



THE FLASH

FAMOS Newsletter

Filipino-American Military Officers Association
Celebrating the Past & Inspiring the Future

FAMOS – Established in April 1990

March 2016

<http://www.famosusa.org>

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Volume 2 Issue 1

2016-2017 OFFICERS

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President's Message



CAPT Elsa P. Ang
MC, USN Ret.

It was raining very hard that Sunday morning on January 31, 2016 in San Diego. The windshield wipers of our car, even in high gear, couldn't help alleviate the poor visibility of the roadway. My husband, Roger and I were driving to the 6th Annual Veterans Appreciation luncheon some 20 miles away. Roger would ask me if we must still go. I would calmly reassure him we were going to fulfill our assigned task as volunteer food servers.

It was apparent the inclement weather had discouraged numerous hungry veterans from showing up because there were more volunteers present than the beneficiaries. Nevertheless, David Vaz was still hoping there will be more veterans arriving later. He even prompted us to eat first so we could perhaps be serving without interruption. This amused me for I knew there won't be anybody coming in any more sooner or later.

Although I was a volunteer, I was also a veteran and hence, a guest. I was lucky to have been served by San Diego County Supervisor Dave Roberts and his son with my delicious turkey and mashed potatoes. There were also Filipino favorites such as pancit, chicken adobo, lumpia and fried rice donated by our FAMOS PRO Julio DeGuzman. We met so many Filipino friends who also were veterans and thus we had warm conversations.

Being a positive and rational person, I hypothesized that the stress brought on by the thunderstorm would not last long and the sun would be shining soon. Alas! I was wrong; the stress lingered on with the downpour until almost closing time. Meanwhile, there was so much leftover which I knew would be donated to a charitable foundation.

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Executive Council Meetings

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

Coming Events

- Executive Meeting: 5 March 2016
- Feed the Homeless: 6 March 2016
- FAMOS at UVC: 26 March 2016
- Executive Meeting: 2 April 2016
- Installation of 2016-2017 Officers: 16 April 2016
- FAMOS at UVC: 23 April 2016
- Executive Meeting: 7 May 2016
- Feed the Homeless: 8 May 2016
- FAMOS at UVC: 28 May 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 is a non-profit, educational and public benefit association under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code

THE FLASH Marks Anniversary

A year ago this March, the FAMOS newsletter made its debut and has since prevailingly carried on - thanks to the talents and dedication of its editorial staff: **CW5 Teddy Datuin, USA**; **EMCS(SS) Jay Ruiz, USN** and **CWO4 Manny Supnet, USN**, all retired.

Unbeknownst to some readers is a Samaritan who has been diligently providing the editors with pictures for publication 99.8 percent since day one. It is therefore rightful and just to pay tribute to the silent benefactor here and now.

Accordingly, the name of **Captain Elsa P. Ang, USN, Ret.**, President of FAMOS shall henceforth be listed as **Photographer** in the *masthead of THE FLASH. (*Masthead is the part of newspaper and other periodicals that gives inter alia the names of editors and other staff.)

Furthermore, the newsletter's widespread readership is attributed to CAPT Ang. She has been promptly forwarding THE FLASH via the internet to non profit organizations not only around San Diego County but also nationwide and overseas mostly with which she used to be affiliated. What do the recipients think of the newsletter? CAPT Ang said she has received approbations and compliments from time to time.

In retrospect, THE FLASH is the **revival** of a discontinued FAMOS Newsletter. The dream to publish it again was touched off by numerous requests from the members as well as queries from families and friends. The eventual re-availability of experienced and unreluctant editorial and productional personnel ultimately made the dream come true.

Since its resumption, the newsletter has carried various articles, among others, such as the celebration of the "Spirit of '45 Day" at Balboa Park in 2014 and 2015, the year that featured the oldest WWII veteran in attendance, 107-year-old Army Staff Sergeant Melchor T. Rillera from the Philippines.

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APPOINTMENTS TO THE 2016-2017 FAMOS STANDING COMMITTEES

BYLAWS:

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

EDUCATION/ SCHOLARSHIP:

JOY GACUYA-CHAIR
DENNIS ALCAZAR
DR. CEFERINA RUIZ

MEMBERSHIP:

BENNY VALERIO- CHAIR
ERNESTO LIWAG
ED DANICO

SOCIAL/RECREATION (MWR):

JULIO DEGUZMAN-CHAIR
NANCY VALERIO
TEDDY DATUIN

SUNSHINE:

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



President's Report for 2015

It is with great pride and pleasure for me to report that FAMOS had an excellent year in 2015. We have been revived successfully and have gained more public recognition. All your tireless efforts and unselfish dedication of your time, talents and treasures have greatly contributed to our unexpected accomplishments.

FAMOS had a very busy 2015 but our two most outstanding accomplishments are the memorable dedication and permanent installation of the 2015 FAMOS plaque last April 2015 at the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial, La Jolla, California. The FAMOS plaque will be a permanent reminder to our children, grandchildren, friends and most importantly to our future Filipino American Military officers that there are and there will always be highly accomplished and excellently motivated Filipino veterans both foreign born and natural born all over the United States of America. Our presence in the Spirit of '45 last August 2015 not only gained for FAMOS a permanent spot in the grounds of the Veterans Museum, Balboa Park but also public recognition when FAMOS was featured in the KUSI news because the oldest living veteran of WWII was a Filipino Staff Sergeant Melchor T. Rillera, U.S. Army.

Our 25th anniversary celebration last April 25 was very successful and well attended. Our participation at Kimball Park, Philippine Independence Day celebration in June 13 provided more public visibility. Equally interesting and informative was our May 03 tour of the beautiful Miramar National Cemetery.

Our representation at the monthly United Veterans Council, Veterans Museum, Balboa Park had provided FAMOS more exposure and important information about other Veterans organizations and their respective goals.

Your president and her spouse are dedicated volunteers in feeding the homeless for the last three years and will continue to represent FAMOS with their donations of hygiene kits. More JROTC scholarships will be expected in 2016.

President's Message: continued from Page 1

In our lifetime we will encounter several storms and stresses but we know that they will end eventually. Nothing will last forever except our patience and willingness to endure with God's help.

The year 2016 will be a challenging epoch for FAMOS. Please remind your friends to renew their membership and invite new Filipino Military officers to join FAMOS. Someday we will have a FAMOS day and a FAMOS plaque at the House of the Philippines at Balboa Park. Accordingly, we must help CWO4 Ed Danico and his committee achieve our noble goals.

Mabuhay!

CAPT Elsa Penaranda Ang, MC, USN Ret.

THE FLASH Marks Anniversary:

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There was also a writeup on the current FAMOS President, the installation of the FAMOS Plaque at the Mount Soledad Veterans Memorial and the FAMOS 25th Anniversary Celebration at the Town and Country Convention Center. Then, there were reports on the observance of the 117th Philippine Independence Day sponsored by the Pangasinan Association of San Diego County (PASDC) and spearheaded by CW5 Datuin at Kimball Park in National City as well as numerous other direct participation of FAMOS officers and members in the social, civil and military related activities of various other organizations.



**Financial Considerations
For Military Retirees**

Back in 1900, a 65-year old could expect to live less than 12 years. As recently as 1960, that life expectancy was only around 14 years. Today, the average life expectancy of a 65-year old American is 21 years.

Life expectancy is even greater at younger ages. If you're retiring from the military at the relatively young age of 45, your average life expectancy is 39 years. At 55 it's 30 years and even at 75 it's 13 years. All are significantly higher than just a generation ago.

Now, here is the bad news if you're likely to have a long retirement.

Even if inflation stays moderate, at 2-3 percent per year, prices will double over 25 years. A \$10 restaurant meal will cost \$20, a \$50 electric bill will cost \$100 and so on.

What's more, there's no guarantee that inflation will stay in check. The retirement income that seemed comfortable today could be significantly eroded, even with inflation adjustments to some benefits.

Many military retirees go on working in a civilian capacity. Military retirement to them, means the start of a second career, one that might last nearly as long, and maybe even longer, as did the military career. Others take part-time or seasonal jobs to supplement their retired pay and other benefits. Others hand up the uniform, go straight to the gold course and never look back.

(The foregoing article was derived from the Retired Military Personnel Handbook).

FAMOS Gets Underway For Another Cruise

Most of the Navy officers of FAMOS had made at least one Mediterranean (MED) cruise or Western Pacific (WESPAC) during their active service. Their last voyage could have been a long time ago to some while relatively recent to others.

As if they have missed the calm and sometimes tumultuous seas, they got underway for another cruise last December. Only that time, everything was different. They did not have to work or stand watch. They did not have reveille, *“Heave out and trice up - rise and shine”* or taps; *“Lights out, quiet about the deck, the smoking lamp is out.”* They also did not have to do any *“abandon ship,” “man overboard”* or even *“fire” drill*.



A group of FAMOs officers and members posed for a group photo before boarding the cruise ship Hornblower. From left: Mrs. Danico, CWO4 Ed Danico, Oscar G. Penaranda, CWO4 Oscar Garcia, Roger Ang, CAPT Elsa P. Ang, and Mrs. Veronica Garcia



Dec. 18, 2015 FAMOS Dinner Cruise, Inspiration Hornblower

Obliging the photographer are (Seated left to right) CAPT Elsa P. Ang, Mrs. Edna Concepcion, Chelsea Largoza, ILT Dennis Alcazar. (Standing from left) CWO4 Dante Concepcion, Jeffrey Hansen, LCDR Joy Gacuya & wife Annabella and CDR Benny Valerio

Inversely, neither did they make any port of call in Italy, Spain, Greece, the Philippines or Japan nor did they deploy for six months or more. They simply went to sea in the evening for a three-hour cruise. It may sound like TV's Giligan Island three-hour tour albeit far from it. Giligan's *“tiny ship”* was wrecked by a stormy sea in spite of its *“fearless crew”* while the officers' watercraft sailed smoothly a calm sea to and fro. Furthermore, Giligan's boat was a pinnace whereas the officers' vessel was a yacht named *Hornblower*.

Unlike their deployments of yesteryears, the FAMOS officers were accompanied by their spouses, relatives and friends. They dined and talked. They sipped champagne, supposedly a compliment of the *Hornblower*. As expected, there were at least a couple who preferred a more potent drink and they resultantly found themselves some seats at the bar. In the meantime, others danced, some just listened to the music and the rest strolled the open deck and watched the lighted boats along San Diego Bay. Everybody seemed to have a good time.

FAMOS Gets Underway For Another Cruise: continued from previous page

For this magnificent relaxing cruise, **CDR Benny Valerio** takes center stage. He certainly did a superb job in reserving the yacht for FAMOS. He was even able to persuade the *Hornblower* to defer movement after he received a call from a fellow officer that he and his group of five were going to be late due to car trouble. Of all cars to conk out, it was a rented chauffeured limousine! It overheated.

Hoping to fix the problem, the chauffer would pour almost all available bottled water into the limousine's radiator only to find out the water hose was busted. At that point in time, **CDR Valerio** would receive another call, not to be asked for a few more minutes wait but to shove off.. The yacht would then weigh anchors -- about 400 seconds behind schedule.

The limousine eventually would be fixed. By that time, the *Hornblower* had long gone. As one might suppose, the stranded passengers were angry but not thirsty or hungry. Food, drinks and other amenities in the large automobile galore. But never again would they take a limousine enroute to embarkation.

Should the same scenario ever happen again, they said they would have surrogates who would be ready to take their places in the event they failed to show up for any reason. That way, their money would not be wasted. Dues for the cruise were prepaid and not refundable but transferable.



Dec. 18, 2015 FAMOS Dinner Cruise. COL Cef Ruiz, Griselda & Percival Tiu

Are you ready? Smile! (Left to right) COL Cef Ruiz, Col Griselda Tiu, and Percival Tiu

Did You Know?

There are more than 245 military commissary stores worldwide. Active duty, reserves and retired members of the uniformed services of the United States and eligible members of their families could save an average of more than 30 percent compared to what they would spend in civilian supermarkets.

Authorized patrons also include honorably discharged veterans with 100 percent service-connected disability and their spouses, recipients of the Medal of Honor and their spouses and civilian employees of the Department of Defense.

Unmarried children of the deceased servicemembers in the line of duty may use commissary privileges until age 21 or 23 if enrolled in a full-time course of study in a secondary school or in college full-time. Survivors of fallen servicemembers in combat have unlimited commissary privileges.

Navy Reserves Applying For Retired Pay Benefits

Eligible Navy Reserves may apply for retired pay benefits by completing the DD Form 108, NAVPERS 1800/13 in duplicate and mailing the signed form to: Commander, Navy Personnel Command (Pers-921E), 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, TN 38055.

The Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) points out to a few items to watch out for when completing the form. For example in Item 3: The earliest date retired pay may commence is on your 60th birthday or the day after completion of 20 years of qualifying service, whichever is later unless early retirement is authorized under NDAA 2008.

Item 8: Indicate your current assignment, if any. If retired or discharged, indicate date of transfer to the Retired Reserve, discharge or separation.

Items 9-17: Detailed completion of these items is not required. However, if these are not completed, you must write, across the corresponding spaces, a statement to the effect that "You will accept records of service as maintained by the Department of the Navy." Use of such a statement does not preclude your right to have your records corrected, if necessary.

If you are transferring to the retired pay status from a drilling status, current policy requires endorsements from your chain of command.

Complete processing of any application normally takes several months. Include your social security number on all correspondence. If you have change of address or phone number before your effective pay date, report the information to Pers-012 at the address above or call 1-866-827-5672 immediately.

If you have any question, send an email to benefits@ausn.org.

News Tidbits of Interest

TRICARE FOR LIFE

The Tricare For Life (TFL) acts as a no-cost Medicare supplemental insurance for those who use civilian medical facilities and provides no-cost eligibility for those retirees who use military treatment facilities as their primary providers.

There are no fees for TFL but the retirees have to pay their monthly Medicare Part B premium.

DUAL COMPENSATION

Regular retired officers, including warrant officers, of all uniformed services used to take a reduction in their military retired or retainer pay when they were employed in a federal civilian job. It was called the DUAL COMPENSATION rule.

Non-regular and Reserve officers were not subject to the reduction unless the sum of their retired pay and civilian basic pay exceeded a pay cap.

The Dual Compensation rule was repealed as part of the fiscal year 2000 Defense Department authorization law (Public Law 106-65).

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIL-AMS

There are more than 150,000 Filipino Americans living across San Diego County.

According to the 2010 Census, there were 3,410,840 Filipinos and Filipinos of mixed heritage in the United States. Their number makes the second largest Asian group in the USA next to the Chinese.

FAMOS Officers - IN ACTION

Starting the New Year in the Right Direction

At its first Executive Meeting for the New Year 2016, FAMOS Officers, led by its President, retired US Navy CAPT Elsa P. Ang, (left front) laid out and discussed community involvements and achievements during the past year and listed plans and goals for the current year.



Present were (clockwise, from CAPT Ang) CDR Benny Valerio and his wife Nancy, CWO2 Ernie Liwag, CAPT Daniel T. Gruta, CWO4 Manny Supnet, 1LT Dennis Alcazar, CWO4 Ed Danico, Julio DeGuzman, CW5 Teddy C. Datuin, CWO4 Oscar Garcia and his wife Veronica (not in picture) and Jay Ruiz, Sr. (also not in picture). Roger Ang is at right by the window.

FAMOS Community Events

FAMOS Officers and Members at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) San Diego Chapter Christmas Party on December 5, 2015 at the US Navy Base San Diego's Anchors Catering & Conference Center.

Seated from left to right: Sonia Datuin, Jay Ruiz, Sr., Dr. Ceferina P. Ruiz, CAPT Elsa P. Ang, Roger Ang, and Jimmie Sober.

Not in photo, Julio DeGuzman and CW5 Teddy C. Datuin



FAMOS Table: Dec. 05, 2015 Sonia Datuin, Jay Ruiz, Cef Ruiz, Elsa Ang, Roger Ang, Jimmie Sober



FAMOS Officers, Members, and Friends at the 6th Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner on January 31, 2016 at Kristy's MVP Sports Bar on Midway Drive, San Diego. This is the second year that FAMOS Officers and Members volunteered to serve veterans in the community. FAMOS is a co-sponsor of the event.

Pictured from left to right: CW5 Teddy Datuin, Maj. Marissa Manipud, CPT Yvette Lachute, CDR Benny Valerio (behind) Jeffrey Hansen, Helen Hansen, Sonia Datuin, Morgan Crena (behind), Julio DeGuzman, Mrs. Ceralde, LCDR Clint Ceralde (behind), CAPT Elsa P. Ang, and Roger Ang



FILIPINO-AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Founded in April 1990

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION

Regular () Associate () Honorary () Student ()

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Rank & Military Branch: _____ Commissioning Source: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: H: _____ W: _____ C: _____

E-mail: _____ DOB: _____ (Mo & Yr)

Children (Optional): _____

Designator/MOS: _____

Duty Station: _____

Billet: _____

Educational Background (Optional): _____

Yearly Membership Fees Attached – Circle One

Regular & Associate: \$25.00

Student & Honorary: Free

Regular member: Military Officer

Associate member: (a) Spouse of Regular or Associate member

(b) GS-11 or higher

(c) E-9

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail your application with appropriate fees to:

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For more information visit our Website at www.famosusa.org



**The
Filipino American Military Officers Association
(FAMOS)**



**Cordially Invites You to Its
Induction of 2016-2017 Officers**

Date: Saturday, 16 April 2016
Time: 6:00 PM - 12:00 Midnite

Cost per person: \$60
Choice of meal: Chicken, Fish,
or Veggie
RSVP: No later than April 9th

Location: Town and Country Resort & Convention
Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108

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1056 Fuchsia Ln., San Diego, CA 92154



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SUPPORT
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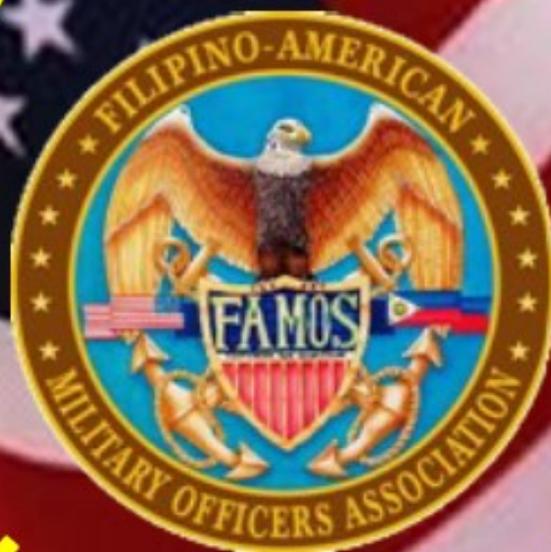
Thank You For Your Service



**Filipino American Military Officers Association
(FAMOS)**

“Served with Pride and Still Proudly Serving”

We Support Our Troops



Thank You for Your Service

INDUCTION OF 2016-2017 OFFICERS

Saturday, 16 April 2016

***Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108***