

COMMUNITY JOURNAL

IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA

Still seeking the light in a season of darkness

“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”
—Edmund Burke

I am reprising this article, which was earlier published just this summer during the heat of the DNC primary election. So many things have happened since then that have changed the dynamics of this exceptionally contentious election year. We've spent far more time and spent more energy on this election amid the worst financial crisis since the depression years. Thankfully, all these will come to a screeching halt in less than a month. But then, of course, beyond that the real work begins as this current lame duck presidency wanes and another one waxes.

As observers cum participants in this political process, we ought to keep our eyes and ears peeled and our noggins engaged in the discourse that is going on. These are troubled times when many have lost their homes, their jobs, their 401Ks, their faith and trust in themselves and the ability of government to help them live decent, productive lives. And since this is a global economy, the repercussions of the horror we have seen on Wall Street and Main Street are now being felt on a massive scale.

through their personal income taxes. Who gives more? No indication of character can be clearer. No spin-doctor can lie his way out of an indication of who gives more of themselves. Who walks the talk?

The country is vulnerable and when people are weak, people do have a tendency to make more errors in decision-making. If you are not a political junkie because you feel you have better things to do than waste your time following the goings-on in the political arena and cannot make heads or tails of the issues being discussed by both parties, there is a way of deciding intuitively, practically error-free.

If you are taking a perilous flight, you want the pilot with the most flying hours, not the rookie who will still be fumbling to learn the controls in the cockpit. If you will sail a stormy sea, which very well describes what is before us within this coming decade, you will want to choose the captain who has the heart, the courage and the character to safely bring the ship home to port, not one who will still have to study the wind, the tide and the seascape or monitor the situation by BlackBerry, while the iceberg looms menacingly ahead.

Go with character because in any human endeavor, CHARACTER COUNTS. If you are a woman being courted by two suitors and you have to decide between the two, go beyond the words and look beyond the promises. “The past,” as Shakespeare once said, “is prologue.” Past individual performance over a period of time beats promises anytime. A solid record trounces empty rhetoric. Better yet, check their record of giving to charity,

Politics is a blood sport that takes no prisoners. It takes a different kind of DNA wiring and upbringing to engage in this sport, particularly in the politics of today. Politics can be thoroughly disgusting and if you fully engage in it with your heart and your pocketbook putting your money where your heart is, this political *zarzuela* can bring out the tiger in you, making you throw a pillow at the boob tube.

their record of giving to charity,

Something must be said about the demise of journalistic integrity and the search for truth during these unusual times. Media no longer engages in investigative journalism. All it does is advance its agenda. Ethical journalism as we know it has gone the way of the dinosaur. It has become apparent that big media together with most of Hollywood celebs, with their leftist, elitist, liberal leanings—CNN, NBC and its cable MSNBC, ABC and the major daily newspapers, *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and *LA Times*, as well as AP and Yahoo—are not on the side of the American public but simply out for its own purposes in the name of something more sinister than profit-making alone, amazingly acting like synchronized propaganda tools spouting biased reporting, filtering and spinning in all-out effort to grab power, the general well-being of ordinary, middle-class Americans be damned. It is a truly troubling sign that threatens American society. Hollywood and media seem to forget that their very existence comes from the majority of Americans who patronize their largely mediocre offerings that pass for entertainment these days. I predict a severe backlash in the years ahead that will bite their profits and elitist standing in society and redefine them as nothing more than court jesters and role players.

The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials—regardless of political affiliation—in the different US states who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.

A FilAm in the US Congress Rep. Robert Scott: Blazing the way

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO
AJPress



Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA 3rd), the first American with Filipino heritage to serve in the United States Congress with FilAm lawyer Leonard Tengco at the Virginia State Democratic Convention earlier this year.

HE may not be a full-blooded Filipino, but Filipino Americans consider Congressman Robert Cortez Scott as one of their own. Sixteen years ago, on November 1992, Robert “Bobby” Scott was elected to the US House of Representatives. By winning in that election, Rep. Scott made history by becoming the first African American elected to Congress from Virginia for over 100 years. Born on April 30, 1947 in Washington, DC, Congressman Scott grew up in Newport News, Virginia. He is a graduate of Harvard University and Boston College Law School. After graduating from law school, he returned to Newport News and practiced law from 1973 to 1991. He also served in the Massachusetts National Guard and the United States Army Reserve. While practicing law in Newport News, Scott served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1978 to 1983 and in the Senate of Virginia from 1983 to 1993.

What about the polls? Like the media, nearly all of the polls, about 39 in all with Gallup, Rasmussen and smaller wannabe outfits like Zogby and upstarts like Quinnipiac and other pseudo pollsters from either side, their pronouncements must be taken with a grain of salt, okay, a sack of salt if you will, particularly during these weeks. The importance of polls as proven in the last two national elections has been blown to smithereens. Poll results are no longer reliable indicators of future results—not in the last decade anyway.

During his tenure in the Virginia General Assembly, Rep. Scott successfully sponsored laws that are critical to Virginians in healthcare, education, employment, economic development, crime prevention, social services and consumer protection. His legislative successes included laws that improved healthcare benefits for infants and children, increased the Virginia minimum wage and created the Governor's Employment and Training Council. Rep. Scott currently serves as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, and is a member of the House Committee on Education and Labor and the House Committee on Budget.

The bottom line: your guess is as good as theirs. Pollsters use supposedly scientific random samplings and complicated weights and measures to sell to the public that they have foreknowledge of how things will turn out. Only God remains prescient and omniscient. And yes, there is a God who sent his son, Christ, to save us, contrary to what high priestess Oprah and her fashionable Internet religion based on Eckhart Tolle's belief in one's self as Savior instead of Christ, would have you believe. Most times, and with very few

In his 15 years in Congress, Rep. Scott has become known as a champion of the US Constitution and the Bill of Rights, fighting to protect the rights and civil liberties of all Americans. In 1997, Rep. Scott fought to protect the rights of all children with disabilities to obtain a free and appropriate education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Rep. Scott is currently a leading opponent of efforts to permit employment discrimination based on race or religion in federally funded programs. He is a leading advocate for improving and increasing funding for veterans' benefits and health care; for the enactment of legislation to reduce high school dropout rates and increase access to a college education for all students with the Every Student Counts Act. Scott is also a strong supporter of universal health care and has sponsored the All Healthy Children Act that would ensure that the 9 million uninsured children in the United States have access to quality health care.

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