



ECTOPIC MURMURS

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Opinions and articles published herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect that of the FEUDNSM Alumni Foundation

Alumnus Takes Case to United States Supreme Court

Clifton NJ, Monday June 17, 2013. More than a decade ago, JOHN EVAN SUTTER MD⁷⁸, a Clifton NJ pediatrician became so fed up with the



JOHN EVAN SUTTER MD

state's largest managed-care companies and their delays, denials and cuts in reimbursement that he filed a series of class action lawsuits on behalf of the state's

physicians.

Dr Sutter, also a assistant professor of pediatrics at the Tuoro University College of Medicine of Hackensack NJ, has spent 30 years in a solo practice, had a long list of things that frustrated him, like the insurance company that would not approve a \$20 test for a toddler he feared might have a life-threatening illness.



The US Supreme Court in Washington DC

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PRESIDENT's Message TENDERLY YOURS

NOLI GUINIGUNDO MD⁶²

Hearing about the latest



NOLI C GUINIGUNDO MD

news on the kidnapping and brutal treatment of those three women from Cleveland gives me two feelings about the incident. One

is pity for the women and hatred on the perpetrator.

Some psychologists/psychiatrists had expressed opinion on the rough road facing the three women. They had to adjust emotionally on what happened to them and how they would face the future.

Their families are quite supportive and the two previous women involved in basically the same situation had expressed their support on the latest victim of kidnapping, rape, and brutal treatment for 10 long years.

I wish and pray for justice for the 3 women involved in this heinous crime.

As of this writing there are about 24 doctors who have registered for the July reunion.

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BOARD CHAIRMAN's Message

The Philippine department of education has recently



HERNANI TANSUCHE MD

adopted a system similar to that of the United States. The K+12 program will extend high

school program to six years from the current four-year system. This program began last year, which means that the 2012 freshman will graduate high school in 2018.

For the school years 2106-17 and 2017-2018, there will be no enrollees in the undergraduate program which will affect the resources of the medical school.

Enrollment will also be affected four years later (school year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022) because there will be very few finishers from undergraduate courses.

In my discussions with Dean Remedios Habacon, one possible remedy is to increase the number of students admitted to the FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine.

The medical school is also currently constructing a 22-floor building at West Fairview. The first five floors will be for parking,, two floors for the

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FAITH CORNER

REV MELVIN ANTONIO MD⁶⁵

Now the word of the Lord



REV MELVIN ANTONIO MD

came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 'Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness

*has come up before me. But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. **Jonah 1-3***

This short book of the Old Testament provides a very real lesson, and that is, when the Lord our God calls, you can run but you can not hide. God sometimes calls his people to assignments that are not always convenient. He summons Jonah to preach his Word, not within the friendly confines of Israel but to the fierce, pagan Ninevites.

*How does he respond to this call of God? Not with the exuberant *Here am I Lord. Send me. Isaiah 6:8**

*Not even with a reluctant, *OK, Lord, I guess I should go.* Called to speak, Jonah was silent. Called to arise, Jonah went down to Joppa. Called to Nineveh, Jonah got on a boat bound for Tarshish.*

Reading further, we get to know the futility of Jonah's flight from the Lord.

The ship on which he boards

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INDEPENDENCE DAY LAS VEGAS FAIT ACCOMPLI

CESAR D CANDARI MD⁶¹
FCAP Emeritus, Henderson NV



CESAR D CANDARI MD

*In the May 24-30, 2013 issue of Philippines Times Southern NV, I wrote in my space column *Fiesta Filipino Las Vegas, the 115th**

*Philippine Independence Day celebration. I made this statement: *In this day of celebration, prepare to savor live entertainments, the display and the delight in our heritage and cultural identity, a fluid entity that continues to a perpetual demonstration in our Pil-Am community.**

In this event, you will see vendors and lots of great food in food booths and tables of exhibitors. That's the Pilipino.

*Once again, this writer will be featured as musical entertainer on stage - *Kundiman* songs and music, performing improvisational live musical display with multi-dimensional electronic sound.*

Kudos goes to Amie Belmonte, chairman of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) Nevada Chapter officers and all supporters of the event. The celebration was a grand splendor of success. The Pil-Am vendors have made their expo-demo an impressive display.

Consul General Maria

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GLIMPSES ON FATHER'S LOVE

ULYSSES M CARBAJAL MD
Father as a Loving

Husband. I still vividly recall



ULYSSES M CARBAJAL MD

*the frantic voice of our neighbor *Tata Eulogio: Uling, I have known**

about your treating Juan (another neighbor) while suffering from a huge boil on the side of his face and neck (abscess). You drained the boil and gave him a shot of medicine (Neoprontosil --- a sulfa derivative); and he got well. Please come and save the life of your Nana Juanita.

Without any hesitation I responded to share the little knowledge I had learned from Uncle Cirilo Sanchez, the only private doctor practicing in the province during the first year after the onset of World War II.

I found Nana Juanita in respiratory distress and coughing. This had started as a mild cold but became worse because of the bad weather.

After sterilizing my syringe, I gave her a shot on the buttocks. The family, together with friends, was all around wondering about the result of the wonder drug. This worked well apparently, for now she could say Thank you, Uling.

Unfortunately, there was no further supply of the medicine available in the town drug store. The apparent recovery did not hold long; she passed away,

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DAMACENO AGO MD

AN UNSUNG HERO

ULYSSES M CARBAJAL MD

A Macedonian Call. One sultry summer, 1964, after the installation of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, a debonair physician dropped by my office at 789 Vito Cruz, Malate, Manila. He had come to deliver a special message — something that reminded me of the Biblical Macedonian call to Peter of old.

In Bicolandia, he started in a soft voice. There are scores and scores of blind or nearly blind elderly people and a few children, waiting to enjoy life again. And the number is growing each day. Your expertise as an eye specialist is greatly needed by our people.

Dr Damaceno Ago, a distinguished alumnus of the University of the Philippines, I soon found out, had migrated to Bicolandia from Batangas and had succeeded in establishing a good business, including the largest hotel in Legaspi City. He could have turned a deaf ear to the pleadings of the poor people, but, for him, such act would have been unforgivable. He had heard me during the recent PMA annual convention, presenting a paper on eye care, and was apparently convinced that I could be of help to him in conducting eye clinics in the area.

His voice, facial expression, and body language were all so

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POLITICS IN A DEMOCRACY

CESAR D CANDARI MD⁶²

FCAP *Emeritus*, Henderson NV

If you stopped watching network television a while ago because it had gotten so bad, you made the correct decision. It



CESAR D

has continued to get worse. Someone said we are on the verge of *McCarthyism*. My source engine Wikipedia describes this as the practice of making accusations of disloyalty, subversion, or treason without proper regard for evidence. It also means making unfair allegations or using unfair investigative techniques, especially in order to restrict dissent or political criticism.

Democracy is almost everywhere in the world. Democracy may be a word familiar to most, but it is a concept still misunderstood and misused. Freedom and democracy are often used to mean the same thing, but they are not the same. People in democracy have many rights. This form of government isn't just for the government, it helps the people. Nonetheless, democracy is not totally perfect or all wise. It brings with it many complications. Of course, I'm not here to denigrate Democracy.

Democracy is only compatible with a free economy; it can only exist, in substance, in an economy of

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FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY

ERLINDA G BARRANDA MD

June 12, once again we

celebrate the 115th Independence Day of our country of origin, the so-called Pearl of the Orient, and the cradle



ERLINDA G
BARRANDA MD

of noble heroes, the Republic of the Philippines. How grateful I am to have been born in a country where children can run free, where children are both seen and heard, at least during my generation, that is why I am able to assert myself, my beliefs, my values, my fancies and fantasies, my pain, my anxiety, my joy, my grief, my agony, my hopes, desires and dreams. My parents once dubbed me as a *war baby*, because I was born during wartime.

I recall, my mother used to tell us war anecdotes and stories related to the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Whenever soldiers and officials would invade, announced or unannounced, our town of Candaba, Pampanga, the male members of the families, particularly, the fathers with their sons would run to the mountains and hide, or else they will be killed by the Japanese. When news is known that the Japanese are coming to the barrio of Paralaya, Candaba, Pampanga after crossing dangerously the Pampanga River, my Mom would call all the little children, primarily my

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An OPEN LETTER to the New Dean

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Dean of the FEUNRMF Institute of Medicine.



DANIEL
FABITO MD

I look forward to have a harmonious and closer working relationship

with you during your deanship. I am more encouraged now to pursue the postgraduate medical surgical education (residency and fellowship training) programs at our institution with the hope of propelling the FEU-NRMF medical complex to be one of the best if not the best place to obtain postgraduate education and training in all clinical branches of specialization.

Although I have been harping on this idea for the last 10 years, the progress was in snail pace until you became the chief of clinics and was willing to look into a better organizational strategy to accomplish what we all wanted to do.

We both initiated a MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between the FEU-NRMF Medical Alumni Society and the FEUDNRSMAF Alumni Foundation during your former presidency and had it approved and became the benchmark for mutual cooperation between the two groups especially during the *Balik*-FEU reunions and the annual summer reunions here in United States.

My Class⁶⁴ has been the moving and major sponsor of

this postgraduate training and education, with me as the chairman of the FEU-NRMF committee on postgraduate education which I formed when I served as president and chairman of the FEUDNRSMAF board 1993-2000 and as a member of the FEU-NRMF board 2008-2012.

Incidentally our Class⁶⁴ will the Golden Jubilarians in January 2014 in Manila and in July 2014 in Las Vegas. I am very busy coordinating the activities being also the chairman of the Class⁶⁴ Golden Jubilee planning committee.

I will need your help in this regard including our Class participation with the continuing medical education and other activities.

I look forward to having a short meeting with you over breakfast or *merienda* one day during the Chicago convention in July 17-21, 2013.

I have some issues to discuss with you.

Again, welcome on board and I pledge my wholehearted support of your deanship.

Last February, I donated a new six-volume of Peter Nelin's plastic surgery books and a new electric dermatome for the plastic surgery fellowship through Melanio Cruz MD and Anthony Acedillo MD.

A ceremonial picture was published at the May 2012 issue of the **ECTOPIC MURMURS** which I forwarded to you few weeks ago.

As of this date I have not received acknowledgement from Dr Cruz and/ Ravel Bartolome MD.

I have not also received any communications from Dr Ravel regarding the postgraduate surgical education wherein I was appointed committee chairman.

See you here in Chicago.

**DANIEL C FABITO MD FACS
FPCS**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for all the newsletters you have been sending me so faithfully. I will be moving on after three years as director of the FEU Alumni Affairs Office.

Please remove my two email addresses from your list but please retain that of the Alumni Affairs Office so they can continue to receive your updates and share some of the articles you include as they relate to accomplishments of our IM graduates from the Manila campus.

If there is anything you need from the office, do not hesitate to ask. I wish you all and the entire FEUMAANI community all the best!

God bless you always!

MARTIN LOPEZ

PS. I will still be in FEU and will focus more on the President's Committee on Culture.

If you wish to know what is happening on campus from an arts and culture standpoint, I will be glad to let you know.

If you wish to visit FEU and go on a tour of its UNESCO awarded Manila campus, I can help you and other IM graduates.

I would like to virtually introduce you to Dr. Marcon Espino, who is a Tamaraw through and through having taken his undergraduate, graduate and doctorate studies in FEU.

Mosh Ogasawara will continue to be in the Alumni Affairs Office.

If you need anything alumni related, they can help.

There are many ways by which you can still be connected to your beloved alma mater.

Thank you for all you do for FEU and the IM community!

JUNE IMAGES

ROLANDO M SOLIS MD⁶³



MY LOLO

KATHERINE JANA TELFORD



Of all the things that you bring
what I treasure most is your love.
Your care for me makes me unique
and it was given to me from above.
You praise God with your heart
Because of that you'll never part
and God will reward you forever.
You will stay with me for eternity
In my heart, we will remain together.
I want to be like you; strong and true
and be a real servant of Jesus Christ.
Lolo, thank you for helping me
become what I am to be
and for making this impact on my life.



Rite of Spring:
Nicholas blows dandelion seeds

FISHING IN LIFE

CELSO DEL MUNDO MD⁶²



The splashing cold water from the struggling
fish at the end of a hook,
Gives you the thrill that the poor fish is under
your spell,
Comparing to our lives, when we are fishing for
a friend,
We tried to hook a friend who will give us thrill
in life,

We fish for the finest fish at the bottom of the
muddy water,
The best fish that's big enough to satisfy our
hunger,
Finding a good friend is like fishing for the best
one
One who'll be at your side, when good and bad
things occur.

There are hundreds of fish above and at the
bottom of the water,
But not all of them are good, and some when
eaten can be lethal,
Like friends in our life, dealing with them all
differ,
We have to keep only those with the best of
character.



Dandelion head seeds

CLINICAL IMAGES

Differential Diagnosis of Gastro-Esophageal Junction Adenocarcinoma?



Figure 1 - Endoscopic findings of a gastro-esophageal junction

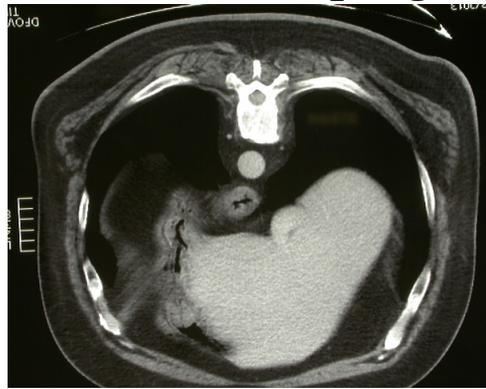


Figure 2 – CT scan reveals a non-stenotic tumor in the EGJ (arrow).

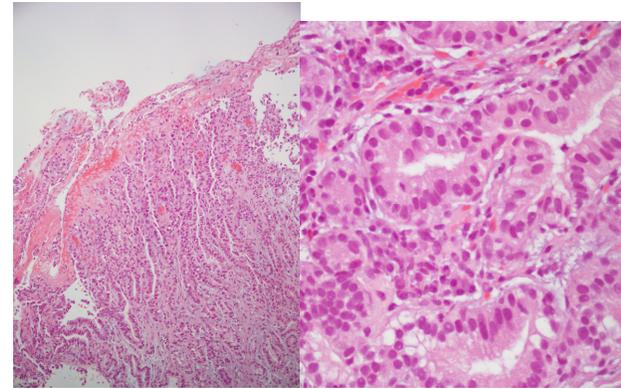


Figure 3 – Endoscopic biopsy confirms the diagnosis of ulcerative, infiltrating moderately adenocarcinoma differentiated adenocarcinoma (HE stain, x100, x650)

These images are from a 52-year old man who presented with a foreign body sensation in his chest for three months. The patient is obese, overweight and diabetic with no medication.

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy reveals a non-stenotic tumor (**Figure 1**) in the gastro-esophageal junction that is friable and grossly suggests fungal infection. It does not extend to the lower esophagus and subcardiac stomach, and is associated with gastric stasis and mild antral gastritis.

The duodenum appears to be within normal.

Chest computer tomographic scan affirms the narrowed gastroesophageal junction without stenosis (**Figure 2**) and several enlarged pericardiac/ gastric lymph nodes.

The microscopic evaluation of the gastro-esophageal junction tumor affirms a moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma (**Figure 3**), not associated Barrett's esophagus, cardiac gastric mucosa with intestinal metaplasia, and *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis.

With several lymph node metastases, the patient is

referred by the attending surgeon to medical and radiation oncologists for treatments.

COMMENTS. Gastro-esophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma is a distinct clinical and pathological disease. The differential diagnosis includes Barrett's adenocarcinoma of lower esophagus and cardiac/ subcardiac gastric adenocarcinoma.

In one report, an unusual spectrum of neoplastic differentiation is observed, including adenocarcinomas (83%), adenosquamous (32%), colloid (2%), signet-ring (10%), squamous (5%), oncocytic (7%), pancreatic acinar (12%), and neuroendocrine (5%) carcinomas.

In recent years, there appears to a shifting epidemiology with increasing incidence of the three above cancers and at the same time a decrease in esophageal squamous cell carcinoma as well as gastric adenocarcinoma.

What is the GEJ? A sliding Z line may be located below or above the level of the diaphragm, seems to form the

defining line between the esophagus and stomach, and forms the landmark for the GEJ. Neoplasias of the region are now popularly analyzed according to Siewert Classification with the following stratification:

Type 1: Esophageal adenocarcinoma; tumors with epicenter between 1-5cm proximal to the anatomic cardia,

Type 2: GEJ/ cardia adenocarcinoma: tumors with epicenter from 1 cm proximal to the anatomic cardia to 2cm distal, and

Type 3: Subcardiac gastric adenocarcinoma: tumors with epicenter between 2-5 cm distal to the anatomic cardia with or without esophageal extension.

The other question with the diagnosis of GEJ adenocarcinoma, *Is it esophageal or gastric?*

GEJ adenocarcinoma is not truly esophageal because its association with Barrett's esophagus less than only 40%, and with reflux disease not as strong. The lymph nodal spread pattern appears also to be different; and the phenotypic expression is also clearly

different from esophageal adenocarcinoma. Moreover, response to therapy is likewise different?

Conversely, it is not quite gastric because there is no association with *Helicobacter pylori* gastritis. The incidence of GEJ adenocarcinoma is increasing, in between Barrett's and gastric cardiac adenocarcinomas. But its clinical behavior may somewhat matches Barrett's adenocarcinoma than the gastric cancer.

Treatment-wise there is continuing controversies, especially on what kind of adjuvant therapy is effective, appropriate surgical approach, the extent of node dissection, and some biologic tailoring of therapy

No western trial has shown a benefit of extended node dissection to date, eg. needing >15 nodes to adequately stage the patient. In addition, extended node dissection survival studies have been hampered due to excessive mortality following the procedure.

Neoadjuvant chemoradiation may likely be the best current adjuvant approach. Surgical technique and timing can be tailored to the location, preoperative stage and response of the tumor.

In sum, GEJ adenocarcinoma is uncommon and poorly understood for its natural history, pathogenesis, and prognosis. An increasing body of evidence has accumulated in recent years suggests that GEJ adenocarcinoma arises mainly in the proximal stomach associated with chronic gastritis

--- but not with *Helicobacter pylori* etiology --- and shows a heterogeneous histology pattern.

It is also distinctly different from esophageal adenocarcinoma and cannot be accurately stratified with the scheme for the latter neoplasia, as required by the updated AJCC 7 cancer staging guidelines for patient survival prognosis prediction. Although the latter staging for gastric cancer may be used.

There still exists considerable heterogeneity and indistinctive survival characteristics, affirming the acceptance of a distinct clinical pathologic disease entity for this cancer.

FINAL DIAGNOSIS:

Gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma is a distinct clinical and pathologic entity.

A list of **REFERENCES** is available upon request.

by **CESAR V REYES MD**⁶⁸

POLITICS IN A DEMOCRACY

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ideas... stated Walter



CESAR D
CANDARI MD

Lippmann, a 1958 and 1962 Pulitzer Prize US awardee for his syndicated philosophies... the basic problem of democracy and

... Thus, democracy, as past experience will demonstrate, works only where the population shares, fundamentally, the same goals and aspirations. When a part is

in majority it becomes difficult in a democracy to force unacceptable principles down the throat of the public. When this is made possible, it leads to outrage. *To John Dewey who debated Lippmann in 1922 about Democracy has this to say:* "...democracy encompasses how humans are to live, work, and learn together. An essential democracy, is rule by the people, and therefore a democratic government must serve the interests of the people, and the population must participate in the political process. However, Dewey did not address sufficiently the changes that would make the government more responsive to the interests of the public, and had little to say concerning which methods of political self-government were best.

Core ideas associated with freedom are: First, personal freedom. This is defined as freedom from interference in what we as individuals wish to do, in so far as our actions do not interfere with the same right for others. Second, the civic freedom, is the ability of citizens to participate in politics and government. It is impossible to consider freedom without taking into account related concepts such as democracy and constitutionalism, problems such as majority rule and minority rights, and the tension between liberty and equality.

Since time immemorial, there is that inherent desire of man to be free. Democracy was born in ancient Greece. It was a most enduring contribution to the modern world. But the concepts of freedom and

democracy conflict so regularly that Plato pronounced, *Democracy leads to anarchy, which is mob rule.*" Thomas Jefferson was quoted the same where he stated, "fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty-nine. Democracy requires all people to conform their action to the rule of the majority.

The idea of freedom and liberty has been a paramount concern throughout history. People are the victors who faced nearly certain death, not for personal enrichment of any kind, but for the preservation of human dignity, individual liberty, and personal honor. Like a fish to water, democracy can only exist in a total atmosphere of freedom of action.

Among men of wisdom and legendary heroes, Jose Rizal stood tall with Demosthenes of Greece the Greek orator shouted against the Macedonian conquest, with Victor Hugo of France who defended the *the Magna Carta of the human race*, gave fullest expression to his belief that compassion for others is the greatest counterpoise to the evils of our world. He gained international fame for his efforts towards establishing the Democracy in the country.

Politics in America.

Abraham Lincoln of the United States of America abolished slavery. As it was understood at his Gettysburg address what stands between tyranny and liberty are men and women who are willing to die to be free. What is Lincoln's legacy for democracy in America? How far, and in what ways, was

Lincoln the author of a *new birth of freedom* for the democracy that he served? Do we see it now?

I will try to remain as neutral as possible. In the recent elections in this country we have winners and losers. However, when the political dust of the political campaign settled down, the American people expected winners and losers to collaborate and cooperate with each other. There is a problem. Political partisanship is fiery, now turning to be simply normal and ordinary. The liberals and conservatives, more so of the right-wingers, are in their chutzpah in a democratic society. What we see now is a semblance of failure in the democratic process. Democracy fails only when the people allow it to fail. The obsession of *scandals*, ie Benghazi, IRS, DOJ, and now NSA by a whistleblower 29 years old Snowden, a hero or a traitor? The demand for investigations, accusations of *conspiracies* and *criminality* abound. *Talking points* revisions in the Benghazi! Transparency and accountability in this administration is in question. Or are we looking at the Republicans ingrained in ways to oppose, thwart, frustrate, block, sabotage and defeat anything the President sends to the Congress? The WH with lies, Carney lies, Hilary Clinton lies, so they say. Too much to swallow.

Do I sound partisan? I only write what I see and hear. I am a people observer.

Is Lincoln's contribution to our understanding of the idea of equality, patriotism, the place of

religion in public life, civil rights, the importance of constitutionalism in maintaining democratic institutions, the role of commander-in-chief in democracy being trampled upon? The American people have spoken in the spirit of equality by Lincoln. A non-white commander-in-chief was re-elected.

Freedom remains the sole basis for American society, as we know it. As one political pundit stated, *America defined freedom, altering the definition to fit the niche it fits in, but still keeping key components so it still seems to be staying true to the ideas of America's founding fathers...*" The American political system creates an opportunity where interest groups can compete for power. This party-based system is the basis of competition for legislative and executive mandate in the American democracy.

Philippines. In our history, we Filipinos came about to know democracy and freedom from our forefathers and through our national hero Dr Jose Rizal. His advocacy of Democracy through peaceful means rather than by violent revolution makes him Asia's first modern non-violent proponent of freedom. Rizal was active when the power of other European nations was growing in Asia

Gandhi regarded Rizal as a forerunner in the cause of freedom. He recognized Rizal's significant contributions in the Asian Democracy. But look what is happening now. The reality is that we are forever fixed with an oligarchy

(government of the few) masquerading as a democracy.

The recent election in the Philippines produced *rogues gallery* of winner. Politics in the *Pearl of the Orient* is one sector that requires reform; the system needs to be sterilized, must be torn down completely and rebuilt anew. Damaged leadership and blatant corruption in the Philippines is known to many but not to all those poor Pilipinos. Blame those uninformed voters. They are still in the dark side of the Filipino psyche. In the Philippines, illiteracy, bribery system and poor economic condition have deteriorated our social and political structure. Most of our so-called politicians and lawmakers only make their pockets full of money but their minds are devoid of wisdom. The lawmakers are the lawbreakers. Add to that the political dynasty is practiced against the law of the land, ergo the political dynasts existed for years in the Philippines. Will it ever go away? The answer is in indeterminate state. What Pilipinos need is economic freedom. Democracy restored is not all that they need; the people must be free from hunger.

What is depressing, both the Philippines and America are afflicted with maladies of political struggles in a democratic nation in the 21st century, gloomier in the Philippines and perhaps simply distressing in this country.

If liberty and equality, as is thought by some are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the

government to the utmost.

Aristotle

DAMACENO AGO MD

AN UNSUNG HERO

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convincing that I capitulated



ULYSSES M
CARBAJAL MD

readily to his request. After all, I was not yet busy with my practice, having just

opened another office-clinic at the fourth floor of the Picache Building -- the tallest building in Manila at that time.

Moreover, he proposed to take care of my plane ticket, including that of my assistant or nurse, and to accommodate us in his hotel. I had been silently longing to see someday the symmetrical Mayon Volcano — one of the seven wonders of the world.

The First Response. What my nurse and I saw during the first day of clinics touched us profoundly. The people were seated on long wooden benches, waiting quietly for me to examine their *white* eyes. Even along the street there were lines of people, hoping to be chosen to sit on the *lucky* benches.

After performing 34 cataract extractions, our supply of sutures and medicines ran out. Dr Ago assured the disappointed crowd that we would soon be back with more supplies and medicines.

Thus, started the regular charity-private eye clinics under the supervision of Dr Ago and his physicians, whom I had to

teach regarding the prevention and detection of complications as well as their management. Fortunately, despite the un-ideal operating rooms, there were no eye infections for the first three years; or people would have been scared away.

Subsequent Clinics. With an intern from the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital and a private nurse, I held clinics for three-four days every month, and performed surgeries on patients, coming from all over the Bicol provinces: Albay, Sorsogon, Camarinex Sur, and even Camarines Norte and Catanduanes. The scheduled visits were announced over the radio and through large streamers displayed in strategic areas.

But the services were not entirely free. Patients who could afford were asked to pay a fee that they could handle. Also, those who could pay for the laboratory work and x-ray would pay for these (at a discounted rate). To implement this fairly, a social worker screened *financially* the family of patients scheduled for surgery. In general, about half were listed as charity and the rest as semi-private or private. Moreover, there was also need later to include ENT clinics, especially for patients afflicted with mastoiditis tonsil abscess, or severe sinusitis.

Dr Ago's Prior Plans for the Country. I soon found out from Dr Ago that a few years before, he had developed a medical care plan to be presented to the executive council of the Philippine Medical Association. Unfortunately, he narrowly lost

in the presidential election, being beaten by an opponent who had transported voters to the convention site, defying openly the rules promulgated by the COMELEC. That health plan was a modest health insurance plan, accommodating the middle-income and the indigents alike.

Because he found out we had the same wavelengths in health care philosophy, he supported my bid for the PMA presidency until I won it on the third try. He was one of my advisers in regards to the Medical Assistance Project (MAP) of PMA and the government.

It is noteworthy that Dr Ago also tried later to represent his province in the Philippine Congress, to pursue his innovative health plan for the country, but met rebuff because some of the people who could not be accommodated in his hospital turned their backs to him. But he patiently plodded onward until one glad day his daughter **ANGELITA AGO MD⁶⁹**, also a physician, won resoundingly as Council member in Legaspi City.

Hospital Assistant Course.

One theme was repeatedly discussed during succeeding visitations — that was how to improve health care and medical education in the country. While initiating the construction of a private 100-bed hospital in Solano -- Nueva Vizcaya Doctors Hospital (NVDH), I learned that Dr Ago was contemplating on expanding his hospital by adding two more floors upward, in sharp contrast to our NVDH, which was sprawling with four wings connected by a common corridor. Meanwhile, I had

developed a concentrated three-month course for hospital assistants to provide much-needed services in our hospital. When he heard about my success in this venture, he invited me to help establish such a course in his hospital. It was my joyful opportunity to be invited to address the 175 hospital assistant graduates a hundred days later.

Plans for Expansion.

Inspired by this new accomplishment, he independently continued offering the course until one day he thought the time had come to establish a school for midwifery, medical technology, and nursing. This friendly competition soon found me trailing behind; for I had to depend on a capitalist, while he had his own family of doctors for support. I could not go beyond establishing a school of nursing, while he could proceed even farther -- towards building a medical school. Although I had expressed ahead of him the plan of establishing the first medical school in Luzon outside of Manila and although we had arrived at the consensus of establishing a Christian medical college — one that believes in not only treating disease but also in making man whole again, I could not keep up with him.

An Invitation to Join Him.

Enplaning for USA in October 1977 to pursue courses in theology and in education at Andrews University in Berrien Springs MI, I was assured by Dr Ago that he would get in touch with me when he was ready to open the medical school — the Bicol Christian College of Medicine.

Accordingly, he personally came to convey this message to me in a meeting in Chicago. Not long after, his daughter made a tour of the Loma Linda Medical School and then came to our residence in Berrien Springs MI to reiterate the invitation. Because I had not yet completed the Ed D course, I asked to be excused.

Nonetheless, I continued doing surgeries in his hospital at regular intervals (twice or thrice a year) and had my associate, Dr. Tessie Sison-Diego, continue the monthly EENT clinics.

Patterned after Loma Linda College of Medicine and hiring Adventist faculty and welcoming Adventist students locally and from other countries, the Ago Christian College of Medicine started with unexpected success. With God's blessing, more imposing buildings were constructed on the Ago property both at Legaspi and at Naga. Then one day, two years after the inauguration of the Bicol Christian College, Dr Ago took me to the site where he would construct a bungalow for my wife and me. How the Adventist students rejoiced when he announced during a church worship hour that my wife and I would be soon joining the school! Unfortunately, my wife suffered from an unexpected tonsil-tag surgery complication at the White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, resulting in three major surgeries at Ann Arbor Medical Center in Michigan, to restore her voice. Much to our disappointment, this beautiful dream never materialized. To please the Ago

family, however, I accepted to be just an associate dean.

Visit with Him. In 1992, during the charity clinics conducted by the Philippine Medical Association in Southern California in conjunction with physicians from San Diego, I had the sad experience of visiting him at his sick bed. At the request of Dr Eden Ago, his beloved wife, I prayed for the Great Physician to restore his health (if it was His will). But the Good Lord ordained otherwise. Blest with sterling character and indomitable courage and zealously committed to community service, this unsung hero passed away a few weeks later, leaving behind him his good works.*

*During the closing ceremonies of the Joint Congress of PMA and the Association of Philippine Physicians in America, 1999, in the Philippines, Dr Damaceno Ago was honored posthumously for establishing a medical center and school of medicine for Bicolandia, Serving then as Emcee, I could not help but wipe my moistened eyes while **ANGELITA AGO MD⁶⁹** was assisting her Mom now on wheelchair to receive the plaque for an *Unsung Hero*.

FREEDOM WITH RESPONSIBILITY

continued from page 3

older sisters, *Ate Natty* and *Ate Cres*, our cousins and playmates and will start practicing songs they have learned with my Mom in the past. As soon as the invaders reach our home, my



ERLINDA G
BARRANDA MD

Mom would lead the children in singing almost endlessly accompanying them by playing our old piano while our Aunts

would serve rice cakes and other kinds of desserts just to purposely distract the attention of the unwanted guests so they will not ask where the male members of the neighborhood are. With good food served and listening to delightful music and dance performances of obedient children who understood why they were doing what they were asked to do, the Japanese guests would soon forget asking all kinds of questions about the whereabouts of their target group, the men and boys whom they would slaughter or leave maimed if found.

Fortunately, because my mother is an alumna of Harris Memorial Christian School in Manila and was an ordained United Methodist Church local missionary or deaconess, she garnered the respect of the Japanese soldiers and officials, just because she knew how to make them feel important as human beings, not as martial warriors. I bet the winsome Christian spirit became pervasive, and so the fathers,

uncles and male members of the families in our village remained alive. Unfortunately, in other towns all over the Philippines, the abusive Japanese soldiers and officials used many members of the female population as *Comfort Women* and became their sex slaves.

This is one atrocity of the war and remains to be a dark scar of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines. Yes, when I was born, I was told, my country of origin was in its darkest moments of Philippine history. But God sustained my family and relatives. Thanks God they survived those years, or else I would not be who I am now.

The resiliency and strong faith in the God of the Universe of my parents allowed us to overcome such wartime atrocities. The miracle of miracles, I gradually grew up to know that the Philippines, although economically challenged, was a free society and became an autonomous democratic republic with Pilipinos finally breathing the fresh air of freedom, justice and democracy. She finally became free from all the foreign invaders such as the Spanish conquistadores for three hundred years, from the Japanese, and later from the Americans.

Freedom requires responsibility. It requires vigilance. We need to be vigilant to stop colonial mentality. We need to be vigilant to eradicate unnecessary dependency on so-called foreign powers, instead reinforce resiliency, self-reliance, high morals,

FEUMAANI

Medical-surgical mission

Trece Martirez City, Cavite,

January 27-29, 2014

General Trias January 28

Bacoor January 29.

F Montellano MD

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productivity and economic freedom with good work ethic and maintenance of mental balance seasoned with tolerance and good prudence.

As I pointed out in my September 2011 essay, one good trait we have as a people, is that because we are a predominantly Christian nation, we are a forgiving people collectively.

We have been able to transcend the dark side of the martial law regime led by the conjugal dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos.

We continue to eradicate graft and corruption among officials, slowly but with some good evidences. It would be best if we can totally get rid of the political and economic dynasties who still rule our political and economic affairs, so that the brilliant and the best can be fully utilized as leaders of the Philippine nation.

The Philippines can still be dubbed as the *healthy man of Asia* interdependently living peacefully and progressively with the rest in the Pacific rim and help make this world a healthier and peaceful place for the family of man.

The freedom we now enjoy should make us more tolerant to the diversity of humans and groups, only to realize that there is true oneness and unity in our goal of improving the human condition in this planet earth. I am grateful to the gift of being simple and free. Let freedom ring, so the children and adults can continue to run free.

GLIMPSES ON FATHER'S LOVE

continued from page 2

much to the disappointment of



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CARBAJAL MD

the husband, children, relatives, and friends present.

Another request came from *Tata*

Eulogio. Uling, I would like to keep a picture of your Nana Juanita. But there are no photographers around. Will you make a sketch of her face so that I could keep it for the coming years. Tata Eulogio had seen me do this when Junior, my youngest brother, succumbed to a huge swelling of the left eyeball and secondary meningitis.

After making a sketch of Nana Juanita's face, *Tata* Eulogio hugged me and declared: *Now I can keep a beautiful memoir (memento) of my dearest one on earth!*

Father of a Darling Daughter. I came to get acquainted with *Tata* Gavino Sanidad when I attended an Adventist youth rally in Lantap, Bagabag. At that time, I just recovered wonderfully from an unknown disease and had been invited to recount my marvelous experience during the said rally. Together with other delegates, I stayed in the spacious house of *Tata* Gavino, who at that time tended a farm teeming with beans and fruit trees. He also raised chickens, and made a profit from supplying eggs for the vicinity. He proudly

showed me around the farm and the poultry sheds and trap-nests. I learned a lot of things from him about planting vegetables and incubating eggs.

When the war broke out, I answered the call to teach at a church school there. Before I could find a house where to live near the church school, *Tata* Gavino temporarily accommodated me in his home. There, I got acquainted with his children — now orphans because their Mom had succumbed to a snake bite while working in the huge farm.

Deep in my heart, I started nurturing silently an admiration for his oldest daughter Elizabeth. She acted like a mother to her younger sisters and younger brothers. Moreover, she did the marketing, the cooking, and the laundering chores for the family. I found myself fantasizing that she could become an excellent mother for my future offspring. When I learned that she wanted to get back to school to finish high school, I volunteered to help pay for her tuition and house rent in Bayombong, the capital of Nueva Vizcaya.

All was going well for a few months. I was briefed by *Tata* Gavino about her progress at school. His only fear was a recent information from Elizabeth that a guy, Bernard, was hounding her resolutely.

And one gloomy day, her Dad came to me in my new boarding place.

Uling, Elizabeth, I heard, is sick. Would you like to ride with me and visit her? Judging from the tone of his voice, I

could tell that she must be in a grave condition.

When we reached the residence of Elizabeth in Bayombong, the landlady led us quietly to the room where Elizabeth appeared to be sound asleep.

Elizabeth, Tata Gavino announced in a happier mood. *Uling and I are here to visit you.* But Elizabeth would not respond. *Tata Gavino* repeatedly shook her in an effort to wake her up.

Finally, realizing that she had breathed her last, *Tata Gavino* burst into tears, and wept over my shoulders. On the table was an emptied bottle of medicine, and under it was a folded sheet of paper -- a note:

Papang, and Manong Uling. I am sorry to leave you. Thank you for your loving care. But I am no longer pure.

Apparently, Elizabeth had been forcibly raped, leading her to commit suicide.

Father of Three Blind Boys. Responding to the call from Dr Damaceno Ago, a successful medical practitioner in Legaspi City, I started doing EENT surgeries in Bicolandia in 1964. The following year, these out-of-town EENT services were extended to Bacolod Sanitarium and Hospital in Occidental Negros, where Dr Willis Gentry Dick (one of our wedding sponsors) now served as the medical director. Some few months later, Dr Facundo Train, a government family physician in San Jose, Antique extended the invitation for me to start doing surgeries in the provincial hospital.

This was timed immediately after doing surgeries in

Bacolod. With a private nurse, I did surgeries on patients screened and prepared by Dr Train. A few were private and semi-private; the majority was charity patients.

One day, a father came with three boys who had congenital cataracts in both eyes. Family history revealed that earlier members in the clan had suffered the same.

Please do something to make my boys see, pleaded the father. I soon found out that he was a minister in charge of a local church in the province.

There is no anesthesiologist with me, I said sadly; however, if they are cooperative, we can try to do the surgery under topical and local anesthesia.

At that time, I was beginning to do a series of cataract extractions in children, using a special needle knife manufactured for me by Storz Co. A 19-gauged needle had been shaped like a knife, a little curved at the distal end. This was used to penetrate the opaque lens, breaking the cortex and nucleus before being aspirated. No sutures needed.

The father talked gently to the children, aged 7, 9, and 11. And they were all convinced to cooperate with me while performing the procedure with local anesthetic drops and retrobulbar injection of Xylocaine.

I will be praying for you as the doctor performs the surgical procedure with the special needle knife, assured the minister-father, in a voice vibrant with faith in God.

The oldest boy was the first to undergo the procedure.

Oh, I can see you! he exclaimed immediately after the

procedure. The other two younger brothers were inspired to follow his example of courage.

Marvelously, all three could see the smiling face of their Dad and of the surgeon.

Thank God! the jubilant father cried out. *He has answered our prayers.*

Father and Son Hugging Each Other in Death. One Sabbath, two years after the World War II broke out, the church elder, Mr Amboya, and his 21-year old son were, for the first time, absent in our Church in Lantap, Bagabag, NV. Using a wagon-cart, the father-son team made trips every week to Kiangan in Mountain Province to deliver some goods to merchants there, but always came back Friday afternoons to lead out in the church services on Sabbaths. Peace, in general, had been restored, but danger still lurked in remote areas of the nearby provinces. Japanese military police (MP)'s from time to time patrolled those areas. Fearing that they might have been victims of an ambush, I joined other members of the church, to help the family search the roadside between the town of Kiangan and Lamut River.

Suspecting that they might have been murdered by the enemy, we searched the wooded areas as well as the cogon-covered sides along the provincial road.

About two kilometers from Lamut River, we found the corpses of Mr Amboya and his son, partly concealed by cogon and talahib grass, a stones throw away from the road. I was devastated by the grief demonstrated by Mrs Amboya

and children, but what struck me the most was the picture of the father hugging his son apparently in a desperate effort to protect him from the enemy.

Dad's Love for Me

Dad Allays the Pain with Oil. One late evening, when I was barely six years old, I was awakened by a nightmarish dream. I thought the house was on fire. It was the glaring light from the parole (petroleum lamp) held by my father that, evidently, initiated the dream.

Son, I 'm sorry for having whipped you so hard, I heard him say. Please turn to your side as I apply some oil on your buttocks.

I suddenly recalled that the whipping was the result of my punching my younger brother George when he refused to play with me so that I might also win a game of marbles.

Father's profound compassion so touched me that I never did a *foolish thing* again.

From the House to the Prison-cell. Suspected as treating the guerrilla members, I was arrested by the Japanese MPs, December 1945, and marched from our home in Bone to town (Aritao) some seven kilometers away. The Cagayan River hugged the provincial road at varying distances, from a few feet to hundreds of feet.

The second floor of the town's trading center was used as prison cell for several people previously arrested. I had barely settled with the other prisoners when I looked outside the window. What a surprise! There I made out the image of my compassionate Dad. I motioned at him to come closer. I indicated by body language

and gestures that the family flee, that night, to our rice land in Kirang, away from the provincial road, because I would try to escape before dawn.

What amazed me was how Dad could have managed to follow me to town. I learned later, that he had stealthily kept pace with me as I was being marched to town by the MPs. He had cautiously hidden behind the shrubs, cogon, and *talahib* grass thriving along the river bank. Had I made a move to escape on the way to Aritao, he would have been there to help me escape. The thought was scary! We could have been shot together.

Scouring the Hills. Three months after escaping from the prison, our family fled to the mountains above our barrio of Bone. Another incident took place to underscore how Dad had bravely ignored dangers for my sake.

While evacuating on Mt Buyasyas, I received a call to treat a guerrilla officer suffering from malaria. With my injection kit and a few ampoules of Quinine HCL, I proceeded to the guerrilla camp with an Igorot guide.

When I failed to return at eventide, my parents, I was later informed, became extremely worried. Dad lighted a dry pine branch to serve as a torch to light the trail as he scoured the area between our hiding lean-tos and the Guerrilla camp some two kilometers away.

Carrying Me on His Back. The over five hundred evacuees hiding in the mountain fastnesses west of Aritao were ordered to leave the area within a day and break through the

enemy lines in order to avoid the American forces' steady shelling, which was now getting closer and closer to our evacuation center.

There came a time during the subsequent three-day journey when I suffered suddenly from a severe colic and could not walk any farther.

Dad, I suggested. I cannot walk any more. Why don't you go ahead with the rest of the family and the crowd, and leave me behind? I will catch up with you when I feel better.

No way, he said. *I am willing and ready to die for your sake.* Dad's words buoyed my courage up immensely!

Dad patiently carried me on his back, resting every few minutes until we reached an Igorot cabin to rest. Fortunately, the colic was relieved by warm ginger drinks.

Standing on Principles. When I ran in 1970 for one of the two delegate positions for the Constitutional Convention (Con Con) – in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino provinces-- I consulted my Dad:

Senator Perez is suggesting that we dole out money to voters in order to win the election," I disclosed to him. He fears that although we are still ahead, our opponents can beat us by using money to buy votes.

I would rather see you lose, standing on principles! he said with a firm voice.

As expected, I lost in the Con-Con election because I refused to heed the Senator's proposal.

Instead, I listened to Dad's words of wisdom.

Concluding Thoughts. The aforementioned incidents portraying a father's love are

presented to remind us all that God has implanted in the hearts of our Dads this divine trait to inspire us – children -- to follow the examples set by them.

More importantly, they inspire us to appreciate how our heavenly Father loves us so much that he gave His only begotten Son to die in our place to redeem us from the bondage of sin.

INDEPENDENCE DAY LAS VEGAS FAIT ACCOMPLI

continued from page 2

Barber Dela Vega of Los



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Angeles, was the keynote guest speaker. A Consular Outreach Program was going on during this event.

Vendor's showcases were outstanding .

Pilipino cultural dance of Myra Charo and company,

Fashion show of Philippine American Youth Organization. (PAYO) of Las Vegas choreographed by Shella Davila; *Zumba* exercise led by Domingo and company; *Hula* dance of Jo Beck, Therry Maiole and Cynthia Natividad (*Hula Ohana O Kala* Dance Group); Martial Arts demonstration; and Unique Cirque by Zengjiao Jan of Wushu martial arts and more.

Chef Rudy Janeo spoke on Pil-Am Chef for Kids Association.

Ballroom dancing followed in the later part of the program.

The singing was the most awesome and stunning display of talented teenage PilAm girls from Jassy Cadiente and company (Sophia Ramos, Ariana Halam and Ricky Susie) with their electrifying versatility of performance.

When I was introduced as a retired doctor- a pathologist, I corrected Jing that I am now a keyboardist. That morning I was in a wide spectrum of songs – popular *kundiman* Tagalog and *Visayan* medleys, gig teamed with a professional sax player Rolando Danseco, with his ad-libs tempo and rhythm.

My repertoire with improvisational live musical display, modesty aside, was a standout among colleagues.

The commemoration of the 115th anniversary proclamation of Philippine Independence and what it has accomplished here in Las Vegas:

No doubt, the sophisticated education and cultural awareness of increasing numbers of Pilipinos in America and in the advent of the information age have helped us being recognized in the mainstream. We are doing it in Las Vegas .

The leaders of NaFFAA have come of age serving the community in great manner. As a socio-economic-cultural undertaking, the *Fiesta Pilipino* fete no doubt enhanced the Pilipino American unity, and harmony, stature, pride, recognition, and visibility in the community, vis-à-vis its culture and tradition.

It is a *Pinoy* arousal to rally on, to get involved, and to be

active in our community organizations, in politics and in mainstream America

The indispensable role of many Pilipino American writers, intellectuals wage ongoing promotions with collective voices heard loud and clear by the American public and city government.

Thus far, we have survived and managed to keep our image as competent leaders. I truly feel that we should continue to strive to maintain our parity with our American counterparts. Yes, there is still plenty of room for improvement and pave us to a brighter tomorrow.

We have great Pilipino American leaders in our community in Las Vegas (NaFFAA). They have abilities, the transparency and dedication to induce subordinates to work with confidence and zeal. They are faithful to the group members and activities that lead to gain inspiration and also inspires others in the process.

Pilipino immigrants who reach their destination in America will find out first-hand about realities of life in America.

Pilipino-Americans are now learning to adapt to life in the United States and find an identity that enables them to fit in to society, while staying true to their cultural roots. The celebration of Philippine Independence Day is a welcome exposition.

The socio-cultural associations we organize enhances Pilipinos' positive image and becomes a source of selecting a minority when mainstream and governmental political leaders need to find a

representation from the Pilipino American community. This is empowerment. It is a contemporary buzzword. Its modern use originated in the civil rights movement, which sought political empowerment for its followers.

We must also be proactive in creating a positive change and empowering the Pilipino American community through the political process.

Participate in political action activities that create a strong and effective voice for the Pilipino American Community Empowerment and the Pilipino Community that it represents.

We must support the efforts of Pilipino Americans leaders in this community in achieving fair and more equal representation for their community in politics.

It is time we walk the walk...talk the talk ...when it applies to building political empowerment within the Pilipino Americans.

Martin Celemin, the former Region 11 chairperson of NaFFAA which encompasses Nevada, Arizona and Utah said: *Panahon Na! That's the unofficial call to arms by NaFFAA's founder Esclamado, who tirelessly campaigned in 1996 to unite Pilipinos in the entire America leading to its founding in 1997 in Washington DC. The challenge is now to empower Pil-Ams politically.*"

Now back to the kundiman music. Life is full of fun and happy times. A quote from Billy Joel: *I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched*

by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music. In this celebration, music come to life.

The emcees for the morning's program were extraordinary and powerful Marlon Multo and Tara Polo (excellent singers too!).

In the afternoon, Jing Espiritu paired with beautiful Chinggay Andrada, Philippine TV/ radio celebrities and Philippine actress Donita Rose were all comedienne and funny MCs sometimes in their *Taglish* with their skill in stage performance.

FAITH CORNER

continued from page 2

gets tossed around by a fierce storm. The crew figures out that



REV MELVIN ANTONIO MD

the storm was brought about by someone who offended the Lord. and so they toss Jonah overboard

and this calms the storm. Jonah is swallowed by a large fish and remains in the fish's belly for three days before the fish spits him out on the shore.

The symbolism of three days in the belly of the fish is not lost on those who read the New Testament – that of Jesus' death and descent into hell and rising on the third day.

The reason for Jonah running away from the Lord is later revealed as Jonah's utter dislike for the sinfulness of the Ninevites and his suspicion that

the Lord will forgive them of their transgressions. Jonah thinks that the Lord's mercy and forgiveness should be reserved only to those who have been obedient to God – like the Israelites.

Of course Jonah was wrong on all counts and God sets him straight. God's forgiveness of the Ninevites was predicated on their willingness to repent from their sinful ways. God gives Jonah a second chance and he goes to Nineveh as the Lord directed him to, confronts the Ninevites with God's word to repent. The Ninevites recognize their evil ways, repent and believe and the whole city is saved from destruction (unlike Sodom and Gomorrah).

This short book of Jonah is filled with valuable lessons for all of us. First and foremost, when the Lord calls, we must respond willingly. We can run but we cannot hide from the Lord.

Second, saving Jonah from death is another trait of God in that He gives us a second chance to do his will. The Psalms write of God who is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Because of Christ, our God is the God of the second chance. The Apostle Paul writes, *For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8: 38-39*

The third lesson is that no one is outside the scope of God's love and forgiveness, even the Ninevites.

It is easy for Christians living in the 21st century to confine faith to what happens on Sunday morning and for it to have little bearing on how we live our lives the rest of the week. Like Jonah asleep on the ship, we sometimes need to be awakened from our spiritual slumber. God sends storms into our lives to awaken our faith. He presents us with situations in which our faith compels us to respond with a helping hand.

A good question to ask ourselves is, when has God called us to do something for Him and we did not do it – forgive someone who is hard to forgive, love someone who is difficult to love?

How did God remind us of our own misconduct and how did He give us a second chance, even a third or a fourth. How did we feel when we finally realized that we did God’s will?

BOARD CHAIRMAN’S

Message

continued from page 1

medical library and department offices, and the rest of the floors will be assigned for classrooms with two 2 big lecture room facilities.



HERNANI TANSUCHE MD

I assume that the K+12 program will have some financial impact on the resources of the medical school relative to this new building.

Effective August, Dr Habacon will no longer be the Dean of the medical school.

On a personal note, I have nothing but pleasant memories in the years of dealing and communicating with her as the Dean and myself as officer of the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation.

I have gained personal insight into her character and have come to admire her sterling administrative skills and achievements.

On behalf of the Alumni Foundation, I would like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Linda Tamesis, the incoming Dean.
HERNANI TANSUCHE MD⁶⁸

**PRESIDENT’S Message
TENDERLY YOURS**

continued from page 1

The registrants are combination of different classes, led of course by the Class⁶³ who are the Golden Jubilarians. I enjoy everyone, particularly the jubilarians, to consider registering prior to the deadline to avail of the discount; and the officers and board trustees and Chapter presidents to consider the same.

The abortion doctor from Pennsylvania has been found guilty of murder; and we are not sure how this would affect the abortion in general in the United States. We will see what happens next.

Thomas Sowell recently mentioned concerns about Obamacare that to see that much patient, you have to bring



NOLIC GUINIGUNDO MD

in more doctors that are not available. Some statistician had predicted shortage of doctors in 2019 and later. It takes money to produce doctors from different medical schools, and it takes time to graduate doctors and to complete their respective residencies. Let us see what happens in the next several years.

We extend our profound sympathy to the family of the four Pilipino nurses who perished at the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge limousine fire on May 4, 2013. Those are wasted lives and did not have to happen but it did anyway. May God bless them all.

The results of the Philippine senatorial and congressional elections was recently released. I congratulate my own nephew for being re-elected as Congressman for the second district of Valenzuela City over the former girl friend of the President.

It is already June and it would not be long till the July 2013 annual reunion and scientific convention of the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation. Please consider registering for the July meeting. Our job is easier if our colleagues register earlier instead in the last minutes which happen to be our way of life. We need our own board of trustees and officers to please register now.

Again, while waiting for this article to be published, the horror of the Oklahoma EF 5 tornado came into view. Ee extend our profound sympathy to the victims of the terrible weather and may God bless them all, may the soul of the

faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace
AMEN.

NOLI GUINIGUNDO MD⁶²

Alumnus Takes Case to US Supreme Court

continued from page 1

When insurance companies can control health care to the

point where they do ... for the benefit of corporate greed as opposed to quality of life, he said, I felt these issues should be addressed by

the courts.

Dr Sutter sued Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey, the state's largest insurers, and Oxford Health Plans Inc, among others, charging that their payment practices and rules hindered his ability to give his patients the care they needed.

Last week, Dr Sutter heard from the highest court in the land about his lawsuit against Oxford.

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court said doctors can join together to challenge insurers' unfair business practices as a group and do not have to fight as individuals.

When disputes go to arbitration, the court's decision lets doctors go to arbitration as a class.

Strength in numbers — that's really what it comes down to, said the attorney who

represented Sutter and argued the case before the Supreme Court in March. *All these big insurance companies ... count on the physician not wanting to be bothered,* he said. *The doctor is too busy. He or she doesn't have the financial means to pay lawyers. They're counting on the individual doctor to let it go.*

In a statement, Oxford said: *Class arbitrations like this one make the health care system more cumbersome and expensive for everyone.*

The company is now owned by United HealthCare.

When Dr Sutter began filing lawsuits in 2002, he spoke about one of his first run-ins with managed care. An insurer had refused to pay \$20 for an in-office test of a toddler's swollen lymph node, which he was concerned could have been a sign of a serious illness. *The only other choice was to send the child to the hospital, where the test would cost thousands,* he said.

I could not wait two days to analyze whether the child needed treatment, Dr Sutter said at the time. *If I had done that, it would be taking a significant risk in determining if this was a harmless infection or something serious.*

Dr Sutter said he had many other such instances before he decided to take his complaints to court. He wrote to then-Governor Christie Whitman and to the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. He sent stacks of certified letters to medical directors and insurance companies that were never answered, he said.

That is when he filed his lawsuits, taking on a sort of David versus Goliath battle.

Dr Sutter, a 60-year-old Clifton resident, spent hundreds of hours working on the cases, gave multiple depositions, produced thousands of documents and allowed his billing practices to be scrutinized by the insurance carriers, his attorney said.

During the litigation, he remained in the managed-care networks of both Oxford and Horizon, continuing to treat their patients.

He sought to make changes ... from within so that both sides — physicians and managed care companies — can work in tandem as partners to provide the best quality of medical care to the citizens of this state, his attorney said.

The problems cited in Dr Sutter's lawsuits — including delays, denials and reductions in payments — may sound arcane and little, said the general counsel of the Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ), *but they add up to whether a [doctor's] practice will be financially viable.*

Aetna, Horizon and the other companies settled their lawsuits over the past decade and agreed to make improvements in their claims processing.

A settlement agreement with Horizon in 2007 reduced the hassle factor that doctors faced in tracking down the status of their claims, the attorney said. The agreement, upheld by an appeals court in 2012, required the company to make fee schedules for common procedures available to participating doctors, inform

them of changes in the payment codes so they would know what reimbursement to expect, and not to reduce fees more than once per calendar year, among other things.

Horizon, in a statement, said *the company has always worked with the provider community and our view is that the settlement will further that working relationship.*

The Supreme Court decision in Dr Sutter's case against Oxford allows Sutter's complaints, on behalf of himself and other in-network physicians, about delayed payments to go before an arbitrator.

The hearing will be scheduled within the next few months, the attorney said. Both sides must honor the arbitrator's decision, the court ruled.

Oxford does not get to rerun the matter in a court, even if it dislikes the arbitrator's decision, wrote Justice Elena Kagan for the court.

In its statement, the insurance company said *it will defend itself vigorously in the arbitration, noting that the court had not ruled on the merits of the case.*

Leaders of the American Medical Association and the state medical society said *the decision gives physicians a powerful tool to use when they go up against insurance companies — a battle that is ongoing.*

Without this broad-scale arbitration, physicians would have no practical means of challenging a health insurer's unfair payment practices, said Dr Jeremy A. Lazarus of

Denver, president of the American Medical Association.

It's taken so long, the MSNJgeneral counsel said. It's a sad commentary that it took a decade for Dr Sutter and other physicians to confirm their right to use the arbitration provision in their contracts, she said.

If Oxford had not fought every step, she said, timely class-arbitration would have allowed them to have their payment disputes resolved more expeditiously and cost-effectively.

Dr Sutter said *the issues are as alive now as they were in the year 2000, when he first began contemplating legal action against the state's major insurers.* He receives more to remove a splinter, he said, than to analyze a child's medical history and develop a plan to bring their asthma under control.

The payment practices of managed-care companies haven't changed much, he said, except what they pay has become smaller and smaller.

Source:

LINDY WASHBURN

The RECORD Staff Writer

BLOGS

COMMENT: *Great job, Dr Sutter! It's so good to see that you are fighting the good fight.*

COMMENT: *Dr Sutter is a wonderful doctor! I have had him treat my children for many of years. He became my son's doctor in 1984 and when I had my daughter in 1986 I have had him for her doctor also. When both my children have reached their adulthood, I was very sad to have to leave him as their physician. I would recommend him to anyone!*

COMMENT: *I wish more doctors would challenge the insurance companies in NJ!*

COMMENT: *Dr Sutter, you are a fine example of a leader. People in this country have to learn from your actions and follow your lead. Thank you for actually doing something. Standing up alone, speaking out, making a difference for all of us against these evil corporate forces.*

COMMENT: *I am very proud to say Dr Sutter is a member of my bicycle club and one of the great -- and certainly brave -- members of our community.*

FEUDNRSMAF 2013 MOA

NOMINATION FOR 2013

Most Outstanding Alumnus



award is now being solicited. A 250-word description of why the nominee is deserving of the MOA award, should be

concise and specific, and should demonstrate the accomplishments of the nominee over and above expectations.

Please address your submission, on or before June 30, 2013, to

AVILA ARCALA MD⁶⁹

Chair, Awards Committee

faarcala@aol.com

Deadline **June 30, 2013**

FEUDNRSMAF

Golf Tournament

July 18-19, 2013, at 7:30 am
Tournament fee \$110, inclusive
of hotel pickup and drop off,
lunch and cart.



Contact
**ANGELITO
FERNANDEZ
MD⁷²**
815-674-6643
litoeagle18@hotmail.com
Deadline **June
30, 2013**

Please join **PMAC**

Bowling Outing 2013

Sunday, August 18th
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Backyard BBQ Buffet after the
Game

Inclusive Fee: \$50
(Game \$25, Dinner \$25)

Brunswick Zone

7333 North Milwaukee, Niles,
IL 60714

Telephone 847-647-9433

For additional information
contact:



DR LUIS MANGUBAT
224-279-3377

Individual and School
Competition
awarding on Saturday,
September 28th during the 53th
anniversary induction dinner
dance at the Regency Hyatt
O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont IL

Please join **PMAC**

Golf Tournament 2013

Saturday, August 10th
11:00 am

Highlands Wood Golf Course

2775 North Ella Road
Hoffman Estates IL 60195
Telephone 847-359-5850
Prizes to low net, low gross,
longest drive, closest to the pin
and door prizes Awards and
recognition buffet
at 5:00 pm after the rounds.
Inclusive Fee: \$100.00
(Inclusive of snacks, dinner,
gas and cart)

For additional information
contact:

DR LUIS MANGUBAT
12242793377

DR LITO FAJARDO
17084918751

HOLE SPONSORSHIP

Platinum hole sponsor
\$500.00 (4) complimentary
golfers during the tournament,
inclusive of all fees, a hole
sponsor sign

Gold hole sponsor \$300.00 (2)
complimentary golfers during
the tournament, inclusive of all
fees, a hole sponsor sign

Silver hole sponsor \$200.00
(1) complimentary golfer during
the tournament, inclusive of all
Fees, a hole sponsor sign

Bronze sponsor \$100.00
Hole sponsor sign

SPSA

SURGICAL MISSION

March 1 - 9, 2014

Luna, Apayao

Mountain Province

Contact

MANNY CACDAC MD

Cell 812 236 3724

mannyneuro@aol.com

FEUDNRSMAF

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Do you want to know a little
bit more about the SAA?

The cost for each SAA is
\$50. If you want your award in
perpetuity, it is \$1050.

You can label your award in
your name, or in the name of
the person you wish to honor.

This is a challenge for you to
channel the extra dollars of your
donation/ charity budget to
recognize an honor-roll needy
student or two at the FEU-
NRMF medical school.

Your donation(s) are tax-
deductible.

Please make your check
payable to

**FEUDNRSMAF Alumni
Foundation.**

Your donation this year will
be awarded during the Student
Recognition of the 2014 *Balik-*
FEU in mid-January at the
FEU-NRMF in West Fairview,
Quezon City.

If you wish --- you can also
distribute your award(s) in
person during the Student
Recognition ceremonies at
FEU-NRMF!

If interested to set up a SAA
or two, please contact:

CESAR V REYES MD

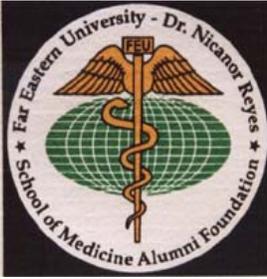
6530 Dunham Road,

Downers Grove, IL 60516

Phone 815-942-2932 x7565

or acvrear@aol.com

In addition, if you are
interested to establish a
Professorial Chair Fund in
your name or of someone you
wish to honor, please inquire
with the above contact person.



FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY

DR NICANOR REYES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ALUMNI FOUNDATION

34th ANNUAL REUNION & SCIENTIFIC CONVENTION

Intercontinental Hotel Magnificent Mile Downtown Chicago
Hotel room rate \$185 per night
 505 N Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL (800) 628-2112 (312) 944-4100
A link allows guests to book, modify and cancel their reservations online.
Guest can book their reservation by calling the hotel at 1-800-628-2112 or
(312-944-4100) as Far Eastern University alumni (or group code CHE).
<http://goo.gl/QqCHI> Group rate is available until **June 30, 2013.**
Parking available at the hotel \$23 per day with two entries allowed each day.

REUNION REGISTRATION

<i>Name</i> _____	<i>Spouse</i> _____
<i>Address</i> _____	
<i>Practice</i> _____	<i>Telephone</i> _____
<i>Email</i> _____	<i>Class</i> _____
REGISTRATION FEES	
	After June 25 th
CME registration only [paid membership required]	\$ 150 \$ 200
<i>Hawaiian</i> Welcome Reception (WR)	25 50
Alumni Filipiniana Night <u>Dinner</u> Dance [per person]	125 140
General Membership Luncheon (L) meeting [per person]	free free
34 th Annual Grand Reunion <u>Dinner</u> Dance [per person]	142 160
Annual membership (Am)	60 60
<i>(Am required to attend the Welcome reception, general membership luncheon, and dinner events!)</i>	
TOTAL	\$ _____ \$ _____

To qualify for the discounted rate, register on or before Saturday, **June 30, 2013**. Mail this form and your check payable to **FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation**,
Pete Florescio MD, Executive Vice President/ Executive Director
337 Elmhurst Place, Fullerton, CA 92835
Telephone 1-714-423-8811 **Email pflorescioofla@sbcglobal.net**

CME registration fee is waived to alumni who are in training or waiting for training program, 50% discount for alumni retired from medical practice. Please present documentation for waiver or send letter from your program director. A service charge for **\$50** will be billed for checks not honored by the bank. A service charge of **\$50** will also be withheld for refunds/withdrawals. All refund requests must be made in writing on or before **June 30, 2013**

The above-mentioned registration fees are required for everyone, including the Jubilarians and other Class honorees. Only the CME speakers and presenters are exempted from the CME registration. Visit our **website <http://www.feu-alumni.com>**

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION IN CHICAGO
TOGETHER WITH THE
PMAC AUXILIARY & PMAC MEDICAL FOUNDATION



CORDIALLY ASK YOU TO JOIN US FOR:
PMAC 53RD ANNIVERSARY & PMAC AUXILIARY 47TH ANNIVERSARY

Inaugural Ball

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2013

HYATT REGENCY O'HARE
9300 W BRYN MAWR AVE, ROSEMONT, IL - (847) 696-1234

COCKTAIL: 6:00 P.M.
DINNER: 7:00 P.M.

DONATIONS: \$80 PER PERSON
ATTIRE: FORMAL/FILIPINIANA

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

NIDA BLANKAS-HERNAEZ, MD
(847) 668-7385

ZITA YORRO, MD
(847) 477-3266

ROGELIO CAVE, MD
(708) 422-3716

CHECKS PAYABLE: PMAC (FOR MEDICAL MISSION)

No. 500

NAME _____
PHONE _____
SOLICITOR _____

PMAC BIG RAFFLE DRAWING

ONLY 500 TICKETS TO SELL
AT \$100.00 EACH

No. 500

1ST PRIZE \$25,000 OR 1/2 OF THE SALES

2ND PRIZE \$5,000

3RD PRIZE \$2,000

DRAWING ON SEPT 28, 2013

PMAC INAUGURAL BALL

HYATT REGENCY O'HARE

9300 W. BRYN MAWR AVE., ROSEMONT, IL

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT PMAC MEDICAL MISSION 2014
need not to be present to win

The **FEUMAANI** and **PMAC** invite you to join our
MACCHU PICCHU Tour/ CME October 4 - 11, 2013

Itinerary: Lima, Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, and a special added Golapagos Island tour

Total trip cost per person, including international flights \$2194

Not included in the price are Cusco city tour \$75 per person

Meals not specified in the itinerary (additional 3 lunches and 3 dinners \$125

Tips Survival Travel Kit for guidance)

For further information, please call **NIDA BLANKAS HERNAEZ MD**

at 847-668-7385 or email ednida888@gmail.com

PMAC

Marinduque mission

Gasan and Buena Vista
January 31, 2014

Torrejos and Sta. Cruz
February 1

Boac/ Mogpog
February 2.

For further information,
please call

NIDA BLANKAS HERNAEZ MD

847-668-7385

ednida888@gmail.com

COMMENTS

Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor,
column proposal and manuscripts are invited.

Email submission, including figures or
pictures, is preferred.

PMAC News

Deadline for the July 2013 issue

July 12, 2013

Please address submissions to

acvrear@sbcglobal.net

COMMENTS

Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor, column proposal and manuscripts are invited. Email submission, including figures or pictures, is preferred.

ECTOPIC MURMURS

Deadline for the July 2013 issue

July 18, 2013

Please address submissions to

acvrear@aol.com

COMMENTS

Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor, column
proposal and manuscripts are invited. Email submission,
including figures or pictures, is preferred.

FEUMAANI News

Deadline for the July 2013 issue

July 5, 2013

Please address submissions to

acvrear@gmail.com