

Philippine News TODAY

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Heed the advice of a learned Filipino patriot

Sometimes all it takes is a few well-chosen words from a wise man to see things in the proper perspective.

Retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio is one such man. In a recent interview with local media, he was asked to share his thoughts on the belief or slogan of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr that the Philippines seeks to be a “friend to all and enemy to none.”

He used much kinder and more diplomatic words, but in essence he said this was pure balderdash.

Carpio asked, “How can you say China is our friend when China is claiming our territory?”

How indeed?

The number of formal diplomatic protests filed by the Philippines against China’s intrusions into Philippine waters has become too numerous to count.

China, as a matter of course, has been treating the West Philippine Sea as their territory. They cite a so-called Nine Dash Line found in old maps that no one can verify to be real as proof that the WPS is really part of the South China Sea.

During the time of the late – and dare we say great – President Benigno Aquino III, he took note not only of the frequent incursions of China into Philippine waters, but also of the obvious military might of the country’s neighbor.

The leader known as Noynoy did the smart thing, which was to take China to the International Court of Arbitration. China agreed and sent its best legal minds to defend its claim. The Philippines sent Carpio, along with the late Foreign Secretary Alberto del Rosario.

The court ruled in the Philippines’ favor. And it was then that China showed its true colors, by refusing to accept the decision of the court. The rest of the civilized world accepted the decision, but not China.

This is the same China that constantly harps on its long friendship with the Philippines. Indeed, a good percentage of the Filipino people have some Chinese blood running in their veins, including National Hero Jose Rizal. Chinese Filipinos AKA Chinoys are also powerful drivers of the Philippine economy.

Carpio is absolutely correct. The Peoples Republic of China is not a friend of the Republic of the Philippines. At least not the China that is led by Xi Jinping, who unlike his predecessors has been insisting on bullying not just the Philippines, but also all the other Southeast Asian nations which have claims on the South China Sea. Not all of it, just parts of it that fall within their own exclusive economic zones, like our motherland the Philippines.

China’s churlish behavior must be stopped.

The Philippines can and should recognize that China is laying claim to the WPS, but only if China recognizes that the Philippines is also laying claim to parts of the South China Sea.

It’s that simple. We recognize your claims if you recognize ours. So stop bullying our fishermen and our Armed Forces.

Diplomacy is the solution of the wise, violence of leaders like Xi who seem to be seeking war.

Carpio is right. For now, China is not the Philippines’ friend. And the sooner President Ferdinand Marcos Jr accepts this, the sooner a solution can be worked out.

Maybe Marcos can even invite Carpio to be a presidential adviser.

Family fun in Colma

What heat wave? News around the state and the nation warned of soaring temperatures heading up to the Fourth of July. That sounded like false advertising to those living on the western edge of San Francisco Bay as they bundled up as usual on their way to outdoor festivals.

The town of Colma on July 8 welcomed residents, neighbors and folks eager to escape the sizzle in shores untouched by the typical marine layer aka the fog, our frequent visitor where the Pacific meets the hills and valleys and the Bay to produce an atmospheric a blanket from the cold or a chill in the scorch, depending on the time of year.

June gloom had passed, but clad in puffy jackets and hats, people of all ages eager to have fun, chow down, and make friends ignored the gusty wind and hopped by 34 tables of community-forward businesses and organizations.

There was something for every member of the family, traditional or not, on the 99th anniversary of Colma’s foundation.

San Mateo County leading agencies Peninsula Family Service, Hip Housing and Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA and Jobs for Youth deployed staff to discuss their programs and services. County Commissioner on Aging Liz Taylor staffed Colma’s Age-Friendly Task Force that, with Colma Historical Society, highlighted the host town’s support for the older population. Tomorrow’s movers and shakers literally jumped their hearts out in the bouncy house next to the Home Depot Kid Zone. While a band chased the blues away with classic rock and pop, health-conscious revelers worked out inside the spacious community center, where fitness and craft demonstrations took place.

Clinic by the Bay, One Medical, Republic Service and Farmers Insurance talked health, sanitation and safety while Roxy’s Hat Company, Succulents by Sue, Jen’s Crafty Creations, Hecho Handmade Jewelry, From Trash to Beauty, Bracelets with Meaning and Self-Love, Self-Made offered retail therapy. Casita Vegana, Marros Tacos, Mr. Softee NorCal soothed hunger pangs.

Contiguous municipalities put their best foot forward with able representation, like Daly City Public Library and AHMC Seton Medical Center. South San Francisco Public Library set up an information table featuring Project Read. Plus: Mayor Flor Nicolas performed double duty giving presence to her city while spreading the word about healthy relationships as ALLICE Alliance for Community Empowerment 2023 president with fellow Kumares Elsa Agasid, Lydia Pomposo and Nellie Hizon and her co-president Junior Flores. Together they distributed their ALLICE directory. Underwritten by the Town of Colma, the “A-List, as it is familiarly called, is the first-known family resource guide vetted for linguistic and cultural sensitivity for serving immigrant and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Quite a huge turnout for a town of just a handful over 1,500 living residents and some 1.5 million resting eternally in memorial lawns or columbariums. Yes, the term necropolis applies, but residents won’t be lying if they say life is happening in Colma.

For one, the town leaders host a big picnic every year. This is the home of Lucky Chances, the 24-hour cardroom owned by FilAm Rene Medina and managed by his sons
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Upside

CHERIE M. QUEROL MORENO

Speaking of marriage

Contrary to fairy tales and romance novels, marriage is not all sugar and spice; neither does it have a fairy tale ending of “happily ever after”.

Marriage is a commitment (a lifetime one, for Catholics), which two people enter into. It entails exclusivity, the likes of which Helen Reddy sang about when she sang:” you and me against the world”.

Marriages fail because the partners lack sufficient knowledge about each other or are not ready for a commitment, which calls for sacrifices from both partners.

When two people are joined in wedlock, they should be prepared to accept each other’s flaws and idiosyncracies. There will definitely be a time when one or the other will cause irritation.

Arguments will arise, harsh words may be spoken. I always hope and wish that couples could bite their tongues on occasions when they want to lash out in anger over some inconsequential matter.

Words can hurt, and once spoken, cannot be retrieved.

Getting married, to be sure, is a huge step, and people in the throes of love would do well to pause and reflect on the wisdom of plunging into marriage.

Interestingly, divorces in the United States and elsewhere have decreased in recent years, possibly because fewer couples are getting married.

This is probably a good thing, except for the fact that young men and women are choosing to enjoy the benefits of marriage without the legal right to do so.

I believe in marriage, but only for those equipped to enter into it.

I remember a once-popular song which goes this way:” Love and marriage, love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage”, which is probably outdated in this modern age.

And yet, I hope there still are a number among our youths today who understand what marriage should be and maybe, just maybe, they will have their “happily ever after.”



Through a Looking Glass

By ALICE HERNANDEZ REYES

FilAm Jessica Caloza launches campaign for California State Assembly District 52

By Claire Morales True

LOS ANGELES — Filipino American Jessica Caloza formally launched her campaign for California State Assembly District 52 and immediately drew wide support from top leaders and members of the State Assembly.

A lifelong public servant and longtime community organizer, Caloza has served in various positions in federal, state, and local government and most recently served as the Deputy Chief of Staff to the California Attorney General.

Previously, she made history as the first Filipina woman to serve as a Los Angeles Public Works Commissioner and oversaw 5,000 employees that delivered city services to 4 million people.

Caloza also worked as an Education Policy Advisor in the Obama Administration and fought for programs that helped students and families.

The FilAm leader kicked off her campaign with high-powered endorsements from California's Attorney General Rob Bonta, the 700,000 working women and men who make up SEIU California State Council.

Caloza also has a groundswell of support from seven State Assemblymembers, namely, Assemblymember Mia Bonta, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Assembly Majority Leader, Assemblymember Mike Fong, Assemblymember Matt Haney, Assistant Majority Whip, Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Assemblymember Evan Low, Chair of the API Legislative Caucus; and Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, Assistant Speaker Pro Tem.

In officially announcing her candidacy for Assembly District 52, Caloza released the following statement:

"My immigrant family had the opportunity to work hard, get good paying jobs, and build a better life. I want all families to have the same opportunity my family did. It's not about one of us, it's about all of us. That's what my campaign for Assembly is about."

Caloza added, "I want to bring the community's voice to Sacramento. The challenges facing hard working families and neighborhoods across our district are many but I'm ready to fight for change. People throughout the 52nd District need and deserve a representative in the State Assembly who will bring compassion, proven leadership, inclusiveness, and a forward-thinking vision to get things done. We have many issues to tackle – a worsening homeless and housing crisis, lack of good paying middle class jobs, an underfunded public education system, a climate emergency, rampant gun violence, and more. My life's work has been about bringing diverse communities together to find common ground and make positive change — that's how I plan to lead in the Assembly. I want to fight for the people of the 52nd District like I would fight for my family."

Joining her official campaign launch, California Attorney General Rob Bonta and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California State Council, released the following endorsement statements:

"Working families need leaders in the State Assembly who understand the challenges our members face every day. Jessica Caloza grew up in a working class community. She is the proud daughter of a janitor and nurse. Given her background and experiences, Jessica knows firsthand the struggles workers grapple with on a regular basis. SEIU California State Council is proud to endorse Jessica Caloza

because we know she will be a bold leader for change, fighting for livable wages, better working conditions and protections for workers' rights. Jessica will be a bold champion for working families in the State Assembly, and we're excited to support her." — SEIU California State Council and SEIU-CIR Regional Vice President, Los Angeles General Hospital Resident Physician Dr. Mahima Iyengar

"Jessica Caloza is a fearless and visionary leader. She has the skills, proven abilities, and drive needed to be an effective leader in the State Assembly and a strong voice for communities in every corner of the 52nd District on Day 1. Whether it be enhancing neighborhood safety, curbing gun violence, making our criminal justice system more just, tackling homelessness, fighting for our rights and freedoms, and beyond, Jessica will be a powerful force for progress. I look forward to partnering with her in the California State Assembly. Jessica has my full backing and support." — California Attorney General Rob Bonta

Each Assemblymember also released a statement in endorsing Caloza's campaign:

"California needs leaders like Jessica Caloza in the State Assembly. She is deeply committed to advancing social and economic justice as well as fighting for working people by bridging diverse communities together to get things done. Jessica's wide-ranging experience makes her ready to lead in the legislature. I am pleased to give Jessica Caloza my wholehearted support and full backing."

— Assemblymember Mia Bonta

"Jessica Caloza has shown throughout her career that she is deeply committed to empowering the communities too often ignored or failed by our government. She has the heart, the passion, and the lived experience to be a fresh and effective voice for justice in the legislature. I'm proud to endorse Jessica Caloza for Assembly, and I'm confident that together, we can build a stronger, more equitable California for all." — Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, Assembly Majority Leader

"With so many challenges facing local communities across California, we need leaders who can hit the ground running on day one in the state legislature to solve problems and get things done. Jessica Caloza represents precisely the kind of compassionate, experienced leadership we need—she's delivered for AAPI and other marginalized communities time and time again throughout her career. That's why Jessica has my enthusiastic support, because she has the proven track record and a unique ability to build consensus among different viewpoints in order to develop solutions to complex problems." — Assemblymember Mike Fong

"Jessica Caloza's dedication to equity and justice and her collaborative approach to solving California's greatest challenges will make her an excellent legislator. Jessica is committed to building more housing, raising wages for working families and helping small businesses thrive. I am excited to support Jessica Caloza for Assembly District 52 and look forward to working with her in the legislature." — Assemblymember Matt Haney, Assistant Majority Whip

"Jessica Caloza has a profound understanding of the struggles so many people across our state are facing. The daughter of a janitor and a nurse, Jessica grew up in a working class community. She knows what working families have to go through just to make ends meet. This background, combined with her deep experience in local, state and federal govern-

ment makes her well-prepared to serve in the legislature. I am proud to endorse Jessica Caloza because I know she will be a fighter for transformative change and justice for all communities." — Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer

"The depth and breadth of Jessica Caloza's experience is unparalleled. Her tenacity, boundless work ethic, and innovative ideas reflect exactly the kind of new thinking our state needs. She's also been a champion for AAPI communities and a strong ally for LGBTQ+ people throughout her career. Jessica will bring a new approach and fresh ideas to the many issues California is grappling with, and I am thrilled to give Jessica my strong support and endorsement." — Assemblymember Evan Low and Chair of the API Legislative Caucus

"Jessica Caloza will be an extraordinary representative and a bold voice for the people of California's 52nd State Assembly District. She has been an incredibly effective fighter for change in the City of L.A., in the Attorney General's Office, and in working for President Obama's Administration. She will fight to keep our neighborhoods safe and work hard to improve the quality of life for all communities. It is these experiences and qualities that make Jessica ready to serve on day one. I'm with Jessica 100%." — Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen, Assistant Speaker Pro Tem

ABOUT JESSICA CALOZA
As a first generation immigrant and a daughter of working class parents, Jessica Caloza has dedicated her life to public service

and being a fighter for working families. She has served in various roles at the federal, state, and local levels of government. She was most recently the Deputy Chief of Staff to California Attorney General Rob Bonta.

Previously, Caloza served as a Los Angeles Public Works Commissioner and made history as the first Filipina woman ever to serve in this role. She led public works projects to improve the quality of life for neighborhoods, strengthen the local economy, and create more good paying middle class jobs across Los Angeles.

Passionate about fully funding and improving public schools, Caloza also worked in President Barack Obama's Administration as an education policy advisor. Prior to her service in the federal government, she worked as a community organizer on President Obama's campaign, and before that, Caloza worked for social justice non-profits that provided critical services to immigrants, working families, and youth.

A longtime grassroots activist and community organizer, Caloza serves on the boards of local nonprofits that deliver services to survivors of human trafficking and provides mental health counseling to youth and their families. She is also active in Democratic politics and serves as the Southern California Chair of the Asian American & Pacific Islander Caucus in the California Democratic Party and is a longtime board member of the Pilipino American Los Angeles Democrats (PALAD). (Claire Morales True)

Upside...

(From Page 11)

Ruell and Rommel. My snobby bestie swears by the prime rib at its Rene's Fine Dining restaurant and its Café Colma martini hits the spot anytime. Serramonte Boulevard is north county's bustling auto row.

Colma was the first Bay Area city to invite ALLICE to conduct a workshop on family and intimate partner abuse prevention to ensure concerted informed response from its law enforcement and town leadership. That's thanks to current Mayor Joanne del Rosario, who happens to be an ALLICE Kumare therefore an advocate for community education as violence prevention, with strong support from Vice Mayor John Irish Goodwin and City Council members Helen Fisicaro, Ed Gonzalez, and Carrie Slaughter, and City Manager Brian Dossey.

Wait till next year, the five-time mayor gave a teaser for her town's centennial, promising a celebration for the ages.

PNews Today Executive Editor Cherie M. Querol Moreno is founder-executive director of ALLICE.



Fairgoers learned about healthy and safe relationships form ALLICE Kumares Elsa Agasid, Nellie Hizon and Lydia Pomposo and Kumpare-2023 co-president Junior Flores.



ALLICE 2023 co-president Flor Nicolas (in sunglasses) with husband Nesar Nicolas, Office of San Mateo County Supervisor Chief of Staff Tony Bayudan and friends brave the heavy breeze to be in community. Photos by LYDIA POMPOSO