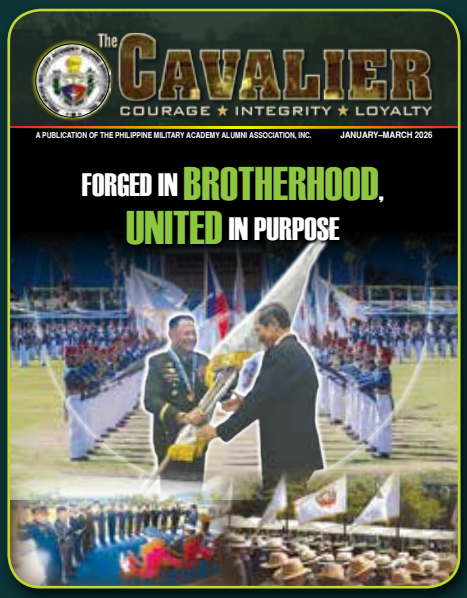
The CAVALIER
COURAGE ★ INTEGRITY ★ LOYALTY
A PUBLICATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. JANUARY–MARCH 2026

FORGED IN BROTHERHOOD, UNITED IN PURPOSE



ABOUT THE COVER



Forged in Brotherhood. United in Purpose.

Forged in the crucible of shared trials, the Cavaliers' brotherhood was not given—it was earned, tempered by fire and sealed in sacrifice. With courage as their compass, loyalty as their bond, and integrity as their unyielding core, they rose beyond the ordinary to become something greater than themselves. United in purpose, they move as one—an unbreakable force shaped by duty, defined by honor, and destined to endure.

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The CAVALIER *Magazine is a professional journal published quarterly by the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), to provide a general forum for the alumni of the Philippine Military Academy. The views and opinions expressed in articles and contributions within Cavalier Magazine are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the official stance or endorsement of the PMAAAI. The Association disclaims any responsibility for the content provided by individual contributors.*

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76

Living the Academy's Core Values Through Purposeful Action

In the first quarter of 2026, we find ourselves at a significant vantage point to reflect on the enduring strength of the Long Gray Line and the mission that drives us forward. Our theme for this publication, "*Forged in Brotherhood, United in Purpose*," is more than just a seasonal slogan; it is the very essence of our identity as graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. It speaks to the seamless transition from the internal strength we find in one another to the external impact we achieve when we act as a cohesive force for the nation.

The first half of our theme, "*Forged in Brotherhood*," takes us back to the crucible of our cadet years. Brotherhood in our context is not born of simple friendship or convenience. It is a relationship tempered by shared hardship, rigorous discipline, and a common code of ethics. This bond was forged in the heat of the barracks and on the historic parade ground of Borromeo Field. Our connection is a lifelong bond that transcends class years, service branches, and our chosen professions. Our shared "DNA" ensures an immediate and unbreakable understanding between Cavaliers.

However, brotherhood remains stagnant if it does not lead to purposeful action. This is where we must remain "*United in Purpose*." Our collective mission is to translate the Academy's core values of Integrity, Service, and Loyalty into meaningful action for the benefit of our country. By moving with a singular vision, we amplify our influence and become a formidable catalyst for positive change. It is about ensuring that the lessons learned within the walls of Fort Del Pilar continue to provide stability and leadership to the communities we serve.

It is this very synergy of brotherhood and purpose that has defined my own journey over the past year. As I conclude my tenure as Chairman, I look back on our journey together with immense pride and a deep sense of fulfillment. Leading the PMAAAI has been one of the greatest honors of my career, offering me a front-row seat to the incredible strides we made when we chose collective progress over individual merit. I am profoundly grateful for the trust you placed in me and for the tireless dedication each of you has shown in upholding the prestige of our Association.

While I step down from this role, my commitment to the Long Gray Line remains as steadfast as ever. I leave you with a grateful heart, confident that our brotherhood will only grow more resilient and more deeply committed to the nation we swore to protect. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you; I look forward to seeing our shared vision reach even greater heights in the years to come.



President's Corner

CAV PEDRO S AGAPITO '96

Forged in Brotherhood, United in Purpose

As we begin a new year, I extend my warmest greetings to all Cavaliers and your families. The first quarter of 2026 offers us not only a fresh calendar but a renewed opportunity to reflect on who we are and what binds us together as graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

Our theme for this issue, "*Forged in Brotherhood, United in Purpose*," speaks to the very heart of the Cavalier identity. It reminds us that long before we assumed positions of leadership, long before we earned rank or distinction, we were first molded as cadets — tested, challenged, and strengthened together within the walls of Fort Del Pilar.

We were forged in shared hardship. The long days of training, the sleepless nights, the relentless standards — these experiences did more than prepare us for military service; they built unbreakable bonds. Brotherhood is not merely a word we learned; it is a reality we lived. We depended on one another. We grew up with one another. We succeeded because we stood together.

That foundation has endured through the decades.

Today, our paths may differ — some remain in active service, others have transitioned to civilian leadership, business, education, or public service — but the bond remains constant. We may belong to different classes and generations, yet we are united by a common oath and a shared understanding of duty, honor, and sacrifice.

Brotherhood, however, is not only about camaraderie. It carries responsibility. It calls us to support one another in times of difficulty, to mentor younger Cavaliers, and to honor the memory of those who have gone ahead. It demands that we uphold the integrity of our association and protect the reputation of the institution that shaped us.

In this new year, unity of purpose is more important than ever. The challenges facing our nation continue to evolve — security concerns, social complexities, technological disruptions, and economic uncertainties require steady and principled leadership. As Cavaliers, we are called to be anchors of stability and examples of ethical conduct in whatever field we serve.

Our unity must extend beyond sentiment. It must be reflected in how we collaborate across classes and chapters, how we strengthen the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc., and how we contribute meaningfully to national development. When we act with a shared vision, our collective impact multiplies.

The PMAAAI remains committed to fostering engagement among members, enhancing transparency, and creating programs that support both our alumni and our communities. Whether through outreach initiatives, professional networks, or mentorship programs, we must continue transforming brotherhood into purposeful action.

Let this year also be a time of renewal— renewal of our commitment to the Academy's core values, renewal of our dedication to service, renewal of our pledge to remain men and women of courage, integrity, and loyalty.

We must remember that unity does not mean uniformity. Our perspectives may differ, our experiences may vary, but our guiding principles remain the same. It is precisely this diversity of expertise — grounded in shared values — that strengthens our brotherhood and sharpens our collective purpose.

As we move through the first quarter of 2026, may we draw strength from the bonds forged in our cadet years. May we remain steadfast in our commitment to one another. And may we continue to serve with the same passion and discipline that once echoed across the parade grounds of our youth.

The world may change, but the spirit of the Cavaliers endures.

Forged in brotherhood. United in purpose. Ready always to serve.

Mabuhay ang PMAAAI. Mabuhay ang mga Cavalier. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.



Executive Director's REPORT

CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85

Stewardship in Action: PMAAAI Concludes a Year of Unity, Service, and Institutional Strength



The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) successfully concluded Association Year (AY) 2025–2026 with strengthened governance, impactful programs, and a steadfast commitment to member welfare—anchored on unity, discipline, and service.

Guided by Chairman Cav Ramon T. Punzalan and his 01 March 2025 directives under the theme "Fostering Unity and Excellence," the Association maintained a clear and strategic direction throughout the year.

Strengthening Governance & Systems

PMAAAI reinforced its institutional foundations through improved systems, stronger policies, and enhanced accountability mechanisms.

A total of 75 Board Resolutions were issued—demonstrating active governance, decisive leadership, and responsiveness to the needs of the organization.

> "We strengthened governance. Improved systems. Reinforced transparency and accountability. Because institutions endure—not through personalities—but through structure, discipline, and trust."

Expanding Programs & Engagement

The Association successfully implemented its major programs:

- Cavalier Award Search
- Cavaliers' Cup
- Game of the Cavaliers
- PMAAAI Building Inauguration
- Family Sportsfest
- AGMM and Homecoming

These initiatives strengthened unity, engagement, and camaraderie among Cavaliers.













Brotherhood in Action

Beyond formal programs, the true spirit of the Cavalier was evident in acts of solidarity and mutual support.

"Our uniform may be folded—but our service continues.
In moments of fellowship.
In times of need.
In honoring those who came before us.
Brotherhood is not remembered—it is practiced."



Collective Leadership

The accomplishments of AY 2025–2026 were made possible through the unified efforts of:

- Board of Directors
- Committee Chairs
- Chapter Leaders
- Volunteers

Their leadership and collaboration ensured effective program delivery and organizational success.

Advancing Membership Welfare

PMAAAI demonstrated its commitment to member welfare through meaningful assistance programs:

- Medical Assistance: 34 members supported (₱1,090,000.00)
- Mutual Benefit Assistance: 50 bereaved families assisted (₱2,940,000.00)

These initiatives reflect a compassionate organization that stands by its members—not only in times of success, but more importantly, in times of need.



Continuity & the Way Forward

As the Association transitions to new leadership, it does so with confidence and clarity:

"Today, we pass the responsibility to new leadership.
Not as an ending—but as a continuation.
Leadership changes.
The mission remains.
The Brotherhood endures.
And PMAAAI moves forward—stronger, united, and ready for the next chapter."







Stewardship. Service. Continuity.
Mabuhay ang PMAAAI



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90

Shaping Mission-Ready Leaders: The Philippine Military Academy's Journey of Excellence and Innovation

Fort Del Pilar, Baguio City – The Philippine Military Academy opened the year with outstanding accomplishments. Across academics, military training, physical development, and community engagement, the Academy continued to advance with its goal of forming disciplined, capable, and service-driven future officers. Through the implementation of the enhanced curriculum, continuous improvement of its facilities, participation in local and international modernized training programs, and strengthened partnerships with other Military Institutions across the globe, the Academy maintains its status as a premier military institution which aims to mold young individuals into values-driven, technologically adept, mission ready, and service-oriented leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Nation.

The Academic Year 2025-2026 culminated in a series of events. First, was the conduct of Course Excellence Award which recognized outstanding cadets from both the Headquarters Academic Group (HAG) and Headquarters Tactics Group (HTG) through the presentation of Course Achiever Awards, Dean's List, and Commandant's List certificates. A total of 44 cadets received Course Achiever Awards, with 24 making the Dean's List and 42 on the Commandant's List. Second, 242 Second Class Cadets participated in a three-day Interdisciplinary Tour as part of the Academy's efforts to expose cadets to real-world applications of their academic training. The activity provided meaningful exposure to key sectors such as governance, security, technology, and sustainability. Third, a five-day Academic Olympics was conducted, featuring competitions in Robotics, Python Programming, Datathon, Engineering Challenge, Debate, Essay Writing, E-Games, Advocacy Film, Interdisciplinary Quiz Bee, and Battalion Mural. The event served as premier platform for cadets to showcase their interdisciplinary competence, intellectual rigor, creativity, and strategic thinking which are attributes essential for modern military leadership. Further, the Academy participated in the Faculty Shadowing program in the Robotics class of Quezon City University (QCU) and attended the VEX Robotics National Robotics Championship sponsored by TESDA.

These academic activities and engagements highlighted the need to remain acquainted and adept in addressing the evolving character of modern warfare, where complexity extends beyond the battlefield into technological, legal, and strategic domains. They emphasized that intellectual readiness grounded in critical thinking, adaptability, and informed decision-making are all indispensable to effective military leadership in contemporary and future modern operational environments.

The HAG, with its commitment to quality, consistency, and continuous development in its academic operation, has once again been re-certified under ISO 9001:2015. This certification affirms that the Academy's curricula, teaching methodologies and assessment, and grading processes comply with internationally recognized quality management standards.

While intellectual rigor and academic excellence form the foundation of military education, mental preparedness alone is not sufficient to ensure a soldier's success. The complexities of modern warfare and security operations demand more than theoretical mastery. Learning inside the classroom builds understanding, but it is only when cadets step into real operational environments that lessons acquire meaning and practical significance. As part of their military training, the First Class Cadets officially embarked on their Officer Preparatory Course/On-the-Job Training (OPC/OJT). This immersion afforded them direct exposure to actual field operations, organizational command structures, and the distinct functions of each service branch. Thus enabling the cadets to gain practical insights and strengthening the competencies necessary for their transition from cadet life to commissioned service.

Physical training remains to be one of the components of military education in the Academy. It strikes a balance between a cadet's intellectual advancement and operational stamina which are qualities that characterize a true military leader. The Academy participated in different sports events in the Baguio-Benguet Educational Athletic League (BBEAL) Second Phase. Cadets did not merely participate in the events; they competed with distinction,

earning numerous medals and demonstrating exceptional skills, discipline, and commitment throughout the competition.

The HTG with the Department of Sports and Physical Development (DSPD), not only conducted the regular Physical Fitness Test (PFT), but also supervised various trainings under Soldier Skills Development Course (SSDC). This included close order drill, weapons handling and safety, rifle and pistol marksmanship training, air-to-ground operations, land navigation, map reading, mission planning, troop leading operations, patrol operations, combat casualty care, combat conditioning drills, endurance marches, rucksack runs, combative and martial arts. These activities greatly contributed to the preparation of Team Dagohoy for the prestigious Sandhurst Military Competition in May and enhanced the readiness of the entire Cadet Corps in their participation in the Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX) in April.

Unlike the previous FTX, which focused heavily on the application of basic soldiering skills, this year's FTX will work under a broader and more comprehensive framework. In addition to tactical proficiency, the exercise integrated the practical application of International Humanitarian Law, Rules of Engagement, the Military Justice System, and Human Rights compliance. These were the focal points of the discussion during the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Orientation and Training of Trainers Conference, thereby, reinforcing both operational effectiveness and legal-ethical accountability in military operations.

Through these comprehensive and integrated training activities, the Academy harmonizes physical rigor with intellectual and ethical foundations. This ensures that its graduates are officers who are fully prepared to lead with competence, integrity, and operational excellence in the complex security environment of today and beyond.

The Academy, in its mission of producing competent leaders, aims to develop officers who exemplify the highest standards of integrity, discipline, and moral courage. These future officers are expected to be tactically and strategically proficient, while possessing the intellectual agility to make sound decisions under complex and uncertain operational conditions. In line with this mission, the Academy continues to strengthen its strategic partnerships with counterpart military institutions worldwide through structured international exchange programs, providing cadets with advanced military education and specialized training abroad. In addition to the forty-two (42) cadets currently training overseas, nine (9) more have been deployed to the Republic of Korea Military Academy (ROKMA), Republic of Korea Naval Academy (ROKNA), Republic of Korea Air Force Academy (ROKAFA), Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA), and the Indian Naval Academy (INA) to further broaden their military training and expertise.

To remain on par with leading military institutions in terms of education, training, and professional development, the Academy also sent delegates to the United States Naval Academy – Naval Academy Leadership Conference (USNA-NALC) and Royal Military College Sant-Jean Richelieu International Week 2026, Asean University Network-Digital Transformation (AUN-Dx) Workshop on AI Governance for Higher Education Institutions, and International Forum for Peace Security & Prosperity (IFPSP). These engagements aimed to enhance the Academy's training standards, administrative systems, and overall institutional effectiveness.

In support of both academic excellence and military training, the Academy continuously pursues the modernization and enhancement of its facilities. Several construction initiatives are near completion, including the construction of four-story HAG and HTG building, renovation of tower 66, construction of outdoor classroom, and armory. The newly improved Department of Ground Warfare Army was inaugurated by LTGEN ANTONIO G NAFARRETE PA, Commanding General, Philippine Army during the celebration of PMA Alumni Homecoming. Additionally, the Academy officially formalized its partnership with the SM Prime Holdings during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Henry Sy Sr. Hall in the Barrio Area. Beyond physical structures, these construction initiatives symbolize the Academy's steadfast commitment to continuously improving its facilities in support of discipline, training excellence, and the holistic development of future officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

To continuously uphold its enduring traditions, the Academy held Troop Parade and Review in honor of LTGEN JIMMY D LARIDA PN(M), Vice Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, together with 15 retiring Generals. This activity served as a fitting occasion to honor the exemplary service of the Academy's alumni while at the same time, reinforcing the high standards of service demanded from the cadets. As part of its treasured tradition, the Academy once again welcomed its Alumni an activity that is more than a social gathering but is a reaffirmation of honor, duty, and loyalty among its graduates. Upholding these kinds of tradition preserves the Academy's core values, strengthens camaraderie, and reinforces a shared identity that bind past, present, and future generations in a common commitment to honor, duty, and service.

In the spirit of relevance and service, the Academy strengthened its ties by forging meaningful connections with the local community by taking part in the various activities related to this year's celebration of the Panagbenga Festivities. This demonstrated that the Academy's commitment to honor and service extends to the community it proudly serves.

Now, as the first quarter concluded, the Academy moves forward with a renewed sense of purpose in fulfilling its mandate namely: academical, military, physical, ethical, and institutional. All these efforts share a common aim: to prepare officers who are ready for the demands of service, and leaders who possess not only competence and confidence but also integrity, discipline, and a deep sense of responsibility to the nation. The achievements of this quarter reflect the Academy's enduring commitment to growth, quality, and the careful formation of men and women who will one day carry the burden of command with honor.



Baron's Dissemination

IAN HAROLD D HUBILLA
Cdt F/Cpt 1CI, CCAFP
Regimental Commander

Forged and United: Together We Move Forward

As I stand on the point of commissionship, the parade ground stretches before me like a map of every trial I've endured and every promise I've made. I still remember my first morning as a plebe — the cold air, the distant bugle, the weight of my uniform that felt too large for me. Back then, I thought this place would break me. What it actually did was shape me: every reveille road run, every Saturday's inspection, every night spent poring over maps and lectures taught me who I was becoming. But more than the lessons or the discipline, it was the faces around me — my mistahs, my squadleaders, my tactical officers, my foster family— who made the transformation possible.

Brotherhood here is not a slogan; it is the small, steady work of people choosing to carry one another. I have shared my water and my rations with my Mistah, who had nothing to eat in times of distress and calamities. I have seen a classmate pushed beyond exhaustion because someone called his name and asked, simply, "Are you okay?" I have learned to give and accept criticism with humility, to correct and be corrected because every single correction was meant for the same end: to make the Corps stronger. Those shared hardships — the blisters on our feet caused by the hardened soles of our combat boots, the sleepless nights we spent preparing our uniforms, the mass dress rehearsals and drills that taught us humility — welded us into something more resilient none of us could achieve on our own.

Wearing the cadet uniform taught me that purpose is not an abstract ideal but a daily decision. Purpose showed itself when we stood in formation and thought of the families who will sleep more easily because someone, someday, will stand watch. It showed itself in the classroom when theory met the faces of the public in need, and in field training exercises when strategy became a promise to protect. As a graduating cadet, I carry with me not a desire for rank or praise, but a commitment to uphold the people's trust — to be competent, to be accountable, and to be ready when called to active duty.

Leadership at the Academy was taught by example. My seniors taught me that to lead is to serve: to shoulder the burden of others, to be the first to admit a mistake, and to hold the line when it matters most. Now, as Regimental Commander preparing to pass the torch, I feel the weight of that responsibility, but also the quiet confidence that it is shared — that the men and women I trained with will stand by me as I will stand by them. The bonds we formed are not fleeting; they are the backbone of a lifetime of duty and friendship.

"Forged in Brotherhood, United in Purpose" is not just our theme this quarter; it is the lens through which I view my calling. Graduation is not an endpoint but a beginning. We will step out from these gates as servant-leaders shaped by shared trials and anchored by a singular mission — to protect and to serve the nation. As I salute for the last time in a cadet's Full Dress White uniform, I do so for the faces who walked beside me, for the lessons that tempered me, and for the nation that will receive me. Nevertheless together, forged and united, we move forward to a faster, stronger, and better Corps that will translate our actions in the armed forces.

ADJUTANT'S BULLETIN

Search for Cavalier Awardees Opens for AY 2026-2027

• **Cav Romeo C Prestoza '78**
Chairman, Awards Committee, PMAAAI

In line with the continuing implementation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the PMAAAI Awards Policy, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) officially opens the **Search for Cavalier Awardees for Association Year 2026–2027.**

Following the approval of Board Resolution No. 25-15 in the previous year, the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) now enters the second year of implementing the IRR for its Awards Policy—further strengthening its commitment to institutional excellence, transparency, and merit-based recognition.

The IRR, adopted during the Regular Board Meeting on 25 June 2025, established a comprehensive framework to ensure that the conferment of awards remains consistent, credible, and aligned with the Association's core values.

Board Resolution No. 25-15 Available Online

For reference, Board Resolution No. 25-15 may be accessed at: https://pmaaa.org/board-resolutions/

Sustaining a System of Excellence

Now in its second year of implementation, the IRR continues to guide the conferment of the Association's four major awards:

- Cavalier Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Outstanding Achievement Award
- Valor Award

These awards recognize Cavaliers who exemplify outstanding leadership, professional competence, and service to the nation across military, public, and civilian fields—anchored on the enduring principles of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

Call for Nominations: AY 2026–2027

As part of the second year of IRR implementation, the PMAAAI formally opens the Search for Cavalier Awardees for Association Year 2026–2027.

All members, classes, and chapters are encouraged to nominate deserving Cavaliers whose accomplishments bring distinction to the Academy and contribute meaningfully to national development.

- **Deadline of Submission:**
  - » On or before 31 July 2026
- **Submission Channel:**
  - » Through respective PMAAAI Chapters

Eligible nominees must be regular members in good standing, possess an honorable and unblemished record, and demonstrate excellence consistent with the standards set forth in the IRR.

"By sustaining a credible and merit-based awards system, the Association not only honors the achievements of today's Cavaliers but also inspires future generations to uphold the highest ideals of the Philppine Military Academy"

Refining a Transparent and Credible Process

Building on its initial implementation, the IRR reinforces a structured and multi-level selection system designed to ensure fairness and objectivity:

- Nominations from members, classes, and Chapter Presidents
- Chapter-level deliberations through Search Committees
- Evaluation by the PMAAAI Awards Committee using established quantitative and qualitative criteria
- Final approval by the Board of Directors, requiring a two-thirds affirmative vote

All nominations must be supported by verified documentation, including records of achievements and a concise write-up for publication in The Cavalier Magazine.

Strengthening the Cavalier Legacy

The continued implementation of the IRR underscores the Association's resolve to institutionalize a culture of recognition rooted in merit, integrity, and service.

As PMAAAI moves forward, this system not only honors the achievements of today's Cavaliers but also inspires future generations to uphold the highest ideals of the Philippine Military Academy.

Continuity and Commitment

Entering its second year, the IRR stands as a testament to PMAAAI's commitment to sustaining a credible and enduring awards system—one that reflects both the legacy of the past and the promise of the future.

The Arevalos: Generations of Distinct Achievements



Marching as "the Oldest member of the Alumni" at the Borromeo Field is a cherished dream for many graduates. For 92-year-old Cavalier Filoteo S Arevalo Sr, PMA Class '56, this dream holds special significance as his class hosts its 70th Anniversary during this year's Homecoming Parade. The occasion will be even more meaningful if he can march alongside his five PMA graduate children - Alexander '82, Filoteo Jr. '84, Robert '85, Benedict '90, Armand '91 - and his granddaughter, Cadet 3Cl Angela May Arevalo-Maquilan, who will carry the Class '56 Flag.

The family has been recognized in the Academy Scribe for having the highest number of PMA sibling graduates. Furthermore, they represent three generations who embody the Academy's motto: Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

Although Cavalier Filoteo Sr remains mobile, he requires crutches and assistance from a caregiver to walk. Having him participate in the Alumni Parade would likely exhaust him and strain his health.

Instead, the Arevalo Family of PMAyers was presented with a Special Recognition during the Annual General Membership Meeting held at the PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence, held on January 24, 2026, at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig City. This distinction was conferred in acknowledgment of their remarkable achievement of having six family members as graduates from the Academy, representing PMA Classes '56, '82, '84, '85, '90, and '91.

Yet, the legacy continues with Cadet Third Class Angela Mae Arevalo-Maquilan, daughter of Major Jonathan and Marilou Maquilan, joining the Academy as the third generation to follow her grandfather Filoteo and uncles' footsteps.

The family earned recognition for receiving PMAAAI Cavalier Awards: Filoteo Sr (Class '56) in Business and Entrepreneurship (1999), Robert (Class '85) in Administration (2018) and as PMAAAI President (2014–2015), and Benedict (Class '90) for combat operations (1994).



SUCCESS DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT:
Lessons I Learned as a Grateful Civilian

Speech of Robina Gokongwei-Pe during PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting
24 January 2026

Good morning, distinguished Cavaliers—to those currently in active service; to those who have retired from formal service but continue to serve in many other ways; and to everyone joining us today, both in person and online—to all members of the PMAAAI, thank you for having me. I'm very glad to be here.

I'm very aware that I'm speaking to you as a civilian. I never wore a uniform. I didn't go through the PMA's rigor. I didn't experience the kind of training and active service you all did. But I have lived a civilian life that only worked because people like you were doing your jobs, quietly and consistently, and without expecting recognition.

So, I'm not here to give advice. That would be funny. I'm here to share a few things I learned along the way, lessons I got to learn as a grateful civilian who has gotten to live a fairly ordinary life thanks to people like you.



Now, I do have one photo *(see above)* that serves as the only evidence of my "military career." I was a senior at the Immaculate Conception Academy in Greenhills in 1978, and this was during our Citizen's Military Training (CMT). I'm the girl on the left sitting on the ledge. This is as far as I went when it came to military service.

We spent two nights in Batulao learning how to live inside a tent in the mountains with only portable toilets available. And honestly, even that was already a blessing. Imagine if there were none!

That little CMT and Batulao experience taught me this: courage is not a personality trait. It is a habit. And the first person who taught me that was my father.

This is my father, John Gokongwei Jr. *(see next photo)* He passed away six years ago, so some of you may not know him anymore. He once said this: *"...I chose to live my life unafraid even during times when I was afraid. I discovered that opportunities don't find you; you find your opportunities."*



For a long time, I thought "unafraid" meant fearless. Later on, I realized it meant something else. Fear does not disappear. You just do not let it decide for you.

When my father was 17, he would travel on a small boat called a batel, from Cebu toward Lucena, then take a truck to Manila. He talked about reading *Gone With the Wind* on those long trips, while always watching out for bad weather and even sea pirates. On one trip, the batel hit a rock and sank. Their "life vests" were rubber tires, which happened to be the cargo my father was bringing to Manila to sell. Everyone held on to those tires. In his words, the tires kept the passengers afloat, and the passengers kept his tires afloat too. That is the kind of courage I understood from him early on. Practical. Calm. Shared.

I imagine that idea is familiar to many of you. Training does not remove fear. It teaches you how to function with it. You assess. You decide. You move. You take care of the people beside you. Courage, after all, is not about winning every battle. It is staying steady when things do not go your way, and still doing what needs to be done.

And that mindset didn't just shape how he handled setbacks. It shaped how everything started. When people look at our companies today, it's easy to assume there was a clear plan from the beginning. There wasn't. What there was, was a willingness to work, to adapt, and to respond to circumstances as they changed.

This is my father (below) at a point when people already recognized his name.



But this is not where the story begins.

By the time this photo was taken, many of the hardest lessons had already been learned. But a significant aspect of Mr. John's legacy was his determination to drive Philippine industrialization, which manifested into founding some of the country's market-leading companies.



This photo *(see above)* was taken in 1939. That is my father on the right in a necktie with his parents and siblings in Cebu. This was a comfortable family.

My grandfather, John Gokongwei Sr., owned a chain of movie theaters. There was stability. There was a sense that life was on a predictable path. But although stability can exist, it can also disappear.

Very suddenly, my grandfather died. They found out that the businesses were tied up to various creditors and now the creditors were looking to collect. That's what happens when you are too nice and you give tickets away for free. It was a big mess. The banks confiscated all his cinemas.



My father was only 13 years old. Almost overnight, the stability you saw in those earlier photos disappeared. As the eldest son, he had to grow up overnight. His younger siblings were sent to China to live with relatives while my dad and my grandmother Lola Juanita stayed here to work.

This photo *(see above)* was taken in 1952. By this time, my father's siblings had returned from China, and the family was once again in a more stable place. The boy in shorts on the right is my Uncle James, who currently serves as Chairman of the Gokongwei Group.

Having lived through loss and instability at a young age, my father never assumed that stability was permanent. He treated it as something that had to be protected, worked for, and renewed.

That sense of continuity, of responsibility passed on, is something I think many of you understand very well. So, lesson No. 1, stability isn't something you inherit once and forget. It's something each generation has to earn again and nurture.



This was my father's first major manufacturing venture, the cornstarch business *(see photo above)*. It marked a real shift. He went from trading and selling, to building something that depended on systems, processes, and people working together every day.

You'll notice this older gentleman on the right. He was a retired executive from Procter & Gamble. My father hired him very deliberately. Not for prestige, but to help put proper systems in place.

That willingness to bring in expertise, even when it comes from outside, became an important part of how the business was run. This was also the stage where leadership became less about doing things yourself, and more about enabling others to do their jobs well.



This brings me to the second lesson. You don't build institutions only through strategy. You build them through relationships, day after day.

This photo *(see above)* was taken in 1966 when my dad was awarding his best salesmen. The photo looks pretty simple. A handshake. People standing around with their paper ribbons like when we were in school and awarded most quiet or most friendly. But this is where institutions actually take shape.

My father spent a lot of time with people. Not just in meetings, but in ordinary interactions. Listening. Explaining. Understanding. Leadership, at least as I saw it, was very personal. And I think that's something many of you recognize. Institutions don't hold together because of policies alone. They hold together because of relationships that have been tested over time.



On weekends, my father would take me with him to Makati Supermarket at the Makati Commercial Center, now Ayala Center. He was checking on his stock of Blend 45 coffee and looking at the shelves to see if his products sold. He would leave me at the horsey-horsey ride.

I liked going. Partly because of the ride. But mostly because there was a big book section. I was allowed to choose any book I wanted.

This was leadership by example. Work didn't stop because it was a weekend. You didn't simply rely only on reports. You paid attention to details because they mattered. No one explained that to me. I just watched it happen. And when that's what you see early on, that's what you learn.



During the lockdowns, I decided to recreate this old Presto ad *(see above photo)* with me on it. I was 9 years old. My father was so kuripot that he made me the model!

My father had very simple rules when it came to money and growth. One of them was this. If your business is still small, keep your expenses small too. It wasn't about being cheap. He paid attention to costs the same way he paid attention to shelves.

Even when the business began to grow, that habit stayed. He didn't spend ahead of results. He didn't assume good times would last forever. He believed you earned the right to expand by being careful first and that discipline isn't something you turn on during a crisis.

By the way, that slogan *"Isang kagat, dalawang sarap!"* would never pass the censors now!

In 1969, when my father opened Cebu Foodarama, our first supermarket. It no longer exists today, and the business eventually moved to Robinsons Fuente. But this was his entry point into modern retail.

Retail may look ordinary from the outside, but it's actually very exposed. You're dealing with people, cash, supply, logistics, small margins, all at once. There's nowhere to hide inefficiency. That visibility forces discipline. And it teaches you very quickly what works and what doesn't.

While all of this was happening on the business side, I was doing what most young people my age were doing. I was trying to get through school.

As some of you were entering the PMA, I was also entering UP Diliman. But not into a quota course. I did not make the grade for that. I got into a non-quota course and I was just very grateful to be admitted at all. And like how I imagine the PMA is, UP was a humbling experience for me.

It taught me how to struggle in a system that did not adjust itself to me. You either kept up, or you figured out how to work harder, or you failed and moved on.

Some of you here may unfortunately be old enough to remember this. Unfortunate because that means you're probably a senior citizen already! But for the young ones, on August 20, 1981, my cousin and I were kidnapped on our way to school. It happened at the corner of P. Tuazon and C. Benitez in front of Camp Panopio, in broad daylight. It was an ordinary morning. And then, suddenly, it wasn't.

As the case unfolded, what became clear was that this was not a random crime. Some of the people involved in the kidnapping were former police officers. The alleged mastermind was the son of a Cebu judge. These were people who understood authority better than most. They knew how power moved. And they used that knowledge for the wrong reasons.

That experience taught me something very clear. Authority, on its own, does not guarantee integrity. And experience, without accountability, can become dangerous. That's why things only work when there are consequences. When rank, position, or connections do not put anyone above the law.



After all of that, this is the part that matters most to me. We were found and rescued because there were people on the other side who did their jobs. People who followed leads, coordinated, and did not look the other way.

One of them was a young Lieutenant Colonel at the time, Panfilo Lacson. I say this very simply and very personally: he is my hero. He and his team represented what good police work actually looks like. Calm. Methodical. Professional. No shortcuts. No favors. Just doing the job the right way.

I am here today because someone took that responsibility seriously. Safety does not come from luck. It comes from people who do the right thing, especially when it is difficult and when no one is watching.

The kidnapping was later featured in the movie "Ping Lacson: Super Cop" starring the late Rudy Fernandez as Ping Lacson and Angel Locsin as the young me. So, just to set the record straight, no, I was NOT kidnapped at UP jogging in sports bra with long

flowy hair! In fairness, bagay si Rudy Fernandez as Senator Ping kasi pareho silang pogi pero maybe hindi masyadong bagay si Angel Locsin as the young me kasi naman look at my short hair at the time! I looked more like an Angel Locsin.



Every now and then, the real-life cast catches up. Here I am *(see above photo)* with my hero Senator Ping, who by the way is from the Class of '71, and Class of '88 member Michael Ray Aquino. We are now definitely older. In the movie version, we all seemed to be running all the time. Maybe we got wiser too, because these days we know that it is better to sit down and just talk about the latest episode of Batang Quiapo.

I gave Senator Ping two books from our family: Lessons from Dad: John Gokongwei, Jr., written by my brother Lance, and another book on my parents, John and Elizabeth.

After everything that happened, life did what it always does. It moved forward. 25 TABO?!?!

I joined Robinsons Retail in August 1984, at 23, as a management trainee, when it was still basically a one-store business. No special treatment. No shortcuts. I started where I was needed: on the floor and in the back, learning the work the unglamorous way. Yes, including inventory meaning manually counting panties and bras and briefs. Of course, there's the ever-present *tabo* because there's always a leak somewhere! I know that rhythm is familiar to many of you. Before rank. Before command. When you learn leadership by being present where the work is. That stage matters, because once you've carried the load yourself, you don't forget what it feels like. You give clearer orders, make fairer calls, and lead with respect.



I became a store manager at 25. Here I am with my department heads *(see above photo)*. And right beside me is Tukmol.

Let me tell you the story of Tukmol. No one really knew where he came from, or who his parents were. Even he didn't know. He was always around Ermita, hanging outside the mall, and I would see him there, loitering, watching, looking for customers. He was a pimp.

I offered him a simple deal. Come work with me. I will give you a regular salary. You make my coffee, carry my bag, do honest, basic work. And with something steady, maybe you can even go back to school. He agreed, at least for a while. Tukmol stayed a couple of weeks. Then he disappeared.

Months later, he showed up again. Same place, same life. He told me he went back to pimping because it paid more. Faster money. Bigger money. Cash today.

And that, to me, is the cycle of poverty that traps so many Filipinos. We reach for the quick payout, even when it's risky and unstable, because the long route feels too slow. We expect a lot of money now. We choose the shortcut, even when a steady job, boring as it looks, would have kept us safe and moving forward little by little.

That's why this lesson matters. Be patient. Don't take shortcuts. And if you're going into business, definitely don't expect to make a lot of money in your first year.



Now this is me and my brother Lance *(see above photo)*. Being the *ate*, I was a bit bossy. Little did I know that he would become my boss. Sometimes the person you used to boss around ends up being the one who has your back when it matters. I know many of you can relate. In your line of work, you don't get through missions, operations, or long nights on duty by acting like a one-person show. You get through it because you trust your team, you respect the people beside you, and you don't treat anyone like they're "lower" just because you outrank them. So yes, don't be a bully.

Not because it sounds nice, but because leadership is a long game. And sooner or later, you will need the people you're with today, especially the ones you almost didn't listen to. Of course, the only time Lance and I argue is when there is a UP vs. Ateneo game!

In May 2018, 34 years after joining Robinsons Retail as a tindera, and at an ancient age of 57, I was appointed President and CEO.



Last year, I got kicked upstairs as Chairman of the company and I am now a full-time Squid Game doll with my eyes glowing red if I see something silly going around. Unfortunately, I am not as cute as the doll anymore!

There was a time when a rumor went around that I had a snake twin. A literal half man, half snake twin. Somewhere out there, slithering around, living its best life. Rumors are like snakes. The more you poke them, the more they move. The more you try to "explain," the more they grow fangs.

In business, you will always have snake stories. Someone heard something as told to them by someone. Everyone suddenly becomes an intelligence officer. Marites! But here's what I learned. If it is not true, do not feed it with airtime. If it is true, handle it properly and through the right channels, not through whispers. Because when leaders spend their day chasing rumors, the real work slows down. And the only thing that benefits from that is my snake twin.

This one is from July 2025 *(see photos below)*. There was a big typhoon passing through Luzon so there was a lot of rain, a lot of flooding, the whole works. Some of you would have been deployed then. Similarly, our Robinsons Supermarket store manager still decided to report for duty and made a call: open the store. Because when everything is disrupted, people still need basics: water, food, medicine, diapers. A store becomes a lifeline. A week after, she received her 26 year service award like nothing happened.

That's stewardship. Very PMA, actually. When conditions are bad, you do not just secure your post. You also think of the civilians. You keep things moving, calmly, responsibly, with a clear head.

So before I end, this is an excerpt from Senator Ping Lacson's speech delivered during the 119th PMA Foundation Day and Recognition Rites in 2017 for the Masaligan Class of 2021: "*Plebes are left with the only goal that mattered—to be leaders that set them apart from the rest, being born for a greater cause, imbued by honor, discipline and excellence*."

I love this because it puts into words what people often miss: what PMA really shapes is not just capability, but honor, discipline, and excellence, and the sense that you were trained for something bigger than yourselves.

So if I may, here is a bit of humble civilian advice to you, distinguished PMA alumni. You already gave the country your prime years. You gave it your discipline, your weekends, your sleep, your knees. So this is not a lecture. This is a practical ask. Give back to your school. Because the PMA is a factory for leadership. If you keep that factory strong, you keep producing officers who can serve with competence and character long after all of us are retired, or gone, or just happily complaining about our back pain.

Support the cadets. Mentor the young officers. Open doors for them when they transition to civilian life. The small things matter.

Let me end with a quote from my Dad: "*Success doesn't happen overnight. It's the small successes achieved day by day that build a company*."

In our world, that's sales, inventory, customers, and cash flow. In your world, it's something much bigger. It's a country. A nation is built the same way, through thousands of steady, difficult decisions made over years. It's built by training that never really ends. By discipline that becomes habit. By leadership that carries other people's fears so they can keep going. By the quiet courage of being ready, again and again, even when the circumstances are not kind.

And I want to say this plainly, with deep respect: thank you for your service. Thank you for choosing a life that demands more from you than most people will ever fully understand. Thank you for the nights away from family, the missed birthdays.

Some of you are still in active service. Some of you are retired. But I hope you know, retirement does not erase what you have given. The nation continues to benefit from it. And your example continues to shape people. In uniform and outside it.

So, from a civilian who has been allowed to be a tindera and serve customers, and worry about very normal civilian things because you have taken on the harder worries, thank you.

May your days ahead be filled with the same sense of purpose you have given others. And may you keep collecting those small successes, day by day, because that is how you build anything that lasts. A company, a family, a community, and yes, a country.



Advancing MUP Morale and Welfare Through Legislation and Presidential Issuances

• CAV ARISTON V DELOS REYES '71

(Keynote address at PMAAAI's Annual General Membership Meeting on 24 January 2026)

A. Introduction

I feel honored and privileged to be with you today and speak about the issues affecting the military and uniformed personnel (MUP) particularly in support to their morale and welfare through legislation and presidential issuances.

Among the leadership principles, knowing our men and looking after their welfare is second only to the accomplishment of the mission. That has been inculcated in the Academy and which has gotten stuck in my mind even in retirement. Since 2015, I have noticed with great concern that the MUP pension particularly that for the military had been criticized and looked upon with contempt by some government officials. At times, I felt insulted by their comments and terminology. Thus, I took it as a challenge to defend our pension system by publishing various articles to create awareness among the internal and external public.



On invitation, I attended radio and tv interviews to explain our Pension System. I also wrote letters to legislators and other government officials to present counterproposals. I attended Congressional hearings to explain my views among others, in defense of the MUP's vested rights to their Pension System. When called for, I drafted letters for signature of the heads of MUP organizations addressed to the president and legislators.

As importantly, I have furnished the chain of command with copies of my articles and proposals, hoping for its support or even for it to take the lead and act as principal stakeholder on the issues at hand. I believe that proposing an enactment or a presidential issuance is relatively monumental; hence, calling for unified efforts among the stakeholders. Suffice to say: *In unity there is strength.*

B. Thus far, our efforts have not been In vain as evidenced by our various accomplishments.

1. **The Bill on Salary Standardization (SSL) for 2015 that would suspend MUP Pension Indexing was not enacted.**

In December 2015, both Houses of Congress already approved the bill on third reading and was due for submission as enrolled bill for signature by then President Benigno Aquino.

However, Secretary Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, then resigned Presidential Assistant for Rehabilitation and Recovery after Typhoon Yolanda, requested the intercession by then Senator Juan Ponce Enrile who led the Hotel Intercontinental brainstorm on 15 December to address the issue. Consequently, the Senate version of the bill was returned from third to second reading in order to amend it by deleting the provision suspending pension indexing.

During the Bicameral Conference Committee Meeting, the Lower House insisted that Pension Indexing be suspended. However, the Senate disagreed. Hence, SSL 2015 was not enacted.

2. Joint Resolution (JR) No.1 with Pension Indexing was enacted.

In December 2017, Senators Honasan and Lacson teamed with Senator Sotto to oppose the lower house- approved JR that would suspend Pension Indexing. Senator Honasan stoodfast that no JR without Pension Indexing will pass in the Senate. Therefore, to break the deadlock, President Rodrigo Duterte endorsed the draft version by Senator Honasan which ultimately was enacted as JR No.1.

3. PMAAAI ensured prompt Payment of 2019 Pension Indexing after the Bicameral Conference Committee realigned the budget for the purpose.

Based on an earlier advice by Senator Lacson, then Chairman Rufo De Veyra and President Arthur Bisnar wrote President Duterte thru Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on 2 May 2019 to allow payment of Pension Indexing, utilizing available Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF) which the President duly approved. By June 15 or six weeks after, Pension Indexing to new rate was implemented, retroactive on 1 January 2019. The total annual additional Pension Indexing has been about P60 billion, benefitting more than 230,000 pensioners.

4. PMAAAI countered the refusal by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to fund the 2018 Pension Indexing arrears.

The letter of Chairman Edgar Aglipay on 16 June 2020 was approved by President Duterte and DBM included P40 billion budget in Pension and Gratuity Fund (PGF) for 2021 to pay for the 2018 arrears. However, the Bicam realigned P20 billion out of the P40 billion for another purpose.

Hence, Chairman Aglipay wrote a second letter on 12 Feb 2021 and President Duterte approved his recommendation that DBM utilize the MPBF to shoulder additional P20 billion to complete the total fund needed for payment of the 2018 arrears.

5. PMAAAI sought to restore PVAO Pension of 18,651 Veterans from the defunct Philippine Constabulary which was arbitrarily Stopped by DBM.

The letter dated 21 January 2020 signed jointly by the outgoing Chairman De Veyra and incoming Chairman Aglipay was approved by President Duterte and he ordered DBM to resume total funding of pension for said veterans to include payment of the arrears.

6. Successful Defense of the MUP Pension System against drastic proposals by former Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno. They included among others, that Pension Indexing be stopped; that active members and new entrants contribute to their pension; Pension of those who will Retire be based on last rank held; and that pension for optional retirement should only commence at age 57.

To counter his recommendations, the PMA Class of 1971 came up with its position paper entitled *"Reforming the MUP Pension System*." It was published in the Cavalier Magazine. Among others, it highlighted the publicized opposition by then Presidential Legal Counsel Secretary Enrile to the Diokno proposals and the appeal for prudence by former Senator Lacson and wait for the much-needed completed actuarial study.

Then the Class came up with an article entitled "*The Sound of Disinformation on the MUP Pension Issue"* to counter the use of vague and misleading terms by Secretary Diokno during the intensive information campaign by his team. The article was published in The Cavalier and Biz News Asia.

In order to keep the public informed, I guested in the tv current affairs talk show "The Chiefs" to explain among others, the history of the military pension system.

I was interviewed by Ted Failon and Dj Cha Cha in DZMM's commentary program "*Failon Ngayon*" and explained the position paper of PMA Class of 1971.

In furtherance to both articles, I wrote letters to Congressmen Joey Salceda and Raul "Boboy" Tupas (PMA '94) which led to the adoption of the following proposals during the third reading of House Bill 8969. They could serve as reference during future filing of bills for MUP Pension Reform. They include:

A. Equalize maximum pension to 90 percent and to cover even those who are already retired in the military;

B. Equalization of KIA/WIA pension benefits that would favor military pensioners; and,

C. MUP in the active service may not be made to contribute to their pension.

By the end of the 20th Congress in 2025, the bill embodying Secretary Diokno's proposals was not enacted which is favorable to the MUP.

7. President Bongbong Marcos' (PBBM) issued EO 107 granting MUP Pay and Pension Adjustment for three years (2026-28) at annual rate of 5 percent based on an earlier advice by Senator Lacson that heads of organizations be involved, the letter to the President dated 27 May 2025 was signed by the Chairman Gerardo Layug '80 of AGFO; Chairman Emilio Marayag '76 of AGFO Foundation (AFI); Chairman Ramon Punzalan '76 of PMAAAI; Chairman Gilbert Llanto of NARAA; and Chairman Edilberto Adan '72 of the Advocates for National Interest or ANI. They recommended for MUP Pay Adjustment in order to catch up with the annual pay increase granted to civilian government personnel from 2020 to 2027. Instead of an Enactment, they recommended for the issuance of an Executive Order (EO) for expediency, citing as precedent the issuance of EO 64 that Granted Pay Adjustment to Civilian Personnel from 2024 to 2027. In addition, retired Commodore Amado Sanglay PN earnestly liaisoned with the Office of the Executive Secretary and Presidential Management Staff to ensure the successful courtesy call of AGFO and other MUP leaders and retirees to the President on 19 September 2025. During the call, the President decided right there and then that MUP Pay Adjustment be granted through the issuance of an Executive Order.

The total cumulative pay and pension adjustment for the first three years will amount to P127 billion benefiting more than 630,000 MUP, active and retired.

It is worthwhile to note that in all these accomplishments, the PMAAAI's role has been crucial. In addition to individual efforts and support by a number of cavaliers, the PMAAAI through its leadership helped in the prompt implementation of Pension Indexing in 2019; payment of pension arrears in 2018; the resumption of PVAO pension for the Constabulary Veterans; and lately, the joint efforts by Chairman Ramon Punzalan '76 and cavalier leaders of other organizations for MUP Pay Adjustment.

C. RECENT INITIATIVES

1. Letters to Senator Lacson and other Senators (Signed by Chairmen of AGFO, AFI, PMAAAI, NARAA, and ANI)

We requested the Senators to look into the bloated PGF In the National Expenditure Program (NEP) then significantly reduced for same years in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the same years.

PENSION AND GRATUITY FUND (NEP VS GAA)				
YEAR	NEP	GAA	DIFFERENCE	PERCENT
2025	P232 BILLION	P145B	P57B	38
2024	223B	143B	110B	44
2023	273B	177B	96B	35



It is alarming that once the NEP is submitted to Congress, government press releases would falsely claim that the annual increase of the PGF in the NEP is due to MUP pension. The truth, however, is that actual Indexed MUP Pension since 2019 has remained at about P121 billion and has not increased significantly contrary to what was wrongfully alleged.

Even for 2026, the PGF in the NEP was also reduced by 16.5 percent or P32.7 billion to P165.6 billion by the Bicam and transferred it to unprogrammed appropriation under the 2026 GAA. It is conclusive that the PGF has been perennially padded in the NEP only to be reduced and realigned to another program by the Bicameral Conference Committee.

2. Letter to DBM on 15 December 2025 signed by Chairmen AGFO, PMAAAI, NARAA, and ANI and retired Gen Renato De Villa as adviser

They recommend that DBM consult DND during periodic review and adjustment of military pay pursuant to Section 6, RA 9166 S 2002.

DBM should issue implementing guidelines of RA 9166 in consultation with DND pursuant to its Section 7, which is long overdue (over 23 years).

They also recommend that the retirees be considered stakeholders and as such, they be consulted during mandatory review of the MUP Pension System pursuant to Section 6, EO107 S 2025.

3. **Letter to SND dated 12 January 2026, signed by the Chairman, PMAAAI recommending that:**

a. Unified ID be issued to qualified veterans who entered military service prior to 2007 and honorably discharged after serving 6 to 19 years even before reaching age 65. This will enable them to avail of medical and dental services at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC), and in case of demise, they may be interred at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani and that their families be entitled to burial benefits and interment flag;

b. DND should integrate/coordinate efforts of PVAO and PGMC to simplify living status updating of retirees/veterans/surviving spouses at age 70 and above; and,

c. DND should coordinate with concerned authorities for immediate transfer of a former government official (not a veteran) convicted of corrupt practices and occupying a private room at ward 21 of the VMMC with two jail guards on duty 24/7 for about six years since 2020.

D. Future Challenges that have to be addressed in the near future

1. Issuance of Executive Order to equalize MUP's monthly laundry allowance from P60 for officers and P30 for EP to a uniform rate of P125 equal to that for health services personnel which is long overdue. The annual additional cost of adjustment for 400,000 active MUP is P440 million only

2. Consideration of the following issues during future MUP Pension System Review:

a. Equalize maximum pension at 90 percent including for those already retired;

b. Equalize KIA/WIA Pension at 90 percent of BP/LP of last rank held;

c. Repeal Section 8, RA 11709 so that pension for new military entrants will go back to one rank higher instead of last rank held;

d. Pension of CSAFP and CPNP (SG 30) be based on SG 31 or one salary grade higher, to be consistent with that for all MUP pensioners; and,

e. Military pension should remain non-contributory pursuant to Section 7, Article XVI of the 1987 Constitution and Commonwealth Act No.1.

3. Equalization of number of officer ranks and time in grade between AFP/PCG with 10 compared with other uniformed services having nine only. The possible enactment to remove the rank of second lieutenant/ensign and probationary lieutenant/probationary ensign for the AFP and PCG should be evaluated and duly considered by the Chain of Command.

COMPARATIVE MUP OFFICER (ENTRY LEVEL)			
SALARY	**AFP/PCG**	**PNP**	**BJMP/BFP/BUCOR**
19	CADET	CADET	X
19	P/LT/ENS	X	X
21	2LT/ENS	X	X
22	1LT/LTJG	P/LT	INSPECTOR

4. Equalization/rationalization of number of EP ranks and time in grade between AFP/PCG with 11 vis a vis other uniformed services with seven only. The military and Coast Guard ranks such as Candidate Soldier, Private First Class, Sergeant, and Technical Sergeant may be removed already. Likewise, the Chain of Command in coordination with the other uniformed services should evaluate and consider its possible enactment.

COMPARATIVE MUP RANKS (EP/EQUIVALENT)		
SALARY GRADE	**AFP/PCG**	**PNP/BJMP/BFP/ BUCOR**
7	CANDIDATE SOLDIER	X
10	PRIVATE	/
11	PFC	X
12	CORPORAL	/
13	SERGEANT	X
14	STAFF SERGEANT	/
15	TECHNICAL SGT	X
16	MASTER SGT	/
17	SENIOR MSGT	/
18	CHIEF MSGT	/
19	FIRST CMSGT	/

E. Recommendation

The PMAAAI and other MUP organizations should continue supporting MUP morale and welfare through proposed legislation and presidential issuances. Cavaliers in Congress, Cabinet and those occupying other key positions in government could support the effort. (*Kung gusto may paraan*.)

It is understood that the chain of command and other concerned MUP agencies will be more actively involved in addressing the enumerated challenges.

In conclusion, our unified efforts to support the MUP morale and welfare through legislation and presidential issuances sits well with our theme for this year's general membership meeting namely *"Fostering Unity and Excellence: Strengthening Bonds and Advancing Traditions."*

In this regard, the 630,000 MUP active and retired, to include their loved ones as well as the future generations of MUP owe it to the following list of individuals and organizations for their noble effort of looking after their welfare.

Finally, I have requested the PMAAAI to post at its website and facebook account the electronic copies of various published articles and letters pertaining to MUP Pay and Pension issues for reference by cavaliers and readers.

HOMECOMING 2026: A Celebration of Unity and Excellence



A total of 1,741 Cavaliers gathered at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City on 21 February 2026 for the PMA Alumni Homecoming—marking a celebration of unity and excellence among generations of graduates committed to national service.

Senator Panfilo Lacson, a member of the PMA Class of 1971, served as the guest of honor and spoke to fellow alumni, including this year's jubilarians.

Anchored on the theme "*Fostering Unity and Excellence: Strengthening Bonds and Advancing Traditions,*" the homecoming brought together generations of graduates in a powerful display of continuity and pride. Among the attendees were 92-year-old Cav Filoteo Arevalo Sr of Class 1956 and 21-year-old Cav Alexis Mison of Class 2025—symbolizing the enduring link between the Academy's past and present.

Beyond the annual gathering, this year's homecoming reaffirmed the Corps' unity, honored the service and sacrifices of PMA alumni, and strengthened the partnership between the Academy and its graduates in advancing national development and public service.

The celebration also featured the oath-taking of the incoming PMAAAI Board of Directors and the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Cavalier Award—recognitions that highlight excellence in leadership and service.

A wreath-laying ceremony on 20 February honored the departed alumni, a solemn reminder of the enduring sacrifices that define the Corps.





Solidarity, Our Greatest Strength

Remarks of Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76, Chairman, PMAAAI during the PMA Alumni Homecoming

21 February 2026



Fellow Cavaliers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen — magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Today, we return not merely to familiar grounds, but to a shared calling.

We gather once again on these hallowed grounds — where we were shaped, tested, and molded — under the theme:

"Fostering Unity and Excellence: Strengthening Bonds and Advancing Traditions."

This theme is more than aspirational; it is a reminder of who we are and what is required of us as Cavaliers.

From shared hardship, our brotherhood was formed; through collective responsibility, it has endured. Long after the uniforms were set aside, the values instilled here — courage, integrity, and loyalty — continue to serve as the compass by which we lead, serve, and live.

At the beginning of this Association Year, we resolved to let these values direct every undertaking. Solidarity was placed at the heart of that resolve, for it has always been our greatest strength. It rises above class years, branches of service, professions, and personal paths. It unites us not by circumstance, but by principle.

We also recognize that, as a broad and dynamic brotherhood, we will not always share the same views. Differences in opinion and approach are inevitable — and, indeed, healthy — in an organization rich in experience and conviction. What must never falter, however, is our respect for one another and our identity as Cavaliers. Discourse may sharpen our judgment, but brotherhood must always guide our conduct. In the end, we are bound not by uniformity of thought, but by devotion and a shared sense of duty — to the Academy, to the Filipino people, and to the nation we serve.

Over the past year, this sense of unity found expression through purposeful collaboration among our officers, committees, and chapters. It was evident in the renewed vigor of our indoor and outdoor sports programs — initiatives that fostered camaraderie,

encouraged wellness, and reminded us that *esprit de corps* is sustained not only by memory, but by shared experience with our families and fellow Cavaliers.

We recommitted ourselves to the responsibility of caring for our own. Through sustained support for our mutual benefit and medical assistance programs, we ensured that no Cavalier and no family stands alone in moments of need. Brotherhood, after all, is measured not by words spoken during gatherings, but by action taken when it matters most.

Our commitment to the Philippine Military Academy remains steadfast. Through the payback scheme and our continued partnership with affiliate foundations, we extended meaningful assistance to PMA faculty, facilities, and programs. These efforts are not acts of charity; they are expressions of gratitude and accountability to the institution that shaped our character and prepared us to serve a nation.

One of the defining milestones of this year was the inauguration of the PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence — a vision realized through discipline, unity of purpose, and cooperative stewardship. This Center now stands as our home beyond these grounds — a place where Cavaliers may convene, mentor, and continue cultivating leaders for our country. Hosting the Annual General Membership Meeting within its halls was both symbolic and deliberate, affirming continuity, progress, and our readiness for what lies ahead.

Across all these undertakings, we remained guided by transparency, accountability, fiscal prudence, inclusivity, and political neutrality. These principles ensure that PMAAAI remains not only resilient, but credible — a unifying institution worthy of the trust placed in it by its members.

None of these initiatives would have been possible without the dedication of our officers, committee chairs, volunteers, and members. Through your collective effort, vision was translated into purposeful action and tangible results. As we were taught here, leadership is never exercised alone — it is strengthened by trust, enriched through collaboration, and sustained by service to something greater than oneself.

Beyond the Academy and the Association, Cavaliers continue to distinguish themselves across government, public service, business, education, infrastructure, and humanitarian endeavors. Many have stood at the forefront during times of crisis — responding to calamities, restoring order, and serving communities in moments of greatest need. Their quiet, steadfast leadership stands as living proof that the Cavalier spirit remains relevant, essential, and alive.

Today, we honor those among us who exemplify the highest standards of service and excellence. To our Lifetime Achievement Awardees and Cavalier Awardees — your lives remind us that true success is measured not by position, but by purpose; not by recognition, but by impact. You inspire the next generation of Cavaliers to serve with honor and humility. Congratulations.

As we celebrate fellowship today, let us also pause in solemn remembrance of our fallen brothers and sisters in arms — those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation. Their courage and devotion remind us that the freedoms we enjoy were earned at great cost. May we honor them not only in memory, but in how we live the values they defended.

Fellow Cavaliers, Homecoming is more than a reunion.

It is a reaffirmation of who we are, what binds us, and what we choose to stand for. Allow me to express my deepest gratitude to all those who worked tirelessly to make this Homecoming possible — the officers, the men and women of PMA led by the Superintendent, Vice Admiral Cesar Bernard Valencia, the PMAAAI Secretariat, committee chairs, volunteers, organizers, and partners whose dedication transformed planning into reality. Your efforts behind the scenes exemplify the quiet leadership that sustains this brotherhood.

And to all Cavaliers and families who have taken the time to be with us today — thank you. Your presence gives life to this gathering and meaning to our traditions. It affirms that no matter where life has taken us, we remain connected by a bond rooted in these grounds and strengthened through the years.

Cavaliers, your Association is working for you. Every program we undertake, every initiative we pursue, and every resource we steward is anchored on one purpose: to serve the Cavalier brotherhood and its families. An association is only as strong as the engagement and commitment of its members. I therefore enjoin every Cavalier — across class years and chapters — to actively support PMAAAI by participating in its programs, activities, and initiatives. Together, let us keep our Association strong, relevant, and united.

May this Homecoming renew our pride, deepen our bonds, and strengthen our resolve to carry the Long Gray Line forward with honor.

Mabuhay ang Kapatirang Cavalier.

Mabuhay ang PMA.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.



Integrity starts at home

Speech at the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Homecoming (as delivered)

• Senate President Pro Tempore Panfilo "Ping" M. Lacson

Fort del Pilar, Baguio City, 21 Feb 2026

The Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Romeo S. Brawner Jr.; the Chief of the Philippine National Police, Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez; the Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy, Vice Admiral Caesar Bernard Valencia; my fellow Cavaliers and alumni of our most revered institution, the Philippine Military Academy, members of the host classes for this year, the Cadet Corps, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and all the cadet girls present, especially my beautiful wife Alice, who is also here; and pardon my arrogance, the best and snappiest class, at least for today, good morning to all.

It is an honor to stand behind this podium once more with great pride in this memory-filled Borromeo Field as a Cavalier among Cavaliers, as I did when I was also your GOHAS exactly 12 years ago. I can still remember when I applied for admission into the Academy in mid-1966.

On that day, of the 5,457 young hopefuls seeking entry into the PMA, after the written examination, followed by the two-week rigorous medical, neuro-psychiatric and physical tests, only 148 survived to enter the gates of Fort Del Pilar for the first time on April 1, 1967 - on to this same field where we are now. Shocked, confused and very puzzled while we kept asking ourselves probably the same question: Where is the much-talked about glory and glamor in this doggone place?

Fast forward to Feb. 28, 1971. A batch of 109 First Class Cadets were declared graduates, one posthumously, and commissioned as regular officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, later known as the Matatag Class of 1971.

To the present corps of cadets standing in formation before us, there is a wide gap between your class and mine. It is a great divide of time and technology.

Our young Cavaliers were born into the age of Viber, WhatsApp, Telegram, Facebook, Instagram, and X. We were born into the era of postman-delivered, snail-paced mails and ink-starred love letters. The Academy now has a curriculum for AI, cyber warfare, and combat drones. What we remember are the anemic classroom walls, Garand rifle shooting practices and grenade-throwing exercises among others, including late nights and EIs especially for those who were slow in numbers and technical subjects, studying for extra-challenging engineering subjects during our Yearling and Cow years.

Yet, despite the decades that separate us, there is an unbreakable bond that collapses these years. There is a shared experience that bridges each and every class that keeps extending the long gray line, year after year.

It is the trinity of our being: Courage, Integrity, Loyalty – the three words that have never faded with the passage of time.

Within the halls of Fort del Pilar, these words have always had names, faces, and stories to tell. Allow me then to tell you some of the many storied past through our PMAers who lived and died while others continue to live by the Academy motto.

NUMBER ONE, COURAGE.

By the very nature of the life a cadet is forged to live, 'Courage' could not have been placed anywhere else but first. Simply put: before a soldier can lead others, he or she must first learn to face fear — and choose duty over it.

One such courageous cavalier whose name is etched not only in stone, but in blood and sacrifice is Conrado D. Yap, from the Class of 1943 – whose life and death were shaped by war. In fact, he was part of the class that graduated ahead of schedule due to the outbreak of World War II in late 1941.

Years later, Captain Yap was one of the 1,367 Filipino troops composing the 10th Battalion Combat Team of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces who were sent to Korea as part of the United Nations Command forces.

In the cold, early hours of April 23, 1951, Captain Yap led a counterattack at the Battle of Yultong in North Korea. While holding his ground to rescue fallen comrades, and standing firm against overwhelming enemy forces, he chose duty over survival. He was killed in action on that fateful day.

This gallantry makes Captain Conrado D. Yap the most decorated Filipino soldier of the Korean War, having been recognized by our own country, South Korea, and the United States.

Then there is the other form of courage -- one that doesn't require a battlefield.

Take, for example, a young man from my own class, our Mistah and living pride of Matatag Class of 1971, Retired Navy Captain Archilles A. Almario.

In January 1970, then 2nd Class Cadet Almario turned our traditional holiday season break into a defining moment of valor.

It happened in the streets of Arlegui, Quiapo, where structures stood wall-to-wall, some dating back to pre-war years. Archie heard the roar of fire from a building engulfed in flames.

Without a moment's hesitation, he charged into the raging inferno, guided only by the desperate cries of children trapped inside. One by one, he pulled eight young lives from the brink of certain, fiery death.

For his extraordinary gallantry, Archie became the first cadet in history to receive the Bronze Cross Medal. His merit serves as a profound reminder: he did not wait for a commission or a rank to become a hero. He already embodied the Academy's breed of courage—one that requires no command when in the service of others.

Of course we will never forget then First Class Cadet Alfonso Aviles, the pride of Pudang Kalis Class of 2013.

While in Manila to serve as a proctor for the PMA entrance examination, he went beyond the call of duty and placed his life on the line. In August 2012, at the corner of Regalado Street and Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City, he displayed extraordinary courage when he attempted to disarm an armed robber inside a passenger jeepney, choosing to protect innocent civilians over his own safety.

Even after sustaining gunshot wounds, he prevented the deadly heist from being carried out. For this act of valor, he was awarded the Bronze Cross Medal. Sadly, fate denied him the chance to march with his classmates on graduation day. To this day, Cadet Aviles is remembered with deep respect as the "best Marine we never had."

LOYALTY

If courage pushes us to move forward, loyalty is an invisible chain that teaches us why we stay or even go back from safety to the line of fire to save a fellow soldier or others we do not even know from Adam.

In August 2008, loyalty took the form of a combatant and intelligence officer, a son of the long gray line from *Bigkis Lahi* Class of 1990.

What should have been a quiet dawn was shattered by gunfire and flames as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front attacked soldiers and civilians alike. Among the lives violently taken by the rebels was that of Lt. Col. Angel Benitez, an army officer who once dared dream of becoming the Chief of the armed forces.

Lt. Col. Angel's team did their best to fight their way out. They had gone to safety – but decided to return to save the civilians still under attack.

But, as we were taught in the Academy, loyalty does not abandon, and it does not turn away when others are in danger. His final words to his superiors: *"Sir, na-corner na kami"*, followed by a deafening silence.

Indeed, in crucibles of combat, loyalty is no longer a word spoken in lectures, nor engraved on walls. It becomes action.

So it was for Captain Rommel Sandoval of *Siklab Laya* Class of 2005.

It was in the longest and most intense urban combat in Philippine history, in 2017, the siege of Marawi City in particular, where a fellow Cavalier showed what loyalty to one's men truly demands.

As the battle between government security forces and the Islamic State–affiliated militants raged in September 2017, the 11th Scout Ranger Company, led by Captain Rommel Sandoval, was clearing a five-storey commercial complex when one of his soldiers, Corporal Jayson Mante, was pinned down under relentless enemy fire inside the said militant stronghold.

Refusing to leave his soldier, Captain Sandoval, together with Private First Class Sherwin Canapi, crawled over Corporal Mante's position through an alternate route as they tried to pull him up to safety.

The recovered body of Captain Sandoval, with bullets lodged in his chest meant for Corporal Mante, proved with unmistakable

clarity that he lived by the words he would often tell his men: *"Walang Iwanan."*

Up to their final breaths, Lt. Col. Benitez and Capt. Sandoval understood loyalty as the Academy teaches it — standing their ground with their men as well as fellow Filipinos they swore to serve and protect, faithful to the mission, and true to the nation they swore to defend, even in the face of death.

Courage and loyalty – two out of three values that stand equally in the hearts of every Cavalier.

Yet if I may speak candidly, between you and me, I have always held the third one closest to my heart and above the rest. And that is:



INTEGRITY.

Cavalier Jose Crisol, the former Deputy Minister of Defense for Home Defense, captured its gravity when he said: "Strike out integrity and a cadet or any man for that matter will be wretch, a scum of the lowest stratum of society, an abominable creature who is a living dead."

Integrity is also a story of strong conviction and steady leadership — as in the case of former Chief Philippine Constabulary, AFP Chief of Staff and Secretary of National Defense General Renato de Villa, and his Deputy Chief PC Brigadier General Fidel Singson. Both are members of Class of 1957.

Their legacy is defined by formidable, quiet strength. During their time as Chief and Deputy Chief of the Philippine Constabulary respectively, while I served in the PC/INP Anti-Carnapping Task Force, I witnessed firsthand how all the members of our task force as well as those who had the opportunity to serve directly under them simply toe the line in practicing and internalizing integrity -- not out of fear, but out of self-pride and dignity driven by a profound, earned respect for these two officers and gentlemen.

Throughout their journeys — from the halls of the PMA to the summits of their military careers, their names have been highly regarded. Such reputation is earned by their professional and personal integrity, they who consistently upheld the highest ethical standards and unrelenting respect for the rule of law.

If the test of courage and loyalty transpires during times of danger, integrity is tested in positions of power and influence, especially when no one is looking.

But my most unforgettable memory of a raw display of INTEGRITY is one not from a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

Let me tell you the story that transpired not in the halls of our Academy nor from the battlefield, but from a modest home several decades ago.

One ordinary afternoon, two young brothers, both in the primary grade – the older one was in Grade 4, the younger in Grade 2 - were walking home from their school. Just before exiting their school's wooden gate, something shiny on the dusty ground caught their attention. It was a one-centavo coin.

Upon reaching home, the older brother was excited to report to his mother his find. In my generation, take note that a one-centavo was not at all worthless. In those days, five centavos could already buy a warm cup of *arroz caldo* — enough to fill one's stomach for breakfast or *merienda* — which meant that even one centavo carried real value.

To the young siblings' surprise, their mother, instead of commending the two before keeping the coin, admonished them with such strong and firm words - *"siguradong hindi makakatulog ngayong gabi kung sino man ang may-ari ng pera na iyan. Kaya, bukas na bukas din, pagpasok ninyo sa iskwela ay ipagtanong at hanapin ninyong pilit ang nagmamay-ari niyan at isauli sa kanya dahil hindi sa inyo ang pera na yan."*

The lesson behind this short story is this - Integrity may not necessarily be taught and learned in the Academy or any like-minded institution. The strongest foundation of integrity is best initiated at home, and even better - by the power of genuine example displayed by parents.

Many graduates and alumni return each year to pay tribute to our Alma Mater with heads held high, with pride that we have remained faithful to the values instilled in us by the Academy.

Everything else may change, but our allegiance to our Academy motto remains etched in our hearts even as we are constantly reminded by the lyric of our Alma Mater song — "May thy sons ever be men of Integrity, Courage and Loyalty."

By the way, the woman in my short story with raw, yet unquestionable integrity who admonished her young sons to return the one-centavo coin to its rightful owner was my mother – my constant reminder to adhere to my personal credo: What is right must be kept right, what is wrong must be set right. *Ang nakakatandang kapatid na Grade 4 pupil ay ang aking Kuya Ely; at ako po ang kanyang nakababatang kapatid na Grade 2 pupil.*

Mabuhay ang Philippine Military Academy! Mabuhay po tayong lahat!

PASSING THE STANDARD:
PMAAAI Leadership Transitions

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) held its Turnover and Assumption Ceremony on 02 March 2026, formally marking the transition of leadership and the beginning of a new term for its incoming Chairman.

In his valedictory address, Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76 described the occasion not as an ending, but as a passage of responsibility. "*We do not own this Association*," he reminded the alumni community. "We are merely entrusted with it for a time."

Reflecting on his term as Chairman and CEO for AY 2025–2026, Punzalan underscored that whatever progress had been achieved stemmed from collective effort — from the Board of Directors and officers to committee members and the broader alumni corps. He emphasized three guiding principles that shaped his leadership: stewardship, service, and continuity.

"*Institutions endure not through personalities*," he said, "*but through structure and trust*."

Leadership was formally passed to Cav Ricardo A David Jr. '77 as Chairman for AY 2026–2027, reinforcing a core truth echoed in Punzalan's closing words: leadership changes, but the mission remains — and the brotherhood endures.

The symbolic handover of the PMAAAI Standard and the presentation of the Plaque of Distinction to the outgoing Chairman highlighted the seamless transition of leadership and the enduring traditions of the Long Gray Line. More than a ceremonial exchange, it represented a deliberate commitment to institutional stability — affirming that each term builds upon the last and that unity must prevail beyond any individual tenure.

The ceremony was presided over by LTGEN Antonio G Nafarrete, PA, Commanding General of the Philippine Army, who delivered inspiring remarks emphasizing unity, legacy, and service.



Cav Ricardo A David Jr. '77 receives the PMAAAI Standard during the Turnover and Assumption Ceremony of the Chairman, PMAAAI, symbolizing the formal transfer of leadership and continuity of service.



Cav Pedro S Agapito '96, outgoing PMAAAI President and COO receives Certificate of Appreciation from Presiding Officer, Cav Antonio G Nafarrete '90, CGPA.



Cav Nafarrete receives memento from outgoing and incoming PMAAAI chairmen.



PMAAAI Board of Directors, AY 2025-2026 pose for posterity with Cav Antonio G Nafarrete '90, Presiding Officer.

Not by Titles Held but by Involvement

• **Cav Ramon T Punzalan '76**
Chairman and CEO, PMAAAI AY 2025-2026



Fellow alumni, distinguished guests, members of the Board, officers, and friends of PMAAAI — good morning.

Today marks not an ending, but a transition.

When I accepted the responsibility of Chairmanship, I did so fully aware that leadership in PMAAAI is not about position — it is about stewardship. We do not own this Association. We are merely entrusted with it for a time.

And that time, for me, comes to its natural close today.

Before anything else, allow me to express my deepest gratitude — to the Board of Directors, to our officers, to our committee chairmen and members, to our Secretariat, and to every alumnus who participated, supported, and believed in the direction we set together.

Whatever was accomplished during this term was never the work of one individual. It was the product of collective effort.

At the beginning of our term, we asked ourselves a simple but serious question:

How do we leave this Association stronger than we found it?

We knew that events alone would not define success. Programs alone would not secure the future. What matters most in any institution is strength of structure, clarity of purpose, and unity of membership.

Allow me now to share, what we accomplished together — not as personal milestones, but as steps forward for PMAAAI. It is not the story of a Chairman.

It is the story of a Board that worked with discipline. Of officers who gave their time generously. Of members who showed up, participated, and strengthened our bond.

During this term, we focused on three guiding principles:

First — Stewardship.

We strengthened governance systems. Improved transparency. Reinforced accountability. Because institutions endure not through personalities, but through structure and trust.

Second — Service.

Though our uniforms may now be folded, our service continues. In fellowship. In wellness programs. In outreach. In supporting our fellow alumni. Brotherhood is not remembered — it is practiced.

Third — Continuity.

Leadership in PMAAAI must never be about disruption. It must be about progression. Every term must build upon the last. Every Chairman must prepare the ground for the next.

The true measure of leadership is simple:

Is the institution stronger when you leave it?

I firmly believe PMAAAI today stands stronger — because of all of you.

To our Board of Directors — thank you for your discipline, professionalism, and candor.

To our officers and committee chairmen — thank you for turning plans into action.

To our members — your participation is the lifeblood of this Association.

And to those who led before us — we stood on your shoulders.

Today, we pass the responsibility to new leadership.

To the Incoming Chairman — you have our full support. Leadership may change, but our mission remains the same: to uphold the honor of our alma mater, to strengthen alumni engagement, and to ensure that PMAAAI continues to be relevant, credible, and united.

Transitions must be seamless. Institutions must be stable. And unity must prevail beyond any individual term.

My appeal to every member of PMAAAI is this:

Do not measure your participation by titles held. Measure it by involvement given.

- Volunteer.
- Attend.
- Support.
- Mentor the younger alumni.
- Protect the reputation of this Association.

Because PMAAAI will only be as strong as the commitment of its members.

Serving as Chairman has been an honor.

It has been a privilege to work alongside men and women who still embody the values we learned many years ago — duty, honor, integrity, and loyalty.

Leadership humbles you. It reminds you that institutions outlive individuals. And that is how it should be.

As I step down from this responsibility, I do so with gratitude — and with confidence in the future.

Let us continue building an Association that:

- Strengthens governance,
- Deepens brotherhood,
- And upholds the values that define us as PMA alumni.

Leadership changes.
The mission remains.
The Brotherhood endures.
May every term leave PMAAAI better than the one before it.
Mabuhay ang PMAAAI.
Thank you — and good afternoon.



Our Path Forward

• **Cav Ricardo A David, Jr '77**
Chairman and CEO, PMAAAI AY 2026-2027



I stand before you today humbled by the trust you have placed in me. I assume the leadership of the PMAAAI with profound humility and a deep sense of accountability to our beloved Alma Mater.

My previous service as vice chairman of this Association and Chairman of the PMARAI has taught me one essential truth: our strength lies in unity. Leadership must be transparent. It must be mission-driven. And above all, it must act in the best interest of every member.

I begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to the Commanding General of the Philippine Army for his unwavering support of the PMAAAI Building. This partnership – reinforced by the designation of Army officers to assist in our management – is the bedrock of the professionalism and stewardship that our members rightfully expect.

Let me be clear about our path forward.

While we are citizens with diverse views, the PMAAAI itself is, and will remain, a non-political organization. We are not bound by politics. We are bound by something far stronger: our sacred values of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

Our mission is singular and immediate: To transform the PMAAAI Building from a monument into a self-sustaining asset.

To achieve this, we will focus on three priorities:

First, Secure Quality Tenants. We will attract reputable lessees to generate recurring income for maintenance and growth.

Second, Ensure Transparent Governance. We will implement accountable lease management and financial systems – because your trust must be earned daily.

Third, Invest in Infrastructure. We will prioritize the development of the parking area to increase the building's strategic and commercial viability.

Sustainability is the highest form of stewardship. By maximizing this asset, we honor your trust without constant reliance on fundraising.

Fellow Cavaliers, as your Chairman and CEO, I commit to transparency and service. I ask for your unity and your active participation as we build this future together. Let us lead with integrity – so that we may always remain worthy of the title Cavalier.

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay ang PMAAAI!



Remarks of CAV ANTONIO G NAFARRETE, CGPA for the Turnover and Assumption Ceremony of the Chairman, PMAAAI

02 March 2026, PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence
Lawton Avenue, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City



With humility, I stand before you today fully privileged to be in the presence of leaders who have led commands, molded institutions, carried responsibilities and helped shape what the Army and the nation is today. Many of you have commanded divisions, unified commands, and major service units. Beyond the AFP, a number of you have also defined our society. Further, many have faced defining moments in our nation's history. Your example has guided officers like me throughout our careers.

Leadership transitions are meaningful moments. They allow us to express gratitude to those who have served with dedication and to extend our full support to those who will carry the responsibility forward.

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) holds a special place in the life of every Cavalier. It binds generations who have marched on the same grounds, upheld the same honor code, and carried the same commitment to serve our nation. Through the years, the association has strengthened the bond among alumni and sustained programs that support our soldiers, veterans, and their families.

Today, we recognize the steadfast leadership of Cav Ramon T Punzalan of PMA "Magilas" Class of 1976. Sir, your term as Chairman was characterized by experience, wisdom, and a sincere commitment to the welfare of the alumni community. The programs and initiatives pursued during your tenure not only strengthened unity among Cavaliers but sustained the relevance of the Association in supporting both active and retired members and the community. For this, we offer our gratitude and respect.

As we witness the assumption of Cav Ricardo David Jr. from the PMA "Masikap" Class of 1977 as the new Chairman, we do so with confidence. Leadership is a trust. It calls for character, wisdom, and a clear sense of purpose. In Cavalier David's leadership, PMAAAI entrusts the direction and welfare of the organization and thousands of its members. I am certain that under his stewardship, the Association will continue to grow in relevance and strength. As we continue to be guided by the enduring values of Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty, may each and every cavalier find purpose towards unity in the service of the Filipino people.

The relationship between the Philippine Army and the PMAAAI remains vital. Our alumni community plays a significant role in mentoring younger officers, preserving our traditions, and contributing insights drawn from years of experience in both military and civilian fields. Your collective wisdom enriches the institution and helps shape the leaders of tomorrow. Moreover, ours is a broad network across all facets of society offering each member vast opportunities outside of the AFP towards personal and professional growth.

On behalf of the Philippine Army, I reaffirm our commitment to work closely with the Association in promoting leadership development, professional excellence, and the welfare of our personnel. We value your insights, your support, and your continuing involvement in the life of our institution.

To our senior Cavaliers, thank you for the legacy you have built.

To the outgoing Chairman, sir, thank you for your dedicated service.

To the incoming Chairman sir, you have our full support and cooperation.

May this transition further strengthen the unity of the PMA alumni community and inspire all of us, regardless of class year, to continue serving our country with honor.

Maraming salamat po, at mabuhay ang Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.







Meet your Board of Directors, AY 2026-2027

The Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI) proudly presents its Board of Directors for Association Year 2026–2027, led by Chairman and CEO CAV RICARDO A DAVID, JR '77.

Guided by the theme "*Consolidating Gains, Strengthening Unity, Sustaining Service*," the Board is committed to advancing alumni engagement, strengthening flagship programs, and promoting institutional sustainability.

Together, they continue the proud tradition of service, leadership, and camaraderie among Cavaliers.

Courage • Integrity • Loyalty

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AY 2026-2027

OFFICERS	Position	Affiliation
CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR '77	Chairman and CEO	PMARAI
CAV ROMEO C PRESTOZA '78	Vice Chairman	PMARAI
CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III '97	President and COO	PA
CAV DERRICK S ABLOG '98	Vice President	PAF
CAV MICHAEL G BARRION '97	Corporate Secretary	PN
CAV DOMINIC M TULEN PN '97	Treasurer	CPCP
CAV JOHN A BARRAMEDA '98	Corporate Auditor	PCG

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	Committee	Affiliation
CAV WILFREDO B MANALANG III '97	Executive Committee	PA
CAV ORLANDO PESTAÑO '77	Professionalism & Ethics	CPCP
CAV ROMEO C PRESTOZA '78	Awards	PMARAI
CAV FERNANDO TRINIDAD '87	Membership & Welfare	CPCP
CAV DOMINIC M TULEN PN '97	Finance	CPCP
CAV MELVIN A BANUA '97	Convention & Homecoming	PAF
CAV JONAS B TEMPLO '97	Ways and Means	PA
CAV GERALD L MONFORT '97	Sports & Fellowship	PA
CAV JESSELITO L CASTRO '98	Public Relations	PNP

DIRECTORS	Designation	Affiliation
CAV VICENTE BUENAVENTURA '57	Member	CPCP
CAV MARIANO R SANTIAGO '67	Member	CPCP
CAV EDGAR S BERNARDO '07	Member	CPCP
CAV KRESCILLA D POLLISTICO PA '17	Member	CPCP
CAV ARNOLD F FERNANDEZ '86	Member	PMARAI
CAV WESTRIMUNDO D OBINQUE '92	Member	PNP
CAV STEPHEN L CABANLET '96	Member	PN

DIRECTORS (Non-Voting)	Designation	Affiliation
CAV CRISOSTOMO F ABANES '69	Member	Chairman, PDFI
CAV EDGARDO D TAMAYO '80	Member	President, PETFI
CAV ERICSON T VELASQUEZ '85	Member	President, PFTJI
CAV LEO ANGELO D LEUTERIO '88	Member	Chairman, PMAFI

EX-0FFICIO DIRECTORS	Designation	Affiliation
CAV RAMON T PUNZALAN '76	Member	Former Chairman, PMAAAI
CAV ROLANDO G BORJA '82	Member	President, CAVLA
CAV CAESAR BERNARD N VALENCIA '90	Member	Superintendent, PMA

AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN	Assignment
CAV DANILO E ESTRAÑERO '94,	PMAAAI Building
CAV ROLANDO G BORJA '82	Bylaws and ACES
CAV ARNOLD F FERNANDEZ '86	Property Management

ADMINISTRATION	Position
CAV NARCISO A VINGSON JR '85	Executive Director
CAV MARCES T GAYAT '93	Editor-in-Chief, CAVMAG
CAV CARLOS ELY C TINGSON '06	IT Administrator

ASSOCIATION YEAR 2026-2027

THEME: *Consolidating Gains, Strengthening Unity, Sustaining Service*

Strategic Direction

- Strengthening Unity and Alumni Engagement
- Excellence in Flagship Programs
- Institutional Sustainability and Good Governance
- Strategic Development of PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence
- Expansion of Membership Participation



PMARAI TURNOVER OF CHAIRMANSHIP

Our Strength Lies in Collective Wisdom, Experience, and Unity

(Acceptance Speech of **CAV ROMEO C PRESTOZA '78**, Chairman, PMARAI)

To everyone present, fellow retirees, and brothers-in-arms,

I stand before you today deeply honored and profoundly humbled by the trust you have placed in me as the new Chairman of PMARAI. I am not merely filling a position, but honoring one.

To lead an organization composed of men and women who have devoted their lives to service - who have commanded troops, safeguarded our nation, and upheld the finest traditions of the Academy - is not a position I take lightly. It is not merely a title. It is a responsibility.

*Our vision is clear: **To be the model alumni association of retirees - recognized as a respected and influential organization**. That vision challenges us to remain relevant, principled, and united long after active service has ended.*

Retirement does not end our service. It gives it a new purpose.

For our members, I commit to this: No retiree should feel forgotten. The transition from active service to civilian life carries its own battles: financial uncertainty, health concerns, and the quiet loss of structure and brotherhood. We will address these directly. Continuing professional enrichment, financial independence, healthcare access, and physical development are not perks. They are responsibilities we owe to the men and women who have already sacrificed more than most ever will.

*Our core values, **COURAGE, INTEGRITY**, and **LOYALTY**, are not words we recite. They will govern how we lead this association: with transparency, with decisiveness, and with genuine care for every member.*

My commitment to you is simple: I will listen. I will serve. And I will work tirelessly with the Board and with all of you to ensure that PMARAI becomes the model retirees' association we aspire to be.

The strength of this association lies not in one office, but in the collective wisdom, experience, and unity of its members. Together, we can honor those who came before us, serve those beside us, and guide those who will follow.

To my predecessors, thank you. The foundation you built is solid. We build higher on it now.

To my fellow retirees, the mission continues. The formation has simply changed.

And to the Association: I give you my word, my effort, and my full commitment.

Mabuhay ang PMARAI. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas.

Thank you.



Last 04 March 2026, the Philippine Military Academy Retirees Association, Inc. (PMARAI) held its Turnover of Chairmanship Ceremony, marking the transition of leadership from CAV RICARDO A DAVID JR '77 to CAV ROMEO C PRESTOZA '78.

The ceremony featured the Relinquishment of Office by CAV DAVID and the Assumption of Office by CAV PRESTOZA, who expressed his gratitude and commitment to continue strengthening PMARAI and promoting the welfare of its members.

PMAAAI PA Chapter News



ACCI Holds first-ever AGMM

The Army Cavaliers Chapter, Inc. (ACCI) successfully held its first-ever Annual General Membership Meeting on 23 January at Ricarte Hall, Philippine Army Officers' Clubhouse, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The historic gathering marked a significant milestone in strengthening camaraderie, unity, and shared purpose among Army Cavalier officers.

The meeting was attended by 170 participants, composed of Army officers from various units and year groups, demonstrating strong membership engagement. Class '99 emerged as the most represented class, while the Hawk Company registered the highest number of attendees, highlighting active participation across both alumni cohorts and unit affiliations.

The event was graced by the Commanding General, Philippine Army, CAV ANTONIO G NAFARRETE '90, whose presence underscored the importance of the occasion and the role of the Army Cavaliers in promoting professionalism and *esprit de corps*.

One of the highlights of the activity was the Chapter President's Report, delivered by CAV DIOSDADO CARLOS D PAMBID '96. The report presented a transparent overview of the chapter's funds, including current financial standing and a clear accounting of how





resources were allocated. Funds were earmarked for key initiatives such as participation in the PMAAAI Sportsfest, the reception and welcoming activities for newly commissioned Army Cavaliers, and other programs aimed at strengthening member engagement and chapter visibility.

Key updates and guidance were also presented during the program, providing direction for future initiatives and reinforcing the chapter's commitment to leadership, service, and organizational relevance. The meeting further served as a venue for fellowship, allowing members to reconnect, exchange insights, and reaffirm their shared identity as Army Cavaliers.

The successful conduct of the Annual General Membership Meeting was made possible through the efforts of the PMAAA-ACCI 2025–2026 leadership, headed by CAV DIOSDADO CARLOS D PAMBID '96, Chapter President. Under his leadership, the organizing committee ensured a well-coordinated and meaningful event that upheld the values and traditions of the chapter.

As the first Annual General Membership Meeting in the chapter's history, the event sets a strong precedent for future gatherings, reinforcing chapter's vision of unity, transparency, active participation, and sustained engagement among its members.



















PMAAAI PCG Chapter News

PMAAAI–PCG Chapter Participates in 2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming and other Chapter Activities

• **LtJg Agustin B Sanchez** and
• **LtJg Janicah D Rariza**

Members of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Chapter of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI–PCG) actively participated in the 2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming held on 21 February 2026 at the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City.

During the 2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming, several members of the Philippine Coast Guard were recognized for their outstanding contributions:

- Cavalier Danilo A Abinoja '74 – Lifetime Achievement Award
- Cavalier Genito B Basilio '96 – Cavalier Awardee for Coast Guard Operations (Senior Officer Category)
- Cavalier Jonah A Arugay '00 – Cavalier Awardee for Coast Guard Operations (Junior Officer Category)

Prior to the homecoming proper, the chapter conducted a Fellowship Dinner on 20 February 2026 at The Plaza Lodge Hotel, providing an opportunity for members to renew bonds of camaraderie and reaffirm their shared commitment to the ideals and traditions of the Academy. During the gathering, the oath-taking of the newly elected PMAAAI–PCG Chapter officers was administered by the Commandant, Philippine Coast Guard, Admiral Ronnie Gil L Gavan '93, marking the formal assumption of their responsibilities in leading the chapter.

The newly elected officers are:

- President: Cavalier John Barrameda '98
- Vice President: Cavalier Jonah A Arugay '00
- Secretary: Cavalier Ronie Torcelino '01
- Treasurer: Cavalier Ignacio Rex Barranda '02
- Awards: Cavalier Allen J Dalangin '95
- Ethics: Cavalier Leopoldo Apillanes Jr '02
- Membership and Welfare: Cavalier Rowenne Colita '01
- Public Relations: Cavalier Havelino Salih '03
- Sports and Fellowship: Cavalier Arjohn Elumba '01
- Finance: Cavalier Jomel Q Panes '01
- Ways and Means: Cavalier Kristoffer Ilarde '01
- Convention and Homecoming: Cavalier Jonah A Arugay '00



The activity also included the oath-taking of new members of the PMAAAI–PCG Chapter, formally welcoming them into the association and affirming their commitment to uphold the values and traditions of the Academy.

Apart from the homecoming activities, the PMAAAI–PCG Chapter also participated in the Cavalier Family Sportsfest held on 17 January 2026 at the Camp Aguinaldo Grandstand. Chapter members competed in various traditional Filipino games, demonstrating teamwork, agility, and camaraderie. The chapter emerged as one of the top-performing teams, securing first place in *Batuhan ng Bola* and *Hilahang Lubid*, and second place in *Agawan Base*. Members also participated in other classic Larong Pinoy games such as *Patintero, Shatong, Kadang-Kadang, Karera ng Sako*, and the Burger-Eating Relay, promoting camaraderie while celebrating Filipino cultural traditions.

The chapter's participation in these activities highlighted the continued unity and strong presence of PMAyers in the Philippine Coast Guard, fostering fellowship while reinforcing their shared commitment to service, leadership, and excellence.















PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI)
BULLETIN

PETFI: Service to Scholars - a Continuing Mandate



The PETFI Chairman Cav Magtanggol Gatdula '76 delivers his Remarks during the Meet and Greet with the Scholars

When we call to mind the inception of the PMAAA Educational Foundation, Inc. (PETFI), it goes back to the time when hostilities were at its peak between the Philippine Government and Muslim secessionists in Mindanao in the seventies. There was a significant number of Philippine Military Academy alumni who lost their lives in combat operations that left many orphans.

With the aim of giving back to our Alma Mater and its graduates, a group of concerned PMA graduates proposed the establishment of an educational trust fund in 1976 to mitigate the financial burdens of their families. This initiative significantly generated timely support from among PMA Alumni that eventually led to the creation of the PMA Educational Foundation (PETFI) on 16 August 1976.

This Foundation is a non-stock, non-profit corporation whose primary purpose is to raise, administer, grant or otherwise make available funds for the education of dependents of deceased and disabled regular members of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc.

Since then, the funds generated by PETFI have been channeled to support hundreds of its scholars who themselves exemplified and inspired others to excel in their studies.

Accordingly, in furtherance of PETFI's vision and mission, we call upon Alumni to help us achieve financial stability and sustainability as an educational Trust Foundation for the lifelong benefit of qualified dependents of deceased or disabled. Towards this end, please support the Foundation's golf fundraising activity dubbed as "FORE! the Scholars" scheduled on August 2026 in time likewise with PETFI's 50th Founding Anniversary.

In addition, we take this opportunity to announce the forthcoming General Assembly Meeting and Election of Trustees on 29 April 2026. Let us all meet.

Finally let us reflect with this Bible verse reading as we put the Foundation in our hearts and minds; Hebrews 13-16 "*Do not forget to do Good and to Help one another because these are the sacrifices that please GOD.*"



The Scholars with PETFI Board of Trustees



The PETFI Board with Cav Ramon Punzalan, Chairman of PMAAAI



PETFI Scholar Gabriel Cyril Bayao, son of Cav John Bayao'07 receiving his Certificate and Cash Incentive as Graduate with High Honors



PETFI Information Drive with the Cadets at PMA Baguio

PMAFI UPDATES

Keeping you in the loop

On 10 February 2026, the PMAFI Board of Trustees visited the Navy Headquarters in Manila for a courtesy call on **VICE ADMIRAL JOSE MA. AMBROSIO Q EZPELETA PN**, Flag Officer in Command. Since Vice Admiral Ezpeleta had a prior commitment, the Board was warmly received by Major General Edwin Enriquez Amadar PN(M), Vice Commander of the Philippine Navy, together with the Cavaliers of the Philippine Navy.





On 04 December 2025, the PMAFI Board of Trustees also paid a courtesy call on **LIEUTENANT GENERAL ANTONIO G NAFARRETE PA,** Commanding General of the Philippine Army, at Headquarters Philippine Army in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. As Lt. Gen. Nafarrete was attending to a prior engagement, the Board was graciously received on his behalf by Major General Christopher C. Tampus, Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army.





The PMAFI Board of Trustees is deeply grateful to the following friends of the Foundation, whose donations strengthen our initiatives and sustain our commitment to service:



ATTY NILO T DIVINA
Gold Category
PMA Endowment Fund, and
Professorial Chair



HON. MAURICIO
"Morris" G DOMOGAN
Bronze Category
PMA Endowment Fund

The PMAFI Board of Trustees and Members extend their warmest congratulations to the following Cavaliers, who have been elected to serve as Trustees of PMAFI for AY 2026–2028, during the Resumption of the Annual General Membership Meeting held on 13 March 2026: Cav Manuel B Mariano '62, Cav Jose C Lapus '65, Cav Jose C Lalisan Jr '71, Cav Gil C Meneses '80, Cav Demosthenes C Doplayna '82, Cav Bartolome Vicente O Bacarro '88, Cav Allan O Corpuz '91, and Cav Irvin S Hibaler '11.



VISITOR'S ACCOUNTS

A Widow's Survival Guide (Starts Now)

• LOURDES FERNANDEZ-FELIX, OAO of +CAV VICTOR A FELIX '79

Retirement is often seen as a season of reward — a time to enjoy the fruits of one's labor, to live comfortably on one's pension, to travel, to spend unhurried moments, and to lovingly spoil the *apos*.

Yet retirement is more than leisure and rest. It is also a season of reflection and preparation — a time to put our affairs in order and ready ourselves for the inevitable final call of the Commander in Chief, who summons our final call. It is not a season of fear, but of readiness — living each day with gratitude, purpose, and peace.

It has been seven months since my husband Vic, passed on. In this season of loss and learning, one truth has become very clear to me: preparedness is not pessimism - it is protection. It is an act of love, a gift of peace, and sometimes, the very thing that keeps us sane when life suddenly changes.

1. Prepare while he is still saluting

When you marry a soldier, you quickly realize you didn't just marry a man. You married the military, the calendar, the unexpected orders… and about two filing cabinets' worth of paperwork.

The uniform carries honor. It also carries risk. Very early on, you learn that in military life, "just in case" isn't being dramatic — it's being realistic. Love in the military comes with preparation.

Understand that papers are acts of love:

Many wives avoid talking about documents because it feels like inviting misfortune.

One evening, Vic sat beside me and said, *"If anything happens, I don't want you guessing and stressing."* That was not fear speaking. That was love. Also, that was a man who knew I couldn't find the car registration without a search party.

In that moment I realized: wills, passwords, account numbers, and neatly labeled folders are not signs of doom. They are love letters in administrative form.

Because nothing says "*I cherish you*" quite like: *"Here's the binder. Tab three is the insurance. Tab four is the bank. Don't panic."*

Marriage certificate (PSA copy with OR)
Husband's birth certificate (PSA copy with OR)
Children's birth certificates (PSA copy with OR)
His service record and latest promotion orders
Retirement Order
AFP ID and dependent IDs
Tax identification and bank account details
Insurance policies (AFP insurance, private insurance, GSIS if applicable)
Property titles and vehicle registrations
Beneficiary designations for all policies and benefits
Survivor Beneficiary from SLAIs and Cooperatives

Make both physical and digital copies. Keep originals in a waterproof, fire-resistant envelope or box. Tell a child or a trusted person where they are. Because in times of grief, searching becomes torture.

Know the benefits before you need them:

As a wife of an officer in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, you are entitled to specific benefits in case of line-of-duty death or even natural causes while in service or retirement. But you must understand them before tragedy strikes.

Ask your husband openly:
Who are listed as beneficiaries?
Are designations updated after retirement?
Is there a will?
What are the active insurance policies?
Are loans insured?

It may feel uncomfortable. But ignorance in peacetime becomes chaos in wartime.

Financial literacy is a survival skill:

Do not rely solely on your husband to manage finances. Even if he handles investments and bank matters, you must understand:

Monthly expenses
Loan obligations
Emergency savings
ATM PINs (securely stored)
Online banking access
Password management plan

One of the hardest stories I heard was from a widow who discovered unpaid loans only after her husband passed. Grief multiplied by financial shock is overwhelming.

Sit down once a year and review everything together. Make it a "readiness meeting," not a funeral rehearsal.

Emotional preparation without losing joy:

Preparation does not mean living in fear. It means loving with maturity. When your husband kisses you good night, you are not clinging out of anxiety - you are steady because you have prepared. And here is the truth: organization brings peace not only to your home but to your heart. A tidy folder of documents is like a silent salute to your future self.

2. What To Do Immediately After His Death

No wife is ready for a doctor's question of CPR or DNR? In that moment, the world does not shatter loudly - it goes quietly. But even in silence, decisions must be made.

Step 1: Breathe and call a trusted person

Do not walk through the first hours alone. Call: a close family member, a trusted fellow military spouse, or a chaplain or spiritual adviser. You will not think clearly. You should not be expected to.

Step 2: Secure immediate documents that will be asked by J9:

Marriage certificate
Husband's retirement order
Husband's service ID
Your Bank information

Place them in one secure envelope. Keep it close. Grief attracts both kindness and confusion. Protect important papers early.

Step 3: Funeral and Military Honors

As the widow of an AFP officer, you are entitled to military funeral honors. These may include: arrival and departure ceremony; honor guard; flag-draped casket; gun salute; taps ceremony; folding and presentation of the flag.

When they handed me the folded flag, I understood something deeply: the nation recognized his sacrifice, but I carried the cost. I allowed myself to cry. Military culture values strength, but widows are allowed to shed tears.

Step 4: Notify institutions

Within the first weeks, you will need to inform:
AFP unit administrative office
Insurance providers
Bank institutions
GSIS or other pension systems
SSS for death benefits
Barangay for death benefits

Request written checklists from AFP support offices. There are survivor assistance desks - seek their help. You are not begging for benefits. You are claiming what he earned.

Step 5: Guard against exploitation

Sadly, vulnerability can attract opportunists.
Be cautious of:
- "Financial advisers" pushing quick investments
- Relatives demanding money
- People asking for loans immediately after benefits are released

Do not make major financial decisions within the first six months unless absolutely necessary. Grief clouds judgment. Protect your future self.

Understanding the Grief of a Military Widow:

Your grief is layered:
You lost your husband.
Your children lost their father.
The nation lost an officer.
You lost the future you imagined.
There will be pride and pain living in the same body.
You may feel anger.
You may feel guilt for moments of relief.
You may feel strength one day and collapse the next.
All of this is normal.

Establish Financial Stability First:

Once benefits are processed, pause. Create a simple plan:
- List all income sources (pension, insurance payouts, benefits).
- List monthly expenses.
- Remove unnecessary financial burdens.
- Avoid lifestyle inflation after receiving lump sums.
- Build an emergency fund separate from long-term funds.

If possible, consult a neutral financial planner - not someone connected to commissions from selling products. Your husband protected the nation. Now you protect the legacy.

A Final Thought: Living Forward With Courage:

When the flag is folded, when the salute fades, and when the house grows quiet, a widow begins a different kind of service.

You carry memories, yes. But you also carry strength you did not know you possess. Preparation, paperwork, financial literacy, and planning may seem mundane compared to medals and ceremonies. Yet these quiet acts are what protect a family when life suddenly turns around. They are the unseen shields that guard your children, your home, and your peace of mind.

Remember this:

Your husband served the nation with discipline, courage, and readiness. In many ways, you served beside him—through every transfer, every deployment, uncertainty. And even after he is gone, that strength remains within you.

Preparation is not about expecting tragedy. It is about honoring love with responsibility.

Because love does not end with goodbye. Love continues in the way we protect the life that remains.

So organize the papers. Learn the finances. Ask the difficult questions while you still can. Do it not out of fear - but out of love.

And if the day ever comes when you must walk this road alone, remember this truth: You are not merely the widow of a soldier. You are the guardian of his legacy, the steady heart of your family, and living proof that courage does not only wear a uniform. Sometimes, courage is simply a woman who rises the next morning, puts the documents in order, gathers her children close, and continues forward with quiet dignity. That, too, is service.

And as we observe Women's Month, we remember that strength takes many forms. Sometimes it stands in uniform on a parade ground. But often, it stands quietly at home - holding a family together, carrying memories with grace, and rebuilding life with courage.

Military wives and widows embody a quiet resilience that rarely makes headlines. They endure long absences, uncertain nights, sudden changes, and profound loss—yet they continue to nurture families, preserve legacies, and move forward with dignity.

To every woman who has stood beside a soldier, and to every widow who now walks forward in his memory: your strength is a form of service too. This Women's Month, we honor not only the courage of those who wore the uniform, but also the women who stood beside them—and those who continue the journey after the final salute.

Because courage does not only wear medals.

Sometimes, courage is a woman who rises each morning, gathers her family close, and continues forward—steady, faithful, and strong.

And that, too, is heroism.

YOUNG CAVALIER HEROES



MAJ JONATHAN A CORPUZ, PMA CLASS OF 2010 PAF

VALOR IN THE SKIES

In the demanding profession of military aviation, courage is often measured in split-second decisions made thousands of feet above the battlefield. For combat pilots, the stakes are always high - every mission carries the weight of responsibility for the lives of soldiers on the ground and the safety of the communities they protect.

Among the distinguished aviators of the Philippine Air Force stands CAV JONATHAN A CORPUZ, whose career has been defined by courage, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to duty.

Throughout years of operational service, CAV CORPUZ has flown some of the most demanding combat missions in the country's continuing fight against terrorism and insurgency. As a combat helicopter pilot, he has repeatedly placed himself in harm's way to provide vital air support to ground forces engaged with hostile elements across the archipelago.

His bravery and exceptional performance have earned him some of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' most distinguished decorations, including the Gold Cross Medal, the Distinguished Aviation Cross, and multiple awards of the Military Merit Medal with Spearhead Device, among other commendations recognizing gallantry and heroic achievement.

His story reflects the dedication and spirit of the modern Filipino warrior—an officer whose courage in the skies has contributed to decisive victories on the ground.

A TEST OF COURAGE: THE MARAWI SIEGE

One of the defining moments of CAV CORPUZ's career came during the 2017 Marawi Siege, one of the most intense urban conflicts in the history of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

In May 2017, ISIS-inspired militants led by Isnilon Hapilon and the Maute brothers launched a coordinated assault on Marawi City, mobilizing hundreds of heavily armed fighters in an attempt to establish a Caliphate in Mindanao. The siege triggered months of intense fighting between government forces and entrenched terrorist elements.

During this critical national security crisis, CAV CORPUZ served as a pilot of the AW-109 Attack Helicopter, flying numerous day and night combat sorties in support of troops under Joint Task Force Marawi.

Operating over a dense urban battlefield presented extraordinary risks. Enemy fighters were equipped with high-powered weapons capable of threatening low-flying aircraft, while the narrow urban terrain demanded precise flying and accurate targeting to avoid collateral damage while effectively suppressing hostile positions.

Despite these challenges, CAV CORPUZ demonstrated remarkable skill and composure under pressure. Through precise aerial fire support, he helped ground forces neutralize enemy positions and regain control of key areas in the city.

For his gallantry in action during the Marawi campaign, he was awarded the Gold Cross Medal, one of the highest decorations for bravery in combat within the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The award recognized his willingness to fly into danger to support troops fighting house-to-house against determined terrorist forces.

COUNTERTERRORISM OPERATIONS IN BOHOL

Earlier that same year, CAV CORPUZ had already distinguished himself during a high-risk counterterrorism operation in Inabanga, Bohol.

In April 2017, a group of heavily armed Abu Sayyaf militants led by high-value target Muammar Askali, also known as Abu Rami, infiltrated the province in an attempt to establish a new operational foothold outside their traditional areas in Mindanao. The incursion prompted swift action from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

CAV CORPUZ participated in the aerial campaign as pilot of the AW-109 Attack Helicopter, conducting combat missions from 11 to 12 April 2017 in support of AFP Central Command and the Philippine National Police Regional Office 7. Flying under the constant threat of hostile fire, he executed precision air strikes against enemy positions while maintaining close coordination with troops engaged in the ground battle. His aerial support played a significant role in preventing the terrorist group from establishing a foothold in the province and contributed to the successful neutralization of the militants.

For his extraordinary courage and gallantry during the operation, CAV CORPUZ was awarded the Gold Cross Medal and received a Certificate of Recognition from the Provincial Government of Bohol, further affirming his reputation as a combat pilot capable of performing under extreme pressure.

THE FALL OF A COMMUNIST LEADER

A daring night Close Air Support (CAS) operation in Impasug-ong, Bukidnon, on 30 October 2021, marked another significant moment in CAV CORPUZ's operational career.

The mission led to the neutralization of Jorge "Ka Oris" Madlos, a senior leader and spokesperson of the New People's Army's National Operations Command, along with his communications aide, Eighfel "Pika" Dela Peña.

Troops from the 403rd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army, including elements of the 8th Infantry Battalion and special operations units, launched an assault after the Battlefield Air Interdiction supported by Rocketry and Strafing from CAV CORPUZ's AW-109 Attack Helicopter Element on an NPA hideout in Sitio Gabunan, Barangay Dumalaguing, around midnight.

Madlos had long been wanted for numerous high-profile crimes and attacks against soldiers and civilians. His death dealt a significant blow to NPA operations across Mindanao. The operation, supported by intelligence information from residents, temporarily displaced several families in the area but marked a major milestone in the government's efforts to weaken the communist insurgency.





Military leaders later described the operation as a decisive victory that disrupted insurgent operations and demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated air and ground operations.

EXCELLENCE IN COMBAT FLYING

CAV CORPUZ's operational record continued to expand in the years that followed, marked by numerous combat missions supporting joint military operations throughout the country.

On 26 June 2024, he served as pilot of the AW-109 Attack Helicopter during a Close Air Support mission conducted in support of Operation Order Kilo Uno of the 703rd Infantry Brigade, 7th Infantry Division in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija. The mission targeted approximately 20 armed members of the Komiteng Rehiyong Gitnang Luzon (KRGL) belonging to the Communist Terrorist Group operating in the area.

Demonstrating exceptional flying skill and tactical precision, CAV CORPUZ delivered effective aerial fire support that enabled ground forces to neutralize enemy combatants and recover a significant cache 15 high-powered firearms and war materiel. The operation resulted in the neutralization of one high-value target, three high-value individuals, and several insurgent members, along with the recovery of 15 high-powered firearms and numerous magazines.

For his distinguished heroism and extraordinary achievement during aerial flight, CAV CORPUZ was awarded the Distinguished

Aviation Cross, one of the highest decorations for aviators in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Another Distinguished Aviation Cross would later be awarded for his role in a Battlefield Air Interdiction mission on 7 September 2024 in Surigao del Sur, where he served as pilot of the T-129 ATAK helicopter. The mission targeted more than 30 members of the Communist Terrorist Group, including several high-value leaders from the Northeastern Mindanao Regional Committee.

Through precise aerial engagement, the operation resulted in the neutralization of nine insurgents and the recovery of 11 high-powered firearms, six improvised explosive devices, and other war materials.

The mission highlighted the critical role of combat aviation in modern military operations and demonstrated CAV CORPUZ's ability to deliver decisive airpower under demanding battlefield conditions.



SUSTAINED SERVICE IN COMBAT OPERATIONS

Throughout his career, CAV CORPUZ has participated in numerous combat operations across the country, providing close air support, battlefield interdiction, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and armed escort missions.

In Bukidnon, he conducted a Battlefield Air Interdiction mission in support of the 1003rd Infantry Brigade of the 10th Infantry Division, resulting in the recovery of enemy firearms and equipment abandoned during the engagement.

He has also flown night close air support missions against terrorist groups in Maguindanao, targeting members of the Dawlah Islamiya–Hassan Group and the BIFF-Karialan faction.

These missions required flying in hostile environments under the cover of darkness, where precise navigation, seamless coordination with ground forces, and accurate targeting were essential to mission success.

Other operations brought him to conflict areas across Mindanao, Samar, Basilan, Masbate, and Sorsogon, where his aircraft supported military offensives against insurgent and terrorist groups threatening local communities.

For his consistent bravery and performance in these missions, he received multiple Military Merit Medals with Spearhead Device, recognizing heroic achievement during combat operations.

COURAGE BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD

CAV CORPUZ's service extends beyond direct combat engagements. His dedication to duty has also been recognized in missions involving significant personal risk even outside active battle.

During Joint Operations "OPLAN: First Strike" in Maguindanao, he displayed conspicuous courage in the conduct of high-risk missions under life-threatening conditions. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Cross Medal, recognizing acts of bravery not involving direct conflict with an enemy.

Earlier in his career, he also received the Military Commendation Medal for exemplary efficiency and devotion to duty while supporting troop insertion and resupply missions during brigade-level operations in Compostela Valley.

Such missions are critical in sustaining combat operations and ensuring the effectiveness and safety of ground forces deployed in remote and contested areas.

COLLECTIVE VICTORY IN THE AIR

CAV CORPUZ was also among the aviators recognized with the Silver Wing Medal, awarded to pilots and aircrew who provided vital aviation support during major joint military operations.

Together with fellow personnel from various Philippine Air Force wings, he helped deliver close air support, troop insertion, casualty evacuation, aerial reconnaissance, and psychological operations flights that contributed to the success of operations under OPORD "Grand Finale" and OPORD "Boloman."

These missions demonstrated the power of coordinated air and ground operations in achieving strategic military objectives and protecting communities affected by armed conflict.

A LEGACY OF COURAGE

For CAV CORPUZ, being a military aviator is more than a profession—it is a calling defined by service, sacrifice, and commitment to the Filipino people. Every combat sortie represents a mission not only to defeat hostile forces but also to protect communities and support fellow soldiers fighting on the ground. His career reflects the ideals instilled in every cadet of the Philippine Military Academy—Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

As a proud member of Philippine Military Academy Mandirigmang Sibol ng Dakilang Lahing Kayumanggi (MASIDLAK) Class of 2010, he embodies the enduring spirit of a Cavalier: steadfast in duty, courageous in adversity, and unwavering in his commitment to the defense of the nation.

Through countless hours in the cockpit and numerous missions flown in the service of peace and security, CAV CORPUZ continues to build a legacy of valor in the skies.

His story stands as a powerful reminder that behind every successful military operation are men and women who willingly risk their lives to ensure the safety of others.

Indeed, the journey of this Young Cavalier Hero is one of courage, dedication, and unwavering patriotism—an inspiration to future generations who will one day take up the responsibility of defending the nation.

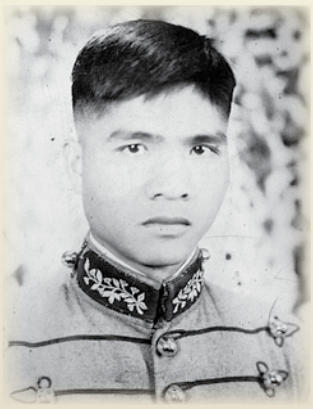
Brat Talks: Stories, Reflections, and Tributes by Sons and Daughters of Cavaliers

(To every son and daughter who understands the unique journey of a Cavalier's child: Cavalier Magazine proudly opens its pages for "Brat Talks." This is your exclusive platform to share personal reflections, poignant stories, and heartfelt tributes to your Cavalier parents.)

"Anak ni Banaba" Finding My Own Horizon in My Father's Footsteps

• **Cav Claire Ann U Villanueva-Dolino '09**

Growing up having a *bugo-bugo* for a father means living with a set of values that are felt long before they are understood. My father, Cavalier Roberto Castro Villanueva of the PMA Maharlika Class of 1984, never had to lecture us on discipline or integrity; he simply lived them consistently until he instilled it to us. To the world, he is a seasoned officer and a leader of men. To me, he is the blueprint of what it means to lead with a quiet, unwavering moral compass.



At home, my father's leadership was defined by his love for my mother. Watching the way he respects and cares for her taught me that true service starts in marriage and family. He was just as patient to us his children. To him, his kids' growth and happiness are the ultimate harvest of his years of hard work.

Looking back, I've come to realize that my life is a 25-year echo of my father's own. Every milestone he reached was a footprint he left behind for me to find my own way.

I learned about the "Long Gray Line" during our annual February trips to Baguio. Watching the parades, I eventually understood that during his First-Class year, my father served as the Company Commander of Golf Company. I can almost feel the weight he must have carried then: balancing the rigors of cadetship with the welfare of his men. Those years forged a presence built on competence and fairness. His command is firm but gentle.

For me, my fun-filled childhood was sort of a map of his assignments. As a baby, I had pictures of spending time in Zamboanga. I attended Christmas parties in La Union. I even studied for a few years in Pangasinan. I was in grade school when he was assigned with the Caloocan Police. My siblings and I would play around the camp, our playmates the children of his colleagues. That was my first realization of what a *"batang kampo"* was.

By the time I was 15, he was the RMG Commander in Pampanga. I spent my college semestral breaks there, and it was during that time he taught me two things that would stay with me forever: how to drive a car and how to swing a golf club. In those quiet moments on the green, I saw the man behind the uniform, patient, deliberate, and protective.

In 2005, the parallel lines of our lives finally met when I entered the Academy. He didn't want me to go at first. I think it wasn't a lack of faith in my strength; it was the protective love of a father who knew exactly what that life demanded: the bone-deep exhaustion of plebe year and the sacrifices of service. Yet the very grit he had instilled in me was what I used to convince him.

As I became a cadet, he took on the mantle of Chief of Police in Malabon. While I was away training, he was leading, and I felt his silent shift from my protector to my mentor.

The stars aligned in 2009. I graduated as a member of the PMA Masiglahi Class, exactly 25 years after him. I had the distinct honor of marching on Borromeo Field during the Silver Jubilarian year of his Maharlika Class. It was an 'IYKYK' moment for him and me, because only *bugo-bugos* will understand the distinct relevance of this milestone.









That being not momentous enough, I was also the first "Maharlikid" (a Maharlika Class brat) to graduate from the Academy. I will never forget the look on his face: a mixture of overwhelming joy and pride. We were no longer just father and daughter, we were fellow Cavaliers, bound by Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.

Our paths continued to mirror each other. I was in Sarangani with the 73rd IB while he led the province of Capiz. I was trying to emulate his ways as he starts to relinquish his humble but very distinguished career. Yet he remained the same steady leader I'd always known.

He didn't get much of a break after retiring in 2012, as he was quickly called back to serve as an Assistant Secretary for the OTS. This happened right as I was being promoted to 1st Lieutenant and starting my own family. I've always felt this was the ultimate testament to his work ethic. After all, positions of such trust are only given to those whose character and reliability are beyond blame.

Today, the man who led and commanded has undergone his most beautiful transformation: he is a full-time *Lolo*.

He has five grandchildren now, and seeing the former commander melt into a doting grandfather is pure joy. His hands, which once held weapons, are now incredibly gentle when he holds his grandchildren. He adores them with a fierceness that suggests he is passing on his strength, ensuring they grow up in the security he spent a lifetime building.

For me, following my father's footsteps didn't mean living in his shadow, it meant using the light of his example to find my own way.

I will always be proud to be a Cavalier standing beside a fellow Cavalier.

But I am prouder still to be called ***"Anak ni Banaba."***

Dad, I'll spend my life making you proud, hoping to become even half the person you are. I am forever grateful for you.

I love you, Daddy.





Lolo with apos

Life Guards: Saving Lives

The Life Guards is one of the two oldest regiments of the British Army under the Household Cavalry. This unit protects the King and his household. To date, it upholds the safety, practices and time-honoured traditions of the British Royalty. This section is created to highlight the need of protecting and the safeguarding of the soul of every uniformed man and woman serving the country.

BEREANS: Thinkers and Doers

"Now the Berean Jews were of noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."
– Acts 17:11

Cognition is one of the higher capacities of the human being. It encompasses the ability to think, reason, and alter behaviour. This is a superior trait of the human brain. This unique make-up of man not only enables him to be exceptional but to be truly what he is made to be — human.

The Thinkers

Doctor Luke's narrative in Chapter 17 of the Acts of the Apostles mentions that the Apostle Paul and Silas were chased from Thessalonica by an angry, envious mob to a small town called Berea. Berea, today known as Veria in Northern Greece, was home to extraordinary thinkers. This is how Luke describes the Bereans:

> *"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica; for they received the message with great eagerness, and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men." (Acts 17:11-12)*

The Berean thinkers were called nobles. "Noble-minded," or "*eugenesteroi*" in Greek, is synonymous with having a superior, receptive, and discerning attitude toward what they have heard.

Their nobility did not stem from high social status or birth, but from their spiritual maturity, intellectual integrity, and eagerness to verify truth through Scripture. This open-mindedness and teachability spring from humility, a trait that enables genuine transformation.

The genuine encounter the Berean thinkers experienced is not driven solely by intellectual motives to know the Word of God but by a compelling desire to know the God of the Word. "*You will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart*" (Jeremiah 29:13)

The Doers

Spoken about only a few times in the Bible, yet stood apart from many who have heard the Word, the Bereans approached what they had heard from Paul and Silas with cognitive curiosity. The logical clarity they have employed in the investigation of Scripture has led them to respond with well-examined actions - transforming their character and impacting their community.

Their cognitive prowess enabled them to truly become what the Scriptures purposed for their lives: transformation. They listened to Paul's teachings to find if they aligned with the Truth. Their investigation did not reflect a rejection of the truth but led them to test what they had heard through the framework of what God had already declared. And with what they have heard and investigated, they truly found the gospel of Christ and experienced the transformation it promises.

"*….As a result, many of them believed, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.*" *(Acts 17:12)*. This account of visible results validated what a Scripture-infused life can do. The Berean thinkers lived God-directed lives. Propelled by their desire to learn and investigate Scriptures, their lives became living beacons of what the Scripture declared. Prominent Greek men and women believed, changing more lives and birthing more God-guided communities. It is a movement that no one can stop because it is one, born in the seeking heart and ordained in the heavens.

Modern Day Opportunity to be a Thinker and a Doer

Proclamation No. 124 in 2017 declared "National Bible Month" every January, the start of each year, to promote Bible reading and strengthen moral character. It features the last week of January as National Bible Week and the last Monday as a special working holiday (RA11163).

Every year, both government, the private and public sectors are encouraged to participate actively by reading and sharing passages from the Bible. Local Government Units host a one-day activity for their personnel, usually led by invited spiritual mentors and coaches, to foster a spirit of recollection, reflection, and recalibration. Teachers in the academic community, from primary to tertiary institutions, are emboldened to introduce Bible passages or stories to learners and to allow students to engage with the Word of God with eagerness.

The National Bible Month serves as an opportunity to reflect on the values found in Scripture and to bring the principles of love, integrity, faith, and engagement into our hearts, homes, schools, and workplaces, fostering a culture of moral and spiritual growth within the private and public sectors of the country.

History records that many of the flourishing civilizations began with GOD-centered purposes. Accounts also show that when greed, corruption, crimes, and many other forms of self-serving motivations take over, these civilizations degrade and eventually cease. Throughout eras, it has been observed that the framework of survival depends on the directions taken.

May the leaders of our nation's uniformed service truly become modern-day Bereans, where cognitive nobility will lead to the transformation of the heart that will usher in a truly changed nation.

Sir, Maam, are you a Thinker and a Doer?

Your friend,

ike '93

CG RADM EUSTACIO NIMROD P ENRIQUEZ JR (Ret)
Coastguardians' Christian Lighthouse Community



CAV ARNALDO M LIM '96 with the CCLC 7th Anniversary Speaker.



The Coastguardians' Christian Lighthouse Community (CCLC) celebrating their 7th Founding Anniversary.

PCG Values Formation and Spiritual Enhancement Activity spearheaded by the Coast Guard Ecumenical Chaplain Service in partnership with the Coastguardians' Christian Lighthouse Community (CCLC)







The "Tidal Worm"

• Cav Jose Antonio C Salvacion '76



In 1976, a powerful earthquake struck Mindanao—the strongest ever recorded in the region. That same night, I was leading my mortar platoon on a bivouac along the shores of Tuburan, Basilan. We were on high alert, ready to confront MNLF fighters deep in their own territory.

But the enemy was nowhere to be found.

As the night wore on, I finally laid down to rest. But not for long. I was jolted awake by the unmistakable sound of sustained gunfire. I thought, "This is it. We're under attack."

I quickly scrambled out to assess the situation—only to find my men firing their M16s toward the sea.

I immediately assumed the enemy was making an amphibious landing. But something felt... off. Then I heard a strange, rumbling noise—unlike anything I had ever heard in combat.

I shouted for a ceasefire.

As the gunfire faded, that eerie sound grew louder. Suddenly, one of the soldiers screamed:

"TIDAL WORM! TIDAL WORM!"

Confused, I turned to my Platoon Sergeant."What the hell is a tidal worm?" I asked.

He looked me in the eye and clarified, "Tidal wave, sir."

Realizing what we were dealing with, I ordered everyone to evacuate the mortar tubes to higher ground and tie them securely to coconut trees.

But panic spread faster than the wave. Some of my Visayan troops, in a strange mix of fear and logic, kept firing at the oncoming sea, all while yelling: "TIDAL WORM! TIDAL WORM!"

I shouted over the chaos:

"Why are you shooting at the water?"

Their reply, as sincere as it was hilarious:

"Para hindi umabot sa atin, Sir!"

("So it won't reach us, Sir!")

True enough, the massive wave never fully made landfall. But the smaller surges still reached us - knee-deep at most. As the water receded, the troops proudly declared:

"Sir, patay na ang Tidal Worm!" ("We killed the Tidal Worm!")

In the aftermath, as we regrouped and secured our gear, I spotted some soldiers clinging to the tops of coconut trees—doing their best to avoid getting swept away. Others were still visibly shaken. But nothing topped the sight - and later, the story - of Boying climbing up a papaya tree in sheer panic.

Let me tell you: in the face of a life-threatening tidal wave, you'll climb any tree.

Even a papaya tree.

Hopefully a big papaya tree… not one of those small, wobbly ones.

From that day forward, the incident became the running joke of the battalion.

What was once known as a "tidal wave" was forever remembered as the legendary…

"Tidal Worm."

Cav Jose Antonio C Salvacion is a proud member of PMA Magilas Class of 1976, the class "Baron"—and yes, one of the oldest.

Follow My Wake

• Cav Epoy Marayag '76

This article is a tribute to the fathers and close relatives who have motivated, pushed and influenced the Magilas Class members to join and serve the noble profession of arms. Five of the fathers had survived the Bataan Death March in 1942 and three close relatives were once part of the uniformed services. As the Holy Bible says: "Honor your father and mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:2).

More than half the members of the Class are sons of military personnel and police officers including some who were inspired and cajoled by their close relatives who served or were serving the military at the time of their entry to PMA. Twelve (12) members are sons of officers, including an army general, eighteen (18) are offspring of non-commissioned officers, two (2) are children of police officers and one (1) is a son of former aviation cadet. In addition, three (3) are blood relatives (brothers, nephew and cousin). Our members either "followed the wake" (or follow the footsteps) of their elders, by example or other reasons; thus, becoming beacons of their junior, or even senior, family members and close relatives.

The long list, arranged alphabetically, starts with **Adiong Abadiano** who was raised by Constabulary Master Sergeant Xerxes Abadiano (+) 070739 PC, former First Sergeant and Chief Investigator of 351st PC Company based in Camp Bumpus, Tacloban City. MSgt Xerxes Abadiano was with a recognized guerilla unit in Negros Island during the Japanese occupation. His war service earned, among others, an educational scholarship for one of his children. He retired in 1973 but continued to closely monitor the military and ensuing careers of his two sons long after their graduation until he passed away in 2020 as a centenarian. Adiong is one of the very few PC officers who "returned" to and subsequently retired from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. His pursuit of a law degree while in the active service was motivated by his father's previous job as a Constabulary investigator. Adiong has been a practicing lawyer for over 30 years. On the other hand, Adiong's brother, former PAF Captain Wilbur Abadiano PMA 1994 joined the commercial airline early on.

Edong Acuña spent his formative years in Baguio City and his father Master Sergeant Vicente P Acuña 149095 PA convinced him to continue his collegiate education at PMA. Edong joined the Philippine Constabulary and retired as Police Lieutenant General having occupied the position of The Chief Directorial Staff and later The Deputy Chief for Operations, Philippine National Police. He was one of the mainstays of the PNP Transformation Program and Roadmap for many years and strongly supported the creation and operationalization of joint AFP-PNP staff to staff talks, spearheaded by Bong Ibrado and Jess Verzosa who were at the helm of AFP and PNP, respectively, with the support of Epoy Marayag, Edong's counterpart at that time, to ensure honest, peaceful and orderly electoral exercise in May 2010.

Pol Bataoil belongs to a well-knitted family headed by his father, Fructuoso, who respected the profession of arms so much that he named Pol after his brother's name to honor him- Army Third Lieutenant Leopoldo Bataoil O-1913 PA, a member of PMA Class 1943. Pol's uncle fought in early 1942 and sacrificed his life to defend the nation in the hills of Bataan. Pol would have been a performing artist but chose to follow his father's advice. He nearly became a naval officer but destiny led him to become a Constabulary, and later a police officer. After retiring as Police Major General in 2009 he extended his public service as a three-termer legislative district Representative in Pangasinan and a two-termer local government executive as mayor of Pangasinan's capital town Lingayen.

Vic Boco's father Victor Boco Sr. was the police chief of Llorente, Samar at the outbreak of the war but resigned to avoid enlistment by the Japanese occupation forces. Instead he decided to join the Causin-Merritt guerilla group in Samar led by Colonels Juan Causing PCA Class 1916 and Pedro Meritt PCA Class 1934. Apart from his father, the war exploits of his uncle, Sergeant Gerardo Boco of 57th Infantry Regiment of the Philippine Scouts who died in Abucay, Bataan defense line in 1942, greatly influenced him to join the profession of arms. Vic retired as a Police Brigadier General having successfully steered Police Regional Office-5 in Bicol and now runs his own business enterprise.

Raul Caballes is a son of Colonel Mauro S Caballes O-1949 PA, a member of "*Forever Plebe*" Class of 1945. Colonel Caballes was one of the youngest members of the famous Marking's guerillas and retired in 1966 as Chief MIS, the forerunner of ISAFP. Raul retired as an Army Major General as Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications-Electronics and Information System, J6 having perfected the "system" of communicating with Mistahs by tapping highly reliable and indispensable service provider. His second in government service was with the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office as Deputy Administrator where he instituted new approaches to better serve the veterans.

Abner Cabalquinto was motivated to seek scholarship at PMA because of his elder brother, Lieutenant Geneneral Alan Cabalquinto, a member of PMA Class 1973, and partly due to financial reason. One of the Class' positive thinkers with instinctive aptitude for delivering humorous stories, Abner appears to be a distant relative of Santa Claus for sharing his blessings during Christmas and supporting some children of deceased members of the Class. He retired as a Police Major General after a meaningful career spent in field command and garrison staff duties.

Sonny Cachuela's father was Lieutenant Colonel Pedro Cachuela O-92454 PAF who spent some time at the 100th Training

Wing based in Lipa City. A graduate of the School for Reserve Commission, Colonel Cachuela was both a principled and disciplined person, kind of strong motivator of his two sons to enter PMA. Sonny's elder brother, Police Brigadier General Napoleon Cachuela PMA Class 1975, would have been his classmate but out of respect he chose to join the Magilas Class. Sonny retired as an Army Lieutenant General whose last assignment was so "hard" that he reluctantly accepted position with a condition that the tenure would be limited so he could enjoy his impending retirement in 2009. He normally requests an umbrella service staff whenever he plays golf for better swings.

Lehn Calderon is the younger son of Colonel Leonardo Calderon Sr., a senior Dental Service officer who served some years in Vietnam with PHILCAGV and later at an air force unit at Sangley Point in Cavite City. His elder brother, Police General Oscar Calderon of PMA Class 1973 became the 13th Chief of the Philippine National Police. Lehn retired as Vice Admiral, with his last posting as Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy after stints at the AFP General Headquarters and the Office of the President. He oversaw the construction of the Magilas Visitors Center, recently renamed as Lorenzo Hall, and the last Class member to compulsorily retire from active service.

Jimmy Caringal is the eldest of four siblings who graduated from PMA. He joined the PC after some years of field duty with the Army to follow the footsteps of his father in the Constabulary. A survivor of the *Bataan Death March* and a product of School for Reserve Commission, Lieutenant Colonel Jose Caringal Sr. (+), joined the famous Nenita Unit (7th BCT) under Colonel Napoleon Valeriano (+) PMA 1937 during the pacification campaign in Central Luzon. He guided his sons to enter PMA and become officers starting with Jimmy. Five (5) years later Army Major Joel Caringal graduated with PMA Class 1981 and a year later in 1982 Philippine Marine Brigadier General Januario Caringal proudly marched with PMA Class 1982. The last of the siblings, PAF Lieutenant Colonel Jose Caringal Jr., joined PMA Class 1986. His grandson, PAF Major Makswen Caringal, is a member of PMA Class 2010. Jimmy retired as Police Major General with sterling accomplishments including outpacing



Captain Salvador Golez O-83004 PN, (left), and VAdm Ferdinand Golez O-7230 AFP/PN (right). Both commanded PS28, patrol craft escort.



L-R: MSgt Emilio Marayag Sr 512296 PAF with his sons VAdm Emilio Jr O-7216 AFP/PN, MGen Joel Marayag O-8167 AFP/PAF and RAdm Juario Marayag O-11194 PN.

the navy-marines team in Western Mindanao in recovering the kidnapped Father Giancarlo Bossi, an Italian missionary priest, in 2007.

Cholo Carlos is the eldest among the three brothers who entered the Fort. His Dad, Brigadier General Zosimo Carlos Sr. (+) was a career Army officer having commanded line units, an honorary member of PMA Class 1952 and retired as Commander of 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal. On the other hand, Cholo's grandfather, Constabulary Colonel Francisco Donesa (+) was a 1916 graduate of the PC Academy, the forerunner of PMA. His younger brother Army Lieutenant Zamiel Carlos (+) who graduated with PMA Class 1978 briefly served the military to seek greener pasture elsewhere; while youngest brother Zyril PMA 1980 became a Rear Admiral and later a line department undersecretary. Cholo left the service early having earned the distinction of the only Magilas fighter jet pilot, became a senior captain in an international airline and wrote a book highlighting his call sign while assigned in the 5th Fighter Wing, "BULLDOG 302: Magilas Aviator."

Monching Dela Cruz is a son of Master Sergeant Daniel Dela Cruz (+) 483774 PAF who used to be with the Aviation Engineer Wing. Monching was the brother-keeper of Coast Guard Rear Admiral Joselito Dela Cruz (+) who was a member of PMA Class 1988. Monching used to fly PAF assets until he decided to retire optionally to seek another career in another country. His love story is an epic of cadet romance due to cultural diversity between him and his Indian national girlfriend who finally became Mrs. Ramon Dela Cruz.

Ely Dela Paz's father Master Sergeant Catalino Dela Paz (+) 101717 PAF motivated three of his sons to join the military service. He was a war veteran who served in Corregidor where he sought permission to leave his unit just before the Island surrender and joined the 121st Infantry military guerillas operating in La Union

province. His eldest, PAF Colonel Ricardo Dela Paz PMA 1974, was an accomplished military pilot and a motorcycle enthusiast. Army Colonel Leodegario Dela Paz (+) was a former defense modernization official. Ely who almost joined the air force but opted to become a professional law enforcer and retired as Police Major General in 2008, organized an NGO for the parents of eyesight-impaired children enabling him to participate in some international conferences, and at the same time manages his own business.

Paco Francisco is the elder son of Constabulary Technical Sergeant Sergio Francisco (+) 495004 PC. Paco's brother, Police Colonel Rustico Francisco graduated in 1980 along with other Magilas younger brothers- Joel Marayag, Zyril Carlos, and Cesar Yano. After long silence or rather sub-surface operation in CONUS, retired Lieutenant Colonel Paco, a former combat military helicopter pilot, has re-emerged like a phoenix providing personal circumstances of other Magilas members including service serial numbers and birthdays, thus posing as a major threat to Rey Ramirez's prominence. He also regularly posts health advisories and is an active "commissioner" of his grandchild. (Note: "commissioner" in Pangasinanse is same as "apostolic duty").

Tanggol Gatdula, is the son of Constabulary Master Sergeant Silvino Gatdula (+) 021123 PC who was also a *Bataan Death March* survivor and served as First Sergeant of 224th PC Company based in Camp Eldridge, Los Baños. Tanggol, a recipient of the Wounded Personnel Medal earned in Mindanao during his younger years, pursued his law degree, occupied numerous line and staff positions, and retired as Police Major General. He then served as Director of the National Bureau of Investigation, the 3rd Academy graduate to occupy such position after Cavaliers Leoncio Tan (+), PCA Class 1928, and Reynaldo Wycoco (+), PMA Class 1968.

Toto Golez, currently the Class Ironman, is the son of Navy Captain Salvador Golez (+) O-83004 PN, a USAFFE member and a survivor of the *1942 Bataan Death March*. His older brother, Navy Captain Jose Roilo Golez (+), former National Security Adviser and Congressional District Representative, graduated from the US Naval Academy Class 1970; while his younger brother, Navy Lieutenant Elias Golez, PMA '79, left the service early for overseas opportunities. After retirement as FOIC, PN Toto still works with a major energy development company and religiously follows his physical regimen. His son Raymund graduated from the US Naval Academy in 2003 but left early to seek other opportunities and is presently based in CONUS. The Golez Navy family members must have heeded to their father's enduring advice: *"There is nothing more impressive; nothing more dignified than to live within your means."*

Ed Gonowon's father was a former PAF Master Sergeant (+) based in Basa Air Base. Having spent his formative years in an air force on-base housing facility and heavily convinced by his father, he joined the Philippine Air Force. He went through the military pilot training as Class marcher with 11 other Mistahs and flew some air assets. He changed career early to fly commercially for a foreign fishing company operating in the rich fishing grounds of the Pacific Ocean. Ed is presently based in Canada and plans to permanently stay in the country in the future.

Bong Ibrado's Dad, Milo Tupas Ibrado, qualified for admission as aviation cadet and started his military pilot training in the PAF Flying School in Lipa City aiming to be an accomplished aviator. Few months before course completion, Aviation Cadet Ibrado's trainer plane flipped that damaged the aircraft and he was charged of "pilot error". His explanation that the incident was due to "material failure" was not accepted prompting him to leave the training. The final investigation report, however contradicted the initial findings and found the correctness of his earlier explanation, but Aviation Cadet Ibrado had already left the institution. He never stopped dreaming that someday one of his future sons will become a military pilot, a dream that he passed on to Bong that inspired the latter to be the Corps Commander of the Preparatory Military Training Unit in high school. Before PMA graduation, Bong politely informed his father that joining the Air Force would prolong his training by two years and aware of the situation obtaining in the field, he decided to join the Army to lead troops soonest. Bong made a colorful career as field commander and leader of men to become the Chief of Staff, AFP, a level too high in the military hierarchy that only four air force pilots have so far reached.

Nath Legaspi (+) was the first son of Master Sergeant Conrado Legaspi Sr. (+) 406942 PAF who retired as 700th Special Mission Wing Sergeant Major. He greatly influenced his two sons to enter PMA. Nath spent his formative years in Metro Manila and attended Quezon City Science High School. His brother, retired PAF Colonel Norman Legaspi graduated with PMA Class 1981 and was also a former military pilot. Nath who served as defense and armed forces attaché in Indonesia promptly assisted then Lieutenant Colonel Joel Marayag (+) who underwent an emergency medical operation while taking up his Air CGSC course in Nath's domain. Nath's dad and Epoy's father were close friends during their military service.

Macky Maclang's decision to enter PMA was heavily motivated by his first cousin, Army Brigadier General Rogelio Fortun Villanueva (+) PMA Class 1960 who retired as Commander, 4th Infantry Division. His son and Macky's nephew, Army Major General Ronald Villanueva PMA Class 1985 followed his father's trail and retired after commanding the same Army Infantry Division quarter of a century later. Macky obviously out-performed his cousin and nephew by becoming not only an Army Infantry Division Commander but a Unified Area Commander as well before his appointment as The Deputy Chief of Staff, AFP and eventually the Vice Chief of Staff, AFP, the second highest position in the military. Macky retired as Lieutenant General in 2010 and has been visiting a number of continents since then.

Pol Maligalig comes from a military family having a father, Colonel Modesto Maligalig (+) O-34450 PA (GSC), a *Bataan Death March* survivor and a UP Vanguard, and three other siblings graduating from PMA. Then Major Maligalig's Commandant while at Command and General Staff School was Colonel Reynaldo Bocalbos (+) PA who shared to the Class his secret of looking young at 91: *No drinking, No smoking, No gambling, No women… only "C"*. Colonel Modesto's wife and the mother of the four Maligalig brothers was Veteran Maria Lawas (+) who joined the President Quezon Own Guerillas' Red Lion Division during the war. Navy Captain Proceso Maligalig (+) PMA Class 69, the eldest, was one of the notable advocates for AFP reforms. Air Force Captain and later commercial pilot Prudencio Maligalig (+) belonged to PMA Class 1975; while Police Brigadier General Danilo Maligalig (+) belonged to PMA Class 1984. Pol earned the distinction of being the first Commandant of Cadets, CCAFP to directly assume the position of PMA Superintendent in 2006 before his retirement in 2008. He joins Jimmy Caringal in having the highest number of siblings hurdling the 4-year Academy course.

Epoy Marayag's principal motivator to join the military service was his father, Master Sergeant Emilio Marayag Sr. (+) 512296 PAF who constantly reminded his children: "*When in government you won't get rich but neither will you go hungry.*" The other motivator was Navy Captain Fermin Cuison (+) PMA Class 1966, his uncle, who had a son, retired Marine Major General Ferrous Cuison PMA Class 1990 and a grandson Marine First Lieutenant Juan Marco Cuison of PMA Class 2021. Epoy's daughter Amillita graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1998, served the USMC up to the rank of Captain and pursued a premier law enforcement career. Epoy's younger brother Air Force Major General Joel Marayag (+) PMA Class 1980

followed suit. Joel influenced his two sons to enter PMA: Navy Commander Joey Lito Marayag PMA Class 2007, a naval aviator, and Air Force LtCol Lee Van Marayag PMA Class 2010. His youngest brother, Rear Admiral Juario Marayag, graduated with PMA Class 1993 beating his two elder brothers by becoming both a *sea dog* and a naval aviator.

Sammie Narcise's father, Apolonio Narcise (+), joined the Marking's guerillas organized in 1942 by Colonel Marcos "Marking" Agustin, a former Philippine Scout, and Valeria Panlilio. The Marking's guerillas figured in the 1945 capture of the Ipo Dam in Bulacan and of former President Aguinaldo who was accused of collaborating with the Japanese. The Narcise brothers had an uncle, in the same outfit as their father's during the resistance period, who became a star-ranked officer in the AFP, Brigadier General Emilio Narcise (+). The veteran-brothers' war exploits convinced Sammie and his elder brother, Army Major General Juvenal Narcise PMA Class 1975, to enter PMA. Sammie retired as an Army Major General, like his brother, after commanding Army infantry and armor formations.

Nanie Perez (+) was a son of Master Sergeant Carmelo Perez (+) 502526 PC who guided Nanie in his career. Nanie rose to become an Air Force Lieutenant General when he commanded a Unified Command covering the West Philippine Sea. Unfortunately, Nanie succumbed during the Covid-19 pandemic, a day before his scheduled release from hospital confinement. One of his children, Air Force First Lieutenant Jan Hernan graduated with honors from PMA in 2021, serving as Cadet First Captain.

Pompi Pomposo (+) was the son of Master Sergeant Epifanio Pomposo (+) 483997 PAF who spent most of his career in Basa Air Base, the home of the 5th Fighter Wing. His father motivated Pompi to enter PMA. Pompi joined the Air Force after graduation and flew numerous PAF assets. After being "bypassed" multiple times, he retired with the rank of Brigadier General after his stint as Commander, Air Base Wing in Zamboanga City and later as Deputy Commander of an AFP Unified Command.

Mon Punzalan's father was Merchant Marine Captain Floro Punzalan (+), a member of Philippine Nautical School Class 1939, forerunner of Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, and a former Mosquito Fleet platoon commander who was wounded in action in a naval battle against the Japanese for which he earned the purple heart medal. He was an officer in President Quezon's



2Lt (Resrv) Pedro Verzosa (1957) with soon to be 2Lt Jesus Verzosa PC.

Owned Guerillas (PQOG) after his stint at the Mosquito Fleet. For his war efforts Captain Floro was granted a lifetime pension and an educational scholarship opportunity for his three other children to complete their college education. He became a Master Mariner and Port Captain of Manila's North Harbor and provided the life sail plan for Mon. Retiring as Rear Admiral in 2009 Mon served in various capacities in the Navy and in the AFP after serving more than 37 years.

Rey Ramirez is also a son of an airman, Master Sergeant Pacifico Ramirez (+) 483573 PAF, who spent most of his career in Basa Air Base's fighter jets maintenance staff. It was him who convinced Rey to take the PMA examination and upon graduation to join the air force. Rey worked at the defunct AFP Logistics Command with another Mistah Army Brigadier General Felipe "Pipes" Tabas (+), whose father was a retired army soldier. Rey later took up senior course to qualify for senior command positions. He





Merchant Marine Captain Floro Punzalan.

retired as Brigadier General after commanding a Tactical Operations Wing covering the entire Mindanao and as Deputy Commander of a Unified Command.

Arman Rodriguez is a son of First Lieutenant Aguedo Rodriguez (+) PC, a former hospital corpsman and a graduate of the School for Reserve Commission (SRC) that led to his officer status. He and Tanggol's father defended the PC headquarters in Sta Cruz, Laguna against a massive Huk attack in 1950, same year when Camp Makabulos in Tarlac was partly burned by the attackers, and successfully repulsed the rebels thereby galvanizing the PC motto: "*Always outnumbered but never outfought*." Unable to see his son entering and graduating from PMA, Lieutenant Rodriguez's colorful service became Arman's motivation to follow his footsteps. Arman retired as Commodore, after joining the sea dog list of Magilas, and became a professor in two academic institutions in Palawan having earned his PhD. He has a son in the Nurse Corps, AFP, Major Rafael Rodriguez, and another daughter undergoing training in the PCG as a coast guard nurse, Probationary Ensign Diana Rodriguez.

Joey Salvacion, the Class First Captain, is the son of Master Sergeant Juan Mayo Salvacion PC who joined the Constabulary Signal Corps in Camp Crame but retired in Tarlac Provincial Command based in Camp Makabulos in 1975. Sergeant Salvacion was influenced by his brother Jose, who died in the *Bataan Death March*. Joey's name was in honor of his Uncle Jose, demonstrating his father's reverence to his older brother similar to Pol Bataoil's story. Joey retired as Police Major General after a colorful career including postings at the Office of the President and the PNP Academy. He clenched the distinction of naming a son "Magilas" in honor of the Class. Police Lieutenant Colonel Magilas Salvacion who entered the PNP with Romy Hilomen's surreptitious assistance and without Joey's prior knowledge, retired optionally for another meaningful career.

Joe Solidum father, Jose Solidum (+) was with USAFFE troops in Bataan during WWII and survived the *Bataan Death March*. Veteran Jose and Joe's uncle, then Major Maximino Bejar PROF (+) of PMA Class 1958, successfully convinced Joe to enter PMA. His uncle eventually became the 14th Dean, Corps of Professors, AFP. Joe completed the entire plebehood training before his admission to the US Coast Guard Academy where he graduated a year later. He obtained his command at sea badge after commanding several ships, joined the skippers' club and retired as Rear Admiral after commanding a joint task force in Malampaya, a naval force in Eastern Mindanao and the Naval Sea Systems Command.

Pipes Tabas' (+) father, Felipe Tabas Sr (+) 524873 PC motivated his son to enter the Academy while assigned at PMA. Airborne-trained Felipe Sr. was a Vietnam veteran having joined the PHILCAGV in the 1960s and once assumed as PMA Command Sergeant Major. Pipes assisted his father to influence his four (4) other siblings to join the profession of arms. Pipe's nephew, Army LtCol Rowel Tabas, followed his footsteps in PMA graduating in 2001. He retired as Commander, GHQ and HSC and Camp Commander of the AFP general headquarters in Quezon City.

Gerry "Andy" Tenazas belongs to the very few families that had "three-generation" alumni of the Academy. Both his grandfather and father greatly motivated Andy to spend some time in the military. His father, Army Lieutenant Colonel Dominador Tenazas (+) O-1992 PA was a classmate of Raul Caballes' Dad who belong to the "Forever Plebe" Class of 1945. His grandfather, Army Lieutenant Colonel Deogracias Tenazas (+) O-1131, a Distinguished Conduct Star awardee for gallantry during the war and a *Bataan Death March* survivor, belonged to PC Academy Class of 1918 and retired in 1949. Two public elementary schools were named after Colonel Deogracias Tenazas in recognition of his heroic military service: one in Aklan and another one in Lanao del Norte. Andy's father Colonel Dominador Tenazas, on the other hand, was a Korean War veteran assigned 10th BCT where he was wounded in action and subsequently awarded a Gold Cross. He served as Tactical Officer in PMA for some time before optionally retiring in 1961. Andy retired optionally, like his father, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel to pursue other preoccupations abroad.

Louie Ticman's father, Police Sergeant Bonifacio Ticman (+) was a police detective in the Manila's finest, Manila Police Department, who became a Muntinlupa municipal mayor in the 1960s. He nurtured his two sons to join the profession of arms to serve the country. Louie later learned that his father skillfully influenced him to take the PMA examination after "detecting" that he was being lured by radical students in high school to join the leftist movement. His older brother, Army Colonel Raul Ticman followed him in the Academy and graduated a year later with PMA Class 1977. Louie is the Class awardee of the Zobel scholarship and a recipient of the Wounded Personnel Medal. He retired as a Police Major General. After retirement he served as a Rotary International District Governor and went on to become an accomplished entrepreneur.

Jess Verzosa's father, Colonel Pedro Verzosa (+) PA, commanded an infantry battalion in Lanao Del Sur where our Mistah Lakay, Second Lieutenant Edward Aurelio O-7254 PA served as one of his junior officers (Edward perished in an encounter while in that battalion). Then Major Verzosa influenced Jess to join the service when student activism was at the peak. Colonel Verzosa retired at the office of The Adjutant General, AFP in 1987 after twice witnessing his son's meritorious promotions. He lived long enough after retirement to see Jess getting two more meritorious promotions before reaching the apex of national police leadership. Jess's retirement few months before his 56th birthday demonstrated his respect to his subordinates who have shown the requisite leadership attributes and managerial expertise but lacked material time to lead the organization. Jess is one of the Class's multi-awards recipients.

Alvids Viduya (+) was a Baguio boy whose father Master Sergeant Teodorico Viduya Sr. (+) was a trombonist in the PMA band retiring in 1967 after 27 years in the military. Teodorico Sr. had an older son, Police Brigadier General Teodorico Viduya Jr. who graduated with PMA Class 1971. The "senior-junior" tandem played a major role in convincing Alvids, who apparently inherited his father's musical talent including playing guitar, to enter PMA. Alvids retired as an Army major and left a loving family that remembers Alvid's contributions to the military service and his love to his family.

Alex Yapching is the son of Army Corporal Carlos Yapching (+) who joined the 71st Division at the start of the war and fought in Bataan under Army 3rd Lieutenant Antonio Romero of PMA 1941. Then Corporal Yapching survived the infamous *Bataan Death March* and later raised a family in Mambaling, Cebu City. His war sacrifices, embedded in Alex's consciousness throughout his military career, secured a tertiary level educational scholarship for Alex's younger brother. Alex's feats as tactical officer in PMA remain unsurpassed in terms of popularity and "snappity." He was an Army Brigade Commander when his unit captured a notorious southern terrorist based in Sulu earning him the title "international terrorist hunter" and retired as 5th Infantry Division Commander.

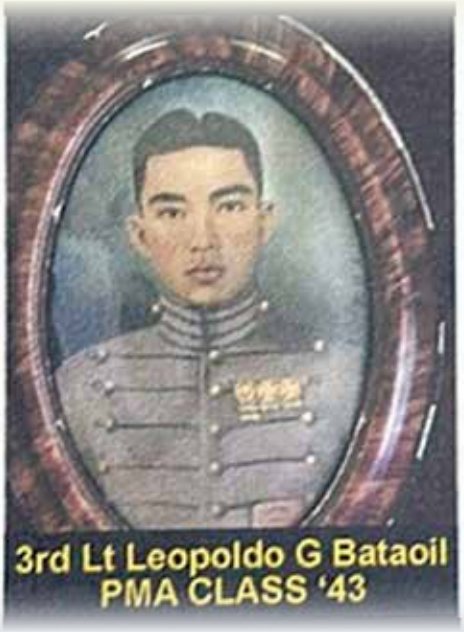
Looking back, the true strength of the Class may be attributed not only in the physical number of its members but also in the collective wisdom of their ascendants, gained from the principles, values, beliefs and experiences learned and embraced for common good, that were passed upon their descendants. Such wisdom further strengthened the organizational ethos of the uniformed services.

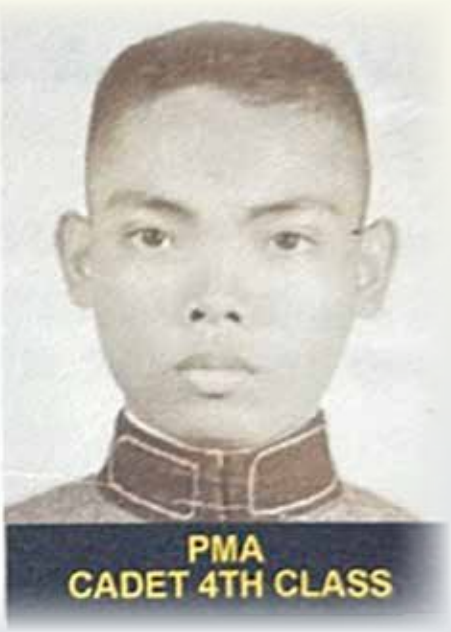
Kudos to the Magilas fathers and close relatives for their contributions in defending the nation and preserving the Filipino way of life by shaping the character and mindset of the members of PMA Magilas Class of 1976!

A Tale of Two PLEBEHOODS

- **Cav Leopoldo N Bataoil '76**







If I offer you P1M, would you be willing to undergo plebehood again? Any plebe would probably say, "Sir, No Sir!". I wouldn't even think of it!

I went through plebehood not once but twice. But by fate I was a probationary cadet or "proby" at the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), Class of 1974.

I again became a "plebe", this time at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA), Class of 1975.

Surprised? Let me tell you my story, entitled, "A Tale of Two Plebehoods."

When I graduated from Pangasinan Provincial High School, Batch 1970, I was not qualified for PMA cadetship because I was only 16 years old. Our high school valedictorian, Roberto G Sylim made it as a member of PMA '74. However, I passed the entrance examinations of PMMA, which admitted high school graduates.

I became a proby and went through the mills as a BS Marine Engineering cadet. Life at PMMA in Fort Bonifacio was very regimented, but many of us remained focused on:

- Academic scholarship
- Shipboard experience abroad during our third year
- Weekend leaves (even for probys) in Metro Manila
- And the high pay awaiting graduates

Part of our daily grind included physical exercises, road runs around old Fort Bonifacio, and precision drills that made PMMA stand out during the June 12 Philippine Independence Day parade in Luneta. Maintaining snappy, clean uniforms, orderly bunks, spotless heads (toilets), and pristine barracks inside and out, all part of everyday routine.

At the back of my mind, however, was a dream: to become a cadet at the PMA, following in the footsteps of my late uncle, 3rd Lt Leopoldo De Guzman Bataoil (LGB), a member of PMA '43, his body was never recovered during the WWII.

I took the PMA entrance examinations in 1970, during one of my weekend leaves from PMMA. Having passed, I cleared out and bade farewell to my beloved PMMA. I considered my departure simply a part of life for harboring no negative feelings, only gratitude and best wishes.

I reported to PMA on April 1, 1971, as a member of PMA Makabayan Class of 1975, where I was received by then Cadet Percy Brawner, a very snappy member of PMA '72.

As a plebe, I ran up and down the hills of Fort Del Pilar, including Cavalry Hills. As the plebe song goes:





As each Saturday adds to our past
Every month filled with mem'ries that last
We have left at the end of each day
Some weak habits of thought or of play
Insignificant in their esteem
'Till the day that it's still but a dream
The parades and inspections And then the corrections
Are part of our glorious scheme Knock! Knock!

Oh we'll do or die
Raise our knees waist high
For we've learned to do
Without asking why
Though we often doze
Change within us grows And true manliness clearly shows
Knock! Knock!

"Kings of Barracks" during Christmas breaks, Load and Load during glory days, the Hundred Nights Show, Recognition, and many other events defined our plebe life, on and on it went. Whew, those were the days.

So how did I graduate in 1976 as part of the snappiest and most Magilas of all classes, one that produced 42 generals or 59.15% of the 71 Magilas Class of PMA'76, as follows:

Two Generals, one Royal Thai Army General, one Police General, five Lt Generals, three Vice Admirals, two Police Lt Generals, seven Major Generals, two Rear Admirals, 10 Police Major Generals, five Brig Generals, two Commodores and two Police Brig Generals.

Additionally, 26 are honorary members and four are associate members. They are prominent businessmen and women who excelled in various fields and have contributed to the well being of PMAAAI.

Twenty five Magilas have already joined the Great Creator, but always remembered in special ways.

Haha… now you know.

Each member of PMA MAGILAS CLASS '76, regular, honorary or associate, dead or alive, has contributed to nationbuilding.





GLOBAL OIL CRISIS

and the Philippine Economy, as of Mar 17, 2026

• CAV WILFREDO G NUQUI '68

I. Context

The current Middle East armed conflict is an unprecedented global shock of multiple and negative consequences. It is reversing global peace and economic and social gains. Iran has counter-attacked U.S. allies in the Middle East and has choked off the Strait of Hormuz. At least 20% of globally sourced oil and natural gas reportedly passes through the Strait. A US-led mission to open the Strait has received cold response from Allies. It is unclear how long the conflict will last.

The war challenges the United Nations System's core objectives to maintain international peace and security, support sustainable development and uphold international law. The Philippine government is actively campaigning for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2027–2028 term, with elections scheduled for June 3, 2026.

II. Initial Impacts and Responses in Philippines

1. Staggered increases in power, water, transport and other utility prices have started. The price of rice has likewise risen. Initial government subsidy has been granted to most negatively affected groups e.g., public transport operators and drivers, persons in crisis conditions as identified by DSWD, farmers in need of oil-based fertilizers and municipal fishers in need of fuel. Congress has approved a measure granting the President emergency powers to lower or suspend the excise tax on petroleum products. Philippines (PH) is the most vulnerable among ASEAN 5 given its lower per capita income and fiscal buffer. PH unemployment rate was 5.8% (2.96 million) in Jan 2026 (*PSA*) while poverty rate was 15.5% (*PSA*) in 2003 and 50% (self rated, *SWS*) in 2025.
2. Current PH oil reserves are only sufficient until April 2026 (DoE). Long-term and secured importation of oil via PNOC and other means is ongoing, and
3. Speculative pressures on the PH-USD exchange rate (which reached 59.5 at one time) is principally being addressed through Bangko Sentral's pro-active monetary and financial intervention.

III. Other Priority PH Actions

1. Seeking secured supply especially from non-Middle East oil sources e.g., Brunei, Indonesia, Canada and even Russia,
2. Finalizing the proposed ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement by the PH-chaired 2026 ASEAN summit. In addition, ASEAN could seriously consider the conversion of its present free trade area into a common market similar to the European Common Market to eliminate remaining trade barriers among member states,
3. Minimizing likely negative fiscal and economic effects e.g., a) slower GNP growth of <5% in 2026, b) lower government revenues (<17% of GNP), c) reduced remittances from affected OFWs in the Middle East (18% of USD35.6B remittances in 2025), and d) rise in the budget deficit (>3.5% of GNP in 2026) and national debt (>60% of GNP in 2026), and
4. Implementing stronger fiscal and structural reforms. The value added tax (VAT) has become the backbone of revenue systems around the world, generating more than one-third of total tax revenue, even in many low- and middle-income countries. VAT is relatively efficient because it taxes consumption broadly while allowing firms to deduct taxes paid on inputs, which reduces cascading effects along supply chains (*IMF*).

IV. Continuing Policy Challenges and Opportunities Facing PH

1. Realignment of the CY 2006 GAA's P13B Contingent Fund and Local Support Funds to LGUs amounting to ₱57.87B;
2. Fresh Congressional and LGU legislation e.g., expanded VAT and reallocation of proposed appropriations for 2027;
3. More effective anti-corruption, transparent and anti-corruption action by the government and judicial system;
4. Improving incentives on domestic and renewable energy sources (presently 22% of PH energy requirements); and
5. Maximizing access to official development assistance and technical advice from multilateral banks and bilateral sources e.g., Japan and S. Korea. IMF and ADB will release the informative World Economic Outlook and Asian Development Outlook, respectively in April 2026.

Principal sources of basic data: Bloomberg, DBM, DoE, Economist, IMF, DepDEV, PSA, World Bank and respected business news sources

Standing With Those Who Stand Guard: TGPMA HOP's Year-End Support for West Philippine Sea Frontliners

Cav Generoso S Senga '72, Chairman • **Cav Robert D Yap '82**, President

The Graduates of the Philippine Military Academy Helping Out Project Foundation Inc. (TGPMA HOP) operates as a non-stock non-profit organization which unites PMA graduates who want to serve their community after their military service. The TGPMA HOP FOUNDATION INC. (TGPMA HOP) core values of COMPASSION, GRATEFULNESS and GIVING BACK continue to guide TGPMA HOP FOUNDATION, INC. which uses members' donations to create specific programs that assist military personnel and their loved ones particularly those serving in the most challenging defense positions.

The West Philippine Sea (WPS) duty assignment stands as one of the most difficult tasks among all others. The WPS deployment of military personnel requires them to endure ongoing physical exhaustion while being away from their loved ones for extended periods and facing dangerous operational conditions. The families of these watchful guardians who protect Philippine sovereignty and national interest must endure the psychological costs and monetary expenses which result from their time away from home and their unknown future and their selfless dedication. The support we give to these families represents more than charity because it acknowledges our collective duty as a nation.

The WPS personnel's families received assistance from TGPMA HOP as the latter's year-end project. The Foundation obtained its funding through the prompt and unified response of members' voluntary donations which were intended for this particular initiative. The initiative received tremendous support from the Aguinaldo Vets and Associates Credit Cooperative (AVACC) which matched all donations collected by TGPMA HOP members. The project received a double impact because of this matching contribution which demonstrated how institutions working together for service and patriotism can achieve greater results.

The official presentation of assistance took place last December 18, 2025 at the Western Command (WESCOM) Liaison Office located in Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo Quezon City. The support arrived at WESCOM under the command of VICE ADMIRAL ALFONSO F TORRES JR '91.

The donation was formally received by CAPT JOSEPH C GALVEZ '99 PN (GSC), U1, WESCOM and CAPT OLIVER OBONGEN '99 PN (GSC), U2, WESCOM, in behalf of VADM ALFONSO TORRES of the Western Command (WESCOM). The funds were generated through the collective contributions of TGPMA HOP members, with AVACC providing an equivalent support, reflecting a shared commitment to the welfare of military families.

The turn over was led by GEN GENEROSO S SENGA '72 AFP (Ret), Chairman of TGPMA HOP and Mr. LEO CABANTAC who serves as President and CEO of AVACC together with BGEN MANUEL B MARIANO '62 AFP (Ret), MGEN MELCHOR ROSALES '68 AFP (Ret), and former CAPT ROBERTO YAP '82. The event demonstrated both organizational teamwork and individual dedication from leaders who recognize the challenges encountered by military personnel.

The members of TGPMA HOP FOUNDATION, INC. express their deepest appreciation to all supporters who donated funds which enabled this project to succeed and to AVACC for providing essential matching funds. The Foundation expresses its gratitude to WESCOM and VADM ALFONSO F TORRES JR because they provided open access and coordinated efforts and maintained their position as leaders who protect national maritime security.

The end-of-year project demonstrates that national defenders along with their family members receive the recognition they deserve. TGPMA HOP Foundation, Inc. along with its partners maintain their support for defenders through their combined efforts of unity and shared responsibility and ongoing dedication.



TGPMA HOP and AVACC turned over P720,000 for the families of military personnel assigned at WPS. (From left to right): BGEN MANUEL B MARIANO '62, MGEN MELCHOR P ROSALES '68, GEN GENEROSO S SENGA '72, Mr. LITO CABANTAC, CAPT JOSEPH C GALVEZ '99 PN, U1, CAPT OLIVER OBONGEN '99 PN, U2, Former CAPT ROBERTO D YAP '82.

Feeling Healthy at 76

(Health is Wealth, Invest in It)

• CAV ARISTON V DELOS REYES '71

Health is wealth. It calls for long - term investments through physical exercise, balanced dieting, maintaining normal body mass index, periodic medical and dental consultations, and stress management. Self-discipline is a must. There is no short cut nor panacea to good health.

I feel healthy at age 76, now that I am 17 years beyond the healthy adjusted life expectancy (HALE) for Filipinos at age 58.8. Likewise, I am about two years above the HALE for Singaporeans at 73.6 based on World Health Organization (WHO) data in 2021. HALE is the average number of years that a person could expect to live in "full health" since birth. It takes into account years in less than full health due to disease and or injury. Singapore has the highest HALE in the world. The HALE for Japan is 73.4, Canada at 69.8 and United States at 63.9. The Philippines' HALE is below the world average of 61.9 and ranks 125 out of 186 countries and also is the lowest in ASEAN.

Thus, based on HALE in 2021, I feel a bit wealthier than most Singaporeans and corollarily, most of the entire world's population. Somehow, it makes me feel like a millionaire in health.

Below are some specific indicators of my health:

1. My laboratory tests last January 2026 had normal results for fasting blood sugar (FBS), HbA1c, BUN, uric acid, cholesterol, triglycerides, creatinine, SGPT and SGOT and PSA. In 2022, I underwent endoscopy, colonoscopy, 2D Echo, chest X ray, ECG, and abdominal ultrasound with no significant findings that would necessitate treatment. At rest, my blood pressure is at 110/70 and pulse rate at 57- 60 per minute.
2. I have not yet been hospitalized since graduating from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1971 for any illness. Likewise, I had not been absent from duty while still in the active service for being sick nor had I been bedridden at home since retirement from government service in 2010.
3. During the pandemic from 2020 to 2023, I tested positive for Covid-19 virus twice. In both instances, I quarantined at home to recover.
4. At present, I do not need to take maintenance medicine for any illness. Though genetics makes me predisposed to acquiring diabetes and high blood pressure, I do not have them yet.
5. My dental health is still okay. I only had one tooth extracted and that was sometime in 1988. Dental health is important. According to Karl Jung, renowned Swiss psychiatrist, A PERSON WITH A TOOTHACHE CAN NEVER BE IN LOVE.

My father used to remind me that HEALTH IS WEALTH and I believe him so I did not follow his unhealthy practices like smoking and eating fatty and salty foods. He had high blood pressure in his late 50's. I also saw and felt how my mother suffered from the ill consequences of diabetes. She passed away before reaching the age of 50, when I was just 11 years old.

NASA DIYOS ANG AWA; hence, I prayed and yearned for good health. NASA TAO ANG GAWA; thus, I have observed healthful living practices through the years.

Since health is wealth, the following have been my long-term investments

1. Exercise. Four years in PMA starting on 1 April 1967 inculcated in and convinced me that exercise would keep me fit and healthy. My grades in physical education and physical fitness tests had been consistently below average and they pulled down my overall performance in the Academy. Neither did I excel in sports as I had never won a single Major A (Champion) nor Minor A (Second Place) in any sport during intramurals. Nevertheless, since graduating in 1971, I have continued exercising regularly three times a week (more of jogging) and increased it to five times a week since my retirement in 2010 (age 60 after a four-year stint as an undersecretary at the Department of National Defense) for about 50 minutes per session of warm up, stretching and treadmilling. It is understood that exercising is a substitute to doing menial tasks, gardening, farming, etc., which have never been part of my daily routine. I never believe that a person is too busy not to exercise in order to be physically fit. Many of those who think so and remain sedentary are at risk of dying at an early age or spending more money for maintenance medicines in their senior years. Exercise contributes not only to one's physical fitness but also to mental health. It stimulates the pituitary gland to release endorphins which leads to a feeling of well-being. It can lower the symptoms of depression and anxiety. It can help mitigate the effects of stress. It makes one feel high. Stress management in life is key to healthy living and exercise has helped me cope with stress while in the military service and in years thereafter. Indeed, I cannot overemphasize that I owe it to the physical education and fitness program in PMA that I have remained healthy even in my retirement years. (As I age, I have to adjust and gradually slow down the speed of treadmilling from 7.5 to 3.5 kilometers per hour then added more exercises for muscle stretching, joint movements, and balancing.)

2. Maintain normal weight. Looking at the mirror can be deceiving; a weighing scale at the bathroom is more truthful. It reminds me when to reduce food intake. In 1971, I was 154; then 154 to 158 pounds until 2010. Thereafter, I reduced rice and red meats and added more fruits and vegetables in my meals. I am now comfortable at 150 pounds. At 5' 9'', my body mass index (BMI) is 22 which is well within the normal range (20- 25).

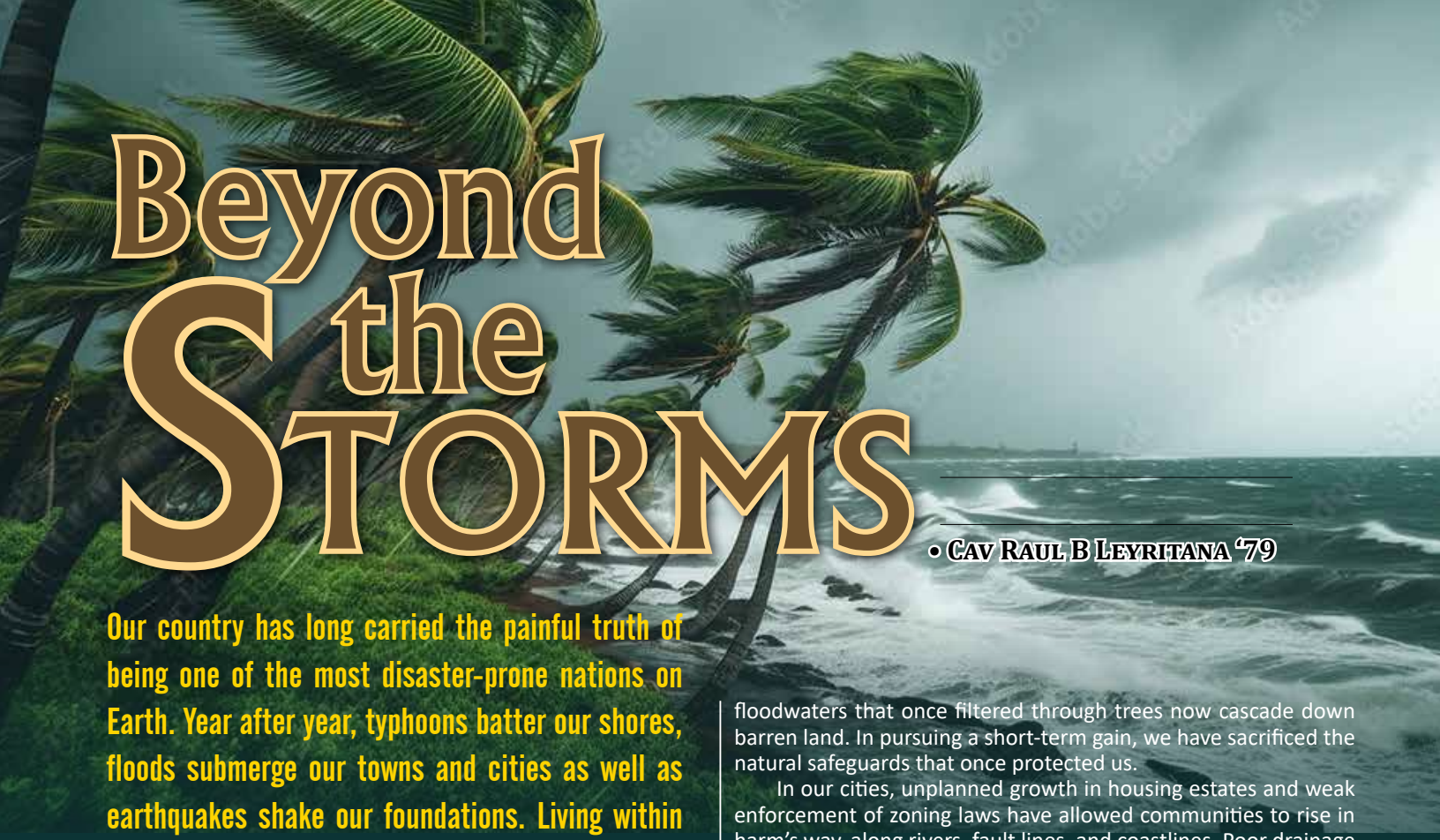
3. Monitor medical and dental health. While in the service, I used to avail of the annual physical examination at AFP hospitals and semi-annual consultation at dental dispensaries. After retirement, I still undergo periodic medical and dental check-up. I believe in the great expression AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE.

4. Manage stress. In retirement, I realized that while exercising helps in relieving stress, praying is vital too in giving me peace of mind. In this regard, part of my morning and evening prayers has been The Serenity Prayer: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference." For added daily relaxation, I listen/watch video music during daytime. I limit my time for social media ang browsing the internet to avoid "information overload" which could be stressful. My phone and laptop are usually off from sunset to sunrise.

Sharing Health Experience

For years, I have shared my experience with relatives specially cousins, nephews, nieces from my mother's side who are genetically prone to diabetes, and also with friends, high school classmates, mistahs and fellow Cavaliers, hoping that I could help them and their loved ones experience the joy and comfort of being healthy as they age. At home, I am glad to note that members of the family exercise in their chosen ways; watchful of their diets; everybody maintains a normal weight and body mass index. Thank God; no one is diabetic yet.

HEALTH IS WEALTH; FOR YOUR SAKE AND OF YOUR LOVED ONES, INVEST IN IT … AND BE A MILLIONAIRE IN HEALTH!



Beyond the Storms

• CAV RAUL B LEYRITANA '79

Our country has long carried the painful truth of being one of the most disaster-prone nations on Earth. Year after year, typhoons batter our shores, floods submerge our towns and cities as well as earthquakes shake our foundations. Living within the Pacific Ring of Fire and the typhoon belt, we are continuously reminded of both the beauty and the fury of our islands.

Yet our country's geographic location should not be the sole reason why we have endured so much suffering from the periodic typhoons, occasional volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes that strike our land. A deeper cause lies in our inability to anticipate and adequately prepare for the adverse effects of these natural calamities.

This reality was recently affirmed by the admission of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself, who candidly acknowledged the government's unpreparedness for the massive flooding in Cebu brought by Super Typhoon Tino. What happened in Cebu and in many other areas nationwide repeatedly hit by disasters is a sobering reminder that our greatest weakness is not the calamity itself, but our lack of readiness when it comes.

The toll of these disasters is devastating. Crops are wiped out, roads and bridges destroyed, and livelihoods washed away, the fruits of years of toil and hardwork reduced to rubble. Schools become evacuation centers instead of places of learning, displacing children and disrupting education. Families lose their homes, their sense of safety, and sometimes, their hope. Security forces must shift from defending peace to saving lives. Progress slows, and the cycle of poverty and inequality deepens.

But much of our suffering is not caused by nature alone. It is worsened by human negligence and greed. Forests have been stripped bare by illegal logging, mountains damaged by irresponsible mining, and mangroves cleared for profit, leaving some of our communities defenseless. Watersheds, slopes, and uplands have been recklessly converted for private use, while the floodwaters that once filtered through trees now cascade down barren land. In pursuing a short-term gain, we have sacrificed the natural safeguards that once protected us.

In our cities, unplanned growth in housing estates and weak enforcement of zoning laws have allowed communities to rise in harm's way, along rivers, fault lines, and coastlines. Poor drainage systems fail, floodwaters rise, and the most vulnerable are forced to live in danger zones. When disaster strikes, it is always the poor who suffer the most.

Worse still, corruption and complacency deepen the wound. Time and again, disaster funds are delayed or misused. Promises of rebuilding fade as political priorities shift. We rebuild what was destroyed, yet seldom reform what caused the destruction. In the absence of effective accountability, resilience becomes a slogan instead of a way of life.

We must break this cycle. Preparedness during the onslaught of calamities should never be an afterthought, it must be a national mindset. Investing in early warning systems (Project Noah), resilient infrastructure, and community training is certainly not a luxury but a necessity for survival. Our schools, hospitals, and homes should stand as fortresses against the next storm, not as casualties waiting to happen.

Equally vital is the healing of our environment. Reforestation, watershed protection, and the revival of mangroves and coral reefs are not merely environmental goals, they are acts of defense and hope. When we care for nature, nature defends us in return.

That said, government must enact stronger laws on proper land use, watershed protection, disaster-resilient infrastructure, modern flood-control systems, and climate adaptation. These must be reinforced by effective waste management, green building policies, and community-based disaster preparedness programs.

In sum, we must confront climate change not as a distant threat but as a present crisis already shaping our daily lives. Though we contribute little to global emissions, we suffer greatly from their consequences, the rising seas, stronger storms, and unpredictable weather.

We cannot stop the storms and other natural calamities. But, we can rise above them, wiser, stronger, and united. Preparedness is not a choice; it is a mindset our nation must embrace.



Photo source: Reuters/Nicky Loh

Why National Development

• Cav Ricardo C Morales '77

Geography and National Development: The Philippine Case in Comparative Perspective

Scholars widely recognize geography as an important structural factor influencing national development, particularly through its effects on economic integration, state formation, and social cohesion (Diamond; Sachs; Herbst). Although geography does not strictly determine outcomes, it establishes constraints and opportunities that shape state capacity and economic performance. The Philippines, an archipelagic nation of more than 7,600 islands, illustrates these dynamics clearly. Comparative analysis with its Southeast Asian neighbors further clarifies how geography interacts with institutions and policy choices.

Economic Fragmentation and Developmental Constraints

Spatial economics literature emphasizes that geographic continuity supports integrated markets and low logistics costs (Krugman; Fujita, Krugman, and Venables). Conversely, archipelagic states face higher transport and infrastructure burdens. In the Philippines, the cost of moving goods and people between islands is significantly higher than in contiguous states such as Thailand or Vietnam (Balisacan and Hill). This contributes to the concentration of economic activity in Metro Manila and a few regional hubs, leaving peripheral islands underdeveloped.

Comparatively, Indonesia faces similar archipelagic challenges but has achieved greater regional integration through large-scale infrastructure investment (Hill). Vietnam's continuous landmass, by contrast, has enabled rapid north–south economic linkage, a process more difficult in the Philippine setting.

State Formation, Localism, and Central Authority

Political scientists argue that fragmented geographies often give rise to decentralized authority structures and weak central states (Herbst; Scott). Philippine precolonial communities developed autonomously, and neither Spanish nor American colonial administrators achieved full penetration across the islands (Abinales and Amoroso). This legacy persists in the form of political dynasties and strong provincial executives who mediate national authority.

Indonesia shares similar ethnic and geographic fragmentation, yet its post-independence governments—especially under Suharto—were more successful in centralizing political control (Ricklefs). Malaysia also benefits from the geographic cohesion of Peninsular Malaysia, which supports more consistent central governance. In Thailand and Vietnam, contiguous territory historically allowed stronger central states to emerge earlier and more effectively.

Cultural Diversity, Social Fragmentation, and Nation-Building

Geographic barriers promote linguistic and cultural diversity. The Philippines' archipelagic setting produced more than 170 languages and numerous regional identities (Reid). While this diversity enriches cultural life, it complicates national integration, as local affiliations often outweigh national identity.

Conversely, Indonesia, despite far greater ethnolinguistic diversity, partially mitigated fragmentation by adopting Bahasa Indonesia as a unifying language. Vietnam's narrower range of linguistic diversity and contiguous geography facilitated stronger national cohesion. Malaysia, though ethnically diverse, still benefits from a more unified physical geography that aids consistent nation-building.

Environmental Vulnerability and Developmental Burden

The Philippines' position along the Pacific Ring of Fire and the typhoon belt heightens developmental challenges, with frequent disasters inflicting regular economic losses and diverting resources from long-term development (Bankoff). Although Indonesia faces seismic risk, it experiences fewer major cyclones. Vietnam,



Continues to Evade THE PHILIPPINES

likewise struck by typhoons, benefits from contiguous land that simplifies disaster logistics, while Malaysia and Singapore face far fewer natural hazards.

Geography and Institutions: A Conditional Relationship

Contemporary development research stresses that while geography creates structural conditions, institutions ultimately mediate developmental outcomes (Acemoglu and Robinson; Rodrik, Subramanian, and Trebbi). The Philippines' geographic challenges are intensified by institutional weaknesses, but comparative cases show they can be mitigated. Japan demonstrates that even highly fragmented island geographies can be overcome with strong institutions, while Indonesia's experience shows progress is possible through sustained investment and centralized coordination.

Thus, while geography has profoundly shaped the Philippine developmental experience, it interacts continuously with institutional capacity, political leadership, and long-term policy choices.

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Oh, proud and bold you stand
Bright beacon of the land...

...May thy sons ever be men of integrity, courage and loyalty.

CLASS CALL

MANUEL B MARIANO
President
RAYMUNDO L LOGAN
Secretary

An Ordinary Family,
An Extraordinary Legacy

The story of BGen Eduardo Fernandez, proud member of PMA Class of 1962, is not only about his military service but also about the family he built with his wife, Gloria Patangan, whom he married in 1964. Together, they raised five children instilling in them the values of discipline, perseverance, and love for learning.

Ed's career in the Philippine Army spanned decades of service and leadership. Rising from 2nd Lieutenant in 1962 to Brigadier General in 1991, he commanded units across the country, including the 1st Infantry Division in Pagadian and the 3rd Infantry Division in Jamindan, Capiz. His assignments reflected both courage and dedication: from leading Special Forces in Vietnam to serving as Battalion and Brigade Commander in Mindanao and the Visayas. He completed advanced military schooling in Australia and earned numerous awards, among them the Gold Cross Medal and Distinguished Service Stars. His legacy in uniform is one of valor, discipline, and steadfast service to the nation.

Beside him stood Glo, whose own contributions strengthened the Army community. She served as a long-running president of the Philippine Army Ladies Club and was a member of the PA Lovely











Sounds, embodying grace, leadership, and camaraderie.

Their children carried forward the values of education and service. Edelouisa finds fulfillment in the simple joys of home life. Gwendolyn built a career in Human Resources with the United Nations, serving in several countries before retiring. Her husband Joseph Estrada is a graphic artist, and their daughter Lea is studying at Ateneo. Edyglo, formerly with Metrobank, is married to Richard Aquino, a PMA Class '91 graduate and now a PAL pilot. Their son Elijah, who graduated magna cum laude, is married to CJ Joaquin, while their daughter Kayla, a proud Ateneo alumna, carries forward the family's tradition of excellence. Glorianne, an accomplished architect, resides in New York City with her husband Paulo Bautista, who graduated from the Wharton Business School. The youngest and only son, Andro, has established prominence in data science. Though the family has not lived through extraordinary events, their story reflects enduring values. The lessons of PMA - discipline, integrity, and service - live on in the way they support one another, celebrate milestones, and remain grounded in principles passed down by their parents.

Ordinary in circumstance but extraordinary in spirit, the Fernandez family stands as a testament to unity and legacy across generations.

Written by: Gwen Fernandez-Estrada

MIGUEL A LEONARDO
President
EVERLINO P NARTATEZ
Secretary

Greetings from the PMA MULAWIN CLASS 1965!

We convey our heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all Senior and Junior host classes in 2026 as well as to everyone who have exerted great efforts in coming all the way from various places on earth to the hallowed ground of our great institution, our beloved PMA for the annual homecoming this year of the Fire Horse, which is being held for the first time on the 3rd Saturday of February. Congratulations! May you reach beyond your Diamond Jubilee years as 2026 being the year of the Fire Horse which represents passion, independence and rapid change as this year focuses on ambition, bold action and adventure. It is dynamic, high energy year suitable for pursuing long time dreams. Fire is associated with energy, enthusiasm and transformation. Those born under the horse sign are known for being hardworking, social and energetic although some can be impulsive. Of course I would be remiss in my job as Class Secretary if I fail to mention that our Class despite being already a Diamond Jubilarian + 1 through Mulawin Major General Jose C Lapus (Ret.) still continues to shine and remains in the limelight. Congratulations, Sir JOLAPS, for continuing to receive awards and accolades as an awardee this year of the CAVALIER AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT. WELL DONE AND MUCH DESERVING INDEED!

For our Class PMA MULAWIN CLASS 1965, last month and this month have brought sadness and deep mourning for the death respectively, of MAJOR GENERAL ALFONSO TAN DELOS SANTOS and PLT GENERAL ANDRES M SUPERABLE. Their passing away have now been reduced to 24 Mulawins who are still alive and kicking. To-Ans who died January 15, 2026 after bravely fighting a lingering illness and undergoing thrice a week medical procedure (dialysis) has now joined his one and only Evelyn who had gone ahead of him by about five years and they are now happily together in the Great Beyond with the Lord. He is survived by their three children, one of whom (Dino) has remained in the country while the two others are in the US and Singapore pursuing their respective career and profession. During the wake and necro service, the PMA MULAWIN CLASS 1965, amply representing the PAF, PA, PC/PNP and PN were there -- Joe Lapus (PA; Jess Candelario (PAF); Rolly Cauton (PC) and Gerry Guzman (PN). Four others were present during the arrival honors rendered when the body arrived at LNMB for the wake at the murtuary Chapel 1 -- Ofring Marcelo (PN) Pat Duque (PN); Doming Habos (PAF) and Tates Nartatez (PC/PNP).

On the other hand, PLT GENERAL ANDRES M SUPERABLE died on February 12, 2026 at the age of 84, about 10 years after receiving a new kidney. He died in the US, where he migrated after retirement in 1998. He was the No. 3 man (DCO - Deputy Chief of Operations) in the PNP hierarchy when he officially bowed out from the service and retired at the mandatory age of 56. As none of our foreign-based classmates are near his place only Dr Evelyn Grace Nartatez Serag who is also based in Chicago was able to personally convey to Super's family our class's heartfelt condolences.

Last December 11, 2025, the PMA MULAWIN CLASS of 1965 was in high spirits notwithstanding the dwindling number of attendees as we celebrated another

Christmas party and get-together with Mistahs and their families. It was a great celebration as 20 Junior Mulawins joined the fun and merriment. The noontime colorful activity was held at the Matikas Hall of Camp Aguinaldo Golf Clubhouse which was simply and un-extravagantly decorated with balloons and *banderitas* contributing to the festive mood inherent to the Christmas spirit.

While the class had previously adopted the idea that FORTWITH all class activities would no longer be funded and supported by our likewise dwindling Class Fund, Pres Mike opted not to implement yet of this "KKB" as it would certainly and drastically affect the attendance on occasions such as a great undertaking that comes only once a year. Indeed our Christmas Party 2025 was held with good attendance. The ladies who have always been our OAOs and in colorful attires were Baby Duque (who have always put us in awe for her sensuous dancing of the Hawaiian Hula); Lita Marcelo; Mimi Habos; Lynn Nartatez; Lumen Olay (who finally joined us after many many years); Janet Lapus; Gloria Bergado; Rose Mary Monta; Boots Candelario and Dianne Malig. Mulawins in attendance were VP/Treasurer Egay Velasco; Ofring Marcelo; Jomari Solquillo; Pat Duque; Jess Candelario; Joey Mendoza; Tates Nartatez; Rolly Cauton; Roger Bergado; Doming COL Habos and Joe Lapus. Twenty Junior Mulawins were able to join us, Tingting Velasco; Raffy Alejandro; Sandy (newly promoted Marines Brig General); Bobet Bruce; JunJun Abadilla to name a few.

Birthday greetings to the following MULAWINS who celebrated/will celebrate their birthdays in January, February and March:

(1) Jun Arque - Mar 15;
(2) Mon Azurin - Mar 22
(3) Robert Bruce - Jan 6
(4) Emil de Leon (+) - Jan 21
(5) Al delos Santos (+) - Mar 10
(6) Ces Flor - Feb 1
(7) Doming COL Habos - Jan 20
(8) Ofring Marcelo - Jan 10
(9) Danny Olay (+) - Feb 12
(10) Romy Padiernos (+) - Mar 31
(11) Igna Santos (+) - Mar 10
(12) Steve Solis (+) - Feb 3
(13) Ladd Tangan - Mar 8
(14) Lito Tapia (+) - Jan 5
(15) and (16) Ed Abesamis (+) - Jan 3.
/ epn










MATIKAS HALL


MATIKAS HALL


MATIKAS HALL


MATIKAS HALL
Jordan


Jordan


OURAGE



Hosting lunch of pinapaitang kambing (SINGKUTSAR to us from Santa) kilawing kambing: and dinuguan of "Berlyn's" for Balikbayan nephews (Valdemar De Peralta w/ wife Vida Remulona and Marvic De Peralta w/ hubby Boyet Collado) at Double Three Dreamhomes Residence of Berlie and Lynn Nartatez, 24 Feb 2026.

MANUEL P ESPEJO
President
FREDELINO S BAUTISTA
Secretary

PAMBUNGAD

Sa wakas, nairaos na rin ang PMA Alumni Homecoming 2026, na kung saan, ang Class of 1966 ang nagdiwang at kinilala bilang Diamond anniversarians, ibig sabihin, mga nagsipagtapos sa Akademya 60 taon na ang nakaraan. At ang pagkakataong ito ay pinaghandaan ng Klase sa loob ng dalawang taon. At sa gawaing ito, ay tumulong ang tinatawag naming "brats," isang salita sa magandang pananaw.

At nagpapasalamat kaming lahat, kasama na ang aming mga maybahay at pamilya, sa Panginoong Diyos, dahil binigyan Niya kami ng mga araw at mga taon upang maabot at malampasan pa ang katamtamang haba ng buhay ng isang tao sa daigdig – 70-80 taon, ayon sa banal na kasulatan.

THE PREPARATION

Taking cue from earlier classes which prepared for their Diamond anniversaries, the Class core/coordinating group headed by Class President, Noli Espejo, likewise lost no time in making their so called "*Last Hurrah*," an affair to remember. As early as 2024, they made plans, conducted meetings, raised funds. The latter, was successful; enough funds were raised through the months, to pay for billeting, catering and transportation, among others. Of course, the more endowed/capable gave more, the others, their time and efforts to help, like Louie Fernandez and Edd Santos. To cut a long story short, the Alumni Homecoming 2026, came and passed. And the rest is history. It is now a blur, though a memorable one, something to remember once in a while, as we watch the sun set. "*Tempus fugit.*"

THREE WONDERFUL DAYS IN BAGUIO (20-22 FEB)

In Journalism, there is a saying that a picture is worth a thousand words. So, for this section, we will fill it with selected pictures which captured what we did in the City of Pines (no longer, with so many buildings dotting the once pine-covered mountains with houses and other buildings). Progress? Not exactly for those who were cadets very much early on, when the pristine environments, were protected.

The following events captured the memorable moments when we were there to celebrate our Diamond Anniversary of graduation, starting 20 February.

In the Morning of 21 February

The main event of the morning was the traditional alumni parade which brings together alumni of all classes, many even coming from far away places. For Baguio City, it creates a traffic monster of sort, forcing city authorities to adopt traffic control measures. Nevertheless, it also boosts its economy, indicators of which are the fully booked hotels and restaurant reservations for lunch and dinner.



Rec Sarmiento receives the Cavalier Award for Private Enteprise from Guest of Honor Senator Panfilo Lacson, also Leo Alvez for Special Fields (Inset).



Sixty-sixers who survived the trooping the line, not surprisingly, gather in front of the grandstand to acknowledge the cheers of the spouses and brats.

For this year, two mistahs received the prestigious Cavalier Awards in the various fields of endeavor, even outside the military service realm. They were Leo Alvez for Cavalier Award for Special Field (Retired Category) and Rec Sarmiento for Private Enterprise. (*Read their citations in the Special Edition of the Cavalier Magazine, February 2026 issue.)*

The following pictures adequately describe the festiveness, if not the emotions apparent throughout the day.

After the picture-taking sessions in various places, the sixty-sixers, spouses, brats and their companions trooped to the nearby covered tennis court where lunch graciously sponsored by Leo Alvez and Rec Sarmiento early on during the planning for the event, catered by a local caterer, was served.

A cadet combo was provided by PMA to render music. An unindentified sixty-sixer attempted to have them play a music of the sixties. But they could not find in their song book the requested song and so they continued with their modern songs, to the delight of the young ones.

Soon lunch was over, and the group retreated back to their hotels for a much needed rest for an expected hectic night of fun.

In the Evening

The day's activities were followed by another event which demonstrated the enthusiasm and skill of brats in managing programs, even at a short notice, in the evening socials which were hosted by them



The whole Class '66 delegation, pose with the Cadet Regimental Staff at the grandstand, after the Alumni Parade.



The brats take time for a souvenir photo at the stairs near the grandstand of the parade ground.

and carried on through the night. Emceed by Edwin Cordova, assisted by grandbrat Kyla Bautista, it was a night of fun, which included impromptu speeches and dancing by initially reluctant sixty-sixers.

There was one special number not expected, the slicing of a a cake symbolic of 60 years after graduation. It was gamely performed by the eldest and youngest sixty-sixers present during the occasion. And for posterity, there were group picture-takings of the husbands and wives and the brats themselves.



Ceremonial cutting of the cake symbolizing 60 years, done by the oldest and youngest sixty-sixer present for the evening.

On 22 February

The third day of the homecoming activities was much-awaited, especially by the young ones. Once more, on rare occasions, there would be an open house of the cadet barracks where they would have an opportunity to have a look at the insides of the rooms. To say the least, the young ones were most impressed.

Most of those impressed were the others in the grandstand who came in great numbers from all parts of the city, to watch the Silent Drill Exhibitions – first by a platoon of cadets, later by a company. This time, the executions were more sophisticated, even dangerous. Little did the spectators know that the precisions in steps and manual of arms, are the products of long practice, presence of mind, not to mention – intelligence and extra ordinary memory.

From the silent drill exhibitions, the class delegation proceeded to the cadet mess hall to have lunch with the cadets. This was previously arranged by the Class Coordinating Group during meetings with PMA officials. Again, to the uninitiated brats and grand brats, the spectacle of cadets eating their meals in a manner so different from the outside world, was a revelation. To the older sixty-sixers, it was a 'déjà vu'.

Finally, it was time to leave and go back to the hotels reluctantly, back to the buses for the trip home. This time, traffic back to Manila was bad along the highways. The group riding the MAAP buses finally reached home, early – one a.m. of 23 February, the next day.

THE WAY FORWARD

With many of us in our eighties, not so much with our ladies who are five – ten years younger, the years ahead will be our



Sixty-sixers, acting like terrible yearlings at the expense of guest upperclass cadets.



Ladies of Class '66 still pretty, all in a line, resplendent in their party attires.



Sixty-sixers in their 80s bracing up "like the dickens."



Our ladies, through the years, still manning the "home fronts", so to speak.



The young ones, whom we fondly call "brats", made a February night memorable and full of fun. Carry on!

remaining cherished moments. With so little time, when there is so much to enjoy – like growing grandchildren, we need to maintain our healthful conscious moments – like being able to walk, go places even in nearby malls, shopping centers, restaurants.

We are nevertheless heartened by what we have seen in the preparation and participation in the 2026 Alumni Homecoming - the enthusiasm of our first and second generation offsprings, who we now call *"brats."* Through them, we are assured that the legacies and memories of Class 1966, would be enshrined.

Through this issue of Class Call 1966, we extend to them our heartfelt gratitude for their role in our celebration of our 60th anniversary of graduation. Hopefully, some of them would follow our footsteps in choosing the profession of arms that truly serves this country.



Sample of a room in the cadet barracks.

THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATORS

January – Paz Bautista (10), Jelly Nicolas (18), Beth Payumo (23).

February – Leo Alvez (14), Bert Jabile (24), Bert Varona (16), Toots Totanes (20), Pons Millena (22)

March – Rhod Parrenas (01), Temi Arugay (10), Fe Cuison (16), Susan Gador (14), Mercy Dauz (25), Romy Bruce (29)

Maligayang araw ng pagsilang. Nawa, bigyan pa kayo ng Panginoon ng maraming pang mga araw at taon.

MARIANO R SANTIAGO
President
ROSAURO V SIBAL
Secretary

PMA DIMASUPIL CLASS OF 1967
(Fourth Quarter Report, October-December 2025)

ANY CAVALIER/ANYBODY READING THIS: WE NEED YOUR HELP IN LOCATING AND CONTACTING THE FOLLOWING CLASSMATES OF OURS WITH THEIR LAST KNOWN LOCATIONS:

1. **ARCADIO "ARCHIE" BALBOA – Somewhere in Antipolo**
2. **MOISES BOQUIREN - Canada**
3. **SANTOS "BAY" GABISON, JR. – Cebu**

Kindly respond through the following cp nos.:
Cav Mar Santiago – 09178063982
Cav Rufino Ibay – 09189265292
Cav Rosauro Sibal - 09175221644

As always, we held our "traditional birthday forum" for the following Dimasupils and Tagasupils who celebrated their birthdays in the months of October, November and December:

October: Lulu Larroza (4), Joe Andaya (6), Ching Ballecer (8), Sammy Tomas (9), Toto Salvana (9), Aging Alino (17), Andy Reyes (17), Mila Sadiarin (26), Norma Aliac (27), Sonia Briones (29), and Ronnie Ibay (31).

November: Bernie Patino (3), Libbie Brawner (4), Proserfina Torrechante (5), Penny Lastimoso (10), Merle Odi (13), Cesar Quiambao (17), Nora Ruelos (20), and Papoose Ballecer (29).

December: Moises Boquiren (4), Lulu Perez (6), Lea Libarnes (10), Emay Bautista (11), and Abe Sadul (27).

With Alice Averilla as Chairperson, the successful December forum was doubly significant because we held our Christmas Party and Remembrance Day for the following Dimasupils and Tagasupils who went ahead of us to the Great Beyond:

DIMASUPILS: Abendan, Romeo; Aguana, Rogelio; Aquino, Teodorico; Aruiza, Arturo; Averilla, Cesar; Baula, Cesar; Bautista, Luis; Bautista, Rolando; Bernabe, Araw; Boquiren, Martin; Buaquen, Victoriano; Carian, Teddy; Casillan, Julito III; Cordero, Mariano; Corpus, Victor; De Guzman, Alejandro; Dela Cruz, Federico; Diaz,



Dimasupil January '26 monthly Forum celebrating the Bdays of January-born Dima and Tagasupils.



January Birthday Celebrants: Bobby Lastimoso, Jun Avenido and Joseph Young and Mina Cordero. Myrna Espinosa and Hedy Dueñas.



The Tagasupils.

Napoleon; Dueñas, Felix Jr.; Endaya, Arturo; Enriquez, Romeo; Feranil, Manuel Jr.; Francisco, Medardo; Gabuna, Orville; Galang, Eduardo; Garcia, Cesar; Garcia, Victor; Ilano, Cesar; Larroza, Edmundo; Libarnes, Benjamin; Madrid, Santiago Jr.; Mensalvas, Marlo; Molato, Ruperto; Obillos, Arnulfo; Odi, Romeo; Panelo, Fabian; Paras, Lyle; Reventar, Manesio; Rimando, Noli; Ruelos, Rodolfo; Salomon, Alberto; Tanabe, Conrado; Vallejera, George; Ventura, Diony; Vila, Emory; and Villacorta, Victor.

HONORARY DIMASUPILS: Alvarez, Heherson; Aquino, Oscar; Dans, Jose Jr.; Fragante, Alfredo; Hidalgo, Rolando; Pajaro, Rodolfo; Ramsauer, Martin; Rigor, Reynaldo; Salomon, Cesar; Suarez, Fernando; Tucay, Orlando; and Velasco, Epimaco.

TAGASUPILS: Aliño, Norma; Austria, Zenaida; Baula, Leticia; Carian, Emma; Caruncho, Evelyn; Casillan, Salome; Corpus, Hermilinda; Dalipe, Maria Rosario; Diaz, Vicenta; Encarnacion, Yolanda; Endaya, Emma; Enriquez, Fredesminda; Francisco, Catherine; Ibañez, Nieves; Ilano, Pilar; Madrid, Remedios; Molato, Lorna; Obillos, Esmeralda; Paraz, Edna; Reyes, Remedios; Sadiarin, Antonita; Santiago, Evelyn; and Torrechante, Lorna.

HEALTH Updates: Mistah Nanding Perez is still in critical condition. Vir O is taking care of Marina; Bobby L is taking care of Penny; Ching B is taking care of Papoose; Jun I is taking care of Roni. We continuously pray for their recovery.

Discussions are also being held in preparation for the Diamond Jubilee of the Class in 2027, with Bobby Lastimoso, Abe Din and Erning Dionisio who are working on our fund-raising activity. Sergs Austria is taking the lead in selecting the best uniform for our Diamond Jubilee. Our sincere thanks to Mistah Jun Ibay for taking care of our quarterly update for the Cavalier Magazine.



There were eight Dimasupils who attended the 2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming: from L to R: Abe Din, Manny Dalipe, Ross Sibal, Dionix Dionisio, Jun Ibay, Mar Santiago, Jun Avenido and Louie Sanchez.



Tagasupils: L to R, Cora Din, Alice Averilla. Beth Santiago, Mandy Sibal, Dinsay Dionisio, May Sanchez, Lynz Gabuna, Joanna Din (daughter) and Agnes Avenido.



Photo of Dimasupils before Trooping the Line.



Picture with Former C,PNP, PGen Recaredo Sarmiento '66.



With some members of our families at Resto of Golden Pines Hotel.

MELCHOR P ROSALES
President
WILFREDO G NUQUI
Secretary

We had a fun-filled Class Christmas party on Dec 4, 2025 at AFPCOC. The attendees were 13 CMs namely Nori, Mel, Volts, Willy, Rudy, Bobby, Hector, Abe, Sony, Art J, Oskie, Patrick and Art C. The 15 ladies were Candy, Millette, Rhodie, Isay, Arlene, Purita, Roxanne, Julie, Luth, Tess P, Paulene, Gigi, Bebot, Angging and Lecel. We started with a prayer for our deceased CMs and ladies who remind of our years of unity and joy with them. Catered dinner was supplemented by delicious fresh lumpia from Candy and dessert from Millete. Volts' fine wine was consumed within seconds.

Awards were given to winners of our exciting pick and numbers game. As a starter the popular Filipino *"bato-bato"* pick game was won by Angging after a very tight multi-stage contest. The game is gender and height neutral. The numbers game involves competing groups such as by PMA company or branch of service. Each group member individually represents/displays the numbers 0-9 on white paper. Random numbers consisting of nine digits e.g., 6021954738 are then announced by the referee and whoever group organizes itself first according to the proper ascending order i.e., 0-9 of the announced random number is the winner. Permutations of the game could be done for more chaotic fun. The event culminated with the annual exchange of gifts.





CMs Nori, Mel, Rudy Bobby, Volts, Oscar, Hector and Sony participated in the annual PMAAAI Convention in Jan 2026. They held a special election of Class officers with Mel Rosales as president and Nori as vice president. Mel has proven professional, military and business experience and is a former PMA superintendent. On Feb 17, Class officers agreed to conduct a special fund-raising to support the celebration of our 60th graduation anniversary on March 24, 2028 and other priorities. During the Alumni Homecoming 2026, our Class was ably represented by Mel who was accompanied by his wife Millette. Julie Ruiz also attended with her son Capt. Danish 'Jinggoy' Ruiz, PCG who joined his celebrating jubilarian classmates.










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JAIME S DE LOS SANTOS
President
JESUS B DULLER
Secretary

Happy Birthday Greetings to our Suaviter 1st quarter celebrants: Jorie Almaden - 6Jan; Tom Lantion - 10 Jan, +Cutes Bacungan - 11 Jan; +Rudy Garcia - 13 Jan, Tere Syjuco - 22 Jan; +Alex Noble - 30 Jan; Meg Defensor - 31 Jan; Ellen Manlongat - 11 Feb; Baby Carino - 14 Feb; Odette Aguda - 4 Mar; +Rey Berroya - 11 Mar; Amy Maligalig - 16 Mar; +Larry Mendoza - 17 Mar; Didi Garcia - 21 Mar. *Taken from Bingbo's vault -file. Thank you, Bobing*.

2026 New Year Greetings …



To All Suaviters, Happy New Year 2026!



A Feather in One's Cap …





With humility, I wish to share the award of being inducted as a pioneer member of the Honor Society of the Philippines in UP last 30 Jan 2026. It is composed of summa, magna, and cum laude graduates, outstanding faculty and alumni, national artists and scientists. God is good, God is great.

Congrats, Mistah Jimmy. The Suaviters are proud of you!

New Digital Section …

Links of Suaviter song(s) or video(s): food for thoughts and/or amusements. Copy & paste in a browser to view, listen, read and be entertained. Have fun.

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/33_xQQ62fWA

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1991547431434398

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q34DWt3_-mE

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/188dk91EU7/?mibextid=wwXIfr

https://youtu.be/Q34DWt3_-mE?si=h93Mumr3D6L8V--T

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1756367428613574&rdid=N4zKOYTP2cMDZ8fp

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1221163739830965

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/181wYtNBpn/

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1221163739830965

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPJgmYcyjrw

https://mb.com.ph/2026/02/16/collective-leadership-built-in-stone-and-spirit

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZU172xCnUc4

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bciQC86XUuQ

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUQkJ8aMdus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0k2zRwVW4w

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBNjbUtNYro

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/xuadQqXdnrs

https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2074989/christ-like-figure-in-the-clouds-fascinates-devotees-in-naga-city

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/VVRUJ3ysTuQ

https://www.military.com/daily-news/investigations-and-features/2026/02/06/wwii-battle-of-manila-deadliest-urban-battle-of-pacific-war.html

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY Greetings:







A Kaydet Girl moment …
How sweet …

Happy Valentine's Day,
Suaviters!
Nonoy and Mone`, PMA Baguio City

2026 PMA ALUMNI HOMECOMING …



At PMA Alumni Homecoming, Sen Ping Lacson GOHAS, with Class '69 Outstanding Achievement Awardees Benjie Defensor, Tom Lantion, Ike Begonia and Jimmy delos Santos (not in picture).



There were five of us: Jimmy, Benjie, Ike, Tom and me. We never had a picture taken together because we disbanded our group even before we reached the grandstand. Anyway, Mone' and I managed to visit PMA before the parade, and we were able to get pictures. -Nonoy.



Nonoy and Mone at Baguio Country Club during PMA Alumni Homecoming 2026



…by the PMA Welcome Tarpaulin



With our firstie Troy Dumadapat and wife, Lumen.



ELSEWHERE AROUND THE WORLD …

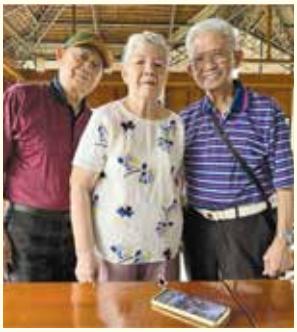


Cleo and Vivz were up in the sky again! Rolling Home in style.



With the APOs

JANUARY ILOILO VISIT and STA. BARBARA REUNION WITH MARLYN SUA…



Introducing Mistah Romy Sua's widow, Marlyn. After several attempt to visit her in person, on 23rd Jan 2026, Nonoy and I finally arranged a lunch meeting with her and her sister at Tatoy's, a local restaurant specializing on native seafood and Ilonggo regional delicacies. Nonoy and Mone are on their annual visit to Mone's sister in Mandurriao, Iloilo.



After lunch photo op: Right to left – Nonoy, Sarla, Marlyn, Mone and Jake. Sarla is scheduled to fly later in the evening to Bangkok, Thailand to present a research paper in an International Nursing Conference.

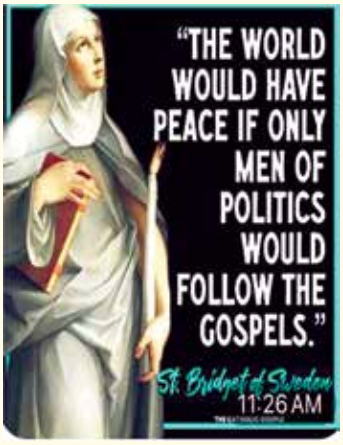


L-R: Nicnic (Marlyn's Sis), Marlyn, Nonoy, Jake, Mone and Sarla.

HUMOR IN THE INTERNET . . .











Magiting Milestones

New Chairman of AFPOVAI is a Magiting

Marciano 'Mar' **Ilagan** was elected as the new Chairman of the Board, Armed Forces of Philippines Officers' Village Association (AFPOVAI). He was sworn into office by the Board Secretary on October 25, 2025. Mar a lawyer, will serve for two years. Congratulations Mistah Mar for being elected to lead AFPOVAI in the midst of its growing challenges.

Magiting Christmas Party 2025

The large hall of Greenmeadows 3 Clubhouse in Quezon City was a spacious venue for another superbly attended Christmas party on December 9, 2025. Mas Magitings held a Christmas Hat contest. A cash prize was awarded to the best hat winner **Emy de Veyra**, likewise to the second and third placers while the rest received participation prizes. A trio of bemoustached singers regaled each table with Spanish songs. The well-loved *Elderly Brothers* with perennial members **Boots de Veyra**, **Rudy Garcia** and **Egay Galvante** has evolved into a complete squad that now include **Nesty Carolina, Glenn Rabonza**, **Mar Ilagan**, **Eloy Garcia** and **Sonny Atienza**. Now called the *Magiting Sounds* by Boots, there is a veritable increase in vocal energy if not more quality tones. The laundry bag exercise worked. One may say it is difficult to spot the fooling ones in a squad of singers, is it not? Meanwhile, Mas Magitings upgraded the raffle system with a computer-run digital *rolleta* App brought by **Dina Gaerlan**. Major raffle prize winner **Alice Parayno** waived her win, a big Sony smart TV, which was raffled again and won by **Tina Adriano**. The prizes and giveaways were sent by Mistahs **Romy Acop**, **Jun Ebdane**, **Ted** and **Beth Delarmente**, **Alo Murillo, Tony Ilagan** and **Jorge Consunji**.

Mistahs abroad as well as locals who were not able to attend sent their video and digital greetings that were shown during the event. Sending their video messages from abroad were Mistahs **Irwin Ver**, **Jimmy Mauricio**, **Rody Castro**, **Bob Ingco**, **Ed Castellanes Sr.**, **Jonsie Jonson**, **Cesar Alvarez** and **Ernie de Rosario**. Jonsie prepared a card that showed his visit to **Bang Adriano** (†) at the Magiting Wing VMMC in April 2025, a gesture that pleased **Tina Adriano** that afternoon. Resident Mistahs **Garrick CP** sent a video while **Maning Reyes** and





Magiting Roy Cimatu receives his Plaque of Appreciation for a three-term presidency from re-elected Nesty for 2026.

Godo Olores sent digital cards. Meanwhile, **Mads Madrid** and **Al Suemith** were tied up with their aviation students in Clark. Mistah **Romy Acop** was unable to attend but sent his customary gifts of sacks of rice and boxes of apples with a digital card full of thanks for the prayers and happy optimism. It was going to be our last Christmas with him.

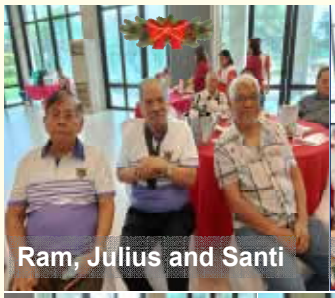
Roy's Plaque of Recognition and Class Election

Another highlight during the Christmas Party was the awarding of a long overdue Plaque of Appreciation that Mistah **Roy Cimatu** richly deserves. Magiting past presidents flanked Roy as he received the award from Class President Nesty. It is also customary to elect a new class president during Christmas party. For three years in a row, **Nesty Carolina** was re-elected anew through a loud and enthusiastic acclamation. He accepted the honor with a grateful speech.

Mas Magitings Fellowship Meets and Birthdays

The last monthly fellowship meeting for 2025 of Mas Magitings was held at Bahay Ligaya, Katipunan, QC on November 12, 2025.

Mas Magitings who will celebrate birthdays in the first quarter of 2026 are: In January they are **Cecile del Rosario**, **Ding Mauricio**, **Alma Ebdane**, **Josie Rabonza** (†), **Beth Delarmente** and **Lucy Reyes**. In February will be **Maritess Castro**, March they will be **Remy Gojo**, **Nona Tagayuna** and **Ludy Garcia**.

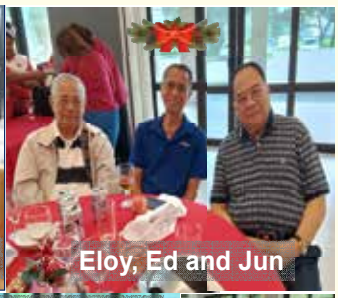


Ram, Julius and Santi

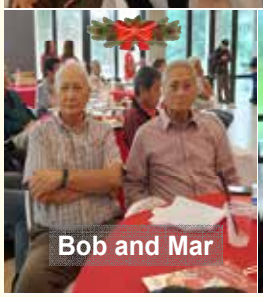


Egay

Sonny, Nesty and Vic



Eloy, Ed and Jun



Bob and Mar



Rudy,Egay Glenn and Teddy

Uly, Boots, Bernard,Dionet and Primo



Alas Tres Combo

On her birthday Mas Magiting **Alma Ebdane** treated the ladies for lunch at Lan Hot Pot, Greenhills. On January 6, 2026. **Glenn Rabonza** celebrated his birthday with his former staff at the Office of Civil Defense at Villa Kalayaan, Taguig on January 17, 2026. **Roy**, **Nesty**, **Boots** and **Bob** were able to attend the dancing and singing spree. **Dionet** arrived quite late that afternoon. There was more food than guests.

Likewise, Magitings who will celebrate birthdays in the first quarter of 2026 are: In January they are **Ramsey** 'Ram' **Ocampo**, **Alfonso** 'Al' **Suemith**, **Nemesio** 'Albot' **Alvez** and **Glenn Rabonza**. In February they will be **Manuel** 'Maning' **Reyes**, **Pedro** 'Sonny' **Atienza Jr.**, **Edmundo** 'Ed Caste' **Castellanes Sr.**, **Florante** 'Flor' **Domingo**, **Felipe** 'Ipe' **Villafranca**, **Noli Dalugdug** (†), **Octavino** 'Primo' **Esguerra**. In March they will be **Romeo** 'Romy' **Acop** (†), **Mario** 'Gomes' **Gomez**, **Eduardo** 'Jonsie' **Jonson**, **Aguedo** 'Bob' **Ingco**, **Ricardo** 'Alo' **Murillo** and **Roberto** 'Bob' **Nuqui**.

Magitings Excel in Public Service

Zambales Hosts 33rd Asia Pacific Regional Scout Jamboree

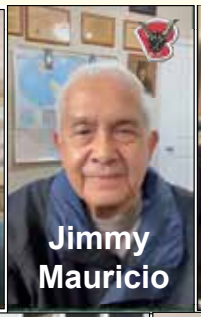
Mistah Governor **Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr.** accepted the responsibility of hosting the jamboree on short notice, despite limited preparation time and the absence of a programmed budget. The campsite was developed in a 62-hectare area in the Bucao lahar field of Botolan. Prominent scout leader David Robert Baden-Powell, a great-grandson of scouting founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell, praised the Zambales jamboree, calling it "one of the best". The jamboree was held on December 14th to 21st, 2025. The next jamboree will be held in Thailand. Great compliments to Mistah Jun.

State of the Province Address, Zambales

In the State of the Province Address of Governor **Jun Ebdane** on January 21, 2026, he reported that Zambales remains as a "First Class Province." To achieve this status a province must attain an average income of P1.5 billion over three fiscal years. This classification is required by the Bureau of Local Government and Department of Finance. It signifies a strong financial capacity for infrastructure, services and development. This rating is mandated in *RA 11964, An Act Institutionalizing the Automatic Income Classification of Provinces, Cities, and Municipalities*. Congratulations Mistah Jun Ebdane for achieving the standard to sustain Zambales as first class province.



Irwin Ver



Jimmy Mauricio



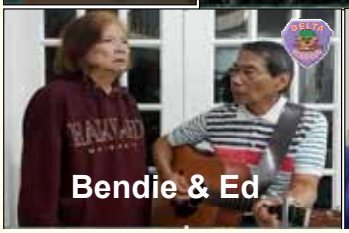
Rody & Maritess



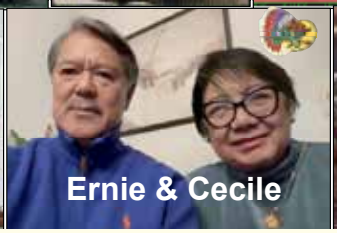
Bob Ingco



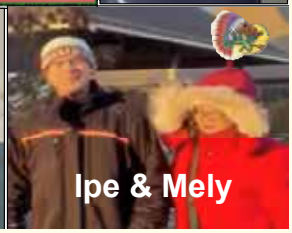
Garrick CP



Bendie & Ed



Ernie & Cecile



Ipe & Mely

Tony Ilagan Gets Plum BIR Makati

Barely warming his seat in his assignment in Cebu late last year, Mistah **Tony Ilagan** was designated as the new Regional Director, Revenue Region No. 8A in Makati City on January 12, 2026. His new designation is considered a promotion. We anticipate playing more golf with low handicapper Tony and hearing him sing again.

Never Forgotten Magitings

A Quarterly Recollection

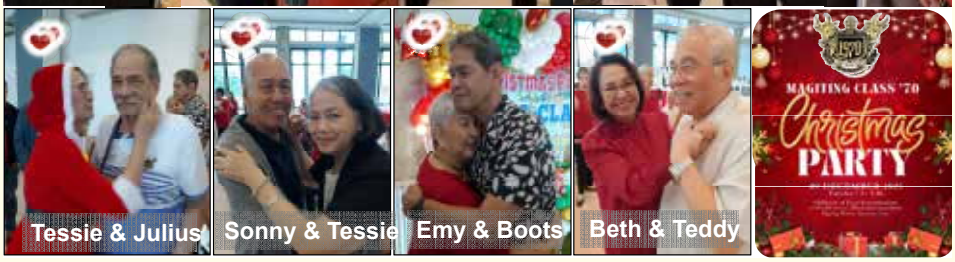
Never will we forget when their last taps were sung, we recall the company of our fallen Mistahs like it was only yesterday. Their memorial days are a celebration of Magiting kinship, for the first quarter of 2026 they are: **Augusto** 'SJ' **Sera Jose** (†) January 17, 2014, **Rogelio** 'Roger' **Castro** (†) January 14, 2010, **Rolando** 'Rolly' **Floria** (†) February 6, 2013, **Dominador** 'Dodong' **Resos** (†) February 21, 2022, **Alberto** 'Bert' **Lina** (†) February 25, 2025, **Apolonio** 'Jun' **Ugale Jr** (†) March 15, 2013 and **Robert** 'Bobby' **Garcia** (†) March 23, 2019. (***Erratum:*** *The name and picture of retired* ***Admiral Thomas B. Fargo*** *USNA '70, an honorary member of Magiting Class '70 was mistakenly included in the list of departed classmates in the October – December 2025 issue of The Cavalier. Our sincere apology.*)

Hon. Romeo Macusi Acop: Public Servant and Reformist

After a distinguished and unblemished career in law enforcement and the legislature, Mistah **Romy Acop** joined his OAO Mas Magiting Dra. **Cion Acop** (†) on December 20, 2025. He was sought by his colleagues in Congress for his incisive yet polite interpellation of witnesses in the Committee on Dangerous Drugs or the so-called Quad Committee. He was elected as









Malou Visperas, Emy de Veyra, Jessie israel, Dina Gaerlan, Alice Parayno, Baby Ilagan, Lou Ugale, and Nona Tagayuna, Christmas Hat Contest Dec 9, 2025



Magiting Atty. Mar Ilagan, new Chairman AFPOVAI Board, inducted last Oct 25, 2025







Dra. Reena Acop and Gov. Jun Ebdane Jr. deliver their eulogy for Hon. Romy Acop



Honorable Romeo Macusi Acop
11 March 1947 – 20 December 2025



Dr. Philip Acop accepts Antipolo City Resolution from Vice Mayor Randy Puno, on December 26, 2025. Also shown in the photo are (from his left) Dr. Karla Acop and Dr. Reena Acop.

Representative of the 2nd District of Antipolo for three consecutive terms where the last two elections were won uncontested.

His proudest legacy is a brood of three doctors in a row, son Dr. Philip and daughters Drs. Karla and Reena. Dr. Philip is himself a city councilor of Antipolo. During the memorial program on December 26, 2025 at Haven of Angels Chapel in Antipolo City, Gov **Jun Ebdane** delivered the class homage alongside the three Acop children. City Vice Mayor Randy Puno presented to the Acop family a City Council Resolution that cited the accomplishments of Mistah Romy in the development of the progressive metro, and for setting an example of leadership, dedication and clean governance. In attendance were, **Jun Ebdane**, **Dionet Santiago**, **Rudy Garcia**, **Mar Ilagan**, **Glenn Rabonza**, **Bob Nuqui**, **Nesty** and **Au Carolina, Santi** and **Enya Santillan**, **Boots** and **Emy de Veyra**, **Ed** and **Jessie Israel**. Magiting residents abroad similarly sent condolences to the family of Romy. Class 70 laments the great loss to the nation and is deeply bereaved by Mistah Romy's unfortunate fallout from the long gray line.

Fairway Habitués

Valley Golf Course Antipolo

The meticulously manicured Valley Golf Course in Antipolo was a refreshing place to play. **Mistah Bert Tagayuna** invited **Nesty**, **Bob** and **Glenn** to play last year on November 26, 2025. **Roy** did not make it again due to his continuing work in Bangui, Ilocos Sur.

North South Year-End Tour

The 2025 North-South team tour was played at the Veterans Golf Course on December 12. Magiting North Team mainstays were **Vic Signey**, **Egay Galvante**, **Eloy Garcia** and **Primo Esguerra**. **Ed Israel** played for the North for balance in number. On the other side, Magiting South was composed by **Roy Cimatu**, **Boots de Veyra**, **Nesty Carolina**, **Glenn Rabonza**, **Bob Nuqui** and guest **Bernard Bobadilla**. South Magiting turned in a slightly better score. For turning in the individual lowest score, an additional prize was earned by Boots who made an Eagle in Hole Number Nine. The prize purse was generously filled by Mistahs **Roy Cimatu** and **Jun Ebdane**. **Teddy Delarmente** and **Dionet Santiago** joined everyone for lunch at Lugang Cafe at SM North EDSA.

While no pictures tell the story, the endless and bloody *pustahan* sorties of **Boots** and **Ed** at PN Golf Course almost thrice weekly are a continuing epic. The win-loss score is a work in progress.

Corps of 70 Fellowship Games

Once again snappy Masigasig **Rey Ochosa '72** coordinated the first 2026 tournament on January 5 after unavoidable class events that defaulted two games last year. **Masigasigs** won the tournament. Awards were given plus a much-awaited raffle thereafter. Guest players from **Marangal '74** are now a feature of the fellowship. Over lunch, guest Charlie *uppies* **Abe Din '67**, **Mel Rosales '68, Ed Batac '68** and **Nonoy Carranza '69** sang their payment for lunch. Certainly, Magiting **Boots de Veyra** was not allowed to sit his turn with his Frank Sinatra covers. **Matt Mayuga** and Rey sang too. The *uppies* relished the *kaya-hazing* of being turned into entertainers. **Magitings** plus **Nonoy**, **Rey** and **Mulong Narcida** stayed to continue singing and conniving with patron saint San Miguel. **Roy Cimatu** suggested to Rey and Mulong to explore a revised scoring system to rationalize and make the scoring system more interesting in terms of age and golfing skills across the classes. Magiting **Clyde Fernandez** organized Cof70 golf fellowship more than 10 years ago. The next games will be played on March 30, 2026 at PNGC.

The Venerable Veterans' Golf Course

Magiting North scuffers **Vic**, **Egay**, **Eloy** and **Primo** gash the Veterans fairways every Friday morning. Magiting South scoopers **Roy**, **Nesty**, **Glenn, Boots, Ed, Dionet,**





Mistah Tony Ilagan assumes as the Director, Makati BIR



Hon. Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr. delivering SOPA, January 21, 2026

Bernard and **Bob** are playing most of the days. The first game was played on January 9, 2026. VGC hosts numerous friendly *Giant* games, a skewed translation from *Higanti* that is invoked by the losing team. The term *Giant* was adapted by our revered Mistah **Jack Ligot** (†) some five years ago at the Navy Golf Club, hence the *Giant* games.

Fore at Vineyard Tanauan

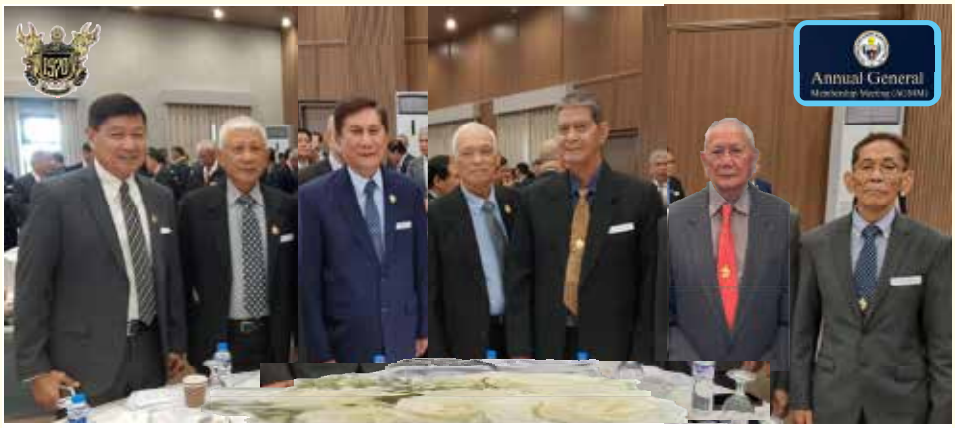
The Vineyard Golf Course in Tanauan, Batangas is nestled by the majestic view of Lake Taal. The course is a deceptively easy all-par-three 18-hole layout of panoramic rolling slopes, crosswinds and a couple of overlooking island greens. On February 1, 2026, Mistah **Tony Ilagan** celebrated his stint back to Metro Manila with a treat attended by his brother, cousin**,** golfing friends, **Roy**, **Boots**, **Uly**, **Tony**, **Bert, Bob** and **Glenn**. At the resto were platefuls of irresistible native dishes, and later happy exchanges with Mr. Macallan plus servings of home-brewed *barako*, home-grown white corn and plump *saba,* boiled and delivered from the house of Tony nearby. *Till Golf Do Us Part.*

2026 PMAAAI Gen Assy Meeting

The new PMAAAI Center of Excellence and Leadership building in Fort Bonifacio hosted the maiden meeting of the alumni association on January 24, 2026. Cavalier **Aris delos Reyes** was well applauded for his presentation of championing the pension rights of retirees. The talk of guest speaker Robina Gokongwei was one of the more interesting speeches delivered thus far. When she was 19 Robina was rescued from her kidnappers by Cavaliers **Ping Lacson** and **Rolando Abadilla**. She narrated with Powerpoint an interesting family story that was full of challenges and success, interspersed with gratitude that her safety and the stability of the nation were made possible through the defense and security professionals of the Academy. Class President **Nesty Carolina, Roy Cimatu**, **Boots de Veyra**, **Dionet Santiago**, **Danny Sta. Clara**, **Glenn Rabonza** and **Bob Nuqui** attended the meeting.

2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming

The alumni homecoming traditionally headlines the celebration for the year. Magiting Class '70 thanked the PMAAAI leadership for the flawless homecoming protocols and program as well as the Alumni General Assembly Meeting in January. Magitings customarily begin planning for the next year's homecoming as early as September. The Brent Residences hosted the class in 2025 and again for 2026. In fact, as early as last year, Mistah **Jun Ebdane** had reserved Brent Residences till 2028 for the purpose. **Roy Cimatu**, **Jun Ebdane**, **Nesty Carolina**, **Glenn Rabonza**, **Sonny Atienza, Rudy Garcia**, **Ed Israel**, **Romy Gojo**, **Primo Esguerra**, **Mads Madrid**, **Mar Ilagan, Boots de Veyra**, **Danny Sta. Clara**, **Bert Tagayuna**, **Vic Signey** and **Tony Ilagan** comprised the Magiting delegation. **Ernie del Rosario** answered the roll call for all Magitings in the US and Canada. The ubiquitous Mas Magitings were **Alma Ebdane** with her younger sister Perla, **Emy de Veyra**, **Zaida Francisco**, **Alice Parayno**, **Au Carolina**, **Jessie Israel**, **Tessie Atienza**, **Beth Delarmente**, **Baby Ilagan**, **Marilyn Signey**, **Remy Gojo**, **Nancy Pipo**, **Malou Visperas**, **Cecile del Rosario**, **Dina Gaerlan, Rosette Ilagan** and **Nona Tagayuna**.



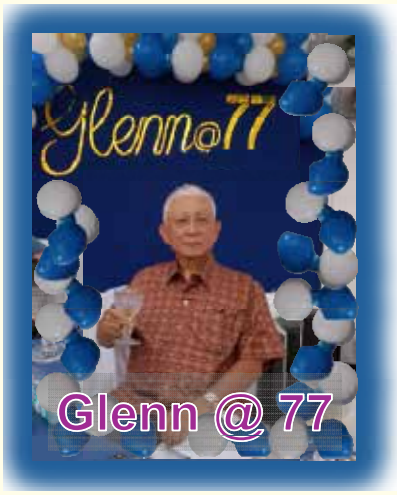
Class President Nesty Carolina, Glenn Rabonza, Roy Cimatu, Dionet Santiago, Boots de Veyra, Bob Nuqui & Danny Sta. Clara, PMAAAI General Assembly Meeting, January 24, 2026



First Wednesday of November Fellowship Lunch, Bahay Ligaya Resto, QC Nov 12, 2025

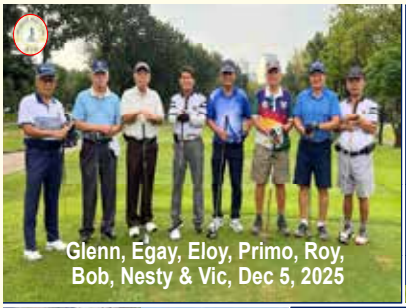


Birthday of Mas Magiting Alma Ebdane @ Lan Hot Pot, Greenhills, Jan 6, 2026



Glenn @ 77


Roy, Bob, Boots, Nesty, Glenn with guests Sec Solidum & Usec Cui @ Villa Kalayaan, Taguig Jan17, 2026


Glenn, Egay, Eloy, Primo, Roy, Bob, Nesty & Vic, Dec 5, 2025


Glenn, Bert, Bob & Nesty Nov 26, 2025

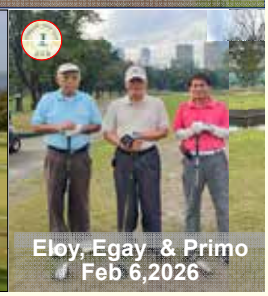

Vic, Egay, Roy, Eloy, Bob & Primo Jan 23, 2026


The Veterans GC Perennials, Jan 30, 2026


Vic, Eloy, Primo & Roy Dec 9, 2025


Egay, Vic, Primo, Eloy, Glenn, Nesty & Roy Jan 16, 2026


Bert, Boots, Roy, Bob & Glenn February 1, 2026


Eloy, Egay & Primo Feb 6,2026

Earlier on February 19th Magiting golfers Roy, Glenn, Ernie, Bert, Boots and Ed trekked to Pinewoods to play with Baguio-based friends and again at Camp John Hay in the morning of the 22nd. Good weather permitted an *al fresco* dinner at Brent Residences on the evening of February 20th.

The all too familiar ways at Loakan never cease to rejuvenate the Magitings, as if the homecoming is always a first experience. Mas Magitings cheered from the gallery as their *kaydet* boys briskly trooped the Corps. Now a mandatory custom on its own, everyone flocked instinctively to *The Beacon* after the parade. One would see that after the ceremonies, only Magitings were left at the Borromeo Field, to behold the empty parade ground all by themselves evokes wistful, ever fresh and heartwarming thoughts.

After the homecoming parade on the 21st, an exciting lunch awaited everyone at Camp Buddy, Badiwan, Tuba, Benguet 15 minutes away from Baguio via Marcos Highway.



Year-End North vs South Fellowship Tour, Dec 12, 2025


Boots de Veyra Eagle @ #9 VGC Dec 12, 2025



Golf Fellowship Lunch @ Lugang Café, SM North, Dec 12, 202



Glenn, Vic, Eloy, Bernard, Bob, Nesty, Ed, Roy & Boots Jan 5, 2026



Dinner February 20

Jun Ebdane, Romy Gojo, Rudy Garcia, Teddy Delarmente, Nesty Carolina, Beth Delarmente, Malou Visperas, Rosette & Tony Ilagan

Nesty & Au Carolina, Malou Visperas, Alice Parayno, Jessie Israel, Nancy Pipo, Zaida Francisco and Dina Gaerlan



Magitings & Friends @ Pinewoods, Baguio, Feb 20, 20



Breakfast, February 21

Standing: Vic Signey, Sonny Atienza, Danny Sta. Clara
Seated: Ernie del Rosario, Mads Madrid, Glenn & Daniel Rabonza
Nesty Carolina, Boots de Veyra, Teddy Delarmente & Mar Ilagan



Dinner February 20

Bert Tagayuna, Glenn Rabonza, Boots de Veyra, Ed Israel & Nona Tagayuna



Emy de Veyra, Baby Ilagan, Ernie del Rosario, Mar Ilagan, Cecile del Rosario, Primo Esguerra, Mads Madrid & Sonny Atienza



Magitings and Ladies Lunch @ Camp Buddy-One, February 21



Magitings & Ladies Al Fresco Dinner @ Brent Residences, February 21





Mas Magitings and a Magiting, Lunch @ Camp Buddy-One, February 21













Magitings and Their Beacon, 2026

JOSE C LALISAN JR
President
ARTHUR G BALMACEDA
Secretary

The Year of the Fire Horse

2026 is the Year of the Fire Horse that started from 17 February 2026 and will end on 5 February 2027. According to the Chinese zodiac, this year is "*characterized by intense energy, passion, ambition, and a desire for freedom*" which can drive major breakthroughs and rapid, often impulsive changes. For us oldies, let us be wary. If ever we face challenges this year, let us have positive energy and embrace them. Considering the high-paced nature of the year, let us take extra care of our physical and mental health. In short, *hinay-hinay muna* and focus on maintaining emotional stability and more importantly, patience and tolerance.

Our 55th Graduation Anniversary

Congratulations to all mistahs who have survived and celebrated our 55th graduation anniversary. Out of the original 111, 77 Matatags are still alive and kicking. We missed our 34 deceased mistahs and we pray for the repose of their souls. From the PAF group, 14; Army, 10; PC/PNP, eight; and Navy/Marines, two.

Last PMA Homecoming in Baguio City, 35 Matatags and 32 Mas-Matatags attended. This was the biggest attendance that we ever had. It was a great pride for us since the Guest of Honor and Speaker was a mistah, Senator Ping Lacson, the Senate President Pro Tempore. In his speech and message to the cadets and fellow Cavaliers, he emphasized on the three values of our Institution: Courage, Integrity, Loyalty. He mentioned Cavaliers who have shown courage in their daily lives confronting dangers squarely to the point of sacrificing their very lives. He expressed his concept of loyalty to the flag, country, and people. But what he valued most was integrity. To the cadets, this is a reminder of their oath to abide by the Honor System. To the public and private individuals, this is a clarion call to deal with honesty in every aspect of their business, even when unobserved. With the recent news of corruption in the public sector, the clamor for integrity cannot be overemphasized.

Prior to D-Day of the alumni homecoming, the class had a dinner-dance gathering at the Elizabeth Hotel in Baguio City at 6 pm. It was a celebration of our emerald anniversary. Prexy Joey opened the affair with his welcome address and made some announcements, in short reminders, on the scheduled departure to PMA, checking out early, the class uniform and also about the Mas Matatag's attire, and transportation assignments. He announced that a PMA bus will be available to ferry the Matatags and the Mas Matatags to PMA courtesy of LTC Edmond Elona, PMA's MAC8, who is the son of mistah Ed Elona.

After the reminders and all, he called on mistah Soc Brazal and wifey Weet who are based in Canada, to announce the raffle of their book entitled "Pause." It is a book full of beautiful photos of the couple's trip around the world (204 countries} and description of the historical sites they visited. The lucky raffle winner was Rochee Domingo, the widow of mistah Ariel. Congratulations Rochee.

Of course, the program proceeded with dinner after Mas Matatag Prexy Celia Lalisan led the prayer before meal. After the dinner, it was dance time on the floor. As usual, the ladies led the way. A surprise contest was declared by Prexy Joey. He announced that each table (there were four tables occupied mostly by the ladies and three tables occupied by the males with some guests) will present a number, whether song or dance or both but the criterion was that everyone should participate. Truth be told, Prexy Joey just wanted the "shy" and introvert Matatags to stand up and have fun. There was no problem with the ladies who were always supportive and cooperative. So, the fun began. After minutes of consultation, presentations started. Even our mistahs in wheelchairs participated to the delight of the attendees. Cash prizes were given to the first four tables led by the ladies. Cash donations came from the Matatags, of course. Mistah Rey Velasco collected from generous mistahs namely Gov Egay Aglipay, Amba Jun Paynor, NICA DG Dick de Leon, Rey Acop, Nelson Eslao, Jun Fabros, Twiggy Zubia, EQ Fernandez, Bing Alano, Dong Tabamo, Rex Piad, and some male guests present. One thing we discovered that night was that we had a DI in our midst…Mistah Wency Cruz who led the ladies in a group dancing exhibiting his fancy dance steps. To my awe, *marunong palang sumayaw ang Marines..he he*. The



Matatags and Mas Matatags at the Grandstand and Borromeo Field.



Class '71 Dinner Dance.

affair ended at about 10 pm since we had to wake up very early the next day.

On D-Day, 21 February 2026, the Matatags and Mas Matatags boarded their designated vehicles and proceeded to PMA. The Matatags registered at Melchor Hall while the ladies were ferried to the grandstand. The Matatags gathered at about 8 am at Borromeo Field and had a grand time *"bolahizing"* with the uppies and underclassmen. Those who attended were the following: Egay Aglipay, Joey Lalisan, Dick de Leon, Jun Paynor, Rollie Garcia, Teody Viduya, Rey Velasco, Manny Resplandor, Boy Castellano, Dong Tabamo, Bob Sacramento, Ed Elona, Nelson Eslao, Soc Brazal, De-ey Domingo, Dan Belonia, Wency Cruz, Miles Millena, Stan David, EQ Fernandez, Jun Fabros, Bobby Yarisantos, Dan Perico, Dan Belonia, Tex Balmaceda, Marte Chioco, Bay Seron, Gel Molato, Rene Paredes, Rex Piad, Aris delos Reyes, and Bob Fermin who was seated at the grandstand. Missing in action, but within Baguio City, were Rey Acop, Twiggy Zubia, and Bing Alano. And of course, mistah Sen Ping Lacson, the GOHAS for that great day.

Lunch and fellowship at Mistah Egay and Mawies's place in Loakan

After the Homecoming and Alumni Affair, the members of the class and the ladies proceeded to the residence of

Mawie's sister-in-law near the Loakan airport. This is a traditional place where attendees of the yearly Homecoming had lunch, a short meeting, and fellowship. If I am not mistaken, this has been done for 26 years already. Wow! *Maraming salamat* Egay and Mawie for your never-ending generosity. For the MMs, this was a happy respite and moment of relaxation. As Class Prexy, I texted mistah Sen Ping to join us in Loakan but replied that he and wife Alice were already on the way to Manila to attend a commitment there. A group photo was done after lunch. Mawie and Egay have to leave early due to a family dinner in Manila. The ladies who were present: Mawie of course, Celia Lalisan, Annie de Leon, Tess Paynor, Lulu Tabamo, Lulu Runes and daughter Ginger, Eden Sacramento, Lita Gil, Rochee Domingo, Esther Domingo, Jennie Domingo, Aleli Belonia, Puring Cruz, Baby Francisco, Beng Ibo, Lyn Molato, Jie Rivera, Chit Eslao, Chato Perico, Sandy Navida, Fim Velasco, Lolit David, Barrie Castellano, Tetet Chioco, Vangie Fernandez, Weet Brazal, Vicky Seron, Rose Resplandor, Jane Paid, Nina delos Reyes, Sara Paredes, and Ne Fermin.

Rest in Peace Mistah Jerry

Last 13 February 2026, it was a sad day for the Matatags since they lost another mistah just before the PMA Homecoming 2026. Mistah Jerry Albano succumbed to a kidney complication after a confinement of more that three months. Jerry was a good golfer of our Hampaslupa'71 Team and an active participant in all our fellowships. He was our 34th mistah who passed on to the Great Beyond. Our condolences to Verna and the Albano Family. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



Wake and Necro Rites for mistah Jerry Albano.

Quote for this Issue

"Friends show their love in times of trouble, not in happiness." **Euripedes // JCL/25 Feb 26**



Attendees during the lunch hosted by Gov Egay and Mawie Aglipay

LEUVINO B VALENCIA
President
CELSO G DE CASTRO
Secretary

In hindsight, we look back at the year 2025 with gratitude, pride, and optimism. Like in previous years, our relationship, fellowship, and brotherhood have remained steadfast—a true testament to the enduring bond we share as Mistahs/Mas. Our main focus continues to be the health and welfare of everyone, as well as supporting one another in our collective journey. As we navigate the year 2026, may our camaraderie grow even stronger as we hope that the Year of the Fire Horse brings us greater success, fulfillment, and enduring love and care for one another. Mabuhay ang Pamilya "Masigasig!"

Christmas 2025

The Class celebrated the Christmas Party 2025 last 04 December at the Social Hall, Veterans Memorial Center, Camp Aguinaldo. As expected, the party was an outstanding success with 57 Mistahs/Mas in attendance. A simple program prepared by the Ladies Working Group added fun and energy to the celebration. Thank you, ladies—snappy as always.

Food and drinks were abundant, thanks to Mistah/Mas who brought various dishes and *kakanins* to complement the meals prepared by our caterer. *Maraming salamat sa lahat ng Mistah/Mas (Roger Q, Ed Adan, Fredie and Cora, Alyn, Art L and Vangie, Lou Rivera, and Ogie) na nagdala ng assorted foods and drinks. Nabusog tayong lahat.* May your tribe increase a thousand fold.

A brainchild of Mas Ludy, simple yet practical Class Calendars were distributed to the attendees—free of charge, of course. We also extend our profound gratitude to all Mistah/Mas who donated cash for the Christmas Party. For the record, we practically did not use the Class Fund for this event. The whole Class truly appreciates your kindness and generosity. Thumbs up, folks!

Homecoming 2025

Thirty-three Mistahs/Mas attended the 2025 Alumni Homecoming last 19–21 February. As usual, there was a fellowship golf game at Pinewoods on 20 February, followed by lunch at Cristy's Garden Café along Naguilian Road, through the courtesy of our beloved and generous Mistah, Ike G.

The ladies provided continuous entertainment with their lovely and melodious songs, while the guys were incessantly *bulahizing* as they watched



the performances. Various hot drinks and coffee enriched the fellowship. The food was delicious and plentiful, challenging the gastronomic instincts of everyone.

By around 3 P.M., some Mistahs/Mas began heading home, bringing with them wonderful memories of the gathering at Cristy's Garden Café—made extra special by the kindness of Mistah Ike. We are sure Mas Cristy was smiling from heaven as she watched us enjoy the fellowship at her special place in Naguilian. May she rest in peace in the Kingdom of the Lord. To Mistah Ike, thank you very much for welcoming us to your favorite scenic place - the Cristy's Garden Café.

Early morning of 21 February, Masigasig/Mas proceeded to Fort del Pilar for the





homecoming. After registration, everyone gathered at *Bahay Masigasig* for fellowship and coffee while waiting for the much-anticipated parade. At the Parade Ground, as usual, meeting the snappy yet relaxed upperclassmen and underclassmen became a cherished ritual.

The program ran too long and there appeared to be confusion during the trooping of the line. We hope PMA can address these lapses next year. After the parade, everyone returned to *Bahay Masigasig* to enjoy the sumptuous lunch catered by Supreme Hotel. The fellowship and photo sessions seemed endless, and a short Class meeting was eventually called to order. Mas Ludy led a short prayer, followed by remarks from Outgoing President Mar, the election of the Incoming President, and the turnover of leadership.

Mistah Bing Valencia was unanimously elected as the Incoming President for Calendar Year 2026–2027, while Mistah Eric Evangelista was elected as the next Prexy after Bing's term. Congratulations to President Bing, and thank you to Mistah Mar for steering the Class to greater heights during your tenure.

Healing Prayer

Let us offer a healing prayer for our Mistah/Mas who are experiencing health issues and suffering in silence:

"Heavenly Father, we come before Your throne of grace and mercy, making our petition known to You. We pray, Father, that You lay Your healing hands upon our Mistah/Mas who are sick and suffering from various illnesses. We humbly ask for Your compassion for all those who are hurting and for Your love to embrace them. Deliver them, Lord, from their sickness. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen."

Till the next Class Call.

Happy reading to all.../OSLEC



Invoking God's intercession before Class '72's historic decision.







Early birds









AVELINO I RAZON, JR
President
BENIGNO T CABRIETO, JR
Secretary

PMA Class 1974: Marking Milestones, Strengthening Bonds

PMA Class 1974 concluded 2025 and welcomed 2026 with a series of meaningful gatherings, significant milestones, and moments of celebration and reflection. As many members of the class approach their 75th year, the activities of the Marangal Cavaliers reflect a continuing commitment to fellowship, service, and enduring brotherhood.

A Memorable Year-End Celebration

The major activity of the class at the close of 2025 was the joint quarterly birthday celebration and traditional Class Christmas Party held on December 9, 2025, at the Villamor Airbase Golf Clubhouse. The occasion was distinguished not only by strong attendance but also by a departure from traditional attire. Instead of the customary class uniform, members and guests wore Hawaiian-themed clothing, adding color and vibrancy to the evening.

The program featured music, singing, and fellowship. Despite the advancing years of most attendees—now largely in their 70s—the enthusiasm on the dance floor and the lively participation in the program demonstrated that the vitality of Class 1974 remains strong. A particular delightful segment of the evening was the picture-taking by companies, during which members presented their respective company cheers when we were cadets with pride. The whole event proved to be one of the most memorable Christmas and birthday celebrations in recent years, closing 2025 on a distinctly positive note.









Planning for the Year Ahead

The year 2026 commenced with a joint board meeting of the Marangal Class ’74 officers and the Marangal Ladies Circle at the AGFO Building in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The meeting focused on planning forthcoming activities and sustaining the active participation of class members and their families. The collaboration between the Class Leadership and the Ladies Circle continues to be a cornerstone of the class’s organizational strength.

On January 24, 2026, the class participated in the General Membership Meeting of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI), held at its newly opened building along Lawton Avenue in Taguig City. Although many signified their intention to attend, only a few were able to do so due to various commitments. Representing the class were Class President Sonny Razon, Jun Esperon, class lawyer Danny Bocobo, and Benny Cabrieto.

During the PMA Alumni Homecoming on February 21, 2026, two members of the class were present. **Mistah Danny Abinoja** was recognized as a Lifetime Achievement Awardee, an honor that brought pride to the entire class. Mistah Jun Esperon attended in support of his son-in-law Col. GP Marin, who was among the Cavalier Awardees. The class extends its congratulations to Danny Abinoja and to the Esperon family on these noteworthy distinctions.

Celebrating Life’s Major Milestones

A significant number of Class 1974 members were born in the early 1950s. As such, many have reached or are about to reach the age of 75—a milestone that invites reflection and gratitude. In addition, since many members married at approximately 25





The BRAVO bulls





years of age, golden wedding anniversaries are now being celebrated in increasing number.

On January 22, 2026, **Mistah Sonny and Cecille Razon** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in a well-attended gathering of family members, Mistahs, former colleagues from the Philippine National Police, and friends. The occasion highlighted five decades of enduring partnership and commitment.

On February 8, 2026, **Mistah Jun Esperon** celebrated his birthday under the theme "74 @ 74," attended by family, Mistahs, former colleagues from the Armed Forces of the Philippines, high school classmates, and friends. During the same month, **Mistah Amy and Winnie Tolentino** marked their 50th wedding anniversary, joined by family and their PNP colleagues. These celebrations reflect not only personal milestones but also the strong bonds which continue to unite the class and its extended families.

A Remarkable Achievement on the Golf Course

An exceptional accomplishment was recorded on February 8, 2026, when Class President **Sonny Razon** scored an eagle on Hole #4, a 519-yard par 5 at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course—the longest par 5 on the course. His third shot from approximately 180 yards found the hole, a feat that underscores both skill and composure. Achieving an eagle under such conditions is rare and stands as a noteworthy highlight among the class's recent activities.

In Memoriam

The class also mourns the passing of **Mistah Jonard Junio** on February 2, 2026. His sudden passing came as a shock to many, particularly because of his active participation in class events. He was known for his enthusiasm to sing whenever there's a microphone and a melody during reunions and gatherings.

Necrological services were held at the Philippine Air Force Mortuary at Villamor Air Base on February 12, and he was laid to rest at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani the following day. The class extends its deepest condolences to his family. His presence, camaraderie, and spirit will be deeply missed.

Continuing the Marangal Legacy

As Class 1974 advances into its 75th year, it does so with gratitude for shared experiences, pride in individual and collective achievements, and respect for those who have gone ahead. The activities of the past months demonstrate that while time moves forward, the bonds formed in the Academy remain steadfast.

Marangal continues to uphold its traditions—with dignity, fellowship, and enduring commitment to one another.









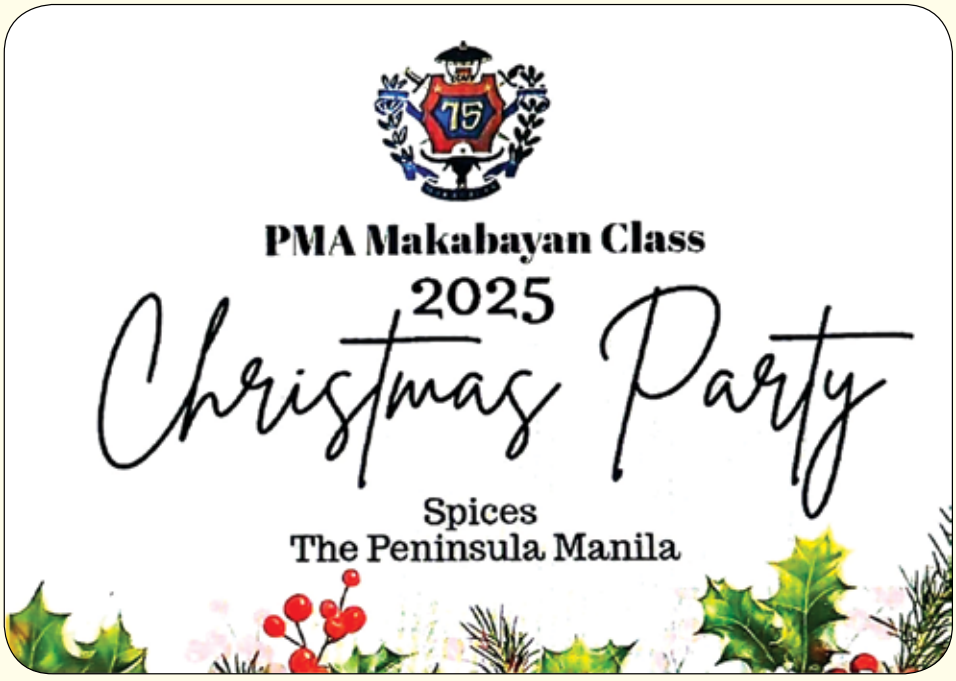




JEFFREY SODUSTA
President
CHARLIE ALEJANDRINO
Secretary

Culmination of the Makabayan Golden Anniversary Year – The Golden Anniversary Class Christmas Party was held on December 10, 2026 at Spices Restaurant in Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City. Preparations for the event were overseen by the Makabayan Board's ladies, with Nitz Sodusta taking the lead. Cynthia Guligado served as emcee, Estela Ilagan gave the invocation, and President Jeff Sodusta delivered the welcome remarks.

The 2026 Christmas celebration differed from previous ones, featuring a modest lunch, exchange gifts, a handful of raffles, and a lighthearted "Name











That Tune" contest. Cakes and small gifts, provided by FL Nitz Sodusta, Baby Doria, and Inday Palugod, were handed out as prizes and giveaways. Around 60 Makabayans—including honorary members and ladies—were present at the gathering.

Association of Generals and Flag Officers (AGFO). Mistah Gerry Doria has been elected as the new president of AGFO—congratulations! The election was held on November 29, 2025, and he officially began his term on January 1, 2026. Prior to his election as president, he was first elected to the AGFO board, which made him eligible for the presidency. He secured a significant victory with strong support from the general membership.

The Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM). The PMAAA AGMM took place on January 24, 2026 at the new PMAAA Center for Leadership and Excellence in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. The Makabayan delegation included class president Jeff Sodusta, PP Raul Gonzales, and regular attendees such as Ding Luna, Mandy Cunanan, Charlie Alejandrino, Ray Roderos, Sen Arugay, Pete Magno, Reuben Crisologo, Cesar Carranza, and Gerry Doria.

PMA Alumni Homecoming in Baguio City. Eleven Makabayans participated alongside 1,741 Cavaliers during the PMA Alumni Homecoming 2026 in Baguio City.







They were with their respective ladies. The annual event commenced with the Cavalier's Golf Tournament at Camp John Hay and included various PMA activities such as the wreath-laying ceremony, open house, meet and greet, and Borromeo Field events featuring the Cavalier Awards, an address by Guest of Honor Senate Pro Tempore Panfilo Lacson, alumni march, and the CCAFP parade and review. Following the official program, President Jeff hosted a luncheon for the class at Camp John Hay Golf Clubhouse.

Prior to the alumni homecoming, on February 19, the Makabayans attended a birthday celebration for Mistah Ernie Boac at his residence near Camp Allen, where he prepared his signature dishes, *pinapaitan* and *dinengdeng.*

A Platinum Age. On January 24, 2026, AGFO FL Baby Doria celebrated her platinum age at the Westin Manila Hotel with Makabayan well-wishers and family friends. Her children and friends honored her for her kindness, resilience, and generosity. The event also marked PP Willy Palugod and Naning Mariano's birthdays. Her family and guests commended Baby for her positivity and diligence, celebrating another year of her remarkable presence.

The 3rd Annual Gen Dennis Regis Golf Tournament. On February 25, 2026, the Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City hosted the 3rd Annual Gen Dennis Regis Golf Tournament in memory of the late General Dennis Regis. General Regis was highly regarded not only by the Makabayan class but also by the wider Cavaliers community for his significant contributions to the sport of golf. His commitment and enthusiasm for the game inspired many of his peers to take up and appreciate golf.

Birthday Celebrators for 1st Quarter 2026 – Twenty-nine mistahs have birthdays in the first quarter; eight are deceased, while 21 remain to celebrate another year.

Among the 1st Quarter birthday celebrators, three were celebrating on the same day, January 15: Willy Palugod, Baby Doria and the late Naning Mariano. On January 16, two departed classmates, Dennis Regis and Bong Salango, were born on the same day. Both Romy Dayao and



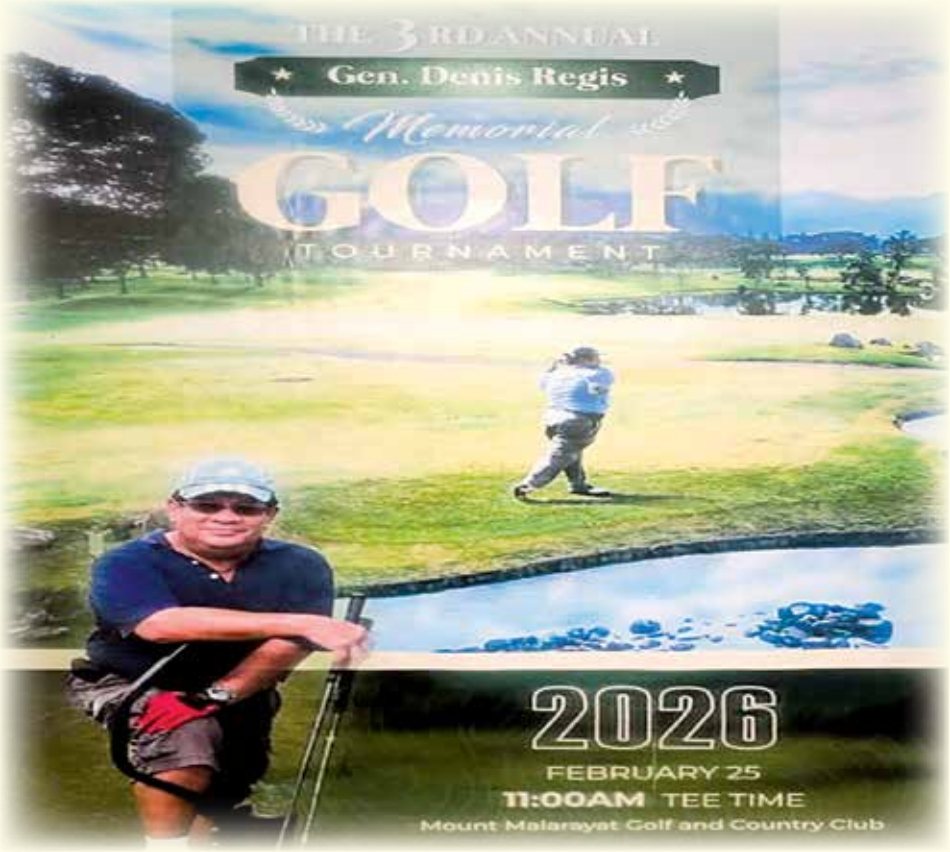




Sen Arugay celebrated their birthdays on February 06. Meanwhile, March 02 is the shared birthday of two deceased mistahs, Raffy Rafanan and Ron Roderos, along with Ray Roderos. Dante Ganir and Leo Bernabe both have their birthdays on March 08, while the late Raul Heredia and Nitoy Samuya share March 27 as their birthday.

Makabayan Celebrators

Willie Palugod	January 15
+Manuel Mariano Jr.	January 15
+Prudencio Regis Jr.	January 16
+Abelardo Salango Jr.	January 16
Emerito Calica	January 31
+Octavio Pabuayon	January 09
Pedrito Cadungog	January 11
Jaime Silvestre	February 01
Romeo Dayao	February 06
Arsenio Arugay	February 06
Marcelo Soriano	February 09
Wilfredo Dulay	February 14
Ernesto Boac	February 15
Dante Ferrer	February 22
Charlie Alejandrino	February 24
Geary Barias	March 01
+Ismael Rafanan	March 02
Ray Roderos	March 02
+Ronald Roderos	March 02
+Antonio Viray	March 05
Dante Ganir	March 08
Leonardo Bernabe	March 08
Meynardo Santiago	March 11
Lucrecio Figueras	March 15
Benny Brizuela	March 22
Teodorico Capuyan	March 25
Juanito Samuya	March 27



+Raul Heredia	March 27
Michael Rosales	March 31

Lady Birthday Celebrants

Baby Cunanan	January 03
Bennie Pabalan	January 04
Len Wong	January 09
Baby Doria	January 15
Aurora Claudio	January 17
Myrna Castro	January 27
Tess Crisologo	February 06
Girlie Baltazar	February 27
Cynthia Guligado	March 10

MAGTANGGOL B GATDULA
President
LUIZO C TICMAN
Secretary

The **Golden Anniversary Celebration of the PMA Magilas Class '76** was successfully conducted through a series of commemorative and fellowship activities held from **February 17 to 21, 2026**. It brought together the members of the class, their spouses, and families to celebrate 50 years of enduring brotherhood, loyalty, and dedicated service to the nation.

On **February 17, 2026**, was a special evening grandiose dubbed as "**Magilas Night to Remember"** held at **The Nest, Greenmeadows**. The event was an atmosphere of gratitude, nostalgia, and fellowship. The program opened with a ceremonial **cake-cutting performed in the Marines' traditional way**. Following the cake-cutting ceremony was the **pinning of the Magilas '76 Golden Anniversary lapel pins** by the wives of the class members. It was reciprocated with the giving of roses. This touching and symbolic gesture recognized the unwavering love, patience, and support of our spouses who stood beside us.

On **February 20, 2026**, the members of the Magilas Class gathered for a solemn **wreath-laying ceremony** to honor and





remember our departed mistahs. The ceremony was conducted with deep reverence as the class paid tribute to our fellow Cavaliers who had passed on the previous years.

In the evening, a **family fellowship dinner was held at the Baguio Country Club (BCC)** where the members of the class, together with their spouses and family members, gathered to continue the celebration in a more relaxed and festive setting.

On **February 21, 2026**, was the **PMA Alumni Homecoming at Fort del Pilar**. One of the highlights of the occasion was the **donning** of **the Magilas Golden Medallions**, a symbolic recognition of the class' 50 years of brotherhood and service since graduation from the academy. The awarding of the medallions represented not only the longevity of their friendship but also the collective achievements and contributions of the class to the Armed Forces, law enforcement institutions, government service, and the nation as a whole.

Another significant activity was the **formal renaming of the Magilas Visitors Center back to Lorenzo Hall**, a meaningful tribute honoring the legacy and contributions associated with the facility. Lorenzo Hall used to be the visitors center and venue for Cadet Hops and Company parties.

Additionally, the class took great pride in the recognition given to **Mistah Pol Bataoil** and **Mistah Toto Golez**, who were honored with **Lifetime Achievement Awards.** Their recognition served as an inspiration and a source of pride for the entire Magilas Class.

In the evening of **February 21, 2026**, a **special dinner for couples was again held at the Baguio Country Club**, providing a fitting conclusion to the Golden Anniversary celebrations. The gathering allowed the class members and their spouses to celebrate in an atmosphere of joy, appreciation, and















camaraderie. The evening was filled with laughter, storytelling, and entertainment. The couples enjoyed singing, dancing, and reminiscing about their shared experiences.

Last March 3, 2026, was the 1st Quarter 74567 Golf Fellowship Tournament. Class '74 hosted the event at the Villamor Golf Course with the rest of the Corps in attendance.

The event has been going on for several years now with the objective of coming together in the spirit of fellowship, brotherhood and camaraderie. The host decided to set the Crossover format in the tournament with unlimited number of teams of two members per team to be fielded but only the best four teams will be counted to determine the champion.

The TEAM MAGIGILAS came in full force with seven teams fielded. Team manager REY KINGREY RAMIREZ strategically determined his team compositions to be in sync with the tournament format of CROSS OVER dubbed as "SORRY BOK".

The final line up:

1. Sendong and Sonny
2. Toto and Jimmy
3. Jess and Rey
4. Romy and Edong
5. Lhen and Boying
6. Jogy and Nelson
7. Vic and Ely

As the clouds competition cleared the MAGIGILAS HAMPASLUPA emerged as the **Champions.**



ORLY PESTANO
President
OGIE DAHAN
Secretary

By March 2026, the PMA Masikap Class of 1977 will take the leadership of the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. (PMAAAI).

This Leadership Change is in line with the Bylaws of the association Article VI, Sec. 2, Tenure and Vacancies, which provides that "the Trustees shall assume office on the first day of March following their election."

The Masikap Class of 1977 is proud and happy to have reached our golden jubilee year! As a Class, we will strive to make this as memorable as we can!

Let us therefore revisit our past by way of featuring photos of events that we would like to recall! Prominently, the one and only Chicken Club which the Masikaps had created.



Our latest class activity last year was our Christmas Party held on November 30, 2025.



In 2023, we celebrated our 50th year as Golden Plebos!





Chicken Club December 2025.

ROMEO D LUSTESTICA
President
ARTHUR I TABAQUERO
Secretary
REY ORDONEZ
Asst Secretary

MAKATARUNGAN 1978 FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

A traditional semi-annual Fellowship Night was held on December 10, 2025 at the Villamor Golf Club main hall. The fellowship featured the Class Christmas party and the usual dance and gift-giving among classmates. Popular among the gifts was the special bagoong from Pangasinan given by Jess Fajardo. Another feature of the fellowship is the semi-annual consolidated birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Many birthday celebrants are now in their 70s while several wedding anniversary celebrants are nearing their 50th year. A presentation showed an AI generated animation of sweet moments of married couples.





PMARAI ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION



The PMARAI held its Annual General Membership Meeting on 9 January 2026 at the Philippine Navy Golf Course, Taguig City. Here, the Makatarungan 1978 Class representative, MGEN Romy Prestoza (Ret.), took his oath as a member of the PMARAI Board. He was subsequently elected as the Chairman of the Board and consequently, the Vice Chairman of PMAAAI Board *(see photo on the right).*



PMAAAI ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AY 2025-2026

Attending the PMAAAI AGMM on 24 January 2026 at the new PMAAAI Center of Leadership and Excellence, Lawton Ave., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City is the Makatarungan Class 1978 dozen from left to right *(see photo on the right):* Rolly Abad, Romy Prestoza, Tom Decena, Gabby Gomez, Joe Gaverza, Jess Fajardo, Rudy Artuz, Oca Rabena, Art Tabaquero, Ralph Villanueva, Romy Lustestica and Mario Phil Plaza.



MAKATARUNGAN 1978 ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND ELECTION

On February 12, 2026, the M78AI, had its Annual General Membership Meeting and Election at Sambisig Hall, Villamor Golf Club, Pasay City with 30 members physically attending and 44 opting to appoint proxies. It featured a fellowship golf in the morning, lunch and the AGMM&E in the afternoon. Mistah's Efren Tedor, Sluggo Mena and Chito Dino were elected as members of the Board of Trustees for a term of three years. Highlights of the meeting were the ratification of Board Resolutions and a lively discussion of the preparations for the 2028 Golden Graduation Anniversary Celebration.









TRISTAN M KISON
President
JOSE TONY E VILLARETE
Secretary

The PMA "Matapat" Class of 1979 closed 2025 and opened 2026 with meaningful, festive, and fellowship-filled activities that reaffirm our enduring brotherhood, camaraderie, and shared pride.

A Night to Remember: Matapat Christmas Party – December 6, 2025

Our Christmas Party, held on December 6, 2025 at the Veterans Center, Camp Aguinaldo, was a festive, colorful, and heartwarming reunion of classmates, families, and friends. Attendance was remarkable, with members travelling from Mindanao and even from the United States, reflecting the deep bonds that transcend distance and time.





With a nostalgic theme inspired by the legendary "100th Nite Show" from our cadet days at the PMA, the evening brought back cherished memories and youthful laughter. The program was masterfully led by two lively and hilarious emcees, Cav Francisco Cruz Jr. (Diego) and Cav Antonio Agtual Jr. (Honeyboy), who kept the energy high throughout the night.

A major highlight was the debut performance of the PMA Matapat Class of 1979 Band, impressing the audience after only a month of dedicated rehearsals-marking a proud and historic first for the Class.



The Major Service Groups Dance and Song Presentation cum Competition was another crowd favorite:







- The Army Group, in full uniform and equipment, performed a spirited "Little Drummer Boys" number.

-The PNP Group showcased their rhythm and flair as the Cha-Cha/Atras-Abante Group.

-The Navy Group, in colorful and creative costumes, entertained as "The Village People."

-The Air Force Group, ultimately crowned Champion of the Night, delivered an electrifying performance of *"Hagibis – Katawan."*

Adding warmth and charm were special performances by the Ladies, couples, and the talented children of our members. A special guitar performance by our honorary member, Congressman Nonoy Libanan, further elevated the evening's energy. The night concluded with an exchange gift, raffle draws, and a lively line dance session led by a professional dance instructor – ensuring that joy, laughter and movement filled the venue until the very end.





Matapat Golf Club Yearend Fellowship – December 9, 2025

Just three days later, on December 9, 2025, the Matapat Golf Club held its Yearend 2025 Golf Fellowship at the Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course, followed by a hearty lunch fellowship at Golden Seafood and Steak House, conveniently located behind Camp Aguinaldo.

The event featured the awarding of tournament winners and an exciting raffle, where-- true to Matapat tradition- everyone went home a winner, even if not all took home trophies. The camaraderie, great food, and fellowship among golfing buddies – many of them still healthy, energetic septuagenarians – made the event a resounding success.











In Loving Memory: Cav Andres Bayani M. Aguilar



In the first week of 2026, the Class honored the life and legacy of our Mistah Cav Andres Bayani M. Aguilar, a distinguished Philippine Air Force Pilot and former Instructor Pilot at the PAF Flying School.

He is survived by his wife Freda, daughter Patricia, a successful businesswoman, and son Karlo Rufino, a proud member of PMA Class of 2010 and now an Army Major. Cav Aguilar's service, professionalism, and dedication to country will forever remain an inspiration to the Matapat brotherhood.



Sustaining Fellowship and Looking Ahead

To keep the Matapat flame of camaraderie burning, the Matapat Golf Club continues its regular golf fellowships across various courses nationwide. Meanwhile, the Major Service Groups maintain their regular get-togethers and fellowship activities, strengthening bonds and sustaining the spirit of unity.







As always, our members eagerly look forward to joining Class activities – so long as we remain physically and mentally blessed, grateful for the gift of brotherhood and the privilege of shared memories.

Preparing for the Future: AGA and Golden Anniversary

The Board of Officers is currently hard at work preparing for the upcoming Annual General Assembly (AGA) and laying the groundwork for our 50th Golden Anniversary in 2029 – a milestone that promises to be historic and meaningful celebration for the entire Matapat Class. A milestone that will celebrate not just years passed, but a lifetime of honor, service, sacrifice, and brotherhood.

Matapat!
Brothers in arms, brothers for life –
Bound by honor, strengthened by time,
Unbroken in spirit, unwavering in loyalty!
PMA "Matapat" Class of 1979 – Stand Proud, Stand United, Stand Forever!



CAESAR RONNIE F ORDOYO
President
EDMUND C TAN
Secretary

Mapitagan Quarter in Review

The opening months of 2026 found the Mapitagans nurturing the enduring brotherhood forged decades ago within the hallowed ground of the Philippine Military Academy. From fellowship games and class gatherings to alumni engagements and homecoming celebrations, the Class remained active in strengthening camaraderie while supporting fellow Mistahs and their families. Activities from the last quarter of 2025 through the early months of 2026 reflect the solidarity, gratitude, and shared purpose that continue to define the Mapitagan spirit.



Eight Mapitagan Golfers and four Mapitagan Dependents in three flights of four golfers await their tee times at Hallow Ridge Golf Club last 22 November 2025, a Saturday. Left to Right: Herbert Yambing, Bong De Asis, Onell Lleno, Emil Sarmiento, Mae Sarmiento, Trixie Abogado, Bogs Abogado, Ces Ordoyo, Jess Lomeda, Sammy Diciano, Chris Abogado, and Egee Abogado.

Mapitagan Golfers Fellowship Game – Q4 2025

The Mapitagan golfers - among the most active in sustaining fellowship through sport - gathered early in the cool morning of Saturday, 22 November 2025 at the Hallow Ridge Driving Range Resto. Twelve players comprising eight MGs and four MDs (Mapitagan Dependents) settled down for breakfast while shivering in the cold wind blowing through sheets of silver rain.

Fortunately, the drizzle eased just in time for the first flight to tee off at 7:30 a.m., composed of MGs Ces Ordoyo, Sam Diciano, Bong De Asis, and balikbayan Jess Lomeda, home from "rainy" Vancouver for the Christmas holidays. They were followed by the MD flight of Mae Sarmiento, Trixie Abogado, Egee Abogado, and Chris Abogado, and the third flight comprised of MGs Emil Sarmiento, Bogs Abogado, Herbert Yambing, and Onell Lleno.

Play through the first nine holes progressed steadily despite intermittent rain. By the second nine, the sun had reclaimed the sky, brightening the windless fairways and creating the familiar weekend logjam of flights bunching at the tees.

At half past noon, the last flight—after a quick shower and change of clothes—returned to the driving range restaurant for lunch. The Abogados had already departed, as Bogs succinctly explained, "Something came up." The remaining group enjoyed a hearty meal of *sinigang na bangus sa miso*, grilled tuna belly, Bicol Express, *sisig*, and yang chow, capped with cups of Americano coffee. By mid-afternoon, after lively exchanges of cadet stories and golf mishaps, the group headed home—another fellowship round well played.



Thirty smiling Mapitagans, of whom 26 are Regular and four Honorary, pose for posterity during the Mapitagan October-November-December (Q4) Birthday Fellowship Lunch in 3G Sky Restobar, GA Tower 2 Roofdeck in Mandaluyong City last 25 November 2025.



The 10 jubilant Mapitagans marking respective birthdays in the 4th Quarter of 2025 before the ceremonial intoning of the Mapitagan Birthday Chant and then blowing out the candles on the birthday cake. Left to Right: Edmund Tan; Jun Sanchez; Ome Carbonel; HM Billy Braza; Ed del Rosario; Orly Beltran; HM Willy Lee; HM Delfin Lee; Vic Caragan; and Jeff Tupas.

Quarterly Mapitagan Birthday Celebrators Party

On 25 November 2025, Mapitagans gathered at the roof deck of GA Tower 2, which is owned by Honorary Member Delfin



Twenty-nine Mapitagans and 19 of their ladies with smiles lining their radiant faces while celebrating Christmas during the Mapitagan Class of 1980 Christmas Party 2025 with a buffet dinner, party and fellowship at the Villamor Airbase Golf Course Clubhouse on 13 December 2025.

Lee, to celebrate Mistahs with birthdays in October, November, and December. The day's weather was somber—overcast skies with steady rain—but the early arrivals quickly warmed the atmosphere with hearty greetings and spirited camaraderie.

At noon, Class President Ces Ordoyo invited everyone to proceed to the nearby 3G Sky Restobar for a buffet lunch, with Jardi Mantele leading the grace. Class Secretary Edmund Tan formally opened the gathering by recognizing the birthday celebrators and conducting a roll call of Mapitagans present.

President Ordoyo encouraged everyone to look forward to the upcoming Class Christmas Party scheduled on 13 December 2025 at the Villamor Airbase Golf Clubhouse. Sec. Edmund highlighted the success of the First Mapitagan Golf Tournament held at Camp Aguinaldo Golf Course, which generated valuable funds for priority Class projects—the 2026 Reception Reenactment marking its 50th anniversary and the 2030 PMA Homecoming celebrating the Class Golden Jubilee.

President Emeritus Nick Bartolome noted that the forthcoming Christmas Party would be historic with the oath-taking of several honorary Mapitagans. Sec. Edmund also introduced the newest honorary member, Billy Braza, and expressed the Class' appreciation to Honorary Members Big Boy Sy and Anthony Almeda for the giveaways distributed to attendees.



Four new honorary members: Billy Braza, Fr. Gerard Deveza, Jigs Cristales and Ian Sy, taking their oath of membership as Mapitagans with their sponsors standing behind, administered by Class President Emeritus Nick Bartolome during the Mapitagans Christmas Party 2025 last 13 December in the Villamor Airbase Golf Course Clubhouse.

A spirited roll call by cadet company followed. After some good-natured confusion, the Bulldogs of "D" Company were declared the most represented that day. The gathering then shifted to videoke time, with Sec. Edmund belting out the first number, followed by Jardi Mantele and Mie Mendoza. By mid-afternoon, grateful Mapitagans - giveaways in hand - lined up for the elevator ride down, concluding another cheerful fellowship.

Mapitagan Class Christmas Party 2025

The Mapitagan Christmas Party was held on 13 December 2025 at the main ballroom of the Villamor Air Base Golf Clubhouse. Twenty-nine Mapitagans attended the celebration, including six honorary members, along with 19 ladies—five of whom were widows of Mistahs.

Vic Caragan, serving as emcee with his trademark wit, opened the program at 6:30 p.m. Fr. Gerard Deveza delivered the invocation, praying for peace and happiness for everyone during the Christmas season and throughout the coming year.

In his welcome remarks, Jardi Mantele expressed his joy in seeing everyone gathered once again and offered prayers for God's blessings upon all Mapitagans and their families.

Class Secretary Edmund Tan delivered the Yuletide inspirational message, recognizing the presence of mistahs and honorary members while acknowledging those unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. He also expressed heartfelt appreciation to the widows who continue to grace Class gatherings.

President Emeritus Nick Bartolome then administered the oath of membership to four new honorary Mapitagans: Fr. Gerard Deveza, Jigs Cristales, Ian Sy, and Billy Braza. Each briefly introduced themselves before formally joining the Mapitagan family.

Dinner followed at seven in the evening, after grace led by Fr. Gerard. Musical entertainment was provided by a Philippine Air Force band performing a lively mix of Christmas, bossa nova, and pop favorites.

Guest performer Bo Cerrudo soon took the stage, captivating the audience with his powerful voice. Couples such as Nick and Noemi, Rainier and Dolly, Bogs and Sionie, Jess and Blue, and Emil and Mae filled the dance floor as Bo delivered slow, swing, and Latin favorites. His playful rendition of "Please Release Me" drew laughter and momentarily cleared the dance floor, adding to the evening's merriment.

The evening's highlights included the exchange gifts, raffle draws, and distribution

of special prizes. Christmas presents from Nick and Noemi Bartolome were also shared with everyone.

In closing, Nick acknowledged the valuable assistance of Col. Marc Yambing '02, son of Herbert Yambing and currently Commander of the 2nd Air Reserve Center in Clark, Pampanga. He likewise commended Edmund Tan and his roommate Nini for their dedication in organizing the successful gathering.

PMAAAI Annual General Membership Meeting 2026

Eight Mapitagans attended the Annual General Membership Meeting and Election of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc. on 24 January 2026 at the PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

The delegation was led by Class President Ces Ordoyo and Class Secretary Edmund Tan. Joining them in strengthening the Class' presence were President Emeritus Nick Bartolome, PETFI President Ed Tamayo, AGFO President Gerry Layug, and mistahs Gupix Gupana, Jess Lomeda, and Herbert Yambing.

The gathering concluded with the traditional fellowship lunch, where Cavaliers renewed friendships and exchanged stories with both upperclassmen and underclassmen in the enduring spirit of PMA camaraderie.

PMA Alumni Homecoming 2026

Six Mapitagans - Juni Carbonel, Gil Pacia, Ric Pasamba, George Regis, Edmund Tan, and Raffy Torres - made the journey to Baguio City to attend the PMA Alumni Homecoming on 21 February 2026 at Fort del Pilar.

Dressed in their Class uniform and fedora hats, the Mapitagans joined fellow Cavaliers at Borromeo Field and proudly marched during the trooping of the line before Guest of Honor and Speaker Senator Panfilo Lacson '71. The ceremony reaffirmed the enduring brotherhood, shared values, and commitment to service instilled at the Academy.

For the Mapitagans, the occasion was an evocative journey back in time. Fifty years ago, as young cadets barely out of their teens, they first entered the gates of Fort del Pilar to begin a disciplined life of leadership training and service - an experience that would shape the course of their lives.

After the parade, the group gathered for lunch at Cholos Gastro Park before visiting mistah Mon Loria and his wife Nelia. The group personally handed over modest financial assistance collected from mistahs to help defray Mon's medical expenses. Despite the challenges of treatment, Mon remained upbeat and grateful—an inspiring testament to the strength of the Mapitagan brotherhood. We continue to offer our fervent prayers for Monching's complete healing and full recovery.



The Mapitagans delegation to the PMAAAI AGMM&E in the new PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City last 24 January 2026. From left to right: Gupix Gupana, Ces Ordoyo, Edmund Tan, Jess Lomeda, Herbert Yambing, Nick Bartolome and Gerry Layug. Not in photo is Ed Tamayo who took the picture. Hehe.

Milestones

Achievement of Class Secretary

Class Secretary Edmund Tan was re-elected as Trustee of the Association of General and Flag Officers (AGFO) during its Annual General Membership Meeting and Election held on 28 November 2025. With the support of Mapitagans present, Edmund garnered the highest number of votes among the eight candidates for election to the Board and will serve another three-year term.

He will likewise continue to represent the Class on the Board of the PMA Retirees Association (PMARAI) with the affirmation of Class President Ces Ordoyo. Kudos to Edmund—keep making the Mapitagans proud.

Latest Lolo

On New Year's Eve, Bong and Lisa De Asis welcomed their first grandson, Cyler Eren, born to their son Cyril Edward and daughter-in-law Edenette Grace in Australia. Proud grandparents Bong and Lisa are already



The six Mapitagans that attended the PMA Homecoming 2026 in PMA, Fort del Pilar, Baguio City on 21 February 2026. From left to right: Raffy Torres, George Regis, Gil Pacia, Edmund Tan, Juni Carbonell and Ric Pasamba.



New Lolo Bong and Lola Lisa De Asis proudly introduced their first apo, Cyler Eren, who was born on New Year's Eve, the 31st of December 2025, to son Cyril Edward and daughter-in-law Edenette Grace who work as nurses in Australia. They are Australian citizens. The excited grandparents can hardly wait to take a quick trip to Down Under very soon so they can carry, hug and smooch Baby Cyler Eren.



Herbert and Marivic Yambing, with their nine lovely apos, the most number among Mistahs. Standing from left to right: Zoe (18 yo), Josef (4 yo), Isha (17 yo), twins Zai and Zu, (both 15 yo). Seated from Left to right: Lola Marivic, Mia (4 yo), Herbert III (7 yo), and Lolo Herbert.

Inset Photos: Youngest Alora Hermoine (one day old) and Amara Elise† (6 months).

planning a trip "Down Under" to meet and cuddle their first *apo*.

Most Number of Apos

Among the Mapitagans, the distinction for having the most grandchildren currently appears to belong to Herbert Yambing and his wife Marivic, who are blessed with nine *apos*: Zoe, Isha, twins Zai and Zu, Herbert III, Josef, Mia, Amara Elise, and the newest addition to the growing Yambing roster, Alora Hermoine, born on 05 March 2026.

With nine grandchildren already in formation, Herbert seems to have established a comfortable lead in the *apo* department. Evidently, the Yambing genes remain highly operational and continue to deliver impressive results. If this trend continues, Herbert may soon have enough *apos* to organize a small company—complete with future reinforcements already in the pipeline.

Another mistah, Oby Antonio, is believed to have reached the rare milestone of having an *"apo sa tuhod,"* a notable generational achievement that may well deserve its own feature in a future Class Call.

Surely, there may be other Mistahs equally blessed with many *apos*—so don't hesitate to report in and let the Class know. Otherwise, Herbert may soon be declared the **Mapitagan Grand Champion in the *Apo* Category.**

In Loving Memory

"You were here for a moment, but loved for a lifetime."

Amara Elise, the granddaughter of Herbert Yambing, was called to the Lord on 22 November at six months old. Though her time on earth was brief, she brought immeasurable joy and love to her family. Her memory will forever remain in their hearts.

In Memoriam

"A mother holds her children's hands for a while, their hearts forever."

Evarista Valero Sanchez, beloved mother of mistah Jun Sanchez, passed away peacefully on 21 January 2026 at the age of 97. Her long and meaningful life reflected a mother's enduring love, strength, and devotion to her family.

The Class extends its heartfelt condolences to mistah Jun and the entire Sanchez family in this time of loss. May Ma'am Elvie's gentle soul rest in eternal peace.

Message from the Class President

Dear Mapitagans,

As we welcome another year, we do so with gratitude for the journey that began within the halls of the Philippine Military Academy and continued across the many fields where we have served. Time may bring the realities of aging, yet it also deepens wisdom, faith, and brotherhood.

Let us remain united—steadfast in loyalty, compassion, and mutual support. In strength we once stood; in solidarity we shall endure.

As we gather once again for the PMA Alumni Homecoming, we are reminded that while time may have added years to our lives, it has not diminished the ideals instilled in us within those hallowed grounds.

This celebration is more than tradition—it is a reaffirmation of who we are. Beyond camaraderie and shared memories, we carry a continuing responsibility to uphold the values of integrity, honor, and service to country.

GREG CATAPANG
President
JOEL JESUS M SUPAN
Secretary

SHINE ON DIMALUPIG

WITH FERVOR BURNING...

The Dimalupig Class 1981 sponsored the "Stop and Salute" Flag-Raising Ceremony at Luneta on February 2, 2026. It was a renewal of the Class' Loyalty to the Flag and the Filipino People for whom it stands for. As our Mistah Cavalier Mike Asperin said, "Standing together to honor the Flag is a powerful reminder our shared values of Unity, Freedom and Patriotism." Class 1981 is the first PMA Class ever to sponsor this event and it will do so every year hereafter.







BRIGHT BEACON OF THE LAND







Cavalier Gabby Riego De Dios, for and in behalf of the Dimalupig Class of 198l, donated his painting, "Bright Beacon of the Land" featuring a Cadet in Rifle Salute with the Melchor Hall as backdrop. The Painting will grace the wall of the new PMAAA Center for Leadership and Excellence, the new home of all Cavaliers in Fort Bonifacio. Cavalier Riego De Dios is an accomplished painter and the first artist to be awarded the Cavalier Awardee for Special Field (Creative Arts) in 2021. The model in the painting is Cadet Harold Ochoco, C-4375, Class 1981.

ORGANIZATIONAL SECURITY CULTURE – A NEW PARADIGM FOR MANAGEMENT



Cavalier Joel Jesus Supan for and in behalf of the Dimalupig Class of 1981 donated copies of his book, "The Art and Science of Security" to the new PMAAAI Center for Leadership and Excellence and to the Library of the PMA Learning Resource Center. The book provides the Stonewall Security Model which is a framework for developing Organizational Security Culture as a new Paradigm for Management. The book was given a Five-Star Rating as a Business Economics book by Foreword Review in the United States where it was first published. It will be an invaluable learning guide for Cavaliers who intend to join or are now in the Private Security Profession, also called the 5th Service and for Cadets, for the learning of the Fundamentals of Security from a civilian perspective that will make whole their knowledge of security and prepare them better for their service to our country and people.

THE DIMALUPIG CELEBRATING ITS 45TH GRADUATION ANNIVERSARY



Let every heart with fervor sing, while bugle sounds recall… Let scrolls unfold old tidings bring, the memories dear to all… For hearts are young again my dear, for hearts are young again…We've known the warmth of hearts before. Let memories live again… *This passage from the Cadet Song, "Strong Hearts" best describes the feeling of each member of the Dimalupig Class of 1981 when they got together as sponsors during the 2026 PMA Alumni Homecoming with their coats off and sleeves rolled up and repeated once again their old but never worn-out stories of their days as cadets.*

LYSANDER A SUERTE
President
ROLANDO G BORJA
Secretary

Sandigan '82 Makes History at the 75th Fil-Am Invitational

Sandigan '82 delivered a resounding statement of excellence at the 75th Fil-Am Invitational Golf Tournament, held in Baguio City from November 25 to December 3, 2025, as the class fielded a formidable 19-man contingent and emerged as one of the tournament's most decorated groups.

Showcasing depth, discipline, and true Sandigan fighting spirit, Sandigan '82 Team 1 captured the Championship, while Sandigan '82 Team 2 secured 1st Runner-Up honors—a rare and impressive one-two finish. Not to be outdone, the Sandigan Golfers also dominated their divisions, with Team 1 crowned Champion and Team 2 finishing as 1st Runner-Up, underscoring the class's sustained excellence across multiple teams.

This historic performance reflects not only individual skill, but also unwavering teamwork, preparation,











and brotherhood—values deeply ingrained in Sandigan '82. The achievement adds another proud chapter to the class's legacy in Philippine golf and the storied history of the Fil-Am Invitational.

Congrats to the Champion Golfers, led by Mistah **Willy Bonilla**!

The Sandigan **Christmas party** last December 6, 2025, at Villamor Golf Club was attended by 131 Sandigans and their Beloveds. The dinner party was preceded by a round of golf, and a Holy Mass with Mistah Father Judee Mar Maquinad.

Caught on camera are Delta and Hawk companies, and …others.





We are also proud to report that in Cebu, **Cav John Bonafos** (left photo) and other Cebu-based Cavaliers continued their **relief operations** after the devastating Visayas earthquake, floods, and fire. Among the major donors was Mistah **Ahmed Erpe**, who donated 200 sacks of rice. Many Sandigans have earlier provided financial support to the noble efforts of fellow Cavaliers in disaster areas.

Here's hoping for a better **2026**!



ENRIQUE J DELA CRUZ
President
PERFECTO O QUILICOT JR
Secretary



From War to Worship: The Matikas Evolution

After traversing a significant distance in our life's journey, many of us have reached that contemplative clearing in the woods where we naturally pause to survey the trail we've blazed. It is a quiet moment of reckoning, where the dust of the march finally settles and the true landscape of our legacy comes into focus.

By any worldly measure, the "Matikas" Class has reached an exemplar level of achievement. While we may fall a few medals short of the coveted Valor, our collective accolades are formidable. We've seen four of our own reach the pinnacle of military service, donning the highest ranks our country can bestow. We have brothers who have helmed—and still lead—vital government departments, and others who are now bravely navigating the rough, unpredictable waters of politics. As an extension of our own dreams, we are now watching our children launch into their own careers, reaching levels of distinction that often go far beyond what we once dared to imagine for ourselves.

A New Mission

But for a soldier, the mission never truly ends; it only evolves. We are finding that life must assume deeper meanings as we go. We are pivoting away from the trajectory of rank and title toward a mission less measured by the world: a journey of reflection, prayer, and the noble movement of "saving" others. Whether it is navigating the physical travails of age or the spiritual weight of the soul, we are stepping up once more.

This transition feels particularly timely given the disheartening state of our administrative morals today. To stay connected, we've traded radio frequencies for Viber groups—syncing our petitions and devotions with the same precision we once used for operations.

Mistahs in the Ministry

It is inspiring to see how some of our classmates have dedicated their "second tour" to pastoral care. **Roland Vicente** has traded his uniform for the pulpit, establishing the Bible Baptist Church in La Union. With a helping hand from our class, he built a physical sanctuary where he now shepherds a flock of nearly 200 families. It is a beautiful sight to see his family so deeply involved, with his children serving as his staff and assistant pastors.

Then there is **Jojo Cenabre**. From the rugged life of a Marine, he has established a spiritual "beachhead" in Katipunan. At Dove Christian Fellowship, he serves as Assistant Pastor, leading some 60 families in a campaign not for territory, but for "victorious living." Who could forget our chaplain and *mistah*, **Reverend Andy Legaspi**? We recently celebrated his 80th birthday—just three years shy of becoming our class torchbearer. Andy is still "on the move" in Dumaguete with his Wayside Ministry. In a move that is quintessentially Andy, he uses his vintage Westphalia Volkswagen van as a mobile sanctuary, offering coffee to friends and strangers alike as an opening to share Godly thoughts. Alongside Ping, his partner in this second season of love, he continues to mentor a growing community. To see him at 80, graced with a strong body and an acute mind, is a testament to a life lived for the Lord.



Leading by Serving

Even in the corporate and academic world, the Matikas spirit is transforming. **Mike Morales**, as President of the MOL Magsaysay Maritime Academy **(MMMA)**, is aggressively championing a leadership style rooted in "servant stewardship." He is breaking away from the old "rank-has-its-privileges" mindset—the traditional "big ship followed by small ships" dictum.

Instead, Mike teaches that every member of the crew has a



role that is equally crucial to the voyage. The leader's job is to motivate, collaborate, and ensure everyone is rowing toward a righteous goal. While some skeptics call this counterintuitive, the results are undeniable. Even foreign experts are amazed by the transformational potential of this style. No less than Arsenio Dominguez, the current Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization noted during his visit to the school, the excellence of the paradigm in developing future leaders and merchant marine officers. It is not difficult to ascribe to it that two MMMA cadets were recently selected among the Ten Outstanding Maritime Students of the Philippines. MMMA's transformational leadership paradigm has attracted the interest of other institutions, including the PNPA, the Philippine Public Safety Academy and two Japanese maritime schools. It is because of this impact that our class has so proudly supported the **Matikas Leadership Award** which comes with a 100k scholarship, to an outstanding MMMA cadet each year, that Mike initiated.

The Final Formation

Today, our Viber Prayer Group has become one of the most vibrant sectors of our class life, providing a sense of fellowship that closely rivals the spirited rounds at our Matikas Golf Club.

We've learned that while we once marched to the beat of a drum, we now move to the quiet, steady whisper of the Spirit. It turns out the most significant trail we would ever scout was the one leading back to the Creator.



DAN UBALDO
President
GEORGE D AVILA
Secretary
JESSE A ALVAREZ
Writer

The turn-over of Class leadership took effect in January 2026. The previous set of Class officers under then Pres. **Banji Ramos** ensured the smooth turn-over of plans, programs and projects and other major concerns that the new leadership should know. The team of Banji Ramos is credited for the following major accomplishments or innovations: (1) Successful conduct of 40th Graduation Anniversary Celebration at PMA grounds and subsequent dinner fellowship at Baguio City on March 18, 2024, (2) Establishment of member welfare program where one member each company is designated as HMO beneficiary, and (3) Marked improvement in Class Corporate management and resources. He was supported by these gentlemen who also served for three years: VP **Joel Pagdilao**, Secretary **George Avila**, Treasurer **Sam Felipe**, Auditor **Mike Perez** and Trustees **Bing Banta**, **Ernie Ravina**, **Jess Galapia**, **Milner Dela Cruz**, **Jojo Angan**, **William Uy**, **Ding Sevilla**, **Elmer Quiros**, **Raniel Ramiro**, **Artie Sindac** and **Caloy Tabo**. *Salud, señores!!!*

As new chapter of Class journey unfolds, the following set of Class officers are tasked to carry on the torch of leadership and the burden of implementing our programs and projects: Pres **Dan Ubaldo**, VP **Aga Adriatico**, extended Secretary **George Avila**, Treasurer **Noli Taliño, Ed Maningding**, **Noel Albano**, **Gerry Amante**, **Jojo Angan** (extended), **William Uy** (extended), **Ding Sevilla** (extended), **Joel Cantos**, **Rommel Gavieta**, **Jesse Alvarez** and **Herboy Aquino**. *Kayang kaya ba mga ginoo?* Dan Ubaldo and his gang will focus on the following during their incumbency: (1) More bonding moments and fellowship of members and family members in order to strengthen camaraderie and sense of belongingness, (2) Ensure that each member is healthy with sound mind, and extend assistance to those who are in need of medical care, when necessary, and (3) Maintain the sound financial condition of the Class Fund.

Almost a decade after retiring from the military service, there are still some Maharlikans whose appetite for government service are still insatiable. Yes, they are insatiable and very passionate. *Sa trabaho na nga laang!* Majority of Maharlikans are now engaged in sports for health reason and of course for the love of the game. Many of those who did not find time to swing and putt while in the active service are now golf enthusiasts. *Kailangan kasi mainitan sa fairway every week, or else palaging mapag-iinitan sa bahay!!!* To some harassed souls, it is a relief for at least four to six hours. To the adventurous souls, it is a venue for an "afternoon delight!" I will feature the late-bloomer golfers of the Class in the succeeding Class call.

Our hats off to some Maharlikans who are still serving the country although in civilian capacity. Leading the pack are our guys at DND. USEC **Badong Mison** and USEC **Joey De Leon** have been in their positions for years now, while USEC **Harold Cabreros**, not long ago, assumed as Administrator, OCD. At DAR, we still have ASEC **Jun Sadiarin** and RD **Artie Sindac** based in Bicol Region. Under DILG, **Jojo Angan** is Commissioner, NAPOLCOM and **Ding Sevilla** is President, PPSC. Please, gangway for USEC **Gani Nerez**, Director General, PDEA. He is doing his best to keep our streets free from illegal drugs. Flyboy **Raul Del Rosario** is in his natural habitat being the Director General, CAAP. Not long ago, **Ronnie Estilles** was appointed as President & CEO, Renewable Energy, PNOC. *Kaya pala sya palaging full of energy!* My Beast squadmate, rather Beast Barracks squadmate **Richard Albano** is RD, LTFRB Region 3. PAGCOR is experiencing oversupply of Maharlikan talents! Out there we have **Paeng Sera Jose**, **Joel Enrile**, **Lito Domingo** and **Gilbert Sosa,** all serving as Vice Presidents in different capacities. Men of Vices!!!

Late last year, **Jay Tindoy**'s path crossed mine more than once here in Cagayan de Oro City. We visited **Rey Mutiangpili** at least twice when he was hospitalized due to cardiac arrest and stroke. He is now recuperating and undergoing speech and physical therapy at his residence in Dicklum, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, where he is the Barangay Chairman. Get well soon, Rey. Our well wishes, too, to **Alvin Tiamwatt** who undergone a successful by-pass operation but had to go under the knife again for open heart surgery, and **Ipe Felipe** who is also recovering from stroke. Recover well soon, guys. Our prayers! *Yakang yaka mga manoy!!!*

Please, make way for **Banji Ramos**, the Class recent recipient of Cavalier Award during the Homecoming 2026 celebration at PMA grounds, Baguio City. Congratulations!

A fellow golfer once commented that "When you're good, you're lucky!" But it doesn't reconcile with the fact that some holes-in-one were made in "unique" circumstances. *Isang masamang swing at nabatuktok ang tama sa bola. Sour spot yata ng club face ang tumama. Lumipad ang bola na parang low flying duck. Tumama sa dulo ng mabatong fairway sa harapan ng island green. Toink! Tumalbog ang kawawang bola sa loob ng island*



green at gumulong gulong papunta sa butas. Pasok! Hole in one! However, **Banji Ramos** made another hole in one in his long golfing career with finesse at Villamor Air Base Golf Course. Not to be outdone is **Jojo Angan**, who had been golfing for the past 30 years without much luck, when he aced the 115-yard par 3, hole # 6 at Ayala Greenfield Golf Course, Laguna. *8-iron po ang ginamit ni Jojo at hindi driver!* Congratulations, guys, and welcome to the "**Club of 99% Luck and 1% Skills**." This Club is bannered by another Beast Barracks squadmate **Gerry Amante**.

2026 must be a good year for Maharlikan golfers. Many golf enthusiasts are swinging and putting in numerous tournaments and fellowship games participated in by the Class. **Gene Cerbo** is doing good in documenting their exploits with matching photo and caricatures. *Minsan nga napagkakamalan ko ring caricatures yung ibang nasa photo na pino-post nya sa group chats natin!* Peace, guys! My poor eyesight is failing me again.

Bay Ybañez and yours truly, **Jesse Alvarez,** had a brief encounter in Davao City during the awards night of 77th PAL Interclub Golf Tournament Seniors Division in February 26, 2026. Let us have more practice, mistah. *Di yata pwedeng native talent lang!!! Mahirap namang sundin natin palagi ang kasabihang "**If you cannot play, display!**" at yung isa pa na "**If you do not play good, then look good!**"*

In succeeding issues of Class Call, I will allocate a space for **Trivia Corner**. This Corner will feature bloopers, funny moments, even laxities and other similar acts committed by members of the Class. Of course, their identities will be protected as I will stop short of mentioning their names, while I relate their "exploits" in vivid details.



Turn-Over of BOT and Class Officers.



Fellowship Golf of Mistahs.



Class Officers attended the PMA AGMM 2026.





Maharlika Class '84 attended the PMA Homecoming 2026 Celebration.



Onwards to greater heights in 2026!

2025 made a glorious exit but not without bridging the next year's flurry of activities destined for the Sinagtalans.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FESTIVITIES

The Class Christmas Party held last December 12, 2025 was a harbinger of special things to come. A huge number of mistahs and their dependents clogged the Villamor Air Base Golf Clubhouse venue, as they took part in the festivities that the organizers, led by President Bob Empedrad have to offer. The usual *bolahan, tsikahan* and catching up on each other's current activities dominated the air but did not detract the Sinagtalans from enjoying each other's company. A curated program of the affair saw the messages of the Class President (including a short briefing for the Special Homecoming next year) other concerned Mistahs, a lavish dinner, the much awaited raffle, class roll call (by companies), the dancing and the inevitable picture-taking of the mistahs with their ladies. The program was interspersed with the awarding of the winners of the SEMGC Quarterly Inter-Battalion Golf Tournament won by the Golfers from 1st Battalion composed of Valfrie, Guido, Vince, Gopics, Jong, Harry and Gau. It was a night of merriment, an event to mark the passage of another successful year for the Class and its members with the hope of a better, prosperous year.

40th ALUMNI HOMECOMING

It's not every day that something special comes to a class. And it's not every 40th Homecoming that a single class gets to enjoy and experience a Homecoming day dedicated solely to them. But then the SINAGTALA Class has always been special - from the moment they first stepped on the hallowed grounds of Borromeo field that cold, sunny day of April 4,1982 - it had always been so. Come to think of it, the stars must have aligned to reward the Class that: has an edifying "Class song", the one with members occupying all the Top positions in the AFP, PNP, BJMP at one time, the Class that "walked out " for a matter of principle and one that even up to now refuses to accept "honorary"

members with its own day of celebrating its 40th Ruby Homecoming on January 24, 2026. Of course this would not have happened without the unwavering support of the HPMA Leadership spearheaded by the PMA Superintendent - VAdm CAESAR VALENCIA and the untiring efforts of the SINAGTALA Class officers led by CAV ROBERT EMPEDRAD.





FAMILY DAY

To make the event most memorable, the actual Homecoming started with a series of events that commenced with the Mistahs and their dependents settling in their respective accommodations at the Baguio Country Club and at the Manor Hotel by Thursday January 22. The next day saw the Sinagtalans and their dependents trekking to the PMA for a "Family Day." They first gathered at the Chapel Area and walked/rode to Jurado Hall where they competed in friendly games of basketball, volleyball, badminton, obstacle race, tug of war, treasure hunting and track events, etc. each with their prizes. Hungry? They were treated with traditional "plebe" snacks of *bukayo*, long johns, *hopia* and had lunch later on.

It was a day of good clean fun with everyone having a blast - even one lady personality actually competed in the "Ladies' Tug of War." The event ended at late afternoon and the participants proceeded to the Grandstand to see the practice drill of the Cadets while others proceeded back to their hotel to prepare for the evening's Annual General Meeting (AGM).






AGM

The Annual General Meeting proceeded in the evening where several Class matters were discussed, Resolutions ratified and disseminations for the next day's activities were made and agreed upon. The activity was a night of gaiety wherein the melodious music of the Navy Band soothed the tired bodies of the sexagenarian attendees. It also saw the oath-taking of three (3) new Associate members - Alex Abangan, Arturo Del Ayre and Santiago Bartolome. Welcome back Mistahs. The proposal to accept "Honorary" members however did not fare well as the assembly agreed to defer the proposal for further discussion. The Class it seems is not yet ready to accept these kind of members and will have to make do with "Fraternal" Brother designation for the time being.





D-DAY

Everybody geared up early for the big day with several buses strategically positioned at the hotels being filled up as soon as the buses arrived. The "special" Homecoming for the PMA SINAGTALA Class of 1986 commenced with an "Open House" and a "Courtesy Call" by the Class Leadership to the Asst. Superintendent BGen ONORLIE BRILLANTES and his staff. The activity proceeded as planned with the Class members Trooping the Line all by themselves with no accompanying upper and lower classes and with elation as this moment will never be again repeated but will forever be etched in their memories. The Class and their dependents then had their noon mess with the Cadets - providing them (the dependents) with the opportunity to observe close hand how the cadets partake their meals. The Guest Speaker for the occasion, former CSAFP and Sinagtalan GEN FELIMON T SANTOS JR exhorted the cadets to strive for excellence, in his inspirational message to the CCAFP during the meal.









GALA NIGHT

The activity won't be complete without the celebration of the success of the HOMECOMING. And what could be more fitting than having a dignified "HOP" i.e. a more sedate or genteel celebratory dance for the culmination of an activity that took months of planning, coordination and some grief to the Class officers. The Gala night as it was conceived was held at the Cordillera Hall of the Baguio Country Club. Dependents were also given time and space to bond with each other in an adjacent venue. Mistahs and their spouse(s) had their pictures taken upon entry and got treated to a night of merriment and fun tempered by the presentation dedicated to departed mistahs. The activity proceeded with the usual arrangements highlighted by the messages of the Class President CAV ROBERT A EMPEDRAD, the Class ADVISER BGen DANILO DESUASIDO, the Guest Speaker - PGen ARCHIE GAMBOA and the response for the widows given by Senator RISA HONTIVEROS - the spouse of our late Mistah FRANK BARAQUEL. The festivity extended late into the night dancing and a beer-busting like atmosphere being experienced by some night owls.







The whole Homecoming was fun, exhausting, frustrating at times but exhilarating. It can not be encapsulated and tucked away for posterity but it was a fulfilling one for the Class - the hassles of orchestrating the myriad things for the activity is simply immense but the joy of succeeding dwarfed the difficulties. We are Sinagtalans and with the grace of GOD we prevailed. Thanks to each and every member of the Class. *AAS*

FERNAN T TRINIDAD
President
TOINKS H VALENCIA
Class Historian

Greetings, Hinirang!

The year 2026 stands before us as a year of strength, renewal, and purpose. As members of Hinirang and as retirees who have weathered many seasons of life - we have much to be grateful for. We are blessed not only with the wisdom of experience, but also with the gift of time: time to reflect, time to grow, and time to contribute in new and meaningful ways.

This year invites us to build upon those blessings. To nurture a better self, strengthened by learning and self-care. To foster a better family, grounded in love, support, and shared hope. Also to shape a better future, one that honors our past, while embracing what lies ahead with courage and faith.

May 2026 be a year where gratitude fuels our actions, our camaraderie deepens, our purpose, and every new day reminds us how fortunate we are to journey together as Hinirang.





HOMECOMING 2026

Small in number, yet powerful in presence. This year, we chose to join the annual homecoming with a small contingent yet full of steadfast spirit—minimizing fanfare to honor stewardship, focus our resources wisely, and prepare for a momentous milestone ahead. All this is in preparation for 2027, our 40th year—our graduation anniversary—a milestone worthy of the full pride, spirit, and Hinirang history. This simplicity becomes the foundation for the grandeur of the next.



HINIRANG IN GOVERNMENT

The Bureau of Customs, led by Commissioner Ariel "Neps" Nepomuceno, continues to bring pride to Hinirang with strong reforms and visible impact. The BOC exceeded its February 2026 revenue target with ₱73.7 billion collected, driven by accurate valuation and tighter enforcement of customs laws. It also intensified anti-smuggling operations, intercepting ₱180 million worth of illicit cigarettes at sea.

Another significant accomplishment is the return of 130,000 long-delayed *balikbayan* boxes that brought relief and joy to families who had waited months or even years to finally receive the gifts and essentials their OFW loved ones had sent with sacrifice and hope.

Hin Neps is supported by dedicated Hinirang members Hin Ringo and Hin Alambra.

The Bureau has also strengthened its anti-drug campaign through a renewed partnership with PDEA and the creation of a Drug Interdiction Task Group to boost intelligence and port security. In PDEA, we have Hin Bong Dickson, the Assistant Secretary and Deputy Director General for Administration.





On February 4, 2026, Hin Ma. O. Ranada Aplasca was sworn in as the new Sergeant-at-Arms of the Commission on Appointments. His appointment marks a unique distinction: he has served as Sergeant-at-Arms in all key legislative institutions—the House of Representatives, the Senate, and now the Commission on Appointments.

I also recently learned that Hin Joey Absalon has joined the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP). He now serves as a Flight Operations Safety Inspector for the agency.

To all Hinirangs who have joined the government or reached meaningful milestones in public service, please don't hesitate to share your news with us. We would be honored to celebrate your journey and acknowledge your achievements. Your success is—and will always be—Hinirang's pride.

HINIRANGS EVERYWHERE

We would love to hear from our Mistahs, especially those based outside Metro Manila. Whenever you meet a Mistah, make it a habit to take a photo or selfie together—and share it in our Viber groups so the whole class can share in the joy. And if you feel the class might be missing you, take a quick selfie and let us know how you've been. Your presence, your stories, and your updates truly warm our hearts and brighten the day of every Hinirang.

In our Viber group, as we looked through the photos shared, it was heartwarming to see familiar faces—Hin Andong, Hin Cuevillas, Hin Jun Caps, Hin Bondoc, Hin Tyne B, Hin Casanova—and even our Mistahs abroad like Hin Lye and Hin Magsino. Each glimpse of a Hinirang, wherever they may be, reminds us how strong and far-reaching our brotherhood truly is.

ALWAYS ONE, ALWAYS FORWARD

As we move forward in 2026, let us continue to cherish the brotherhood that has carried us through the decades. Whether in government service, in quiet personal pursuits, or in any corner of the world where each Hinirang now builds his life, let us remain connected in spirit and purpose. Every message, every shared photo, every small update reminds us that Hinirang is not just a class—it is a family woven together by enduring loyalty and shared history.

May the days ahead find us healthier, more grateful, and ever more united. Hinirang lives on in each of us, and together, we make the journey deeper, brighter, and richer.







ELISEO DC CRUZ
President
EDGARD A AREVALO
Secretary

Before the Year of the Wood Snake, 2025, crawls away, "Bigkis-Lahi" stalwarts, respective spouses and children gathered at the Villamor Air Base Golf Club Social Hall on 13 December. It was the Class Christmas Party dubbed as "BL '90 Christmas 2025: Family, Fellowship, Fun, Food!"

Indeed, it was a day of fellowship for BL'90 families where food abound and fun was unlimited.

There were all-in-all 181 attendees composed of Nine PC-PNP, Nine Aviators, Four Sailors and Marines and Forty-two Army warfighters or 64 BL '90 and 117 dependents. Each family received and brought home a Christmas package from Class President "Ninong" Ely and wife "Ninang" Letlet. Those were besides the raffle prizes many lucky winners brought home with them courtesy of generous members of the class who unselfishly shared their blessings - in cash and in kind.

Parlor games that made the mood more jovial were lively hosted anew by the one and only Benjie Hao. The choices of the games were excellent and engaging. And the cash prizes were enough to finance a family travel, a gadget, or an appliance! Well, a short travel, a modest gadget, or a simple home appliance.

We were wowed by the dance numbers performed by branch of service that were separately rendered by wives and by brats. Despite the fact that the presentations were announced and requested on-the-spot, the numbers were entertaining and well-applauded though unrehearsed.

Raffle draws were interspersed into the entire program. But before everyone finally heads home, raffle draws for major prizes were held - with a twist. The draws turned out a la *"kwarta o kahon"* hosted not by Wacky Kiray or Pooh and Nicky Morena. But by a newly-discovered and accomplished game show host that challenged the OAO Benjie Hao in the field of game show hosting. He is none other than The "Ninong for all seasons" and for many reasons" PresEly!

Alumni Homecoming 2026: the 36th for BL'90

The 36th alumni homecoming held on 21 February 2026 was well-attended with 45 Mistahs who trooped the line. There were 66 dependents who attended the homecoming. We would like to particularly acknowledge the presence of Olga (Batuts Castillo's wife) and Vivian (Norman Geronga's wife) in this year's Homecoming.

Other PMA classes were surprised that we were able to muster such a big number of attendees despite being one of the Host Classes just last year. We say it is a testament to the unity and camaraderie - the BL '90 trademark.

This Homecoming likewise hallmarks the last of the two major gatherings of *Bugo-bugas, Anitos y Anitas* in PMA where our Class pride Vice Admiral "Toinks" Valencia will be Academy Superintendent.

Finally, the gathering this big of Mistahs and dependents likewise manifests how we rally behind every project of the Class.

Paying back our Alma Mater, the BL'90 Class project

For the first time, our class will no longer be vagabonds: like having no permanent place or venue inside Fort del Pilar where we may gather for major events like Alumni Homecoming. What could be a better way to enjoy a sumptuous catered lunch laced with animated chats and genuine laughter than holding it in our permanent rendezvous--the Outdoor Classroom '90?

Shortly after the arrival of Supt Toinks, the simple but eventful Inauguration and Blessing Ceremony of the Outdoor Classroom '90 begun. It followed a carefully meticulously crafted program highlighted by the Signing and Handover of the facility from the PMA "Bigkis-Lahi" Class 1990 represented by its incumbent President Police MGEN Eli Cruz to



EVERYBODY HAPPY. BL '90 stalwarts gather for a Yuletide Photo before the Class Christmas Party 2025 comes to a joyful conclusion. An afternoon of F-4: Family. Fellowship. Fun. Food. Apart from raffle prizes, each attending family received a "Package of Love" from "Ninong" Ely and "Ninang" Letlet.



PAYING BACK TO ALMA MATER. Cav Eliseo Cruz, BL '90 Class President, turns over a newly-constructed Outdoor Classroom '90—their class project—to the PMA Cadets represented here by the Superintendent Vice Admiral Caesar Bernard Valencia in a simple Blessing and Inauguration Ceremony held at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City on February 21, 2026. The Commanding General Philippine Air Force LTGen Arthur Cordura (second from left) and Commanding General Philippine Army LTGen Antonio Nafarrete (third from left), and the class officers of 1990 stand as witnesses.

the PMA represented by Navy VADM Toinks Valencia.

The marker that was unveiled also that day says it all: "Legacy project of the PMA 'Bigkis-Lahi' Class of 1990 as an expression of gratitude the institution that molded its members into leaders of character."

It was the aspiration of every BL '90 that the structure shall provide "a place for cadet education beyond traditional classrooms to sharpen the mind, build character, and instill patriotism" among the future leaders of this country.

The blessing of the facility which was officiated by PMA Chaplain Colonel Leo Banlahay followed the traditional ribbon-cutting.

During his address after the ceremony, PresEly narrated in a nutshell how the project was conceived: the contribution of those whose generosity and support like that of former Commanding General of the Philippine Army LTGen Roy Galido, became the cornerstone of the edifice.

He also announced the plans for another project subsequent to this first ever class project that it has completed and donated to its Alma Mater, particularly the cadets. PresEly once more exhorted the support of the members for the success of yet another project for PMA when almost all BL'90s have retired—except for the last remaining members of the class all donning three stars!

They are, aside from PMA Supt VADM Toinks, CGPAF LTGen Art Cordura and CGPA LTGen Toto Nafarrete. They are the most senior among the remaining generals after AFP Chief-of-Staff General Romeo Brawner, Jr. Let me add, for all three exemplify excellence, a good grasp of the security challenges the nation faces, and a vision of how to address them. Hence, all of them are strong contenders to the top of the AFP totem pole.

Next fund-raising activity that hopes to partly finance the upcoming project of the class will be an Invitational Shooting Competition to be held in Tarlac City, and the best person to spearhead this is Totô Alex Sintin. Let us support the Class in this endeavor.

Updates

For those who fail to as frequently visit the Bulleting BIGKIS-LAHI 1990 as others do, you might missed the latest updates on the journey of our Mistahs.

The last remaining fighter pilot among aviators of the class who was not lured by the invitations of the airline industry has retired. On 08 February, in the hallowed grounds of Basa Air Base where Filipino Erich Hartmanns and the Chuck Yeagers were developed,



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM '90. Attending members and spouses posed for posterity underneath the legacy project of the PMA 'Bigkis-Lahi' Class of 1990. A non-traditional classroom made better from the bleacher where the stories of their cadetship all began one Summer Camp, forty or so summers ago.

BGen Rocky Binag bid the Air Force *adieu* after 38 years, 10 months and seven days of active military service.

Ninong Eli Cruz has moved from the Department of Justice to the Office of the Ombudsman signaling a major shift in the investigation and prosecution of scalawags and misfits in government service. From Assistant Secretary at DOJ, he is now Assistant Ombudsman with vast experience as a police general.

Meanwhile, fresh and mestizo good looks now welcome visitors to the Office of the Executive Secretary. I am not referring to ES Ralph Recto though they have strong semblance, I meant to describe former Commander Southern Luzon Command now Undersecretary Dong Palafox.

Rommel Tello who earned the monicker "small but terrible" in many respects have made another upset, not in boxing or in golf where he menaces past and present. He was promoted to Assistant Secretary for Regional Operations in Luzon from being Director IV at the Office of Transport Security.

Finally, let me say that he Class supports the bid of Chris Calulot for another tenure as one of the Board of Directors of Philippine Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative. His nth term, this reflects his trustworthiness and competence. So much a cut above the rest that even Policemen, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines want to vote for him if only they could. Hence, they are just endorsing Director ChrisCal's candidacy.

The foregoing stories attest to the unity of the class. They show BL'90's continuing desire to bring back through significant endeavors for the Academy and cadets the blessings that the class collectively received over the years. These accounts, incomplete as they are, tell us about the meaningful journey that individual members of the class and their respective families have brought honor to the class but are so humble to flaunt, save for the insistence of this writer. For comments: atty.edarevalo@gmail.com



BL '90 LADIES IN THE BLESSING. Sharing the limelight are BL'90's better halves who proudly smiled learning how the project was conceived, supported, and realized. And that Outdoor Classroom '90 shall be the venue to sharpen the mind, build character, and instill patriotism among the country's future leaders.



BIGKIS-LAHI, ALIGN! Like the way they all were four decades past: still camera conscious! There was never a gadget as magical as a camera. It could make this gentlemen who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields to scuffle and smile like the dickens. *"Walang Kamatayan!"*



TROOPING THE LINE, AH 2026. Mistahs proudly trooped the line on 21 February 2026 snappily as they did on their first homecoming in 1991. Except for a higher units of weight, sugar, and cholesterol now that they were back on their 36th Homecoming. Happily applauding on the sides were some 66 enthusiastic family members who never forgot to remember the feeling of pride being a PeemAyer's wife and kids.



Sambisig 1991: 35 Years of Brotherhood, Service, and Unity

Thirty-five years have passed since we marched out of the gates of the Philippine Military Academy as young lieutenants—lean, resolute, and brimming with conviction. Time has etched lines on our faces and silvered our hair, but it has not diminished the bond forged in the crucible of cadet life. This year, as the senior host class of the PMA Alumni Homecoming, we of Sambisig 1991 returned to our Alma Mater not merely to celebrate longevity, but to honor a shared journey—one defined by courage, integrity, loyalty, and enduring brotherhood.

Our official activities commenced on February 20 in Baguio City, beginning with the separate Branch of Service dinners held across different venues. The Army, Navy, Air Force and the Police gatherings were more than social calls; they were preludes—measured warm-ups for the larger celebration awaiting us at Fort del Pilar. These evenings allowed us to reconnect within our respective services, exchange stories of command, recall missions accomplished, and remember those who had transitioned from active duty into civilian life, corporate leadership, or public service.

There was laughter, of course—stories retold with greater animation than perhaps accuracy. There were firm handshakes and embraces that needed no explanation. For some, it was the first reunion in years; for others, it was a continuation of friendships maintained across postings and deployment areas. The branch dinners primed our spirits. They centered us on what truly mattered: that no matter where life had taken us, we remained bound by the same oath we once took as cadets.

Dawn at the Academy

The following morning—the D-Day of the Alumni Homecoming—began early. Many of our Mistahs registered at first light to make it on time for the Open House. There is something about entering the gates of the Academy that alters one's bearing. Shoulders square instinctively; steps grow measured. We were no longer senior officers, executives, or retirees. We were cadets again, if only in spirit.

Yet what gave the morning its most poignant tone was the quiet pilgrimage to the Barrio Area. Word had spread that a new mess hall would soon rise and that our old barracks would be torn down. For many of us, that structure was not just concrete and steel—it was memory embodied. It was where plebe years tested our endurance, where upperclass years demanded



leadership, and where friendships were tempered in hardship.

Walking once more through those familiar corridors—pausing at the doors of our old cadet rooms, even stepping inside the very spaces where countless *kamalasan* unfolded and relentless *bolahizing* ruled the day—we felt time collapse in on itself. The air seemed unchanged, heavy with memory. These walls had absorbed our frustrations, our whispered strategies to survive, our laughter after lights-out, and the silent resolve forged in the darkest hours.

Breakfast at Jurado Hall

If nostalgia defined the early hours, camaraderie defined the class breakfast at Jurado Hall. Despite the late-night fellowship of February 20, the turnout was remarkable. True to form, Sambisig answered the call.

The breakfast was simple but rich in meaning. Plates were filled, coffee flowed freely, and conversations crisscrossed tables. The sight was striking: Mistahs dressed sharply in two-toned suits paired with bright sage green neckties—a deliberate nod to our class identity. The Ladies were equally radiant in their tailored dresses, elegantly matching our alexandrite class gem. Their presence, as always, completed us.

Our dependents added color to the scene. The younger generation—our sons and daughters—wore Sambisig Brat jackets and caps with pride. To see them in Academy grounds, comfortable and confident, reminded us that legacy is not measured solely in medals or ranks, but in values transmitted to the next generation.

The class picture-taking that followed was both orderly and celebratory. Standing shoulder to shoulder once more, we posed not as individuals of separate accomplishments but as one class. Cameras captured what words often fail to express: 35 years of shared history crystallized in a single frame.

Marching on Hallowed Ground

The Alumni parade at Borromeo Field remains one of the most stirring traditions of the Academy. There is no substitute for the sound of synchronized steps striking the ground in cadence, nor for the sight of Alumni Classes arranged in disciplined formation.

For us, the wait along the sidelines was almost ceremonial—a moment to gather ourselves before stepping once more onto that hallowed ground. The class was led by our Mistahs still in active service, many now two- and three-star generals and flag officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. To see them at the helm was both inspiring and humbling. They represented not only





personal achievement but the continued relevance of our Class in national defense and public service.

As we marched, the applause from the grandstand met us warmly. Our Ladies, seated alongside those of other host classes, waved and smiled with unmistakable pride. Their support—often quiet, always steadfast—has been the backbone of our journey. The parade was less about pageantry and more about affirmation: that after three and a half decades, Sambisig still stands united.

There were no Cavalier Awardees from our class this year. Yet the absence of individual accolades did not diminish the significance of our presence. The true measure of success lay in attendance—in the sheer number of Mistahs and families who made the effort to return. Unity, not distinction, was our defining achievement.

Fellowship and Recovery

After the parade, lunch prepared by the Army provided sustenance and an opportunity to decompress. Some chose to remain on post, reliving cadet memories. Others returned to their hotels for brief respite, mindful of the evening's formal program. Age and wisdom perhaps guided these choices; we no longer recover as swiftly as we once did.

Yet even in rest, anticipation grew. The Gala Night awaited.

An Evening of Elegance

By evening, the transformation was complete. Mess jackets, tuxedos, and gowns replaced parade attire. The reception line was a spectacle in itself. Each couple was formally introduced upon entering the gala hall, greeted by applause that celebrated not only individual presence but shared history.

The atmosphere blended sophistication with familiarity. The dinner was sumptuous, but it was the program that carried emotional depth. A memorial video honored our fallen Mistahs—brothers who had completed their final march. As their images appeared on screen, silence settled over the hall. We remembered their laughter, their strength,



their quirks. Though absent in body, they remained present in spirit.

Following the tribute, a stream of graduation photos from 1991 illuminated the screens. Faces once lean and sunburned, physiques toned like triathletes, eyes filled with youthful certainty. Laughter erupted at familiar hairstyles and long-forgotten expressions. It was not vanity that moved us, but recognition of how far we had traveled since that day of commissioning.

The group photo sessions were uniquely reflective of the diversity within our class. Beyond company affiliations, we gathered as commercial pilots, fraternity brothers, even the ladies serving in the Nurse Corps. These micro-communities illustrated the varied paths Sambisig had taken—military, aviation, public service, corporate leadership—yet all stemming from the same foundation.

The Kaydet Girl Dance

If there was a defining emotional crescendo of the evening, it was the Kaydet Girl dance. As the familiar melody filled the hall, couples instinctively moved toward the dance floor. For a moment, we were transported back to cadet hops and early courtships. The years seemed to dissolve. Smiles widened, laughter rang out, and the atmosphere softened into warmth.

The dance was not choreographed perfection; it was lived authenticity. It reminded us that behind every decorated officer stands a partner who endured separations, postings, risks, and uncertainties. The rekindled *kilig*—the gentle flutter of remembered youth—sealed the night's meaning.

Singing followed. So did spontaneous dancing. Fellowship carried us forward until Taps gently signaled closure. Few wished to leave; all knew we would.

Unity as Our Guiding Theme

The theme of this homecoming was unity—a word often invoked, seldom embodied. For Sambisig 1991, unity was not abstract. It was demonstrated in attendance, in cooperation, in shared responsibilities executed without friction.

The success of our hosting rested on collective effort. Special recognition belongs to Class President Cav Roy Trinidad, whose hands-on leadership spanned from conceptualization to execution. His steady guidance anchored the planning process and ensured coherence across committees.

Equally instrumental were our Service Representatives: Cav Lloyd Cabacungan, Cav Flor Gagua, Cav Neil Alinsangan, and Cav Tweet Barandon, each ensuring that coordination within their respective branches was seamless. Treasurer Cav Gerlo Elchico safeguarded the fiscal integrity of the event, while Secretary Cav Bong Nebrija maintained the administrative backbone essential to organization. Immediate Past President Cav Rummuell Perez provided continuity and institutional memory that bridged planning cycles.

These roles were not ceremonial. They required diligence, time, and sacrifice—often unrecognized, always necessary. Their collective commitment exemplified the unity we sought to highlight.

Beyond the Celebration

As we departed Baguio, descending Kennon or Marcos Highway back to our respective realities, the echoes of the homecoming lingered. The celebration was finite; the bond endures.

Thirty-five years after graduation, we are no longer the cadets who once polished floors in the Barrio or stood rigid during inspection. We are fathers, grandfathers, leaders, and mentors. Some continue to serve in uniform; others serve in government, private enterprise, or community leadership. A few have already taken their final salute.

Yet the essence of Sambisig remains unchanged. We began as strangers from different provinces, dialects, and backgrounds. The Academy forged us into brothers. The decades have tested that bond—and found it resilient.







In hosting this Alumni Homecoming, we did more than fulfill a calendar obligation. We affirmed that unity is not sustained by proximity alone, but by intentional return. We returned to remember, to honor, to celebrate, and to recommit.

As the Academy evolves—with new mess halls rising and old barracks giving way—we accept that change is inevitable. What must remain constant is the spirit instilled within those walls: service to God, country, and people; courage in adversity; integrity without compromise; loyalty beyond convenience.

Sambisig 1991 stands at 35 years not as a relic of history but as an active chapter in the continuing story of the Philippine Military Academy. Our hosting was not perfect—no human endeavor ever is—but it was sincere, unified, and heartfelt.

And that, perhaps, is the highest tribute we could offer.

Mabuhay ang Sambisig! Hooyah!

RONALD JESS S ALCUDIA
President
RAY CLAUDIO R ABAYA
Secretary

The Maalab Class of 1993, together with their families, gathered on December 28, 2025 at the Philippine Army Officers' Clubhouse to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in a simple yet meaningful manner.

The occasion was intentionally modest, allowing classmates to reconnect, share stories, and strengthen their bonds through fellowship and camaraderie. An exchange gift activity, smoothly facilitated by Ricky Enriquez, added warmth and excitement to the celebration.

The event was made even more enjoyable by the delightful spread of food, highlighted by the well-loved coffee bar and desserts.

1st Quarter 2026 Maalabs in New Key Designations

The members of the Class continue to distinguish themselves across the ranks and major services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In January 2026, the following promotions were announced:

Philippine Army

- **MGen Arsenio DC Sadural PA** – Deputy Chief of Staff for Education, Training and Doctrine, J8, AFP





Merry Christmas from the Maalab Family!



Pat Amata and Arseng Sadural earns their 2nd star from the CSAFP Gen Romeo S Brawner Jr - Photo Credit: PAOAFP.

- **MGen Patricio Ruben P Amata** - Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations, J7, AFP
- **BGen Lennon G Babilonia PA** – Deputy Commander, Training Command, PA

Philippine Air Force

- **MGen Ronnie G Petinglay PAF** – Commander, Air Force Reserve Command
- **MGen Jose Bonifacio F Calub PAF** – Inspector General, Philippine Air Force

Other significant Awards for the Air Force Maalabs:

- **MGen Thad Rufino T Candelario PAF –** Command Aircraft Maintenance Officer Specialty Badge
- **MGen Loreto B Pasamonte PAF –** Command Aircraft Maintenance Officer Specialty Badge
- **MGen Fabian M Pedregosa PAF –** MOVE Champion Award and DND-Wide Gender and Development Award

On 20 February 2026, MGen Pedregosa PAF marked the conclusion of his distinguished flying career with a symbolic Champagne Flight at Fernando Air Base, Lipa City – an enduring tribute to his decades of dedicated service as a military aviator and senior leader.

New members of the BIRC

- **Capt Gerraline Pasia PN**
- **Capt Romeo Rosales PN**
- **Col Galileo Goyena PA**
- **Commo Brendo Casaclang PN**
- **VADm Roy Echeverria PCG**
- **Col Clarence Abellera PAF**

Welcome to the DBM (Driver-Bodyguard ni Misis) Club!

PMA Alumni Homecoming 2026

Once again, the members of the Maalab Class journeyed to the hills of the Cordillera to return to our cherished alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy. As we marched across Borromeo Field, we were reminded of the very reason we come home each year—to renew our steadfast commitment to the PMA motto: Courage, Integrity, and Loyalty.



Lennon Babilonia receives his first star from the CG,PA Lt Gen Antonio G Nafarrete symbolizing his assumption as Deputy Commander, Training Command, Philippine Army – Photo Credit: Philippine Army.

Before the Homecoming proper, the Magnificent Mulligans – Chevong, Nic Q, Hubert A, Bosnik, Pangga, Macaw, Josel and Emong – represented the Maalabs in



Cav Ricky Bunayog proudly displays the Cavalier Award plaque with his proud family.

the Games of Cavaliers 2026 at the Camp John Hay fairways.

This year's Alumni Homecoming celebration was made even more meaningful with the conferment of the Cavalier Award in the Special Field of Reserve Force Development to BGen Ricky Bunayog PA. Congratulations Mistah, on this well-deserved recognition.

Following the parade, the Maalabs gathered in Baguio City for a fellowship lunch, where we surprised Adm Ronnie Gil Gavan, Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, in celebration of his 57th birthday. It was a fitting way to honor a classmate whose leadership and service continue to bring pride to the Corps and to the nation.

See you in Camp Aquino for the "Balik Tarlac" on 10 April 2026!



The Maalabs and their spouses during lunch at Baguio City to surprise Cav Ronnie Gil Gavan PCG.

MA NOEL T TOLENTINO
President
IVAN DR PAPERA
Secretary

Signing Off with Pride: A Soldier's Journey into Retirement

After years of unwavering service, steadfast commitment, and countless sacrifices, the moment finally arrives when a soldier hangs up the uniform that has defined a lifetime of duty. Retirement is not merely the end of a career in the armed forces; it is a powerful milestone that reflects a journey marked by courage, leadership, and devotion to country. This quarter, we honor the legacy of two officers whose years of dedicated service have left an enduring imprint on the institution, the nation, and the many lives they have touched along the way.

More than three decades of dedicated service, COLONEL HENRY D ESTOESTA of the Philippine Air Force concluded his remarkable military career, marking the end of 35 years of active duty. His journey in uniform reflects a life guided by the enduring values of duty, honor, and country. Hailing from the humble town of Agoo, La Union, COL ESTOESTA rose from modest beginnings to become an accomplished Philippine Air Force Officer and pilot. His path began at the Philippine Military Academy, where he learned the principles of discipline, integrity, and





selfless leadership that would shape his entire career.

Following his graduation, he proceeded to the PAF Flying School, where he developed the skills and mindset required of a military aviator. His operational experience with the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing exposed him to the demanding realities of military missions, strengthening his resilience and reinforcing the importance of teamwork and sound decision-making.

COL ESTOESTA's final assignment was as Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Reservist and Retiree Affairs (A9). In this role, he championed initiatives that strengthened



the reserve force and recognized the contributions of retired military personnel. Among the significant milestones achieved during his leadership was the approval of the Revised PAF Reserve Force Table of Organization 2025, which reinforced the organizational foundation of the reserve force and enhanced its operational readiness.

Reflecting on his long and meaningful career, COL ESTOESTA emphasized that these accomplishments were not his alone but the result of collective dedication and teamwork. He expressed his gratitude to mentors, fellow officers, and the leadership of the PAF who guided him throughout his journey. Above all, he acknowledged the steadfast support of his family, whose sacrifices and encouragement sustained him through the many challenges of military life.

Although he is now retired from active service, COL ESTOESTA affirmed that his commitment to the institution and the nation will continue. His career stands as a testament to the ideals of service, leadership, and patriotism that define the men and women of the Philippine Air Force.

As he closes this chapter of his life, COL ESTOESTA leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire future generations of airmen to serve with dedication, professionalism, and love of country.

For COL VICENTE EDGARDO C DE OCAMPO, this moment carries a deeper meaning. Exactly 32 years after standing proudly as a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant on the parade ground of the Philippine Military Academy, he now stands once more this time not at the beginning, but at the conclusion of a distinguished military career. The symmetry of that moment reflects a journey that has come full circle.

From the very first day in uniform, the ideals of leadership, responsibility, and service began to take root. What once felt like excitement mixed with uncertainty evolved over the years into experience, wisdom, and a deeper understanding of what it truly means to lead. The young officer who once believed leadership was about proving himself learned, through time and service, that it is ultimately about serving others.

Throughout his career, he had the privilege of working alongside dedicated officers and soldiers, forming bonds forged through shared missions, challenges, and victories. These relationships became the backbone of his journey, reinforcing the truth that success in the military is never achieved alone. It is built on teamwork, trust, and the collective effort of individuals committed to a common purpose.

His final assignment as a commander of reservists proved especially meaningful. It highlighted a unique dimension of service one carried not only by full-time soldiers, but also by citizens who willingly balance civilian lives while remaining ready to answer the call of duty. This experience deepened his appreciation for the quiet dedication of reservists and reaffirmed that patriotism extends beyond active service.

As he transitions into retirement, COL DE OCAMPO does not step away from service entirely. Instead, he embraces a new role among the very reservists he once led continuing to serve the nation, albeit in a different







capacity. This transition underscores a powerful truth: while a military career may formally end, the spirit of service endures.

Behind every successful military career is a foundation of unwavering support. For COL DE OCAMPO, that foundation was his family. Through countless relocations, long absences, and the unpredictable demands of duty, they remained his constant source of strength. Their sacrifices, often unseen, were as significant as any made in uniform.

Retirement also brings with it a moment of reflection a realization that while the uniform shapes a person, it is the people encountered along the way who truly define the journey. Mentors who guided, comrades who stood side by side, and loved ones who provided strength all leave an indelible mark.

Standing at this milestone, there is both pride and humility pride in a career dedicated to country, and humility in recognizing that the journey was never walked alone.

In the end, retirement is not simply about stepping away. It is about looking back with gratitude, honoring the path traveled, and moving forward with the same values that guided every step duty, integrity, and service.

For those who have served, there is no true end to that calling. It simply evolves.

And so, as one chapter closes, another begins still anchored in the same enduring commitment: to serve, in whatever way possible.



FERMIN M MABULO
President
IVAN V SAN JOSE
Secretary
CHARLIE L TIU, JR
Writer

Green Fields, Golden Lives: The Marilag Legacy Continues... part two

With each changing season and every subtle shift of the fairways, the Marilag officers' connection to golf deepens. It is no longer just a game; it is a way of living. The stillness of early morning tees, the quiet drive to the course, and the first deliberate stretch before a swing have become simple yet profound rituals, moments as meaningful as the game itself.

Walking the greens starts to feel like a quiet moment of reflection. Every step and every swing carries the weight of a life lived with purpose. The conversations come easily, moving away from scorecards and into stories about family, shared values, and lessons learned through years of responsibility. The bond that once held units together hasn't faded—it has simply grown into deeper friendships, a reminder that leadership doesn't end with the battlefield, but continues in how lives are lived and relationships are kept.

In this shared space, golf becomes a bridge for mentorship. Younger officers, family members, and friends walk alongside Marilag mentors, learning not through instruction but through example. Calm in the face of setbacks, honest in acknowledging mistakes, and steady in every motion, they demonstrate that true leadership is lived, not proclaimed—a quiet lesson in grace, patience, and integrity. In these unspoken exchanges, values forged in service are passed on almost effortlessly. Leadership, after all, is not always delivered from a podium; sometimes it is revealed through a steady grip and a patient smile.

Time seems to slow down on the course. It's no longer counted in ranks or deadlines, but in holes played and stories shared along the way. Laughter comes easier, silences feel comfortable, and old memories surface without being rushed. In these easy, unhurried hours, the Marilag officers find the simple joy of being present—of recognizing how far they've come, not through speeches or ceremonies, but through quiet moments together under an open sky.

And yet, beyond health, skill, and guidance, the course offers something deeper still: reflection. For men and women who once carried the weight of command, decisions that shaped lives, and memories that never fully fade, those burdens feel lighter here. The open sky clears the mind. The steady walk slows the heart. Peace is found not by forgetting the past, but by learning to live gently with it. Each round becomes a quiet reconciliation between who they were and who they are now.







For the Golden Marilag Officers, golf becomes a companion to life itself—a place where discipline meets leisure, where effort meets ease, and where friendship and fulfillment coexist. On the course, everyone is simply a player facing the same hole, the same wind, the same quiet test of character. In this way, the values of the Marilag officers continue to endure, passed softly from one generation to the next.



For the Marilag, golf is a reminder that life does not end with retirement; it simply takes on a new rhythm. The green fields are not an escape from duty, but its transformation. Service evolves into the careful stewardship of health, friendship, and legacy. Every swing and every walk across the fairway becomes a quiet celebration of purpose, one that endures long after the uniform is set aside.





















CHRISTOPHER P AGBAYANI
President
WILFREDO B MANALANG III
Contributor

I am proud to present our very first Star-rank Mistah in the AFP, BGEN ROLANDO CONRAD BOADO PEÑA III PAF!

RHAD PEÑA was born on 12 October 1973 in Sta Ana, Pampanga. He is a proud member of the PMA Kalasag-Lahi Class of 1997 with a degree in BS Aircraft Maintenance Engineering. He is also a member of the Philippine Air Force Flying School (PAFFS) Class of 1999 where he was certified as a combat-ready pilot in the AS-211 jet-type of aircraft and subsequently upgraded to an Element Leader, Instructor, Test Pilot, and Flight Examiner. In 2015, he was sent to Korea to train and complete the T-50 Advanced Jet Training at the 189th Fighter Training Squadron, 1st Fighter Wing, ROKAF, Gwangju Air Base; the TA-50 Lead-In Fighter Training at the 115th Combat Squadron, 16th Fighter Wing, Yecheon Air Base; and the FA-50PH Instructor/Test Pilot Training at the Korea Aerospace Industries, Ltd. (KAI) at Sacheon Air Base, Sacheon City, South Korea. He later attained his 4-ship Leader and Flight Examiner qualifications in-country. Likewise, he had been designated as a Solo Demonstration Pilot in the FA-50PH aircraft. In total, he has logged in more than 2,400 jet-flying hours.

RHAD PEÑA's most significant combat feat is his role in the Marawi Siege in 2017 where he had flown 125 combat missions in the FA-50 aircraft during the whole campaign and dropped 250 pieces of 500-pound bombs against the Daesh-inspired Maute Group. This has earned him the Gold Cross Medal, Distinguished Aviation Cross, and PAF Marawi Hero Medal. Moreover, his outstanding career achievements include his selection as the PAF Officer of the Year in 2018; Cavalier Awardee for Air Operations conferred by the PMA Alumni Association, Inc. in 2019; and the Golden Aviator Awardee for Air Operations in the same year as awarded by the PAF Flying School Alumni Association Inc (PAFFSAAI).



His record of military and civilian schooling both local and abroad includes the following: completing three (3) Master's degrees, namely Master in National Security Administration at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP); Master of Arts in Strategy and Management with a Graduate Diploma in Defence Studies in Strategic Planning and Management at the University of New South Wales (UNSW in Canberra, Australia); and Master of Management Major in Public Management at the University of the Philippines, Clark Air Base, Pampanga. He is also a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course (ACSC - Joint) with a Graduate Diploma of Management in Defence Studies at the Australian Command and Staff College in 2011; the UN Military Observer Course (local); Maritime Air Surveillance Course conducted by the Australian Mobile Team; AFP Logistics Officer Intermediate Course (AFPLOIC) in 2006; Jet Engine Mishap Investigation Course at the 82nd Training Wing, Sheppard AFB, Texas, USA; the International Flight Safety Officer Course 2007-A at the Air Force Safety Center,

Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, USA; and the Jet Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course (JAMOC) at Basa Air Base, Pampanga.

Equally worthy to note are the numerous major awards, decorations, and qualifications he has achieved, namely: two (2) Gold Cross Medals, four (4) Distinguished Aviation Cross, six (6) Distinguished Service Star, three (3) Distinguished Service Medals, one (1) Bronze Cross Medal, two (2) Silver Cross Medals, two (2) Silver Wing Medals, the Marawi Hero Medal, Long Service Medal, numerous Military Merit Medals, Military Commendation Medals, as well as various Ribbons and Letters of Commendation. Likewise, in 2021, RHAD was conferred the Bronze Award for Academic Excellence during the graduation of MNSA Regular Course Nr 56; in 2006, he received the Commander, AETC Award and Honor Graduate Award for Graduating No. 2 in the AFP Logistics Officer Intermediate Course [AFPLOIC] Class 06, the Academic Excellence Award for graduating No. 1 in the International Flight Safety Officer Course [IFSOC] – 07 Alpha in 2007; the Commander, AETC Award for Excellence and the Distinguished Graduate Award for graduating No. 1 in his Squadron Officer Course – Class 2007 Bravo, where he also



received the Best Commandant's Paper Award.

He earned his star-rank by being designated as the Deputy Commander, Air Defense Command, PAF. In behalf of the Kalasag-Lahi and their respective spouses, congratulations Mistah, we are proud of you!

NOEL A LAURIO
President
BEN C DOMINGO III
Secretary

MASINAG FOREVER

May 2026 bring us new blessings and hopes for a better tomorrow, mga Mistah. Here is our most recent update for those who are in active service and are already retired.

AIR FORCE: Bodegon - A1, HPAF; Bautista - DWC, 220th Airlift Wing; Templonuevo - DWC, 5th Fighter Wing; Ordones Y Basco - Chief Air Force Public Affairs Office; Patrimonio Y Antig - CCS Air Combat Command; Baterina - Dep A10- HPAF; Ablog - Dep A6; Macatingrao - Dep A3; Casuncad - C3, Air Logistics Command; Madarang- IA, PSC; Gerodiaz - Chief Admin (OTIG).

NAVY: Santos - DC for MarOps, NOLNAV; David - DC, NAWF, Sangley Pt. Cavite; Mangahas - MA5, PMA, Baguio City; Fabian - Cdr HHSG, PMC; Bogñalbal - Cdr, Force Recon Regiment; Laurio – Dir, ONSSSM, HPN; Gonzalez – N2/Flag Sec, HPN; Rotoni – N4, HPN; Robles – N8, HPN; Cabungcal – N10, HPN; Dela Calzada – C,NIF-NCR, NIC; Hechanova – Dir, NIOFC, HPN; Angdason – Dep, N5, HPN; Cartin Y Domine – Dir, PNMO, HPN; Buted – C, NLC, PN; Rodriguez Y Gonzalez – C, NPMC, PN; Sales – C, NRCen - NCR, NRC; Sergio – DAFLO, Hawaii; Facundo – Ex-O, J5, GHQ; Barcelon – CS, FMRF, PN; Tadulan – Supt, NRCTC, NRC; Ibanez – C, NIF Central, NIC; Salvilla – RSPN.

ARMY: Garrido - 2LSG, Zamboanga City; Leviste - IG, SptCom, PA, Tarlac City; Gotico - Commandant, Artillery Training School, AR, PA & Acting RIG, AR, PA Ft Magsaysay, NE; Ang - ADC, CAB; Bumidang - ADC, CAB; Flores J - ADC, CAB; Valdez - DBC, 1003IBde, 10ID, PA Calinan, Davao City; Boransing - DBC, 102Bde, 1ID Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay Province; Vingno - OJ5; Alvaran - OJ1; Mendoza IG, SR, PA; Tabudlo DBC, 502Bde, 5ID Echague, Isabela; Hindang Ex-O, AFP JPSCC; Altre – SJS, AFP; Romero L - OJ3; Sumilang - OJ7; Rabara Director, LWC, TRACOM, PA; Nagac - SGS, HPA; Hugo-Dep, OTCE, AFP, CGEA; Ley – G4, 2ID, PA; Mateo - Director, PMC, PA; Pajarito - Ex-O, OG8, PA; Valencia - CUCS, WESTMINCOM; Jimenez - IG, JSOC; Banaag - CS, SFR(A); Delamide - IG, RESCOM, PA; Banatao - Deputy, Doctrine Center; Kalahi - Deputy FCPA; Delos Santos - PhilDAFA Laos; Lugtu - PhilDAFA Malaysia; Villanueva - PhilDAFA Turkey; Busiños - C, OIMA, PA; Domingo B - AFPCES, CGEA; Domingo L – Bayombong, NV.

CORPS OF PROFESSORS: Simon - Asst Dean, COP, CGEA; Torbela - CLPE, PMA.

COASTGUARD: Barrameda - CG CRS; Sarmiento - CGIF, PCG.

POLICE: Castro - Chief, ISOD, Directorate for Operations, PNP; Recinto – Chief, Enforcement Management Division, SOSIA, CSG, PNP.

CIVILIANS/RETIRED: Cuenco - Hayward, California, USA; Pingen - CAT Security Group, Mandaluyong City; Pico - Oxnard, California, USA; Tocloy - Petrofuel Logistics Inc., Pandacan, Manila; Navales -

Shangri-La, The Fort Manila, BGC; Escaniel - Bacolod City; Gallardo- Cebu Pacific Air; Tangonan - Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat; Aquino C - Alpha Aviation Group Philippines Inc., Clark, Pampanga; Roderos - Sanchez and Roderos Tax Consulting, LLC - Phil/USA; Pascua - The British School Manila, BGC, Taguig; Santiago,D - Cebu Pacific Air, Clark-based; Ferrer - Head of Training, Airworks Aviation Company, Lapu-Lapu City; Sayoco - Minnesota, USA; Remante - Muntinlupa City; Aquino N - Cavite City; De Velez - Royal Air Phils; Javier - Peninsula Aero Club, Tyabb Victoria AUS; Pepito - Kidapawan Home Defense Force; Pacis - Cebu Pacific Air; Lazaro - Project 8, Quezon City; Monjardin Y Suico - Antipolo City; Verzosa - Cebu Pacific; AJ Salem - Consultant LGU Orani Bataan; Villacrucis - PAL; Oliver - PLDT, Inc. - Makati City; Bungubung - ABS-CBN Corporation, QC.

LAST TAPS: Pacis; Que; Halasan; Gay-ya; Divina; Tamano; Dimaculangan; Nunez; Saturno; Villareal; Satumba; Castillo… may you eternally rest in peace, mga Mistah.

May we keep on shining, serving as beacons for others to follow and as guides towards the right path. MASINAG forever.



Two Decades of Leadership, Excellence, and Honor

Twenty years since descending the hallowed grounds of Fort Del Pilar, the members of the **PMA Class of 2005** have transitioned from idealistic cadets to the strategic and operational backbone of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the private sector. Today, the class demonstrates steadfast leadership across the joint force—from the heights of our sovereign skies to the depths of our territorial waters.

I. PHILIPPINE ARMY: The Tactical Vanguard

The Sanlingan Army group serves as the pivot point for territorial defense and internal stability across the archipelago, assuming pivotal roles as Battalion Commanders and specialized unit heads.

- **Northern and Central Luzon:** Leadership is fortified by **LtCol Cardenas** and **LtCol Baluyot** (5th ID), alongside **LtCol Tizon**, **LtCol Rosario**, and **LtCol Manimtim** (7th ID).
- **Southern Luzon and Visayas:** **LtCol Jaluage** and **LtCol Mirador** steer battalions in the 2nd ID. The 3rd ID is fortified by **LtCol Dennis Martinez** (BN Comdr) and **LtCol Dubal**, while the 8th ID benefits from **LtCol Clavel** and **GStaff LtCol Bertoldo**.
- **Mindanao Operations:** Regional stability is maintained by **LtCol Garcia** (1st ID), **LtCol Libre** and **LtCol Jallorina** (4th ID), and the 6th ID trio of **LtCol Felongco**, **LtCol Gumabao**, and **GStaff LtCol Petinglay**. The 10th ID draws strength from **LtCol Bulao**, **LtCol Dela Paz**, and **LtCol Rosete**.
- **Specialized and Support Units:** Technical leadership is provided by **LtCol Orbase** (Aviation), **LtCol Deodelyn Aguilar-Blas** (CMO), **LtCol Buyawe** and **LtCol Ricacho** (Signal), and the FSRR duo of **LtCol Lansang** and **LtCol Cabugon**.

II. PHILIPPINE NAVY and MARINES: Guardians of the Seas

The Naval contingent continues to reach historic milestones in both surface warfare and marine operations, ensuring the Sanlingan spirit is felt across the entire joint force.

- **Command at Sea and Marine Badges:** The class honors its **Command at Sea Badge** awardees: **Cdr Lustre** (OJ1), **Cdr De Jesus** (PMA), **Cdr Concepcion** (PSC), **Cdr Ly Ubod** (NWDC), and **Cdr Opeña** (JSC). In the Marines, **Col JP Jacla** makes history as the first Sanlingan promoted to **Colonel**, serving as Asst. Supt. of the Marine Corps Force Development Center. He is joined by **LtCol Baky** (NCRCOM) and **LtCol Dimayuga**, currently the CO of the **6th Marine Rifle Battalion**.
- **Afloat and Field Command:** Current skippers and operational leaders include **Cdr JP Rañola** (PS177), **Cdr DJ Sumayo** (BRP Bacolod City), **Cdr Viernes** (PS176), and **Cdr Bilangdal** (F3). **Cdr Matammu** continues to contribute his expertise to the Philippine Fleet.
- **Strategic Staff and Education:** Key roles are held by **Cdr Sargento** (International Affairs), **Cdr Iringan-Aguila** (Strategic Studies), and **Cdr Sagge** (HPN). **Cdr Palattao** and **Cdr Bio** serve at WESCOM, while **Cdr Jong Mondejar** is at NFC. **LTC Bambico** represents the class within the Corps of Professors.
- **Logistics and Protection:** At the Presidential Security Command, **Cdr Ancheta** and **Cdr Cayetano** lead the way. Procurement is managed by **Cdr Chris Cargo**, **Cdr Amatong**, and **Cdr Bautista**.

III. PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE: Commanders of the Sovereign Skies

The Air Force Group occupies critical and trusted positions, providing direct support to the top brass and delivering vital air operations.

- **Executive Support:** **LTC Doldol** (OCG) and **LTC Atis** (OSAS) provide support to the Commanding General. **LTC Castro** (OA5) and **LTC Tadea** (OA8) manage planning and training, while **LTC Montejo-Dimayuga** (PAF PROCO) oversees strategic procurement.
- **Operational Command:** **LTC Masarate** leads the 205th ACP in Clark, supported by **LTC Gutierrez** (450th MSG). **LTC Asis**

(15th SW) and **LTC Mukay-Sia** (470th MSG) drive combat-ready operations. **LTC Matienzo** and **LTC Dimaculangan** sustain training at AETC.

- **Distinguished Education: LTC Patron** (Assistant AFPAO) was distinguished as the **Number One of CGSC Class 76**. **LTC Valdez** mentors at the PMA, while **LTC Pasion**, **LTC Caranguian**, and **LTC Dela Cruz** pursue advanced international military education.

IV. TRANSITIONS: The Corporate Sanlingan and Global Chapter

The values of Integrity, Service, and Honor forged in the barracks are now being applied in the boardroom and abroad.

- **Aviation Sector: Cav Ponce** and **Cav Barrameda** continue to contribute their vast expertise to national air transport in PAL and PALEX.
- **Global Presence:** We honor our mistahs stationed abroad or transitioned to new roles: **Cav Augustus Ceasar Bercades** (US), **Cav Riztopherson Dikit** (Canada), **Cav Omar Julius Labajo** (US), **Cav Froilan Villaviza** (Ayala), and **Cav Russel David**.
- **New Horizons: Col (Ret) Hallar-Matienzo** has transitioned to family life, **LTC Rodrigo** approaches retirement, and **Francisco** is currently pursuing legal studies.

"Steadfast Leadership. Professional Excellence. Enduring Commitment."

MARK ANTHONY S TITO
President
MIRA JOY B ANDAWI
Secretary

PMA "BAGWIS" Class of 2012

As we welcome the first quarter of the year, our class begins this new chapter with renewed motivation, unity, and determination. The start of the year offers us a valuable opportunity to reflect on the lessons we have learned, strengthen the bonds we have built, and set our sights on the goals that lie ahead. With every challenge comes the chance to grow, and together, we embrace the responsibilities and expectations that define our journey.

This spirit of camaraderie and renewed commitment were evident during our recent Alumni Homecoming, where our Mistahs reunited to celebrate our shared history and enduring brotherhood. The gathering served as a meaningful reminder that despite the different paths we now take in service and life, the bond forged within the walls of the Academy remains strong. Hereunder are the mistahs who were able to attend the homecoming, and we look forward to maximizing our class attendance next year as we take on the responsibility of being a host class:

Army (24)	Air Force (1)
Cav Allip	Cav Llanes
Cav Bannoya	**Navy (8)**
Cav Binalon	Cav Bagorio
Cav Cabanilla	Cav Bucalen
Cav Dalit	Cav Esmeria





Reunited on the parade grounds—where it all began.

Cav Dela Cruz	Cav Fuentes, Zy
Cav Degojas	Cav Maddul-Ferrer
Cav Dumalanta	Cav Montallana
Cav Guzman	Cav Olavidez
Cav Lorenzo	Cav Zia
Cav Mahinay	
Cav Malijan	
Cav Martinez	
Cav Mercader	
Cav Nuas	
Cav Reonal	
Cav Rodriguez	
Cav Romano	
Cav Rosales	
Cav Saguin	
Cav Talosig	
Cav Tito	
Cav Trabado	
Cav Trillana	

The class would like to congratulate our mistah, LCDR DANA MARIE N AGRAVIO PN on her new designation as Group Commander, Installation and Maintenance Group, CEISSAFP—an achievement that speaks highly of her leadership and commitment to duty.



LCDR AGRAVIO formally accepts the responsibility as Group Commander of the Installation and Maintenance Group on 16 February 2026.

With optimism and determination, our class steps forward into the year ready to face every challenge and celebrate every milestone together. May this first quarter set the tone for a productive, meaningful, and inspiring year for all.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." – Joshua 1:9

LAST CALL

BGEN ARMANDO A GARCIA '60
21 May 1934 – 30 Oct 2025



Cav Garcia, a member of PMA Class of 1960 joined our Creator on 30 Oct 2025, he was 91. Wake was held at Gateway Chapel, Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan from 30 Oct – 04 Nov. His remains were laid to rest at Sto Cristo, Baliwag, Bulacan.

1LT ROYCE LOUIS G CAMIGLA '22
Died on 4 Nov 2025



Cav Camigla was one of the airmen who tragically lost his life in the Super Huey helicopter mishap in Agusan del Sur during ongoing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response operations amid Tropical Storm "*Tino*."

He was laid to rest to his resting place at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 13 Nov.

CAV RENATO T MOTUS '62
06 Feb 1941 – 21 Nov 2025



MGEN MANUEL V CACANANDO '58
06 Jan 1935 – 26 Nov 2025



Former Commanding General, Phil. Army, Cav Cacanando passed away on 26 Nov 2025, he was 90. Prior to his appointment as CGPA he was assigned to vital command and staff positions. His remains laid in state at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) Chapel from 27 Nov to 4 Dec. Interment was on 4 Dec at the LNMB where he was given a hero's burial.

COL CESAR P POBRE '52
03 Feb 1927 – 22 Dec 2025

Cav Pobre peacefully joined our Creator on 22 Dec at the age of 98. He was a former Exec. Vice Pres and Vice Pres for Research and Studies, NDCP, and an important figure in Philippine military education, historical studies, and veterans' advocacy. Wake to honor his life was held on 23-28 Dec at St. Ignatius mortuary, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. while the necrological service was on 28 Dec in Baguio. Inurnment was on 29 Dec at Baguio City Cemetery.



PMGEN ROMEO M ACOP '70
11 Mar 1947 – 20 Dec 2025



Antipolo City 2nd District Representative Cav Romeo Acop, 78 passed away after a medical emergency at his residence on 20 Dec 2025. He has served as chair of the House Committee on Transportation and vice chair of the House Quad Committee. He was married to the late Dr. Resurreccion M Acop, who also served as an Antipolo City representative, with whom he has three children Philip, Reena, and Karla. A requiem mass and memorial service were held at the House of Reps. On 29 Dec. Interment was held at the Haven of Angels on Sumulong Highway, Antipolo, Rizal.

CDR JONATHAN C TIGNO 2000
28 May 1977 – 20 Dec 2025



Cav Tigno joined our Creator on 20 Dec due to central brain herniation. He left behind his caring wife, Jacqueline and children: Ellen Charm, and Kacey Irish. Wake was held at the Phil. Navy Mortuary on 21-26 Dec. Interment at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 27 Dec. Cav Tigno's significant assignments in the AFP were in Philippine Fleet and ISAFP.

1LT MARK ABBEYSON T BARCELON '19
Died: 24 Dec 2025



COL EDWIN F LAYESE '94
10 Feb 1970 – 26 Dec 2025



BGEN ROSALINO A ALQUIZA '55
30 Aug 1932 – 3 Jan 2026



Cav Alquiza peacefully joined our Creator at the age of 93. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Siony. He left behind his children, Avi, RJ, and Teena as well as his cherished grandchildren, Alexis, Oliver, Louise, Justine, and Cito.

His remains laid in state at St. Ignatius Village Chapel and was interred on 8 Jan at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City.

MAJ ANDRES BAYANI M AGUILAR '79
30 Nov 1957 – 07 Jan 2026



In the first week of 2026, the members of PMA Class of 1979 honored the life and legacy of their mistah Cav Aguilar, a distinguished Philippine Air Force Pilot and former Instructor Pilot at the PAF Flying School. Wake was held on 09 – 14 Jan at St. Mark Chapel, Villamor PAF Mortuary, Pasay City where necrological service was held on 14 Jan. Interment was on 15 Jan at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

He is survived by his wife Freda, daughter Patricia, and son Maj Karlo Rufino, a proud member of PMA Class of 2010.

BGEN QUINTIN A ALCUDIA '62
18 Oct 1937 – 14 Jan 2026



Cav Alcudia, a member of PMA Class of 1962 passed away on 14 Jan, he was 88. He left behind his wife Ma. Luz with whom he has four children: Paul (+), Roy Quintin, Jr '92 (+), Ronald Jess '93, and Marilou. He was laid to rest at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 22 January. Cav Alcudia was a former Chief of Staff, PA, later Commander, 4th Inf Division, PA.

MGEN ALFONSO T DELOS SANTOS '65
10 Mar 1943 – 14 Jan 2026



Cav Delos Santos died 15 Jan 2026 after bravely fighting a lingering illness. He is survived by his three children. Interment was held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, City of Taguig. The 970th honor escort and ceremonial group rendered funeral honors to the remains of Cav Delos Santos honoring his dedicated service, legacy of leadership, and lasting contributions to the PAF and the nation.

LTCOL PACIFICO C BRIONES JR '73
03 Mar 1947 – 18 Jan 2026



Cav Briones passed away on 18 January 2026 at the age of 79. Wake was held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) Mortuary. He was laid to rest with full military honors at the LNMB on 24 January.

LTGEN RAYMUNDO B FERRER '77
23 Jan 1956 - 20 Jan 2026



Cav Ferrer, former DND Undersecretary who served as the Administrator of the office of Civil Defense, passed on to the Great Beyond on 20 Jan 2026. He previously served as commander of the AFP Western Mindanao Command, Eastern Mindanao Command, 6th and 1st Infantry Divisions.

BGEN ROBERTO P MANLONGAT '63
07 June 1941 - 24 Jan 2026



Cav Manlongat peacefully passed away on 24 Jan. He was cremated on 25 Jan at the Heritage Memorial Park. Wake was held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani (LNMB) from 26 Jan to 28 Jan. Inurnment with full military honors was on 29 Jan at the LNMB.

COL JOSE FLORENCIO B JUNIO '74
17 Apr 1950 – 02 Feb 2026



ENS PATRICK E AGPALO '23
14 Nov 1999 – 06 Feb 2026



Cav Agpalo, a member of PMA "*Madasigon*" Class of 2023 joined our Creator on 06 February due to accident. He left behind his parents Paulo and Caroline Agpalo, and sibling Clarice. Wake was held on 10-14 Feb at Purok 1 Baloy, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija. He was interred In Baloy, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija.

COL JERRY L ALBANO '71
20 Aug 1947 - 13 Feb 2026



Cav Albano succumbed to a kidney complication after confinement of more than three months. He left behind his caring wife, Verna and children Katrina, James, and Patricia. Wake was held at the Camp Emilio Aguinaldo Mortuary , Quezon City. His inurnment at the Heritage Park will be on his birthdate.

PLTGEN ANDRES M SUPERABLE '65
30 Nov 1941 – 13 Feb 2026



Cav Superable died on February 12, 2026 at the age of 84. He died in the USA, where he migrated after retirement in 1998. He rose to the rank of LTGEN, had lived a life marked by discipline,honor, and quiet dedication – virtues he faithfully carried in service to the country. He was the No. 3 man (DCO - Deputy Chief of Operations) in the PNP hierarchy when he officially bowed out from the service and retired at the mandatory age of 56. Funeral services were held at Warren Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Mausoleum, Illinois, USA.

CAPT ALAN D OBRA '96
10 Oct 1971 - 20 Feb 2026



Cav Obra collapsed while participating in the PMA Game of the Cavaliers Golf Tournament at the Camp John Hay Golf Course on 20 Feb. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

The final night of his wake and necrological mass was on 27 Feb at Our Lady of Loreto Chapel, PAF CJ Villamor Air Base, Pasay Ciy. Interment was at the Libingan ng mga Bayani on 28 Feb.

PLTGEN RAUL L CASTANEDA '78
19 Apr 1956 – 04 Mar 2026



Former PNP Deputy Chief for Operations, Cav Castaneda passed away on 04 March 2026, he was 69. Wake and funeral services were held at the Heritage Park, Taguig City on March 7 to 12, 2026. He was laid to his final resting place at the Libingan ng mga Bayani where he was accorded the traditional funeral honors.

He was once an Ilocos Norte Police Provincial Office Director and in his prime, headed the PNP Intelligence Group, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and rose to become a PNP Deputy Chief for Operations. He is married to Elvira Castaneda with whom he has three children: Juan Luis, Joan Paola, and Juan Miguel.

COL ERNESTO F DE GUZMAN '77
27 Nov 1952 – 05 Mar 2026



Cav De Guzman passed away on 05 March 2026 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Quezon City. He is married to the former Donna Mae Tranquilino with whom he has four children: Marie Eloise T De Guzman-So who is married to Glenn Jasper So; Erwin James, Timothy Ernest, and Mark Eric. Wake was held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani Mortuary Room 3, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City from March 8 to March 14. His remains were laid to rest at Manila Memorial Park, Dasmarinas, Cavite on 15 March 2026.

PBGEN DARIUS M TUASON '78
09 Sept 1954 – 11 Mar 2026



COL ROEHL JOY ORTIZ DARILAG '95
15 Sept 1973 – 15 March 2026



Cav Darilag passed away on 15 March at the age of 52, Wake and funeral services were held at Dela Paz Funeral Homes Pasig. Interment was on 29 March at Valley of Sympathy Memorial Park, Antipolo City.

1LT DEAN B OYANDO '23
26 June 2000 - 29 March 2026



Cav Oyando was killed while leading the 68th Infantry Battalion in a pursuit operation against members of the NPA on 29 March in Monteclaro, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. Wake was held at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City before his remains were brought to his residence at Purok Datu, Bulanao Norte.

PCOL DANILO M GALAPON '84
09 Feb 1961 – 31 Mar 2026



Cav Galapon died on 31 March due to cardio respiratory arrest or accidental drowning, he was 65. Final inurnment honors were rendered by the Quezon City Police District in recognition of his invaluable contributions and faithful service to the organization on 08 April at the Garden of the Divine Word Columbarium, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.



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