

International NEWS MEDIA

NOVEMBER 2018

HHS Secretary Azar Declares Public Health Emergency in California due to Wildfires

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar has declared a public health emergency in California due to wildfires. The declaration follows President Trump's emergency declaration for the state and gives the HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services beneficiaries and their healthcare providers and suppliers greater flexibility in meeting emergency health needs created by the wildfires.

"We are working closely with state health authorities and monitoring the needs of healthcare facilities to provide whatever they may need to save lives and protect health," Secretary Azar said. "This declaration will help ensure that Americans who are threatened by these dangerous wildfires and who rely on Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program have continuous access to the care they need."

So far, the wildfires have forced the evacuation of at least two hospitals and eight other healthcare facilities. A smoke advisory was issued for portions of Los Angeles County. Smoke can present a significant health threat for people with asthma and other lung conditions.

HHS has deployed regional emergency

coordinators (RECs) to coordinate with state and local health authorities and emergency response officials. RECs serve as HHS' primary representatives for emergency response and recovery throughout the country at the regional level and work with federal, state, local, tribal and territorial officials and healthcare representatives to plan for public health and medical emergencies.

Staff from HHS' National Disaster Medical System and the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps are prepared to provide medical care and public health support if needed.

In addition, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline is available to assist residents in the impacted areas in coping with the stress of the wildfires. The Disaster Distress Helpline provides immediate 24/7, 365-days-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories. Call 1-800-985-5990 toll free or text TalkWithUs to 66746 to connect with a trained crisis counselor.



Wildfires continue to rage through Northern and Southern California thousands of acres have burned, thousands of structures destroyed, and left thousands of people homeless and in danger.

A Pinoy at Oxford, and Cambridge too!

SENATOR MANNY PACQUIAO TAT SPEAKS AT OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITIES

MANILA -- MANNY "Pacman" PACQUIAO has made a career out of taking opponents to school. He has done it 60 times inside a boxing ring. Now, boxing's only eight-division world champion has accepted an invitation to return to school himself when he spoke at the Oxford Union on the campus of the University of Oxford and the Cambridge Union, at the University of Cambridge on Monday, November 5, and Tuesday, November 6, respectively.

The Oxford Union has a rich history. Founded in 1823, it has grown to become the most prestigious student society in the world. The Oxford Union, the largest society at the University of Oxford, has hosted world leaders in every field, including Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, Malcolm X, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Roger Bannister, and former U.S. Presidents Reagan, Nixon and Carter, to name a few.

Founded in 1815, the Cambridge



Union is steeped in history, being the oldest debating and free speech society in the world, and the largest student society in the University of Cambridge. It too has hosted an impressive list of world leaders in every field, including Margaret Thatcher, Theodore Roosevelt, Stephen Hawking, Buzz Aldrin, Antonin Scalia, Ian McKellen, and Sebastian Coe.

The Bells of Balangiga are coming home soon

By the DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

After 117 years, the bells of Balangiga will be coming home. On November 15, the Government of the United States announced it would be returning the historic bells to the Philippines. The Philippine Government and the Filipino people appreciate this gesture.

Today is a time of solemn remembrance as we pay tribute to all those who gave up their lives during the Filipino-American War. We also honor the shared sacrifice of Filipinos and Americans who fought shoulder to shoulder during the Second World War.

We are grateful for the efforts of the executive and legislative branches of the United States Government, most especially Secretary of Defense James Mattis and US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley as well as concerned Filipino and American friends led by Hank Hendrickson, Dennis Wright, Henry Howard, Dan McKinnon and others from the US-Philippines Society who worked together over the years to bring the bells back home.



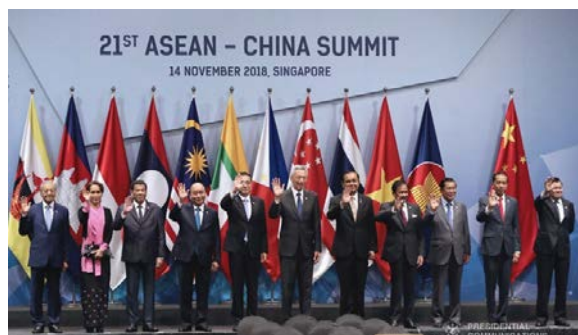
Duterte joins ASEAN leaders at the 21st ASEAN-China Summit

SINGAPORE — President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on Monday, November 12, arrived in Singapore to attend the 33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and show strong support for the advancement of the regional bloc. It is an opportunity for the Chief Executive and other ASEAN leaders to move ASEAN community-building forward and bring ASEAN closer to a rules-based, people-oriented, and people-centered ASEAN community.

Together with other ASEAN leaders, the President will engage leaders of ASEAN Dialogue Partner countries to further enrich partnership in key areas of cooperation.

The Philippines is also looking forward to exchanging views on strengthening the ASEAN community through resilience and innovation, essential factors to overcome regional and global developments related to peace, security, and

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte joins the leaders from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries during the opening ceremony of the 3rd ASEAN-China Summit in Singapore on Nov. 14.



stability.

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Joseph Del Mar Yap said that President Duterte will reiterate the Philippines' principled positions on matters concerning the South China Sea and transnational and transboundary issues such as

terrorism, violent extremism, trafficking in persons, illicit drugs, disaster risk reduction and management, and the rights of migrant workers.

The Philippines, likewise, is expecting candid talks on the direction of cooperation in East Asia during the 13th East Asian Summit.

Justice Department settles discrimination claim against New York hotel

The Justice Department announced that it has reached a settlement with MJFT Hotels of Flushing LLC (MJFT), the management company operating the Hyatt Place Hotel — Flushing/Laguardia Airport in Queens, New York. The settlement resolves a complaint that the company discriminated against a work-authorized immigrant in violation of the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

CBP telling travelers to expect longer than normal wait times

EL PASO, Texas — U.S. Customs and Border Protection El Paso Field Office is advising members of the traveling public to plan for longer than normal wait times at area ports beginning Wednesday, November 14. A large number of specially trained CBP officers from the El Paso, Santa Teresa and Tornillo ports of entry are being deployed to CBP's Arizona and California ports of entry to support the CBP response to the approaching caravan which now appears to be heading in that direction.

Former U.S. congressman sentenced to 10 years in prison

Former U.S. Congressman Stephen E. Stockman was sentenced to serve 120 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1,014,718.51 in restitution, to be followed by three years of supervised release, for orchestrating a four-year scheme to defraud charitable donors of hundreds of thousands of dollars and secretly to funnel the proceeds to pay for personal expenses and to illegally finance his campaigns for public office. Former U.S. Representative Stephen E. Stockman, 61, was convicted by a federal jury in Houston on April 12.

what's inside



ACROSS THE WORLD

The year was 2017, on October 25th when the survivors and veterans of World War II gathered on Capitol Hill for the official presentation of the long overdue Congressional Gold Medal to the surviving veterans and their spouses. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor the United States can bestow. Full article written by Gale Stoddard on Page 3.

R.E.A.D.

DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat says the Boracay experience is the ultimate lesson in balancing development and protecting the environment. Read full story on Page 5

AT YOUR SERVICE



According to American Heart Association, fruits and vegetables with the most color have the most nutrients. Read all about it on Page 6.

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

In celebration of America's service members, MGM Resorts International hosted "A Salute to the Troops" honoring more than 70 wounded warriors and their guests over Veterans Day weekend. The five-day program for active duty service members was held in collaboration with American Airlines and USO. Read all about it on Page 7.

Pacquiao visits University of Oxford

On Monday, November 5, Senator Manny “Pacman” Pacquiao visited the campus of the University of Oxford to speak to the Oxford Union at their invitation.

The Oxford Union has a rich history. Founded in 1823, it has grown to become the most prestigious student society in the world. The Oxford Union, the largest society at the University of Oxford, has hosted world leaders in every field, including Albert Einstein, Winston Churchill, Malcolm X, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Roger Bannister, and former U.S. Presidents Reagan, Nixon and Carter, to name a few.

Pacquiao (60-7-2, 39 KOs), who hails from Sarangani Province in the Philippines, is the only sitting Congressman and Senator to win a world title. After serving two terms as congressman, Pacquiao was elected to a Philippine Senate seat in May 2016, capturing over 16 million votes nationally. Pacquiao’s boxing resume features victories over current and future Hall of Famers, including Oscar De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton, Marco Antonio Barrera, Erik Morales, Miguel Cotto, Shane Mosley, and Juan Manuel Marquez.

A three-time Fighter of the Year and the Boxing Writers Association of America’s reigning Fighter of the Decade, Pacquiao regained the welterweight title for a fourth time on July 15 by knocking out defending WBA world champion Lucas Matthissee. The fight took place at Axiata Arena in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Philippine President Rodrigo R. Duterte and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad were in attendance, marking the first time two heads of state attended a championship-boxing event.



Manny Pacquiao with students from the Oxford Union, the most prestigious student society in the world.

DOT trains 2,100 frontliners for Boracay reopening

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan, Philippines – The Department of Tourism (DOT) facilitated the training of some 2,100 tourism front line workers in line with Boracay Island’s soft opening on October 26.

“Since the island’s temporary closure, we have been providing free training for our frontliners or the ones who will work face to face with our tourists,” said Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat.

The series of training sessions and seminars for porters, receptionists, and hotel and resort front office staff were spearheaded by the Department’s Regional Office VI, Boracay Field Office and Boracay Compliance and Monitoring Office from May to October 2018. Frontliners including boatmen from Catiguan, Tabo, Cagban, and Tambisan Ports, jetty port checkers, ticket collectors, land transport drivers, tour guides, and travel and tour operators



are undergoing training to become ambassadors of the island. Also included are hotel and restaurant waiters and food servers, massage and spa therapists, manicurists, vendors, souvenir gift shops salespersons, and water sports activities frontliners.

Physicians for Peace Philippines celebrates 20th anniversary

Doc Montero, founder of Montero Medical Missions, recently traveled on Nov, 8th, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary celebration of the Physicians for Peace Philippines. Montero Medical Missions has now a unique working relationship with PfPP, especially in creativity of sustainable health care projects such as on prosthetics and eyesight. PfPP is very proud to claim the first and only Lions Medical Eye Bank in southeast Asia, located in Cebu city and inaugurated in 2007. It has a world class School of Prosthetics and Orthotics based at University of the East with a five-year college degree course, initially funded by Nippon Foundation in 2011. Therefore Doc’s dream of a motorized, shallow draft, floating medical clinic could soon be a reality—what with several potential partner stakeholders to form a consortium for its sustainability. With PfPP’s most energetic Chief Operating Officer, Ms. Lyne Abanilla, the future is bright for the Philippine Islands’ healthcare delivery system.



Doc Montero at the 20th anniversary celebration of the founding of PfPP.



With Doc Montero are Miguel Cuunjieng (left) whose dad Steve arranged for the Shell fuel donation. To Doc’s left is surgeon Ted Herbosa, a former Undersecretary of Health and currently the chairman of PfPP board.



BE COVERED When Life Happens



L.A. Care Health Plan is proud to be a partner of Covered California™

SIGN UP TODAY! 1.855.222.4239 | lacarecovered.org

PHL embassy engages Filipino teachers of Maryland and DC

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Washington DC (POLO-WDC) organized a town hall meeting with Filipino teachers from Maryland and DC last Saturday, 03 November 2018 at the Philippine Embassy's Carlos P. Romulo Hall.

The gathering is the third of the meet-and-greet series launched by POLO-WDC this year to provide Filipino workers an avenue to raise their concerns as well as to inform them about the programs and activities being undertaken by the Embassy, including those being rendered by the consular section and attached agencies.

The teachers expressed their support for POLO-WDC's programs, including the campaign against trafficking of Filipino teachers in the United States.

Other issues raised by the teachers were the exorbitant fees and other unethical practices of recruitment agencies in the Philippines.

Part of the program is a Financial Orientation Seminar facilitated by Ms. Marinela Alvero, registered representative of TRANSAMERICA Financial Advisors, Inc.

Ms. Alvero briefed the teachers on issues

such as retirement income, healthcare costs, strategies on lowering taxes, and assets management, among others.

Following the orientation is a dialogue led by Philippine Embassy Consul General Renato Pedro O. Villa, Labor Attaché Angela Librado-Trinidad, and Welfare Officer Josephine Tobia, where the teachers learned more about Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) and POLO-OWWA services.

In his speech, Consul General Renato Villa underscored the importance of availing of social security programs provided by the Philippine government.

He said that while the contribution of the Filipino teachers to both the Filipino community and the American schools they are currently serving is beyond question, the teachers must also secure their retirement through Pag-IBIG, SSS and other social service institutions in the Philippines.

Welfare Officer Josephine Tobia likewise reminded the teachers to renew their membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and briefed them about the newly launched E-card program.

AmbassadorJose Manuel Romualdez, in



Welfare Officer Josephine Tobia chats with Mr. Simon Castor Jr. and wife Louienyl prior to the start of the official program.

his inspirational speech, lauded the work ethic of Filipinos, especially Filipino teachers, in the United States.

"People like you are what gives the Filipino a very good image. You continue with what you are doing not only because you teach here in the United States but because you give your home country the kind of image that we would always like to have," said Ambassador Romualdez.



Ambassador Romualdez shares a light moment with the teachers at the conclusion of the formal program.



Filipino teachers from Maryland and Washington DC take group photos with Embassy officials on 03 November 2018.

The state of transatlantic relations and the European Union

Challenges to the world order like the current row over international agreements, the policies towards Iran and Russia, trade tensions, or migration – only a few examples of the issues the EU and the U.S. are currently facing. But do they indicate a transatlantic disconnect? On October 31, 2018, the Embassy of Austria hosted a discussion titled "The State of Transatlantic Relations and the European Union – Past, Present and Future."

The high level panel was composed of Othmar Karas (Head of delegation of the Austrian People's Party and former Vice-President of the European Parliament), Robert Walker (former House Republican Chief Deputy Whip), David O'Sullivan (Ambassador of the European Union to the U.S.) as well as Stuart E. Eizenstat (former US Ambassador to the European Union). Austrian Marshall Plan Professor Daniel S. Hamilton led through the discussion.

The atrium of the Embassy was packed as panelists drew on their first-hand experience to examine transatlantic relations in an animated debate. After a lively discussion followed by a brief Q&A session, audience members extensively engaged with the panelists over Austrian food and wine.

On the sidelines of the event, the audience enjoyed the opening of a special exhibition "Vienna Design – Austrian Porcelain and Jewelry Objects" presented by the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington. – Austrian Embassy



From Left: MEP Othmar Karas, Ambassador David O'Sullivan, Professor Daniel S. Hamilton, Rep Robert Walker, Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat.

70 years of waiting pays off for Filipino WWII veterans

By GALE STODDARD

During the war from July 26, 1941 to December 31,1946, thousands of Filipinos volunteered to help the Americans by forming the Guerrilla Unit. This is a unit of men, soldiers and volunteers who kept their eyes open for the Japanese that migrated to the northernmost part of the islands. They would report their sightings making it easier for the Americans to defeat the enemy. These brave men would slip through enemy lines and get valuable information to give to the general headquarters. Many of these groups worked under the control of beloved General Douglas MacArthur. It is well-known that the enormous valuable military information sent by these guerrillas constituted a contribution so vital as their direct combat participation.

Manila was called an "open city" when the Japanese made it the second most devastated Allied capital in World War II. During the brutal month-long battle of Manila, history books tell us the Japs massacred and raped civilians aside from looting and destroying the beautiful landmark government buildings. As schoolchildren, we were shown pictures of many Japanese soldiers bayoneting pregnant women in their bellies. Even today, this atrocity stayed with most children.

Manila, the cosmopolitan Philippine capital and referred to as the Pearl of the Orient Seas (Philippines) was bombed beyond recognition. Manila was just a rubble of burnt buildings, a carnage that would give a lot of Filipinos nightmares. The once beautiful Post Office, senate and Congress buildings were razed to the ground.

After the war, the United States gave the Philippines millions of dollars as a reparation to rebuild the country. Their main priority was to rebuild the government buildings in all its glory. The war was full of savagery where countless professional men (doctors, lawyers, engineers,) were executed in front of their families in the town square thus leaving thousands of children to grow up fatherless.

The cruel torture inflicted by the Japanese on the people will never be erased in our minds. Most of the guerrilla units were members of the Philippine

Army and US Army. Some walked the unforgettable Bataan Death March along with the Americans to their death. These veterans and volunteers were instrumental in saving countless lives due to their heroic efforts. For the last 70 years, these heroes were totally ignored their persistent requests. Until the soft hearted (for Filipinos) President Donald Trump heard about their plight and decided it was time to honor these heroes.

The year was 2017, on October 25th when the survivors gathered at a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony on Capitol Hill with Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WD) presiding along with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell(R-KY). The official presentation of the long overdue Gold Medal brought a smile with tears of joy and cheers from the surviving veterans and their spouses. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor the United States can bestow.

In accordance with Public Law No.114-265, a single gold medal has been struck to honor the Filipino veterans of World War II in recognition of their dedicated service and bravery during the war.

Speaker Ryan reiterated in his speech, "Today, we recognize the extraordinary heroism and sacrifice of the Filipino veterans of World War II by conferring the highest honor Congress can bestow. Generations of Americans and Filipinos alike have been shaped by their courage, inspired by their service and humbled by their sacrifice."

The ceremony was a dream come true for the veterans who waited patiently for over 70 years. Some have died but not forgotten. These brave men helped the Americans by being the lookout and summoning the Americans where danger lurks. They helped save a lot of lives by their reconnaissance efforts and putting their lives on the line. The Imperial Japanese finally surrendered but thousands of lives were lost for naught.

Philippines has rebuilt itself as a cosmopolitan country especially in Manila where glamour, wealth, cinematic dreams can come true for it is dubbed the "Hollywood" of the Orient. A favorite true

story is about the unbelievable rise of a *lavandera's* (washes clothes in the river to eke her living) daughter. The girl, had no movie star looks. But she became a mega star on films and records for she had a beautiful angelic voice -- only to lose everything through drugs.

Manila remains a magnetic city that attracts Asian businesses to invest in this city's alluring coastline and rich musical culture. Manila also boasts of having the biggest shopping mall in Asia. Who knew that this city so devastated in the war would rise to become a effervescent phoenix? Still the memories linger on as tourists visit the old Intramuros with the historical cathedral still standing for it was spared from destruction during the war. The historical church is enclosed with a concrete wall not far from famed Manila Bay. It is also a stone's throw from the elite Manila Hotel where General Douglas MacArthur occupied a room turned into a popular museum. The love of the Filipinos for this man who kept his promise "I shall return" is evident in the country's homage for this great hero.

On July 4, 1946, General MacArthur comes in from Australia in a submarine with thousands of American heroes to liberate the Filipinos from Imperial Japanese oppression. The historic photo of the general walking on water with his men will be forever etched in our memories.

The last 70 years can't erase the sadness that tore every Filipino's heart. Especially those who lost their fathers in this useless war. So long ago and yet so fresh in our memories.

The recognition of these Filipino veterans heroes may ease the pain a little and soothe our aching hearts of loved ones lost. The wailing and crying of the people after finding mangled bodies of their loved ones is an integral part of the Philippine historical heritage. But the resilience of the people with their close family ties, and undeniable strong Catholic faith plus the everlasting gratitude for the United States of America makes the Philippines, the most trusted and greatest American ally in Southeast Asia yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Polish-US talks on security policy

Enhanced bilateral cooperation between Poland and the US and current challenges to Euro-Atlantic security were the major topics of the Polish-US Strategic Cooperation Consultative Group (SCCG) meeting on 5 November.

The meeting was hosted by Under Secretary for Security matters Bartosz Cichocki. The American delegation was headed by Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security in the US State Department, Andrea L. Thompson.

Bilateral cooperation on security policy aiming at a US military presence in Poland, establishment of a missile defence installation in Poland as well as defence industries cooperation was discussed in detail.

Despite the fact that Polish-American Alliance has never been so close, we are looking at possibilities of strengthening it for the benefit of our both countries and democratic community.

Political leadership and military

engagement of the United States in Europe are indispensable for maintaining peace and security on the so-called Old Continent, and for containing negative tendencies that might pose a challenge for global interests of the United States – vice-minister Cichocki underlined.

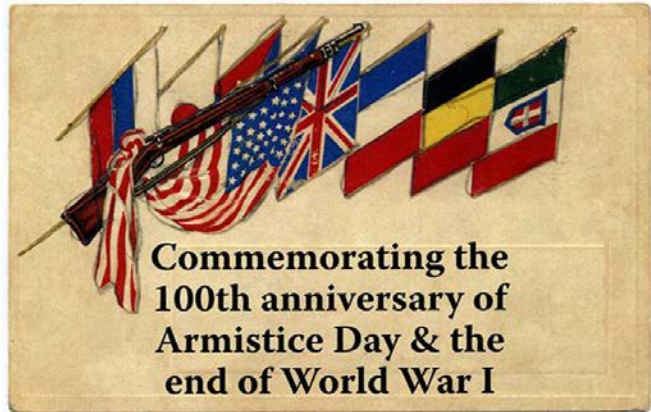
Discussions in Warsaw also focused on cooperation between NATO and the European Union, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and preparations for the next NPT Review Conference. Particular attention was given to the nuclear programmes of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The ongoing crisis of the INF Treaty, caused by the Russian Federation, was also discussed. – Embassy of the Republic of Poland



Fot. Tymon Markowski / MSZ

Veterans Day Parade

November 11, 2018 - 11AM
FISHERMAN'S WHARF
Jefferson Street
North Point to Leavenworth St.



PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS 4618



November 2018 wildfires response

Deadly wildfires are burning in both northern and southern California, threatening residents, homes and businesses, forcing entire communities to evacuate. The American Red Cross is on the ground, providing shelter, food and comfort for people forced to leave their homes with little notice.

The Camp Fire has burned more than 11,300 acres and is 25% contained. This fire has been called the most destructive in the state's history based on the more than 6,400 structures destroyed. The fire still threatens 15,000 additional homes.

TO HELP, CONTACT: AMERICAN RED CROSS, 1-800-733-2767

Disaster Relief Services

While each disaster creates its own unique circumstances and special needs, Salvation Army disaster relief efforts focus on seven core services. These services may be modified based on the magnitude of the disaster and adapted to meet the specific needs of individual survivors.

Training

The first step in being ready to respond to an emergency is training. In partnership with other agencies, The Salvation Army's disaster training program offers a variety of courses designed to help individuals and communities prepare for emergency events and become trained disaster volunteers.

Food Service

When disaster strikes, one of the first signs that help is on the way is often the arrival of a Salvation Army mobile feeding unit, offering meals, snacks and drinks to rescue workers and survivors.

Emotional and Spiritual Care

Motivated by Christian faith, The Salvation Army deploys specially trained individuals to offer emotional and spiritual care to rescue workers and disaster survivors.

Emergency Communications

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) includes a worldwide network of volunteer amateur radio operators and other communications specialists, who may be mobilized to transmit emergency information during a disaster event.

Disaster Social Services

After a family has lost everything in a



disaster, The Salvation Army is there to provide emergency assistance to help meet survivors' most urgent needs for food, clothing, shelter and medical services.

Donations Management

The Salvation Army is one of the nation's leaders in responsibly collecting, sorting and distributing donated goods. The Salvation Army encourages cash donations as the best and most flexible way to help and solicits only those in-kind donations which can be effectively received and efficiently distributed.

Recovery

The Salvation Army supports long-term disaster recovery operations with flexible programming that is adaptable to the unique needs of individual communities.

TO HELP, CONTACT:

SALVATION ARMY, 1-800-728-7825

PHL-US issues join statement on TIFA issues

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) have released a Joint Statement announcing recent accomplishments of resolving a number of recurring bilateral trade issues under our bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) mechanism with the United States.

DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez and Deputy USTR Jeffrey D. Gerrish met at the sidelines of the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting in Singapore last 31 August 2018, where they agreed to accelerate the deepening of our bilateral economic relationship by working towards the resolution of key

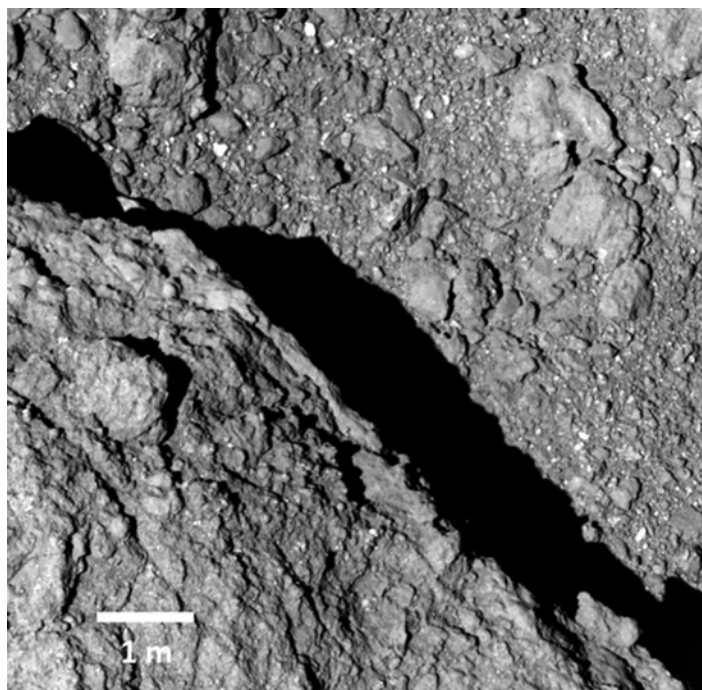
market access issues of interest to both countries, including in the areas of customs valuation, intellectual property rights, market access for Philippine agricultural products in the United States, and automotive safety standards. Both countries also agreed to collaborate on the development of cold chain facilities in the Philippines, with the assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID) and Philippine private sector companies.

Secretary Ramon Lopez lauded the release of the Joint Statement, saying that "This Joint Statement is a product of our strong collaboration with the government of the United States, and demon-

strates the Philippines' readiness to further deepen our bilateral economic relationship with one of our biggest trading partners" DTI Undersecretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy Ceferino S. Rodolfo expressed optimism that the Philippines and the U.S. could soon discuss next steps: "We recall that the President Duterte in November 2017 met with President Donald Trump who welcomed the Philippines' desire to explore a possible bilateral free trade agreement with the United States."

With the issuance of the Joint Statement, both sides will now discuss next steps on how to further deepen trade and investment relations.

JAPAN IN THE NEWS



Groundbreaking high-resolution photos of the asteroid Ryugu were taken as Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa2 descended to deploy two rovers onto its surface. The MINERVA-III rovers are the world's first to land on the surface of an asteroid. Traveling by hopping, they are already transmitting images and data. Asteroids like Ryugu are rich in water and organic materials. The findings from this mission will allow for a "deeper understanding of the distribution, origins, and evolution of materials in the solar system." - Embassy of Japan

Commission approves Disney's acquisition of parts of Fox, subject to conditions



BRUSSELS - The European Commission has approved, under the EU Merger Regulation, the proposed acquisition of parts of Fox by Disney, both US based global media companies. The decision is conditional on full compliance with commitments offered by Disney.

Disney and Fox are two of the six major Hollywood film studios. Both companies are also providers of TV channels such as the Disney Channel, the Fox channels, the National Geographic channels and the History channels.

In the European Economic Area (EEA), Disney and Fox are active as providers of audiovisual content and TV channels to TV broadcasters and distributors.

The proposed transaction would combine Disney and parts of Fox, including its film and television studios and its cable and international television businesses. The Fox Broadcasting network and stations, Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network, FS1, FS2 and Big Ten Network are not part of the transaction.

Italy's State Secretary George Ciamba meets with Slovenian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dobran Božič

State Secretary for bilateral and strategic affairs in the Euro-Atlantic area, George Ciamba, had a meeting with the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Public Diplomacy and Economic Affairs of the Slovenian Foreign Ministry Dobran Božič on 8 November 2018 in Bucharest.

The meeting was a reaffirmation of the interest for a deep bilateral dialogue, as well as for the intensification of the economic relations, which are on an upward trend. It emphasized the importance for the business environment of bilateral economic cooperation forums as well as within the regional framework. The Romanian side welcomed the consistent presence of the Slovenian party at the 3rd Summit of the 3rd Majors Summit, which took place in Bucharest between 17-18 September 2018, as well as Slovenia's decision to host the upcoming edition of the Summit.

Topics on the situation in the Western Balkans region and the EU enlargement process were addressed, with the Romanian side emphasizing the need to maintain EU engagement and enlargement policy in the region. At the same time, issues related to regional security and the importance of the transatlantic relationship, as well as the importance of a coordinated response to the current security threats, including cyber security, have been discussed.



State Secretary for bilateral and strategic affairs in the Euro-Atlantic area, George Ciamba, had a meeting with the Secretary of State for European Affairs, Public Diplomacy and Economic Affairs of the Slovenian Foreign Ministry Dobran Božič on 8 November 2018 in Bucharest.

The interlocutors also had an exchange of views on the priorities assumed by Romania in the context of holding the upcoming presidency of the EU Council in the first half of 2019. - Source: Italian Embassy

UKEF supports Angolan healthcare and power infrastructure development

Baroness Fairhead announces EUR 450 million in UK Export Finance (UKEF) support for UK firms to build three new hospitals and upgrade two power stations, improving healthcare and power provision in Angola.

EUR 380 million will go to support a contract between Angola's Ministry of Health and ASGC UK, the UK branch of international construction firm ASGC, to build three new hospitals. IQA Group, headquartered in Paisley, will upgrade two power substations in Viana and Gabela over the course of two years, significantly reducing North West Angola's dependence on oil-generated power. UKEF will provide a guarantee to support a EUR 70 million loan issued to the Angolan Ministry of Finance for the project.

Mrs. Wantana Mongkolsri, Senior Executive Vice President of Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM Thailand), jointly with Mr. Sangop Thanabumrungrul, Managing Director,

Gisisco Co., Ltd. (Gisisco), and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jessada Wannasin, CEO of Gisisco, signed a financial facility agreement worth BHT 5 million on November 7, 2018 at EXIM Thailand's Head Office to support Gisisco's expansion of production and export of metal casting machinery and equipment using innovative technology for enhanced production efficiency.

The Sharqiyah IWP, a reverse osmosis seawater desalination plant, will sell approximately 80,000 m3 of desalinated water per day for 20 years to the Oman Power and Water Procurement Co. SAOC ("OPWP") - the single buyer of power and water for all independent power and water projects within Oman. MUFG Bank, Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank, Limited and Shinsei Bank, Limited financed the JPY 20 billion (~USD 175,000,000) project. Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) provided the loan insurance - the first time they have provided insurance for a seawater desalination plant project in Oman. - CC Solutions

LAW OFFICES

Popkin
Shamir
& Golan

**IMMIGRATION?
TOUGH TIMES
REQUIRE
TOUGH LAWYERS**

50 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

Call Us For Free Consultation!

(213)383-3222

**3250 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1918
Los Angeles, CA 90010**

E-mail: psg@immigrationguru.com

Website: www.immigrationguru.com

Follow us:





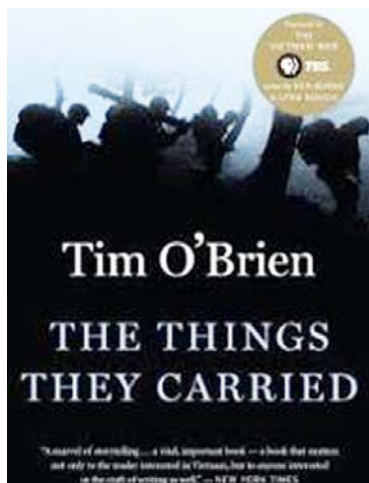
Books Worth Reading

"THE THINGS THEY CARRIED" by TIM O'BRIEN

A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling.

The Things They Carried depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three.

Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.



PUYAT WELCOMES 'BETTER' BORACAY, CALLS FOR RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

BORACAY ISLAND, Aklan - Tourism Chief Bernadette Romulo-Puyat urges visitors to respect and observe local regulations to help protect and preserve Boracay Island.

Puyat made the appeal during the much-awaited reopening of the island, stressing the importance of a collective effort from the island's residents and its visitors alike.

"As we welcome a Better Boracay, the Department of Tourism urges everyone to be responsible tourists. It is the key to the preservation of this national treasure," says Puyat.

The first phase of the rehabilitation, which covers the moratorium on tourism activities since April 26, 2018, addressed the extreme environmental degradation, particularly seawater pollution and illegal encroachment, in beach easement areas.

"During the dry run, about a week ago, people would come up to the members of the BIATF and tell us, 'This shoreline, the beachfront we are seeing now, this is the Boracay we fell in love with 30 years ago,'" enthused Puyat.

Puyat ensured that there will be a strict enforcement of existing guidelines and policies such as the ordinance prohibiting the drinking of alcohol and smoking in public places, no partying within the no-build zone easement, regulation of



Members of the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force and the local stakeholders join hands in front of the Boracay icon, the symbol of the new and "better" Boracay.

sand castle-making, and prohibition of open fires and use of kerosene gas/fuel lamps. "The Boracay experience is the ultimate lesson in balancing development and protecting the environment. The lessons learned here are not for Boracay alone but also for the other island destinations around our beautiful country," added the tourism chief.

Meanwhile, Puyat clarified that while the BIATF will enforce a limitation on the number of

tourists allowed in the island, currently pegged at 19,215 guests per day, the Department of Tourism (DOT) will continue to accredit compliant accommodation establishments that pass the standards of the agency.

"More rooms will be available as we continue on with Phases 2 and 3 of Boracay's massive rehabilitation. We are making sure the Task Force requirements are 100% complied with," said Puyat.

American Education Week



Presidential Proclamation 2017

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information on a variety of educational topics, from educational attainment and school enrollment to school costs and financing. Information is collected from individuals regarding their school experiences, and directly from schools or the government agencies that help manage them. The Census Bureau is also helping educate the public about census and survey programs and providing materials to educators who teach statistics. - U.S. Census

Beijing 2022 announces legacy decision-making committee

As a part of its mission to create new legacies related to sport, economics, the environment, urban development and more, Beijing 2022 recently formed a legacy coordination committee.

The governance structure defines who amongst Beijing 2022 and its respective stakeholders is responsible for delivering each legacy project before, during and after the Games so that the citizens of Beijing will benefit from the Games for decades to come.

The Legacy Coordination Committee itself will serve as the decision-making body for those projects, reviewing internal and external efforts related to Beijing 2022.

It will consist of representatives from key groups such as the General Administration of Sport of China, the China Disabled Persons' Federation and the Beijing Olympic City Development Association (BODA), as well as relevant ministries of the State

and relevant government departments of Beijing Municipality, Hebei Province and Zhangjiakou City.



PROFILE AMERICA FACTS American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month: November 2018

The first American Indian Day was celebrated in May 1916 in New York. Red Fox James, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, rode horseback from state to state to get endorsements from 24 state governments to have a day to honor American Indians. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November 1990 as "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued every year since 1994, and we now refer to this celebration as "American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month." This Facts for Features presents statistics for American Indians and Alaska Natives, as this is one of the six major race categories defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The following facts are made possible by the invaluable responses to the U.S. Census Bureau's surveys. We appreciate the public's cooperation as we continuously measure America's people, places and economy.

Home Health Education Books



Contact:
Nestor Villanueva
(818) 424-3742

Funding available for doctoral students to work with NIJ research scientists



Doctoral students can get funding to work with NIJ research scientists and apply their work to criminal justice.

The NIJ Research Assistantship Program (RAP) offers highly qualified doctoral students the opportunity to bring their expertise to NIJ to work across offices and program areas to obtain a practical and applied research experience. We welcome students from all academic disciplines to apply and connect their research to the criminal justice field.

NIJ provides funds to participating universities to pay salaries and other costs associated with research assistants who work on NIJ research activities.

Students have until January 25, 2019 to work with their schools to apply. - National Institute of Justice



Cecile & Mighty

Our Services:
Magic and Illusion
Children's Entertainment
Acrobatic Act
Music and Magic



(626)354-2377 • (626)274-8748



JULIET POSADAS SCHOOL OF MUSIC


Graduate . UP Conservatory of Music
Scholar of Yamaha Organ School of Music
Celebrity concert artist, accomplished singer,
pianist, organist, arranger

- Offers private lessons and group classes for all ages
- Teaches a variety of musical styles: classical, pop music, light jazz and Broadway
- Prepares students for recitals and performances
- Can also teach music by ear, not by reading notes

Certification of Achievement
upon completion




For a **FREE** initial consultation :
Call : 213 422 2646
Email : julietposadas1@gmail.com



The Rod Tuazon Team
SIMPLE ANSWERS TO COMPLEX ISSUES

Serving all of Ventura County Real Estate

Rod B. Tuazon, MBA • 805-890-5845



CALFIRE announces availability of funding for grants to reduce fire threat and improve forest health

Sacramento - The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) announced the availability of up to \$155 million for Fire Prevention and Forest Health Projects. CAL FIRE is soliciting applications for projects that will help prevent catastrophic wildfires and restore forest health while also sequestering carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Details on the grant application and administration processes are available in each program's Grant Guidelines. For more information go to www.fire.ca.gov/grants.

Forest Health Program

Due by 3:00 pm on January 29, 2019

Fire Prevention Program

Due by 3:00 pm on December 19,2018



It's easy to add fruits and vegetables to your diet

Eating lots of fruits and vegetables can help reduce your cancer risk. That's one reason the American Cancer Society recommends eating at least 2½ cups of these foods every day. These foods contain important vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, and antioxidants and they're usually low in calories.

In general, those with the most color – dark green, red, yellow, and orange – have the most nutrients. Try to work in a variety of fruits and vegetables every day.

Trying to visualize ½ cup? A half cup of vegetables or fruit is about half the size of a baseball. Of course, the best way to know for sure is to use a measuring cup. Eating at least 2½ cups of vegetables and fruits each day may not be that hard to do when you add these up during your day:

Breakfast

If you usually have cereal, slice a medium or half a large banana on top. For an alternative to cereal, pour half a cup of frozen berries into a cup of plain low-fat yogurt. Slice a banana on top or eat it on the run.

Prefer something more savory than sweet in the morning? Add spinach and tomato to your morning omelet, or keep sliced red, orange, and yellow peppers and hard boiled eggs, or individual cottage cheese cups in the fridge. With more than 1 cup taken care of at breakfast, you're on your way.

Mid-morning snack

Snack time is a great time to work in more fruits or vegetables. A single-serving container of applesauce, 5 or 6 baby carrots, or a small orange will add another ½ cup.

It's only the middle of your morning, and you're more than half way there!



Lunch

When you need a quick lunch, try a pita sandwich or wrap loaded with vegetables, or a cup of hearty vegetable soup. Either of these gives you at least half a cup – some will give you a whole cup. Add a small side salad with low-fat dressing, and your count just jumped to more than 2 cups for the day so far.

Dinner

Even if you only have a few minutes, dinner veggies are easy. Heat canned or frozen veggies (without added salt or sauces) in the microwave for a quick side dish.

Microwave a sweet potato and add a teaspoon of butter, a splash of apple juice or squeeze of lemon, and a light sprinkling of cinnamon and brown sugar. Any one of these will add another cup-size vegetable serving to your day, and now you're getting more than the minimum recommendation!

Dessert

Savor a frozen treat made from 100% juice or put ½ cup of melon slices, peaches, or other favorite fruit on a toasted whole-grain waffle and you've added even more healthy fruits to your day. A splash of maple syrup can add extra flavor.

Scams and your small business: A guide for business

If you own a small business or are part of a non-profit organization, you spend a lot of time and effort making sure the organization works well. But when scammers go after your organization, it can hurt your reputation and your bottom line. Your best protection? Learn the signs of scams that target businesses. Then tell your employees and colleagues what to look for so they can avoid scams.

SCAMMERS' TACTICS

- Scammers pretend to be someone you trust. They make themselves seem believable by pretending to be connected with a company you know or a government agency.
- Scammers create a sense of urgency. They rush you into making a quick decision before you look into it.
- Scammers use intimidation and fear. They tell you that something terrible is about to happen to get you to send a payment before you have a chance to check out their claims.
- Scammers use untraceable payment methods. They often want payment through wire transfers, reloadable cards, or gift cards that are nearly impossible to reverse or track.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY BUSINESS?

Train Your Employees

- Your best defense is an informed workforce. Explain to your staff how scams happen.
- Encourage people to talk with their co-workers if they spot a scam. An alert from one employee about a scam can help prevent others from being deceived.
- Train employees not to send passwords or sensitive information by email, even if the email seems to come from a manager.

Verify Invoices and Payments

- Check all invoices closely. Never pay unless you know the bill is for items that were actually ordered and delivered.
- Make sure procedures are clear for approving invoices or expenditures. Limit the number of people who are authorized to place orders and pay invoices.
- Pay attention to how someone asks you to pay. Tell your staff to do the same. If you are asked to pay with a wire transfer, reloadable card, or gift card, you can bet it's a scam.

Be Tech-Savvy

- Don't believe your caller ID. Imposters often fake caller ID information so you'll be more likely to believe them when they claim to be a government agency or a vendor you trust.
- Remember that email addresses and websites that look legitimate are easy for scammers to fake.
- Stop and think about whether it could be a scam before you click. Scammers even can hack into the social media accounts of people you trust and send you messages that appear to be from them. Don't open attachments or download files from unexpected emails; they may have viruses that can harm your computer.
- Secure your organization's files, passwords, and financial information. For more information about protecting your small business or non-profit organization's computer system, check out the FTC's Small Business Computer Security Basics.

Know Who You're Dealing With

- Before doing business with a new company, search the company's name online with the term "scam" or "complaint." Read what others are saying about that company.
- When it comes to products and services for your business, ask for recommendations from other business owners in your community. Positive word-of-mouth from trustworthy people is more reliable than any sales pitch.
- Don't pay for "free" information. You may be able to get truly free business development advice and counseling through programs like SCORE.org.

USCIS to expand information services modernization program to key locations

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will expand its Information Services Modernization Program to key field offices, beginning with the Detroit Field Office and the five offices in the Los Angeles District on Nov. 13. Field offices in the Newark, Great Lakes, and San Francisco districts will implement the program during the first quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2019. USCIS anticipates expanding the program to all remaining field offices by the end of FY 2019.

The Information Services Modernization Program ends self-scheduling of InfoPass appointments and instead encourages applicants to use USCIS online information resources to view general how-to information and check case

statuses through the USCIS Contact Center. Recent improvements to online tools provide applicants the ability to obtain their case status and other immigration information without having to visit a local field office.

Since USCIS launched a pilot of this program in March, transitioning from the InfoPass appointment system to the Information Services Modernization Program has improved the delivery of emergency and other services that can only be provided in person and made operations more efficient overall.

"Expanding this program is a significant step in our efforts to move more USCIS services and information online," said USCIS Director Francis

Cissna. "It also frees up agency staff to spend more time adjudicating benefit requests which should help reduce case processing times."

Based on surveys and other data, USCIS determined that most people who made in-person information service appointments through InfoPass could have received the same information by calling the USCIS Contact Center or checking the USCIS website.

Importantly, when it is determined an applicant does need in-person assistance under the Information Services Modernization Program, personnel at the USCIS Contact Center will help schedule an appointment without the individual having to search for available timeslots.



LAW ENFORCEMENT HIRING: SPREAD THE WORD!

ROSE MEJIA of

kw

KELLERWILLIAMS®

REALTY OF BEVERLY HILLS

TEL. (323) 997-3838

MERLUZA LAW

Ricardo Merluza

Attorney-at-Law

Tel. (213) 380-9888 • Fax (213) 380-5397

Cell (818) 792-0962

ricardo@merluzalaw.com

3435 WILSHIRE BLVD., 27TH FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010

Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner



1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.
2. Pull the neck and giblets out of the cavity; ditch the liver and save the rest of the giblets for gravy. Dry the turkey with paper towels, then season inside and out with salt and pepper.
3. Fill the turkey with aromatics like chopped onions, carrots, apples and herbs, then place breast-side up in a roasting pan and brush with melted butter. Tent with foil and roast for 2 hours (for a 10- to 12-pound turkey; add an extra 15 minutes per pound for larger birds).
4. Remove the foil, baste with more melted butter and crank the oven to 425 degrees F. Roast for another hour or until the meat at the thigh registers 165 degrees F.
5. Let rest while you make the gravy.

Source: Food Network



The New York Philharmonic, the world famous company on November 15 unwrapped a concert of Viennese musical treats at the David Geffen Hall at of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City. The program headlined by Johann Staruss’ ‘On the Beautiful Blue Danube’, include beloved waltzes and polkas including the perennial favorite Thunder and Lightning. Violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann joined the Orchestra to reveal a 20th-century masterpiece, Martinů’s bravura Violin Concerto.

CONGRATULATIONS !

Doc Montero with youngest son 41 yr.-old Paul Norbert, Associate Professor of Surgery in Denver, Colorado Medical Center at his fellowship induction during the 105th Annual Clinical Congress of American College of Surgeons in Boston, Oct. 21-25, 2018--exactly 41 years ago when he himself became a fellow. Doc calls this prideful event the quadruple MMMM, which means Montero’s Memorable Magic Moment !



MGM Resorts International teams with American Airlines and USO for 2018 Salute to the Troops event

LAS VEGAS/PRNewswire/ -- In celebration of America’s service members, MGM Resorts International will host “A Salute to the Troops” honoring more than 70 wounded warriors and their guests over Veterans Day weekend. In its eighth year, the five-day program in collaboration with American Airlines and the USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore (United Service Organizations) will be an extended weekend of relaxation, entertainment and sightseeing for active duty service members traveling from the Washington, D.C., area.

“We’re honored to host these men and women and their loved ones who have sacrificed so much to preserve our nation’s safety and freedom,” said Jim Murren, Chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts International. “We look forward to demonstrating our deep respect and gratitude for their service, showing them the very best Las Vegas and MGM Resorts have to offer.”

As the official airline of the USO, American Airlines will fly the honored service members to Las Vegas with an all-volunteer flight crew, some of which are veterans themselves, aboard a Boeing 737 aircraft. Upon arriving in Las Vegas, hundreds of MGM Resorts International employees will gather to welcome the group to The Mirage Resort & Casino, the host property, during a special “wall of gratitude,” welcome procession.

“American Airlines and its more than 130,000 team members have a deep sense of pride and gratitude for the men and women, and their families, who have served and sacrificed to protect our nation and our freedoms,” said David Seymour, Senior Vice President, Integrated Operations at American and graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point. “From the pilots and flight attendants who volunteer their time and skills to serve these special heroes, to the airport team members who put together meaningful

departure and arrival celebrations, the American team’s commitment to this event is evidence of that. We are honored to play a part in providing more than 70 wounded, ill and injured service members and their guests a well-deserved week of healing, relaxation and fun.”

“Salute to the Troops” will also include a special welcome dinner, and excursions in and around Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. Special stops are: The Shark Reef Aquarium, Terry Fator: The voice of Entertainment at The Mirage, Cirque du Soliel’s Michael Jackson ONE at Mandalay Bay Resorts & Casino and a concert by Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band. Participants are also invited to the Las Vegas Veterans Day parade; a tour of the Hoover Dam and helicopter tours are also part of

the plans.

“On behalf of our nation’s wounded, ill and injured troops and their caregivers, I can tell you that MGM Resorts and American Airlines’ continuing generosity and support mean a great deal to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom,” said Elaine Rogers, President and CEO of USO-Metro. “We’re incredibly thankful to MGM Resorts and American Airlines for helping us show the gratitude of the American people for our troops and their families in such an impactful way.”

American Airlines will furnish chartered air travel and other support during “A Salute to the Troops” weekend, while MGM Resorts International and its properties will provide accommodations, meals, entertainment, and other amenities.

CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL Revel in a Unique Celebration for All Ages



CHINESE LANTERN FESTIVAL
中國彩燈節

“The Wild”

FAIRPLEX
POMONA, CA

THUR – SUN + HOLIDAYS
5:30PM – 10PM
NOV. 15 – JAN. 6

1000+ Handcrafted Lanterns

Variety of Cuisines

Live Kung Fu Coaching & Performances

Chinese Folk Artists

Dinosaur Rides & More!



Save by Purchasing Tickets Online in Advance
CHILDREN UNDER 4: FREE
ChineseLanternFestival.com



Produced by Hanart Culture 1-855-618-8188

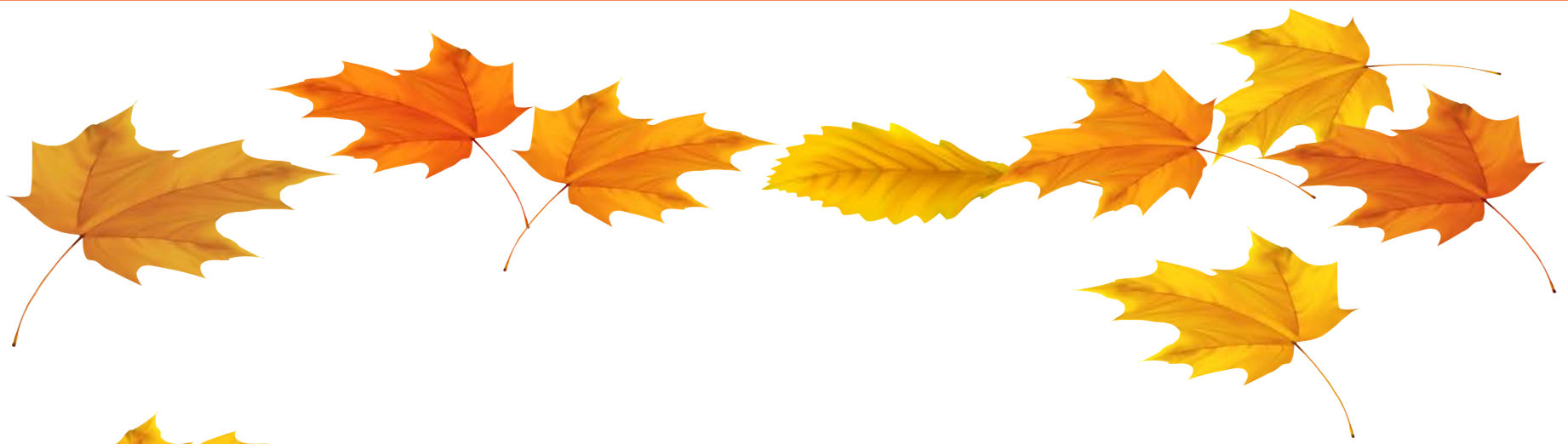


DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHILIPPINES

DIVE PHILIPPINES

ANILAO UNDERWATER SHOOTOUT
November 27 - December 1, 2018

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
www.anilaoshootout.ph



HAPPY Thanksgiving DAY

**Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- 1 CHRONICLES 16:34**

Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. With respect to vehicular travel, the holiday is often the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another.

Thanksgiving Day did not become an official holiday until Northerners dominated the federal government. While sectional tensions prevailed in the mid-19th century, the editor of the popular magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*, Sarah Josepha Hale, campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity. She finally won the support of President Abraham Lincoln. On October 3, 1863, during the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

The holiday was annually proclaimed by every president thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, and to boost the economy by moving the date back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day. - *SOURCE: ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA*

