



# Nilo Villarin Power for all

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO / AJPress



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.



**I**MAGINE yourself in an airplane getting ready for landing. You look through the cabin window and see the lights of the city of Los Angeles below you. As the plane descends slowly towards the runway, the pilot follows the airport's precision approach path indicator (PAPI), a light system positioned beside the runway. The PAPI consists of boxes of lights that provide a visual indication of an aircraft's position on the glide path for the associated runway. Suddenly, the lights go out. Blackout! Can you imagine the horror that would be for the pilot to land without any lights on the runway to guide him?

To ensure that this would not happen, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) uses an innovative high reliability critical power distribution systems using state-of-the-art power monitoring and control systems. This breakthrough invention has been implemented in five major US terminal radar approach control facilities in Atlanta, Boston, Honolulu, Southern California and St. Louis, and virtually eliminated system power outages. And the inventor and designer of the system who has integrated it for the FAA is a Filipino from Washington, Engineer Nilo Villarin.

bypass switch for uninterruptible power supply (UPS). The device allows complete isolation of UPS that provide continuous electric service to computer loads so that maintenance or replacement can be made without computer service interruption.

In recognition of exemplifying Filipino excellence in his field of expertise and profession, Engineer Nilo Villarin was honored by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacanang last December 2008 and was awarded the 'Pamana ng Pilipino' Award.

Villarin was one of seven overseas Filipino awardees who, in exemplifying the talent and industry of the Filipino, have brought honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession. Arroyo praised the awardees "who gave the best of their lives to their calling... for their exceptional contribution to Philippine progress and development as well as their commitment to serve the Filipino people".

In conferring the Pamana ng Pilipino Award to Villarin, the President recognizes his noteworthy inventions in the fields of computer and aviation, and his entrepreneurship for establishing a consulting engineering firm and power systems manufacturing company in the US.

An electrical engineering graduate from Mapua Institute of Technology, Nilo worked as a technician and sales engineer in the Philippines prior to migrating to the US. He became one of the very few Filipino-American engineers to realize their dream of a successful independent professional engineering practice.

In 1986, Engineer Villarin founded the NV Enterprise, Inc. (NVE), a consulting engineering, facilities management and construction firm in Reston, Virginia. NVE designed and integrated the high reliability critical power distribution systems used by the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). He is also the founder and president of Quality Power Company, a startup company manufacturing devices for critical power

systems. He invented and holds a US patent for a transfer switch that is used to provide redundant sources of electrical power to computer-based equipment. His transfer switches are now being utilized at the US Census Bureau Computer.

Villarin also invented a glass-cutting machine for mass cutting of glass shapes for the production of stained glass lamps and other similar products. The apparatus which is now being used by some handicraft factories in the Philippines, significantly reduces labor costs in manufacturing stained glass lamps.

More than being a successful engineer, inventor, craftsman and entrepreneur, what makes

Villarin stand head and shoulders above the rest is his being a philanthropist. In the indomitable spirit of Bayanihan, he has committed himself to helping Filipinos both in the US and back in the homeland. "My companies in the US are largely staffed by Filipino professionals whom I sponsored to immigrate," said Villarin.

Married to Myrian Reynolds and blessed with two children, Villarin is one of the active directors of the Philippine Association of Metropolitan Washington Engineers (PAMWE), a group of Filipino engineers in Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia. PAMWE is a non-profit, non-partisan, profession-

al organization whose primary objectives include establishing and maintaining an employment and placement assistance program, with special concern for the newly-arrived and unemployed Filipino engineers; granting scholarships program for poor but deserving Filipino college students in the College of Engineering; and serving as a hospitality house for engineers and other related professionals who are new to the metro Washington area.

His patriotism and love for fellow Filipinos is displayed by his assistance and support of campaigns that benefit his kababayans. The hardworking engineer devotes his free time and re-

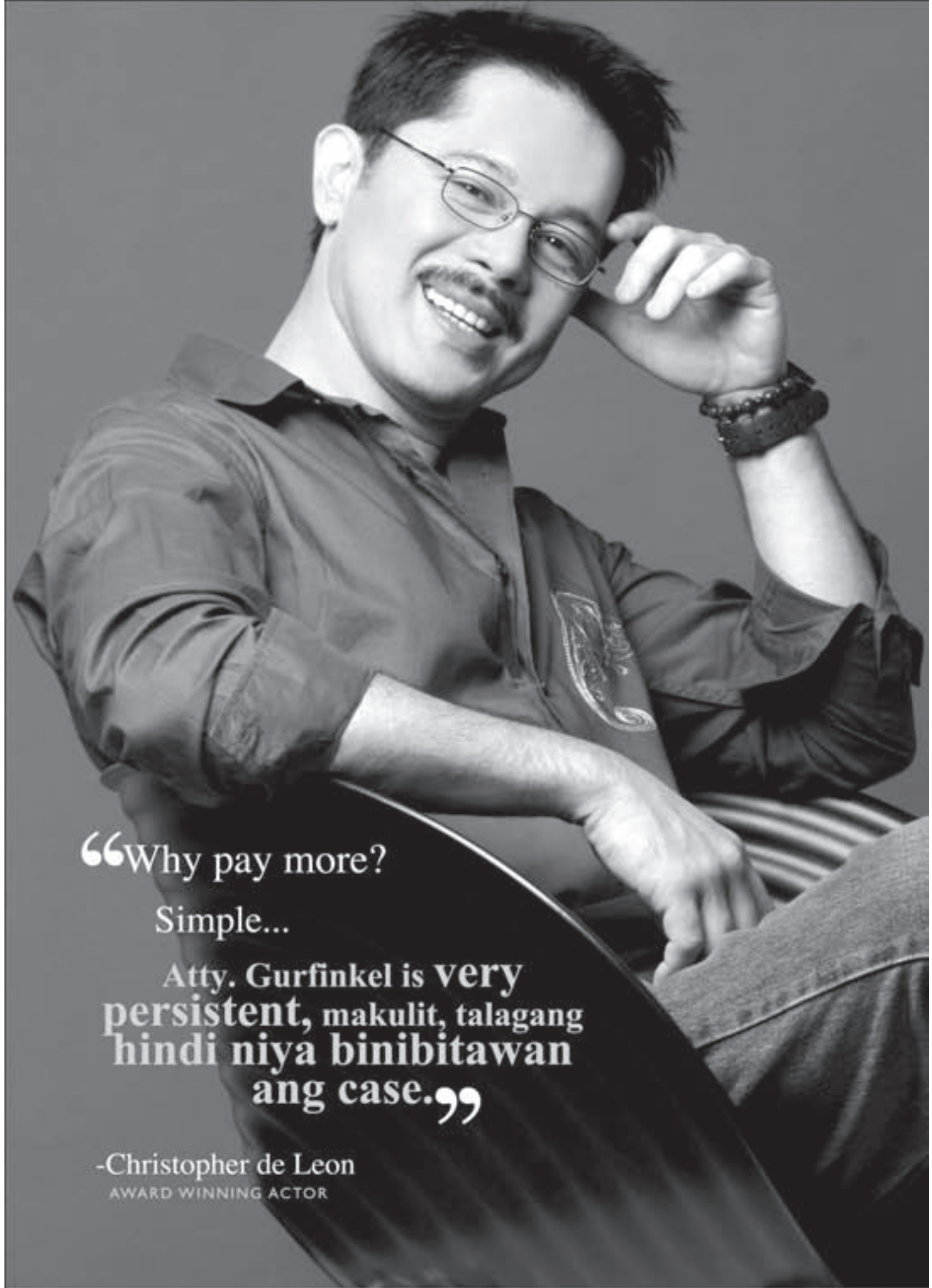
sources for community work. He provided funding, through Feed the Hungry, Inc., for the building of two classrooms in Hilltop, San Jose, Mindoro in 2006. He also donated computers and laboratory equipment to Venturanza Elementary School in Lemery, Batangas.

A humble professional, Villarin described the key to his success in simple terms. "Just sheer hard work," he stated. ■

Villarin was granted a US patent for the switching device that detects failure in series connected lamps and automatically restores power to the remaining lamps for visual guidance of landing aircrafts. The Federal Aviation Administration has been successfully using Villarin's invention for their precision approach path indicator, deemed essential for ensuring aircraft safety when landing.

The FAA is not the only agency of the Federal government that has benefited from Villarin's inventions. Another is the US Bureau of Census with its mission-critical data centers with computer mainframes dedicated to generating data for the Federal government. Engineer Villarin's another invention was used to make sure there is no power interruption in service, regardless of weather conditions, outside power quality, or building equipment. Villarin holds a US patent for a transfer switch that is used to provide redundant sources of electrical power to computer-based equipment. Many computer servers offer the option of redundant power supplies so that in the event of power supply failure, one or more other power supplies can power the load.

In 2006, 600 of Villarin's transfer switches were installed at the US Census Bureau Computer. Since then, the facility had not experienced any unscheduled downtime of their computers. He also developed a maintenance



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## The carlet letter? NJ tags new drivers with decal

**T**RENTON, NJ—Would you drive any differently if you knew there was a teenager behind the wheel of the car in front of you?

You might find out soon. A first-in-the-nation law in New Jersey will require new drivers ages 21 and younger to display identifying decals on their vehicles.

Gov. Jon Corzine signed the law Wednesday, April 15—it takes effect next year.

The decals will probably be a small reflective rectangle attached to the front and rear license plates to help police enforce restrictions on probationary drivers, motor vehicle officials said.

Police will use them to determine whether teens are violating the state driving curfew and passenger restrictions, said Pam Fischer, director of the New Jersey Division of Highway Safety.

Authorities will not use the decals to target young drivers or pull them over for no reason, she said.

The decals are long overdue and will save lives, said Ron Gesualdo, owner of Gene's Driving School in Matawan.

"The parents are for it," he said. "The kids don't say anything, but you know what they're thinking."

One of those kids thinks the decals will only mean more trouble for teenagers.

And not everyone thinks the new law will improve driver safety. Jennifer Collins, a 29-year-old Hamilton resident, wondered whether the stickers will distract other drivers who are looking for them in traffic.

Officials are considering using Velcro to attach the decals, so they can be removed by other drivers using the same car.

The decals were among a slew of new driving restrictions Corzine signed for young adults with probationary licenses, which allow them drive unsupervised under certain conditions.

Other restrictions include changing the driving curfew to 11pm from midnight; allowing only one other teenager in the car; and banning the use of cell phones, even hand-free ones.

"These restrictions are in place because they represent the things we know put teens at risk," Fischer said.

New Jersey is the first state to require the decal, although Delaware and Connecticut have toyed with the idea, said David Weinstein, spokesman for AAA Mid-Atlantic. (AP)

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