

FALEO honors ALLICE founder

SAN FRANCISCO - Lt. (Ret.) Eric Quema, Executive Board President of the Filipino American Law Enforcement Officers Association, announced the fraternal organization recognition of ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment founder - executive director Cherie Querol Moreno as this year's recipient of its Perlita Mendoza-Becker Humanitarian Award.

"Each year we search for an individual whose works and deeds have served to improve the quality of lives for those less fortunate, including victims of natural disasters and violence...and in doing so have inspired others to do the same," Quema said in an official letter to the honoree, citing her "strong and sincere commitment to survivors of domestic violence."

Querol Moreno is a longtime journalist-turned- community organizer who in 2003 formed a team of volunteers for a private domestic violence service agency to present Filipino-focused outreach tools. She eventually conceived their free and open-to-the-public presentations to promote healthy and safe relationships. In 2009, the group went independent and named itself after pioneer advocate Alice Bulos, who joined them in 2005 and whose dedication to community service guides the program even after her passing in 2016.

Querol Moreno responded to the announcement by promptly attributed the nonprofit's accomplishments to the "individual contribution of every Kumare and Kumpare who have embraced our philosophy." One of them was now retired SFPD Lt. Randy Caturay, the second Kumpare in ALLICE history, who nominated his Kumare founder.

"ALLICE would not exist without our members who are equally dedicated to giving of ourselves," said Querol Moreno. She expressed gratitude to FALEO for their constant and generous support. She said the companion gift check "would go to the ALLICE education



ALLICE Kumares & Kumpares celebrate recognition by longtime ally FALEO: (top row, from left) Rev. Leonard Oakes, Malou Aclan, Nan Santiago, Blessy Valera, Allen Capalla, Bettina Santos Yap, Ofie Albrecht, Nellie Hizon, Jose Antonio; (front row, from left) Cherie Querol Moreno, Mariza Bensurto, Joanne del Rosario, Rev. Mark Reburiano, Paulita Lasola Malay, Flor Nicolas, Hanna Baluyot and Elsa Agasid. Photo by Edd Palomar



FALEO members at a recent outreach and training in the Philippines (front row, from left) Robert Nishiyama, Eric Quema, Joey Mercado and Lawrence Lagarejos; (center) Matthew Leong, Robert Padrones and Peter Kent de Jesus; (back) Randy Caturay, Francis Feliciano, Pierre Vida and Ferdinand Dimapasoc. Photo by John Micah Sebastian

fund to help continue "giving hope and saving lives."

ALLICE founding president Bettina Santos Yap and 2020 president Allen Capalla applauded their "driving force" and thanked FALEO for the honor.

FALEO member Theresa Mostasisa instituted and funded the Perlita Mendoza-Becker Humanitarian Award on behalf of her mother. The honor typically highlights FALEO's annual scholarship dinner. This year's grand event has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 crisis.

FALEO was born in 2008, touting members from local, state and federal agencies. Its renowned Philippine Exchange Training program imparted skills development with their PH peers. Turning their sights on the ancestral country is a commonality between the law enforcers and Kumares & Kumpares. Both organizations are recipients of the Philippine Presidential Award for Overseas Filipino Organizations and Individuals keeping their ancestral homeland in their hearts while serving their home community and beyond.

The FALEO Executive Board is headed by Eric Quema, president; Lawrence Lagarejos, 1st vice president; Robert Nishiyama, 2nd vice president; Bradley Bautista, advisor; Shaun O' Connor, secretary; Randy Caturay, treasurer, and Rich Alves and Glenn Sylvester, sergeants at arms.

The Board of Directors is composed of Cliff Valdehuesa, Debbie Van Patten, Roel Dilag, Robert Padrones, Jurnation Reymundo, Joey Mercado, Peter de Jesus, Mark Francisco, Jamie Garon and Richard Ma.

For more information on FALEO, visit www.Faleo.org.

We are one community. We stand in solidarity.

We understand many are struggling with feelings of helplessness during these challenging times. But, know that you are not alone in this battle, and each one of us plays a crucial part in healing our community. Let's practice mutual caring with one another through kindness, optimism, hope, resiliency, and unity.

Love,
Your Care Indeed Family

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