



# **THE FLASH**

## **FAMOS Newsletter**

**Filipino American Military Officers Association**  
**Celebrating the Past & Inspiring the Future**  
**FAMOS – Established in April 1990**

June 2016

<http://www.famosusa.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/famosusa>

Volume 2 Issue 2

### **2016-2017 OFFICERS**

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### ***President's Message***



They indeed will be the future of FAMOS. I watched with pride as the 2016 JROTC scholarship recipients walked forward to receive their respective plaque and check. They looked so young and vulnerable. They are just in the first stage of their journey to become full-fledged military officers. I was awed by the number of medals hanging on their chest. I concluded that they must have successfully completed so many important assignments at such an early age when I had only three little medals on my dinner jacket after twenty years of military service.

**CAPT Elsa P. Ang  
MC, USN Ret.**

I express my sincere appreciation to LCDR Joy Gacuya for his successful search for the rightful 2016 scholarship recipients.

FAMOS was honored by the presence of Admiral Robert Hickey, Sr. and his son Robert, Jr. at our induction of Officers on April 16, 2016. Also present were several guests representing other branches of the military such as USMC, Air Force and Army. I was pleasantly surprised when I received a long distance call from Kurt Zumwalt last May 17, 2016. I will give the membership a full report of what had happened in our next newsletter.

I look forward to your continued enthusiastic participation in all our subsequent 2016 activities.

**Maraming Salamat Po.**

**CAPT Elsa Peñaranda-Ang, MC, USN, Ret.**

## **APPOINTMENTS TO THE 2016-2017 FAMOS STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **BYLAWS:**

JAY RUIZ, SR.- CHAIR  
OSCAR SANCHEZ GARCIA  
MANUEL SUPNET

### **EDUCATION/ SCHOLARSHIP:**

JOY GACUYA-CHAIR  
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DR. CEFERINA RUIZ

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NANCY VALERIO  
TEDDY DATUIN

### **SUNSHINE:**

DR. CEFERINA RUIZ- CHAIR  
REMEDIOS LIWAG  
VERONICA GARCIA  
GLORIA SUPNET

## **Executive Council Meetings**

Meetings are held on the first Saturday of the month from 0900 to 1100 at 1341 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A, National City, CA 91950  
**Members are invited.**

## **Coming Events**

- **Scottish Rite Temple Honoring CWO4 Honorio Alvarez: 4 June 2016**
- **Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum Open Cockpit Days: 4—5 June 2016**
- **FAMOS at Mabuhay Festival/Philippine Independence Day Event: 11 June 2016**
- **FAMOS at RP Flag-raising Ceremony at Balboa Park: 12 June 2016**
- **FAMOS Casino Fundraising Trip: 19 June 2016**
- **FAMOS at UVC: 25 June 2016**
- **Executive Meeting: 2 July 2016**

## **Publication**

**THE FLASH** is the FAMOS Newsletter published quarterly by the Filipino-American Military Officers Association and distributed free to all members.

Readers are invited to send comments, news items and relevant articles to the editorial staff.

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# FAMOS 2016-2017 Officers Inaugurated



**FAMOS 2016-2017 OFFICERS** pose for picture taking with the installing officer, **CDR Gervy J. Alota**, (extreme left) USN, Commanding Officer, USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45) after taking their oath of office. From left are **CAPT Elsa P. Ang**, USN, Ret., President; **CWO4 Manny Supnet**, USN, Ret., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; **LCDR Joy Gacuya**, USNR, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; **CWO4 Oscar Sa. Garcia**, USN, Ret., 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; **CWO4 Ed Danico**, USN, Ret., Auditor; **Ms. Nancy Valerio**, Assistant Treasurer; **Julio DeGuzman**, NCIS, Ret., PRO, **CDR Benny Valerio**, USN, Ret., PRO, **1<sup>st</sup> LT Dennis Alcazar**, USAR, Assistant Secretary and **CWO2 Ernie Liwag**, USN, Ret., Treasurer. Not in the picture are **CW5 Teddy C. Datuin**, USA, Ret., PRO and **EMCS(SS) Jay Ruiz, Sr.**, USN, Ret., Secretary.

The officers for 2016-2017 of the Filipino American Military Officers Association (**FAMOS**) were inaugurated at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center in San Diego on April 16, 2016. The inducting officer was **CDR Gervy J. Alota**, USN, Commanding Officer of USS COMSTOCK (LSD 45). He also was the guest speaker and was introduced by **CDR Benny Valerio**, USN, Ret.

Emceed by **CWO2 Ernie Liwag**, USN, Ret. the program got underway with an invocation by **CWO4 Manny Supnet**, USN, Ret. followed by the parade of colors by the National Sojourners,

SD Chapter #45.

**Jimmie Sober** rendered the Philippine National Anthem and **Naval Sea Cadet Jeremiah S. Ibarra** sang the Stars Spangled Banner.

**1<sup>st</sup> LT Dennis Alcazar** led the Pledge of Allegiance after which **CWO4 Oscar S. Garcia** delivered the welcome remarks. Recognition of guests and introduction of FAMOS officers and members were carried out by **CDR Valerio** and **CWO2 Liwag**.

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## FAMOS 2016-2017 Officers Inaugurated—continued from page 3

The induction ceremony began after dinner as **CDR Alota** asked the Secretary to call each newly elected officer to front and center. The Assistant Secretary, **1<sup>st</sup> LT Alcazar** did the calling in place of the absent Secretary, **EMCS(SS) Jay Ruiz, Sr.**

The installing officer subsequently would instruct the elected officers to raise their right hand *“and repeat after me”* in taking their oath of office.

He would then ask the chaplain to pray for God’s blessings. Thereafter, the inducting officer would address **CAPT Elsa P. Ang**, *“Madam President, the Association is now in your charge. I now give you this gavel as a symbol of your authority and responsibility.”*

In her acceptance speech, the President expressed her gratitude to the officers who have previously served with her for their unreluctance to serve for another term. She bade welcome to the new officers and thanked them for agreeing to serve and share their talents with the Association thereby contributing toward the renewal of its strength and vigor.

**CAPT Ang** also conveyed her thanks to the event coordinators: **CDR Valerio** and his wife, **Nancy**; **CWO4 Sanchez Garcia** and his spouse, **Veronica**; **CWO2 Liwag** and his better half, **Remedios**; **CW5 Teddy Datuin**, **COL Ceferina Ruiz**, **EMCS(SS) Ruiz, Sr.** and members of the various committees, all of whom carried out their tasks very well. **Mrs. Fida Pierce** was all occupied in her assignment at the registration and reception table that she could not even leave to eat dinner. Consequently, her husband, **Navy Captain Chuck Pierce** brought her plate. Both **CAPT** and **Mrs.**

**Pierce** are new members of the Association. This was the first FAMOS event they attended.

Features of the evening included the presentation of a Plaque of Appreciation to the inducting officer by the President on behalf of the Association.

FAMOS also conferred scholarship awards to three high school seniors who were in the NJROTC and Naval Sea Cadet Corps programs. The conferment was made by **CAPT Ang** and **LCDR Joy Gacuya**, scholarship committee chairman.

The recipients were Naval Sea Cadet Corps **PO3 Jeremiah S. Ibarra** of San Pasqual High School, **Cadet/CDR Christian Dumangas** and **Cadet/LCDR Jean De La Cruz**, both NJROTC at Mar Vista High School. Each cadet received a \$500-check and a Recognition Certificate. Special remarks by former scholarship recipient **Oliver Ona** preceded the presentation.

Additionally, FAMOS donated \$1,010.00 to the House of the Philippines (HOP) in Balboa Park. The donation was presented to the HOP’s President, **Rom Sarno, Jr.** by **CWO4 Ed Danico, USN, Ret.** who spearheaded the fund-raising drive.

In the interim, dance for all and raffle drawings for assorted prizes galore as well as interludes of events. Spouses were escorted to the front by military members in uniform as they were presented with roses by the President, assisted by **Lt. Col. Marissa Manipud, USAFR.**

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### FAMOS Scholars:

Cadets (l-r) C/LCDR Jean Dela Cruz, C/PO3 Jeremiah S. Ibarra and C/CDR Christian Dumangas

Scholarship awardee Naval Sea **Cadet Ibarra** sang a ballad in Tagalog while providing his own guitar accompaniment. The **Red Hot Line Dancers of Mira Mesa**, led by **Rose Mata**, exhibited a lively number. The sound of joy from the lucky winners of the raffle drawings, coordinated by **Gloria Supnet**, pervaded the ballroom. Then there was the enthralling music of **LT Celso Macaspac**, USN, Ret.

The festivities continued long after the closing remarks of **CWO4 Danico** evidently because many were having a good time. “**Thank you for the invitation - please invite us again,**” the more than a score guests of **CWO4 Supnet** would ask.



## FAMOS LCDR Joy Gacuya Achieves Professional Engineering License

Congratulations to LCDR Gacuya for a hard-won achievement most worthy of special accolades. He is now a professional electrical engineer (PE) in the State of California.

Indeed, it takes perseverance, ability and determination among other factors to become a PE. According to the National Society of Professional Engineers, in order to legally practice as an engineer, one must first, have graduated a four-year degree from an accredited engineering program. Second, he/she must pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exams. Third, he/she must complete four years of progressive engineering experience under a Professional Engineer. Finally, he/she must pass the Principles and Practices (PE) exams of the State.

LCDR Gacuya is the 2nd Vice President of FAMOS and the Chairman of its Scholarship Committee. His wife, Annabella is employed at the Wells Fargo Bank. Bravo Zulu to LCDR and Mrs. Joy Gacuya.

# FAMOS Personnel Host Fellow Members

They are members of both the **Filipino American Military Officers Association (FAMOS)** and the **Pangasinan Association of San Diego County (PASDC)**. Thus, when the latter Association celebrated its Fil-Am Cultural Night gala event on May 14, 2016, they became hosts to their FAMOS fellow members.

The “they” were **CDR Benny Valerio**, USN, Ret., PRO and his wife, **Nancy**, Asst. Treasurer; **CW5 Teddy Datuin**, USA, Ret., PRO and his wife, **Sonia**; **Julio DeGuzman, Jr.**, NCIS, Ret. PRO; **LtCol Robert Calderone**, USAF and **LtCol Marissa Manipud**, USAFR.

“Their” guests were **CAPT Elsa P. Ang**, MC, USN, Ret., President and her spouse, **Roger Ang**; **CAPT Chuck Pierce**, USN, Ret. and his wife, **Fida**; **COL Ceferina Ruiz**, USA, Ret. and her husband, **EMCS(SS) Jay Ruiz, Sr.**, USN, Ret., Secretary; **CWO4 Oscar S. Garcia**, USN, Ret., 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and his wife, **Veronica**; **CWO4 Ed Danico**, USN, Ret., Auditor; **CWO2 Ernie Liwag**, USN, Ret., Treasurer and his spouse, **Remedios**, and **CWO4 Manny Supnet**, USN, Ret., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and his wife, **Gloria**.

The interim hosts played big roles in the PASDC celebration. **CDR Valerio** was the overall chairman, **CW5 Datuin** was general overseer of events, PRO DeGuzman introduced the guest speaker, **LtCol Calderone** and **LtCol Manipud** were co-emcees. **Nancy** and **Sonia** were assigned to the registration and reception table and coordinated other equally important assignments.

The gala event was highlighted by the Coronation of the 2026-2017 Queen and a tribute to the outgoing Mrs. Pangasinan. Also featured was a Barong Tagalog attire contest. **FAMOS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President CWO4 Supnet captured second place.**

PASDC held a similar Terno attire contest for the ladies in its celebration last year. **FAMOS President CAPT Ang won second place.** Coincidence?



Mr. Roger & CAPT Elsa P. Ang



CWO4 Manny & Mrs. Gloria Supnet



COL Cef & EMC(SS) Jay Ruiz, Sr.

## FAMOS Officers Attend Miramar National Cemetery Orientation



FAMOS Officers & Members attended a Dignity Memorial Veterans Benefits informational briefing at El Camino Memorial - Sorrento Valley in San Diego before an informative tour of the Miramar National Cemetery on May 19, 2016.

Pictured left-right:

CWO4 Bob Concepcion, MCPO Cesar Adan, Rebecca Melendez (El Camino staff), CAPT Elsa Ang, Gloria Supnet, CWO4 Manny Supnet, CW5 Teddy Datuin, Sonia Datuin, and Bob Gordon (El Camino staff). Not in photo are FAMOS members Roger Ang, CAPT Winnie Maneclang, and LT Mark Maneclang. All the military attendees are retired.

(Editor's Note: The following information concerning the Miramar National Cemetery is provided by the Department of Veterans.)

Miramar National Cemetery will serve Southern California Veterans well into the next century. Situated on 313 acres, the cemetery accommodates casketed and cremated remains.

**Generally, veterans who served active duty military service and were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions are entitled to burial in a National Cemetery.**

There are time restrictions for enlisted personnel who began their active service after September 7, 1980 and officer personnel who entered service after October 17, 1981. They must have completed 24 months of continuous service or the full period for which called to active duty, whichever is shorter.

Veterans discharged due to a hardship or a service-connected disability prior to completing 24 months of continuous service.

Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who dies while serving on active duty.

Any person who has retired from the National Guard or from the Reserves

**The spouse of an eligible active duty member or veteran**, even if the veteran or active duty member is not interred in a National Cemetery.

**Minor dependent children** of an eligible active duty member or veteran who are unmarried and under age 21 have entitlement to National Cemetery burial. A dependent child who has reached age 21 and is pursuing a course of instruction in an approved educational institution retains their eligibility until they reach age 23.

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The veteran's or active duty member's unmarried adult children who are incapable of self-support due to a permanent disability sustained prior to reaching age 21 can be buried in the National Cemetery. The adult child's next of kin must provide the following documents to the cemetery at the time of burial: (a) a statement of the decedent's marital status, (b) a statement of the degree of dependency, and (c) a statement from the attending physician as to the nature and duration of the disability.

**If a dependent of an eligible veteran passes away before the veteran, she or he may be interred at a National Cemetery.**

**COSTS TO THE FAMILY:** There is no charge for any service provided by a National Cemetery. It provides the grave space, a grave liner (for casketed burial), opening and closing of the grave, and headstone or marker. The National Cemetery provides all perpetual care of the grave.

**GRAVESITE:** An in-ground plot will be provided for casket burials. For those desiring cremation, an in-ground garden plot or above-ground columbarium niche will be provided, and Memorial Markers for those who are buried at sea or the remains are no-recoverable.

**PRE-NEED ARRANGEMENTS:** Gravesites are provided at the time of need. When death occurs and interment in the National Cemetery is authorized, the gravesite is assigned.

**TYPE OF MARKER:** Full casket and in-ground cremation sites will have upright marble headstone which will be ordered and placed on the gravesite. Columbarium sites will be marked with marble niche covers.

**INSCRIPTION OF MARKER:** Mandatory items of inscription include name of decedent, branch of service, years of birth and death. Optional items inscribed at government expense may include emblem of belief, grade, rank or rate, and war services. The following awards are inscribed at government expense: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star and Purple Heart. Complete month and day for dates of birth and death may be used if desired by next of kin. Space permitting, an additional inscription may be available at government expense. Additional inscription are terms of endearment (e.g., "Beloved Husband," "In Loving Memory"). Please give this information to the funeral director before day of service.

**GRAVELINER FOR CASKETED BURIALS:** The graveliner is used to encase the casket before being placed in the ground. The purpose of the graveliner is to minimize settlement of the grave, thereby reducing grave repair and maintenance. The graveliner is not a sealed vault. If the family desires to provide a vault for a casketed burial, it may do so at its expense. The government graveliner is furnished at no expense to the family.

**ARRANGEMENT FOR BURIAL IN THE NATIONAL CEMETERY:** When death occurs, the next of kin of the decedent should contact a funeral home, provide a copy of the veteran's discharge document or whatever military service-related documents are available. The funeral director will then contact the National Cemetery to arrange interment.

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The complete name of the veteran, along with military rank, service and social security numbers and any VA Claim number, dates of service, date and place of birth and death should be furnished. If all of this information is not available, as much as possible should be provided. Because the military service of each veteran must be verified, failure to provide the required data may result in a delay of burial.

Verification of military service is usually accomplished within two work days; however, some cases may take longer. When verification is complete, the cemetery staff will notify the funeral director that burial is authorized. The proposed date and time for the interment should not be announced nor should the decedent be transported to the National Cemetery until the interment is authorized.

**MILITARY HONORS:** National Cemeteries do not provide military honors. In January 2000 the Department of Defense (DOD) implemented a program designed to provide military honors upon request for any eligible veteran's funeral. DOD will provide a minimum of two active duty personnel to fold and present the flag. The family may also choose to use an honor guard from local veteran's service organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, or Disabled American Veterans. The next of kin should inform the funeral director if military honors are desired. Here is the list of the local honor guards telephone numbers:

**Army:** (800) 248-0759 **Air Force:** (951) 655-6105  
**Navy:** (800) 326-9631 **Marine:** (866) 826-3628  
**Coast Guard:** (619) 278-7676

**FLORAL REGULATIONS:** Cemetery policies

are posted on floral cone containers throughout the cemetery. Up to three floral arrangements accompanying the casket or urn at the time of burial will be placed on the completed grave. Natural cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time of the year. They will be removed when they become unsightly or when it becomes necessary to facilitate cemetery operations such as mowing.

Artificial flowers will be permitted on graves from October 1 through April 15. Artificial flowers and potted plants will be allowed on graves for a period extending 10 days before through 10 days after Easter Sunday and Memorial Day

Christmas wreaths, grave blankets and other seasonal adornments may be placed on graves from December 1 through January 20. They may not be secured to headstones or markers.

Permanent plantings, statues, vigil lights, breakable objects and similar items are not permitted on the graves. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not permit adornments that are considered offensive. Inconsistent with the dignity of the cemetery or considered hazardous to cemetery personnel. Unauthorized items will be removed from gravesites.

**INTERMENT SERVICES:** All funeral services will be held at one of two committal shelters, which are located away from the gravesites. These shelters afford the family an intimate setting for the funeral services. When the committal service is over, cemetery personnel will transport the decedent to the actual gravesite for immediate burial.

**BURIAL PERMIT** is required by the state of California for interments. No burial can be accomplished without this permit. Your funeral director will provide this for you.

# FAMOS 2016-2017 Induction of Officers



**Bottom Photo:** CDR Alota giving his remarks.

**Right Top Photo:** FAMOS scholars C/PO3 Ibarra, C/CDR Dumangas, and C/LCDR Dela Cruz flanked by CAPT Ang and LCDR Gacuya.

**Right bottom photo:** CAPT Ang giving her remarks.



# FAMOS 2016-2017 Induction of Officers



April 16, 2016 CDR Gervy Alota & CAPT Ang

Above Photo: Inducting Officer, CDR Gervy Alota accepts a FAMOS Plaque from CAPT Elsa Ang while CWO2 and Emcee Ernie Liwag looks on.



Above Photo: Former FAMOS scholarship recipient, Oliver Ona is being introduced by Emcee Ernie Liwag.



Bottom Photo: SPECIAL GUESTS: Retired Navy Admiral Robert Hickey, Sr. (seated) and son, San Diego Deputy District Attorney Robert Hickey III



Bottom Photo: CWO4 Ed Danico presents a check for more than one thousand dollars donation for the House of the Philippines to its President, Rom Sarno, Jr.



Left Photo: Ladies take time-out. From left: Mrs. Veronica Garcia, Mrs. Remedios Liwag, CAPT Elsa Ang and Mrs. Fida Pierce.

# USS Zumwalt—the Largest ‘Stealth’ Destroyer Ever Built for the U.S. Navy

