

# International NEWS MEDIA

NOVEMBER 2020

## 'AMAZING GRACE' REACHES TYPHOON-RAVAGED CATANDUANES

MANDALUYONG CITY, Nov. 29 -- The Philippine Red Cross (PRC) continues to deliver assistance for the families in Catanduanes who were badly affected by Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses.

In the challenge of reaching and sending much needed relief assistance to the province that was successively hit by natural calamities, the country's only humanitarian vessel, the M/V PRC Amazing Grace set sail and has successfully reached the island with the much-needed relief and fleet support.

"M/V PRC Amazing Grace is instrumental in our efforts to help our kababayan here in Catanduanes. To have all these relief efforts be delivered quicker ensures that our kababayan can also recover the soonest," PRC Chairman & CEO, Sen. Richard Gordon said during the send-off ceremonies in Subic.

The vessel arrived bringing thousands of non-food items such as hygiene kits, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, 10-liter and 20-liter jerry cans and galvanized iron sheets to be used for roofing repair - part of PRC's recovery efforts for those whose homes suffered

damages due to the typhoons.

The PRC Chairman put emphasis on PRC's efforts to quickly put roofs above the heads of affected families as he feels that, "Kung ikaw ay binagyo at nawalan ng bahay, sisiguruhin mong magkakaroon agad ng masisilungan ang pamilya mo. Kaya tutulongan namin silang makabangon at maiangat ang dignidad nila."

M/V PRC Amazing Grace also arrived bringing 3 additional vehicles - a Willy jeep, a Toyota Hilux and a minivan, to aid in the operations and relief distributions in Catanduanes and other affected areas in the Bicol Region. (OSRG)

*The M/V PRC Amazing Grace arrived in Catanduanes bringing thousands of non-food items such as hygiene kits, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, 10-liter and 20-liter jerry cans and galvanized iron sheets to be used for roofing repair - part of PRC's recovery efforts for those whose homes suffered damages due to the typhoons.*



## Miami Marlins names first female general manager

Kim Ng made history when she was named the next general manager of the Miami Marlins baseball team on November 13. Ng is the first female general manager of any Major League Baseball team in North America, making her the highest-ranking woman and Asian American in baseball history.

"I can't tell you how much it meant to me to see the outpouring of just pure joy for a lot of people," Ng said in her first press conference as general manager. "It made me realize that it really was a glimmer of hope and inspiration for so many, that if you work hard and you persevere and you're driven and you just keep going, that eventually your dream will come true."

Baseball general managers are usually responsible for player recruitment and development, trades, and overall management of the team.

Ng said for her entire life she has looked up to women such as Billie Jean King and Martina Navratilova who have broken barriers and changed sports. Ng has worked in Major League Baseball for more than 30 years. She got her first job as an intern with the Chicago White Sox after graduating from college. She has also worked for the New York Yankees and the Los Angeles Dodgers.



## NASA, SpaceX officials thrilled with Crew-1 launch success

By JIM CAWLEY, NASA's Kennedy Space Center

It was a picture perfect launch during a beautiful evening on Florida's Space Coast, as NASA astronauts Michael Hopkins, Victor Glover, and Shannon Walker, and Soichi Noguchi of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) blasted off from Kennedy Space Center on NASA's SpaceX Crew-1 mission.

"This is a great day for the United States of America and a great day for Japan," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine. "We look forward to many more years of a great partnership — not just in low-Earth orbit but all the way to the Moon."

After lifting off from Kennedy's Launch Complex 39A at 7:27 p.m., aboard SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft and the company's Falcon 9 rocket, crew members were into their 27.5-hour trip to the International Space Station for a six-month science mission.

"Everybody is so fired up; they're so excited about this mission. But we're not done yet; we need to keep going," said Kathy Lueders, associate

administrator for Human Exploration and Operations, NASA Headquarters. "That spacecraft is out there with those four precious crew members on it. And we're going to get them safely to the International Space Station tomorrow."

Crew-1 is the first crew rotation flight of a U.S. commercial spacecraft with astronauts to the space station following the spacecraft system's official human rating certification. Hopkins, Glover, Walker, and Noguchi will join the Expedition 64 crew of Commander Sergey Ryzhikov, and Flight Engineers Sergey Kud-Sverchikov and NASA astronaut Kate Rubins. The arrival of Crew-1 will increase the regular crew size of the space station's expedition missions from six to seven astronauts, adding to the amount of crew time available for research.

A welcome ceremony with Lueders and JAXA President Hiroshi Yamakawa took place on Nov. 17, which was followed by a post-docking news conference.



SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, with astronauts Mike Hopkins, Victor Glover, Shannon Walker and Soichi aboard the company's Crew Dragon spacecraft, blasts off from NASA Kennedy Space Center's Launch Complex 39A. (Photo credit: NASA/Joel Kowsky)



From left, NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine; Kathy Lueders, associate administrator for Human Exploration and Operations, NASA Headquarters; Hiroshi Sasaki, vice president and director general, JAXA's Human Spaceflight Technology Directorate; Steve Dickson, administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; and Gwynne Shotwell, president and chief operating officer, SpaceX participate in the postlaunch news conference at Kennedy.

## FTC warns company to stop potentially misleading marketing directed to students seeking coronavirus financial relief

The Federal Trade Commission has sent a warning letter to a company that markets financial aid prep assistance to post-secondary students, notifying the company that it could potentially be misleading consumers about access to a coronavirus relief program.

The letter to the operators of Frank Financial Aid (Frank) highlights the company's claims that it gives students "everything you need" to apply for emergency grants available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and that there are four identified eligibility criteria for the emergency relief. Frank's purported assistance to students consists primarily of providing a form letter that may lack the information a student would need to apply for one of the grants from his or her school. The CARES Act program for students is administered by individual colleges and universities, and each has its own unique application process and grant eligibility criteria.

The FTC's letter also warns Frank about offers of cash advances that can be paid back "when your financial aid comes in" and with "no interest, no fees — ever." The letter notes that the company's terms, however, appear to require the advance to be paid back within 61 days, whether or not the student has received any aid from his or her college or university by that time.

The letter warns Frank to take prompt action to ensure all deceptive or unlawful claims are removed or corrected, and any other required disclosures are provided.

## FBI Pittsburgh arrests wanted fugitive nearly 50 years after his escape from custody

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Pittsburgh Division and the Allegheny County Sheriff's Office announced the arrest of wanted fugitive Leonard Rayne Moses in Grand Blanc, Michigan, on November 12, 2020, by FBI Detroit's Fugitive Task Force. He is in custody on a federal unauthorized flight to avoid confinement warrant, issued out of the Western District of Pennsylvania in 1971. Pending an extradition hearing and Michigan state charges, he will be brought back to Pennsylvania.



## • special in this issue •

- 3 U.S. GOV'T SUPPORTS ITALIAN PRIVATE SECTOR TO FIGHT COVID-19.** As part of the ongoing U.S. assistance to Italy to fight COVID-19, Ambassador Eisenberg virtually met with four companies which are the recipients of U.S. government grants through USAID's INVEST program.
- 4 PRESIDENT DUTERTE ORDERS FORTIFICATION OF EVACUATION CENTERS.** President Rodrigo Duterte asked lawmakers to act on his order that government should prioritize the construction of sturdy evacuation centers to provide shelter to vulnerable population during disasters.
- 6 BE INFORMED: GUARD YOURSELF AGAINST PHONE SCAMS.** People lose a lot of money to phone scams — sometimes their life savings. Scammers have figured out countless ways to cheat you out of your money over the phone. In some scams, they act friendly and helpful. In others, they might threaten or try to scare you.
- 7 DEPT. OF TOURISM WELCOMES IATF DECISION TO ALLOW BALIKBAYANS.** The Department of Tourism (DOT) welcomes the ratification of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 85 which includes the provision on allowing balikbayans' entry to the Philippines during the holidays, which is a great cause for celebration for millions of families who long for the homecoming of their relatives abroad.

## THANKSGIVING DAY



Reproduction of the "The first Thanksgiving 1621" by J.L.G. Ferris, 1863-1930, artist. Source: Wikipedia

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and Thanksgiving 2020 occurs on Thursday, November 26. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Native Americans shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. (Source: History.com)

Today is a gift.  
Be grateful for it.



## IMMIGRATION UPDATE



HOSTED BY AWEE ABAYARI



JACK GOLAN  
50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE  
IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

Send your questions to: [radiotvanchor1@gmail.com](mailto:radiotvanchor1@gmail.com)  
[www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari](http://www.youtube.com/AweeAbayari)

**INM**  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA

## St. Sylvester Guzzolini (Feast: November 26)

Sylvester was born in 1177 to a noble and prestigious Italian family. When he was of age, he was sent to Bologna and then Padua to study law, but feeling within himself a call to the ecclesiastical state, he left off the study of jurisprudence to pursue that of theology and the Sacred Scriptures.

This course of action so angered his father upon Sylvester's return to his native city of Osimo, that it is said his father refused to speak to him for ten years on that account.

Sylvester accepted a canonry at Osimo and zealously dedicated himself to his pastoral duties. He spent long hours in prayer, pious reading, and the instruction of others.

However, his efforts to rid his diocese of corruption were not always well received and he made enemies, among them, his own bishop. He had respectfully admonished his superior for neglecting the duties of his office and causing scandal and, in retaliation, the hostile prelate threatened to relieve him of his benefice.

It was not merely the threat from his bishop, however, that decided him to abandon the world.

In 1227, while assisting at the funeral of a nobleman, his relative, who had been remarkably handsome in life and who had formerly been much admired for his worldly accomplishments, he looked into the open coffin.

The sight of the decaying corpse brought his own certain end vividly to mind and placing before himself the thought that what this man had once been, he now was, and that likewise what his relative had become, he himself should one day be, he resolved to act in response of this spiritual awakening.

Renouncing the world entirely and deploring its scandals and blindness, the canon left the city quietly and retired to a secluded locale about thirty miles from Osimo.

In this deserted place Sylvester lived in total solitude and utmost poverty until the owner of the property, recognizing his resident hermit, offered him a better site for his hermitage. His bodily mortification was most severe and yet many flocked to him for guidance and direction. Their numbers grew to such an extent that he eventually built a monastery to house them and when it became necessary to adopt a rule of life for the growing congregation, Sylvester chose that of St. Benedict.



Sylvester's order was confirmed by Pope Innocent IV in 1247. By the time of his death twenty years later, the saint had founded eleven monasteries and had guided the congregation for thirty-six years. - [Americaneedsfatima.org](http://Americaneedsfatima.org)

## LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR



MISSION, VISION and VALUES

The Little Sisters of the Poor are an international congregation of Roman Catholic women religious founded in 1839 by Saint Jeanne Jugan.

Together with a diverse network of collaborators, we serve the elderly poor in over 30 countries around the world.

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our **MISSION** is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

Our **VISION** is to contribute to the Culture of Life by nurturing communities where each person is valued, the solidarity of the human family and the wisdom of age are celebrated, and the compassionate love of Christ is shared with all.

### CONSECRATED LIFE

Consecrated life means to have one heart, one soul and one will with Jesus!

By our profession of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, we offer God our heart and affections, our personal talents and gifts, our possessions and our will – all that we are and have – for his glory and the salvation of souls.

Our fourth vow of hospitality brings our religious consecration into the concrete realities of everyday life. It gives a spiritual value to the many activities of our day, and enables us to communicate God's compassion and merciful love to the elderly.

We wear our religious habit as a reminder to ourselves that we belong totally to God, and as a public witness of our consecration, of Gospel poverty and of God's presence in the world.

Our crucifix, worn under our habit, bears the words of Jesus in Saint Matthew's Gospel: "I am gentle and humble of heart." This expresses the spirituality of our foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan.

## Keeping Hope Alive

BY MAJOR FRANK DURACHER

The Salvation Army is often the place where people come when they have no where else to turn. When the phone rang at The Salvation Army location in Beaufort, South Carolina, Captain Wanda Long began talking to an elderly woman who felt she was at the end of her rope.

"The lady had called one of our partner agencies, and she sounded very depressed," Captain Long explains. "She told them she felt so alone, abandoned by her family, and that she believed only suicide would bring her relief."

The agency first called the police to do a wellness check on her. The second phone call was to The Salvation Army, hoping that a visit and delivery of a food box would help.

"While trying to maintain social distancing, I didn't intend to go inside her home," Captain Long says, "but I could see what she desperately craved was human contact."

She placed the food box on the lady's table and sat a good distance from her just to have a chat.

"I prayed with her, and by the end of my time there she seemed much better. I told her that she was not completely alone—there are people who care for her and that she can reach out to us as many times as she needs."

She also gave her The Salvation Army's emotional and spiritual care hotline, 844-458-HOPE (4673), for her to call if she ever felt alone again. The hotline is staffed with trained emotional support employees to listen, to give comfort, and to pray with individuals who are feeling isolated and overwhelmed.

To this day, Captain Long checks in with her new friend daily to make sure that she never feels alone again.

"When this thing is over, I'm gonna give her the biggest hug!"

The thing that makes The Salvation Army unique is that we don't just meet a person's physical needs, we are here to meet their spiritual and emotional needs as well. Our locations have been in communities long before this pandemic started and will be there for many years later. We are always a phone call away for anyone in need.



## DOE to provide \$15M for new bioimaging instrumentation and approaches

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently announced plans to provide up to \$15 million for bioimaging research to develop new and improved instrumentation and approaches to visualizing metabolic processes in living cells.

"Visualizing cellular processes as they happen in vivo is critical to deepening our insight into biological processes," said Dr. Chris Fall, Director of DOE's Office of Science. "These techniques will provide the new methods needed to measure cellular processes as they happen—information important for understanding, predicting, and ultimately designing beneficial new biological processes."

Research will have two main areas of focus: (1) development of new innovative or significantly improved instrumentation and (2) demonstration of improved observational techniques. The effort is aimed particularly at improving understanding of the complex cellular processes involved in conversion of plant biomass into biofuels and bioproducts, plant-microbe interactions, and carbon fixation in soil by microbes and plants, among other topics.

Applications will be open to universities, industry, and nonprofit research institutions as the lead institution, with possible collaborators at the DOE national laboratories and other federal agencies. Funding is to be awarded competitively, on the basis of peer review, and is expected to be in the form of three-year awards. Planned funding is up to \$5 million per year for three years beginning in Fiscal Year 2021, pending congressional appropriations.

## U.S. provides Php9.7M of critical relief to communities affected by Super Typhoon Rolly

The U.S. government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), will provide Php9.7 million (\$200,000) to support the Philippine government's efforts to assist families hardest hit by Super Typhoon Rolly.

More than 2 million people were affected by the typhoon, and over 1 million Filipinos are currently in government evacuation centers.

U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires John Law commended the Philippine government and

local authorities for their hard work in evacuating people before the storm and rescuing those in danger. "We will continue to support our Philippine partners and friends as they work to address the needs of those communities most affected by Super Typhoon Rolly."

In support of the ongoing relief work, USAID will work with local partners to provide food, emergency shelter, and cash assistance for 22,500 people in Albay and Catanduanes provinces.



## Scams starting on social media proliferate in early 2020

BY: EMMA FLETCHER |

Social media can be a great way to connect with friends while the pandemic has you keeping your distance. But reports to FTC's Consumer Sentinel Network suggest that that social media websites and apps have become popular hangouts for scammers, too. Reports that people lost money to scams that started on social media more than tripled in the past year, with a sharp increase in the second quarter of 2020.

Reports about scams that started on social media have been increasing for years. In 2019, total reported losses to

these frauds reached \$134 million. But reported losses reached record highs, climbing to nearly \$117 million in just the first six months of 2020. In that time, the reported scams that started on social media often related to online shopping, romance scams, and supposed economic relief or income opportunities.

Reports about ecommerce sites that don't deliver the goods top the FTC's list. These reports skyrocketed with the pandemic, and nearly one in four reports to the FTC mentioned a social media hook. 3 People mentioned Facebook or Instagram in 94% of reports that identified a specific platform, 4 many saying

they ordered after seeing an ad. These scam ads look real and can be carefully targeted to reach a particular audience. The scammers can delete comments on their ads or posts, so that negative responses don't show up and alert people to the con.

About half of all romance scam reports to the FTC since 2019 involve social media, usually Facebook or Instagram. However, since the pandemic began, more people than ever have reported losing money to romance scams. That includes the scams that start with a social media message or friend request. - FTC

## U.S. government supports Italian private sector to fight COVID-19

As part of the ongoing U.S. assistance to Italy to fight COVID-19, on November 12, Ambassador Eisenberg virtually met with four companies which are the recipients of U.S. government grants through USAID's INVEST program.

Through this initiative, the United States will give funding to businesses to assist with the research, development, or manufacture of therapeutics, vaccines, medical equipment, and supplies to respond to COVID-19.

The United States government, through the Agency for International Development (USAID), is working with Italian, European, and American businesses to help increase the local manufacture of PPE (personal protective equipment), ventilators, COVID-19 tests, and other medical supplies in the areas of Italy that were most affected by the pandemic.



## Newsbriefs

### The U.S. remains a top choice for Indian students pursuing higher education abroad

Almost 200,000 Indian students chose the United States as their destination to pursue higher education in the 2019-20 academic year, according to the Open Doors Report released today. Indian students comprised nearly 20 percent of the over one million students from around the world and the United States has seen a steady increase in the number of undergraduate students from India.

Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, David Kennedy, said, "Over the last 10 years, the number of Indians studying in the United States has roughly doubled, and we know why: the United States is the gold standard for higher education, providing practical application and experience that gives our graduates an advantage in the global economy."

### Plans underway for expansion of underground transportation system

Initial steps to expand Elon Musk's innovative underground tunnel system throughout Las Vegas will soon be underway. The Vegas Loop will represent a first-of-its-kind transportation solution for a tourism destination, offering convenient transportation and reduced congestion throughout the Las Vegas resort corridor. Musk's tunneling company recently submitted its special use permit application to the City of Las Vegas and filed a land use (design review) application in Clark County, the first steps in the process to construct the system across Las Vegas. The Vegas Loop will consist of underground tunnels stretching as far north as downtown Las Vegas, throughout the Strip corridor, and as far south as the Allegiant Stadium. Passengers will be whisked through tunnels in all-electric Tesla vehicles.

### World tourism leaders plan for the future

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has once again brought leaders from across the sector together for high-level talks aimed at strengthening cooperation between the public and private sectors. The 42nd Plenary Session of the United Nations specialized agency's Affiliate Members focused both on immediate priorities for tourism's vital restart and on the longer-term task of ensuring the sector continues to be a key pillar of sustainable development. The event provided a unique, high-level platform to allow Members to share their best practices and proposals for recovery. With the theme "Recovering Tourism. Rebuilding Trust. Reinforcing Partnerships," the Session echoed the wider priorities of UNWTO, above all restoring confidence in international travel and promoting collaboration at every level.

### Brazilian students learning English on WhatsApp

BRASILIA -- ChatClass, a startup that aims to democratize the teaching of the English language through technologies already inserted in the daily life of students, held, together with the Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Brazil, the second edition of the English Olympiad cultural competition. The initiative, which took place throughout October 2020, sought to stimulate the teaching and practice of English for school-age students.

"ChatClass technology brings an Artificial Intelligence that works within WhatsApp, as an "English robot", with which students were able to interact via text and audio, practice fluency in the language and ensure the best positions in the national ranking from their results", explains the CEO and founder of the startup, Jan Krutzinna.

## Foreign Minister Marise Payne presented with the U.S. Mission Australia Award for Leadership Excellence

The United States Ambassador to Australia Arthur B. Culvahouse Jr. presented Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne with the U.S. Mission Australia Award for Leadership Excellence in a ceremony at the historic U.S. Ambassador's residence in Canberra on November 10.

The U.S. Mission Australia Award for Leadership Excellence celebrates the achievements of Australian women leaders who have significantly advanced the U.S.-Australia Alliance.

At a ceremony at the United States Embassy in Canberra, Ambassador Culvahouse noted Minister Payne has been integral to Australia's confident leadership in the world and the award recognizes her exceptional contributions to the U.S.-Australian alliance as Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Women, and former Minister of Defense.

In his remarks, the Ambassador said, "As Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Minister Payne has championed the rules-based order, democracy, and the fundamental role women play in securing peace and prosperity... As we look to the future, we need allies like Australia, who stand up for our shared interests and our foundational values.

Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Women, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, said it was an honor to receive the award in recognition of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

"This is a time of uncertainty around the world, and particularly in the Indo-Pacific region. We are seeing rapid strategic change, marked by challenges to the rules-based order that the United States - with Australia's



strongest support - has played such a vital role in sustaining over the past seven decades.

This is the type of challenge for which our Alliance is suited - because it is based on enduring, shared values that transcend parties or individuals in the White House or the Lodge."

The award was established in 2018

in honor of the 75th Anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Australia during the darkest days of the Second World War. Produced by the Royal Australian Mint, the medal accompanying the award carries the words "The Next 75 Years," aiming to inspire the next generation of women leaders in both the United States and Australia.

verizon  
5G  
Built  
Right



"One of the tests of leadership is the ability to recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency."  
-Arnold Glasow

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SPACEX  
RETURNING HUMAN SPACE TO THE UNITED STATES

# Country must fortify evacuations centers, President Duterte tells lawmakers

MANILA - The government should prioritize the construction of sturdy evacuation centers to provide shelter to vulnerable population during disasters, President Rodrigo Duterte said as he asked lawmakers to act on it.

"*Alam mo*, it is high time that government consider really, of course, in the government units facing the Pacific Ocean, *gamit na gamit ito na* we build a strong structure, stronger than a typhoon that would come their way *para mapuntahan ng mga tao*, and maybe small rooms with many comfort rooms where people can really stay for a while," the President said in a public address on government response on the coronavirus pandemic.

At present, schools and public buildings are being used as evacuation centers, which the President said creates "an aberration in the movement or in the development" of govern-

mental functions and education.

"*Iyan nga ang sanang tugunan ng Congress*, Senator Bong Go, *kasi pagka itong ganitong deluge*, they tend to go to places for shelter and relief," he said.

Assessing typhoon damages, the President said that despite the ferocity of the weather disturbances, the government was able to manage the disaster well because of the commendable performance of security forces and government agencies.

The President said that comparing the impact of Typhoons Rolly, Siony, Tonyo and Ulysses to previous typhoons, the damages and casualties left by the recent calamities were comparably smaller, adding that this is due to the administration's extensive preparations prior to the typhoons' impact.

"But despite of its fury, we were able to

manage. *Hindi naman* . . . I know that it leaves a bad taste in the mouth to say that minimal *ang namatay*. *Pero hindi kagaya ng Ondoy*," he said.

President Duterte praised government troops for their rescue efforts, lauding Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana for taking the lead in the planning and deployment of government personnel.

The government's initiative to buy new equipment for security forces such as rubber boats has helped save more lives during rescue operations, he pointed out.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año, who is also present during the meeting, said the impact of the typhoons was mitigated by the President's order for government agencies to conduct early coordination and planning as well as deployment of troops and other personnel.



President Rodrigo Duterte asked lawmakers to prioritize the construction of sturdy evacuation centers to provide shelter to vulnerable population during disasters. (Photo by PND)

## 2020 Fall Bestowal of Decoration

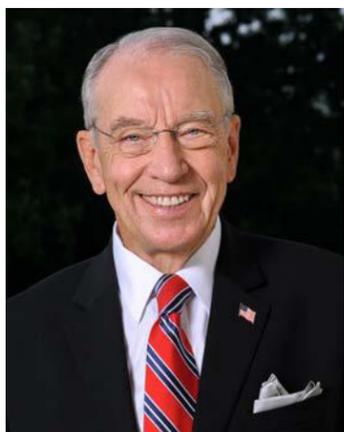
SENATOR CHARLES ERNEST GRASSLEY

On November 3, 2020, the Government of Japan, on behalf of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan, announced the recipients of the 2020 Fall Imperial Decorations. Among the recipients is Senator Charles Ernest Grassley, who will receive the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, in recognition of his significant contributions in strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and the United States.

### SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Senator Grassley, through his long service in the US Senate, has displayed strong leadership in deepening the bilateral ties between Japan and the US. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, Senator Grassley has also played an important role in strengthening our economic relationship, which culminated in the bilateral trade agreement in 2019.

This is yet another opportunity to



reaffirm the significance of our alliance, to which leaders like Senator Grassley have been a long-standing supporter. We have benefited greatly from Senator Grassley's friendship to Japan, and wish to extend our deepest gratitude at this wonderful occasion.

## PENNSYLVANIA MAN CHARGED WITH TRAFFICKING IN ENDANGERED FISH

A Pennsylvania man has been indicted in the Western District of Pennsylvania for violating the Lacey Act.

The three-count indictment charged Anthony Nguyen, aka JoJo Nguyen and Jackie Lee, 48, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with trafficking in endangered Asian arowana and invasive snakehead fish. Nguyen owned and operated a Pittsburgh business specializing in the sale of rare and exotic freshwater tropical fish species.

"Snakeheads present a serious risk to our native ecosystems," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Jonathan D. Brightbill for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division. "These fish are prohibited for a reason. They are voracious predators, can live out of water for days, can move across land, and can wipe out the native species that inhabit freshwaters of the United States."

"The illegal trafficking of endangered and invasive wildlife represents a serious threat to our critical ecosystems," said U.S. Attorney Scott W. Brady of the Western District of Pennsylvania. "I commend the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement for their investigation of this matter. My office will continue to aggressively prosecute those individuals who engage in the illegal selling of wildlife."

## UN Secretary-General calls for solidarity on International Day

Following is UN Secretary-General António Guterres' message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, observed on 29 November:

*As the United Nations marks its seventy-fifth anniversary, the question of Palestine remains distressingly unresolved. The COVID-19 pandemic has decimated the Palestinian economy and undermined the already fragile humanitarian, economic and political situation in Gaza, further entrenched by crippling restrictions on movement and access. Meanwhile, prospects for a viable two-State solution are growing more distant. A host of factors continue to cause great misery, including: the expansion of illegal settlements, a significant spike in the demolition of Palestinian homes and structures, violence and continued militant activity.*

*Israeli and Palestinian leaders have a responsibility to explore every opening to restore hope and achieve a two-State solution. I remain committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis to resolve the conflict and end the occupation in line with relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements in pursuit of the vision of two States - Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and sovereign Palestine - living side-by-side in peace and security, within secure and recognized borders, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States.*

*I hope that recent developments will encourage Palestinian and Israeli leaders to re-engage in meaningful negotiations, with the support of the international community, and will create opportunities for regional cooperation. We must also do all we can to ease the suffering of the Palestinian people.*

*I am extremely concerned by the financial situation facing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The agency plays an essential role as the main provider of direct and often life-saving assistance to many of the 5.7 million Palestine refugees. I appeal to all Member States to urgently contribute to enable UNRWA to meet the critical humanitarian and development needs of Palestine refugees during the pandemic.*

*On this International Day of Solidarity, I also extend my heartfelt condolences on the tragic passing of Dr. Saeb Erakat, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Secretary-General and Chief Negotiator for Palestinians in the Middle East Peace Process.*

*Let us together resolve to renew our commitment to the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and build a future of peace, dignity, justice and security.*

## PH Embassy, consulates in the US take steps to meet increased demand for consular services amid covid-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Philippine Embassy and Consulates General in the United States are actively taking steps to meet the surge in demand for dual citizenship, passport, and visa services amid prevailing uncertainties arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Depending on the local conditions and state restrictions in each Post, these steps may include increasing the number of appointment slots, operating on weekends, and assigning more personnel to process applications and answer phone, e-mail, and social media queries, among other measures.

The adjustments are being made in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs as pandemic-related restrictions and stringent health requirements, both in the Philippines and the United States, continue to put pressure on Posts' consular operations.

The global nature of COVID-19 compelled many countries to enforce travel restrictions to protect their local populations from the disease. In March, the Philippine government temporarily banned the entry of foreign nationals and suspended the Balikbayan program and other visa-free entry privileges in the interest of public health and safety.

Prior to the pandemic, former Filipinos traveling on U.S. passports were able to enter and stay in the Philippines for a maximum of one year without a visa under the Balikbayan

program. With the program's suspension, thousands of former Filipinos have filed dual citizenship and passport applications with the Embassy and Consulates to be able to travel to the Philippines as Filipino citizens.

The increased demand, coupled with state and local health regulations limiting the number of people who can be physically accommodated in consulate premises, slowed down processing times and created backlogs that the Embassy and Consulates are working hard to address.

Lockdowns, quarantine rules, and indications of rising COVID-19 infections across the

United States this fall have also affected Posts' operating hours and impeded the conduct of consular outreach missions. These factors continue to make it more difficult for the Embassy and Consulates to reach the majority of their clients who are spread throughout their areas of jurisdiction.

"If you can put your travel plans on hold for the meantime, please do so. I know this might be hard as the Christmas season is upon us, but these measures and regulations have been put in place to keep all of us safe from the pandemic," Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez said.

## USD 1.5 billion pandemic response facility is launched by Afreximbank, ITFC, and Badea

Afreximbank, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (Badea), have launched a USD 1.5 billion pandemic response facility that will help African countries buy medical supplies, agricultural equipment, and fertilizers. The facility is available for eligible central banks, commercial banks, and business in the continent. They will be able to obtain support as direct funding, lines of credit, confirmation and refinancing of LCs, guarantees, cross-currency swaps, and other instruments.



**If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.**  
—John Quincy Adams

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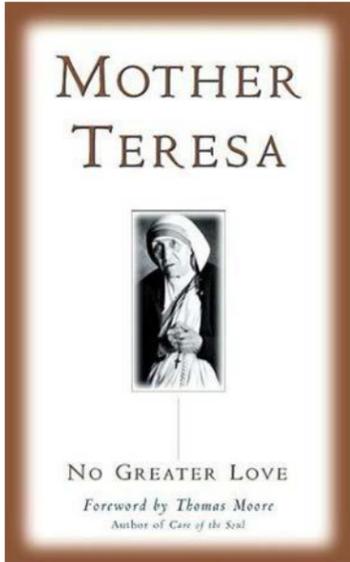
3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1918  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Tel: (213)383-3222 \* Fax: (213)365-9922  
E-mail: psg@immigrationguru.com  
Website: www.immigrationguru.com

## INM Book Choice

### No Greater Love

by Mother Teresa, Thomas Moore (Foreword by)

No Greater Love is the essential wisdom of Mother Teresa - the most accessible and inspirational collection of her teachings ever published. This definitive volume features Mother Teresa on love, prayer, giving, service, poverty, forgiveness, Jesus, and more. It ends with an up-to-date biography and a revealing conversation with Mother Teresa about the specific challenges and joys present in her work with the poor and the dying. No Greater Love is a passionate testament to Mother Teresa's deep hope and abiding faith in God and the world. It will bring readers into the heart of this remarkable woman, showing Mother Teresa's revolutionary vision of Christianity in its graceful, poetic simplicity. Through her own words, No Greater Love celebrates the life and work of one of the great humanitarians of our time.



### World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments

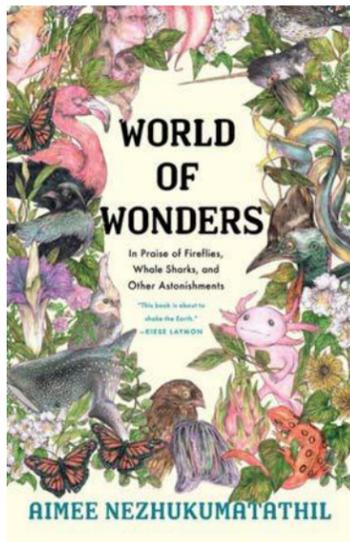
(B&N Exclusive Gift Edition)

by Aimee Nezhukumatathil

From beloved, award-winning poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil comes a debut work of nonfiction—a collection of essays about the natural world, and the way its inhabitants can teach, support, and inspire us.

As a child, Nezhukumatathil called many places home: the grounds of a Kansas mental institution, where her Filipina mother was a doctor; the open skies and tall mountains of Arizona, where she hiked with her Indian father; and the chillier climes of western New York and Ohio. But no matter where she was transplanted—no matter how awkward the fit or forbidding the landscape—she was able to turn to our world's fierce and funny creatures for guidance.

"What the peacock can do," she tells us, "is remind you of a home you will run away from and run back to all your life." The axolotl teaches us to smile, even in the face of unkindness; the touch-me-not plant shows us how to shake off unwanted advances; the narwhal demonstrates how to survive in hostile environments. Even in the strange and the unlovely, Nezhukumatathil



finds beauty and kinship. For it is this way with wonder: it requires that we are curious enough to look past the distractions in order to fully appreciate the world's gifts.

Warm, lyrical, and gorgeously illustrated by Fumi Nakamura, *World of Wonders* is a book of sustenance and joy.

### Dolly Parton, Songteller: My Life in Lyrics

by Dolly Parton, Robert K. Oermann

Dolly Parton, *Songteller: My Life in Lyrics* is a landmark celebration of the remarkable life and career of a country music and pop culture legend.

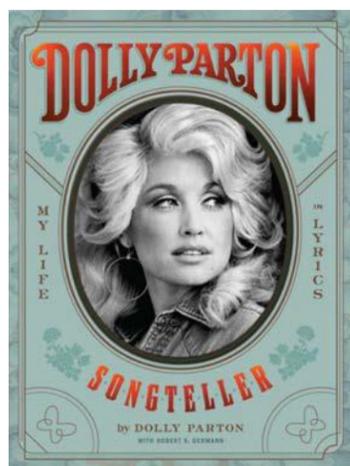
As told by Dolly Parton in her own inimitable words, explore the songs that have defined her journey. Illustrated throughout with previously unpublished images from Dolly Parton's personal and business archives.

Mining over 60 years of songwriting, Dolly Parton highlights 175 of her songs and brings readers behind the lyrics.

- Packed with never-before-seen photographs and classic memorabilia
- Explores personal stories, candid insights, and myriad memories behind the songs

Dolly Parton, *Songteller: My Life in Lyrics* reveals the stories and memories that have made Dolly a beloved icon across generations, genders, and social and international boundaries.

Containing rare photos and memorabilia from Parton's archives, this book is a show-stopping must-have for every Dolly Parton fan.



• Learn the history behind classic Parton songs like "Jolene," "9 to 5," "I Will Always Love You," and more.

• The perfect gift for Dolly Parton fans (everyone loves Dolly!) as well as lovers of music history and country

Add it to the shelf with books like *Coat of Many Colors* by Dolly Parton, *The Beatles Anthology* by The Beatles, and *Born to Run* by Bruce Springsteen.

## Tips to reduce food waste at Thanksgiving

By JEAN BUZBY

USDA Food Loss and Waste Liaison in Food and Nutrition Health and Safety

Each year, the average American family of four loses \$1,500 to uneaten food — that's about 1,160 pounds of food. With Thanksgiving, it is timely to think about how we as individuals can keep our household food waste in check.

Thanksgiving may be different this year, but we can still have a special celebration with a few adjustments. At the same time, we can reduce our food waste.

For example, we may not need the turkey that serves 12 people when we have only six at the table.

While many of us like turkey sandwiches the next day with a slice of pumpkin pie, we may waste a lot of perfectly good food if we overprepare and don't take steps to freeze or store leftovers properly until they can be eaten. Wasting food is a waste of money that could be used elsewhere.

As the USDA Food Loss and Waste Liaison, I would like to share with you a few tips that can help reduce food waste at our holiday meals and save you money.



Before and after your Thanksgiving meal, consider reducing food waste.

- Plan your holiday meal
- While preparing dishes, save the scraps for future cooking
- Store or give away leftovers
- Be creative with your leftovers
- Donate
- Don't let your leftovers end up in a landfill

## HEALTH TIPS

### Do you have a drinking problem?

Are you concerned about your alcohol intake? Maybe you feel that you're drinking too much or too often. Perhaps it's a habit you'd like to better control.

It's always wise to check with your doctor — she should be able to help you decide whether it is best for you to cut back or to abstain. People who are dependent on alcohol, or have other medical or mental health problems, should stop drinking completely.

But many people may benefit simply by cutting back. If your doctor suggests that you curb your drinking, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) suggests that the following steps may be helpful:

1. Put it in writing. Making a list of the reasons to curtail your drinking — such as feeling healthier, sleeping better, or improving your relationships — can motivate you.
2. Set a drinking goal. Set a limit on how much you will drink. You should keep your drinking below the recommended guidelines: no more than one standard drink per day for women and for men ages 65 and older, and no more than two standard drinks per day for men under 65. These limits may be too high for people who have certain medical conditions or for some older adults. Your doctor can help you determine what's right for you.
3. Keep a diary of your drinking. For three to four weeks, keep track of every time you have a drink. Include information about what and how much you drank as well as where you were. Compare this to your goal. If you're having trouble sticking to your goal, discuss it with your doctor or another health professional.
4. Don't keep alcohol in your house. Having no alcohol at home can help limit your drinking.
5. Drink slowly. Sip your drink. Drink soda, water, or juice after having an alcoholic beverage. Never drink on an empty stomach.
6. Choose alcohol-free days. Decide not to drink a day or two each week. You may want to abstain for a week or a month to see how you feel physically and emotionally without alcohol in your life. Taking a break from alcohol can be a good way to start drinking less.
7. Watch for peer pressure. Practice ways to say no politely. You do not have to drink just because others are, and you shouldn't feel obligated to accept every drink you're offered. Stay away from people who encourage you to drink.
8. Keep busy. Take a walk, play sports, go out to eat, or catch a movie. When you're at home, pick up a new hobby or revisit an old one. Painting, board games, playing a musical instrument, woodworking — these and other activities are great alternatives to drinking.

9. Ask for support. Cutting down on your drinking may not always be easy. Let friends and family members know that you need their support. Your doctor, counselor, or therapist may also be able to offer help.

10. Guard against temptation. Steer clear of people and places that make you want to drink. If you associate drinking with certain events, such as holidays or vacations, develop a plan for managing them in advance. Monitor your feelings. When you're worried, lonely, or angry, you may be tempted to reach for a drink. Try to cultivate new, healthy ways to cope with stress.

11. Be persistent. Most people who successfully cut down or stop drinking altogether do so only after several attempts. You'll

probably have setbacks, but don't let them keep you from reaching your long-term goal. There's really no final endpoint, as the process usually requires ongoing effort.

Some of these strategies — such as watching for peer pressure, keeping busy, asking for support, being aware of temptation, and being persistent — can also be helpful for people who want to give up alcohol completely.

Once you've cut back on your drinking (so you're at or below the recommended guidelines), examine your drinking habits regularly to see if you're maintaining this level of drinking. Some people attain their goal only to find that old habits crop up again later. If this happens, consult your doctor. - *Harvard Publishing/Harvard Medical School*

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO QUIT SMOKING

Cigarette smoking causes almost one-third (30%) of all cancer deaths in the U.S. That's one of the reasons it's so important to quit, and the sooner the better. Quitting is rewarding no matter how old you are or if you have health problems.

And the benefits are almost immediate. People who have quit smoking have fewer illnesses such as colds and the flu, lower rates of bronchitis and pneumonia, and tend to feel healthier than people who still smoke. Just 20 minutes after quitting, your heart rate and blood pressure drop. In just 12 hours, the carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal. In as little as 2 weeks to 3 months, your circulation improves and your lung function increases.

Nearly everyone knows that smoking can cause lung cancer, but fewer people realize it is linked to a higher risk for many other kinds of cancers, too. Besides lowering the risk for certain cancers, quitting smoking also lowers the risk of heart attack, stroke, and chronic lung disease. -- *American Cancer Society*

### CONNECTICUT CASE STUDY:

## Attracting skilled manufacturing workers a challenge as aging baby boomers retire

By EARLENE K.P. DOWELL

Nearly one-fourth of the manufacturing workforce is age 55 or older, a demographic reality that signals a labor shortage for the nation's fifth-largest employer.

A recent survey found that retaining and attracting quality workers is one of the top challenges facing the manufacturing industry.

The labor shortage in manufacturing is due to the aging and gradual retirement of baby boomers.

Companies nationwide are attracting skilled workers through retention incentives that include flex schedules, paid vacation time, family events, shift-work and competitive pay.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's Job-to-Job Flows Explorer data tool, the top five industries manufacturing workers who left manufacturing in 2016 went into were: Administrative and Support and Waste Manage-

ment and Remediation Services; Construction; Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services; and Wholesale Trade; and Retail Trade.

A recent U.S. Census Bureau Local Employment Dynamics (LED) webinar, titled *Manufacturing Workers Age Profile and Implications for Earnings*, focused on hiring and pay, featuring research focusing on the state of Connecticut.

"Before Covid-19, Connecticut experienced a rise in manufacturing employment along with evidence that employment growth would be even stronger if employers could find the right workers to hire," said Patrick Flaherty, assistant director of research and information at the Connecticut Department of Labor, who presented his research at the webinar. - *Bureau of Census*

## Be informed: Guard yourself against phone scams

People lose a lot of money to phone scams — sometimes their life savings. Scammers have figured out countless ways to cheat you out of your money over the phone. In some scams, they act friendly and helpful. In others, they might threaten or try to scare you.

One thing you can count on is that a phone scammer will try to get your money or your personal information to commit identity theft. Don't give it to them. Here's what you need to know.

### How to Recognize a Phone Scam

Phone scams come in many forms, but they tend to make similar promises and threats, or ask you to pay certain ways. Here's how to recognize a phone scam.

### There is no prize

The caller might say you were "selected" for an offer or that you've won a lottery. But if you have to pay to get the prize, it's not a prize.

### You won't be arrested

Scammers might pretend to be law enforcement or a federal agency. They might say you'll be arrested, fined, or deported if you don't pay taxes or some other debt right away. The goal is to scare you into paying. But real law enforcement and federal agencies won't call and threaten you.

### You don't need to decide now

Most legitimate businesses will give you time to think their offer over and get written information about it before asking you to commit. Take your time. Don't get pressured into making a decision on the spot.

**There's never a good reason to send cash or pay with a gift card**

Scammers will often ask you to pay in a way that makes it hard for you to get your money back — by wiring money, putting money on a gift card, prepaid card or cash reload card, or using a money transfer app. Anyone who asks you to pay that way is a scammer.

### Government agencies aren't calling to confirm your sensitive information

It's never a good idea to give out sensitive information like your Social Security number to someone who calls you unexpectedly, even if they say they're with the Social Security Administration or IRS.

### You shouldn't be getting all those calls

If a company is selling something, it needs your written permission to call you with a robocall. And if you're on the National Do Not Call Registry, you shouldn't get live sales calls from companies you haven't done business with before. Those calls are illegal. If someone is already breaking the law calling you, there's a good chance it's a scam. At the very least, it's a company you don't want to do business with.

### Examples of Common Phone Scams

Any scam can happen over the phone. But here are some common angles phone scammers like to use:

#### Imposter scams

A scammer pretends to be someone you trust — a government agency like the Social Security Administration or the IRS, a family member, a love interest, or someone claiming there's a problem with your computer. The scammer can even have a fake name or number show up on your caller ID to convince you.

#### Debt relief and credit repair scams

Scammers will offer to lower your credit card interest rates, fix your credit, or get your student loans forgiven if you pay their company a fee first. But you could end up losing your money and ruining your credit.

#### Business and investment scams

Callers might promise to help you start your own business and give you business coaching, or guarantee big profits from an

investment. Don't take their word for it. Learn about the FTC's Business Opportunity Rule, and check out investment opportunities with your state securities regulator.

#### Charity scams

Scammers like to pose as charities. Scams requesting donations for disaster relief efforts are especially common on the phone. Always check out a charity before you give, and don't feel pressured to give immediately over

the phone before you do.

#### Extended car warranties

Scammers find out what kind of car you drive and when you bought it so they can urge you to buy overpriced — or worthless — service contracts.

#### "Free" trials

A caller might promise a free trial but then sign you up for products — sometimes lots of products — that you're billed for every month until you cancel.

#### Loan scams

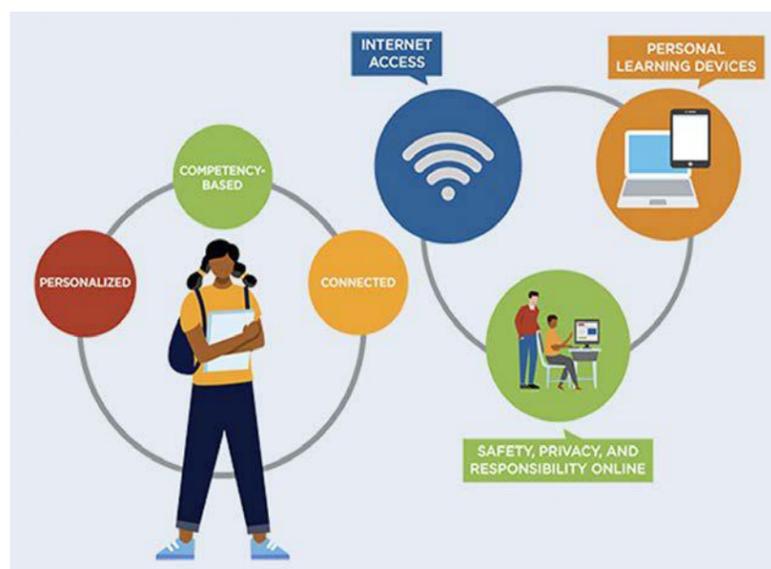
Loan scams include advance fee loan scams, where scammers target people with a poor credit history and guarantee loans or credit cards for an up-front fee. Legitimate lenders don't make guarantees like that, especially if you have bad credit, no credit, or a bankruptcy.

#### Prize and lottery scams

In a typical prize scam, the caller will say you've won a prize, but then say you need to pay a registration or shipping fee to get it. But after you pay, you find out there is no prize.

#### Travel scams and timeshare scams

Scammers promise free or low cost vacations that can end up costing you a lot in hidden costs. And sometimes, after you pay, you find out there is no vacation. In timeshare resale scams, scammers lie and tell you they'll sell your timeshare — and may even have a buyer lined up — if you pay them first. - *FTC*



## DHS proposes to limit work permits for aliens with final orders of removal

WASHINGTON—The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced a proposed rule that would limit discretionary work authorization for aliens who have final orders of removal and who have been temporarily released from DHS custody on an order of supervision (OSUP). The rule would align the issuance of discretionary employment authorization with the administration's priorities to protect U.S. workers and strengthen immigration enforcement.

Orders of supervision allow DHS to place conditions on and monitor aliens with final orders of removal who have been temporarily released from DHS custody until DHS has the travel documents necessary to remove the alien from the United States. The OSUP contains several conditions for release, including a requirement that aliens cooperate with efforts to procure the travel documents for removal, check in with DHS on designated dates, and present themselves for removal once it is arranged.

"Authorizing employment benefits to aliens who have already had due process and have been ordered removed by the U.S. government undermines the rule of law and weakens DHS enforcement and removal operations," said USCIS Deputy Director for Policy Joseph Edlow. "This effort would also remove the economic incentive for these aliens to not cooperate in the effort to obtain travel documents to return to their home countries."

Under current regulations, an alien who has a final order of removal and who is temporarily released from DHS custody on an OSUP is generally eligible for an employment authorization document (EAD).

Under the proposed rule, only a small subset of these aliens who can demonstrate that DHS has determined that their removal from the United States is impracticable would remain eligible for discretionary employment authorization. - *USCIS*

## Ambassadors to Spain join call for collaborative restart of tourism

Ambassadors to Spain from the region of Europe gathered today for a high-level meeting with the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The virtual meeting with Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili focused on the timely and responsible restart of tourism across the continent.

Ambassadors act as a bridge between the Secretariat of the United Nations specialized agency in Madrid and their home countries. Mr Pololikashvili — who himself served as Ambassador of Georgia to Spain before taking up the leadership of UNWTO — highlighted the important role that diplomats must play in coordinating efforts to lift restrictions on travel and to restore confidence in international tourism.

High on the agenda was tourism's potential for helping rural communities recover from the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, echoing the year-long focus of UNWTO on tourism for rural development, which was also the theme of World Tourism Day 2020. The Ambassadors were also informed of UNWTO's leading role in guiding tourism's restart, including through the planned creation of an International Code for the Protection of Tourists.

## U.S. Department of Education releases Parent and Family Digital Learning Guide

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Education recently released a new Parent and Family Digital Learning Guide, a resource to help parents and guardians understand how digital tools can provide tailored learning opportunities, engage students with course materials, encourage creative expression, and enrich the educational experience.

"As technology continues to iterate and benefit every part of our lives, all students need more opportunities to leverage the potential of technology in education," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. "We hope families can use the information we release today as many of them are relying on technology more so than ever before and are navigating learning from home."

Digital learning can help families and educators meet the specific needs of individual students, understand a child's progress, and connect families and students with resources in their school community and beyond. As an increasing number of school systems implement digital learning both inside and outside of the traditional classroom, this guide demystifies digital learning for parents and empowers them to be effective advocates for high-quality digital learning.

## Triple A Coronavirus Travel Advice

- Stay alert when traveling and heed all official advisories. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website has risk assessments of travel destinations and answers to frequently asked questions about the coronavirus. The U.S. Department of State offers emergency notifications and health advisories.

- If you're feeling sick, don't travel. Even if you are not sick, talk to your health care provider about their medical recommendations, especially as these relate to your age and personal health.

Precautions to take wherever you are

No matter where you go, make sure you take everyday preventive measures to help stop the spread of the coronavirus and other respiratory diseases.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice). If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that's at least 60% alcohol.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

### Tips for the Holiday Shopping Season

consumer.ftc.gov

- Compare products
- Use secure checkout
- Check out the seller
- Keep records
- Look for coupon codes
- Pay by credit card

## Public Affairs

with AWEE ABAYARI

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## L.A. Convention Center Receives Award for Strategic Communication Plan

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Convention Center (LACC), owned by the City of Los Angeles and managed by ASM Global, is pleased to announce the facility's "Roadmap to Recovery" has been awarded a Platinum MarCom Award for Strategic Communications in the Communications and Public Relations category of "Crisis Communication Plan or Response."

LACC's Roadmap to Recovery: We'll Meet You There is a strategic 41-page action plan developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is designed to assist event planners as they produce their events through the eventual reopening of the facility. The LACC's Roadmap to Recovery can be found on the LACC website.

MarCom Awards, administered by the Association of Marketing

and Communication Professionals (AMCP), is an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals. Judges are industry professionals who look for companies and individuals whose talents exceed a high standard of excellence and whose work serves as a benchmark for the industry. There were over 5,000 entries from 20 countries in the MarCom Awards 2020 competition.

"We are thrilled to be recognized at the platinum level for this prestigious award," said Ellen Schwartz, General Manager of the Los Angeles Convention Center. "Effective communication with our partners and stakeholders is of paramount importance as we navigate this challenging environment."

## NEW CIRCA RESORT & CASINO LAUNCHES IN DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS

Circa Resort & Casino, Downtown Las Vegas' first resort-casino built from the ground up in four decades, is now open. The 1.25 million-square-foot, adults-only property pays homage to Vegas' Golden Era through vintage design, old-school hospitality and nods to the city's history while introducing high-tech advancements and cutting-edge amenities. Circa's 777-room hotel tower and rooftop lounge, Legacy Club, will open on December 28, 2020, marking the completion of the project.



## Stephanie Beatriz, Michael Peña, Lou Diamond Phillips and Taylor Russell to appear in Academy Nicholl Fellowships Table Read

LOS ANGELES, CA – Actors Stephanie Beatriz, Michael Peña, Lou Diamond Phillips and Taylor Russell will appear in a table reading of selected scenes from this year's five winning scripts at the 2020 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting Awards and Table Read on Thursday, December 3, at 10 a.m. PST. Hosted by Aldis Hodge and directed by 2011 Nicholl fellows Burlee and Abel Vang, the program will be available to stream online at [www.NichollFellowships.org](http://www.NichollFellowships.org).

**Beatriz** currently stars as Rosa Diaz on the comedy series "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" and will be featured as Carla in the upcoming film version of the Lin-Manuel Miranda musical "In the Heights." She is also an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and queer representation in the entertainment industry.

**Peña** starred as Mike Zavala in "End of Watch" and portrays Kiki Camarena in the Netflix series "Narcos: Mexico." He was part of the ensemble cast in the Oscar®-winning film "Crash" and starred in the title role of "Cesar Chavez."

An actor, director and author, **Phillips'** work includes performances as Ritchie Valens

in "La Bamba" and Don Lucho in "The 33," and his recently published book, "The Tinderbox: Soldier of Indira." He is an advocate for the Native American, Asian American Pacific Islander, Latinx and LGBTQ+ communities.

**Russell** starred as Emily in "Waves," for which she received a Virtuoso Award at the 2020 Santa Barbara International Film Festival and a nomination for an Independent Spirit Award. She also stars in the Netflix series "Lost in Space." Russell made her directorial debut with "The Heart Still Hums," which won Best Documentary Short at the 2020 Palm Springs International ShortFest.

**Hodge** starred in "Straight Outta Compton," "Hidden Figures" and "Clemency." He will appear as the superhero Hawkman in the upcoming DC Universe movie "Black Adam" opposite Dwayne Johnson, and in the role of Jim Brown in Oscar winner Regina King's directorial debut "One Night in Miami."

Writer-director team **Burlee and Abel Vang** won a Nicholl Fellowship in 2011 for their screenplay "The Tiger's Child." In 2016, they directed the horror feature "Bedeviled." They recently wrapped post-production on their

feature film "They Live in the Grey," featuring Michelle Krusiec and Ken Kirby.

Last month, five screenwriters were selected from 7,831 entries as winners of the 2020 Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting competition. The winners are (listed alphabetically by author):

James Acker (Los Angeles, CA), "SadBoi"  
Beth Curry (Los Angeles, CA), "Lemon"  
Vanar Jaddou (West Bloomfield, MI), "Goodbye, Iraq"  
Kate Marks (Sunnyside, NY), "The Cow of Queens"  
Jane Therese (Revere, PA), "Sins of My Father"

Each of the winners will receive a \$35,000 prize. Fellowships are presented with the understanding that the recipients will each complete a feature-length screenplay during their fellowship year.

The global competition, which aims to identify and encourage talented new screenwriters, has awarded 166 fellowships since it began in 1986.

For more information about the Academy Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting, visit [oscars.org/nicholl](http://oscars.org/nicholl).

## A star-studded U.S. Pavilion unveiled for Dubai's Expo 2020

The United States unveiled its pavilion for Dubai's upcoming Expo 2020 on November 18. It includes a replica SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

The theme of the silver building draped in stars is "Life, Liberty and Pursuit of the Future," John Rakolta, the U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, said at the ceremony.

World Expos are global gatherings of nations that welcome tens of millions of visitors and include country pavilions that transform their host cities for years. The Dubai Expo will be the first held in the Middle East.

The 3,300-square-meter (36,000-square-foot) pavilion will include a moving walkway featuring a "24-minute experience" of America with moon rocks, a Mars rover and Thomas Jefferson's Quran, Rakolta said.

The six-month event will open in October 2021 following a one-year postponement because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the construction of the U.S. pavilion, the United States is on track to deliver a pavilion that celebrates innovation, creativity and freedom.

## CARROT TOP IS BACK AT THE PYRAMID



**CARROT TOP AT THE LUXOR LAS VEGAS.** The one and only Carrot Top keeps his audience in stitches as he unpacks trunk loads of crazy props and wacky inventions. Come and enjoy a night with wackiest red-headed comedian since Lucy!

## DOT welcomes IATF decision to allow balikbayans

The Department of Tourism (DOT) welcomes the ratification of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 85 which includes the provision on allowing balikbayans' entry to the Philippines.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said that allowing entry of balikbayans or former Filipino citizens into the country during the holidays is a great cause for celebration for millions of families who long for the homecoming of their relatives abroad.

"This not only bodes well for our ailing industry but is good tidings for our kababayans who have been clamoring to be reunited with their loved ones from abroad, especially this yuletide season," Secretary Puyat enthused.

The said resolution, signed on November 27, provides that, "Starting December 7, 2020, the following may be allowed entry privileges under Republic Act No. 6768 or the "Act Instituting the Balikbayan Program":

- Filipino citizens' foreign spouses and children, regardless of age, who are travelling with them;
- Former Filipino citizens, including their spouses and children, regardless of age, who are travelling with them.

The entry of these persons shall be subject to the following conditions:

- they are allowed visa-free entry under Executive Order No. 408, s. 1960;
- with pre-booked quarantine facility;
- with pre-booked COVID-19 testing at a laboratory operating at the airport; and
- subject to the maximum capacity of inbound passengers at the port and date of entry.

The IATF also directed the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to formulate the necessary guidelines to ensure smooth implementation while the DOT has been tasked to issue the necessary guidelines for the provision of sufficient accommodation taking into account the release of test results.

"Balikbayans are considered as a viable source market of the country for tourism, particularly extending to the second and third generation dependents who have yet to discover their parents' roots. The Filipino diaspora to date, has reached about 10 million. That is why we deem important the Filipino communities abroad as staunch partners in driving visitors to the Philippines," the tourism chief further added.

## Resorts World Las Vegas partners with Zouk Group to bring multiple nightlife and lifestyle experiences to new Las Vegas resort

LAS VEGAS - Resorts World Las Vegas, and Zouk Group announced today a partnership to curate an ecosystem of immersive entertainment and lifestyle concepts at the US\$4.3 billion integrated resort, opening in summer 2021. Providing a multiplicity of experiences in one entertainment complex, the concepts will include a world-class nightclub and beach club, a new-style social gaming bar, and an Asian-influenced vibe dining venue.

Zouk Group, a leading lifestyle and entertainment company from Singapore, owns establishments spanning across the nightlife, entertainment, and food and beverage sectors. Its namesake club, Zouk, remains at the forefront of pioneering music movements in Singapore, from fostering the growth of electronic dance music to influencing music tastes for 29 years. Through its partnership with Resorts World Las Vegas, Zouk Group will, for the first time, bring its immersive entertainment and dining concepts to the United States.

Offering nearly 100,000 square feet of lifestyle and entertainment spaces, the resort's four distinct environments will include Zouk Nightclub, an innovative space that will become the most technologically advanced nightclub in Las Vegas, and AYU Dayclub, an outdoor oasis inspired by the beauty and harmonious atmosphere of Southeast Asia's idyllic islands; RedTail, a new-style social gaming bar where guests can enjoy premium beer, wine, cocktails and shared plates while playing a variety of games like beer pong, darts and pool; and FUHU a high-energy, experiential dining venue that tempts with an unexpected twist on contemporary Asian cuisine.



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# Happy Thanksgiving!



*The First Thanksgiving 1621, oil on canvas by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1899). The painting shows common misconceptions about the event which persist to modern times: Pilgrims did not wear such outfits, nor did they eat at a dinner table, and the Wampanoag are dressed in the style of Native Americans from the Great Plains.(Jean Leon Gerome Ferris • Public domain)*

As President, on October 3, 1789, George Washington made the following proclamation and created the first Thanksgiving Day designated by the national government of the United States of America:

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and

rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and Us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

(Source: Wikipedia)

