered a few setbacks. Nevertheless, the bids for positions brought positive experiences for our mistahs who braved the campaign trails, grabbing the opportunity to know better their constituents at the grassroots level, a once in a lifetime privilege!

Despite the losses, we stand tall and proud for having hurdled another chapter in our class history which widened our horizons in the field of Public Service in civilian capacity.

Indispensably, our Class wholeheartedly supported all our mistahs, especially the Good Governance advocacy of Mayor Benjie Magalong, which made him the target of well-funded, wicked, and determined political forces out to deny him a 3rd term. That he survived is one story that must be told extensively at the proper time.

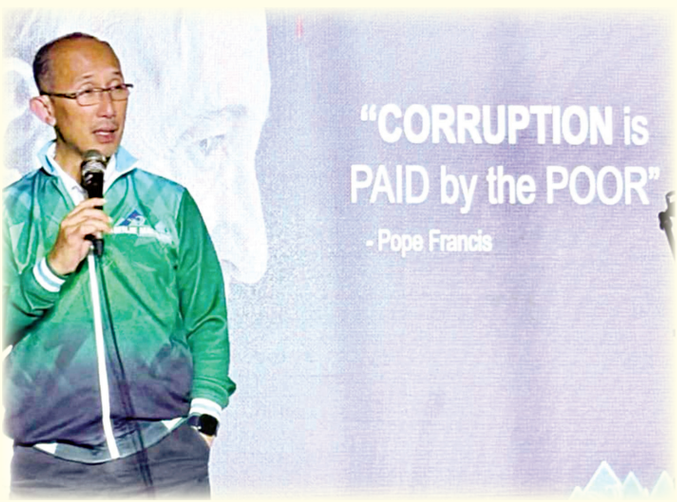
GOOD GOVERNANCE advocacy is now a national movement, attracting more and more advocates among fellow Cavaliers and like-minded Filipinos. Quite simply, Good Governance is the HONOR CODE among government officials!

A life of honesty and truth especially in service of our country and fellowmen is a life well-lived. An example anchored on the tenets of the Honor Code, which when widely practiced, will certainly generate the much-needed boost for meaningful reforms toward a better Philippines.

New challenges come our way every day to test our will and determination, including the inevitable aging process! But, CARRY ON, mga Mistah! Let us keep the fires of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty ever burning in our lives! Mabuhay!









HENRY G SABARRE
President
PERFECTO O QUILICOT JR
Secretary

A Tribute to Secretary Eduardo M Año:
A Legacy of Excellence and Service

As members of the Matikas Class of 1983, we find ourselves in a season of life where our days are filled with the joys of retirement, the pursuit of long-held dreams, and the cherished company of family, friends, and mistahs. For many of us, this means traveling the world, engaging with social media, and ticking off items from our bucket list. Others have turned to cultivating gentleman farms, embracing the farm-to-table lifestyle, or continuing their entrepreneurial ventures as private citizens. Yet, amidst these personal pursuits, one of our own has risen to extraordinary heights, earning accolades that reflect a lifetime of dedication and service to the nation.

Secretary Eduardo M Año, our esteemed mistah, has recently been honored with the Outstanding Alumni Award (OAA) by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI). This prestigious recognition, formerly known as the Distinguished Alumnus Award, is bestowed upon regular members who have distinguished themselves through exceptional achievements in government service. The award comprises two categories: Prominently Meritorious Achievement and Highest Command and Achievement.

Sec. Año's accomplishments span both categories, a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence. Under the Prominently Meritorious Achievement category, he was recognized for his exemplary service as Secretary of the National Security Council (NSC) and Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). These roles placed him at the forefront of the nation's security and governance, where his leadership and strategic vision have left an indelible mark.

In the Highest Command and Achievement category, Sec. Año was honored for his distinguished military career, serving as Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Commanding General of the Philippine Army. These positions demanded not only tactical brilliance but also an unwavering dedication to the welfare of the nation and its people. His contributions to the defense and security of the Philippines have been nothing short of extraordinary.



Golf, among others, highlights our time

Adding to these accolades is the Cavalier Award for Army Operations, a recognition of his exceptional performance and leadership in military operations. This award underscores his ability to navigate complex challenges with precision and resolve, qualities that have defined his career.

When the next edition of the PMAAAI Alumni Registry is published, Sec. Año will surely hold the distinction of having the most PMAAAI recognitions in the history of the Philippine Military Academy. This remarkable achievement is a source of immense pride for the Matikas Class of 1983, a testament to the caliber of leadership and service that our mistah embodies and as a testament to the standard that our class bestow.

As we celebrate Sec. Año's accomplishments, we are reminded of the values instilled in us during our years at the academy: courage, integrity and loyalty to the nation. His journey is a shining example of these principles in action, inspiring us all to continue striving for excellence in our own endeavors.

To our mistah, Secretary Eduardo M Año, we extend our heartfelt congratulations. Your achievements are a beacon of pride for the Matikas Class of 1983 and the entire PMA community. Matikas!



Ed and his confidant Bernie



We had been quiet for the past quarters; some kind of sleeping on post in the previous issues of Cavalier magazine. Now, we are back with a vengeance, so to speak, and will try to continue to be a permanent contributor to the Cavalier Magazine. *Sana maulit muli!*

Since retirement from the active service, many Maharlikans have decided to leave their comfort zones (read: rocking chairs) and opted to drive, pitch and putt in the fairways. The number of late bloomers is increasing each month! *Sana mag-bloom din ang golfing career nila!* There must be something "so enticing" in the fairways that motivates late-blooming, rather late bloomer-golfers, and passionate golfers alike. But mind you guys, Maharlikan golfers have been faring well in tournaments like Cavaliers Cup. They bagged the number 3 spot in the Senior Tac-O Division of Cavaliers Cup 2024, short of 1 point in the aggregate points to qualify for the top 2 spots. Guys, just a reminder, the Maharlikan team did not compete in the Gary Player-age group division. *May asim pa! Hindi po maasim na.*

As we enjoy our senior citizen years, our grown-up children are already charting their own courses in life. Thus, we are featuring some of them in this Class Call especially those who made it good recently in their respective endeavors.

My Gallant-mate **Joseph Lim** or better known as "LimJo" died in line of duty during our early 2LT days, leaving behind his pregnant wife Ming. Their daughter and only child, **Maharlika Jade**, is now a grown-up lady. She joined the teaching profession and immersed herself in molding little children become the hope of the motherland. She is now based in New Mexico, USA, and was recently awarded as Certified Autism Specialist by IBCCES. Congratulations, Maharlika Jade! You make us proud.

Let us welcome the better versions of **Dino Diño,** his children. **Dwight Harvey** is a graduate of HRM, and currently OFW working as bartender in an international cruise ship. **Don Angelo** is a license architect working at CAS Design Consult Co. **Michaela Daphne** is a Business Management graduate and working at Smartly Managing Service Support.

Richard Albano's better versions are also worth mentioning. **Raizel Pauline Albano** was recognized at the 2024 Global Awards for World Heritage Education Innovative Cases in New Delhi, India, the first Filipino to win the award. She graduated magna cum laude BS Anthropology in UP Diliman. *Study of Ants ba yung anthropology?* **Richmark Pierce Albano** is now a fellow of Cosmetic Surgeon, and shares a clinic with his mom Pinky. *Yung gustong bawasan ang sobrang kapogihan nila ay merong 20% discount. Ilang porsyento kaya ang discount ng gustong pumogi man lang kahit konti?*

Wedding bells tolled for Gerry Amante's daughter. **Abigail Amante** tied the knot with her fiancee, a seafarer from Iloilo, now Second Mate Chrisjan Gumban. The garden wedding took place at the Light of Love Events Place in Quezon City on December 8, 2024.

Our government service ended when we retired some years ago, however, a good number of Maharlikans made a successful comeback recently, either as appointed or elected officials. Twenty-seven (27) of them, including adopted members, as of the latest count. **Renwick Rutaquio** is RD, LTFRB 4B. **Eboy Enriquez** is Assistant Secretary at DA. Roommate *Iking, pakigawa naman ng minutes of the meeting!* Class Secretary **George Avila** is now working at BCDA. Three bugs are conglomerating at PAGCOR: **Joel Enrile** as VP, PG; Dr. **Lito Domingo** as VP, HRDG; and **Paeng Sera Jose** as VP, LFMG. **William Uy** continues to be the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Kiribati. **Raul Del Rosario** assumed as DG, CAAP, while **Wilfredo Jimenez** also joined CAAP.

At DND, we have a good number of Maharlikans. **Badong Mison** and **Joey De Leon** have been USEC for years now. **Harold Cabreros** is the Director of RRMS, OCD. Completing the list are **Gerry Amante**, Director of Government Arsenal and **Pykes Depakakibo**, as Assistant Director. DAR has also a share of Maharlikan service, namely: **Jun Sadiarin** as Assistant Secretary and **Artie Sindac**, RD, DAR 5. **Pat Morales** is still with NBI, but he is already working at the Head Office. **Jojo Angan** is breaking his back as Commissioner at NAPOLCOM. **Nap Taas**, the Sergeat-at-Arms of HoR, had been extra busy months ago during the QuadComm investigations. **Ronnie Estilles** is working as Director of PNOC RC. **Gilbert Sosa** is the Chairman of the Board, DCI, DBP. **Ding Sevilla** is busy working as President of Philippine Public Safety College, DILG. **Gani Nerez** assumed as the new DG, PDEA when Moro Lazo opted to enjoy his retirement.

Someone's making a rush to the finish line. *Huli man ay naihabol din!* **Richard Albano** took his oath as Director at DOT in May 2, 2025. Congrats, squadmate!

At the political arena, let us cheer for the elected Maharikan officials. **Rey Mutiangpili** is busy improving his community as Barangay Chairman of Dicklum, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. **Jon Aying**, Mayor of Sara, Iloilo, is seeking his third and last term. And lastly, **Sara Duterte**, the country's Vice President, is very busy at the national stage.

Guys, please, assure us that we can sleep soundly and peacefully…like a baby! Yes, sleeping like a baby, not sleeping with a "baby"! Did I see someone winking maliciously? I know you, guys! *"Apostolic" duty kaya sleeping with a baby.*

Time passes by largely unnoticed when we are busy working on something. But it moves excruciatingly slow when we are simply rocking our chairs at home. Some kind of "eat, drink and be merry" approach to life while we ride to our sunset. However, some Maharlikans took it upon themselves to start new endeavors, rekindle old flames, I mean interest, and a host of other pursuits in order to give more relevance to their existence. They are many, but I will only mention a few souls.

Banzai, **Elmer Quiros**!!! He has been propagating bonsai plants lately, and with success. *Pero "little" success lang daw. Hindi raw kasi pwedeng palakahin ang bonsai.* **Dong Calanoy** is now an Agarwood farmer down there in southern Mindanao area. He is the life of some Bugo-bugo group chats dedicated to farming, particularly Agarwood. *True-blooded farmer ang dating ni Dong ngayon, physically and spiritually!*

Alan Arrojado has found again his love for public service. After a taking break for one term, he is now seeking election as town councilor in San Francisco, Cebu. Good luck, bai Alan. Up north in Luzon, **James Jacob** is running as Vice Mayor of Lal-lo, Cagayan. Go, go, go, James! **Rommel Gavieta** is a nominee of Iking's Abante Bisdak party-list. Accordingly, their party-list is enjoying a good standing in recent surveys. C'mon, baby, let's do the "tricks", rather twist!

Indeed, life is all about reinventing yourself especially when you have reached another milestone in life, i.e., senior citizenship. Sitting in one corner, sipping some good wine or gulping a glass of cold beer while slowly rocking an old chair is a common sight among men of age. But there is still more life after retirement! Yours truly, **Jesse Alvarez**, started his painting journey in the middle of 2023 under the mentorship of a known local visual artist in Cagayan de Oro City. *Hindi po ako taga-pintura ng bahay!* I already participated in some local art exhibits in Cagayan de Oro City and Bukidnon province. One friend asked me if I have already participated in a nude painting session, I humbly told him that I have not yet reached that level of confidence. *"But when I have to do such kind of session it will be different. The model is fully clothed, while the artist is nude."* I am The Naked Artist!

Just lately, **Sam Nuñez** and **Benjie Gayas** returned to their Creator. May God grant you eternal peace in heaven, mistahs Sam and Benjie!

By the time this Class call is out, Maharlikans will already have a new set of Class officers, for 2025-2027. The present leadership under **Banji Ramos** is credited for successful activities conducted during their tenure. In March 18, 2024, we celebrated our 40th graduation anniversary at PMA grounds, which was followed by a fellowship night at Baguio City. A day to remember indeed! We also witnessed frequent golf fellowships of Maharlikans purposely to strengthen our bond and camaraderie. Those who cannot swing, pitch and putt were even invited in the lunch fellowships that followed. *Sa boodling po sila heavily engaged!* The Class leadership also looked into the welfare of some members. Each company nominated one member as beneficiary of health insurance provided for free by the Class.

The Maharlika Family is indeed thankful to the Class leadership under President **Banji Ramos** for everything they have done for us members. We do not need to mention all the things they have done for the Class, but would rather say that we are happy and grateful for their good deeds. Congratulations, sirs!!!

JUN R KINTANAR
President
MANNY B SALAMAT
Secretary

SANDIWA @ 40: PMA Class of 1985

Celebrates Ruby Anniversary with Service, Solidarity, and Song

From Cadet Gray to Ruby Red — A Class That Continues to Serve and Inspire

BAGUIO CITY – 22 March 2025. United by enduring camaraderie and deep gratitude, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "SANDIWA" Class of 1985 returned to Fort Del Pilar to celebrate a momentous milestone: their 40th Ruby Anniversary. The gathering paid tribute to a legacy of leadership and service, reaffirmed their continued commitment to nation-building, and celebrated the unbreakable bond of brotherhood forged four decades ago.

The commemoration began with a Thanksgiving Mass officiated by BGEN Tirso A. Dolina, CHS (Ret) at the PMA St. Ignatius Chapel, followed by a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Alumni Memorial. As the names of fallen classmates were solemnly read, the air was filled with reverence — a powerful tribute to lives lived in courage, honor, and selfless sacrifice.

"Forty years ago, we marched from these sacred grounds into lives of duty and service. Today, we return not just as veterans, but as mentors, leaders, and guardians of our shared legacy," said Class President Franklin Moises R. Mabanag in his welcome address.







Legacy of Leadership

Since graduating in 1985, SANDIWA members have served with distinction in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, the Philippine Coast Guard, and various government and civilian institutions. Many have risen to positions of command and national leadership, while others have made lasting contributions in civic and private sectors — continuing to uphold the core values of discipline, integrity, and patriotism.

As a lasting gesture of gratitude and support to the Academy, the class turned over a ₱350,000 donation designated for the enhancement of the SANDIWA Lecture Hall — a space that will continue to shape future leaders of the PMA.

Highlights of the Celebration

- Arrival Honors Ceremony: The celebration formally opened with full ceremonial honors rendered to the SANDIWA Class of 1985 — a dignified tribute to four decades of steadfast leadership and service to the nation.
- Lunch with the Cadets and Families: A meaningful intergenerational fellowship followed, as SANDIWA members, joined by their families, shared a meal with the Corps of Cadets. Stories, laughter, and reflections flowed freely — bridging past and present, and passing on traditions to the future defenders of the Republic.
- Gabi ng Alaala: A Night of Reflection, Tribute, and Joy. The evening program served as the emotional heart of the celebration — a tribute to memory, music, and the enduring spirit of unity.
    - A tribute video, "40 Years of Brotherhood, Service, Family, and Legacy", took attendees on a nostalgic journey, chronicling their transformation from cadets to nation-builders.
    - The launch of the original SANDIWA Song marked a heartfelt milestone. Written and composed by members of the class, the anthem captured the ideals of unity, sacrifice, and the undying spirit of "Isang Diwa."
    - The night culminated in an evening of dance and celebration, where mistahs and their families filled the hall with music and joy. More than a festivity, it was a living tribute to a brotherhood forged in adversity, sustained over time, and joyfully celebrated in full.

Looking Ahead

As the SANDIWA Class of 1985 enters a new decade of life and legacy, its members reaffirm their enduring commitment to:

- Mentor younger alumni and cadets
- Support the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) and its programs
- Uphold the values of "Sandigan ng Dangal at Wagas na Alaala" — the living spirit that defines SANDIWA.

SANDIWA. Forty Years Strong. Forever One.


E TEN




PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
Philippine Military Academy
Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos Only
350,000.00
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40 YEARS
OF
BROTHERHOOD, SERVICE,
FAMILY AND LEGACY





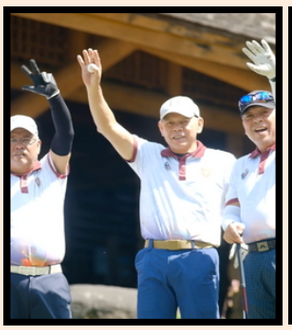







SANDIWA











NEW SET OF CLASS OFFICERS: BOB EMPEDRAD TAKES THE HELM OF SINAGTALA SHIP OF STATE

The new Class Officers entrusted with steering the Sinagtala class for the next two years took their oath of office on February 14, 2025 during the Class Dinner with no less than Senator Ronald M Dela Rosa administering their oath. Fair winds and clear skies for the new set of Class 1986 Officers:

Robert A Empedrad	- President
Guillermo A Molina Jr II	- Vice President
Alfredo A Soriano	- Secretary
Edmund C Gonzales	- Treasurer
Elpidio B Misolas Jr	- Auditor/PN Rep
Reynaldo M Aquino	- Business Manager/PA Rep
Crisanto A Cabangbang	- Asst. Auditor/ PAF Rep
Renato C Angara	- PNP Rep
Antonio B De Jesus	- Asst. Business Manager
Cesar D Padigdig	- Associate Members Rep



Alumni Homecoming 2025

The unstoppable Sinagtalans trekked once more to the Hallowed Grounds of our Alma Mater, the Philippine Military Academy as they took part in the yearly tradition of Alumni Homecoming last February 15, 2025. The class was well represented with no less than our very own Senator Ronald M Dela Rosa spearheading the class as it proudly marched past the grandstand eliciting loud applause from the audience which includes the ever supportive Sinagtala spouses,children and even grandchildren.



The new coterie of Class Officers will serve their term for the period CY 2025-27









Release of STFAC Certificate of Registration



Sinagtalans Bent on Public Service

Having been ingrained with the desire to do the common good, several members of the Class are gunning for elective positions in the coming Mid term elections this year. These Sinagtalans are the following:

1. For Senator - Ronald M Dela Rosa
2. For Governor
   Macairog S Alberto - Catanduanes
3. For Provincial Board Member
   Elmo Francis O Sarona
3. For Mayor
   Edward E Carranza - Silang, Cavite
   Oscar D Albayalde - Angeles City
   Ronnie S Evangelista – Rodriguez, Rizal
5. For City Councilor
   Melvin Ramon G Buenafe - Naga City, Camarines Sur

Starlight Tree Farms Agriculture Cooperative

Several members of the class, their dependents and like minded individuals have formed a cooperative that will devote itself to cultivating High Value crops, aquatic, poultry and livestock products for the benefit of its members. Organized last June 19, 2024, the Cooperative currently have 90 regular and associate members and have its Head office in Sampaloc, Manila. It got its CDA Certificate of Registration on February 21, 2025. Its current and future plans includes the purchase of its own farm lot,expanding its nursery, cat fish and cray fish culture and Agarwood and Citronella cultivation. Currently headed by Cav Robert Empedrad as Coop Chairperson, the membership is open to all Sinagtalans and their dependents.

SINAGTALA Last Call

"A time will come for me to travel alone, to cleave the seas, to traverse the skies leaving only memories."

The Class grieves the loss of our mistah Joselio "IMPE" Imperial who succumbed to illness last April 6, 2025. He is survived by wife Gemma and children Justine Glenn, Jessamine Gale, Joselio Giles and Julius. He will be long remembered and sorely missed.



With CDA bigwigs





First meeting 6/19/24



FERNAN T TRINIDAD
President
TOINKS H VALENCIA
Class Historian



Greetings Hinirangs!

The Alumni Homecoming was a nostalgic journey back in time, as the Hinirang attendees donned a simple yet iconic ensemble: white round neck t-shirt, black pants, gray Hinirang blazer, and white rubber shoes. Initially considered a pragmatic choice, this attire instead became a delightful excuse to relive our youth, especially poignant as many of us are approaching senior citizen status this year. Just look at the picture, feeling young is always good vibes. As one Mistah posted in our Viber Group, "Pictures ng mga feeling teenagers sa homecoming."

The Alumni Parade at Borromeo Field was, as in previous years, very hot. While waiting for the march, many mistahs, unable to find space under the tents, resorted to staying along the slopes under the pine trees. From that perspective, one realizes the many changes in Borromeo Field; yet its significance remains unchanged as it continues to witness the development of cadets and new memories are made.

The Homecoming Class dinner at the Baguio Country Club was a Valentine's celebration. It honored the Hinirang ladies who shine so bright, walking beside us through life's winding lane. These remarkable ladies have given their best for us and have brought out the best in us.

There were many highlights, each a cherished delight. Of course, the never-ending picture-taking and selfies, all striving to capture that perfect memory to keep. The blooming ladies were invited to dance, each receiving a red rose and a kiss, a gesture of romance. Mistahs, with playful intent, sought to surprise their ladies, hiding the roses with great effort, though the ladies knew, without even needing their uncanny intuition. Good effort mistahs, they appreciate every single moment of our affection.

The Hinirangs love golf and so does the ladies. During the dinner, Hin Loumer eagerly took the stage and revealed the result of the pre-homecoming golf games. The best players were announced, but what excited everyone the most was the prize money that comes with winning. As the amounts are announced, one of the Hinirang Ladies spoke that everyone can hear, "pinayagan na kayo maglaro, nag enjoy na kayo, dapat sa ladies naman ang panalo" or something to that effect. Well, the happy "public" reaction overwhelmed the room for minutes. The husbands generously and happily obliged. I realized that this is one of the golfer's love languages for expressing and receiving love.

Who could forget the mystery of the missing cellphone? Though no need for elaborate details, it was a fun investigation, examining every angle, interviewing suspects, retracing steps, and turning over sofas in the quest to find it. I suppose mistahs missed the thrill of getting to the bottom of everything, just like in the days of police and military service.

The night was filled with love, though for me, it was a different kind. I love all of them, and I guess that counts. This sentiment is beautifully captured in the iconic photo I orchestrated. I call the picture "Naipit sa Pag-ibig ng Hinirang."

After the Alumni Homecoming events, we celebrated March 22, 2025, marking our 38th Graduation Anniversary. Hin Ely Galam's post in our Viber Group was appropriate. *"It feels like just yesterday when we were starting our professional journey, and now we've reached this incredible milestone. As we step into the next chapter of our lives, we want to remind every Hinirang Cavalier Mistah to value every moment, just like the intricate gears of this watch. We are immensely proud of our achievements and the person we've become. Let's keep the flame burning in our hearts and mind, continue pushing forward, chasing our dreams as "The Chosen One", making the most of our time and we must make the difference. Many more Anniversaries to come and celebrate! Mabuhay tayong lahat na Hinirang Cavaliers!"*

The Class Officers organized an event titled: "Commemoration of Hinirang Graduation and Day of Remembrance." It was agreed that this year instead of party or dinner, we would pay respects to our fallen classmates – those who have gone ahead



of us. The event was held at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio. It started with a solemn mass at the Pavillion were photos of the departed were displayed. After the mass, the mistahs present were divided into six groups to visit the gravesite of mistahs buried at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

In attendance were Fernan and Gina, Loumer and Leonor, Toinks, Bob A and Janet, Joey and Babes, Joby, Fajie and Tess, Nat, Lyndon and Ping, Ramie and Choelo, Jimmy H and Joy, Elie G, Lye, Erick and Myla, Eric and Naneth, Raul and Nene, Mike E, Raul and Lorena, Cliff and Michelle, SJ, Jojo and Lyn, and Cesar and Agnes.

At the gravesite, candles were lighted, flowers were offered, prayers were said, and a group salute were given. Hin Albert Mogol said it best, "Congratulations mga Mistah. Our Noblest gesture in honor of our dearly departed Mistahs. GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN. SALUTE TO EVERYONE!"

Even those mistahs who were not able to attend the activity showed their support with social media posts remembering, honoring, and praying for our departed Hinirangs. Hin Ace De Asis posted in the Viber Group, "Eternal Rest grant unto the Souls of Our Departed Mistahs and let Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them! May they Rest in Peace. Amen."

God bless our departed mistahs: 2LT RONEL BARILLO PC, P/SUPT JOHN CAMPOS PNP, P/SUPT ERWIN DAÑO PNP, MAJ JESS MICHAEL ANGELO DUQUE PA, 2LT EMMANUEL EDRALIN PA, P/SUPT RODRIGO FOJA PNP, P/SUPT CARLOS GADAPAN PNP, P/SINSP ZALDY HERMIDA PNP, 2LT EDWIN HONRADO PA, VADM ROLANDO LEGASPI PCG, 2LT CHRISTOPHER LOPEZ PC, CPT ROBERT EDWARD M LUCERO PA, P/SUPT ODELARDO MAGAYANES PNP, P/SINSP PAUL MENDOZA PNP, P/SSUPT JOHN RAMON MONDEJAR PNP, LCOL JOSE PACALDO PAF, 2LT VICTOR RAVINA PC, 2LT EUSEBIO REDUBLE PA, MAJ VENCEDOR SANSON PA, 2LT CHARLES LEE SOLIBA PC, PCOL RAUL APOSTOL R VALENCIA PNP, 1LT FRANCISCO VILLANUEVA PAF, and PSUPT EDWIN B ALCANTARA PC (missing).

That is all mga mistahs. Please post regularly Hinirang events in the many class Viber Groups. Post in your FB, Twitter, and others, big or small gatherings of mistahs. Even better, always invite me! Hehehe.

God bless Hinirang!!!





ELISEO DC CRUZ
President
EDGARD A AREVALO
Secretary

Three decades and a half of "Bigkis Lahi" journey to success

For the first time in decades, in the PMA Alumni Homecoming 2025, the class had the greatest number of Mistahs marching at the Borromeo Field's august grounds —105-strong BL '90 stalwarts! Ninety-six came from different parts of the country and nine from elsewhere in the four corners of the planet to join this milestone occasion. The 35th Year Homecoming Anniversary was unsurpassed by any past homecomings, except by the first that the class attended in February of 1991 where all Bigkis Lahi '90 (BL '90) were "All accounted for".

The number of the BL '90 dependents has more than tripled since. As a matter of fact, more than 200 of them were in attendance this year. And it is expected that the number will steadily grow. For every married member of the class who have crossed the Great Divide, three or more children, and two or more grandchildren were born. That easily made BL '90 one of the Academy's fastest growing happy families to join the annual gathering and many other future class endeavors.

What's new?

Being one of this year's host, the class showed up at Fort del Pilar dressed in crisp navy-blue suits. Matching this tailored apparel is an amethyst-colored tie emblazoned with class crest embroidery and ranchero hats. BL '90 Ladies were just as stunning in their dresses carefully designed by their respective couturiers. The brats, meanwhile, have their distinctive hoodies on—making every BL'90 family member all dressed for the occasion.

Unlike the previous homecomings, the class was billeted this year in Manor Hotel and Forest Lodge—two of Baguio City's coziest (and more expensive) accommodations that was reserved in February 2024. It was a fitting place to stay for BL '90 families and venue of class activities making the homecoming feels all the more special and memorable.

The outgoing set of hardworking class officers under the exacting leadership of President Dennis Gammad carefully planned the events. This was not the usual Friday night class salo-salo to claim the uniforms, leave after some pleasantries, meet the next day in Fort del Pilar for the alumni parade, and immediately head from where they came from.

February 14-16, 2025 was loaded with meaningful activities made better by the experiences in past class activities. The early birds of the 9Tee Golf Club and other



HONORS TO THE FALLEN. As a manifestation of strong bond of camaraderie and friendship, members of BL '90, their respective spouses and families gathered on 05 April 2025 in an annual homage to departed classmates—beginning from a Holy Mass offered for their eternal repose, up to the visit to their tombs for a solemn ceremony.



WITHOUT MENTAL RESERVATION. The new set of class officers for BL '90 years 2025-2027 took their oaths of office on 15 February 2025 in a simple rite in Forest Lodge function hall.

enthusiasts began the day with a round of golf at the Camp John Hay, while the rest of those who arrived later that had another round of fellowship, this time in an evening of barbeque held at Philippine Information Agency grounds.

In the evening of February 15, after the Alumni Parade, the members of the class treated their OAOs to a formal dinner of palatable dishes, expensive wines and music at the Forest Lodge function hall. There were mob dances that sweated the night away with disco music of the late 80s and 90s. Of course, the night will not be as lively without the Bigkis Lahi Family Fewed hosted by "Benjie Dantes Hao" - BL '90's Dingdong, but in a manner better than the original game show.

The 3-day reminiscing of their cadet days by the members of the class culminated on February 16 with a Sunrise Breakfast treat by PMA Superintendent Toinks Valencia. It was held in that poetic spot where the sun first kisses the grass in Mt. Cabuyao. The members of the class and their families enjoyed the chill, courtesy of the proverbial "twin fans" of yesteryears.

New chapter

After serving their 2-year term and vigorously refusing to be the perpetual class officers, Dennis presided over the elections at the athletic complex. The votes cast were overwhelming in favor of Ninong Eliseo Cruz whose bid was actually unopposed. He will be serving as class president for the second time for a term of two years. Ed Arevalo will be serving again as Class Secretary after the outgoing Jun Bas.

To ensure that he gets his "powerhouse team", Pres Ely was given the free hand to choose who will compose the rest of the class officers. Tony Palces was appointed as Vice President after Joel Nacnac, and Lonlon Madrid as Auditor following Roger Ulanday. Manny Solis was designated representative of the Navy after Rick Petrola, TJ Talja for the Air Force vice Ralph Mamauag, and Alex Sintin for the PNP after Rocker Enmodias. Benjie Hao was irreplaceable as Army rep. They took their oaths of office during the formal dinner at Forest Lodge.

The first event under Pres Ely was the Honors to the Fallen Mistah held on the Hour of Great Mercy on April 5, 2025, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani. This class activity which has since been made an annual gathering of BL '90 families was always well-attended—indicative of the strong camaraderie and friendship transcending time and binding not only Mistahs but their relatives as well. This year's Honors was attended by 48 Mistahs, 15 spouses, and six of the respective wives, children, and siblings of the departed classmates.

Looking forward in the horizon, Pres Ely, with the support of the officers and members of the class, aspires to accomplish major projects for the class under his watch. One of those under study will be in PMA, and the other will be at the Veterans Memorial Hospital. And if everything goes as planned, he envisions a "Villa Noventa".

He is also fired up to launch two fund-raising projects – a golf tourney and a shooting competition – where the needed updating of the Securities and Exchange Commission registration of the class will prove very important. Indeed, exciting days are ahead of the class as they turn the next page in its meaningful existence.

The rolls

In parting, it's great to count the blessings the class reaped since February 18, 1990.

BL '90 takes pride of 149 members - 146 graduated from PMA while the other three from Foreign Service Academies. They were distributed to the Army, Constabulary, Navy, and Air Force. Today, the class has 128 regular members consumed in various life's meaningful pursuits, 18 have joined The Creator and

watch over the members of the class and their families. Meanwhile, BL '90 has accepted nine Honorary and six Associate Members as of the tenure of the outgoing class officers—or a total of 143 members—all alive and kicking!

As of this writing, there are still 13 generals of great potentials for higher levels of command, unless the age of 57 years old or maximum tour of duty in their posts defeat the chances of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to reap the benefits from their extensive education, rich experience, and inherent professionalism. Thus, the class cheers for CGPAF Art Cordura, CGPA Roy Galido, Com, WestMinCom Toto Nafarrete, Com, EastMinCom Tiloy Bergante, Com, NolCom Abdul Buca, PMA Supt Toinks Valencia, VCom, PA Leo Guinid, Commandant, PMC Chito Rojas, Com, ASCOM Roger Ulanday, newly-minted CSPA Nadong Gonzales, Com, TOWWestMin Rocky Binag, Com, CMOR Benjie Hao, and Deputy, NIC Potpot de la Peña.

We wish well, fCom, SolCom Dong Palafox IV, fJ9 Joel Nacnac, and fADC, 5ID Jinx Enginco as they embark on another chapter of their journeys.

And finally, we throw all our supports to one of the prides of the class who ventured on the path never before travelled—the way to the House of Representatives. We have BL '90 lawyers, pilots, consultants, businessmen, entrepreneurs, as envoy and a columnist, but the class is yet to have a legislator. And by the time the Second Quarter Cavalier Magazine comes out, Bigkis Lahi is hopeful to have one Laang Kawal Partylist Representative #149 in the person of Cong. Noel Jimenez Detoyato. Godspeed, Toods!!

Until the next issue. Charge on, BL '90!

/by Ed Arevalo



DIG YOUR HEELS. On 15 February 2025 at the Borromeo Field, illustrious members of BL '90 marched in cadence like they do 35 years ago with the same gait and deportment.



WITH GOD'S ABIDING GRACE. BL '90 members and their respective spouses pose for posterity in this photo taken on 15 February 2025 at the steps of the iconic St. Ignatius Chapel that continuous to remind them to this very day to imbibe "the pattern of our creeds—the true, the noble, and the high."



RONIE D PETINGLAY
President
ULYSSES S MARQUEZ
Secretary

Maalabs in New Command Positions

The Maalab Class of 1993 continues to exemplify excellence and leadership across the Armed Forces of the Philippines and allied institutions. We proudly recognize the latest key designations of our Mistahs who have been entrusted with vital positions of command and staff responsibility:

- **VAdm Edgar "Ed" Ybañez PCG** – Deputy Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard
- **MGen Nelson "Masang" Morales PAF** – Commander, Air Education, Training and Doctrine Command, PAF
- **MGen Peter "Pet" Burgonio PA** – Commander, Presidential Security Command, AFP
- **MGen Elmer "Tex" Suderio PA** – Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, J3, AFP
- **Comm Zosimo "McBo" Bolaños PN** – Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, AJ1, AFP
- **Comm Joselito "Gucci" De Guzman PN** – Commander, Naval Forces Central, PN
- **BGen Moises "Mike" Micor PAF** – Wing Commander, Tactical Operations Wing Central, PAF
- **BGen Ricky "Rickbun" Bunayog PA** – Commander, 602nd Infantry Brigade, 6ID, PA
- **BGen Antonio "Dune" Dulnuan Jr PA** – Commander, 401st Infantry Brigade, 4ID, PA
- **BGen Alexei "Alex" Musñgi PA** – Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Group, PA
- **BGen Patricio Ruben "Pat" Amata PA** – Assistant Division Commander, 6th Infantry Division, PA
- **Comm Lued "Lloyd" Lincuna PN** – Commander, Littoral Combat Force, PN
- **BGen Joey "Esca" Escanillas PA** – Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Infantry Division, PA
- **Comm Peter Jempsun De Guzman PN** – Commander, Fleet Marine Ready Force, PN
- **BGen Amado "Madz" Dela Paz PAF** – Internal Auditor, PAF
- **Col Ismael "Mandy" Mandanas Jr PA** – Commandant, AFP Command and General Staff College under the Education, Training and Doctrine Command

These appointments reflect the enduring trust and confidence placed in the leadership and dedication of the Maalab Class by the AFP and associated institutions.







Retirement Honors

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and salute to our fellow Maalabs as they conclude honorable and distinguished military service:

- **Capt Aldrin "Al" Doctor PN** – Retiring as Deputy Commander, Naval Forces Central, PN effective **04 April 2025**;
- **Col Arnel A Floresca PA** – Retiring as Inspector General, Reserve Command, PA effective **22 April 2025**;
- **VAdm Charlie Rances PCG** – Retiring as Commander, Coast Guard Education, Training and Doctrine Command effective **14 May 2025**.

Their commitment to duty and selfless service will forever be part of our proud legacy.

Awards, Recognition, and Civilian Leadership Achievements

Our Mistahs continue to shine not only in uniform but also in civilian life and industry leadership:

- **BGen Loreto "Toots" Pasamonte PAF** – Honored with his 2nd **Golden Aviator Award** for exceptional command and leadership—another testament to the quality and consistency of his service.
- **Cmdr Jonathan Juan "JJ" Moreno PN (Ret)** – Appointed **President of Sun**

Life of Canada (Phils), Inc. (SLOCPI) on **01 May 2025**. This strategic leadership role entrusted to 'JJ' affirms the Sun Life's commitment to strengthening its position in the Philippine life insurance industry.

- **Col Henry Anthony "Torot" Torres PN (M) (Ret)** – Appointed **Branch Manager** of FWD Life Insurance Corporation in Naga City. Maalab Torot is a recipient of the **Elite Agency Circle (Gold) Award** and **GAMA Frontline Leader (Silver) Award**, recognizing excellence in financial services leadership.
- **VAdm Ronnie Gil Gavan PCG (Commandant)** – Through his strong leadership with the active support of another mistah **VAdm Edgar Ybañez** as Deputy Commandant, the **Government of Japan** has pledged to donate **five (5) 97-meter Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs)** to the Philippine Coast Guard. This vital support of Japan will enhance the PCG's maritime enforcement capabilities, particularly in the country's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

Class Commemoration

In a solemn yet deeply meaningful gesture, the Maalab Class marked its **32nd Graduation Anniversary** with a wreath-laying ceremony at the **Libingan ng mga Bayani** on **21 March 2025**, honoring the memory of our fallen Mistahs. Their sacrifice remains etched in the heart of our class, serving as a beacon of courage and devotion to duty.

Their legacy reminds us that while our paths may differ—across military service, government, or private leadership—we remain bound by a common commitment: to lead with honor, to serve with integrity, and to stand together as one brotherhood.

Closing Message

As the Maalab Class of 1993 continues to rise in every field of endeavor, we carry the flame of excellence lit more than three decades ago within the hallowed grounds of Fort Del Pilar. From the battlefield to the boardroom, from training grounds to strategic command centers, our Mistahs remain at the forefront—leading, inspiring, and transforming the future.

Let us continue to **live the Maalab spirit**—unyielding in resolve, unwavering in service, and united in purpose.

Para sa Bayan. Para sa Maalab. Para sa Mistah.
















THE CHANDELIER






PUNONG HIMPILAN







The Bantay Laya Class of 1994 President, COL Ma. Noel Tolentino PA officially retired last April 25, 2025. He retired from his more than 35 years of faithful, dedicated, and unblemished service to our nation and the Filipino people. Noel or Tintoy, or Toinks, or El Prez as we all fondly call him is retiring his services to the AFP but not to the Bantay Layans as our perpetual president. His retirement is truly a loss for the AFP, but fortunately for the Class, it would mean that our El Prez will have more time managing the class affairs.

Last April 7, the office of the J1 provided a retirement and turnover ceremony for Col Tolentino. Led by no other than The Deputy Chief of Staff, LTGen Rommel Roldan, in his capacity as Outgoing J1, AFP. The ceremony was very formal and momentous, recognizing the more than 35 years of AFP service of Col Noel Tolentino and his more than six years of assignment at O/J1. It was attended by his family led by his spouse, the very active and supportive, Atty Imee Tolentino. The Bantay Layans and their ladies also supported and attended this significant milestone, coming all the way North (Baguio) and as far south, Zamboanga.

During the ceremony, the distinguished service of Noel and his significant contributions to OJ1 and the AFP as whole was highlighted, specifically his noteworthy efforts in the fight against COVID 19, the passage and amendment of Laws for the AFP, most especially the increase in the AFP ATS, Fixed Term for the CSAFP and Major Service Commanders, and extending the retirement age to 57.

Noel's retirement did not end there. On April 25, his 57th Birthday, the Bantay Layans, together with Atty Imee, surprised El Prez Noel with a Testimonial Dinner and our own version of retirement ceremony. The event was bigger and attended by more than 60 Bantay Layans (active and retired) together with their ladies. Also, present our Noel's family led by his wife and his mother, together with his in-laws. Noel was also surprised as his friend from his old neighborhood at Project 6, graced the occasion, as well as his classmates from Angelicum and UST.

The first part of the program was the reenactment of his retirement, giving his awards and official mementos from the AFP and gifts from the Bantay Layans both official and personal. The 2nd part of the ceremony was also overwhelming as both Noel and Atty Imee took the stage for all the recognitions and accolades his family, friends, classmates, and Mistahs gave them.

I will end this article sharing the speeches of Noel and Atty Imee during this momentous occasion.

His wife, Atty Imee, gave her speech that gave a contrasting view of the words "When I Retire," and her message surely touched the senses out of all the Bantay





Layans attendees, as most of us are retiring in the coming years. Her message stated the following:

"Let me share with you the transformation of these words, WHEN I RETIRE, and how it has changed its meanings in just two years.

Last July 2023, I travelled with my family and how I wanted to travel with Noel at that time after the pandemic. But his reply was – when I retire.

In those days, the words "When I retire" for me meant :

- *First, it is an excuse and a promise uniformed men usually give to their families. Your work is not the 8-5 that we see in most of us in the private sector and even other government offices. The government owns your time 24 hours and you are called for a higher purpose. There is a legal maxim that says, you can not give what you do not have.*
- *Second, the words "When I Retire" also means getting the monetized leave credits, a lump sum or regular good pension. Most of us - if not all- this is the time the military families can afford (physically and financially) to build or repair our home and to take a vacation together.*
- *Third "When I Retire" also meant finally being able to give full attention to every need of the family. Full attention to every word of what your wife or child says.*

Dear men in uniform, these three words, when I retire, gave us, your wives, hope to hold on as we pray for you while you are still in the service.

However these last months, when retirement days are getting near, the words, "When I retire" has transformed its meanings.

- *"When I retire" now means our hearts are just full of gratefulness. Noel just looked up and thank God for His faithfulness. This recognition right now that OJ1 is giving to Noel and the many other he is getting from various offices and units , made Noel and me look back and realize that indeed Noel must have served well and has done something good to deserve all of these.*
- *"When I retire" now means, thinking of all the what ifs and the what if nots in Noel's military career. But there are no regrets in Noel's heart and so is mine, but rather we see the graces and wisdom of God in all these what ifs and what if not. Together, we looked back and see how far Noel has gone.*
- *"When I retire" does not mean the end. But rather a beginning of something new. It's a transition of the life God has given us. There are so many changes, new ways and we are excited about it. Yes Noel leaves the service but his heart will always be for the service as we continue to journey with life."*

Atty Imee ended her message acknowledging Noel's dedication and commitment in serving our country. Accepting that Noel loves her that much, she knew that his duty comes first…… and in everything Noel does, he always wants to pursue what is right for the service.

The event will not be complete without Noel's message to everyone. In his speech he acknowledged and thanked everyone who shared the momentous occasion with him and his family. For Noel, it was not a sad occasion but one more blessing to be grateful for. After all, we are celebrating more than thirty-five (35) years of his military career filled with enriching experiences, adventures, worthwhile lessons, and most of all, of meaningful relationships.

According to Noel, his retirement led him to realizations, saying:

"There are two things that become more valuable to you than anything else, and these are family and relationships. Of course, i also look back on my career, the ups and downs of it, along with the accomplishments. Pero mas importante pala ang tao, ang mga nakatrabaho mo, the friendships i've forged, gratitude for the trust and confidence, and the support given to me by both superiors and subordinates. Maintaining good relationships become a chief priority, lalong-lalo na ang mabuting pagsasama sa pamilya who are really our foremost source of happiness and support.

The other realization that came to me as i looked back on my career is that life can be unpredictable. It doesn't follow a script where we can plan the ending. There is no guarantee that all our well-laid plans will push through. This is especially true for me in my journey towards becoming who i am today."

Noel was able to control his emotions as he delivered his message, though, Atty





Imee, was obviously in tears throughout the occssion. He ended his speech saying:

"I hope that i was able to inspire you in my own little ways, and that your lives have been enriched with the time we spent together, because my life has been certainly made meaningful by your presence in it.

Allow me to leave you with an Irish blessing that goes: ***"may you always have walls for the winds, a roof for the rain, tea beside the fire, laughter to cheer you, those you love near you, and all your heart might desire."***

Finally, the Bantay Layans and their families, are truly happy and proud for Noel and Atty Imee on his retirement. We are very happy that finally he will have more time serving Atty Imee as a loving and supportive husband. His unselfish service to the AFP will now be given to Atty in return for all her sacrifices and patience while Noel was serving the Nation. And of course, the Bantay Layans are truly proud that the 35 years of service of Noel to our country and people, made its mark, contributing to the AFP's mission, and leaving tangible memories and friendships among his seniors, peers and subordinates.

To Colonel Maria Noel T. Tolentino O-11678 PA, C-8522 of Foxtrot Company, thank you for service, Mabuhay ka and we are truly proud of you.

FERMIN M MABULO
President
IVAN V SAN JOSE
Secretary
CHARLIE L TIU, JR
Writer

Forged in Service, Focused on the Future: PMA Marilag Class of 1995 Air Force Group

As the Philippine Air Force (PAF) adapts to the ever-evolving national and regional security landscape, its strategic direction is now anchored in a transformative framework known as FOCUS PAF. This initiative emphasizes a mission-oriented, capability-driven, and values-based approach to military operations. At the forefront of this evolution is the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Marilag" Class of 1995 Air Force Group, a cohort uniquely equipped to lead, mentor, and fortify this strategic agenda in the PAF.

The FOCUS PAF framework promotes an Air Force that is agile, accountable, and aligned with its core mission and values. The officers of the Marilag Class, boasting three decades of military experience, bring invaluable knowledge and a profound sense of duty to this endeavor. Many have ascended to pivotal command and staff positions, enabling them to shape policy, influence organizational culture, and inspire younger generations of airmen.

Central to FOCUS PAF is a "mission-first" mentality that emphasizes clarity, urgency, and alignment in all operational activities. The Marilag Class exemplifies this mindset, having developed their



leadership skills through years of tactical and strategic assignments. Their real-world experiences, often gained in high-pressure environments, are now applied to address the pressing operational challenges faced by all branches of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

As leaders, Marilag officers execute a wide range of responsibilities, from air operations and ground maneuvers to maritime security, intelligence gathering, logistics management, and training program oversight. Their ability to swiftly direct resources to critical areas ensures that every initiative aligns with the AFP's overarching goals of national defense. In an era characterized by rapid change, their clarity and decisive leadership are essential for the entire AFP's success.

FOCUS PAF also prioritizes sustained capability development, an area where the Marilag Class excels. Having navigated both resource constraints and modernization initiatives, they possess the skills needed to enhance combat readiness through innovation and discipline. Their experience enables them to balance ambitious goals with pragmatic approaches, transforming challenges into opportunities for growth.

Capability development extends beyond acquiring new assets; it involves optimizing existing systems and processes. Marilag officers leverage their expertise in systems management, strategic planning, and doctrine development to ensure that capability-building efforts are proactive, forward-thinking, and aligned with mission objectives.

A critical component of FOCUS PAF is its commitment to values-centered leadership, which the Marilag Class exemplifies. Their careers, marked by dedication, sacrifice, and loyalty, reflect the values of integrity, excellence, and service. This credibility fosters trust and cohesion throughout the ranks, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the force.



Ultimately, effective leadership encompasses both strategy and character. The Marilag officers instill ethical decision-making, discipline, and a people-first ethos within their commands, fostering a culture of accountability and excellence. As FOCUS PAF continues to guide the Air Force through transformation and modernization, the PMA Marilag Class of 1995 emerges as a formidable force multiplier within the AFP. Their institutional knowledge, operational expertise, and unwavering commitment to national service position them as ideal stewards of this vision, ensuring the AFP remains mission-ready and strategically agile in the face of future challenges.







Forging the Path to Public Service: Inspiring the Next Generation of Uniformed Professionals

In an effort to shape future leaders and public servants, a career orientation seminar was held on March 6, 2025, at Palawan National School (PNS), Puerto Princesa City, Palawan specifically tailored for Grade 10 students under the HUMMS strand. Organized by Grade 12 students, the event aimed to offer in-depth insights into careers in criminology, with a particular focus on distinguishing between the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) and the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA). The program also served as a platform to underscore the values, challenges, and rewards of joining the uniformed services.

A Journey Through Service and Sacrifice

The seminar was more than just a lecture - it was a story told through the voices of experience. A total of 70 students attended, eager to understand what lies ahead for those considering careers in law enforcement and the military. The event was also supported by Voyage Film Studios, which documented the session for a future feature on youth engagement and nation-building.

The afternoon began with a solemn opening prayer and the singing of the national anthem, setting the tone for a purposeful gathering. The first speaker, PCPT Alan Delos Santos PNP, provided an overview of the criminology field, emphasizing law enforcement roles and offering a glimpse into the daily life of a police trainee. His talk helped demystify the profession, highlighting the discipline, training, and mindset required to serve in the police force.

Following this, participants were shown institutional videos on PMA, setting the stage for a deeper understanding of the military path. CDR Glynn B Pahilanga PN (GSC) a member of PMA Banyuhay Class of 2002 took the floor next, recounting his journey from plebe to senior cadet, and later, to his current role in the Philippine Navy. His vivid stories brought to life the discipline, camaraderie, and growth that come with military training.



Adding a powerful perspective to the event was COL Maria Girly Solis PAF (GSC) of PMA Banyuhay Class of 2002, who spoke candidly about her experience as a female cadet in PMA. She emphasized the need for physical and mental resilience, while shedding light on the career opportunities available in the Air Force - from aviation and engineering to medical services and ground operations. Her stories, supported by compelling video footage, underscored the evolving role of women in the military.

The final speaker, LTC Rommer I De Guilo PA (GSC) PMA Banyuhay Class of 2002, brought an intellectual angle to the discussion by emphasizing the importance of IQ (Intelligence Quotient), EQ (Emotional Quotient), SQ (Social Quotient), and AQ (Adversity Quotient) in the PMA journey. He explained how these qualities are honed during four years of rigorous training. His lecture included a case study involving a rural community's access to water—a problem-solving exercise that illustrated how cadets are trained to be both thinkers and doers in service of the nation.

Connecting with Purpose

The seminar concluded with an open forum where students eagerly asked questions about the application processes, daily life at the academies, and career prospects. The interactive exchange demonstrated a genuine curiosity and renewed enthusiasm among the youth toward serving in uniform.



Feedback from students and faculty was overwhelmingly positive. Many students expressed increased interest in pursuing careers in law enforcement or the military, while teachers appreciated the event's role in aligning student interests with tangible career paths.

Looking Ahead

Given the success of the event, several recommendations were made:

- Institutionalize similar seminars annually to sustain career awareness.
- Include more speakers from various uniformed sectors (PNP, BJMP, BFP, AFP, Coast Guard) for broader representation.
- Provide accessible brochures or digital materials on PMA and PNPA admissions.
- Launch mentoring programs for students who express serious interest.

Conclusion

This seminar was more than a career talk—it was a spark. Through compelling stories and firsthand accounts, the speakers offered not just information but inspiration. By equipping students with knowledge and a vision for the future, the event helped counter potential threats such as radicalism and misinformation, and instead, planted seeds of patriotism and purpose.

As one student remarked, *"I now see myself not just in a job - but in a mission to serve."* That single statement captures the spirit of the entire seminar: a call to serve, lead, and build a better nation.



MARK ANTHONY S TITO
President
MIRA JOY B ANDAWI
Secretary

PMA "BAGWIS" Class of 2012

There is always that unique joy that fills the air every alumni homecoming. It is not just a reunion of every class but a gathering where memories surge with pride and camaraderie. It is a convergence of mistahs, underclassmen, and upperclassmen who once walked the same hallowed grounds of PMA.

Reuniting with our mistahs brings a profound sense of connection—one that time and distance can never break. The stories we shared rekindled memories of cadet life, as well as the many victories we've celebrated together, both in our professional and personal life. Though our time together was brief, it was a joy to reconnect, share laughter, and recharge in the company of everyone and in a place we all consider home. For this AHC, a total of 29 (excluding dependents) were able to join:

Air Force (6)	Army (15)
Cav Llanes	Cav Binalon
Cav Macasiray	Cav Dalang
Cav Manganan	Cav Guzman
Cav Manguni	Cav Ingente-Cansancio
Cav Mendoza-Dela Cruz	Cav Martinez
Cav Samonte	Cav Meneses, John
Navy (8)	Cav Nuas
Cav Bagorio	Cav Pagapos - Jimenez
Cav Bucalen, Enoch	Cav Perater
Cav Esmeria	Cav Reonal
Cav Maddul-Ferrer	Cav Rodriguez
Cav Lomeda	Cav Romano
Cav Olavidez	Cav Romorosa
Cav Plandito	Cav Saguin
Cav Reserva	Cav Talosig

A huge congratulations to our newly minted Lieutenant Commanders and Majors in the class! It may have come later than it did for others, but in God's perfect timing, it arrived right on time. The promotees are profoundly grateful to God, the source of all blessings, and to everyone who supported them along the way. This is not just a new rank—it's a reminder of the journey, the challenges faced, and the growth that came with it.









Moments we'll always treasure — some group photos during the homecoming.



A collage of photos from the donning ceremony of some of our mistahs.

Here is a complete list of the promotees:
LCDR Caiman Lucien Jay G – O-16838
LCDR Olavidez Jethro C – O-16840
LCDR Cabigas Dyan Karl T – O-16842
LCDR Talaban Kim M – O-16853
LCDR Zenarosa Vaneza C – O-16854
LCDR Bagorio Lynardz P – O-16862
MAJ Ruelos Mark Glenn B – O-16867
LCDR Bucalen Ernesto C Jr – O-16871
LCDR Toledo Liane Pauline R – O-16876
LCDR Andawi Mira Joy B – O-16880
LCDR Candao Datu Israel DC II – O-16889
LCDR Jolapong Ardwin G – O-16894
LCDR Pajarillaga Christian Victor R – O-16904
LCDR Angngad Benedict L – O-16905
MAJ Garcia Mark Erick R – O-16912
MAJ Villafria Edilberto V – O-16914
LCDR Cayago Windel V – O-16915
LCDR Zia Frederick E – O-16918
LCDR Fuentes Zyrelle A – O-16923
LCDR Goles Melwin L – O-16927
LCDR Raguingan John Michael P – O-16928
LCDR Galang Arvin B – O-16932
LCDR Agravio Danah Marie N – O-16938
LCDR Montallana Victorino M – O-16941
LCDR Ramos Jayson G – O-16954
LCDR Jovellano Jay-Ar A – O-16967
LCDR Ferrer Tiffany Rose M – O-16972
LCDR Taguinod Jake C – O-16976
LCDR Araneta Ronwaldo S – O-16981
LCDR Lomeda Kevin Dwight CJ V – O-16987
LCDR Ramos Chester Ian B – O-16988
LCDR Fuentes Roland L Jr – O-16989
LCDR Segundo Mark Gladys B – O-16991
LCDR Plandito Ariel L – O-16992
LCDR Pasicolan Aldwin R – O-16998
LCDR Esmaya Ronald E – O-17002
LCDR Labrado Rod Vincent K – O-17008
LCDR Basadre Roden Jun C – O-17010
LCDR Gingoyon Kristian Josh A – O-17011
LCDR Siddayao Juanito G Jr – O-17016
LCDR Gravador Marcel Vincent A – O-17017
LCDR Taguinod Romel C – O-17019

It's a double celebration for LCDR ROLAND L FUENTES JR, who was recognized as the Submarine Group Officer of the Year during the Submarine Group's 9th Anniversary celebration last 18 March 2025. Congratulations, Pantoy!



LCDR FUENTES PN (middle) poses for a photo with the Commander and Deputy Commander of SubGrp after receiving his Certificate of Recognition during the Submarine Group's 9th Anniversary.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

LAST CALL

COL JESUS T TOLING '65
16 Oct 1940 – 31 Oct 2024



Cav Toling passed away on 31 October 2024 of cardiac respiratory arrest. Interment was held on 6 November at Pio V Corpus, Masbate. He was married to the former Celestina Espiritu with whom he has four children: Angela, Bayani Jose, Corazon, and Amy.

BGEN ELDON LUIS G NEMENZO '80
17 Feb 1957 – 18 Feb 2025



Cav Eldon Nemenzo finally joined our Creator on 18 February 2025, a day after his 68th birthday.

Wake was held at St. Peter's Chapel, Bacolod City, with the necrological service held the night before on 28 February 2025. He was laid to rest at their family mausoleum in Rolling Hills Memorial Park, Bacolod City on 01 March 2025.

COL NARCISO G FERRER JR '99
18 June 1977 - 28 Feb 2025



Cav Ferrer, a devoted husband, a loving father, a cherished son and brother, and a true friend to many passed away on 28 February 2025. His wake was held from March 02 to 05 at St. Peter Building, St. Peters Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Roxas District, Q.C. Inurnment was held on 06 March at Columbarium, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Parish, Q.C. He was married to the former Laecinia Taeza with whom he has two children – Lance Jacob and Leighton. Cav Ferrer was a PAL pilot at the time of his passing.

COMMO PLARIDEL C GARCIA '59
08 Dec 1937 - 04 Mar 2025

Cav Garcia joined our Creator on 04 March 2025 due to septic shock after an intra abdominal infection after hospitalization for respiratory infection. He is survived by his wife Ma. Rosario, children: Lara Mia Veronica Vip, Karl Marc Tomas, (+) PG and (+) RJ. Wake were held from March 5 to 10, 2025 at St. Peters Sucat, Paranaque. Internment at Manila Memorial Park on 10 March. His last position held in AFP was as Vice Commander, Philippine Navy.



RADM JUAN MANUEL DEL FIERRO RAMOS JR '92
15 Feb 1968 - 04 Mar 2025



Former Commander of Coast Guard Logistics Systems Command, Cav Ramos passed away due to cerebral hemorrhage on 04 March 2025. He is survived by his wife Hazel, children: Sean Joshua, Hannah Celina, John Manuel III, and Elijah John. Wake was held at the Eternal Gardens in Laguna from March 5 to 8 where interment was held on 08 March.

MAJ JUDE S SALANG-OY '14
05 Oct 1991 - 04 Mar 2025



Cav Salang-oy passed away on a plane crash in a remote area of Bukidnon while providing critical combat support for ground forces. Salang-oy was from Tabuk City, Kalinga and a native of Tanudan. He left behind his wife Faith Jael E Salang-oy. He was a member of the Philippine Military Academy "Siklab Diwa" Class of 2014 and had served the Philippine Air Force with distinction for over a decade, flying numerous critical missions throughout his career.

PGEN OSCAR C CALDERON '73
01 Oct 1951 - 08 Mar 2025



Former PNP Chief Cav Calderon died on 8 March. He was 73. His remains laid in state at the Heritage Park in Taguig from March 11 to 13. On 14 March, his remains was brought to Camp Crame for necrological rites. Interment was on 15 March at the Heritage Park, Taguig.

PBGEN MERARDO C ABAYA '63
09 Mar 1938 – 14 Mar 2025



Cav Abaya, 87 peacefully passed away on 14 March, leaving his caring wife Beth with whom he has four children: Ryan, Leah, Ardy and Lynn. Necrological service was held on 26 March at the Mortuary Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) where interment was held the following day.

RADM ANTONIO R SIAPNO '68
02 July 1946 – 14 Mar 2025



Cav Siapno joined our Lord on 14 March at the age of 78. Interment was held at Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.

BGEN REMY T TIGULO '62
29 Dec 1939 - 22 Mar 2025



Former PMAAAI Chairman and CEO (AY 2011-2012), Cav Tigulo passed away on 22 March 2025. He was married to the former Teresita Tantengco with whom he was blessed with three children: Allen, May Ann and Mark.

Cav Tigulo retired from the military service in December 1995 as DCS J-6 and went directly to Harvard Business School where he graduated in 1998. He was designated as President of SB Capital Investment Corporation and Chairman of SB Equities and Security Land, Inc. Upon retirement in the private sector he continued his business activities by running a family – owned Chemiltron Entreprises, Inc.

PCOL JOSELIO F IMPERIAL '86
30 July 1962–6 April 2025



Cav Imperial of the Sinagtala Class of 1986 passed away on April 6, 2025 after a lingering illness. Wakes were held in Angeles City and in his residence in Iba, Zambales. He was laid

to rest on April 13, 2025 at Iba Memorial Gardens, Iba, Zambales.

COL FIORELLO S ADRIANO, SR '70
16 Nov 1947 - 13 Apr 2025



Cav Adriano quietly passed away on 13 April 2025. He is survived by his wife Ma Christina with whom he has three children. Wake was held in Camp Aguinaldo Mortuary on April 21-23. He held various positions in private companies among which were as Vice President for Operations and Sales at A. Soriano Aviation Corp.; Gen Manager MIASCOR; President Citadel Trading Corp; General Manager, AFPMBAI; Vice Chairman, President and CEO of AFPGIC and AFPMBAI.

COL FRANCISCO C ALVARADO '79
01 April 1957–17 April 2025



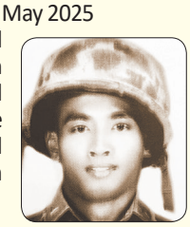
Cav Alvarado, former Chief of Staff of the Philippine Marines passed away on 17 April 2025. He left behind his caring wife Amy with whom he has three children: Frances Abigail, Franco Adalard and Aldo Kilian. Wake was held at St Ignatius Chapel, PMA from April 19 to 21, 2025 and inurnment at The Sanctuary in Heaven's Garden, Baguio City.

MGEN CARLIX P DONILA '78
08 Aug 1956 – 26 Apr 2025



Cav Carlix Donila departed on 26 April 2025. He was serving as the acting director of the John Hay Management Corporation, a position he resigned from due to his declining health. A respected leader and dedicated public servant, Cav Donila's legacy is marked by his unwavering commitment to duty and selfless contributions to the country. His passing is mourned by colleagues, friends, and the nation he served with honor. Necrological service was held at Villamor Air Base Mortuary on 02 May 2025 Inurnment was held the following day at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani with full military honors.

COL SAMUEL B RAMOS '54
23 Jan 1931 – 02 May 2025



Cav Ramos was admitted at the Medical City, Pasig on 29 April, where he passed away on 02 May 2025, he was 94. He was diagnosed with acute brainstem herniation syndrome and subarachnoid hemorrhage.

His last position held in the AFP was as Assistant Division Commander, 2ID, Tanay, Rizal. Upon retirement from the military service, he held various positions in the private sectors among them: President, Manager Rural Bank of Jones, Inc. in Isabela; and as Board Chairman, Rural Bank of Maddela, Quirino.

Wake was at the Mortuary, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. He was interned at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig on 11 May with full military honors.

MGEN ROBERTO I SABULARSE '66
08 June 1943 – 03 May 2025



Robert, fondly called "Sabu" by mistahs and close associates, boarded his final flight to eternity in the quiet evening of 03 May 2025.

A well-respected Air Force helicopter pilot and a golf enthusiast up to the end, he left behind an imprint of dedicated and professional service, cultivated in him by his Alma Mater, for which he was awarded by its alumni association, the prestigious Cavalier Award for Air Operations in 1972. For his demonstrated dedication to his duties, he was assigned to vital command and staff positions, among them: Commander, CASF 6 Iloilo; Chief of Air Force Logistics, A4; Chief of AFP Logistics, J4. Not to be forgotten was a stint reflective of trust and confidence at the highest level – Commander of the 250th Presidential Airlift Wing in command dedicated for use of the Commander-in-Chief.

His remains lied in state at the Villamor Air Base Mortuary where necrological services were held on 14 May 2025. He was given a hero's burial on 15 May at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio.

MGEN JOEL C MARAYAG '80
07 July 1956 – 11 May 2025



Cav Marayag's wake was held at St. Mark Chapel, Villamor Air Base Mortuary in Pasay City. Necrological service was held in the evening of 16th of May at the Our Lady of Loreto Chapel in Villamor Air Base. The following day, he was finally laid to rest at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Taguig City. An accomplished Philippine Air Force pilot, Cav Marayag served with unwavering dedication, honor and distinction. He left behind his wife Lita; three children (two boys, both PMA graduates and one girl who is married to another PMA graduate), namely: Cav Joey Lito S Marayag 07, wife: Charm Marayag, (children: Santi and Noel); Patrolyn M. Janayan, married to Cav Alejandro Janayan '08 (children: Alex, Jacob and Angel); and Cav Lee Van Jan S. Marayag '10, wife: Camille Marayag (child: Cielo)

CAPT EPHRAIM M RIO PN '73
31 Dec 1948 - 12 May 2025



Cav Rio peacefully joined our Creator on 12 May 2025. He left behind his wife Judy with whom he has four children: Samantha Adele, Katryn, Brian, and Diane. Wake was held at St. Ignatius Mortuary, Camp Aguinaldo, where necrological service was held on 19 May. He was finally laid to rest on 20 May at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig with full military honors. Cav Rio was the Editor-in-Chief of the Corps Magazine and Class Secretary at the time of his passing.

BGEN ERNESTO S DAUZ '62
20 Jan 1940 - 13 May 2025



Cav Dauz was married to the former Hazel Salgado with whom he has four children namely: Diane, Donna, Danniel, and Darlene. His last position held in the AFP was as Division Commander of 1st Air Division, PAF. After retirement, Cav Dauz became COO/EVP and General Manager of AFP and PNP Mutual Benefits Association, Inc. In 2008 he became the Chairman of Asia Pacific Recovery Reuse Development Corporation.

MGEN ROBERTO L MORALES '79
11 Jan 1956 – 21 May 2025



Cav Morales passed away on 21 May 2025 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, he was 69. His remains lied in state at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig, where interment was held on 27 May. Prior to his retirement in 2012, he was the Commanding General of the elite Special Operations Command (SOCOM).

PCOL BALLIGI AGNANAYON B TIRA '77
15 Aug 1952 – 08 June 2025



Cav Tira peacefully passed away on 08 June 2025 due to coronary cardiac arrest, he was 72. He left behind his wife Angelita Del Rosario with whom he has four children: Esther Ruth Angela; Darlene Love; Balligi Agnanayon; and Katrina Joy. Interment was on 13 June 2025 at the One Thessalonians Memorial Garden, San Antonio, Zambales.

MARITIME ACADEMY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ASSOCIATED MARINE OFFICERS' AND SEAMEN'S UNION OF THE PHILIPPINES - PTGWO - ITF

KAMAYA POINT., BRGY. ALAS-ASIN, MARIVELES, BATAAN, PHILIPPINES

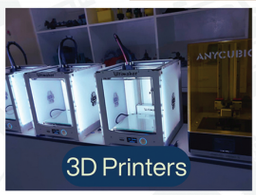


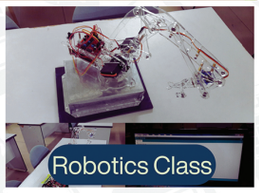












COURSES OFFERED

- BSMT - Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation
- BSMarE - Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering
- BSMarEET - Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering and Electrotech
- BSME to BSMarE Bridging Program

- Master of Science in Marine Transportation (Marine Superintendent)
- Master of Science in Marine Engineering (Technical Superintendent)

- Advance Fire Fighting (AFF)
- Basic Training (BT)
- Refresher on Basic Training (RBT)
- BTOCTCOC
- Medical First Aid (MEFA)
- SCRB
- SAT&SDSD
- Refresher on Advanced Fire Fighting (RAFF)
- Refresher on Survival Craft and Rescue Boats (RSCRB)







PROFILE

Geographic destiny has given the Filipino the innate talent to be an excellent seafarer. To enhance this natural skill, the Maritime Academy of Asia and the Pacific (MAAP) was established on January 14, 1998. The Academy stands on a 122-hectare property in Kamaya Point, Mariveles, Bataan. The Associated Marine Officers' and Seamen's Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) founded by the late Capt. Gregorio S Oca, capitalized, developed and operated the Academy.

The new AMOSUP President,Dr. Conrado F. Oca, heads the Academy's board of governors. The board is comprised of representatives from the private sector, the International Transport Workers Federation, the Filipino Association of Maritime Employers, the International Transport Workers Federation, the All Japan Seamen's Union, the International Mariners Management Association of Japan, the Norwegian Seafarers' Union, the International Maritime Employers' Committee, the Danish Shipowners' Association, the Norweigan Shipowners' Association, and the Japanese Shipowners' Association.

MAAP conducts shipboard training aboard MV Kapitan Gregorio Oca and MV Kapitan Felix Oca,a 5020 DWT dedicated training ship capable of accommodating 180 midshipmen and 9 instructors in 30 air-conditioned cabins and six berths.

OUR CURRICULA

MAAP students are all scholars who are entitled to free tuition, board and lodging. They receive a comprehensive, up-to-date and well-rounded education that fully complies with the requirements of STCW 78 as amended and the Commision on Higher Education (CHED). To ensure the highest standards of quality, MAAP adheres to a Quality Standards System that has been certified to comply with ISO 21001 version 2018 by Det Norske Veritas (DNV-GL) Rules for Management System for Maritime Education & Training, (QMET) TUV-SUD, PACUCOA & CHED-MARINA. The Academy offers two main programs: the Bachelor of Science in Marine t ransportation (BSMT), and the Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering (BSMarE). Courses are four-year courses with sea phases scheduled in the second or third year. The BSMT curriculum requires a total of 192 units: 152 at MAAP, 40 practicum/shipboard units on board MV Kapitan Felix Oca/MV Kapitan Gregorio Oca and/or a shipping company sponsorship. The BSMarE curriculum requires a total of 193 units: 153 at MAAP, 40 practicum/shipboard units on board MV Kapitan Felix Oca/ MV Kapitan Gregorio Oca and/or a shipping company sponsorship.

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