

CSI Professionals ...

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spoke about the significance of the reform on the police forms. For him, this reform will bring people out of the shadows. Possible witnesses who are afraid to speak to the police due to their immigration status may assist the police force in solving cases. With the delayed materialization of this reform, it is believed to have led the increase in hate crimes, ID theft, and unscrupulous employers. "Illegal immigration has affected our budgets, our workloads and community trusts", says Manger.

Moreover, this reform will prevent companies from exploiting illegal workers.

Realistically, there are about 12 million undocumented immigrations in the US. Even if the US has the resources to deport them, 8.1 millions jobs would be lost by removing them in the workforce. This is

1.76 trillion in annual spending. These immigrants are net contributors to the U.S. economy.

There are a lot of supporters for this immigration reform; we hope that it will be resolved soon, since this may really be the answer towards economic improvement.

Since the government is inclining towards immigration reform, qualified applicants or even illegal aliens should all the more make efforts to legalize their status for possible eligibility for such movement.

If you are looking for legal work authorization or if you were laid-off with a pending petition geared for your future – maybe some other company can legally catch it.

If you are a specialist seeking initial sponsorship – maybe there is a company

which needs such a specialist. We at CSI Professionals, Inc. can help you find such company. All you have to do is know what you need to do, and let CSI help you.

To schedule a free consultation here in Los Angeles,

or request information on our next seminar,

Please call and visit us in our office locations:

LA Corporate Office: 3255 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1520, Los Angeles, CA 90010; tel. no. 213-487-5059

Glendale Branch Office: 100 N. Brand Blvd. 6th Floor Glendale, CA 91203; tel. no. 818-476-0082

Our website is www.csi-professionals.com.

BLOG: csiprofessionalsinc.wordpress.com ■

Saving to retire

- HERE are tips on how to make saving for retirement easier:
1. Pay off credit cards first. Paying down debt with high interest rates such as credit cards is essential.
 2. Build an emergency fund. Put aside six months' worth of expenses in a liquid, accessible fund that can be tapped for unexpected needs such as car repairs or medical bills.
 3. Set up automatic withdrawals. Contact your bank to have a predetermined amount saved from each paycheck or taken from your checking account every month.
 4. Start small and move up. Even with an entry-level salary, most people won't miss 2 percent or 3 percent of their paychecks. Start with that sum just to get going. Try to bump up your savings rate to 10 percent of pay as soon as possible. The longer your contribution remains in the single digits, the more you will have to step it up in later years to make up for lost time.
 5. Don't turn down free money. If your employer has a 401(k) matching program, be sure to contribute enough to your account to qualify for the company match.
 6. Save your raises. Every time you get a raise, increase your savings rate. You don't have to save all of it, but the more the better.
 7. Live within your means. Don't buy something if you don't need it. Monitor your daily spending and take pride in being frugal.
 8. Stay disciplined. Set a long-term saving plan and do your best to stick with it. (AP)

People and Events

Win a free trip to the Philippines on Independence day

QUESTION: When was the last time you attended the Philippine Independence Day and got a chance to win a FREE TRIP to the Philippines?

ANSWER: None that we know of.

This year's Philippine Independence Day at the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center promises to be the most fun and the most charitable too. According to Errol Santos, HPMC Consultant for Business Development, a Free Trip to the Philippines will be raffled that very day for the Seniors. Not only that, 200 dollars of Gift Certificate will be raffled every half hour plus hundreds more of prizes will be given away during the Celebrations.

As if those goodies are not enough, celebrities and musical groups will entertain the revelers FOR FREE at the whole day affair to be held at the hospital grounds on June 6 from 8pm to 4pm.

For Errol Santos, this Philippine Independence Day is a celebration of many first.

It's the first to raffle a Free Trip to the Philippines

It's the first to raffle more than \$4000 dollars in prizes.

It's the first to feature so many celebrities and musical groups for free.

And most of all, it will be held at the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center – the First Hospital in America to give a public recognition and celebration day to honor our Filipino Doctors, Nurses and other Medical Health workers.

"Laki ako sa hirap eh," muses Errol Santos, who together with Jay Woo, HPMC Director for special Events, conceived and organized this annual celebration for Filipinos. "In this time of economic difficulties, what better way to celebrate our Independence Day than by giving away all these prizes. Imagine, sa hirap ng buhay ngayon, manalo ka ng 200 dollars na groceries o kaya makabakasyon sa Pilipinas ng libre? Ang Independence Day celebration ngayon ay talagang dedicated namin sa mga seniors."

Fun rides will be available at the Hospital Grounds for free to provide fun and enjoyment to the children.

Errol Santos has a piece of advice: *Pumunta kayo ng maaga sa Hospital Grounds sa June 13, Saturday. Kung pwede alas otso ng umaga ay nandun na kayo para mauna kayong makakuha ng raffle tickets* The Raffle tickets will be given only on that day.

He adds, "If you have a talent or you have a musical group, we would be glad to feature you in our Celebration. Please contact: Errol Santos at 818-621-2912 or email mpgerrol@yahoo.com ■

On His Birthday, Errol Santos fulfills a commitment to feed the homeless people

by RENE VILLAROMAN

LOS ANGELES – April 4th was a defining day for Errol Santos, the peripatetic Business Development Consultant of Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center. On that day, Errol turned a year older, and it marked the day when he made a promise that, henceforth, he would feed some of the homeless people on the streets of Los Angeles every year on his birthday.

"This will be my commitment from now on," he told me over breakfast at Mommy Lucing's Bahay Kubo

Natin Restaurant on that no-meat Friday, April 4. "It does not take a lot of money to bring food to some of the homeless people in Los Angeles," Errol said. "It only takes a little money; but what is important is to make people and businessmen, and large corporations to realize that it can be done for a little money. How about ten bucks, maybe a hundred bucks from my own pocket?" he queried. "That's a small amount. Besides, I am blessed; I've been very lucky," Errol said.

"The philosophy behind this personal project," Errol continued, "is that it does not take a whole lot of money to start a program to feed some of the homeless people in Los Angeles. When these large corporations see that a private individual (me) is willing to begin such a program with my own money and time, I think that it will snowball; they will pick up on it," he said.

His friend, Lito Lacson, and Mel Reyes, a business associate, came with their sweat equity. Lacson drove his seldom-used Ford van to the restaurant; and Reyes brought his trusty JVC professional video camera to document the effort. I whipped up my little point-and-shoot Canon digital camera. We mapped our less-than scientific itinerary to the places frequented by homeless people. It included Echo Park, Filipinotown and East Hollywood areas.

After taking possession of packed lunches that were donated by Mommy Lucing Hernandez of Bahay Kubo, we were ready to make the rounds. I suggested going to the Skid Row area of Los Angeles, but Lito Lacson thought it might not be a good idea as we did not have enough provisions to give out. "The homeless population in the area is going to gang up on us if we can't provide enough lunches for everyone there," he warned. Besides, Errol thought, that amount of logistics would require a large truck. So we decided to play it by ear. On the way to the United Bakery on Sunset Boulevard to pick up a couple of boxes of *empanada* that were promised by its owners, we took Glendale Boulevard and swung by Echo Park Lake, hoping that we would encounter homeless people there. It turned out negative. We continued on to United

Bakery, where the beaming owners, Mr. Romeo and Mrs. Andrea de Guzman, had the *empanadas* ready in two large boxes. They were offering more, but Errol refused because there were not enough volunteers to do the packing.

So off they went to the 99 Cents Store across the street. Errol bought a couple of dozens of orange juice, apples, and a bunch of brown bags, and he packed an orange juice, an apple, and an *empanada* in each brown bag. The packed lunches did not go very far. Even before we could leave the parking lot of Bahay Kubo Natin Restaurant, one of the hands in the restaurant had managed to bring three homeless and jobless Mexican men. The men were only too glad to wolf down some hot Filipino food.

Over at Sunset Boulevard, close to Fountain Avenue, we espied two homeless people resting on the sidewalk with their meager belongings. Errol got out of the van and offered them two pack lunches. The ladies accepted the food, but did not eat it right away. At East Hollywood, near where Hollywood Presbyterian is located, we failed to see any homeless people, so Lito pointed the van back towards the Beverly-Temple area. We stopped in the alley that is home to a black man who has been homeless many years and had sort of claimed that spot as his own for more than seven years. He is practically known to everyone that frequents the restaurants in that area. We gave him a lunch pack, and he thanked us profusely.

We were running out of packed lunches when we got back to the corner of Temple Street and Rampart Boulevard, where a group of homeless men were surprised to receive unexpected provisions. With a few more bags of snacks left, we drove to the Lafayette Park area on 6th Street, and found a few small groups of homeless and transient men sitting on the park benches, and an elderly man who was sleeping on the ground. The sound of approaching footsteps (Errol's woke him up, and he gladly accepted Errol's offer for free snacks.

Along Rampart Blvd. near the corner of 3rd Street, we found a few more, and Errol raced to them with the brown bags, while I followed close behind to make sure that their images were captured in my camera. Around 10:30 a.m., we were completely out of provisions so we called it a day. Errol headed back to HPMC, where a small group of Fil-Am World War II veterans were also to be served lunch. Unbeknownst to me, Errol continued to distribute more food packages in the afternoon. He calls me on my cell phone, and tells me that he was very happy and he sounded fulfilled. "*Panata ko na ito*," he tells me (This is my commitment already). "So, I will see you next year. This time, could we go to the Skid Row area?" I asked. ■

Photos by Rene Villaroman



In Loving Memory of Bonifacio Dizon Niño



Who is now in the bosom of his Maker

Farmer • World War 11 Veteran • Trial Lawyer • Municipal Councilor • College Instructor • Chief, Prosecution Division, Bureau Of Internal Revenue • Scoutmaster • Civic Leader

ALONGTIME resident of Mangatarem, Pangasinan, GSIS Village, Quezon City and Cerritos, California and very active in the Coalition of World War 11 Veterans & Community Organizations in Los Angeles, Atty. Nino passed away on March 31 after a lingering illness (Parkinson's Disease) at the Philippine Veterans Hospital.

He is survived by his spouse Silvina Estabillo-Nino, a retired schoolteacher, seven children and 12 grandchildren and one great grandchild. The children with their spouses are: Dan & Myrna, Amor & Teresita, Alex & Annie, Thelma & Luis Bringas, Ramon & Chato, Mila and Urduja & Gerry Mempin.

Before reaching his final resting place on April 8, 2009 at Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches, QC, Atty. Nino's remains (from San Nicolas Catholic Church, Brgy. Bahay Toro, QC) passed by his home at GSIS Village, QC where he was president of the GSIS Villagers Homeowners Assn. The necrological services were officiated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani, Jr. (church) and Rev. Fr. Glenn N. Nino (memorial park)

Los Angeles democrats win at California democratic party convention

A CONTINGENT of Filipino American Democrats from Los Angeles representing the Filipino American Los Angeles Democrats (PALAD) attended the California Democratic Party Convention held in Sacramento from April 24-26, 2009. It was a great show of support for the party as the members were present at the different caucuses including the Asian Pacific Caucus, Filipino American Caucus, Veterans Caucus, Young Democrats, and the Disability Caucus.

The Filipino American Democratic Caucus (FADC) was re-certified by the endorsement of over 100 delegates at the convention. By unanimous votes, Joselyn Geaga Rosenthal and Ligaya Rebolos were elected State Chair, Southern California and Vice Chair respectively of FADC of the California Democratic Party. Also in attendance were prominent political figures including Sumi Sevilla Haru,

Ruby de Vera, Theresa de Vera and Joseph Elkins.

For more information on how to join the club, please contact Ruby de Vera, Vice President at rbdevera@sbcglobal.net. ■

Retired Chair of the California Democratic Party, Art Torres, took a short respite from his hectic schedule for a photo with LA Commissioner on Disability, Theresa de Vera.



Shown at the California Democratic Party Convention are from left, Ligaya Rebolos (Los Angeles), Vice Chair, Henry Manayan (Milpitas) Outgoing State Chair and Joselyn Geaga Rosenthal (Los Angeles) State Chair of the Filipino American Caucus.



VC FILMFEST. Cas Tolentino, board member of Visual Communications with Chris Martinez, Filipino director of "100" shown at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival which ran April 30-May 7.

Photo by Willie Cheng