



FILIPINO-AMERICAN VETERANS SOCIETY, INC.

FAVS NEWSLETTER

"Veterans helping veterans"

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

JANUARY, 2006

Honoring The Veterans



FAVS color guard was provided by NAS Jacksonville Naval Hospital Detachment followed by active, reserve and retired men carrying the flags of all the military service.

...And March They Went!

Planked by the color guards of NAS Jacksonville Naval Hospital, led by HMC Joshua Rosario and HM1 Raymund Sarabia, two Hospital Corpsmen who recently saw action in Iraq, members of the Filipino American Veterans Society marched the streets of downtown Jacksonville on November 11th, in celebration of Veteran's Day. With Fred Cabales and Don Villanueva holding the FAVS banner, the Jacksonville crowd was "introduced" to the new breed of veterans in this city. Many area residents are



CDR. Ed Callao, Retired served as FAVS Grand Marshal

not even aware of the sizeable Post WWII era Filipino-American veterans living here, who helped defend this country and protect the freedom that it espouses around the globe. "Thank you!" and "God Bless you!" reverberated from both sides of the street as FAVS/FIL-AM contingent marched along. Fellow veterans in the crowd even stood at attention and rendered salutes of gratitude and praise. "Bravo-Zulu", "A job well done!", "Great job", they said. What a heartrending experience!

What is remarkable in this year's parade, are the combined efforts of the FAVS and FIL-AM Council leadership to merge into one contingent. Modestly enough, The FIL-AM Council under the leadership of Albert Montemayor featured its affiliated organizations within the council, which featured each organization's beauty queen and first lady, capped by the music of Frank Templo and Conrad Mangune both USN retired (in their camouflage).

The final phase of the Veterans Week celebration in the city was capped off by the Visayas-Mindanao Association hosting its annual Veteran's Ball at the Radisson Hotel in the south bank. Hundreds of Filipino-American veterans and their families flocked in the Radisson ball room to honor the country's veterans, past and present. Governor Bush's External Affairs Director Colonel Charley Price (USA, Ret.) was the honored



Taken during the VMA Veterans Ball are l-r Nes Papel, Dick Aquino, Mrs. Aquino, Dick's lovely Mom, Col. Charley Price, Pat Ganio & Art Gandionco

guest speaker. In his speech, Colonel Price described the American veteran, in all aspects of life, in different parts of the country, in all classes of society, and in different stages of this country's history... from the Patriots of the American

Revolution, to the rebels of the Confederacy, to the loyalists of the Union Army. From the Midwestern farm boys who defended Europe in both theatres of World Wars I and II, to the survivors of Pearl Harbor and the Bataan Death March. He went on to cite the heroes who faced the tyranny of Communism during the Cold War, and the present heroes of the 9-11 era who are presently combating the global war on Terrorism – from the rugged mountains of Tora Bora in Afghanistan to the treacherous surroundings of Fallujah in Baghdad.

Overall, Col Price summed up his speech that the American veteran is nothing more than the average person next door who is the father, the mother, the son, the daughter, the brother, the sister, and the friend among us all.

A group presentation led by Randy Fletcher presented a number of patriotic songs honoring the veterans. Dressed in red white and blue attire, the performers sang one patriotic song after another and capped the presentation off with their rendition of “God Bless the USA”, and had the audience singing along.

Several veterans who showed up in their military uniform looked trim, well-groomed and “ready for inspection”. They enjoyed the dinner and they danced the night away. Senior Chief Nes Papel (USN, Ret), HMC Joshua Rosario and HM1 Raymund Sarabia were honored in the annual cake-cutting ceremony.



The Fil-Am Council group mostly veterans joined with their traditional Barong Tagalog attire.

President Message



This month marked the end of my term as your president of the society. The spirit of FAVS is sweeping in our veterans community especially in the Fil-Am community and I am extremely proud of the Society’s relentless energy and enthusiasm, and the impressive achievements of our activities and membership drive. From the beginning of my term and up to this month, the society has grown much larger. The support of all the officers and advices from Nes Papel and Ed Callao has helped me tremendously during my tenure and made my job a little easier. There are over 10,000 Fil-Am veterans in the

Northeast Florida and much needed work to unite as one voice is one of FAVS goals. FAVS is here to stay and we need everyone participation. Our goal is to provide our members with outstanding service, so please let us know if we fall short of your expectations.

Early this year we missed our Vice President and Sergeant Major Will Hux who was recalled to active duty in Iraq. We are very fortunate to have Dick Aquino and Bob Ravago who served as Interim VP and carried out the duties of Will while he is away.

Last November the veteran’s day parade was a success of both FAVS and the Fil-Am Council. We had our election of officers which was held at Capt. Almojera’s conference room at his medical office. Our congratulations to Bob Bontilao as President, Nena Reed as Vice President, David Malinag as Secretary and Ed Pike, as Treasurer. We ask that you welcome these lady and gentlemen to our Induction of Officer at Rusty Grill on January 14.

Yvonne and I wish all the FAVS family a most joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

FAVS Member Wins FCAACC 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Rodel Bongayan, FAVS member and owner of Rusty’s Grill won the coveted 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year Award presented by The Asian American Chamber of Commerce. The award, which was announced during the Chamber’s Inauguration, was the first of its kind, and caught Rodel and his wife Ellen by surprise. Rusty’s Grill is a restaurant which specializes in Oriental-American cuisine. Part of its service, is the Karaoke Stage, which helps costumers unwind by “singing out their frustrations of the day”, or simply put, relaxation. Rodel’s restaurant has been a popular place for organizational meetings, and other special functions. Recently it hosted two fund-raising events sponsored by the FILAM Council for the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. CONGRATULATIONS Rodel and Ellen!

WELCOME ABOARD !!!

Welcome aboard new FAVS members Ernie Ramos, Tony Ortiz, Raymund Sarabia, and Captain Belle Almojera.

FAVS ACTIVITIES:

FAVS Participate in the Mayor’s Asian American Advisory Board Workshop

Officers and selected members of FAVS participated in a half-day workshop for the leaders of Asian-American organizations in Jacksonville. The MAAAB sponsored event focused on discussions on cultural issues and concerns, discrimination, difficulties and barriers; positive experiences such as assistance provided by government and/or other entities, seminars, and educational opportunities; and ways in which the Asian American community can contribute to the city, enhance its quality of life, and make Jacksonville a better place to live in.

Members of each organization presented their respective goals, purposes, and activities. MAAAB organizers were enthusiastic about the turnout and the feedbacks they received from the attendees. These feedbacks would serve as the basis of the MAAAB report to the mayor for the calendar year 2005.

Local Veteran Bags US Armed Forces Open Chess Tournament Title



Ding Sabio packed his luggage and headed to the 46th Annual US Armed Forces Open Chess Tournament in McGill Training Center, Fort Meade, Maryland, held October 8th thru 10th, 2005. Our FAVD Public Relations Officer (PRO) has been gearing up for this event and stayed focus in his goal of winning his category. With all the talents from all over the country taking part in the tournament, Ding would

not be denied.

He came home with top honor in the Retired Military Category. Congratulations on a job well done in representing FAVS and the Jacksonville community.

Minutes Summary

- FAVS assesses success of the Veteran's parade. Thanks to all personnel who volunteered their efforts for the success of the parade and to those who donated the flags used in the parade. FAVS also extend their thanks to the Naval Hospital color guards, and active military personnel who marched with FAVS. Will solicit ideas in improving participation in the annual Veterans Day Parade.
- Veterans Ball was a huge success, as many more veterans attended the event. FAVS will continue to support such great endeavor, which has been sponsored by the Visayas-Mindanao Association (VMA).
- FAVS elected new officers for 2006. Bob Bontilao (President-elect), Nena Reed (Vice-President elect), Dave Malinag (Secretary elect), and Ed Pike (Treasurer elect). Induction ceremony will be held on January 14th at Rusty's Grill.
- Appointment of by-laws committee to review and recommend changes to the current by-laws. The committee will be headed by Nes Papel.

Birthday Greetings:

October: *France Lee Bernard, Mel Segui, Al Delorito*

November: *Joseph Flores, Dave Pagaduan, Bob Ravago, Ding Sabio*

December: *Pat Patangan*

Featured Veterans

No featured veteran in this edition. However, we reserve this space to salute our board member and one of the founding father, Nes Papel for over forty years of military and civil services. Nes recently bowed out of public service after more than twenty years as the city of Jacksonville's public servant (He retired as Administrator of the City of Jacksonville Victim's Services).



In the twilight of his brilliant military career, Nes decided to move here in Jacksonville, where he can enjoy Florida's sunny weather minus the hurricanes. What's more noteworthy is that when Nes arrived in Jacksonville in the late 70's, the Filipino-American community has only a handful of organizations, mostly reconciled as nothing more than social organizations. Nes teamed up with a few civic-minded citizens and pioneered many more organizations geared to contribute to the needs of the community, and in essence, placed not only the Filipino-American citizenry, but also the Asian-American population in the civic, economic, and political spectrum of the greater Jacksonville area. His public service career has earned the respect and admiration of five mayors of Jacksonville, and top leaders of the city, state, and the military.

As Nes starts a new chapter in his private life, the members of FAVS wish him well and salute him for a JOB WELL DONE! Nes still plans to be active in many more civic functions such as the FAVS activities. Good luck, old buddy!

UNIFORM SNAFU

BICKERING

The reason the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines bicker amongst themselves is that they don't speak the same language. For instance, take the simple phrase "secure the building".

The Army will post guards around the place.
The Navy will turn out the lights and lock the doors.
The Marines will kill everybody inside and set up a headquarters
The Air Force will take out a 5 year lease with an option to buy

US Navy Ranks Made Easy.

ADMIRAL:

Leaps tall buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a locomotive, is faster than a speeding bullet, walks on water amid typhoons, and reviews policy with God.

CAPTAIN:

Leaps short buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a switch engine, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on water if sea is calm, talks to God.

COMMANDER:

Leaps short buildings with a running start and favorable winds, is almost as powerful as a switch engine, is faster than a speeding BB, walks on water in indoor swimming pool, talks to God only if a special request chit is approved.

LT. COMMANDER:

Barely clears Quonset hut, loses tug-of-war with switch-engine, can fire a speeding bullet, swims well, and is occasionally addressed by God.

LIEUTENANT:

Makes high marks by trying to leap buildings, is run over by the locomotive, can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self injury, dog paddles, and talks to animals.

LIEUTENANT (JG):

Runs into buildings, recognizes locomotives two out of three times, is not issued ammunition, can stay afloat if properly instructed in the Mae-West, talks to bulkheads.

ENSIGN:

Falls over doorstep when trying to enter building, says look at the Choo-Choo, wets himself, plays in mud puddles, and mumbles to himself.

CHIEF:

Lifts buildings and walks under them, kicks locomotives off the tracks, catches speeding bullets in his teeth and eats them, freezes water with a single glance, makes policy and enforces it, HE IS GOD.

Actual Air Force Maintenance Complaints

Author: Unknown

Here are some actual maintenance complaints submitted by US Air Force pilots and the replies from the maintenance crews.

"Squawks" are problem listings that pilots generally leave for maintenance crews.

Problem: "Left inside main tire almost needs replacement."

Solution: "Almost replaced left inside main tire."

Problem: "Test flight OK, except auto land very rough."

Solution: "Auto land not installed on this aircraft."

Problem #1: "#2 Propeller seeping prop fluid."

Solution #1: "#2 Propeller seepage normal."

Problem #2: "#1, #3, and #4 propellers lack normal seepage."

Problem: "The autopilot doesn't."

Solution: "IT DOES NOW."

Problem: "Something loose in cockpit."

Solution: "Something tightened in cockpit."

Problem: "Evidence of hydraulic leak on right main landing gear."

Solution: "Evidence removed."

Problem: "Dead bugs on windshield."

Solution: "Live bugs on order."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The officers and members of the Filipino American Veterans Society wish everyone a Happy New Year!
- FAVS newly elected officers for 2006 will be sworn in by Naval Hospital Jacksonville Commanding Officer **Captain Racquel C. Bono, MC, USN** on January 14, 2006. The ceremony will be held at Rusty's Grill on Atlantic Avenue, and everyone's invited to witness the "relieve of the watch" gathering. The venue will begin with cocktail at 1800 until 2400. Limited supply of tickets are still available at \$15.
- NaFFAA Southern Region 4 in its 4th biennial Conference. It will be held at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center on 21-22 Jan 2006, hosted by the Big Bend Filipino American Assoc (BBFAA) & NaFFAA FL State Chapter.

FROM YOUR SHIP STORE:



FAVS' headgears shown above are now available to all members. Our official Pershing cap, which we normally wear during formal military events, can now be purchase at \$25.50 each. Our ball cap is \$10 each and FAVS patches are \$5 each. Contact Art Gandionco at 237-4364 if you want to purchase any of the above.

The FAVS Newsletter

Editorial Board

Nes Papel, Chair, Board of Directors

Art Gandionco, President

Bob Bontilao, Editor

The FAVS Newsletter is published and distributed FREE to members of the Filipino American Veterans Society (FAVS). Articles are sole responsibility of the contributors.

Please send any letter, articles, comments, feedback, and any items on topics of general interest to our veterans to Bob Bontilao, 1671 Misty Lake Drive, Orange Park, FL, 32003 or email to: illustrious2000@hotmail.com