



Kabalita

No. 3693, May 11, 2017

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER



His Excellency JAN CHRISTIAN GORDON KRICKE

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the Federal Republic of Germany

to the Republic of the Philippines

KABALITA

Let the beer barrels roll at Asia's First Rotary Club as we toast to German Pride in bringing his country's legacy of Federalism to Philippine shores towards strengthening bilateral relations.

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PROGRAM

RCM's 39th for Rotary Year 2016-17

Thursday, May 11, 2017, 12N, New World Makati Hotel Ballroom

OIC/Moderator: **Rtn. "Uwe" Hesse**

Program Timetable

11:30 AM	Registration and Cocktails	
12:25 PM	Bell to be Rung: Members and Guests are requested to be seated:	Rtn. "Uwe" Hesse OIC/Moderator
12:30 PM	Call to order Singing of the Republic of the Philippines National Anthem to be followed by the Playing of the Federal Republic of Germany National Anthem Invocation	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo RCM WF Music Chorale Rtn. "Henning" Karcher
	RC Manila Hymn The Four (4) Way Test Credo	RCM WF Music Chorale All Rotarians led by Rtn. "Lutz" Kunack
12:35PM	Introduction of Guests and Visiting Rotarians; and Personalities Seated at the Presidential Table Welcome Song	Rtn. "Horst" Kessler Von Sprengisen RCM WF Music Chorale
12:40 PM	Maligayang Bati (RCM Birthday Celebrants) May 11...Rtn. "Jun" Bella; May 13... Rtn. "Mikael" Avellan; May 14...PT "Jun" Follosco; May 15...Rtn. "Jason" Ong; May 17...PD "Bebot" Pineda, STAR Rtn. "Raffy" Alunan Personalized birthday gift courtesy of Happy Birthday Song	PAT "Muhammad" Aslam RCM WF Music Chorale
12:45 PM	Presentation of 2-Sapphire Paul Harris Fellow to SAA "Lance" Masters	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo
12:47 PM	Induction of Regular Member to RCM Manila Brief introduction of inductee by proposer	Rtn. Bren Egan
	Mr. Jason Michael Bogovich (American) Pvt. Consultant to the US Dept. of Energy Classification: Business Services — Energy Efficiency Consultant Proposer : Rtn. Bren Egan Welcome Baby Rotarian Song	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo Inducting Officer RCM WF Music Chorale

12:50 PM	Induction of Honorary Members to RCManila 1) His Excellency Jan Christian Gordon Kricke Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Philippines; 2) His Excellency Asad Alam Siam Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Philippines	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo Inducting Officer
12:55 PM	President's Time	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo
1:00 PM	Introduction of Guest of Honor and Speaker	Rtn. "Bodo" Goerlich
1:05 PM	Address: His Excellency Jan Christian Gordon Kricke Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Phils. Public Forum Club Fund Raising Raffle of Cash Prizes	Dir./DE "Bobby" Joseph
2:00 PM	Response, Presentation of Token of Appreciation to His Excellency Jan Christian Gordon Kricke and Meeting Adjournment	Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Last Thursday weekly luncheon meeting seemed like a blessed Sunday at Holy Mass as Bishop Teodoro Bacani evangelized us on the stand of the Roman Catholic Church on extra-judicial killings happening around. With so much ease speaking at the podium, Bishop Bacani's words seemed to mesmerize the audience as Manila Rotarians and guests alike were listening intently to his two cents on the matter. Personally, I think God had a way of getting a usually rowdy Manila Rotarian crowd to digest and heed the call of our guest clergy. Indeed, it was a one-of-a-kind Thursday meeting that brought out simply the best in Manila Rotarians.

As for updates within our club, the 60th Anniversary of our sister club, the Rotary Club of Osaka East, this coming May 27, 2017 is fast approaching. For more details, please coordinate with our Secretariat. Last May 4, 2017, we held our Centennial Committee Meeting where IPDG Obet Pagdanganan, PDG Alex Cureg, DGN Rudy Bediones, IPP Ebot Tan, PP Boy Ampil, PE Jimmie Policarpio, Rtn. John Emyl Eugenio and I met with PDG Chit Lijauco to draw up plans for the Centennial of our club. Likewise, on the same day, we likewise held our Club Awards Meeting as our Rotary Year is about to draw to a close where PDG Alex Cureg, DGN Rudy Bediones, PP Francis Juico, Dir. Chito Zaldarriaga, AT Hermie Esguerra and I conferred with each other on the people from our club to be rewarded for their efforts this Rotary year. Before I forget, in behalf of our club, I wish to congratulate our fellow Manila Rotarian, Former Speaker Jose "Joe" de Venecia on his appointment by President Duterte as Special Envoy for Inter-Cultural Dialogue. Certainly, another feather in the cap of our storied club which has produced several of the nation's leaders all over the years.

As to updates within the district, last May 8, 2017, CoS Cesar Ubaldo and SDG / Dir. Albert Alday attended the last Area Meeting for the Rotary Year 2016-2017 at the Aristocrat Restaurant in Manila. They have done our club proud for representing our club well in district affairs as part of the district's Executive Committee. They truly deserve a warm round of applause for their efforts.

Today, we welcome His Excellency Jan Christian Gordon Kricke, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Philippines as he delves on Federalism and the present state of bilateral relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Philippines. I look forward to your cooperation as we endeavor to make our stars shine in the remaining months of Rotary Year 2016-2017 through meaningful projects and fellowships that will strengthen the bonds of Asia's First Rotary Club.

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER'S PROFILE

Curriculum Vitae



Dr. Gordon Kricke,
born 18.12.1962 in Kiel, married

1982	General qualification for university entrance
1982-1983	Military service
1984-1989	Law school
1989	First state law examination
1989-1993	Junior barrister
1991	Doctorate in law
1993	State bar examination
1993-1994	Foreign Service traineeship
1994-1995	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, desk officer
1995-1998	Embassy Buenos Aires, desk officer
1998-2000	Embassy Maputo, Permanent Representative of the Ambassador
2000-2002	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, desk officer
2003-2005	Embassy Port-au-Prince, Ambassador
2005-2007	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Head of Division
2007-2008	Political Adviser to the EU Special Envoy to Sudan, Juba
2008-2009	Embassy Khartoum, Permanent Representative of the Ambassador
2009-2011	Embassy Mexico-City, Head of the German Information Office for Latin America and Spain
2011-2013	Embassy Niamey, Ambassador
2013-2016	Head of the EU Delegation Luanda
Since 2016	Embassy Manila, Ambassador

PREVIEW OF FORTHCOMING THURSDAY GUEST SPEAKERS

May 18, 2017, New World Makati Hotel, Ballroom 1 & 2



Hon. Salvador "Sal" San Buenaventura Panelo

Chief Presidential Legal Counsel
Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines

May 25, 2017, New World Makati Hotel Glasshouse



Mr. Michael Goldsmith

Senior Adviser & National Master Planner
Office of the President, Republic of Palau (Mar 2017 -
Present)

Topic: Choreographing Palau's National Master Plan
(NMP)

THE WEEK THAT WAS



Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo calls the 39th meeting of Rotary Club of Manila to order.



DSAA "Dave" Reynolds as OIC/Moderator directs the program of



Rtn. "Farid" Schoucair delivers an ecumenical invocation.



PE "Jimmie" Policarpio leads fellow Rotarians in renewing its commitment to the Rotary Credo by reciting the four (4) Way Test.



STAR Rtn. "Jun" Alvarez introduces the guests, visiting Rotarians and personalities seated at the presidential table.



Rtn. "Philip" Recto does the honour and pleasure of introducing His Excellency Most Reverend Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., Bishop Emeritus of Diocese of Novaliches, as guest of honor and speaker.



His Excellency Most Rev. Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., D.D., enlightened Manila Rotarians, Visiting Rotarians and guests on the topic of extra-judicial killings from a Roman Catholic and a Divine standpoint.



A pro-active open forum immediately followed right after the speech of Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr. with RCMers' SAA "Lance" Masters, PD "Beda" Fajardo, Rtn. "Tong" Payumo, PE "Jimmie" Policarpio, Rtn. "Vee" David, randomly raising questions to the guest of honor and speaker.



Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo presents to Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr. a religious icon of Mother and Child as the Club's token of appreciation for being the **guest of honor and speaker.**



Posterity photo with Bishop Teodoro C. Bacani with PSAA "Fred" Lim, PVP "Roy" Golez, Rtn. "Nicky" Villaseñor, IPDG "Obet" Pagdanganan and PE "Jimmie" Policarpio.

ROTARACTS

Rotaract Clubs (RACs) of Manila and De La Salle



RAC Manila Pres. KK Reyes updates Rotarians and Guests on Rotaract Discon hosted by RAC Manila.



RAC Dela Salle Pres. "Abbie" Sarmiento delivers brief remarks.



RAC Dela Salle Pres. "Abbie" Sarmiento donates to Polio Plus of the Rotary Foundation from proceed of fund raising through to the Rotary Club of Manila being accepted by **Pres. "Teddy" Ocampo**. Part witness to the donation are RAC De La Salle members **Rychel Namol** and **Jessy Cruz**.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



Pres. “Teddy” Ocampo presents to Rtn. “Emyl” Eugenio as a new Paul Harris Fellow, the Paul Harris Pin and Certificate.

RCM JOURNALISM AWARDS COMMITTEE



Journalism Awards Committee Organizational Meeting held last Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the New World Makati Hotel, with Chairman VPE/VP “Babe” Romualdez presiding, opening the floor among committee members for nomination of outstanding journalists in the tri-media, print, television and radio categories. Photo shows Chairman VPE/VP “Babe” Romualdez (2nd from left) with members: Dir.-in-Charge IPP “Ebot” Tan, DE/Dir. “Susing” Pineda, PE “Jimmie” Policarpio, PT “Jim” Chua and Coordinator “Ching” Salazar.

RCM CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE



IPDG “Obet” Pagdanganan, Overall Chairman, RCM Centennial Celebration Project Committee presiding over the meeting of coffee table book sub committee held last Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the New World Makati Hotel. Photo shows from left-right clockwise: Pres. Teddy Ocampo, Rtn. “Emyl” Eugenio, PDG Alex Cureg, PP “Boy” Ampil (Chairman, editorial board), IPP Ebot Tan (Co-Chairman), IPDG “Obet” Pagdanganan (Overall Chairman), PDG Chit Lijauco, DGN “Rudy” Bediones, Co-Chairman, and ES Anna Kun Toledo.

CLUB AWARDS MEETING



DGN “Rudy” Bediones stressing a point during the Club Awards Meeting, held last Thursday, May 4, 2017 at the New World Makati Hotel. Other attendees were: Treas. “Chito” Zaldarriaga, Pres. “Teddy” Ocampo, PDG “Alex” Cureg, AT “Hermie” Esguerra and PP “Francis” Juico.

RCM BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS OF THE WEEK



Pres. “Teddy” Ocampo presents the birthday celebrants DE/Dir. “Susing” Pineda, Rtn. “Jackie” Rodriguez and PD ‘Ner” Lonzaga with special pillows as gift courtesy of PAT “Muhammad” Aslam; and for the traditional blowing of candle on the birthday cake, amidst the singing by the “RCM World-Famous Chorale” of the happy birthday song.



Birthday Celebrants DE/Dir. “Susing” Pineda, Rtn. “Jackie” Rodriguez PD ‘Ner” Lonzaga receiving their special pillows as gift courtesy of PAT “Muhammad” Aslam as greeters PP “Boy” Ampil, and Rtn. “Nicky” Villaseñor join in.

SIX AREAS OF FOCUS



Rotary's Focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment, plus Update on Save the Littles Children's Heart Project

By SAA/DE Lance Masters

As noted last week, Rotary International has selected six categories of causes that Rotary's charitable arm, The Rotary Foundation, supports. They are:

- Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Maternal and Child Care
- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Water and Sanitation, and
- Economic and Community Development.

Our health is everything. Yet 400 million people in the world cannot afford or do not have access to basic health care. Rotary International believes that good health care is a basic human right. Disease results in misery, pain and poverty for millions of people worldwide. That is why treating and preventing disease is so important to Rotarians. Rotary sets up clinics, blood donation centers and training facilities in underserved communities struggling with outbreaks and health care access. We design and build infrastructure that allows medical professionals, patients, government and NGO's to work together. Together we combat disease like polio, diabetes, malaria, HIV/Aids, Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, and more. Prevention is not only cheaper than treatment; it literally saves and improves quality of life beyond comparison. That is why we focus on health education and bringing people routine medical hearing vision and dental care. The Rotary Foundation is changing the world by providing grants for projects and activities around the globe. Last year, USD \$65 million was given in grants by Rotary to fight disease.

RCM has initiated or supported a great many initiatives and participations in the focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment. These include more medical and dental missions than we can remember, going back before RI and TRF identified the six areas of focus. For decades, we have done our own medical projects or collaborated with Rotary clubs from several countries to provide access to specialized health care both in the metro area and in the provinces. We participated in the very first implementation of PolioPlus in the world! For years, our members looked forward to hands-on participation in Medico-Surgical Missions carried out jointly with our Sight Conservation Committee headed by Chair Dr Jack Bautista and Dental/Drug Abuse Chair Dr. Caloy Buendia. We have improved the health of countless children by providing surgeries to correct congenital cleft palates and other dental and vision procedures, locally and nationally. This used to be a four-day out-of-town mission with a ₱400,000 budget. Additionally, with the generous support of Jack Bautista, we have operated a dental clinic in Manila for the poor for decades.

Medical Equipment and Repair Training started as a "Three H" grant project in 1999 through PD Rob Sears, in cooperation with International AID, RC San Fernando La Union and RC Modesto (California), during the Presidency of PP/DG Peter Wohlrab, of Univ of Perpetual Help, Laguna and Lorna Colleges. That total project cost was USD \$392,645. Medical equipment donations were made to Brent Hospital-Zamboanga, Sorsogon Provincial Hospital, and Bacnotan District Hospital in La Union. Extension

modules were added on availability of additional funds through US Dept. of State Biosafety Engagement Program from 2007-2012.

Our Drug Abuse Prevention Project undertook seminars years ago, with video viewing as advocacy against substance abuse. It was revived by PP Gert Gust, whose psychiatrist wife, Dr. Dolce P. Estrella-Gust, was a long-standing member of the Philippines Dangerous Drug Board. We ran a Save a Heart – Save a Life Pacemaker Implantation Program with Rtn Nilo Aventura, but it was terminated when an unfortunate conflict arose with another personality, no longer with the club.

We have hosted innumerable international medical and dental missions, such as the gynecological surgical group from the US a few months ago. Rtn. Dr. Jun Aventura now heads the coronary bypass team at PHC, and we have helped some indigent patients through our “Save a Life” program.



Before Surgery

The four-year old boy (left) is a “Blue Baby.” Compare to the two-year old normal sister and the mother.



Just last year, I learned of a poor boy from the provinces, four-year old Joneil Dasi-an, who had Tetralogy of Fallot, a serious congenital heart defect comprised of four heart deformities. He was literally blue in skin color from very poor blood oxygen concentration. See the before picture, compared to his sister and mother. He was weak, sickly, grossly underweight, and couldn't run five meters without collapsing. He seemed like a smart kid, but missed a lot of school, putting him well below grade level. He suffered “Tet spells” in which his blood oxygen saturation fell as low as 30%, and he was at serious risk of heart failure! I was asked to help by paying for a 2d echocardiogram that could qualify him for PhilHealth coverage. It started that small, but eventually I personally undertook a mission that ultimately took him to India for open-heart surgery, in collaboration with Dr. Azad Moopen's Save the Little Children Foundation. You recall much of the story, when just a year ago I brought the mother and the boy to one of our meetings, post surgery. By then, I had spent more than ₱100,000 and a huge amount of time over a four-months time period. It was worth it. Today, the boy is not only in great health, he is working very hard in school and already at the top of his class, just one year after being so far behind. His aunt visited the family last week, and the boy showed her dozens of school papers with 100%, because he wanted me to know how much he appreciates his life being saved, how committed he is to making a success of his whole life. It really touched my heart. He calls me “taytay” and says he will take care of me “when I'm old and useless(!)” because he feels that I saved his life.



increases the flow of blood from the ventricle to the lungs, improving oxygenation. The ventral septal defect (hole in the heart) remains, and additional surgery will be required later. Both patients have both gained weight, are very active – mom's chase them instead of carrying – and the families begin a long path of financial recovery from expenses that had devastated their entire extended families.

I was very excited, and worked very hard to get more cases processed to save these children's lives. However, it became very complicated. Several children were judged medically unsafe for the long travel. Those cases would have to be undertaken here in the Philippines at PHC, Children's Hospital or Philippines General Hospital. Many families were and are simply afraid to travel to India – of course, none of these people had ever traveled out of the country and some, never out of the region. Some patient's



families had a very difficult time meeting PhilHealth's or the foundation's requirements for qualifications. They had to provide proof of indigency, usually DSWD "White Card." That process alone can take months, and is sometimes complicated if a parent lacks a birth certificate. It is simply not possible to get a NSA birth certificate if there is no record of birth in the system (that happens when very poor people were born at home, especially in mountainous regions, etc.) and the person now stays far away from the place where they were born. If you are in same place, there is an application process, but you have to apply there and cannot apply in other provinces. The families also have to provide current medical records showing the exact condition and medical necessity. Typically, the families just cannot afford to get that kind of information. Even if they once had the information, it must be made current at least once every six months, which takes time and money and often expensive travel. Their community might not have a pediatric cardiologist in a government hospital. The family income is so low and expenses so high that they cannot even afford an eighteen peso pill to help the child when suffering a tetralogy spell, let alone paying ₱2,800 – 3,500 for a 2d echocardiogram. The children can have no infection, yet most if not all have some dental caries, which must be repaired, or

the baby teeth removed. Access to pediatric dentistry is challenging and expensive. For example, I paid about ₱30,000 for baby Joneil's dental work prior to surgery. Indigent families in the provinces have little real hope of handling such expenses themselves; they usually just pray and work to find help wherever it might be.

Working with Aster Philippines Country head and President Joyce Sacao-Alunao, we undertook to establish a Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Heart Center. That took some time, especially because a new Executive Director had just been appointed. We now have a good MOU in place, but we have not been able to accomplish any surgeries under that agreement. We have helped families complete the process for full "Zero balance billing" with no co-pay with the Z Pack benefit for Congenital Heart Defects under PhilHealth. It usually takes up to four or five YEARS to accomplish this, but we helped get it done in five

months for ten-year-old Mark James Magcayang from Daet, Cam Norte. He had open-heart surgical repair of Ventral Septal Defect (hole in the heart between the left and right ventricles), and is enjoying a good recovery. I met the boy and his family prior to the surgery. They were literally exhausted from the ordeal of qualification, and the boy had missed so much school that even at age ten, he was discouraged about his prospects for graduation. We encouraged him, but he is clearly a risk for drop out.

With the collaborative MOA in place, I have agreed that the funds donated by our members with the intention of paying for travel to India can now be used to pay for expenses that are excluded under PhilHealth. These expenses include devices, such as cardiac catheters. I have also agreed that we can provide or reimburse certain other expenses, such as in hospital extra meal for the babies' mothers, travel from the provinces to Manila, accommodations during pre-op diagnostic trips, and so forth. I believe that these expenses are consistent with the spirit and intent of our donor members when we were only dealing with travel to India.

Prior to surgery, pediatric cardiologists use a combination of diagnostic tools to determine the best course of treatment for the patients. These include 2d and 3d echocardiograms, CT and MRI imaging studies, and hemodynamic catheter studies. MRI and cath studies are frequently required for complicated cases prior to surgery. Many pediatric heart diseases can be treated with the far less invasive catheterization alone, rather than open-heart surgery, so many pediatric cardiologists prefer to do cath studies unless the need for open-heart surgery is totally clear cut. Philippine Heart Center has two surgical suites that are designed and equipped exclusively for pediatrics, and these suites usually have one or two surgeries every single day. A quota is assigned for charity cases, and that quota is booked rather far in advance, allowing exceptions only in emergencies. The hospital has only one pediatric catheterization lab. That lab is under renovation for more than two months already and will not be usable until June or maybe even July. Six of the eight cases that we are working on are required for catheterization studies, hence our predicament in scheduling.

The most expensive of the catheters required is for patient. Michaela Denise Capapas, a four years old female patient with TOF complicated by an absent pulmonic valve. Michaela's family are residents of Baguio. We have already prepared a check for the ₱150,000 cost of the Medtronic Contegra Pulmonary Valved Conduit, and the supplier will not accept payment until the surgery is completed. That device is by far the most expensive one, constructed of a bovine aorta with two flapped valves installed – it is really high tech! Many of the devices cost less than ₱20,000, so our average costs should remain at or below the originally targeted ₱50,000 per patient. Remaining cath studies patients include:

- Jedidiah Salamat, one year old male, dextrocardia ASD, VSD, PVA, PDA, patient from Hagonoy Bulacan, ,
- John Lenard Recio, one year old male, TOF, from Balintawak,
- Lei Frances Susaya, two year old female, ASD/VSD-PDA stenting, from Pasay,
- Jed Christian Quimco, two years old male, DTGA VSD, from Pasig,
- Kuechel Lubrio, three years old female, ASD, TAPVR, from Muntinlupa, and
- Kesha Villaraza Nolasco, sorry I don't have file.

Additionally, we have the following patients just awaiting surgery scheduling:

- Hadwin Gian Deyro, four years old male, VSD, from Baguio, ,
- Sofia Gaan, seven year old female, VSD, from Sampaloc Manila,
- Rhazel Panganiban, two years old female, VSD, from Gen San, and
- Drenz Khalil Francisco, five years old male, VDA/PDA, from Laguna

There are about twenty additional patients who are in earlier stages of qualifications. It is my hope that we will not only be able to help all of the patients listed above, but that we will also be able to help many of the additional patients. We can no longer link specific patients with specific donors, due to the widely varying costs of each patient. I hope that this is still OK with our donors.

Did you know that there is a Rotary International Fellowship of Health Professionals?

<https://www.rotary-site.org/health-professionals>

Next week: another area of TRF Focus.



ROTARY AWARD



Frank Evaristo (Center), Past President, Rotary Club of Manila, the First in Asia, accepts the Rotary International Award as the District Governor Representative for District 3810 during the 14th Philippine Rotary Awards Night held at the Metropolitan Museum recently. From left: **Melito Salazar, Jr.**, Past District Governor and Editor-in-Chief, Philippine Rotary Magazine, **PDG Tony Quila**, Chairman, PR Management Board, and **Rotary International Director Nominee Raffy Garcia**, Chairman, Philippine Rotary Magazine Foundation, Inc. **(ERRATUM) We are reprinting this news release to correct the designation of RIDN Raffy Garcia.**

DISTRICT ACTIVITY



BCP President Summer Outing at Vicky's Farm in Calamba

The Best Class Presidents (BCP) of Rotary Year 2014-2015 had a "Summer Outing" last May 4, 2017, was treated to lunch/merienda by Past Chairman BCP Frank and Vicky Evaristo at Vicky's Farm in Calamba, Laguna. Photo from left: BCP Aileen Gandia, Ruby Lorenzo, Tracy Esteban, Ester Uy, Armin Serrano, SDG Lily Aguilar, Raffy Crespo, Arlene Divinagracia and Jing Ordonez.

NEWS RELEASE

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2017



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AWARD: Frank Evaristo (center), past president, Rotary Club of Manila, the First in Asia, accepts the Rotary International Award as the district governor representative for District 3810 during the 14th Philippine Rotary Awards Night held at the Metropolitan Museum recently. From left are Melito Salazar Jr., Past District Governor And Editor-In-Chief, Philippine Rotary Magazine, PDG Tony Quila, chairman, PR management board, and Rotary International district nominee Raffy Garcia, chairman, Philippine Rotary Magazine Foundation Inc.



NEW DUTERTE APPOINTEE. President Rodrigo Duterte with former speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. after they met in Malacañang on March 7, 2017. Malacañang file photo.

MANILA, Philippines – President Rodrigo Duterte appointed former speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. as special envoy for inter-cultural dialogue.

Malacañang announced this on Tuesday, May 9, along with other appointees to different government posts signed by the President in April.

According to Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson Robespierre Bolivar, De Venecia will serve in his new post until September 2017.

“JDV was appointed Special Envoy for Inter-Cultural Dialogue, April to Sept 2017,” Bolivar said in a text message to reporters.

Malacañang has yet not given details of De Venecia’s tasks under his new post. Duterte signed De Venecia’s appointment papers exactly a month after they met in Malacañang.

De Venecia is the founding chairperson of the standing committee of the International Conference of Political Parties (ICAPP), founder of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), and co-chair of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP).

He served as speaker of the House of Representatives from 1992 to 1998, and from 2001 to 2008, or during the presidencies of Fidel Ramos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, respectively. He was representative of the 4th District of Pangasinan for a total of 6 terms.

De Venecia was also a peace envoy during the Ramos administration, and made a failed bid for president in 1998, finishing a distant second to Joseph Estrada. -Rappler.com

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



PDG VINCE CARLOS

The Italian Secret To A Long Marriage

At St. Peter's Catholic Church in Toronto, they have weekly husband's marriage seminars.

At the session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who said he was approaching his 50th Wedding Anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight into how he had managed to stay married to the same woman all these years. Giuseppe replied to the assembled husbands, 'Wella, I've tried to treat her nicea, spenda DA money on her, but besta of all is, I tooka her to Italy for the 25th Anniversary!'

The priest responded, 'Giuseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th Anniversary?'

Giuseppe proudly replied, "I gonna go pick her up."

* * * * *

The Italian Golfer....For A Long Life

An 80-year-old Italian goes to the doctor for a check-up. The doctor is amazed at what good shape the guy is in and asks, 'how do you stay in such great physical condition?'

'I'm Italian and I am a golfer,' says the old guy, 'and that's why I'm in such good shape. I'm up well before daylight and out golfing up and down the fairways. I have a glass of vino, and all is well.'

'Well' says the doctor, 'I'm sure that helps, but there's got to be more to it. How old was your Father when he died?'

'Who said my father's dead?'

The doctor is amazed. 'You mean you're 80 years old and your Father's still alive. How old is he?'

'He's 100 years old,' says the Old Italian golfer. 'In fact he golfed with me this morning, and then we went to the topless beach for a walk and had a little vino and that's why he's still alive. He's Italian and he's a golfer, too.'

'Well,' the doctor says, 'That's great, but I'm sure there's no more to it than that. How about your Father's Father? How old was he when he died?'

"Who said my Nono's dead?'

Stunned, the doctor asks, 'you mean you're 80 years old and your grandfather's still living! Incredible, how old is he?'

'He's 118 years old,' says the Old Italian golfer.

The doctor is getting frustrated at this point, 'So, I guess he went golfing with you this morning too?'

'No, Nono couldn't go this morning because he's getting married today.'

At this point the doctor is close to losing it. 'Getting married!! Why would a 118 year-old guy want to get married?'

'Who said he wanted to?

* * * * *

Understanding Women

A man was riding his Harley beside a Sydney beach when suddenly the sky clouded above his head and in a booming voice, the Lord said: 'Because you have TRIED to be faithful to me in all ways, I will grant you one wish.' The biker pulled over and said, 'Build a bridge to New Zealand so I can ride over anytime I want..'

The Lord said: 'Your request is materialistic, think of the enormous challenges for that kind of undertaking, the supports required reaching the bottom of the Pacific and the concrete and steel it will take! It will nearly exhaust several natural resources. I can do it, but it is hard for me to justify your desire for worldly things. Take a little more time and think of something that could possible help mankind.'

The biker thought hard about it for a long time. Finally, he said, 'Lord, I wish that I and all men could understand our wives. I want to know how she feels inside, what she's thinking when she gives me the silent treatment, why she cries, what she means when she says nothing's wrong, and how I can make a woman truly happy.'

The Lord replied, 'You want two lanes or four on that bridge?'

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We're So Great

A doctor from Israel says: "In Israel the medicine is so advanced that we cut off a man's testicles; we put them into another man, and in 6 weeks he is looking for work."

The German doctor comments: "That's nothing, in Germany we take part of the brain out of a person; we put it into another person's head, and in 4 weeks he is looking for work."

A Russian doctor says: "That's nothing either. In Russia we take out half of the heart from a person; we put it into another person's chest, and in two weeks he is looking for work."

The U. S. doctor answers immediately: "That's nothing my colleagues, you are way behind us...in the USA (about a year ago) we grabbed a person with no brains, no heart, and no balls...we made him President of the United States, and now.....the whole country is looking for work!!!!!!!"

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION AND CHILD CARE



MOTHER'S DAY

Elias D. Adamos, M.D.

This article is dedicated to all mothers and Rotary Anns.

I can't think of any other way to pay tribute to the woman Filipinos call "Ang Ilaw Ng Tahanan (The home or family's guiding light)" than from the eyes of a child. My elder daughter, Ivanna, who is now a second year medical student, wrote the following when she was still a junior high school student at the Immaculate Conception Academy. She simply gave out the name of her mother as the title – "Mama Marissa." "Coming from school, we pulled into the gravel driveway and into the garage. Climbing out of the car, my siblings and I walked across the driveway to our white, cemented house. Past the garden beside it we entered the silver screen door. Smiling brightly at us is a short woman with short black hair, a big tummy and a fair complexion. She is our mother. She would always start by "How was your day?" After our little conversation, we would all start our agenda for the day.

As I climb the stairs to my room, I see pictures of my grandfather and I remember how my mother took care of him. Being the youngest of three siblings, you would never expect her to take care of everything from the family business, to her work, her own family, and even her parents. My grandfather was bedridden with Alzheimer's disease and he was taken care of by my loving parents for 10 years. My mother would always check up on him and even gave him baths once in a while. And at the same time, she never forgets to take care and give attention to my siblings and I. As a doctor, she was always prepared and provided every medical need my grandfather needed. Our house was like a hospital then. My lolo was provided with a hospital bed, oxygen tanks and my parents even hired nurses to take care and watch over him. In my case, since the day mom brought me to this world, I have always felt the love and care she has been showering upon me ever since. I was provided with things not every child could have.

After dinner and after doing my assignments, I remember my mother saying, "The early bird always catches the worm." She always wakes up early in the morning during school days so we would not be late. My mom starts things early, finishes things early and sleeps early. Amazingly, she can balance her time and priorities very well at the same time, a real pro. To be a good example, she puts her words into actions and teaches us values at home that could not be learned in school. She can be firm at times and tell me things that can hurt me, but I believe that it is for my own good. And they say: "mother knows best."

We would soon say our GOODNIGHTS and I LOVE YOUs and as I close my eyes for a new day to arrive, my mother will definitely remain the same, a friend, mother and my very own customized Supermom."

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE MOTHERS OUT THERE!

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