# The Tandang Sora AWARDS

1979



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Printed by:
JGenesis Printing Services



*Greetings from:*

**Imelda Romualdez Marcos**
First Lady and Governor
of Metro Manila



# TANDANG SORA

## Mother of Philippine Revolution

Her name was Melchora Aquino.

Born in Barrio Banilad, Caloocan (now part of Quezon City) on January 6 – Epiphany Day – in 1812, she was named after one of the Three Wise Men and baptized Melchora. Her years and her deeds, however, concurred to write her name in history as Tandang Sora.

In 1896, upon learning of an impending uprising by Andres Bonifacio and his men, Spanish authorities ordered the arrest of hundreds of Filipinos for suspected membership in the Katipunan or for suspected alliance with Bonifacio's men. Torture was the Spaniard's way of forcing the secret of the Katipunan out of their lips. But no one spoke. Bound by a vow of silence, many chose to be hanged or to be shot. Others fled to the forests of Balintawak where Tandang Sora and her family lived.

This was the turning point in Tandang Sora's obscure life. At 84, wrinkled of skin but stout of heart, the widow of Fulgencio Ramos opened her door to all who knocked in search of momentary peace in a temporary home.

She took those who broke loose from prison under her care until she had made arrangements for them to be brought to places far from the reach of the Spaniards.

Later, after Andres Bonifacio unveiled the secret of the Katipunan in the Cry of Pugad Lawin, Tandang Sora's home once again became a refuge for the men of the Katipunan who risked life and limb in battle. She nursed the sick and the wounded, gave them food and clothing, and made them beds for the night.

She was well aware of the fate that awaited her should she fall into the hands of the Spaniards. However, unmindful of the grim consequences of her deeds, she stood her ground, offering to all who came to her what she could afford – often in cash and kind, always in kindness.

She allowed no one to stay in her house for long. She knew that the Spaniards would eventually learn of her deeds and punish her. She wanted no one else in her home when the Spaniards came. She wanted no one else punished.

On August 29, 1896, charged with aiding the Katipunan, Tandang Sora was arrested by the Guardia Civil and jailed at the Bilibid Prisons on Azcarraga (now Claro M. Recto). In complete disregard of her age and sex, the Spanish authorities subsequently exiled her to Guam where she remained for 9 years as servant to the family of Justo Dunca.

On February 26, 1903, after the Philippines passed from the hands of Spain to those of America, Tandang Sora came home to her land. She was 91.

She spent the last 16 of her 107 years with her daughter Saturnina in Pasong Tamo, Quezon City. She died on February 20, 1919 and was laid to rest at La Loma Cemetery.

On January 6, 1970 – the 158th anniversary of her birth and fifty-one years after her death, her remains were transferred to where her home in the forest once was: beneath the monument built in her honor at what is now the Tandang Sora Memorial Shrine.

### THE TANDANG SORA AWARDS

A project of the Bayaning Filipino Foundation, the Tandang Sora Awards are given annually to Filipino women in recognition of their outstanding services in the following fields:

* Government and Public Service
* Arts and Letters
* The Popular Arts
* Education
* The Sciences
* Medicine
* Business, Industry and Commerce

Awardees are chosen from among nominees submitted by past awardees, civic organizations, government agencies, the media and entities associated with the above fields. A Panel of Judges whose Members are designated by the Board of Trustees of the Bayaning Filipino Foundation, submits its final choice several months in advance. (The Members of the Panel of Judges remain anonymous throughout their tenure).

The Award, a statuette/replica of the focal figure, Tandang Sora, of the Memorial Shrine at Himlayang Pilipino Park, is given during fitting ceremonies held on her birth anniversary at the Shrine in Quezon City.

# 1979 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez*



*Purita Kalaw-Ledesma*



*Dr. Encarnacion Alzona*



*Dolores H. Vera*



*Dr. Mercedes Concepcion*

## Sister Lourdes Gomez, D.C.

"Serving the poor is serving the Lord." With this motto as her guide in life, Sister Lourdes, a dentist, could not confine her activities to just extracting a tooth or filling a cavity but has gone far beyond into the realms of humanitarian endeavors.

While serving as dentist at the La Concordia College, her managerial and administrative abilities were already discerned by her superiors that her next assignment was as mother superior of the Asilo Milagrosa in Cebu. During her four-year stay, she put up an orphanage through donations and persistent begging from the affluent Cebuanos.

She was sent by the Congregation to Taiwan in 1959 and stayed there for eight years working hard and begging as usual for a school she established for the poor Chinese and children of American soldiers.

She was recalled to the Philippines to head the Hospicio de San Jose and during her nine years as Mother Superior of the Hospicio, the living, education and sports facilities were remodelled and Hospicio de San Jose now boasts of an air-conditioned nursery.

She was retired in 1975 by the Cardinal after she broke a hip in an accident while on her way to a holy retreat in Baguio. While recuperating at the Daughters of Charity Provincial House in Sukat, Parañaque, she spotted a vacant space originally intended for a clinic and that generated an urge to get involved once more. Only after a persistent appeal was she allowed to work again.

So, the "retiree" is again on her toes, directing and personally soliciting donations for a Kindergarten, a sewing class. a Sunday medical clinic and a Sunday catechism. With Rosa Rosal (1975 Tandang Sora awardee for Humanitarian Service), Teodoro Valencia and Macario Te as her principal donors, "I'm really nothing without them", she says, the St. Peregrine Development Center in Sukat now hums with activity.

Turning 78 years old on February 9, 1979, Sister Gomez' humanitarian service has been exemplary and a Tandang Sora award is most fitting.

## Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez

The role of Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez of Quezon City on the occasion of the 1979 Tandang Sora Awards is not only giving her yearly message. She is one of the awardees herself having excelled in the field of Government Service.

When told about the award, the Mayor was quick to say, "I'm very happy and proud to receive the award because judging from the previous awardees, they were selected from women who are really respected in their areas of concern."

In her area of concern, the lady mayor is indeed very much respected for having done so much in so short a time. After only two years as Quezon City Mayor, health centers, school buildings, parks, playgrounds, barangay halls, roads, artesian wells, etc., have been built all over and more projects are underway.

The Lady Mayor is not only respected but loved as well for her affability. Her doors at the Quezon City Hall are always open to all, the high and the low both getting prompt attention. In fact, her orders are to give those with less in life more in terms of service so that people don't feel cheated.

Mayor Rodriguez, one of the more than fifty women mayors in the country today was not plucked from nothing. Before her appointment as Quezon City Mayor, she was already known not only in Rizal but all over the country for her dynamic leadership in civic action as wife of Rizal Governor Isidro Rodriguez.

As a governor's wife and city mayor, she is involved in many organizations either as president, commissioner, governor, chairman or trustee and has attended various international conferences. She was an awardee of a Silver Humanitarian Cross in 1972, an Outstanding UST Alumna in Socio Civic Work in 1973, One of the Outstanding Women during the International Women's Year (1975) in public service and an Outstanding UST Alumna, College of Education in Social Service in 1976.

## Purita Kalaw-Ledesma

"I'm very proud of the prestigious award and one who gets it should feel honored," said Purita Kalaw-Ledesma, an equally prestigious lady when asked how she feels about the award.

The 1979 Tandang Sora awardee for the Arts in the field of Painting who is also president of three corporations is one of the founders and was first president of the Art Association of the Philippines. Her leadership propelled Philippine arts centerstage, sponsoring the first painting contests that offered attractive prizes to winners.

The relevance of art is better explained by Mrs. Ledesma, "Art should be a part of everyday life and one doesn't have to be an artist to appreciate it. The effect of art on a person is spiritual, uplifting like religion. Without the influence of Art, one can be materialistic, overconcerned only with earning a living. Art balances and can make one take tension better. One's feelings after listening to a symphony orchestra or simply watching a beautiful sunset would be different".

She dreams that one day, everybody can talk about Beethoven, Wagner, or Rotor, etc., and the subject not a monopoly of a particular group. With Humanities now a required subject, she has high hopes for Philippine Arts. "The Art Movement; painting, sculpture, or the graphic and other forms of art, have never been as active as today and the audience as intelligent and involved", says Mrs. Ledesma.

An A.B. M.A. (Education) U.P., she also took up Design at the University of Michigan and a three-year course in Painting back at U.P. Among the awards she has harvested are the President's Pro Patria Award for the Promotion of Fine Arts in 1961 and the Araw Ng Maynila Award for Fine Arts in 1973. She authored "The Struggle for Philippine Art in 1974 and another, a biography of Victorio Edades is coming out soon.

Mrs. Ledesma is President Emeritus of the Art Association of the Philippines and an active member of the Unesco National Commission and the Zonta Club of Manila.

## Encarnacion Alzona

This year's Tandang Sora Awardee in the field of Education is honored not only for the many "firsts" that she has achieved but also for her dedication while still in service and her contribution in terms of dissertations, articles, translations and civic activities in which she was mostly organizer and motivator.

Dr. Encarnacion Alzona is the first Filipino woman to complete a doctorate in Philosophy and first Filipino PH. in History. She was the first woman delegate of the Philippines to an international convention, the first secretary of the Philippine Association of University Women and the first President of Kababaihang Rizalista.

An M.A. (Education) U.P., 1918, Ph.D. (History) Columbia University, U.S.A., 1922, Dr. Alzona was regent at the University of the Philippines from 1959-61 and professor of history from 1917-1945.

Dr. Alzona received many honors and awards for her excellence: Tagatangkilik sa Wika Award in 1954, Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, Philippine Womens University, 1947, Award of Distinction, Philippine Institute of Public opinion, 1961, Republic Cultural Heritage Award in 1966. A Recognition with Highest Distinction from the Philippine Historical Association in 1975 to name only a few.

# 1979 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Dr. Fe S. Horilleno*



*Dr. Perla D. Santos Ocampo*

### Dolores H. Vera

The venerable lady who championed the cause of dignity and decency in Philippine movies cannot be left unrewarded now that with advanced technology, the movies have attracted bigger patronage and have became an important vehicle in the transformation of social and cultural values especially among the youth.

And with the present trend in movie making, one can only look back to the days when Doña Dolores, as General Manager of Sampaguita Pictures made movie recruits sign contracts with a "morality clause" signed by the movie star to the effect that not behaving according to proper moral standards would subject the actor or actress to expulsion, suspension or fine according to the gravity of the offense.

That attracted decent people, many coming from good families to Sampaguita, later Vera-Perez Productions and elevated movie acting to a dignified and legitimate profession. In effect, patronage increased. Not only the common masses but also the elite watched Filipino movies.

But Doña Dolores' contribution to popular entertainment does not end with the morality clause. Development of talents and personality was also her concern that she sent her talents to Dale Carnegie or Systomor training, to a public speaking course at the Ateneo, or to PWU for voice culture and advised them to attend only the right cultural and social functions.

The Doña's interest in acting started during her college days at the La Concordia College where she was acclaimed foremost thespian. A beauty herself during her time, she was crowned Miss Albay in 1916.

### Mercedes B. Concepcion

Chemist, statistician, sociologist – Dr. Mercedes B. Concepcion is all these and more. She has excelled in the field of social sciences.

As professor and dean of the Population Institute, U.P., Dr. Concepcion is ever on the lookout for vital subjects for study and assiduous in her search for funding, the institute never runs out of activity. Through continuous research and study, the Population Institute has been furnishing concerned agencies with the latest facts on the population situation in the country and the factors affecting them; social, cultural, economic, etc.., and determine the progress of the national planning program.

Her varied academic background and her past and present involvements all contribute in elevating her to the Tandang Sora Awards for 1979. She was a UP Distinguished Professional awardee in 1976.

She is a BS Chemistry, UP, 1951; has Certificate in Statistics as a Junior Fellow, University of Sydney, Australia, 1954; A PhD (Sociology), University of Chicago, 1963; and Doctor of Human Letters (honoris causa), Ateneo de Manila, 1970.

As Population Institute Dean, she is a member of the Board of Commissioners, Commission on Population; the East-West Population Institute, University of Hawaii and the Board of Advisers, Population Reference Bureau, Washington DC. She is the Philippine representative to the United Nations Population Commission.

Dr. Concepcion belongs to many other international organizations. She also writes on serious topics concerning demography and related topics and twelve of these papers were recently published.

### Fe. S. Horilleno, M.D.

At 86, Dr. Fe S. Horilleno, director for 25 years of the "Maternity and Children's Hospital now Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital, still recalls with pride the time when as a new doctor in 1918, she went to a slum area and from her own money, she built a "Camalig" where she gathered the poor mothers, educated them on the proper child care and delivered their babies.

The 1979 Tandang Sora awardee for her achievements in maternal and child care insists that doctors should not leave the country for there are so many things to do right here. A doctor with strong Christian principles, she said she took up medicine with the mission to help the people for love of God and country that she shunned marriage to devote all her time to service.

She finished her Medicine at the University of the Philippines and after passing the board examinations in 1918, she started serving the public, concluding it as director of the Maternity and Children's Hospital in 1958.

Her dedicated public service brought her several awards: a Diploma of Honor in 1948 from the National Federation of Women's Clubs in recognition of her services to mothers and children as director of MCH; one of the Most Outstanding Women Doctors of the Philippines Award in 1950, a Presidential Medal of Merit for Social Service in 1952, a Presidential Award in 1955 for her contributions to the success of the Feminists Movement given by the National Federation of Women's Clubs, the Most Distinguished alumna for 1956 of the Medical Alumni Society, U. P. and on November 28, 1978, she got another award also for maternal and childcare.

### Perla D. Santos ocampo, M.D.

After the multiple awards and citations honoring her numerous accomplishments and distinctions in the field of Pedriatrics and related subjects, Dr. Ocampo has remained the same soft spoken and accommodating lady that she is, the true measure of her greatness.

When informed that a Tandang Sora Award is to be added to her countless citations, she quips, "The awards really belong to the people I've worked for".

Dr. Santos Ocampo works 18-20 hours daily and with "organization and prioritizing", she has managed to be all these: Associate Professor and Assistant Chairman, Dept. of Pediatrics, U.P.; Chairman, Dept. of Pediatrics, Capitol Medical Center; Consultant, St. Lukes, Medical Center Manila, Polymedic General and Cardinal Santos General Hospitals. She is head of the Child Development Unit, PGH and at the same time attending to her child patients at the Capitol Medical Center, She is now working for the establishment of a school for chronically ill children at the Philippine General Hospital. The foregoing are but a few of her present involvements.

Dr. Santos Ocampo's involvements and accomplishments from the time she finished Medicine ranking 3rd. place at U.P. and after coping 6th place in the board examinations of 1955 have been duly recognized and rewarded in terms of honors, grants, citations, awards, plaques or certificates that to date, she can claim about 50 such distinctions to her name.

The two later citations she remembers with pride are her TOWNS AWARD (she was one of the Ten Outstanding Women of the New Society) she received in 1974 and the Outstanding Pediatrician Award in 1977. Dr. Santos Ocampo has written and edited many papers which won for her some of the citations.



*Sister Lourdes Gomez, D.C.*

# 1978 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Dr. Severina Luna Orosa*



*Justice Lourdes P. San Diego*

### Dr. Severina Luna Orosa
**1978 Tandang Sora Awardee for Medicine**

To talk to Severina Luna Orosa is to come in contact with the values and ideals of a generation long past. Patriotism, devotion to profession, dedication in serving ones family and fellowmen – these are the values she has lived by, unmindful of pay or fame.

Her works "Almost Within Grasp" and "Rizal's Challenge and Appeal" are a testimony to the unwavering idealism that has characterized her whole life.

Severina Luna finished Medicine at the University of the Philippines in 1914, becoming the first Filipino woman to graduate valedictorian of a medical class. After getting married to Dr. Sixto Ylagan Orosa, she joined him in Sulu to work in the Sulu Public Hospital and to introduce scientific methods of treatment to the Muslims. As the first Filipino Christian physician to serve in the Muslim South, she sowed seeds of love and brotherhood among the Muslims, serving as obstetrician, pediatrician, bacteriologist, anaesthesiologist, and often, even assistant-surgeon (there being no other but her husband and her medical staff of the hospital). But even as she dispensed her duties as a doctor, she did not neglect her responsibilities as wife to her husband and as mother to her growing children.

Mrs. Orosa is also credited for having written the first manuscript on sex education. Her pamphlet "Sex Education in the Home" (circa 1920) considerably antedates the current move to educate the young on sex matters.

To bring up five children all accomplished in their fields, to be a wife to a husband in a marriage that grew stronger with the years, to be a physician true to the Hippocratic oath of selflessness and service – all these Dra. Orosa has done, liberating her person of all concern for self – and, in the process, showing us what it should mean to be a Woman Libber.

### Justice Lourdes San Diego
**1978 Tandang Sora Awardee in Government Service**

"As the touchstone which tries gold, but is not itself tried by gold, such is he who has the true standard of judgment." – lines from Epictetus which most fittingly describe Lourdes P. San Diego, LL.B. (Cum Laude) and Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals.

Having been steeped in Christian values and ideals since childhood and having studied not only Law but also Music and the Humanities, Justice San Diego cannot but possess the "integrity" that is a just judge's "portion" and main virtue.

From the moment she was appointed to the bench in 1958 as Judge of the Court of First Instance to the time she was elevated to the position of Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals, Justice San Diego has displayed an indomitable courage in the exercise of her powers. It was she who tried and convicted the notorious "Big Four," a crime syndicate that had till then managed to evade conviction through the use of power and "pull." It was also she who convicted policemen and sons of prominent families who had heretofore made a mockery of justice by exerting influence and force. Because of her "judicious exercise of discretion and absolute resistance to undue influence," the multi-awarded Justice San Diego has greatly contributed in the upholding of truth and justice in the country. As outstanding mother, teacher, civic leader and judge, she has accomplished deeds that are the pride, not only of her family, but also of her nation.



*Ms. Kerima Polotan*



*Mrs. Salud S. Tesoro*



*Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos*

### Ms. Kerima Polotan
**1978 Tandang Sora Awardee for the Arts in the field of Literature**

"A writer is dear and necessary for us only in the measure in which he reveals to us the inner working of his soul." Leo Tolstoi

Born in Jolo, Sulu, Kerima Polotan Tuvera, wife to Juan C. Tuvera and mother of ten children – is one writer who writes from the heart, making of her feelings and thoughts works of art. From a reading of her works, one can judge that Mrs. Tuvera has lived a rich, full life, for the marks are all there – the soul laid bare, responding to the different nuances of living. In the words of writer-critic Edith L. Tiempo, ". . . it is life that effervesces, steams, and spills over" in her works, the kinds of writing that leaves one aching for more.

As to be expected, Mrs. Tuvera has received numerous awards in recognition of her talent. She has received six Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, two Philippines Free Press Awards for Fiction, the Stonehill Award for the Novel, the Asia Magazine Award for Fiction, and the Republic Heritage Award for Literature.

If only for the fact that she has managed to depict life faithfully and naturally, leaving her readers a little wiser, a little more perceptive of the many faces of living, Kerima Polotan Tuvera deserves all the awards accorded her. In answering her calling, she has done much to enrich Philippine Literature in English. May her tribe increase.

### Mrs. Salud Tesoro
**1978 Tandang Sora Awardee in Business and Industry**

"Right is might" might very well be the life-philosophy of Mrs. Salud S. Tesoro, founder and owner of the vast Tesoro's Exclusive Philippine Handicrafts, which has, for the past thirty years or more, been a source of employment to not less than 15,000 Filipinos.

Honesty, integrity, good public relations, and hard work – these constitute Mrs. Tesoro's formula for success.

Because she was born into the business of handicraft-making, she grew to love and master it, and driven by an unstinting pride in things Philippine, worked to upgrade and propagate it.

For her outstanding contribution in projecting the Philippine image abroad through quality-controlled native handicrafts, and for "having helped awaken in our countrymen a love for what is truly our own," Mrs. Tesoro has received the Philippine Marketing Association Award for being One of the Outstanding Women in Business, 1967, and the Presidential Award of Merit for Business, 1968. But most important of all, she has succeeded in bringing up ten children who have equally grown to love and propagate things Philippine.

### Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos
**1978 Tandang Sora Awardee for Humanitarian Service**

A landowner's daughter, Doña Josefa Edralin Marcos chose teaching as a lifetime career. As wife of Don Mariano Marcos, Pre-war Ilocos Norte Congressman and Davao Governor, Doña Josefa raised and motivated her brood. It is to her that the young Ferdinand E. Marcos owes an early obsession with success and excellence. As the President's mother, Doña Josefa is very much involved in the ameliorization of the plight of the underprivileged youth, the poor and the disposessed.

In recognition of her numerous projects, she has been the recipient of honorary doctorate from Philippine Universities and awards from various civic, social and cultural groups.

# 1978 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Mrs. Belen E. Gutierrez*

## Belen Enrile Gutierrez

**1978 Tandang Sora Awardee in the Field of Education**

Belen Enrile Gutierrez, if we must say, is a "Woman of First." Notching the second place in the CPA Board Examinaitions in 1923, she became the First Woman Certified Public Accountant of the Philippines. Backed by a string of degrees (Bachelor of Science in Commerce, University of the Philippines; Master of Science Columbia Univesity; Graduate Studies in Statistics, University of Michigan), she dared move where women feared to tread and became the First Woman Member of the Monetary Board of the Central Bank, the First Woman Board Member of the ACFA, the First Woman Board Member of NAMARCO, and the First Woman President of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

As former President of the CAWP, as former President of the Girl Scout of the Philippines, as former President of the Philippine Women's University, as former President of the YWCA of the Philippines, and as dedicated teacher, she has done her share in the molding of our youths and in the crusade for moral regeneration.

In recognition of her achievements, she has received numerous awards, two of which are the PICPA Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Accounting Profession in the Philippines in the field of Accounting Education and Research, and the Presidential Award of Merit for distinguished achievements as Administrator, Executive, Educator and Civic Leader.

Presently the President of the Humanitarian Science Foundation and the Vice-President of the Narcotics Foundation of the Philippines, the kindhearted, exceptionally principled and brilliant Mrs. Gutierrez is one woman who believes in giving the best of her self to God and country.

## Narcisa B. de Leon

**1978 Tandang Sora Awardee in the Field of Popular Entertainment**

Strong-willed, hardworking, indefatigable, and disciplined, the late Narcisa B. de Leon, pioneer moviemaker, could not but be successful in all her undertakings.

Born to a dynamic, enterprising woman who taught her the value of work, Doña Sisang grew up to be an expert in almost everything she handled. Farming, real estate business, moviemaking – name it, she knew how to run it. For she was one person who believed in doing things worth doing and doing them well. Fortified by a purpose that transcended the desire for mere material accumulation, Doña Sisang worked hard to build the resources that would enable her to better serve others. Always generous, she donated freely to those who needed money and gave part of her heart to those who needed love.

As founder-owner of the famous LVN Studio, she was responsible for the production of films which, while they entertained, upheld age-old traditions and values. In the words of Monina A. Mercado, "Doña Sisang as a moviemaker was also a value-setter." Unshakable in her moral stand, to her stars and employees she served as "Lola," unrelenting in her efforts to infuse them with a love for what is good and right.

Because of a life well lived in service to kith and kin and all, more important than any award she received during her lifetime was the peace that marked her death. With her children all around her, trying hard to prolong her life, at 89, Doña Sisang gave up her soul to her Maker with the words, "Ipaubaya na ninyo ako sa Panginoon." Holy words from a pious woman who, in her wealth and success, never once forgot the Source of it all.

## RESPONSE

**by Kerima Polotan**



Allow me please on behalf of today's awardees to thank you for the distinct honor of having been singled out in memory of Melchora Aquino. It seems only fitting that the awards be held here, near where she is supposed to have lived, giving aid and comfort to the soldiers of a country struggling out of a long night of colonization.

I don't really know what else to say on this occasion, except to share with you some of the trepidation I felt on being notified. I don't know if on this particular point I can speak for all the awardees, but awards, especially awards of this nature, generally leave a woman nervous. This is because awards so prestigious and so serious as this are usually given only to old women who are about to die, and who then are cast in bronze or stone after their death. No woman likes to think of herself as old, the thought of dying being to most a kinder thought to bear than the thought of old age, and if she is to be cast in stone, she would doubtless like some say on the shape of the statue. And this she very well can't do if she's dead.

This probably explains the stampede among our stylish and affluent ladies to be immortalized on canvas or in stone while alive, so that they might still be able to point out to the artist where a nose may be lifted, some wrinkles erased, and a few telltale inches nipped off here and there.

Such vanity surely never crossed Melchora Aquino's mind, but then she lived in simpler times, when duty was clear-cut and a woman's priorities were well defined. Today, however, buffeted by many tides, besieged by the many sophisticated terrors of civilization, tempted by the many distractions of media, confused by the many adjurations of her betters – she is told by advertisers to stay young and desirable, she is told by psychiatrists to stay cool, she is told by her sisters in the liberation movement to stay free, and she is told by the church to stay pure – it is a rare and fortunate woman who, living in this age so aptly described as an age of "gadgetry and multiple convenience" knows where she is going, and gets there.

When a woman is young, she thinks she lives for love. When she has a family, she thinks she lives for her husband and children. When she is old, she thinks she now must live for God. When then does she begin to live for herself? I do not speak here of the physical self, the self that we must indulge in beauty parlors and at gaming tables and in fashion shops, but the thoughtful, creative, responsible, and sensitive self that must have existed in large measure in the woman we honor today which so moved her to take the risks she did.

We have women like those in our midst today, except that not all of them do their risking in war. Women like Margaret Mead, Lillian Hellman, Mary McCarthy, and our own Pura Santillan Castrence, Paz Marquez Benitez, Edith L. Tiempo, Paz Latorena, Loreto Paras-Sulit. Women in social work like Geronima Pecson, Fanny Aldaba Lim, Josefa Llanes Escoda, and Maria Orosa. Women in medicine, law, business, the arts, public life – women who for the most part, I like to think, have overcome the strictures of physical vanity and now address themselves to the frontiers of the mind.

Beauty is important only to the young, or should be. It is a good gift to receive from the gods, but a thinking mind is better, and is becoming to both young and old women. Used unwisely, beauty ends up being a bondage, enslaving a woman in a dangerous infatuation with herself, but the human mind, enlightened by education, liberates – it sets a woman free. That is why I think that the best time in a woman's life comes after she is forty and liberated. Assuming of course, that she has a mind she has used to liberate herself.

When she is 40, her child-bearing days are over and nature returns her body to her at last. If she has hung on to her mind in the meantime, deepening and sharpening her perceptions on her own experiences and those of others, then the prospect of aging holds no fears for her and she ushers herself into a new dawn: the exhilaration and excitement of being her own woman at last, her own self, her very own liberated person.

At 40 or twice 40, her feet are firmly on the ground. She will have become familiar with discipline and hard work. She values friendships and acknowledges loyalties. She can tell the true from the false (we hope). She will have measured romance and all the other vicissitudes of life and put them in their proper places, in her own life. If she can no longer return to the innocence of her youth, she can do other things now: she hopes, she trusts and she prays.

It is a sensitive kind of liberation that I am trying to define this morning for it has nothing to do with burning bras or learning the martial arts to enable us to defend ourselves against rapists.

It comes to the woman who has a mind and speaks it; who has a will and executes it; who has courage and uses it.

For the woman with such a mind, the self she serves is the self she discovers only if she first loses it. That is a free and rather reckless paraphrase of something a prophet once said. But in the life of Melchora Aquino whom we honor today, and the lives of other women whose examples illumine our own, the common factor seems to have been that they were all moved by a self that recognized duties and responsibilities bigger than and outside of themselves, that touched not only their families and their neighborhoods but also their country and their people.

Such a liberation, however, is not possible without the help of men, and that is probably one reason the movement to liberate women has not progressed as quickly as it should, for it quite misses its mark. The movement has agitated to liberate woman from man, when it should be a liberation of woman with man, a release of the two genders from the shackles of bigotry, superstition, tradition, myth. Also ignorance and poverty.

The heavier chains are forged by ignorance and poverty, and I would beg this distinguished audience, seated serenely here in the sun this kind and gentle morning, to remember all those women whose lives are far removed from honors and awards; who are ignorant, poor, and uneducated, who live far away from the blinding light of publicity and the reach of organized compassion, who come from nothing and will doubtless go on to nothing, who look to the more seemingly fortunate for help to ease their desperation. They too are casualties, like Melchora Aquino's soldiers, in the daily grinding battle to survive.

They more than the honored and awarded ones, have made the perpetuation of the race possible. Poverty has rendered them hardy, and ignorant, tenacious, and they hang on to the edge of that grim cliff because to let go would mean losing the only thing they have, which is life, wretched and meager though that might be.

May I therefore, in the name of the unawarded and anonymous millions, accept and thank you for this honor, and wish you all good morning.

# 1977 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Ms. Helen Benitez*



*Bai Hadji Fatima Matabay Plang*



*Dr. Lucrecia R. Kasılag*



*Ms. Atang de la Rama*



*Ms. Julita V. Sotejo*

### Ms. Helen Benitez
**1977 Tandang Sora Awardee in Education**

The family background of Helena Z. Benitez, Ambassador Extra-ordinary and Plenipotentiary, is impressive: she had for a father Conrado Benitez, member of the 1935 Constitutional Convention Committee which drafted the Philippine Constitution; she had for a mother Francisca Tirona Benitez, one of the founders of the Philippine Women's University and Founder-President of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines.

The educational background of Helena Z. Benitez is formidable; Bachelor or Arts, Magna Cum Laude (Philippine Women's University); Bachelor of Science in Education, Magna Cum Laude; Master of Arts (George Washington University); and Doctor of Humane Letters, Honoris Causa (Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart).

The achievements of Helena Z. Benitez are staggering. As senator, she authored bills that answered to the needs of many Filipinos. Some of these are: R. A. 5462, setting up and funding of the National Manpower and Youth Development Center and Program; R.A. 5752, providing funds for a system of nationwide municipal green belts, forests, tree parks and water sheds; and R. A. 6026, providing for social and economic uplift of dislocated families relocated in resettlement sites. As President-Emeritus of the Philippine Women's University, as Founder-President of the Bayanihan Folk Arts Association, and as former President of the Civic Assembly of the Women of the Philippines, she has helped tremendously in the education of our youths, in the promotion of our culture, and in the betterment of Philippine life conditions in general.

The awards accorded Helena Z. Benitez are overwhelming. Some of these are: the Philippine Legion of Honor Award (for volunteer services and war efforts 1941-1945); the Presidential Medal of Merit and Diploma of Honor for Outstanding Work in Education; and the Presidential Award for Outstanding achievements in International Cultural Relations.

The impression one gets of Helena Z. Benitez is that she is: "La Femme Extraordinaire."

### Bai Hadji Fatima Matabay Plang
**1977 Tandang Sora Awardee in Government Service**

Loving one's brothers, regardless of color, race, or creed, seems to be the guiding principle of Bai Hadji Fatima Matabay Plang, a Muslim Filipino who has worked for the betterment of Filipinos, Muslims and Christians alike.

With an E.T.C. and a B.S.E. degree tucked to name, Bai Matabay Plang underwent extensive studies abroad, with emphasis on social welfare and agricultural and vocational training for youths. Armed with the knowledge and the desire to help in the education and training of Filipino youths, she came back to the country and, mainly through her efforts, the Mindanao Institute of Technology (now the University of Southern Mindanao) was established in 1954, and the Children's Educational Foundation Village (of which she is the Executive Director), in 1967. The USM and the CEFV (which houses and educates orphans and indigent children of Muslims, Chrsitans, and other ethnic groups) now boast of graduates gainfully employed in both government and private businesses. Because she opened the avenue for closer Muslim-Christian interaction, Bai Matabay Plang succeeded in somehow narrowing the gap of mistrust between Muslims and Christians.

A Golden Harvest Awardee for her humanitarian work and a recipient of the Diamond Award of the Educational System of the Philippine for 50 years of dedicated service in the government, Bai, "already old but still dreaming," is now proposing the establishment in Mindanao of the Senior Citizens Paradise Village (which will serve as home to the aged, especially the government retirees), the Health Resort and Outdoor Recreational Center (which, while serving as a tourist attraction, will help in the promotion of health and the prevention of health and the prevention of diseases), and the Mt. Apo Institute of Forestry (which will educate and train youths who will eventually be responsible for the preservation and cultivation of Philippine trees, wood, shrubs and other forms of plant life).

These are big dreams, but if Bai Hadji Fatima Matabay Plang lives to see their fulfillment, she will not have lived in vain.

### Dr. Lucrecia R. Kasilag
**1977 Tandang Sora Awardee for the Arts in the Field of Music**

Lucrecia R. Kasilag, from the moment she was a child, has always loved music. Her mother, a musician herself, knew this and, recognizing her daughter's talent, encouraged her to develop it. Thus, Miss Kasilag did and – in the process – grew up to become a renowned music educator, composer and writer. A holder of several degrees (Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Music from the Philippine Women's University Master of Music from Eastman School of Music, and Doctor of Music, honoris causa, from Centro Escolar University), Miss Kasilag is the President of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and concurrently the Director of the Performing Arts. She also holds key positions in national and international organizations, is Chairman of both the League of Filipino Composers and the Asian Composers' League. For her outstanding contribution in the field of Music and Culture, she has received numerous awards, some of which are the Republic Cultural Heritage Award in Music, 1960 and 1966; the Federal Republic of Germany Presidential Award for the Officer's Cross of Merit, 1975; and the French Government Award for Letters, 1978.

Ever willing to continue to be deserving of all the accolades accorded her, Miss Kasilag says she will, with the help of the people concerned, continue reaching out to a broader base of people, for she believes that the advancement of music appreciation in this country should start in the grassroots level. To bring good music to everyone, to strengthen the music program, and to fight the pollution of chief Philippine music – all these have to be done, and toward their realizaton Miss Kasilag says she will help, for being in the vantage position, she can surely do no less.

### Ms. Atang de la Rama
**1977 Tandang Sora Awardee in the Field of Popular Entertainment**

From a child eagerly learning her first music lessons from her brother-in-law, the late composer Professor Leon Ignacio, Atang de la Rama rose to become the country's "Queen of Kundiman" and Prima Donna of Filipino Theater."

A pharmacist by profession, she attended classes in the "Royal Dramatic Theater Academy" of N.Y. in 1925, studied piano, violin, and voice and emerged, both by study and inclination, a stage actress and directress, a playwright and a lyricist.

For being the first Filipino to introduce the Kundiman and folk Songs abroad, and for other major and minor contributions to Philippine Stage and to the Philippine Motion Picture Industry, Ms. de la Rama has been a recipient of various awards, two of which are the Presidential Medal of Merit, 1966, and the "Diwa ng Lahi" Award, 1974, About the Tandang Sora Award she says she is very glad, for she has long been an admirer of Melchora Aquino, a woman who, according to her, has proven to all and sundry that it does not take a college education to show one's love for country.



**Ms. Julita V. Sotejo**
**1977 Tandang Sora Awardee**
**for Science in the Field of Nursing**

Valedictorian in elementary school, salutatorian in high school, magna cum laude in the Philippine General Hospital School of Nursing, valedictorian in Philippine Law School, first-placer in the Board Examination for Nurses, first placer in the Civil Service Examination for Nurses, sixth placer in the Bar Examinations, 1937, and a graduate with Class "A" Honors of the University of Toronto, Canada – all these are Julita V. Sotejo – Florence Nightingale Awardee and President of the Academy of Nursing of the Philippines.

Guided by her belief that every person should work hard in every way, think more of others and less of self – Miss Sotejo has given more than her share in upgrading the Nursing profession in the country.

She has been largely responsible for the creation of the UP College of Nursing of which she is the Dean, and has made and is still making several studies in nursing, especially in the field of curriculum. These studies are aimed at improving nursing service in the country and at meeting the ever-increasing demands of present-day society for knowledgeable, skillful nurses who will minister to their patients in a personal, selfless way. She has also donated a Medical Laboratory Building to the municipality of Gasan, Marinduque for the use of the people of Gasan and other towns, and for the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases.

All these she has done – and more – for although Julita V. Sotejo cannot move the world, she promises to give her share in making it a little better.

## RESPONSE
**by Lucrecia R. Kasilag**

In behalf of the four distinguished Tandang Sora colleague-awardees and of my humble self, I speak to convey to the Tandang Sora Awards Committee and the Bayaning Filipino Foundation our deepest appreciation and profound gratitude for our selection as recipients of the 1977 Tandang Sora Awards.

It is with mixed feelings of pride and humility that we receive this distinctive award named after the venerated revolutionary heroine of the Katipuneros of the 19th century – Melchora Aquino, whose 165th birthday anniversary we commemorate today, significantly, in fact, on the feast of the Epiphany, of the Three Wise Men, one of whom was her name-sake.

Tandang Sora, as she was affectionately called by the Katipuneros brought great honor to the fair sex with her unflagging and self-sacrificing service, her rugged fortitude and courage, in utter disregard of herself in the face of risks and dangers threatening her as she spent her ripe old age most fruitfully in ministering to the urgent needs of the battleworn activists of the Spanish revolution led by Andres Bonifacio himself.

Today's event is indeed an awesome occasion for us where the memory of Tandang Sora is fittingly kept alive in the heart and in the mind of every Filipino, with the Tandang Sora Memorial Shrine in Himlayang Pilipino Park, appropriately consecrated in her honor, right here in the very forest which was the historical scene of her many kindly deeds bravely rendered for the love of country and fellowmen heroic deeds now legend to all and sundry, a saga of our national heritage!

Therefore, the five Tandang Sora awardees for 1977 who have in their own measure of competence rendered marked service in government, in nursing and medicine, in popular arts and entertainment, in music and culture, and in education and international relations, are all much deeply honored to be associated with this sublime and revered figure who was the epitome of the virtues of Filipino womanhood – now a shining and cherished symbol of the exalted and dynamic role of the Filipina in the development of the nation. With this Tandang Sora Award, we are doubly thankful and happily inspired in our continued pursuit of the truth, the good and the beautiful, and in our dedicated service to God, country and humanity.

Pinagpipitagan naming Tandang Sora,
Taos puso kaming bumabati sa
inyong kaarawan ngayon – sa mga
kahangahanga na inyong mga isinagawa
ukol sa Bayan, dahil sa inyong labis na
pagmamahal sa lupang tinubuan.
Taglay po sa aming diwa't damdamin
ang inyong matataas na layunin at
dakilang hangarin na itinanim sa aming
mga puso!

Maraming salamat po.

# 1976 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Pura Santillan-Castrence*



*Hon. Geronima Pecson*

**Pura Santillan Castrence**
**1976 Tandang Sora Awardee**
**in Government Service**

"Sincerity in everything one does" is the guiding motto of Pura Santillan Castrence – educator, diplomat, writer, linguist.

A mother of seven children, this lady who can speak Pilipino, French, Italian, Spanish, English, and German fluently, believes in giving the best of what she's got in all her undertakings. With a Ph.C, an M.S. (major in Chemistry), and a Ph.D (major in Romance Languages) tucked to her name Mrs. Castrence has excelled in the Educational, the Diplomatic, and the Writing Fields.

As educator, she has taught chemistry, French, English, humanities, and literature in various universities, including the University of the Philippines, the Far Eastern University, the MLQ University, the University of the East, and the University of Bonn, Germany. She is slated to teach in the Adult Education Department of the University of Western Australia.

As diplomat, she had, until her retirement in 1970, graced the Diplomatic Field as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and as Assistant Secretary for Cultural Affairs. In these diplomatic capacities she represented the Philippines frequently as Head of the Official Delegation in different conferences abroad.

As writer, she has twice been named Best Woman Writer in English for the many essays, books, and brochures she has written, both for local and foreign publications.

In recognition of her achievements in these various fields, she has been a recipient of the Distinguished Alumna Award of the University of the Philippines, the Barbour Scholarship, the Leader Grant from the U.S. Government, and the Legion of Honor Cross from the French Government.

Indeed, Pura Santillan Castrence, in living by her motto, has contributed much to the growth and advancement of the nation.

**Hon. Geronima Pecson**
**1976 Tandang Sora Awardee**
**in Education**

Honorable Geronima Pecson, First Woman Senator of the Philippines and hardcore educator, is, by any standard, a woman accomplished. In her capacities as teacher, senator, and international luminary she has been of outstanding service to her country.

As principal of the Gomez Elementary School before the war, she put up a special pavilion for tubercular teachers in the Quezon Institute, a pavilion which still stands, serving sick, destitute teachers.

As first woman senator of the land, she instituted reforms that covered education, health, and youth problems: she worked for the standardization of the salary scales of teachers, suggested the establishment of more vocational schools in public education, worked for UNESCO's assistance in vocational education in agriculture, proposed as early as the '50's the creation of childcare centers and the provision of enriched rice, in place of polished rice, for the poor.

As international luminary, she has participated in world conferences,

# 1976 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Ms. Leonor Orosa Goquinco*



*Dr. Fe del Mundo*



*Mrs. Loreto Paras-Sulit*



*Miss Katy de la Cruz*

serving as member of the UNESCO Executive Board in Paris in 1950 and as Chairman of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines in 1957.

Active even in retirement, she spearheaded a campaign that led to the formation in 1966 of the Foundation for Youth Development in the Philippines Inc., an organization which strives to help the illiterate and semi-literate out-of-school youth acquire "functional literacy."

On the basis of her accomplishments, Honorable Geronima Pecson, without doubt, has a heart big enough to accommodate not only her family and friends but the rest of her countrymen.

## Ms. Leonor Orosa Goquingco
### 1976 Tandang Sora Awardee for the Arts in the field of the Dance

Born of Sixto Ylagan Orosa and Severina Luna Orosa, what could Leonor Orosa Goquingco be but a "Total Woman"?

Playwright, poet, critic, choregrapher, dancer, mother wife – and not necessarily in that order of importance – Leonor Orosa Goquingco has done for Philippine Dance what artists of less calibre would fail to do in several lifetimes. Known as the "Mother of Philippine Theatre Dance", Mrs. Goquingco has recéived innumerable awards in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the creation and the propagation of Philippine folkloric ballet and her "inspiring the formation of similar groups in other lands." Some of these awards are the Presidential Award of Merit, the Republic Heritage Award, and the Rizal Centennial Award.

Starting as a teener with only her idealism, talent and youth to back her, Leonor Orosa set out to study Philippine Dance and to imbue it with her brand of artistry until it emerged glowingly new and yet vibrantly Filipino. She has received high praise and admiration from all over the world, especially for her creation of the highly original "FILIPINESCAS" Philippine Life, Legend, and Lore in Dance" called by Nick Joaquin "the peak" in the development of Philippine dance.

If she had foreseen all the hazards, difficulties, and obstacles would she still do what she has done if given the chance?

National Artist Leonor Orosa Goquingco smiles and says she certainly would, if she were once again idealistic and young.

## Dr. Fe del Mundo
### 1976 Tandang Sora Awardee for Medicine in the Field of Pediatrics

Service to humanity takes varied forms. Dr. Fe del Mundo – Director and Founder of the Children's Medical Center Philippines, Inc. and the First Filipino President of The International Women's Medical Association has fittingly chosen Medicine through which to channel her humanitarian deeds.

She took Pediatrics because she say many ill and dying children, are left unattended and untreated because of a lack of specialists. She founded The Children's Medical Center because she felt the need to pass on her knowledge and experience to others who might want to be of service to the sick. To be a doctor is an ongoing act of charity and because Dr. Fe del Mundo chose to believe and practice this, she has won a place in the hearts of the mothers whose children she has treated, and the respect and admiration of her colleagues, both here and abroad.

In 1948 she received the Award of Merit for being the "Founder and First Director of the North General Hospital"; in 1956 she was the recipient of the Presidential Award of Merit for being the "Woman Physician of the Year"; in 1966 she was granted by the Hobart and William Smith College, Geneva, N.Y. the Elizabeth Blackwell Award for "Outstanding Service to Mankind"; and in the same year she was the Kiwanis and International Brotherhood Association Awardee for "her contribution to an image of the Philippines as a Christian country interested in alleviating the lot of the unfortunate".

Indeed, Dr. Fe del Mundo, M.D., M.A., Doctor Honoris Causa, is a living testimony to the fact that it does not take marriage for a woman to find her purpose in life.

## Ms. Loreto Paras Sulit
### 1976 Tandang Sora Awardee for Humanitarian Services

An A.B.S.E. Magna Cum Laude graduate of the University of the Philippines Loreto Paras Sulit – school teacher, prize-winning short story writer, and civic worker – was the First Woman Secretary General of the Philippine National Red Cross. Under her helm the PNRC grew into the premier volunteer humanitarian organization in the country, with established leadership and expertise among the 122 member Red Cross Societies of the world. A feat? Not really. Mrs. Sulit says her life and activities have indeed gone with the tide of the so-called "Women's Liberation Movement," but she still believes that this is a "man's world," and should remain such "in order not to run counter to the ecological balance of nature."

Now retired, Mrs. Sulit is as active as ever. She is the full-time Executive Director of the Council of Welfare Agencies Foundation that links up 45 member agencies, both public and private, toward the common objective of improving welfare service delivery. She also does volunteer work for the Girl Scouts of the Philippines. The Philippine Foundation for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, and the Philippine Elderly Persons Foundation. She believes that all Tandang Sora Awardees should formally unite into an association so that they could continue the work for which they have been awarded, on a volunteer capacity.

Ever selfless and large of heart, Mrs. Sulit will probably spend the rest of her life helping people, for, according to her, "suffering and need never take a holiday."

## Catalina de la Cruz
### 1976 Tandang Sora Awardee in the Field of Popular Entertainment

From a seven-year-old girl singing to the lusty cheers of bettors in a cockpit sometime in 1914, the "batibot bulugan" (tomboyish)Catalina de la Cruz sang and danced her way through adolescence and on to adulthood to become Katy de la Cruz, Queen of Philippine Stage.

With a voice that goes husky, mellow, and then throaty and jazzily hoarse, Katy de la Cruz performs with an enthusiasm that contaminates and a dynamism that enthralls. Many a darkened moment has been brightened by her songs, many a sagging spirit lifted by her presence. Katy de la Cruz on Stage is Entertainment at Its Best and because of this, she has won raves both here and abroad. In Honolulu she was called "Mistress of the Jazz" and "Toast to the Entertainment World"; in her country she is considered an Institution in Philippine Entertainment.

Not having allowed time to diminish her lustre, Katy de la Cruz, Performer Par Excellence, has had her entrance, and it will take many more years, it seems, before she makes her exit.

# 1975 Tandang Sora Awardees





*Sis. Ma. Rosalina Abejo, R.V.M.*



*Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma*



*Dr. Liceria B. Soriano*



*Ms. Rosa Rosal*



*Dr. Stella L. Zamora*

### Sis. Ma. Rosalina Abejo
**1975 Tandang Sora Awardee for the Arts in the Field of Music**

With a Baccalaureate degree and a Master's degree in Music from Lourdes College, St. Scholastica's College, and the Philippine Women's University, backed by doctoral courses taken at leading Schools of Music abroad, Sister Ma. Rosalina Abejo, R.V.M., Dean of the School of Music of St. Mary's College and-the only religious symphony conductress in the world-has lived a life of constant praise to the Lord. "Music," and author once said, "is the language of praise," and through music, Sister Abejo has praised and served the Lord Who, in her own words, "is the only personality worth working for, living for, and dying for."

Fired by her great love for her Creator, she has found it fit to develop and use the talent He gave her to serve Him and His people. Among other things, she has organized community orchestras in Mindanao, contributed to the upliftment of the disadvantaged through her music teachings and concerts for charity, contributed to the cultural development of the nation through her authorship of supplementary music textbooks and more than 400 compositions, ranging from song to symphony, represented with distinction our nation in international conferences and conventions and, most important of all, served as a shining example of what it means to be a humble, selfless servant of the Lord.

A recipient of the 1967 Republic Cultural Heritage Award for Music, a recipient of multifarious awards in recognition of her talent and contributions to humanity, Sister Abjeo says she is only doing what she can to spread love and goodwill in the world – through music. With a mission such as this and a Backer such as He, how can she fail?

### Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma
**1975 Tandang Sora Awardee in Government Service**

Courage, integrity, love for God, family and country – these we believe are the major virtues of Cecilia Muñoz Palma – first Placer in the Bar Examinations of 1937 and the First Woman Justice of the Supreme Court.

As a student, Cecilia Munoz Palma was outstanding. She graduated high school valedictorian from St. Scholastica's College, was a consistent scholar at the University of the Philippines where she got her LIB and passed the Bar Examinations in 1937 with the highest grade of 92.6%.

As a wife and mother, Cecilia Munoz Palma is exemplary. For forty-one years she kept her marriage intact and her family happy. In court she always has the last word, but at home she puts herself in the position of wife subordinate to husband.

As a Catholic, Cecilia Munoz Palma is devout. She hears Mass everyday and volunteers to play the organ at the noon mass at the Ateneo Chapel in Padre Faura. She is an active member of various civic and religious organizations, is former President of the Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines, and is Founder of the WLAP Free Legal Aid Clinic. God-loving and God-fearing, she says she owes her position and prestige to God without whom she has nothing.

As a judge, Cecilia Munoz Palma is beyond reproach. Courageous, compassionate and just, she tempers her judgment with mercy but applies the full force of the law whenever she sees fit. In critical times, alone but undaunted, she showed exceptional courage and love for country by standing in defense of freedom and human rights.

Because she has acquitted herself with honor in all her fields of endeavor, because she has proven true to her convictions and principles, and because she has shown the Filipinos the true meaning of valor, we congratulate Cecilia Munoz Palma, the Filipino Woman who, in her own way and in her own time, has exemplified the sterling qualities of Tandang Sora.

### Dr. Liceria B. Soriano
**1975 Tandang Sora Awardee for Education**

A holder of a B.S.E. degree from St. Mary's College and an Ed. Doctorate degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, Dr. Liceria B. Soriano says her natural interest in children and in education has made her the educator that she is.

Having taught in grade school, high, school, college, and graduate school, Dr. Soriano forged ahead to become the country's First Woman Director of Public Schools. She has also been an organizer and director of successful educational projects and programs, an author of professional and children's books on science, and has travelled far and wide, attending and officiating in conferences and seminars, both national and international. She was Vice-President of the International Bureau of Education in Geneva, Switzerland. In 1970, she was also Chairman of the Asian Association of Biology Education, three terms since 1967, and Vice-Chairman of the Regional Center for Science and Mathematics, Penang, Malaysia, 1966-1970. A recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, two of which are the PNS-PNC Award of Merit for Leadership in Education, April, 1970, and the Presidential Award of Merit in Education, May, 1970, Dr. Soriano is presently the Director of the SEAMEO Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (an organization with eight member countries), whose aims are to try to identify the problems of education in Southeast Asia, to find solutions to these problems, and to discover new ways of teaching and learning.

In line with these aims, she says she will continue to do her share in further improving the system of education in our country, for to quote her, "Yes, I am fulfilled, but not yet finished."

### Ms. Rosa Rosal
**1975 Tandang Sora Awardee for Humanitarian Services**

Rosa Rosal – Movie Queen of 1953, recipient of the Silver Humanitarian Cross, 1964; CAT Awardee for Best TV Actress, 1969; and Towns Awardee for Humanitarian Service, 1974 – is obviously both talented and humane.

She became an actress by inclination and chance, a social worker by purpose and her heart's insistence. Excelling both as an actress and as a social worker, she has won recognition in both fields. She received the Presidential Citation for Magnificent Performance in the picture "ANAK DALITA," which she won highest honors in 1956 in the Southeast Asia Film Festival. She was also the first recipient of the Tandang Sora Award for Humanitarian Service in 1975. But over and above, she has been rewarded with a "feeling of satisfaction that no amount of words, money or awards can express."

Ms. Rosa Rosal is presently the Governor of the Red Cross, the Chairman of the Blood Bank, and the Director of the Band of Mercy. She has a daily public-service show on television, which she says, lasts only an hour, but whose demands sometimes entail 18 hours of work a day. Besides these, she organizes gift-distributions and raffles for different orphanages and charitable institutions.

Is she happy? Very. Exhausted? Not really, for she feels it the duty of every citizen to give whatever he can of himself to country.

## Dr. Estela L. Zamora
### 1975 Tandang Sora Awardee in the Field of Science

Dr. Estela L. Zamora, First Woman Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Santo Tomas, is, on the basis of her record, an outstanding person.

Graduating summa cum laude from the University of Santo Tomas with the degree of B.S. Chemistry in 1952, she moved on to earn a Master of Science, Meritissimus from the same institution in 1957, a Doctorate in Chemistry from the University of Stuttgart, Germany in 1960, and a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Stifftung, Germany, in 1960.

Multi-awarded and internationally recognized, she was a recipient, among other awards, of the Asia Foundation Visiting Scientist Award in 1966, of the Ecology Award from the Office of the President in 1975, of the Ford Foundation Research Director Travel Award in 1976, of the Golden Jubilee Award of the University of Santo Tomas as Outstanding Alumna for Scientific Pursuit in 1976, and of the Alexander von Humboldt Medal in 1976.

Presently, she is Chairman of the Man and the Biosphere Philippines, Special Consultant of the US Agency for International Development USAID-GOP Project on Environmental Impact Assessment, Consultant of the Biosphere Reserve Project, Puerto Galera-Mindoro, MAB-UNESCO/UNEP Project, and Founding Trustee of the Graduate Educational and Research Foundation.

Quite clearly, Estela L. Zamora, Woman Achiever, is one Filipina every Filipino can be proud of.

## RESPONSE
### by Rosa Rosal



I got into the movies in the early fifties. When I got established as an actress, I felt that my life was useless, just making the round of parties as ordered by my studio. In 1952, I decided to join the Phil. National Red Cross as a volunteer worker. I got so enthused with my work, that I asked my colleagues to join me. I got a negative response from them, then an actor who was quite close to me saw the frustration I was encountering said . . . . " Rosa you might as well give up, because alone there is nothing much you can do". When I look back at some of the things I have done, then I am so grateful that I did not follow the advice of that actor, and instead pursued my work alone.

One day, at the height of a big flood, most of the water connections were cut off. We did not have any water to use at home, and I felt so thirsty, I just had to look around for a faucet. Sure enough I saw one, but the water was coming in, in drops. In as much as I didn't have anything to do, I got a small chair, sat on it, and held a glass in my hand and waited for the drop of water to fill my cup. In due time, I had enough water to satisfy my thirst. Then the memory of that young actor flashed into my mind, and looking back, I realized that with patience and perseverance, every individual can give their own share to the community. When I think of the amount of blood I have gotten for the indigent patients, breaking my own record of 10,000 to 12,000 bottles after Martial law was declared, then I knew my efforts have not been in vain.

On behalf of my co-awardees, we would like to thank you for this great honor you have given us. You have given us more courage to go on with our work inspite of some set-backs, trials and tribulations that could come our way. We promise you, that we shall not stop with our work, and with God's help, I am very sure, we that you have honored today, shall go on helping the less fortunates.

I truly believe that with the creation of the New Society by our President . . . President Marcos, our life is on the road ot greatness. But then we must remember that greatness cannot be achieved in a day. It is only when every man, woman and child, could give a little sacrifice can we really say we are on the road to greatness. What cost nothing is worth nothing. Success can only come through hard work, patience and perseverance. Or as they have said before . . . for every tear that we shed, for every sweat that we give; there is nothing for us, but victory.



# Himlayang Pilipino

**It's more than just a Memorial Park**

Pugad Lawin. August 23, 1896. Andres Bonifacio, his brave young men behind him, ignites the fire of revolt against Spain. Their battlecry: Liberty or Death. The Philippine Revolution bursts open.

Beyond the blood-stained battlefields of Balintawak was a forest, home to a woman of 84 who gave life and body to what would otherwise have been just another empty term: moral support. Bonifacio and his men called her Tandang Sora.

Surely the babies from whence these men grew knew not the warmth of her womb. But as they came to know the touch of her hand and the comfort of her home, she became Mother. Their affinity was that of love – for country.

This was their refuge, their second home. No one knocked at Tandang Sora's door who was not invited in. To the hungry she offered the bounty of her table. To the sick and the wounded she offered the healing touch of her hand. To the weary of mind and body she offered the solace of her home.

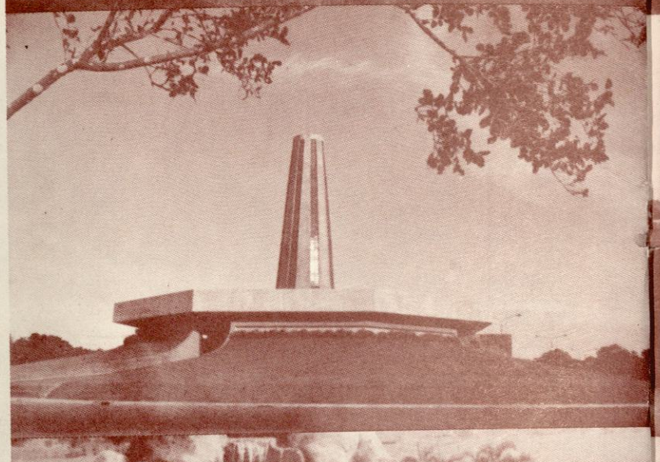
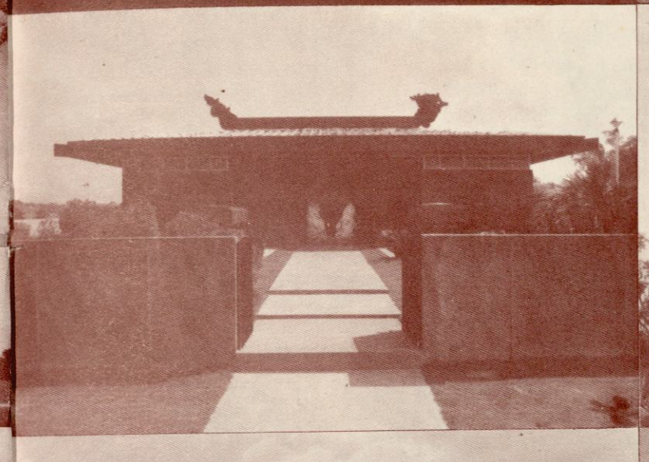
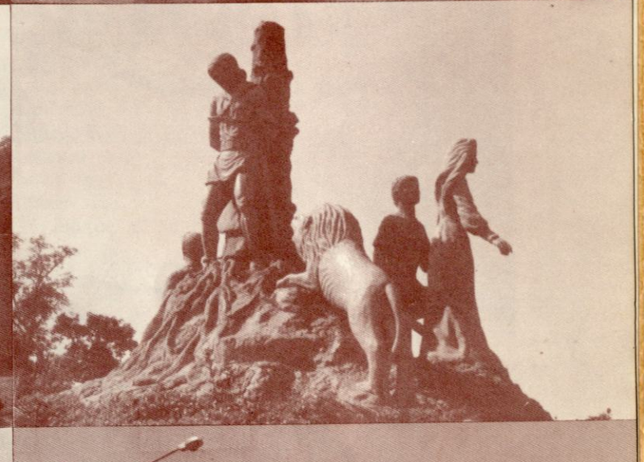
Today this site is forest no more but a refuge still. It is now Himlayang Pilipino – the Filipino's resting place. Here the legends and myths of our people and the history of our lands have been given concrete form in murals and sculptures. Here too stands the monument of Tandang Sora, beneath which her remains lie.

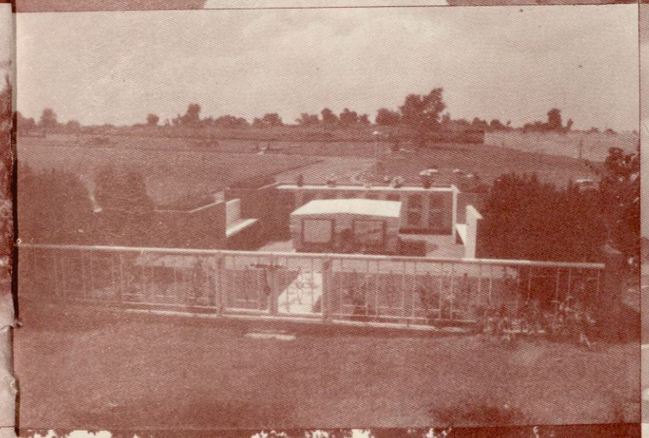
It is a proper tribute to our heroes of 1896, whether celebrated or obscure, that this site where once they knew respite from battle is now the final resting place of the very people for whom they fought and gave up their lives.

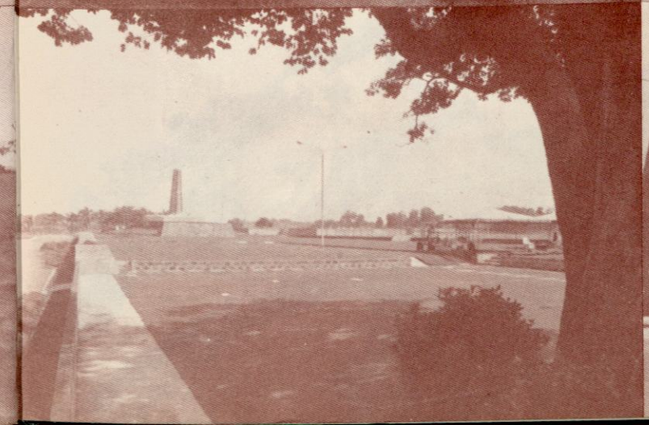
Himlayang Pilipino pays homage to the men and women of virtue and valor who rendered sweat and blood for their land and their people.

Himlayang Pilipino holds high their memory in stone and bronze in the hope that we who have come after them and those who will come after us may give life to their ideals and continue to strive for the realization of the visions that dwelt in their minds and hearts.












### The Tandang Sora Shrine

This sculpture was finished in 1972 by Florante "Boy" Beltran Caedo and it was unveiled in January 6, 1973. The process used was grade A concrete casting with marble dust and chips. The style is a combination of 3-dimension on the central figures and bas-relief on the background panels. Twenty artisans and apprentices helped the sculptor. It took a year and a half to finish. Models for the central figures were HPI Park labores who are direct descendants of the heroine and other staff member while others are original compositions.

### The Emilio Jacinto Shrine

This work by Florante "Boy" Beltran Caedo was unveiled December 15, 1976, the last day of the hero's centennial. All figures, except the base were cold cast in bronze in 3-dimension. This took a year to make. Fifteen artisans and apprentices assisted the sculptor. Some artisans and apprentices and HPI management officers sat as models while others are original compositions.

### Florante "Boy" Caedo

If, according to N.P. Willis, "The highest triumph of art is the truest presentation of nature," then Florante "Boy" Caedo, son to the pillar of Philippine sculpture, Anastacio T. Caedo, has scored a magnificent triumph in his work of love – the Tandang Sora Memorial Shrine. For here in stone is captured in full the humanity, warmth, and unbounded love of this great Filipina for her co-Filipinos. Tandang Sora's face – her wrinkled forehead, her knit eyebrows, the sadness in her eyes, her mouth – all capture in vivid detail the deep concern she had for her countrymen. Looking at her in concrete, one can almost feel the real woman alive again - ready to help, to cure, to feed the Katipuneros.

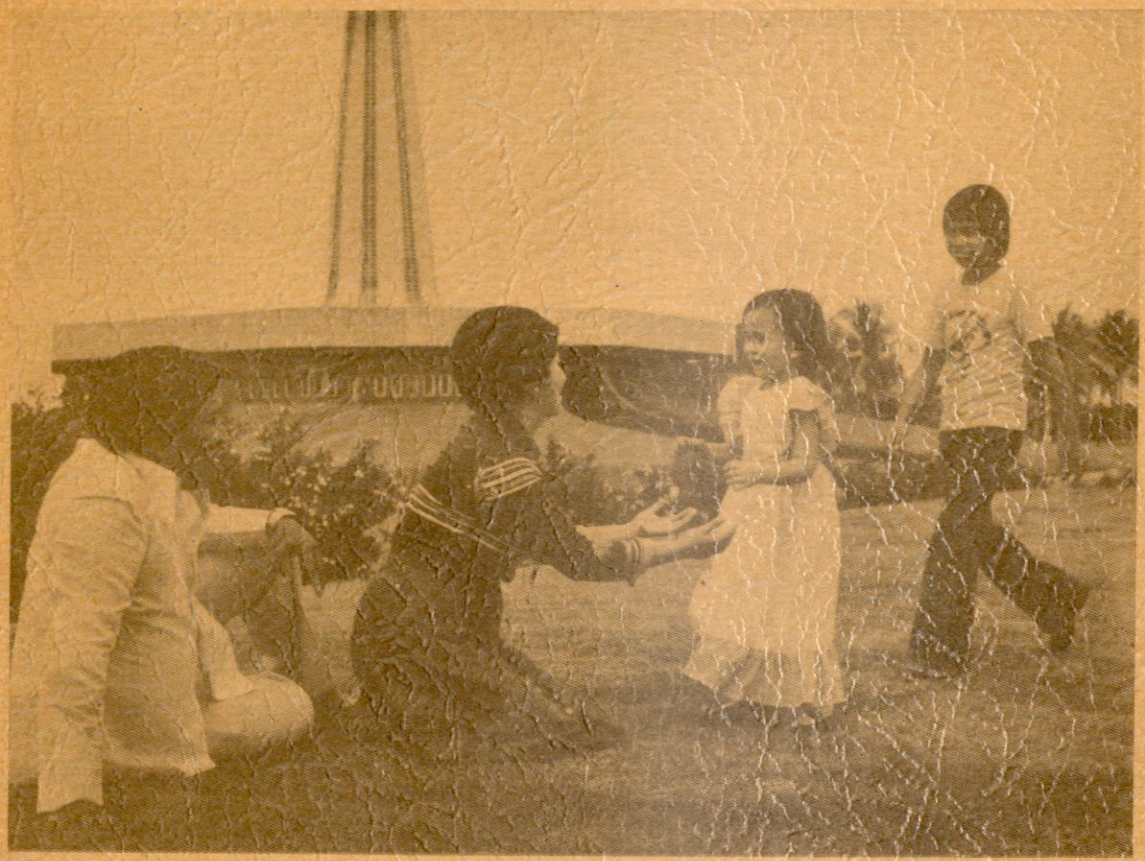
Two years in the making, the Tandang Sora Memorial Shrine is a testimony to the heights the Filipino Artist can reach in his quest for perfection. Never mind the pain, the frustrations, the wastage of labor, emotions, and materials in the process of creation. What matters is the finished work – the product of love and talent – that will serve as a permanent reminder of the courage and the glory of the Filipino race.

To Florante "Boy" Caedo, Artist, we extend our congratulations on a job well done. You are an honor to your nation.



*Florante "Boy" Beltran Caedo*

# Himlayang Pilipino



***...it's more than just a memorial park***

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