

U.S. HIGH COURT UPHOLDS BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP



Thousands, many of them identified with the Iglesia ni Cristo, gathered at the EDSA Shrine calling for accountability, transparency and denouncing the plunder case being prepared by the Ombudsman against Sen. Rodante Marcoleta.

INC-backed rally rattles BBM, cancels events to monitor protest

By Beting Laygo Dolor, Editor

MANILA — A surprise rally organized by the politically powerful Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) at the start of this week rattled the Marcos regime, to the point that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. cancelled all his appointments on Tuesday, June 30 (Manila time).

The Metro Manila Development Authority said the rally did not have a permit, but they would exercise maximum tolerance on the participants.

The INC did not hide its main purpose, which was to air its support for church member Senator Rodante Mar- ▶Page 3

VP Sara ready for July 6 trial, says impeachment complaint 'void'

PASAY CITY — There is no longer any impediment for the Senate to start its impeachment trial of

Vice President Sara Duterte starting July 6, prompting the Senate leadership to decide to make the ▶Page 3

FilAms, Latinos, others hail ruling; Trump prods Congress on new laws

By ALFRED GABOT, CESAR ANTONIO NUCUM JR. and CLAIRE MORALES TRUE

WASHINGTON D.C./SAN FRANCISCO, California — In another historic decision as the United States is to celebrate its 250th birthday, the Supreme Court affirmed by a 6-3 decision the country's over a century old constitutional provision of birthright citizenship, delighting thousands, if not millions, of Filipinos, Latinos and others who are expected beneficiaries of the ruling, while a visibly irked US President Donald Trump prodded the US Congress to legislate laws that would support his executive order on birthright citizenship. ▶Page 9

Elhawary pushes California commercial production tax credit legislation

SACRAMENTO, California — The Association of Independent Commercial Producers (AICP) is working with Assemblymember Sade ▶Page 7



Actum Partner Adam Keigwin, Assemblymember Sade Elhawary, Actum Managing Director Esteban Nunez, and AICP representative Ralph Loyola.

UPSIDE

By Cherie M. Querol Moreno

Happy 250th birthday to FilAms too

Yes, Filipino Americans, happy 250th birthday too, to us who trace our beginnings to the 7000 plus islands sparkling in the Pacific.

Majority of us were born right here. Some first saw the light elsewhere in this continent, some the largest ocean away. From all over the planet we chose this North American country to build our life.

Many new Ameri-



FRED and DOROTHY CORDOVA/FANHS

cans - or those who were not born in this country - came here for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," words ▶Page 10

Marcos resign placards seen at EDSA protest rallies

By Claire Morales True

QUEZON CITY — Stressing accountability and transparency, two big protest rallies held one after the other at EDSA Peoplepower Monument and EDSA Shrine, denounced massive corruption under the Marcos administration while some placards called for the resignation of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The first rally on June 28 called the White Ribbon March supported by the Church demanded that both President Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte be held accountable for alleged corruption.

The White Ribbon Movement (WRM), in a statement issued before the march to the ▶Page 6

Ombudsman firm on plunder vs Marcoleta P4

New US envoy assumes post in Manila P7



VIEWS & COMMENTS

Supreme Court upholds Birthright Citizenship

By Atty. Lozano

Page 12

SHOWBIZ

Manila In'tl Film Fest back in Hollywood, to honor Lea Salonga

Page 16



SPORTS

Alex Eala crushes Mexico's Zarazua

Page 15

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COLUMNISTS

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GMA scenario for BBM in the offing

One of the worst things that former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ever did was to run for lower office after stepping down from the presidency. She ran, and won, for the position of representative (AKA congresswoman) in her home state of Pampanga.

Her reason for running? She said she felt she had more to offer. In fact, the public believed that GMA could not stand being out of power, to the point that she would settle for a much lower post in hopes of somehow moving up to a higher one somewhere down the road.

For a while, her plan worked. For a very brief period, she even became Speaker of the House. Later, she had to settle for the lower post of deputy speaker. Today she remains a mere representative.

However, GMA still holds substantial power behind the scenes. She is known to have worked on the Bongbong Marcos-Sara Duterte tandem that won as president and vice president in 2022.

If rumor is to be believed, the former president may be eyeing the vice presidency in the 2028 polls.

Her relative success in her post-Malacanang years may have inspired the handlers of Marcos Jr. to follow in Macapagal-Arroyo's footsteps. Trial balloons continue to be floated seeking public reaction to the possibility of BBM as vice president.

Despite her stating that she has no intention of running for president, former vice president Leni Robredo is still considered a viable, even winning candidate.

And there are strong indications that Marcos Jr. may be toying with the idea of being her running mate two years from now.

This is not an empty rumor. Marcos Jr. may want to remain in power to protect his family's interests. He may even be preparing his son Sandro to one day seek the presidency, the same way his own father wanted one of his children to one day become chief executive.

There is precedent in the US, when a former president assumed a lower post. There are three examples, actually.

John Quincy Adams served almost two decades in the US House of Representatives after stepping down as president. Andrew Johnson, meanwhile, was later elected to the US Senate. Even William Howard Taft became chief justice of the Supreme Court.

It will be a huge mistake – even misfortune – were Marcos Jr. to seek the vice presidency in 2028, or any other post such as senator, governor, mayor, or representative for that matter.

He will only prove himself to be as power hungry as GMA, whose need is insatiable and whose reputation for corruption is well earned if not legendary.

Marcos Jr. has indicated that he supports the Anti-Political Dynasty bill, even as he himself is a member of long-standing dynasties from both his mother's and father's side.

Quite frankly, Marcos Jr. has shown himself to be a weak president, with not much to show after four years in office. But there is little doubt that he is surrounded by a cabal of underlings who need to have their boss retain some power beyond his term for obvious reasons. They have secrets involving billions, perhaps trillions, in misspent government funds.

He may run for a national position after 2026, but Marcos Jr. will very likely lose. Clearly, the Philippine electorate has had enough of the Marcoses.

Happy 250th...

(From page 1)

attributed to Thomas Jefferson in the United States Declaration of Independence adopted by the Continental Congress a day and 250 years ago today.

Over 345 million of us, according to the latest US Census estimates, call this great nation home.

Over 93.2% of us are US citizens, per Ballotpedia. We are a diverse assembly - vibrant and fascinating. We don't all look or sound, think or act alike. And that's the beauty and bounty of this country.

But not so for a particular sector whose attacks on newcomers from clearly specific regions seem relentless. So rife and normalized these days, even in the highest echelons of power. These forces blame our nation's problems on immigrants and people of color, whom they would rather round up and ship out back to their "s__hole countries."

Sometimes they make us feel as if we've just stepped into the previous century.

That's when our elders used to refer to a "melting pot," when "becoming American" meant shedding the vestiges of our origins. To fit in. Belong.

For that reason few US-born Filipinos and their cohort brought to this country as infants or children speak or understand the language of their parents.

Until the civil rights movement dawned, sparked by Black activists that inspired fellow "minority" communities. Enlightened and emboldened Asian and Latino American students sought to rediscover their roots here and the land of their ancestors. They recovered pride in their hyphenated identity, connected with counterparts throughout the country to build their communities.

Being American became owning our heritage, cherishing our ancestry, introducing our past to our present to enhance our journey to tomorrow: ours, that of our children and their children to come.

The "melting pot" evolved into a multicultural salad, a coming together of entities with individual merit and a precious collective worth. We are better because of our differences.

We are the United States of America, we who were born here or came later, whether by choice or circumstance, built this country too - some of us long before 1776:

* The first documented landing of Filipinos was Oct. 18, 1587 on Morro Bay, California, 33 years before the Mayflower arrived in Plymouth Rock. Filipino sailors were tasked to disembark from Nuestra Señora de Esperanza (Our Lady of Hope) to scout the area for safety. The Filipino National Historical Society led by Seattle educators Fred and Dorothy Cordova in 1991 spearheaded (Continue on page 20)

When EDSA no longer calls the nation

Nearly four decades after the historic 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution and a quarter century after EDSA Dos in 2001, many have once again asked a familiar question: Can another People Power uprising succeed today?

Recent calls from various political groups closely aligned with the Dutertes and the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) urging Filipinos to gather once more along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue have generated considerable discussion. Yet despite the rhetoric, the anticipated groundswell has not materialized. EDSA has remained largely what it was intended to be—a major thoroughfare serving millions of commuters rather than the epicenter of another political revolution.

The reason is simple.

History does not merely repeat itself. It demands the convergence of extraordinary circumstances that are absent today.

The 1986 People Power Revolution was not the product of a single issue nor the handiwork of a single leader. It emerged from years of political upheaval, economic decline, public outrage following the assassination of Benigno Aquino Jr., the disputed snap elections, and the unprecedented unity of the Filipino people.

It brought together political opposition, the Catholic Church, business leaders, civil society organizations, reformist elements of the military led by then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP Vice Chief of Staff Fidel V. Ramos, and millions of ordinary Filipinos united by one common aspiration—to peacefully restore democracy.

It was the convergence of moral authority, institutional support, and overwhelming public participation that made EDSA possible.

I write about those historic events not merely as a student of history but also as one privileged to help preserve its lessons.

Together with former MWSS Administrator and first Special Action Force Commander Gen. Reynaldo V. Velasco and former DILG Secretary Rafael M. Alunan III, I co-authored Silver Linings: The Continuing Saga of the 1986 People Power Revolution. The book carries special significance because former President Fidel V. Ramos served as Chairman of its Editorial Board. Drawing from his firsthand experience as one of the principal figures of EDSA, President Ramos reminded us that the revolution was never meant to become a recurring political template. Rather, it was an extraordinary response to extraordinary times.

The book's central message remains relevant today: the true legacy of EDSA lies not in repeatedly returning to the streets but in building democratic institutions strong enough that future generations need not.

Fifteen years later came EDSA Dos.

Again, history witnessed another rare convergence.

Public outrage intensified after the impeachment proceedings against President Joseph Estrada collapsed in the Senate. Civil society organizations mobilized. Religious leaders spoke with moral clarity. The business community expressed growing (Continue on page 16)



CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO

Upside



MELANDREW T. VELASCO

THE OUTSIDER

NaFFAA to honor Lourdes Esclamado at Colorado empowerment conference

By Claire Morales True

SAN FRANCISCO/DENVER, Colorado - Philippine News co-founder Lourdes Mitra Esclamado will be honored will be honored posthumously by the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) during their convention in Denver, Colorado on August 13-15.

This was disclosed by Chair Mariela Fletcher of NaFFAA, one of the biggest and most active FilAm organizations in the United States, in an interview with Alfred Gabot, editor in chief of Philippine News Today, whose forerunner is the Philippine News which was founded in 1961 by the late Alex Esclamado and wife Lourdes.

Fletcher, saddened by the passing of Lourdes Esclamado, said that NaFFAA will honor her for her active role as one of the co-founders of NaFFAA in 1997 with her husband, lawyer and Philippine News publisher Alex Esclamado.

Fletcher was interviewed at the sideline of the 2026 Filipino Diaspora Summit participated by 350 overseas Filipinos

from 30 countries held on June 16 at the Marriott Hotel convention hall in Pasay City and organized by the Commission for Filipinos Overseas (CFO) headed by Chairman Dante Ang II. Fletcher was one of the panelists during the summit where she called on overseas to unite, be active and help promote Filipino culture and heritage.

Fletcher said the NaFFAA convention, called 16th National Empowerment Conference 2026, will be held at Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center where Mrs. Esclamado will be honored.

Fletcher said the conference, where CFO Chairman Dante Ang II will be one of the speakers, will bring together Filipino American leaders, professionals, advocates, entrepreneurs, youth leaders, and community organizations from across the country for important conversations on leadership, civic engagement, culture, and the future of the Filipino American community.

In an obituary, NaFFAA said Mrs. Esclamado, also known as Luly, passed away at age 95, in Rolesville, North Carolina last May 13, 2026.

Lourdes was born on February 6, 1931 in Manila, Philippines to Ramon P. Mitra and Salud de Ocampo. She grew up in Manila where she attended school until World War II broke out when she was 10. After the war, at 14, she recommenced her schooling and graduated from St. Theresa's College in 1947.

Throughout her childhood, Luly would enjoy family vacations in their summer home in Baguio, in northern Philippines, where her father was Congressman. Later, Luly went on to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at the University of Santo Tomas, earning her degree in 1951. She quickly passed her Boards and immediately began teaching General & Analytic Chemistry in the pre-med and pre-nursing programs at the De Ocampo Memorial Medical Center in Manila.

In 1953, Luly continued teaching Chemistry at Far Eastern University in Manila.

In 1951, Luly met the love of her life, Alejandro A. Esclamado in Baguio during her summer vacation. Alex is known to have corralled his ROTC officer musicians to serenade Luly at midnight, amongst his many attempts to win her heart.

Upside (From Page 10)



MARINA ESPINA/FILAMARTS LARRY ITLIONG/POSITIVELY FILIPINO PHILIP VERA CRUZ/AMAZON.COM

the move to burnish October as Filipino American History Month, which Congress officialized in 2009.

* Then-University of New Orleans librarian Marina Espina coined the term "Manila Men" in her stunning 1988 book about conscripted laborers on Spanish galleons, who jumped ship and in 1763 built the first known Filipino settlement in St. Malo and Manila Village, that would later be Louisiana. They established what is recognized as the first permanent Asian settlement in the United States. Stories are told of them introducing Philippine fishing and farming techniques, including drying shrimp going. Also known as "Filipino Cajuns," they went to battle with Andrew Jackson and Pierre Lafitte in the 1812 Battle of New Orleans. A descendant nine generations later would be a town mayor featured in an episode of "Take out with Lisa Ling" on HBO Max.

* Filipinos enlisted with the United States Army in the Far East in World War II, less than half a century after losing 20,000 of their elder comrades and up to 300,000 civilian compatriots resisting American colonization. But a perk of the recruitment - the promise of citizenship - was rescinded in 1946, when the US consul up and left unceremoniously. In a belated move almost 50 years later, the US government "corrected" the motion through the Immigration Act of 1990. In 2016 President Barack Obama signed the Filipino Veterans of WWII Congressional Act, the nation's highest civilian honor, recognizing the heroism of the 160,000 Filipinos.

* In 1965 Larry Itliong, Philip Vera Cruz, Larry Gines and Pete Velasco - leaders of AWOC or Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee walked out of the grape fields in protest against unfair wages and poor working conditions. With Itliong at the helm, 1,500 Filipino farm workers went on strike on September 8, 1965. Itliong later forged coalition with the Mexican American National Farm Workers Association led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, resulting in the United Farm Workers. The union succeeded in setting the foundation for better union contracts in agriculture labor moving forward.

Time after time, Filipino Americans celebrated and unsung have excelled in every field, fought in wars in defense of freedom and democracy, preserving the principles on which our country was founded.

Ours is the only nation on the planet not born of common ethnicity, ancestry, race or religion.

No one can tell us we do not belong, unless we let them.

So tomorrow, the Fourth of July, let's party on our country's 250th birthday.

Cherie Querol Moreno is Executive Editor of Philippine News Today.

Health & Wealth (From Page 11)

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PERSEVERANDA JIMENEZ TRINIDAD CELEBRATES 75TH BIRTHDAY

My beloved Virginia Jimenez Madlaing and I were blessed to attend the 75th Birthday celebration of Perseveranda Jimenez Trinidad last Saturday, June 20, 2026 at the Grosvenor Best Western Hotel in South San Francisco, California.

The 75th Birthday celebration was planned and organized by the celebrant's daughter Joanna Trinidad Udasco and niece Darlene Madlaing Gamble who flew all the way from Hawaii and Louisiana, respectively.

Attendees to the 75th Birthday celebration include the celebrant's son Jim Trinidad, his wife Joy Trinidad and children who are residing in South San Francisco, California; son Allan Trinidad, his wife Gabby Trinidad and children who are now residing in Portland, Oregon; her daughter Joanna Trinidad Udasco, her husband John Udasco and children who flew all the way from Hawaii;

Celebrant's older sister Trinidad Jimenez Tuliao from Daly City, California, her son Nathaniel Tuliao and wife Crystal Tuliao, another son Dave Tuliao, his wife Stephanie Tuliao and their sons; celebrant's nephews Don Relosimon, Ferdinand Relosimon and wife Aurora Relosimon and their sons; Jovito Relosimon and family; niece Amy Relosimon and daughter; celebrant's niece Wynema Madlaing Gacusan who flew all the way from Phoenix, Arizona; and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews from San Diego, Elk Grove, Sacramento, Hayward and Fremont, California.

Special guests were Ernie Abalos, Board Chairman of the United Pangasinanes of America, Inc. (UPAI) and his wife Flory Abalos.

Dinner was held at 6:00 pm. Programs and games for adults and children were jointly conducted and coordinated by Joanna and Darlene.

We wish you a blessed, happy and wonderful 75th Birthday Perse!!!

(ART GABOT MADLAING is accredited and commissioned Notary Public and licensed Real Estate Broker (DRE #00635976) in California since 1981. He is founder of MOBILE SIGNING SERVICES, FITNESS FOR HUMANITY (aka FITNESS FOR CHRIST) and ACAPINOY. Art is active Evangelist with the GOLDEN GATE CHURCH OF CHRIST in San Francisco, California USA.)

As I see It (From Page 11)

the 4th. The commandment spoke honoring, not only of the mother nor the father, but both... the parents.

So, we do honor, not only thy mother but also thy father! Just like the moms, the dads did a lot of sacrifice and good deeds to raise their children become good children and become contributing members of society. Let's honor them both, while not at the same time, we have to honor them!

Father's Day was first observed in the United States on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington. The holiday was founded by Sonora Smart Dodd, who was inspired by a Mother's Day sermon in 1909. She wanted to honor her father, William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran and widower who raised her and her siblings alone. Although she initially suggested June 5 (her father's birthday), the Spokane Ministerial Alliance chose the third Sunday in June to give pastors more time to prepare sermons. - (Wikipedia+1)

The first celebration took place at the Spokane YMCA, where churches and community groups gathered to honor fathers and fatherhood. Over the following decades, the holiday gained support from national leaders — including President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 — and was eventually made an official U.S. national holiday in 1972. - (Britannica+1)

Today, Father's Day is celebrated annually on the third Sunday in June in the United States, with the 2026 date falling on June 21. It is a day set aside for honoring one's father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. (Britannica).

The day is held on various dates across the world, and different regions maintain their own traditions of honoring fatherhood. - (Wikipedia) In Catholic countries of Europe, it has been celebrated on 19 March as Saint Joseph's Day since the Middle Ages. In the United States, Father's Day was founded in the state of Washington by Sonora Smart Dodd in 1910. Father's Day is a recognized public holiday in Lithuania and some parts of Spain and was regarded as such in Italy until 1977. It is a national holiday in Samoa, and equivalently in South Korea, where it is celebrated as Parents' Day.

In the Philippines, Father's Day is officially celebrated every third Sunday of June according to a recent presidential proclamation, but it is not a public holiday. It is more widely observed by the public on the third Sunday of June perhaps due to American influence and as proclaimed in 1988 by Philippine President Corazon Aquino.

Under Proclamation No. 58, series of 1998, issued by then Philippine President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, the first Monday of December of every year was designated as Mother's Day and Father's Day, expressly repealing the third Sunday of June observance.

This is about honoring authority: "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." - Exodus 20:12

To honor your parents means you obey them, talk to them with respect, and treat them like they matter a lot — because God says they do. Fathers deserve the same courtesy extended to mothers — "Honor thy father and thy mother!"

(Elpidio R. Estioko was a veteran journalist in the Philippines and an award-winning journalist here in the US. He just published his book Unlocking the chain of Poverty: In Pursuit of the American Dream which is now available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Xlibris Publishing. For feedbacks, comments, email author at estiokoelpidio@gmail.com.)