

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Mancao asks court to deny petition...

PAGE A1 ◀ of Mancao to the Manila City Jail where they are being held, in the interest of fairness. Topacio said there is nothing illegal about the DOJ giving the NBI custody of Mancao. "If the DOJ is empowered to enlist the aid of other agencies to provide security to said accused, how much more an agency under its direct control," Mancao's lawyer said. Topacio also said that by taking Mancao into its custody, the NBI does not usurp the supervisory power of the court under Rule 114 of the Rules of Court. "It is merely giving life to the mandate of the law on the protection of witnesses whose lives may be in danger," he said, adding that it is "foolhardy" to dismiss the threats to Mancao as speculative. "It is also out of line for accused Soberano, Torres and Escalante to try to poison the mind of the Honorable Court by describing (former) senior superintendent Mancao's accommodations as comparable to a five-star hotel, provided with a personal food taster and a K-9 sniffing dog, as they have not seen for themselves the quarters of Mancao, and they are thus talking out of their hats," Topacio said. He said the area on the fifth floor of the NBI main building where Mancao is detained has no luxury amenities, does not even have windows

and is not big enough to allow his wife and four children to visit him at the same time. "The NBI is not in the hotel business," he said. "Mr. Mancao does not have a food taster, as all his food is supplied by his family, whose members have no intention of poisoning him. And since when has a dog been considered luxurious," he added. He described Mancao's detention cell as "decent" but "far from the lap of luxury." "Verily, Sr. Supt. Mancao is a virtual prisoner in the NBI, and he sees nothing luxurious about that," he said. Topacio also said reports that his client is being considered as state witness are "highly speculative." He said that it would also be "egregious" to contend that the prosecution has rested its case with Mancao in custody. "It would thus premature to conjecture on the outcome of Sr. Supt. Mancao's discharge to become state's evidence, and anything premature, in general, is inherently bad," Topacio said. The other senior police officers implicated in the case are Michael Ray Aquino and Glenn Dumalao who are still in the US fighting extradition. Mancao reportedly implicated former police chief and now Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the gruesome murders in an affidavit. ■



Sen. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, (center) the chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, is thanked by (L - R) Albert Bacani, 98, Celestino Almada, 92, Rudy Panaglima, 79, and Ray Cabacar, 81, of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans, for championing the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification bill, during a Washington DC victory reception hosted by NaFFAA and NAFVE, on June 2. ACFV photo by Eric Lachica

Treading the Ateneo Way

PAGE A1 ◀ tage. From the beginnings of the Escuela Pia, to the establishment of the Ateneo de Municipal, the precursor of the present-day Ateneo, the narrative has sustained the telling of the highlights of the history of the university. Accompanying the text are rare photographs from the Jesuit Archives, culled and enhanced by the production team of this commemorative coffee table book. What actually brings the story and images together is the magnificent design concept that was well thought-out and wonderfully executed. The book not only contains astounding keepsakes from the old days but also captured moments from the recent success of the Blue Eagles at the University Athletics Association of the Philippines

(UAAP). "The remarkable collection of black-and-white and sepia images alone serves as a scintillating reminder of how a distinctive timeline is etched in our memory, from the very beginning, when 10 Jesuit missionaries—six priests and four coadjutor brothers—arrived in Manila aboard the frigate Luisita on June 13, 1859, after close to a century of the religious order's expulsion from the Philippines in 1768," writes Philippine Star columnist and Palanca Hall of Fame honoree Alfred Yuson. *Balikbayan Magazine* reviewers agree. "The book is beautifully designed, making photographs speak for themselves, in an image-as-history narrative. The well thought-out structure of the images and the history according to Fr. Arcilla gives the

coffee table book a classic feel, a worthy remembrance of the long academic tradition of the Ateneo way of life and style," they wrote in its newly released July issue. *The Ateneo Way* is also set to reach American shores with the partnership of Muse Books, the publisher of the coffee table book and the Asian Journal Publications. Weeks after the release of the book to kick off the university's sesquicentennial, *Asian Journal* publisher and CEO Roger Oriol paid a courtesy call with Fr. Arcilla at the Jesuit Residence inside the Ateneo de Manila University Campus in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Joining him was Muse Books publisher Ramoncito Ocampo Cruz. "We are happy to bring this book to the Ateneans in the United States," says Oriol, after receiving a copy of the book from Cruz and Fr. Arcilla. The book will soon be launched in major cities in the US through Asian Journal Publications. For information, call at (213) 250-9797 or Media Wise Communications, Inc. at (632) 922-7583 / (632) 435-5725 or The Ateneo Sesquicentennial Secretariat at (632) 426-6001 loc. 4083. ■

Akaka reintroduces reunification...

PAGE A1 ◀ obtain US citizenship. The veterans filed visa petitions for their children but many remain in the Philippines. Now in their 80s and 90s, these men continue to wait for their children, who languish on the visa waiting lists, to join them, officials in the senator's office said.

The legislation exempts the veterans' children, about 20,000 individual in all, from the numerical limitation on immigrant visas. Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) are among the cosponsors of the bill. Last year, Filipino WWII vet-

erans received much-awaited benefits when the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 included a provision that authorized the payment of benefits to the 30,000 surviving Filipino veterans in the amount of \$15,000 for those who are citizens and \$9,000 for those who are non-citizens. ■

No Filipino in Washington...

PAGE A1 ◀ focused on why a computerized system failed to halt an oncoming train, even though there is evidence that the operator tried to slow it down. Reports said that at the time

of the crash, the train was also operating in automatic mode, meaning it was controlled primarily by computer. In that mode, the operator's main job is to open and close the doors and respond to emergencies. (*Inquirer.net*)

Quarantine for GMA; SONA may be...

PAGE A1 ◀ when Congress opens next month as there are confirmed cases of A(H1N1) infections at the House of Representatives. First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo accompanied Mrs. Arroyo on the trip. He said he received a call from Press Secretary Cerge Remonde who accompanied Arroyo from Tokyo, Japan to Brazil, that the presidential party "will submit themselves to screening (at the airport) and for that matter, among themselves, they will

undertake their own voluntary quarantine for several days. "I'm very sure when they return, they will submit to thermal scanning and at the same submit herself to self-imposed quarantine - whether it's five days or 10 days," Ermita said. He said while it would be hard for Mrs. Arroyo, who often visits the provinces, she would also be practicing "social distancing," a measure recommended by the Department of Health, for several more days. On suggestions the SONA be

postponed, he said: "If it becomes serious, why not?" "We have not discussed it (postpone SONA). But that's a long way and there would even be typhoons coming our way but that's nothing. Remember self-quarantine is only 10 days," Ermita said. The House of Representatives has shut down its operations until Monday because of the death of one of the employees who was infected by A(H1N1) due to complications. (*Philstar.com*)



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