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ATTY. SHARON S. GARIN
Secretary
Department of Energy

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF INDUSTRY

*TOWER Awards 2026
Celebrates the Filipino
Workers Who Power
the Nation*

The Man Who Stayed

*David John Reynolds, MBE
and the Life He Built
in the Philippines*

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PROGRAM



ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 33rd Weekly Membership Meeting Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: PD ISSAM ELDEBS

PART I

- 11:00 AM Registration /Lunch
- 12:30 PM Call to Order | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**
- Invocation | **Dir. RAMI CHAHWAN**
- Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale
- The Four (4) Way Test
PSAA GUNTER MATSCHUCK
- Introduction of visiting Rotarians and Guests
Sec. ANTON MAURICIO
- Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**
- 12:55 PM Birthday Celebrants
- June 7 PD John Cenica
Rtn. Jeric Jucaban
 - June 11 Rtn. Citos Manalaysay
 - June 12 Rtn. Raf Dionisio
- Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song*
RCM WF Chorale

PART II

- 1:00 PM President's Time | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**
- 1:10 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor & Speaker
Dir. WARREN SO
- The Honorable**
Atty. SHARON S. GARIN
Secretary, Department of Energy
- 1:30 PM Open Forum
- Response
- 1:55 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA
- 2:00 PM Adjournment | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



THE worsening conflict in the Middle East serves as a stark reminder of a reality that the world periodically forgets but invariably rediscovers: energy remains the lifeblood of modern civilization.

Every escalation in one of the world's most volatile regions sends ripples across global markets. Oil prices rise. Supply chains tighten. Transportation costs increase. Inflationary pressures return. Businesses hesitate. Consumers spend less. Governments scramble to cushion the impact. What may

appear to be a distant geopolitical conflict quickly becomes a local economic concern felt in households, factories, farms, and transportation networks.

For the Philippines, a nation that continues to import the majority of its petroleum requirements, the implications are particularly significant. We are not merely observers of global energy events. We are participants in a marketplace whose prices are often determined far beyond our shores.

This is why discussions about energy management can no longer be confined to engineers, economists, or policymakers. Energy security has become a national concern that affects every Filipino.

The challenge before us extends beyond responding to the immediate crisis. It is about building resilience against the next one.

Historically, energy crises have revealed vulnerabilities that were long present but largely ignored during periods of stability. The oil shocks of the 1970s transformed global energy policy. More recent disruptions arising from pandemics, wars, and geopolitical tensions have

EDITORIAL

reinforced the same lesson: nations that depend excessively on external energy sources remain vulnerable to forces beyond their control.

The Philippines must therefore pursue a dual strategy.

First, we must manage present realities with discipline and prudence. Conservation remains one of the most overlooked sources of energy. Every megawatt not consumed is a megawatt that need not be generated or imported. Government agencies, businesses, institutions, and households all have a role to play in promoting efficiency. Smarter buildings, efficient transportation systems, modern industrial processes, and responsible consumption habits are no longer merely environmental choices; they are economic necessities.

Second, we must accelerate the transformation of our long-term energy portfolio.

The nation's growing investments in renewable energy are encouraging. Solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal resources offer opportunities to diversify supply while reducing dependence on

imported fossil fuels. The Philippines is fortunate to possess abundant natural resources capable of supporting a cleaner and more secure energy future. Yet these resources must be developed with urgency, supported by modern transmission infrastructure and stable regulatory frameworks.

At the same time, difficult conversations about emerging technologies must continue. Among these is nuclear energy, a subject that has increasingly moved from theoretical discussion to serious policy consideration. Around the world, many nations are reexamining nuclear power as a reliable source of baseload electricity that can complement renewable energy. While legitimate concerns regarding safety, cost, and governance must be addressed transparently, the conversation itself reflects a growing recognition that energy security demands a diversified and future-oriented approach.

In this regard, the leadership of **Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin** comes at a consequential moment. With a background that bridges law, finance, public policy, and economic governance, she brings

EDITORIAL

to the Department of Energy a perspective that recognizes energy not simply as a technical issue, but as a strategic pillar of national development.

Her stewardship over initiatives involving energy infrastructure, legislative reforms, renewable energy expansion, and the country's nuclear energy program reflects an understanding that the energy challenges of tomorrow cannot be solved using the tools of yesterday. The task requires vision, innovation, regulatory clarity, and long-term commitment.

Yet government alone cannot achieve energy resilience.

Industry must continue investing in efficiency and innovation. Educational institutions must prepare future energy professionals. Civil society must participate in informed public discourse. Citizens themselves must embrace a culture of responsible energy use.

The Middle East crisis will eventually pass, as all crises do. Oil prices will stabilize. Markets will recover. Headlines will move elsewhere.

The larger question, however, is whether we will once again allow urgency to fade into complacency.

True energy security is not built during periods of crisis. It is built during the quieter moments between crises, when nations have the foresight to prepare for the uncertainties ahead.

The Philippines stands at such a moment today.

The choices we make now — in policy, investment, technology, and consumption — will determine whether future generations inherit an energy system defined by vulnerability or by resilience.

In an increasingly uncertain world, energy management is no longer merely about keeping the lights on. It is about safeguarding economic growth, protecting national competitiveness, strengthening national security, and ensuring that the promise of progress remains within reach for every Filipino.

The future belongs not to the nations that possess the most energy, but to those that manage it most wisely. ■

GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER

ATTY. Sharon S. Garin is a Certified Public Accountant and lawyer. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, a Juris Doctor degree, and an MBA from ESADE in Spain.

She served as Undersecretary of the Department of Energy from 2022 to 2025, overseeing the Legal Services and Financial Services clusters, acting as Legislative Liaison Officer, and chairing the Nuclear Energy Program Inter-Agency Committee.

In May 2025, she was appointed Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the DOE following a cabinet reshuffle. She was later appointed as Ad Interim Secretary of Energy on July 10, 2025, and was subsequently confirmed by the Commission on Appointments (CA) on October 1, 2025.

Before her executive service, she represented the AAMBIS-Owa Party List in the House of Representatives from 2010 to 2022. During her legislative tenure, she held leadership positions (including Deputy Speaker) and chaired the Committee on Economic Affairs. She was instrumental in the passage of key laws, including the New Public Service



ATTY. SHARON S. GARIN
Secretary, Department of Energy

Act, the Foreign Investments Act, the CREATE Law, TRAIN, and the Retail Trade Liberalization Act.

As DOE Secretary, she leads the direction and supervision of the Department and its attached agencies—including NPC, TRANSCO, PSALM, and PNOC—and continues to push for reforms in energy policy, infrastructure, and innovative technologies, such as nuclear and renewable energy development. ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Energizing the Nation

AT our weekly membership meeting today, we are honored to welcome the **Department of Energy Secretary Sharon Garin as Guest of Honor and Speaker -- a timely engagement as the country continues to confront pressing energy and power challenges.**

Energy has become one of the defining concerns of modern governance and national development. It powers industries, transportation, businesses, hospitals, schools, communication systems, and homes. As the Philippine economy continues to grow and modernize, the demand for reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy has never been greater.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

At the same time, the country faces serious challenges. Rising global fuel prices, geopolitical tensions, climate-related disruptions, increasing electricity demand, and infrastructure limitations continue to place pressure on the nation's energy systems. The Philippines also remains vulnerable because of its dependence on imported fuel, making it highly sensitive to fluctuations in global energy markets.

The recent global fuel crisis demonstrated how international conflicts and supply disruptions can

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

immediately affect fuel prices, electricity costs, inflation, and overall economic stability. These realities have made energy security a top national priority.

Energy security means ensuring the uninterrupted availability of energy at affordable and stable prices. For the Philippines, this requires long-term planning, diversified energy sources, modern infrastructure, and resilient power systems capable of supporting national growth.

Fortunately, the country possesses enormous opportunities alongside its challenges. The Philippines is rich in renewable energy resources, including geothermal, solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. In fact, the country remains one of the world's leading producers of geothermal energy.

The government, through the Department of Energy, has been pursuing policies aimed at diversifying the nation's energy mix and accelerating the development of renewable energy projects. Solar farms, wind facilities, hydroelectric projects, and battery energy storage systems are increasingly becoming part of the country's long-term

Energy security means ensuring the uninterrupted availability of energy at affordable and stable prices. For the Philippines, this requires long-term planning, diversified energy sources, modern infrastructure, and resilient power systems capable of supporting national growth.

energy strategy. These initiatives are important not only for environmental sustainability but also for national resilience. Expanding renewable energy helps reduce dependence on imported fuel, improve long-term price stability, strengthen energy security, and create new investment and employment opportunities.

Infrastructure modernization is likewise a critical component of the government's energy agenda. Reliable power generation alone is insufficient without efficient

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

transmission and distribution systems. Investments in smart grids, energy storage, disaster-resilient infrastructure, and expanded transmission networks are essential to ensuring stable and reliable electricity across the archipelago.

Innovation also plays an increasingly important role in shaping the future of energy. Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence-driven grid systems, electric mobility, advanced battery storage, and distributed renewable systems are transforming how energy is produced, managed, and consumed.

Equally important is the need for inclusive development. Reliable electricity remains essential for education, healthcare, agriculture, communication, and livelihood opportunities, especially in rural and geographically isolated communities. Expanding energy access therefore contributes directly to social progress and poverty reduction.

The participation of the Secretary of Energy in today's weekly meeting highlights the importance of constructive dialogue among

government, business leaders, professionals, and civic organizations. The challenges facing the energy sector cannot be addressed by government alone. Progress requires collaboration, innovation, responsible leadership, and long-term vision.

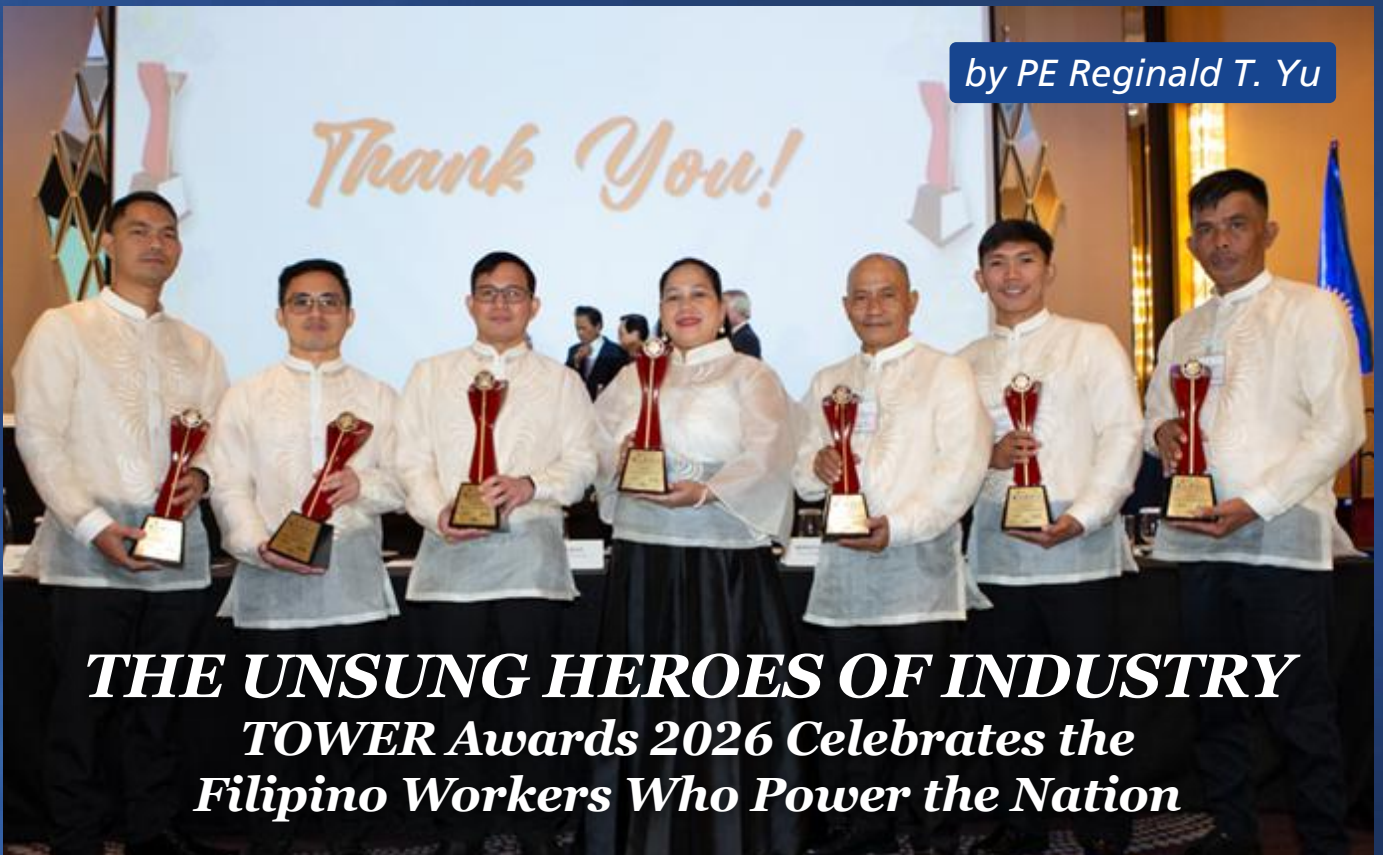
The Rotary Club of Manila has long served as a platform for meaningful conversations on issues affecting national development. Today's engagement reflects Rotary's continuing commitment to civic leadership, informed dialogue, and service to the nation.

As the Philippines navigates a rapidly evolving global energy landscape, the need for sound policy, sustainable solutions, and resilient infrastructure becomes even more urgent. The country's future growth and competitiveness will depend significantly on its ability to secure reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for generations to come.

In the end, energy powers more than economies and industries.

It powers national progress itself. ■

by PE Reginald T. Yu



THE UNSUNG HEROES OF INDUSTRY TOWER Awards 2026 Celebrates the Filipino Workers Who Power the Nation

THE true strength of a nation is often measured not by the prominence of its leaders, the size of its corporations, or the volume of its investments, but by the character and dedication of the men and women who labor every day to transform vision into reality.

For more than half a century, the Rotary Club of Manila has steadfastly upheld this belief through one of its most enduring and meaningful legacy projects: the TOWER Awards, or The Outstanding Workers of the Republic. Established in 1975, the program was conceived to honor a sector of society that rarely finds itself in the spotlight despite carrying much of the nation's economic weight on its shoulders.



At the 32nd Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila held at the Fairmont Hotel Makati, Rotarians, government officials, industry leaders, and representatives from the country's leading economic enterprises gathered once again to continue this noble tradition of recognition and gratitude.

The occasion was more than an awards ceremony. It was a powerful affirmation that excellence exists at every level of the workforce and that innovation is not confined to executive boardrooms or research laboratories. It flourishes wherever committed individuals are willing to ask how things can be improved and then dedicate themselves to making those improvements happen.



PVP Fausto Preysler moderated the meeting.

PP Teodoro
"Teddy" J.
Ocampo led
the
invocation.



PD Amado
"Amading"
D. Valdez led
the recitation
of The Four-
Way Test.



STAR Rtn. Jason Romeo C. Valderrama
introduced the visiting Rotarians and guests.



Singing the Philippine National Anthem



The RCM Music Chorale performed a welcome song for the visiting Rotarians and guests.



President Raoul C. Creencia delivering his welcome remarks

A Legacy Born of Respect for Labor

In his opening remarks, Centennial President Jesus M. “Susing” Pineda Jr., Chairman of TOWER Awards 2026, reflected on the origins of the program and the philosophy that has sustained it for nearly five decades.

He recalled how the Rotary Club of Manila launched the TOWER Awards with a singular mission: to recognize the unsung heroes of the Philippine economy. While public attention often gravitates toward chief executives, investors, and corporate leaders, the true engines of economic growth are frequently found elsewhere — on factory floors, in production facilities, and in workplaces where skilled workers apply their talents with discipline and dedication every day.



Centennial President Jesus M. “Susing” Pineda Jr., Chairman of TOWER Awards 2026 delivering his opening remarks

The TOWER Awards was created precisely to bring these individuals into the public consciousness.

This year's honorees, he emphasized, represented more than hard work. They embodied brilliant work. Their accomplishments demonstrated that innovation often emerges from practical experience and intimate familiarity with daily operations. Their contributions challenged the notion that creativity belongs exclusively to highly specialized laboratories or executive suites.

Instead, they showed that transformational ideas frequently originate from workers who understand processes deeply enough to improve them.



Rtn. Romeo C. Nones (Chairman, Board of Judges, TOWER Awards 2026) presented the seven TOWER Awardees 2026



The 7 TOWER Awardees were presented to the membership and guests. From left: Norvin A. Adang (Franklin Baker Company of the Philippines), Jansen Angeles (Zenith Foods Corporation), Roberto Bismonte (Global 3D System), Jerry A. Dalioan (Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing, Inc.), Rowena Gumban (Dole Philippines Inc.), Renato Lopez (Dole Philippines, Inc.) and Jose Luis Millena (Zenith Foods Corporation).

Recognizing Excellence Where It Matters Most

The presentation of the TOWER Awards formed the centerpiece of the gathering. The awardees were formally recognized by Rotary Club of Manila President Atty. Raoul C. Creencia, Chairman Jesus M. Pineda Jr., PAGCOR Chairman and CEO Alejandro H. Tengco, PEZA Director General Tereso O. Panga, District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo, PHILEA President and Past President Francisco “Chito” Zaldarriaga, and representatives from GCash.

These awardees represented a broad spectrum of Philippine industry and manufacturing excellence. Their achievements illustrated how

innovation, productivity, sustainability, and operational excellence can be driven by workers at every organizational level.

What united them was a shared commitment to finding better ways of doing things.

Their stories reflected the uniquely Filipino qualities of resourcefulness, resilience, creativity, and determination — qualities often summarized by the word *diskarte*. Through their efforts, they had improved systems, enhanced efficiency, generated savings, advanced sustainability initiatives, and strengthened the competitiveness of their respective organizations.



The Rotary Club of Manila, along with project sponsors, presented each of the seven TOWER Awardees with the signature TOWER Awards trophy and a PHP 100,000 cash prize. From left: RCM Dir. Edwin Hernandez (Director, Vocational Service); Ms. Michelle Fernandez, Vice President, Corporate Assistant Secretary, Sustainability and Communications of Mynt, Inc.(mother company of GCash); Hon. Alejandro Tengco (Chairman and CEO of Pagcor), Hon. Tereso O. Panga (Director General, PEZA), Pres. Raoul Creencia, Centennial Pres. Susing Pineda (Chairman, TOWER awards 2026), District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo, and PHILEA President/RCM PP Chito Zaldarriaga.

A Voice for the Awardees

Speaking on behalf of the recipients, awardee Jim Jansen Aguiles delivered a heartfelt message that captured the spirit of the TOWER Awards.

He emphasized that the recognition was not merely an acknowledgment of completed work but a reminder that small actions, when consistently pursued, can create significant and lasting impacts for companies, communities, and the environment.

Sustainability, he noted, is not solely about protecting natural resources but also about creating conditions in which people, communities, and industries can grow and prosper together.

His remarks underscored a central theme of the awards: meaningful change does not always begin with large-scale initiatives. Often, it begins with a single worker identifying a problem, proposing a solution, and



The 2026 TOWER awardees (from left): Norvin Adang (Franklin Baker Co. of the Phils.); Jansen Angeles (Zenith Foods Corp.); Roberto Bismonte (Global 3D System); Jerry Dalioan (Yazaki-Torres Mfg.Inc.); Rowena Gumban (Dole Phils. Inc.); Renato Lopez (Dole Phils. Inc.); and Jose Luis Millena (DENSO Phils. Corporation)

committing to continuous improvement.

Aguiles also highlighted the importance of leadership, mentorship, teamwork, and family support in making such achievements possible. He reminded the audience that every recognition carries with it a responsibility to continue inspiring others and promoting positive change.



Mr. Jansen M. Angeles of Zenith Foods Corporation delivered a heartfelt message on behalf of the 2026 TOWER awardees.

The Private Sector Steps Forward

One of the event's most significant themes was the importance of collaboration between civic organizations, government institutions, and the private sector.

Representing GCash, Michelle Fernandez praised the TOWER Awards for continuing to recognize workers whose innovations create meaningful change across the nation. She noted that the breakthroughs celebrated through the program often originate from individuals working on the front lines — people who identify challenges and develop practical solutions that benefit entire organizations and communities.

Fernandez connected these achievements with GCash's mission of financial inclusion, emphasizing the role of empowering hardworking Filipinos through accessible financial services. By enabling workers to secure their futures and participate more fully in economic life, organizations can help ensure that no one is left behind in the nation's progress.

The presence of GCash as a supporter reflected a broader recognition that worker empowerment extends beyond wages and employment. It also



Michelle Fernandez, Vice President, Corporate Sustainability and Communications, Mynt, Inc. (GCash)

includes access to tools, opportunities, and systems that help individuals maximize their potential.

A Vision Realized Through Partnership

For Philippine Ecozones Association (PHILEA) President and Rotary Club of Manila Past President Francisco “Chito” Zaldarriaga, the event represented the realization of a long-held aspiration.

For years, he had envisioned a meaningful partnership among PHILEA, PEZA, and the Rotary Club of Manila that would tap into the immense reservoir of talent within the country's economic zones. Seeing this collaboration finally come to fruition,

he expressed hope that the partnership would serve as the foundation for many more years of recognizing exceptional Filipino workers.

The collaboration is significant because economic zones serve as hubs of manufacturing, technology, logistics, and industrial innovation. They employ hundreds of thousands of workers whose contributions often remain invisible to the broader public despite their critical role in national development.

Through the TOWER Awards, many of these workers are finally receiving the recognition they deserve.



Francisco "Chito" Zalzarriaga, Philippine Ecozones Association (PHILEA) President and Rotary Club of Manila Past President



Alejandro H. Tengco, PAGCOR Chairman and CEO

Honoring the Dignity of Labor

PAGCOR Chairman and CEO Alejandro H. Tengco delivered one of the afternoon's most passionate tributes to the Filipino workforce.

He described the TOWER Awards as a shining example of how society can honor the dignity of labor and celebrate the contributions of workers whose efforts sustain industries and strengthen the economy. For decades, he noted, the awards have recognized individuals whose perseverance, discipline, and professionalism serve as the foundation upon which businesses and institutions are built.

Tengco emphasized that excellence is not defined by titles or positions. Rather, it is reflected in the quality of one's work and the positive impact that work creates for others. The sacrifices made by workers — long hours, physical demands, and time spent away from loved ones — deserve not only acknowledgment but genuine respect.

His remarks reinforced a powerful truth: economic development is ultimately driven by millions of ordinary Filipinos who perform extraordinary work every day.

Rotary's Tribute to Modern Heroes

District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo echoed this sentiment, describing the awardees as modern heroes and nation-builders.

She spoke of workers whose daily sacrifices uplift families, strengthen communities, and contribute to national progress. Their dedication, she said, serves as a model for future generations and demonstrates how integrity, responsibility, and service remain the foundations of lasting success.

Her message reflected Rotary's



DG Mary Mei Rodrigo, District Governor, RI District 3810

longstanding commitment to recognizing service in all its forms.

While Rotary is often associated with community projects and humanitarian initiatives, the TOWER Awards reminds us that service also exists in workplaces, factories, production lines, and industrial facilities where workers quietly dedicate themselves to excellence.

PEZA and the Filipino Competitive Advantage

The afternoon's Guest of Honor and Speaker, PEZA Director General Tereso O. Panga, provided a broader economic perspective on the importance of the TOWER Awards.

He highlighted the remarkable growth of the Philippine economic zone sector, which now encompasses hundreds of economic zones, thousands of locator companies, and more than 1.8 million direct jobs nationwide.

Yet despite these impressive statistics, Panga emphasized that the true strength of PEZA lies not in infrastructure or incentives but in the Filipino workforce itself.

Throughout his travels and investment missions abroad, he has consistently encountered admiration for Filipino workers. Investors cite their adaptability, technical competence, English proficiency, trainability, and commitment to quality as among the country's greatest competitive advantages.

He shared numerous examples of Filipino engineers, technicians, and specialists performing world-class work in industries ranging from semiconductor design and laser technology to advanced manufacturing, shipbuilding, and information technology. Their capabilities have enabled the Philippines to compete successfully in highly sophisticated sectors of the global economy.



Tereso O. Panga, PEZA Director General

For Panga, the TOWER Awards serves as a reminder that investments create opportunities, but it is workers who transform those opportunities into productivity, growth, and hope for Filipino families.



PRESENTATION OF GIFTS OF APPRECIATION TO TOWER AWARDS PROJECT SUPPORTERS



Ms. Michelle Fernandez of GCash received a plaque of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Manila, presented by President Raoul Creencia, Director Edwin Hernandez, and TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda, witnessed by fellow project sponsors and members of the Board of Judges.



Atty. Jeffrey Golod received the TOWER Awards signature trophy from President Raoul Creencia and Chairman Susing Pineda. Witnessing the presentation were Director Edwin Hernandez and members of the Board of Judges.



PAGCOR Chairman and CEO Alejandro L. Tengco received a TOWER Award signature trophy as a gift of appreciation from the Rotary Club of Manila, presented by President Raoul Creencia, Director Edwin Hernandez, and TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda. Witnessing the presentation were members of the Board of Judges and Atty. Jeffrey Golod, representative of San Miguel Corporation.



Pres. Raoul Creencia and TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda presented the Plaque of Appreciation to Ms. Rowena Naguit, Group Manager of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, as a member of the Board of Judges. Witnessing the presentation were Director Edwin Hernandez, Board of Judges - Chairman Rtn Romy Nones and member STAR Rtn Jason Valderrama, and PEZA Deputy Director General Emmanuel Cortero.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS OF APPRECIATION TO TOWER AWARDS PROJECT SUPPORTERS



PEZA Deputy Director General Emmanuel Cortero received from President Raoul Creencia, TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda a plaque of appreciation as a member of the Board of Judges. Witnessing the presentation were Director Edwin Hernandez, Board of Judges - Chairman Rtn Romy Nones and member STAR Rtn Jason Valderrama.



Board of Judges member STAR Rotarian Jason Valderrama received a Plaque of Appreciation from President Raoul Creencia and TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda. Witnessing the presentation were Director Edwin Hernandez and Board of Judges Chairman Rtn. Romy Nones.



Board of Judges Chairman Rotarian Romy Nones received a Plaque of Appreciation from President Raoul Creencia, TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda, in the presence of Director Edwin Hernandez and Board of Judges member, STAR Rtn. Jason Valderrama.



Board of Judges member PE Reggie Yu received a Plaque of Appreciation from President Raoul Creencia and TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda. Witnessing the presentation were Director Edwin Hernandez, Board of Judges - Chairman Rtn. Romy Nones and member STAR Rtn. Jason Valderrama.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS OF APPRECIATION TO TOWER AWARDS PROJECT SUPPORTERS



R.I. District 3810 District Governor Mary Mei Rodrigo received a plaque of appreciation for her support to the Rotary Club of Manila from Pres. Raoul Creencia and TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda. Witnessing the presentation were Director Edwin Hernandez and members of the Board of Judges – Chairman Romy Nones, PE Reggie Yu, and STAR Rtn. Jason Valderrama.



Pres. Raoul Creencia and TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda presented the TOWER Awards signature trophy as a gift of appreciation to the guest of honor and speaker, PEZA Director General Tereso Panga.



A posterity photo with project partners –District Gov. Mary Mei Rodrigo, Pres. Raoul Creencia, TOWER Awards Chairman Susing Pineda, and Director Edwin Hernandez, with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority team led by Director General Tereso Panga, Deputy Director General Emmanuel Cortero, Group Manager Rowena Naguit, and Corporate Communications Officer, Ms. Mikee Fabellar.

A Tradition Worth Preserving

As the ceremony drew to a close, the significance of the TOWER Awards became increasingly evident.

In an era dominated by discussions of artificial intelligence, automation, and technological disruption, the program reminds society that innovation remains fundamentally human. Machines may improve efficiency, but it is people who imagine better ways of doing things. It is workers who identify opportunities for improvement, solve practical problems, and transform ideas into tangible results.

The TOWER Awards celebrates these individuals.

It honors the machinist who improves a production process. The technician who discovers a more efficient system. The engineer who develops an innovative solution. The operator whose insight saves resources and enhances productivity.

These are the quiet architects of national progress.

For nearly fifty years, the Rotary Club of Manila has ensured that their stories are not forgotten. Through the TOWER Awards, it has elevated the

dignity of labor, spotlighted excellence in the workplace, and affirmed a simple but profound truth:

The future of the Philippines is built not only by visionaries who lead from the front, but also by the millions of hardworking Filipinos whose dedication, ingenuity, and perseverance keep the nation moving forward.

The meeting was formally called to order by President Atty. Raoul C. Creencia at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 2:00 p.m., concluding another memorable chapter in one of the Rotary Club of Manila's most enduring and impactful legacy programs.



President Raoul Creencia adjourned the 32nd Weekly Membership Meeting.



Looking Toward the Future

As the TOWER Awards approaches its golden anniversary, its relevance continues to grow.

The world of work is changing rapidly.
Artificial intelligence is reshaping industries.
Automation is transforming production.
Digital technologies are redefining business models.

Yet amid all these changes, one truth remains constant.

Human ingenuity remains

irreplaceable.

Technology may provide tools.
People provide vision.

Machines may execute processes.
Workers improve them.

Algorithms may analyze data.
Human beings create meaning.

The future will undoubtedly bring new challenges and opportunities.

But if the stories celebrated at the TOWER Awards 2026 are any indication, the Philippines can face that future with confidence.



For behind every economic statistic stands a workforce defined by resilience, intelligence, creativity, and determination.

A workforce capable of competing with the best in the world.
A workforce worthy of recognition.
A workforce worthy of celebration.

And for nearly fifty years, through the TOWER Awards, the Rotary Club of Manila has ensured that these remarkable men and women receive precisely that.

In honoring them, the Club honors the very foundation upon which the nation's progress rests.

For while buildings may rise, industries may expand, and economies may grow, it is ultimately the Filipino worker — the skilled hands, the inventive minds, and the steadfast hearts of millions — that transforms possibility into reality and keeps the Republic moving forward. ■



President Raoul Creencia congratulating the TOWER Awardees



Ms. Jireh Jangayo of Bombo Radyo poses with the TOWER awardees following the one-on-one interview.



*Awardee Jose Luis Millena
(Denso Phils. Corp.)*



*Awardee Rowena Gumban
(Dole Phils. Inc.)*



*Awardee Renato Lopez
(Dole Phils. Inc.)*



*Awardee Roberto Bismonte
(Global 3D System)*



*Awardee
Norvin
Adang
(Franklin
Baker Co. of
the Phils.)*



*Awardee
Jansen
Angeles
(Zenith
Foods
Corp.)*



*Awardee
Jerry
Dalioan
(Yazaki-
Torres Mfg.
Inc.)*







Rotary



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build GOODWILL
& BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. to all concerned?

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT May 2026

MAY 2026	May 07, 2026 FORMER CONSUL GEN. VOLTAIRE D. HAURICHO	May 14, 2026 SCIENCE DIPLOMAT GLENN S. BANAGUAS	May 21, 2026 AMBASSADOR AWARD: ANIL MIGUEL UTRAY DELGADO	May 28, 2026 TOWER AWARDS
MEMBERS PRESENT	39	29	35	38
MEMBERS PRESENT %	18%	14%	17%	18%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	3	17	15	3
EXEMPTED	5	3	6	5
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	42	46	50	41
Total # of Members	212	212	212	212
TOTAL %:	20%	22%	24%	19%
ROTARACTORS	9	12	8	0
MEDIA	0	0	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	1	1	1	11
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	0	0	10
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	9	0	4	3
TOTAL ATTENDEES	58	42	48	62



LIST OF ATTENDEES May 28, 2026

- Alday, Albert Singson
- Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- Carlos, Vicente J.
- Creencia, Raoul C.
- Cureg, Alexander P.
- Cutter, John Michael
- Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- Esguerra, Herminio S.
- Garcia, III Victor G.
- Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.
- Guevara, Ricardo S.
- Hernandez, Edwin H
- Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV
- Locsin, Arsenio Z.
- Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
- Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
- Magsaysay, Francisco D.
- Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G.
- Nones, Romeo C.
- Núñez, Jr., Jose A.
- Obrado, Daniel Calzado
- Ocampo, Teodoro J.
- Ong, Phillip L.
- Pascual, Abraham F.
- Pineda, Jr., Jesus M.
- Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- Ra, Ingill
- Recto, Philip H.
- Reynolds, David J.
- Rodríguez Sr., Joaquin C.
- Schneider, Bernd
- Serapio, Carlos G.
- Valdez, Amado D.
- Yu, Reginald Tieng
- Zaldarriaga, Felix Francisco S.
- Valderrama, Jason
- Eugenio, Eric
- Tamesis, Chris C.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of June 2, 2026

1 ABOY, VALENTINO G.
2 ABRIAM, ARIEL
3 ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.
4 AGNES, JERRY A.
5 ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY
6 ALBERTO, RAYMUND ARNOLD S.
7 ALCANTARA, ISIDRO
8 ALDAY, ALBERT S.
9 ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A.
10 ALUNAN, RAFAEL M.
11 ANDAL, AVELINO L.
12 ANG, RICHARD
13 ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G.
14 ARAMBULO, JOAQUIN JR. L.
15 ARGUELLES, PABLO C.
16 AVENTURA, AVELINO JR. L.
17 BAGATSING, VALENTINO
18 BALANAY, ARIES B.
19 BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.
20 BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.
21 BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.
22 BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D.
23 BELLO, CHRISTIAN CESAR
24 BENEDICTO, BERNARDO III T.
25 BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.
26 BERTELSEN, BERTEL INGMAR
27 BLANCO, MANUEL M.
28 BOGOVICH, JASON M.
29 BOLTON, WILHELM
30 BRANELEC, JACQUES
31 BUENDIA, CARLOS
32 CABANGON, EDGARD
33 CABUNAG, ROGELIO
34 CAMAT, NATHANIEL
35 CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.
36 CANON, RAUL JR. C.
37 CARLOS, VICENTE J.
38 CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B.
39 CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.
40 CATALAN, RODILLO
41 CHAHWAN, RAMI
42 CHAN, ROBERT JR.
43 CENICA, JOHN
44 CHIEN, LIANG-TA
45 CID, DEAN
46 CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L.
47 CORTEZ, LORENZO
48 COYIUTO, ROBERT JR. G.
49 CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
50 CUREG, ALEXANDER P.
51 CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL

52 DAYANG, JUAN E.
53 DAVIS, RAYMOND N.
54 DE CASTRO, JUAN ARTURO ILUMINADO
55 DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR
56 DIONISIO, RAFAEL
57 DOMINGO, RICO, V.
58 DOMINGUEZ, CARLOS G.
59 DY, MANUEL
60 EGAN, BRENDAN
61 ELDEBS, ISSAM
62 ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III
63 ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
64 ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A.
65 EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G.
66 EUGENIO, ERIC
67 FAJARDO, BEDA G.
68 FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
69 FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.
70 GARCIA, HERBERT JOEY
71 GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M.
72 GARCIA, THEODORE Q.
73 GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
74 GASPAS, FERNANDO
75 GINEZ, WINSTON M.
76 GO, DANNY C.
77 GO, HENRY S.
78 GONZALES, JONAS R.
79 GONZALES-LA'O, EMIL
80 GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY
81 GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.
82 GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
83 HALLARE, DELFIN JR.
84 HALLARE, NICOLAO
85 HARLE, WOLFGANG KURT
86 HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.
87 HESSE, UWE
88 IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.
89 JANG, JAE JUNG
90 JOSEPH, RALPH L.
91 JUCABAN, JERIC J.
92 KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.
93 KANDA, HIROYASU
94 KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L
95 KE, ERIC CHAN
96 KHO, RALPH VALENTIN
97 KLEBS, DAVID
98 KOH, PAUL ANTHONY
99 LACAMBACAL, ALVIN
100 LAYA, JAIME C.
101 LAUREL, RICARDO P.
102 LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of June 2, 2026

103	LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.	154	RECTO, PHILIP H.
104	LEE, RICHARD L.	155	REYNOLDS, DAVID
105	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEUS M.	156	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H.
106	LIM, RICHARD	157	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
107	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.	158	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
108	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.	159	ROMUALDEZ, JOSE MANUEL G.
109	LIAO, CHRISTOPHER	160	ROÑO, MARLON
110	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.	161	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
111	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.	162	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.
112	LOPEZ, ANTONIO	163	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
113	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.	164	SCHNEIDER, BERND
114	LORENZANA, DELFIN	165	SERAPIO, CARLOS G.
115	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.	166	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
116	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.	167	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
117	MAGBANUA, GERRY P.	168	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
118	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.	169	SIMON, JUANITO AYSON
119	MAGSAYSAY, JESUS VICENTE E.	170	SO, WARREN
120	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.	171	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN
121	MANGALILE, SENEN	172	SOLER, JOSE ANTONIO A.
122	MARTINEZ, RONALD	173	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
123	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.	174	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
124	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC	176	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
125	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO ROBERTO C.	177	TALAMPAS, JOSE ANGEL L.
126	MENDOZA, MIGUEL	178	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.
127	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.	179	TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.
128	MOMMAERTS, STEVE	180	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
129	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.	181	TAMESIS, CHRIS
130	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO	182	TAN, EUSEBIO V.
131	NONES, ROMEO C.	183	TAN, JOHN G.
132	NUÑEZ, JOSE A.	184	TAN, LAWRENCE L.
133	OBRADO, DANIEL	185	TAN, MYLES
134	OCAMPO, TEODORO J.	186	TEE, TEDDY JR. B.
135	ONG, PHILIP	187	TEJUMAL, MICHAEL
136	ONG, ROWEL JANSON S.	188	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L.
137	OZAETA, MIGUEL ANTONIO L.	189	UY, IVAN JOHN E.
138	PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M.	190	VALDES, JOELC.
139	PALACIOS, ALBERT S.	191	VALDEZ, AMADO
140	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.	192	VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.
141	PANGILINAN, MANUEL E.	193	VALDERRAMA, JASON ROMEO
142	PANTALEON, OLIVER	194	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
143	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM	195	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G.
144	PAYUMO, FELICITO C.	196	VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR.
145	PELIÑO, WILFREDO	197	VILLARICA, HENRY R.
146	PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.	198	YAP, ENRIQUE JR.
147	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.	199	YORDANOV, STEFAN
148	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.	200	YU, GEOFFREY C.
149	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.	201	YU, REGINALD T.
150	PUJALTE, JOSE BRITTANIO JR.	202	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
151	RA, INGILL	203	ZEITOUNI, NAGI
152	RAMOS, CLAVER P.	204	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
153	RANKL, PETER	205	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Induction Ceremonies Alignment Meeting



The induction Committee met last May 28, 2026 to discuss the details and preparations for the July 2 Induction Ceremonies at the Fairmont Hotel.



Mr. Peter Daniel Veriña of Finest Media, the commissioned events organizer, presented to brief the Board on the proposed program flow and other important event components, together with his team. Also present were Ms. Ola Manansala and Sid Cuesta.

Present from RC Manila were PE Reggie Yu, Chair of the Induction Committee/ PDG Alex Cureg, DE/BLA Caloy Serapio, DE Nico Valencia, and IS/PD Albert Alday.

Ad Hoc Committee Meets to Discuss RCM Constitution and Bylaws



The Ad Hoc Committee met on May 28, 2026, at the Fairmont Hotel to discuss the RCM Constitution and Bylaws.

Present were PP Archit Bartolome, PP Boy Guevara, PDG Jackie Rodriguez, DE/BLA Caloy Serapio, Rtn. Gani Macatoman, Rtn. Jun Simon, DE Nico Valencia, Pres. Raoul Creencia, PP Chito Zaldarriaga, PDG Alex Cureg, DSAA John Cutter, IS Albert Alday, and DE Teddy Kalaw.



ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



Sta. Elena Golf Club
JUNE 22, 2026 (MONDAY)

REGISTRATION: 6:00AM
SHOTGUN TEE-OFF: 8:00AM

TOURNAMENT FEE
PHP 9,000.00

**Green Fee, Cart-sharing, Giveaways,
Breakfast, Lunch & Raffles**

**FOR THE BENEFIT OF RCM AND
RCMFI PROJECTS**

SPONSORS



PRESENTER



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Technologies



JETOUR
— Drive Your Future —

**HOLE
IN ONE**

HOLE 24

175 YARDS



STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB
STA. ROSA, LAGUNA



**JETOUR
X50 SPORTS**



TOURNAMENT DATE

JUNE 22, 2026
MONDAY



6:00 AM
REGISTRATION



8:00 AM
SHOTGUN
TEE-OFF

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE

STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA



HOLE IN NE

HOLE 2, 7 & 21

CASH PRIZE

P50,000

FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS

Rotary
Club of Manila



**RCMANILA
FOUNDATION, INC.**



TOURNAMENT DATE

JUNE 22, 2026
MONDAY



6:00 AM
REGISTRATION



8:00 AM
SHOTGUN
TEE-OFF

STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB
STA. ROSA, LAGUNA

CO-PRESENTER

GOLD

Palawan
for business

PALAWAN
PAWNSHOP

PalawanPay

PICKUP
COFFEE

HITACHI

iCare*

Sagot ka ni
JuanHand

TrendAI
AI Fearlessly

VST ECS
PHILS., INC.

MEGALink

BINGO
PLUS

Monde Nissin

**ABC
TECH**

SEDA
sedaLAW

SALAZAR
ENRILE
DEFENSOR &
DE MATA

Apex Mining Co., Inc.

SILVER

MABUHAY CAPITAL

iCare*

Organica
Nutrition

CleanTech
Foundation

NEW TRANSCEND
CONSTRUCTION



SM PRIME

BDO



DIVINALAW



BRONZE

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COMFORT FILIPINO



MICRÔTEL[®]
BY WYNDHAM



MALL OF ASIA
MANILA

HOLE



Fairmont
MAKATI



ROTARIANS
JOSHUA RUEBEN "JOSH" ARAGON
ROWEL JANSON "ROEL" ONG



ROTARIAN
BENEDICT JULIUS "BEN" IBUYAN
NICOLÒ "NIC" HALLARE
ALDOUS "REX" ALINGOG

SENATOR
CAMILLE VILLAR
& ERWIN GENUINO



R.G. Manabat & Co.



STAR ROTARIAN
ERIC CHAN KE



PEOPLE

The Man Who Stayed

*David John
Reynolds, MBE and
the Life He Built
in the Philippines*

By PE Reginald T. Yu

FIFTY years ago, a young English shipbroker arrived in Manila expecting nothing more than a brief overseas assignment. He could not have imagined that the Philippines would become the setting of his life's work — the country where he would build a respected maritime



The Man Who Stayed

David John Reynolds, MBE and the Life He Built in the Philippines

business, raise a family, serve generations of Rotarians and expatriates, and help hundreds of underprivileged Filipino youths find dignity and opportunity through the sea. This is the story of David John “Dave” Reynolds, MBE — a British expatriate who stayed long enough to become, in every meaningful sense, Filipino at heart.

There are men who arrive in a country as visitors and remain forever outsiders. Then there are the rare few who arrive intending only a temporary stay, only to discover that the foreign land has quietly become home.

David John “Dave” Reynolds never intended to spend his life in the Philippines.

When the young English shipbroker boarded a plane from London in the mid-1970s, Manila was meant to be a brief professional adventure — a two-year assignment in a distant Southeast Asian nation few Britons at the time knew intimately. He was twenty-one years old, restless, independent, and eager to see more of the world beyond England’s familiar gray skies. The position with Wallem Shipping promised challenge and excitement. Nothing more.

Yet history often changes through the quiet accumulation of unexpected loyalties.

One year became several. Several became decades.

The young expatriate who arrived in Manila carrying little more than ambition and curiosity would eventually become one of the enduring figures of the Philippine maritime community — a respected shipbroker, Rotarian, philanthropist, and bridge-builder between Britain and the Philippines. Long after many foreign executives had completed their contracts and gone home, Dave Reynolds remained.

He stayed through political upheavals, economic crises, technological revolutions, and the relentless transformation of Manila itself.

The Man Who Stayed

David John Reynolds, MBE and the Life He Built in the Philippines

He stayed long enough for the Philippines to stop feeling foreign. Long enough for its people to become family.

Long enough for his life to intertwine with the lives of hundreds of young Filipinos whose futures would be transformed through the scholarship programs he helped build.

For nearly five decades, Reynolds quietly occupied a unique place in Philippine society. In shipping circles, he became known as a disciplined and dependable shipbroker whose reputation rested not on flamboyance but on trust. Within the Rotary Club of Manila, he became a familiar and stabilizing presence whose years as Sergeant-at-Arms reflected his instinctive respect for order, fellowship, and institutional dignity. Through the Propeller Club of Manila, he helped create opportunities for underprivileged Filipino youths to rise from poverty through maritime education and employment aboard ocean-going vessels.

Hundreds of families would eventually benefit from those efforts.

Yet before Manila, before shipping, before Rotary and philanthropy, there was postwar England.



A delightful portrait of young Dave Reynolds in his earliest years, radiating the curiosity, joy, and innocence of childhood. With an infectious smile and bright eyes fixed on the world ahead, this treasured photograph captures the beginnings of a life that would later be defined by adventure, resilience, service, and an enduring sense of optimism.

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Dave Reynolds was born in 1953 into a Britain still recovering from the scars of the Second World War. His father had served in the Royal Marines. His mother had served in the Women's Royal Naval Service. Like many couples of their generation, they carried into civilian life the values forged by hardship: resilience, thrift, discipline, gratitude, and endurance.

Those values became the invisible architecture of their son's character.

From an early age, Dave learned that life could become difficult without warning, that success demanded hard work, and that dignity came from perseverance rather than privilege. Boarding school taught him independence while sports instilled resilience and discipline. By the time he reached adulthood, he possessed the quiet steadiness that would later define both his career and his leadership style.

Then came the turning point that altered everything: his arrival in the Philippines in 1975.

What was supposed to be temporary slowly became permanent.

The country embraced him with warmth. The maritime industry gave him purpose. The sudden death of his mentor, Peter



With rosy cheeks, windswept hair, and hands firmly on the steering wheel, young Dave Reynolds is captured in a timeless childhood moment of wonder and imagination. Even then, his curious gaze seemed fixed on the road ahead—a fitting image for a boy whose life would eventually take him far beyond the shores of England and toward a lifetime of adventure, service, and discovery.

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Hager, thrust him unexpectedly into leadership at Inter-Asia Marine Transport. Instead of retreating, he carried on — calmly, steadily, and without theatrics.

That same steadiness would later define his charitable work.

Under his leadership within the Propeller Club of Manila, scholarship programs for impoverished Filipino youths expanded from a single sponsored student into a life-changing initiative that produced hundreds of maritime graduates now employed around the world. One former scholar would eventually return not merely as a successful seafarer, but as a member of the Propeller Club itself — a moment that symbolized how profoundly the program had changed lives.

Recognition eventually followed.

When Buckingham Palace informed David Reynolds that he would receive the Member of the Order of the British Empire, he was genuinely surprised. The honor recognized not only his charitable work but also his efforts in strengthening relations between Britain and the Philippines. Standing before Prince William at Buckingham Palace, the boy born into postwar austerity could scarcely have imagined the path that had led him there.

Yet titles and awards alone do not explain David Reynolds.

The people who know him best speak instead of consistency. Reliability. Integrity. A man who fulfilled responsibilities without seeking attention. A man who believed deeply in discipline, fairness, and service. Today, after nearly fifty years in Manila, Dave Reynolds no longer speaks of Britain as home in the emotional sense. Time, family, friendship, and shared purpose have altered the geography of belonging. The Philippines became the place where he built his life, raised his children, welcomed his grandchildren, nurtured institutions, and invested his hopes for the future.

A British national by birth, perhaps. But Filipino at heart.

This is the story of a boy shaped by postwar England, a young shipbroker who crossed continents searching for opportunity, and a man who found in the Philippines not merely success, but purpose.

It is the story of David John “Dave” Reynolds — shipbroker, Rotarian, philanthropist, expatriate, husband, grandfather, and one of those rare men whose life reminds us that home is not always where one begins. Sometimes, it is where one chooses to stay.

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Born in the Shadow of War

David John “Dave” Reynolds was born on December 29, 1953, in Manchester, England, during a period when Britain was still emerging from the long shadow of the Second World War. Though peace had returned years earlier, the country continued rebuilding from the hardships of conflict. Families who had endured wartime rationing and uncertainty carried into civilian life habits shaped by sacrifice, discipline, and resilience.

Dave’s parents belonged fully to that generation.

His father, William James Reynolds, had served in the Royal Marines during the war, while his mother enlisted in the Women’s Royal Naval Service. Like many wartime couples, they delayed building a family until peace returned. The values they carried from those years would shape their son profoundly.

From an early age, Dave was taught not to waste what he had and never to take comfort for granted. Gratitude, discipline, and perseverance were not abstract ideals within the Reynolds household; they were practical lessons rooted in experience.

When Dave was still very young, the family moved from Manchester to



A treasured portrait of Dave Reynolds’ parents, William James Reynolds and Audrey Jean Reynolds, whose love, guidance, and unwavering support provided the foundation upon which his life was built. Their warmth shines through in their smiles, reflecting a partnership marked by devotion, resilience, and family values. Long before Dave would embark on his own remarkable journey, it was from them that he learned the importance of hard work, integrity, kindness, and the enduring strength of family.

Northampton after his father accepted employment there. It was a quieter part of England, far removed from the ports and maritime world that would later define Dave’s life. His childhood instead revolved around school, sports, and village life in the English Midlands.

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Football and rugby quickly became central passions. Athletics and cross-country running followed. Sports taught him resilience, discipline, teamwork, and composure under pressure — qualities that would later become essential both in business and leadership.

Yet perhaps the most formative part of his childhood was learning independence early.

At only six years old, Dave was sent to boarding school as a weekly boarder. Living away from home at such a young age forced him to mature quickly. He learned how to adapt, organize himself, and function confidently in unfamiliar environments.

Those early experiences quietly prepared him for a future far beyond England.

At home, meanwhile, another important lesson emerged through his father's struggles. After initially securing stable employment following military service, his father later lost his position and found it difficult to obtain another job. Rather than surrender to disappointment, he established his own shoe-selling business through sheer hard work and determination.

Dave never forgot watching that perseverance firsthand.

Life, he learned early, could become difficult without warning. The only real option was to keep moving forward.

He also grew up alongside an older brother, Michael, three years his senior, who would later become a distinguished lawyer associated with Allen & Overy and eventually President of the International Law Association. Though the brothers

Left photo: Long before ships, boardrooms, and international travel, there was this little red pedal car. With hands on the wheel and a mischievous smile, young Dave Reynolds proudly takes the driver's seat in what may well have been his very first taste of independence and adventure. Even then, he seemed eager to see what lay around the next corner—a trait that would one day carry him far beyond the quiet lanes of England and toward a lifetime of journeys, discoveries, and purpose.



The Man Who Stayed

David John Reynolds, MBE and the Life He Built in the Philippines

pursued different interests and personalities, mutual respect remained between them throughout their lives.

As he grew older, Dave entered Felsted School in Essex, one of England's historic schools dating back centuries. The experience strengthened his independence even further. As a term boarder, he spent long periods away from home while immersing himself in academics and sports.

The lessons of those years stayed with him long after he left England.

The calm discipline for which he would later become known in business, Rotary, and civic life did not emerge suddenly in adulthood. Its foundations were laid during those early years in postwar Britain — through family hardship, boarding-school independence, sportsmanship, and the quiet expectation that responsibilities should simply be carried properly.

At the time, however, nothing suggested that his future would unfold thousands of miles away in the Philippines.

The sea had not yet entered his life.

But the character that would eventually allow him to endure tragedy, build institutions, and make another country his home was already taking shape.



Young Dave Reynolds (right) stands proudly beside his older brother Michael in the family garden, where Michael displays an impressively large marrow harvested from their backyard. The photograph captures the simple pleasures of postwar English childhood—family, hard work, and the quiet pride that came from tending one's own garden and sharing in its rewards.

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David John Reynolds, MBE and the Life He Built in the Philippines

The Boy from Northampton

By adolescence, independence had already become second nature to David Reynolds.

Years of boarding-school life had taught him how to adapt quickly, manage responsibility, and function confidently away from home. While many boys his age still depended heavily on the structure of family life, Dave had already learned how to stand on his own.

Growing up in Northamptonshire during the 1950s and 1960s, he was shaped by a distinctly English environment — practical, disciplined, and grounded in routine. Life revolved around school, sports, and the quiet expectations of postwar Britain, where resilience was assumed rather than discussed.

Football remained a passion, but rugby increasingly became central to his character formation. The sport demanded toughness, discipline, and teamwork. Players were expected to absorb setbacks without complaint and continue moving forward regardless of pressure or fatigue.

Athletics and cross-country running reinforced the same mentality. Success depended not on theatrics, but on endurance and consistency — qualities that suited Dave naturally.



A carefree summer day finds brothers Dave and Michael Reynolds hard at work on a project of childhood importance—building sandcastles on the beach. Armed with buckets, spades, and boundless imagination, the two brothers transformed an ordinary stretch of sand into a kingdom of their own. The photograph captures the simple joys of youth, the closeness of brotherhood, and the timeless magic of childhood days spent beside the sea.

His father's struggles after losing stable employment left a deep impression on him. Rather than surrender to disappointment, he rebuilt his life through determination and hard work, eventually establishing a successful shoe business. Watching this taught Dave that setbacks were part of life, but perseverance mattered more than circumstance.

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David John Reynolds, MBE and the Life He Built in the Philippines

His mother, Audrey Jean Reynolds, reinforced another lasting principle: gratitude. Having lived through wartime austerity, she disliked wastefulness and emphasized appreciation for whatever one had.

Those values stayed with him long into adulthood.

At Felsted School in Essex, Dave's world gradually widened. The school's traditions and structure strengthened his discipline and self-reliance, while sports continued playing a major role in his development. Though never drawn toward attention or self-promotion, he steadily earned the respect of classmates and teachers alike.

By his final year, he became a school prefect — an experience that introduced him to leadership not as status, but as responsibility.

Even then, qualities that would later define his adult life were already becoming visible: steadiness, reliability, emotional composure, and a quiet instinct for order.

Meanwhile, Britain itself was becoming increasingly outward-looking. Opportunities abroad were expanding for young professionals willing to leave familiar surroundings behind. Though he



Dave and his younger brother Michael pause for a portrait at their family home, a glimpse of the close bond forged through a childhood of shared adventures, friendly rivalry, and the quiet companionship that only brothers can understand. Even in youth, their distinct personalities shine through—different in style, united in spirit.

did not yet realize it, Dave was already becoming open to a larger world beyond England.

Shipping had not yet fully entered his life.

Neither had Manila.

But the independence, resilience, and adaptability that would one day allow him to build a life halfway across the world were already firmly in place.

The Man Who Stayed

David John Reynolds, MBE and the Life He Built in the Philippines

Felsted: Lessons Beyond the Classroom

Felsted School helped shape David Reynolds far beyond academics.

By the time he arrived at the historic school in Essex, he was already accustomed to the discipline and independence of boarding-school life. Yet Felsted offered something deeper — an environment rooted in tradition, responsibility, and quiet expectations of leadership.

Founded in the sixteenth century, the school carried a strong sense of history and continuity. Students grew up surrounded by longstanding traditions that emphasized not only education, but character.

For Dave, the experience proved formative.

As a term boarder, he spent long periods away from home, further strengthening the self-reliance he had developed since childhood. Life at Felsted demanded discipline, adaptability, and emotional steadiness — qualities that came naturally to him over time.

Academically, he gravitated toward French, history, and Latin, while sports remained central to school life. Football



A cherished childhood photograph of brothers Dave and Michael Reynolds with the family's beloved corgi, Kim. Like many treasured family pets, Kim was more than a companion—she was part of the family, sharing in the adventures, mischief, and happy memories of growing up in postwar England. The photograph captures a simpler time, filled with brotherhood, loyalty, and the special bond between children and their faithful dog.

and rugby continued to shape his competitive spirit, while athletics and cross-country running reinforced endurance and mental toughness.

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Rugby especially left a lasting influence. The sport demanded composure under pressure, teamwork, and resilience. One learned quickly that setbacks were inevitable and that self-pity accomplished little.

Those lessons would later serve him well in shipbroking, where disappointment and uncertainty were part of everyday life.

At Felsted, Dave steadily earned the respect of teachers and fellow students alike. Though not naturally attention-seeking, he developed a reputation for reliability and discipline. In his final year, he became a school prefect — an early introduction to leadership and responsibility.

The role taught him that authority worked best when exercised calmly and fairly rather than forcefully.

Years later, those same qualities would become evident in his professional and civic life, particularly through his long service in organizations such as the Rotary Club of Manila.

Looking back, Dave would later describe his years at Felsted simply as “good grounding” for life. Characteristically understated, the phrase nevertheless captured the lasting influence of those formative years.

By the time he left school, the essential traits that would define his adult life were already firmly established: independence, discipline, resilience, and the quiet confidence to navigate unfamiliar environments.

Soon, London — and eventually the wider world — would begin calling him beyond England.

London, Lloyd’s, and the Call of Shipping

When David Reynolds left school and entered professional life, Britain was changing rapidly. London in the early 1970s had become increasingly international, commercial, and outward-looking, drawing young professionals eager to build careers connected to the wider world.

For Dave, the city represented both opportunity and movement.

After years spent within the structured environment of boarding schools and provincial English life, London exposed him to a faster and more competitive atmosphere. It was there that shipping first entered his life.

He began working at Lloyd’s as a trainee insurance broker specializing in marine cargo. Initially, it was simply a practical

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starting point for a young man beginning his career. Yet the work introduced him to the vast world of international maritime commerce — cargoes, shipping routes, ports, and the global trade networks that connected economies across continents.

The industry fascinated him.

Unlike many maritime professionals, Dave had never dreamed of going to sea. Growing up far from the coast, ships had played little role in his childhood imagination. But marine insurance and shipping exposed him to an industry that was intensely international, relationship-driven, and constantly moving.

An old school friend already working in shipbroking later encouraged him to enter the field directly. The suggestion proved pivotal.

Shipbroking appealed to Dave's temperament. It required discipline, persistence, negotiation skills, and the ability to build trust under pressure. Success depended as much upon relationships and reliability as technical knowledge.

At the same time, another ambition had begun quietly growing within him: the desire to work abroad.



A portrait of David “Dave” Reynolds in his younger years, already displaying the quiet confidence, optimism, and steady demeanor that would later define his career and leadership. Taken during the formative years of his professional journey, the photograph captures a young man looking toward the future—unaware that the adventure ahead would eventually lead him across continents and into a lifetime of service, family, and purpose in the Philippines.

By then, opportunities for young British professionals overseas were expanding rapidly, particularly across Asia. For a twenty-one-year-old eager to see more of the world, the idea carried obvious appeal.

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Dave applied for several overseas positions, including one opening with Wallem Shipping in the Philippines.

The assignment immediately attracted him. Manila sounded distant, unfamiliar, and adventurous — exactly the kind of challenge that appealed to his independent spirit.

Years later, he would discover he had been the only applicant for the job.

At the time, however, that hardly mattered.

What mattered was the opportunity to step beyond the familiar boundaries of England and begin building a life elsewhere.

When the offer came through, Dave accepted without hesitation.

The decision would change the course of his life completely.

The move was supposed to last only two years — a temporary overseas assignment before eventually returning to Britain. The Philippines was not yet home in his imagination.

It was simply the next adventure.

Manila, 1975

When David Reynolds arrived in the Philippines in 1975, Manila was a city unlike anything he had ever known.

Nothing in his upbringing in Northamptonshire or his early years in London could have fully prepared him for the heat, the movement, the noise, and the intensity of life in Southeast Asia. England had been orderly, restrained, and temperate. Manila felt immediate and alive — humid air hanging heavily over crowded streets, jeepneys weaving through traffic with bursts of color and sound, voices rising from sidewalks, restaurants, clubs, offices, and markets that seemed perpetually in motion.

For a twenty-one-year-old Englishman arriving alone to begin work in a foreign country, the experience could easily have been overwhelming.

Instead, Dave Reynolds found it exhilarating.

He had come to Manila to join Wallem Shipping as a young shipbroker, expecting only a brief overseas assignment before eventually returning home to Britain. The move appealed to his adventurous instincts more than to any carefully constructed long-term plan. At that stage, the Philippines represented

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opportunity and novelty, not permanence.

He was supposed to stay two years. Nothing more.

Yet almost immediately, something about the country began to affect him. The first thing he noticed was the warmth of the people.

Years later, Dave would still recall how welcomed he felt upon arriving in the Philippines. For many foreigners adjusting to unfamiliar cultures, the early period abroad can bring loneliness and emotional distance. But Manila in the 1970s possessed a social openness that made integration easier for expatriates willing to embrace it.

Filipinos, Dave discovered quickly, had a remarkable instinct for hospitality.

People were approachable, conversational, and generous with friendship. Relationships formed easily. Unlike the emotional reserve common in Britain, social interactions in the Philippines carried a warmth and spontaneity that felt refreshingly human.

That warmth became one of the reasons he stayed.

Professionally, however, his arrival thrust him immediately into demanding circumstances.



Dave Reynolds joins finalists and organizers of the ESU Philippines National Search for the Philippine Champion to the English-Speaking Union's International Public Speaking Competition. Long committed to creating opportunities for young people, he continues to support initiatives that nurture confidence, communication skills, and global citizenship among the next generation of leaders. Through programs such as these, Dave's enduring belief in education, mentorship, and personal development finds expression beyond the maritime world he has served for decades.

Wallem Shipping operated within the highly competitive world of maritime commerce, where youth and inexperience offered little protection from responsibility. Dave had arrived with only limited practical experience as

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a shipbroker in London, yet almost as soon as he entered the office, clients and negotiations were placed directly into his hands.

There was no gradual transition.

He often described himself as having been “thrown into the deep end.”

The learning curve proved steep, but the pressure accelerated his growth enormously. Every day required adaptation. He had to understand local business culture, develop relationships with clients, navigate the realities of Philippine commerce, and strengthen his technical knowledge of chartering and shipping operations simultaneously.

For some young expatriates, such an environment might have produced insecurity or hesitation. For Dave, it became education.

The independence formed during boarding-school years now revealed its value fully. He adapted quickly because adaptation no longer frightened him. The unfamiliar had become manageable long ago.

Manila during the mid-1970s also possessed a unique expatriate culture shaped by business, diplomacy, shipping, and old colonial-era institutions. Foreign communities, while relatively small, were tightly interconnected. Relationships

often extended beyond offices into clubs, restaurants, and social circles where professional and personal lives overlapped naturally.

Some expatriates during that era remained socially insulated, interacting mainly within foreign communities while maintaining emotional distance from the country itself. Dave moved differently. He formed relationships naturally across both expatriate and Filipino circles, gradually becoming comfortable within the broader rhythms of Manila life.

The city itself fascinated him.

Manila in the 1970s was far from polished. Traffic could be chaotic. Infrastructure often lagged behind rapid urban growth. Political tensions simmered beneath the surface during the Martial Law period under President Ferdinand Marcos. Yet despite these complexities, the city possessed extraordinary energy.

There was ambition everywhere.

The Philippines at the time remained deeply connected to international maritime trade. Shipping played a critical role in supporting the country's economy, especially through imports of grain, commodities, and industrial materials. For a young shipbroker eager to establish himself, Manila offered genuine opportunity.

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At Wallem Shipping, Dave's professional world expanded rapidly. The business demanded not only technical competence but also relationship-building skills and emotional resilience. Shipbroking was intensely competitive. Transactions involved high financial stakes and constant negotiation pressure. Deals frequently shifted unexpectedly.

One learned quickly not to become emotionally fragile.

Dave adapted well to that environment because he possessed a temperament naturally suited to steadiness rather than drama. He listened more than he spoke. He worked hard. He learned continuously. Gradually, clients and colleagues began recognizing his reliability.

It was also during these early Manila years that he met the man who would shape the course of his professional life more profoundly than anyone else: Peter Hager.

Hager was far more than a superior officer within the shipping industry. He became mentor, teacher, and eventually business partner. Experienced, knowledgeable, and respected, Hager introduced Dave to the deeper complexities of maritime commerce in the Philippines.

Under his guidance, the young English shipbroker matured quickly.

Shipping in Asia differed from London in many ways. Relationships often mattered as much as technical expertise. Cultural sensitivity became essential. Negotiations required patience, flexibility, and practical judgment. Hager taught Dave not only the mechanics of chartering but also the instincts necessary to survive long-term within the industry.



Exploring London together, Dave Reynolds shares a cheerful moment aboard the Underground with his son Christian and daughters Lara and Lorraine. Like many family adventures, the journey was about more than reaching a destination—it was about creating memories, sharing experiences, and enjoying one another's company. Whether crossing continents or simply riding the Tube, the Reynolds family has always treasured the time spent together along the way.

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The mentorship proved invaluable.

Years later, Dave would still describe Peter Hager as the single most significant mentor of his life.

Outside work, meanwhile, Manila gradually transformed from assignment to home.

At first, the change happened almost invisibly.

The city's routines became familiar. Friendships deepened. The tropical climate no longer felt oppressive. Restaurants, clubs, and neighborhoods developed emotional associations. The Philippines ceased feeling temporary.

Still, Dave himself likely did not fully recognize this transformation yet.

Young expatriates often believe they remain emotionally detached long after attachment has already begun. They continue speaking of “going home” someday even as another place quietly becomes central to their identity.

By the late 1970s, however, subtle signs already pointed toward permanence.

Dave had become deeply immersed in both the maritime industry and Manila's expatriate social world. Professional opportunities expanded. Relationships strengthened. The city increasingly felt less like a foreign posting and more like the center of his life.

Most importantly, he had found purpose.

For a young man who initially arrived seeking adventure and professional growth, Manila offered something more meaningful: belonging within a community and industry where his abilities mattered.

The Philippines had welcomed him.

And slowly, almost without realizing it, he was beginning to stay.

The Mentor: Peter Hager

Every successful life is shaped by certain relationships that alter its direction completely.

For David Reynolds, that relationship was Peter Hager.

When Dave arrived in Manila in 1975 as a young English shipbroker with limited experience, he possessed discipline, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. What he lacked was deep practical knowledge of the shipping industry in Asia.

Peter Hager became the man who taught him.

More than a superior, Hager became mentor, guide, and eventually business partner. Experienced and highly

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respected within maritime circles, he recognized potential in the young Englishman early and entrusted him with increasing responsibility.

Under Hager's guidance, Dave learned the realities of shipbroking in the Philippines — not only the mechanics of chartering and negotiations, but the importance of relationships, trust, adaptability, and emotional resilience.

Shipping in Asia during the 1970s was intensely competitive and deeply relationship-driven. Deals shifted constantly, negotiations could collapse unexpectedly, and success often depended upon reputation as much as technical skill.

The business demanded toughness.

Dave adapted quickly. He remained calm under pressure, listened carefully, and learned fast. Hager recognized those qualities and steadily expanded his role within the company.

Beyond business, the two men also developed genuine friendship. For expatriates living abroad during that era, professional relationships often became deeply personal. Hager became one of the central figures in Dave's life during his formative years in Manila.

Eventually, Hager left Wallem Shipping and established Inter-Asia Marine Transport Inc., bringing Dave with him



The Reynolds family pauses for a photograph at San Francisco's iconic Embarcadero, capturing a happy moment during one of their many travels together. With Dave, Linda, and their daughters exploring a new city side by side, the image reflects a family tradition that has always valued shared experiences, discovery, and time together. Beyond the destinations themselves, it is these moments of togetherness that have created some of the family's most treasured memories.

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as a junior partner.

The decision proved life-changing.

Inter-Asia specialized in shipbroking and chartering services supporting Philippine industries dependent upon imported commodities such as grain and soybeans. Under Hager's continued mentorship, Dave moved beyond being merely a promising young broker and began developing into a business leader.

Then tragedy struck.

In 1980, Peter Hager died suddenly in a car accident while traveling in London.

The loss devastated Dave personally and professionally. Hager had been mentor, teacher, partner, and friend. At the same time, the future of Inter-Asia Marine Transport suddenly became uncertain.

There was little time, however, for prolonged hesitation.

Clients still needed service. Operations had to continue. Employees depended upon the company's survival.

Rather than retreat, Dave carried on.

Drawing upon the resilience instilled in him since childhood, he stepped into leadership and helped stabilize the business during a critical period. He later brought in Mike Hodgkinson — who had

earlier replaced him at Wallem Shipping — as partner, beginning a professional relationship that would endure for decades.

Looking back, Peter Hager's influence never truly disappeared from Dave Reynolds' life.

The steadiness with which he later conducted business, led organizations, and approached responsibility reflected lessons first learned under Hager's guidance.

Some mentors shape careers.
Others shape character.
Peter Hager had done both.

Tragedy and Taking the Helm

The death of Peter Hager in 1980 changed David Reynolds' life overnight.

Until then, Dave had still been learning under the guidance of the mentor who introduced him to the shipping industry in Asia and helped him build a future in Manila. Inter-Asia Marine Transport was still a young company, and Dave remained the junior partner steadily growing into greater responsibility.

Then, suddenly, Hager was gone.

The shock was immense. Beyond the personal grief came another reality just as daunting: responsibility.

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Inter-Asia could not simply stop because tragedy had struck. Clients still needed service, ships still required fixing, and employees still depended upon the business for their livelihood.

Much of that burden now rested upon Dave.

Though still relatively young, he understood immediately that the company's survival depended upon stability. Rather than reacting emotionally or dramatically, he focused on continuity — preserving relationships, maintaining operations, and reassuring clients during a period of uncertainty.

It was a defining moment in his life.

The resilience formed during childhood, sharpened through boarding-school independence, sports, and years in shipping, now became essential. Dave approached the crisis the same way he would later approach many challenges in life: calmly, steadily, and without theatrics.

He carried on.

One of the most important decisions during that period was bringing in Mike Hodgkinson as partner. Hodgkinson, who had earlier replaced Dave at Wallem Shipping, provided valuable experience and continuity as the company stabilized itself after Hager's death.



Standing beside the towering bulk carrier Wiz Sky at Poro Point, La Union, Dave Reynolds pauses to appreciate the scale and significance of global maritime trade. The visit reflects a lifelong curiosity about industry, transportation, and the people whose work keeps the world connected across oceans.

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The partnership would endure for decades.

The years that followed were demanding. Independent shipbroking remained a highly competitive business where success depended upon persistence, relationships, and emotional toughness. Deals sometimes collapse at the last moment, and shipbrokers earn nothing unless transactions were completed successfully.

Dave learned quickly that disappointment was part of the profession. One simply moved forward to the next opportunity.

Gradually, Inter-Asia Marine Transport not only survived, but strengthened. The company built its reputation primarily through chartering vessels for Philippine grain and soybean imports, eventually becoming a respected presence within the local maritime industry.

At the same time, Dave himself was changing.

The young Englishman who had arrived in Manila seeking adventure was becoming something far more rooted: a businessman, leader, and long-term resident whose future was now inseparable from the Philippines.

Looking back, Peter Hager's death forced

Dave Reynolds into leadership earlier and more suddenly than he had ever expected.

But it also revealed the qualities that would define much of his life thereafter: resilience, steadiness, loyalty, and the quiet ability to endure responsibility without losing direction.

Building Inter-Asia Marine Transport

In the years following Peter Hager's death, Inter-Asia Marine Transport gradually evolved from a young shipbroking firm into a respected presence within the Philippine maritime industry.

For David Reynolds, however, the company represented more than business success. It became proof that continuity was possible after loss.

When he assumed leadership in 1980, there were no guarantees that the company would survive. Independent shipbroking was highly competitive, and the shipping industry itself could be unforgiving. Yet Dave approached the challenge the same way he approached most things in life: steadily.

Rather than attempting dramatic expansion, he focused on relationships, reliability, and hard work.

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During the 1980s, shipping remained a demanding business built heavily upon personal communication and trust. Transactions moved through telex machines and long-distance phone calls, often requiring brokers in Manila to work late hours because of time differences with London and other international shipping centers.

The work could be exhausting.

Over time, Inter-Asia established itself primarily through servicing Philippine industries dependent upon imported grain and soybeans, particularly local flour millers. The business later expanded further when the privatization of the Philippine power industry during the early 2000s created increased demand for imported coal shipments for local power plants.

As technology transformed global shipping, the industry itself changed dramatically. Telex communication eventually gave way to fax machines, mobile phones, email, and the internet, allowing transactions to move faster and more efficiently than before.

Dave adapted easily to those changes while preserving the principles that mattered most: trust, professionalism, and long-term relationships.

Those qualities became central to Inter-Asia's reputation.



A joyful day at the polo grounds finds Dave Reynolds surrounded by two of the people closest to his heart—his daughter, Lara, and grandson, Enrique. Against the backdrop of Manila's skyline and the timeless elegance of the sport, the photograph captures what has become most important to him after decades of business, service, and leadership: family. It is a moment of happiness, continuity, and the enduring bonds that connect one generation to the next.

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Clients valued reliability. In shipping, where enormous financial stakes depended upon timing and coordination, trust remained indispensable. Dave's calm and disciplined approach suited the business naturally. He avoided unnecessary theatrics and focused instead on consistency and problem-solving.

At the same time, his partnership with Mike Hodgkinson provided important continuity and stability. Decades after joining forces following Peter Hager's death, the two men remained business partners — a reflection of the loyalty and trust that defined much of Dave's professional life.

Outside business, Manila itself had also become firmly established as home.

His marriage to Linda Marie Koo and the growth of their family deepened his roots in the Philippines even further. By then, the country was no longer simply where he worked. It had become the center of his personal and professional life.

Yet even as Inter-Asia continued growing, Dave increasingly understood that success carried responsibility beyond business alone.

That realization would soon lead him toward a deeper form of service — one that would eventually transform the lives of hundreds of young Filipinos through maritime education and opportunity.

Dave continues to remain actively involved in the business, although retirement is gradually appearing on the horizon. One of his greatest joys has been seeing his youngest daughter, Lorraine, join him in the company.

She has taken to the shipping industry remarkably quickly, mastering its complexities with impressive ease. In fact, she has already assumed responsibility for several of the company's major accounts — a testament not only to her capability, but also to the confidence and trust she has earned in such a short span of time.

The Manila Club and the Expatriate World

Long before modern Manila became a sprawling global metropolis of high-rise towers, multinational corporations, and endless traffic corridors, expatriate life in the city revolved around institutions.

Clubs, associations, and social organizations served as anchors for foreign communities living far from home. They provided familiarity in unfamiliar surroundings, continuity amid cultural transition, and places where friendships and professional networks intertwined naturally. For many expatriates arriving in the Philippines during the twentieth century, these institutions became essential parts of daily life.

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Among the oldest and most enduring of them was the Manila Club.

When David Reynolds first entered its world shortly after arriving in the Philippines, he was still a young English shipbroker adjusting to life in Southeast Asia. Introduced to the Club almost immediately upon his arrival, he officially became a member in 1976, only a year after moving to Manila.

At the time, the Manila Club remained deeply associated with British expatriate life in the Philippines.

It represented a surviving piece of an earlier era — a period when foreign communities in Manila were smaller, more tightly connected, and heavily dependent upon institutions that preserved cultural familiarity abroad. The Club functioned not merely as a social venue, but as a gathering place where friendships formed, business relationships deepened, and generations of expatriates maintained ties to Britain while building lives in the Philippines.

For newcomers like Dave, it offered something invaluable: community.

The Manila he encountered during the 1970s was vastly different from the city that exists today. International business circles remained relatively intimate. Foreign executives, diplomats, shipping men, and long-term residents frequently



A proud milestone for the Reynolds family as granddaughter Olivia stands atop the podium after capturing First Place in the EAP National Show Jumping Championships at the Manila Polo Club. Displaying poise, discipline, and exceptional horsemanship, Olivia's achievement reflects the countless hours of training, perseverance, and dedication required to excel in one of the most demanding equestrian sports. Surrounded by fellow competitors, supporters, and her trusted horse, she celebrates a well-earned victory that made her family, especially her proud grandfather Dave, beam with joy.

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crossed paths through clubs, restaurants, and professional associations. Relationships formed organically because the expatriate world itself was comparatively small.

Within that environment, the Manila Club occupied an important social and cultural role.

Yet even during those early years, the institution was already carrying the weight of a complicated history. Decades earlier, the Club had owned property on San Marcelino Street, serving as a prominent fixture within expatriate Manila. But changing political and economic realities eventually altered its fortunes. Following the implementation of the Laurel-Langley Agreement and broader postwar economic shifts, the Club was forced to sell its property.

What followed was a long struggle for sustainability.

As Manila modernized and real-estate values escalated dramatically, maintaining an independent expatriate club became increasingly difficult. The social landscape also evolved. New restaurants, bars, and commercial establishments emerged across the city, gradually reducing the centrality institutions like the Manila Club once held within expatriate life.

The world that had originally sustained the Club was changing.

Many organizations of similar character disappeared entirely during those years.

Yet the Manila Club endured, partly because of the loyalty of long-term members who understood its historical and social significance. Dave Reynolds became one of those individuals.

Over the decades, his relationship with the Club evolved alongside his own life in the Philippines. What began as membership gradually deepened into stewardship.

By then, Dave himself had also changed.

He was no longer simply a young expatriate building a career abroad. Through business, marriage, family, and decades of life in Manila, he had become part of the city's expatriate history himself. The Club represented continuity not only institutionally, but personally. It connected different chapters of his life — the adventurous newcomer of the 1970s, the businessman navigating the pressures of shipping, the husband and father building a family in Manila, and later the respected senior figure within both expatriate and Philippine civic circles.

That continuity became especially important as the expatriate world itself transformed.

In earlier decades, many foreigners arrived in the Philippines expecting to

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spend entire careers there. Long-term residency fostered deep relationships and institutional loyalty. But globalization gradually changed expatriate culture. Assignments became shorter. International mobility accelerated. Corporate structures evolved. The slower, more community-oriented expatriate life of the 1970s and 1980s began fading.

Dave belonged to an older generation of foreign residents who truly rooted themselves in the country.

The Manila Club reflected that same older tradition.

By 2011, however, the institution faced mounting practical pressures. Maintaining independent premises had become financially unsustainable. Real-estate costs in Manila had risen dramatically, and traditional expatriate clubs across Asia increasingly struggled to survive under changing economic conditions.

That year, Dave Reynolds became President of the Manila Club. The timing proved critical.

Leadership under such circumstances required realism rather than nostalgia. Sentiment alone could not preserve the institution. Difficult but practical decisions had become unavoidable.



Dave and his wife Linda share a joyful moment with their grandson Enrique during a visit to Summit School. Surrounded by family and the promise of a new generation, the photograph captures the simple happiness of grandparents taking pride in a young life beginning its own journey of learning, growth, and discovery.

Dave approached the situation characteristically — calmly, pragmatically, and without unnecessary drama.

Under his leadership, the Manila Club reached an agreement with the Elks Club to share premises, creating a practical arrangement that benefited both organizations while ensuring the Manila Club's continued survival.

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For Dave, the decision reflected common sense rather than compromise.

Institutions survive not by clinging rigidly to the past, but by adapting intelligently to changing realities. The alternative — financial collapse or eventual disappearance — would have served no one.

The arrangement succeeded precisely because it balanced tradition with practicality.

Years later, the Manila Club would still remain there.

Dave understood something important about organizations that many leaders overlook: preservation sometimes requires reinvention. The true value of institutions lies not merely in buildings or prestige, but in the communities, friendships, and continuity they sustain.

In many ways, the Manila Club also mirrored Dave's own relationship with the Philippines.

Neither remained exactly as they once were.

Both adapted over time while preserving essential identity.

Throughout his decades within the Club, Dave witnessed generations of expatriates come and go. Some stayed only briefly before returning home or moving elsewhere internationally.

Others, like him, built permanent lives in the Philippines and became deeply woven into the country's social and professional fabric.

The Club became a place where those overlapping histories converged.

Business discussions unfolded beside personal milestones. Friendships formed across decades. Stories accumulated. Younger expatriates met older residents whose lives carried memories of a very different Manila.

Dave himself gradually became one of those senior figures.

Yet unlike some expatriates who remain emotionally suspended between countries, perpetually nostalgic for the place they left behind, Dave increasingly embraced the Philippines as home. The Manila Club allowed him to preserve cultural connection to Britain while simultaneously deepening his roots within Manila itself.

That dual identity became one of the defining features of his life.

British by birth and temperament, yet profoundly shaped by nearly half a century in the Philippines.

The Club also reflected another important aspect of Dave's character: loyalty.

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He valued continuity. He respected institutions. He understood the importance of maintaining spaces where fellowship and community could endure across generations.

Those same instincts later appeared throughout his Rotary service and charitable work. Again and again, Dave gravitated toward organizations built not upon spectacle, but upon shared responsibility and long-term commitment.

By this stage in his life, Manila was no longer simply where he worked.

It was where his children were growing up.

Where friendships had matured across decades.

Where his professional reputation had been built.

Where his future clearly resided.

The city that once felt foreign had become inseparable from his identity.

And somewhere within that long transformation, David Reynolds ceased being merely a British expatriate living in the Philippines.

He became, in every meaningful sense, a Manileño by choice.



Gathered around the table for a family celebration, Dave Reynolds and Linda are surrounded by their children and grandchildren—a joyful reflection of the family they have built over decades in the Philippines. More than any professional accomplishment or public recognition, moments like these represent what matters most: the love, laughter, and enduring bonds that connect generations and turn a house into a home.

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Love, Marriage, and a Filipino Home

For all the professional milestones that shaped David Reynolds' life in the Philippines, it was family that ultimately transformed Manila from residence into home.

Careers can anchor a person temporarily to a country. Business success can encourage long-term stay. But it is family that changes geography emotionally. It is family that turns foreign streets into familiar ground, that transforms routine into belonging, and that slowly replaces the idea of "going back someday" with the realization that one has already arrived where life was meant to unfold.

For Dave Reynolds, that transformation began with Linda Marie Koo.

Their meeting carried the relaxed spontaneity characteristic of Manila during the late 1970s and early 1980s, when expatriate and business circles often overlapped naturally through restaurants, clubs, and shared social networks. Linda was managing the La Tasca restaurant in Makati at the time, while Dave was a regular visitor to the San Miguel pub located beneath it.

What began as casual familiarity gradually deepened into something more

meaningful.

There was also an unexpected thread connecting their lives even before their relationship formally began. Linda was the daughter of the late Wellington Koo, who had been a close friend of Peter Hager — the mentor whose influence had shaped Dave's entire professional life in the Philippines.

In many ways, Manila itself seemed to draw together the important relationships that defined his journey. By then, Dave had already spent several years in the Philippines. He had endured the shock of Peter Hager's sudden death, taken on the burden of helping lead Inter-Asia Marine Transport, and immersed himself deeply within both the maritime industry and Manila's expatriate community. Yet despite growing professional stability, life still lacked permanence in a deeper emotional sense.

Linda changed that.

Their relationship developed during a period when Dave's roots in the Philippines were quietly strengthening. What had originally been intended as a short overseas assignment was already becoming something far more enduring. Yet marriage represented another threshold entirely.

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A photograph of a family of four on a golf course at sunset. Dave Reynolds, a man with a beard wearing a light blue polo shirt and khaki shorts, holds a golf flag on a pole. Next to him is Linda, a woman in a white polo shirt and khaki shorts, wearing a dark cap. In front of them are their daughter Lara and granddaughter Olivia, both in blue shirts and dark shorts. They are standing on a green golf course with trees in the background under a sunset sky.

Against the backdrop of a magnificent Calatagan sunset, Dave Reynolds enjoys a round of golf with daughter Lara, son-in-law Jake Zobel, and granddaughter Olivia. More than a day on the fairways, the outing reflects the simple pleasures of family, shared interests, and time spent together across generations. As the sun dips below the horizon, the photograph captures what has become one of life's greatest rewards for Dave—a growing family, cherished moments, and memories created one round at a time.

It meant commitment not merely to a country, but to a life within it.

In 1983, Dave and Linda married in the United Kingdom.

The ceremony symbolized more than the union of two individuals. It also reflected the blending of cultures that would come to define their family life. Dave brought with him the values and traditions of

postwar Britain — discipline, restraint, practicality, and perseverance. Linda brought the warmth, closeness, and family-centered culture deeply characteristic of Filipino life.

Rather than competing with one another, those traditions blended naturally.

Together they built a home rooted in both worlds.

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Over the years, their family grew to include two daughters, Lara and Lorraine, both of whom remained based in Manila, and a son, Christian, who later settled in San Francisco. Eventually grandchildren arrived as well — nine “apos” in all — bringing new energy and meaning into family life.

For Dave, fatherhood deepened his connection to the Philippines profoundly.

Children change the emotional architecture of life. Once family becomes rooted in a place, the relationship to that place changes permanently. Manila was no longer simply where he worked or maintained friendships. It became the city where his children grew up, where family memories accumulated, and where future generations would continue building their lives.

By then, the Philippines had ceased being temporary in every meaningful sense.

Family life also revealed to Dave one of the cultural qualities he most admired about Filipinos: the strength of family bonds.

Coming from Britain, where social life often emphasized greater individual independence, he found something deeply meaningful in the closeness of Filipino families. Generations remained

connected. Gatherings mattered. Relationships between grandparents, children, cousins, and extended relatives formed an essential part of daily life.

Over time, those values became central to his own family culture.

Weekends at the family’s holiday home in Maya Maya, Nasugbu became cherished traditions. Removed from the pressures and traffic of Manila, Maya Maya offered space for rest, togetherness, and continuity. If the family was not in Nasugbu during weekends, Sundays were often reserved for lunch or dinner together in Manila.

Those rituals mattered enormously to Dave.

Amid the relentless pressures of shipping and business, family gatherings provided grounding. They reinforced what success was ultimately meant to serve.

School holidays created another family tradition: trips to Baguio.

There, amid the cooler mountain air, different generations shared simple pleasures together. Dave and other family members played golf while the grandchildren enjoyed horseback riding and outdoor activities. Such moments may appear ordinary from the outside,

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yet over time they become the emotional foundation upon which families are built.

For Dave, these traditions represented stability.

They also reflected the life he had gradually created in the Philippines — a life far richer and more rooted than anything he could have imagined when he first arrived in Manila as a twenty-one-year-old expatriate expecting to stay only briefly.

At home, Dave remained deeply conscious of the values he wanted to pass on to his children and grandchildren.

The lessons were remarkably similar to those his own parents had taught him decades earlier in postwar England.

Do not be wasteful.
Be thankful for what you have.
Work hard.
Show sportsmanship.
Avoid becoming arrogant in victory or bitter in defeat.

Even as his family became increasingly shaped by both British and Filipino influences, those principles remained constant.

Sports continued playing an important role within family life as well. Because many of his children and grandchildren became heavily involved in athletics,

Dave emphasized not merely competition but character. Winning mattered less than conduct. He disliked poor sportsmanship intensely and believed children should learn how to lose gracefully as much as how to succeed.



Lorraine (left) and Lara (right) share a cheerful moment during the Rotary Olympics in 1995, proudly wearing their Rotary Club of Manila shirts. With arms around each other amid a day of friendly competition and fellowship, the sisters embody the family spirit that has long been at the heart of Rotary life—a treasured snapshot of childhood, camaraderie, and happy memories growing up in the Rotary community.

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Such attitudes reflected his own upbringing through rugby, athletics, and boarding-school discipline.

At the same time, Dave's family life increasingly intertwined with broader British-Filipino cultural exchange within Manila society. As Trustee of the Philippine British Association, he became involved in fostering relationships and understanding between British expatriates and Filipino communities.

The organization itself reflected the kind of life Dave had built — one existing comfortably between cultures rather than fully confined within either. His daughters also became involved in the Association, continuing the family's connection to both British and Filipino traditions.

Over the decades, Dave gradually realized something important: identity is not always singular.

He remained unmistakably British in temperament, humor, and many of his values. Yet emotionally, socially, and personally, his life had become inseparable from the Philippines. The country shaped not merely his career, but his marriage, his friendships, his children, and eventually his grandchildren.

Home itself had changed meaning.

In earlier years, Britain had remained emotionally central even while he lived abroad. But as time passed, that connection slowly shifted. Family deaths in England, including eventually the passing of his older brother, deepened the realization that his life's true center now existed elsewhere.

The Philippines had become home not because he consciously decided it would, but because life itself rooted him there.

The transformation happened gradually through love, family, and shared experience.

There is something quietly remarkable about people who cross continents expecting temporary adventure and instead build entire generations of family in another country. Such lives challenge simple definitions of nationality and belonging.

Dave Reynolds never stopped being British.

But through marriage, fatherhood, friendship, and decades of shared life, he also became something else: a man profoundly shaped by the Philippines and deeply woven into its social fabric.

The young expatriate who once arrived alone in Manila searching for opportunity had now built a family whose story belonged inseparably to the country itself.

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And in that family, perhaps more than anywhere else, Dave Reynolds finally found the permanence he never originally intended to seek.

Rotary and the Discipline of Service

For David Reynolds, Rotary was never simply an organization.

It was fellowship, continuity, and service woven into daily life.

His Rotary journey began in 1987 through the Rotary Club of Panday Pira after being introduced by Sonny Deloso of Shell Philippines, one of his clients. By then, Dave had already spent more than a decade building both career and life in the Philippines, and Rotary's emphasis on friendship and service appealed naturally to his temperament.

In 1990, he transferred to the Rotary Club of Manila after being introduced by Brendan Egan, a fellow expatriate and long-time friend.

The Rotary Club of Manila carried special significance as the first Rotary club in Asia, founded in 1919. Over the decades, it had become one of the country's most respected civic institutions, bringing together leaders committed to both fellowship and public service.



A proud moment in Rotary Club of Manila history as young Lara Reynolds triumphantly raises the championship trophy after RCM emerged victorious at the Rotary District 3810 Family Mini-Olympics held in Pasig on February 12, 1995. Joining the celebration are her sister Lorraine, Rotarians Romy Del Rosario and Otto Hammer, together with Otto's children, Oliver and Helly. More than a sporting victory, the occasion reflected Rotary's spirit of fellowship, family, and teamwork—proving that, indeed, "Together We Win."

Dave would remain part of the Club for more than three decades.

Unlike members drawn toward visibility or high-profile leadership, he gravitated toward responsibility. Over the years, he served multiple terms as Sergeant-at-Arms and Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms,

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eventually becoming closely associated with the role itself.

The position suited him perfectly.

Maintaining order, decorum, and discipline during meetings required attentiveness, fairness, and consistency rather than showmanship. Dave believed strongly that speakers deserved full respect and that Rotary meetings should reflect professionalism and courtesy.

Private conversations during speeches and unnecessary disruptions irritated him deeply.

Yet despite his emphasis on discipline, Dave remained approachable and deeply committed to fellowship. Over time, many fellow Rotarians became among his closest friends in Manila.

“I have made many close friends through Rotary over the years,” he later reflected. “I treasure the friendships of other members who have the same goal of helping others who are less fortunate than ourselves.”

The statement captured what Rotary ultimately meant to him.

His commitment to service also extended beyond Club operations into vocational and charitable initiatives connected to the maritime industry. Through collaborations involving the Rotary Club

of Manila, the Norwegian Embassy, and the Propeller Club scholarship programs, Dave helped support maritime scholars whose training eventually led to stable employment aboard international vessels.

In 2015–2016, he was recognized as Outstanding Rotarian in Vocational Service.

Characteristically, he downplayed the honor with humor, joking that it may simply have reflected his long years as Sergeant-at-Arms because “nobody else was willing to take over the position.”

But the recognition reflected something deeper.

Dave believed vocational service meant using one’s skills, experience, and professional network to create opportunity for others. The maritime scholarship programs embodied that philosophy perfectly.

Rotary also brought moments of camaraderie and joy beyond formal service. Among Dave’s fondest memories were the old District Rotary Olympics, where fellowship and friendly competition brought Rotary families together. He especially enjoyed recalling the Rotary Club of Manila’s success in tug-of-war competitions led by members such as Frank Ramos and Babes Reyes.

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Over the years, Dave received additional recognition, including becoming a Paul Harris Fellow +4 and recipient of the Leon Lambert Fellowship in 2019.

Yet titles and awards never became central to his Rotary identity.

What distinguished David Reynolds within Rotary was consistency. He showed up. He fulfilled responsibilities. He preserved traditions and institutional dignity.

Quietly and reliably, year after year.

And through Rotary, just as through family and business, he found another enduring form of purpose in the Philippines.

The Propeller Club and the Scholars of the Sea

Of all the roles David Reynolds would hold in the Philippines, few brought him greater fulfillment than his work through the Propeller Club of Manila.

Because it was there that he witnessed lives change directly.

Originally established in 1971 by American expatriates connected to U.S. liner companies, the Propeller Club began primarily as a maritime and shipping association. Over time,

however, it evolved into a broader humanitarian organization dedicated to helping underprivileged Filipinos gain access to employment within the maritime industry.

Dave joined the Club during the early 1980s after being introduced by long-time Manila resident Jim Allen.

At first, the connection reflected the natural overlap between Manila's expatriate and shipping communities. Yet as the years passed, the organization became far more than a professional association to him.



Dave Reynolds shares a warm moment of fellowship with fellow Rotarian Jun Hallare during a gathering in Baguio City. Their friendship reflects the enduring bonds forged through Rotary—connections built on shared values, service, and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

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It became a mission.

The turning point came during the early 2000s. By then, the Philippines had become one of the world's leading sources of seafarers. Filipino crew members were highly respected internationally for their work ethic, professionalism, and adaptability. Yet many capable young Filipinos from poor families still lacked access to technical education and training.

The contradiction troubled the Club's leadership deeply.

The maritime industry needed workers, while thousands of talented young Filipinos remained trapped by poverty and lack of opportunity.

The scholarship program began modestly with sponsorship of a single student at Don Bosco Technical Institute. The goal was practical: provide technical training that could lead directly to shipboard employment and long-term financial stability.

A major breakthrough came when an Australian member secured funding support from the Australian Government, allowing the program to expand steadily. Over time, additional sponsors and shipping companies joined the effort.

The results proved transformative.

Hundreds of scholars eventually graduated from the program, many coming from what Dave described as "the poorest of the poor" families in the Philippines. Graduates secured employment aboard international vessels, allowing them to support parents, educate siblings, and lift entire families out of poverty.

The earliest focus centered on fitter and ship mechanic training, fields where demand remained strong within the maritime industry. Later, in response to requests for greater gender inclusion, the Club also introduced culinary and kitchen management training, opening opportunities for female scholars aboard ships.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the culinary program was eventually discontinued, and the Club returned its primary focus to fitter and ship mechanic training.

For Dave, the scholarships represented more than charity. They created dignity through opportunity.

He believed deeply that vocational education and stable employment could permanently transform lives. The program succeeded precisely because it connected training directly to real industry demand.

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One moment became especially meaningful to him.

A former scholar from Batch Number Five named Jhomar, who later worked successfully for Norwegian shipping company Grieg Shipping, eventually became the first scholarship graduate to join the Propeller Club itself.

The significance was profound. The student had become colleague. The beneficiary had become contributor.

By then, the scholarship initiative had transformed hundreds of lives and earned widespread respect within both the maritime and philanthropic communities. Under Dave's leadership, the Propeller Club became one of the Philippine shipping sector's most meaningful charitable initiatives.

Yet characteristically, he never viewed the accomplishments as personal achievements.

Instead, he saw them as proof of what could happen when industries, organizations, and individuals worked together to create opportunity for others.

For a man whose own life in the Philippines had been shaped by mentorship, trust, and opportunity, helping young Filipinos build better futures became one of the most meaningful chapters of all.



Dave Reynolds joins fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Manila during the Oktoberfest celebration at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia, in 2025. Beyond the camaraderie and festive atmosphere, the gathering reflected one of Rotary's enduring strengths—the friendships forged through shared service, fellowship, and a common commitment to making a difference. For Dave, Rotary has never been just about projects; it has also been about the people, relationships, and lifelong friendships built along the way.

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Buckingham Palace

By the time David Reynolds received word that he was to be appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire, he had already spent most of his adult life in the Philippines.

Nearly five decades had passed since the young English shipbroker first arrived in Manila expecting only a temporary assignment. Over the years, the Philippines had given him a career, a family, friendships, and a life deeply rooted in service and community.

The recognition came as a genuine surprise.

Dave had never been driven by titles or public recognition. His charitable work through the Propeller Club of Manila and his efforts in strengthening British-Philippine relations had always been approached quietly and without expectation of reward.

Yet it was precisely those contributions that led to the honor.

The MBE — Member of the Order of the British Empire — recognized not only his charitable work, but also the unusual life he had built between two cultures. British by birth, yet deeply woven into Philippine civic and maritime life, Dave had spent decades serving as a quiet bridge between communities.



Surrounded by his family at Buckingham Palace, David John “Dave” Reynolds proudly displays the insignia of his appointment as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). The occasion marked a significant recognition of his decades of service, philanthropy, and efforts in strengthening British-Philippine relations. More than a personal honor, the moment was a celebration shared with those who had accompanied him throughout his remarkable journey—a proud family milestone reflecting a lifetime of integrity, leadership, and service.

The investiture ceremony took place at Buckingham Palace.

For Dave, the experience carried profound meaning. Standing inside one of Britain’s most enduring institutions, he could not help but reflect upon the long path that had brought him there —

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from postwar England to Manila shipping offices, Rotary meetings, scholarship graduations, and nearly half a century of life in the Philippines.

The honor was formally presented by Prince William.

Characteristically, Dave later described the award simply as “a most pleasant surprise.” Beneath the understatement, however, lay genuine gratitude.

The recognition meant a great deal not only personally, but also for his family and the communities he had served for decades. It acknowledged that a life spent quietly building relationships, institutions, and opportunities for others carried meaning beyond business success alone.

Yet even after Buckingham Palace, Dave remained fundamentally unchanged.

He returned to Manila, to Inter-Asia Marine Transport, to Rotary meetings, to scholarship programs, and to the ordinary routines of family and community life that had long defined him.

The title never became the center of his identity.

Instead, it simply affirmed what many around him already understood: that



Smiles, family, and a moment to remember. Following the investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, Dave Reynolds and his family pause for a celebratory photograph, sharing the joy of a remarkable milestone. The occasion marked not only national recognition through the award of the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE), but also a tribute to the family whose love, support, and shared journey accompanied him every step of the way.

David Reynolds had lived a life marked by steadiness, service, and integrity.

The young man who once left England seeking adventure had become something far more enduring — a man whose life belonged meaningfully to both Britain and the Philippines.

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Family, Grandchildren, and the Meaning of Home

As the years passed, success began to mean something different to David Reynolds.

Business remained important, as did Rotary, the Propeller Club, and the institutions to which he had devoted decades of service. Yet increasingly, the deepest fulfillment in his life came not from shipping or titles, but from family.

Especially from being a grandfather.

The young English expatriate who had once arrived alone in Manila now found himself at the center of a large Filipino-British family rooted firmly in the Philippines. His daughters, Lara and Lorraine, remained based in Manila, while his son Christian later settled in San Francisco. Over time, grandchildren filled the family with new energy and continuity.

Nine “apos” in all.

For Dave, family life revolved around togetherness — one of the qualities he most admired about Filipino culture. Unlike many Western societies where extended families often drift apart, Filipino families remained closely connected across generations.

That closeness became central to his own family life.



Cradled in the arms of his proud grandfather, young Aiden Maxwell joins a Rotary walk in support of the global fight to eradicate polio. Too young to understand the significance of the occasion, he nevertheless represents the very future Rotary seeks to protect and nurture—a new generation growing up in a world made healthier, safer, and more hopeful through service above self. For Dave Reynolds, moments like this are a reminder that Rotary’s greatest legacy is not found in projects alone, but in the lives and generations that follow.

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Weekends in the family's holiday home in Maya Maya, Nasugbu became cherished traditions. Away from the pressures of Manila, the family gathered for shared meals, conversations, and quiet time together. If they were not in Nasugbu, Sundays were often reserved for lunch or dinner in Manila.

School holidays brought trips to Baguio, where cooler weather and simpler routines allowed the family to slow down together. Dave and other adults played golf while the grandchildren enjoyed horseback riding and outdoor activities.

These moments mattered deeply to him.

After decades spent navigating the pressures of business and responsibility, family became grounding. Within those gatherings, he was not primarily the shipbroker, club president, or civic leader. He was husband, father, and grandfather.

At the same time, Dave remained conscious of the values he hoped to pass on to younger generations — many of them inherited from his own parents in postwar England.

Be thankful for what you have.
Do not waste things.
Work hard.
Show sportsmanship.
Remain grounded regardless of success.



Dave Reynolds shares a memorable moment with fellow Manila Rotarian and dear friend Rob Sears during an American Association "Woodstock Party." Dressed for the occasion and embracing the spirit of fun and fellowship, the evening reflected Rob's warmth, humor, and zest for life. Though now dearly missed, his friendship remains a cherished part of many happy memories.

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Those principles endured across decades and cultures.

As time passed, Dave also realized how completely his life had become intertwined with the Philippines. Britain remained the country of his birth and childhood, but emotionally, home had shifted elsewhere.

The realization deepened further after the passing of his older brother. Though the two men had followed different paths, mutual respect had always remained between them. His death brought with it a quiet understanding that the strongest roots of Dave's life now existed in the Philippines — through family, friendships, work, and memory.

He remained unmistakably British in temperament and values, yet deeply Filipino in the importance he placed upon family, relationships, and community.

Over the decades, the Philippines had given him far more than a career.

It had given him a home.

Epilogue: Integrity

When David Reynolds reflects upon how he wishes to be remembered, his answer is striking in its simplicity. "I would like to be remembered as someone who conducted himself with integrity in all his dealings."

After nearly five decades in the Philippines — as shipbroker, businessman, Rotarian, expatriate leader, philanthropist, husband, father, and grandfather — he returns finally to a single principle: Integrity.

In many ways, that word explains the course of his life.

It explains why clients trusted him throughout decades in the maritime industry, where reputations are built slowly and lost quickly. It explains why organizations repeatedly entrusted him with responsibility, whether in the Rotary Club of Manila, the Manila Club, the Philippine British Association, or the Propeller Club. It explains why partnerships endured and why scholarship programs expanded steadily under his leadership.

People trusted Dave Reynolds because they knew where they stood with him.

That trust was never built through self-promotion or grand gestures. It emerged through consistency — through fulfilled commitments, steady conduct, and the quiet habit of carrying responsibilities properly.

The foundations for those values were laid early. Postwar Britain shaped him through parents who understood sacrifice, discipline, and resilience.

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On the way to his daughter Lorraine's wedding in Barcelona, Dave shares a quiet and joyful moment with her. Dressed for one of the most important days of her life, father and daughter ride together toward a new chapter—carrying with them a lifetime of memories, love, and the unbreakable bond that makes letting go both difficult and deeply rewarding.

Boarding school taught independence. Sports instilled perseverance and composure under pressure. The shipping industry sharpened toughness and practicality. The Philippines, meanwhile, deepened his appreciation for family, community, and service.

Together, those experiences formed a man who rarely sought attention for

himself, yet repeatedly stepped forward when responsibility demanded it.

When Peter Hager died suddenly, Dave helped carry Inter-Asia Marine Transport forward.

When the Manila Club faced uncertainty, he helped preserve it through practical leadership.

When underprivileged Filipino youths lacked opportunity, he helped expand scholarship programs that transformed hundreds of lives through maritime education and employment.

When Rotary needed someone willing to uphold discipline and continuity year after year, he quietly accepted the responsibility.

Again and again, his instinct was the same: do the work properly and keep moving forward.

Over time, the Philippines ceased being simply the country where he worked.

Through marriage, family, friendship, and decades of shared life, it became home.

The young Englishman who arrived in Manila in 1975 expecting only a temporary assignment could never have imagined the life that awaited him — the business he would help build, the organizations he would serve, the family he would raise, or the generations of

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Gathered around the glow of the Christmas tree, Dave and Linda celebrate the season with their daughter Lorraine, son-in-law Patrick Maxwell, and grandchildren Ethan and Kiara. Filled with warmth, laughter, and the joy of togetherness, the photograph captures what matters most at Christmas—family, love, and the blessings shared across generations.

Filipino scholars whose futures would be changed through programs he helped guide.

Yet perhaps the deeper significance of his story lies not in any single accomplishment, but in the way he lived.

Steadily.

Reliably.

Without unnecessary theatrics.

Even receiving the MBE from Buckingham Palace did not fundamentally change him. Though deeply honored by the recognition, he returned afterward to the same routines of business, service, family, and community life that had long defined him.

That constancy became part of his character.

Today, David John “Dave” Reynolds stands as one of those rare individuals whose life bridges nations and generations. British by birth but deeply shaped by the Philippines, he built not only a successful career, but a meaningful life rooted in service, relationships, and responsibility.

And when the many titles and honors attached to his name eventually fade into history, perhaps the simplest description will remain the most enduring:

He conducted himself with integrity in all his dealings. ■

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Grant Management Seminar



The Rotary Club of Manila delegation at The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Grant Management Seminar on May 30, 2026 at the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce Building in Binondo, Manila



Incoming Director for Social Media and Analytical Strategies Aries Balanay, Incoming Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/IS Albert S. Alday and PE Reggie Yu attended the TRF Grant Management Seminar.



Incoming Director for Social Media and Analytical Strategies Aries Balanay, PE Reggie Yu, DGND Hermie Esguerra and Incoming Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/IS Albert S. Alday at the TRF Grant Management Seminar

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Grant Management Seminar



PE Reggie Yu and DGE Bing Carrion during the TRF Grant Management Seminar



Incoming Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/IS Albert S. Alday, PE Reggie Yu and Incoming Director for Social Media and Analytical Strategies Aries Balanay, receiving the certificate of the club for attending the TRF Grant Management Seminar from DGE Bing Carrion.



DGE Bing Carrion delivering her message during the TRF Grant Management Seminar

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Grant Management Seminar



The Rotary Club of Manila delegation with the delegation of its sponsored Rotaract clubs at the TRF Grant Management Seminar



The broader perspective of the Rotary Club of Manila delegation in action during the seminar



A close up perspective of the Rotary Club of Manila delegation in action during the seminar

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Grant Management Seminar



PE Reggie Yu with his fellow Impact Creating Presidents
at the TRF Management Seminar



PE Reggie Yu holds the Four Way Test tile on behalf of the Rotary Club of Manila, a token given by the Rotary Club of Downtown Manila, the host club of the TRF Grant Management Seminar, for clubs who remitted their payments for the event early. The club was among the early birds.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

Venue Prep for Upcoming Seminars



Incoming Deputy District Public Image Coordinator/IS Albert S. Alday together with ISDG for Public Image RPIC Majella Tumangan-Villaroman met with an official of the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City last June 2, 2026 to make reservations and ocular of the venue for the Rotary Leadership Institute on August 8, 2026 and the Rotary District 3810 Vibrant Seminar on August 22, 2026.

FELLOWSHIP

ALECO Breakfast



ALECO breakfast on June 1, 2026, hosted by DBP Director PD Jun Hallare

Thanks also to Dave Reynolds for hosting the curry dinner last week, as well as to PD Rod and DE Nico Valencia for hosting the RCM Presidents Cup Golf fellowship and brunch at Splendido.

FELLOWSHIP

Philippine British Association Dinner



Several Manila Rotarians attended the Philippine British Association dinner on May 27, 2026 at the Elks Club.

Philippine Airlines President Richard Nuttall (right) was the guest speaker. He talked about his career, PAL, and the Philippine aviation industry.



PUBLIC IMAGE

TOWER Awards 2026

Daily Tribune
WITHOUT FEAR @ WITHOUT FAVOR

TOWER Awards honor outstanding Filipino workers



Yummie Dingding

Published on: 28 May 2026, 17:33

The 2026 TOWER (The Outstanding Workers of the Republic) Awards honored outstanding Filipino workers for their dedication, excellence, and invaluable contributions to national development on 28 May.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Manila in partnership with PHILEA and supported by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, the event celebrated the strength and dignity of the Filipino workforce.

This year's TOWER awardees were Norvin A. Adang of Franklin Baker Company of the Philippines; Jansen M. Angeles of Zenith Foods Corporation; Roberto R. Bismonte of Global 3D Systems Inc.; Jerry A. Dalioan of Yazaki-Torres Manufacturing Inc.; Rowena L. Gumban of Dole Philippines Inc.; Renato Lopez Jr. of Dole Philippines Inc.; and Jose Luis M. Millena of Denso Philippines Corporation.

In his message, PEZA Director General Tereso Panga paid tribute to Filipino workers during the Rotary Club of Manila's TOWER Awards, saying they remain the driving force behind the country's industries, investments, and economic growth.

Speaking before business leaders and awardees, Panga emphasized that behind every successful company and productive industry are Filipino workers whose skill, discipline, resilience, and dedication make progress possible.

He highlighted the role of workers across manufacturing, electronics, semiconductors, shipbuilding, IT-BPM, logistics, and other strategic sectors, noting that PEZA now supports more than 1.8 million direct jobs through 436 economic zones nationwide.

According to Panga, the Filipino workforce continues to be the country's greatest competitive advantage because workers are young, English-proficient, technology-savvy, adaptable, and globally competitive.

Panga also underscored the importance of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s ongoing state visit to Japan, saying it reflects the administration's push to attract more investments and quality jobs for Filipinos.

He revealed that companies joining the President during the visit are PEZA investors committing around P60 billion in investments to the Philippines.

Panga added that he will also travel to Japan to help attract more Japanese investors, describing Japan as "Ichiban" among PEZA's economic partners.

He said global investors continue to place confidence in the Philippines not only because of PEZA's investor-friendly policies, but more importantly because of the excellence and reliability of Filipino workers who continue to power industries both locally and abroad.

Among the awardees, Panga gave special recognition to engineer Roberto "Bob" Bismonte of Global 3D Systems for his innovation in advanced 3D printing technology.

Panga recalled how Bismonte's company was featured during the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, where it gained recognition for developing a unique liquid-based 3D printing process.

According to Panga, Bismonte shared that his inspiration came from watching the movie *The Terminator*, which eventually led to innovations that could be used for repairs in outer space.

He praised Bismonte as an example of Filipino ingenuity and talent trained abroad but returning home to contribute to the country's innovation ecosystem.

Panga said awardees like Bismonte represent the very best of the Filipino worker whose dedication, creativity, and perseverance continue to strengthen the Philippines' global competitiveness.

PUBLIC IMAGE

TOWER Awards 2026

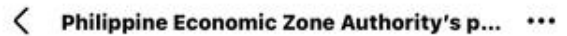


'PEZA CHIEF HAILS FILIPINO WORKERS AT 2026 TOWER AWARDS'

LOOK: Outstanding Filipino workers from various industries were honored at the 2026 TOWER Awards on 28 May, recognizing their dedication, excellence, and contributions to national development.

PEZA Director General Tereso Panga said Filipino workers remain the country's "greatest competitive advantage," citing their skill, resilience, and global competitiveness as key drivers of investments and economic growth. | Yummie Dingding

#DailyTribune



Philippine Economic Zone Authority is with Rotary Club of Manila and Philippine Ecozones Association .

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🔍 LOOK! | Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Director General Tereso O. Panga paid tribute to the Filipino workforce's invaluable contributions to economic progress during the 2026 TOWE... See more

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IN THE NEWS

RCM Past President/Former Supreme Court Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's Column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

The fugitive



WITH DUE RESPECT
ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

The continuing "telenovela" of Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa reminds me of the 1993 blockbuster movie "The Fugitive," starring Harrison Ford as Dr. Richard Kimble, a respected physician wrongly convicted of murdering his wife and condemned to death. He escaped from a police van that was bringing him to prison. Dr. Kimble became a "fugitive from justice" because he tried to evade serving his death sentence.

MUCH LIKE THIS THRILLER, the public became transfixed by the mystery surrounding the senator's whereabouts, his attempts to evade arrest, and the government's growing determination to catch him. However, unlike the fictional Dr. Kimble, the legal issue surrounding the flesh-and-bone Dela Rosa is far more legally complicated.

Following the Supreme Court's 9-5-1 denial of his plea for interim relief, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General publicly dubbed him a "fugitive from justice." Yet, contrary to popular impression, Dela Rosa has not been judicially declared one in the strict legal sense.

Indeed, the Court's 9-5-1 vote refrained from declaring him a fugitive to avoid prejudging the substantive matters in the still pending petitions. This avoidance is important for at least two reasons.

First, in *Vallacar v. Yanson* (Nov. 25, 2025, per J. Samuel H. Gaerlan, en banc), the Court defined a fugitive from justice as one who "not only flees after conviction to avoid punishment [like the fictional Dr. Kimble], but also ... those who, after being charged, flee to avoid prosecution."

More importantly, the Court emphasized that the "... indispensable element is the intent to evade prosecution or punishment" with the knowledge of the accused that a warrant of arrest has been issued against him/her.

For that status of "fugitive" to attach, it is necessary for the court that issued the warrant, either upon motion, or on its own—and after assessment of the circumstances of the case—to declare the accused as a fugitive from justice.

Second, such a judicial declaration carries legal consequences, principally, the application of the "fugitive disentitlement doctrine." Under this principle, a fugitive "can no longer participate in the proceedings, and cannot seek any judicial relief." In a *ponencia* I humbly penned (*Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines v. People*, April 14, 2004), "... a fugitive from justice loses his standing in court and is not entitled to seek relief from the judiciary." Such disentitlement embraces both the right to appeal and the right to file motions and other pleadings seeking affirmative relief.

STILL, I AM OF THE OPINION that Dela Rosa may be lawfully arrested notwithstanding the absence of a formal judicial declaration that he is a fugitive from justice. The enforceability of a warrant and the juridical consequences of the fugitive status are distinct legal matters. One concerns the State's authority to secure custody under a warrant, while the other refers to the procedural disabilities that arise from the deliberate evasion of the lawful process.

To stress, while he remains subject to lawful arrest under the International Criminal Court (ICC) warrant, he does not suffer the full legal consequences that ordinarily accompany a formal finding of being a fugitive from justice. Even so, the surrounding circumstances should be scrutinized.

The ICC arrest warrant, publicly an-

nounced on May 11, 2026, was widely reported by the media and unquestionably known to the senator, who openly resisted submission to the authorities.

Three days later—and despite his absence for six months before seeking and finding refuge within the Senate premises—Dela Rosa quietly slipped away once more in the dead of night. More tellingly, his wife Nancy publicly admitted that he had "escaped," while close political allies repeatedly declined to disclose his whereabouts.

Taken together, these circumstances strongly suggest, at the very least, an intent to evade the lawful enforcement and, in the words of "Vallacar," "undermine and frustrate the administration of justice." Whether these acts would ultimately suffice to justify a formal declaration of fugitive status remains for the Court to determine in due course.

NONETHELESS, THE AUTHORITIES MUST DO WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES THEM: enforce the warrant and exhaust lawful means to secure his custody. Whether the ICC warrant is lawful or not will be determined in the courtroom, not in flight. Unless and until a competent court declares the warrant invalid, law enforcers should proceed with its enforcement under the long-settled legal presumption that official duties have been regularly performed.

May I close by returning to the image of "The Fugitive." Unlike Dr. Kimble, whose flight was driven by a desperate effort to prove his innocence and catch the real killer, the case of Dela Rosa chronicles a once-feared police chief fearfully fleeing from the very machinery of law he once commanded with uncompromising ferocity.

In a just and humane society, no one is above the law. The accused are entitled to due process, while the victims deserve steadfast justice. Impunity has no place, not at all.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com



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