



Galing Pinoy showcases the triumph of the Filipino spirit—the Filipino's innate perseverance to rise above. A double entendre, **Galing Pinoy** literally translates to both coming from (or brought to you by) the Filipino and Filipino ingenuity.



From Tarlac to Iraq

USAirForceCaptainCristinaMiranda comes a long way

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO / AJPress

It was two days before Thanksgiving in 2007 and United States Air Force Captain Cristina Miranda was busy preparing for the coming holidays. Christmas is always the happiest time of the year ever since she was a little girl among her family in Tarlac. Though she has immigrated to the US in 1992 where the Yuletide season is not celebrated as long and as festive as in the Philippines, still it is the best time in the year for the young Air Force captain and her husband, Richard, and two sons, Derek and Joshua.

Then, the unexpected came. Cristina received a notice that day that she is being deployed to the war-torn country of Iraq.

"I was notified two days before Thanksgiving that I was being deployed to leave on December 13. I never envisioned myself going to Iraq. I was sad," Miranda recalled. "But I made friends with many people who were also serving. It was a good career move," she admitted.

Though her family and friends feared for her safety, Cristina was able to finish her deploy-

ment without any problems. "I went to Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, where I got to visit Saddam Hussein's palace as often as I want. I stayed in Iraq for a year and got to travel to different sites through helicopters and C130s. I've heard mortar attacks but was not harmed," said Miranda.

The brave and courageous Pinay has truly come a long way from her native province of Tarlac. Born on May 3, 1971 in Tarlac, Tarlac, Cristina attended elementary and high school in the College of the Holy Spirit in Tarlac.

She then moved to Manila for her college education, taking up BS Mathematics, Major in Actuarial Science at the University of Santo Tomas, graduating cum laude.

In April 1992, Cristina immigrated to California with her mother and brother. "My mother was sponsored by her sister, my aunt. We waited 13 years before the petition was approved. I arrived in California with my mother and younger brother, just two months before my 21st birthday. The next year, I came back to the Philippines



to marry Richard," said Cristina who shuttled back and forth from California to the Philippines over the next few years. She had a son named Derek, now 16 years old. "I could not take my husband and son with me right away, so they had to stay behind in the Philippines. I did different

kinds of jobs in California, from working two days in Sbarro, to other agency-supplied temporary work," she added.

It was love for her family that challenged Miranda to join the Air Force. She told her story to *Asian Journal*. "While I was on vacation

► PAGE A9

MARIAN COLLEGE
MARIAN HEALTH CAREERS CENTER
SINCE 1992

Courses Offered

LICENSED VOCATIONAL NURSING

Intravenous Therapy Certification

Financial Aid and Academic Scholarships Available!

NEW PART TIME CLASS SCHEDULE!
Part Time Classes are now more convenient than ever!
Friday, Saturday & Sunday!

Reduced downpayment.

Call now for more information! Or visit us @ www.mariancollegecalifornia.com

<p>Los Angeles Campus 3325 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1010 Los Angeles, CA 90010 Tel No. (213) 388-3566 Fax No. (213) 388-9606</p>	<p>Van Nuys Campus 5900 Sepulveda Boulevard, Suite 101 Van Nuys, CA 91411 Tel No. (818) 782-6163 Fax No. (818) 782-6086</p>
--	--

<p>2009 CLASS SCHEDULES Full Time: March 16, 2009 Part Time: February 20, 2009</p>	<p>2009 CLASS SCHEDULES Full Time: February 16, 2009 Part Time: March 20, 2009</p>
---	---

HAIR REBONDING

Japanese Magic Straight Perm

You look better and feel better!

- No more curly or kinky hair
- Only Japanese products are used
- Keeps hair straight for 6 months or longer

ONLY
\$120!

GINA KIM
Hair Designer

(213) 503-2199

1032 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite D Los Angeles, CA 90019
(Take I-10 W, exit Crenshaw, turn right, proceed along Crenshaw and arrive on the right-side between Pico and Olympic)

LAW OFFICES OF

BRIAN D. LERNER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
Offices in Downtown Los Angeles and Long Beach

BANKRUPTCY ATTORNEY

Attorney Brian D. Lerner

TOLL FREE **(866) 495-0554**
attorney@eimmigration.org

FREE CONSULTATION

- Attorney is married to Filipina and wants to help you
- Chapter 7, 11, or 13
- Stop the Creditors, the calls and the harassing
- Only \$1,250 Attorney Fees for a Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
- Helping Filipinos and their loved ones all over the US
- We will determine if you meet the Means Test
- Member of American Los Angeles County Bar
- We are a Debt Relief Agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under title 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code

<p>Los Angeles Office City National Plaza 515 South Flower Street 36th Flr, Los Angeles, CA 90071 (Near 7th Street/ Metro Center Station) Tel: (213) 236-3775</p>	<p>Long Beach Office International City Bank 249 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 408, Long Beach, CA 90802 (1st Street- Near Transit Mall Station) Tel: (562) 495-0554</p>
--	---

LAW OFFICES OF

JANCE M. WEBERMAN

EXPERIENCED LITIGATORS IN FEDERAL & STATE COURTS

AGGRESSIVE REPRESENTATION
- EXCELLENT RESULTS -
WRONGFUL TERMINATION
SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH
SEXUAL HARASSMENT
BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE LITIGATION
CRIMINAL DEFENSE

3700 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 540, Los Angeles, CA 90010
Tel. (213) 386-9100