



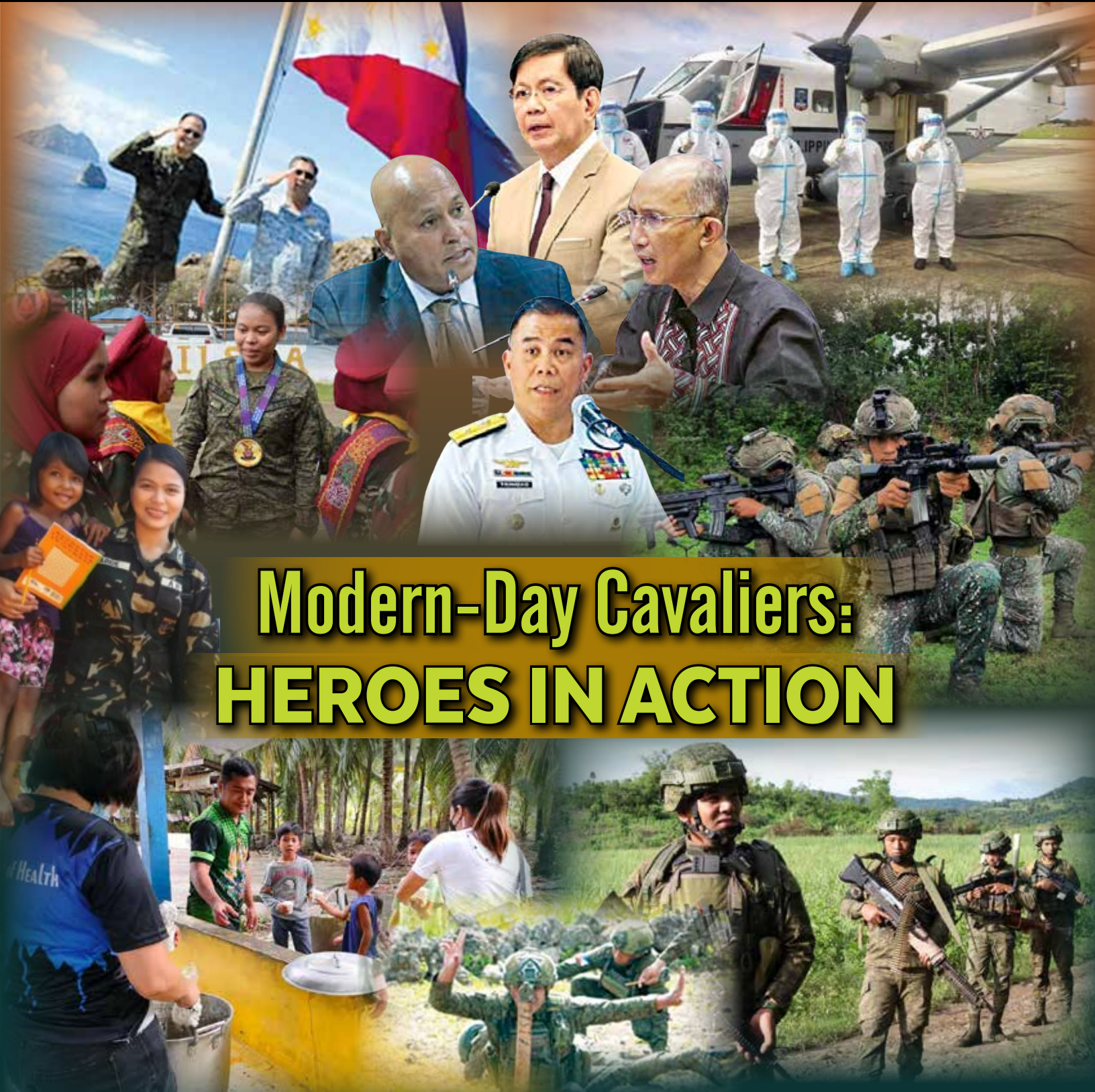
The

CAVALIER

COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY

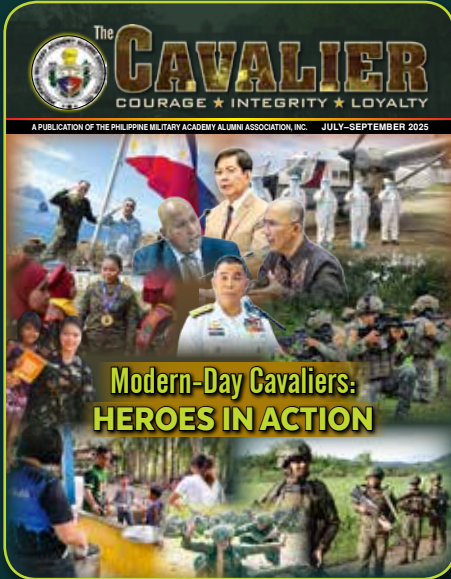
A PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025



Modern-Day Cavaliers: HEROES IN ACTION

ABOUT THE COVER



In an age where the battlefield has expanded to include cyberspace, information warfare, humanitarian missions, and territorial defense, the modern-day Cavalier rises—not with sword and steed, but with purpose, courage, and relentless service.

This issue of Cavalier Magazine celebrates the brave men and women who exemplify heroism in today's complex world—through military duty, public service, and quiet acts of leadership that create lasting impact.

Amid rapid societal change, these Cavaliers embody courage, integrity, and loyalty—timeless virtues reshaped to meet the urgent challenges of our time.

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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.

Send your featured article to:

The Editor, The Cavalier

PMA Alumni Center

Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Email address: pmaaaai@yahoo.com



FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76

Modern-Day Cavaliers: Heroes In Action


I am incredibly proud and honored to address you once again through the pages of our Cavalier Magazine. Our theme for this issue, *“Modern Day Cavaliers: Heroes in Action,”* resonates deeply with the core of who we are and what we stand for. It’s a powerful reminder that the ideals instilled in us at Fort Del Pilar are not relics of the past but living principles that guide us in a complex and ever-changing world.

When we think of a cavalier, we often picture a knight—someone brave, honorable, and loyal. But our world has changed and so have our battlefields. Our core values of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty are still our armor, but we now face new enemies like corruption, injustice, and misinformation. These are the challenges that test us every day and where a modern-day Cavalier truly shows what it means to be a hero.

A hero isn’t defined by one single, grand act. Heroes are people who always act on their principles. It’s the officer who stays honest even when tempted. It’s the leader who, despite personal

risk, stands for what is right. It’s the public servant who helps others without thinking of himself. Our alumni have brought these values to every part of society, from government and the military to business and community work. They are the civil servants who continue to build a better nation.

This shared commitment is what the PMAAAI is all about. We are more than an organization; we are a family connected by a common creed and a shared purpose to serve. It’s our duty to support one another and uphold the prestige of our Alma Mater. The PMAAAI is the platform where we can strengthen these values, guide the next generations, and actively contribute to national development.

As we move forward, let us build upon the heroic legacy of those who came before us. Their sacrifice is the blueprint for our own. In these modern times, we are called to be heroes in action - not for personal glory, but for the betterment of our country and its people. Let our daily commitment to the Cavalier spirit light the way forward for generations to come. 



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO '96

Living the Legacy: Cavaliers in Action

My warmest greetings to all Cavaliers, wherever you may be—in the field, in the boardroom, in public service, or among the communities you serve.

This July–September issue of *The Cavalier Magazine* carries the theme: “Modern-Day Cavaliers: Heroes in Action.” It is a fitting tribute to our alumni who prove that heroism is not confined to history nor limited to moments of battle. Today, it is lived daily—in steadfast duty, quiet acts of service, and principled leadership that define a Cavalier.

The Philippine Military Academy has long been the cradle of leaders, instilling in its graduates the virtues of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty. These virtues remain unchanged, but the stage on which we live them out has evolved. The modern Cavalier faces challenges that go beyond the traditional battlefield: cyber warfare, disinformation, territorial disputes, climate-related disasters, and public health crises.

In this changing environment, the role of the Cavalier has expanded. We are needed not only in the theater of war but also in diplomacy, policy-making, education, technology, humanitarian service, and nation-building. Whether in uniform or civilian roles, Cavaliers show that leadership grounded in Academy values remains indispensable in shaping our nation's future.

Heroes in Action—Yesterday and Today

Our forebears earned their place in history through valor in times of war. They defended the motherland at great personal cost, ensuring freedom and democracy would endure. Today, the same spirit burns in modern Cavaliers who rise to the needs of our times. From officers leading border operations, to those spearheading disaster relief, to alumni driving innovations in governance, business, and community development—their service is inspiring and diverse.

This issue honors such stories. We highlight Cavaliers who not only excel in their fields but embody service above self. They remind us that heroism is not about recognition, but responsibility—not for applause, but because the mission demands it.

The Modern Battlefield

In the 21st century, the battlefield is everywhere. It could be in the West Philippine Sea, where our armed forces safeguard sovereignty. It could be in government halls, where principled leadership upholds justice. It could be in disaster zones, where Cavaliers lead rescue and relief. It could even be in the digital realm, where truth must be defended against falsehood.

Wherever courage, integrity, and loyalty are required, there you will find the modern Cavalier—quietly, steadfastly, and effectively in action.

Unity in Purpose

As President of PMAAAI, I am privileged to witness how members across batches and chapters respond to calls of service. I have seen

chapters mobilize resources for communities in distress, committees support retirees and bereaved families, and Cavaliers extend expertise to government, private projects, and civic movements. All these—done without seeking the spotlight, but with a desire to make a difference.

These collective efforts remind us that unity is our greatest strength. While our careers may lead us to diverse paths, the values and bonds forged in Fort Del Pilar keep us together. When Cavaliers unite for a cause, the impact is felt far and wide.

Excellence as a Standard

If unity is our strength, excellence is our standard. The modern Cavalier cannot settle for mediocrity—the challenges we face are too complex, the stakes too high. Whether commanding a unit, leading an organization, or contributing expertise, we must uphold the rigor and discipline that PMA instilled in us.

Excellence means preparing for emerging threats, embracing innovation, and committing to lifelong learning. It means holding ourselves accountable to the highest ethical standards, knowing our actions reflect not only on us but also on the institution and values we represent.

Inspiring the Next Generation

Part of our responsibility as modern heroes is to inspire and mentor the next generation of leaders. The young men and women who enter the Academy today will inherit a world even more dynamic and unpredictable. They will look to us not only for stories of what we have done, but for examples of how to lead with honor amid uncertainty.

Let us therefore make ourselves available as mentors, coaches, and role models. Let us pass on the lessons we have learned—not only the tactics of leadership, but the moral courage to make difficult decisions for the greater good.

A Call to Action

To all my fellow Cavaliers, let this issue be both a celebration and a challenge. We celebrate the modern heroes among us who are already in action. But we must also challenge ourselves to do more, to find new ways of serving, and to remain vigilant stewards of freedom, security, and dignity.

Heroism is not a one-time act—it is a way of life. For the modern Cavalier, that life is defined by readiness, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to the mission, whatever it may be.

As we move forward, may we remain true to our calling. May we continue to be Modern-Day Cavaliers: Heroes in Action—united in purpose, excellent in service, and steadfast in our love for God, country, and the values of the Academy.

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



ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

Nominees for Cavalier Award AY 2025-2026

• **CAV RICARDO A DAVID, JR '77**

Chairman, PMAAAI Awards Committee AY 2025-2026

The second stage of deliberations for the search of the 2026 Cavalier Awards for the outstanding regular members of the Association is now set. From the initial screening of different chapters (PMARAI, Army, Air Force, Navy, Police, and Coast Guard) a total of 50 Cavalier nominees had been recommended for deliberation. They will be evaluated based not only from their manifestation of Courage, Integrity and Loyalty, the epitome of values that Peemayers hold dearest but each candidate must exemplify the best in his chosen field.

The Awards Committee is calling on all alumni and other interested parties to provide further inputs attesting to the character, excellence and qualifications of the different nominees. This information will help the Awards Committee to come up with the final list of principal and alternate recommendees for each category of award who truly represent the highest ideals of the Academy in terms of outstanding accomplishments and deserve the utmost respect of fellow cavaliers. The nominees for Cavalier Award are as follows:

Command and Administration

1. CAV DENNIS G ESTRELLA '91 PAF
2. CAV WILLIAM P PENAFIEL JR '91 PA
3. CAV MICHAEL G SAMSON '91 PA
4. CAV GEROLD N GAGAN '92 PAF
5. CAV ARISTOTLE D GONZALES '92 PAF
6. CAV ROMMEL P ROLDAN '92 PAF
7. CAV JUARIO C MARAYAG '93 PN
8. CAV LORETO B PASAMONTE '93 PAF
9. CAV TITO ALVIN G ANDAL '94 PCG
10. CAV MARCO ANTONIO '96 PCG

Staff Functions

1. CAV ROVER T SOBRINO '95 PAF
2. CAV RONNIE C CABINGAS '96 PAF

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

1. CAV LAWRENCE R SAN JUAN '97 PA

ARMY OPERATIONS - Senior Officer

1. CAV RHOMEL R LANGCAUON '99
2. CAV MAGNO M MAPALAD '01

AIR OPERATIONS - Senior Officer

1. CAV FRANCIS L DANCEL '00

2. CAV SIR BYRON L DE OCAMPO '00
3. CAV GLENN S PIQUERO '01
4. CAV JONATHAN P HALLARA '01
5. CAV MARLON A PARUGRUG '01
6. CAV BERNARDO C ALIBASA II '07
7. CAV ALEXON B RAMOS '02

AIR OPERATIONS - Junior Officer

1. CAV JONATHAN A CORPUZ '10
2. CAV KEVIN R TORRECAMPO '15

NAVAL OPERATIONS – Senior Officer

1. CAV CYRUS B MENDOZA '00

NAVAL OPERATIONS - Junior Officer

1. CAV MARIA CRISTINA M MOJECA '17

COAST GUARD OPERATIONS - Senior Officer

1. CAV JOHN B ESPLANA '95
2. CAV ARNALDO M LIM '95
3. CAV GENITO B BASILIO '96
4. CAV CHRISTOPHER M MENIADO '97
5. CAV NELSON JAY T TIMBANG '01

COAST GUARD OPERATIONS - Junior Officer

1. CAV JONAH A ARUGAY '00
2. CAV DANISH M RUIZ '01

POLICE OPERATIONS

1. CAV BERNARD M BANAC '92

SPECIAL FIELD - Retired

1. CAV LEO S ALVEZ '66
2. CAV ARTURO C ALABANZA '72
3. CAV JOVENAL D NARCISE '75
4. CAV GIRARD PACIFICO B MARIN '99

SPECIAL FIELD - Active

1. CAV RICKY P BUNAYOG '93 PA
2. CAV FRANCIS A SENORON '00 PA
3. CAV ALVIN JOHN Q GADOR '01 PAF
4. CAV GINO ANTONIO U BENAVIDES '08 PAF
5. CAV ROLAND J MANEJE '08 PN

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

1. CAV LEOPOLDO N BATAOIL '76

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

- 1. CAV RECARDO A SARMIENTO II '66
- 2. CAV ABNER D CABALQUINTO '76
- 3. CAV MIGUEL JOSE S RODRIGUEZ '80
- 4. CAV BILLY S PASCUA '99

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

- 1. CAV JOSE ANTONIO C SALVACION '76
- 2. CAV FREDERICK EVANS L RAMOS '84

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

- 1. CAV JOSE C LAPUS '65
- 2. CAV MANUEL P ESPEJO '66
- 3. CAV DANILO A ABINOJA '74

- 4. CAV AVELINO I RAZON JR '74
- 5. CAV RAUL Z CABALLES '76
- 6. CAV FERDINAND S GOLEZ '76
- 7. CAV EMILIO C MARAYAG '76

The Awards Committee members are: CAV RAMON C LIWAG '79 PMARAI; CAV JOSE MELENCIO C NARTATEZ JR '92 PNP; CAV ULYSSES S MANCAO '96 PAF; CAV INOCENCIO C ROSARIO JR '96 PCG; CAV DENNIS F HERNANDEZ '96 PN; and CAV DIOSDADO CARLOS D PAMBID '96 PA. We are most happy to receive comments and information to make the selection more thorough. Inputs may be sent to PMAAAI Alumni Center through at pmaaaai@yahoo.com. The nominees chosen by the Awards Committee will be deliberated on and confirmed by the PMAAAI Board in its meeting in December 2025.



PMAAAI CEO Attends PMMA “Kadaligtan” Class of 2025 Commencement Exercise

ZAMBALES CITY – Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Cav Ramon T Punzalan, attended the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy commencement exercise held at San Marcelino, August 15.

Following the main activity, the PMAAAI delegation visited the Naval Education, Training and Doctrine Command, in San Antonio. Their visit included a staff meeting and a commemorative tree-planting ceremony. The day concluded with a fellowship dinner at the NETC Beach Gate together with the 26 Cavaliers assigned to the unit.



Cavaliers Punzalan '76 and Vingson '85 join other attendees for a photo before the ceremony.



Tree planting activity at NETDC, San Antonio, Zambales





AFPMBAI Donates 2025 HILUX Toyota Tamaraw to PMAAAI

PMAAAI Chairman Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76 accepts the symbolic key from Cav Dorvin Jose L Legaspi '89, AFPMBAI President and CEO, during the ceremonial turn-over of the 2025 Hilux Toyota Tamaraw.

QUEZON CITY - The Armed Forces, and Police Mutual Benefit Association, Inc. (AFPMBAI) generously donated to the PMAAAI a brand new 2025 Hilux Toyota Tamaraw FX 2.4 DSL MT.

This much-needed upgrade replaces the PMAAAI's trusty 20-year old Toyota Revo, which has been serving staff and employees.

This donation was made possible through the initiative of current PMAAAI Chairman Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76, who recognized the critical need for a safer and more reliable vehicle to support the association's daily operations. The new vehicle is viewed to enhance the efficiency and safety of the PMAAAI team as they carry out their important work.

A ceremonial Turnover and Blessing of the vehicle was held, July 15 at the PMA Alumni Center, A. Luna Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo.

Key staff from both the PMAAAI and the AFPMBAI were present which exemplify the spirit of solidarity, gratitude, and progress within the PMAAAI community.

This partnership highlights a shared commitment to excellence. The new Toyota Tamaraw shows continuous effort to equip PMAAAI with the best resources to foster camaraderie, support members, and uphold the Philippine Military Academy's values.

All thanks to AFPMBAI for our new ride!



Rev Fr Manuel W Tabious, AFP Command Chaplain, officiates the blessing of the newly donated vehicle.



The AFPMBAI and PMAAAI officials during the vehicle turnover and blessing.

ADB Donates 3 Microsoft Surface Laptop Computers to PMAAAI

QUEZON CITY - Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76, PMAAAI Chairman and CEO, accepted the three high-end Microsoft Surface laptop computers donated by the Asian Development Bank, 24 July, during the Hand Over Ceremony held at the PMA Alumni Center.

Cav Gerard Pacifico B Marin '99, who represented the ADB during the ceremony, facilitated the donation. He received a Plaque of Appreciation and other tokens for his contribution to the Association.

The donated laptop computers is seen to greatly enhance the operational capability of the Association, now that updated technology continuously evolves to be a necessity rather than a luxury.

The ADB, a multilateral development bank focused on infrastructure, poverty reduction, and sustainable development in Asia-Pacific countries, is one among the many stakeholders of the PMAAAI that help promote service, excellence and nation-building.

A week earlier, PMAAAI also received the 2025 Toyota Hi Lux Tamaraw FX 2.4 DSL.MT from the AFP MBAI as requested by Cav Punzalan last March, which is now being used to support the Association's daily operations.

The recent contributions underscore a shared commitment to empowering the PMAAAI. These modern tools will undoubtedly enable the Association to operate more efficiently and effectively in its ongoing mission to serve the nation.



PMAAAI and ADB officials and key personnel at the Microsoft Surface laptop donation ceremony.



PMAAAI Chairman Cav Punzalan ceremoniously accepts the laptops from Cav Marin, Security and Emergency Specialist of ADB.



Thanks to ADB, PMAAAI employees now have new laptops to boost their productivity and streamline tasks.

PMAAAI, PMARAI Award Toyota Raffle Prizes to 5 Winners



Mr. Edgar Tan (second from left) is the lucky grand prize winner of Toyota Fortuner 2.4 4x2 DSL AT.



Cav Jesselito Castro '98 (third from left) is the 2nd prize winner and new owner of a Toyota Hiace Commuter Decontent 3.0 DSL MT.

QUEZON CITY – The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), together with the Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) hosted a meaningful activity on July 15, celebrating milestones that reflect the organizations' dedication to their members and their enduring partnerships.

Five winners of the PMAAAI-PMARAI raffle, dubbed “*Para sa Tagapagtanggol ng Kalayaan,*” received their new Toyota vehicles in a ceremonial turnover at Toyota Makati Inc. The winners included three Cavaliers and two private individuals.

Winners include:

1st Prize – Toyota Fortuner 2.4 4x2 DSL AT
Ticket No. 2140 – Mr. Edgar Tan

2nd Prize – Toyota Hiace Commuter Decontent 3.0 DSL MT
Ticket No. 6840 – Cav Jesselito L Castro '98

3rd Prize – Toyota Innova 2.8L XE DSL AT
Ticket No. 3726 – Cav Edgar R Fallorina '83

4th Prize – Toyota Altis 1.8 E CVT
Ticket No. 2518 – Dr Philip Acop

5th Prize – Toyota Vios 1.3 XE CVT
Ticket No. 3572 – Cav Gregorio Pio P Catapang Jr '81



Cav Edgar Fallorina '83 signs the documents to officially accept the 3rd prize Toyota Innova 2.8L XE DSL AT.



Cav Gregorio Pio Catapang Jr '81 (3rd from right) is a proud new owner of the Toyota Vios 1.3 XE CVT as he was announced 5th placer in said raffle.



Dr. Philip Acop received the 4th Prize Toyota Altis 1.8 E CVT.

1st CAVALIERS' CUP 2025 Mid-Tournament Highlights



The Philippine Air Force Badminton Team celebrated their hard-earned win at the Cavaliers' Cup 2025 after capturing the Major A title.

The 1st Cavaliers' Cup 2025 continues to heat up with sport enthusiasts from across the major services battling it out in a series of thrilling competitions.

Philippine Air Force hosted the table tennis and badminton games last 19 July at the PAF Badminton Court, Villamor Air Base.

On the same day, the Philippine Navy hosted the lawn tennis competition held at BNS Lawn Tennis Court, Marine Barracks Rudario Brown Naval Station Jose Francisco, Fort Bonifacio.

The results from July 19th were as follows:

- Badminton: PAF Chapter (Major A); PN Chapter (Minor A).
- Table Tennis: PAF Chapter (Major A); PN Chapter (Minor A).

- Lawn Tennis: PN Chapter (Major A); PCAI Chapter (Minor A).

These results follow earlier victories for the Philippine Navy (Major A) and Army (Minor A) in swimming and basketball on June 21st.

In July 5th, the Philippine Navy's football and chess teams have also positioned themselves strongly, defeating opponents from PAF Chapter to reach the championship categories in both events.

A resounding congratulations to all our winners thus far!



Action-packed table tennis match between opponents.



The PN Cavaliers bagged Major "A" in swimming last June 21.



Congratulations to PN Basketball Team for winning against PCG and PN Football Team for bagging Major "A" in Football.



Back-to-back Champions! PN Cavaliers Chess Team – unstoppable on the board!

PMAAAI Gears Up for GAME OF THE CAVALIERS 2025 Golf Tournament



Here's to GOC2025 success, great games, and lasting friendships! Cheers!

QUEZON CITY– The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) announces the staging of the **Game of the Cavaliers (GOC) 2025**, an annual golf tournament bringing together Cavaliers, honorary members, associates, friends, and invited guests in the spirit of camaraderie and service. According to Cav Stephen L Cabanlet '96, PMAAAI Sports Committee chairperson, the Official Launching Ceremony was held August 12 at the Main Dining Hall of Camp Aguinaldo, here.

With the theme: **“Camaraderie Through Competition: Honoring the Legacy, Inspiring the Corps,”** the GOC 2025 is slated across three premier courses this October — **Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club** (October 9 - 12), **Villamor Air Base Golf Course** (October 15 - 16 and 18 - 19), and the **Philippine Navy Golf Club** (October 23-26) — the tournament will culminate with the awarding ceremony on **October 26, 2025** at the PNGC.

With divisions spanning from PMA Classes, as well as individual and special categories, the GOC offers both competitive and friendly play. The event follows the Stableford scoring system and includes awards for team champions, individual winners, and special recognitions such as Best Dressed Class and Hole-in-One honors.

Beyond the greens, the GOC serves as a major fundraising initiative for PMAAAI, with proceeds



supporting alumni programs and community projects. Each player's ₱4,000 registration fee covers green fees, tournament participation, awards, giveaways, and raffle entries.

“This tournament is more than just a competition — it's a celebration of camaraderie, tradition, and shared service,” added further by Cav Cabanlet '96.



GOC 2025

PMAAAI Annual Fellowship & Golf Fundraiser

Open to Cavaliers, honorary/associate members, family & friends

Categories

- **Team – PMA Decades**
 - Min. 5 players/team
 - Top 4 scores count
- **Individual – Members, ladies, friends-family**
- **Special – Cadet Company | Best Dressed Class**

Schedule

Leg 1: Oct 9-12 – CAGC
 Leg 2: Oct 15,16 & 18,19 – VABGC
 Leg 3: Oct 23-26 – PNGC

Handicap & Scoring

WHS Index: as of 01 Sep 2025
 Max Handicap: 24 Net: 75%
 Format: Stableford
 Payment Deadline: 15 Sep 2025 (via LandBank)

Ticket:

₱4,000

Includes: Green fee, lunch, raffle, trophies
 Excludes caddy/cart
 Payment Deadline: 15 Sep 2025 (via LandBank)

Registration:
 Deadline: 06 Sep 2025
 Submit:

- Name
- Class
- Handicap
- Shirt Size

See Full Rules and Guidelines for details

GAME OF THE CAVALIERS 2025

Official Launching Ceremony

Date: 12 August 2025 (Tuesday)
Time: 11:00 AM
Venue: Main Dining Hall, Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club (CAGC)

All Team Managers,
 Join us as we tee off the premier golf fundraising event of 2025. Be part of the tradition, camaraderie, and purpose behind GOC2025

Tee-Off Highlights:

- 📄 Rules and Conditions
- 📅 Tournament Schedule
- 📄 Registration Details
- 📄 GOC2025 Sponsor Packages

Let's drive forward – For Honor, For Country, For the Cavaliers!

#GOC2025 #PMAAAI #TeeOffForACause

PMAAAI Grants Amnesty Program to Association Members

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. is offering an amnesty program to all retired or separated members who are not in good standing.

They can pay their lifetime membership dues from 01 August 2025 to 28 February 2026 to secure their lifetime membership.

Not in good standing members may take advantage of the amnesty program to reinstate their membership. This allows them to pre-empt the membership fee increase coming in March 2026.

Members can settle their dues via Landbank and Veterans Bank for online banking or to the Development Bank of the Philippines for over-the-counter deposits.

Members can contact Ms Amy Lactaotao, PMAAAI Investment Assistant and Cashier, for any inquiries via Viber at mobile numbers, 0947-196-8293. Proofs of payment can also be sent to the same contact person.

BE A PMAAAI LIFETIME MEMBER

Honor. Camaraderie. Support—for Life.

EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>WHAT YOU GET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mutual Relief / Abuloy
P60,000 financial support for your family Medical Assistance
Up to P50,000 for qualified medical expenses Free Cavalier Magazine
Stay informed with your complimentary subscription Access to Transient Quarters
Discounted lodging at Camp Aguinaldo Event Privileges
Free or subsidized access to alumni events | <p>WHY IT MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting Rights
Have a say in PMAAAI decisions and leadership Lifelong Camaraderie
Connect with Cavaliers across all classes Growth Opportunities
Access webinars and support for your post-service journey Heritage & Legacy
Help preserve PMA traditions and mentor future leaders A True Sense of Belonging
Stay active in meaningful causes beyond service |
|--|--|

JOIN TODAY. STAY CONNECTED FOR LIFE.

PMA Alumni Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Contact the PMAAAI Secretariat



AMNESTY PROGRAM

EASY Ways to Pay

Settle your dues conveniently through the following banks via online banking or over-the-counter deposits.

Particulars	Online		Bank Deposit
	LANDBANK	Veteransbank	DBP
Account Name	PMAAAI	PMAAAI	PMAAAI
Account Number	1671095304	20000282	4350001731

Please send your proof of payment to Ms. Amy Lactaotao, our Investnet Assistant and Cashier, via Viber: 0947 196 8293.

AMNESTY PROGRAM

THE ASSOCIATION OFFERS AN AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR RETIRED OR SEPARATED MEMBERS NOT IN GOOD STANDING.

PAY YOUR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP DUES FROM 01 AUGUST 2025 TO 28 FEBRUARY 2026 AND AVOID THE FEE INCREASE STARTING MARCH 2026.

PMA CLASSES	PMAAAI One-Time Lifetime Dues	PMARAI One-time Membership Dues	Total
1989-older	₱12,000	₱2,000	₱14,000
1990-younger	₱10,000	₱2,000	₱12,000

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROGRAM AND SECURE YOUR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP NOW!



PMAAAI Strengthens Ties with PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD



Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76 being received by Adm Ronnie Gavan '93 PCG at the PCG Headquarters.

The gracious host presents a memento to the Vice Chairman, Cav Ricardo A David Jr '77.

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) delegation held a successful courtesy call with Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan '93 on August 14, 2025. The event, which took place at the PCG Headquarters was followed by the PMAAAI's regular board meeting and a fellowship dinner at the Bayview Park Hotel.

'85, Cav Leo Angelo D Leuterio '88, Cav Raymundo Rosario '97, and Cavalier Magazine Editor-in-Chief Cav Marces T Gayat '93. PMAAAI Executive Director Cav Narciso A Vingson, Jr '85 was also in attendance.

Led by Chairman and CEO Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76, the PMAAAI delegation included Vice Chairman Cav Ricardo A David Jr '77, President and COO Cav Pedro S Agapito '96, and key board members: Cav Inocencio Rosario Jr '96, Cav Stephen Cabanlet '96, Cav Arnold Fernandez '86, Cav Ericson Velasquez

The courtesy call served to strengthen the bond between the two organizations, while the subsequent meetings provided a productive platform for the PMAAAI leadership to discuss ongoing initiatives and future plans. The evening concluded with fellowship gathering, fostering camaraderies and sense of shared purpose among the attendees. The event highlighted the enduring connection and cooperation between the PMAAAI and PCG Chapter.



The PMAAAI delegation during the courtesy call to PCG Commandant.

Free Flu and Pneumonia Vaccination Drive Benefits 184 PMA Cavaliers and Spouses



QUEZON CITY - A total of 184 PMA Cavaliers and their dependents benefitted from a free flu and pneumonia vaccination drive held at the PMA Alumni Center. The joint project of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), PMA Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI), and the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) underscored the Cavaliers' continuing commitment to preventive healthcare and the protection of their members and families.

The initiative was organized to provide accessible immunization against influenza and pneumonia, two of the most

common and potentially serious respiratory illnesses, especially among senior alumni and their dependents. The vaccination drive also reinforced the importance of wellness and preventive medicine as a priority within the Cavaliers' community.

Leaders of PMAAAI and PMARAI expressed their gratitude to VMMC for its medical support and services, emphasizing the value of partnerships in delivering programs that ensure the well-being of Cavaliers and their loved ones. The successful turnout reflected the strong sense of solidarity within the alumni community and its dedication to safeguarding health through collective action.



Beneficiaries line up for registration at the PMA Alumni Center.



Medical team from VMMC administers free flu and pneumonia shots





Executive Director's REPORT

CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85

Strengthening Foundations, Expanding Horizons Board Resolutions: June–August 2025

Chairman's Message

"Our goal is to build a strong foundation for our Association—through sound governance, inclusive membership, professional management, and programs that truly serve the welfare of Cavaliers and their families. Every decision of the Board must move us closer to that vision."

— Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76, Chairman, PMAAAI

In steadfast compliance with the Chairman's guidance, the PMAAAI Board of Directors passed a series of landmark resolutions from June to August 2025. These measures strengthen governance, enhance member services, and sustain programs that benefit the alumni community, reflecting the Board's unified commitment to professionalism, transparency, and service.

Building and Facilities: Providing Access and Ensuring Professional Oversight

- **BR 25-32** – Approved the **₱4.26M budget for the temporary PMAAAI parking area**, ensuring accessibility while the permanent facilities are being completed.
- **BR 25-46** – Approved the engagement of **CDC as Integrated Property Manager** for the Center for Leadership and Excellence, with an Ad Hoc Committee to finalize terms under an approved TOR. This fulfills the Chairman's directive to professionalize property management.

Governance and Membership: Strengthening Structures and Expanding Inclusion

- **BR 25-33** – Adopted **guidelines on quorum and voting procedures** for the AGMM, ensuring transparency and orderly proceedings.
- **BR 25-35** – Approved the **Membership Management System (₱146,720)** to modernize alumni records and streamline communications.

- **BR 25-36** – Adopted the **IRR for Associate and Honorary Membership**, aligning with the Amended Bylaws and expanding inclusion.
- **BR 25-40** – Approved the **Lifetime Membership Amnesty Program** (1 Aug 2025 – 28 Feb 2026) to help members not in good standing regain privileges.
- **BR 25-45** – Rescinded **BR 23-23** to correct inconsistencies with the Amended Bylaws, reinforcing strict adherence to constitutional provisions.

Member Welfare: Prioritizing Care and Compassion

- **BRs 25-34, 25-37 and 25-47** – Approved **₱400,000 in medical assistance** and **₱600,000 in Mutual Benefit Assistance (Abuloy)** for June–August 2025.

To date, the Association has extended a total of **₱1.8M in Mutual Benefit Assistance** to **31 bereaved families**, and **₱400,000 in medical assistance** to **21 members**. These programs embody the Chairman's guidance that the welfare of Cavaliers and their families must remain the Association's foremost duty.

Programs and Activities: Sustaining Fellowship and Fundraising

- **BR 25-43** – Approved the **Implementation Plan for the Game of the Cavaliers (GOC) 2025**, ensuring the continued success of this flagship event as both a fellowship platform and a major fundraising program for alumni welfare.

Moving Forward in Unity

These resolutions reflect the Board's deliberate effort to translate the Chairman's guidance into action—building stronger systems, inclusive membership programs, and meaningful services. With unity and purpose, PMAAAI continues to move forward, serving Cavaliers, their families, and the wider community with pride and excellence.



Cav Ramon T Punzalan personally hands over the Mutual Benefit Assistance to the bereaved family.



Successful launch of GOC 2025 held on 17 August 2025 at the Main Dining Hall, Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club (CAGC).



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90

HEROES IN ACTION: PMA Equips Cadets for Modern Warfare with Upgraded Facilities and Future-Ready Education

The Philippine Military Academy (PMA) has long stood as the center of leadership for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Its commitment to excellence is reflected in honing and producing future leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and also of the nation. True to its mission, it continues to be the home of modern-day Cavaliers who serve as heroes both in times of peace and conflict. In its endeavor to achieve excellence, the Academy has undertaken significant improvements on facilities, which will provide a conducive learning environment, more so, an educational program or curriculum that is future-ready.

Numerous construction initiatives, facility upgrades, and maintenance works have been carried out and continue to be carried out. From the Base and Support System Development Projects of the Academy, the construction of Cadet Barracks II has been completed and the new PMA Library which is expected to significantly enhance the academic and research capabilities of the institution is 98% complete. The construction of the four-storey Headquarters Academic Group (HAG) and Headquarters Tactics Group (HTG) Building is 64.28% complete. This building, once completed, will house both faculty members involved in academic instruction and military training, providing them with dedicated office spaces and support areas conducive venues for different academic and training activities of the cadets. This initiative is a significant step toward enhancing the Academy's institutional capacity as it will enable the faculty to effectively fulfill their instructional duties and ultimately elevate the quality of education and training they provide to the cadets. Out of the 18 PMA special projects, 12 are already completed, four

projects are currently at the halfway point of their construction while the construction of the remaining two has already started. Most of these projects are repairs, except for the two, which are the construction of the Dimalupig Pavilion and the construction of the Electronic Vehicle charging station, which are both complete. The latter reflects the Academy's commitment to environmental sustainability and, at the same time, to keep pace with the emerging technologies.

Under the DND – DPWH Convergence Program, projects include: Completion of Historical Museum Facility (PMA MUSEUM); construction of five (5) storey EP condominium quarters; construction of military barracks building, type 1; and construction of military building, type 2. Among these four projects, the PMA Museum and EP condominium are already completed. While under the DPWH-BCDEO Regular Infra Program FY 2023-202, projects are: the construction of



Construction of Four-Storey HAG and HTG Building

PMA rainwater harvesting facilities (phase III); rehabilitation/reconstruction of roads with slip slop collapse A secondary road and B tertiary; rehabilitation of damage road along Shako area; and rehabilitation/reconstruction/upgrading of road and drainage along flirtation walk area. These repair and rehabilitation works ensure the continued functionality, safety, and efficiency of its existing facilities. Among these projects, two are already for turn over to the Academy while the other two are both 95% complete.

These developments in the facilities will help the Academy to realize its mission and objectives. On this note, the improved facilities go hand-in-hand with the academic and military program of the Academy. All the construction and repair efforts will be put to waste if both programs are not given equal importance, as they serve as the very soul that shapes and defines the would-be graduates of the Academy. This is a testament that the Academy remains steadfast in its commitment to deliver quality military education to its cadets, recognizing that without this core purpose, then it will be a mere structure and not an institution that produces future leaders.

As a response to the new kinds of threats and the involvement of technology in various military operations, the newly implemented curriculum, Enhanced Bachelor of Science in Management Major in Security Studies, included new courses, to name a few: Unmanned Systems and Artificial Intelligence; Physics with Military Applications; Weapon Systems; and Cybersecurity. The inclusion of these new courses is a clear response to the call of the time. Now, the threat is no longer confined to the presence of various leftist and rebel groups, as the country now faces territorial threats. Courses related to air warfare and naval warfare are facilitated by officers from the Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy who are subject matter experts on those fields. The course delivery includes simulation activities designed to assess the application of the knowledge acquired inside the classroom. Also, to acquire the best practices which can be incorporated in both academic and military training of the cadets, the Academy also engages in Foreign Academy Exchange Program and this month of July, ten (10) Cadets visited the Chulachomkloa Royal Military Academy in Thailand. This will ensure that the cadets are on par with their counterparts in military academies around the world.

These efforts of the Academy is a response to AFP's various initiatives to strengthen the country's territorial defense; otherwise, the Academy cannot provide competent leaders and commanders, which in the bigger picture would mean the AFP would fall short in fulfilling its mission to safeguard the nation and protect its people. With the implementation of the new curriculum, graduates of the Academy are not only experts and skilled on ground warfare but also they are cyber warfare, electronic warfare, naval warfare, and air warfare ready.

On 02 June, the first term for the upper class has formally begun. They are already halfway through the first term. With



New PMA Library

regards to the fourth class, they are currently undergoing New Cadet Battalion Training, which started in their reception rites conducted last 01 June. The NCBn, being the first phase of the new cadets' military training, is crucial as it serves as transition phase from civilian life to military life of the new cadets. After two months, as they are already halfway through of their NCBn, their academic training officially began on 21 July which is marked by taking the bridging courses.

On top of these programs, the academy also ensures the physical development of the cadets. The Department of Sports and Physical Development continues to lay different fitness programs. Physical Fitness Test is regularly conducted. The cadets take part into a range of organized sports activities. They participate in different local and international sports competitions. These various physical programs, activities, and engagements are designed to build the strength, endurance, and overall fitness of the cadets, which accordingly prepare them to withstand the demanding conditions they will face once deployed in the field.

With all the events transpiring locally and internationally, the call for modern-day cavaliers as heroes in action is louder than ever. All the initiatives and programs of the Academy aim to provide quality education and standard military training to its graduates who are expected to lead with integrity, act with purpose, and rise to the challenges with courage. The Academy, indeed, invests in holistic development: facilities, curriculum, and physical programs, constitute the foundation of heroes of the modern times. Though it remains to be a long and challenging path, but it cannot be denied that the Academy is on the right track. The return of investment may not be immediately evident, but its impact will undoubtedly be realized in the future as those who would have walked in the grounds of the Academy will lead the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the whole nation as well.





Baron's Dissemination

IAN HAROLD D HUBILLA
Cdt F/Cpt 1CI, CCAFP
Regimental Commander



Leading from the Ranks: A Cadet's Call and Duty to Service

From this hall shall emerge the future leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. These writings on the walls of Jurado Hall strike the vision and minds of cadets and officers alike. This statement affirms that the Philippine Military Academy (PMA)—as a premiere military training institution in the country—continues to forge men and women who will then become leaders, thinkers, public servants, and heroes in uniform. As the Regimental Commander, or more commonly known among cadets as the “Baron,” I have the honor of standing at the apex of the Cadet Corps’ leadership chain of command. This position is more than a privilege — it is a responsibility, a daily test of character, and a commitment to a principled leadership.

As we approach the upcoming National Heroes’ Day in the country, I am reminded of our duties and responsibilities in the profession of men in uniform. Through the years, heroism has evolved. It is no longer defined by mere tactical achievements in the battlefield. As a cadet, heroism begins long before we earn our commission in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). It begins with the discipline we build and foster during our cadetship, with choosing what is right over what is convenient, with leading by example, and with living out our core values—Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty—in every decision we make. It is found in the courage of cadets enduring the hardships of training. It is found in the unwavering commitment to integrity that upholds the Corps’ values despite facing ethical dilemmas. It is found in our sense of duty to serve the country and its people. As the Baron, I have to embody these ideals every day—not for popularity nor recognition, but because it is simply the right thing to do and the Corps deserves nothing less but an epitome of the ideals of cadetship.

Modern-day cavaliers are no longer conservative—they are no longer confined to the traditional battlefield engaged in counterinsurgency operations. They are now operating in humanitarian, technological, diplomatic, and educational services. Modern-day cavaliers lead disaster response operations, foster education by building schools in far-flung barangays, fly reconnaissance missions, fight cyber threats, and conduct mentoring programs to soldiers to uphold human rights and the rule of law. These are just among the myriad acts of duty that translates to acts of heroism. To serve in today’s Armed Forces means to become multi-skilled, highly-trained, and highly-adaptive to its dynamic multi-domain operational environment. Whether one is coordinating a relief operation, defending the state’s digital infrastructures, safeguarding a remote village, piloting an aircraft,

or teaching in education and training centers, one can become a hero in action—a modern-day cavalier answering the call and duty to service.

In the academy, we are taught that leadership is not only confined to the command and authority we have over our subordinates, it extends to our service to them in all forms in the performance of our duties and responsibilities as we lead the corps. Servant leadership is therefore at the heart of heroism not merely by action but by intention and purpose. Our cadetship has taught us that leadership is not about privilege—it is about responsibility. Before becoming the Baron, I have held key leadership roles in our class—from becoming the class academic officer to becoming the class marcher. Through the years, I have learned to lead from the front, to take responsibility even when it is inconvenient, to take accountability even when the fault is not my own, and to make decisions that are right. These lessons that I learned during the formative years of my cadetship and the learning that I will yet to acknowledge as I finish my cadetship will form as the foundation and bedrock that I will stand on as I enter the officer corps. I am confident that, like many PMA Cavaliers before me that have served the country, I will carry the PMA brand of leadership upholding the values of Courage, Integrity, Loyalty into a lifelong service to the nation and our people.

In my journey as a cadet, and in my aspirations to serve as an officer in the Philippine Air Force, I have come to understand that the real battlefield often lies beyond the physical realm — it is in earning and keeping the trust of the Filipino people. To my fellow cadets and future officers: our generation is called not to be mere spectators of change but to become heroes in action—in service, in innovation, in compassion. Let us meet that call and duty to serve with pure intention, purpose, wisdom and a deep love for the country and our people. Let us be the modern-day cavaliers our country needs. Let us become the living testimony of what the writings on the walls of Jurado Hall say. From the four walls of Jurado Hall to every corner of the nation, let us reaffirm the PMA mission of producing competent and principled military officers for the Republic that we swore to serve.

As we celebrate this year’s National Heroes’ Day, let us commemorate the sacrifices of our modern-day PMA cavaliers, our heroes in action. Mabuhay ang PMA. Mabuhay ang Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas. At higit sa lahat, mabuhay ang mga Bagong Kabalyero (*Modern-Day Cavaliers*)—ang mga Bayaning Kumikilos (*Heroes in Action*).



The Wonder Years

COURAGE

INTEGRITY

LOYALTY

RETIREES SECTION

PMARAI visits VMMC

The PMARAI’s Board of Directors, led by its President Gen Ricardo A David Jr (Ret), visited the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) last 08 August 2025.

The group was warmly welcomed by Dr Peter Paul A Galvez, VMMC hospital Director. Dr Galvez and his staff who later briefed the group on the updated status of the VMMC facility, its personnel and its patients.

The briefing covered the most prevalent cases and patient care and programs. One of such programs is the establishment of the V.A.L.O.R. clinics. The program aims to extend the reach of VMMC medical care outside of its current location by establishing extension clinics all over the country.

After the lecture, the Board, assisted by the hospital staff, visited confined PMARAI members and provided them with gifts.



PMARAI Partners with VMMC

for the Care, Access to benefits, Disease Education and Treatment (C.A.D.E.T) Forum

PMARAI, in cooperation with the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, conducted an online web forum to have a better understanding of health care for retirees. It covered four sessions focusing on V.A.L.O.R. clinics, mental health, colorectal cancer, prostate care and erectile dysfunction.

Session 1: V.A.L.O.R (Veterans Access to Lifetime Optimized health caRe)

Dr Alfredo C Alarcon presented the VALOR health network program, an effort to provide wider access to veterans across

the nation. Only 26,000 out of the 400,000 veterans were served by VMMC and there is an average of 4,000 additional retirees annually. This is primarily due to the distance and proximity of VMMC to its clients. Two pilot sites were opened where medical teams were dispatched to provide medical service to veterans near the site every Wednesday. One in Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila and the other is in Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas. NOLCOM and SOLCOM will follow next as part of Phase 1 (2025). Phase 2 (2026) and Phase 3 (2027) will cover other areas in the country.

PMARAI BOARD 2025-2026



CAV RICARDO A. DAVID, JR '77
CHAIRMAN PMARAI



CAV FELIPE H. BUENA '78
PRESIDENT PMARAI



CAV RAMON C. LIWAG '79
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CAV RAFAEL G. MARIANO '84
ELECTION & AMENDMENTS



CAV NARCISO A. VINGSON, JR '85
SPORTS & FELLOWSHIP



CAV ARNOLD F. FERNANDEZ '86
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Session 2: Guarding your Gut: Understanding and Preventing Colorectal Cancer

Dr Adrian F Bugayong presented the structure of the colon which could develop polyps. Not all polyps lead to cancer but one may in ten years develop cancer cells. Early detection with proper treatment may arrest the growth and spread of the cancer cells. Colon cancer is one of the most common causes of death in the country and in the world. It does not show symptoms at an early stage, hence screening is encouraged for people above 50 years old, especially for those with first degree relative (FDR) wherein it should be done 10 years earlier than the age that the said FDR has died of the cancer. Reduce the risk by eating rich fiber foods, healthy lifestyle (avoid cigarettes and alcohol) and screening or consultation with a medical doctor. Colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and beatable.

Session 3: Prostate Cancer Uncovered. Early Detection and Treatment for a Healthier Retirement.

Dr Jonathan Ariel P Dumlao described the prostate, its location and function. Enlargement of the prostate affects urination. One symptom of enlarged prostate is voiding (Obstructive), which includes weak urine stream, hesitancy, intermittent flow, prolonged urination and feeling of incomplete emptying. Another symptom is storage (Irritative), manifested by increased frequency, nocturia (waking at night to pee), urgency and urge incontinence. Tests include PSA test, ultrasound and digital rectal exam. Prostate can be treated depending on its severity by medication, surgery and therapy.

Dr Dumlao also discussed erectile dysfunction in his *Usapang Paninindigan* segment. Erectile dysfunction affects one out of five males aged 40 yrs and above. It is caused by heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, hormonal imbalance, obesity, smoking

VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE
AND OUTPATIENT SERVICES
WITH THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
RETIRES ASSOCIATION INC.

VALOR CLINICS:
YOUR NEW ALLIES TO VETERAN HEALTHCARE
Alfredo C. Azarcon, MD

GUARDING YOUR GUT:
UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING
COLORECTAL CANCER
Adrian F. Bugayong, MD

PROSTATE CANCER UNCOVERED:
EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT FOR
A HEALTHIER RETIREMENT
Jonathan P. Dumlao, MD

MISSION MIND:
PROTECTING YOUR BRAIN HEALTH
AFTER SERVICE
Joseree S. Catindig-Dela Rosa, MD

MODERATOR
Aileen V. Manicsic, MD

AUG. 29, 2025 | 10:00 AM
C.A.D.E.T. FORUM
AN ONLINE WEBINAR

CARE, ACCESS TO BENEFITS,
DISEASE EDUCATION AND
TREATMENT

and alcohol and drug side effects. He discussed on the International Index of Erectile Function composed of five questions. Ways to address erectile dysfunction is by PDE5 inhibitors medication (sildenafil, tadalafil, Vardenafil), hormone therapy, injectable medications or urethral suppository, vacuum devices (pump) and surgical options (implants). Sexual therapy can also address the problem. Avoid ED with regular exercise, quit smoking and avoid stress.

Session 4: Mission Mind. Protecting Your Brain Health After Service.

Dr Joseree-Ann S Catindig-Dela Rosa started with two questions: Is poor memory a normal part of getting old? and; All of us forget things, is forgetting things dementia? Dementia is an increasing concern in the world, every three seconds a person is diagnosed with dementia. Dementia is associated with loss of wit, memory, speech, comprehension and time or space or location awareness. Hence, the answer to the first question is, poor memory is not a normal part of getting old, it is treatable. The ABC of dementia is cognition, function and behavior, all of these are affected. Dementia could be Alzheimer’s disease (the most common), Vascular, Lewy body or Frontotemporal. The person’s brain with dementia shrinks, and the loss of memory is the most common sign, including inability of doing simple tasks and recognition of time or location. Showing such symptoms should trigger consultation with a medical doctor. Reduce risk with continued learning, increased activities and social interaction. Listen to music and play instruments. Do gardening. Eat healthy foods and increase nuts intake and omega 3. Control diabetes and hypertension, avoid smoking and excessive alcohol and address hearing loss. Forgetting things is not dementia and not part of getting old. The secret to living well and longer is eat half, walk double, laugh triple and love without measure.



PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY RETIREES ASSOCIATION INC.

The Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc (PMARAI) is a Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) registered non-stock, non-profit organization composed of all regular and associate members of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc (PMAAAI), who have retired from or have otherwise ceased to be in the active service of the AFP, PNP and PCG. We are one of the Chapters of PMAAAI, whose members are no longer in the active service.



Our Vision

To be the model alumni association of retirees recognized as a respected and influential organization.



Our Mission

Promote the general welfare of members, support the ideals of the academy and PMAAAI, and contribute to national development.



Our Core Values

- Courage, Integrity & Loyalty
- Mutual Respect
- Leadership
- Excellence



Our Lines of Effort

For the Members:

- Professional Development
- Financial Security
- Access to Health Care
- Sports Development

For PMA:

- Cadet Nurturing Program
- Active Participation in Retired Officers Programs

For the Country:

- Public Awareness Program
- Active Participation in Reservist Programs

PMAAAI PA Chapter News

PMAAA-ACCI Formally Welcomes PMA “Siklab-Laya” Class of 2025

The 327 members of the Philippine Army Group of the Philippine Military Academy “Siklab-Laya” Class of 2025 were formally inducted into the PMAAA-Army Cavaliers Chapter, Inc. (PMAAA-ACCI) fold during a fervent **Induction and Oath-Taking Ceremony** on the 20th of July 2025, held at the Non-Commissioned Officers’ Clubhouse, Headquarters Support Command, Philippine Army.

The event signified the formal acceptance of the newly-commissioned lieutenants into the Army chapter alumni association, marking a pivotal milestone as they embark on their professional military careers. The event was graced by the Commander of the Support Command, PA, MGEN ROGELIO D ULANDAY of PMA “*Bigkis-Lahi*” Class of 1990, who served as Guest of Honor and Speaker.

The program commenced with a solemn invocation, setting a dignified tone for the proceedings. The President of the PMAAA-ACCI, CAV DIOSDADO CARLOS D PAMBID of PMA “*Mabikas*” Class of 1996, delivered the Welcome Remarks and Chapter Orientation. In his address, CAV PAMBID warmly welcomed the young officers, emphasizing the enduring bond of the “Long Gray Line” and the crucial role the PMAAA-ACCI plays in fostering camaraderie, mentorship, and mutual support among Army cavaliers throughout their service. He oriented the inductees on the association’s mission, vision, and the responsibilities that come with being a member.

A highlight of the event was a compelling Audio-Visual Presentation (AVP) showcasing the journey and aspirations of the PMA Class of 2025 “Army Group.” This was followed by a heartfelt message from a representative of the inductee class, who expressed their collective gratitude and unwavering commitment to serve the nation and uphold the esteemed traditions of the Academy as they officially begin their careers in the Philippine Army.

The centerpiece of the ceremony was the Oath-Taking, where the members of PMA CL 2025 “Army Group” formally pledged their allegiance to the ideals and bylaws of the Chapter. This symbolized their official transition from cadets to alum members, joining a community of distinguished leaders.

Following the oath, the Guest of Honor and Speaker, CAV ROGELIO D ULANDAY ‘90, was formally introduced. In his inspirational message, CAV ULANDAY drew from his extensive experience, offering profound wisdom and guidance to the new second lieutenants.



He challenged the “Siklab-Laya” cavaliers to lead with the highest standards of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, reminding them that their character will be their most vital asset in the field. He underscored the importance of continuous learning and adaptability in navigating the complex challenges of modern military leadership.

The ceremony concluded with the poignant singing of the Alma Mater Song. The unified voices of the youngest and senior cavaliers, from Class 2025 to Class 1990 and beyond, echoed through the hall—a powerful testament to the timeless and unbroken bond that unites all graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. The event not only marked the formal entry of the PMA CL 2025 Army Group into the alumni association but also reinforced the traditions of mentorship and unity that define the PMA Cavalry.



BULLETIN

PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI)

The PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI) as an affiliate of PMAAAI since its inception in 1976 and with the new Board of Trustees led by the Chairman CAV MAGTANGGOL B GATDULA '76 for FY 2025-2026 after having taken oath last May, buckled down to work with renewed enthusiasm, vigor and commitment to pursue its mandate, deliver and make things happen for the Association and its members.

Guided by the theory and philosophy of Servant Leadership, we shall always work for the greater interest directed towards the growth, development and welfare of our members.

When PETFI was established in 1976, it had served and continue to provide scholarships to qualified dependents. The following is the statistics to show:

Total Number of Scholars since 1976	Total Number of Graduates
556	329

Current Scholar for SY 2025-2026

- College: 15
- High School: 17
- Elementary: 9
- **Total: 41 scholars**

Corollarily, PETFI recognizes and awards special recognition and monetary benefits to their scholars for their outstanding academic performances:

Name	Academic Achievement	
Miller, Andhee Thereze V	Grade 6, With High Honors	
Foja, Ramon Ricardo	Graduate, BS Management Accounting, University of Batangas	
Quiaño, Dian Charlyz A	Graduate of Grade 12, With Honors	

At this juncture, PETFI encourages every Cavalier to join and be a member!

MEMBERSHIP

PETFI now proudly counts a total of 6,329 members, broken down as follows:

- Regular Members: 6,151
- Affiliate Members: 178

PETFI SCHOLARS SY 2025-2026

ELEMENTARY LEVEL



ADAN, ARIS BRENTT A
son of the late
Cav Markevin M Adan '17 PN

ADAN, CAERUS EMMANUEL A
son of the late
Cav Markevin M Adan '17 PN

BAYAO, ABRIELLE JOHANNA J
daughter of the late
Cav John M Bayao Jr '07 PAF



BELEN, GABRIEL DAVE L
son of the late
Cav Eraño B Belen '10 PAF

CONSTANTINO, SEAN JAY S
son of Cav Jayrold
E Constantino '07 PAF

CORONG, DAVID ISRAEL A.
son of Cav Israel N Corong '00 PAF



CUBILLAN, MA. SOPHIA VENICE M
daughter of Cav Raphael Vicente T
Cubillan '14 PA

DAGUIJO, MARC JOHN R
son of Cav Marlou C Daguijo '05 PA

PASINOS, RUTH MARIANNE DG
daughter of Cav Ian Gerru C
Pasinos '11 PAF

HS AND SHS LEVEL



BALIGNASAY, XIANNE C.
daughter of Cav Elwood
Balignasay '05 PA

BAYAO, GABRIEL CYRIL J.
son of Cav Marc John M
Bayao Jr '07 PAF

BERNARDO, LUCIUS FEODORE P
son of Cav Fiorelio D
Bernardo '10 PAF

HS AND SHS LEVEL



CAGA-ANAN, CYREINNE M
daughter of Cav Dexter
Caga-anan '02 PN

CAGA-ANAN, ADREINNE M
daughter of Cav Dexter
Caga-anan '02 PN

CAPIO, ESTHER MAY L
daughter of Cav Clinton L
Capiro '06 PA

DAGUIO, MAHRIELE BRYNNE D
daughter of Cav Rodel B
Daguio '07 PA

GABUNA, MATTHEW PIO B
son of Cav Orville Gabuna '67 PNP



GABUNA, MIGUEL PIO B
son of Cav Orville Gabuna '67 PNP

DAMIAN, SOPHIA ANDREA C
daughter of Cav Francis G
Damian '07 PA

DAGUIO, MARLJON R
son of Cav Marlou C Daguio '05 PA

DE LEON, RAYMOND LINDLEY N
Son of Cav Raymond N
De Leon '03 PAF

MILLER, ANDHEE THEREZE V
daughter of Cav Jessie D
Miller '10 PAF



PASCO, RAJAN JIROU M
son of Cav Rexzon Pasco '04 PAF

QUIAÑO, DIAN CHARLYZ A
daughter of Cav Dennis Ellis A
Quiaño '92 PA

QUIAÑO, ROX NEO A
son of Cav Dennis Ellis A
Quiaño '92 PA

TAGANAS, ICELYN FERDINAND DC
daughter of Cav Ferdinand D
Taganas '06 PNP

COLLEGE LEVEL



BULATAO, GENRICK PAUL D
son of Cav Erick G Bulatao '03 PA

CARANDANG, PAULO MIGUEL J
son of Cav Apollo A
Carandang '03 PAF

CORPUZ, PAULINE L
sister of Cav Jun Corpuz '14 PA

CORONG, ELLA ANGELA A.
daughter of Cav Israel N
Corong '00 PAF

DELA VEGA, ALJANNE MARTIN Z
son of Cav Allan Victor T
Dela Vega '93 PCG

DE LEON, REECIE LEIGH N
daughter of Cav Raymond N
De Leon '03 PAF



FOJA, RODRIGO V JR
son of Cav Rodrigo A
Foja Sr '87 PNP

GABUNA, MIKAELA LIANA B
daughter of Cav Orville
Gabuna '67 PNP

GABRIEL, MARY GABRIELLE P
daughter of Cav Randy E
Gabriel '01 PAF

GAYOSA, DANIEL INRI II O
son of Cav Daniel Inri S
Gayosa '93 PCG

NAVIDA, MIGUEL ROBERTO E
son of Cav Roberto Navida '71 PNP

PASCO, RAJMUND JAROMIR M
son of Cav Rexzon Pasco '04 PAF

PANTALEON, ZACH NICOLO L
son of Cav Christopher
Pantaleon '04 PA



SACRAMENTO, BIANCA MARIE G
daughter of Cav Roberto
Sacramento '71



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FEMALE CAVALIER SEGMENT

Flight, Fortitude, and Leadership: Thriving in a Uniformed World

CAV/ MARIA GHIRLY A SOLIS PAF – PMA CL2002

“Service must be more than just doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation.”

— Margaret Chase Smith



For Cavalier Maria Ghirly A Solis, these words are not just a guiding principle—they are a way of life. A proud alumna of PMA “Sanlingan” Class of 2002 and a distinguished officer of the Philippine Air Force (PAF), Cavalier Solis embodies the ideals of service, integrity, and excellence.

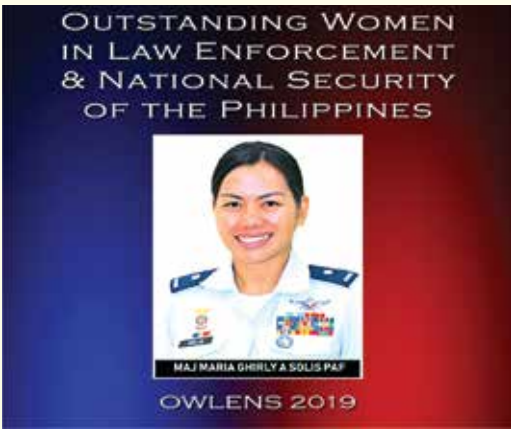
Raised in the modest town of Cumawas, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, she has ascended through the ranks with quiet strength and resolute purpose in a profession long dominated by men. Her journey from provincial roots to the top echelons of military leadership reflects a powerful narrative of resilience, competence, and adaptability—qualities that have defined her as an officer, mentor, and role model.

Her aviation journey took flight as a UH-1H combat helicopter pilot under the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing. Demonstrating both skill and composure, she later joined the elite 250th Presidential Airlift Wing where she flew the Bell 412 and S-70A Black Hawk helicopters. She is/was the first female PAF pilot being trained to fly a S-70A Black Hawk helicopter. Her versatility further extends to operating the MD500E (an aircraft donated by the Department of Public Works and Highways) and the Agusta 109 as trained by the Philippine Navy. As a Presidential Pilot, she bore the immense responsibility of transporting the President, First Family, and other high-ranking officials—missions that required utmost precision, discretion, and unwavering loyalty.

Parallel to her operational excellence, Cavalier Solis has invested heavily in her professional growth. She began with foundational courses such as the Basic Air Force Officer Course and Squadron Officer Course. Her pursuit of continuous learning culminated in completing the Command and General Staff Course at the AFP Education, Training and Doctrine Command (ETDC). Simultaneously, she earned a Master in Development Administration Major in Security from the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in 2022—an impressive academic feat that further solidified her strategic leadership skills. More recently, in 2024, she added to her credentials the Leadership in Real Estate Management Program from the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), reinforcing her capability to lead in multifaceted roles within and beyond military contexts.

Her development as a global-minded leader is equally remarkable. Cavalier Solis has participated in prestigious international trainings such as the United Nations Military Observer Course in Hanoi, Vietnam, the International Aviation Safety Course in Melbourne, Australia, and the Bell 412 Flight Simulator trainings in Fort Worth, Texas, USA. These experiences underscore her dedication to aligning Philippine military standards with global best practices.





Over the years, Cavalier Solis has taken on a diverse array of leadership roles. From being Group Commander of the 570th Air Base Group, to Assistant Chief of the Air Force Real Estate Office, and Assistant Chief of the Promotion Division, OJ-1, AFP General Headquarters, she has consistently demonstrated operational effectiveness and strategic foresight. She also served as Chief of the Unified Command Staff for Personnel (U1) at the Eastern Mindanao Command—an assignment that placed her at the heart of human resource development in a joint operational environment.

Currently, she serves as the Group Commander of Tactical Operations Group 10, where she leads with strategic precision in fulfilling the unit's primary mission- to plan, control, and coordinate the employment of air power within its area of responsibility, which includes Northern Mindanao. Her command ensures that the Air

Force's tactical operations in the region are conducted with efficiency, responsiveness, and alignment with national defense objectives.

What truly sets Cavalier Solis apart is her authentic leadership style—firm yet compassionate, disciplined yet grounded. Her ability to inspire teams, adapt to complexity, and lead with humility has left a lasting impression wherever she is assigned. Her leadership is not merely transactional—it is transformational.

In reflecting on the challenges she faced as a female pilot and officer in the PAF, Cavalier Solis acknowledges that many obstacles were physical. However, she emphasizes the culture of mutual support among uniformed personnel: *"We develop because the people around us are trying to make us the best of what we can be."*

Her exceptional service has garnered numerous accolades. She was named PAF Officer of the Year in 2017 and recipient of the Outstanding Women in the Defense Force Award, conferred by the Secretary of National Defense in 2017. She also received the "Galing" Award in 2018. In 2019, she was honored as one of the Outstanding Women in Law Enforcement and National Security (OWLENS). Each of these honors is a testament to her influence—not only within the military—but in the broader realm of national service.

Today, her presence at the Philippine Air Force sends a clear message: thriving in a male-dominated organization is not only possible—it is inevitable when anchored on competence, character, and courage.

In a uniformed world, Cavalier Maria Ghirly A. Solis does more than fly helicopters. She leads with vision, builds with purpose, and inspires with heart.



The search is on for the next most Outstanding Women in Law Enforcement and National Security (OWLENS)

Malacañan Palace, March 11, 2019 OWLENS 2019 Awardees



VISITOR'S ACCOUNTS



GEN EDGAR AGLIPAY: A New Mission for Cagayan's Future

• CAV JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS '69

Published Jun 16, 2025 Manila Bulletin

BARRACKS AND STRATEGY

The resounding victory of retired Police General “Egay” Aglipay in the 2025 Cagayan gubernatorial race is more than a political milestone—it is a defining moment for the province. Known for his sterling service record and ironclad leadership as a former Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Aglipay now returns to the forefront of public service, this time armed with both the credibility of his past and a vision for Cagayan’s future.

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1971, Aglipay embodies the discipline, honor, and patriotism deeply instilled in every cadet. But his accomplishments extend far beyond his military education. He carved his name in the

country’s national history as a reformist police officer, a staunch advocate for accountability, and a leader who believes in servant governance.

A record built on integrity and action

During his term as PNP Chief in 2004, albeit brief, Aglipay launched one of the most transformative initiatives in the organization—the CARE program, which stood for Courtesy, Action, Results, and Example. This program was not just a slogan but a call to arms for the rank-and-file to return to the core values of public service. His leadership was hands-on, pragmatic, and fearless. He dealt head-on with the issue of corruption in the police force, particularly the deeply rooted practice of “kotong,” or extortion.

Aglipay did not hesitate to implement unpopular but necessary reforms. He established disciplinary barracks, retraining erring police officers to redirect their careers toward honest service. This proactive, solution-oriented mindset sets him apart from traditional bureaucrats. As he transitions to his new civilian role as governor, this tenacity and ethical leadership are exactly what Cagayan needs.

Translating uniformed leadership to civilian governance

Skeptics may wonder whether a military and police background is compatible with local governance. But in Aglipay’s case, the transition appears not only natural but advantageous. His strategic planning acumen, crisis management skills, and command experience are highly transferable to running a provincial government.

Cagayan, like many other provinces in the country, struggles with infrastructure gaps, healthcare accessibility, underemployment, and climate vulnerability. These are not mere administrative issues—they are multidimensional challenges that require a leader who can unify stakeholders, create data-driven policies, and see projects through to execution. These are precisely the skills honed through decades of leading high-stakes operations in the police and military.

More importantly, Aglipay is not new to civilian leadership either. After retiring from police service, he served in various public and private capacities and became an advocate for peace and order even outside uniform. He understands both the bureaucratic machinery and the importance of grassroots engagement.

A vision anchored on order, development, and opportunity

Governor Aglipay’s administration is expected to focus on three primary pillars: peace and order, inclusive economic development, and transparent governance. His familiarity with law enforcement will undoubtedly be an asset in addressing criminality, illegal drugs, and smuggling—issues that have plagued the northern provinces, including Cagayan, for years.

However, Aglipay also recognizes that peace and order are only the foundation. His campaign promises emphasized modernization of agriculture, development of coastal and ecotourism, and improved disaster resilience. He vowed to work closely with national agencies to bring in more infrastructure projects—roads, bridges, irrigation systems—that would connect far-flung barangays to economic centers.

Education and youth empowerment are also on his agenda. He believes in strengthening technical and vocational training programs and enhancing scholarship access for underprivileged students. For someone who once led thousands of police officers, Aglipay knows that investing in human capital is essential for long-term growth and stability.

Egay is Chair of the EMME Group of Companies, a conglomerate engaged in the business of logistics, security, trading, property, construction and energy. His business conglomerate grew through the application of moral and ethical leadership and, entrepreneurial management principles. He shares this success with wife Mawie, a business partnership forged in love. This strength bodes well as he navigates the economic and business affairs of the province.

Leadership by example

Perhaps what sets Aglipay apart from many of his contemporaries is his deep sense of accountability. In every position he has held, he has led not by title but by example. His PMA roots

remind him constantly of the seal— “Courage, Integrity, Loyalty.” These are not just words to him; they are values that define his every decision.

In a province often beset by dynastic politics, Aglipay’s entry provides a refreshing alternative—leadership grounded not in lineage, but in competence and public trust. He has nothing to prove, but everything to give.

A governor with a mission

Cagayan now finds itself under the stewardship of a man who has proven himself in the national arena. Edgar Aglipay’s return is not a mere comeback—it is a call to reimagine local governance through the lens of disciplined leadership, public service, and visionary planning.

As Governor Aglipay begins his term, the people of Cagayan can expect more than promises—they can anticipate results. And if his record is any indication, those results will be grounded in action, integrity, and the unwavering commitment to the people he now serves.

(Lt. Gen. Jaime S. de los Santos served with distinction as a military professional, 42nd Commanding Gen. Philippine Army, 1st Force Commander, UN Multi-National Peacekeeping Force in East Timor, former member, UP Board of Regents and Professorial Lecturer II (part-time), UP-Diliman.)



Long-Time Volunteer Honoured

• JAIDY KENNEDY



On the King's Birthday, Walter Villagonzalo was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to the Wyndham community.

Since arriving in Australia in 1988, the Hoppers Crossing resident and former deputy mayor has certainly left his mark.

"We moved here in 1988 and I originally got involved with Filipino and migrant communities," Mr Villagonzalo said.

Making good money in his profession, he decided to follow a path that valued a different form of currency.

"I chose to do volunteer work because I love the feeling of being useful," he explained.

His decision involved some sacrifice.

"Being a volunteer, I was spending a lot of time and missing a lot of family dinners in order to support the community," he said.

Which is what makes the recognition special.

"To me it's just recognition and acknowledgment of work and service that's been done. It means a lot to me, especially since I am getting this as a full time volunteer."

The journey of a migrant is seldom simple.

"I brought my family back to the Philippines after 12 years, and as a migrant I still felt like I still didn't belong," Mr Villagonzalo said.

"[My children said] But dad, we are Australians, so we had to make a decision."

"That's why I ran for council five times, to help out with migrant rights."

Before he stepped into the council chambers in 2016, Mr Villagonzalo was already well known.

"In 2015, I fell from a trailer and broke my leg, and then I spent six months in a wheelchair, but I still volunteered by supporting asylum seekers."

He did that through the Migrant Hub, a social enterprise he founded in 2009 to help newly arrived migrants assimilate into Australian society.

For his assistance to those in need while ambulant himself, he was named the 2015 Wyndham Citizen of the Year.

More than two decades into his volunteer journey, Mr Villagonzalo decided to breathe new life into the community – quite literally.

In 2021, he founded the Canopy Accelerator Cooperative to address the low rates of trees and canopy coverage in Wyndham and the western suburbs more broadly.

"I saw there was a gap that wasn't being met," Mr Villagonzalo said.

The social enterprise, for which he still volunteers, grows trees so that other organisations can purchase them for their own canopy increasing initiatives.

Having been involved in agribusinesses in the Philippines that helped grow vegetables on lands devastated by volcanic eruptions, Wyndham has also benefitted from Mr Villagonzalo's sharp mind and green thumbs.

"After my term in council, we started the cooperative so that groups Vicroads, council and Melbourne Water can use the trees we plant," he said.

"What are they going to use if no one is growing the seeds?"

Trees aren't the only thing growing.

"We saw the growth—and we are now ready to scale and pitch the company to other councils."

Rotary, Hoppers Crossing Neighbourhood Watch and Weerama are just a few of the many organizations Mr Villagonzalo has lent his hand to over the years

Of his journey he said, *"I have no regrets, I feel like I have served my purpose."*



This article was published at Wyndham (Australia)/Star Weekly on 09 June 2025 by Jaidy Kennedy

A recipient of Cavalier Award, AY 2022-2023, Cav Villagonzalo '75 former VP for Computer Systems at the AFPMBAI and AFPSLAI moved to Melbourne Australia with his family in 1986 and worked with computers, operated businesses and served as a community volunteer. He received several Volunteer Awards including:

- Paul Harris Fellow (2015) for Community Service, Rotary International
- Australia's Social Enterprise Champion Award 2016
- Philippine-Australian Achiever Award 2016
- Pamana ng Pilipino Award 2021, the highest recognition given by the Philippine government to Filipinos overseas conferred by the Philippine President

In Wyndham City, Cav Villagonzalo was Community Engagement Awardee, Citizen of the Year, and Councillor and Deputy Mayor.

Vignettes of Elder CAVALIERS

Filipinos in Spanish Military Service

• CAV ERNESTO B CALUPIG '61

I. Introduction

During the entire period of Spanish rule, records show that native Filipinos had been utilized in their campaigns not only within the archipelago but also in their foreign wars. Whether they were volunteer troops or conscripts, they fought under the Spanish banner with loyalty, if not with distinction, in every campaign against the regime's domestic foes and against its foreign enemies.

The use by Spain of native troops was necessitated by the meager number of Spanish troops in the islands. It must be recalled that at the time of the colonization of the Philippines, Spain wielded power over a vast empire which included the South American continent in almost its entirety. The need to garrison her far-flung territories stretched the resources of Spain to the maximum. In order to lighten this burden of military service, the Spanish authorities organized Filipino units along the lines of the Spanish military organization. The strength of these military units was not constant but varied according to the seriousness of the situation.

II. Organization of the Army and Navy

There is a paucity of records depicting in detail how the army and naval establishments were organized prior to the 19th Century. However, the reforms and reorganizations in the middle of the 19th century designed to strengthen and modernize the armed services offer us the opportunity to examine the formal organizational structure. This period was one of great insecurity for Spain, occasioned by internal revolts, rising brigandage, the Moro raids, and the ambition of other colonial powers to gain a foothold in the Philippines.

Eleodoro Robles gives a detailed account of the organization of the army and navy as it existed during this period. As a useful background knowledge, I will present a broad overview of its general structure. It is worthwhile to remember that except for the officer corps and some special units, like the artillery and cavalry, the bulk of the rank and file were native Filipinos.

For operational purposes, the Infantry was distributed regionally. At first, six regiments called *Milicias Disciplinadas* (all in Luzon) and three companies of the same nature (in Zamboanga) were organized as active reserves to add to the regular army of peninsular Spaniards called *Cuerpos Veteranos* composed of five regiments bearing the names of the Royal family. By a Royal Order of September 1851 all militia companies (except provincial units) were integrated into the regular force. All Infantry Regiments were grouped into four Brigades. The Cavalry Corps was organized into a regiment of four squadrons. The Artillery Corps had two brigades each with four batteries. The Cavalry and Artillery were composed solidly of Spaniards. The Corps of Engineers consisted of three labor companies. The regular enlistment term in these units was eight years.

The guardians of domestic peace and order were the Constabulary force called the *Tercios de Guardia Civil* (Civil Guard), and the police force in every town known as the *Cuerpo de Cuadrilleros* (Rural



A Filipino and a Spaniard soldiers in the Spanish Army, 1897 (CTTO)

Police). The Guardia Civil was organized on a military basis, patterned after a similar body in Spain. It had three regiments, two in Luzon and one in the Visayas. The *Cuadrilleros* were strictly the constables for the towns. Service in the *Cuadrilleros* was for a term of three years.

The naval establishment had its own organization. Its operating forces included a contingent of war vessels from the Spanish Navy, a privateer shore patrol force (*Marina Sutil*), the Cavite Navy yard, marine units, and an auxiliary land force known as *Carabñeros de Filipinos*.

The nature regiments were organized according to regions, but stationed or employed in provinces other than where they come from. The rationale behind this was to prevent their fraternizing with the civilian population.

III. Quality of the Personnel in the Armed Services

Numerous Spanish accounts depicted the respect that the Spaniards had for the Filipino Soldiers serving under. Many Spanish

writers actually testified to the quality of the native soldiers. Baldomero Maldonado, commander of the fort of Manila, described the native troops enrolled and enlisted for one campaign as soldiers of great boldness and skill, especially those from Pampanga and the vicinity of Manila. Fr. Miguel de Benavides said that the Filipinos were "excellent soldiers, shooting even better than the Spaniards with their muskets and arquebuses."

If the Filipino rank and file earned such good accounts, the same could not be said for the officers who were placed above them. Blair and Robertson gave following description:

"The army of the Filipino Islands is officered in great part by Spaniards of the country, and by some mestizos. The officer who is a native of the country (insulares) has all the lax characteristics which the climate induces. He likes the military career solely for the conveniences of his office. He is incapable of a noble emulation, and limits himself in the service to the outside and very unexact fulfillment of the necessary obligations of his position, and when the cause of the legitimate government exacts on his part sacrifices incompatible with his own interests of those of his neighbors, he disowns them and absolutely abandons his duties. For these reasons, the officers born in that country have never come to merit the confidence of their chiefs, and if from the rank of cadets they have been promoted to the rank of captain, it has been more from the peremptory necessity of completing the military corps and protecting the service than on account of their fitness, military spirit, or appreciation of the confidence and honor which the King bestows on them."

This account goes on to describe how the soldiers were made to perform menial tasks by their officers. One commanding officer was known to have built himself a country house, the whole of the masonry and carpentry being performed by soldiers of his regiments. Another was of a captain collecting his debts by means of a picket of infantry, taking possession of his debtor's house until payment was made.

Little wonder then that charges of ill discipline were sometimes aired against the native troops. Officers who made their soldiers subservient to such purposes could be expected to be indifferent to the excesses committed by their men. This was especially true in the Guardia Civil where cruelties, tortures, as well as abuse of authority were prevalent, giving that organization a bad reputation among the people.

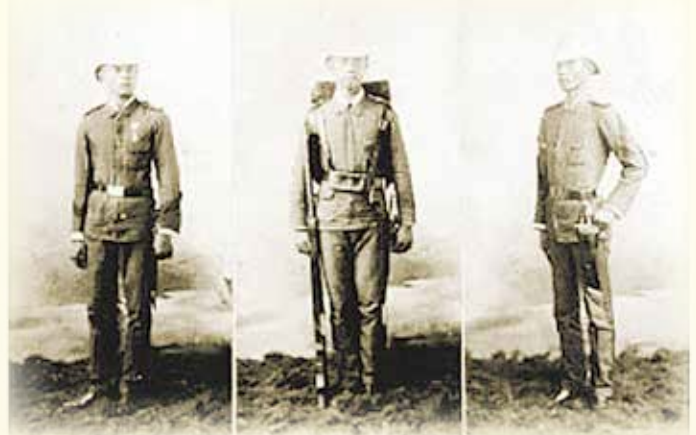
In all fairness, the above remarks applied more particularly to the mestizo officers. The peninsular Spaniards (PENINSULARES) formed a more respectable class of officers.

IV. Apprehensions Regarding Use of Filipino Troops

Occasionally, some uneasiness was voiced about putting arms into the hands of any native group. These apprehensions were primarily due to two reasons. First, some authorities felt that the great reliance that the government placed on these native troops to fight their wars somehow might lower the prestige of Spain in the eyes of the populace. Maldonado expressed this sentiment when he said "we lose great reputation if we give them to understand that we need them for any occasion of war rather than for only rowers and servants. It is, after God, the reputation of the Spanish nation in these districts that has sustained and is sustaining us here."

The other was the ever-present likelihood of a large-scale mutiny. Sinibalo de Mas cites the riot in 1819 when the people, thinking that the devastation caused by cholera was due to the venom which foreigners had thrown into the river, massacred many foreigners. Even the Archbishop parading the Holy Eucharist in the streets was unable to stop the killings. Said Mas, "it is sad that on the third day, everything calmed down when native soldiers arrived. And if they had joined the mutineers, what might have been the results? How could we have punished the ex-mutineer troops? What troops would have fired upon insurrecting native troops?"

The Spaniards resorted to several measures to remedy the situation. Basco formed a regiment of Chinese mestizos while



Carabineros: De Servicio. De Guardia de Diario. De Paseo
Filipino Officers in service of the Spanish Royal Army (CTTO)

Marquina asked for Swiss mercenaries. Suggestions were made to recruit mercenaries from the natives of Borneo or other neighboring islands of the archipelago, or from India, if the English government did not object. Sinibalo de Mas, who appeared to be some sort of an extremist, gave the following view. "In the military service the natives should only be enlisted men or at the most, corporals in rank. It is better to let a Spanish rancher even if he can neither read nor write be an officer or sergeant rather than the most intelligent native. On the contrary, the more worthy and intelligent the latter may be, the bigger the mistakes to be committed. Here one plays at a game of the loser winning. To bestow the rank of officer to the most vicious, cowardly and degraded is less dangerous and more permissible."

The considerable number of Filipinos who attained the rank of sergeant or corporal occasioned some uneasiness. It was observed that many of the mutinies and seditions in the army originated from this group. It was observed that the ordinary soldiers readily followed them, and that they had more influence with the common soldiers than their superior officers. In the crisis of a revolution, this could be indeed a dangerous situation. But were these fears justified? On the whole, these apprehensions proved groundless, as later events showed. It was only during the Philippine Revolution when the spirit of nationalism finally took firm roots that these troops began to desert their colors en masse.

We shall see how these troops participated in the wars of Spain. Spanish accounts show that native Filipinos constituted the great majority of the forces engaged.

V. The Expeditions to the Muluccas

When Philip II became King of Portugal as well as Spain in 1580, he gave the Spaniards in the Philippines the responsibility of defending the Spice Islands. These islands have always attracted many Europeans because of their exotic products. The first of the organized Spanish expeditions was led by Don Gonzalo Ronquillo de Peñalosa (1580-1583) who formed a force of some 300 Spaniards and more than 1,500 Pilipinos. This expedition captured Ternate but returned to Manila without establishing a permanent settlement.

The most successful expedition sent to the Muluccas was the one led by Gov Don Pedro de Acuña in 1606. It consisted of 1,423 Spaniards, 344 Pampangueño and Tagalog Soldiers, 620 other Filipinos conscripted solely for this expedition and 629 rowers. Leaving behind 500 men to garrison Ternate, the expedition returned with the monarch and some of his principal subordinates as hostages. The Filipinos distinguished in this expedition, as in the other. On their return they were given a triumphant reception in Manila.

VI. The Dutch Wars

When Philip II became King of both Portugal and Spain, he also inherited the Netherlands from his father Charles V. The Dutch

were determined to withdraw their allegiance from Spain. With the acquisition of the Portuguese markets in the Moluccas, Spain ordered their closing to the Dutch. In retaliation, the Dutch who had by that time achieved the status of a first class maritime power waged a relentless campaign to secure the source of the spices themselves. What followed was a heart-breaking war of long duration. The Dutch sent their fleets off Manila and Macao to disrupt the vital China trade. They also aimed to cripple the Galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco. It was only by super-human efforts that the colony survived. Forced labor contingents were drafted year after year to cut timber, build the ships. Natives were conscripted to man these ships. These hastily mobilized fleets sought out the Dutch blockading squadrons and won the great sea battles known in Philippine naval annals as the battles of Playa Honda (1610, 1617, 1628).

In 1647, a Dutch squadron anchored off Abucay. The town was garrisoned by 150 Pampangueño troops and five Spaniards under the command of the alcalde-mayor. Besieged by a superior Dutch force, the alcalde-mayor decided to surrender. The Filipinos objected and insisted on fighting, saying that when their ammunition was exhausted, they would hurl themselves against the foe tooth and nail and died like good soldiers, fighting in the service of God and the king. Nearly all of them were killed, the rest taken prisoners.

VII. The British Invasion

Spain became involved in the Seven Years War in 1762 when Great Britain declared war on her as ally of France. On October 1762 an expedition was sent out from Nadras with orders to attack Manila. The expedition consisted of a naval complement under Rear Admiral Samuel Cornish and a landing force under Brigadier General William Draper. The invasion fleet entered Manila Bay in September, when no official news of the war had yet reached the Philippines. Defenses of the city were woefully inadequate. When Draper landed his force the following day, he was attacked that same night by native auxiliaries hastily raised from the neighboring provinces. The desperate action lasted throughout the whole night before the Filipinos were driven back with heavy losses, by the well-armed and seasoned British regulars. General Draper, in his journal of the siege described the desperate valor of these troops, “had their skill or weapons been equal to their strength and ferocity, it might have cost us dearly. Although armed chiefly with bows, arrows and lances, they advanced up to the very muzzles of our pieces, repeated their assaults and died like wild beasts at the bayonets.”

With the British gaining control of the city, the Spanish authorities decided to surrender. Prior to the surrender of the city, Archbishop - Governor Rojo gave the youngest member of the audience Don Simon de Anda a commission as lieutenant governor and sent him to the provinces to keep them loyal to Spain. From this headquarters in Bulacan and Pampanga, Anda successfully resisted the British and limited their control to the environs of Manila. Actually, the British lacked the necessary forces to undertake large-scale campaigns away from their main base in Manila.

To win the populace to their side, the British issued a proclamation in November 1762 assuring freedom of worship and exemption from all tributes and personal services exacted before from them by the Spanish government. The proclamation met with little response. The populace retained their allegiance to Spain.

VIII. Expeditions to the Asian Mainland

Whenever the occasion presented itself, Spain would seize the opportunity to extend its influence in the continent. Spain never lost sight of the ultimate goal of establishing a foothold in mainland of Asia. The first such expedition was a fleet sent by Gov Luis Dagmariñas to Cambodia to succor the Monarch, King Langara, from his enemies. It was under the command of Captain Juan Suarez Galinato.

Another was the Cochín-China campaign. By royal decree of 25 Dec 1857, the Governor-General Norzagaray ordered the organization of an expeditionary force to join the French troops in the punitive

campaign against Cochín-China. A force of 1,500 Filipinos was conscripted under the command. The French ambassador separately raised a force of 900 Filipinos to serve directly under French command. These were known as Tagals Chasseurs. For their bravery in battle, they were called “*les breves soldats*.”

Throughout the course of the campaign lasting up to April 1863, the Filipino Soldiers performed splendidly. Their French and Spanish Commanders marvelled at the courage and discipline with which these soldiers faced the enemy. As a supreme gesture of honor, many were asked to remain in Cochín-China to serve under French authorities. Many of them did. A notable descendant was Sosthene Fernandes. A notable general, he was appointed by the Cambodian Monarch Lon Nol as Commander of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. He was known to proudly acknowledge his Filipino heritage.

IX. The Moro Wars

Throughout the centuries of Spanish rule, the Sultanates of Maguindanao and Sulu did not experience the complete subjugation that the people of the Visayas and Luzon experienced. These Sultanates operated along lines of independent monarchies. They traded with neighboring countries and other European powers like the French, Germans, and English. Fiercely independent, they were a people of great martial valor and maritime enterprise. The only manner the Spanish authorities could assert their domination were shows of force through military campaigns of relatively short duration which they dispatched from time to time. They did not have the resources to undertake methodical military campaigns to ensure the complete pacification and garrisoning of the area.

As in the other campaigns, Filipinos comprised the majority of the forces engaged. According to Morga, there were 214 Spaniards and 500 Filipinos with Capt Esteban Rodriguez de Figueroa in his pacification campaign in Mindanao. In the expedition to Jolo in 1628, there were 200 Spaniards and 1,600 Filipinos. In Gov Juan Niño de Tabora’s expedition against Jolo, 400 Spaniards and 2,500 Filipinos participated. In all these expeditions, fighting was always bloody and casualties heavy. Del la Costa quotes from an account of the expedition led personally by Governor Urbiztondo in 1848 to clean out the principal pirate base of Balanguinga. “*The order to advance given, and the troops responded with admirable coolness they ran up to the fort with scaling ladders. The Moros fought like wild beasts. Our men succeeded at last in getting the ladders to positions. They swarmed up and were thrown back. Others took their place and eventually fought their way into the fort. It is a scene of horror: piles of corpses and dark flames devouring the huts of the compound. Many of the Moros kill their own wives and daughters to save them from falling into the enemy’s hands*”.

X. Conclusion

From the foregoing, we have seen how Spain made use of Filipinos in waging her wars. To be sure, not all of their services were voluntarily rendered especially during times of emergency when large-scale levies of manpower were resorted to by the authorities. Nevertheless, their loyalty to Spain proved to be beyond question. It is difficult to imagine how the Spanish colonial rule could have withstood the onslaughts of the Dutch, the Moros, the British, without the loyal Filipinos who manned their fleets, made up the garrisons, and who were ordered to advance first in every battle.

What impelled them into entering the military service of their colonial masters? One reason was the prospect of getting steady pay and enjoying a respectable status in society. Another was their obedience to fulfill their obligations to the government, one among which made able-bodied males liable for service in the armed forces. Lastly, the adventurous nature of the Filipinos made them respond readily to any call to arms whether against foreigners or fellow countrymen.



Cavalier Quest: Navigating the Spiritual Realm

Life Guards: Saving Lives

The Life Guards is one of the two oldest regiments of the British Army under the Household Cavalry. This unit protects the King and his household. To date, it upholds the safety, practices and time-honoured traditions of the British Royalty. This section is created to highlight the need of protecting and the safeguarding of the soul of every uniformed man and woman serving the country.

The WORD of LIFE

“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;”
(2 Timothy 3:16)

Proclamation Number 124, issued on January 5, 2017, declared every month of January as the National Bible Month, promoting the importance of reading and studying the Bible for the spiritual, moral, and social development of Filipinos. Furthermore, Republic Act (RA) 11163, signed into law in December 2018, established National Bible Day as a special working holiday. This underscores the vital role of the Scriptures in shaping our nation’s moral character and values.

“A man keeps his word” is a saying most gentlemen in uniform will always live by, however, in many instances, will fail.

Many of what we say we will do cannot be completely fulfilled. Wedding vows forgotten, birthdays missed, meetings unattended, invitations regretted, contracts breached and many promises compromised.

Only one word stands the test time, and it is He, who declares *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God, ... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* (John 1:1,14). Jesus Christ is the fulfillment and manifestation of a Word accomplished, of a promise executed, of a hope manifesting daily. Thus, our lives must be rooted in the Word of God. The Word of God is the Bible, the written Word that stood many generations, written in the span of 2000 years, spoken and recorded through 40 different chosen people yet, has one unified message: the redemption of man, our redemption! The Bible is the Word of God and this is the blueprint for life.

In this era of uncertainty, unstable political, social and economic atmosphere, inevitable environmental changes, not to mention man’s messed-up personal life, this Book of Life contains the formula for truly living the life set by God for His children. Here are some reasons why we must seek it:

The Master Plan for Success

There are more than 7,000 promises of God to man recorded in the Bible. From the beginning of time and up to this very day, people continue to testify of personally experiencing and enjoying God’s promises. *“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful*

to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful” (Joshua 1:8). The formula for success has already been published. This came from the very declaration of the ONE who charts the course of man’s life. ***Why are you still contradicting His plans for you?***

The Manual for Difficult Times

Everyone will have their season of difficulty. Death is an equalizer. Even the richest cannot add a single day to his life, when his time comes. Failure brings even the most powerful to his rock bottom. The darkest days will remain dark without HIM, who promised to be our fortress, peace and hope. Jesus declares: *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”* (John 14:27). When we have no one, Jesus is a prayer away. He is a constant help in times of need. Try Him in your darkest times, and He will surely show Himself in the very way you will understand. ***Why do you blame Him, who promised you hope in difficult times?***

The Map for Life Everlasting

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away” (Matt. 24:35). God meant for man to dwell in His presence even after man breathes his last on earth. The flat line does not end in a dark unknown for Jesus’ word declares: *“I tell you, he who believes in me has eternal life”* (John 6:37). Since the beginning of time, man has been preoccupied with his earthly life but ever since, God has been in pursuit of man. He has been in the business of letting you understand His love and salvation so that when life in earth is done, the promised life in Christ is sure! ***Why do you neglect preparing for life eternal?***

Indeed, God’s Word is the Master Plan for Success, the Manual for Difficult Times, and the Map for Life Everlasting. ***How well are you acquainted with the Word of Life?***

Your friend,
ike ‘93

CG RADM EUSTACIO NIMROD P ENRIQUEZ JR (Ret)
Coastguards’ Christian Lighthouse Community

The Coastguardians' Christian Lighthouse Community, in cooperation with the Coast Guard Ecumenical Chaplain Service, took the lead in the distribution of New Testament Bibles to different Commands and Units of the Philippine Coast Guard.



The Echoes of Ashes: How the Destruction of Manila in 1945 Still Shapes the Philippines Today

• CAV RICARDO C MORALES '77



Figure 1. Manila burns in February 1945 as viewed from Paranaque. The U. S. and Japanese forces battle for control. (CTTO)

Directly to the destruction of Manila in 1945 can be traced the Philippines' generally poor performance in state development and economic growth that hounds it up to the present day. The American and Japanese forces must share joint responsibility for that cataclysmic event. The US' concern was simple and direct: protect and save American lives. This concern did not extend to Filipino lives and infrastructure. The Japanese wanted to inflict such a painful cost on the Americans to discourage an invasion of the home islands. History records no Filipino voice in the period leading to the battle. For the unfortunate Filipinos living in the city, it was the worst possible combination of factors.

Today, as the US and China engage in a 1930s-like saber-rattling as a prelude to war, the Philippines once again faces the real possibility of the destruction of its cities and the deaths of thousands of its citizens. And, again as in 1945, there is not a single Filipino voice raised in protest.

When the city of Manila fell to flames and devastation in February 1945, it was more than just the shelling of stone and the collapse of walls—it was, in many ways, the breaking of the Filipino spirit and a seismic turning point in the nation's story. The Battle of Manila, often called one of the most savage urban battles of World

War II, left the city in ruins. Over the course of a single month, the “Pearl of the Orient” was transformed into a landscape of rubble, its architectural jewels shattered, its libraries and archives incinerated, and its population suffering unspeakable cruelty on a scale difficult to comprehend.

Yet as the decades have rolled onward, the destruction of Manila has often been reduced to a brief chapter in textbooks or a footnote in the collective memory. But to truly understand the Philippines as it stands today—its cultural identity, urban reality, and even its political and economic trajectory—one must confront the enduring consequences of 1945. The scars remain, visible and invisible, woven into the very fabric of national life.

The Loss of a Cultural Heartbeat

We were not always like this.

Pre-war Manila was a city of grace and grandeur, rivaling the great capitals of Asia and Europe. Its boulevards were lined with neoclassical and Art Deco buildings, its churches and convents whispered of centuries of faith. Intramuros, the Walled City, held Spanish colonial treasures: ornate plazas, venerable universities, and archives that preserved the nation's past. This was not merely



Figure 2. Legislative building demolished by the fighting. (CTTO)

a city but a living museum and the beating heart of Filipino heritage.

The destruction of 1945 obliterated this cultural core. Thousands of irreplaceable works of art, historical documents, and architectural wonders vanished in the inferno. The loss was not only physical but also spiritual; the city's soul was wounded. Today, the Philippines grapples with the consequences of this erasure. Where cities like Paris or Rome are buoyed by the pride and beauty of their preserved histories, Manila must rebuild its identity from fragments.



Figure 3. Entrance gate to the Manila Carnival, 1930s. (CTTO)

The challenge of heritage conservation remains acute. The few structures that survived—San Agustin Church, the Manila Cathedral—stand as isolated sentinels, reminders of what once was. Rebuilding efforts in the postwar years favored utilitarianism over restoration, often sacrificing memory for modernization. As a result, generations have grown up disconnected from the architectural and historical grandeur that once defined the nation's capital. The capacity to imagine a different, richer Manila has faded, replaced instead with the reality of lost treasures and dimmed legacies.



Figure 4. Intramuros, 1936 with Binondo across the Pasig River. (CTTO) https://live.staticflickr.com/4590/24482209437_2cc65fe02b_b.jpg

Urban Disarray and the Anatomy of a Lost City

Perhaps the most palpable legacy of Manila's destruction is its modern urban disorder. The hasty postwar reconstruction, driven by a desperate need for housing and rapid economic recovery, resulted in a city built for expediency rather than beauty or order. Gone were the grand city plans of prewar architects, replaced by a patchwork of utilitarian structures, poorly planned roads, and unregulated development.



Figure 5. Urban squalor, Manila 2020s. (CTTO)

Today's Manila is a city of paradoxes: sprawling yet fragmented, densely populated yet lacking in public spaces, burdened by traffic and chronic flooding, its infrastructure straining under the weight of over 13 million inhabitants. The city's present struggles stem in no small part from the choices made in the aftermath of 1945, when urgency and scarcity trumped vision and design.



Figure 6. Upper photo, the Tranvia, pre-war mass transport system when some capitals in Asia travelled by rickshaw. Below, proud Pinoy innovation in 1946. Delivery to your doorstep and every man for himself. A temporary patchwork solution becomes permanent. (CTTO)

The Jeepney: When Temporary Becomes Permanent – Order versus Anarchy

Out of the debris of 1945 emerged the jeepney, a symbol of Filipino resilience and innovation. Fashioned from surplus American jeeps, the vehicle provided a convenient means of getting around. The tram mass transport system that existed before the war was never rebuilt. The institutions that supported the development of that vital infrastructure were devastated by the violence of the Liberation. Over time, the jeepney became the primary means of transportation in Metro Manila, despite being highly polluting, uncomfortable and unsafe. In 2024, there were about 42,000 jeepneys in Metro Manila, down from 75,000 in 2007. Its main attraction is that rides are unscheduled, relying on the commuter's convenience. Its unintended consequence was traffic anarchy.¹

Other Asian capitals, spared the wholesale obliteration of their historic cores, have enjoyed a sense of continuity. For Manila, the upheaval of 1945 meant the loss of both tangible heritage and the urban logic that held the city together. The absence of coherent planning has made Manila uniquely vulnerable to the pressures of rapid urbanization. Informal settlements have proliferated, green spaces have dwindled, and the rhythm of daily life is set more by congestion and chaos than by the harmonious order that once was.

Wounds of Memory: Trauma and National Psyche

The destruction of Manila did not merely raze buildings; it traumatized a population. More than 100,000 civilians perished in the violence of February 1945, many of them among the nation's elite. Families were shattered, entire neighborhoods wiped from the map, and survivors burdened by memories too brutal to bear.

The collective trauma has echoed through generations. For many Filipinos, especially those whose roots trace back to Manila, the war is a subject approached with a mixture of reverence, sorrow, and silence. The lack of widespread commemoration—no grand memorials, no day of mourning on the scale warranted—speaks to the ways in which this wound has remained both open and unspoken. The national psyche, marked by resilience, is also shadowed by a sense of loss and what-ifs: What might the Philippines have become if its capital had not been so thoroughly broken?

This silence has implications. Without a robust culture of remembrance, the lessons of the past are at risk of fading. The tendency to brush aside difficult history in favor of a forward-looking optimism may rob the nation of an essential part of its identity. It is in remembering, after all, that societies find both healing and direction.



Figure 7. MacArthur had prematurely declared Manila liberated and his staff planned a triumphant entrance into the city when the battle had not even started yet. (Scott, Rampage, 2018, p. 203) Image CTTO.



Figure 8. Dead civilians line a street in Manila in February 1945. More than 100,000 Filipino lives were lost during the battle. Many prominent Filipinos were among the dead, their bodies never recovered. (CTTO)

The Politics of Reconstruction and the Seeds of Inequality

The postwar period brought with it immense challenges and opportunities. The United States invested heavily in Manila’s reconstruction, but the process was fraught with inefficiencies and controversies. Land ownership disputes erupted as prewar property lines were erased by shellfire. Corruption and bureaucratic red tape slowed progress, and the urban poor suffered disproportionately amid the scramble to rebuild.

The choices made in this period laid the foundations for persistent inequalities that define Manila—and, by extension, the Philippines—to this day. The loss of housing and livelihoods forced many into informal settlements, and the unregulated spread of the city deepened divides between rich and poor. The pattern of elite domination and marginalization of the masses, already present in prewar society, found new forms in the chaos of reconstruction.

These disparities echo into the present. The struggle for affordable housing, the perennial issues of land tenure and squatting, and the spectacle of gated communities rising beside slums all find their roots in the dislocations of 1945. The destruction of Manila, then, was not merely an episode of violence, but a catalyst for the inequalities that still afflict the country.

Lessons Unheeded, Hopes Reborn

To reflect on the destruction of Manila is not merely to mourn loss but to issue a call to action. The city’s experience is a cautionary tale about the costs of war, the fragility of heritage, and the importance of memory in shaping national destiny. It is a reminder that the decisions made in times of crisis can reverberate for generations.

Yet within this legacy of ashes there are seeds of hope. Efforts to restore and conserve Manila’s surviving historic sites have gained momentum in recent years. A new generation of Filipinos seeks to reconnect with the past, to unearth stories buried by war and time, and to imagine a future in which the city’s rich heritage can inform its renewal. The work of memory—of telling the stories, rebuilding the fragments, and honoring the pain—remains as urgent now as ever.

Learning From the Past: The World is Back in 1937

We cannot change history, but we can learn from it. Only the blind will ignore the alarming parallels between 1937 and 2025. The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939) which preceded World War 2 can be compared to the war in Ukraine. China’s Belt and Road Initiative is today’s version of Imperial Japan’s Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere in 1941. Some of the players have changed but the dynamics remain the same, as it has always been since Thucydides wrote in 431 B. C. E. —“*What made the war inevitable was the growth of Athenian (China) power and the fear which this caused in Sparta (West).*” However, there is one ominous difference: there were no nuclear weapons in 1937.

Today, the country remains stuck in the lower-middle-income country (LMIC) category, having missed the next higher (upper-middle-income or UMIC) by a measly USD 26! It comes as no surprise. We have missed many other boats/busses before while our neighbors, having started their national development long after us have forged ahead. To move forward, the Philippines must learn from its past and apply it to the present.

It has been said that the Philippines cannot avoid being drawn into a war if China invades Taiwan.² There is an alternative narrative. Our folk wisdom would say – *ang away ng kapitbahay ay hindi dapat pinakiki-alaman* (Your neighbor’s quarrel is none of your business). As a sovereign state, we must protect our interest and have control over our destiny. We should have a clear and unequivocal say in the pre-positioning and control of operational and strategic level weapons systems by other nations within our territory.



Figure 9. U. S. missile systems pre-positioned in the Philippines have raised alarm in China.

The destruction of Manila in 1945 was a cataclysm that shattered not just a city, but the trajectory of a nation. Its effects—cultural, urban, psychological, and political—still ripple through the Philippines today. As the country continues to grapple with questions of identity, urban development, and social justice, the lessons of Manila’s tragedy remain urgently relevant. This country cannot afford to again be the battlefield of superpowers. That would irreversibly plunge this society into a horrible, failed state status from which it would never emerge.



Figure 10. The Metro Manila Subway project, a vehicle for national transformation, aside from being a convenient bomb shelter.

(ENDNOTES)

¹https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1935491/Itfrb-sees-60-percent-consolidated-jepneys-in-metro-manila?utm_source=chatgpt.com

²<https://apnews.com/article/philippines-ferdinand-marcos-taiwan-south-china-sea-66d58ca064aea64c937fd5f0d311348b>

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PMA GRADUATION

Held at the University of Santo Tomas

• CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III '97

Prelude to War

Prior to the start of the Second World War, the Cadet Corps was composed of two hundred ninety-six (296) cadets comprising of PMA Classes 1942 to 1945. Colonel Fidel V. Segundo, Sr. was the Superintendent, PMA and their camp was located at Teacher's Camp. The PMA Faculty in the early 40's was then comprised purely of Filipino Officers.

Japanese war footing was slowly being felt in the region and becoming a growing concern among the western colonial powers. However, most residents, to include foreigners, in the Philippines, as well as the PMA Administration, including its Faculty and Staff and the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines (CAAFP) belittled Japanese capability to attack the Philippine Islands. Though they talked of Japanese aggression in the Pacific with nervous anticipation, (Agoncillo, 1965) many believed US President Theodore Roosevelt when he declared that the war in the Pacific would come "after a decade or two."

They also gave misplaced confidence in the potential of their establish defense, as embodied in the four iteration of War Plan Orange put forth, as well as in the capability of the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) to effectively defend the Philippines. On 26 July 1941, President Roosevelt ordered that the Philippine Army be incorporated to the United States Army (Agoncillo, 1965) to present a combined strength of forty-five to fifty thousand men, a sizeable force on paper. They also gave all-out confidence on the capability of the new American B-17 Type Bombers (Agoncillo, 1965) to destroy any Japanese planes as well as her ground forces.

Hence, due to this over confidence, there was virtually no shift in the war footing in Baguio and in other parts of the Philippines. In Baguio, no preparations were made to fortify its town hall and military camps across the area. (San Juan, 2006) To the thousands of Filipinos and to the cadets, as well, the Japanese will be crazy to attack, much less enter, the Philippines.

This is War!

On 8 December 1941, the Japanese's attacked Baguio at eight o' clock in the morning the same day Japanese planes attacked all Airforce Bases in Manila, while the cadets were busy with their academic classes. Loud explosions was heard from the direction of the American-occupied Camp John Hay and at Loakan Airport. Later, warplanes were sighted and heard advancing towards the said directions. Classes were immediately suspended and the cadets immediately changed to their full combat uniforms wherein perimeter defense was then set-up with the cadets assigned specific sectors of defense.

As Japanese forces have slowly established fortified beachheads at La Union and Aparri in order to secure the approach of their main forces that will land at Lingayen, Pangasinan, a decision to vacate Teacher's Camp was given around seven o' clock in the evening of Friday, 12 December 1941 in order to prevent the cadets from being cut-off while still in Baguio. The cadets then left Teacher's Camp in secrecy under blackout conditions using commandeered civilian buses heading towards an undisclosed area in Manila. They arrived

at Camp Balara by daybreak; however, on the early morning of 13 December 1941, Japanese planes, specifically the ZERO Mitsubishi A6M "Zero-Sen," conducted strafing operations along the cadet's encampment. The encounter lasted for thirty minutes wherein no casualty was reported on the cadet side; however, the camp was left at a deplorable state.

Realizing fully well that the area was indefensible, the cadets were hauled off by military trucks in the evening towards the University of Santo Tomas (UST). They were then billeted at the second and third floor classrooms of the Main Building in UST. The second floor was large enough to serve as their billeting area as it was formally used as a social hall by its students. The said billeting area is now part of the UST Museum.

Graduation at UST

Simple rites were held at the Lecture Hall, located at the third floor of the Main Building of University of Santo Tomas at noon on 16 December 1941. The graduation ceremonies were interrupted twice as Japanese planes at that time was bombing Manila. The participants were told to proceed to the ground floor each time the Japanese made a bombing run. (Crisol, Sword '42, 1978) As per General Orders Number 246 Headquarters Philippine Army, Classes 1942 and 1943 were formally commissioned and accelerated in the Regular Force with the rank of Third Lieutenant (3LT) effective 13 December 1941. General Segundo was relieved as PMA Superintendent and was subsequently designated as Commanding General of the First Regular Division, which became known as the *Gray Division*. PMA was officially closed and its staff and faculty were deployed to front line units. Most of the cadets were assigned to General Segundo's Division. Members of Class 1945 were then "recognized" by the senior cadets by shaking the hands of the misty-eyed fourthclass cadets symbolizing their acceptance of them as one of their own. Classes 1944 and '45 were reorganized into a Provisional Cadet Battalion with Cadet Thirdclass Mariano Villasanta CCAFP, as Battalion Commander. Eventually, on 23 December 1941, Classes '44 and '45 were disbanded "to conserve on manpower." (Crisol, Sword '42, 1978) Though they were doled out pocket money and told to go home and wait to be recalled at the end of the war, the cadets still sought to participate in the war even volunteering to enlist as Privates to join the Army in Bataan. (Aguila, 2006) However, they were turned down at the Santo Tomas Recruitment Center on orders of higher Headquarters.

UST would then be turned into an internment camp for civilian prisoners upon the assumption of control by the Japanese forces over all of Manila. The internees composed mostly of American and British expats were housed at the Education Building, now the UST Hospital. It became the largest internment camp in the Philippines.

Classes 1942 to 1945 are considered as the only PMA classes to be called to duty during a war while still as cadets. They are also only the second cadet corps in world history to participate in their country's war while still in their teens. The first was the Virginia Military Institute in the United States of America that participated in the American Civil War in 1864.

Though Classes 1942 and 1943 were given regular Officer Ranks, they were not able to complete the required four-year training and to graduate on their intended occasion. Class '43 is considered as the earliest PMA Class to be Commissioned in the Armed Forces. Classes '44 and '45 were considered as half-baked since they only had at most one year and eight months of Academy training.

Military Officials still thought that the Japanese, once they landed, would be easy pickings for the USAFFE; hence, they encouraged the disbanded cadets to go home, wait to be recalled once they achieved victory over the Japanese. Either they completely underestimated Japanese capability or more appropriately, they placed over confidence on their own capability. By their pronouncements, the cadets fully expected that the war would be over very quickly and the reopening of the Academy following closely. Pronouncements that took five and a half years to be realized. The Academy officially reopened on 5 May 1947 with PMA Class 1951 as the first Post-War class. Members of Class 1944 and 1945 acted as their Tactical Officers.

The liberation of UST as an Internment Camp took place on 3 February 1945. The US 1st Cavalry Division led the rescue operation freeing a total of 3,785 Allied civilian prisoners who had been held there by the Japanese forces since 1942. Cpt Manuel Colayco, a former UST Faculty, aboard the lead element jeep, was one of the first to be killed while guiding the liberators in entering the main gate of UST. The raid was swift and dramatic that lasted for a few hours wherein American and Philippine forces speedily broke through Japanese defenses and secured the campus; however, Japanese forces took civilian prisoners as hostages and negotiated for their safe surrender. The Japanese then fully surrendered by 5th of February. The event signaled the full control and victory of the Filipinos and American forces over the Japanese invaders in the Philippines.

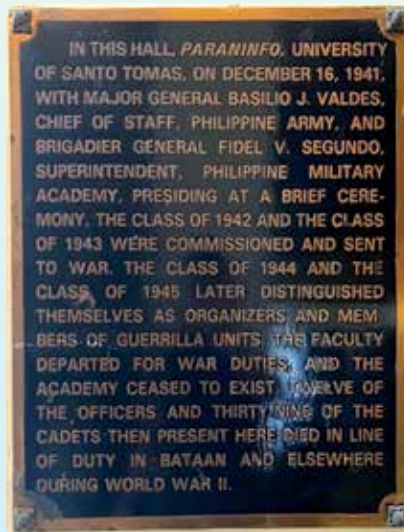
To commemorate this somber graduation event post war, an official memorial Marker was placed in UST; however, the location of this marker was lost to memory by military historians as time passed by. Initial coordination made by the Author-Researcher to locate the marker in 2006 proved futile as UST officials stated that the marker was moved from its original position from the Main Building to the covered pathway leading to the Arch of the Centuries Gate in España Boulevard. A very large area to cover in searching. Even the said event was never mentioned in the pages of the Sword Books for the War Classes of 1942 to 1945 and in the Academy Scribe.

Postscript

The Researcher then sought to once again locate the memorial marker commemorating this formal occasion along UST grounds. Last January 2025, based on coordination made with Arch. John Carlo L. Sayco, Assistant Director and Ms Maita B. Oebanda, Collection Management and Documentation Assistant of the UST Museum, based on available data, the Marker was finally located at the second floor of the UST Main Building near the entrance to the UST Museum. It was located in an inconspicuous area in one of its pillars. Surprisingly, it is noteworthy to note that the NHCP placed both a Tagalog and

English text of the Marker.

The significance of this Marker is a somber memorial of the lost innocence of the cadets belonging to the War Classes. This shows their grit and determination to make use of their shortened military training to serve the country. Though Classes 1944 and 1945 were told to go home and wait to be recalled upon war's end, majority attempted to volunteer as Privates as well as joined or established guerilla units against the Japanese. They may not have received their PMA Diploma the traditional way, the sweat and tears, and ultimately the supreme sacrifice, they experienced served as their "diploma" as true and noble graduates of the Academy.



About the Author-Researcher

CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III, PMA 1997, is an active Officer of the Philippine Army. He is the current Inspector General and the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, U3 of the National Capital Region Command (NCRCOM). Likewise, he is currently the Vice President of the PMAAAI.

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 #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-nine (29) various articles published on the following international and local publications: Army Journal (6), Cavalier Magazine (19), 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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The Heartbreaking Story of the Final Hours of Captain Vicente Ebol Gepte

Manila, 1944

The air was thick, so thick it clung to the skin, carrying the weight of soot, sweat, and the metallic stench of blood. Night fell over the walled city like a velvet curtain of despair, muffling the muffled cries and sobs from within Fort Santiago. In one of its damp, decaying cells, a man lay bruised, emaciated, and silent.

He was Captain Vicente Ebol Gepte, once a bright-eyed cadet of West Point, Class of 1940, the pride of the Philippines. Now, he was stripped of rank, of uniform, of dignity but not of spirit.

He had survived the unimaginable: the siege of Bataan, the death march, and the fall of his country to the rising sun of the Japanese Empire. But he had refused to surrender his soul. In the shadows, he had continued to fight, passing coded messages, relaying troop movements, risking his life for the promise of freedom. He never raised a weapon after Bataan. Instead, he raised hope.

And for that, he was here. Awaiting death.

Three Years Earlier

In 1941, Vicente stood in full dress uniform at West Point, the Hudson River glinting behind him, a gentle wind fluttering the flag overhead. His eyes sparkled with quiet conviction. He was one of the few Filipinos ever to graduate from the United States Military Academy. He could have stayed in America, safe, promising, destined for accolades.

But he chose to return to his motherland.

"I belong with my people," he said, when asked why he would go home as the specter of war loomed. "If they suffer, I suffer too."

And suffer he did.

Bataan, April 1942.

The fields were littered with bodies, young, hungry, barely armed boys who fought with bayonets against tanks. Gepte's boots were soaked in blood and mud. When the order to surrender came, he felt his heart collapse not for himself, but for those who believed that help would come.

The Death March followed. Ninety miles. Starved, beaten, bayoneted. He lost comrades by the hour, some begging for water, some delirious with fever, others simply shot for slowing down. He never cried. He just kept walking.

Somewhere near San Fernando, a young soldier collapsed beside him, crying for his mother.

Vicente knelt beside him, whispered, "You are not alone."

That soldier died minutes later. Vicente carried his dog tag until the day he was captured.

The Resistance

Months after being released from a Japanese prison camp, Vicente disappeared into the forests. Not as a soldier now, but as a shadow. Using contacts from the old army, from West Point, from the underground, he relayed information, submarines arriving in Lingayen, troop buildups in Nueva Ecija, coded maps of enemy supply lines.

He never carried a gun. Only words. But his words saved hundreds.

And in time, someone betrayed him.

Fort Santiago. December 1944

The soldiers dragged him through the iron gates by the elbows. His face was swollen, his left eye barely open. Blood caked the corners of his mouth. Still, he stood when they demanded it. Still, he looked them in the eye.

One officer asked him, "You are Captain Gepte? From West Point?"

He nodded.

"You disgraced your American education."

Vicente looked up. "No. I fulfilled it."

They beat him harder that night.

In a neighboring cell, a priest watched through a crack as Gepte was kicked until he collapsed. But he never screamed. Not once.

Letters Never Sent

In the folds of his tattered clothing, hidden in a shoe sole, were letters. To his wife. To his daughter.

"My love, if you are reading this, then I am no longer with you. Tell our child that her father died with love in his heart, not hate. That I chose to stand, when kneeling would have saved my life. I am sorry I will not see her grow. But I am with you, in every prayer."

He tried to write more, but the guards found the pencil. They took it away. They slapped him until he could not lift his head.

The Morning of January 6, 1945

The footsteps came before dawn. Sharp. Deliberate. He knew. All prisoners did.



When the keys clanged against the bars, he stood on trembling legs. Blood had dried on his back. He had not eaten in days.

They didn't blindfold him.

They didn't need to.

He walked past the other cells barefoot. One woman whispered through the bars, "God be with you."

He nodded slowly.

In the courtyard, he looked up at the sky. Manila was still dark, but hints of sunrise touched the horizon. Somewhere, beyond the walls, his daughter might be waking, her mother whispering stories of her brave father.

He whispered a prayer. Not for himself.

But for the Philippines.

The Beheading

The sword was clean. The blade had taken dozens before him. He was told to kneel.

He didn't.

So they struck him in the back of the knee. He fell. But still, he kept his head high.

The officer asked, "Any last words?"

Vicente spoke softly in Tagalog. "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas."

And then silence.

A sickening sound.

His body collapsed to the earth.

They dumped him in a mass grave, nameless among dozens. His blood seeped into the soil of Intramuros, feeding the roots of the very freedom he died to protect.

Aftermath

His family searched for him for months. The war ended. The gates of Fort Santiago opened. The mass graves were found but never identified. His body was never recovered.

Yet he lived on.

His daughter, barely old enough to remember his voice, would one day stand on the sacred grounds of West Point and accept, on his behalf, the Congressional Gold Medal.

A plaque bearing his name stands in solemn stillness at the West Point Cemetery. It does not weep, but those who read it often do.

Legacy

Vicente Ebol Gepte is not just a name etched in marble. He is every prisoner who sang the national anthem with bleeding lips. He is every whisper passed through bamboo forests. Every child born in freedom.

He was a father who never came home.

A soldier who fought without a gun.

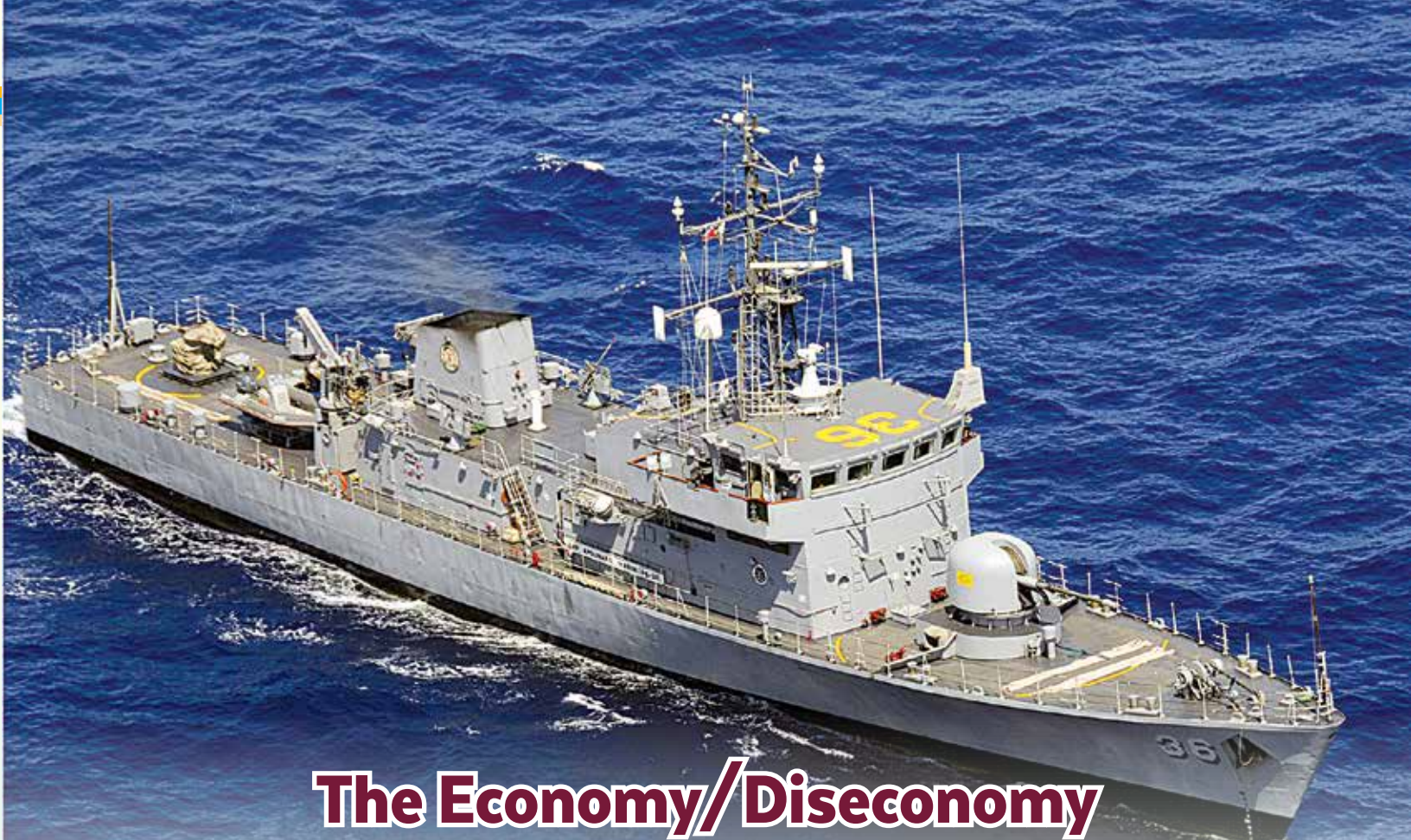
A patriot who died on his feet.

And today, when the sun rises over Fort Santiago, you can almost hear it in the wind...

"Mabuhay ang Pilipinas."



(Credit goes to the owner.)



The Economy/Diseconomy of the Acquisition of Decommissioned WARSHIPS

• CAV JOSE RENAN C SUAREZ '82

**“Vessel acquisition has to be a part
of a well thought-out strategy
and not a strategy by itself.”
Procurement requires astuteness,
not passion.**

Countries decommission warships because of obsolescence, increasingly burdensome maintenance costs (sustainment difficulty), wear and tear on the hull/equipment and operational inadequacy of design (poor mission performance). The service lives of the vessels are at an end for the operating/owner nation. The ability of the platform to perform in combat is already impaired vis-à-vis potential adversaries and more resources are needed to maintain the vessel's readiness for operations at sea. The aging ships' hulls and equipment are already worn-out from use and facing the elements and the sea. Albeit, some new vessels are also decommissioned prematurely for significant defects. These platforms already fail to deliver the needed performance metrics and/or cause unsustainable drain on resources.

The benefits derived from these to-be-disposed assets have diminished or are diminishing vis-à-vis the cost of keeping them operational. The essential ability of the vessels to perform the vital missions of providing defense and deterrence are already compromised. The availability of better replacements allows their disposal and the reallocation of the resources previously used on them. The personnel and the sustainment funds are redistributed

to new/better assets. Countries gain returns/suffer losses from the disposal depending on the method of disposal which range from disassembly and scrapping as junks to transfer/sale to other countries. Junking may entail expense if there are no salvors/junk takers. On the other hand, transfer to a new owner creates gains (to the donor/offeror) through upgrading, provisions for technical support and supply of spares and parts that recipients/buyers may ask for.

Countries that have intentions to acquire decommissioned vessels must consider the reasons for the decommissioning and include in their plans how to address the issues that may make the purchase advantageous/ disadvantageous in the long run. Even a free donation may turn out not only to be very expensive but wasteful. The power, propulsion and auxiliary systems of the vessels may demand overhaul, weapons systems may need upgrading, the hull may require replating/reinforcement and the propellers may need repair or replacement. Additionally, the recipient's personnel must be trained for the operation and maintenance of the vessels to be transferred/acquired. Technicians ashore have to be trained as well, to take care of higher-level maintenance requirements. Ammunition stocks for on-board weapons also have to be procured.

Ashore, a viable base is a must. Foremost, the ships must have a safe port where they could be serviced. The personnel have to be afforded relief on land for recreation and respite from duties at sea. In the base, expended supplies are replenished and personnel necessities are restocked. Hence, the needed infrastructure to shelter, maintain and sustain the vessels have to be set up. Workshops, depots, power, water and utility services must be available. There must be structures to do repairs, to store and to service weapons systems, sensitive ammunition guidance mechanisms and delicate spares and parts. Training centers for the basic, progressive and specialized training of the crew must be in place. Temporary billeting facilities have to be available to address crew and personnel's personal needs. As a privilege and incentive, family housing can be offered.

Absent the support systems, a ship could not be maintained in combat status for long. Morale of the crew cannot be sustained. The operations would be impaired and keeping the vessel operational to undertake missions would be difficult. To be an asset, a warship is supposed to be mission-capable, available for operations and supportable. It must have an edge over adversaries, possess adequate firepower and endure long deployments. Its capabilities and availability must be maintained and sustained by adequate and resilient support systems. A highly performing asset cannot exist without the infrastructure that addresses basic and evolving needs as well as the demands of combat readiness. A warship cannot sail far nor be at sea for long nor be ready for combat when there are no adequate sustainment/ support systems.

It must be kept in mind that warship acquisition requires a holistic mindset and approach. The platform itself with all its weaponry is only one part of a system that makes the vessel/war equipment truly an asset, mission-effective, combat-ready and a good part of the time available for missions. A sophisticated war vessel cannot turn into a warship if it has no ammunition, does not possess competent and motivated personnel, does not have technicians for on and off-board maintenance and repair, is without a reliable and resilient supply chain and is bereft of the

necessary doctrines to manage the organization and do warfare at sea.

The potential costs of an acquisition, even if free, may entail considerable expenses/investments. There might be a need to overhaul the main propulsion and auxiliary engines and auxiliary support systems, hull and propeller repairs might be needed, weapons systems may have to be upgraded, special equipment and tools have to be acquired, operations and support personnel have to be trained, new supply and service support arrangements have to be established, ammunition have to be procured, essential stocks have to be obtained and the needed infrastructures have to be put in place. 'As is, where is' arrangements usually require these.

The costs require time and money and may almost match the cost of a brand new acquisition. Having an old ship overhauled, upgraded and reconfigured has attendant risks in the installation and integration of new systems. The remaining lifespan of the refurbished vessel has to be considered. The time it would take to fully integrate the assets to the navy's system may limit their useful lives in the Fleet. The decision on getting an old vessel to be refurbished, or a new one must be based on a long-term view and not merely treated as a stop-gap measure. Obtaining assets without support systems would condemn them to limited utility and short service lives.

The number and the capabilities of the vessels to be added to the inventory, the sizes of the crew and the technical requirements that are needed must be factored in because they entail resource allocations, prioritizations and commitments. A country acquiring decommissioned vessels should give serious consideration to the assessment of the value they add and the benefits they bring to its own naval force. Drawbacks in having them in the inventory have to be sought out and risks evaluated. The warships have to be contributing adequately to naval defense and not be useless resource drains. A well-considered decision can assure that the interest of the country is served best and national defense becomes strong and responsive.

Adding platforms, particularly ships, to the inventory is noteworthy. New ships of whatever type, even the old ones increase the number of vessels of a navy. But by not really discriminating in the choice of the platforms, a navy may end up with an inventory of ships unsuited for combat. Acquisitions show what kind of navy is being developed. New and big ill-equipped ships are good for show and provide greater amenities and comfort to their crews. Transports, landing ships and fuel tankers make a navy more amphibious and logistics oriented. Rigid hull inflatable vessels and rubber boats make a navy coastal, riverine or special and small unit operations-oriented. Various old platforms acquired or received, give a navy greater numbers though very little capability gain. But even with all these, a navy might still be unable to develop into a potent combat force with the right platforms and assets that are suited for battle at sea. Discernment and good judgement rather than impulse and sudden gratification should govern asset acquisition. Numbers alone do not constitute strength or capability. Naval forces should be conscious of their core competence and must keenly build an inventory-mix that provides the needed war-fighting capabilities. - Reflections of an Old Salt



International Trade Tariffs and the Philippine Economy

• CAV WILFREDO G NUQUI '68

I. Introduction and context. Inter-country trade is indispensable to the global economy. Gross national product (GNP) is the sum of: 1) government and private consumption and investments, 2) exports less imports of goods and services, and 3) net factor income such as PHL corporate and OFW income remittances and PHL corporate profits from abroad. Gross domestic product (GDP) equals GNP less NFIA. The component shares of PHL GDP in 2024 are: a) household final consumption expenditures (72.5%), b) government final consumption expenditure (14.5%), c) gross capital formation i.e. investments (23.6%), e) exports of goods and services (26.9%) and imports (37.5%). PHL economic growth is consumption driven and less dependent on exports.

Tariffs and non-tariff measures on imported goods are primarily designed to raise revenues and promote and protect domestic industries especially those with competitive comparative advantage. Setting of tariff rates and non-tariff measures is complex. Non-economic factors exert heavy influence such as financial and fiscal policies e.g., size and financing of government budget deficits, politics, national security and other strategic interests. Export taxes fall under the broad definition of trade tariffs. In the 1970s, PHL gov't shared in the windfall revenues derived from export taxes on high commodity prices.

There are four principal types of import tariffs-specific, compound, ad valorem and tariff rate quota. A specific tariff is levied as a fixed fee based on the type of imported product or item. An *ad valorem* tariff is levied based on the import's value. Non-tariff measures include quotas, licenses, embargoes, phytosanitary measures, port fees and countervailing duties. International rules of origin require substantial transformation which penalizes exports via a lower tariff country.

Low tariffs encourage domestic industries to be competitive and discourage smuggling. The main disadvantages of high tariffs are: a) inflationary as higher import costs are often passed on to domestic consumers which hurt small industries and the poor most, b) risks from retaliatory responses by injured importing countries, and c) creation of inefficient import substitution industries as in the PHL case decades ago which resulted in an overvalued peso at P2:US\$1 (*G. Sicat*). Under the latest US trade policy, goods transhipped through other jurisdictions to avoid US duties would be hit with an additional 40% tariff. US will not apply the "de minimis" trade rule which exempts tariffs on small value imports.

II. Selected PHL trade policies (Customs and Tariff Code, PD 1464 as amended)

1. Membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) which consists of 166 member-states. WTO promotes rules of fair trade on origin, tariffs and subsidies e.g.,

non-discrimination based on the 'most favored nation principle' and prohibition of 'beggar thy neighbor policies' e.g., gov't subsidies on exports and domestic currency manipulation,

2. Participation in the Generalized System of Preferences of EU which provides custom duty preferences or concessions to export of specified products from developing countries until end 2027,
3. Adoption of an average bound tariff rate of 25%. Customs collections accounted for 24% of national gov't revenue collections in 2024, and
4. Authorization of the President to adjust import duties while Congress is not in session based on recommendations of NEDA (now DepDEV).

III. ASEAN free trade area (AFTA). The goal of AFTA is a Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme which established a phased schedule in 1992 to increase the region's competitive advantage as a production base for the world market. Unlike the European Union Customs Union, AFTA does not apply a common external tariff on imported goods. Each ASEAN member may impose tariffs on goods entering from outside ASEAN based on its national schedules. ASEAN adopts a tariff rate of 0-5% among its members. The recent 2025 ASEAN Summit priorities include: a) further lowering of remaining tariffs and removal of non-tariff barriers among ASEAN members, and b) market diversification to address the ripple effects of US tariffs and cheap imports from China.

A prevailing challenge to PHL is how to capture relocation and shifts in the supply chain from China and other countries facing higher US tariffs. US and China jointly account for 43% of the global economy (WB). China is US biggest economic competitor. Exports account for 19.7% of China's GDP while that of the US is 11% (*Economist*). China is ASEAN's largest export market and enjoys a huge trade surplus. ASEAN is increasingly facing a "tsunami of Chinese goods" which displaces many local industries.

IV. PHL and US trade. US goods exports to PHL amounted to \$9.3B in 2024, while imports totaled \$14.2B—or an unfavorable trade position for US (*Office of US Trade Representative*). PHL export receipts and OFW remittances amounted to US\$73B and US\$38B in 2024, respectively (*NSO and BSP*). So far, PHL avails of pre-Trump US zero tariffs on services e.g., information technology, software development and data science.

V. 'America first' trade policy. In 2024, US had a huge trade deficit with 92 countries and a trade surplus with 111

countries (WTO). On Jan 25, 2025, President Trump directed to investigate the causes of US large and persistent annual trade deficits in goods, as well as the economic, security and other risks resulting from such deficits, and recommend measures, such as a global supplemental tariff or other policies, to remedy such deficits. US trade deficit is highest with China followed by Mexico, Vietnam, Germany and Japan in 2024.

On April 2, 2025, US President Trump declared “Liberation Day” and economic independence. He issued executive orders (EOs) on US new trade policy declaring higher than expected and reciprocal tariffs on 70 countries e.g., Philippines (17%), Singapore (10%) and China (55%) in Asia. Economies facing injuries pursue diverse responses. These principally consist of: a) negotiations which include increased investment commitments in the US economy e.g., Japan, b) seeking new markets, c) China’s ban on rare earth exports, and d) filing of dispute complaints with WTO.

VI. Latest bilateral negotiations on reciprocal tariffs (as of Aug 8, 2025). US reset tariff rates at 10-41% as of its hard August 7 deadline on negotiations. The PHL case is reported to cover products that are not locally produced and are critical inputs to reducing the cost of food and health care in PHL. “We did not include in the concessions we granted products where we are a significant market producer. Our farmers and fisherfolk do not need to worry. US products like sugar, corn, rice, chicken, pork and seafood will remain subjected to Philippine tariffs. This shields domestic industries from foreign competition (*Sec Go*).”

PHL reportedly offered zero tariffs only on certain goods, such as automobiles, soy, wheat and pharmaceuticals which promote price stability and other benefits. The nominal 19% tariff on PHL puts it on equal footing with Indonesia and is the second lowest in Southeast Asia next to Singapore.

“The 19% US nominal rate on PHL is deceiving. It does not cover all goods, adding that the average duty is actually much lower at 6-7%. It is difficult to focus solely on the 19% rate because some major exports, like semiconductors, are still exempted. Only around 31% of Philippine exports are subject to the 19% tariff. The rest —products under electronics, wood, metals, fuels and chemicals—are subject to preferential tariff rates already existing under multiple trade agreements because of exemptions under Annex II of Executive Order No. 14257 of April 2, 2025, as amended (*J. Salceda*).” These preferential rates are expected to be clarified in the final US executive order on the PHL case. Semiconductors which account for 70% of electronic exports will be most affected if imposed a reported 100% tariff (*Reuters*).

“Relatedly, US reiterated its ironclad commitment to PHL as it is reportedly planning to provide PHL with \$60 million in foreign assistance funding. This will support energy, maritime, and economic growth programs and includes \$15 million to spur private sector development in the Luzon Economic Corridor. The funding will likewise support investments in transport, logistics and semiconductors that should create more domestic PH jobs. If approved, US funding will further support investments in the areas of logistics and semi-conductors (*PDI Editorial*).” Official PHL US

relations must be comprehensively assessed on all its facets i.e., political, economic including trade, investments, humanitarian assistance, immigration and national defense. A focused analysis of US-PHL bilateral tariffs is at most a partial equilibrium and an incomplete exercise.

VII. Latest PHL trade policies

1. Ending of the monopoly of NFA on rice importation,
2. Extended implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) which is derived from tariff collections until 2031. Collections go to financial and technical assistance to rice farmers. Suspension of rice importation beginning Sept 2025 to protect farmers suffering from low palay prices,
3. Time-bound zero tariffs on electric vehicles and parts and components to reduce carbon emissions and promote local production (*NEDA Board*), and
4. Negotiation of free trade agreements with EU, Canada, UAE and other countries.

VIII. Further strengthening of the PHIL economy. The world economy faces: a) continuing trade conflicts e.g., US tariffs and armed conflicts, b) investment and supply chain redeployments, and c) weaker global growth. World Bank projects PHL economic growth at 5.3% in 2025 and 5.4% in 2026 below PHL official target of 5.5-6.5%. Fiscal consolidation remains a cornerstone of the official PHL medium-term strategy. “The national government is committed to reducing the fiscal deficit from 5.5% of GDP in 2025 to 4.3% by 2028 (*DBCC*).” Both rates are higher than the internationally accepted 3% fiscal ceiling rule. Otherwise, the ratio of PHL debt to GDP will likewise be compromised. Intensified revenue raising and tighter national appropriations in 2025 and beyond remain imperative.

PHL must raise its international competitiveness in manufacturing and other sectors e.g., digitally-enhanced, service-integrated, and geopolitically trusted exports. It is crucial to capitalize on emerging opportunities in the rapidly evolving global supply chain landscape (*Aldaba, PIDS*). PHL is currently the second fast growing economy in ASEAN +3 next only to Vietnam. The PHL economic and governance agenda must include the following priorities:

- 1) Removal of remaining foreign equity restrictions in utilities, land, education, and media to unlock long-term capital flows and knowledge transfers to domestic industries;
- 2) Aligning labor supply with industrial policy through greater investment in vocational training, apprenticeships, and STEM including AI education and applications;
- 3) Adoption of lessons from countries and jurisdictions on adherence to the rule of law. PHL ranks in 99th out of 142 countries in 2024 (*World Justice Project*); and
- 4) Mapping, planning and defense of PHL’s blue economy: fisheries, aquaculture and other marine-based products; blue energy; maritime transport and services; and coastal and marine tourism (*Habito*).



Bondying

By J. IRVING

“It’s better to be kind than to be right.” – Gautama Buddha

Tactical Officers, better known as Tac-O, in the Philippine Military Academy are like the drill masters of the Marines, but without constant shouting. They have sharp eyes to look for offences. Report those defects, under the name of discipline. But there is one soul that I wish to tell you who is different . . .

He was Rear Admiral (RADM) JOSE ALBERTO “JAY” VELASCO ‘72 of the Philippine Navy (the picture shown above is my memory of him when I was a cadet, taken from the Sword, the graduation book of class ‘77). He touched so many lives, not only in the academy but throughout his career. He was so loved by people around him.

The Admiral was a Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) when Class ‘80 were plebes at PMA (school year: 1976-1977). He was the Tac-O of Bud-Daho (Delta). Plebes fondly called him “**BONDYING**” behind his back. The monicker was taken from a popular Tagalog comics character during that time. He was humorous, always pepping plebes up and making them relax. The opposite of a typical Tac-O, who are usually strict and enjoy making our lives difficult.

One time, as Officer-of-the-Day (OD), during our yearling year, he entered our room and ask my roommates why cadets are required to wear neckties during study period? He said: *“So that it is easier for us to hang ourselves, if we no longer comprehend what we are studying, afraid to fail our exams and get dismissed.”* haha

Another time, he asked us what is the first thing we ever do upon waking up in the morning? My roommates said: *to iron our uniforms, polish our metal parts, shine our shoes, go to the bathroom ...* he was smiling when he gave us his answer, *“The first thing you have to do is open your eyes! That’s my advice.”* haha

So sad to say, he passed away at 4:05 in the morning this July 13, 2025, last Sunday, at the age of 75 years old.

A flashback occurred when I read the news from the class Secretary on that day, as posted in our Viber group, about his demise, telling us that our favourite Tac-O is gone ...

In December 1976, as acting Tac-O of Bessang (Alfa), he allowed me to go to Manila to let me send off my mother



and siblings leaving for Canada to migrate (I was already a newly recognized plebe, so I decided to stay behind). As you know, plebes are prohibited to go outside the academy while plebes. However, in his marginal note to the Commandant he wrote, *“This might be the last time the Fourth Classman might see his family!”*

Thinking about it, on what he wrote, during the eve of fighting in Pata (12 February 1981, where 118 of my companions in the 31st Infantry Battalion were massacred on that morning with our battalion commander and staff by the joint forces of the MNLF, SPMF and CAFGUs of the island). Bracing for another attack, I wrote a very long letter to my mother (who did not come for my graduation) with flashlight, hiding inside poncho, in case I get killed . . . only then, I understood what he meant and the note he wrote might come true.

I told him about this incident, on his Facebook page, when I greeted him a Happy Birthday, as a retired officer and a grandfather. In one of the comments, a class ‘78 also delivered a testimony that the admiral caught him drinking during taps with mistahs. After staring at them while standing in attention, he suddenly blurted out: *SCRAM!* The firsties were all afraid to get the report for drinking – a grave justification for separation. The report never came. The person telling the story had a good run in his military career, raking three stars. He asked Sir Jay, *“Why did you not report us Sir?”*

Sir Jay, replied: *“It is better to be kind than to be right.”*

In behalf of the people you touched, Thank you Sir Jay and may flights of angels escort you to paradise ...



Tribute to Generals

• CAV RAUL B LEYRITANA '79

In the span of just two months, I stood at the graveyards of two of my PMA classmates, Major General Victor A Felix and Major General Roberto L Morales, both retired officers of the Philippine Army. Their passing is a profound personal loss not only to us, their mistahs, but also to their families, fellow soldiers, friends, and to the Filipino nation they faithfully served.



MGen Felix

These were not ordinary

soldiers. They were men forged in the crucible of military service, rising through the ranks not by privilege, but by integrity, grit, competence, and sacrifice.

For over three decades, they served the Armed Forces of the Philippines with courage, integrity, and humility, in leading troops, protecting local communities, and always answering the call of duty wherever and whenever their leadership was needed.

Both Generals Felix and Morales embodied the ideal of the professional soldier, calm yet decisive, humble yet firm. They earned the respect of their peers through quiet but resolute leadership. They led by example, upholding the highest standards of discipline and honor, never wavering from the core values they held dear.

More than simply living by PMA's revered motto of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, they embraced these values as their personal creed. These principles guided them of every difficult decision and action they made, every dangerous mission they led, and every life they touched.

Both Generals Felix and Morales never sought recognition nor applause, despite the former having retired as Commanding General, 4ID and the latter as Commander, SOCOM. There were no monuments, nor paean of praise trumpeting their notable achievements.

Nonetheless, their legacy is undeniable, among the soldiers they mentored, the military institutions they strengthened, and the ordinary lives they quietly influenced with compassion, strength, and integrity.

In their retirement, they remained purposeful and engaged. They pursued some meaningful causes, supported advocacy close to their hearts. Above all, they devoted themselves to their families and loved ones. They made up for lost time, specifically the missed milestones and cherished moments sacrificed during years of their military service.

Thereafter, they became more loving husbands, responsible fathers, and doting grandfathers. It was in the final chapters of



MGen Morales

their lives that they also deepened their spiritual lives, drawing closer to God in quiet reflection and renewed faith.

When illness struck, they met their affliction head on without fear, but with grace. In their final days, they fully accepted the inevitable with calmness and unshakable faith.

As devout Christians, they did not see death as an end, but as a return to

their Creator, a passage to eternal life, devoid of pain and suffering. They departed this world with dignity, unafraid, and at peace, knowing they had fought the good fight and kept the faith.

Both Generals Felix and Morales have left behind a legacy of moral leadership and service grounded in principle. They clearly remind us that greatness is not solely measured by rank or medals, but by character, on how one lives, leads, and loves.

Their untimely passing is also a sobering reminder to those of us left behind: classmates, comrades, and fellow veterans now old and greying that life is fleeting and fragile.

Yet, every new day of being alive is a blessing and a precious gift that needs to be treasured. Thus, we need to be more loving, forgiving, and understanding the people around us to make our lives blissful.

Despite fading strength and health related issues as well as slower steps, our presence still matters, to our families, to our communities, and to the nation we once served.

That said, let us try our utmost best to reconnect, if not yet reconnected, with what matters most, our loved ones, our values, and our faith. Let us strive, in the remaining days we have left, to live with the same integrity, humility, and purpose that the two generals exemplified.

As we bid farewell to both Generals Victor Felix and Roberto Morales, we find comfort in knowing their lives on earth were lived with purpose, guided by faith, and anchored in dedicated service. They have returned to their Creator with honor since their mission on earth has been completed.

Though their voices are now silent, their spirit lives on in the lives they touched and the values they upheld. As we fully entrust both of them to eternal life, we are again reminded of what General Douglas MacArthur once said, "Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."



HUMOR IN UNIFORM

"PATAPANGAN"

Isang araw habang magkasamang nanonood ng Sky Jumping training ang mga Heneral ng ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE at MARINES:

NAVY: Alam nyo ba na nasa NAVY ang mga pinakamatatayang na sundalo? Manood kayo. (Sinigawan ng Admiral ang sailor nya)

NAVY: Sailor tumalon ka sa eroplano na naka-blindfold!

SAILOR: Sir, yes sir!
(Tumalon ang Sailor)

AIR FORCE: Wala yan sa mga tao ko. Manood kayo. (Sinigawan ng Heneral ang Airman nya)

AIR FORCE: Airman, tumalon ka sa eroplano na walang parachute, tali lang ang gamitin mo!

AIR FORCE: Yes, sir!
(Tumalon ang Airman at pagbagsak sa lupa, nabuhay pero napilay)

MARINES: Wala yan sa tapang ng mga Marine Recon ko! Manood kayo!
(Sinigawan ng Heneral ang Marine Recon nya)

MARINES: Recon, tumalon ka sa eroplano na walang

parachute, walang tali na naka-blindfold at may dalang machine gun!


RECON: Marines do or die sir!
(Tumalon ang Marine Recon habang pinapaputok ang machine gun. Pagbagsak sa lupa, agaw buhay ang Marines at dinala sa hospital)

ARMY: Relax lang kayo. Panoorin nyo ang Scout Ranger ko!
(Sinigawan ng Heneral ang Scout Ranger)

ARMY: Ranger, gusto ko tumalon ka sa eroplano na naka-blindfold, na walang tali at parachute, may dalang dalawang machine gun at 50 kilos na backpack at walang boots!

RANGER: Ano ako loko! Tumalon ka mag-isa mo! Bahala ka sa buhay mo, sir!
(Napangiti ang Heneral ng ARMY at napalingon sa mga kasama)

ARMY: Yan ang matapang. Kaya ba ng tropa nyo sumagot sa Heneral nya ng ganyan? He, he he!

Source: FB-A Soldier's Love 

BEYOND FORGETTING

<<< TRIVIA >>>

Reorganization of the CCAFP


Reorganization of the Cadet Corps, AFP started way back in 1948 when the Corps started out as a Cadet Company with only one Class of Cadets (Class 1951). When there was a complete Cadet Corps from firstclass to fourthclass cadets in 1950 it became a full-sized Battalion consisting of Companies "A," "B," "C," and "D." At this point companies began to bear names such as "Able," "Baker," "Cats," and "Dog" companies, respectively. It was in 1957 that the Corps became what it is called now-a Regiment. However, this regiment consisted only of two battalions until 1975 with two companies each battalion.

On September 1, 1975, to meet such need of the growing cadet population, the CCAFP was reorganized into six-numbered companies from the original four companies; namely, Alfa, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. For the first time in 28 years, the companies deviated from their traditional lettered-names to be known as 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th with the addition of a 5th and 6th Company.

Barely 44 days after the latest reorganization through General Order No. 23, HPMA dated 14 October 1975, the CCAFP organization this time was renamed after famous Filipino battle fronts; namely, Besang, Tirad and Pinaglabanan

Companies to compose the First Battalion and Buddaho, Mactan and Imus Companies under the Second battalion.

In June 1978, due to the large abrupt increase in the number of cadets, the CCAFP was further reorganized into eight-lettered companies while reverting back to their usual names. This time, Golf and Hawk were added as an off-shoot of the growing population. First Battalion had Alfa, Bravo, Charlie and Delta; while, Echo, Foxtrot and the two new companies, Golf and Hawk, made up the second battalion.

The final transition to the present set-up was implemented during the Incorporation Day rites of Class 1984 on May 24, 1980. The CCAFP was subdivided into four battalions as a result of the continuous up-growth of cadet population. This was necessitated by the dire need of making the chain of command proportionately as many as the increasing number of their men for better control and administration. This also made available more "cadet-officer" slots for the members of the Class of 1981 who were the incoming firstclassmen at that time. Alfa and Bravo Companies composed the First Battalion, Charlie and Delta made up the Second Battalion, Echo and Foxtrot Companies for the Third while Golf and Hawk composed the Fourth Battalion. 

*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)

A Father's Day Tribute

By Teng Zaide – Garnace

Honor thy father and thy mother - one of the Ten Commandments of the Lord that carries a promise of a rich and fruitful life. It is in this light that I want to pay tribute to a very special man...my father. To our family, he is a pillar of strength and source of great inspiration.

What makes a father? Interestingly the father is the provider, the decision-maker and the solid foundation of family yet oftentimes, it is only to mothers that we attribute the success or even failure of the basic unit of society.

Coincidentally, June, the traditional month of celebrating Father's Day is also his birth month. He would have turned 95 years old this year. But he passed away after celebrating his 80th birthday on July 23, 2010 after a long bout with his kidney ailment. Today I am sharing with you his story - one of love, sacrifice, hope, honor and most importantly, the triumph of the human spirit.

Born in a small, sleepy town in Aklan, my father did not hide the fact that he came from humble beginnings. While growing up, he would often tell us, his children, how lucky we were that we have everything given to us, while he had to work hard through most of his life. He recalled how his mother bravely and single-handedly raised the brood of four, of which he was the youngest, of times that his meals consisted of boiled bananas or "kamoteng kahoy," of thinking that the rest of the world only ate two meals a day, just like his family.

So poor were they at that time that he had to walk barefoot through rice paddies along a four-kilometer dirt road, muddy during rainy season and hot to the feet during summer, just to go to school; use banana leaves to cover his head from rain and other elements; of having to borrow a pair of

shoes just to be able to graduate, and other such stories which we thought then only happened in movies or "telenovelas."

However, such harsh experiences early in life did not deter his resolve to make something of himself. With the help of his mother and sisters, he struggled to finish school. After graduating from the Philippine Military Academy in 1955, he served in the military until his retirement as Colonel assigned as the Commanding Officer of the Philippine Army Finance Center in 1984. After retirement, he tried his hand at different things until he became the General Manager of the then fledging Philippine Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative (PAFCPIC) in the early 90s. He persevered and nurtured PAFCPIC as President, then as Chairman, until it became what it is today - a multi-awarded, multi-billion peso leader in the cooperative industry, whose meteoric rise is admired and revered not only by his colleagues but also by the very institution and the community it serves. For this, he was

awarded the highest honor given by his alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy, for its alumnae - the Cavalier Award in 2003 for being the best in Private Enterprise. Also his hometown, Aklan, awarded him the Most Outstanding Aklanon for Business/Industry in 2006.

In spite of all his achievements and accolades, he remained simple and unassuming, quiet and never bragging about his successes, a true blue "probinsiyo" at heart. In fact, if he only knew I was writing this piece, he would definitely admonish me for bragging.

What else can I say about my father? Certainly his life has come full circle - the lives he touched, the memories he created, the people who made him who he was.

If ever there is one thing that would forever be etched in my memory is how he would sometimes ask us, his children, to forgive him for his real or imagined shortcomings as a father. According to him, he never learned firsthand how to be a good

2003 Cavalier Awardee

CAV EFRÉN R ZAIDE '55
Private Enterprise



father for he never had one. That is not true Dad. For me you were the best dad, my idol, my hero. No one could replace you in my heart and I am proud to be my father's daughter.

To my dad, the late Col Efren R Zaide (PMA Class 55) Happy Birthday and Happy

Father's Day in heaven! Happy Father's Day to all dads out there. Let us give them the honor, respect and love they deserve!

In Memoriam

Last June 21, 2025, Col. Ponciano M. Allanigue (Ret), passed away at the age of

95 years old. The memorial service was at St. Ignatius Mortuary located at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City. The late Col. Allanigue is survived by his wife, Mrs. Asuncion "Siony" Allanigue, his daughter, Daisy Allanigue – Sta Cruz. / *rj alquiza*



Manny Mariano Celebrates 85th Birthday in Grand Style at Camp Aguinaldo

It was a day filled with love, laughter, and unforgettable memories as family and friends gathered to honor the life and legacy of Manny Mariano on the occasion of his 85th birthday. The celebration was held last March 22, 2025, at the elegant Tejeros Hall in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The event began on a solemn and heartfelt note with a thanksgiving mass celebrated by two priests, offering prayers of gratitude for Manny's long and meaningful life. As the ceremony concluded, the festivities shifted into high gear.

Around 350 guests were treated to a sumptuous lunch buffet that was nothing short of a feast. The spread featured culinary delights including lechon baka, lechon baboy, and a whole tuna expertly sliced on the spot for the freshest sashimi experience. Food stations added a festive touch with crowd favorites like a chicharon bulaklak booth, a craft beer stand, a taho station, and an ice cream cart — ensuring there was something for every palate.

While guests enjoyed the extensive fare, a musical duo serenaded the crowd with timeless classics, setting a relaxed and joyful atmosphere. The celebration reached an emotional high when the celebrant himself,

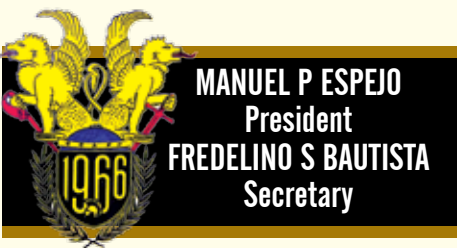
Manny Mariano, stood up to give a short but heartfelt message, thanking everyone for their presence and support through the years.

A touching video presentation followed, offering a glimpse into Manny's journey through the decades — from personal milestones to professional triumphs. The video not only stirred nostalgia but also underscored the many lives Manny has touched.

To keep the spirit of fun alive, a trivia game brought laughter and a bit of friendly competition as guests answered questions about Manny's life. The celebration concluded with lively rounds of a putting game and an energetic Zumba session — a testament to Manny's youthful spirit and zest for life.

Manny Mariano's 85th birthday bash was more than a celebration of age — it was a celebration of a life well-lived, surrounded by the warmth of family, friends, and decades of cherished memories.





PAMBUNGAD

Pumapatak na naman ang ulan. Ilang bagyo rin ang lumipas at ang pinakamatindi ay si Emong. Mahigit na isang linggo ang buhos ng tubig, nagkaroon ng baha sa mga kalsada, hindi lamang dito sa Metro Manila, kundi sa iba pang dako ng bansa. Walang pasok sa mga paaralan, pati na sa mga opisina.

Nakapagtataka, sapagkat napakalaki ang inilaang salapi para sa flood control projects. Sana naman, matuto na ang ating mga lingkod bayan na subaybayan kung paano ginastos ang mga salapi mula sa kabang bayan.

AGAIN, SAD NEWS

In the April to June issue of the Cavalier Magazine, we reported the passing of Mistah Bert Sabularse last 03 May 2025. Necrological

services were held on 14 May attended by mistahs, their ladies and Air Force officers who worked with him in his lifetime, and most importantly, wife Fe and other members of the family, at the PAF Chapel. He was buried with full military honors the next day at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

The passing of a classmate and comrades-in-arms, is always a sad note, with prayers that it should not happen again so soon. But it did, once more, last 27 June 2025. On this day, a long time class associate member, Isidro Fajardo, “crossed the bar”, poetically. He rose to be the AFP’s Chief of Engineers at the pinnacle of his military career, just like Bert Sabularse who was the AFP’s Deputy Chief of Staff, J-4. Incidentally,



Bert



Sid

both of them were born in June, 1943 and are both Bicolanos, and avid golfers.

Per military tradition, Sid was honored with necrological services at the Mortuary of Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio on 4 July 2025 and buried with full military honors the next day at the new General’s Row, Libingan ng mga Bayani.

WAY FORWARD

16 February 2026 PMA, here we come! This is now the battle cry of the sixty-sixers, spouses and “brats.” In essence, preparations are almost complete. President Noli Espejo and mistah staffs Louie Fernandez and Bing Rivera have made trips to Baguio and PMA to arrange hotel billetings, dinner programs and coordination with PMA staffs for some amenities, specially, buses.

The “brats” too are making their own preparations to support our “last hurrah”, giving us senior citizens of the class, some comfort and assurances that all is well come 2026. To cite some of them – Mara Espejo, Edd Santos’ energetic daughters Christine and Ann and somehow providing the muscle to the group – early retiree Edwin Cordova ‘99, son of mistah Mars Cordova.



Back to the slopers during a quarterly lunch at AFPCOC. Leftmost is Jun Paynor '71, guest of the day.

After lunch, during a Christmas get-together.

IN THE MEANTIME

We continue to be active. Somehow, because of age, the morning walks have become lesser in frequency and participants. The most attended is the Saturday breakfast group at Coffee Beans and Tea Leaf and pension day breakfast (every 16th of the month) at Larry's Restaurant, both at Bonifacio Global City.

Last year, as we earlier wrote in our Class Call '66 we formed the C6-4567 (at the prodding of WAGA '64), which consists of "bugos" of Cadet Corps '64, '65, '66, '67. This has become a more active social group which meets every Tuesday morning at a coffee shop in Serendra, Bonifacio Global

City, and every quarter, also on a Tuesday, at Camp Aguinaldo Officers' Club. We now call our new group BTTTS, meaning Back to the Slopes, again a brainchild of WAGA '64, the uncontested informal leader.

THE LADIES TOO...

Not to be outdone, our spouses too find time to be together-most often in restaurants and coffee shops in Makati or Bonifacio Global City. In a way, just like us, they are also boodlers occasionally.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

We wish to greet our misthas, and their spouses who celebrated/will celebrate, the

"first day of the rest of their lives", during the dates as indicated:

July – Jimmy Bantolo (25); Gerry Dumadapat (20); Gene Parrenas (10); Precy Belleza (08); Cel Espejo (10); Iyay Urgello (11); Lita Javier (11); Patri Cordova (21); Olivia Perez (22).

August – Fred Bautista (25); Bing Rivera (02); Alice Alba (15); Portia Varona (22); Sylvia Agudelo (28).

September – Jacie Aquino (11); Serge Belleza (9); Ric Tanedo (19); Tita Belo (02); Lulu de Leon (07), Dolly Lachica (20); Puri Eco (30).

Maligayang araw ng pagsilang! Nawa, bigyan pa kayo ng Panginoon ng marami pang mga taon.



MARIANO R SANTIAGO
President
ROSAURO V SIBAL
Secretary

**PMA DIMASUPIL CLASS OF 1967
(2nd Quarter Report, April-June 2025)**

After the successful celebration of our 58th anniversary of our graduation from the Fort last March 19, 2025, the Dimasupils held its traditional "forum" at the NIU Restaurant at the Podium Mall at Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City on April 30, 2025, hosted by the following Dimasupils and Tagasupils who celebrated their birthdays in the months of April and May:

April: Alice Averilla (9), Nenie Abendan (12), Carol Rigor (12), Bert

Torres (16), Eve Villacorta (17), Rudy Gaerlan (18), Mar Gatmaitan (26), Dinsay Dionisio (28), and Mila Pinto (29).

May: Auring Garcia (6), Agnes Avenido (7), May Garcia (15), Jun Gabison (24), and Ida Aquino (28).

We also took the occasion to remember April 1, 1963 when we first entered the Philippine Military Academy as plebes and were subjected to "beast barracks" during the next two months

EVENT TODAY
WELCOME PMA DIMASUPIL CLASS '67
July 24, 2025
07:00 AM
Level 1 | Origine Spanish Cuisine
BRITANNY HOTEL

of summer that culminated with our Southern Cruise.

Like what we did on March 19, 2025 when we gratefully recognized our immediate past president Mistah Jun Avenido with a Plaque of Appreciation for his 22 years of dedicated service as Class President from 2002 to 2024, we awarded a similar Plaque of Appreciation to Mistah Rudy Gaerlan for his more than 55 years of dedicated service as Class Treasurer from 1969 to 2024. We intend to continue doing so until all those who led the Class are properly recognized. Incidentally, past president and now vice president, Mistah Jun Ibay, has been doing a yeoman's job

coordinating transportation for the Class in several occasions during our attendance in the Alumni Homecoming.

Also in April 2025, Tagasupil Alice Averilla hosted some other Dimasupils and Tagasupils available for her birthday feast at home. Mistah Manny Dalipe was not able to resist the "boodles" and flew all the way from far away Zamboanga!

Then came the fund-raising raffle of the PMAAAI and PMARAI. We have been ably represented by Mistah Mar Santiago in the Council of PMA Class Presidents meetings. We were allocated 50 tickets and thanks to our mistahs, we were among the first to sell our quota. We generated

more than Php15,000.00 for our class fund since some of our classmates bought extra tickets. Draw for the raffle was originally scheduled for June 11, but was reset to July 3, 2025. A report will be made about this.

For the birthday celebrators for June: Tante Torrechante (1), Abe Din (15), Ross Sibal (16), Walter Briones (17), Beth Santiago (19), Louie Sanchez (21), and Cora Din (30), some of the "hostages", decided to co-host our breakfast together with the celebrators for and in July 2025.

Missing and wanted: Archie Balboa, Moises Boquiren, Bay Gabison, Walter Briones and Ching Ballecer!



PMA Dimasupil Class 67 Breakfast Forum at Brittany Hotel's Restaurant.



Tagasupils'67 Charming Ladies who attended our Breakfast Forum at Brittany Hotel Restaurant.



A well-attended Breakfast Forum of PMA Dimasupil Class '67.



Birthday Celebrants and their spouses for June-July 2025.



HONORIO S AZCUETA
President
WILFREDO G NUQUI
Secretary

1. Our Board of Officers, accompanied by their respective ladies, officially approved the audited status of the Class Fund and enjoyed lunch at Creperie, White Plains on Feb 17, 2025. Class members (CMs) are welcome to inquire on the Fund's status anytime.
2. CMs and ladies also convened at the OPUS Mall, QC on July 29, 2025 to enjoy our Almighty's gift of life, aging healthily, sharing stories, enjoying food and expressing informal views on national developments. Of current interests are a) the circulating informal views on making 'PMA O Hail to Thee' more gender sensitive and making its tune upbeat; and b) US-PH trade relations with emphasis on Trump's reciprocal tariffs and implications to our economic lives.
3. Effective July 30, 2025, our AFPSLAI corporate membership has been activated which entitle it to full benefits. AFPSLAI dividend and savings interest rates exceed current inflation and remain very favorable. We surely benefit from the favorable tax exemption law on savings and loan associations. In contrast, a recent government law now taxes interest income of saving deposits regardless of tenor.
4. The accompanying pictures provide information on those smilingly present in both productive and joyful events. We missed those who can not join and reiterate our wish for maximum Class participation in enjoying similar and other Class events.





JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JESUS B DULLER
Secretary

Happy Birthday Greetings to our Suaviter celebrants in the Third Quarter 2025:

+Boy Maligalig – 2 July, +Vic Erfe – 4 July, Inday Tiangco – 5 July, Yet Wong – 15 July, +Dennis Nagtalon – 19 July, Marilou Abanes – 20 July, Cleo Erfe – 21 July; Marle Noble – 15 Aug, Menjie Erfe – 18 Aug, Mone' Carranza – 24 Aug, Ike Begonia – 23 Aug, Ingging Begonia – 27 Aug; Rene Aguda – 5 Sep, Dan Reventar – 7 Sep, +Pacoy Chanco – 8 Sep, Benjie Defensor - 12 Sep, Vikki Brillantes - 15 Sep, Chris Abanes – 16 Sep, Jake Duller - 22 Sep and Pol Gange -23 Sep. *Taken from Bingbo's vault file. Thank you, Bobing.*

Party Time

Ike Begonia 80th Birthday Breakfast Blowout is set on Thursday, 21 August, at Paul's to start promptly at 0800H. All Suaviters, Ladies and companions are requested to signify their intention early for planning purposes. As of this writing, 31 have signed up to attend this milestone event. Cris Abanes volunteered to lead the rendering of the birthday song for his fellow Bravoan. Per last report, Jus has already personally gone to Paul's and secured the reservation. Looks like all's set. Happy 80th, Ike! Fun! Fun! Fun! Let's go!!!

Incidentally, I stumbled on Ingging Begonia's posting entitled "On the Road to Eighty" which is so appropriate for her hubby's upcoming birthday celebration. Thank you, Ingging, for your valuable insights and advice.

On the Road to Eighty

- Seventy is an important node in life. From any perspective, people over 70 are considered old. At this point, the gorgeous sunset is approaching the horizon, and the colorful life is also coming to an end. According to official public data, only 44% of all natural persons can cross the threshold of 70 and turn around to walk on the road to 80.
- Seventy to eighty is a difficult decade in life, and it is an eventful period of life in old age.
- This interval will experience accelerated aging, and all organs are irreversibly degenerating and wearing out, just like a machine that is about to be scrapped but is still running slowly.
- This period is the outbreak period of many diseases. Due to the reduction and

mutation of the human immune ability, it is difficult to effectively resist the invasion of bacteria and viruses. Minor illnesses often occur, and major illnesses are coming at any time. It is a normal situation.

- During this period, due to the slow reaction of the brain and the loss of flexibility of the limbs, various accidents such as dizziness, choking, collisions, and falls will occur at any time, and each accident will bring unbearable consequences.
 - During this period, you will also have to endure the pain and sadness of losing relatives, comrades, colleagues, classmates and other acquaintances of the same age. Your social circle will become smaller and smaller, and you will have fewer and fewer close friends to confide in, and your sense of loneliness will continue to increase.
 - What is more dangerous is that some people will become deaf and amnesiac or even lose their ability to take care of themselves during this period. Not only will they have to endure the torment of long-term bed rest, but they will also add a heavy burden to their children.
 - Many unpredictable things will happen at any time during this period, and an inadvertent mistake can completely change your life.
- Everyone's old age is a bloody storm, and this is by no means alarmist.
- A piece of classical opera about the difficulty of old age tells the bitterness and desolation of the elderly.
- Some people say that if you can cross the age of 70 and step on the starting line of

the 80s, you are a very lucky person, because more than half of your peers have fallen behind and lost the qualification to run 80s.

If you reach 75 years old, you are a winner in life, because you have traveled halfway through this difficult decade of life, and your actual life expectancy has reached the average of the national average life expectancy. In this landmark gas station, you can vaguely see the sign of the end of life as long as you raise your feet and look up.

If you persist all the way and finally complete the task of running eighty, you are a perfect winner in life. Because you have successfully reached the base camp of climbing to the top of life, you can lie down and reminisce your stormy life.

Next, you can disdain those vague goals of 90 and 100 years old, and you can decide to move forward or give up at anytime and anywhere. Everything will go with the flow and leave it to fate.

There is no more time to come in our life dictionary. The only thing we can dominate is: do not regret yesterday, do not gamble tomorrow, cherish today, and live well every day. As long as you can eat and walk today, then hurry up to eat some food you want to eat, see some beautiful scenery you want to see, and complete the long-cherished wish you once dreamed of! Hold on tight, hold on tight, and leave no regrets in life.

- Forward this to all old classmates, old comrades, old colleagues, old peers of the same age... Let's encourage each other!

Posts seen in PMA 69 Ladies Viber Chat Group: Thank you, Ladies.



SUAVITERS ON THE GO:

The Erfes:



The Erfes on Iceland Tour. Enjoy the land of the Vikings, volcanoes, glaciers, waterfalls, geysers, black sand beaches ... Have fun!

ICELAND. Located in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean, this small island nation offers landscapes that feel as if they were from another planet but are intensely real at the same time. Iceland's dramatic geography results from millennia of volcanic eruptions, glacial movements, and the constant interplay of tectonic plates. It's a land where glaciers carve through volcanic rock, where waterfalls thunder into deep canyons, and where geothermal energy can be witnessed in many different forms.

The De Los Santos:



Enjoying my USA vacation, oblivious of the political situation in our country. With my two grandsons in a round of golf. Regards to all. ---Jimmy.



Back to the Home Front:

Jet lag therapy: A round of Golf. 1st game after the US trip. Welcome back, Jimmy.

"Intermittent rain did not deter us from enjoying 18 holes in CAGC on a Sunday after we got back. Golf is for all seasons. Indeed. Nice to be back home. Regards." ---Jimmy.

Welcome back, Mistah!



CTTO: DANI ALVAREZ

In Memoriam of Pope Francis:

It's almost as if he waited.

Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday. The timing felt too tender to be coincidence—like he held on just long enough to hear the Alleluia one last time. To witness the Church rejoice in the Resurrection before quietly letting go. As if he needed to see the stone rolled away before stepping into the promise he had spent his life proclaiming.

He carried so much. The wounds of a divided Church. The ache of the poor and the forgotten. The weight of hope—for a world more merciful, more human, more like Christ. He walked with a limp, both in body and in spirit, but never without grace. He wasn't perfect. But he was present. And he kept showing up.

And he was different.

He chose the simple path when grandeur was expected. He rode the bus. Paid his own hotel bill. Lived in a guesthouse instead of the papal palace. His first act as Pope was to bow and ask for our prayers. From the beginning, he showed us that true authority kneels. That greatness can look like humility.

He disrupted systems and comforted outcasts. He spoke boldly on justice, embraced the disabled, welcomed migrants, washed the feet of prisoners. He didn't just talk about mercy—he embodied it. He made the Church feel like a place where the last could be first, and the forgotten, finally seen.

He taught us that holiness isn't perfection—it's presence. That the Gospel is clearest when it sounds like compassion. That faith, at its best, looks like love with skin on.

And now, just after Easter, he's gone.

But maybe that was his final homily. Not delivered from a pulpit, but through the quiet timing of his death—a soft Amen to a life spent preaching hope.

It brings to mind these words:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." — 2 Timothy 4:7

And he did. He fought—not with anger, but with mercy. He ran—not to be praised, but to make space for others. And he kept the faith—not flawlessly, but fiercely.

So yes, we grieve. But we also remember.

We remember how he made us believe again—in a Church that walks with the wounded, in a Gospel wide enough for the doubting, in a God whose love meets us right where we are.

He reminded me that faith isn't something we hold onto for ourselves.

It's something we hand off—with open hands and open hearts.

Pope Francis has finished his race.

And what he leaves behind isn't just a memory—

It's the echo of a life poured out.
The kind of life that makes you want to live differently.

More gently.
More boldly.
More like him.
More like Christ.

He waited for Easter—because he believed in the promise.

And now, that promise is his.
Light has found him.
And Love has brought him home.

SUAVITERS on the NEWS



25 July 2025: This morning, PDFI Oath-taking. Mistah Cris Abanes, Chairman, Mistah Ike Begonia, Trustee. Mistahs present: Benjie Defensor, Tom Lantion. With CSAFP as GOHS.

Congratulations Mistahs Cris and Ike! Kudos to Mistah Jimmy for making the event happen! Of course, honors too for Benjie and Tom gracing the occasion! Carry on guys! ---Rene D. Aguda



Willy Wong: My best wishes in the successful performance of your sworn duties and responsibilities, Chris and Ike. God speed.

Jus Manlongat: Congrats to Chris and Ike. Good luck.

Nonoy Carranza: Congratulations and good luck Mistahs Chris and Ike...

Joey Syjuco: Congrats to Chris and Ike!

Benjie Defensor: Cheers to Jimmy for making the day great for the Suaviters! Just after little rearrangement, it was almost singing time. The GOH, Gen B knows almost all the songs of S69 as he was Jimmy's senior aide when we were practicing in AFPCOC.

Jess Regala: Congrats to all!





Magiting Milestones

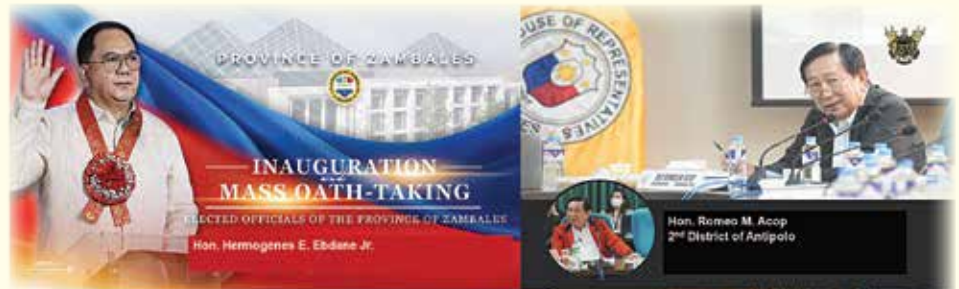
Magiting People’s Choice Sworn In

Honorable Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr was sworn to office for the third time as governor of the Province of Zambales on June 30, 2025. We can recall that he ran for re-election unopposed this year. The governor’s lovely wife Alma as well as their children and grandchildren attended the oath taking ceremony at the Botolan Plaza. He recently delivered his 2025 State of Province Address (please see Cavalier 2nd Quarter). One can glean his pride and accomplishments for nearly a decade of service to the people of Zambales. You make the Class so proud Mistah Gov. Jun.

Honorable Romeo M. Acop was likewise sworn to office for the third time as representative of the Second District of Antipolo. Likewise, he ran for re-election unopposed. He is shown being sworn in to office by his favorite Barangay Captain Leandro “Anding” Cabasbas. The oath taking took place on June 30, 2025 at the residence of Hon. Romy in Antipolo and was witnessed by his three children, all doctors namely Doc Karla, Doc Reena with husband Edric and Doc Philip with wife Jacqueline. Hon. Romy is serving his fifth term in the 20th Congress after having been elected in the 15th, 16th, 17th and 19th Congress set-ups. Magiting Romy is proud of his very, very long service to law enforcement and almost as long legislative duties. You make the Class so proud Mistah Hon. Romy.

A Thanksgiving Party in Zambales

Governor Jun hosted all Magitings and their ladies to a fellowship and thanksgiving party at the beautiful town of Candelaria, Zambales on June 4 - 7, 2025. A holy mass was celebrated upon arrival of the guests to invoke safety for all and gratitude for the opportunity to get together and celebrate the uncontested victory of Governor Jun Ebdane as well as enjoy the beauty of the ocean, sky and beaches of Candelaria, a tourist destination outside of Subic. A



large majority of Magitings and their Mas Magiting ladies partook of the celebration which to many of them was a restful vacation, an escape from the hassles and traffic of Metro Manila. A short boat ride took the guests to the pristine Potipot Island off the coast of Candelaria. It was also a chance for Mistah Roy Cimatu to show his skill in jet skiing defying the big waves during the inter-island trips. Mads, Boots, Danny and Ed were the Karaoke champions during the nightly jam sessions. Kudos to Dina Gaerlan for the steady supply of San Mig light beer. Canadians Ernie and Cecile drove to Zambales from Bataan. They will have been back to Toronto by the time this Class Call issue is published. Thank you Mistah Gov. Jun for the fantastic chance to commune with nature.

Mas Magitings' June Birthday Fete

The customary birthday treats for Mas Magiting June *celebs* were held at the CGEA Golf Club House on June 27, 2025. Celebrating in June were Neneng Galvante, Malou Visperas and Tess Atienza. Celebrating in July were Gemma Ver and Fely Resos (+). For August, our birthday ladies were Lou Ugale, Marilyn Signey, Maricar Alvarez and Alice Parayno. The occasion was held at Jade Garden, Glorietta on August 6, 2025. Of course, a good number of Magitings acted as culinary appraisers for the two events. Happy birthday to all *celebs*.

Boots Attends Harvard Reunion

On May 16 - 18, 2025, Boots de Veyra attended the 35th year reunion of his 1990 class of MC/MPA (Mid-Career Master in Public Administration) at Harvard Kennedy School, University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. *The MC/MPA Program empowers experienced professionals to*



Mas Magitings' birthday fete @ CGEA Golf Clubhouse, July 3, 2025



Mas Magitings' birthday fete @ Jade Garden, Glorietta Aug 6, 2025

make a greater impact in their countries and in the world. He boasts of his more than 14 hours of driving to HKS. Boots will not say it but he is rightly proud of his academic joust with an international cast. Boots and the late SND Angie Reyes were classmates and so was Nieves Confesor his former professor at the Asian Institute of Management. Such credentials make a rather exceptional PMA Superintendent of which he was in 2001-02.

In a mini reunion of sorts Boots and Emy delighted Flor and Emma, Jimmy and Ding at the lovely home of Rody and Maritess in Los Angeles.

Roy's Birthday Treats

It all started with a pre-birthday lunch with Magitings at Gloria Maris, Green Hills on June 27, 2025. Then a North vs. South golf tournament was held at the Veterans Golf Course on July 11 Friday, now called *Palaro NiRoy* as a pun. The very next day July 12 Saturday Roy held his already traditional birthday treat at his residence. The ubiquitous Tomahawk steaks, a trademark birthday feature were devoured with plebe like quickness. Of course, there was a flood of beer that almost inundated Boots and Ed. The ladies turned up with two cakes as everyone sang



Harvard Kennedy School, 1990



Class reunion of MC/MPA, 2025



Boots & Emy's visit to US Mistahs

for Roy who easily blew the candles out. The cakes vanished silently with coffee and beer as endless chatter grew louder across the tables. Roy's living room is adorned with pictures of his lovely Ning, never ever to be forgotten by all Magitings and ever by Mas Magitings. Thank you Roy for the retinue of fun golf and treats.

Julius Turns 80

He is the first member in the Class to reach the 8th decade. Julius and his big family take solid pride in his status as the class goat. It all seems that this is *a part of a glorious scheme* like how that immortal song goes. This time a family credo coined specially by daughter Lt Col Julie Javier Class '04 that goes *Greatest Of All Time*. Julius relishes his laxity, but quite playfully so. Incredibly it was the customary dozing that saved his life from an ambush in Jolo. One wonders how Julius can doze off as the convoy traversed the perilous road to Sibalo Hill on the way to recapture that objective. The rebels missed the dozing *Greatest Of All Time* dad. Laxity pays, but only for one like Julius. At the party held at the Ricarte Hall PA Officers' Club, he retold his exploits in video. Not many know that he was the only boy in the family. His sisters, children, grandkids from abroad as well as so many friends joined the 80th milestone and colorful career of Julius. A crisp cultural presentation of Mindanao dance art was featured as well as a modern rendition of LED-lit dazzling rap dance in the dark on the center stage. Former SND Volts Gazmin and notable PA retired generals came to the feast. Benjie Golez sang and played disco music too tempting to resist by Mas Magitings and guests. Food was superb in supply and quality. It was also his grandson Troy's 18th birthday that night. Tessie was resplendent in her



Roy's pre-birthday treat Gloria Maris, Green Hills, June 27



Roy's birthday at his residence, July 12



Palaro NiRoy, VMMC, Golf Course July 11, 2025



Magiting North/South Fellowship Tour, VMMC, July 11, 2025



Veterans Golf Course, August 8, 2025



Fellowship Lunch at Doris Restaurant

red gown. The color motifs for that night were Ranger black and red. It was truly a super night for the Javiers. Thanks Julius for including us in your happy celebration.

Fairway Habitués

A long drive amazes your flight. You can't believe you made a birdie. In the next hole your ball sinks into the pond, will it gratify you to verify where it sank? Conniving becomes animated after the game. We go home feeling better than yesterday. All hackneyed stories that repeat themselves over and over. They are second only to Loakan memories. Golf is like an endless courtship; the next sortie promises to be even more exciting.

Mistah Roy hosted a *Palaro NiRoy* as a part of his birthday celebration at the Veterans Golf Course on July 11, 2025. To everyone's pleasant surprise, he gifted each player with an impeccable pair of white golf shoes matching our class golf uniforms. The fairway that Friday morning was still soggy from last night's rain but so *what*. Lunch followed at Doris Restaurant, another treat by Roy. One more tour will be held in December to settle prestige and bragging rights. Rumor persists that prize money is on the table. Vic, Egay, Eloy and Primo chunked the fairways of Veterans. Elsewhere Dionet, Nesty, Bob, Glenn, Boots and Ed scuffed 18 holes. *Till Golf Do Us Part.*



Julius @ 80, PA O' Club, July 17, 2025



A cultural presentation



Former SND Volts Gazmin and notable Army commanders



The lovely Mas Magiting ladies and host Tessie Javier



Julius with his sisters from the US





JOSE C LALISAN JR
President
ARTHUR G BALMACEDA
Secretary

Farewell Mistahs Rey Rivera and Rudy Vasquez

This third quarter of the year is a “low down” for the class. We lost two of our brother mistahs, both from the Army. Mistah Rey Rivera succumbed to a 3-year lingering illness of liver cancer last 7 July 2025 while mistah Rudy Vasquez succumbed after years in coma due to a head fall accident last 20 July 2025. They were given the appropriate military honors that they truly deserved for the dedicated services they had given for our country and people. Their wake and necrological services were well attended by the Matatag Family, alumni, service personnel both active and retired, relatives, and friends. The whole class of 1971 and together with the mas-Matatags commiserate to the bereaved families for their loss. We sympathize and offer our condolences to Jie Rivera and the family for the passing of their beloved Rey. Likewise, we offered our deepest condolences to the children of Rudy, Ronald and Liza, for the loss of their dearest dad. Death comes really in a strange way.. like an ambush lurking along the path of Life. For us the living, we can do no less but to offer prayers that their souls rest in eternal peace. Farewell mistahs Rey and Rudy as we offer our last snappiest salute to both of you. You will not be forgotten.

“We” time or the Third (3rd) Quarter Birthday Fellowship and other bonding activities

Last 8 June 2025, the Matatags and Mas Matatags held their 3rd quarter birthday fellowships hosted jointly by the birthday celebrators for the 3rd quarter and bunk Egay Aglipay, who won as Provincial Governor of the Province of Cagayan during the last local election. This was held at the Aglipay residence in Valle Verde IV, Pasig City. A well-attended affair, the lunch fellowship began after a mass offering for the celebrators. There was also an informal meeting of the Matatags chaired by Prexy Joey Lalisan who announced that next year will be the 55th anniversary of the class. The attendees were requested to suggest what would be the class uniform during the alumni parade come February 2026. Considering that the color theme is emerald

(green), some suggested that the class will just use the dark coat and pants and wear green shirt, others suggested white shirt with green necktie, or a jacket with a shade of green. There was no agreement yet as far as the uniform is concerned but just a heads up. A candle blowing ceremony by the celebrators was done after which lunch buffet was opened. Those who attended were Mawie and Egay Aglipay, Rey and Fim Velasco, Marte and Tetet Chioco, Ruben and Fe Domingo, Aris and Nina Delos Reyes, Oca and Jing Martinez, Dan and Arleen Francia, Sen Greg and Jane Honasan, Joey and Celia Lalisan, Rene and Sara Paredes, Mel and Hazel Acosta with their son Ian, Wency and Puring Cruz, Doy and Baby Francisco, Bob Sacramento and daughter Bianca, Tex Balmaceda, Stan David, Dong and Lulu Tabamo, Tet Domingo, Lita Gil, Aleli Belonia, Beng Ibo and daughter, Jo Galvez, Verna Albano, Jie Rivera, Manny Foronda, Jennie Domingo, and JB Ramos. As usual, the program was a no-holds bar event. Brave singers and dancers were upstage to show their mettle. Accompanied by a band, the attendees enjoyed the fellowship with much enthusiasm particularly the group dancing led by a DI. Everybody participated

and enjoyed the food and the party, The ladies, as usual, brought home “pabaons.”

Last 23 June 2025, Hampaslupa Prexy Rey Acop hosted a golf tournament at the Aguinaldo Golf Course on his 76th birthday. Those who attended the game and fellowship were Tex Balmaceda, Rey Alcasid, Dan Belonia, Marte Chioco and Tetet, Oca and Jing Martinez, Rey and Fim Velasco, Joey and Celia Lalisan, Manny Foronda, Doy Francisco, Vic Batac, civilian friends Francis Pua and Owen Yamamoto, Bob and Eden Sacramento, Jane and Rex Piad, Lita Gil, Jennie Domingo, Jo Galvez, Twiggy Zubia, Sen Greg and Jane Honasan, Boy and Barrie Castellano, Sandy Navida, Tet Domingo, Dra Nona Legaspi, Lulu Tabamo, Bing Alano, Bobby Yarisantos, Manny Foronda, Stan David, and Caloy Garcia. There were a lot of singing and dancing plus a lot of hot darns. Other guests were the apos of Twiggy and Rey Velasco. There were two bands that provided the music to the great pleasure of the attendees specially the singers and the dancers.

Mistahs Ping and Egay are Winners!

Congratulations to mistah Senator Ping Lacson and bunk Egay Aglipay for winning



“We” time and golf bonding activities



Class '71 Prayer Warriors

in the last election. Sen Ping won a seat in the Senate and Gov Egay won as Governor of the Province of Cagayan. From all of us, good luck and we all know both of you will serve well our country and the Filipino People. Mabuhay!

Games of Hampaslupas'71 and their fellowships

The HLs '71 members were very active in their golf games this third quarter. We played almost weekly in the fairways of the Aguinaldo, Navy, and Villamor. The games were opportunities not only to hone our swings and improve our putting averages but more importantly are the bonding moments that we shared. Laughing together is a healthy exercise and sharing old experiences is a mental exercise for the oldies. Mahirap kung wala kang kausap habang tumatanda ka...a boring life. Celebrating a small win with your golf mates, comparing scores, and exchanging stories reduce stress and promotes "feelings of belongingness." So, mga mistahs, you are missing a lot if you are not attending our class gatherings, in golf or in our "we" time. Lately, I noted Bing Alano as the "Caller" of the games in Aguinaldo Golf. Mostly are from the north of Pasig namely Oca Martinez, Barok Viduya, Tex Balmaceda, Dong Tabamo, Jun Fabros, HL Prexy Rey Acop, Twiggy Zubia, Marte Chioco, Rey Velasco, and civilian friend Francis Pua. We from the far South tried our best to attend the Aguinaldo GC venue namely Rey Alcasid, Rolly Garcia, Joey Lalisan, Doy Francisco, and Dan Belonia. By the way, if not joining the golf game, Rollie Garcia

spends his past times riding his bike around Visayas particularly the Cebu and Panay Island loop. Wow! Our lone HL member in Baguio is Nelson Eslao, the conqueror of the John Hay fairways. Just recently, Bing

and Twiggy organized a special golf event to welcome balikbayan mistah Stan David. Rey Alcasid and I joined a tournament in the Navy Golf and had a good score but did not make it to the top 3. By the way, thanks to



Wake and honors for mistah Rudy Vasquez

Tex who placed a class of 1971 logo along the path going to hole number 14 of the Aguinaldo Golf Course.

Class '71 Prayer Warriors

As defined by AI, prayer warriors are people who commit themselves to pray for the needs of others consistently and faithfully, often with deep conviction and persistence. Their prayers offer comfort and peace to those going through trials, even when physical help is not possible. This is done every first Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom by our prayer warriors for those concerned Matatag and MMs who had passed on and with health issues. Organized by the Mas Matatags, the members are Mawie and Egay Aglipay, MM Prexy Celia Lalisán and Prexy Joey Lalisán, Aleli Belonia, Lita Gil, Barrie and Boy Castellano, Jennie Domingo, Jing and Oca Martínez, Fim Velasco, Chit Eslao, Rose and Archie Almario, Chit and Bobby Yarisantos, Tetet Chioco, Hazel and Mel Acosta, Mely and Rollie Degracia, Rochee Domingo, Beth Ramos, Dan and Arleen Francia, Vicky Seron, Wency and Puring Cruz, Amba Jun and Tess Paynor, Verna Albano, Lulu Tabamo, and Jane Piad.

Quote for this Issue:

"Life is really simple, but men insist on making it complicated". –Confucius
JCL//8 Aug 2025 by the class prayer warriors



Wake and honors for mistah Rey Rivera

MARCIAL O CONACO
 President
CELSO G DE CASTRO
 Secretary

shoulder as always and enjoy our lives to the fullest. "Mabuhay ang Masigagig Family."

The untimely passing of Mistah Jay Velasco and Mas Jenny, respectively, left a big void on the morale of the whole Masigagig family. Jay died last July 6, a day short of his

birthday on July 7 at their house in Imus, Cavite, while Mas Jenny died at their residence in LA, California. Everybody was surprised on their passing. As for Jay, we know him as a very strong and healthy guy. Big man Jay is an avid golf enthusiast, a strong man and

Greetings and hello to everyone.

In retrospect, as proud members of our distinguished Class, bound by years of outstanding service, shared experiences, and deep respect with each other, we enjoin everyone to honor and embrace the camaraderie that has defined us for so many years.

As we navigate the final stage in life, our bond as a family is going strong than ever. Let's keep it stronger by staying together, remain connected and caring for one another as we cherish the fellowships and bonding that we have built together. A simple call, kind word or shared memory can go a long way. The brotherhood we forged together will remain stronger and very much alive; come what may. Let us stand together; shoulder to





athlete, that nobody from among us had an inkling of his sudden death. His reputation as an outstanding Naval Officer is well known. His integrity, courage and loyalty is beyond reproach. But more than that, Jay is a loving and faithful husband to Tata and caring Dad to Jocelyn and Jayjay. He is worthy brother to us; too bad he is gone too early but we are sure the Lord will keep him in heaven. From Mistah Ernie: *"Home is the sailor, home from the sea. May you be blessed in your journey-fair winds, clear skies and following seas."* Jay was accorded the traditional full military honors prior to interment at Libingan Ng Mga

Bayani last 19 July. Rest in Peace Mistah Jay; the Big Man with a bigger heart.

Equally depressing for the Class was the untimely demise of Mas Jenny who joined her Creator last July 16 at their residence in LA. Jenny was a loving wife to Mistah Lino and absolutely a caring Mom to their wonderful siblings. A memorial service and mass for Jenny will be held on August 17 at La Miranda, LA. Her remains will be airlifted to the Philippines on Aug 18 for burial at Holy Garden Memorial Park, Taytay, side by side with the tomb of her loving mother. As I write this Class Call, the final plan for

her burial and wake is still work in progress and to be announced in the coming days. To Mistah Lino, we extend our condolences and sympathy to your whole family on the unfortunate death of your loving wife Jenny. We fervently pray that you be able to surmount the feeling of loneliness on Jenny's passing. May she rest in eternal peace with the Lord.

For the benefits of those who are unaware, 34 Mistahs and 17 Mas joined their Creator in heaven. The mortality rate of Masigasig is 33.3 %, which is lower in comparison with other Classes. We thank the



Lord for prolonging our lives more than 70 years or even beyond. So be healthy and safe all the times. The reality is, all of us will join our Mistah/Mas in heaven in staggered basis. It's only a question of 3 Ws; WHO, WHEN and WHY.

The fellowship/get together last 31 July was a real success with 58 Mistah/Mas in attendance. It was a simple "merienda cena" affair compared to the previous socials we had in the past. This is in line with the policy of the Board to tighten expenses to ensure adequate fund for health and welfare of every Mistah/Mas. Be as simple it is, the fellowship

and "bohalizing" session was great, foods and drinks were in abundance. A simple but special birthday tribute prepared by Ladies of Technical Group in honor of Manong Ben was presented. Congrats MB, you are great. Former Prez Julius Yarcia was presented a Plaque of Recognition for his outstanding accomplishment as Class President for year 2024- 2025. Mabuhay ka Yarcic. Kudos to the following who labored hard for the success of just concluded affair: BOD, Ladies of Technical Working Group, Mistah and Mas for extra foods, PVAO and Veterans Center Staff, Commel Staff and those who attended and

graced the Social/Fellowship. We also thank MS Liza Dela Cruz of PVAO and her staff for updating/issuance of Unified IDs.

Before I end, may I share to you a short Prayer for Good Health: *Dear Lord, we come before You to seek Your blessing of good health. Grant us the strength to lead vibrant, energetic lives and the peace to enjoy every moment You give us. May Your protective hand guide us away from illness, pain and suffering. This we implore You in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.*

Till next Class Call. Have an enjoyable reading: OSLEC



With all the political noise from this year's mid-term election, the members of the Marangal Class of 1974 have remained steadfast, and our bond is stronger than ever. Though we hold differing political views, we've managed to have intelligent discussions about politics and everything else under the sun in our Viber group chat, aptly named "CI74 No Love Lost." We created this separate chat to avoid cluttering our primary

group, which is dedicated to announcements and greetings.

Class Activities and Celebrations

One of the first activities for the quarter was a visit by the Marangal ladies—primarily from the Army group, led by **Marilou Crucero** and **Becky Aromin**, and class officers, led by **Cecille Razon**—to the farm of **Mistah Romy and Jeng Tolentino** in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija. The visit was an enjoyable respite from the crowds and traffic of Metro Manila and coincided with Romy and Jeng's golden wedding anniversary, with their children and grandchildren also in attendance. An earlier plan for the Marangal golfers to join the trip, stay overnight, and play at a nearby course was scrapped due to numerous

commitments during the summer season. Those who attended the visit had a great time and were gifted with extra-large mangoes from the couple's farm.

Speaking of wedding anniversaries, many class members and their wives attended the golden wedding celebration of **Ajje and Judy Gutierrez** at One Shangri-La Place in Ortigas. It was a grand celebration with a large number of guests. The couple renewed their vows in a mass that preceded the reception. In a touching, unrehearsed moment, class members serenaded the couple with a rendition of "My Kaydet Girl," led by **Mistah Jun Noble**. It was an unforgettable moment for Ajje and Judy.

This quarter, the Air Force group hosted a mini-reunion and despedida for our US-



based classmate, **Mistah Owen Luistro**, who was in town for several months but had not reconnected with the class. Another US-based classmate, **Mistah Chay Luis**, was also in town briefly but was unable to join any of our class activities.

Our quarterly birthday celebration, a highly anticipated tradition, was held on June 5, 2025, at the Villamor Airbase Golf Clubhouse. This event is a great time for bonding and sharing familiar stories. As usual, we were all required to wear our past

uniforms. With so many uniforms to choose from, prizes were given to those whose unique uniform nobody else wore. The dancing and singing went on late into the night, leaving everyone exhausted but happy.

Class Descendants and Legacies

It's every parent's dream to have their child follow in their footsteps, and for us Academy graduates, it is our dream to have our sons enter the Academy and join the profession of arms. We were proud to witness

the confirmation of **Alan Mitchel "Buboy" Belen**, PMA Class of 1999, to the rank of full Colonel by the Commission on Appointments last June. He is the son of our **Mistah Ernie Belen**. Our **Mistah Nick Radovan**, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Commission on Appointments, proudly posted a picture of himself with Buboy and another with our Honorary **Mistah Senator Migz Zubiri**.

Another proud moment for the class this quarter was the announcement by **Bhenny Lalisan**, the wife of our late **Mistah**





At Romy Tolentino's farm



Tony Lalisan, about the graduation from the PMA last June of their grandson, **Cadet Jose Antonio Louis Lalisan III**. This is a particularly special moment for their family because Tony, who was our classmate until yearling year, left the Academy, pursued his studies, and later joined the Philippine Navy. He had a successful career and retired as a Commodore in the Philippine Coast Guard. His son and namesake, **Antonio Lalisan II**, is a PMA Class of 1999 graduate and a Captain in the Philippine Navy.

It's also worth mentioning the father-and-son legacy of our late **Mistah Romy Posadas**. Romy joined our class as a plebe but was selected as the country's sole nominee to the US Military Academy at West Point, from

which he graduated in 1975. After serving the minimum service requirement, he resigned to join a lucrative private sector job. His son, **Mark Posadas**, followed in his footsteps, also becoming one of the two Filipinos selected to enter West Point, graduating in 2004. He attained the rank of Major before resigning to join the private sector, just like his father. This father-and-son tandem is rare among Filipino West Point graduates, with only three such pairings in over a century: Vicente Lim Sr. and Jr. (Classes of 1914 and 1944), Teodorico Sanchez Sr. and Jr. (Classes of 1954 and 1980), and the Posadas father and son.

Finally, we have two Mistahs with sons who have joined the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). First, **Mistah Romy Tolentino**, a former

Army chief, has two sons in the PCG. One is **CDR Erwin Tolentino**, who has been making waves at the PCG when he was the skipper of the BRP Teresa Magbanua, deployed to the West Philippine Sea. His other son is **LTJG Jerico Tolentino**.

Second is **Mistah Damian Carlos**, former Commandant of the PCG, has a son, **CDR**



Pons Crucero and Alan Paje with Micree Gamit.



AIRFORCE group with Owen Luistro.

Carlos Victor V Carlos who is currently the Commander, Sea Marshall Force and Deputy Commander of the CGIF.

Golf and Camaraderie

The Marangal golfers hosted the 2nd Quarter Golf Tournament at the Villamor Golf Club. The event was followed by lunch with plenty of food, raffle prizes, music, and drinks. This is the fourth year of the group's golf games, which are held quarterly and hosted in rotation by the four classes in the **Corps of**

74567 (PMA classes 1974, 1975, 1976, and 1977). This quarter, there were 40 players in total, including our dependents: 11 from Class of 1974, eight from 1975, nine from 1976, and 12 from 1977. Team Champion was Class of 1977. We look forward to more fun and bonding times with our golfers in the future.

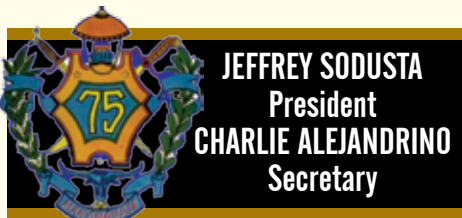
Announcement

We announce with deep sorrow that our classmate, **Mistah Lito Gamit**, passed

away on July 17, 2025, in his home in Daraga, Albay, just five days before his 75th birthday, as a result of a lingering illness. He is survived by his wife, Micree, and their children. His remains were immediately cremated and inurned the day after his 75th birthday in a cemetery in Daraga, Albay. Our **Mistah Pons Crucero** bravely drove through heavy monsoon rains all the way to Albay to be with his Army and company mate and represent the class. He was joined by **Mistah Alan Paje**, who is based in Legaspi City.



Jun Noble leading the singing of My Kaydet Girl.



The term of Makabayan president Jeff Sodusta began with the first officers' meeting at the Villamor Air Base Golf Club on June 19, 2025, following the 74567 Golf Tournament. The initial discussions included the PMAAA-PMARAI Fund Raising draw, which was rescheduled from June 17, 2025, to July 3, 2025. No Makabayan members won during the raffle, but proceeds supported the intended cause. The commission from ticket

sales was also used to purchase additional tickets.

74567 Golf Tournament. The next 74567 Golf Tournament will be held at the Riviera Golf Club, Silang, Cavite on September 23, 2025. Although the class is the sponsor, no class fund will be involved. The Makabayan golfers are putting the bill. However, during the golf tournament proper, members of the class are encouraged to be present during the awarding and fellowship and to join the officers/class meeting thereafter. To provide support to this class activity, generous members of the class are encouraged to sponsor raffle prizes or help solicit prizes for the raffle. The OPR in this activity is the class Sports Coordinator Ernie Boac.

MAKABAYAN NEWS BITES

Nostalgic Visit On 24 June 2025, aviation students from the Philippine Air Force Flying School welcomed Lt. Gen. Pedrito S. Cadungog AFP (Ret), former Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force, for a Leadership Talk at Paredes Hall, Fernando Air Base.

LtGen Cadungog AFP (Ret) delivered a reflective account of his extensive experiences as an aviation student, junior officer, military pilot, and accomplished national leader. His narrative motivated current aviation students to aspire for excellence, encouraging them to overcome adversity with renewed strength, freedom, and perspective—qualities essential on



the path to becoming outstanding military pilots and leaders. He further highlighted that confronting fatigue and personal limitations is crucial for achieving a sense of accomplishment and personal growth. In this process, resilience emerges as a key factor, enabling individuals to extend beyond their perceived boundaries both personally and professionally.

At the end of his talk, LtGen Cadungog AFP (Ret) engaged aviation students and PAFFS members in a discussion about the realities of military life. He shared lessons on integrity, balancing personal and professional responsibilities, and the importance of attitude, character, and discipline for success. He emphasized that true leadership is rooted in faith, purpose, and service, with God as the foundation.

A Makabayan Honoree from Down Under Cav Walter Villagonzalo, widely recognized for his dedicated service to both the Filipino



and broader Australian communities, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his significant contributions to the Wyndham community. The honor was bestowed on the King's Birthday. Since relocating to Hoppers Crossing in 1988, Cav Walter has demonstrated a strong commitment to local governance and civic engagement, notably serving as Deputy Mayor of Wyndham in 2017.

Among his key initiatives is the founding of the Migrant Hub in 2009, a social enterprise aimed at supporting newly arrived migrants with their integration into Australian society. In recognition of his sustained support for those in need, he was named Wyndham Citizen of the Year in 2015.

Prior to receiving this latest distinction, he was also honored as a PMAAA Cavalier Awardee in 2023.



Bon Voyage On July 16, 2025, a lunch was held at the Grand Hyatt Manila for Cav Andy and Levy Hernandez to wish them a safe journey home to the US. Attendees were Gerry and Baby Doria, First Lady Nitz Sodusta and Willy and Inday Palugod.

56th PC Battalion. Then, on July 1, 2025, he flew to America to visit his children and grandchildren.

Donning of the Golden Medallion On 29 July 2025, Cav Charlie Alejandrino



Summer Escapades During this year's summer, the family of Prexy Jeff Sodusta traveled to the Philippines. They visited their hometown in Iloilo and toured various locations, including Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar in Bataan.

Traveller Nap On June 25, 2025, Cav Nap Cachuela returned to Jolo, Sulu for a commemorative visit, revisiting the bunk house he occupied as a newly commissioned second lieutenant of the





visited the widow of the late Mistah Octavio Pabuayon and represented President Jeffrey Sodusta in presenting the golden medallion to Edna Pabuayon on behalf of Cav Paby. The visit, though brief, was a meaningful occasion honoring a long-missed colleague and neighbor.

Statue of Cav Eul Baltazar On September 10, 2009, Baltic was assassinated in Mati, Davao Oriental due to his opposition to the exploitation of natural resources. A park has been named at the site of his death, and

annual tree-planting activities take place there. There are plans to install a statue of Baltic and a concrete arch in the park. Ms. Girlie Baltazar is requesting donations to help fund this project.

Birthday Celebrators for the 3rd Quarter

Twenty-six Makabayans have birthdays, with nine remembered posthumously. Please pray for their eternal rest—they will remain in our memories.

Conversely, seventeen (17) gentlemen are marking another year of their lives. We extend our best wishes to them and encourage continued optimism and positivity in the year ahead. Happy Birthday.

July

- Eulogio C. Baltazar + 3 July
- Rodolfo F. Petican 9 July
- Silverio R. Ilagan 10 July
- Dominador L Makinano + 14 July
- George R. Quisido + 14 July
- Alberto B. Villanueva + 25 July
- German B. Doria 31 July

August

- Pedro J. Binuya 3 August
- Benjamin D. Tesoro + 4 August
- Noe A. Wong 11 August
- Merito A. Quijano 12 August
- Raul S. Gonzales 17 August
- Bonifacio B. Ramos 30 August
- Petronilo P. Magno 26 August

September

- Dominador A. Flores Jr 5 September
- Cardoso M. Luna 7 September
- Andrian P Espera + 8 September
- Benjamin S. Gonzales 9 September
- Napoleon C. Cachuela 13 September
- Wilfredo G. Pabalan + 15 September
- Van Cornelius D. Luspo 16 September
- Alejandro C. Geronimo 17 September
- Alexander D. Aleo 19 September
- Antonio R. Medina + 23 September
- Tirso R. Danga + 24 September
- Napoleon B. Malana 27 September

(+) – deceased



Magilas Class Celebrations 2026: A Year of Fellowship, Legacy, and Unbreakable Bonds

“Time may pass, places may change, but the spirit of Magilas remains steadfast—united by honor, strengthened by friendship, and bound by tradition.”

December 7, 2025 – Magilas Christmas Fellowship

As the year draws to a close, the **Magilas Christmas Fellowship** will bring everyone back to **Green Meadows, Quezon City** on **December 7, 2025**, beginning at **5:00 p.m.** This gathering will radiate the warmth of the holiday season as families and classmates come together to celebrate blessings, friendships, and shared triumphs. It will be an evening of laughter, stories, and reflections on the journey of Magilas through the decades, reminding everyone of the value of family—both by blood and by bond.

A glimpse at Magilas Celebrations for 2026:

The Magilas Class '76 is set to mark 2026 with a series of unforgettable events and milestones.



February 17, 2026 – Magilas Night to Remember

The year of celebrations begins with **“Magilas Night to Remember,”** a prestigious evening dedicated to fellowship and tradition. One of the highlights of the night is the **distribution of Magilas Gold Pins**, each emblem symbolizing loyalty, pride, and the enduring commitment of every member to the class.

This much-awaited event will be held at **Green Meadows, Quezon City**, and starts at **5:00 p.m.** Members are requested to come in **smart casual attire** and prepare for an evening filled with inspiring

messages, meaningful ceremonies. This night will serve as a prologue for the Class Golden Celebration.

February 20, 2026 – Brunch, Wreath Laying, and Magilas Dinner

February 20 begins a two-day celebration of reflection and remembrance in Baguio City. The day opens with an **early brunch (8:00 – 10:00 a.m.)** at **Alarcio’s Farm**, providing an intimate setting for conversations and reconnections, as members take time to strengthen friendships and catch up on life’s journeys.

At **2:00 p.m.**, the class gathers at the hallowed grounds of **PMA Fort del Pilar** for the solemn **Wreath Laying Ceremony**. This time-honored tradition is a tribute to fallen comrades, mentors, and classmates who have gone ahead yet continue to inspire through their service and sacrifice.

Later in the evening, at **5:00 PM**, the **Magilas Dinner** takes place at **Forest Lodge**, offering the perfect blend of fellowship and celebration amidst the cool air of Baguio and the scenic beauty of the mountains. **Smart casual attire** is recommended for this relaxed yet meaningful gathering.

February 21, 2026 – PMA Homecoming and Magilas Medallion Awarding

The festivities culminate on **February 21, 2026**, at the **PMA Homecoming** in **Fort del Pilar, Baguio City**, with the prestigious **Awarding of the Magilas Gold Medallion** to (54) original Magilas who had been plebes and graduates of the Academy. This symbolic recognition not only celebrates outstanding contributions of individuals but also reflects the collective achievements and legacy of the entire class.

For this landmark occasion, **gentlemen will wear the Magilas Uniform Suit**, while **ladies don their official ladies' uniform**. **Breakfast will be served at Magilas Visitors Center** and **lunch will be provided at the PMA Mess Hall**. A formal dinner exclusive for husband and wife will be at **Baguio Country Club** at **6:00 p.m.**

Beyond Borders: Fellowship in Thailand

A heartwarming visit of **Mayor Pol Bataoil and his wife Gina to Thailand** last July. Their trip became even more memorable when they met with **Mistah Tui Deemongkol and his wife Nid**, fellow Magilas, for a reunion



that highlighted how bonds remain unbroken despite distance and time.

The evening included a **delightful dinner and dancing at a river boat cruise**.

"Let us come together not just to

celebrate, but to honor the journey we have shared and the legacy we continue to build. Mark your calendars, join us in every gathering, and make 2026 a true Magilas Golden year to remember."



ORLY PESTANO
President
OGIE DAHAN
Secretary

Tuloy-tuloy ang pagsisikap ng "Masikap" Class of 1977! We, as a class, are just doing that to the letter! Perseverance, diligence, assiduousness and the will to accomplish our mission on time and with quality define us collectively!

We, PMA Masikap Class of 1977 has already fixed our sight to the celebration of our 50th year of having graduated from the Philippine Military Academy. Entered in 1973 and graduated in 1977, our Golden

year celebration will be on 2027. That is less than two years to prepare. And the hardest and painstaking preparation we

are in now is the putting up of a memento we all wanted to be remembered - our Golden Sword yearbook!



With the able leadership of our Class President, the indefatigable Orly Pestaño, the Board of Trustees was convened and created the committees to specifically focus on the preparation of this yearbook. Designated Editor in Chief, Joone De Leon, with his impeccable credentials, with the equally industrious and result-driven Line Editor, Gen Romulo Supapo, the whole class was awakened and cooperated fully to comply with the requirements as demanded. Of course, the Board of Trustees, composed of nine members distributed the taskings, making it easier to manage and monitor. Pointmen for each Branch of Service were assigned:

- Army - Nes Ochoa;
- Navy - Bob Estioko;
- AirForce - Art Mancenido;
- PNP - Andy Caro;
- and **for the Topic Editors:**
- Cadet History - Dan Jimenez;
- Army Group History - Nes Ochoa;
- Navy - Bobby Estioko;
- AirForce - Art Mancenido;
- PC-PNP - Raul Bacalzo;
- PCG - Jaypee Bondoc

On CAREER:

- Civilian Sector : Omech Roderos;
- Business and Private Sector - Ned Goseco;
- Overseas - Art Carolino (overall);
- Dependents (Wives, Children/Grand Children Sector) - Tess Domingo;
- Post Retirement Service - Merv Espadero;
- A&H Members - Rene Heredia;
- In Memoriam Section** - Benhail Sevilla;





Post Retirement Activities:

- Chicken Club - Eric Javier;
- Golf - Veegeebay Agdamag;
- Bike - Ned Goseco;
- Farming - Bobby Estioko;
- Ministry and Class Crest/Ring - Roger Diaz

As we started scouring our old “baul” looking for pictures and items that could be included in our individual pages, interesting stories and throwback memories occurred. Some shared them in our viber group chats and interestingly enough, as classmates, we still have so many things worth sharing which we have not seen or shared when we were still in the active service especially during our cadet days!

We also redirect our concern on some of our mistahs who, along the way to the age of 70s, suffered some ailments, minor as it seem but as seniors, any health dysfunction needs special attention. Some of our mistahs are undergoing medical cares. Some stayed in hospital but some preferred to stay in their homes. A group



of mistahs immediately organized visits to them to show how the Class cares for its members. It is given that as we age, health deteriorates faster than we expect. Engaging in some activities that would delay the deterioration is highly encouraged! Sports such as the now - trending pickleball, or simply walking regularly, light as it may seem, is highly recommended for us seniors!

And talking of sports, the Masikap golfers are preparing for the much awaited Corps of 74567 which will be held on

September 23, 2025 at the scenic Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

To be hosted by Class 75, this game is indeed a great challenge for the Masikaps, being the defending champion from the previous quarter tour, as the Class 75 is on their home course in Riviera. Pagsisikapan natin na maging champion uli! Let’s go golfers!

And lastly, to our birthday celebrants for this quarter- Happy Birthday to you all!!! *by: Sunny Pequiras on behalf of our Class Secretary.*



TRISTAN M KISON
President
JOSE TONY E VILLARETE
Secretary

The Matapat Class of 1979 remains as vibrant and active as ever, continuing to celebrate camaraderie, honor the lives of classmates, and prepare for a major milestone in 2029 – our 50th Graduation Anniversary or Golden Jubilee.

The month of May saw two joyful and well-attended gatherings. On May 19, the Matapat Golf Club held its monthly fellowship golf and lunch at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Club. The spirit of friendly competition was high, with trophies and prizes awarded

to the golf winners, thanks to the generosity of Rollie Anonuevo. As always, everyone went home a winner through the traditional raffle draw. On May 30, our Matapat Ladies held their celebration for the 2nd quarter birthday celebrants at the Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo. With a tropical theme, the celebration was filled with laughter, parlor games, and colorful outfits. Tattu Sanchez

and Ann Ganzon stood out and were awarded Best Attired for the Day, adding flair to the festive occasion.

The momentum continued in June. On June 16, the Navy Group headed by Jolu Alano hosted the monthly Matapat Golf event at the Philippine Navy Golf Club. For the first time, a team competition format was introduced alongside the individual awards,





with players grouped into Red, Green and Gold Teams. As expected, the raffle ensured that no one left empty-handed.

Another highlight of the quarter was a surprise 70th birthday celebration for Raul Leyritana on June 15, lovingly hosted by his wife Ella at the PN Golf Club. Such special gatherings reflect the strong bonds that continue to define the Class.

Meanwhile, the Class Officers, under the leadership of President Titan Kison, have been hard at work laying the foundation for our Golden Jubilee Celebration in February 2029. Committees have been formed, and Chairmen designated to ensure the success of this once-in-a-lifetime event. The early start underscores the Class's commitment to making this milestone truly memorable.

Amidst these joyful events, the Class mourns the passing of three of our classmates who joined our Creator this year:

- Pancho Alvarado (April 17), a dedicated Marine and a skillful Aviator;
- Bobby Morales (May 12), a respected Army Special Forces officer and former Commander of the Special Operations Command;
- Vicksie Felix (July 28), the Class 1st vice President and President of the Army Group at the time of his demise, and former 4th Infantry Division Commander.

Their legacies of service, leadership, and brotherhood will forever live in our hearts.

As the year progresses, more activities lie ahead. The Matapat Golf Club, led by Tattu Sanchez, continues its regular fellowships, including golf trips beyond our borders—the latest being a 3-day golf tour in Vietnam. Our Ladies continue their quarterly celebrations, nurturing the warm and supportive spirit that strengthens our Class family.

Indeed, life goes on for the PMA Matapat Class of 1979 - steadfast, strong, and ever proud. MATAPAT!





CAESAR RONNIE F ORDOYO
President
EDMUND C TAN
Secretary

We Mapitagans are not praying for rain, but we welcome with alacrity 2025's third quarter, because after it, comes the fourth, with Christmas as the highlight of the year. But as we learned in elementary school science, the third brings with it the rainy season. And this July came with a shock, like Reception Day. Typhoon "Bising" wreaked havoc in just the early days of the month. Then as it was winding to a close, along came three tropical storms which battered the northern part of the country, one a shapeshifter named "Dante" that had exited PAR, changed its mind and re-entered as "Emong." The months of rain, storm and gloom may be upon us, but behind the overcast clouds the sun is still shining, not with silvery slivers but with its golden rays - radiant, shimmering and warm.

Mapitagans Who Defied Retirement

We retired Mapitagans laud our Mistahs, more than a decade after the last Mapitagan hung his uniform to settle into the peace and quiet of time with family doting

on grandchildren, who still report for duty in various positions in the government, AGFO, and PMAAAI/PMARAI. It's not for the pay, nor are they simply *magan*, and neither are they in denial, but that their hearts still beat with that zeal and dedication to serve our country when the call came. And for that, we salute them.

Our Cesar "Onay" Yano still tries to keep the peace in OPAPP; Commissioner Rainier Cruz has eagle's eyes on senior citizens' concerns in NCSC; Juni Carbonell is in PVAO ready to assist veterans with a steady smile; Gerry Layug holds sway in AGFO as President; Monet Tan untiring as usual is also with AGFO as Treasurer; Ed Tamayo meanwhile was elected to the Board of Trustees of AGFO; Monet Tan, no surprise there, is also a Board of Trustee of AGFO Foundation, a separate organization; over in PMAAAI, Ed Tamayo, again, is a Director, Ex-Officio; Gil Meneses, Mike Asuncion and Efrén Yebera are with the PMA Foundation for Truth and Justice; Ed Tamayo, not again, is also President of PETFI, while Monet Tan is the Corporate Secretary of PMARAI as well as of the Class ... whew, holding those many portfolios must weigh a ton! LOL.

Mapitagan 2nd Quarter Fellowship and Birthday Celebration

Twenty-six (26) Mapitagans (one an honorary member), feted their five

(5) Mistahs (another one an honorary), who were born in April-May-June during the 2nd Quarter Fellowship and Birthday Thanksgiving Lunch held in KP 88, a Korean Resto in the Philippine Army Golf Course on 20 June 2025, a Friday. Eight (8) MGs in two (2) flights had teed off earlier at 0630 before joining the fellowship.

Birthday celebrators Emil Sarmiento, who arranged for the venue and handpicked the menu, Raffy Torres, Gil Meneses, Benjardi Mantele and another honorary member Ian Sy, hosted the hearty lunch of savory Korean fare, dished up by smiling servers, then chased by Cabernet and Merlot reds. The lively celebration was highlighted, of course, by the Mapitagan Birthday Chant composed by Sammy Diciano, who was at that moment in the departure lounge about to fly to NY, USofA.

Mapitagan Quarterly Fellowship Golf

Seven (7) Mapitagan Golfers, namely: Prez Ces Ordoyo, Bogs Abogado, Sammy Diciano, Emil Sarmiento, Dante Balao, Onell Lleno and Herbert Yambing and MG Friend Atty Bernie Claustro played in Hallow Ridge Golf Club on 06 June 2025 for the Mapitagan Golfers Quarterly Fellowship Golf.

The friendly match initially teed off at 0730 in the Back 9 under an overcast sky but holed out around 1130 with a bright sun hot on their backs. The MGs had their lunch

and fellowship at the Club's Caba Garden Cafe. Two Mapitagans, Vic Caragan and Ager Ontog who both reside nearby, joined the fellowship.

Class 1980 Mapitagan Golf Tournament

The Mapitagans will conduct a golf fellowship tournament, the "1st Mapitagan Golf Tournament," on 16 October 2025, a Wednesday, with the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course as the chosen venue. This endeavor seeks to raise the necessary funds for our noteworthy projects, such as a memorable reenactment of the Reception Day 50 years ago, to highlight that blur of an unforgettable one-of-a-kind welcome into the ranks of the Cadet Corps AFP's long grey line, set on 01 April 2026, and our milestone 50th Golden Jubilee celebration during the February 2030 Homecoming in Fort Del Pilar.

With Class Prez Ces Ordoyo as the over-all head of this fund-raising effort, various committees have been organized and given specific responsibilities to carry out the preparations and then supervise the conduct of this tournament. All Mapitagans are enjoined to support wholly and wholeheartedly this once-in-a-lifetime undertaking. The success of the Reception Day Reenactment and the 50th Jubilee celebration will certainly resonate in our hearts and live on as indelible memories.

Message to the Class from Our Class President Ces

"To all Mapitagans: I wish to extend my warm regards to all of you with special mention to the 2nd Quarter 2025 birthday celebrants who celebrated their special day at the Philippine Army Golf Course. We also expect the birthday bash of the 3rd Quarter celebrators to be as lively and meaningful as well.

On a more solemn note, let us remember our dear classmate Joel aka Epo Marayag who passed away last May 11. His untimely departure is a reminder for all of us to take care of our health and well-being as we continue our journey together.

The past months of the 3rd quarter may have been quiet due to the typhoons and heavy monsoon rains, but brighter days lie ahead for our class. We now look forward with great anticipation to our 1st Golf Fellowship Tournament on October 15, 2025, an important fund-raising activity that will support both our class projects and advocacies. I encourage everyone to get involved, whether by sponsoring, endorsing, or actively participating. Likewise, let us rally behind our golfers who will proudly represent the class in the 2025 PMAAAI Games of Cavaliers starting October 9.

Finally, we congratulate our Mistah Gerry Layug on his well-deserved election as

President of the Association of General and Flag Officers (AGFO) as well as to Mistah Ed Tamayo on his election as President of the PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI). Their leadership brings pride not only to Gerry and Ed Tam but to the entire class.

May our bond of brotherhood continue to inspire us to support one another in fellowship, service, and good health.

God bless the Mapitagans!"



Poster Flyer of the 1st Mapitagan Golf Tournament 2025.



Thirty-one (31) Mapitagans, two of whom are honorary members, gathered for the 2nd Quarter Fellowship and Thanksgiving Birthday Lunch held at the KP88, a Korean Resto in the Philippine Army Golf Course on 20 June 2025. Five of them, birthday celebrators for Apr-May-Jun, were hosts of the celebration.



Q2 Mapitagan Celebrators Emil Sarmiento, Raffy Torres, Gil Meneses, Honorary Ian Sy and Benjardi Mantele clap, er, blow the candles on the cake to cap their joint birthday celebration held in KP88 in PAGC.



Mapitagan Golfers (front row: L to R) Prez Ces Ordoyo, Bogs Abogado, MG Friend Bernie, and (back row: L to R) Sammy Diciano, Emil Sarmiento, Dante Balao, Onell Llano and Herbert Yambing before teeing off in Hallow Ridge GC on 06 June 2025.



Members of the Golf Organizing Committee during its meeting/lunch at CAGC on August 4, 2025 to plan and organize the conduct of the 1st Mapitagan Golf Tournament 2025. From L to R: Ted Torralba, Edmund Tan, George Regis and Jeff Tupas.



ROMEO V POQUIZ
President
JOEL JESUS M SUPAN
Secretary

PMA DIMALUPIG CLASS 1981 TRIVIA
Series 2 of 3

There are two enduring questions asked by Cadets and Cavaliers who have passed through the hallowed portals of the Academy—questions whose answers remain forever indeterminate. The first question is: “What is the best company?” Ask this in the mess hall or wherever alumni gather, and you’ll hear eight different answers—that their Company is the best.

The second, and perhaps the question with more elusive answer, is: “What is the best class?” If this were posed in a gym full of Cadets and Cavaliers, the responses would echo from the last living member of the earliest class present to the newest class of plebes, each insisting that their class is the best. Thus, the title of “best class” remains forever unresolved.

These two questions are the never-ending center of good-natured banter between companies and classes. With no hope of settling the impasse, classes have held on to bits of trivia that make their batch distinct—aside from the name and year of graduation. These “class trivia” have become staple topics at reunions, often repeated so frequently that the wives and children of class members can practically lip-sync them as they are told.

The Dimalupig Class is no exception. It has its own unique trivia. While it’s uncertain whether other classes have the same, or even similar trivia, what matters is that these tidbits form part of the cherished individual and collective memories of the class. The Dimalupig Class has many such trivia. Here are some of the most significant trivia that makes the Dimalupig Class distinct from other classes that borders on the Class being or with the most:



The Dimalupig is the last Plebe Class that was issued the M1 Garand Rifle and the first yearlings to be issued M14. The M1 Garand is several pounds heavier than the M14 that was issued after it. It made the parades then more dramatic with the loud unison of the cracking sound it produced during parade. It also produced stronger plebes because of the extra weight during rifle exercises. Because of its age, it had more “elephants” in its bore that caused more “demerits” during Saturday Inspections. The M14, on one side, made Silent Drills more “silent”.

Class 1981 is the only Class that was issued Full Dress and Dress Coat made of gabardine material that made the class feel more like members of the band than being



plebes. It was also the last class to wear the Bush Jacket made of palm beach for its Drill “A” Uniform that made the lower classes missed the “safari” look.



The Class was the last class to use the Slide Rule that put to the disadvantage the non-engineering student members of the class before they entered the Academy. It could have caused a lot of “turn-backs.”



The Class was the only class to go on ASEAN Tour instead of the usual Southern Cruise. The tour was lost opportunity to lots of Visayan Girls to snag a cadet. It made some Class members to join the PA, PAF, or PC with resolve.



Cdt C.V. Chung Singapore
Cdt A.S. Baha Malaysia
Cdt T. Netnyom Thailand

The Class was the only class so far to have the most number of Foreign Classmates from the Asean Neighbors who all graduated and went back to the respective countries with half their hearts becoming Filipinos.



Cdt Cris Nayve is a member of the class who as a plebe had to take “removals” in four subjects. In anticipation of being dismissed, he took the PMA Entrance Exam for Class 1982 in cadet’s uniform. He passed the entrance exam and he also passed all his removals. He then received a telegram from PMA directing him to report to V. Luna Hospital for Physical Exam while he was in barracks. He eventually became a “Starman” in his upperclass years. An unparalleled feat.



The only PMA Graduate so far, who was ordained Priest by the Catholic Church is former Captain and later Rev. Fr. Greg Ramos. That makes the Dimalupig Class of 1981 the “blessed” Class.



The Class has Cdt. Mendoza, HRF. As a plebe, he broke all swimming events records. Cdt Mendoza garnered also so many Major “A’s” and Minor “A’s” in other sports that his Corp Jacket made him stoop when he wore it.

The Dimalupig Class has a lot more bits of trivia that make the class distinct from other classes. These cannot all be captured in several Class Call Articles. The Class Call provides the space to document all of them to refresh our memories before they fade with age. Stand by for the third series.



話官 Ni hau ma? Wo hen hau.

The Class was the only class that had Mandarin Subject. it was a bane for us because it was attended before Saturday Inspection. It made one wonder on how the “shako” could fit in to the class leather bag.



The Class was the only class so far to have the most number of members who graduated from the U.S. Service Academies, Three from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and one from the U.S. Naval Academy. They all kept their Filipino hearts in tact when they came back.



ROBERT A EMPEDRAD
President
ALFREDO A SORIANO
Secretary

CLASS FETES ELECTED SINAGTALANS

An expected large number of mistahs attended the June 4, 2025 Testimonial Dinner tendered in honor of the victorious Sinagtalans who emerged triumphant in the recently concluded national and local elections. The dinner held at the Philippine Navy Golf Clubhouse was graced by Senator RONALD “BATO” M DELA ROSA and Montalban Mayor RONNIE EVANGELISTA. Reelected NAGA CITY Councilor MELVIN “Omar” BUENAFE was unable to attend due to prior commitments. Nevertheless the affair was a total success as the two public servants inspired the mistahs and spouses present with their tales of woes, perseverance and determination enroute to winning in their aspired positions. Sen. Bato shared as to how he was shunned by certain personalities

for fear of angering the present dispensation and have to go on campaign via land and sea transport as the former “supporters” refused to lend him their airplanes for political reasons. The result of the elections thus vindicated him and proved his drawing power – an abject lesson for those who turned their backs on him during his time of need. Mayor Ronnie who was reelected to a 2nd term also related the travails he faced during his first attempt to run for the office and declared that each and everyone has the capability to function as a mayor – the only problem is how to win.” A dampener to the occasion was the unfortunate defeat of the other SINAGTALANS who also ran for other elective positions. The class commiserates with them and hopes for better fortunes for them the next time around. Win or lose, we are here for you. On the other hand, we also received the news that the COMELEC had nullified the election of the winner in the Silang, Cavite mayoralty race thus paving the way for our reelectionist Mayor TED CARRANZA to retain his Mayoralty position. Here’s to another fruitful term for the re elected SINAGTALANS. We are proud of you.

Note: TED took his oath of office as the Mayor of Silang, Cavite on June 26, 2025 before Associate Justice Luis Acosta of the Court of Appeals. You just can’t take a good man down!. Congratulations Mayor TED CARRANZA. Good governance thrives in you.

STARLIGHT COOP UPDATES

The Starlight Tree Farms Agriculture Cooperative (STFAC) held its first Annual General Assembly after its registration last May 3, 2025 at the Philippine Navy Golf Clubhouse which turned out to be more than successful as it resulted to several milestones for the Cooperative. The activity coincided with the election of the new Board of Directors and also the election of new members of the Election and Audit Committees. The newly elected Board members are the following:

- ROZZANO D. BRIGUEZ
- GAUDENCIO C. COLLADO JR
- ROBERT A. EMPEDRAD
- EDMUND A.GONZALES
- HERMES CASIANO MONTILLA
- ARWEL R. OROPESA
- GUILLERMO A. MOLINA JR II



The newly elected members of the Audit and Election Committees are the following

Election Committee

LAURCRIS P. TUMANDA
CARLOMAR O. CONCEPCION
JOHN A. JURADO

Audit Committee

ANTONIO RAMON A. LIM
ABDIEL S. LORETO
RENE GLEN O. PAJE

Plans for the coming months includes lot acquisition, planting of acquired seedlings and continuous training for the Cooperative officers and members.

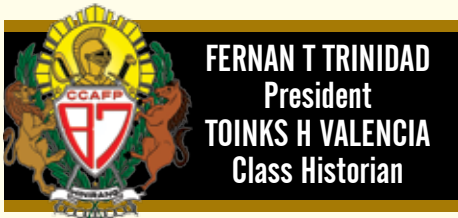
*In a subsequent meeting of the Board, Rozz Briguez was elected as the new Chairperson and Gau Collado as the new Vice Chairperson. Fred Soriano and Art Biyo were likewise retained as the Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Sinagtala Bulletin

A number of Sinagtalans are currently health challenged so it behooves all of us to see

to our health – practice a clean healthy lifestyle. Remember the life you preserve maybe your own. To this end, the Class Leadership have taken steps to come up with another group insurance policy for members aged 66 to 70 since our present life insurance policy provides coverage only up to the age 65. Our entreaties with the present insurance provider is positive and they are willing to provide life insurance coverage for members who belong to the 66 to 70 age group albeit with lesser monetary benefits in case of accident or demise.

Till next class call. **SINAGTALANS ON THE GO!!!** /aas



Greetings, Hinirang!

A YEAR OF MILESTONES

The year 2025 marks a truly special milestone for 40 *mistahs* who now step into a new chapter of life—the elite club—the golden age of **Senior Citizenship**. Turning 60 is not just about counting years; it's about celebrating a life of purpose, perseverance, and grace. It is a moment to pause, reflect, and give thanks to **God**, who has faithfully walked with us through every season.

This year, we honor our brothers who have reached this remarkable age:

First Quarter (13): Dela Cruz, Rey T; Calleja, Jonas B; Espina, Rainier A; Gerodias, Amerito C; Yambao, Angeles Jr V; Coronel, Joel Napoleon M; Empiso, Amando Clifton B; Gepte, Eugenio Jr A; Bernabe, Loumer P; Carandang, Francis R; Oruga, Renato M; Latorre, Lyndon F; and Valencerina, Cheston D.

Second Quarter (6): Licup, Emmanuel Luis D; Agoncillo, Michael; Binag, Cesar Hawthorne R; Galang, Rommel Jason L; Sinas, Debold M; and Bacardo, Giovanni Carlo.

Third Quarter (14):

• *July:* Parlade, Antonio Jr G (07/26/1965); Suchianco, Peter C (07/26/1965); Balbanero, Wilfredo (07/15/ 1965); and Sobejana, Cirilito E (07/31/1965)
• *August:* Villa, Sean Anthony U (08/10/1965); Valencia, Cornelio Jr H (08/15/1965); Escobal, Arnel



B (08/19/1965); Ancan, Roberto T (08/21/1965); Cevillas, Allan T (08/22/1965)

• *September:* Vinoya, Eric C (09/06/1965); Ursabia, George Jr J (09/08/1965); Nepomuceno, Ariel F (09/11/ 1965); Nieva, Ronald P (09/12/1965); Corpus, Alfred S (09/15/1965)

Fourth Quarter (7):

• *October:* Abejo, Jose Jesus S (10/03/1965); Evangelista, Angel Michael L (10/06/1965)
• *November:* Eleazar, Guillermo Lorenzo T (11/13/1965); Astilla, Oscar R (11/13/1965); Bueno, Carlito Jr R (11/29/1965)
• *December:* Partosa, Walter M (12/06/1965); Robinson, Henry Jr A (12/07/1965)

Loud or Quiet Thanks — Both Are Worthy

Reaching the age of 60 is a momentous occasion — a milestone that invites both celebration and reflection. You can go all out with a party, balloons, karaoke, lots of hot darn, dancing if your knees still allow it, and enough pancit to stretch your life even further... or you can keep it quiet, maybe spending the day in prayer, gratitude, and peaceful contemplation. Whether celebrated with a grand party or a simple cup of coffee and a heartfelt “thank You” to God, what matters most is the joy of having come this far — with a few battle scars—but certainly, with grace, purpose, and a lot of good stories to tell. After all, at 60, we’ve earned the right to celebrate however we please.

A Time of Gratitude

Reaching 60 is not a sign of aging — it is a testament to God’s enduring



faithfulness. We have been blessed with decades of service, leadership, friendship, and family. We've weathered storms, celebrated victories, and built legacies. And through it all, God has sustained us.

Let us be thankful not only for the senior citizen perks — the 20% discounts, free parking, and movie passes — but for the priceless gifts: the love of family, the respect of peers, the priceless moments of joy and laughter with mistahs' never ending same stories, and the joy of seeing our children and grandchildren thrive.

A Life Well-Lived

At 60, many of us are now grandfathers. We joke that we are now sleeping with a grandmother, but deep inside it is fulfillment—sleeping beside a loving partner who has journeyed with us through life — once a youthful romance, now a cherished companionship. What once seemed unimaginable in our youth is now a source of pride and peace.

We have built homes, nurtured families, led our career with honor, and served with integrity. These achievements are not measured in medals or titles, but in the lives we've touched and the values we've upheld.

A Future Full of Hope

Becoming a senior citizen is a new beginning. It is a time to slow down, reflect, and rediscover the joys of life. It is a season to mentor, to inspire, and to continue making a difference.

Let us embrace this chapter with gratitude, humor, grace, and hope. Let us continue to walk with purpose, guided by faith and surrounded by love.

To our newly minted senior citizens: Congratulations! You are living proof that life, when lived with honor and heart, only gets better with age.



MORE THAN BEING 60: THE SERVICE CONTINUES

Hinirang members continue to make their mark in public service and governance. Here are some of the latest appointments and achievements worth celebrating:

- Hin. Ariel Nepomuceno now serves as Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs. Prior to this, he was the Executive Director of

the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) under the Department of National Defense (DND).

- Hin. Loumer Bernabe has been appointed Executive Director of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). He previously served as Regional Director of LTFRB CALABARZON.

- Hin. Henry Robinson is currently Civil Defense Deputy Administrator III at the OCD,



DND. He formerly held the post of Assistant Secretary for Plans and Programs (ASPP) at the DND.

- Hin. Rey Lyndon Lawas emerged victorious in the recent elections and now serves as City Councilor of Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.

- Hin. Joel Napoleon M. Coronel was officially appointed as the first Deputy Marshal for Luzon under the newly established Office of the Judiciary Marshals (OJM).

- Hin. Ma. O Rañada Aplasca is the newly appointed Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, succeeding Hin. Roberto T. Ancan, who previously held the position.

- Hin. Chiz Escudero continues to serve as the President of the Senate, providing steady leadership in the upper chamber of Congress.

HINIRANG ASSEMBLE

Time truly flies. Now that we're retired, it's easy to assume we have all the time in the world to reconnect—but time only serves us



well if we make the most of it. Let's take the initiative to meet our mistahs by organizing events and attending gatherings. For those outside Metro Manila, consider hosting

meetups in your area and welcoming visiting mistahs. Let's keep the spirit of brotherhood alive—wherever we are.



JEREMIAS P CABE
President
GLICERIO G PERALTA
Secretary

PMA Makatao Class of 1989: Forging Bonds, Honoring Legacy
By: Cav Paul Mendoza

As the proud mistahs of PMA Makatao Class of 1989, we continue to embody the values of courage, integrity, and loyalty that defined our cadet days. This year has been a testament to our enduring brotherhood, marked by pivotal events that strengthened our unity and propelled us forward. From leadership transitions to charitable endeavors and remarkable achievements by our classmates, our class remains a beacon of excellence in both military and civilian spheres. Hurrah, mga mistah!

A Seamless Turnover of Leadership

On 25 March 2025, the PMA Makatao Class of 1989 witnessed a momentous occasion: the successful Turnover of Leadership and Oath Taking of our new class officers. The ceremony was graciously presided over by Cav Gerardo Layug, the esteemed Chairman and President of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO). This event symbolized not just a change in stewardship but a reaffirmation

of our collective commitment to one another.

Outgoing President Cav Jun Torres delivered a heartfelt address, expressing profound gratitude to all class members for their unwavering support during his tenure. Under his leadership, the class flourished through active participation from mistahs across the spectrum—whether retired or still in active military service. This engagement has significantly deepened the bonds among us, fostering a sense of family that transcends time and distance. Cav Torres' efforts brought us together in ways that will resonate for years to come.

Stepping into the role with enthusiasm, our new President, Cav Jerry Cabe from the PAF group, accepted the responsibility with open arms. He pledged to build on the solid foundation laid by his predecessor, promising to make our class even more vibrant and united. With an eye toward this year's homecoming at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Cav Cabe's vision is to rally us all for celebrations that honor our shared history and future aspirations.

The turnover was beautifully complemented by the attendance of class officers at the blessings of the Seminar Room donated by our class to the Armed Forces of the Philippines Education and



Oath-taking ceremony for the new sets of officers administered with Cav Gerardo Layug as presiding guest.



Blessing of the Seminar Room at AFPETDC with Cav Romeo Brawner as Guest of Honor.

Training Development Center (AFPETDC). No less than our distinguished mistah, Cav Romeo Brawner, served as the Guest of Honor, adding prestige and pride to the occasion. This donation stands as a lasting legacy of our class's commitment to education and development within the AFP.

Triumph in Unity: The Golf Tournament Fundraiser

Among the year's highlights, the most significant activity was our successful fundraising effort through the Golf Tournament held on 18 July. Despite the short preparation time and the challenges of soliciting donors and sponsors, the event was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication of every class member. Contributions poured in from numerous supporters, reflecting the strength of our network and the goodwill we've cultivated over the years.

What made this triumph even more remarkable was the collective commitment from mistahs across all branches of service. Everyone pitched in, ensuring the activity not only met but exceeded expectations. Hurrah not only to our members but especially to the new set of class officers, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it happen. Their efforts have truly allowed our class unity to bloom.

The day itself tested our resilience—the weather was uncooperative, with persistent rain throughout. Yet, the enthusiasm of participants was undampened. In fact, attendance surpassed the golf course's capacity, leading to a heartwarming display of selflessness:

many class mistahs graciously gave up their playing slots to accommodate our guests. This act of generosity underscored



Enthusiastic guests players with our numerous sponsors on the background.



Makatao 89 posed with Cav Jose Magno after a successful Golf Tournament.

the true spirit of Makatao—putting others first while achieving our goals.

The funds raised will support ongoing class initiatives, further solidifying our role in giving back to the community and honoring our PMA roots.

Honoring Our Active and Achieved Mistahs

While most of our class mistahs have retired from military service, we take immense pride in those who continue to serve and excel. Foremost among them is Cav Romeo "Omet" Brawner, the sole active-duty member, whose strong leadership as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has been nothing short of exemplary. His guidance has steered the AFP through challenging times, embodying the PMA ideals we all hold dear.

We also extend our warmest wishes and commendations to other mistahs making waves in key institutions. Cav Dorvin Legaspi, as President of the Armed Forces and Police Mutual Benefit Association, Inc. (AFPMBAI), and Cav Nic

Driz of the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI), along with our appointed mistahs on the boards of trustees, have been instrumental in driving the growth and stability of these organizations. Their active involvement ensures continued support for our fellow service members and retirees.

Special recognition goes to Cav Juvymax Uy, whose leadership as former Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau of Customs has been pivotal in helping the organization accomplish its critical tasks, contributing to the nation's fiscal health. We also include in this special recognition our very own mistah Cav Toto Dela Pena, the Undersecretary for Organizational

Transformation and Human Resources of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). He has been at the forefront of the agency's plans to create a Bureau of Oceans under the department, which will lead the country's ocean conservation efforts. His visionary work is poised to make a lasting impact on environmental protection and sustainability for generations to come.

In the realm of national security, we applaud Cav Jun Torres for his frontline role in the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). His tireless efforts have sustained peace gains against the CPP-NPA-NDF, resulting in a country free from active guerrilla fronts.

These achievements are a source of inspiration for us all.

Looking Ahead: Hurrah, Mga Mistah!

As we reflect on these milestones, the PMA Makatao Class of 1989 stands stronger than ever. Our events and accomplishments are more than just gatherings—they are affirmations of the unbreakable bonds formed in the halls of PMA. We look forward to this year's homecoming with anticipation, ready to celebrate, reconnect, and continue our legacy of service.

Hurrah, mga mistah! Let us keep the flame of Makatao burning bright.



ELISEO DC CRUZ
President
EDGARD A AREVALO
Secretary

Bigkis Lahi 1990's unrelenting quests

For this quarter's edition of the magazine, Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Bigkis Lahi" Class of 1990 (BL '90) is happy to report its many lined-up activities, developments, and news that are both happy and sad in this edition of Class Call.

The members of the class and their dependents have barely recovered from the euphoria of this year's Alumni Homecoming where, for the first time in more than 30 years, 105-strong BL '90 showed up with some 200 dependents at Fort del Pilar! It pays to be "back home" again in the City of Pines and in the company of our fast-growing extended family.

This early, the current class officers led by Prez Eli Cruz is determined to bring more of us—Mistahs and family - to Baguio for the next alumni homecomings. And the way to do this is by planning for more meaningful events and fun activities that we will all look forward to joining. Besides, we do not have to wait to be a host class to fix our schedules. Let us begin to plan ahead to get a needed respite from work (for those who have) or to simply enjoy the cool weather that the City of Baguio offers (for those who are on full retirement mode).

As a meaningful gesture of showing its gratitude, BL '90's is giving back to its' Alma Mater. The class has embarked on a legacy project that envisions to support the Academy in providing quality education and training facility to the country's future in the molds. Having been cadets ourselves, we understand the importance of an environment conducive



GESTURE OF GRATITUDE. Ground breaking first step towards Bigkis Lahi Class 1990's resolve to support its Alma Mater in pursuit of a new and better PMA Cadets' outdoor education and training facility - at no cost to the taxpayers. The BLEACHER 90 for the Academy. Ready by February. Photo Courtesy: PMA Superintendent.

to learning. And PMA should be among the firsts to adapt to the growing demands for contemporary designs of education and training environment. And this is one of the areas that the class intends to contribute.

In a courtesy visit to PMA Superintendent Caesar Bernard Valencia, the class officers discussed the suitability of the proposed modern outdoor classroom as our special project to be donated to the Academy. After a careful deliberation of the plan and the presentation of architect's perspective, Supt Toinks approved the proposal and the location where the learning facility, we call Bigkis Lahi Education Arena for Cadets' Holistic Excellence and Readiness 90 or BLEACHER 90, will soon rise.

Rain or shine, BLEACHER 90

One Saturday morning, 05 July 2025, the PMA and the Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines scheduled a Testimonial Parade and Review (TPR) in honor of the retiring Commanding General of the Philippine Army (CGPA) Roy Galido. It was the same day we chose to signal the start of the construction of BLEACHER 90. The weather was stormy and the surroundings foggy. But not even torrential rains could dampen the class' resolve to begin this monumental endeavor and to witness the honors for one of its esteemed members.

On this same day, the groundbreaking and laying down of markers of the proposed open-air classroom proceeded with the

presence of three principal sponsors namely - Prez Eli, Supt Toinks, and CGPA Roy - and the rest of the members of the class as living witnesses to this milestone class project.

While this is a “bleacher” in cadet parlance, this not the same genre that cadets know and still use. This outdoor classroom which will be made using durable, all-weather materials, with acoustics fitted is projected to comfortably seat 90 cadets. BLEACHER 90 will have a 2-door toilet and provisions for storing instructional materials. While this open-air classroom will be erected in one of its traditional locations behind the bowling area, contemporary landscaping will adorn this learning facility and its periphery to compliment the modern bleacher design.

The construction of BLEACHER 90 is slated to begin by September and is scheduled to be completed and inaugurated in February 2026 - just in time for the 36th Alumni Homecoming and reunion of the Bigkis Lahi family. It will, from then on, be available for use of the cadets. The open-air classroom will be constructed at no expense to PMA or to taxpayers. The entire cost will be on us through our diligence, hard work, and resourcefulness as a class. We have only one simple request though to be included in a relevant Memorandum of Agreement, i.e. for PMA to allow the occasional use of the place as a venue for BL '90 events, chiefly, the annual alumni homecomings.

In pursuit of this and other meaningful projects in the class' bucket list that includes generating resources to support the families of our departed Mistahs, BL '90 embarked on fund-raising activities. But unlike the usual melancholic response to similar endeavors, the class officers are immensely grateful to the energy and enthusiasm by the members of the class who walked the extra mile in reaching out to benevolent donors.

The first fund-raising event for the class is the BL '90 Golf Tournament scheduled on 15 August 2025, Friday, at the Villamor Air Base Golf Course in Pasay City. The responses to our call for support to the class' projects is overwhelming, with at least 140 playing sponsors! And to ensure a pleasurable golfing experience for the sponsors, the day was devoted solely for the patrons while the day prior was set aside for individual players to enjoy.

While we are yet to swing our clubs to the green, the class is already in high gear preparing for yet another fund-raising event which is a Shooting Competition.

Homage

In pursuit of paying its homage to the members if the class occupying positions of major responsibility, BL '90's Class Officers made Courtesy Visits to the



HOMAGE TO THE COMMANDANT, PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS. The Class Officers made a courtesy visit to MGEN Chito Rojas. There was a vigorous exchange of views between the man at the helm of the Corps and the visitors who bring with them the wisdom of their respective fields of strife to advance the interest of the AFP. Photo Courtesy: Ed Arevalo

Commandant of the Philippine Marine Corps, MGEN Arturo G Rojas PN(M) on 23 May 2025. They made similar visits to the Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force LGEN Arthur M Cordura and to the Commanding General of the Philippine Army LGEN Roy M Galido on the same day, 11 June 2025. It was not merely a chance to exchange pleasantries, but also an opportunity to for these commanders to share their visions for their commands and how the members of the class and the class officers can help achieve them. In the same breath, the Class Officers sought the support of these gentlemen in accomplishing the projects lined up for the benefit of the class.

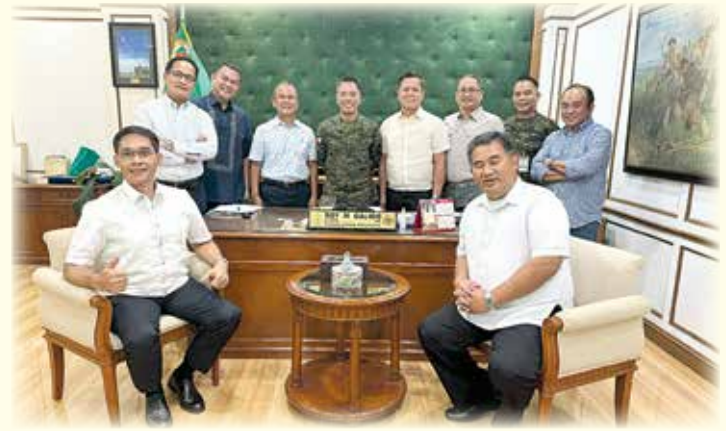
Capping decades of service

Chito Rojas wore his Marine uniform

for the last time on 27 May 2025 and hung the same after serving the nation for nearly four decades until it culminated, with him in the pinnacle of Philippine Marine Corps as its Commandant.

Several days later, Potpot de la Peña followed suit by relinquishing his post as Deputy Commander of Naval Installation Command on 11 July 2025 after serving close to four decades of service, per sé.

Before the month of July ended, in what has always been the most well-attended gathering of BL'90 and spouses, spouses Roy Galido and Rina's extended their invitations. The first was the Formal Standing Reception on 29 July and the Change of Command and Retirement Ceremonies of Roy on 31 July 2025 held at Ricarte Hall, Army Commissioned Officers' Clubhouse.



HAIL TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL, PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE. LGEN Arthur Cordura shares his lofty visions for the Guardians of Philippine Skies. And how he will make every airman and aviator count. The class officers expressed their support to the Air Force in their own meaningful ways and humble capacities. Photo Courtesy: Ed Arevalo

HOMAGE TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL, PHILIPPINE ARMY. Never a dull moment with LGEN Roy Galido, the Army's top honcho. He is still full of vigor in advancing the development of the men, materiel, and innovations for the AFP's biggest branch of service. His energy is inspiring. Photo Courtesy: Ed Arevalo

It was a bitter-sweet moment for the class, so to speak. We were saddened by Roy's bowing out of active military service upon completing the maximum of tour of duty as CGPA past his compulsory retirement age. On the other hand, we were overjoyed that another distinguished BL '90 and erstwhile commander of Western Mindanao Command, Toto Nafarrete, assumes the post most-coveted in the Philippine Army, that of the Commanding General.

No less than President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. officiated in the trifold event.

On 28 August 2025, Benjie Hao, BL90's own "DingDong Dantes" bows out of active military service. He will probably be venturing to put his own Game Show "Family Fewed". As a tribute, PMA rendered TPR in his honor last 08 August.

The remaining BL 90 in the active service continue to dwindle irreversibly as



CHANGING OF THE GUARDS. The immutable importance of the presence of President and Commander-in-Chief Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in the Change of Command of the Philippine Army and the Retirement Ceremonies for LGEN Roy M Galido is more than just a ceremonial presence. It is a testimony to the significance of this post and the service of a man who dedicated the prime of his life for the country's defense and security. Photo courtesy: Army Public Affairs Office



PILLARS OF DEFENSE. The top brass of the nation's security gather in one place to render significance to the transition of command from one seasoned and distinguished Army General to another. From one Bigkis Lahi '90 stalwart to another, the President's choice is the Philippine Army's gain. Photo courtesy: Army Public Affairs Office

three more members of the class, Abdul Buca, Tiloy Bergante, and Roger Ulanday will be given a joint TPR in September. After they have retired, the last remaining BL 90 in the active service will be Toinks Valencia, Art Cordura, Toto Nafarrete, Rocky Binag, and Nadong Gonzales.

In remembrance


While the class mourns the loss of another amiable Mistah Goby Gobway, we thank the Lord for the gift of his friendship and genuine camaraderie. Rest in peace, Mistah. Until we meet again.

Second Careers

We hate to end on a mournful note.

Henceforth, we will be reporting or updating what have become of BL 90s after retirement or resignation from the service. We will be requesting these pieces of information from our major service representatives to be collated and supplied to refresh the memory of every BL 90.

For now, we say congratulations to Atty. Joel AS Nacnac for his recent appointment as one of the Deputy Commissioners of the Bureau of Immigration shortly after his compulsory retirement on 02 May 2025. The class takes pride of his feat.

Until the next issue! /Ed Arevalo 



HONORING ONE ANOTHER. In a rare feat, two 3-star generals from the same PMA Class are the outgoing and the incoming commanders of the 115,000-strong Philippine Army. Erstwhile Commander of the biggest unified command of the AFP, the Western Mindanao Command, LGEN Antonio Nafarrete was appointed by President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. as the next Commanding General. LGEN Roy Galido who is leaving a bigger, better, and stronger Army reaches compulsory retirement after completing his 2-year tenure as CGPA. Photo courtesy: Army Public Affairs Office



The PMA Maalab Class of 1993 continues to stand as a beacon of leadership, professionalism, and steadfast dedication to the service of the Filipino nation. More than three decades after our formative years at Fort Del Pilar, the Maalabs remain at the forefront of national defense and public service, consistently demonstrating excellence both in uniform and in various civilian capacities.

Maalabs in Key Command and General Staff Positions

In recent months, members of the Maalab Class have been entrusted with critical command and staff appointments within the Armed Forces of the

Philippines and in the bureaucracy. These assignments are a testament to the trust and confidence reposed in our class by the nation's leadership and affirm our continuing relevance and capability to lead in challenging times.

General and Flag Officer Assignments

- MGen Ronald Jess S Alcudia PA – Chief of Staff, Philippine Army
- MGen Christopher C Tampus PA – Inspector General, Philippine Army





- **RAdm Vincent J Sibala PN** – Commander, Western Naval Command, Philippine Navy

- **MGen Loreto B Pasamonte PAF** – Deputy Commander, AFP Joint Sustainment Command

- **RAdm Constancio Arturo M Reyes Jr PN** – Commander, Western Mindanao Naval Command, Philippine Navy

Strategic Operations and Intelligence Leadership

- **BGen Ismael P Mandanas PA** – Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, AJ3, AFP

- **BGen Enrique R Deocadez Jr PA** – Chief of Staff, AFP Intelligence Command

- **BGen Ronie D Petinglay PAF** – Deputy Commander, IDO, Western Command, AFP

- **BGen Jessie A Banastao PAF** – Chief, Office of Strategic Studies and Strategy Management, AFP

Tactical and Division-Level Leadership

- **BGen Joey A Escanillas PA** – Assistant Division Commander, 3rd Infantry Division, Philippine Army

- **BGen Mario DL Jacinto PA** – Assistant Division Commander, 7th Infantry Division, Philippine Army

- **BGen Arsenio DC Sadural PA** – Assistant Division Commander, 8th Infantry Division, Philippine Army

- **BGen Felix Ronnie B Babac PA** –

Assistant Division Commander, 1st Infantry Division, Philippine Army

- **BGen Marion T Angcao PA** – Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, G3, Philippine Army

Other Key Appointments

- **BGen Luisito F Angeles Jr PAF** – Deputy Commander, Air Mobility Command, Philippine Air Force

- **BGen Prudencio A Iddoba PA** – Chief of Staff, AFP Joint Sustainment Command

- **BGen Michael A Banua PA** – Deputy Commander, Joint Special Operations Command, Armed Forces of the Philippines

- **BGen Eddie M Pilapil PA** – Deputy Commander, Installation Management Command, Philippine Army

- **BGen Antero S Narcise PN(M)** – Deputy, The Inspector General, Armed Forces of the Philippines

These appointments are more than just personal milestones—they are a testament to the Maalab Class' enduring relevance and indispensable role in strengthening national defense and security.

Honoring Our Retiring Mistahs

We extend our deepest respect and gratitude to our brothers-in-arms who have completed their honorable and distinguished service in the Armed Forces and other uniformed services. Their unwavering commitment to duty and country has left an enduring legacy—

one that will continue to inspire future generations of leaders and warriors.

- **BGen Glenn Albert C Laguardia PAF** – Wing Commander, 300th Air Intelligence and Security Wing, Philippine Air Force (Effective 14 August 2025)

- **BGen Leo A Fontanilla PAF** – Wing Commander, 5th Fighter Wing, Philippine Air Force (Effective 19 September 2025)

- **Capt Danilo S Aguit PN** – Commander, AFP Logistic Support Command (Effective 01 August 2025)

- **Commo Edward Ike M De Sagon PN** – Commander, Northern Luzon Naval Command, Philippine Navy (Effective 13 October 2025)

- **VAdm Charlie Q Rances PCG** – Commander, Coast Guard Education, Training and Doctrine Command, Philippine Coast Guard (Effective 14 May 2025)

- **BGen Alexei C Musñgi PA** – Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Support Group, Philippine Army (Effective 26 August 2025)

- **Col Allan G Napisa PA** – Inspector General, Intelligence Service Armed Forces of the Philippines (Effective 23 August 2025)

We honor their legacy of selfless service, professionalism, and leadership—qualities that have defined the Maalab Class of 1993. Their names are now permanently inscribed in the proud history of our class.

Maalabs in Civilian Public Service

The spirit of service extends well beyond the military sphere, as Maalabs take on vital civilian roles, championing good governance and contributing to national development:

- **Dir. Nicolas J Quemado Jr** – Appointed Director IV, Office for Transportation Security, Department of Transportation.
- **Randy O Remonte** – Appointed Deputy Marshal of the Supreme Court, with rank equivalent to RTC Judge, responsible for the security of the Judiciary’s personnel and facilities.

These appointments reflect the versatility, dedication, and civic-minded leadership that the Maalab Class brings to every field of endeavor.

Maalabs in the Corporate/Private and Security Sector

- **Jonathan Juan DC Moreno** – President, Sun Life of Canada (Philippines), Inc.
- **Mark Glenn D Millan** – General Manager, Agila Subic Compass Inc.
- **Robert Clement D Bosch** – Pilot, Boeing 747-400, Western Global Airlines
- **Triumph Dominic G Bagaipo** – Chief Security Officer, First Consolidated Bank, Tagbilaran City



- **Manuel G Hiadan Jr** – Security Manager, GNPower Kauswagan Ltd. Coy, Lanao Del Norte

Living the Maalab Legacy

As the Maalab Class of 1993 stands at the forefront of leadership in both military and civilian spheres, we are reminded of the sacred oath we took within the hallowed grounds of Fort Del Pilar.

Whether in command centers, battlefields, boardrooms, or courtrooms,

our Mistahs continue to embody the values of courage, integrity, loyalty, and service above self.

As one cohesive class, we remain steadfast in our shared mission:

- To lead with vision and purpose
- To inspire those who follow
- To transform our institutions for the greater good

The flame burns bright. The Maalab spirit endures.





MA NOEL T TOLentino
President
IVAN DR PAPERa
Secretary

Third Quarter Milestone: Celebrating a Legacy of Dedication

As the third quarter of 2025 draws to a close and time marks another chapter, the Bantay Laya Class of 1994 honors the distinguished careers of dedicated Military Officers who have retired after 35 years of faithful service to our nation. Each journey has been paved with discipline, sacrifice, and leadership. Whether in the heat of operations, in the halls of planning and strategy, or in the quiet moments of mentorship and guidance, their presence has shaped the Armed Forces into what it is today's resilient, honorable, and steadfast in its mission.

These leaders leave behind a legacy of dedication, excellence, and unwavering commitment to the defense and security of the nation. This quarter, we recognize and commend the retirement of four members of Bantay Laya Class, each having completed an exceptional journey through over the years in service. Their contributions have shaped operations, mentored future leaders, and upheld the highest standards of duty and honor. These Officers have served with courage, integrity, and skill in both peacetime and combat zones, often under demanding and high-pressure conditions.

BGEN MAYNARD G CAMARAO PA, the former 53rd Engineer Brigade Commander, Philippine Army and hails from Peñablanca, Cagayan carried out his Official exit at service last May 24, 2025. BGEN CAMARAO's unwavering dedication and an unyielding spirit, he laid a solid foundation upon which future missions will rise and flourish. In his message during the testimonial parade and review in PMA, he said, *"Make a conscious choice to live your life blissfully. Cherish every moment - every second, every minute, every hour, every day, every week, every month, and every year. Life is not just about achieving*



milestones or climbing the ladder of success. The most important thing in human existence is to simply enjoy the journey. No matter your social status, remember that true happiness comes from within and from appreciating the small blessings of life." His testimony of life's richest treasures aren't always grand achievements but the quiet moments. Success may open doors, but gratitude and presence open hearts. And when life with that mindset, even challenges become part of the beauty of the journey.

Also, **COL AMADEO U CRUZ PA**, approached his compulsory retirement on July 12, 2025. A proud son of Dagupan City, whose legacy of service will continue to



inspire generations of soldiers yet to come. His leadership was not born out of mere duty, but out of a genuine and unwavering love—for the organization he served, for the people he led, for the country he defended, and above all, for the God who guided his every step. His story became more than a military chronicle—it became a reminder that true leadership is not measured in rank or medals, but in the lives, one touches, the courage one shows, and the faith one keeps until the very end.

Kudos to **BGEN CONSTANCIO M ESPINA II PA** and spouse Dra. Aileen Espina who hosted the class retirement ceremony and dinner at Headquarters Communication, Electronics and Information Systems Service AFP last July 4, 2025. It was truly a memorable event attended by Ding Cruz's family, relatives, friends and so many mistahs with their lovely wives.



After his remarkable public service to the Philippine Coast Guard, **VADM JOSEPH M COYME PCG**, formally retired last July 14, 2025. The former 28th Commander of the Maritime Safety Services Command, offered for the countless missions fulfilled under his leadership, and for the blessings of health,



family, and purpose that accompanied him throughout his journey in uniform. He shared a formula that has guided him throughout his journey - a personal compass called AASS:



A for Aptitude - the natural ability or potential to learn, adapt, and perform. The capacity to grow in skill and knowledge.

A for Attitude - mindset, outlook, and the way you choose to respond to challenges, people, and pressure. While aptitude opens doors, attitude determines how far you'll go through them.

S for Service Reputation - your personal and professional character, built not by words but by consistency, integrity, and how others experience your leadership.

And all these - aptitude, attitude, and service reputation—combine to shape the final **S: your Level of Success in the organization**. Because success in our line of work isn't just about what we can do - it's about how we do it, and how our service speaks for itself, long after the medals are shelved and the uniforms are hung.

Because in our line of work, success is not only about what we can do, but also about how we do it. It is about the kind of service that speaks loudly and clearly—long after the medals have been polished, and the uniforms have been laid to rest.

Last but not the least, **BGEN RAMON ANTONIO E BELLO**, Deputy, The Inspector General, AFP completed his tour of duty last August 11, 2025. He bid farewell to active duty but not retiring from serving the country. BGEN BELLO said, *“Stay true. Stay grounded. Serve without expectation. Uphold*



the honor of the uniform – not just when you are being watched, but most especially when you are not. There will be frustrations. There will be politics. There will be moments when the system seems bigger than your voice. But remember that we are soldiers. We adapt. We endure. And we always lead with honor and integrity.”

Their retirement marks not just the end of a career, but the culmination of a lifetime committed to duty, honor, and country. They leave behind a legacy of courage in adversity, wisdom in complexity, and integrity in every command. These officers have stood guard over our nation's freedom, some for decades, bearing the weight of responsibility that comes with a uniform — often away from family, often in silence, but always with pride. Their careers have seen the transformation of the military landscape — the evolution of tactics, the modernization of capabilities, and the ever-changing face of warfare and

diplomacy. Through it all, they adapted, led, and served with distinction.

As they step away from active duty, we remember their milestones — the missions accomplished, the troops they have inspired, and the countless decisions made in the interest of national security. Though their uniforms may now be hung in rest, their influence endures in the lives of those they have led and mentored.

To our retiring officers: your contributions will never be forgotten. You have etched your names into the history of our Armed Forces in the service of our nation. You pass on the torch of leadership to a new generation of warriors and defenders, stronger because of the example you've set. May retirement brings you peace, fulfillment, and the recognition you so deeply deserve. Thank you for your service, your sacrifice, and your unwavering commitment to the nation - from the proud members of your Bantay Laya Class of 1994.





FERMIN M MABULO
President
IVAN V SAN JOSE
Secretary
CHARLIE L TIU, JR
Writer

A Legacy of Leadership: The Enduring Impact of PMA Class of 1995

The Philippine Military Academy Class of 1995, proudly known as Marilag, stands as a symbol of steadfast service and transformative leadership. Born during a time of institutional transition, the Marilag Class was the first to undergo PMA's tri-service curriculum. This education produced not just tacticians, but well-rounded, domain-specialized officers who were equipped to face the demands of a rapidly evolving security landscape. Since their graduation, they have consistently embodied what it means to serve with excellence, resolve, and quiet strength.

Leaders Built for Complexity

The Marilag Class has proven itself through consistent performance in the most demanding operational environments. From commanding units on the ground to leading strategic planning at the highest levels, its members have shown a rare blend of technical proficiency and mission-



focused leadership. Their deep operational experience has made them invaluable across the full spectrum of military operations, including conventional defense, asymmetric warfare, and humanitarian response.

During pivotal moments in recent national history, particularly during the Marawi Siege, officers from the Class of 1995 played crucial roles in operational planning, coordination, and execution. These moments of national crisis brought to light their ability to lead under pressure, maintain clarity in uncertainty, and stay rooted in duty even in the most critical situations. Their service during such defining events serves as clear evidence of their enduring relevance and courage.



Service Beyond the Call of Duty

The impact of PMA Class of 1995 extends beyond battlefield success. They have invested deeply in shaping people, policies, and institutions. Many of its members have served as mentors and educators, passing





on not just tactical skills but the enduring values of integrity, professionalism, and discipline. Whether planning air operations, managing logistics, or leading civil-military engagements, they have contributed to strengthening the very core of the institutions they serve.

Recognition Rooted in Substance

The achievements of PMA Class of 1995 have been widely recognized. Many of its members have received honors for distinguished service, acts of valor, and

exceptional leadership. But more important than the awards and citations is their deeper contribution: a quiet and steady transformation of the AFP's culture and capability, built through years of dedicated service.

A Class That Still Leads

As the AFP continues to face new and complex security challenges, it will need leaders who bring not just experience, but also vision. The Class of 1995 remains ready to meet that need. With a proven track record

in operations, planning, and institutional development, they continue to stand among the most capable and trusted leaders in uniform today.

In them we see not only decorated officers, but also builders of institutions and mentors of the next generation. They are leaders who rise to the moment. More importantly, prepare others to do the same. Because service is not only measured by the battles one fights, but also by the lives one shapes, the systems one strengthens, and the legacy one leaves behind.



After a long and dreamy slumber, Lord Morpheus, the Sandman, reckoned that the Class awakens and make our presence felt among the Long Gray Line.

Class Updates

The first star had fallen as we had our first Star-rank in the person of Commodore Chris Meniado of the PCG as the Commander, CGD NCR-CL. Salute, Sir!

Congratulations to the following active mistahs who were designated to Positions of Primary Responsibility: the PAF Royal Flush, namely - Jerome Santiago, A4; Randy Bance, A5; Oliver Banaria, A6; Jonathan Gastardo, A7/ GC, 505SRG, and Bon Nunag-Castillo, A8. PA Royalty - Leah Lorenzo Santiago, G1 PA; Carrie Carandang, G10 PA and Jonas Templo, Army Adjutant with Vicky Blancaflor, Dep G5 and Gel Gabi, Dep G8; Alex Arbolado,



DBC, 202Bde, 2ID; Elmer Boongaling, CS, 8ID; Phillip Fagel, DBC, 101Bde, 1ID; Achilles Dela Cruz, DepCom LRR; Bong Manangan, CS SPTCOM; Archie Ares, CS AIR; Sonny Mariñas, Cmdr, TF Davao; Japoc Palma, Cmdr, 1LSG, SPTCOM; and Honorato Pascual, CS PSC. PN High Seas - Mike Barrion (Ex-O, OJ10); Marcus Bartolome (DC, CEISSAFP); Greg Fabric, N7; Ariel Halasan (TNPM); Nerry Martinez, N5; and Oliver Reforba (Cmdr, HSG HPN). The stars are indeed realigning for the Class.

Other notable **Army** unit assignments and designations: Noel Abello (U2, VISCOM); Junie Agoncillo (CS FSRR); Elson Ballena (1ID); Rex Bolo (MA3, PMA); Ompong Borgonia (11ID); Eugene Cabusao (ASCOM PMA); Charles Calucag (MNSA Scholar); Jiji Dator (DAFA Spain); Wreck-It-Ralph De Mesa (Chief, PPPD, OJ3); Cris Fernandez (DAFA Germany); Jethro Flores (Ex-O, OIA PA); Arnold Gasalatan (AFPPDO); Eugene Lague (RDC, SPTCOM); Wiliboie Manalang (IG, NRCOM); Ed Martin (Dir, MTC, TRACOM); Gerald Monfort (U7, EASTMINCOM); Gani Nato (CMOR); Leon Onggao (U3, SOLCOM); Papa Pecs Pecson (GC, 2TG, TRACOM); Totoy Pereña (Ex-O, OSSSM); Iceman Rosario (Chief Housing PA); Jason Saldua (CO, HHSB, PSC); Esjay San Juan (CO, 3SRBn, FSRR); Don Templonuevo (DAFA South Korea); and Ray Tiongson (Chief, IOD, OJ3).

Airforce: Dante Aquino (ALC); Melvin Banua (C, EBSO); Bantoy Cervantes (DO, TOWWESMIN); Gubi Gubantes (Israel DAFA); Rhad Peña (DO, TOWEASTMIN); and Ken Manglicmot (COCS, AIBDC).

Navy: Welmer Base (CS, NFC); Joel Bonavente (DC for Marine Opns, WESNAVCOM/Cmdr, NTF42); Blad Caluya; Ramil Densing (Supply Center, PMC); Remuel Jardinero (Supt, NEPSC); Misha Andres-Martinez (C, FMWC/C, PAO and PN Spokesperson); Neph Padua; Ariel Palisoc (D, NMPC); Miljun Penafiorida (CS, NIC); James Ramon (OSSSM); Jim Razo (C, PNLOAC); Jude Sumpay (OSSSM); Peter Tolentino (DAFA Japan); Elmer Toriado (C, DISG); Dom Tulen (Ex-O, OTIG AFP); and Ronald Virtudazo (DC for Marine Opns, WESMINNAVCOM).

Updates on **local BIC** members include Joel Alviar (Cavite), Marco Ancheta (ExecDir, PhilComm on Sports Scuba Diving), Criszer Tolentino (Shangri-la), Sheryl Jane Uy-



Cabasan (Iloilo), Speedy Calsado (PAL), Redentor Cruz (DSource/Eventique Manila), Dennis Plaza, Daddy Warren Dagupon (Baguio), Jason Evangelista (Baguio), Ariel Keanu Firme, Willie Antalan (PLDT/Davao), Arlene Orejana-Trillanes (National University/Antipolo), Bayani Baltar (Scty Manager, Ipilán Nickel), Clint Ongue (Samar), Phil Aspiras (Taguig); Rommel Padere, Cromwell and Aileen Reyes (PAL/Davao), Art Taunan (PAL), Pykes Picar (Shangri-la), Roderick Lindog (PAL), Orville Gardiola (PAL), Alvin Feria (PAL), Jefferson Tecson, Dennis Solomon (OCD, DND), Alan Villagarcia (PAL/Mabalacat), Winfred Caoile (PAL), Demos Austria (Vietnam Air), Reginald Okko (Lipa), Alan Cañamaque (PAL), Ariel Quinto (PAL), Isaac Gomez, Eric de Leon (PAL), Michael Encarnacion, Nerf Monoso (Charter Captain, Gen Aviation), Nat Cruz (PAL), Neil Bugarin (CebuPac), Chris Agbayani (BIR), RR Abendan (St Francis Square, Inc), RD Hontiveros, Donald Landingin (BPI), Arnold Marie Obra (Laoag), Ronald Galicia (Pasig

LGU), Onofre Paolo Alzate (PAL); and the most recent, Julius Librada (Batangas).

Likewise, our **overseas based mistahs** are the following: Arnold Aquino (Texas), Berong "Mr Electric" Oliveros (Virginia), Sonny Obillos (Irvine, CA), Caleb Gemoto (New Haven), Nic Buyuccan (Minnesota), Angelbert Gay (Australia); Arvin Yadao (California), George dela Cruz (Canada), Paul Rex Amindalan (USA), Ares Camino (LA/Texas), Rhodel Macasaet (Texas), Christopher Patindol, and Wendell Salvador.

This may not be a fully informed update, just a sudden attempt to break the sleeping spell. By the time this article will come out, we may now be busy preparing for the Alumni Homecoming '26, just a year away from our own Pearl (30th) Anniversary. As early as now, please make plans with your respective fambam to attend this historic occasion as it will be the last time we will act as a Host Class. Be safe and continue to do good and look good to feel good. Yo!





MARK ANTHONY S TITO
President
MIRA JOY B ANDAWI
Secretary

PMA "BAGWIS" Class of 2012

This quarter has been nothing short of amazing for our class — milestones achieved, awards earned, and new commands taken! BAGWIS continues to raise the bar in service, leadership, and excellence. Here are our mistahs who continue to make their mark, with this quarter's feats inspiring us all to aim higher and soar farther. Congratulations to all of you!

MAJ Mary Jane Q Talosig (AGS) PA – For ranking 3rd in the Curriculum Development Course Class 06-2025 (12 March – 10 April 2025) and for completing the AFP Instructor Trainer Qualification Course Class 05-2025 (13 May – 16 June 2025), where she also bagged the "Best in Teaching Performance Critiquing Award." Both courses were held at the AFP Education, Training, and Doctrine Command, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

MAJ Alvin G Dumlalanta O-16893 (INF) PA – For earning his Master of Arts in Security Studies (Combating Terrorism: Policy and Strategy) from the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California, on 28 March 2025.

MAJ Karen M Dela Cruz PAF – For being named *Officer of the Year (Field Grade*



MAJ Dela Cruz receives her award during the PAFFS Founding Anniversary celebration.

Category) AY 2025 during the 65th PAFFS Founding Anniversary on 06 August 2025 at Fernando Air Base, Lipa City.

MAJ Rhey Bryan I Alac O-16933 PA – For being recognized as *Case Officer of the Year 2025 (External Security*



MAJ Alac receives his plaques during the Awarding Ceremony.



MAJ Talosig receives her Certificate of Completion during the course's Closing Ceremony.



MAJ Dumlalanta strikes a pose in front of the Naval Postgraduate School.



LCDR Gravador with the Presiding Officer, and the officers and crew, after assuming command of the 3rd Boat Attack Division.


Operations) on 18 July 2025 at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City, for his exceptional work against foreign interference and malign influence, and for assuming command as Group Commander, MIG9, ISAFP on 02 August 2025.

LCDR Marcel Vincent A Gravador PN
– Our class’ first skipper! For taking

command of the 3rd Boat Attack Division, Littoral Combat Force, Philippine Fleet—our first missile-capable unit (MPAC Mk III)—during the Change of Command Ceremony on 12 August 2025 at Capt. Feranil Pier, Naval Station Felix Apolinario, Davao City.

LCDR Datu Israel D.C. Candao II PN –
For successfully completing his Pilot

Qualification Check Ride last 07 August 2025 at Naval Base Heracleo Alano, Sangley Point, Cavite City.

This quarter’s line-up proves one thing: BAGWIS is unstoppable. Wherever we are, we continue to make waves—whether in the classroom, in the field, up in the sky, or at sea. 



LCDR Candao gets the traditional post-flight dunk!

"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 PONCIANO M ALLANIGUE '55
24 Nov 1929 - 21 June 2025

Cav Allanigue passed away on 21 June 2025 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, he was 95. Memorial services were rendered in his honor at St. Ignatius, Camp Aguinaldo. He is survived by his wife Asuncion and daughter, Daisy Allanigue-Sta Cruz.



BGEN ISMAEL F MUSICO '57
11 Oct 1932 - 27 June 2025

On 27 June 2025, Cav Musico passed away at 92, leaving behind his loving wife Dr. Mercedes, children: Raphael Antonio F Musico; Dr. Maria Rosario F Musico-Lukban; Maria Paz Musico-Necas; and Matt F Musico. His remains laid in state at Chapels 2 and 3, Heritage Park, Taguig City from June 28 to 30. He was given a hero's burial on July 1 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.



He held various positions in the AFP among which were as AFA Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 1975 to 1985; Chief, ISAFP from 1986 to 1987 and as Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, J2, AFP from 1987 to 1988.

COL DEBORAH G CASTILLO '98
06 Apr 1973 - 01 July 2025

Cav Castillo, one of the AFP's finest female officers and former Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1, RESCOM, PA, joined our Creator on 01 July 2025 at the age of 52. Accorded with full military honors, she was laid to rest on 8 July 2025 at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. She was immortalized for her leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to service.



MGEN DOMINGO B GOBWAY '90
25 Mar 1968 - 7 July 2025

Cav Gobway passed away unexpectedly on 7 July 2025 due to heart attack. He served as the Commander of the 101st Infantry Brigade, 1IB for nearly three years prior to

his designation as the 5th Commander of the Installation Management Command. Interment was on 11 July 2025 at Lamka, Baguinge, Kiangan, Ifugao. He left behind his wife Annelle Basa-Gobway, children: Reyo Rasheed B Gobway, Eirene Althea Gobway (daughter-in-law), Donniel Roman B Gobway, Joseph Albert B Gobway, Erichelle Marie A Gobway (daughter-in-law); grandchildren: Ellwoodh Jay Gobway, Edward Dominic Gobway, and Elisha Thalia Gobway.



MGEN REYNALDO D RIVERA '71
24 July 1949 – 07 July 2025

On 07 July 2025, Cav Rivera left this earth at 76, few days before his birthday. He is survived by his wife Virginia and children: Francis, Reginald John, Roman Lee (+), Roy Vincent, Renato Carlos (+), Maria Rosanna and Ray Antonio. He held various posts in the AFP, notable among which were as Former Chief, Office of the Army Ordnance and Chemical Service; Commander, Training and Doctrine Command. Cremation was held at St. Peter Chapels, Quezon City on 13 July. Memorial services were held at Libingan ng mga Bayani Mortuary, Fort Bonifacio from 14 - 17 July.



RADM JOSE ALBERTO I VELASCO '72
07 July 1950 – 13 July 2025

Cav Velasco died unexpectedly on 13 July 2025 at the age of 75. Funeral wake was held at Samson Funeral Homes in Imus, Cavite. He was accorded full military honors at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 19 July. Cav Velasco was married to the former Cecilia Adacer-Velasco.



BGEN CARLITO F GAMIT '74
22 July 1950 - 12 July 2025

Cav Gamit passed away on 12 July 2025 in his home in Daraga, Albay as a result of a lingering illness. He was the former chief of LOLA, AFP and Deputy Commander of NCRCOM, AFP. He left the service in 2005

after his mandatory retirement. His remains were immediately cremated and inurned the day after his 75th birthday in a cemetery in Daraga, Albay.



He is survived by his wife, Angela Maria Teresa and their children.

BGEN RODOLFO L VASQUEZ '71
08 Feb 1947 – 20 July 2025

Cav Vasquez succumbed after years in coma due to a head fall accident last 20 July 2025. He was given the appropriate military honors that he truly deserved for the dedicated services he had given for our country and people. He was married to the late Mary Lou with whom he has two children: Ronald Vasquez and Maria Liza V Miolo.



MGEN VICTOR A FELIX '79
09 Sept 1956 – 28 July 2025

Former Division Commander of 4ID PA, Cav Felix joined our Creator on 28 July due to pneumonia. Necrological service was held on 01 August at Chapel 7, Heritage Memorial Park, Taguig City. He was accorded full military honors on 2 August at the Heritage Memorial Park.



Cav Felix left behind his caring wife Lourdes and children: Peter Gil and Victor Immanuel.

BGEN FRANCISCO T JUCUTAN, JR '58
12 Sept 1934 – 17 Aug 2025

One of the few surviving members of PMA Class of 1958, Cav Jucutan passed away at the age of 90. He was accorded full military honors at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. He was a former Commander of 11B, 1ID, Region IX.






GAWAD PILIPINO HERO AWARDS 2025

In line with the Celebration of National Heroes Month
"Mga Natatanging Bayaning Pilipino"
Isang Dwa, Isang Lahi, Isang Bayanihan

HON. COL. MARCES T. GAYAT
INF (GSC) PACMO REGIMENT

Outstanding Uniformed Personnel in the Philippines



GAWAD PILIPINO HERO AWARDS 2025

In line with the Celebration of National Heroes Month
"Mga Natatanging Pilipino"
Isang Dwa, Isang Lahi, Isang Bayanihan

FERDINAND BENITEZ RAMIREZ
(PHILIPPINE ARMY) COMMANDER, AFFRESCOM

Outstanding Uniformed Personnel in the Philippines



GAWAD PILIPINO HERO AWARDS 2025

In line with the Celebration of National Heroes Month
"Mga Natatanging Pilipino"
Isang Dwa, Isang Lahi, Isang Bayanihan

PMA 98 BOEN RICKY P. BUNAYOG
PA COMMANDER 602ND BRIGADE

Outstanding Uniformed Personnel in the Philippines



GAWAD PILIPINO HERO AWARDS 2025

In line with the Celebration of National Heroes Month
"Mga Natatanging Bayaning Pilipino"
Isang Dwa, Isang Lahi, Isang Bayanihan

HON. COL. EUGENE PAUL B. ARBUES
INF (GSC) PACMO REGIMENT

Outstanding Uniformed Personnel in the Philippines



2025 Awardee
AWARD FOR SOLDIERS
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

Misamis Oriental's Vanguard of Peace and Development

Colonel
RICKY L. CANATOY
PA (MNSA)

Assistant Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations, G7

4th Infantry Division
Philippine Army
Cajavos de Oro City, Misamis Oriental

Specialization: Infantry
Years in Service: 20 years



2025 Awardee
AWARD FOR SOLDIERS
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS


AFP's Cyber Banger in Defense and Security

Colonel
JOEY T. FONTIVEROS
PA(GSC)

Commander, AFP Cyber Command

General Headquarters
Armed Forces of the Philippines
Quezon City

Specialization: Cyber Defense and Cybersecurity
Years in Service: 31 years



GAWAD PILIPINO HERO AWARDS 2025

