

# Filipino anti-Martial Law pioneer in the US dies

LOS ANGELES--Commodore Ramon Alcaraz, PN, the man who defied former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos, a known anti-Marcos leader in the United States, graduate of the Philippine Military Academy class 1940 and a pillar of the Filipino veterans' cause died last Thursday, June 25.

Alcaraz, a bemedalled World War II Filipino veteran is an authentic war hero who was promoted on the spot and decorated personally by General MacArthur in Corregidor for heroism and gallantry in action in January 1942. A torpedo boat commander, Alcaraz shot down three Japanese dive bombers during the war. He commanded the Philippine Navy Q-boats that safely transported President Quezon and MacArthur from Corregidor to Mindanao in March 1942. He later joined the guerillas. The American captain of the PT boat was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor but not the Filipino Alcaraz.

When Ramon Magsaysay was Secretary of Defense of the Philippines, he sent Alcaraz to the US to study the organization of the United States Marine Corps. His report led to the establish-

ment of the 1st Marine Company that grew into the Philippine Marine Corps of today.

President and later dictator Marcos, acknowledging the free and brave spirit of Alcaraz refused to name him as Rear Admiral despite his seniority in rank and instead named Commodore Dioscoro Papa as the PN Chief.

Alcaraz retired from the service and went to the United States to form opposition to Marcos instead. He became a stalwart of the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP).

Much more he led the Filipino veterans against the Marcos dictatorship having political differences with Manglapus who led the purely anti-Marcos movement. Together with General Jose De Veyra, his junior PMA officer of Class 1941, they led the veterans' movement in the US in fighting for justice and equity for more than 18 years.

The Justice for Filipino Veterans (JFAV) pays tribute to the great soldier, veterans and anti-Martial Law leader in the United States. ■

# UST Singers bags top prizes in California choral tilt

PAGE A1 ◀

the Fullerton College Concert Choir from the United States placed second and third respectively.

For the Folk Music Competition, the group sang Ayug Ti Amianan, Waray-Waray, and Tirindingding, all arranged by Prof. Fidel G. Calalang, Jr. also bagged the first prize. For this category, the Cuesta College Chamber Singers from the United States and the St. Zlata Meglenska all-female choir from Macedonia garnered the second and third prizes respectively.

During the three-day long choral competitions, the public was given the chance to vote for their favorite choir and the People's Choice Award was accorded to the UST Singers.

The competition was adjudicated by three distinguished judges in the choral world namely, Dr. Ginger Covert Colla, Professor William Hatcher, and Professor Christian Grube.

The UST Singers who are on a concert tour of the United States and the Pacific left Manila last May and will be going back to the Philippines in July after their scheduled performances in San Fran-

# Fil-Am to sue RP gov't for alleged torture

PAGE A1 ◀

ple, cutting off of military aid," Valera said in an ANC *Dateline Philippines* interview.

**Roxas recounts abduction**

Roxas, a member of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan US Chapter (BAYAN-USA), spoke to the media for the first time since her alleged abduction by the AFP.

During a lengthy and emotional press conference, the 31-year-old fought tears as she read from her sworn affidavit and described the events that led to her capture and six-day ordeal by her torturers.

The UC San Diego alum said that she was in the Philippines to research on a writing project and help assist in a medical mission in La Paz, Tarlac.

After coming back from a recent survey trip on May 19, she claims that 15 armed military men wearing "ski masks" and holding "high powered rifles" barged through the door of the house where she was staying and abducted her and two companions—Juanito Carabeo and John Edward Jandoc.

"I kept shouting my name and was being punched repeatedly," said Roxas during the press conference held at the Echo Park Methodist Church and broadcast online simultaneously to the Philippines last Saturday, June 27. "They kept trying to tape my mouth but I kept taking it off and continued to say my name over and over again."

According to reports in the Philippines, neighbors recall hearing the commotion and

told local authorities about what they witnessed.

Roxas said that she was held for six days in what she believes was a military base. She recalls hearing construction activities, gunfire as though from a firing range and planes taking off and landing.

She said she was blindfolded and handcuffed to the back. She said that interrogators "punched", choked and accused of her of being a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

She denied their accusations and repeatedly told her interrogators that she was a US citizen. She demanded a lawyer.

"They told me even if a year passes, I would never see a lawyer, that in there I had no rights," she said. "They told me that it was people like me that is costing the government so much money."

Her captors continued to interrogate her and questioned her about the location of other members of the CPP-NPA, she recalls.

After six days, her captors brought her to a nearby relative's home. They threatened her to keep her silence about her abduction.

Roxas said that one of her two companions—John Edward Jandoc—is still missing. Carabeo was brought home. However, he has not spoken about the events.

"I want the Philippine government and the military to be held accountable for what they

did to me," said Roxas. "What they did has been happening and continues to happen. I want them to be held accountable so this does not happen to anyone else."

**Staged abduction**

The Philippine government and military officials have denied any responsibility for Roxas and her two friends disappearance claiming her story and abduction was "scripted."

"There are two possibilities here and one is that indeed government troops may have something to do with it," Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Pangilinan of the Civil Relations Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines said in a statement.

If military agents were involved in the torture and abduction of Roxas, Pangilinan vowed that he would personally make certain that they would be punished "with the full might of the law."

"If that is the case, we guarantee you that to this date, our intelligence and investigative outfit are searching for any lead to identify these human rights violators," he said to Inquirer.net.

Pangilinan said another possibility was that Roxas' allegations were "scripted" to make it appear that her abductors were members of the AFP.

"If you read through the revelations, the supposed abductors must be morons to allow those information to be heard by Ms. Roxas," he told Inquirer.net.

Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo said

Roxas should come up with evidence to prove her allegations.

And Malacañang, Press Secretary Cerge Remonde was also not immediately buying Roxas' account. "We know that there are groups that do nothing but destroy the President," he said.

Roxas was surprised by the denials of the government and

military officials.

"No amount of their lies or denials could ever deny the truth of what happened to me," she said.

"It is such an absurd argument," added Rhonda Ramiro of BAYAN-USA. "Anyone who sees Melissa or reads or listen to her testimony or any of the thousands of victims of human rights violations knows that this

is real...It's time for the government to stop being in denial and start doing something to stop the human rights violations."

Roxas will meet with California Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Sanchez, according to Ramiro.

Roxas also said that she plans to pursue her legal action in the Philippines and the US. (*Joseph Pimentel*)

## FREEDOM... INDEPENDENCE... FINANCIAL SECURITY



**Tinee Parell**  
Master Franchisee

"Stratus Building Solutions has helped hundreds of people achieve the American dream of business ownership and financial success"

*We are the nations fastest growing franchisor of commercial cleaning service companies and we can help you too. Start your business for as low as \$1,000 down.*

**To learn how you can have financial freedom and independence by operating your own business Contact us today**



**714-634-4351**

# CANEDA

## LAW GROUP

Filipino Owned And Operated Law Firm

### SPECIALIZING IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

**BANKRUPTCY LAW**

- Getting out of debt
- Remove 2nd mortgage and other liens
- Save your home, car and wages
- Stop wage garnishments
- Stop law suits
- Stop creditor harassments
- Stop repossessions

**WILLS & TRUSTS**


- Protect your assets and secure your family's future-- draft your wills and trusts to ensure your intentions are clear and carried out.

**FAMILY LAW**

- Dissolution of Marriages/ Divorce
- Legal Separation
- Child Custody

**BUSINESS LAW**

- Providing assistance with creating Corporations, Limited Liability Companies (LLC), Partnerships, or Sole Proprietorships based on your business plan and management structure.
- Review and draft various types of contracts
- Caneda Law Group can render services to businesses of all sizes and types.



**RUEL TOLEDO CANEDA**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

**FREE CONSULTATION**  
Weekend appointments available

**CANEDA LAW GROUP**  
**714.281.2897**

Tagalog and Vietnamese Speaking Attorneys Available

**www.canedalawgroup.com**

## Pilipino po tayo!

# LAW OFFICES OF KENNETH U. REYES, P.C.

### ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



**Kenneth U. Reyes, Esq.**

Law Offices of Kenneth U. Reyes, P.C.  
3699 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 700  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

**IMMIGRATION**

- US Citizenship
- Green Card

*Marriage Petitions, Realtive Petitions*

*Employer Petitions, PERM*

- Visa
- H-1B Temporary Worker*
- Investor's VISA*
- Deportation Defense

**PERSONAL INJURY**

- Serious Auto Accidents
- Rear Enders
- Injuries from defective products
- Serious injuries from premises accidents
- Fractures & brain injuries from accidents

**FAMILY LAW**

- Divorce
- Property Division
- Child Custody and Visitation
- Child and Spousal Support
- Domestic Violence Restraining Order
- Legal Separation

**CIVIL LITIGATION**

- Business Disputes
- Real Estate Disputes
- Breach of Contract
- Partnership Dissolution
- Business Dissolution

**We Pay Special Attention to Your Case**  
Call for an Appointment  
**(213)388.1611**

website: [www.kenreyeslaw.com](http://www.kenreyeslaw.com)  
email: [kureyeslaw@aol.com](mailto:kureyeslaw@aol.com)