



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 diplomate in Internal Medicine and Cardiology. He has been Board certified in Internal Medicine with the subspecialty 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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Deja new: Prop. 8 challenge reaches Calif. Court

SAN FRANCISCO—A year after the state Supreme Court entertained arguments on extending marriage to gay couples, many of the same lawyers will be back before the same justices this week arguing why California's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage should stand or fall.

The passage of Proposition 8 last November changed the state constitution to prohibit gay marriage and trumped the high court's decision as few months earlier to legalize it. But the ballot measure was appealed and the justices on Thursday, March 5, are getting the final word on whether marriage is

an institution that must accommodate two women or two men.

The debate will be framed by not only the gay and lesbian couples who see their struggle as the modern equivalent of prohibitions on interracial marriage, but the 7 million citizens who rejected that comparison in an \$83 million election.

The stakes are high—for the 18,000 couples who married while same-sex weddings were legal, for gay marriage opponents who object on religious grounds and for others who are deeply divided on the issue. And whatever the court decides is likely to have rami-

fications not only for millions of Californians but also for other states grappling over gay marriage.

The question is whether a majority of the justices will defer to popular will or, having already declared that preventing gay people from marrying was unconstitutional, will do so again. Legal experts say it is a tough call and that the court's decision, due within 90 days, will be debated for years to come.

Same-sex marriage supporters are urging the court to overturn Proposition 8 on the grounds that the measure made such a sweeping change to the state constitution that its sponsors lacked the author-

ity to put it on the ballot without approval from the California Legislature. Citizens can petition to put constitutional amendments, but not substantial revisions, directly to voters.

In a rare departure, the state's own top lawyer, Attorney General Jerry Brown, has refused to defend the initiative and is urging the justices to invalidate it. Brown says Proposition 8 itself is unconstitutional because the Supreme Court's 4-3 decision last year recognized gays as a minority group entitled to judicial protection and established marriage as a fundamental right. (AP)



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