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THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Fil-Am editor call his award a 'validation'

Galing Pinoy

RANDY GENER



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WEEKEND EDITION

FEBRUARY 14-17, 2009

DATELINE USA
FROM THE APRESS NEWS TEAM ACROSS AMERICA

LA Consulate warns public of Internet fraud schemes and text scams

LOS ANGELES—The public is being cautioned by the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles about Internet fraud schemes and text scams, especially those purported to be involving cash inheritances from persons unrelated to e-mail recipients.

One such modus operandi specifically involves the supposed multi-million dollar inheritance from a certain Engr. Jurgen Krugger being offered to e-mail recipients and allegedly being managed by one of the following:

- Barrister David Smith, Esq. of David Smith and Associates, with e-mail address davidsmith.esqunit@live.com,

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AS WE GO TO PRESS

HOUSE AND SENATE PASSES STIMULUS BILL

Some WWII Veterans Vets Celebrate, Others Remain Cautious



AJPress Photo by Andy Tecson

by JOSEPH PIMENTEL
AJPress

LOS ANGELES—Filipino World War II Veteran Peping Baclig's birthday is on Valentine's Day.

And the 87-year-old is about to receive a gift 60 years in waiting.

The US House of Representatives and Senate on Feb. 13 have passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which include a provision authorizing the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund.

"We've been fighting for this [the FilVet Equity Act] for the past 60 years," said Baclig. "I'm just happy that these legislators have done their duties well."

President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill into law on Feb. 16.

The \$198 million Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund authorizes the US Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make a one-time payment to eligible Filipino veterans who served in the Philippines during World War II.

Filipino WWII veterans residing in the US would receive a lump sum payment of \$15,000. Non-US citizens or those residing in the Philippines would receive \$9,000.

"Finally," said 85-year-old Franco Arcebal of the American Coalition of Filipino Veterans

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A PROPOSAL PERFECT FOR THE MOVIES

Male nurse proposes marriage to flight attendant at NAIA

by JEROME ANING
Inquirer.net

MANILA—People at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) were treated to an early Valentine's Day drama last Feb. 12 after a male nurse used the airport's premises to propose marriage to his girlfriend of two years, a flight attendant.

Eugene Padua, 26, of Taytay, Rizal, a nurse at UST Hospital, proposed marriage to his girlfriend, Marian Ocampo, 23, of Zambales, a flight attendant of Asiana Airlines of four years, right at the NAIA Terminal 1 arrival area.

Ocampo arrived at 11:46 am on Flight OZ-701 from Seoul, South Korea, according to Connie Bungag, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) media affairs officer.

As soon as Ocampo and her fellow flight attendants stepped out of the arrival area a few minutes past noon, she was immediately met by Padua, according to witnesses.

Brass quintet

The groom-to-be was accompanied by a brass quintet playing their theme song, Christopher Cross' *Swept Away*.

Padua was carrying a bouquet of yellow roses and calla lily flowers, his girlfriend's favorite.

At a nearby aisle, friends unfurled a tarpaulin, revealing a photo montage of the couple with the words, "Will You Marry Me?"

Curious passengers and airport personnel who were in the area kept their distance as they watched Padua formally ask Ocampo to marry him. The flight attendant accepted.

Kiss

"All were watching, some even teary-eyed, as the event unfolded. The couple were later asked by the gushing crowd to kiss, which they did as the people around were clapping their hands," Bungag

DATELINE PHILIPPINES

soon as and her flight attendants stepped

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Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA) gets grant to help businesses build websites

SEARCH to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA) received funding to help small businesses build their own websites. "In the current economy, it is important for businesses to explore as many opportunities to reach their existing and new customers" said Joel Jacinto, Executive Director of SIPA. The workshops are free, in addition to the website hosting.

"Providing Internet access to all businesses regardless of size will definitely help owners weather these difficult economic times," said Garrett Gin of Merrill Lynch. "We are pleased to partner with local organizations in this community development effort."

"Build Your Own Website" workshops at SIPA will be available at no charge as a result of a \$40,000 grant from Merrill Lynch to the API SBP, a collaboration of Asian nonprofits in LA. SIPA started the workshop series two years ago providing instructions on how to build a very basic website. The group now will be able to help businesses add the ability to do on-line transactions, drive more traf-



Garret Gin, Merrill Lynch, meets with Colleen Seto and Cooke Sunoo of the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program about a \$40,000 website building grant for very small businesses.

fic to the sites and to analyze the source of Internet hits.

Six awards were made across the State. The only other LA award was made to Valley Economic Development Center (VEDC) that will make micro-loans to very small businesses.

"The fact that we work together with five different Asian community centers was attractive to our funder. In this era, they too are looking for creative ways to leverage their resources" said Cooke Sunoo, API SBP Director. SIPA will work with VEDC to assist Filipino businesses access these micro-loans.

API SBP, working through organizations such as SIPA serves more than 3,000 entrepreneurs annually. It also receives funding from the SBA as a Women's Business Center. ■

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