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ESGUERRA FARMS & STUD INC.

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

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GOLF FELLOWSHIP



The Manila Southwoods
Golf and Country Club

Followed by cocktails
at the Clubhouse



**Bridging Islands,
Building Futures**

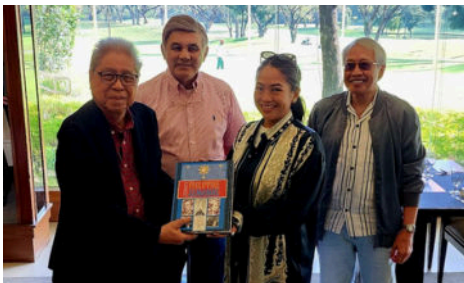
*The 22nd Weekly
Membership Meeting of
the Rotary Club of Manila*

**RCM - RCMFI
Reading Literacy/
Teacher Training Project**

**CHOSEN,
EVERY
DAY**

*Raoul Chicano
Creencia and
Mylene Tupas Marcia:
A Life Built on Faith,
Partnership, and
Purpose*

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EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



ON Thursday,
February 26,
2026, at 11:00
a.m., beneath open
skies and across the
sweeping fairways of
The Manila South-
woods Golf and
Country Club, the
Rotary Club of Manila
gathers for what may
appear to be a day of
sport — but is, in truth,
something far deeper.

This is not merely a golf event.
This is One Fellowship.

In a club as storied and historic as

the Rotary Club of Manila — the first Rotary club in Asia and the largest in the Philippines — fellowship is not an accessory to service. It is its foundation. Before we deliberate on policy, before we chart ambitious projects, before we raise millions in funds and steward institutions older than most organizations in this nation, we must first remain connected as men and women bound by trust.

And trust is not built in boardrooms alone.

It is built walking side by side down a fairway.

It is built in friendly banter before a tee shot.

It is built in shared silence while reading the green.

It is built in laughter over a missed putt and quiet respect after a well-struck drive.

Golf, in many ways, mirrors leadership. It is a game of integrity — you call your own penalties. It is a game of patience — you cannot rush the rhythm. It is a game of focus — distractions cost you strokes. It is a game of humility — even the best players are reminded that perfection is elusive.

EDITORIAL

Rotary leadership demands the same virtues.

As we approach a new Rotary year — one that calls for greater unity, greater collaboration, and greater resolve — this gathering becomes more than recreation. It becomes strategic alignment. A reminder that the culture we build today will determine the impact we leave tomorrow.

The theme says it clearly: One Fellowship.

Not “my” fellowship.
Not “your” circle.
Not “kanya-kanya.”

But one.

In a club with members of diverse generations, industries, and tenures — from seasoned statesmen to young idealists — cohesion does not happen automatically. It must be nurtured intentionally. Events like this are how culture is strengthened. They allow newer members to feel seen, and long-standing members to feel valued. They soften hierarchies.

They dissolve assumptions. They remind us that beyond titles and committees, we are simply Rotarians who share a calling to serve.

And then, as the sun lowers and the day transitions from the course to the clubhouse, fellowship continues — cocktails the Rotary way. It is in these unguarded moments that ideas surface organically. A youth project may be conceived between sips. A partnership may begin in a casual exchange. A mentorship relationship may quietly form at the bar.

Many of Rotary’s most enduring initiatives did not begin with a formal motion. They began with conversation.

We often speak about moving Rotary International forward. About strengthening institutions. About preserving legacy. But none of that is sustainable if we neglect the very fabric that holds us together — camaraderie.

EDITORIAL

This February 26, let every swing carry intention. Let every handshake carry warmth. Let every conversation carry respect.

Because when fellowship is genuine, service becomes natural.

When unity is real, leadership becomes powerful.

When trust is strong, a 107-year-old institution does not merely survive — it thrives.

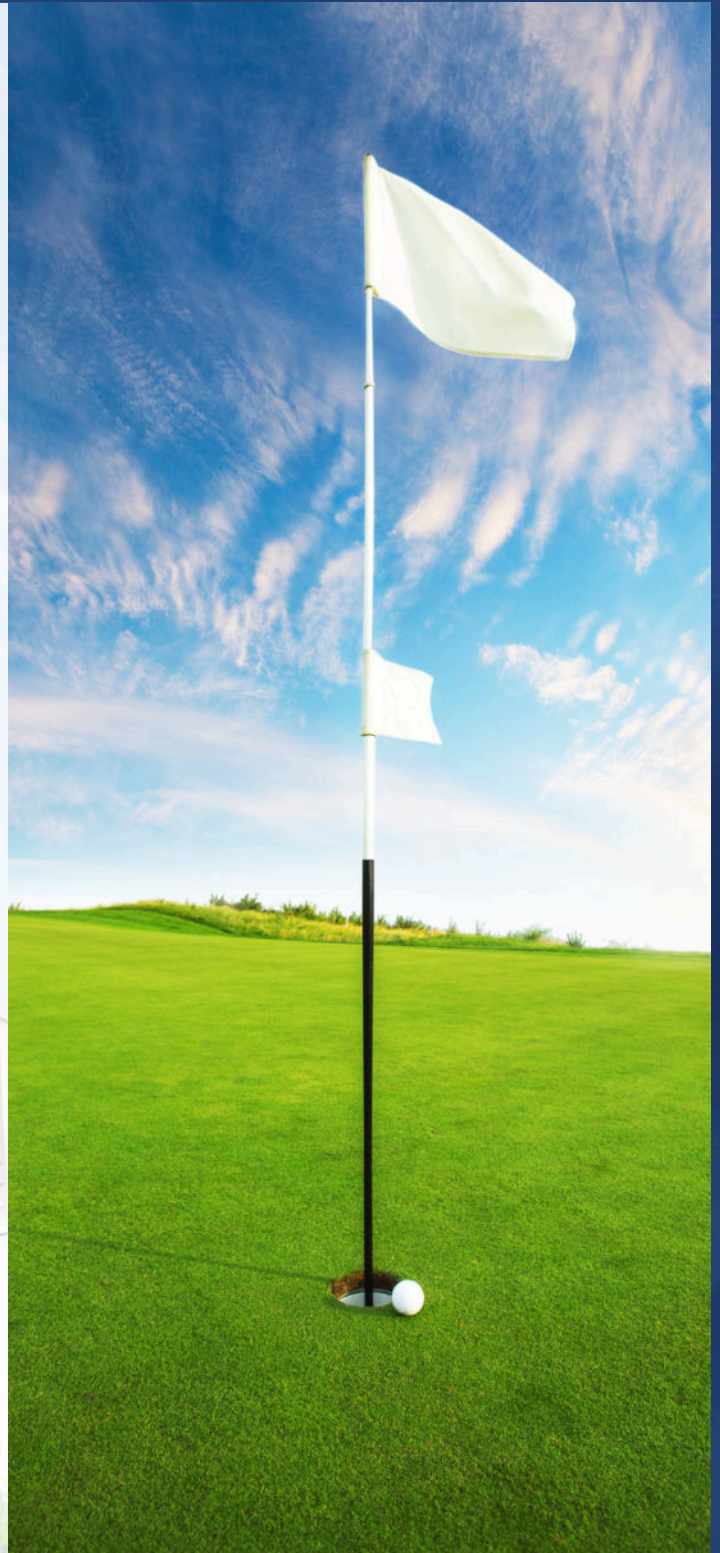
The scorecard will record birdies and bogeys. But the true measure of the day will not be strokes taken.

It will be bonds strengthened.

It will be unity reinforced.

It will be One Fellowship — lived, not just declared.

And in Rotary, that is always the ultimate victory. ■



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RC Baguio's 88th Anniversary

LAST Thursday, February 19, I had the distinct honor of serving as Guest of Honor and Speaker at the 88th Anniversary Gala Night of our daughter club, the Rotary Club of Baguio. Accompanied by IPP Jujut Enriquez and PE Reggie Yu, we journeyed to the City of Pines to celebrate this remarkable milestone.

In my remarks, I could not resist a bit of lighthearted humor. I observed that at 88 years, RC Baguio has already outlived the traditional anniversary gemstone list—which, as we know, ceremoniously concludes at 75 years with the diamond. Beyond that, there appears to be no official guidance.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

It is almost as if the list gently tells those fortunate enough to surpass 75: *“Good luck—kayo na ang bahala.”*

But perhaps that is precisely the point. To go beyond the diamond is to transcend convention. It is to move past prescribed milestones and into a legacy defined not by gemstones, but by grit, grace, and generations of service. And in that respect, RC Baguio shines in a category entirely its own.

75 has diamond as its gemstone. And perhaps this is fitting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A diamond is treasured not only for its brilliance, but for the structure that gives rise to that brilliance. Each carbon atom is closely connected to the next. Carbon atoms are beautifully bound together, forming a lattice that can withstand tremendous pressure. Its strength, therefore, does not come from its size — it comes from its connections.

And that is what 88 years truly represent.

Not merely age.

Not merely tradition.

But bonds —

tempered by trial,

strengthened by service, and

unbroken by time itself.

In my speech, I underscored that not having a gemstone actually makes 88 years extraordinary; because when the world runs out of gemstones to describe RC Baguio, it means that the Club itself has become THE gemstone. As such, its worth is now beyond measure, beyond category, beyond comparison. At 88 years, RCB is no longer defined by the brilliance of a stone... but by the brilliance of its service.

Besides, I said, the Rotary Club of Baguio has never needed a gemstone or any traditional symbol to define its worth. This is because from its earliest days, it already held something far more valuable: a legacy shaped by genuine service and anchored in a founding story that ties it directly to the roots of Rotary in the Philippines. And this is where the Rotary Club of Manila plays an important role — with its leaders planting the seeds of Rotary in Baguio.

This is why, I said, we were celebrating more than history. We were celebrating character. We were celebrating consistency. We were celebrating a club that has remained relevant because it has remained principled.

In Rotary, anniversaries are not just about age.

If age alone defined us, then the Rotary Club of Manila — the oldest in Asia — would have been retired, given a plaque, and told to relax decades ago.

But here we are: still moving and still serving.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Perhaps the greatest beauty of the RCB milestone is this:

Eighty-eight years may sound long — yet for Rotary, this is only the beginning.

I ended my speech with this -- There are two questions every great anniversary dares to ask: “How far have we come?” and “How fiercely will we continue?”

In regard to the second question, I expressed my belief that the Rotary Club of Baguio will not merely move forward — it will surge, unstoppable and unmistakable, leaving footprints of service wherever it passes. The anniversary celebration is not RC Baguio’s past shining; but its future roaring.

The foregoing is the summary of my message to our daughter club.

In retrospect, I had to make the difficult decision to miss our own weekly meeting in order to accept a speaking engagement—an invitation from our daughter club. It was not a choice made lightly. Yet I am deeply

grateful that I did.

That evening became more than a formal engagement; it was a moment of fellowship and affirmation. It also allowed me to share meaningful time with PE Reggie and IPP Jujut, strengthening not only our camaraderie but our shared sense of purpose.

More importantly, it was an opportunity to make something visible and tangible: that the Rotary Club of Manila—the mother club their members look up to with such awe and respect -- stands not at a distance, but side by side with them. In their milestone celebration, our presence was a quiet but powerful message: that heritage is not merely remembered; it is lived, shared, and extended through fellowship and support.

Sometimes leadership calls us to be present where our presence speaks louder than our schedule. And in that moment, standing with our daughter club — the Rotary Club of Baguio -- it truly did. ■

cover story

Bridging Islands, Building Futures

The 22nd Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila

Manila Polo Club | February 19, 2026

by PE Reginald T. Yu



THE chandeliers of the Manila Polo Club shimmered softly as Rotarians, partners, and distinguished guests gathered for the 22nd Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila. There was an anticipatory hum in the air — not merely for fellowship, which the Club does so well — but for substance. The afternoon promised both.

At exactly 12:30 PM, Director **Edwin Hernandez** gaveled the meeting to order, drawing the room into a shared moment of purpose. Club Secretary **Antonilo DC. “Anton” Mauricio** led the invocation, a solemn prayer that anchored the gathering in gratitude and service. The Philippine National Anthem followed, voices rising in unison, before the **RCM World-Famous Music Chorale** lent its harmonies to the Rotary Club of Manila Hymn and the Four-Way Test — words that have guided generations of Rotarians in their public and private dealings.

Club Treasurer **Paul Joseph M. “PJ” Garcia** acknowledged the guests, ensuring that each visiting Rotarian and dignitary felt not merely welcomed, but embraced. Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms **John Michael “John” Cutter**, who moderated the program, shepherded the flow of the afternoon with calm precision. The Chorale’s welcome song warmed the hall, and the Club paused to honor its February celebrants: Rotarian **Nico Hallare**, Past Internal Auditor **Jordan Pizarras**, and Rotarian Dr. **Jun Aventura**, whose birthdays were marked with music and applause.



Director Edwin Hernandez gaveled the meeting to order.



Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms John Michael “John” Cutter moderated the meeting.



Club Secretary Antonilo DC. “Anton” Mauricio led the invocation.



Club Treasurer Paul Joseph M. "PJ" Garcia led the recitation of the Four-Way Test.

It was a meeting suffused with fellowship—but also with gravity. For the Club was about to hear from one of the most consequential development institutions headquartered in its own city.

The President's Time

Director **Edwin Hernandez**, presiding in the President's stead as President **Raoul Creencia** was *en route* to Baguio to represent RCM at the Rotary Club of Baguio's 88th Anniversary, took the podium during President's Time. He reflected on Rotary's enduring relevance in a world of accelerating change, reminding members that leadership today requires both imagination and institutional partnership. Development, he noted,



Presiding Officer Director Edwin H. Hernandez took the podium during President's Time.

is not a spectator sport. It is a shared responsibility — one that demands collaboration between civil society, government, and multilateral institutions.

That sentiment proved an apt prelude to the main address.

Introducing the Voice of Development

Past Vice-President **Joel C. Valdes** introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker, Mr. **Andrew Jeffries**, Country Director for the Philippines of the **Asian Development Bank**. The title of his address — "*Asian Development Bank: Overview – Key Priorities and Initiatives*" — belied the sweep and immediacy of the issues he would cover.



Past Vice-President Joel C. Valdes introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

A Bank Founded in Manila, Shaping a Region

Mr. Jeffries began with perspective. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, founded in 1966, now counts 69 member countries, 50 of them within the Asia-Pacific region, and 41 borrowing members. Headquartered in Manila, ADB has grown into one of the world's preeminent multilateral development institutions.

He described its core business in three succinct words: **Finance. Knowledge. Partnerships.**

1. **Finance**, through sovereign and non-sovereign lending.
2. **Knowledge**, drawn from cross-country experience and practical lessons.
3. **Partnerships**, which mobilize additional capital and expertise far beyond ADB's own balance sheet.

In 2024 alone, ADB committed **\$24.3 billion** in loans, grants, and investments, and mobilized an additional **\$14.9 billion** in co-financing. These are not abstract figures; they are arteries of development, carrying opportunity into economies that need long-term, patient capital.

The Philippines, as a founding member and host country, occupies a special place. It holds **2.377% of ADB's shares** and remains one of its largest clients. In fact, the country is ADB's second-largest portfolio in the Asia-Pacific region — second only to India — with an active portfolio of **\$12.5 billion** as of December 2025.

Mr. Jeffries structured his remarks around ADB's partnership strategy with the Philippines—aligned with the **Philippine Development Plan** and anchored on **three** pillars:

1. Intensifying Social and Human Capital Development
2. Boosting Economic Competitiveness and Quality Infrastructure
3. Nature-Based Development and Disaster Resilience



Guest of Honor and Speaker Mr. Andrew Jeffries, Country Director for the Philippines of the Asian Development Bank

Pillar I: Investing in Human Capital

Here, ADB supports the **Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)**, the **Walang Gutom (Zero Hunger) initiative**, **universal health care**, and **JobStart Philippines**.

Mr. Jeffries underscored that poverty reduction and productivity enhancement are inseparable. Social protection is not charity — it is economic strategy. When vulnerable households receive electronic food vouchers or access to healthcare, they do not merely survive; they stabilize communities and sustain domestic demand.

Pillar II: Transformative Infrastructure

The second pillar drew audible interest from the room. ADB is financing portions of the **North–South Commuter Railway**, the largest ADB project in the Asia-Pacific region at \$7 billion. The project will link Clark to Calamba, reshaping mobility across Luzon.

He also highlighted the **Davao Public Transport Modernization**, the first citywide modernization program of its kind in the Philippines, and the ambitious Bataan–Cavite Interlink Bridge, envisioned as one of the world’s longest bridges of its type.

Infrastructure, he reminded the audience, is not merely concrete and steel. It is connectivity—economic, geographic, and social. In an archipelagic nation, it determines whether farmers reach markets, whether labor reaches opportunity, and whether regions prosper together.

Pillar III: Climate and Disaster Resilience

The Philippines, battered by over 20 typhoons annually, stands at the

frontlines of climate risk. ADB's programs include flood resilience and adaptation projects, climate change action programs, marine ecosystem initiatives, and renewable energy ventures such as rooftop solar and electric mobility ecosystems.

Under **Strategy 2030**, ADB aims for climate finance to reach half of its total committed financing by 2030, with cumulative climate financing exceeding \$100 billion. The message was unmistakable: climate action is no longer peripheral — it is central to development.

ASEAN 2026: The Philippines at the Helm

With the Philippines chairing ASEAN in 2026, Mr. Jeffries detailed ADB's integrated support package to help deliver key policy outcomes and flagship events across finance, green economy, energy connectivity, tourism, social protection, digital transformation, and cross-cutting regional resilience.

Regional cooperation, he emphasized, is embedded in ADB's charter. It is not optional. It is foundational.

The Economic Outlook: Fundamentals and Fragility

Turning to the macroeconomic outlook, Mr. Jeffries spoke candidly about the Philippines' recent growth performance and expectations of a rebound. Domestic consumption — about 70% of GDP — remains a stabilizing force, bolstered by remittances. Yet infrastructure investment momentum and global trade fragmentation remain variables to watch.

The fundamentals, he assured the audience, are sound: affirmed credit ratings, a liquid banking sector, easing inflation, and policy space for interest rate adjustments. But growth, he cautioned, is not automatic. It requires execution — particularly in infrastructure and MSME support.

On that note, he offered a compelling example: an upcoming supply-chain finance facility designed to channel affordable working capital to micro, small, and medium enterprises by sharing credit risk with local banks. In a country where MSMEs comprise 99% of enterprises yet receive less than 10% of formal financing, such mechanisms could be transformative.

A Dialogue of Institutions

The Open Forum that followed was animated. Rotarians posed questions on infrastructure decongestion, the future of NAIA modernization, the role of private capital, and the geopolitical implications of regional fragmentation. Mr. Jeffries responded with clarity and candor, weaving data with institutional insight.



Mr. Jeffries engaged in a Q&A session with PP Archib Bartolome, Treas. PJ Garcia, Sec. Anton Mauricio, PDG Alex Curog, and PDG Obet Pagdanganan.



At the conclusion, Director **Edwin Hernandez** presented Mr. Jeffries with a Certificate of Appreciation — a symbol not merely of gratitude, but of alignment. Rotary's commitment to "Service Above Self" found resonance in ADB's mandate to foster inclusive, resilient growth.

At 2:00 PM, Director Hernandez adjourned the meeting.



Director Edwin Hernandez presented Mr. Jeffries with a Certificate of Appreciation, in the presence of Sec. Anton Mauricio, PVP Joel Valdes, and Treas. PJ Garcia.

The Larger Meaning

The 22nd Weekly Membership Meeting was not simply another date on the Club calendar. It was a reminder that the Rotary Club of Manila, founded in 1919, continues to convene voices that shape the destiny of nations. In welcoming the Country Director of the Asian Development Bank, the Club affirmed its place at the intersection of civic leadership and economic transformation.

Bridges were discussed — literal and metaphorical. Railways, bridges, and flood barriers. But also bridges between institutions, between public and private sectors, between local needs and regional vision.

In a hall filled with Rotarians — men and women committed to ethical leadership—the message was clear: development is collective work. And in Manila, where ADB was born and Rotary took root over a century ago, the partnership between service and strategy continues to build futures worthy of the next generation. ■



Director Edwin Hernandez adjourned the meeting.



Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT February 2026

FEBRUARY 2026	February 05, 2026 BIR COMMISSIONER ATTY. CHARLITO MARTIN R. MENDOZA	February 12, 2026 PSC CHAIRMAN JOHN PATRICK G. GREGORIO	February 19, 2026 ADB COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR THE PH ANDREW JEFFRIES
MEMBERS PRESENT	40	36	28
MEMBERS PRESENT %	19%	17%	13%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	12	7	13
EXEMPTED	5	4	6
ON LEAVE	0	0	0
Total Active Members	52	43	41
Total # of Members	212	211	211
TOTAL %:	25%	20%	19%
ROTARACTORS	15	10	20
MEDIA	2	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	2	3	3
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	17	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	7	2	4
TOTAL ATTENDEES	64	68	55



LIST OF ATTENDEES February 19, 2026

- Albaña, Michael Jaey C
- Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- Bediones, Rodolfo P.
- Bogovich, Jason M.
- Carlos, Vicente J.
- Cid, Dean Y.
- Co, Val Constantine L.
- Cureg, Alexander P.
- Cutter, John Michael
- Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- Egan, Brendan W.L.
- Esguerra, Herminio S.
- Garcia, Paul Joseph M.
- Hernandez, Edwin H
- Locsin, Arsenio Z.
- Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
- Magsaysay, Francisco D.
- Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G.
- Mauricio, Antonilo DC
- Mauricio, Francisco Robert DC.
- Pagdanganan, Roberto M.
- Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- Reynolds, David J.
- Schneider, Bernd
- Serapio, Carlos G.
- Tagaysay, Hector O.
- Valdes, Joel C.
- Valencia, Rodolfo G.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of February 24, 2026

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

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

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of February 24, 2026

95	LIAMZON, ROMEO THADDEUS M.
96	LIM, RICHARD
97	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.
98	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.
99	LIAO, CHRISTOPHER
100	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.
101	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.
102	LOPEZ, ANTONIO
103	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.
104	LORENZANA, DELFIN
105	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.
106	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.
107	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.
108	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.
109	MANGALILE, SENEN
110	MARTINEZ, RONALD
111	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.
112	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC
113	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO ROBERTO C.
114	MENDOZA, MIGUEL
115	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.
116	MOMMAERTS, STEVE
117	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.
118	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO
119	NONES, ROMEO C.
120	NUÑEZ, JOSE A.
121	OBRADO, DANIEL
122	OCAMPO, TEODORO J.
123	ONG, PHILIP
124	ONG, ROWEL JANSON S.
125	PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M.
126	PALACIOS, ALBERT S.
127	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.
128	PANTALEON, OLIVER
129	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM
130	PAYUMO, FELICITO C.
131	PELIÑO, WILFREDO
132	PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.
133	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.
134	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.
135	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
136	PUJALTE, JOSE BRITTANIO JR.
137	RA, INGILL
138	RAMOS, CLAVER P.
139	RANKL, PETER
140	RECTO, PHILIP H.
141	REYNOLDS, DAVID

142	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H.
143	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
144	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
145	ROMUALDEZ, JOSE MANUEL G.
146	ROÑO, MARLON
147	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
148	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.
149	SCHMITZ, STEFAN
150	SCHNEIDER, BERND
151	SERAPIO, CARLOS G.
152	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
153	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
154	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
155	SIMON, JUANITO AYSON
156	SO, WARREN
157	SOBREPEÑA, ROBERT JOHN
158	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
159	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
160	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
161	TALAMPAS, JOSE ANGEL L.
162	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.
163	TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.
164	TAMAYO, VICTOR L.
165	TAMESIS, CHRIS
166	TAN, EUSEBIO V.
167	TAN, JOHN G.
168	TAN, LAWRENCE L.
169	TEE, TEDDY JR. B.
170	TEJUMAL, MICHAEL
171	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L.
172	VALDES, JOELC.
173	VALDEZ, AMADO
174	VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.
176	VALDERRAMA, JASON ROMEO
177	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
178	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G.
179	VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR.
180	VILLARICA, HENRY R.
181	YAP, ENRIQUE JR.
182	YORDANOV, STEFAN
183	YU, GEOFFREY C.
184	YU, REGINALD T.
185	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
186	ZEITOUNI, NAGI
187	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
188	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RC Manila's 107th Anniversary & Inaugural Meeting

INTERNATIONAL Relations Fellowship Subcommittee Chairman/ IT Arik Carranceja hosted a dinner meeting last Tuesday, February 24, 2025 at the Lore by Chef Tattung, BGC.

Present during the meeting were DE Mike Roxas (Director-in-Charge of International Service for RY 2026-2027), Rtn. Lance Tan (Chairman of Rizal Park Oathtaking event), Rtn Joey Garcia, ES Lhea Lozano, and Consultant Anna Kun Toledo.



RCM - RCMFI Reading Literacy/ Teacher Training Project with Reading Specialists, Inc.



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



February 21, 2026 - Day 2
Ilugin Elementary School
Pasig City



*A total of 60 teachers completed
the 2-day training program*

RCM - RCMFI Reading Literacy/ Teacher Training Project with Reading Specialists, Inc.



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



Mr. Bong Paloma of the Rotary Club Pasig dropped by to give his words of encouragement and support.

Aleco Donates 25 Books of Philippine Almanac to Bataan School in Honor of Tong Payumo



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



IN a heartfelt tribute to the late Rotarian and active Aleconian Tong Payumo, Aleconian PT Chito Tagaysay has donated 25 copies of the Philippine Almanac to the University of Nueva Caceres, Bataan on February 23, 2026. The donation honors Payumo, a formerly active Aleconian, for his contributions to the community.

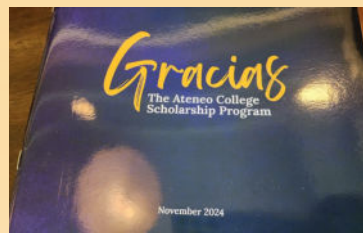
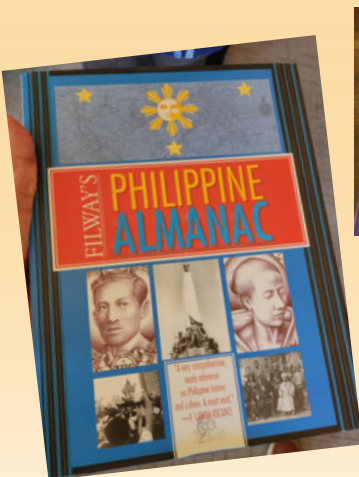


PT Chito, once the largest distributor of Collier's Encyclopedia, presented the collection to Rtn. Tong Payumo's daughter, Lexi, who accepted the books on her father's behalf. Along with the almanacs, she also received an Ateneo scholarship souvenir program where her father was recognized.

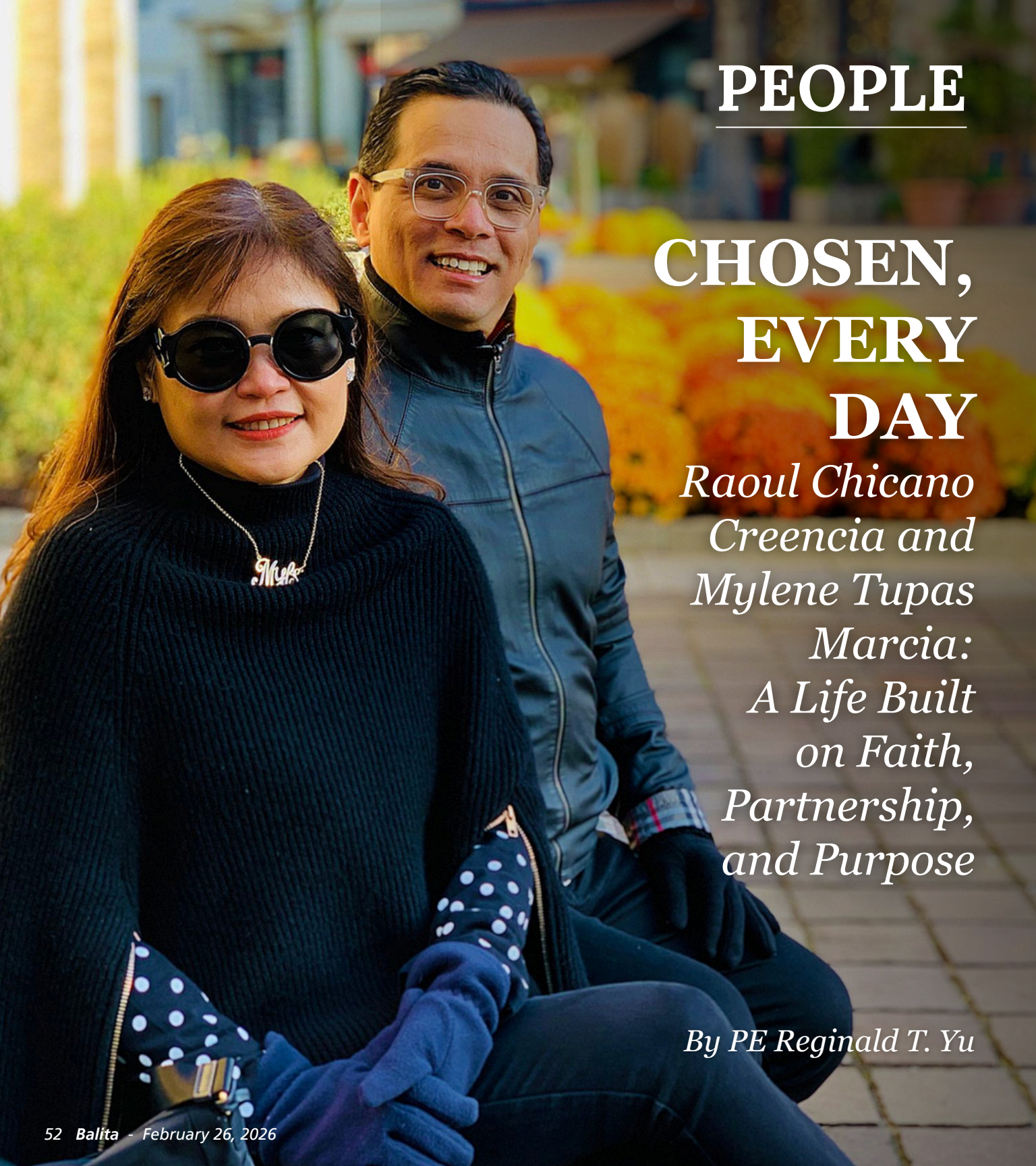
Aleco Donates 25 Books of Philippine Almanac to Bataan School in Honor of Tong Payumo



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



The event was held during the Aleco breakfast fellowship, hosted by Rotarian Cris Acosta.

A photograph of a man and a woman sitting outdoors. The woman is in the foreground, wearing a black turtleneck sweater, black sunglasses, and a necklace with a name tag that says 'Mylene'. She is also wearing blue gloves with white polka dots. The man is sitting behind her, wearing a blue jacket and glasses. They are both smiling. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with autumn foliage in shades of yellow and orange.

PEOPLE

**CHOSEN,
EVERY
DAY**

*Raoul Chicano
Creencia and
Mylene Tupas
Marcia:
A Life Built
on Faith,
Partnership,
and Purpose*

By PE Reginald T. Yu

CHOSEN, EVERY DAY

Raoul Chicano Creencia and Mylene Tupas Marcia: A Life Built on Faith, Partnership, and Purpose

Editor's Note: As we continue to celebrate Love Month this February, we turn our pages not toward fleeting romance, but toward something rarer and far more enduring — the quiet, deliberate love that is chosen every single day.

In this special feature, we share the story of Raoul Creencia and Myls Marcia — two accomplished lawyers, respected leaders, and devoted parents whose partnership has withstood ambition, public responsibility, national controversy, and the evolving seasons of family life. Theirs is not a love story defined by spectacle, but by steadiness. Not by grand declarations, but by daily discipline. Not by perfection, but by perseverance.

From college rivals who sharpened each other's minds, to courtroom professionals who once stood on opposing sides of history, to parents now watching their daughter begin her own journey — Raoul and Myls remind us that lasting love is not stumbled upon. It is built. It is protected. It is practiced.

In an age that often celebrates beginnings, their story honors endurance.

May this feature inspire us all to reflect not only on how love begins — but on how it is sustained, deepened, and chosen again and again through the years.



San Beda shaped their minds, but it was the journey together that shaped their story. Two grateful alumni, still standing side by side — in law, in life, and in love.

CHOSEN, EVERY DAY

Raoul Chicano Creencia and Mylene Tupas Marcia: A Life Built on Faith, Partnership, and Purpose

The Morning Before the Vows

THE house was quiet in a way it had not been for years.

Myls woke before dawn, not from restlessness but from awareness. There are mornings that carry weight long before the sun rises, and this was one of them. She lay still for a moment, listening — to the soft hum of the air-conditioning, to the faint stirring of the city beyond their windows, to the unfamiliar absence of hurried footsteps in the hallway.

In the next room, a garment bag hung carefully from the closet door. Ivory silk. Hand-stitched lace. A dress chosen not by her, but by the young woman who had once needed help tying her shoes.

Her daughter was getting married.

The thought did not arrive with tears. It arrived with steadiness.

This is what we prepared her for.

Across the room, Raoul was already awake.

He stood by the window with a cup of coffee in hand, watching the horizon shift from charcoal to muted gold. The skyline of Manila stretched before him — familiar towers, familiar roads, a city that had witnessed their careers, their cases, their public service.

He had stood before tribunals without hesitation. He had navigated national controversies. He had led rooms filled with strong voices.

Yet this morning required a different kind of composure.

“She’s ready,” he said quietly, without turning.

Myls rose and joined him. “I know.”

They did not elaborate. They rarely needed to.

They had spent decades refining the art of understanding without explanation.

For a long moment, they simply stood there — side by side, as they had stood through law school examinations, through opposing arguments in the impeachment of a president, through sleepless nights with a newborn, through leadership roles that demanded more than comfort ever allowed.

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Their story had not been dramatic.

It had been deliberate.

Built on schedules carefully aligned. On disagreements resolved before sleep. On faith practiced more often than proclaimed. On the daily choice to remain — even when ambition pulled in different directions.

Outside, light expanded slowly across the sky.

Myls reached for his hand. He clasped it without looking.

There was comfort in the familiarity of that gesture.

They had once been young leaders competing for a student election. Once, he had approached her at a college gate with a folded sheet of paper and a question that was not really about the paper at all.

Once, she had promised herself that love would wait.

It had not waited.

It had grown.

And now it stood before them in the form of a daughter ready to begin her own life.



Creencia Family, circa 1984. Before the titles and public roles, there was this quiet beginning — a family rooted in discipline, dignity, and steadfast love. Behind every achievement that would follow stood the steady strength of parents who shaped character through example and sacrifice. This photograph holds more than a moment in time. It holds the foundation of a life built on integrity, responsibility, and devotion. Long before leadership and legacy, there was family — and from these roots, everything else grew.

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“We did our part,” Myls said softly.

Raoul nodded. “We continue to.”

Not as central figures. Not as decision-makers. But as foundation.

Foundations do not demand attention.

They hold.

As the sun finally broke across the skyline, the house stirred — a door opening, quiet footsteps, the beginning of a day that would mark a new chapter.

They released each other’s hands only when they had to.

Not out of reluctance.

But out of readiness.

And together, they stepped forward into the morning.

The Paper at the Gate

The gates were still closed when Myls arrived.

She wasn’t late. She simply liked being early — early enough to observe without being observed, early enough to settle her thoughts before the day began demanding them.

A small cluster of students milled



Long before the titles and public responsibilities, there was this quiet moment at the Divine Word University in Tacloban — a young man receiving his high school diploma with academic honors. The applause was modest, the stage simple, but the achievement carried weight. It spoke of discipline practiced daily, of nights spent studying, of dreams beginning to take shape beyond the classroom walls. This was not just a diploma placed in his hands. It was the early confirmation of promise — the steady unfolding of a mind determined to grow, to lead, and to honor the sacrifices that made this moment possible.

Every great journey begins somewhere. For Raoul, it began here — with humility, excellence, and a future already waiting to be claimed.

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around the entrance, shifting backpacks, trading sleepy jokes, checking watches like time might obey impatience. Myls stood slightly apart, not aloof — just composed. The posture of someone used to keeping her own counsel.

She had come from an all-girls school. Years of polished discipline. A world where confidence didn't need to announce itself to be real.

She was reading notes when a shadow fell across the page.

“Can you read this?”

She looked up.

Raoul Creencia stood there with a folded sheet in his hand, his expression casual enough to seem effortless — except there was a glint in his eyes that said he had already rehearsed this moment and was pretending he hadn't.

It was, she would later realize, his particular kind of charm: competence dressed as spontaneity.

Myls took the paper. “What is it?”

“A write-up,” he said. “Just... tell me if it makes sense.”

She scanned it — then read it properly.



Before the courtrooms and public platforms, there was this young man from the Divine Word University in Tacloban wearing his Gerry Roxas Leadership Award medal with quiet pride. Leadership did not arrive suddenly in his life — it revealed itself early. In discipline, in service, in the steady way he carried responsibility beyond his years. This moment was more than recognition; it was affirmation of character already taking shape. Before the world would call him to larger arenas, Raoul had already begun answering a simpler call — to lead with integrity, to serve with conviction, and to grow into the man he was meant to become.

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Not skimming. Not browsing. Reading the way she'd learned to read commitments even before she had the language for them: carefully, with respect for detail, with an instinct for what mattered.

Raoul watched her eyes move. He liked the way she didn't rush. He liked the seriousness behind her silence.

When she finished, she handed it back. "You argue well," she said, voice even. "But your conclusion jumps too quickly. You need to support it. You can't expect people to follow you just because you're sure."

It wasn't flirtation. It was critique.

Raoul blinked once, surprised — and then, against his will, smiled. Most people didn't correct him that directly.

He found he didn't mind.
He found he wanted more of it.

That was how it began: not with romance, not with fireworks, but with a sentence that challenged him.

A correction offered without cruelty.

A girl who wasn't impressed.
And a boy who had never come in second suddenly realizing he could.

The Girl Who Won the Election

Raoul had been elected Class President since Grade Four.

It had become a rhythm: the campaigning, the speeches, the inevitable result. His classmates trusted him the way people trust sunrise. Leadership wasn't an effort. It was expectation.



Before the courtrooms and public roles, there was this young Corps Commander standing tall under the sun. Even then, discipline shaped him, responsibility steadied him, and quiet leadership set him apart. What this photograph captures is more than a uniform — it reveals the early forging of character, courage, and resolve. Long before he would lead in larger arenas, Raoul had already learned how to stand firm — with strength, conviction, and a heart prepared for the life that awaited him.

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So, when the results of their freshman election were posted, he expected his name at the top without thinking.

He stood in front of the bulletin board and read the list once. Then again.

President: Myls Marcia

Vice-President: Raoul Creencia

He stared longer than necessary.
Not anger. Not jealousy.
Curiosity.

Because the name was unfamiliar, but the victory wasn't.
To beat him, she had to be — what?
Smarter? More disciplined? More liked?
Or just... different?

Later, in the classroom, he watched her without making it obvious. She wasn't loud. She didn't collect attention like trophies. She led by the quiet authority of competence. When she spoke, she didn't fill the air — she placed words precisely, as if she respected language too much to waste it.

She managed meetings the way some people managed storms: by staying calm in the center of them.

Raoul thought, with a grudging admiration that quickly became something warmer:



A proud father's hands fastening a medal — steady, careful, almost reverent. On her law graduation day at San Beda, this was more than ceremony. It was the quiet fulfillment of a promise once spoken at the family table. The years of sacrifice, the early mornings, the unwavering belief — all gathered into this single, tender moment. Behind her smile stood not only achievement, but gratitude. Behind his gesture stood a love that had always believed she could.

Some victories are personal. Others are shared. And on this day, as he pinned that medal upon her, it was not only a daughter who graduated — it was a father and mother whose faith had come full circle.

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Who is this girl who just ended my winning streak?

He didn't yet know her history. He didn't know about the bake shop, the supplier negotiations, the promise she'd made to her parents. He only knew that she had disrupted something he'd always assumed would remain unbroken.

And, unexpectedly, he felt... grateful.

Because winning all the time had never taught him how to grow.

But she might.

Flour on Her Hands, Fire in Her Mind

If you asked Myls why she moved through the world the way she did — measured, deliberate, unshaken — she might not have given you a grand answer.

She would have said something simple.

Work had to be done. Responsibilities had to be met. Promises had to be kept.

She grew up inside the warm, fragrant reality of her parents' small bake shop in Quezon City. It wasn't romantic. It was practical: early mornings, heavy sacks, customers who were kind and



Before the courtroom lights and the weight of legal briefs, there was this quiet bow on a graduation stage — a young woman receiving her AB Political Science degree, cum laude, from the University of Santo Tomas with grace and quiet determination. In that handshake was more than congratulations. It was the recognition of years of discipline, sacrifice, and unwavering focus. She did not chase applause; she pursued excellence — steadily, faithfully, with a strength that did not need to announce itself. This was not merely a ceremony. It was a threshold moment — the unfolding of a woman whose intellect would one day be matched only by the depth of her loyalty, her courage, and her heart.

Some journeys are loud. Myls began with grace.

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customers who weren't, suppliers who needed payment, employees who needed salaries, and a family that learned to stretch a peso without letting it stretch their dignity.

Her father sometimes took her with him to meet suppliers.

When funds were tight, he would talk quietly, respectfully — and when the negotiations reached a point where politeness needed clarity, Myls would step in.

"Give us until next week," she'd say. "You know we settle. We always do."

She wasn't pleading.

She was promising.

The adults would blink, then nod, because there was something about her — young as she was — that sounded like a person who meant what she said.

That was where her certainty began: not in dreams, but in necessity.

In high school, one day, a teacher explained Martial Law and the suspension of civil liberties. Myls listened, and something inside her

shifted. Laws weren't just rules. They were levers. They could protect people or crush them. They could uphold dignity or suspend it.

She went home and told her parents she wanted to be a lawyer.



Marcia Family. Before dreams took flight and ambitions found their stage, there was this sacred circle of love — a family bound not only by blood, but by quiet sacrifice and unwavering devotion. Within these walls were lessons that could not be taught in classrooms: strength carried with grace, humility anchored in faith, and love expressed not in grand gestures, but in daily constancy. It was here that character was formed, values were planted, and courage was nurtured gently but firmly. Every enduring love story begins somewhere. For her, it began here — in the steady embrace of family, where roots ran deep and the heart first learned what it meant to belong.

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Her mother smiled first. Her father went quiet, not from disapproval, but from the weight of what it meant.

“You’ll be the first,” he said.

Myls nodded like she understood fully.

She didn’t, not yet.

But she would.

And when she entered college, she carried that dream like a private oath. She also carried another promise: she would not enter a relationship until she finished college.

Education first. Discipline first. Love could wait.

She didn’t know that love was already walking toward her at the department gates with a paper in his hand.

Allies in Leadership

By sophomore year, leadership no longer felt like a classroom exercise.

It had weight.

Raoul was elected Vice-President of the AB Student Council, a role that

stretched beyond familiar faces and into the larger machinery of campus life. Meetings multiplied. Proposals required approval. Student concerns arrived unfiltered and urgent.

It was the first time leadership felt less like recognition and more like responsibility.

Myls served as Secretary of the AB Student Council.

The title did not carry the same visibility, but it carried consequence.

She recorded proceedings with precision. She clarified motions when debate blurred them. She organized resolutions so that momentum did not dissolve into noise. When discussions grew heated, she would lean forward slightly, pen poised, waiting for language to sharpen itself.

If Raoul energized a room, Myls steadied it.

He could speak with conviction and gather attention.

She could listen with discipline and gather coherence.

At first, their collaboration was practical.

He would outline an initiative. She would ask, “How will we implement it?”

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He would propose a timeline. She would refine it into structure.

He would rally enthusiasm. She would ensure sustainability.

But slowly, something subtler began forming beneath the mechanics.

Raoul noticed that Myls did not seek recognition. When meetings concluded successfully, she rarely claimed credit. She preferred that things simply work.

He began consulting her before major discussions — not out of courtesy, but because her judgment sharpened his.

“What am I missing?” he would ask.

She would not answer immediately. She would think.

And when she spoke, it was rarely to oppose him. It was to strengthen the idea.

“Consider the second-year students,” she might say. “They’ll experience this differently.”

Or, “If we phrase it that way, it sounds unilateral. Try framing it as collaboration.”

She was not diminishing him. She was refining him.

For someone accustomed to leading from the front, this was new.

And valuable.



A young lawyer standing beside a towering figure of Philippine jurisprudence — but already certain of her own path.

When Myls joined Fortun, Narvasa, Salazar in 1995 as one of its pioneer associates, she did more than accept a position — she chose a calling. Under the steady gaze of former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, she entered a firm still carving its identity, and became part of the very foundation that shaped it.

Through triumphs and trials, milestones and growing pains, she remained — steadfast, loyal, unwavering. For over two decades, she gave not just her skill, but her heart to the FNS Team, devoting “more than 95%” of her legal life to the institution she helped build.

Some careers are measured in years. Hers is measured in faithfulness.

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Meanwhile, Myls observed something in Raoul she had not expected.

He carried responsibility without theatricality. When criticism came — and it did — he absorbed it without deflection. He did not retreat from pressure. He leaned into it.

She saw that leadership for him was not about applause.
It was about forward motion.
And slowly, respect deepened into trust.

There were late afternoons when council meetings stretched past sunset. The campus would empty gradually, leaving corridors quiet and echoing. They would walk toward the gates together, still discussing unfinished matters.

“You’re too cautious,” he would tease lightly.

“And you’re too confident,” she would reply.

But neither accusation was sharp.

They were calibrations.

By the time law school arrived, their instinct to lead had matured.



In 2014, he stood at the podium as a guest — Government Corporate Counsel, invited speaker, not yet a Rotarian. He spoke that day under the banner Light Up Rotary, unaware that the light would one day find its way back to him.

Eleven years later, the man who once addressed District 3810 from the outside would rise to lead within it — as President of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Some destinies do not announce themselves. They begin quietly — with a microphone in hand and a heart already aligned with service.

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In his junior year, Raoul was elected President of the Law Student Government. The atmosphere in law school was different — more intense, more exacting, less forgiving of error. Representation carried sharper edges. Faculty negotiations required tact. Student concerns were no longer theoretical — they affected futures.

The role demanded composure under scrutiny.

Myls stood firmly behind him.

Not as an afterthought.
Not as silent support.
But as a partner in preparation.

She reviewed drafts of his speeches late into the night. She adjusted phrasing to ensure clarity. She reminded him when passion needed tempering, when firmness needed gentleness.

On election night, when results were announced and applause rose in the hall, Raoul's instinctive glance was not toward the crowd.

It was toward her.
She did not beam.
She nodded.

That nod meant more than celebration.

It meant, *You're ready.*

In that season, something fundamental shifted in both of them.

Leadership was no longer a solitary pursuit.

It was shared terrain.



Under the seal of the Republic, before the President of the Philippines, Raoul took his oath as the 20th Government Corporate Counsel in November 2010. But behind the Barong, behind the title, behind the solemn words spoken in Malacañang Palace, stood the quiet strength of his family — the hands that steadied him, the prayers that carried him, the love that anchored him.

Public office is taken with the right hand raised. But it is sustained by the hearts that stand beside you.

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Raoul began to understand that strength did not diminish when supported — it expanded.

Myls understood that supporting did not lessen her power — it expressed it.

They were no longer simply classmates in positions.

They were learning how to stand beside one another.

And neither yet knew that this was rehearsal.

For courtrooms.

For public controversy.

For marriage.

For parenthood.

For the decades ahead when leadership would no longer be about campus councils, but about navigating life side by side.

What began as collaboration had become alignment.

Not rivalry.

Not dependency.

But partnership.

And partnership, once formed in youth through respect and shared responsibility, has a way of enduring.



In the crucible of public scrutiny, Raoul spoke not with theatrics, but with clarity.

As Government Corporate Counsel, he appeared on Justice on Air with Atty. Regie Tongol in 2011, addressing the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona — a moment when law, politics, and national conscience collided.

Before the cameras and the questions, he stood anchored in principle. For him, the law was never spectacle. It was stewardship.

And in times when the nation leaned forward to listen, he chose measured words over noise — conviction over convenience.

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Law School: Standing Beside

Law school did not tolerate vanity.

It stripped away comfort and exposed capacity.

By the time Raoul reached his junior year, he had already felt the tightening pressure that law school applied to every student. Recitations were surgical. Professors dismantled arguments without apology. Reputation could be built in a semester — and undone in a single unprepared moment.

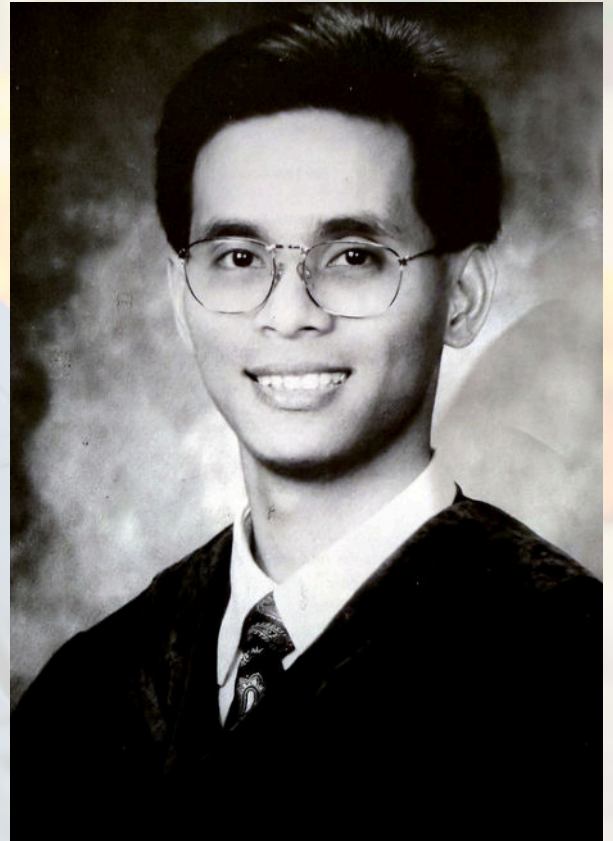
When nominations opened for President of the Law Student Government, Raoul did not rush forward.

He understood the weight of the position.

This was no longer undergraduate enthusiasm. The Law Student Government carried real responsibility — liaison with faculty, representation of student concerns, negotiation during academic disputes, organizing initiatives that shaped professional futures.

Leadership here was less about visibility and more about composure.

It required steadiness.
It required credibility.
And perhaps most of all, it required trust.



RAOUL: Before the titles. Before the responsibilities. Before the years would shape him into the leader, husband, and father he would become — there was this young man, standing at the threshold of his future. Raoul on his law graduation day: composed, determined, carrying in his quiet smile the promise of a life built on conviction and purpose. The robe he wore marked not only the completion of a degree, but the beginning of a journey that would demand discipline, courage, and integrity.

Long before vows were spoken, long before fatherhood reshaped his world, there was this moment: a young lawyer ready to serve, and a heart already learning that the greatest victories are never won alone.

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When he finally agreed to run, it was not with bravado.

It was with deliberation.

Myls was among the first to know.

“You’re considering it,” she said one evening as they reviewed case digests in the library.

He nodded.

“I won’t do it lightly.”

She closed her book and studied him — not as a girlfriend, not merely as a friend — but as someone who understood what leadership cost.

“You’re ready,” she said.

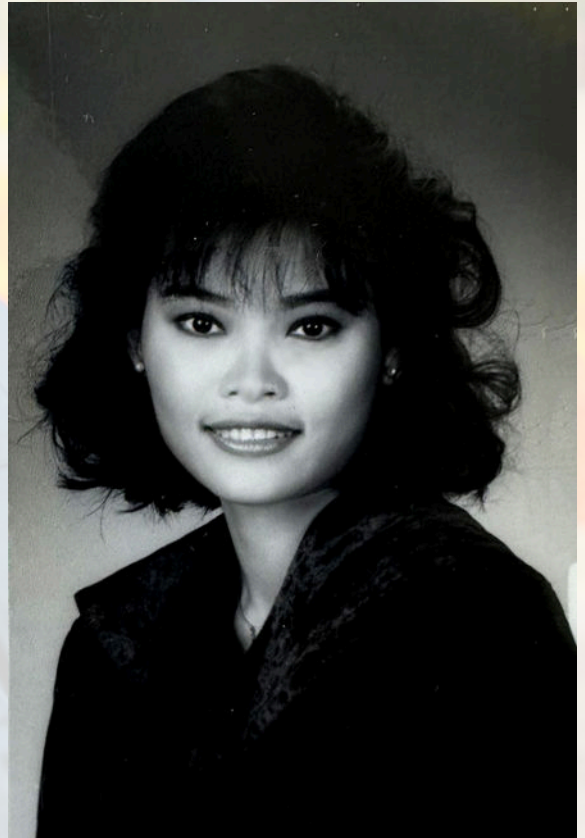
It was not flattery.

It was assessment.

And for Raoul, her assessment mattered more than the opinions of a hundred classmates.

Campaigning in law school was quieter than in college, but more exacting. There were no loud rallies, no banners hung across walkways. There were conversations in corridors, discussions after class, questions about priorities, expectations about integrity.

Raoul answered thoughtfully. He did not promise sweeping reform. He spoke



MYLS: Before the years of courtroom discipline. Before the titles and responsibilities. Before motherhood softened and deepened her world — there was this young woman, poised at the threshold of her calling. Myls on her law graduation day: composed, luminous, her gaze steady with intelligence and resolve. Behind that gentle smile was a will forged in discipline, a heart anchored in principle, and a mind already prepared to carry both ambition and integrity with grace.

Long before vows were spoken, long before a daughter would one day watch her as an example, there was this moment: a young lawyer ready to rise — and a woman destined not only to succeed, but to love with steadiness, depth, and unwavering grace.

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about representation, about clarity in communication between faculty and students, about fairness in procedure.

Myls did not campaign theatrically. She did not hover or persuade on his behalf. Instead, she did something far more powerful.

She listened.

She absorbed the concerns of classmates who trusted her judgment. She clarified misunderstandings. When asked privately what she thought, she answered honestly:

“He will take it seriously.”

That was enough.

Election results were announced in a classroom filled with tension disguised as indifference.

When Raoul’s name was read as President of the Law Student Government, applause rose — respectful, measured.

He acknowledged the room.

But instinctively, his eyes searched for one face.



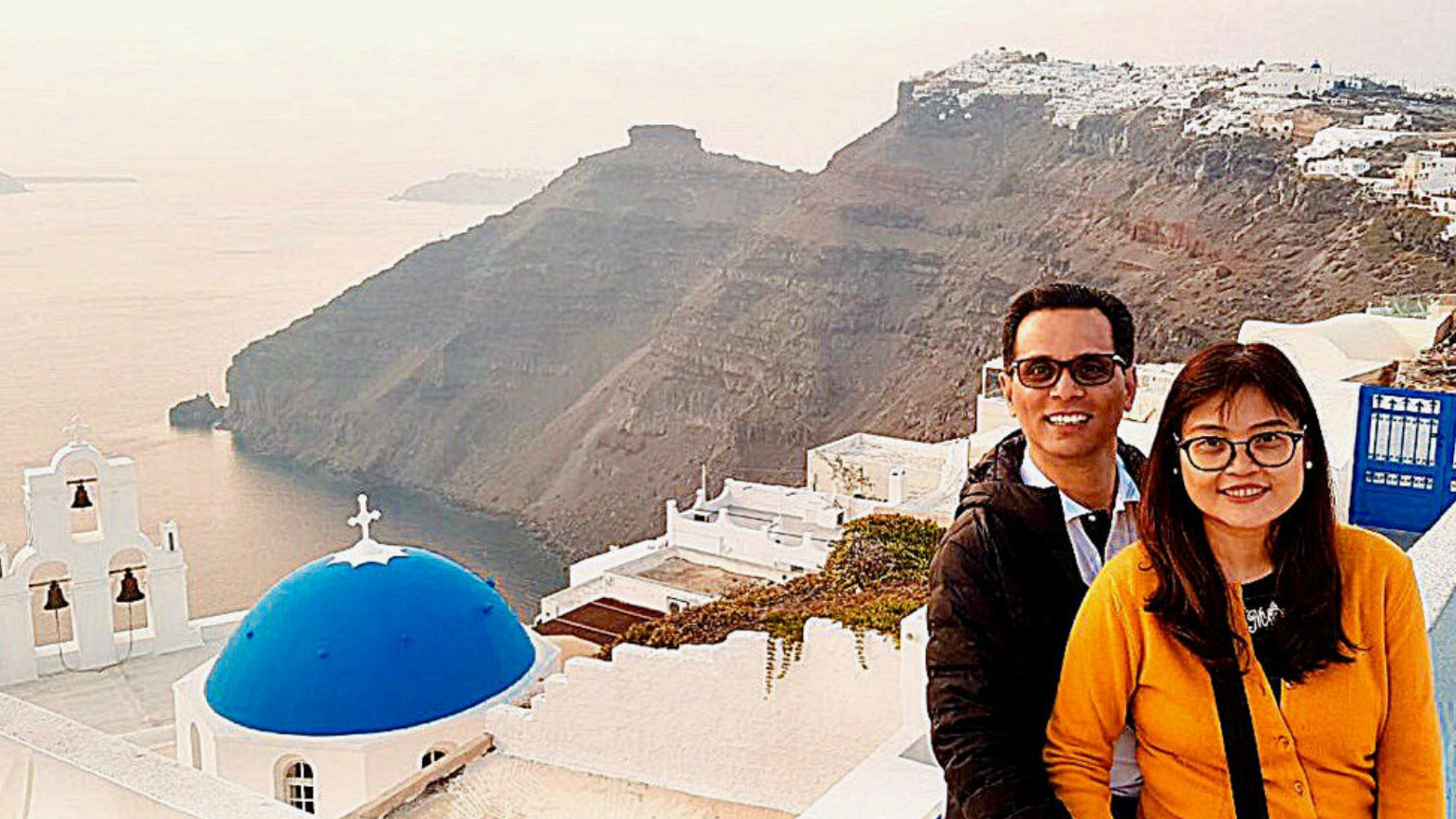
*Generations gathered.
Stories shared.
Love served at the table.*

Celebrating Mom — the heart of the Marcia family — whose life continues to nourish us all. 🍰💕

Myls did not rush forward. She did not claim proximity. She simply met his gaze and nodded once.

You earned this.

The moment was not triumphant.



In Santorini, where the Aegean stretches endlessly beneath whitewashed walls and sapphire domes, they stand side by side — framed by cliffs shaped by time and tides. The breeze carries the hush of centuries, and the horizon glows in soft gold, as if blessing the moment.

Across continents and seasons, through triumphs and trials, they have learned that the most breathtaking views are not the ones behind them, but the life they continue to build together. In every city, in every chapter, love remains their truest destination — steady, enduring, and beautifully their own.

It was grounding.

The months that followed were demanding.

As President, Raoul faced concerns that were often complicated and sometimes contentious. Faculty policies were questioned. Student grievances required careful navigation. Schedules conflicted. Expectations multiplied.

There were evenings when fatigue showed in the way he loosened his tie and leaned back in his chair.

“Too many voices,” he would say quietly.

“Then prioritize,” Myls would reply. “Which ones carry consequence?”

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She reviewed drafts of his speeches — not to soften them, but to sharpen them.

“You’re too forceful here,” she would point out. “If you want collaboration, don’t frame it as confrontation.”

Or, “You’re underselling the issue. Say it clearly. They’ll respect clarity.”

She never tried to control the direction. She refined the articulation.

She never tried to control the direction. She refined the articulation.

He began to notice something he had not fully understood before.

Leadership, when shared in private, became steadier in public.

There were nights when he questioned whether he had responded too firmly, or not firmly enough.

She would listen first.

“You acted in good faith,” she would say. “Stand by that.”

Her confidence did not inflate him.

It stabilized him.

And in return, he saw the weight she



Under a sky filled with dreams, the lovely couple found themselves rising too — carried by wonder, held by love. Cappadocia, where the balloons floated... and so did Raoul's and Myls' hearts.

carried in her own academic pursuits. Law school demanded excellence from her just as relentlessly.

When she doubted herself — rare, but real — he did not offer hollow reassurance.

You’re prepared,” he would say. “You “don’t need to prove what you already are.”

They were not rescuing each other. They were fortifying each other.

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What defined that season was not public success.

It was alignment.

Raoul learned that standing at the front of a room felt different when someone stood behind him not as an admirer, but as an equal.

Myls learned that supporting did not diminish her own strength — it amplified shared purpose.

They were no longer two ambitious students moving in parallel.
They were beginning to move in concert.
And though neither articulated it then, this was rehearsal.

Rehearsal for seasons when one would need to lead publicly and the other would need to steady privately.
Rehearsal for moments when disagreement would test maturity.
Rehearsal for marriage.

Because what they practiced in law school was not dominance.
It was partnership.

And partnership — once formed in youth through respect, humility, and shared responsibility — does not fade easily.

It deepens.

The Three Months

It did not happen in one dramatic moment.

There was no betrayal.

No explosive argument.
Just accumulation.

Law school consumed them.
Responsibilities multiplied.
Expectations tightened.

And somewhere between ambition and exhaustion, they stopped choosing each other as deliberately as before.

Calls became shorter.
Meetings became transactional.
Affection became assumed rather than expressed.

And one day, without formally declaring it, they stepped back.

Three months.

It was supposed to give them space.
It gave them clarity.

For Raoul, the days felt functional but incomplete. He threw himself into work. Into preparation. Into proving — to himself perhaps — that he did not need distraction.

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But distraction wasn't what he had lost.

He had lost conversation that mattered. He had lost the one person who challenged him without diminishing him.

He had lost the steadiness of knowing someone understood the unspoken parts of him.

For Myls, the silence was louder.

She had been the one to suggest space. Practical. Rational. If they were to build serious careers, perhaps they needed to remove emotional complication.

But in the quiet, she discovered something uncomfortable.

Love was not a complication. It was an anchor.

She missed his certainty.

Missed the way he approached problems head-on.

Missed the simple familiarity of studying beside someone who knew her strengths and her doubts.

Three months is not long in calendar time.

It is long in the heart.

When they saw each other again — unexpectedly, at a gathering of mutual friends — there was no drama.

Just recognition.

"You look tired," he said softly.

"So do you," she replied.

Silence lingered, but it wasn't hostile.



The Day She Said 'Yes'. There were no grand stages, no dramatic spotlights — just two young AB Political Science majors sitting close, laughter soft between them, and a question that changed everything. In that quiet moment, when Myls said "yes," the future shifted gently into place. Not with fanfare, but with certainty. What began as companionship deepened into promise — a shared path, a shared courage, a shared life waiting to unfold.

Sometimes destiny does not arrive in thunder. Sometimes it sits beside you on a simple stone, smiles, and whispers "yes."

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It was heavy with what had been understood separately.

“I don’t want distance,” he said finally.

“Neither do I.”

And in that moment, love stopped being a possibility.

It became a decision.

The Steakhouse

By the time they completed law school and began carving their paths in separate law offices, the foundation between them had shifted from youth to intention.

They were no longer experimenting with what might be.
They were building what would endure.

Eight years had passed since the morning at the gates.
Eight years of growth, strain, reconciliation, shared ambition.

Raoul chose a steakhouse in Quezon City — not flashy, not ostentatious. Just solid. Reliable. A place that mirrored what he hoped to offer.

He had already spoken to her mother.
He had already secured the ring.



Wedding Day. On this day in 1995, beneath sacred vows and quiet prayers, two journeys became one.

Myls walked toward Raoul in grace and light; he stood beside her with certainty and joy. What began as shared dreams and youthful promises was sealed here — not only in ceremony, but in covenant. This was more than a wedding day. It was the beginning of a partnership built on faith, respect, and a love tested by time even before it was spoken aloud at the altar.

Some moments define a lifetime.

This was theirs.

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But when the moment arrived, his confidence felt different — less about winning, more about vulnerability.

“We’ve grown,” he said, reaching across the table. “We’ve fought for this. I don’t want a life that doesn’t include you.”

She studied him — not the boy who had never come in second, but the man who had learned that partnership was stronger than victory.

Marriage, for Myls, was not romance.

It was commitment.

It was waking up every day and choosing again.

She didn’t hesitate.

“Yes.”

No theatrics.
No spectacle.
Just certainty.

Manila Cathedral

The Manila Cathedral stood vast and solemn the day they married.

Stone arches. Sunlight filtering through stained glass. The weight of history surrounding a promise that felt both ancient and entirely their own.



Side by side, wrapped not only in silk and lace but in certainty.

On this night, the world seemed to fade into darkness behind them, and all that remained was light — in their smiles, in their promise, in the quiet assurance that they had chosen each other for life. The carriage moved forward, but it was their hearts that had already arrived — at partnership, at devotion, at forever.

Two souls. One beginning.

Myls felt nervous as she walked down the aisle.

Not because she doubted him.

But because she understood the gravity of what they were entering.

Raoul reached for her hand.

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Thirty-one years ago, beneath the quiet grandeur of the church and the watchful gaze of heaven, Raoul and Myls stood side by side — young, hopeful, and certain of only one thing: that they would walk forward together.

Around them stood the pillars of their beginnings — their parents, dignified and proud, bearing witness not only to a wedding, but to the merging of two histories, two homes, two lineages of love. In their smiles was blessing. In their presence, continuity.

The bride, luminous in white, held her bouquet like a promise. The groom, steady and earnest, wore the quiet resolve of a man choosing forever. They did not yet know the full measure of what forever would demand — the seasons of triumph and trial, the nights of uncertainty, the mornings of renewed resolve. They knew only that love, anchored in faith, was enough to begin.

Time has since softened the edges of that day, but not its meaning.

The parents who once stood beside them have

Her breath steadied.

In that clasp was everything they had already survived — law school, separation, ambition, expectation.

They had saved for this wedding themselves. Planned it together. Built it without excess, but with intention.

When they spoke their vows, they were not promising ease.

They were promising presence.

They did not know then that one day they would stand on opposite sides during the impeachment of a president and still return home united.

They did not know the public responsibilities that awaited them.

They only knew this:

They had chosen.

And they would continue choosing.

entrusted to them the stewardship of family. The vows spoken in youthful certainty have been tested, strengthened, and lived. And the love that began before an altar has matured into something deeper — not merely romance, but partnership; not merely promise, but proof.

Some weddings are moments. Others become foundations.

Thirty-one years later, this photograph is not simply a memory — it is a testament.

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When History Brushed Their Doorstep

Some seasons do not ask permission before entering your life.

They arrive in headlines. In public conversations. In tension that hums beneath ordinary days.

The impeachment of President Estrada was one of those seasons.

By then, Raoul and Myls were practicing lawyers, building their reputations steadily, focused on their respective professional paths. Neither sought the spotlight. Neither sought drama.

Yet history has a way of brushing against even those who do not stand at its center.

Raoul was among the convenors of a group of lawyers calling for accountability and the impeachment of the President. It was not about prominence; it was about principle. When the moment demanded clarity of position, he stood where his convictions led him. Like many others, he went to EDSA during EDSA Dos — not for spectacle, but because he believed participation was part of citizenship.

Myls, meanwhile, was part of the Firm

that handled the impeachment case. Her role was professional, structured within the responsibilities of her office. She did not seek personal recognition. She carried out her duties as a lawyer — precise, disciplined, faithful to her mandate.

It was only gradually that they both recognized the quiet irony:

They were on opposing sides of a national moment.

Not adversaries. Not combatants. Simply aligned differently in a complex chapter of the country's story.

One evening at home, documents spread across the dining table, they paused.

“So,” Myls said lightly, though her eyes were thoughtful, “we find ourselves across the aisle.”

Raoul smiled. “It appears so.”

There was no tension in the room. No raised voices.

Only acknowledgment.

They respected each other's positions the way they always had — by examining reasoning, not attacking

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character. They debated in measured tones. They listened. They disagreed where necessary. But they never questioned each other's integrity.

History was loud outside.
Inside, they were steady.

That season did not test their loyalty to each other.
It revealed it.

Because they had long ago agreed on something deeper than alignment on every issue:

*They would attack ideas, not each other.
They would stand firm in principle.*

And they would always return to the same side of the table at the end of the day.

The Rules of Their Marriage

Marriage, they learned early, was not sustained by grand gestures.
It was sustained by systems.

They had their rules.
Some spoken. Some instinctive.

*Rule One: The wife is always right.
Rule Two: If there is doubt, refer to Rule One.*



Three months old, cradled in grace.

On this sacred day in 1997, Raoul and Myls stood not only as husband and wife, but as mother and father — holding in their arms Mikee, the quiet miracle of their love made flesh. Beneath the watchful gaze of the saints, promises were whispered again: to guide, to protect, to raise this child in faith and in light.

From "I do," to "We do."

The joke endured because it carried truth — not about superiority, but about humility.

When arguments arose — and they did — they refused escalation.

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They attacked the issue.
Never the person.
No kitchen-sinking. No resurrecting old
grievances for leverage.

If emotions ran high, they paused.
Not to withdraw.

To breathe.

Raoul, more often than not, was the
first to approach reconciliation. He
understood that pride could win
arguments but lose peace.

Myls understood that silence, if
prolonged, could build walls.

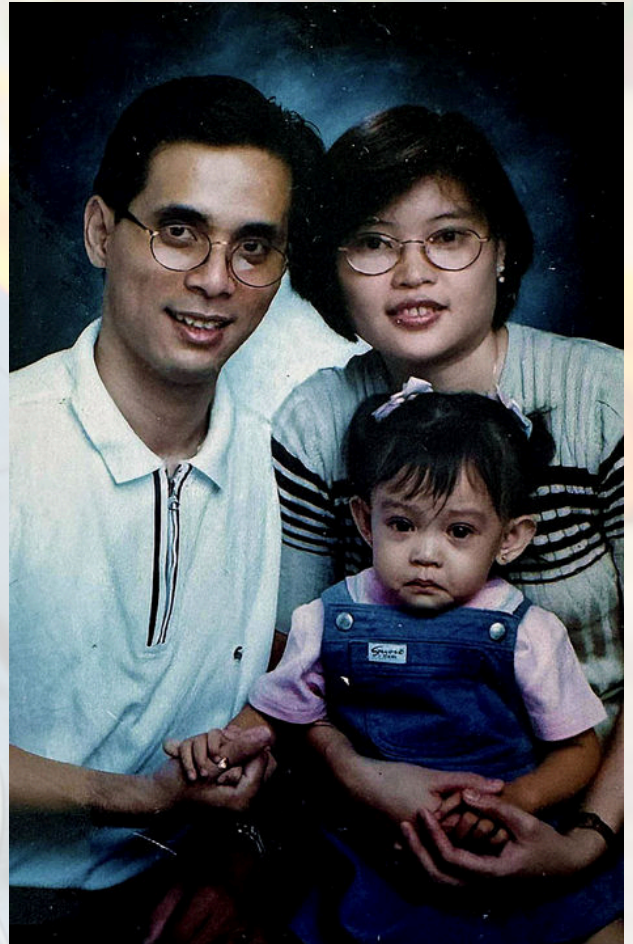
So, they never slept without resolution.
Sometimes the resolution was full
agreement.
Sometimes it was simply understanding.
But it was always intentional.

Because love, they both knew, does not
erode from catastrophe.
It erodes from neglect.
And neglect was the one adversary they
refused to allow.

The Child Who Re-centered the World

When Mikee was born, the world did
not stop.

It shifted.



*A love that once stood at the altar now kneels
to tie tiny shoelaces and steady little hands.*

*In this quiet portrait of youth, hope sits
between them — two steady hearts framing
the bright wonder of a four-year-old dream
named Mikee. What began as romance has
deepened into responsibility, laughter,
sleepless nights, and immeasurable joy.*

*From partners in promise to partners in
parenthood — their greatest title yet: Mom
and Dad.*

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A two-year-old little girl with pigtails and wonder in her eyes, standing where the sea meets the sky.

Nelson Bay, 1999 — where tiny footprints pressed into foreign sand, and two young parents watched their world grow braver, brighter, and bigger than they had ever imagined. The ocean stretched wide before her, but her true horizon was the love that followed her wherever she went.

In that moment, beneath an Australian sky, their greatest adventure was not the journey abroad — it was raising Mikee.

Raoul held her with hands accustomed to legal documents and public responsibility. And yet, nothing in his professional life had prepared him for the weight of something so small and so absolute.

Fatherhood clarified everything.

Success was no longer measured solely in courtroom victories or leadership roles.

It was measured in presence.
School programs attended.
Bedtime stories read.
Conversations not rushed.

For Myls, motherhood unfolded like a quiet expansion.

There was fierceness in it — protective, instinctive — but also tenderness that surprised even her.
She had always been disciplined.

Now she was deeply attuned.
Ambition did not disappear.
It rearranged itself.

Career decisions were filtered through a new question:

Will this cost presence?

They protected family time the way they protected court deadlines.

Dinner was sacred.
Vacations were deliberate.

Even in seasons of intense professional demand, one thing remained constant:

If it mattered to Mikee, it mattered to them.

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What They Modeled Without Saying

Children learn not from instruction alone, but from observation. Mikee grew up watching two lawyers who disagreed without cruelty.

Two leaders who apologized when wrong.
Two professionals who treated staff, colleagues, and strangers with equal respect.

She saw faith not as ritual, but as practice — prayer before decisions, gratitude spoken aloud, service rendered quietly.
She saw forgiveness enacted in real time.
She saw humor rescue tension.
She saw her parents choose each other daily.

They did not lecture her on integrity. She saw it in the way contracts were honored.

They did not define discipline. She saw it in the hours they prepared for hearings.

They did not romanticize marriage. She saw it in the way arguments ended before sleep.

And slowly, without spectacle, values settled into her bones.



*Not in courtrooms. Not in Malacañang.
But in bowling lanes and quiet weekends together.*

At the Ferndale Bowling Club, Raoul, Myls, and Mikee were simply a family — teammates in matching colors, laughing between frames, celebrating strikes and forgiving gutter balls.

Titles may define a career. But moments like these define a life.

Because beyond leadership and law, their greatest victory has always been this — showing up for one another, again and again.

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When Love Becomes Legacy

As Mikee grew older, independence surfaced naturally.

Her decision to live abroad did not fracture them.

It revealed what they had built.

There were moments of nostalgia — photographs held longer than necessary, stories retold with softer laughter.

There was pride.

And, beneath it, the quiet ache every parent understands.

But more than fear, there was trust.

Because they had not raised a daughter to cling.

They had raised her to stand.

And now, as she prepared for marriage, the cycle widened.

They saw in her the patience they had practiced.

The discernment they had modeled.
The steadiness they had chosen. Love, they realized, was no longer only theirs.

It had multiplied.



This 2011 Creencia family portrait captures more than a gathering — it holds a generation at full bloom.

At the center sit the patriarch and matriarch, composed and dignified, the quiet anchors of the Creencia family. Years of sacrifice, discipline, and devotion are etched not in lines of age, but in the posture of contentment — the look of parents who have seen their children grow, stand on their own, and build lives of their own. Around them stand their sons and daughters — no longer merely children, but professionals, spouses, and parents themselves. Each carries a distinct story, a different path, yet all remain tethered to the same root. There is elegance in the formality of their attire, but what truly binds the image is something less visible: shared history. Shared meals. Shared struggles. Shared laughter. The younger generation stands among them — bright-eyed, dressed for occasion, inheritors of a legacy they may not yet fully comprehend. In their presence is continuity. In their smiles, the promise that the family story will not end here.

A family portrait, yes — but more profoundly, a testament to legacy lived and love multiplied.

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The Moment They Knew

There was no single announcement.
No cinematic revelation.
Just a gradual recognition.

They saw it in the way Mikee spoke about her future — not impulsively, not romantically, but thoughtfully. She asked questions. She weighed decisions. She listened more than she spoke.

She was no longer seeking permission.
She was seeking perspective.

One evening, after dinner, she lingered at the table longer than usual.

“There’s something I want to talk to you about,” she said.

Myls felt it before she heard it.

Raoul remained still, steady as ever.

When Mikee finished speaking — about commitment, about partnership, about building a life intentionally — there was no panic in the room.

No protective tightening.
Just silence filled with pride.

After she left the table, Myls exhaled slowly.

“She’s ready.”



Across shifting sands and endless horizons, we remain steady — side by side, heart to heart. Dubai, 2019. Where the desert met our laughter, and adventure felt like home. ■

Raoul nodded.

“She is.”

It wasn’t confidence in the world.
It was confidence in her.

Joy and Ache

When they imagined her building a life of her own, emotions did not arrive neatly.

They arrived layered.

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Beneath a canopy of white blossoms and sacred light, they stand — not just as guests at a wedding, but as a family quietly aware that time is moving forward.

She stands between them, radiant and poised, bouquet in hand — no longer the little girl they once carried, but a woman in her own right. And though this day belongs to a friend, there is an unspoken tenderness in the way her parents look at her — a gentle recognition that one day, they too will walk this aisle for her.

Some moments are celebrations. Others are quiet rehearsals of the heart.

This photo feels like both — a beautiful portent of the day when Mikee will place her own hand in marriage next year, and Raoul and Myls will stand not just in attendance, but in surrender and in joy.

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Joy — bright and undeniable. Watching her step into adulthood with clarity felt like watching a sunrise they had prayed for.

Pride — deep and steady. She had grown into a woman who could stand on her own reasoning.

Nostalgia — softer, more dangerous. The memory of small hands in theirs. First steps. First day of school.

And fear — not of her choice, but of the world that would test her.

It is the paradox of parenthood. You raise a child to be strong enough to leave. And then you must be strong enough to let her.

What They Told Her About Love

They did not romanticize marriage when they spoke to her.

They respected it too much for that.

“Choose someone who respects your mind,” Myls told her. “Not just your heart.”

“Choose someone whose values are not negotiable,” Raoul added. “Because when everything else shifts, values remain.”



Eighteen candles. Eighteen years of whispered prayers, sleepless nights, laughter, lessons, and love.

On her debut, Mikee stood radiant in red — no longer the little girl by the sea, but a young woman stepping into her own light. And beside her stood the two who had held her hands long before she could walk, and quietly let go so she could learn to fly.

That evening was not only her coming of age. It was theirs too.

For every daughter who blooms into grace carries within her the steadfast love of the parents who believed in her first.



In the heart of Belgium, beneath centuries-old façades glowing in golden light, the three of them stand — not just as travelers, but as a family shaped by shared journeys. From Manila to Europe, from milestones to memories, their greatest destination has always been each other.

They spoke of partnership as active, not passive.

Of commitment as daily.

Of conflict as inevitable — but never destructive if approached with humility.

“Attack the issue,” Raoul said with a faint smile, “not each other.”

They spoke of forgiveness.
Of apologizing first.
Of not keeping score.

They spoke of faith — not as obligation, but as foundation.
Love, they told her, is not sustained by emotion alone.

It is sustained by discipline.
By respect.
By the willingness to grow.

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An A.I. portrait of love, laughter, and the sweetest recipe of all — family.

From shared dreams to shared meals, every chapter in the lives of Raoul, Myls, and Mikee has been gently seasoned with faith, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to one another. What began as two hearts building a home has blossomed into a legacy of encouragement — where passions are nurtured, talents are celebrated, and every achievement is shared.

Today, this portrait captures more than smiling faces; it reflects years of quiet sacrifice, steadfast belief, and joy found in the simplest rituals — a meal prepared with love, a table gathered around, an embrace that says “we are in this together.” In every smile, there is gratitude. In every glance, a lifetime of memories. And in every shared dish, the enduring truth that the greatest success is the family you build along the way.

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Returning to the Morning

The house stirred softly.

A door opened.

Footsteps crossed the hallway.

The day had arrived.

In the quiet before everything began — before guests, before photographs, before vows — Raoul and Myls stood together once more by the window.

The city moved forward as it always had.

So had they.

Once, they had been young leaders competing for student office.

Once, he had approached her with a folded paper.

Once, she had promised herself love would wait.

Instead, love had grown — through exams, through separation, through courtrooms and controversies, through sleepless nights and sacred routines.



In Florence, where every stone seems to remember a story and every piazza breathes the spirit of the Renaissance, Raoul, Myls, and Mikee pause for a moment that is at once timeless and deeply personal.

Behind them rises the quiet majesty of old Europe — statues cast in bronze, fortress walls shaped by centuries, façades that have witnessed the rise of genius and the unfolding of history. Yet in the foreground stands something even more enduring: a family bound not only by blood, but by shared journeys, shared laughter, and shared dreams.

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It had grown quietly.
Deliberately.
Chosen.

Myls reached for his hand again.
There were no tears now.
Only fullness.

“We did what we were meant to do,” she said.

Raoul nodded.

“And we continue.”

Because love does not end when a child marries.

It evolves.
It widens.
It steadies.

Outside, the sky brightened completely.

Inside, something gentler settled — not loss, but release.

They had once stood at an altar in the Manila Cathedral promising to choose each other for life.

They had kept that promise.



In Ghent, where medieval towers rise against a crisp blue sky and centuries-old stone tells stories of resilience, Raoul, Myls, and Mikee stand framed by history — and by one another.

Behind them, statues and castle walls speak of legacy. Before them blooms a bed of autumn flowers, vibrant and alive — much like the life they continue to build together. There is something poetic in the contrast: ancient strength in the background, enduring love in the foreground. Travel changes landscapes; family transforms journeys. And in Ghent, beneath golden light and European skies, this moment becomes more than a photograph — it becomes a quiet testament to shared adventures, steady foundations, and a bond that grows richer with every mile traveled together.

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Now they would watch their daughter make her own.

Raoul turned to her.

“Still choosing?” he asked quietly.

Myls smiled.

“Every day.”

And together, they stepped away from the window and toward the sound of their daughter’s laughter — toward lace, toward vows, toward the next generation of love.

Not at the center.
But as foundation.

And foundations, when built on faith, discipline, and deliberate devotion, do not crack with time.

They endure.

Epilogue: The Quiet Truth

Years from now, when photographs fade slightly and memories soften at the edges, what will remain is not the grandeur of the wedding day.

It will be the choices.



A family that swings together, stays together. 🏌️

On the greens, it's not just about birdies and pars — it's about shared mornings, steady hands, quiet focus, and the joy of walking side by side under open skies. With every drive down the fairway and every putt lined up with care, this trio proves that the best rounds are the ones played as a team.

More than a game, golf becomes a rhythm of connection — patience, encouragement, laughter after a missed shot, and celebration after a good one. Here, competition gives way to companionship, and every swing tells the story of a family that chooses to grow, improve, and enjoy the journey together.

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The nights they resolved arguments before sleep.

The mornings they prayed before decisions.

The moments they stood on opposite sides of history and still came home united.

The day they let go without breaking.

Their love story was never about spectacle.

It was about steadiness.

It was about two disciplined hearts learning that victory is not winning alone — it is building together.

And if their story teaches anything, it is this:

Love endures not because it is easy. It endures because it is chosen.

Again.

And again.

And again. ■



*Fifty years of grace.
Fifty years of strength.
Fifty years of love poured into family, faith,
and every life she has quietly touched.*

*At 50, Myls doesn't just celebrate a
milestone — she embodies it.
Still radiant. Still steadfast. Still the heart
that holds them all together.*

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A defining moment for a remarkable partnership. ✨

Newly inducted Rotary Club of Manila President Raoul, hand in hand with First Lady Myls, greets a sea of well-wishers at the 106th Induction and Turnover Ceremonies — a power couple united not only in love, but in purpose.

Together, they step into a new chapter of leadership with grace, gratitude, and an unwavering commitment to Service Above Self.



An honor of diplomacy and friendship.

RCM President Raoul and First Lady Myls stand alongside United States Ambassador to the Philippines, Her Excellency MaryKay Loss Carlson — a moment that reflects the enduring ties between nations and the shared commitment to service, leadership, and community.

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At the Colegio de Calumpit in Bulacan, the Rotary Club of Manila, led by President Raoul, carried forward its relief operations in partnership with the Rotary Club of Calumpit under President Anjo Cortez, and the ALC Media Group of Rtn. Edgard Cabangon.

Though the monsoon rains and typhoons have long passed, their aftermath remains painfully visible. Homes are still in disrepair, livelihoods

disrupted, and many families continue the difficult work of rebuilding. In Calumpit — one of the towns heavily affected by flooding — the storm's shadow lingers in quiet but profound ways. The skies may have cleared, but recovery is an ongoing journey. Through this joint initiative, essential goods were distributed to families still struggling to regain stability. It was a reminder that true service does not end when headlines fade — it continues where the need remains. ■

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

INTERCLUB RELATIONS

Rotary Club of Baguio's 88th Charter Anniversary

Before the event...



President-elect Reggie Yu had breakfast at the residence of President Raoul Creencia before proceeding to Baguio for the RC Baguio's anniversary gala.



Pres. Raoul Creencia, IPP Jujut Enriquez, and PE Reggie Yu at the Forest Lodge



At the 88th Charter Anniversary of RC Baguio, daughter club of RC Manila



President Raoul Creencia with
RC Baguio President Jose Ursua



President Raoul Creencia delivering his message
as the Guest of Honor and Speaker



At the 88th Charter Anniversary of RC Baguio, daughter club of RC Manila



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Consul General Mangalile Inducted Honorary Member of RC New York

NEW YORK CITY, NY, 17 February 2026 — Consul General Senen T. Mangalile addressed the members of the Rotary Club of New York as the featured speaker of the third session of *The World Meets in New York: A Consular Speaker Series* on 17 February 2026 at the Turkish House.

Before a diverse audience of business leaders, non-profit executives, and consular officials, Consul General Mangalile spoke of the Philippines' political structure, foreign policy pillars, development priorities, and strategic role in Southeast Asia, especially citing the country's strategic goals as Chair of the ASEAN this year. He also provided context for the celebration of the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the United States this year.



*Consul General Senen T. Mangalile speaks of Philippine priorities as this year's Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the third session of The World Meets in New York: A Consular Speaker Series at the Turkish House.
(Photo by the Rotary Club of New York)*

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In his presentation, Consul General Mangalile thanked the organizers for the opportunity to deepen the attendees' understanding of the Philippines. "My years of service in diplomacy have taught me that the more we understand one another, the better equipped we are to find common ground with others and work towards solutions that benefit everyone," he said. "Diplomacy is the art of understanding differences while finding common ground, and it is what we need to address global problems," he added.



Consul General Mangalile and Mr. Erdem Altay engage in a moderated discussion at The World Meets in New York: A Consular Speaker Series hosted by the Rotary Club of New York. (Photo by Nikka Arenal)



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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After the moderated discussion, Consul General Mangalile was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of New York. A member of the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM), Consul General Mangalile exchanged banners with Mr. Cemil Mujdat Altay, President of RCNY. Established in 1909, RCNY is the sixth Rotary Club in the world. Chartered on June 1, 1919, RCM is the first Rotary Club in Asia.



Consul General Senen T. Mangalile, a member of the Rotary Club of Manila, and Mr. Cemil Mujdat Altay, President of the Rotary Club of New York, exchange banners of the Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of New York. (Photo by Nikka Arenal)



The speakers' series, organized by RCNY and supported by the Society of Foreign Consuls (SOFC) and the Consulate General of Turkiye in New York, brings together Consuls General serving in New York, Rotarians, and the business community in a convivial gathering designed to provide each featured speaker the opportunity to share insights on global affairs, bilateral relations, cultural diplomacy, and their respective nation's engagement with the United States and the international community.

DISTRICT EVENTS

Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors Meeting and Celebration of World Rotary Day



PDG Vince Carlos, PDG Obet Pagdanganan and DGND Hermie Esguerra attended the Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors Meeting and Celebration of World Rotary Day last February 23, 2026 at the East Ocean Palace Restaurant in Parañaque City.



The ongoing meeting of the Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors



Group photo of the Rotary District 3810 Council of Governors celebrating World Rotary Day

DISTRICT EVENTS

Governor's Visit to RC Cavite Centro



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Cavite Centro last February 24, 2026 at the Rotary Club of Cavite East Center in Imus, Cavite.

DGND/DSG
Hermie
Esguerra
giving his
insights during
the Governor's
Visit to RC
Cavite Centro



DGND/DSG
Hermie
Esguerra
conducting the
charging of
new members
of the Rotary
Club of Cavite
Centro.

Governor's Visit to RC Cavite Aguinaldo



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Cavite Aguinaldo last February 24, 2026 at the Rotary Club of Cavite East Center in Imus, Cavite.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra giving his insights during the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Cavite Aguinaldo .

Governor's Visits to the Rotary Club of Cavite Centro and the Rotary Club of Cavite Aguinaldo



Group photos at the end of the Governor's Visits to the Rotary Club of Cavite Centro and the Rotary Club of Cavite Aguinaldo



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

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
OPINION

Editor
Juliet L. Javellana

Make America Great Alone

WITH DUE RESPECT
ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN

The Supreme Court of the United States (Scotus), voting 6-3, declared unconstitutional and smashed US President Donald Trump's tariff terrorism that upset the global order and the rule of law. Scotus Chief Justice John Roberts—a conservative jurist, joined by two other conservatives, Neil Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett, and the three liberal justices, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ketanji Brown Jackson—ruled that the US Constitution “did not vest any part of the taxing power to the Executive Branch.”

A DEFIANT TRUMP TYPICALLY USED PERSONAL AND GUTTER VERBIAGE (in contrast to the polite but firm language of CJ Roberts) in his instant counterattack, uttering that he was “ashamed, absolutely ashamed, of certain members of the Court, for not having the courage to do what is right for the country.” With due respect, I believe that, quite the contrary, these six justices, especially the three conservatives, had the courage and grit to defy the temperamental US President and to restore confidence in the rule of law.

The rule of law is a foundational principle of democratic governance, which ensures that no individual—not even the country's chief executive—is above the law. It encompasses equality before the law, accountability through checks and balances, adherence to due process, and respect for judicial independence and international commitments.

However, Trump has repeatedly trumped these ideals. He sidelines legal and institutional constraints and undermines democratic processes and international commitments.

The ongoing immigration crackdown and deportations defy court orders and judicial halts. Recent news reports indicate that the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, is detaining over 60,000 individuals, the majority of whom have no criminal convictions. This is expected to worsen, as a new memo issued last week rescinds a prior policy that did not consider failure to apply for a green card within a year as grounds for detention and deportation.

ecutive caprice and unchecked strategies above institutional restraint. The incessant attacks on international organizations, including the United Nations and some of its humanitarian agencies, undermine rules-based norms as well as territorial integrity and resource protection.

Early this year, US forces captured the Venezuelan President. Currently, in the Middle East, a massive US military buildup openly poses potential strikes on Iranian nuclear sites. These interventions subvert accepted sovereignty principles and signal a retreat from multilateralism.

They weaken the integrity of international law that smaller states depend on. For the Philippines, these interventions threaten enforcement in the West Philippine Sea, where predictable alliances and international law provide essential leverage against larger powers.

Trump has proven that, after all, he is not promoting “Make America Great Again” but “Make America Great Alone.” In so doing, he has surrendered the leverage that comes from being the indispensable hub of global commerce. Trump's transactional approach to trade and governance risks undermining the global economic order.

When the US abruptly withdraws from treaties, mocks international organizations, and treats allies as adversaries, it does not merely weaken those institutions. It tells every authoritarian on earth that the language of rules was always a fiction—and that raw power is the only currency that matters.

What is at stake is the infrastructure of democracy itself—the rules, norms, institutions, and commitments that make disagreements possible without descending into chaos or tyranny.

When a president abandons those commitments, it falls to the rest of humankind—the lawmakers, the courts, the media, and above all, the citizens—to defend them and to restore the foundations of justice to their proper order.

Comments to chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

RECOGNITION CORNER

PDG Joyce Ambray ad DGND Herminio Esguerra Recognized by the Philippine Arts, Film & Television, Inc.



PDG Joyce Ambray received the Philippine Arts, Film & Television, Inc. (PAFTA) Philanthropy and Community Service Leadership Award last February 21, 2026 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel in Manila.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra received the Philippine Arts, Film & Television, Inc. (PAFTA) Lifetime Achievement Award for Business and Sports Legacy last February 21, 2026 at the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel in Manila.

RECOGNITION CORNER

DE Teddy Kalaw: First Filipino Elected to IVSC Asia Committee

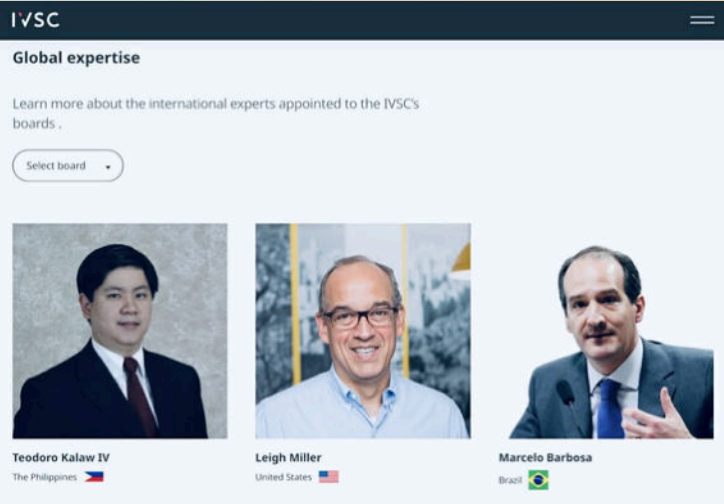


The IVSC is pleased to welcome **Teodoro Kalaw IV**, President of the **Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraiser (IPREA)**, to the Asia Committee.

Teddy is one of the Philippines' most accomplished valuation and legal professionals. A Fellow of IPREA and a Recognized Valuation Consultant, he is also a Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Chartered Surveyor and a licensed real estate consultant, appraiser, and broker.

He is the first Filipino Certified Sustainability Professional accredited by the Global Reporting Initiative, the country's first certified Intellectual Property Valuer with Association for the Management and Valuation of Intangibles, and the only Filipino Chartered Arbitrator and dual-discipline Fellow of **Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ciarb)**.

Teddy is Senior Partner at **Kalaw Prasad & Hofileña Law** and teaches at **Ateneo School of Law**. His wide-ranging expertise strengthens the Committee's mission to advance high-quality valuation practice across Asia.



DE Teddy Kalaw was elected to the Asia Committee of the International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) this month.

He is the first Filipino to serve on the IVSC.

RECOGNITION CORNER

RCMFI PP Willie Peliño Receives 2026 Distinguished Bedan Award in Education



**A SALUTE TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE
2026 DISTINGUISHED BEDAN AWARD
IN EDUCATION**

"BEDAN EXCELLENCE. PRIDE AND GLORY"

			
DR. JOFFRE M. ALAJAR (GS '72, HS '76, CAS '80) Former Professor College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) San Beda University	ATTY. TEODORO A. PASTRANA (Law '91) Dean, College of Law San Sebastian Recoletos-Manila	WILFRIDO M. PELIÑO (GS '69, HS '73) Chairman of the Board Osmeña Colleges, Inc.	BASILIO C. SISON (GS '66, HS '70) President Henry Sison Culinary School, Inc.

**The Awarding Rites will be held during the San Beda Annual Red & White Ball
on Sunday, March 1, 2026, 6:00 PM at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.**

RCManila Foundation, Inc. PP Willie Peliño was bestowed the 2026 Distinguished Bedan Award in Education.

PUBLIC IMAGE

Rotary Club of Manila's 20th Weekly Membership Meeting, with BIR Commissioner Hon. Charlito Martin as Guest of Honor and Speaker, Featured in DWIZ





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