



The
HERMA
Group

#BUILTOLAST

PETROLEUM AND SUPPLY CHAIN | BUNKERING | SHIPPING
SHIP BUILDING / SHIP REPAIR | AGRI BUSINESS VENTURES
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT | ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



ESGUERRA FARMS & STUD INC.

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4094 • JUNE 25, 2026

36th Weekly Membership Meeting



CLUB AWARDS 2026

& VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

2026 CLUB AWARDS
Celebrating
Excellence, Service,
and Commitment:
RCM Honors Outstanding
Members for Rotary Year
2025-2026

Rotary Club of
Manila Concludes
Rotary Year with
Meaningful
35th Weekly
Membership
Meeting

CONTENTS



Program	4
Editorial	8
President's Message	14
2026 CLUB AWARDS Celebrating Excellence, Service, and Commitment: RCM Honors Outstanding Members for Rotary Year 2025–2026	20
Rotary Club of Manila Concludes Rotary Year with Meaningful 35th Weekly Membership Meeting	94
PDG Alex Cureg's Valedictory Address	114
Club Administration	128
4th RCM Golf Cup	139
TRUST THE PROCESS A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday	154
District Events	256
Board of Directors and Executive Officers for RY 2025-2026	262
Editorial Board for RY 2025-2026	263



PROGRAM



ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 36th Weekly Membership Meeting Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 12:00 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: Sec. ANTONILO “Anton” DC. MAURICIO

PART I

11:00 AM Registration /Lunch

12:00 PM Call to Order
Pres. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

Invocation
DIR. ALBERT “Hans” C. PALACIOS

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale

The Four (4) Way Test
DE/BLA CARLOS G. SERAPIO

Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and Guests
DIR. WARREN SO

Welcome Song | **RCM WF Music Chorale**

12:20 Birthday Celebrants of the Week
June 26 - Rtn. Bernd Schneider
June 28 - PVP Manny Dy
Rtn. Nando Gaspar
June 30 - PP Archit Bartolome

Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Music Chorale

PART II

12:35 PM President's Time | **Pres. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

12:35 PM **Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement** between the Rotary Club of Manila and UP-Philippine General Hospital for Global Grant # 2682583 Strengthening Neonatal Care through Life-Saving Equipment Support

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

GERARDO D. LEGASPI, MD
(Director, UP-PGH)

EDILBERTO B. GARCIA, JR., MD
(Chair, Department of Pediatrics)

MA. ESERLITA V. UY, MD
(Chief, Division of Newborn Medicine)

VAL VAQUILAR, MD
(Chief Fellow, Division of Newborn Medicine)



PROGRAM



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA

36th Weekly Membership Meeting

Rotary Year 2025-2026

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 12:00 PM

Manila Polo Club

Moderator: Sec. ANTONILO "Anton" DC. MAURICIO

12:45 PM **THE PRESENTATION OF
YEAR-END AWARDS**

Best Attendance Award
Legacy and Loyalty Award
Rising Manila Rotarian Award
Presidential Citation
Presidential Award
Presidential Award with Distinction
Club Service Award
Vocational Service Award
Community Service C Award
(Protection of the Environment and
Economic & Community Development)
Community Service A Award
(Disease Prevention and Treatment)
Community Service Award
(Maternal and Child Care)
International Service Award
Presidential Tribute Award
President's Citation of Appreciation
Exemplary Award for Distinguished Service
to Rotary Club of Manila
Rotarian of the Year Award

1:45 PM **VALEDICTORY MESSAGE**

2:00 PM **ADJOURNMENT
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**



**SERVICE
ABOVE SELF**

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



A S Rotary Year 2025–2026 draws to a close, the final regular Weekly Membership Meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila carries a significance that transcends routine club business. It is a moment of reflection, gratitude, and recognition—a gathering where we look back not merely at what was accomplished, but at the spirit that animated those accomplishments.

At the heart of this occasion is the valedictory address of President Raoul C. Creencia, whose leadership has guided the club under the inspiring theme, “Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary.” Those four words were more than a slogan. They became a call to action.

Destiny speaks of purpose. Legacy speaks of permanence. Rotary speaks of service. Together, they challenged every member to think beyond the immediate and embrace the enduring responsibility of stewardship. Throughout the year, President Raoul reminded us that the Rotary Club of Manila is not simply an organization we belong to; it is an institution we are privileged to inherit and duty-bound to strengthen.

Leadership is often measured by projects completed, funds raised, memberships gained, or awards received. These are important metrics, and under President Raoul's stewardship, the club has much to celebrate. Yet the true measure of leadership lies elsewhere. It lies in the ability to inspire others to believe in a shared mission, to foster unity amidst differing views, and to ensure that the club remains stronger at the end of a term than it was at its beginning.

EDITORIAL

By that measure, President Raoul's year has been a success.

The annual bestowment of club awards serves as a reminder that Rotary's greatest achievements are never the work of one person alone. Every award presented represents countless hours of volunteer service, quiet acts of generosity, and an unwavering commitment to Service Above Self. It is fitting that these recognitions are bestowed during the final meeting of the Rotary year, for they affirm a fundamental truth: Rotary thrives because ordinary people choose to do extraordinary things for others.

Yet even as we honor the awardees, we must not overlook the example set by the man who led them.

President Raoul's service was marked by dedication that often went unseen. Behind every successful meeting, every completed project, every challenge resolved, and every difficult decision made was a leader who willingly carried the weight of responsibility. Rotary leadership is not glamorous. It demands patience, sacrifice, diplomacy, and countless hours that

never appear in official reports. It requires placing the welfare of the club above personal convenience.

For this, the Rotary Club of Manila owes President Raoul a debt of gratitude.

We thank him for his indefatigable service. We thank him for the countless hours spent ensuring that the club remained focused on its mission. We thank him for his steady hand during moments of uncertainty and his unwavering belief in the capacity of Rotarians to rise to every challenge. Most importantly, we thank him for reminding us that our destiny is not something we inherit—it is something we create through our actions.

As one Rotary year concludes and another begins, we are reminded that leadership is temporary, but legacy endures. The projects will eventually be completed. The reports will be archived. The awards will be displayed. What remains are the values strengthened, the friendships forged, the lives touched, and the example left behind.

EDITORIAL

That is the essence of legacy.

President Raoul Creencia now joins the distinguished ranks of past presidents whose chapters have become part of the continuing story of Asia's First Rotary Club. His term will be remembered not only for what was accomplished, but for the spirit in which those accomplishments were pursued.

As Rotarians, we now inherit the responsibility to carry that legacy forward.

For in the end, our destiny is indeed our legacy.

And our legacy is Rotary. ■



UNITE
FOR
GOOD



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SIGNING OFF, SERVING ON.

SINCE assuming the Presidency of Asia's First Rotary Club, I have often felt as though I had taken on a second full-time calling alongside the exacting demands of my law practice. Yet I chose to embrace the journey—one meeting, one project, one fellowship activity, and one opportunity to serve at a time.

What unfolded was an extraordinary and deeply fulfilling year—one that stretched me, humbled me, and reminded me of the immense privilege of serving alongside accomplished men of uncommon generosity, talent, and purpose.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

To lead a club such as Rotary Club of Manila is both a profound honor and a formidable responsibility. The role demands far more than presiding over meetings or representing the Club at official functions. It requires patience in moments of difficulty, resilience amid competing demands, and the steady resolve to inspire, unite, and mobilize a diverse fellowship of accomplished individuals behind causes far greater than ourselves.

Throughout the year, I learned that Rotary leadership is not about

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

personal recognition. It is about listening, encouraging, building consensus, and creating opportunities for others to lead and shine. It is about bringing together the time, talent, resources, and goodwill of our members to transform worthy ideas into meaningful action.

It is also about leading by example - doing what must be done, even when one must begin alone, so that others may be inspired to follow. Above all, it is about redefining leadership through friendship: nurturing trust, strengthening fellowship, and reminding one another that our greatest accomplishments are those we achieve together.

The demands were real: planning projects, mobilizing members, managing limited time and resources, and sustaining enthusiasm amid the many professional and personal commitments of fellow Manila Rotarians. But these challenges made every accomplishment more meaningful.

I take particular fulfillment in the flagship projects we were able to launch and advance during the year -- initiatives that reflected our Club's continuing commitment to service, compassion, and lasting impact. To see our collective efforts translate into assistance for communities, opportunities for deserving students, support for peacebuilding advocates, and hope for those in need has been among the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I am likewise deeply grateful that our work has been recognized, with our Club being named among the Most Outstanding Rotary Clubs in the District, and with the honor bestowed upon me as among the Most Outstanding Rotary Club Presidents. These recognitions belong not to one person, but to every member, officer, committee chair, partner, and friend who gave generously of their time, talent, and resources throughout the year.

As we conclude this Rotary year, I do so with gratitude and a deep sense of fulfillment. We have demonstrated that when we work together with

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

purpose, discipline, and fellowship, we can accomplish far more than any one of us could achieve alone.

This year has given deeper meaning to our motto: **Our Destiny. Our Legacy. Rotary.**

Our destiny is not something we merely await; it is something we shape -- through every act of service we choose to undertake, every need we respond to, and every life we seek to uplift. Our legacy, in turn, will not be measured simply by the offices we held or the years we served, but by the lives we touched, the projects we sustained, and the values we entrusted to those who will carry Rotary forward after us.

The journey was not always easy. There were demands to meet, challenges to overcome, and moments when the weight of responsibility was deeply felt. Yet, through it all, the journey remained profoundly meaningful. It has been one of the most demanding, humbling, and fulfilling experiences of my life.

To have served this Club has been a privilege beyond measure. I leave this office with a heart full of gratitude: for the trust that everyone has given me, for the friendships shared, and for the opportunity to serve alongside fellow Rotarians whose commitment continues to inspire me.

As I now conclude this chapter, I do so with confidence that the best of our Club's story is still being written.

This has been your Club President, your fellow Manila Rotarian -- now signing off, but forever committed to Rotary, to service, and to the enduring legacy we build together. ■

**OUR DESTINY.
OUR LEGACY.
ROTARY.**

2026 CLUB AWARDS

**Celebrating Excellence,
Service, and Commitment:
RCM Honors Outstanding
Members for Rotary Year
2025–2026**

by PE Reginald T. Yu

AS Rotary Year 2025–2026 comes to a close, the Rotary Club of Manila once again reaffirmed its tradition of recognizing excellence, dedication, and service through its annual Club Awards Program. More than a ceremony of recognition, the awards serve as a celebration of the values that have sustained Asia's first Rotary club for over a century — commitment, fellowship, leadership, loyalty, and Service Above Self.



The Club Awards recognize members whose actions throughout the year have strengthened the organization and advanced its mission of making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. From exemplary participation in club activities to decades of unwavering commitment, the honorees represent the very best of what it means to be a Manila Rotarian.

One of the highlights of the awards program was the presentation of the Best Attendance Awards, honoring members who consistently demonstrated their dedication by actively participating in weekly membership meetings, board meetings, service projects, fellowship activities, and other club functions throughout the Rotary year. While attendance may appear to be a simple measure, it reflects a deeper commitment to the life of the club. Strong participation fosters fellowship, strengthens camaraderie, and ensures that members remain engaged in the planning and execution of meaningful service initiatives.

The Club also paid tribute to members whose long-standing dedication has helped preserve the traditions and institutional memory of the organization through the Legacy and Loyalty Awards. These

recognitions were bestowed upon Rotarians who have devoted significant portions of their lives to the Rotary Club of Manila, with milestones ranging from fifteen to forty-five years of membership.

Such longevity is a remarkable achievement in itself. Beyond the years, however, these awards recognize the countless hours devoted to service projects, mentorship, leadership, fundraising, community development, and club administration. These Rotarians have witnessed the club's evolution through changing times while remaining steadfast in their commitment to Rotary's ideals. Their dedication has helped shape generations of leaders and ensured that the Rotary Club of Manila remains a vibrant and relevant institution more than a century after its founding.

Equally inspiring was the presentation of the Rising Manila Rotarian Awards, which recognize newer members who have quickly distinguished themselves through active participation, leadership potential, initiative, and a strong commitment to Rotary values. These awardees represent the next generation of leaders who will carry forward the proud traditions of the club while bringing fresh ideas, new energy, and innovative approaches to service.

2026 CLUB AWARDS

The recognition of emerging leaders reflects the Club's commitment to continuity and succession. By encouraging newer members to become actively involved early in their Rotary journey, the Rotary Club of Manila ensures that its legacy of service will continue to flourish for generations to come.

Taken together, the various awards highlight the diverse ways in which members contribute to the success of the organization. Some lead through decades of faithful service. Others contribute through consistent participation and engagement. Still others distinguish themselves through enthusiasm, initiative, and emerging leadership. Each contribution, regardless of form, plays a vital role in strengthening the Club and expanding its impact on the communities it serves.

The annual Club Awards also serve as a reminder that Rotary is ultimately a people-centered organization. Projects may define the Club's public impact, but it is the dedication, generosity, and commitment of its members that make those projects possible.

Behind every successful initiative, every community service project, every scholarship program, and every humanitarian effort are Rotarians who willingly give their time, talents, and resources in pursuit of a greater purpose.

As the Rotary Club of Manila prepares to embark on a new Rotary year, the accomplishments celebrated through the 2025–2026 Club Awards provide both inspiration and motivation. The awardees embody the values that have guided the Club for more than a century and serve as examples for future generations of Manila Rotarians.

Their stories remind us that Rotary's enduring strength lies not only in its history but in the continued commitment of its members to live out the ideal of Service Above Self. Through their dedication, leadership, and unwavering spirit of fellowship, they help ensure that the Rotary Club of Manila remains a force for good, creating lasting impact in the Philippines and beyond.

Honoring the Faces of Service

This year's Club Awardees represent the very best of the Rotary Club of Manila — individuals whose dedication, leadership, loyalty, and commitment to Service Above Self have helped strengthen the Club and advance its mission throughout Rotary Year 2025–2026.

Among them are members whose exemplary attendance reflects an unwavering commitment to fellowship and engagement; veteran Rotarians whose decades of faithful service have preserved and enriched the Club's proud legacy; and emerging leaders whose enthusiasm, initiative, and active participation embody the future of Asia's first Rotary club.

Collectively, these awardees remind us that Rotary's greatest asset is not its history, projects, or achievements, but the men and women who willingly devote their time, talents, and resources to serving others. Through their example, they inspire fellow Rotarians to continue building a stronger Club and a more compassionate society.

The Rotary Club of Manila proudly recognizes these outstanding members whose contributions have made a lasting impact on the Club and the communities it serves.

BEST ATTENDANCE AWARD

The Best Attendance Award recognizes Rotarians whose consistent presence and active participation throughout the Rotary year exemplify commitment, discipline, and dedication to the life of the Club.

More than a measure of attendance, this award honors members who have demonstrated their unwavering support for the Rotary Club of Manila through regular engagement in meetings, fellowship activities, service projects, and club initiatives.

Their steadfast participation strengthens the bonds of fellowship, fosters continuity in leadership, and serves as an inspiring example of commitment to Service Above Self.

Best Attendance Award



President
RAOUL C. CREENCIA



*District Governor
Nominee-Designate*
HERMINIO S. ESGUERRA



*Director-Elect and
Board Legal Adviser*
CARLOS G. SERAPIO



President-elect
REGINALD T. YU



Internal Auditor
ARSENIO Z. LOCSIN



Club Secretary
**ANTONIOLO D.C.
MAURICIO**



Past District Gov.
VICENTE J. CARLOS

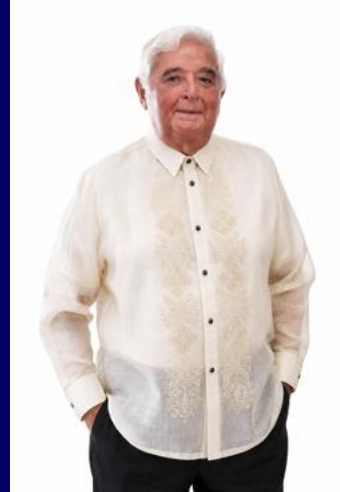


Past Director **OSCAR
A. DEL ROSARIO SR.**

LEGACY AND LOYALTY AWARD

The Legacy and Loyalty Award honors Rotarians whose enduring commitment and years of dedicated service have helped shape and strengthen the Rotary Club of Manila. Recognizing significant membership milestones, this award celebrates individuals who have faithfully upheld Rotary's ideals across decades of fellowship, leadership, and service.

Their steadfast devotion, institutional memory, and unwavering support have preserved the Club's proud heritage while inspiring future generations of Manila Rotarians to continue the tradition of Service Above Self.



Past Sergeant-at-Arms
GUNTER MATSCHUCK
(45 Years)



Past District Governor
ROBERTO M. PAGDANGANAN
(40 Years)



Past Director
JOSE N. NUÑEZ JR.
(40 Years)



Rotarian
JOSE A. SYJUCO
(25 Years)

Legacy and Loyalty Award



Past President **FELIX FRANCISCO S. ZALDARRIAGA**
(25 Years)



Past Club Secretary
IVAN JOHN E. UY
(25 Years)



Past Director and
Incoming Club Secretary
ALBERT S. ALDAY
(20 Years)



Past Vice-President
FAUSTO D.R. PREYSLER
(15 Years)

RISING MANILA ROTARIAN AWARD

The Rising Manila Rotarian Award recognizes outstanding STAR Rotarians who have distinguished themselves through exceptional enthusiasm, active participation, and meaningful contributions to the life of the Club during the Rotary year.

Though relatively early in their Rotary journey, these awardees have already demonstrated leadership potential, initiative, and a genuine commitment to Rotary's ideals of fellowship and service.

Their energy, fresh perspectives, and willingness to go beyond expectations have made them exemplary STAR Rotarians and promising future leaders of the Rotary Club of Manila. Through their dedication and passion for Service Above Self, they embody the bright future of Asia's first Rotary club.

Rising Manila Rotarian Award



*STAR Rotarian
DEAN Y. CID*



*STAR Rotarian
WINSTON M. GINEZ*



*STAR Rotarian
ROWEL JANSON S. ONG*



*STAR Rotarian
OLIVER L. PANTALEON*



*STAR Rotarian
JONAS R. GONZALES*



*STAR Rotarian
FRANCISCO ROBERTO
D.C. MAURICIO*



*STAR Rotarian
CHRIS C. TAMESIS*



*STAR Rotarian
JASON ROMEO C.
VALDERRAMA*

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION AWARD

The Presidential Citation Award is bestowed upon Rotarians and/or Rotaractors who have rendered exceptional service and made significant contributions to the success of the Club during the Rotary year.

Selected by the President, this special recognition honors individuals whose dedication, leadership, initiative, and unwavering support have gone above and beyond the ordinary call of duty.

Through their outstanding commitment to the Club's programs, projects, and objectives, these awardees have played an invaluable role in advancing the mission of the Rotary Club of Manila and exemplifying the true spirit of Service Above Self.



*Rotaractor SUMMER
STEPHANIE B. BONIFACIO
(Rotaract Club of Manila)*

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

The Presidential Award represents one of the highest honors bestowed by the Club President upon Rotarians whose extraordinary dedication, leadership, and service have made a profound impact on the Rotary Club of Manila during the Rotary year.

This recognition is reserved for individuals who have consistently demonstrated excellence, gone beyond expectations, and played a vital role in advancing the Club's mission, programs, and strategic objectives.

Through their exemplary commitment, selfless service, and unwavering support, these awardees embody the finest traditions of Rotary and the enduring spirit of Service Above Self.



*Past District
Governor
ROBERTO M.
PAGDANGANAN*

As Chairman of the Rotary Information Committee, Obet played a pivotal role in strengthening Rotary education within the Club by ensuring that new members were effectively oriented to the ideals, traditions, and mission of Rotary. Through his dedication to mentoring and member development, he helped cultivate a deeper understanding of Rotary values and contributed significantly to building a stronger foundation for the future of the Rotary Club of Manila. His commitment to educating and inspiring fellow Rotarians has left a lasting impact on the Club and its membership.

Presidential Award



*Past President
EUSEBIO V.
TAN*

As a Past President of the Rotary Club of Manila, Ebot served as a trusted mentor and adviser whose wisdom, experience, and steadfast support provided invaluable guidance to the Club's leadership. Through his thoughtful counsel, encouragement, and leadership insights, he helped foster confidence and clarity in decision-making, enabling the Club to pursue its projects and initiatives with greater purpose and direction. His enduring commitment to mentoring future leaders reflects the spirit of fellowship and service that continues to strengthen the Rotary Club of Manila.



*Rotarian
BERTEL
INGMAR
BERTELSEN*

As Chairman of The Rotary Foundation Committee, Inggy provided dedicated leadership in advancing the mission and programs of The Rotary Foundation within the Rotary Club of Manila. Through his efforts to promote philanthropy, humanitarian service, and global goodwill, he encouraged greater support for initiatives that improve lives and strengthen communities both locally and internationally. His steadfast commitment to the Foundation's ideals helped reinforce the Club's tradition of service and its contribution to Rotary's worldwide impact.

Presidential Award



*Rotarian
BRENDAN
W.L. EGAN*

As Chairman of the Classification Committee, Bren provided diligent stewardship in safeguarding one of Rotary's most important membership traditions. Through his careful evaluation and assignment of classifications for prospective and incoming members, he helped maintain the diversity, professional excellence, and integrity that distinguish the Rotary Club of Manila. His commitment to upholding Rotary standards has contributed significantly to preserving the Club's strong and balanced membership foundation.



*Rotarian
NICOLO S.
HALLARE*

As Chairman of the Teacher Training Program and Website Design and Development Committee, Nico provided visionary leadership in advancing both educational and digital initiatives of the Rotary Club of Manila. Through his efforts in teacher development, he helped empower educators and promote professional growth, while his work in enhancing the Club's website strengthened its online presence, communication, and accessibility. His creativity, innovation, and commitment to service contributed significantly to expanding the Club's impact and engagement both within and beyond the Rotary community.

Presidential Award



*Director-Elect
DELFIN N.
LORENZANA*

As Chairman of the Program Committee, Del played a vital role in enhancing the quality and relevance of the Rotary Club of Manila's weekly membership meetings through the development of engaging and meaningful programs. His thoughtful leadership and dedication ensured that members were exposed to insightful discussions, inspiring speakers, and timely topics that enriched fellowship and promoted learning. Through his commitment to excellence, he contributed significantly to the success, substance, and prestige of the Club's regular gatherings.



*Rotarian
ROMEO C.
NONES*

As Chairman of the Board of Judges of the TOWER Awards and an active member of both the ARAL (Advancing Resources for Accessible Learning) Program Committee and the Rotary Information Committee, Romy provided invaluable leadership, sound judgment, and dedicated service to several of the Club's flagship initiatives. Through his stewardship of the TOWER Awards, he helped uphold the integrity and prestige of a program that honors the dignity of labor, while his contributions to educational and Rotary information initiatives advanced the Club's commitment to literacy, learning, and member development. His quiet leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence have left a meaningful impact on the Rotary Club of Manila and the communities it serves.

Presidential Award



*Past Vice-
President
FAUSTO D.R.
PREYSLER*

As Chairman of the Membership Committee, Fausto played a critical role in safeguarding the standards, integrity, and traditions of the Rotary Club of Manila through the careful evaluation and screening of prospective members. His sound judgment, fairness, and commitment to excellence helped ensure that the Club continued to attract individuals of character, leadership, and a genuine dedication to service. Through his stewardship, he contributed significantly to maintaining the quality and distinction of membership in Asia's first Rotary club.



*Rotarian
DANIEL
CALZADO
OBRADO*

As Chairman of the Rotary Club of Manila's Medical Mission, Dan demonstrated outstanding leadership and compassion in bringing essential healthcare services to underserved communities. Through his effective coordination of volunteers, partners, and resources, he helped ensure the successful planning and implementation of the medical mission, enabling the Club to address critical health needs and improve the well-being of countless beneficiaries. His dedication to humanitarian service exemplifies Rotary's commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Presidential Award



*Rotarian
BERND
SCHNEIDER*

Through his generous support and hands-on assistance in providing venues for the Rotary Club of Manila's special meetings, assemblies, and major events, Bernd played an important role in fostering fellowship and ensuring the success of many significant Club gatherings. His attention to detail, spirit of cooperation, and commitment to excellence helped create memorable and dignified occasions that strengthened camaraderie among members and advanced the Club's mission of service.



*Director-Elect
JOHN NICO P.
VALENCIA*

As Chairman of the Fellowship Committee and lead organizer of both the 3rd RCM Cup Golf Tournament and the Oktoberfest Celebration, Nico played a key role in strengthening fellowship and camaraderie within the Rotary Club of Manila. Through his enthusiasm, creativity, and effective leadership, he successfully organized memorable events that fostered friendship, unity, and meaningful engagement among members. His dedication and attention to detail contributed significantly to the success of these flagship Club activities and helped enrich the Rotary experience for Manila Rotarians.

Presidential Award



*Past Director
and incoming
Sergeant-at-
Arms NAGI
ZEITOUNI*

As Chairman of the Sports Committee, Nagi demonstrated outstanding dedication in promoting fellowship, wellness, and camaraderie among members through a variety of sporting activities and events. By creating opportunities for Manila Rotarians to connect beyond regular meetings, he helped strengthen friendships, encourage active participation, and foster a spirit of unity and healthy competition within the Club. His enthusiasm and commitment contributed meaningfully to enriching the overall Rotary experience for members.

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION

The Presidential Citation is awarded to Rotarians and Rotarian-supporters whose exceptional dedication, leadership, and service have made a significant contribution to the success of the Rotary Club of Manila during the Rotary year.

This special recognition honors individuals who have gone above and beyond in advancing the Club's programs, projects, and objectives, exemplifying the highest ideals of Rotary through their commitment, professionalism, and spirit of Service Above Self.



Presidential Citation



Atty. ANNA
CHELLA P.
CUREG

Through her dedicated service to the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation, Inc. (RCMFI), Atty. Anna provided invaluable legal guidance and professional expertise that contributed significantly to the Foundation's growth, stability, and sound governance. Her counsel on key administrative and organizational matters helped strengthen the Foundation's operations and ensure adherence to best practices. Through her unwavering support, commitment, and generosity of spirit, she played an important role in advancing the mission and long-term sustainability of RCMFI.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership is bestowed upon Rotarians whose vision, dedication, and exemplary leadership have made a profound and lasting impact on the Rotary Club of Manila.

This distinguished recognition honors individuals who have inspired others through their commitment to excellence, guided important initiatives to success, and demonstrated the highest standards of integrity, service, and leadership. Through their unwavering devotion to Rotary's ideals, they have helped strengthen the Club and advance its mission of creating meaningful and lasting impact in the communities it serves.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



*Past District
Governor
ALEXANDER P.
CUREG*

As Chairman of RCManila Foundation, Inc., the fundraising arm of the Rotary Club of Manila, Alex provided exceptional leadership in strengthening the Foundation's capacity to support the Club's service projects and humanitarian initiatives. Through his vision, dedication, and commitment to resource mobilization, he helped secure vital support for programs that created meaningful and lasting impact in the communities served by the Club. His stewardship played a significant role in advancing the Foundation's mission and extending the reach of Rotary service.



*Immediate Past
President
EDUARDO V.
ENRIQUEZ III*

As Co-Chairman of the Membership Committee, Jujut played an important role in upholding the integrity, standards, and traditions of the Rotary Club of Manila through the careful evaluation and screening of prospective members. His sound judgment, fairness, and commitment to Rotary values helped ensure that the Club continued to attract individuals of character, leadership, and a genuine spirit of service. Through his dedicated stewardship, he contributed significantly to preserving the quality and distinction of membership in Asia's first Rotary club.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



Vice-President
**RICARDO S.
GUEVARA**

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila, Ricky played a vital role in shaping the Club's policies, strategic direction, and service priorities during the Rotary year. Through his active participation, wise counsel, and steadfast support, he contributed significantly to the successful implementation of the Club's programs, projects, and humanitarian initiatives. His leadership, dedication, and commitment to Service Above Self helped strengthen the Club's legacy of excellence, fellowship, and meaningful community impact.



Director
**WARREN S.
SO**

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila, Warren provided exemplary leadership and dedicated service in helping shape the Club's policies, direction, and priorities. Through his active participation, sound judgment, and unwavering commitment, he played an important role in advancing the Club's programs, projects, and humanitarian initiatives. His steadfast support and contributions helped strengthen the organization and uphold its enduring tradition of excellence, fellowship, and *Service Above Self*.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



*Director
EDWIN H.
HERNANDEZ*

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila, Edwin demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment in helping guide the Club's policies, strategic direction, and service initiatives. Through his active involvement, thoughtful counsel, and steadfast support, he contributed significantly to the successful implementation of programs and projects that advanced the Club's mission and strengthened its impact on the community. His faithful service exemplified the values of leadership, fellowship, and Service Above Self that continue to define the Rotary Club of Manila.



*Director
JASON M.
BOGOVICH*

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila, Jason provided valuable leadership and guidance in shaping the Club's policies, priorities, and strategic direction. Through his active participation, sound judgment, and unwavering commitment to service, he helped advance the Club's programs, projects, and humanitarian initiatives while strengthening its culture of excellence and fellowship. His dedicated service and steadfast support contributed meaningfully to the continued growth, impact, and legacy of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



Director
**RAMI
CHAHWAN**

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila, Rami rendered distinguished service in helping steer the Club's direction and advance its mission of meaningful community impact. Through his leadership, active engagement, and thoughtful counsel, he contributed to the development and implementation of programs, projects, and initiatives that strengthened the Club and enhanced its service to others. His unwavering commitment to Rotary ideals helped uphold the Club's proud tradition of excellence, fellowship, and *Service Above Self*.



Director
**MICHAEL JAEY
C. ALBAÑA**

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila, Mike played an integral role in guiding the Club's affairs and advancing its mission of service. Through his active participation in governance, strategic decision-making, and the implementation of key programs and initiatives, he helped strengthen the Club's impact and uphold its long-standing tradition of excellence. His leadership, dedication, and commitment to *Service Above Self* contributed meaningfully to the continued growth and legacy of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



Director
**ALBERT C.
PALACIOS**

As a Member of the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Manila, Hans demonstrated exemplary leadership and dedication in helping guide the Club's policies, programs, and strategic direction. Through his active participation, sound judgment, and unwavering support, he contributed significantly to the successful implementation of initiatives that advanced the Club's mission and strengthened its impact on the community. His faithful service reflected a deep commitment to Rotary ideals and helped uphold the Club's enduring legacy of excellence, fellowship, and *Service Above Self*.



Treasurer
**PAUL JOSEPH
M. GARCIA**

As Treasurer of the Rotary Club of Manila, PJ demonstrated exceptional diligence, integrity, and financial stewardship in managing the Club's resources and safeguarding its financial stability. Through his prudent oversight, professionalism, and commitment to accountability, he helped ensure the effective support of the Club's programs, projects, and humanitarian initiatives. His dedicated service and sound financial management contributed significantly to the continued success and sustainability of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



*Vice President-Elect and
Assistant
Treasurer*
**KARLO
EUGENE JOSEF
M. CASTRO**

As Assistant Treasurer and Chairman of the RCM CUP Committee, Karlo rendered dedicated service in both the financial and fellowship activities of the Rotary Club of Manila. Through his diligence and professionalism, he provided valuable support in the management of the Club's financial affairs while demonstrating effective leadership in the successful organization of the RCM CUP. His efforts helped strengthen fellowship, camaraderie, and engagement among members, contributing meaningfully to the Club's mission and overall success during the Rotary year.



*Deputy
Sergeant-at-Arms* **DAVID
J. REYNOLDS**

As the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Rotary Club of Manila, Dave provided dedicated leadership and valuable guidance in shaping the Club's policies, priorities, and service initiatives. Through his active participation, thoughtful counsel, and steadfast commitment, he helped advance the Club's programs and humanitarian efforts while strengthening its culture of excellence, fellowship, and Service Above Self. His contributions played an important role in supporting the Club's mission and preserving its proud legacy of impactful service.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



*Assistant Internal
Auditor, Director-
elect and RCMFI
President-elect*
**MICHAEL D.
ROXAS**

Through his principled leadership and steadfast commitment to the Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation, Inc. (RCMFI), Mike played an important role in promoting accountability, transparency, and sound governance within the organization. As Assistant Internal Auditor, he exercised careful judgment and diligence in reviewing processes, evaluating risks, and ensuring adherence to established standards. His thoughtful counsel, integrity, and unwavering sense of responsibility contributed significantly to strengthening the Foundation and advancing the Club's mission of service.



*Assistant Club
Secretary*
**FRANCISCO D.
MAGSAYSAY**

As Club Assistant Secretary, Paco provided dedicated and dependable support in the administration and day-to-day operations of the Rotary Club of Manila. Through his diligence, professionalism, and attention to detail, he helped ensure the smooth coordination of Club activities, effective communication among members, and the successful implementation of programs and initiatives. His steadfast commitment and behind-the-scenes contributions played an important role in strengthening the Club's operations and advancing its mission of service.

Presidential Award for Exceptional Leadership



Director-Elect
**CARLOS G.
SERAPIO**

As Board Legal Adviser and Co-Chair of both the Program Committee and the Journalism Awards Committee, Charlie rendered distinguished service to the Rotary Club of Manila through his legal expertise, sound judgment, and dedicated leadership. His guidance on governance matters helped ensure clarity and adherence to the Club's Constitution and By-Laws, while his active involvement in organizing weekly membership meetings and the Journalism Awards contributed significantly to the success and quality of these important Club activities. Through his professionalism, reliability, and commitment to service, he played a vital role in advancing the Club's mission and strengthening its tradition of excellence.

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WITH DISTINCTION

The Presidential Award with Distinction is one of the highest honors conferred by the Club President upon Rotarians whose extraordinary leadership, exceptional service, and enduring contributions have had a profound impact on the Rotary Club of Manila.

This distinguished recognition is reserved for individuals who have consistently gone beyond expectations, demonstrating unwavering commitment, exemplary character, and a steadfast dedication to advancing the Club's mission, strengthening its legacy, and exemplifying the highest ideals of Rotary.

Presidential Award with Distinction



Director-elect
**TEODORO
ALEJANDRO
Y. KALAW IV**

Through his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to peace-building, Teddy developed and championed the LEAP (Leaders Excelling in ADR and Peacebuilding) Awards, transforming it into one of the Rotary Club of Manila's flagship and award-winning programs. By promoting dialogue, understanding, and alternative dispute resolution, he helped advance a culture of peace and harmony within communities. His innovation, dedication, and enduring contribution have strengthened the Club's impact and reinforced Rotary's role as a catalyst for positive social change.



Club Secretary
**ANTONIO
D.C.
MAURICIO**

Through his exceptional dedication and multifaceted service to the Rotary Club of Manila, Nonie played a pivotal role in the administration, fellowship, recognition programs, and overall success of the Club during the Rotary year. As Club Secretary, he ensured the efficient and orderly management of Club affairs, while his leadership in the Fellowship and Club Awards Committees helped strengthen member engagement and celebrate excellence within the organization. His active participation in numerous projects and initiatives, coupled with his reliability, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to service, contributed significantly to the vitality, effectiveness, and continued success of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Presidential Award with Distinction



*Past District
Governor
JOAQUIN C.
RODRIGUEZ*

Through his wisdom, experience, and unwavering commitment to Rotary, Jackie served as a trusted mentor and guiding presence to the leadership of the Rotary Club of Manila. As a Past District Governor, his thoughtful counsel, steady support, and exemplary leadership provided valuable direction in advancing the Club's mission and strengthening its enduring legacy. His dedication to mentoring future leaders and fostering Rotary excellence has left a lasting and meaningful impact on the Club and its members.

SERVICE AWARD

The Service Award is presented to Rotarians whose dedication, commitment, and active involvement have significantly contributed to the success of the Rotary Club of Manila and its mission of Service Above Self.

This recognition honors individuals who have generously shared their time, talents, and resources in support of the Club's programs, projects, and initiatives, helping create meaningful and lasting impact in the communities it serves. Through their selfless service and unwavering commitment, they exemplify the true spirit of Rotary.



Service Award



*Past Director
OSCAR A. DEL
ROSARIO Sr.
(Club Service)*

As Chairman of both the Music Committee and Sunshine Committee, Oca enriched the Rotary Club of Manila through his dedication to fostering fellowship, camaraderie, and Club spirit. Through music, he brought members together in celebration and friendship, while his stewardship of memorial and remembrance programs honored the lives and contributions of departed Rotarians with dignity and respect. His compassion, enthusiasm, and commitment to preserving the Club's traditions helped strengthen the bonds that unite Manila Rotarians across generations.



*Centennial
President
JESUS M.
PINEDA JR.
(Vocational
Service)*

Through his visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence, Susing elevated the TOWER Awards as one of the Rotary Club of Manila's most distinguished and impactful signature programs. By championing the recognition of outstanding Filipino workers and promoting the dignity of labor, he helped ensure the continued relevance, prestige, and success of the awards. His dedication, organizational leadership, and passion for honoring exemplary service have strengthened the enduring legacy of the TOWER Awards and its contribution to nation-building.

Service Award



*Past Director
AMADO D.
VALDEZ
(Vocational
Service)*

Dean Amading served with distinction as Chairman of the Journalism Awards Committee and as a member of the TOWER Awards Committee and Program Committee of the Rotary Club of Manila. Through his leadership, integrity, and commitment to excellence, he helped preserve the credibility and prestige of the Journalism Awards as a meaningful recognition of journalistic integrity, truth-telling, and the vital role of the press in nation-building. He likewise made significant contributions to the success of the Club's various flagship programs and initiatives, earning the Rotary Club of Manila's Presidential Award of Distinction for his dedicated and faithful service.



*Rotarian
EVARISTO G.
VAZQUEZ, JR.
(Vocational
Service)*

Junjie was recognized for his selfless generosity and exemplary service to the Rotary Club of Manila through the donation of a prominent EDSA billboard that helped promote Rotary's ideals and the Four-Way Test to a broader audience. By providing a highly visible platform for Rotary's message of integrity, truth, fairness, goodwill, and mutual benefit, he contributed significantly to advancing civic consciousness and reinforcing the ethical values that guide Rotarians in their service to society. In recognition of his unwavering support of Rotary ideals, he was awarded a Special Presidential Citation by the Rotary Club of Manila.

Service Award



*Rotarian RAFAEL
IGNACIO S.
DIONISIO
(Community
Service Category
C: Environmental
Protection and
Economic
Community
Development)*

Raf demonstrated exemplary leadership and dedicated service in organizing the Rotary Club of Manila's tree planting activity and community economic development project with the Dumagat Tribe. Through his initiative, compassion, and commitment to sustainable development, he advanced environmental stewardship and community empowerment while fostering meaningful collaboration between the Club and the indigenous community. His efforts helped ensure that Rotary's service initiatives were both inclusive and transformative, earning him the Rotary Club of Manila's Presidential Award in recognition of his invaluable contributions and faithful service.



*Deputy
Sergeant-at-
Arms JOHN M.
CUTTER
(Community
Service Category
A: Disease
Prevention and
Treatment)*

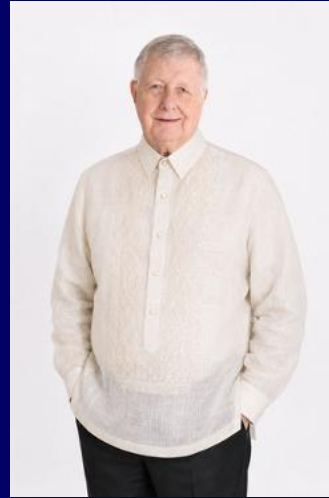
Dr. John rendered exemplary service and dedicated leadership in organizing the Rotary Club of Manila's oral healthcare initiatives and in forging partnerships with various organizations to advance programs on oral hygiene and preventive dental care. Through his commitment to public health and community service, he helped promote oral health awareness, deliver essential dental services, and improve the well-being of underserved communities. His leadership, professionalism, and unwavering dedication brought honor and distinction to the Rotary Club of Manila, earning him the Club's Presidential Award in recognition of his invaluable contributions and faithful service.

Service Award



*Past Director
PHILLIP L. ONG
(Community
Service Category
A: Maternal
Health and Child
Care)*

Phil provided exemplary leadership and outstanding service in forging and sustaining a meaningful partnership between the Rotary Club of Manila and Hospicio de San Antonio. Through his initiative, dedication, and steadfast commitment, he helped implement impactful programs that enhanced the lives of vulnerable communities, including gift-giving activities, an art exhibit, and Project RIVER (Rotary Initiative for Vulnerability Elimination and Resilience), the Club's flagship WASH initiative. In recognition of his invaluable contributions and faithful service, he was awarded the Rotary Club of Manila's Presidential Award of Distinction.



*Rotarian
RAYMOND N.
DAVIS
(Community
Service A:
Maternal Health
and Child Care)*

Ray demonstrated exemplary leadership and outstanding service in establishing and strengthening a meaningful partnership between the Rotary Club of Manila and Hospicio de San Antonio. Through his initiative, dedication, and steadfast commitment, he helped implement impactful community programs, including gift-giving activities, an art exhibit, and Project RIVER (Rotary Initiative for Vulnerability Elimination and Resilience), the Club's flagship WASH initiative. His efforts significantly advanced the Club's humanitarian mission and service objectives, earning him the Rotary Club of Manila's Presidential Award of Distinction in recognition of his invaluable contributions and faithful service.

Service Award

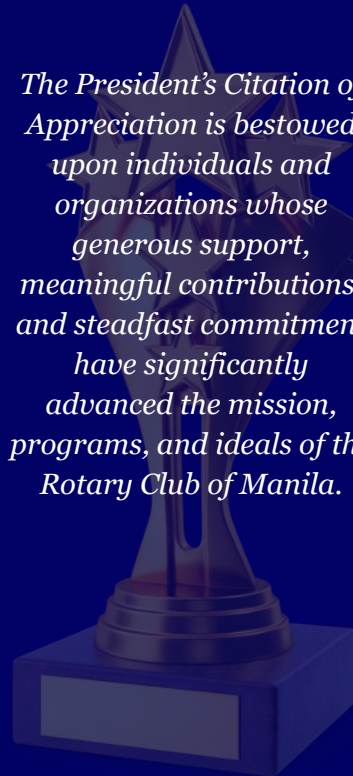


*Internal Auditor
ARSENIO Z.
LOCSIN
(International
Service)*

Nick rendered dedicated and exemplary service to the Rotary Club of Manila as Chairman of the International Committee and as Internal Auditor. Through his commitment, diplomacy, and tireless efforts, he strengthened the bonds of friendship, goodwill, and cooperation between the Club and Rotary clubs around the world. As Internal Auditor, he provided prudent oversight, ensuring that processes were carefully reviewed, risks appropriately considered, and decisions guided by transparency, accountability, and adherence to established standards. In recognition of his faithful service and outstanding dedication, he was awarded the Rotary Club of Manila's Presidential Award.

PRESIDENT'S CITATION OF APPRECIATION

*The President's Citation of
Appreciation is bestowed
upon individuals and
organizations whose
generous support,
meaningful contributions,
and steadfast commitment
have significantly
advanced the mission,
programs, and ideals of the
Rotary Club of Manila.*



President's Citation of Appreciation



**RAFAEL M.
GARCIA III**
*R.I. Director,
Rotary Year
2018-2020
Rotary Club of
Pasig*

Raffy was recognized for his unwavering support of the Rotary Club of Manila and his extraordinary generosity in advancing the Club's mission of Service Above Self. Through his significant contribution of One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000) to the ARAL Program, a flagship educational initiative of the Club, he helped expand opportunities for learning and personal development while strengthening Rotary's commitment to creating meaningful and lasting impact in the communities it serves. In grateful appreciation of his philanthropy and support, he was awarded the Rotary Club of Manila's President's Citation of Appreciation.

PRESIDENTIAL TRIBUTE AWARD

The Presidential Tribute Award is bestowed upon individuals whose extraordinary dedication, exemplary leadership, and enduring contributions have left a profound and lasting impact on the Rotary Club of Manila, its members, and the communities it serves.

Through their unwavering commitment to the ideals of Service Above Self, they have inspired others, strengthened the Club's mission, and helped advance Rotary's legacy of meaningful service and ethical leadership.

Presidential Tribute Award



*Past District 3810
Governor
VICENTE J.
CARLOS*

Vince was honored with the Presidential Tribute Award in recognition of his invaluable service, steadfast mentorship, and unwavering support to the Rotary Club of Manila. As a Past District Governor, he generously shared his wisdom, experience, and sound counsel with the Club's leadership, serving as a trusted adviser and guiding presence. His calm strength, discerning judgment, and enduring commitment have contributed significantly to advancing the Club's mission and preserving its proud legacy, earning the deep gratitude and highest appreciation of the Rotary Club of Manila.



*Past District 3810
Governor
RODOLFO P.
BEDIONES*

Rudy was honored with the Presidential Tribute Award in recognition of his invaluable service, steadfast mentorship, and unwavering support to the Rotary Club of Manila. As a Past District Governor, he generously shared his wisdom, experience, and sound counsel with the Club President, serving as a trusted mentor and quiet yet influential guiding presence. His calm leadership, discerning advice, and loyal support played a significant role in advancing the Club's mission and strengthening its enduring legacy. Through his exemplary dedication and faithful service, he earned the profound gratitude and highest esteem of the Rotary Club of Manila.

Presidential Tribute Award



*Past President
ARSENIO M.
BARTOLOME III*

Archit was honored with the Presidential Tribute Award in recognition of his invaluable service, steadfast mentorship, and unwavering support to the Rotary Club of Manila. As Chairman of the Council of Past Presidents, he generously shared his wisdom, experience, and sound counsel with the Club's leadership, serving as a respected adviser and a quiet yet influential guiding presence. His calm strength, discerning judgment, and loyal support have been instrumental in advancing the Club's mission and preserving its enduring legacy. Through his exemplary dedication and faithful service, he earned the profound gratitude and highest esteem of the Rotary Club of Manila.



*Past President
DOMINGO S.
GUEVARA JR.*

Boy was honored with the Presidential Tribute Award in recognition of his invaluable service, steadfast mentorship, and unwavering support to the Rotary Club of Manila. As a Past President, he generously shared his wisdom, experience, and sound counsel with the Club's leadership, serving as a trusted mentor and a quiet yet influential guiding presence. His calm strength, discerning advice, and loyal support have contributed significantly to advancing the Club's mission and safeguarding its enduring legacy. Through his exemplary dedication and faithful service, he earned the profound gratitude, sincere appreciation, and highest esteem of the Rotary Club of Manila.

MAJOR CLUB AWARDS

The Rotary Club of Manila's Major Awards represent the highest expressions of gratitude, recognition, and esteem that the Club bestows upon individuals whose dedication, leadership, generosity, and service have significantly advanced the Club's mission and strengthened its enduring legacy.

These awards honor Rotarians, partners, and friends of the Club whose exemplary contributions have gone beyond duty and expectation — whether through outstanding leadership, faithful service, transformative projects, mentorship, philanthropy, or unwavering support of Rotary ideals. Their commitment to Service Above Self has enriched the lives of countless individuals, strengthened communities, and helped uphold the proud tradition of excellence that has distinguished the Rotary Club of Manila for more than a century.



HERMINIO S. ESGUERRA
*(Exemplary Award for Distinguished Service
to the Rotary Club of Manila)
District Governor Nominee-Designate
Secretary-General, R.I. District 3810*

Hermie was recognized for his steadfast support and meaningful contributions to the various programs and initiatives of the Rotary Club of Manila. Through his encouragement, guidance, and unwavering commitment to Rotary service, he helped strengthen the Club's ability to deliver impactful projects and meaningful assistance to communities in need. His active involvement and dedication fostered a spirit of collaboration, fellowship, and shared purpose that enriched the Club and advanced its mission. In recognition of his invaluable support and faithful commitment, he was awarded the Rotary Club of Manila's Presidential Award.

Major Club Awards



REGINALD T. YU
(Rotarian of the Year Award)
President-Elect
Chairman, Publications Committee
Editor-in-Chief, The Balita

Reggie rendered exemplary service to the Rotary Club of Manila through his outstanding contributions as Editor-in-Chief of The Balita, Member of the Board of Judges of the TOWER Awards, and President-Elect. Through his exceptional editorial leadership, discerning judgment, and commitment to excellence, he elevated The Balita as a meaningful platform for preserving the Club's history, strengthening fellowship, and inspiring Rotarians. As a TOWER Awards judge, he helped uphold the integrity and prestige of a program that honors the dignity of labor and the outstanding contributions of Filipino workers. As President-Elect, he demonstrated diligence, foresight, and unwavering dedication in ensuring a smooth transition into the new Rotary Year. His humility, servant leadership, and steadfast commitment to Rotary ideals exemplify Service Above Self and have made a lasting impact on the Rotary Club of Manila and the communities it serves.

Rotary Club of Manila Concludes Rotary Year with Meaningful 35th Weekly Membership Meeting

by PE Reginald T. Yu

THE Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) gathered at the Manila Polo Club for its 35th Weekly Membership Meeting of Rotary Year 2025–2026, an afternoon marked by reflection, accountability, and inspiration. The meeting featured two highly anticipated presentations: the year-end report of the RCM Manila Foundation, Inc. (RCMFI) delivered by Chairman PDG Alexander P. Cureg, and the Classification Talk of Star Rotarian Manuel E. “AJ” Pangilinan, Chief Executive Officer of Finasiatech Corporation.



President Raoul Creencia called the meeting to order.

Presided over by Rotary Club of Manila President Raoul C. Creencia, the meeting brought together members, guests, and trustees to celebrate a year of accomplishments while looking toward new opportunities for service and leadership.

President Raoul Highlights Club Initiatives

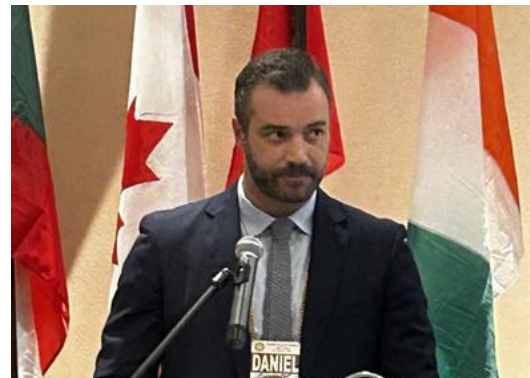
In his message to the membership, President Raoul Creencia shared updates on key club initiatives and ongoing projects, including preparations for the forthcoming RCM Golf Cup and various service activities supported by the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation. The gathering also included presentations related to the club's fundraising efforts,



Secretary Anton Mauricio moderated the meeting.



DE/BLA Caloy Serapio led the invocation.



Rtn. Daniel Obrado led the recitation of the Four-Way Test



President Raoul Creencia during the President's Time

underscoring the importance of sustainable resource generation in advancing Rotary's mission of service above self.

Trustee and Treasurer Michael Roxas presented the Foundation's financial report, providing members with an overview of the organization's fiscal position before the presentation of the Foundation's comprehensive year-end accomplishments.

Special Report: PDG Alex Cureg Presents Transformative Year-End Report of the RCManila Foundation

The centerpiece of the meeting was the valedictory presentation of PDG Alexander P. Cureg, who reflected on

a year defined by organizational reform, strengthened governance, financial stewardship, and impactful humanitarian service.

Building a Culture of Accountability and Transparency

PDG Cureg opened his report by expressing gratitude to the Board of Trustees for embracing a culture rooted in responsibility, accountability, and transparency. He noted that when the Board assumed leadership, the Foundation faced significant administrative and operational challenges. Rather than allowing these issues to persist, the Board undertook a comprehensive effort to rebuild and strengthen the institution.

Through a series of reforms, the Foundation clarified its institutional identity as a resource-generating organization whose primary mission is to support the service projects of the Rotary Club of Manila. This distinction enabled the Foundation to align its governance structure, compliance requirements, and operational priorities more effectively.

The Board also streamlined personnel and administrative

processes, improved office protocols, and instituted performance measures that restored discipline and accountability within the organization.

Modernizing Foundation Operations

One of the year's notable accomplishments was the digitalization of Foundation records. By transitioning documents and institutional files into a centralized digital archive, the Foundation preserved its institutional memory and improved accessibility, efficiency, and continuity for future leaders.

Complementing this initiative was the adoption of a new Manual of Operations, which established clear governance standards and practical procedures for the organization. Designed to be both comprehensive and user-friendly, the manual provides a framework for sustaining good governance practices well into the future.

Strengthening Project Evaluation and Governance

Recognizing the importance of responsible stewardship, the Foundation implemented a more



Pinning of Paul Harris Pin to VPE/Asst. Treasurer Karlo Castro, with Pres. Raoul Creencia and PDG Alex Cureg



Golf Committee Chairman VPE/Asst. Treasurer Karlo Castro provided an update on the upcoming 4th RCM Golf Cup Tournament on June 22, 2026 at Sta Elena Golf.

rigorous project evaluation and monitoring framework.

Under this system, all funding requests were subjected to objective scoring criteria, ensuring alignment with Foundation priorities, regulatory compliance, and measurable social impact. Enhanced reporting requirements were likewise introduced to guarantee transparency and accountability in the utilization of Foundation resources.

These reforms represented a significant step toward ensuring that every peso entrusted to the Foundation generates meaningful and measurable benefits for communities in need.

Financial Stewardship and Long-Term Sustainability

Financial discipline remained a cornerstone of the Foundation's strategy throughout the year.

Among its major achievements was the successful renewal of the Foundation's authority to issue tax-deductible donation certificates, a development that strengthens its ability to attract philanthropic support. The Foundation also



Trustee/Treasurer Mike Roxas presented the RCMFI Financial Report.

resolved long-standing compliance concerns and improved its accounting and financial reporting systems through enhanced internal controls and professionalized financial management practices.

To preserve and grow donor resources responsibly, the Foundation invested ₱5 million in a low-risk time deposit, generating additional income while safeguarding principal funds. This prudent approach reflects the Board's commitment to balancing stability with sustainability.

The Legacy Endowment Fund Gains Momentum

A highlight of the Chairman's report was the continued growth of the Legacy Endowment Fund, an

initiative envisioned to secure the long-term financial future of the Foundation.

Supported by generous contributions from Rotarians, benefactors, and fundraising activities, the fund has already generated substantial support and continues to serve as a permanent financial pillar for future humanitarian initiatives.

PDG Cureg emphasized that the Legacy Endowment Fund represents more than a fundraising initiative—it is a commitment to ensuring that future generations of Rotarians will have the resources necessary to continue serving communities and responding to societal needs.

Humanitarian Projects Across the Nation

The Foundation's humanitarian reach expanded significantly during the Rotary year, supporting projects across multiple sectors and communities.

Among the most impactful initiatives was a major cleft lip and palate surgical mission that transformed the lives of dozens of children and families. The Foundation also supported numerous disaster relief



Chair/PGD Alex Cureg presented the RCMFI Year-End Report.

operations in communities affected by severe weather disturbances, providing emergency assistance, medicines, relief goods, and rehabilitation support.

Other funded projects included scholarship programs, literacy and teacher-training initiatives, medical outreach activities, animal welfare programs, and community development efforts implemented in partnership with Rotary clubs and civic organizations throughout the country.

Collectively, these projects demonstrated the Foundation's commitment to addressing diverse social needs while remaining faithful to Rotary's core values of service and compassion.

Growing Membership and Institutional Strength

The Foundation also experienced steady membership growth during the year, welcoming new members and strengthening its network of supporters.

PDG Cureg credited the accomplishments of the Foundation not to any single individual, but to the collective dedication of trustees, officers, members, volunteers, and benefactors who worked together to advance its mission.

As he concluded his report, he expressed confidence that the incoming leadership would continue the reforms and momentum established during the year, ensuring that the Foundation remains a strong and trusted vehicle for Rotary service.

Star Rotarian Manuel “AJ” Pangilinan Shares His Entrepreneurial Journey

The second major highlight of the afternoon was the Classification Talk delivered by Star Rotarian Manuel E. “AJ” Pangilinan, Chief Executive Officer of Finasiatech Corporation.



STAR Rotarian Manuel “AJ” Pangilinan shared his entrepreneurial journey during the Classification Talk.

Introduced by Secretary Anton Mauricio, Pangilinan offered members a candid and engaging overview of his personal background, business ventures, and vision for the future of sustainable transportation in the Philippines.

Family Roots and Personal Background

Pangilinan began by thanking President Raoul Creencia and the members of the Rotary Club of Manila for welcoming him into the organization.

He shared insights into his family background, noting his connection to the well-known Pangilinan family and introducing members to the close-knit family environment that

shaped his personal values and entrepreneurial mindset.

His presentation highlighted the importance of family, perseverance, and long-term relationships as guiding principles throughout his professional journey.

From Residential Real Estate to Strategic Office Development

Tracing the evolution of his business career, Pangilinan recounted how his real estate enterprise began in 2006 with a focus on residential development before expanding into commercial and retail projects.

Working with major retail operators and corporate clients, the company eventually shifted its focus toward office-space development and leasing through Mepangilinan Real Estate Brokerage Corporation (MREB Corp.).

Unlike traditional developers that generate income primarily from construction activities, Pangilinan's model centers on long-term built-to-suit office developments designed specifically for the needs of tenants. These projects are supported by multi-year lease agreements that provide predictable and sustainable revenue streams.

Today, the company has successfully completed thousands of square meters of office developments and maintains a substantial pipeline of future projects, serving prominent business process outsourcing and corporate clients.

Leadership in the BPO Industry

Beyond real estate, Pangilinan shared his active involvement in the business process outsourcing sector.

As an officer of the Contact Center industry's SME Council, he works alongside companies ranging from emerging enterprises to some of the world's largest technology and customer-service organizations.

He highlighted the sector's tremendous contribution to the Philippine economy, noting its role as one of the country's largest employers and a critical driver of economic growth.

His involvement in both real estate and the BPO sector has provided unique insights into workplace development, workforce needs, and the future of business infrastructure in the Philippines.

Driving the Future of Electric Mobility

Perhaps the most compelling aspect of Pangilinan's presentation was his discussion of Finasiatech Corporation's electric mobility initiatives.

Through the PickApp Mobility Ecosystem, the company is working to accelerate the transition from traditional fuel-powered transportation toward sustainable electric alternatives.

Rather than focusing on private automobiles, Finasiatech concentrates on the mass market, particularly tricycles and other community-based transport systems. The company collaborates directly with transport cooperatives and TODAs to provide accessible and practical electrification solutions.

A key innovation is its battery-leasing model, which significantly lowers the financial barriers for drivers by eliminating large upfront costs while ensuring long-term operational sustainability.

Pangilinan shared how the company has already expanded its operations into several cities and municipalities

and continues to develop charging infrastructure and integrated transport solutions.

He also discussed efforts to connect electric buses, electric tricycles, and commuter transport systems into a seamless mobility ecosystem, helping address transportation challenges while promoting environmental sustainability.

Entrepreneurship with Purpose

Throughout his presentation, Pangilinan emphasized that successful entrepreneurship should create value not only for investors and clients but also for communities.

His ventures in office-space development help businesses grow and create employment opportunities, while his mobility initiatives seek to improve transportation, reduce emissions, and enhance the quality of life for ordinary Filipinos.

Members responded enthusiastically to his presentation, engaging him in a lively discussion during the open forum and gaining valuable insights into emerging opportunities in real estate, technology, and sustainable mobility.



President Raoul Creencia presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Classification Talk Speaker STAR Rtn. Manuel "AJ" Pangilinan, witnessed by Secretary Anton Mauricio, Rtn. Daniel Obrado, PDG Alex Cureg, and DE/BLA Caloy Serapio.

A Fitting Conclusion to a Productive Rotary Year

The 35th Weekly Membership Meeting served as an appropriate culmination of Rotary Year 2025–2026. Through the RCManila Foundation’s impressive accomplishments under the leadership of PDG Alex Cureg and the inspiring entrepreneurial journey shared by Star Rotarian AJ Pangilinan, members were reminded that meaningful impact is achieved through sound

stewardship, visionary leadership, and a steadfast commitment to service.

As the Rotary Club of Manila prepares to embark on a new Rotary year, the meeting reaffirmed the enduring strength of Asia’s First Rotary Club and the collective determination of its members to continue creating positive and lasting impact in the communities they serve. ■

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

PDG Alex Cureg
Chairman, Rotary Club of Manila Foundation, Inc.



FELLOW Trustees,
Manila Rotarians,
members of the
Foundation,
distinguished guests,
ladies and gentlemen:

Right off the bat, I would like to thank my esteemed Board of Trustees, for a year well-spent together. Not only was the year well-spent -- together, my board and I were able to institute a work culture with a pervasive ethos characterized

by responsibility, accountability, and transparency. It is my sincere hope that this ethos will continue to flourish under the capable leadership of incoming Chairman Raoul Creencia, incoming President Mike Roxas and the incoming Board of Trustees.

When we began our term, we inherited an organization whose administrative foundations had been shaken by years of neglect. Yet rather than dwell on the difficulties, we chose to confront these challenges.

Today, I can say with confidence that the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation stands stronger, more disciplined, more transparent, and better prepared for the future than when we assumed office.

Allow me to briefly share some of the milestones we achieved together.

Our former Executive Director, Ms. Amy Babiano was requested to step down from office because of her

incapability or lack of capability to manage the foundation diligently and efficiently. In this regard, I wish to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of our Board Legal Adviser, Caloy Serapio for sharing his expertise in this delicate process. Personnel concerns were addressed with fairness, professionalism, and due process. Long-standing operational issues were reviewed and resolved, enabling the foundation to function more efficiently and effectively.

Given that Ms. Babiano lacked the skills to deliver what the foundation needed, outsourced consultants were hired prior to our term, just like Carie Basila. Some consultants, unfortunately, were less than truthful in their submissions to the government on behalf of the foundation. Because former consultants misrepresented the foundation as a “standard social welfare agency”, this structural misclassification led to inefficiencies, financial ambiguities, and procedural confusion.

Our board, guided by our pervasive ethos of good governance, accountability and self-reliance, was able to avoid costly contracts for outsourced consultants and less than competent employees. I recommend that the foundation, in the future, avoid hiring external consultants

which are not only costly but are also not entirely reliable.

The foundation successfully renewed its authority to issue tax-deductible donation certificates to our benefactors. This accomplishment was achieved without reliance on costly external consultants and was made possible through the efforts of my spouse, Atty. Anna Cureg, our treasurer Mike Roxas and Star Rotarian Chris Tamesis. We were successful in having the Bureau of Internal Revenue recognize that indeed, our foundation is deserving of this privilege despite that we do not belong under the purview of the Department of Social Welfare and Development as we are a mere resource agency and not a social welfare agency in the strict sense of the term.

A major accomplishment of this Board was the clarification of the foundation's institutional identity. We reaffirmed that the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation exists primarily as a resource-generating institution that supports the service projects of the Rotary Club of Manila across Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus. This distinction was important. By defining our role clearly, we were able to align our governance structure, compliance

requirements, and operational priorities with our true mission. In doing so, we strengthened our credibility with regulators, donors, and stakeholders alike.

We instituted office protocols that restored order and accountability within the secretariat, especially introducing metrics for performance. For example, our staff, which right now is composed of just Jonathan, is required to submit overtime requests.

Faced with disarrayed records and compliance gaps, we spearheaded the digitalization of records via Google Drive, envisioning a future where every transaction, contract and report, could be retrieved with ease and efficiency. For the first time in years, institutional memory is preserved, not in dusty filing cabinets, but through digital archiving.

For purposes of good governance and corporate housekeeping, I requested Atty. Anna to create a New Manual of Operations, which manual was duly adopted and approved by the board and applied meaningfully through-out our term. This new manual was transformative. It is pragmatic, easy-to-follow and designed not just for regulation, but for lasting institutional discipline. Good governance should



not just be a buzzword but a daily and consistent practice.

This new manual, in part, highlighted the importance of accountability and transparency in the funding of service projects. Included were the project evaluation and monitoring systems. Clear criteria and scoring mechanisms were implemented to ensure that funded projects aligned with the foundation's objectives, complied with regulatory requirements, and delivered measurable social impact. Likewise, enhanced fund utilization reporting requirements ensured that every peso entrusted to us was properly accounted for. For his diligent oversight of this process, I extend my appreciation to Project Evaluation Committee Chairman Bertel Ingmar Bertelsen.

Financial discipline remained a central priority throughout the year. To ensure that the foundation's fiscal position continues to be stable and strategic, the board, through Treasurer Mike Roxas engaged Racuya Business Solutions to professionalize accounting operations, implement prudent internal controls, and adopt best practices in financial reporting.

Our approach to finance was both conservative and visionary. To safeguard restricted funds while generating income, the foundation made a landmark investment of Php5,000,000.00 in a low-risk time deposit. Every peso we hold carries the trust of our donors and members. It is our responsibility to multiply it – not through risk, but through prudence. As of date, this investment already earned Php129,195.55 since its original placement.

It was not my intention to let problems fester. There were, allegedly, unpaid contributions and penalties to the Social Security System, which issue was pending since 2019. Again sharing his exceptional expertise, financial genius, Treasurer Mike Roxas was able to resolve this issue with finality with the SSS giving the foundation a clean slate.

Given the problems that we faced, we had to overhaul the foundation's management model, replacing consultant-driven operations with board-centered governance, a structure that placed accountability squarely where it belonged: in the hands of the elected trustees and not on the whims of the secretariat or outsourced directors. Our board was not just a ceremonial body, but a working one – hands-on, pro-active, and guided by the spirit of fiduciary stewardship.

Our board functioned as a cohesive, decision-making unit and we met regularly. We held seven productive meetings, three over the mere four that were required by our by-laws. Proudly, I can say we encountered no quorum problems. At this point, I again have to express my gratitude to our board for their cooperation, support and dedication.

Inspired by the brainchild of Past Chairman Lito Sibayan, an initiative called the Legacy Endowment Fund was launched during last year's induction ceremony. This fund, which was supported by our generous members is meant to ensure the continued viability of our foundation and further its lofty mission in helping others. Let us please give a resounding applause to all those who contributed generously.

We are not nearly done. Vice President Elect Karlo Castro chairs the 4th RCMFI Golf Tournament committee and his team intend to raise a hefty Php 6 million to make the foundation's financial standing even more robust.

Meanwhile, through the efforts of Membership Chairman Chito Zaldarriaga, our membership continued to grow, reaching 164 members after welcoming 16 new Foundation members during the year.

Finally, I proudly present to you the successful projects accomplished through the funding support given by the foundation. Please direct your attention to the screen. The foundation's humanitarian reach expanded across multiple provinces and causes, directly impacting hundreds of families, communities, and even animal companions. Each initiative reflects the foundation's guiding principle: that service must be inclusive, responsive, and rooted in empathy.

Conclusion

I could go on and on with unbridled passion on how serving this institution became one of the meaningful experiences in my years as a Rotarian, but I won't. Instead, I pass the torch to incoming Chairman Raoul Creencia, incoming President

Mike Roxas and the next Board of Trustees, with optimism and confidence. I leave you with the hope that its future leaders continue to nurture this foundation with what we Filipinos beautifully call *malasakit*—that deep sense of care, ownership, and responsibility that transforms duty into service.

To my fellow Trustees, thank you for an unforgettable year. Together, we strengthened the foundation's legal standing, we improved its operational systems, we reinforced its financial position, we established governance structures that will benefit future generations of Manila Rotarians and most importantly, we demonstrated that stewardship matters. Leadership is temporary. Institutions endure. The true responsibility of every trustee is not merely to manage the foundation during his term, but to leave it stronger than he found it. I believe we have done exactly that.

To our members and donors, thank you for your trust.

And to the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation, may your finest years still lie ahead. God bless the Rotary Club of Manila Foundation, Inc. God bless Rotary Club of Manila.

Mabuhay! ■

Meeting Fellowship



Birthday celebrator Treasurer Paul Joseph "PJ" M. Garcia with fellow Manila Rotarians



Meeting Fellowship



RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT
June 2026

JUNE 2026	June 04, 2026 DOE SEC. SHARON S. GARIN	June 11, 2026 JOURNALISM AWARD	June 18, 2026 RCMFI DAY & YEAR-END REPORT
MEMBERS PRESENT	48	39	30
MEMBERS PRESENT %	24%	20%	15%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	2	0	0
EXEMPTED	6	5	3
ON LEAVE	0	0	0
Total Active Members	50	39	30
Total # of Members	200	200	200
TOTAL %:	25%	20%	15%
ROTARACTORS	0	10	0
MEDIA	0	10	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	3	11	0
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	17	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	9	51	1
TOTAL ATTENDEES	60	128	31



LIST OF ATTENDEES
June 18, 2026

- 1 Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- 2 Benedicto, Sixto T.
- 3 Bogovich, Jason M.
- 4 Carranceja, Arvin Arik B
- 5 Castro, Karlo Eugene Josef M.
- 6 Creencia, Raoul C.
- 7 Cureg, Alexander P.
- 8 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- 9 Egan, Brendan W.L.
- 10 Garcia, Paul Joseph M.
- 11 Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.
- 12 Guevara, Ricardo S.
- 13 Hallare, Nicolo S.
- 14 Katigbak, J Alfonso L
- 15 Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
- 16 Magsaysay, Francisco D.
- 17 Mauricio, Antonilo DC
- 18 Nuñez, Jr., Jose A.
- 19 Obrado, Daniel Calzado
- 20 Peliño, Wilfredo M.
- 21 Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- 22 Reynolds, David J.
- 23 Roxas, Michael D.
- 24 Serapio, Carlos G.
- 25 So, Warren S.
- 26 Valdez, Amado D.
- 27 Yu, Reginald Tieng
- 28 Zaldarriaga, Felix Francisco S.
- 29 Ginez, Winston M.
- 30 Pangilinan, Manuel E.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of June 23, 2026

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

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

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

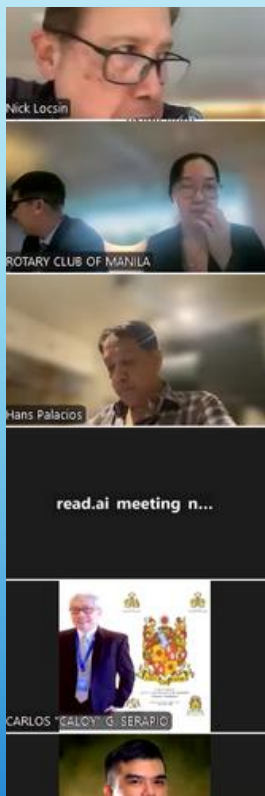
List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of June 23, 2026

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

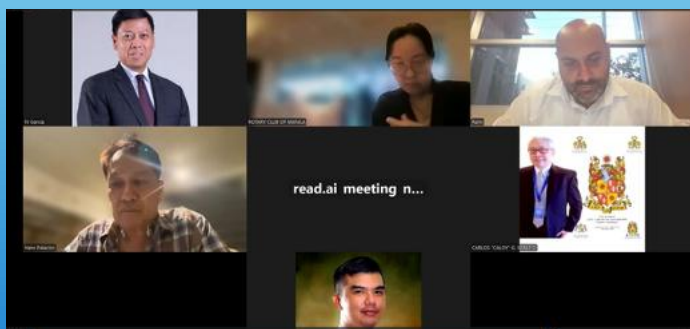
CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Regular Board Meeting



The Regular Board Meeting was held on June 18, 2026 at the Manila Golf Club, hosted by Director Edwin Hernandez.

Present were President Raoul Creencia, Vice President Ricky Guevara, Directors- Edwin Hernandez, Mike Albaña, Jason Bogovich, Warren So, Hans Palacios, Rami Chahwan, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Treasurer PJ Garcia, VPE/ Assistant Treasurer Karlo Castro, Assistant Secretary Paco Magsaysay, and DE/BLA Caloy Serapio.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Rotary Club of Manila Meets with RCBC Ermita to Discuss the Club's New Bank Account



Representatives from the Rotary Club of Manila met with the RCBC Ermita team on June 18, 2026, to discuss the club's new bank account. Present from RCM were Treasurer PJ Garcia, Vice President-elect/Assistant Treasurer Karlo Castro, Incoming Secretary Albert Alday, Incoming Treasurer Arik Carranceja, and Incoming Assistant Treasurer Xavy Zialcita.

Balita Committee Gears Up for Next Publication Cycle



The Balita Committee held a virtual meeting on June 19, 2016, to discuss plans and initiatives for the upcoming publication cycle.

Attendees included Incoming Editor-in-Chief Rtn. Senen Mangalile, Editorial Consultant Rhea Vitto Tabora, Incoming Secretary and Past Director Albert Alday, ES Lhea Lozano, and RCMFI EA Jonathan Lagarto.

ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



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

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

TOURNAMENT FEE
PHP 9,000.00

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

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

SPONSORS



PRESENTER



netsec
Technologies



JETOUR

— Drive Your Future —

**HOLE
IN ONE**

TOP TIER

5-SEATER



STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB
STA. ROSA, LAGUNA



**JETOUR
X50 SPORTS**



TOURNAMENT DATE

JUNE 22, 2026
MONDAY



6:00 AM
REGISTRATION



8:00 AM
SHOTGUN
TEE-OFF

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE

STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB, STA. ROSA, LAGUNA



HOLE IN NE

GOLF WITHOUT LIMITS

CASH PRIZE

P50,000

FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS

Rotary
Club of Manila



**RCMANILA
FOUNDATION, INC.**



TOURNAMENT DATE

JUNE 22, 2026
MONDAY



6:00 AM
REGISTRATION



8:00 AM
SHOTGUN
TEE-OFF

STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB
STA. ROSA, LAGUNA



HOLE IN NE

GOLF WITHOUT LIMITS



P100,000

— WORTH OF —

3 STROKES MERCHANDISE



3 STROKES

PREMIUM GOLF APPAREL & ACCESSORIES
GOLF SHIRT • CAPS • BELTS • AND MORE!



STA.ELENA
GOLF CLUB

📍 STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB
STA. ROSA, LAGUNA



TOURNAMENT DATE

JUNE 22, 2026
MONDAY



8:00 AM
SHOTGUN
TEE-OFF

HOLE IN ONE PRIZE

CO-PRESENTER

GOLD

Palawan
for business

© PALAWAN PAWNSHOP PalawanPay

PICKUP
COFFEE

HITACHI

MEGALink

BINGO
PLUS

iCare*

Sagot ka ni
JuanHand

TrendAI
AI Fearlessly

VST ECS
PHILS., INC.

Monde Nissin

**ABC
TECH**

SEDA
sedaLAW

SALAZAR
ENRILE
DEFENSOR &
DE MATA

Apex Mining Co., Inc.

SILVER

MABUHAY CAPITAL

iCare*

Organica
Nutrition

CleanTech
Foundation

NEW TRANSCEND
CONSTRUCTION



BDO

SM PRIME



αmetros inc.
beyond measure

fishta
SEAFOOD
est 2008

BRONZE

manam
COMFORT FILIPINO

Sanicare

MICROTEL
BY WYNDHAM

TRYP
BY WYNDHAM
MALL OF ASIA
MANILA

DONOR

G&W Clubshares, Inc.
Golf & Country Clubshares Trader
(02) 8403-9585 www.gwgolfshares.ph

GREY & LEWIS
REAL ESTATE

RA SWISS
WATCHES

HOLE



Fairmont
MAKATI



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

SENATOR
CAMILLE VILLAR
& ERWIN GENUINO



HARD ASSETS EXPRESS, INC.



R.G. Manabat & Co.



STAR ROTARIAN
ERIC CHAN KE



PEOPLE

TRUST THE PROCESS

*A Life of Scholarship,
Leadership, Service,
and Purpose of Dr.
Albert Singson Alday*

By PE Reginald T. Yu

FEW lives follow the path originally imagined for them.

Albert Singson Alday's certainly did not. Raised in a family of physicians, scholars, and educators, he seemed destined for a conventional story of professional success.



TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Instead, his life became a series of unexpected turns — academic triumphs and painful disappointments, abandoned dreams and new beginnings, failures that became foundations for future achievements. Spanning the worlds of philosophy, medicine, law, education, entrepreneurship, Rotary, and JCI, his journey reveals a man who discovered that life's greatest lessons are often found not in the goals we attain, but in the setbacks that teach us who we are.

The room was silent except for the rustle of paper and the occasional turning of a page.

Around him sat hundreds of examinees, each hoping that years of study, sacrifice, and ambition would finally culminate in a single word: *Passed*.

For Albert Singson Alday, this was not the first time he had sat for the Philippine Bar Examination.

Nor would it be the last.

By then, he had already accumulated credentials most people would consider more than enough for a successful life. He was a Cum Laude graduate of the University of the Philippines. He held a degree in Philosophy, a Bachelor of Laws, a doctorate in Metaphysics, and would later earn a Master of Laws from Boston University. He had taught generations of students, helped build academic institutions, led civic organizations, and accumulated a list of accomplishments that would satisfy many ambitions.

Yet on that day, seated among aspiring lawyers, none of those achievements seemed to matter.

What mattered was a dream that had stubbornly refused to die.

As he waited for the signal to begin, Albert found himself reflecting on a question that had followed him for much of his life: Why do some goals come easily while others remain maddeningly beyond reach?

It was a question he knew well.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

As a child, he had competed relentlessly for academic honors and discovered that excellence often attracted controversy as much as recognition. As a university student, he had entered medicine only to realize that the profession he admired was not necessarily the profession he was meant to pursue. As a law graduate, he had come painfully close to admission to the Bar on multiple occasions, only to see success slip away by the narrowest of margins.

Again and again, life had challenged his assumptions about merit, effort, and destiny.

Yet each disappointment carried an unexpected gift.

The failed physician became a philosopher.

The unsuccessful lawyer became an educator.

The student who once measured success through medals and rankings gradually became a builder of institutions, a mentor of future leaders, and a servant of causes greater than himself.

Looking back, it is tempting to view those detours as interruptions.

Albert eventually came to see them differently.

They were the journey.



Dean and Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz presents Albert with his Bachelor of Laws diploma. The achievement represented the fulfillment of a demanding academic journey and reflected Albert's perseverance, intellectual discipline, and commitment to understanding the law and its role in society.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

For the story of Albert Singson Alday is not ultimately about degrees earned, offices held, or honors received. It is the story of a man shaped by generations of educators and scholars, tested repeatedly by adversity, and sustained by a belief that life's setbacks often conceal its most important lessons.

It is the story of a lifelong student who never stopped learning, a leader who discovered that service matters more than status, and a challenger who, despite every disappointment, refused to quit.

Above all, it is the story of a philosophy that emerged not from books or classrooms but from experience itself:

Trust the process.

An Inheritance of Learning, Duty, and Sacrifice

Long before Albert Singson Alday entered a classroom, he inherited a story.

It was not a story of wealth or privilege in the conventional sense, but one shaped by education, public service, perseverance, and sacrifice. Across both sides of his family, achievement was rarely separated from responsibility. Success was respected, but it was expected to be earned; learning was prized, but it was expected to be shared.



Among Albert's distinguished maternal ancestors was Don Vicente Singson y Encarnacion, a prominent Filipino statesman who served as Representative of Ilocos Sur's First District (1907–1913), Senator of the Philippines (1916–1922), Secretary of Finance (1933–1934), and Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce (1945–1946).

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

These values formed the invisible inheritance that awaited him at birth.

On his father's side, the story began in the schools and battlefields of a generation tested by war. His grandfather, Pedro Quizon Alday, was an educator who rose to become a school superintendent and later served as an officer in the United States Armed Forces in the Far East during the Second World War. Like many Filipinos of his generation, he paid a heavy price for duty. Killed during the liberation, he never returned home. His remains were never recovered; only his bloodstained uniform was returned to his family.

The loss altered the course of those he left behind.

His children grew up without a father, and their ambitions were shaped as much by necessity as by aspiration. Dreams were often adjusted to accommodate circumstances. Yet rather than breaking the family, hardship seemed to deepen its commitment to education. The next generation produced physicians, pharmacists, educators, and professionals whose accomplishments reflected both talent and perseverance.



Capt. Pedro Quizon Alday, Albert's paternal grandfather, was a graduate of the Philippine Normal School, a public school superintendent, and a USAFFE officer who served alongside American and Filipino forces in the fight against the Japanese during the Second World War.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Among them was Albert's father, Adalberto Alday.

Originally drawn to engineering, he eventually pursued medicine at the University of the Philippines after practical realities redirected his plans. What followed was a distinguished career in microbiology, public health, and medical education, culminating in leadership roles at the U.P. College of Public Health and other institutions. To Albert, however, his father's significance extended beyond academic credentials. He represented a model of quiet discipline, humility, and intellectual rigor.

A similar story unfolded on his mother's side.

The Singsons and Parels of Northern Luzon had long produced educators, scholars, physicians, and public servants whose influence extended beyond their immediate communities. Their legacy included political leaders, university deans, researchers, and pioneers in their respective fields. Yet what impressed Albert most was not their prominence but their shared belief that education was life's most enduring asset.



Dr. Adalberto Alday, father of Albert, during his clinical clerkship at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and the Philippine General Hospital, where he underwent the rigorous training that would prepare him for a lifetime of service in the medical profession.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

No one embodied that belief more completely than his mother, Dr. Aretas Singson Alday.

A physician, professor, and eventually founding dean of a medical school, she approached education with an almost missionary zeal. Academic excellence was not merely encouraged; it was cultivated through discipline, preparation, and persistence. She believed deeply that talent without effort was wasted potential and that achievement required deliberate work.

Her influence on Albert would be profound.

From her he learned diligence, perseverance, and the habit of aiming higher than circumstances seemed to permit. From his father he learned humility, respect for others, and the importance of treating every person with dignity regardless of status. Together, they created a household where intellectual achievement and moral character were regarded not as competing virtues but as complementary obligations.

Surrounding them were relatives who reinforced the same lessons. Distinguished educators such as Dean Erlinda Singson Echanis and Dr. Cristina Parel demonstrated what could be achieved through scholarship and



Dr. Aretas P. Singson-Alday, Albert's mother, during her clinical clerkship at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and the Philippine General Hospital, where she received the rigorous training that laid the foundation for her career in medicine.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

public service. Their accomplishments expanded Albert's sense of what was possible while reminding him that education's ultimate purpose extended beyond personal advancement.

Looking back, it becomes clear that the most important inheritance Albert received was not material.

It was cultural.

He inherited a reverence for learning.
A respect for institutions.
A belief in service.

And an understanding that adversity, however painful, could be transformed into opportunity through perseverance and discipline.

These values would accompany him through every stage of his life. They would sustain him through academic rivalries, professional disappointments, failed examinations, and personal setbacks. They would influence his decisions as a student, educator, administrator, entrepreneur, Rotarian, and civic leader.

Long before Albert began building a life of his own, generations before him had already laid its foundations.

Their stories became part of his story.
Their sacrifices became part of his inheritance.



Pedro Sipin Singson and Quintina Perlas Parel, Albert's maternal grandparents, devoted their lives to education as elementary school teachers, helping shape young minds and instilling the values of learning, discipline, and service in their community.



Nestled in the historic town of Bantay, Ilocos Sur, this ancestral home belonged to Albert's maternal grandparents and served as the center of family life for generations. More than a residence, it stands as a symbol of the family's enduring legacy, preserving memories, traditions, and ties to their Ilocano roots.

And from that inheritance emerged a conviction that would guide him for the rest of his life: that education is life's greatest investment, integrity its firmest foundation, and service its highest purpose.

The Household That Formed Him

Albert was born into a family where education was not merely valued — it was expected.

Long before he entered a classroom, learning already occupied a place of honor within the household. Academic achievement, professional excellence, and public service were recurring themes in family conversations, not because they were imposed as obligations, but because they were deeply embedded in the stories of the generations that came before him.

On both sides of the family, achievement carried a common thread: sacrifice.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

His paternal grandfather, Pedro Quizon Alday, was an educator and school superintendent whose life reflected both the promise and tragedy of his generation. A graduate of the Philippine Normal School and an officer in the United States Armed Forces in the Far East, he never returned from the Second World War. Killed during the liberation and identified only through a bloodstained uniform, he left behind a young family whose future would be shaped by loss as much as by opportunity.

The consequences of that loss reverberated through the next generation. Albert's father, Adalberto Alday, grew up in circumstances that demanded resilience. Dreams of becoming an engineer gave way to medicine, not because it was an easier path but because it was the path available. Working while studying, he eventually graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and built a distinguished career in microbiology, public health, and medical education. Along the way, he developed a reputation not only for academic rigor but also for humility and accessibility — qualities that would leave a lasting impression on his son.

The story on Albert's mother's side carried a similar reverence for learning.

The Singsons and Parels of Northern Luzon produced educators, physicians, public servants, and scholars whose influence extended well beyond their communities. Among them was Cristina Parel, the pioneering statistician who established the U.P. Statistics Center, and Erlinda Singson Echanis, who would later serve as Dean of the U.P. College of Business Administration. Their accomplishments reinforced a lesson that Albert encountered repeatedly throughout his youth: education was the most enduring form of inheritance.

No one embodied that lesson more completely than his mother, Dr. Aretas Singson Alday.

A physician, professor, and eventually founding dean of a medical school, she approached education with a seriousness that bordered on mission. Her expectations were demanding, but they were grounded in the conviction that discipline creates opportunity. She believed that talent mattered less than preparation, and that achievement was rarely accidental.

Albert would later credit much of his academic discipline to her influence.

If his mother taught perseverance, his father taught perspective.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Dr. Bert Alday often reminded his son that success meant little if it created distance from other people. He encouraged him to respect individuals regardless of their social standing and to treat janitors, clerks, professors, and executives with equal courtesy. The lesson was subtle but powerful. In a family filled with accomplished professionals, humility remained a prized virtue.

The household itself reflected these values. Conversations moved easily from medicine to education, from public affairs to current events. Academic accomplishment was admired, but integrity was expected. Titles carried weight, yet character carried more.

Growing up in such an environment offered advantages, but it also created expectations. Albert was constantly surrounded by examples of excellence. Distinguished physicians, educators, researchers, and administrators were not distant public figures; they were relatives, mentors, and family friends. Their achievements inspired him, but they also established standards that could be difficult to ignore.

Yet what Albert remembers most is not the prestige attached to their names. It is the atmosphere they created.



The wedding of Drs. Adalberto "Bert" and Aretas "Aring" Alday, Albert's parents, celebrated on January 4, 1964, at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Cubao, Quezon City—a joyful beginning to a lifelong partnership rooted in faith, family, and service.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

The adults who surrounded him shared a common belief that knowledge carried responsibility. Education was not pursued solely for personal advancement but as a means of contributing to society. Learning was expected to lead to service. Achievement was expected to lead to stewardship.

Years later, Albert would follow a path very different from the one many anticipated. He would move through philosophy, medicine, law, education, entrepreneurship, Rotary, and JCI, accumulating experiences that few could have predicted. Yet beneath those varied pursuits lay values that had been instilled long before he chose a profession.

The discipline to persevere through setbacks.

The belief that education remains life's greatest investment.

The conviction that integrity matters more than recognition.

And the understanding that one's success acquires meaning only when it benefits others.

Those lessons did not come from textbooks or lectures.

They came from a household where learning was a way of life and where the examples set by previous generations quietly shaped the aspirations of the next.



Albert as a newborn, peacefully asleep in the earliest days of life. In this quiet moment begins the story of a journey that would be shaped by family, faith, learning, and a lifelong commitment to service.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Before Albert ever entered the wider world, the foundations had already been laid. The competitor, the scholar, the educator, and the leader he would eventually become were all, in some measure, products of the household that formed him.

A Childhood in Las Piñas

When Albert was growing up, Las Piñas was still a town in transition.

The sprawling commercial landscape that would later define the southern corridor of Metro Manila did not yet exist. Alabang-Zapote Road remained a modest thoroughfare, bordered by open spaces, salt beds, and emerging subdivisions that hinted at the area's future growth. Shopping options were limited, traffic was manageable, and much of daily life retained the character of a developing suburb rather than a bustling city.

For a young boy, however, Las Piñas was less a place than a world.

It was where childhood unfolded through a series of routines and rituals that, decades later, remained vivid in memory. Mornings often began with a bowl of Quaker Oats and an episode of *Sesame Street*. Evenings revolved around the television schedule, particularly the Japanese robot cartoons that captivated an entire generation of Filipino children.



One-month-old Albert in the loving embrace of his mother, Dr. Aretas "Aring" Singson-Alday. Surrounded by the care of a close-knit family, he began life with the blessings of a rich heritage and the hopes of generations who came before him.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Mondays belonged to *Mekanda Robot*, Tuesdays to *Daimos*, Wednesdays to *Mazinger Z*, Thursdays to *UFO Grendizer*, and Fridays to *Voltes V*. Like many boys of his era, Albert followed them with near-religious devotion.

Yet his childhood was shaped as much by collecting as by watching.

He accumulated die-cast robots, Star Wars action figures, Matchbox cars, Super Trump cards, comic books, and Lego sets with the enthusiasm of someone who saw joy in assembling worlds piece by piece. Weekend excursions often revolved around these pursuits. Greenhills, Rustan's, Philcite, and the emerging shopping centers of Metro Manila became destinations not merely for purchases but for discovery. Every toy carried the promise of a new adventure; every collection felt like a project waiting to be completed.

Looking back, Albert readily admits that he was a fortunate child.

As the youngest member of the family, he occupied a special place in the affections of parents, relatives, and older siblings. The household provided comforts that many Filipino families could only aspire to, yet it was not a home where privilege translated into complacency. Beneath the toys, outings, and childhood indulgences

existed an unmistakable expectation that education mattered.

That expectation came primarily from his parents.

Both physicians and educators, they viewed learning not simply as a means of professional advancement but as a responsibility. Academic excellence was encouraged early and reinforced consistently. Even before Albert fully understood its significance, he absorbed



Rev. Fr. Mark Lesage baptizes Albert at St. Joseph Parish Church in Las Piñas, home of the world-renowned Bamboo Organ. Through the sacrament of Baptism, Albert was welcomed into the Catholic faith, beginning a spiritual journey that would remain an important part of his life.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday



Albert on his first birthday, surrounded by gifts and the love of family and friends. The joyous celebration marked a memorable milestone in a childhood filled with affection, laughter, and the hopes of those who cherished him.

the message that achievement required effort and that opportunities carried obligations.

The contrast between comfort and discipline would become one of the defining characteristics of his upbringing.

He enjoyed the pleasures of childhood — a growing toy collection, favorite restaurants, family outings, basketball games, and weekends spent exploring Metro Manila. Yet he was also raised in a household where achievement was



Albert at one year old, confidently exploring the world from his walker. Curious and energetic, he displayed the spirited nature that would characterize his childhood and accompany him throughout life.

expected rather than celebrated as exceptional. Success was never treated as an entitlement. It was treated as the product of preparation.

Sports provided another window into the world around him. Through his father, Albert developed an early fascination with basketball during the golden age of the Crispa-Toyota rivalry. He memorized player names and jersey numbers, followed games obsessively, and dreamed, at least briefly, of becoming an athlete himself. The dream would

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday



Surrounded by family and loved ones, Albert celebrates his Confirmation, one of the most significant sacraments of the Catholic faith. The occasion marked a deeper commitment to the values and beliefs that had been nurtured within the family since childhood.

eventually yield to reality, but the competitive spirit that sports awakened remained.

More enduring, perhaps, was his growing curiosity about how things worked. While other children saw only the surface of events, Albert increasingly found himself asking questions. Why did communities develop the way they did? How were institutions organized? Why did people behave differently under



The Alday family during the 1970s, an era marked by shared experiences, enduring values, and cherished memories. This portrait captures the family whose guidance, support, and example would play a defining role in Albert's personal and professional development.

similar circumstances? Such interests remained largely dormant during childhood, but they foreshadowed the intellectual pursuits that would later draw him toward philosophy, law, and public affairs.

If there was a defining feature of Albert's early years, it was the sense of security that surrounded them. Family gatherings were frequent. Meals were shared. Parents remained active participants in his education and development. The

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

household provided not only material comfort but also stability, a foundation from which ambition could safely grow.

Years later, when asked what he missed most about childhood, Albert rarely mentioned the toys, the cartoons, or the restaurants that populated his memories. What he missed most were the ordinary moments spent with his parents and sister — the conversations, the meals, and the quiet certainty that everyone he loved would be gathered around the same table.

The nostalgia is telling.

For all the achievements that would later define his life, Albert's fondest memories remained rooted in something simpler: family.

It was within that environment — part privilege, part discipline, and entirely shaped by love — that the foundations of his character were quietly being laid. The competitive student, the philosopher, the educator, the civic leader, and the lifelong learner all had their beginnings in that suburban corner of Las Piñas, where a young boy spent his days collecting toys, watching robot cartoons, and gradually absorbing the values that would guide him for the rest of his life.



A young Albert during his nursery days at the University of the Philippines Child Development Center. The photograph captures the innocence and wonder of childhood, marking the beginning of a lifelong pursuit of learning and intellectual growth.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

The Making of a Competitor

Long before Albert encountered philosophy, law, or leadership, he learned a lesson that would shape much of his life: excellence has a price.

The lesson emerged gradually during his years at De La Salle-Santiago Zobel School, where achievement was not merely encouraged but measured, ranked, and publicly recognized. For Albert, whose elementary years were governed by a disciplined routine of study supervised closely by his mother, academic success became both a habit and an expectation. Homework was completed before play. Reviewers were prepared in advance. Examinations were approached with seriousness. While other children enjoyed long afternoons outdoors, much of Albert's time was devoted to preparation.

The sacrifices often went unnoticed. What others saw were the results.

By fourth grade, he had begun receiving academic honors. The medals continued in the years that followed, culminating in a string of top distinctions that established him as one of the school's strongest



Albert and his Senior Casa classmates at Ann Arbor Montessori in BF Homes, Parañaque, during School Year 1977–1978. This early school portrait reflects the beginning of a lifelong journey of learning, growth, and achievement, nurtured within a supportive Montessori environment.

students. Success brought satisfaction, but it also introduced him to a reality that few children anticipate: achievement changes relationships.

Classmates who once seemed indifferent now viewed him as a rival. Academic rankings transformed friendships into competitions and ordinary examinations into contests of prestige. Albert gradually discovered

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

that standing at the top of a class could be surprisingly isolating. The better he performed, the more he found himself defined by his accomplishments rather than by his personality.

It was an experience that would leave a lasting impression.

Years later, he would often remark that life at the top can be lonely. The observation was not born of arrogance but of experience. Excellence attracts admiration, yet it can also create distance. People see the outcome without always understanding the effort that produced it.

That tension surfaced dramatically during one of the defining controversies of his elementary years.

In fifth grade, an error in recording grades caused Albert to be announced publicly as a bronze medalist despite having earned the highest academic standing in his class. The mistake was eventually corrected after a review by school administrators, but the incident revealed something he had never previously considered. Institutions, no matter how well intentioned, are imperfect. Fairness cannot always be assumed. Sometimes one must advocate for oneself even when the facts seem obvious.

The lesson became even more pronounced two years later.



Albert receives the Top Ten Solicitor Trophy for the Green and White Drive of De La Salle South for School Year 1978–1979 from School Principal Mr. Edgardo Cadlum, as Registrar Mr. Rolando Valmonte looks on. The award recognized Albert's diligence and initiative in supporting the school's annual fundraising campaign.

Upon graduating from grade school, Albert found himself at the center of a dispute involving valedictory honors. Because he had briefly attended Manila Science High School before returning to Zobel, some questioned whether he satisfied the school's eligibility requirements despite having earned the necessary academic standing. What

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

began as a school matter eventually escalated beyond the campus, drawing the attention of educational authorities and senior administrators.

For a young student, the experience was bewildering. He had done what he believed was expected of him — worked hard, studied diligently, and earned the grades required. Yet achievement alone proved insufficient to shield him from controversy.

A compromise was eventually reached, recognizing two valedictorians. Albert accepted the decision, partly out of practicality and partly because he still intended to spend his high school years at the institution. More important than the outcome, however, was the lesson it left behind. Competition, he discovered, is rarely confined to performance alone.

It often involves perceptions, rules, personalities, and circumstances beyond one's control.

The realization marked an important stage in his development. Until then, he had largely viewed success as a straightforward equation between effort and results. His experiences taught him that life is considerably more complicated. Merit matters, but so do institutions, interpretations, and human nature.



During his grade school years at De La Salle–Santiago Zobel School, Albert takes part in a current events contest. His enthusiasm for reading and staying informed about national and international affairs foreshadowed a lifelong engagement with ideas, public issues, and civic leadership.

Yet rather than discouraging him, the experience deepened his competitive instincts.

Albert was not motivated merely by the desire to win. He was driven by the challenge of testing his limits. Each setback became an invitation to work harder. Each disappointment became a reason to improve. The controversies that surrounded some of his achievements strengthened his resolve rather than weakening it.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Looking back, it is tempting to view these episodes simply as childhood rivalries. In reality, they represented something more significant. They were Albert's first encounters with themes that would recur throughout his life: perseverance in the face of adversity, the imperfect nature of institutions, and the necessity of defending one's convictions without sacrificing integrity.

By the time he entered high school, he had become more than an excellent student.

He had become a competitor.

Not the kind who measured success solely by victory, but the kind who understood that achievement often requires persistence through disappointment, criticism, and uncertainty. It was a lesson he would revisit repeatedly in the years ahead, whether in medicine, law, academia, business, or civic leadership.

For now, however, he remained a young student standing at the threshold of adolescence, unaware that the greatest challenges — and the most important transformations — still lay ahead.

The Zobel Years: Scholarship, Rivalry, and Awakening

By the time Albert entered high school at De La Salle-Santiago Zobel School, he had already become accustomed to academic success.



Albert (fourth from the left), dressed as Robin, poses with his classmates during a Christmas Party of the Senior Casa class at Ann Arbor Montessori in BF Homes, Parañaque. Beyond the costumes and festivities, the photograph offers a glimpse into the formative school years where friendships were forged and cherished childhood memories were made.

For years, achievement had been the organizing principle of his young life. Homework followed a strict routine. Examinations were approached with military discipline. Medals had become familiar companions. Much of this discipline came from his mother, whose unwavering commitment to academic excellence transformed study into a daily ritual rather than an occasional obligation.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Yet high school would challenge him in ways that grades never could.

The competition was fiercer than anything he had previously encountered. Many of the students who had once trailed behind him academically were now discovering their own strengths, and the field became increasingly crowded with talented rivals. For the first time, Albert found himself surrounded by peers who could match his intellect, challenge his assumptions, and compete for the same distinctions he had long considered attainable.

The experience was both exhilarating and unsettling.

Success no longer depended solely on effort. It required resilience, adaptability, and the ability to perform under constant scrutiny. Academic rankings became matters of intense interest, and rivalries sometimes extended beyond the classroom. Questions about honors and recognition occasionally evolved into disputes that tested not only achievement but character.

One such controversy emerged when Albert graduated from grade school. Because he had briefly attended Manila Science High School before returning to Zobel, some questioned his eligibility for valedictorian honors despite his



Albert, then a Grade 4 student, receives his first academic medal — a Silver Medal for General Excellence — from Bro. Raymond Bronowicz, FSC, School Director of De La Salle–Santiago Zobel School. The award marked an early recognition of his scholastic achievement and foreshadowed a lifelong commitment to academic excellence.

academic standing. The matter eventually reached educational authorities and the office of Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC. A compromise recognizing two valedictorians resolved the dispute, but the experience left a lasting impression.

It was his first meaningful encounter with a truth that would reveal itself repeatedly throughout adult life:

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

excellence does not insulate one from controversy. In fact, it often invites it.

High school presented a similar lesson. Despite graduating as salutatorian and receiving the prestigious St. Brother Miguel Leadership Award, Albert could not entirely suppress the feeling that he had fallen short of his own expectations. Years later, he would summarize the sentiment with a line that remained lodged in his memory: *"You never win the silver. You only lose the gold."* The remark was less an expression of disappointment than a reflection of the standards he imposed upon himself.

Yet while competition occupied much of his attention, another transformation was quietly taking place.

For much of his childhood, Albert had been something of a loner. Academic success had often created distance between him and his classmates, many of whom regarded him more as a rival than a friend. High school forced him out of that isolation. Student organizations, extracurricular activities, and shared experiences gradually taught him lessons no textbook could provide.

Through the Math Club, he confronted one of his weaker subjects. Through the Student Council, he encountered the realities of leadership and politics. The



The Alday family in the 1980s, captured during a decade of growth, achievement, and shared milestones. The photograph reflects the strong bonds, enduring values, and supportive home environment that helped shape Albert's character and aspirations.

Interact Club introduced him to service and offered his first glimpse into the ideals that would later draw him to Rotary. Even the Student Judicial Board exposed him to ethical dilemmas and organizational dynamics that foreshadowed challenges he would later encounter in professional life.

These experiences broadened his understanding of success.

Achievement, he began to realize, was not solely an individual pursuit.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Organizations depended on cooperation. Leadership required persuasion. Influence demanded relationships. Intelligence alone was not enough.

The lesson was reinforced through scientific research, an area where Albert's curiosity found practical expression. Drawing inspiration from environmental concerns in Las Piñas, he conducted studies on water salinity and fluoride content that earned championship honors at Science Congress competitions. The projects reflected more than technical competence. They revealed an emerging habit of mind: the belief that problems exist to be investigated and understood before they can be solved.

Research taught him patience.
Leadership taught him perspective.
Friendship taught him humility.

Together, they began reshaping a young man who had long defined himself primarily through academic performance.

Writing also emerged as an important outlet during these years. Through essays, poetry, and reflection, Albert found a means of expressing thoughts that often remained unspoken in everyday conversation. His success in



Albert celebrates his victory in the National Rizal Essay Writing Contest (High School Division), sponsored by the Knights of Rizal, on Rizal Day, December 30, 1988. The distinction underscored his intellectual curiosity, mastery of the written word, and enduring interest in Philippine history, culture, and nationhood.

the National Rizal Essay Writing Contest hinted at abilities that extended beyond the classroom and foreshadowed the intellectual interests that would later draw him toward philosophy and law.

By the time he graduated from Zobel in 1990, Albert was no longer simply the highly competitive student who had entered its gates years earlier. He remained ambitious, certainly, but his

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

understanding of achievement had become more nuanced. The rivalries, controversies, friendships, and leadership experiences of adolescence had expanded his horizons beyond grades and medals.

Most importantly, they had begun teaching him a lesson that would shape the rest of his life: that accomplishment may open doors, but character determines what one does after walking through them.

The realization would prove invaluable when he entered the University of the Philippines, where many of the assumptions that had guided him thus far would be challenged once again.

The University of the Philippines and the Discovery of Philosophy

Albert entered the University of the Philippines believing he knew where his life was headed.

Like many children raised in families of physicians, he had long imagined himself following the path laid down by previous generations. Medicine seemed the natural destination. His parents had both graduated from the U.P. College of Medicine. His relatives occupied prominent places in



Bro. Andrew Gonzales, FSC, President of De La Salle University, presents Albert with his high school diploma. Graduating as Salutatorian, Silver Medalist for Academic Excellence, and Subject Medalist in Social Science, Albert's commencement marked the culmination of years of discipline, intellectual curiosity, and academic excellence.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

academia, research, and healthcare. Becoming a physician felt less like a decision than the continuation of a family story already in progress.

Yet the University of the Philippines has a way of complicating certainty.

Albert initially enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program at U.P. Manila, carrying with him the ambitions of a high-achieving student and the expectations that accompanied a distinguished family legacy.

Academically, he performed well enough to earn recognition as an Entrance Scholar and later a College Scholar. Beneath the surface, however, he was beginning to encounter a problem that grades alone could not solve.

The subjects required by his chosen path failed to ignite his imagination.

Chemistry, in particular, proved to be a recurring adversary. More significantly, he found himself increasingly drawn toward questions that extended beyond laboratory work and scientific methodology. While many of his classmates were fascinated by formulas, pathways, and technical precision, Albert was preoccupied by ideas. He wanted to understand how institutions functioned, how societies organized themselves, why people believed what they believed, and how language itself shaped human understanding.



Albert receives the Gold Medal for Academic Excellence from School Director Bro. Felix Masson, FSC, during School Year 1988–1989. The award recognized his outstanding scholastic achievement and crowned years of disciplined study, intellectual curiosity, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

At first, these interests seemed peripheral to his education.

Eventually, they became central to it.

A series of academic detours — including a shift to Biology, a leave of absence, and an unsuccessful attempt to transfer into Psychology — left him searching for a new direction. The circumstances felt frustrating at the time. Looking back, they appear almost providential.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

When the opportunity arose to transfer to the Philosophy program at U.P. Diliman, the decision was largely pragmatic. Philosophy happened to be one of the few programs available to him. He accepted the move without realizing that he was about to discover the discipline that would shape the rest of his intellectual life.

What he encountered at Diliman was not simply a new field of study but an entirely different way of thinking.

For the first time, education ceased to be primarily about mastering information. Instead, it became an exercise in examining assumptions, clarifying meanings, and exploring questions that resisted simple answers. Philosophy demanded a kind of intellectual honesty that Albert found both challenging and exhilarating. It encouraged skepticism without cynicism, inquiry without arrogance, and rigor without rigidity.

More importantly, it felt like home.

Courses in metaphysics, ethics, medieval philosophy, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion exposed him to ideas that would remain with him long after graduation. Under professors such as Agerico de Villa, Isidro Manuel Valero, and Dan Reynald Magat, he found mentors who challenged him to think

more deeply and argue more carefully. Discussions about God, power, consciousness, morality, and existence stretched far beyond the boundaries of conventional classroom instruction.

Albert thrived.

The student who had struggled to find his place in earlier programs suddenly flourished. His grades soared, earning him University Scholar recognition twice and College Scholar honors once.



Albert and his high school buddies share a carefree moment at the back of his parents' 1982 Toyota Corolla Liftback. With him are Paul Salanga, now Chief Legal Officer of the Maharlika Investment Fund; Jacob Armand Peña III, now an IT professional; and Adrian Pao. Decades later, the photograph remains a reminder of youthful camaraderie and friendships that endured long after graduation.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

More importantly, he discovered a confidence rooted not in competition but in intellectual engagement. Philosophy rewarded precisely the qualities that came most naturally to him: curiosity, analysis, writing, and the relentless desire to understand how things fit together.

No thinker influenced him more profoundly than Bertrand Russell. Albert was particularly drawn to Russell's concept of logical atomism, the idea that complex realities become understandable only when broken down into their simplest components. The theory resonated deeply because it offered more than a philosophical framework; it provided a practical approach to life. Problems that appeared overwhelming could be understood by examining their constituent parts. Complexity could be reduced to clarity.

The principle would remain with him for decades.

He would later apply it to leadership, administration, legal reasoning, organizational management, and even personal adversity. Whenever confronted by complexity, his instinct was the same: break the problem apart, understand its elements, and rebuild it into something comprehensible. Philosophy also transformed his understanding of truth.



Dr. Cristina P. Parel, Albert's grandaunt, was the Founding Dean of the University of the Philippines Statistical Center and a pioneering figure in Philippine statistics. Instrumental in establishing Statistics as a distinct academic discipline separate from Mathematics in the Philippines, she was a profound intellectual influence on Albert, inspiring in him a deep respect for scholarship, analytical thinking, and academic excellence.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

As a younger student, he had regarded truth as something to be discovered and possessed. His philosophical training led him toward a subtler view. Truth itself remained absolute, but human beings often struggled to grasp it completely. The greater challenge, therefore, was not discovering truth but clarifying meaning. Much of human conflict, he came to believe, arose not from disagreement over facts but from misunderstanding what words, ideas, and intentions actually meant.

This insight extended even to matters of faith. Far from weakening his religious convictions, philosophy deepened them by forcing him to confront difficult questions rather than avoid them. There were moments when his intellectual curiosity led him into spirited debates — even with priests delivering homilies on campus. Yet those encounters ultimately strengthened his belief that faith and inquiry need not be adversaries.

By the time Albert graduated from U.P. Diliman, he had undergone a transformation more profound than any change in academic program could explain.

He entered the university expecting to become a physician.
He left as a philosopher.



Dr. Consuelo Joaquin-Paz, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, presents Albert with his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (cum laude) diploma during commencement ceremonies at the UP Film Center. The honor crowned a distinguished undergraduate career and affirmed his commitment to scholarship, critical thinking, and lifelong learning.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

The distinction was not merely academic. Philosophy had given him a method for approaching life itself — a habit of questioning assumptions, seeking clarity amid confusion, and finding meaning beneath complexity. His graduation as Cum Laude, together with memberships in Phi Kappa Phi and Pi Gamma Mu, recognized his academic achievements. The deeper accomplishment, however, was the discovery of an intellectual compass that would guide him through every chapter that followed.

Ironically, the discipline he entered almost by accident became the foundation upon which much of his future would be built. Medicine, law, education, leadership, and public service would all come later. Yet each would bear the imprint of lessons first learned in the classrooms of U.P. Diliman.

For Albert, the University of the Philippines did more than provide an education.

It taught him how to think.

And in many ways, that proved far more important than teaching him what to think.

Medicine, the Family Dream, and the Road Not Taken

For as long as Albert could remember, medicine seemed less a career choice



Albert receives his Phi Kappa Phi certificate from Supreme Court Justice Florida Ruth P. Romero. Membership in the prestigious honor society represented one of the highest recognitions of academic achievement at the University of the Philippines and affirmed his standing among the institution's most accomplished scholars.

than an inheritance.

He had grown up in a world shaped by physicians. His father was a respected professor of microbiology and public health. His mother was an accomplished obstetrician-gynecologist, educator, and founding dean of a medical school. Uncles, cousins, mentors, and family friends populated hospitals, clinics, laboratories, and lecture halls.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Conversations at home often revolved around patients, research, medical education, and the evolving challenges of healthcare.

In such an environment, becoming a physician felt almost inevitable.

The dream took root early and remained remarkably persistent. Even as his academic interests expanded to include history, writing, philosophy, and law, medicine retained a powerful hold on his imagination. It represented not only professional prestige but continuity — a way of extending a family tradition that stretched across generations.

By the time he graduated Cum Laude from the University of the Philippines, the path appeared clear. He performed exceptionally well on the National Medical Admission Test and entered the U.P. College of Medicine carrying both the expectations of his family and the aspirations he had nurtured since childhood.

For a brief moment, it seemed that destiny and ambition had finally converged.

Yet the very experience that was supposed to confirm his calling gradually forced him to question it.

The difficulty was not intellectual. Albert



In a deeply meaningful moment, Albert's parents—both graduates of the University of the Philippines—bestow upon him the Dean's Medal of Excellence. Their pride reflected not only his academic accomplishment but also the fulfillment of a shared family tradition of scholarship and educational excellence.

possessed the discipline required to survive medical school and the academic record to prove it. What troubled him was something more subtle and, in many ways, more consequential. The subjects that fascinated many of his classmates left him strangely unmoved. While he admired the rigor of the basic sciences and respected the precision they demanded, he found himself increasingly drawn toward broader questions of ethics, institutions, human behavior, and meaning — questions that had first captivated him in philosophy.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

The realization was unsettling.

For years, medicine had occupied a central place in his vision of the future. To question that dream felt almost like questioning a part of himself. Yet the further he progressed, the more apparent it became that admiration for a profession is not the same thing as a vocation.

Medicine was teaching him an unexpected lesson: one can respect a path deeply without being destined to follow it.

Compounding his uncertainty were the institutional tensions then affecting the medical school. Academic politics, faculty divisions, and conflicts beyond the control of students created an environment that made an already difficult transition even more challenging. Albert once again found himself confronting circumstances that seemed frustratingly familiar — a reminder that achievement is often shaped not only by talent and effort but also by forces outside one's control.

As the months passed, a difficult truth emerged. The qualities that had allowed him to flourish in philosophy — his fascination with ideas, language, argumentation, ethics, and public affairs — continued to assert themselves. While medicine focused on diagnosis and treatment, his instincts repeatedly

gravitated toward analysis, interpretation, and inquiry. He was less interested in memorizing pathways than in understanding systems, less drawn to the mechanics of disease than to the ideas and institutions that shaped human behavior.

Looking back, the signs had been present for years. His success as a writer, his fascination with government and social science, his attraction to philosophy, and his instinctive tendency to question assumptions all pointed toward a different destination.

Recognizing that destination, however, required letting go of a dream.

That was not easy.

Abandoned ambitions often leave behind a sense of unfinished business, particularly when they involve family expectations and childhood aspirations. Yet Albert eventually came to understand that life's purpose is not to fulfill every dream we once imagined for ourselves. It is to discover where our gifts can be most fully expressed.

Medicine remained an important part of that discovery.

Although he would not become a physician, the experience profoundly influenced him. It taught him discipline under pressure, the importance of time

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

management, and the responsibility that accompanies professional training. More importantly, it forced him to distinguish between what he admired and what he was genuinely called to do.

In hindsight, the road not taken proved every bit as important as the one he ultimately followed. For it was within the halls of medical school that Albert first confronted a question that would shape the rest of his life: whether success meant fulfilling the expectations of others or having the courage to follow one's own intellectual and professional instincts.

The answer would eventually lead him toward the law, where another set of challenges — and some of his greatest disappointments — awaited. Yet the decision to leave medicine behind was not a retreat from a dream. It was the beginning of a deeper understanding of himself.

Sometimes the most important discoveries are not about what we can become.

They are about recognizing who we already are.

Law, Failure, and the Long Road to Resilience

If philosophy taught Albert how to think, the law taught him how to endure.



Albert during his time at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, where he experienced firsthand the rigors of medical education and gained a deeper appreciation for the healing profession that had long been part of his family's heritage. The experience broadened his intellectual horizons and enriched his understanding of service to others.

The transition from medicine to law seemed natural enough. Philosophy had sharpened his ability to analyze ideas, challenge assumptions, and construct arguments, while law offered an arena where those skills could be applied to real-world disputes and institutions. More importantly, it appealed to a fascination that had been quietly developing since childhood: a curiosity about rules, systems, and the often-complicated relationship between legality and justice.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Before committing himself to the legal profession, Albert briefly stood at a crossroads. He took both the National Medical Admission Test and the U.P. Law Aptitude Examination, leaving open the possibility of either path. While medicine remained the family tradition, the law increasingly captured his imagination. He was drawn to the elegance of legal reasoning and the way a carefully constructed argument could shape outcomes, influence policy, or alter the course of a dispute.

His first stop was the Ateneo School of Law, where he entered a class that would eventually produce prominent figures in government, business, and the legal profession. The environment was intellectually exhilarating and relentlessly competitive. Albert quickly immersed himself in student life, serving as class representative and joining the Fraternal Order of Utopia, whose ranks included many of the country's most distinguished jurists and public servants.

Yet law school demanded a different kind of discipline than anything he had previously encountered. Philosophy rewarded reflection; law rewarded preparation. Every class required mastery of volumes of assigned readings, familiarity with judicial decisions, and the ability to respond instantly under pressure. Success depended not only on

understanding concepts but on remembering details, distinguishing precedents, and applying rules with precision.

The adjustment proved difficult. A combination of circumstances — including disruptions caused by flooding, classroom tensions, and the burdens of student leadership — eventually led to his departure after only a semester. For many aspiring lawyers, such an experience might have marked the end of the journey. For Albert, it became the first of several detours.

He enrolled at San Beda College of Law, attracted by its reputation for rigor and discipline. There he encountered an environment every bit as demanding as its reputation suggested. Once again, however, circumstances intervened, and another transfer followed. Eventually, he found a home at the University of Perpetual Help Rizal College of Law, where he completed his Bachelor of Laws degree in 2003.

By then, Albert had already learned a lesson that would recur throughout his life: progress is rarely linear. The path to a goal often bears little resemblance to the path one originally envisioned.

The diploma, however, was only one milestone. Like every law graduate, he now faced the challenge that looms over the profession — the Bar Examination.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

For Albert, the Bar would become less an examination than a prolonged test of character.

He failed.
Then he failed again.
And again.

Five times in all.

What made the experience particularly painful was how close success seemed to be. His overall averages were consistently passing, yet each examination contained a single subject in which his score fell below the required threshold. The failures were never overwhelming; they were agonizingly narrow. Each result suggested that the dream remained within reach while simultaneously denying him the opportunity to grasp it.

The emotional toll was profound. Every attempt demanded months of preparation, sacrifice, and hope. Every unfavorable result reopened the same wound. There were periods of depression, moments of self-doubt, and times when continuing seemed irrational. Following one examination, the disappointment became severe enough to require hospitalization.

The experience forced Albert to confront a question that many high achievers eventually face: who are you when the goal you have pursued for years remains unattained?



Albert's graduation portrait upon earning his bachelor's degree, commemorating a significant academic milestone. The photograph captures a young scholar whose years of discipline, perseverance, and intellectual curiosity had culminated in academic distinction and prepared him for the next chapter of his professional journey.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

For someone whose life had been marked by academic distinction, the question was deeply unsettling. Yet it was also transformative.

Throughout those difficult years, he drew strength from several sources. Family provided encouragement. Mentors offered perspective. Faith supplied a measure of peace that success alone could never provide. Among those who influenced him most was Court of Appeals Justice Artemon Luna, who never allowed him to define himself solely by examination results and consistently reminded him that professional setbacks need not diminish personal worth.

Gradually, Albert began to understand that the Bar Examination was teaching him lessons no classroom ever could. Failure stripped away illusions. It demanded humility. It revealed the limits of talent and the necessity of perseverance. Most importantly, it taught him that resilience is not the absence of disappointment but the decision to continue despite it.

Years later, when speaking about leadership, adversity, or personal growth, he often returned to a line from *Rocky Balboa* that had become something of a personal creed: *"Every champion was once a challenger who refused to quit."* The quotation resonated because it captured the essence of his experience.

His legal journey was not a story of effortless success but of persistence in the face of repeated disappointment.

Ironically, the profession that never fully opened its doors to him helped shape his character more profoundly than many of his accomplishments. The law sharpened his analytical mind, strengthened his appreciation for institutions, and reinforced his belief that precision matters. But its greatest gift was resilience.

The dream of joining the Philippine Bar remains alive, sustained in part by changes in the rules governing admission to the profession. Whether that dream is eventually realized is almost beside the point. The larger significance lies in what the journey revealed: that character is forged not in moments of triumph but in the willingness to continue after defeat.

In the years that followed, Albert would channel that hard-earned resilience into other arenas — education, administration, civic leadership, and service. The courtroom would not become the primary stage of his life. Yet the lessons he carried from law school and the Bar would accompany him everywhere, shaping not only the leader he became but the mentor he would eventually be to others facing struggles of their own.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

The Educator and Institution Builder

Had Albert become a physician, he might have spent his life treating patients. Had he become a lawyer, he might have built a career in courtrooms and corporate boardrooms. Instead, the profession that would ultimately define much of his life was one he never consciously set out to pursue.

He became an educator.

The outcome was, in retrospect, almost inevitable.

Education ran deeply through his family's history. His grandfather had been a school superintendent. His father had spent decades in academia as a professor and administrator. His mother would become one of the country's respected medical educators and the founding dean of a medical school. Long before Albert entered a classroom as a teacher, he had been surrounded by people who believed that knowledge carried an obligation to be shared.

His entry into the University of Perpetual Help System in the late 1990s appeared modest enough. Initially serving as Executive Assistant to his mother, who was then building a new



Albert during his tenure as an Associate (Underbar) at Quasha Ancheta Peña & Nolasco Lawyers (2003-2006)

medical school from the ground up, Albert found himself immersed in the practical realities of institution-building. New schools do not emerge fully formed. They require policies, procedures, admissions systems, accreditation standards, and countless administrative decisions that often go unnoticed once an institution is established.

For Albert, however, those details were fascinating.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

He enjoyed creating order from complexity. Whether interviewing prospective students, drafting policies, or helping shape academic regulations, he discovered a satisfaction that had little to do with prestige and everything to do with construction. He was helping build something that would outlast him.

The work also revealed an ability that would become increasingly important throughout his career: he understood systems. While some people focus on individual tasks, Albert instinctively looked at how the pieces fit together. He wanted to know not only what worked but why it worked, and how it could work better.

Teaching entered his life almost by accident.

When a faculty member handling History of Medicine departed unexpectedly, Albert was asked to step in. The assignment seemed temporary, a practical solution to an immediate need. Instead, it became one of the most consequential turns in his professional life.

Standing before a classroom, he discovered that teaching appealed to the same instincts that had drawn him to philosophy years earlier. Both required curiosity. Both required the ability to connect ideas. Most importantly, both required helping others see relationships they had not previously noticed.



Albert officiates at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in his capacity as University Registrar, marking the opening of a new facility and celebrating another milestone in the institution's continuing growth and development. The occasion reflected his important role in advancing the university's academic mission and service to its stakeholders.

His courses in History of Medicine and Bioethics proved particularly well suited to his background. They occupied the intersection of medicine, philosophy, and law — the very disciplines that had shaped his own intellectual journey. Rather than simply delivering information, he encouraged students to grapple with questions that resisted easy answers. Ethical dilemmas, professional responsibilities, and the human

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

dimensions of medical practice often became the heart of his classes.

In the process, Albert came to appreciate something that many educators eventually learn: *teaching is not fundamentally about transferring knowledge. It is about shaping perspective.*

Students rarely remember every lecture. They seldom retain every fact. What often remains are ways of thinking, habits of inquiry, and lessons that reveal their significance years later.

That realization gradually transformed his understanding of success.

As a student, he had measured achievement through grades, rankings, and honors. As an educator, he began measuring it differently. Success was no longer defined by personal accomplishment but by the accomplishments of others. A former student succeeding in medicine, education, or public service often felt more rewarding than any individual recognition he received himself.

Meanwhile, his responsibilities within the university continued to expand. Roles as College Secretary and later University Registrar placed him at the center of academic administration. To many outsiders, registrars appear to be custodians of records and transcripts.

Albert understood the position differently. The Registrar's Office served as the institutional memory of a university, safeguarding academic integrity while ensuring that students, faculty, and administrators could function effectively within a coherent system.

The challenge suited him.

His legal training sharpened his attention to detail. His administrative experience strengthened his ability to manage competing interests. His philosophical background encouraged him to search for underlying principles rather than merely address immediate problems.

Under his watch, processes became more efficient, records more accessible, and services more responsive. Yet what mattered most to him was not efficiency for its own sake. It was the conviction that institutions exist to serve people. Systems should make lives easier, not more complicated. Policies should facilitate learning, not obstruct it.

Over time, Albert realized that his greatest contributions often occurred far from public attention. Students rarely noticed the countless administrative decisions that made their education possible. Graduates seldom reflected on the systems that ensured their records were accurate and accessible. Yet these invisible structures formed the foundation upon which educational institutions rested.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Perhaps that is why he increasingly viewed himself not merely as a teacher or administrator but as a builder.

A builder of systems.
A builder of opportunities.
A builder of institutions.

Most importantly, a builder of people.

For all the degrees he earned and the positions he held, the most enduring legacy of his educational career would not be found in titles or accomplishments. It would be found in the thousands of students whose lives intersected with his own and who, in ways both large and small, carried forward the lessons of a man who never stopped believing that education remains the most powerful investment one generation can make in the next.

Service, Leadership, and the Art of Building People

For much of his early life, Albert's achievements were largely individual.

Success meant earning the highest grade, winning a competition, completing a degree, or overcoming a personal challenge. Whether in the classroom, law school, or graduate studies, the battles were usually his alone. Preparation, discipline, and perseverance determined the outcome, and the rewards were measured accordingly.



Albert serves as Project Manager in the Office of the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the DALTA Group of Companies. Working closely with top management, he helped oversee strategic initiatives and special projects, gaining invaluable experience in leadership, corporate governance, and organizational development.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Over time, however, he began to realize that the most meaningful accomplishments in life rarely belong to a single person.

Schools are built collectively.
Organizations thrive collectively.
Communities improve collectively. Even the most accomplished individuals are, in many ways, the products of mentors, colleagues, institutions, and opportunities that helped shape them. The realization would gradually transform his understanding of leadership.

Rotary provided the first significant lesson.

When Albert joined the Rotary Club of Manila in 2005, he was drawn initially by its reputation. As the first Rotary club in Asia, its membership included many of the country's most distinguished businessmen, professionals, and public servants. To a newcomer, the organization seemed an impressive gathering of accomplished individuals.

What took longer to appreciate was that Rotary's true identity had little to do with status and everything to do with service.

The more involved he became, the more



Albert is inducted into the Rotary Club of Manila on October 6, 2005, joining Asia's first Rotary club and one of the most distinguished service organizations in the Philippines. The occasion marked the beginning of a Rotary journey dedicated to fellowship, ethical leadership, and service above self.

he recognized that the organization's greatest strength lay not in the prominence of its members but in their willingness to place their talents in service of causes larger than themselves. Projects such as the Pasig River Floating Barrier initiative demonstrated how collective action could achieve results that no individual, regardless of influence or resources, could accomplish alone.

For a man who had spent much of his life pursuing personal excellence, the experience was quietly transformative. Rotary challenged him to think beyond achievement and toward impact. It introduced him to a form of leadership measured not by recognition but by contribution.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

If Rotary taught him the value of service, JCI taught him the mechanics of leadership.

By the time Albert joined JCI Makati in 2011, he was already an experienced educator and administrator. Yet JCI offered something different. It functioned less as a civic organization than as a laboratory where leadership could be practiced, tested, and refined. Projects became classrooms. Volunteers became teammates. Challenges became opportunities for growth.

His first initiative, a dental mission called *Ngiting May Ningning*, was modest compared to the larger programs he would later encounter. Yet it reinforced an insight that remained with him for years: leadership is not conferred by title; it emerges through action.

As he became more active within the organization, Albert found himself increasingly fascinated by a question that had followed him throughout his life: what separates effective leaders from ineffective ones? The answer, he concluded, had surprisingly little to do with authority. The strongest leaders he encountered were not necessarily the most charismatic, the most visible, or even the most accomplished. They were the ones who developed other people.



JCI Makati President Atty. Carlo Ybañez formally inducts Albert as a new member of JCI Makati. The ceremony marked the beginning of Albert's journey in the Jaycee movement, opening opportunities for leadership development, community service, and lifelong fellowship with fellow young leaders.

The lesson became particularly clear through projects such as *Give Jobs on Christmas Day*, a large-scale employment initiative that demonstrated the multiplier effect of leadership. Its success did not depend on a single individual. It depended on teams, partnerships, and the ability to align many people behind a common purpose. The project reinforced Albert's growing conviction that leadership is fundamentally an act of empowerment.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

This belief would eventually shape his approach to nearly every organization he served. Whether mentoring students, managing academic systems, drafting policies, or leading civic initiatives, he increasingly viewed leadership not as the exercise of authority but as the cultivation of potential.

The shift represented a significant departure from the competitive mindset of his youth. As a student, he had often measured success by how well he performed relative to others. As a leader, he came to judge success by how well others performed because of him.

That distinction may be the most important leadership lesson he learned.

The educator in him naturally gravitated toward developing people. The administrator sought to build systems that outlasted individuals. The Rotarian and Jaycee understood that organizations endure only when new leaders are continually prepared to take their place.

In time, Albert came to see leadership as a form of stewardship. Positions were temporary. Titles eventually passed to others. What remained were the institutions strengthened, the opportunities created, and the people encouraged to exceed their own expectations.



Albert with his fellow "Baby JCI" groupmates during the Ngiting May Ningning Dental Mission, a community service project dedicated to promoting oral health and bringing smiles to underserved children and families. The activity reflected the group's shared commitment to service, compassion, and community development.

Looking back, he often reflects that the most satisfying moments of his career did not involve awards, appointments, or public recognition. They involved seeing former students become successful professionals, watching young leaders mature into capable executives, and witnessing organizations continue to flourish long after his direct involvement had ended.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

Those moments confirmed a belief that had slowly emerged through decades of teaching, administration, service, and leadership.

Achievement is important.
Contribution is more important.

And the highest form of contribution is helping others discover what they are capable of becoming.

The Lifelong Student

One of the more revealing characteristics of Albert is that, despite spending much of his professional life as a teacher, administrator, and mentor, he has never stopped thinking of himself as a student.

For many people, education is a stage of life. It begins in childhood, culminates in a diploma, and eventually yields to the demands of career and family. Albert never saw it that way. Having grown up in a household where learning was treated almost as a family vocation, he came to regard education not as a destination but as a continuing process of discovery.

This instinct had followed him since his days at the University of the Philippines. What attracted him to Philosophy was not simply the subject matter but the



Albert addresses a General Membership Meeting of JCI Makati, sharing insights on leadership, service, and personal development. As a seasoned Jaycee leader and mentor, he inspired fellow members to pursue excellence and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

realization that every answer inevitably led to another question. The discipline taught him that certainty is often overrated and that intellectual growth depends less on possessing answers than on maintaining curiosity. Long after he left U.P., that habit of inquiry remained intact.

It helps explain why, after earning degrees in philosophy and law and establishing himself in educational administration, Albert continued returning to the classroom — not as a

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday



JCI Senate Philippines President JCI Sen. Domingo O. Roque Jr. administers the oath of office to JCI Sen. Albert S. Alday as President of the Metro Manila Jaycee Senate for 2019, together with the incoming Board of Directors. Surrounded by family, including his mother, and fellow Jaycees from JCI Makati, Albert assumed the mantle of leadership in an organization dedicated to fellowship, service, and the continued development of community leaders.

lecturer this time, but as a student. The impulse was never driven solely by credentials or career advancement.

Rather, it reflected a genuine fascination with ideas and an enduring belief that there was always more to learn.

That belief eventually led him back to

philosophy through doctoral studies in Metaphysics. The choice surprised some of his colleagues, but it made perfect sense to those who knew him well. Metaphysics dealt with questions that had captivated him since his undergraduate years: the nature of reality, the relationship between the material and spiritual worlds, and the mysteries of human existence that resist

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday



While studying for his Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Business Law at Boston University School of Law from 2011 to 2012, Albert immersed himself in the complexities of international trade, finance, and commercial regulation. The experience provided him with a global outlook that would later inform his work in law, business, and public service.

easy explanation. His dissertation, *Soulmates: An Omnipresent Perspective*, explored one such question, examining whether certain human relationships transcend a single lifetime and form part of a larger spiritual continuum. Whatever one may think of the conclusion, the project reflected a mind still drawn to questions that could not be answered by formulas, statutes, or laboratory tests.



Albert celebrates his graduation from Boston University's law school with family and relatives whose love, encouragement, and support helped sustain him throughout the challenges of legal education. The gathering marked not only a personal achievement but also a shared family triumph.

The same intellectual restlessness later carried him halfway around the world — at least academically — to Boston University. When he learned of its Executive Master of Laws program in International Business Law, he saw an opportunity not merely to earn another degree but to experience a different legal tradition. Supported by his grand aunt, Dean Cristina Parel, whose faith in education had influenced him since

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday



Albert receives the Temiong Award as the Most Outstanding JCI Senator of 2020, one of the highest honors bestowed by JCI Philippines. The award recognized his exemplary leadership, sustained service, and significant contributions to the Jaycee movement and the broader community.

childhood, Albert immersed himself in a curriculum that exposed him to international transactions, global commerce, arbitration, and corporate governance.

The experience broadened his perspective. American legal education differed markedly from the system he had known in the Philippines. It emphasized concepts as much as codal provisions, practical application as much

as doctrine. More importantly, it reinforced a lesson he had been learning throughout his life: education's greatest gift is not information but perspective. Facts can be memorized. Perspectives reshape the way one sees the world.

Looking back, Albert often reflects that many of the most important lessons of his life came from places no syllabus could anticipate. They

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

emerged from failures that forced self-examination, mentors who offered guidance at critical moments, organizations that tested his leadership, and experiences that challenged long-held assumptions. The classroom provided foundations, but life supplied the deeper education.

Perhaps this is why he remains skeptical of the notion that learning ever truly ends. Degrees may signify completion of a program, but they do not signify completion of growth. The world changes too rapidly, human knowledge expands too quickly, and life's questions remain too complex for anyone to claim final mastery.

For Albert, curiosity has become a form of humility. It is an acknowledgment that no matter how much one has accomplished, there is always another idea to explore, another perspective to consider, another lesson waiting to be learned. It is also the thread that connects the many chapters of his life — from philosophy to medicine, from law to education, from leadership to service.

After all, beneath the professor, administrator, entrepreneur, Rotarian, and Jaycee remains the same young



Albert during his tenure as Chairman of Fly High Manila, a youth leadership and community service organization dedicated to developing future leaders through civic engagement, personal growth, and service to society. His leadership reflected an enduring commitment to empowering young people and fostering a culture of excellence and social responsibility.

man who once discovered in the halls of U.P. that the most rewarding questions are often the ones that cannot be answered completely.

And in that sense, Albert's greatest degree may be the one he continues to pursue every day: the education of a lifetime.

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

The Legacy of Becoming

As Albert looks back on the path he has traveled, he does not see a life that unfolded according to a master plan. The story is far messier than that. It is filled with ambitions that were redirected, opportunities that slipped away, unexpected turns that altered the course of events, and setbacks that, at the time, felt impossible to understand.

Yet with the benefit of hindsight, a pattern begins to emerge. The disappointments that once appeared to be dead ends often became gateways to something else. The roads not taken proved just as formative as the ones he ultimately followed.

The aspiring physician discovered that his gifts lay beyond medicine. The law graduate who never crossed the final threshold of the Bar found himself shaping institutions, mentoring students, and influencing lives in ways no courtroom could have anticipated. The young scholar who once measured success through rankings and medals gradually came to understand that achievement, while gratifying, is ultimately transient. What endures is the impact one has on other people.

This realization transformed his understanding of leadership. In his



Dean Amado Paolo Dimayuga places the Juris Doctor sash on Albert during graduation rites, with UPHSD President Dr. Anthony Jose M. Tamayo looking on. The symbolic investiture marked a significant academic milestone, reflecting Albert's determination to complete legal studies while pursuing a distinguished professional and civic career.

younger years, leadership appeared inseparable from accomplishment. Over time, however, he came to see that the most effective leaders are rarely those who accumulate the greatest number of titles. They are the individuals who leave behind stronger organizations, more capable successors, and opportunities that outlive their own tenure. Whether as an educator, administrator, Rotarian, Jaycee, or entrepreneur, Albert increasingly judged success not by

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday

personal recognition but by the extent to which others were empowered to flourish.

It is perhaps no coincidence that this philosophy echoes the values that shaped him from the beginning. The examples set by his parents, grandparents, mentors, and teachers taught him that education is more than the acquisition of knowledge. It is the cultivation of character. It is the preparation of one generation to serve the next. In many ways, Albert's life can be understood as a continuation of that inheritance. The institutions changed, the professions evolved, and the challenges differed, but the underlying commitment remained remarkably constant: to learn, to serve, and to leave things better than he found them.

His unfinished dream of becoming a member of the Philippine Bar remains part of that story. Yet whether or not that goal is ultimately realized seems less important than it once did. The dream endures because it reflects something essential about his character. Albert has never measured life solely by outcomes. He has measured it by effort, perseverance, and the willingness to continue despite disappointment. The journey itself has become as meaningful as the destination.



Albert receives the Rotarian of the Year Award for Rotary Year 2017–2018 with then Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana, the event's Guest of Honor and Speaker. The prestigious recognition honored his outstanding leadership, exemplary service, and significant contributions to the Rotary Club of Manila and its humanitarian mission.

When asked what legacy he hopes to leave behind, he answers with characteristic humility: that he gave more than his best despite the constraints he encountered along the way. It is an answer that captures the essence of his life. For beneath the degrees, awards, leadership positions, and professional accomplishments stands a man who repeatedly chose

TRUST THE PROCESS

A Life of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Purpose of Dr. Albert Singson Alday



Albert receives the Pro Patria Journalism Award for Club Journalism in 2021, recognizing his excellence in communication, editorial leadership, and commitment to advancing the ideals of Rotary through the written word. The honor affirmed his belief in journalism as a powerful tool for informing, inspiring, and uniting communities.

perseverance over surrender, service over self-interest, and growth over complacency.

Perhaps that is why one phrase continues to resonate throughout his story: Trust the process. What began as a lesson in leadership gradually evolved into a philosophy of life. It reflects the conviction that progress is often invisible while it is occurring, that setbacks can become preparation, and that meaning frequently reveals itself only in retrospect. The phrase acknowledges life's uncertainties without surrendering to them, insisting instead that patience, faith, and perseverance possess a quiet power of their own.

In the end, Albert Singson Alday's story is not simply the story of a scholar, educator, administrator, entrepreneur, Rotarian, or Jaycee. It is the story of a man who never stopped learning, never stopped striving, and never stopped believing that each challenge carried within it the possibility of growth. His legacy lies not in any single accomplishment but in the example of a life lived with curiosity, resilience, and purpose — a life defined not by arrival, but by the continual act of becoming. ■

DISTRICT EVENT

Philippine Rotary Media Foundation Inc (PRMFI) Presents “Herminio S. Esguerra and Joyce Michelle L. Ambray Journalism Scholarship Grant”



PDG Sue Sta Maria, Philippine Rotary Media Foundation Inc (PRMFI) Outgoing Chairperson, delivering her Valedictory Address last June 19, 2026 at The Palms Country Club, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, where one of the highlights of her speech was the “Herminio S. Esguerra and Joyce Michelle L. Ambray Journalism Scholarship Grant”.



The pictures of DGND Hermie Esguerra and PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray are flashed on the screen as Journalism Grant Sponsors.



The presentation of the Philippine Rotary Magazine Herminio S. Esguerra and Joyce Michelle L. Ambray Journalism Grant Program



DGND Hermie Esguerra and PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray being congratulated by Rotary International President-Elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola as Perpetual Sponsors for the Journalism Grant.

DISTRICT EVENT

PRMFI Annual Awards and Turnover Ceremonies



DGND Hermie Esguerra and PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray with the ten recipients of the Journalism Grant they donated.



PDG Rudy Bediones with Lady Sharon Bediones at the 2026 PRMFI Annual Awards and Turnover Ceremonies.

DISTRICT EVENT

Back to School Fellowship of the Past Presidents Council of Rotary International District 3810



DGND Hermie Esguerra belting out a Martin Nievera classic, “Each Day with You”, at the Back to School Fellowship of the Past Presidents Council of Rotary International District 3810 hosted by the Phenomenal Leader Presidents last June 22, 2026 at the Golden Bay Fresh Seafood Restaurant in Pasay City.



DGND Hermie Esguerra and PDG Joyce Michelle Socorro Ambray exchanging pick up lines of students at the Back to School Fellowship of the Past Presidents Council of Rotary International District 3810 hosted by the Phenomenal Leader Presidents last June 22, 2026 at the Golden Bay Fresh Seafood Restaurant in Pasay City.



Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday attended the Back to School Fellowship of the Past Presidents Council of Rotary International District 3810 hosted by the Phenomenal Leader Presidents as a Guest.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2025-2026

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
President

EDUARDO V. ENRIQUEZ, III
Immediate Past President

RICARDO SB. GUEVARA
Vice President

MICHAEL JAEY C. ALBAÑA
JASON M. BOGOVICH
RAMI CHAHWAN
EDWIN HERNANDEZ
ALBERT PALACIOS
WARREN SO
Directors

ANTONIOLO DC. MAURICIO
Secretary

PAUL JOSEPH M. GARCIA
Treasurer

JASON M. BOGOVICH
Sergeant-at-Arms

CARLOS G. SERAPIO
Board Legal Adviser

FRANCISCO D. MAGSAYSAY
Assistant Secretary

KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M. CASTRO
Assistant Treasurer

ARSENIO Z. LOCSIN
Internal Auditor

MICHAEL D. ROXAS
Assistant Internal Auditor

JOHN M. CUTTER
DAVID J. REYNOLDS
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms



Official Newsletter of
Rotary Club of Manila
balita

EDITORIAL BOARD RY 2025-2026

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Publisher

SDG REGINALD T. YU
Editor-in-Chief

RTN. SENEN T. MANGALILE
Managing Editor

SEC. ANTONILO DC. MAURICIO
Associate Editor

SDG ALBERT S. ALDAY
Editorial Consultant

DSAA JOHN M. CUTTER
Contributing Editor

RHEA V. TABORA
Editorial Consultant

RCM SECRETARIAT

LHEA J. LOZANO
Executive Secretary

RCM OFFICE

543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 8527-1885
Email: rcmanila@rcmanila.org

www.rcmanila.org