

Pinoy Rulletin

FAAV Bi-Annual Publication

From the Upuan

by Chuck Reidy

Hello, Kababayans! Welcome to our 2024 FAAV Pasko Na Naman, in English means, "Its Christmas Once Again". Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you. I am honored to have served as your FAAV Chair this past year and even more humbled to be selected to serve you next year.

Tonight, we have our formal director oath taking...then a few fun games and entertainment by your FAAV directors. Afterwards...dancing hosted by our favorite DJ Jon. I hope you connect with friends tonight as well as newcomers to our community. Turn to someone new

at your table or the next table over, introduce yourself, share the warmth of the season...and continue strengthening the bonds of our growing FILAM community.

FAAV directors supported the Council of Filipino American Associations of Oregon and SW Washington (TAO – Together As One) 25th anniversary and bi-annual convention. At the FAAV affiliate table, we displayed our Philippine Scholarship program supporting both Sisters of the Poor and Shepherd of the Tribes Mission. I am so pleased with its growth to 6 HS awardees and expansion to include college students has started this quarter.

FAAV directors' one-day local retreat this year discussed Humanitarian relief processes and funding sources. This year, the Philippines has endured numerous devastating typhoons. After the first major storm, FAAV was able to immediately partner with Foundation for Philippine Progress (FPP) and send relief funding. When the next typhoon hit, we were able to send additional relief funding to the smaller towns that were hardest hit. We are continuing to increase our fundraising for these types of events and establish connections to who can ensure the relief is provided to the most vulnerable.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that FAAV will be awarding 3 US scholarships tonight to very deserving young students from our community. In addition to this good news and because the cost of tuition and supplies has dramatically increased, our board has decided to also increase 2026 scholarship amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This will require increased fundraising in 2026, but it is a worthwhile endeavor.

Thank you, FAAV directors, barkada, and FILAM community. Your continued support enables FAAV to do many good works in our community and in the Philippines.

yEditor: Gretel Ness
Editor: June Sustento-Reyla
December 2024 Edition

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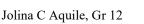


FAAV Philippine Scholarship for School Year 2024-25

Now on its 2nd year, Fil-Am Vancouver is happy to announce the recipients of our Philippine Scholarship for High School Students for the School Year 2024-25.

Through FAAV partnership with the Shepherds of the Tribes Mission in Zambales and Bataan:







Kyla Crishane Q Aquino, Gr 12



Peter S Soria, Gr 11

Through FAAV Partnership with the Sisters of the Poor of St. Catherine of Siena in Binangonan, Rizal:



Jericho O Apran, Gr 12



Mharc Lebron O Jarabejo, Gr 11



Marcelino S Bello, Gr 12

Fil-Am Vancouver is also happy to announce the first recipient of our Sponsor-Based Scholarship Stipend for the School Year 2024-25.

Through FAAV Partnership with the Catanduanes State University in Virac, Catanduanes and sponsored by the Corre family:



Remy Teves, College Freshman

Alam ba Ninyo? ni Ka June

Bakit Nga ba ang Musikang Filipino ay nakapa loob sa Ating Kultura: Isang Pagmamasid sa Kasaysayang Filipino (isang saling wika – hango sa isang artikulo)

Why Philippine Music Is So Deeply Embedded in The Culture: Note on Filipino History, Pinoy Abrod -March 22, 2021, By Paul de Guzman March 20, 2020, Tatler Philippines



Tayo ba'y mga Filipino dahil mahilig tayo sa musika o tayo'y mahilig sa musika dahil sa tayo'y mga Filipino?

Are we Filipinos because we love music, or do we love music because we are Filipinos?

Ang artikulong ito ay orihinal na pinamagatang "Historical Notes" na nilimbag noong Agosto, 2008 ng Tatler Philippines)

This feature story was originally titled as Historical Notes, and was published in the August 2008 issue of Tatler Philippines.

Tila baga ang musika ay isa sa mga bagay na ang Filipino ay nagiging matagumpay.

Seems as if music is the one field in which Filipinos can't help but succeed.

Ang bawa't mang aawit na sumasali sa mga paligsahan ay umuuwing may gantimpala, maging ito man ay pang una o hindi.

We send a singer to an international competition and he or she will almost certainly come home with a prize, if not the top prize.

Dahilan sa ang musika ay mahalaga, ang ating kultura ay mayaman, makulay at puno ng buhay tulad ng mga taong gumawa nito.

Because music is valuable, our cultural heritage has become rich, colorful, and vibrant—just like the people who create it.

Subali't ilan lamang sa atin ang nakakaunawa at nagpapahalaga sa ating pamanang lahi.



But few of us can truly claim to having a fine understanding and appreciation of our cultural heritage.

Si G. Felipe de Leon, isang propesor ng pagaaral ng Sining, sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas, Diliman, ay nag ulat na ang pagiging walang kamalayan sa kanyang kultura ay isang malaking pananagutan. Ang kakulangan sa kaalaman sa ating kultura ay malaking kaguluhan sa ating pagkakakilanlan

Felipe de Leon Jr., professor of art studies at the University of the Philippines Diliman, says that being unaware of the beauty of our culture is a liability. The lack of cultural awareness muddles our sense of identity.

Ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa ating kinagisnang musika – at pag unawa na ang ating musika ay kaugnay ng ating kasysayan at ng iba pang mga sining – ay isang karangalan sa kaibuturan ng ating diwa at higit sa lahat ito ay isang payak na pagkilala sa ating pagkakakilanlan.

Getting in touch with our musical roots — and understanding that music says as much about us as history and the other arts — can have the grandeur of looking deep into our souls, as well as the simplicity of knowing our name.

Parada Ng Lechon Festival

Early on the morning of June 24, my family and I set off for Balayan, Batangas, to attend the 65th Parada ng Lechon Festival. This lively event celebrates the iconic Filipino dish, lechon, with a parade of creatively decorated roasted pigs. Arriving in the town around 6 a.m., we were immediately swept into a festive atmosphere filled with lively music, vibrant decorations, and an unmistakable energy that filled the streets. Right away, we experienced warm Filipino hospitality when we were invited to have breakfast at the home of a Balayan local whom we had just met.

After a quick meal, we attended mass at the historic Immaculate Conception Church, a beautiful structure dating back to the Spanish Colonial Period and recognized as a National Cultural Treasure.

The festival officially began at 7 a.m., as the mass ended. Since the festival coincides with the Feast of St. John the Baptist, one of the time-honored traditions at the festival is mimicking the ritual of baptism by playfully pouring water on unsuspecting guests—no one in attendance remains dry! The town plaza was packed, and a firetruck stationed in the center sprayed water high into the air, drenching festival-goers in celebration. All around, the sounds of laughter and shrieks from both children and adults filled the air as people cheerfully splashed each other. Water guns in hand, my kids, Audrey and Liam, joined in on the fun, filling their water guns with ice-cold water and soaking passersby, including the mayor and other local officials.

We were lucky to be "adopted" by some locals, who treated us to free beer, lechon, and other delicious Filipino dishes throughout the day—a true testament to the Filipino spirit of hospitality.

Originally, the Parada ng Lechon began as a way to honor St. John the Baptist, Balayan's patron saint, and express gratitude for the past year's blessings. Today, it has grown into one of the most anticipated events in the area, complete with festive floats, live bands, street performances, and, of course, the spirited water-splashing. This year, 113 beautifully decorated lechons were on display, and over 10,000 locals and visitors were in attendance.

It was certainly one of the most enjoyable fiestas our family has experienced, and I am incredibly grateful that my kids and parents were able to share it with me. I hope to return again someday. As the saying goes, "It's more fun in the Philippines," and our time at the Parada ng Lechon proved just that.

by Bernice Bevard



Alam ba Ninyo? ni Ka June

Ayon kay De Leon "ang mga Filipino may mataas na antas ng pakikipag kapwa-tao sa bawat nilalang sa buong mundo – tayo'y mga nilalang na may likas na kakayanang maki salamuha sa ating kapwa. Sanay tayong mag trabaho ng grupo. Ang isang piging na hindi kasali ang buong komunidad ay isang bagay na hindi katanggap tanggap at kapag ang isang babae ay gagamit ng palikuran, lahat ng kaibigan ay kasama.

De Leon says that Filipinos are "among the most highly relational people in the world" — we simply love to connect with others. We work in big groups. A party that doesn't involve the entire community is unimaginable. When a Filipino woman has to go to the restroom, her friends often tag along, no questions asked.



Isang halimbawa: Kapag ang mang-aawit na taga Kanluran ay kayang umawit mula sa notang "mi" hanggang "fa" sa isang paraan lamang, ang isang Filipinong mang aawit ay ipinapalagay itong malaking hakbang

For example: If a Western singer could go from "mi" to "fa" in one step, the traditional Filipino singer sees that single step as a big jump, since many notes lie between "mi" and "fa", notes that Westerners don't even know exist. This is why you often encounter the hagod style of singing in Filipino music, where the singer glides or slides between notes.

Ang kinaugalian ng musikang Fiipino ay nag sasaad din ng kung paano natin iniisip ang oras. Bago pa man dumating ang mga banyaga sa ating bansa, ang mga Filipino ay hindi iniisip kung paano paghahati hatiin ang oras. Walang Segundo na bumubuo ng minuto na bumubuo ng oras na bumubuo ng isang araw. Ang mga Filipino ay hindi iniisip na ang oras ay dapat hatiin sa ibat ibang maliliit na bahagi, bagkos, ito ay isang malalawak at umaagos tulad ng isang sapa. Nang dahil dito, nagkaroon ng tila agos ang kalidad ng ating musika. Mapapansin natin ito sa tribo ng mga Kalinga na gumagamit ng tongali (plutang pang ilong), na matikas ang tunog.

Traditional Filipino music also speaks of how we perceive time. Before the arrival of Westerners, Filipinos didn't have a strict concept of how time should be divided. There were no seconds that made up a minute, no minutes that made up an hour, no hours that made up a day. Filipinos didn't think of time as something that should be divided into small components, but as

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something that is huge and whole, something that moves like a stream. Because of this, there is also a flowing quality to our music. This is most evident in the way members of the Kalinga tribe play the tongali (nose flute), which sounds fluid and graceful.

(Bahagi na ng buhay) INDIVISIBLE FROM LIFE

Ano mang bahagi ng bansa, ano mang tribu, tayo ay may taglay na musika na nakapaloob sa ating pang araw araw na buhay. Madalas, ito ay ang sentro ng ating pamumuhay.

Regardless of which part of the country we are in or which ethnic group we belong to, we will always have music playing in the background of our daily activities. Sometimes, it even takes center stage.

Karamihan sa mga katutubong kultura ay nagtataglay ng musika na naka akibat sa kanilang pamumuhay – ang ibang kultura naman ay walang pagkakakilanlan sa kanilang awitin. (CCP Encyclopedia of Philippine Art 1994). Kabilang dito ang mga katutubo ng Cordillera, mga Mangyan, mga Aeta at Lumad (katutubong komunidad) ng Palawan at Mindanao.



Many indigenous cultures even see music as something that can never be detached from their lives — some cultures don't even have a generic term for vocal music, or even "music" in general (CCP Encyclopedia of Philippine Art, 1994). These are the Filipinos who live "closest to nature" says de Leon. These include the peoples of the Cordillera, the Mangyan, the Aeta and the lumad (indigenous communities) of Palawan and the Mindanao highlands.

Dagdag pa ni de Leon: "Ang buhay para sa kanila ay hindi maibabahaging kabuuan. Ang sining, ang mga Alamat, mga ritwal at bawat pang araw - araw na takbo ng buhay ay magkasangga. Maging ang Espiritu at mga bagay, Diyos at Kalikasan, lantad man o hindi masisilayan, ito'y hindi masasabing pang dalawahan subalit tagusan sa maraming paraan. Lahat ng mga kulturang katutubong sining ang naka paloob sa maraming mukha ng pang araw araw na takbo ng buhay."

Adds de Leon: "Life to them is an indivisible whole. Art, myth, ritual, work and activities of everyday life are all integrated into one. Spirit and matter, God and nature, the visible and invisible worlds are not a dichotomy but interpenetrate in many ways. Of all Filipino subcultures, indigenous art is the most integrated with everyday life, multifaceted and participative."

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Veterans Day Speech

Thank you so much for inviting me to be your guest speaker for today. It is truly an honor, and I am humbled by it. Again, my name is Luis Ordona, and I am a member and the former chair of the Filipino American Association of Vancouver, Washington.

When Ms. Nila Jensen initially approached me to be the guest speaker, I asked her what topics she wanted me to talk about, and she said to talk about myself and my military experience. I said, okay, it might be a little dry, but here is a little about myself.

I go by my nickname Luis, but my full name is Luisito Moreno Ordona (immigration somehow dropped off the N (enye) from our name when we migrated and at the time nothing could be done about it. I have been married to my lovely wife

by Luis Ordona

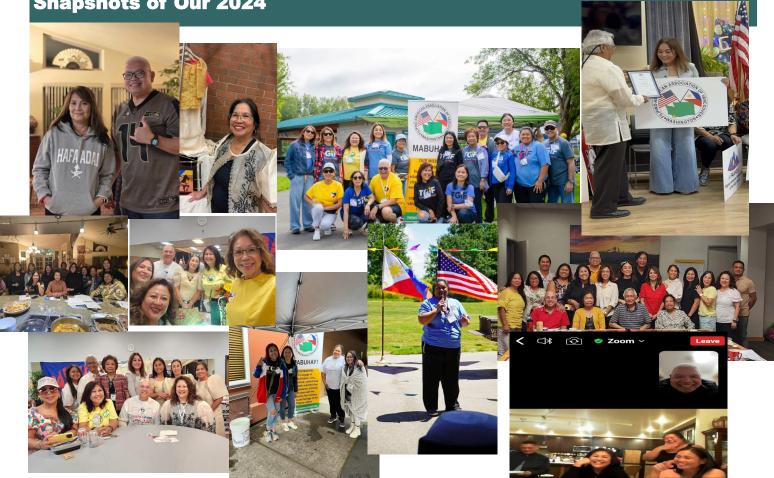


(Melissa) for 20 years. I have three awesome children, a daughter (Pamela 32) and a son (Luis 30) from a previous marriage, and our youngest daughter (Aly 16) who is a Junior in high school. I am also a grandfather to a beautiful 1 year old granddaughter named Aera and a son-in-law (Bret). I am the second oldest, and the oldest boy, from a family with 7 kids. I was born in Manila (University of Santo Tomas Hospital), spent part of my childhood in Manila, and part of it in Cainta, Rizal where my family had a home. I also studied in UST for elementary school. My whole family (minus my youngest brother who wasn't born yet at the time) migrated to the United States in the early part of the '80s. My grandparents, aunts, and uncle from my mom's side of the family all lived in the US, and my mom (who's the oldest of her siblings), was the last one to migrate to the US. (I believe having to migrate to the US with a such a large family all at once with her had something to do with the delay).

Once we arrived in the US, we settled and lived in the San Francisco Bay area, a place I still call home to this day. The first few years of being in the US wasn't easy for my mom and dad as they had to provide for their 7 kids. Life was a whole lot different than when we were living in the Philippines to say the least, where life was a little bit more comfortable. We went from living in a modest house with some help, to living in a 1-bedroom 1 bath apartment with the dining room sectioned off and converted into a 2nd bedroom.

I attended middle school and high school in San Francisco in the early to mid '80s. And although I aspired to go to college at that time, as a teenager seeing your parents struggle just to make ends meet makes you think that maybe this path was not meant to be for me. Then one day, I saw this ad on TV with a catchy jingle (Be all you can be, find your future in the Army!) This caught my attention, and as part of the selling point was that they provide you with tuition money called the "G.I. Bill".

Snapshots of Our 2024



Veterans Day Speech

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I always liked to play soldier growing up, liked watching GI Joe cartoons, and I was very active in our HS ROTC, which during that time in the '80s was a very popular high school activity for young Filipino Americans. So I saw an opportunity where I can play soldier for a few years, have the money to go to college, and relieve some financial burden off my parents' shoulders. In my teenage mind, it was a Win, Win, Win. I signed up when I turned 16 years of age into the Army's Delayed Entry Program where I attended reserve drills for the next 1 ¹/₂ years. My mom was teary eyed when I signed up. She was against the idea, but in a way, she understood and supported me. Both of my parents were supportive of the idea.

A month after graduating high school, I went into Basic training. That was July 15, 1987. My initial 4 years, became 8 years, then it became 12 years. Then before I knew it, 20 years had gone by. My military occupational skill was a Transportation Management Coordinator (88N), I was an Airborne Jumpmaster with 69 jumps under my belt. I was an Army Recruiter for three years, Been deployed to numerous countries and regions in an around the world, and when I retired I was a SFC, with my last position being a Detachment 1st Sgt.

2025 FAAV Scholarship Recipients

Destinee Cenita is currently a Senior attending Pepperdine University. Destinee is the co-founder of a non-profit organization called "Send2Space." This organization serves as a platform to introduce young children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds to the world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Future



plans include going to graduate school and pursuing being a Physician's Assistant.

Jacob Gianan is attending the University of Washington as a Senior and pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering. Jacob, recently interned at "SpaceX", designing

hardware for Starlink, a satellite – based internet service. Star-

link's use of satellites has unlocked internet capabilities for many rural and developing regions, including many of the islands in the Philippines.

Kirstin Walla is attending her second year in college at Marymount Manhattan New York City in their Bachelor of Fine Arts Musical Theatre Program. Kirstin related that "Art has its way of making people come together and work for a

common goal." Kirstin manifests this by volunteering and singing at community events both in Vancouver and in New York.



Novena Masses in Southwest Washington Southern Deanery, Archdiocese of Seattle DEC 14 - DEC 23, 2024

Simbang Gab

- 14 Dec Saturday at 11am Commissioning Mass at St James Cathedral 804 9th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104, Celebrant: Archbishop Paul D. Etienne FILCOPA Filipino Council for Pastoral Affairs, contact: sgcoordinators@gmail.com
- 14 Dec Saturday at 4pm St Rose de Viterbo Catholic Church 2571 Nichols Blvd, Longview, WA 98632, Celebrant: Rev. Brian Thompson St Rose de Viterbo Simbang Gabi Parish Coordinator: Judith Paine - judithpaine@ymail.com
- 17 Dec Tuesday at 6pm St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church 324 NE Oak St, Camas, WA 98607, Celebrant: Rev. Balasamy Joji Nagineni St Thomas Aquinas Simbang Gabi Parish Coordinator: Tess Mallari - theresamallari@yahoo.com
- 18 Dec Wednesday at 6pm Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church 4701 NW Franklin St, Vancouver, WA 98663, Celebrant: Rev. Timothy Ilgen OLL Simbang Gabi Parish Coordinator: Maria del Fierro - mvdelfire Rool.com
- 21 Dec Saturday at 5pm St John the Evangelist Catholic Church 8701 NE 119th St, Vancouver WA 98662, Celebrant: Rev. Temo Ramirez St John Simbang Gabi Parish Coordinator: Bernie Gerhardt - gerhardtbmikigmail.com





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Celebrating Milestones

A 50th-wedding anniversary celebration holds deep meaning as it signifies the couple's unwavering commitment and lasting love. It's a remarkable achievement that deserves recognition and a joyous celebration to honor the couple's enduring bond. It is a testament to the couple's love for one another. FAAV's long time board member Zenny Way and Guy Way, her husband of 50 years, celebrated their 50th anniverary in the presence of their family and friends on June 29th at McMenamins. Renewal of vows was witnessed by all. The Ways generously donated their monetary gifts to FAAV in support of its mission. Congratulations!



Alam ba Ninyo? ni Ka June

(continued from Page 5)

May mga awiting ipinagdiriwang ang takbo ng buhay – ang <u>owiwi</u> ay tungkol sa buhay ng isang bata, o ang <u>dagdagay</u> ay isang hula kung ano ang mangyayari sa kanyang hinaharap. Mayroon din silang musika kapag ang bata ay maliligo sa unang pagkakataon sa labas ng bahay –(<u>dopdopit)</u> o kapag ang bata ay mag susuot ng kwintas sa unang pagkakataon (kawayanna). Mayroon ding mga awit sa mga bagong kasal, ang tamuyong, panalangin para sa biyaya, ang dango, isang pasasalamat; at ang Dangdang ay awit ng pag-ibig, na pang- aliw. Mayroon din mga awit ukol sa kamatayan, tulad ng didiyaw ng bayan ng Bontoc. Ang mga Ifugao ay umaawit ng bangibang upang ipaghiganti ang biglang pagkamatay ng isang mahal sa buhay.

There are songs to celebrate every turn of the life cycle — the Kalinga sing an owiwi to talk about a child's life, or a dagdagay to predict what will happen to him in the future. They also have music to accompany the first time a child is bathed outside the house (dopdopit) or to celebrate the first time a child wears a necklace (kawayanna). They sing songs for married couples, which include the tamuyong, a prayer for blessing; the dango, a sort of "thank-you" song; and the dangdang-ay, a love song that serves to entertain. Songs for death are also present, such as the Bontoc's didiyaw. The Ifugao, meanwhile, sing the bangibang to avenge someone who died unexpectedly.

Itutuloy ... (to be continued)

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by Cori Harms

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FIL-AM VANCOUVER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD!

The FAAV Scholarship Application for Calendar Year 2026 will open in January

Submission deadline is: October 1st, 2025 At 11:59 PM Pacific Standard Time

High School Seniors, vocational and academic students, are you aspiring to be a leader in our Filipino Community? The Filipino American Association of Vancouver (FAAV) can help you in this journey.

Annually, FAAV offers \$2,000 Scholarships to deserving students. The criteria are: you must be a *permanent resident of Clark* **County; must be of Filipino descent; and must be a high school senior by the time of selection** and award, or must be currently pursuing a vocational certificate, technical, associate or bachelor's degree. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply more than once.

Students will be contacted of their award no later than October 31, 2025. Scholarship awards will be formally awarded at our annual Pasko Na Naman gala in December 2025.



www.FilAmVancouver.org



www.filamvancouver.org/scholarship

Veterans Day Speech

I finally decided to hang up my military uniform 1 November 2007. In those 20 years in service to our country, I participated in several military missions to include supporting rangers deploying to Operation Just Cause in Panama, sending military equipment in support of Desert Shield/Desert Storm; I was then assigned to a special operations support battalion supporting both Rangers and Special Forces; my unit participated in Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, then a couple more operations before my last one called Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a matter of fact, I was two months into a 12-month long deployment to the desert of Kuwait and Iraq when I decided it was time to hang it up.

I made the most out of my military career. At the time, the pay wasn't great, but the benefits more than made up for it. Once I learned that the military had a tuition assistance program that paid for your college schooling while you were in, I took advantage of the opportunity. One course at a time, and with a lot of discipline to go with it, and before you know it, I was piling up degrees. I started with an Associates

degree in General Studies, then a Bachelors Degree in Social Science, until I was able to finish my first graduate degree in Masters in Public Administration (with an emphasis in Education) from Troy University all paid for by the military. I never had to use my GI Bill while I was in, so I turned around and used that after I retired from the military to go for my second masters, an MBA from Willamette University. I had an opportunity to travel the world, meet and learn about many cultures, learned several different languages, and I took advantage of the military adventure.

Being in the military was a hard life. It wasn't easy, as I was always gone away from family and friends. I can tell you now that my body is feeling every bit of the effects of having served those 20 years. However, having gone through the experience, I am glad I did it. It taught me to be aware, to have discipline, to have a good understanding of the different cultures that I was exposed to and gained an appreciation of our differences, to what it means to be a patriot and being patriotic, to be appreciative of what it means to live here in the US, and to be an American. It taught me how to be of service to others, and to do it honorably. The military is there to serve/protect/defend the people of this country. Most veterans that you talk to will speak of the pride that they feel to be of service to this country, our shared values of service - it's now part of our DNA, of who we are as veterans. There is a part of us that will always be willing to serve, and to be of service to others in our community.

In my position as a director and past chairperson of the Filipino-American Association of Vancouver, Washington, my thought process every time I make a suggestion or recommendation to the board always revolves around how to honorably serve others and how to be of service to those in need in the community, specifically, how to best serve our Filipino community, both here in the US and in the Philippines.

Being in the military and taking advantage of the opportunities that it offered gave me the foundation for the good life that I am benefiting from right now. So, I will forever be grateful for that advertising jingle (Be All You Can Be...). It's all in hindsight, but looking back at all the stressful situations that I endured during my time in service in the military helped shape my character, and the person that I am today - a proud US Army (retired) Filipino-American veteran.

Money Sense

by Cori Harms

You have a house for sale and it is not selling, now what?



- Try postponing your sale, take on another loan, rent out your home for cash flow, or do a short sale.
- If it is a buyers' market, take it off the market and wait until the inventory drops.
- Timing can be a factor too. Selling through the holidays can be tough. Selling in the winter is more difficult; selling in spring brings more buyers into the marketplace.
- Take on a home equity loan if the need to sell is for financial reasons.
- If you take it off the market temporarily, renting it out can be a good option for improved cash flow.
- Short sale? Discuss ramifications with a real estate professional to understand the consequences.
- Weigh your options!

To engage in educational, cultural and would preserve, promote, community the customs, the Filipino culture.



humanitarian, civic, charitable activities that and share with the values, and heritage of

Check us out on the web at www.filamvancouver.org