

RE:UNION

Searching for a kababata from your hometown, a college buddy or a Pinoy colleague? Your search is finally over. The Asian Journal brings you *Re:Union*, Filipino American Associations in America—your link to a network of kababayan associations here in the United States. As your Filipino-American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes your need to nourish and maintain ties with the people and the culture you were born with. This is our way of connecting our kababayans to the past, of creating new opportunities for the present and of inspiring you to pay it forward by becoming active members of your association and the FilAm community at large in the future.

Tagbilaran Association of Northern California (TANOCAL)

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THE TANOCAL was founded on a humble beginning. In the early 1970s, a number of Tagbilaranon families had just migrated from the Philippines and started to settle into the San Francisco Bay Area. As new immigrants, they were confronted by the problem of homesickness, a feeling that could bring one back home if one is carried away and unable to cope up with it.

In 1978, a group was formally organized in lieu of the success of fiesta celebrations in honor of St. Joseph the Worker, the patron saint of Tagbilaran headed by Fr. Floro Arcamo, Mrs. Flora Apalisok, Mssrs. Joe Ferniz and Rene Sumodobila. In an inatostyle, the Constitution and By-Laws was dispensed with and the group went ahead to adopt a formal name, thus the name Tagbilaran Association of Northern California.

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Hope for widow(s)/widower(s) of US citizens

ON June 15, 2009, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a Memorandum which will provide guidance to its field offices and service centers regarding the processing of papers of surviving spouses of deceased US citizens and their qualifying children.

Prior to this USCIS Memo, surviving spouses—widow(s) or widower(s)—of deceased US citizens who have been married for less than two years, will not be able to get their green cards if the US citizen spouse died before the approval of the immigrant petition filed by the US citizen spouse; or if no petition has been filed by the US citizen before his/her death.

With the issuance of this USCIS Memo, widow(s)/widower(s) of deceased US citizens will now be able to stay in the United States by undertaking certain steps with the USCIS. The steps to be taken will depend on whether an immigrant petition has been filed by the US citizen spouse for the widow or widower, and whether such immigrant petition has been approved or not.

If an immigrant petition (I-130) is approved prior to the death of the US citizen spouse, the widow/widower may request for its reinstatement (under current regulations, the approved immigrant petition (I-130) filed by the US citizen spouse is automatically revoked upon the death of the US citizen spouse). Once the request for reinstatement is granted, the widow/widower may proceed to apply for adjustment of status/green card, or ask for the adjudication of a filed or pending adjustment/green card application.

If a US citizen dies while the immigrant petition filed for his

spouse is still pending, the surviving spouse (widow/widower) can also request for deferred action. If an immigrant petition was not filed prior to the death of the US citizen spouse, the surviving spouse is also eligible to request for deferred action. Once deferred action is granted, the surviving spouse can get a valid work permit.

The validity period of deferred action under this USCIS Memo is two (2) years from the date of the grant of the surviving spouse's request for deferred action. Requests for deferred action under this Memorandum may only be considered for (1) surviving spouses of US citizens whose US citizen spouse died before the second anniversary of the marriage and who are unmarried and residing in the United States; and (2) their qualifying children (less than 21 years of age) who are not married.

The grant of the deferred action request only allows the surviving spouse and their qualifying children to stay here in the United States for two years. The grant does not give them any immigration status and but they are deemed to be in a period of authorized stay.

Although the USCIS Memo is not a perfect solution which will address the sad plight of widow(s) and widow(er)s of US citizens who have been left in immigration limbo with the death of



their US citizen spouses, it gives the widow(s)/widower(s) an opportunity to defer his or her removal from the United States and even to legalize their stay here depending on their circumstances. In order to completely correct this inequity, we need to support and call for the passage of a proposed legislation which will allow all widow(s)/widower(s) and their qualifying relatives to obtain their permanent residence even with the death of the US citizen spouse.

However, there are special rules that apply to widow(s) and widower(s) who live in any of the states under the 9th and 6th districts. The 9th District covers the states of California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana; and the 6th District covers the states of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Thus, a widow or widower of a US citizen who reside in any of

these states like California, can still ask for the adjudication and approval of either or both (1) the immigrant petition filed by his/her deceased US citizen spouse (I-130); and (2) the adjustment/green card application filed by the widow/widower (I-485).

The Law Firm of Chua Tinsay and Vega, A PLC (CTV) is a full service law firm with offices in San Francisco, San Diego and Manila. The information presented in this article is for general information only and is not, nor intended to be, formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney-client relationship. Call or e-mail the CTV Law Firm for an in-person or phone consultation to discuss your particular situation and/or how their services may be retained at (415) 495-8088; (619) 955-6277; Dchua@ctvtattys.com.

(Advertising Supplement)

Californians expand use of computers, Internet, broadband

PAGE A3

Residents under age 55 and Latinos are more likely to mention cost, while older residents and whites are more likely to cite lack of interest.

Among the 24 percent of Californians who don't use the Internet, just 21 percent are interested in starting to use it or in using e-mail. Of these non-Internet users, 13 percent say they used it sometime in the past year but stopped for some reason.

Who's doing the tweeting?

Age, race and ethnicity, income, and region play a role not just in who is going online but

what Californians do when they log on.

- Relatively few (18%) adults use Twitter, but nearly a third (31%) of those 18-34 years old are tweeting on the micro-blogging service. Californians in this age group are also more likely (63%) to use a social networking site than others (31% ages 35-54, 16% age 55 or older) or to work on their own blogs (24%) than others (11% ages 35-54, 7% age 55 or older).
- Blacks are more likely (53%) than others (44% Asians, 39% whites, 28% Latinos) to use a social networking site. Asians are most likely (22%) to

blog (14% whites, 13% blacks, 11% Latinos).

- San Francisco Bay Area residents are among the most likely to go online to visit a government website, access government resources, use a social networking site, use Twitter, or blog. Residents of Orange County/San Diego Counties are among the most likely to contact an elected official online.

The cell phone connection

Californians with cell phones (84%) are more likely than last year to use them for sending and receiving text messages, accessing the Internet,

and getting email. Among cell phone owners, 65 percent are using the mobile devices to text (up 7 points from last year), 30 percent are accessing the Internet (up 5 points), and 29 percent are getting email (up 3 points).

Although residents across all income groups are more likely than last year to use their mobile phones for these activities, upper-income Californians have shown sizeable increases (an increase of 12 points for email, 10 points for Internet access). As a result, the gap has widened between lower- and upper-income mobile phone owners.

People and Events

Subic association reunion 2009 in Las Vegas

The Subic Association of San Diego is currently inviting all St. James School alumni domiciled in the United States and abroad to their grand reunion on July 25, 2009, at the Santa Fe Station Hotel, North Rancho Dr, Las Vegas Nevada. The event is to be highlighted by, among others, Philippine-based Bishop Teodoro Bacani's holding of a thanksgiving Mass ushering in an admixture of social, cultural, and educational activities.

Many Filipino-Americans here hail from Subic, and most had become familiar with Bishop Bacani when he served as parish priest during the 1970's. It was at the later part of his incumbency as pastor of the Saint James parish that his ecclesiastical services

eventually saw him rise to his present high post in the Philippine Catholic hierarchy. A Subic-queonian through is thus expected for the reunion.

It is to a big credit of Subic-queonians leading the San Diego-based association that the St. James School has for years been enjoying no little dispensation of financial aid, thanks to its alumni's palming out of donations thru the association's sponsorship of their periodical homecoming. As a yearly routine, the association grants scholarship funds for deserving poor students enrolled in the school for want of Christian tenets-based education—understandably as engendered by parental desire. Then, as need arises, physical improvements are

made possible mainly because of cash aid granted by the association. One typical example in this regard is the school's reconstructed fence that was entirely funded out of a \$3,500.00 cash aid, with the amount enjoyed intact by the fence construction contractor.

To lend a hand in raising fund, a Subic-queonian writer had professed to have the whole cash equivalent of his author privilege-based discount of 50 percent enjoyed by the association, just thru a lent hand on disposal of a book titled How to Get "A" Grades in School that the writer had authored. Based on a 30-year exposure to practically every nature of all-grade level classroom situations, it is penned by Angel N. Pagaduan, a St. James School

alumnus '50. The book's creationism-tinged, attention-nailing strategies for effecting normally focused learning constitute the essence of its fadeless utilitarian value as a result-proven guide for achieving A-1 schooling anywhere.

All Subic-queonians wishing to relive the rejuvenating joys of friendship renewal and camaraderie of adolescence's bygone years in their beloved alma mater and town of origin has only to call Mae Llamado-Esteban (619) 946-7139, Lilina O. Nacario (619) 656-9150, Precy Protacio (619) 475-1575, and Aileen Libby (619) 424-3464—all assigned immediate contact officers by Jaime "Jing" Eclar, association president.



Mallory Nor Herrera Valenzuela of Rocklin, California was chosen as valedictorian of Rocklin High School, Class of 2009 due to her passion for learning, intellectual curiosity, drive, motivation, devotion to her goals and a sincere desire to help others. Mallory plans to attend UCLA in the Fall and pursue a degree in Law. Her proud parents are Rizaldi Canio Valenzuela, a real estate professional who is a former computer programmer/instructor at Peralta Data Processing Center in the Philippines, and Evangeline Herrera Valenzuela, a clinical laboratory scientist at Sutter Roseville Medical Center.

Committee approves Bill to prohibit businesses from barring non-English speaking patrons

Senator Yee passes bill in response to discriminatory policy proposed by the LPGA

SACRAMENTO—The Assembly Judiciary Committee approved a landmark legislation that would prohibit businesses from denying service to a patron because of the language he or she speaks. Specifically, the bill adds "language" to the list of protections in the state's civil rights act, which prohibits discrimination within business establishments.

While speaking one's native language is protected in cases of employment and housing under state law, such protections are not currently extended to consumers.

The Unruh Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination within business establishments, generally to protect patrons from not receiving service. SB 242, authored by Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco/San Mateo), would add the use of any language to the list of the Act's protections, which currently includes sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, marital status, and sexual orientation.

"No one should be discriminated against simply for speak-

ing their language," said Yee. "All patrons, English speaking and non-English speaking, deserve to be served. SB 242 will rightfully add language to the list of protected classes within California's civil rights act."

The issue stems from a proposed policy announced last summer by the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) to suspend players who do not speak English. Despite there being no relevance to the sport, the LPGA claimed that it was important for players to be able to interact with American media and event sponsors. Ironically, many of the sponsors are international companies and a number of the tournaments are not held in the United States. No other profes-

sional sports league in the United States has such a mandate.

The LPGA later rescinded the proposal after objections from Senator Yee and over 50 civil rights organizations.

"It is quite disheartening that in the 21st century any organization would think such a policy is acceptable," said Yee. "With the passage of SB 242 such discriminatory mandates will not only be unfair, but illegal."

Under SB 242, it would be a violation of state law for an entity to adopt or enforce a policy that requires, limits, or prohibits the use of any language in a business establishment, unless the language restriction is justified by a business necessity and notification has been provided

of the circumstances at the time when the language restriction is required and of the consequences.

A business necessity would be defined as "an overriding legitimate business purpose for which all of the following are true: the language restriction is necessary to the safe and efficient operation of the business; the language restriction effectively fulfills the business purpose it is supposed to serve; and an alternative practice to the language restriction that would accomplish the business purpose equally well with a lesser discriminatory impact does not exist."

SB 242 will now be considered by the entire Assembly.