



FIL-AM BULLETIN

The Official Newsletter of the
Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC
(A Non-Profit Organization to Promote Inter-Cultural Education and Understanding)

**"Together
We Make A
Difference"**

www.FilAmSC.org

★ Volume 19, Number 2

★ P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224

★ Winter 2010 ★

Annual Christmas Party on Dec. 12

Final preparations are underway for the annual fun and festive holiday get-together of Fil-Am families and friends. The **Columbia Fil-Am Annual Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, **December 12, 2009** (6:30 pm - 11:30 pm) at the **St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall/Gym** (3600 Devine St. Columbia, SC 29205).

The festive event will feature a Filipino menu (*lechon, pancit, dinuguan, puto, adobo, lumpia*, etc.) and desserts (*biko, cassava cake, "food for the gods,"* among others), an entertainment program, and an appearance by Santa Claus. **DJ Mike Lamb** (*the DJ at the last gala*) will play holiday and dance music for the attendees.

Families who are bringing their children to this fun-for-

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▲ Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Willy C. Gaa (sixth from left) poses with the newly inducted FAAGC officers during the 19th Annual Gala & 13th Induction Ball held on August 29, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel of Columbia. (left to right): Jojo Flora, Grace Balanquit, Wyda Viray, Nieves McNulty, Dan Adcock, Amb. Gaa, Maribel Tijing, Cecilia Jacobsen, Cecille Geoghegan, Lisa Edwards, Marj Peña, Grace Collins.

Photo: Carlton Edwards

Philippine Ambassador Inducts FAAGC Officers

Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Willy C. Gaa and his wife Erlinda were the surprise special guests of honor of the FAAGC's **19th Annual Gala and 13th Induction Ball** held on **August 29**

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Columbia Fil-Am Sends Funds for Philippine Calamity Victims

As part of its on-going charitable program to help the needy in the Philippines, the Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC) recently donated over **\$1,400.00** to benefit the victims of the recent typhoons and resulting floods in the Philippines.

The money came from proceeds from the last gala, matching Association funds, and additional donations from individuals. To facilitate immediate use of the funds for the intended recipients, the donation was coursed through the Catholic Relief Services.

Special thanks to the following for their individual donations (*three gave at the \$100 level*) to the Philippine calamity

relief fund: **Grace Balanquit, David & Odess Brinkman, Leah Cuaresma, Joy & Diosa Dean, Butch & Dhel Elamparo, Galen Manapat, George & Nieves McNulty, Polly Pearson, Edsel & Marj Peña, Vic & Julie Rizalde, and Yang Yang Xing.**

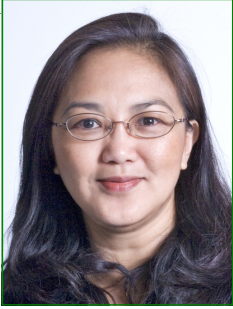
If you wish to contribute to the on-going Philippine calamity relief fund, please contact Marj Peña at (803) 360-2469, or see the donation form insert in this newsletter.

Last year's gala raised funds for the Philippine Red Cross to benefit Philippine calamity victims. Previously, the FAAGC gala benefited four Philippine orphanages and child welfare institutions. ❖



▲ The **Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe** performers take time to pose before performing the *bulaklakan, Jovencita, and tinikling* dances during the **International Day of Peace** celebration held at the **Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Columbia** on **September 20, 2009**.

Photo: Carlton Edwards



The President's Corner by Marj Peña

BE & STAY INVOLVED IN THE FAAGC

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends! Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the Holiday Season, ushering in the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping and parties. Through it all, let's keep in mind that the best presents come from the heart: the camaraderie, sharing, kindness, and generosity to young and old alike and it comes for free, sometimes simply through a warm smile or a friendly hello!

Gala

The 2009-11 Executive Board hit the ground running with the organization of the *21st Annual Gala and 19th Induction Ball* on August 29th. They were inducted into office by no less than His Excellency **Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy Gaa**, who drove from Washington, DC, with his wife Mrs. **Erlinda Gaa**, as guests of honor at the Gala. I would like to thank everyone who made the Gala a success: the guests, benefactors, sponsors, donors, and advertisers for their contributions and everyone from the current and past executive boards for their "labor of love" in making this event a success. I would also like to thank the performers who invested time and talent to showcase our Filipino culture. The proceeds from the gala and additional donations allowed us to donate over **\$1,400.00** to benefit the victims of the flood in the Philippines resulting from typhoon Ondoy.

Membership Meeting

We hosted a General Membership Meeting on October 17th at the Ridge View High School cafeteria. Approximately 60 members were on hand. I enjoyed the part where each guest stood up to introduce themselves and learned about everyone's background and aspirations for the organization. We raised additional funds for the flood victims and for the World War II Veterans Honor Flight.

Most importantly, we proudly welcomed the **Filipino American Youth Club of Ridge View High School** led by its President, Miss **Fides Elamparo**. It is indeed exciting to see our youth involved in the cultural activities. Plans are in place to expand the membership of the Youth Club to other High Schools in Columbia and surrounding communities.

Dance Troupe Performances

The Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe has been very active with performances at the

Annual Gala, the *International Peace Day Festival* at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbia and at the *Fifth Annual Korean Festival of Columbia*. Currently, we have several groups practicing performances for the Christmas Party, including the children, teen-age, and adult groups. We truly appreciate the time and talent that the performers and their parents are investing in these performances. Let us show our support by applauding their efforts at the Christmas Party. I can already promise you that these performances will melt your hearts!

Christmas Party

I would like to invite everyone to the **2009 FAAGC Christmas Party on December 12th** starting at **6:30 PM** at **St. Joseph's Catholic Church Gymnasium on 3600 Devine Street**. Details are provided in this newsletter and in the FAAGC website (www.FilAmSC.org). We will serve Filipino delicacies and desserts. A great program and dance music is in store for all to enjoy. Santa Claus will be present to hand gifts to the children (*one gift only per child, please*). A raffle with a grand prize of \$100 in cash will be conducted whose proceeds will support the Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe. The officers and I look forward to seeing you and your families at the party!

Getting Involved

Finally, I invite everyone to stay involved. There are many ways to find out about the FAAGC activities:

- 1) The FAAGC website (www.filamsc.org) has the latest updates on all our activities through the efforts of our webmaster Noel Alon.
- 2) If you have a **Facebook** account, be a fan of the *Filipino American Association of Greater Columbia (FAAGC)*. This site has complete pictures from the activities and events of the FAAGC and a list of upcoming events.
- 3) The *Fil-Am Bulletin* is published three times a year. Send your address to filamsc@gmail.com or faage@hotmail.com to receive the newsletter.
- 4) **Be on the e-mail list**. Starting this month, we will send reminders of upcoming activities by e-mail. Send your e-mail address to the FAAGC email addresses above to be included.

If you are not yet one, I INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER! THE FAAGC NEEDS YOU and we will do our best to make your membership a worthwhile endeavor and your connection to our country far away!



How To Reach Us

FAAGC

P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

www.FilAmSC.org

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FILIPINO-AMERICAN
Association of Greater Columbia, SC
P.O. Box 24112
Columbia, SC 29224

The **FIL-AM BULLETIN** is one vehicle of the Association to achieve its objectives and maintain regular communication with its members and interested parties. Contributions of articles (as well as financial donations) are most welcome; contact the Editor for more details.

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MOTIONS & TRANSITIONS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

★ **GABRIEL (“Gabe”) & STEPHANIE BAUTISTA** of Elgin, SC. A longtime South Carolina resident, he is originally from Camiling, Tarlac and works as supply specialist at USC. She works for the All South Federal Credit Union. They have two children: Ashley, 18, and Joshua, 14.

★ **JONATHAN (“Jon”) & GINALYN (“Gina”) CAS-TANEDA** of Lexington, SC. Both from Ilocos Norte (she from Paoay and he from Din-gras), they have been in SC for 10 years. He is an electronics technician with Lockheed-Martin. Interested in ethnic dancing, they have a child, Jaxen, 4.

★ **CHONA COBB** of Columbia, SC.

★ **FARHEEN (“Marie”) COLEMAN & DOUG-LAS (“Doug”) SANDY** of Summerville, SC. Originally from Quezon City, Metro Manila, she works in customer service with Old Dominion Freight Line. He is from Chicago, Illinois, and is a supervisor at Brown Trucking. In South Carolina for three years, they hope the Association can provide them with “good opportunity to have more friends and to socialize.”

★ **ANTHONY & LEONICAR (“Onie”) ABALLE JABER** of Columbia, SC. Newly arrived in the area when he was transferred to Ft. Jackson, she is originally from Cebu. They are expecting their first child.

★ **DAVID (“Dave”) & ALMA ROBICHAUD** of Columbia, SC. She is originally from Carmen, Cebu. In the Columbia area for over 14 years, they have two children: Angelica, 10 and Andrea, 8.

★ **MITCH & MARIA SILVER** of Columbia, SC. She is originally from San Antonio, Pampanga. A native of Columbia, he works at Sears. They have a daughter, Marie, 14.

★ **JULIUS (“Jon”) & JENNIFER (“Jen”) VALIAO** of Columbia, SC. Ten years in the area, he considers Baguio City and Manila as his hometowns. He works with Aflac and Lincoln Heritage insurance. From Pensacola, Florida, she is with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS). They have joined the Association to help “develop business and personal relationships.”

A WARM WELCOME BACK to the following for re-joining FAAGC:

★ **OSWALD & ROWENA ARROYO** of Columbia, SC.

★ **SUSAN ZAMORA** of Columbia, SC. ❖

Maraming Salamat THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Recent Membership Renewals

- * Dr. Felicitas B. Santos
- * Keith Seymour
- * Rodel & Wendy Bobadilla
- * Butch & Dhel Elamparo
- * Ken & Ronelin Zearfoss
- * Lu & Merlyn Bajamunde
- * Dan & Tess Adcock
- * Grace Collins
- * Edith Alston
- * Grace Balanquit
- * Luis & Mary Barradas
- * William & Joy Clark
- * Ed & Yani Gould
- * Jim & Juvie Lowder
- * Marvin & Beth Noble
- * Neil & Bambie Tijing
- * Roger & Naty Roberts
- * Bong & Rosa Rances
- * Vic & Julie Rizalde
- * Mike Padua

We hope others will continue their support of the Columbia Fil-Am Association by renewing their membership for Association Year 2009-2010.

~ Congratulations ~

➤ to **Marsha Furagganan** on her upcoming marriage to **Todd Hill** in Columbia, SC, on December 19, 2009. One of the teachers from the Philippines who arrived in the area two years ago, she has performed with the *Columbia Fil-Am Cultural Dance Troupe* and co-emceed the 2008 FAAGC gala. ❖

~ Condolences ~

✝ to **Helen Alon**, whose mother passed away on November 7, 2009, in Iriga City, Philippines. ❖

By-Laws Amendments

Possible amendments to the Association By-Laws are being sought from members to make the FAAGC more responsive to current conditions .

The current By-Laws specifies that “amendments...may be proposed by the By-laws Committee, the Executive Board, or...by any member .”

For details, contact **Noel Alon (738-0372; FilAmSC@yahoo.com)**. Copies of the By-Laws can be downloaded from the FAAGC website:

www.filamsc.org ❖

Christmas Party (continued from Page 1)

their children to this fun-for-the-whole-family-affair are enjoined to bring a wrapped present for each child (just ONE each, please) to be placed under the Christmas tree for distribution by Santa during the party. **Each gift should be clearly and LEGIBLY marked with the child's FULL NAME.**

TICKETS purchased by **December 5** are \$12 for members, \$14 for non-members, \$6 for children 6-12 years old, and free to children under six years. **Adult tickets purchased after Dec. 5** are \$14 for members, \$16 for non-members. Attendees are

also requested to bring one 2-liter bottle of soda per family.

Call now to reserve tickets at advance purchase prices. Tickets will be needed for entry into the hall and for food service.

For more information on purchasing tickets or about the event itself, contact **Marj Pena (360-2469), Cecilia Jacobsen (494-5613), Lisa Edwards (360-2636)**, or any FAAGC officer/ Executive Board member listed on **Page 2.**

For directions to the venue, and other details or updates, please visit our website:

www.filamsc.org ❖



▲ **Columbia Fil-Am golfers** show off the trophies they won at the **Philippine Typhoon Relief Golf Tournament** held in **Charlotte, NC**, on **October 31, 2009**. From left: **Van de la Cruz (second place), Manny Cuaresma (first place), Jim Kenerson, Alan Matienzo (second place).**

With participants from **North Carolina (Raleigh-Durham, Monroe, Gastonia, Kings Mountain and mostly from Charlotte-Mecklenburg area) and South Carolina (Columbia and Rock Hill), the charity fund-raiser tournament netted over \$1,200 to help the recent calamity victims in the Philippines. The tournament used the modified Callaway scoring system to give all players of different levels a chance to win.**

Committees Set Up For Efficient Association Work, More Involvement

To accomplish and facilitate the various tasks and projects of the Association, the following committees (* indicates chair) have been formed based on the sign-up sheets at the last membership meeting:

Cultural Events Committee

Tessie Kenerson*, Helen Alon, Odess Brinkman, Grace Balanquit, Bambi Tijing, Bernadette Yavis
Transportation: George McNulty

- Organize folk dance groups and practices for association activities
- Organize cultural events for FAAGC

Social Events Committee

Cecille Jacobsen*, Cecille Geoghegan, Onie Jaber, Nieves McNulty, Bambi Tijing, Wyda Viray

- Prepare program of activities for FAAGC functions
- Organize food preparation for FAAGC gatherings

Sports Committee

Jojo Flora*, Manny Cuaresma, Van dela Cruz, Jim Kenerson, Peter Liunoras, Mario Viray, Bernadette Yavis

- Organize activities for playing various sports for fun

Membership Committee

Nieves McNulty*, Helen Alon, Odess Brinkman, Lisa Edwards, Marj Peña, Vic Rizalde, Keith Seymour, Bambi Tijing, Wyda Viray

- Maintain and update membership information
- Develop programs to increase membership.

Scholarship Committee

Shirley McGuinness*, Leah Cuaresma, Jojo Flora, Peter Liunoras, Nieves McNulty,

- Determine scholarship recipients
- Assist graduating high school students of member families in their pursuit of higher education

Volunteer / Fundraising Committee

Marj Peña*, Executive Board

- Develop ideas/plans on how to raise money
- Establish community service credits, if needed

Publicity / Newsletter Committee

Noel Alon*, **Shirley McGuinness***, Lisa Edwards, Alan Geoghegan,

Imelda Go, Marj Peña, Keith Seymour

- Continue publishing the Fil-Am newsletter
- Publicize FAAGC activities
- Maintain FAAGC website
- General media promotion through radio, news and TV

Spiritual Affairs Committee

Dan Adcock*

Telephone-Calling Committee

Marj Peña*, Executive Board, Vic & Julie Rizalde

Friends of the Columbia Fil-Am Dance Troupe

Helen Alon, Grace Balanquit, Leah Cuaresma, Lisa Edwards, Sally Ellis, Jojo Flora, Tessie Kenerson, Marj Peña, Wyda Viray, Myrna Whitmire, Bernadette Yavis

- Assist the dance troupe in driving, providing snacks, and any kind of help during dance practices and performances

Other FAAGC members and supporters can still become members of the committees by contacting the chair/s of the committee/s they want to be involved in for details about the specific needs and tasks. ❖

DVDs of the 2009 Fil-Am Gala can be ordered for \$15 each from Alan Geoghegan (803) 787-5255 (803) 318-6659 alan@medianetsc.us



RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club

▲ **THE RVHS Fil-Am Youth Club:** (front, from left): Nichole Daquileña, Kyla Solomon, Sadhana Panti, Fides Elamparo (president). (back, from left: Scott Krote, Josh Negley, Josh Bautista (secretary), Kirk Bautista, Michael Sanchez. Not in photo: Bridget Anderson (vice-president) and Vanessa White (treasurer). Photo: Carlton Edwards

Since its formation in April 2004 under the direction of past FAAGC President Peter Liunoras, the Ridge View High School (RVHS) Fil-Am Youth Club has been instrumental in raising funds for the Columbia Fil-Am Scholarship program. The club has conducted car washes and bake sales with proceeds donated to the scholarship fund.

Plans are being finalized to expand the membership of the Fil-Am Youth Club to other high schools in Columbia and surrounding communities. Club members together with other Fil-Am youth from other schools are currently practicing for dance performances during the Christmas Party and upcoming events. ❖

Ambassador (continued from Page 1)

at the **Marriott Hotel of Columbia.**

After inducting the new officers, Ambassador Gaa, in his speech, urged everyone, "as we celebrate our cultural heritage, ... to continue drawing from the inspirational spirit of bayanihan" and invited "all to renew the commitment to do our part in building a more peaceful, progressive and prosperous Philippines."

He was presented a FAAGC plaque of appreciation and a copy of "Reflections of South Carolina," which as FAAGC President Marj Peña noted as

she made the presentation, is "a book of 'beautiful places' of the state and signed by 'the smiling faces' of the FAAGC Executive Board and members."

Also in attendance at the gala was Columbia City Councilman Kirkman Finlay III, representing the Columbia City Council and Mayor Bob Coble. Mayor Coble had earlier indicated he would be attending and be the inducting officer, but had to cancel due to a pressing family commitment. This was the first time since it started in 1991 that the FAAGC gala had an official representative from the City of Columbia. ❖



FAAGC held a potluck informal reception for Ambassador Willy Gaa (seated center) and his wife Erlinda (second from left, front row) at the residence of David & Odess Brinkman on August 30, 2009.

The Philippines is famous for its biodiversity. However, changes in animal habitats often caused by human interference pose a continuing threat to species on land, in the air, and in the water. This article features six animals found in the Philippines that are increasingly at risk of extinction.

Dugong (*Dugong dugon*)



The dugong (seacow) can weigh up to 350 kilograms (~770 pounds) and measure up to 3.5 meters (~11.5 feet) in length. It lives in warm waters and can eat up to 30 kilograms (~66 pounds) of seagrass daily. Seagrass thrives in clean water and the presence of dugongs in an area is a major water quality indicator.

Historically found throughout the Philippines, they are now only in Palawan, Southern Mindanao, and the Sulu Archipelago because they are vulnerable to entanglement in fish nets due to their size, weight, and shape; and widespread habitat destruction due to dredging, pollution, and conversion to fish ponds.

The dugong moves slowly unless alarmed. It is shy around humans but affectionate and playful towards one another. It may be seen rolling around in the water, hugging objects like anchor lines or each other.

Green Sea Turtle

(*Chelonia mydas*)



Called "pawikan" in most dialects, it has Turtle Islands, Tawi-Tawi, as its significant nesting site. The Green Sea Turtle is considered not only the largest shelled sea turtle but also one of the most threatened.

Its flesh is colored brown and it was named after the green fats in its body as it is herbivorous. The turtle can grow up to 4 feet in length and weigh more than 400 pounds. It is powerful and fast at sea but awkward and slow on land. Its natural enemies include monitor lizards, crabs,

Philippine Treasures At Risk

by I.C. Go

and even ants, which eat the eggs; birds, dogs, and cats, which eat the baby turtles or hatchlings; and sharks and killer whales, which eat adult turtles. Humans pose a great danger to them because turtle shells, meat, and eggs are sold at high prices.

Visayan Spotted Deer

(*Cervus alfredi*)

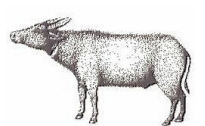


The spotted deer is small with round spots on its flanks. It measures only about 80 cm (~2.6 feet) tall at the shoulder. Formerly found from sea levels to mountaintops, it now makes its home in forest clearings where young plants grow.

They once lived in the dense tropical forests of Visayan Islands. A survey in 1991 revealed that there were only small populations in Panay and Negros and the deer had been rooted out of 95% of its former range. Today, it is one of the rarest mammals in the world. The decline is due to hunting presence and habitat loss due to clearing and agriculture.

Tamaraw

(*Bubalus mindorensis*)



The tamaraw is the largest endangered land animal in the country and is known only to occur in Mindoro. Just a century ago, a large number of tamaraws populated most parts of the island.

It was hunted, owing to its reputation as a wild and aggressive animal, and its natural habitat destroyed, which drove the remaining population to a few remote areas in the mountains. A solitary creature, it also became nocturnal due to encroachment and disturbance caused by humans.

Similar to the carabao, the tamaraw has horns, which grow straight upward to about

14 to 20 inches in a "V" form. Its bulky body and short legs give it a squat appearance, while its agility and strong legs allowed to push through dense jungle and climb steep mountains.

Philippine Tarsier

(*Tarsius syrichta*)



It is a primate with very unusual features. It has enormous eyes excellent for seeing at night but not in daylight. Its neck is extremely flexible and can turn almost 360 degrees to locate prey. It has a tail that exceeds the length of its body. Its fingers and toes have pads, which allow it to climb trees, sleep, and even give birth while clinging to one. Its special elongated tarsal bones, which form the ankles enable it to leap almost 10 feet from tree to tree. However, it cannot walk on land but only hop. It is only found in the Philippines (Bohol, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao). Captive breeding is difficult because tarsiers rarely live long in

captivity.

Philippine Eagle

(*Pithecophaga jefferyi*)

It became the Philippines' national bird in 1995. A giant forest raptor, it is one of the largest and most powerful eagles in the world. It is approximately 1 meter (~3.3 feet) in length and has about a 2-meter (~6.6 feet) wing span, which make it suited for long hours of soaring high above the forest canopy.

It is amazingly loyal and chooses one mate. Geographically restricted to Luzon, Samar, Leyte, and Mindanao, it prefers to nest almost exclusively in large old-growth rainforests 100 to 1,000 meters (~330 to 3,280 feet) above sea level, which makes it susceptible to habitat loss. It gives birth to one chick every two-to-three years. There may be fewer than 100 birds known to exist.

References:

Text from Fort Ilocandia Resort Mini-Zoo Area, Laoag, Ilocos Norte, Philippines, December 16, 2005.

Images from Wikimedia Commons. <http://commons.wikimedia.org>



A Philippine natural tourist attraction is now one of the **28 Official Finalist Candidates** for the **New 7 Wonders of Nature**.

Located 30 miles north of Puerto Princesa, Palawan, the **Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park** features a unique limestone karst mountain landscape with five miles of navigable underground river (reputed to be the world's longest) winding through a cave before it flows directly into the South China Sea.

A panel of experts selected from the **Top 77** nominees the 28 finalists, from which voters worldwide will select

the final new seven natural wonders of the world. The final declaration of the **New 7 Wonders of Nature** will be in **2011**.

Anyone with an email address can register and vote at the sponsor's website:

www.new7wonders.com

The **New 7 Wonders of Nature** campaign seeks to "raise awareness of the incredible variety and beauty of nature around us." With the slogan "If we want to save anything, we first need to truly appreciate it!,"

organizers hope "these natural treasures can be better preserved for future generations."



The sleek Airbus jetliner was full. There were no bawling toddlers or harried mothers trying to soothe their children. The mostly male and decidedly elderly passengers sat patiently while others boarded, settled in, and waited for takeoff. There was no luggage in the cargo hold, but an abundance of wheelchairs.

This was a special flight, with special passengers, an **Honor Flight**, a flight full of veterans of World War II en route to Washington, DC, to view, in their final years, the Memorial erected in their honor and dedicated in 2004 on the National Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial.

Unfortunately, most of the veterans of that great conflict passed on before the Monument's dedication, so to some it became a crucial matter to see that those surviving veterans get to see the monument while they still are able. And this is done at no expense to the veteran.

Arrival at Reagan National Airport was auspicious, indeed. The plane was presented the signal honor of being met on the airport taxiway by the Fire Department's water cannons, and baggage carts bedecked with the Stars and Stripes, the Palmetto flag, and those of other states, and the POW-MIA flag. *What a welcome!*

Inside the concourse, the veterans were greeted by a loud, rowdy, proud, and thankful group of travelers, military ser-

WANTED: World War II Vets, Able to Fly An Honor Flight Experience

by Jim Kenerson

vice members, a band, and airport personnel. They were escorted though the lobby by the area members of the Rolling Thunder motorcycle club who would provide a rolling escort with local police for the veterans' four buses from Reagan National Airport, across Memorial Bridge and past the Lincoln Memorial to the Mall and the World War II Memorial.

Special moments followed for each veteran, he or she in his or her own memories. There were photos galore at the beautiful memorial for each and all veterans.

One of the War's more notable heroes, former Senator Bob Dole met the group at the Memorial and shared in the storytelling and photo ops. It is said that Senator Dole, or his wife, former Senator and former Director of the American Red Cross, Elizabeth Dole, try to meet and greet every Honor Flight of WWII Veterans to visit the Memorial.

Departing from the WWII Memorial, the four motor coaches took the vets on a rolling tour of Capitol Hill, Pennsylvania Avenue, and The Mall with a stop to visit the Viet Nam and Korean War Memorials and the Lincoln Memorial. There was also a drive-by of the Navy Memorial across from The National Archives on Pennsylvania

Avenue, and stops at the new Air Force Memorial and the USMC Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, VA.

One of the highlights of the trip (*the entire trip was a highlight!*) was a ride through the shaded roadways of Arlington National Cemetery to the Amphitheater where the Vets were able to visit the Tomb of the Unknowns and witness the solemn Changing of the Guard ceremony. It was a profound moment for all.

The buses then returned to Reagan National Airport where the vets re-boarded their jetliner after passing through security and the concourse in a little more subdued manner than upon their arrival earlier in the day. Although some took advantage of the smooth flight to grab a quick and hard earned nap, many did not, due to the heightened excitement level of the day.

If one had been napping, the "welcome home to Columbia" reception was enough to arouse even the soundest sleeper. The Fort Jackson army band, Cub Scouts, Rolling Thunder and Patriot Guard motorcycle riders, military service members, police, and ordinary travelers, US, SC and POW-MIA flags, patriotic music --- all arrayed to welcome each and every honored traveler

home again. The pride of the welcoming party was exceeded only by the pride of those honorees being welcomed.

To a man, and the two women, these veterans experienced an overwhelming emotional outpouring of gratitude and patriotism from the folks they encountered that they had never suspected before. Some had remained silent about their service and experiences for over 60 years, yet many today shared their stories with total strangers, kids and adults, just merely for the asking. It was a day full of events that were fulfilling, rewarding, exciting and intensely emotional for all involved.

Honor Flight has only one goal: to transport FREE of CHARGE as many World War II veterans to see the World War II Memorial as are able. Any person who has a family member, or friend who is a veteran of World War II who has not visited the Memorial in Washington is encouraged to put that person in touch with Honor Flight South Carolina or the national Honor Flight organization to get that loved one on board a flight as soon as possible.

Time is of the essence for many of them. And remember, many of this generation will not make a big deal of it and may even express a reluctance to make the flight because they don't want to be fussed over. On the other hand, some unfortunately are just too physically impaired, but the Honor Flight organization is experienced in performing the proper screening to determine who is and who is not able to undertake such a flight.

It was ironic that the date on which this Honor Flight from Columbia took place, September 5, 2009, was the 70th anniversary of the date on which the United States declared its neutrality following Hitler's invasion of Poland.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact **Honor Flight SC** at (803) 582-8826 or visit its website:

www.honorflightsc.com

Special Thanks to Vic & Julie Rivalde, Marj Peña, and Nieves McNulty for their recent donation to the Honor Flight SC. ❖

FAAGC Annual Financial Report

(Fiscal Year 2008-09: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009; unaudited)
(As reported by Myrna C. Whitmire, 2007-2009 FAAGC Treasurer)

OPENING FUND BALANCES

as of July 1, 2008:

General Fund	\$ 12,655.02
Building Fund	12,910.00
Scholarship Fund	1,960.00
Dance Troupe Fund	800.00
Petty Cash	124.00
Total	\$ 28,449.02

CLOSING FUND BALANCES

as of June 30, 2009:

General Fund	\$ 14,858.04
Building Fund	12,910.00
Scholarship Fund	1,848.00
Dance Troupe Fund	222.00
Petty Cash	100.00
Total	\$ 29,938.04

2008-09 Net Income:

Membership Dues	\$ 1,693.00
18th Annual Gala	1,318.03
Christmas Party	259.99
Donations/Pin Sales	101.00
Interest Earned	27.83
Total Income	\$ 3,399.85

Total Income \$ 3,399.85

FY 2008-09

Net Annual Proceeds:
\$ 1,489.02

(The amounts for the Dance Troupe, Building, and Scholarship funds in the closing balances have been increased by less than \$1 each from the General Fund, to avoid keeping track of pennies.)

2008-09

Net Operating Expenses:

Newsletter/Website/ Directory/Postage	\$ 495.83
Dance Costumes	577.68
Scholarship Fund	129.00
Easter Picnic	108.59
Summer Picnic	216.08
Bank Service Charges	44.83
International Festival Displays	95.82
P.O. Box	42.00
Insurance	201.00
Total Expenses	\$ (1,910.83)

Total Expenses \$ (1,910.83)



GRACE BALANQUIT, REALTOR
 GRACEBALANQUIT@GMAIL.COM
 www.columbiaschomevalues.com
 (803) 467-9426



462 Robins Egg Dr
 Bed: 3 Bath: 2 ½
 SF: 1748
\$144,900



809 Brickingham Way
 Bed: 4 Bath: 3 ½
 SF: 2740
\$223,000



126 Waverly Pt. Dr
 Bed: 2 Bath: 2
 SF: 1092
\$91,500



910 Sunset Drive
 Bed: 4 Bath: 4
 SF: 2209
\$209,000



14 Upper Pond Rd
 Bed: 4 Bath: 5
 SF: 4818
\$499,000



310 Wintergreen Ct
 Bed: 4 Bath: 2 ½
 SF: 2473
\$189,999



24 Crystal Harbor Ct
 Bed: 3 Bath: 2 ½
 SF: 2900
\$349,000



2914 Columbia Ave
 Bed: 3 Bath: 2
 SF: 1680
\$179,900

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KAREN YIP, Broker/Realtor



My TEAM



LINDA BRENER, Realtor

First time home buyers or repeat clients ask for Grace's stimulus plan



*** Just A Reminder ***

Membership renewal for the Fil-Am Association Year 2009-10 is now due for many members. Please check the mailing address label below — if there are three asterisks (***) on the line above your name, then your membership has expired or will expire on the date specified after the asterisks.

Your membership renewal and prompt payment of dues are crucial to the continued operations and success of the FAAGC in our community. Please send your membership dues as soon as possible (see enclosed form in this issue). Dues can also be paid at the upcoming Christmas party.

If there are membership renewal questions, contact Nieves McNulty (781-9509; nmcnulty@columbiasc.edu) or Helen Alon (738-0372; helenqda@yahoo.com).



The **FAAGC 2009-2010 Directory of Members** booklet is currently being revised and will be distributed soon to all members.

Anyone who would like to place a three-line (25 characters per line) **business listing** (free to members) or a **business-card-size ad** (for a small fee to help cover printing expenses) in the directory is urged to contact the **FIL-AM BULLETIN** Editor (738-0372; FilAmSC@yahoo.com).



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CECILIA JACOBSEN
Owner

www.FilAmStoreSC.com
CJacobsen@filamstoresc.com

Visit & Bookmark the FAAGC Website

www.FilAmSC.org




for the clickable direct links to the websites mentioned in this issue of the Fil-Am Bulletin.

Current and some past issues (in color) of the Fil-Am Bulletin are also available online.

Copies of the By-laws and application forms can be downloaded from the website.








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tinyurl.com/FAAGC1

FIL-AM BULLETIN

of the **Filipino-American Association of Greater Columbia, SC**

P.O. Box 24112, Columbia, SC 29224



Winter 2010



Volume 19, Number 2



Reminder:

* **Columbia FIL-AM Annual Christmas Party**
on **Saturday, December 12, 2009**
at the **St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Hall/Gym** (3600 Devine St. Columbia, SC 29205)

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL
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