



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.



Dr. Jose L. Evangelista Best of both worlds

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO / AJPress



Every year, *Kapampangans* (residents of Pampanga) look forward to the annual 3-week medical mission trip of a group of 12 to 25 doctors who provide free medical, surgical and sight-saving services to needy people in Pampanga. The leader of the medical mission is a *Kapampangan* himself—Dr. Jose L. Evangelista.

Joe, as friends and family call him, also founded the UST Medical Alumni Association of America which also conducts medical missions in Manila and other parts of the Philippines. Aside from the yearly medical missions, Evangelista is also instrumental in delivering shipments of medical supplies and hospital equipment from the US to the different district hospitals in the province of Pampanga.

Dr. Joe Evangelista is one of those rare men who not only

excel in whatever they do, but also serve to make a positive impact wherever they are. A Filipino-American physician, businessman, civic leader and philanthropist based in Michigan, Joe has been honored in the US and in the Philippines as one of the best.

Evangelista was appointed Philippine Honorary Consul General in Detroit, Michigan on April 2008. He received the Presidential Award for Outstanding Filipinos Overseas-Banaag Award from President

Fidel V. Ramos in 1993. He was also appointed by President Bill Clinton several years back as a member of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation. Along with his wife, Dr. Stella Salgado-Evangelista, Dr. Joe was the first Filipino Hall of Famer of Michigan International Heritage. They became the first couple to be recipients of the Hall of Fame Awards. The couple also received the Physicians of the Year Award from the Philippine Physicians in America in 1994.

Aside from the mentioned awards, Dr. Evangelista is also the recipient of numerous other awards namely National President's Award for Outstanding Leadership from the Michigan State Medical Society, UST Medical Alumni of Michigan and President Award, Physicians Recognition Award by the American Medical Association; Innovative and Outstanding Leadership Award from Rizal Day Committee, Certificate of Award from Livonia Public Schools Training Sponsor for the Youth of the Community, Outstanding Pampangueno Award for Humanitarian Services and Medicine given by the Governor of Pampanga, Philippines; the Archbishop Medallion Award for Most Outstanding Professional and for Philanthropic Services, the University Medal of Honor by the Angeles University Foundation's College of Medicine, Twenty Outstanding Fil-Ams in the United States Award presented by the Fil-Am Image of Washington DC and the Outstanding Humanitarian Award given by the Governor of Pampanga in 2006.

Dr. Evangelista revealed his

scholarship abilities early in life. He graduated valedictorian from Candaba Elementary School in 1956. In 1960, he graduated valedictorian again from St. Andrews Academy in Candaba, Pampanga. He then took up BS Pre-Medicine and Zoology at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. There, he took up a full Doctor of Medicine course and graduated in 1968. Immediately after graduation, he had his internship at Columbus-Cuneo Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. He earned his Internal Medicine residency at the Sinai Hospital and University of Illinois. He later started private practice in Internal Medicine and cardiology in Livonia, Michigan.

Dr. Evangelista has a diploma in Internal Medicine and Cardiology. He has been Board certified in Internal Medicine with the sub-specialty in Cardiovascular Diseases both in US and Canada. He has been honored as fellows of various organizations such as: American College of Cardiology, American College of Physicians, American College of Chest Physicians, American College of Angiology, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and American College of Internal Physicians and many others.

A man of action and a dynamic leader, Dr. Evangelista has been actively involved in various civic organizations in the community, nationwide and in the Philippines. He was past president of Philippine Medical Association of Michigan for two terms in 1981 to 1983. He served as president of the Association of Philippine Physicians

in America in 1987, one of the most powerful Filipino organizations in US. He served as the chairman of the Rizal Day Committee which involved 32 Filipino organizations. He founded and served as president in the UST Medical Alumni Association of America.

Dr. Evangelista also excels in business, serving as the CEO of their corporation, Royal Management Company. He has invested successfully in real estate and now owns many commercial and residential complexes in several parts of the US.

Advancing medical education in the Philippines is another pet project for Dr. Evangelista who works on scholarships for students to attend medical school in the Philippines or medical faculty to study for a year or two in the United States. Joe's main goal is for foreign medical students to be treated equally with those from the United States explaining that medical schools now are limiting the enrollment of their foreign students to five percent of the population. According to Joe, in some training hospitals they would rather have a position vacant than fill them with a foreign student and this is what he is fighting to change. He is also working to make the Asian community much more active in politics, both for involvement and to become more visible.

Dr. Jose Evangelista is truly a great asset to the Filipino community in the US. He exemplifies a positive image of Filipinos to mainstream America and to the Philippines. By his life and example, Dr. Joe has shown what being the best in both worlds is all about. ■

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FILIPINO WAR VETS' GIFT. Filipino WWII veterans of Washington DC: Tomas Culanag, 85, Rudy Panaglma, 78, and Jesse Baltazar, 89, join Philippine Ambassador Willy Gaa, Gen. Delfin Lorenzana of Philippine Veterans Affairs Office and Eric Lachica of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans in presenting "The Price of Freedom" book—a gift of their appreciation - to Ms. Victoria Tung (top left photo), executive director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and Ms. Sharon Schultze (top right photo) legislative aide of Rep. Bob Filner for their help in passing the Equity Compensation bill. The community celebration was held in the Romulo Hall of the Philippine Embassy on Feb. 27, 2009.

The law (P.L. 111-5 Title X, Sec. 1002) recognizes the military "active service" of the Filipino veterans and provides \$15,000 in one-time lumpsum payments to US citizens and \$9,000 to Filipino citizen veterans. The Asian Caucus is chaired Rep. Mike Honda (D-Campbell CA) who championed the Equity bill of Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI), Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) and Rep. Bob Filner (D-Chula Vista CA) and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista CA) in the House.

GMA frees Ninoy killers

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the murder conspiracy, especially after the 20-year prescription period for the murder crime expired in 2003.

'They've suffered enough'

Cory Aquino and Ms Arroyo had a falling out following disclosures in the *Hello Garci* wiretaps purportedly showing that the latter stole the 2004 presidential election—a charge she has denied. Cory Aquino has called on Ms Arroyo to step down.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that Ms Arroyo's grant of clemency was prompted by strong appeals from religious and civil society groups.

"They feel that these people have suffered enough. This was justified for humanitarian reasons. They're suffering different kinds of ailments."

Ermita said he hoped the release of the soldiers would put a closure to the case.

Ermita said Ms Arroyo did not order the release of the soldiers, including Constable Rogelio Moreno, identified during the court hearings as the triggerman, to "spite" Cory Aquino.

He said Bishop Efraim Tenedero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches was one of those who intervened on behalf of the convicts.

Archbishops Angel Lagdameo and Oscar Cruz said that the soldiers had suffered enough.

"We don't have to delay their release further if it was not proven that they were the real culprits," said Lagdameo, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines.

"Justice, no matter how straightforward, should not fail its humane dimension, otherwise it becomes cruelty," Cruz said. "It is not very certain who killed whom, that is why the responsibility fell on the group of persons who cannot pull one trigger," he said.

God bless them
"They have suffered enough and they behaved

well, so God bless them," Cruz said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said that the "sad reality about all this is that only the small fry have been made to suffer."

"Until the masterminds are known and punished for their dastardly deed, we will never have closure to this brutal murder case."

But the questions linger: Did they kill Ninoy Aquino? And who was the mastermind?

None of the 16 soldiers convicted of the murder ever admitted shooting Aquino on Aug. 21, 1983, as he stepped off a China Airlines jetliner on his return from three years of self-exile in the United States.

Instead, they stuck to the original version of the shooting that Marcos outlined after the assassination: That communist hit man Rolando Galman killed Aquino before Galman himself was shot by soldiers.

Six other convicts had either died in jail or were freed earlier, including two last month.

The mastermind of Ninoy's murder has never been established, but his widow has always held that Marcos was responsible for the slaying of her husband, a likely presidential contender until he was jailed when martial law was declared in 1972.

Single shot

Ninoy had been freed in 1980 and allowed to undergo a heart bypass operation in the United States. He had come home three years later to rally the opposition against Marcos, despite clear warnings that he would be killed upon his return.

The single shot fired to the back of the head of Ninoy roused the nation from the abuses of the Marcos regime and catapulted the widow to the presidency following the People Power Revolution three years later that ousted Marcos. (*Inquirer.net*)