THE ENLISTED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (EPAP), Inc.

36TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

APRIL 27, 1996

THEME: "PAGDAMAY NA WASTO SA KAPWA BETERANO AT SUNDALO"









At left is the entry of color with Hon. and Mrs. Leonardo A. Quisumbing as guest of honor & speaker of the EPAP 35th Anniversary with EPAP officers.



We are the EPAP scholars

At right were parts of the EPAP 34th Anniversary with Hon. (Gen.) Manuel T. Yan, as guest of honor & speaker.









Service to God, Country and People

ENLISTED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

Since 1960



EPAP also involves in various commitments and activities, such as education, sports, medical and dental care.











See the Inside Story

PILIPINO. PARA SA PILIPINO.



AFTER 54 YEARS, ONLY ONE AIRLINE HAS PROVEN TO BE TRULY OF SERVICE TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE.



From the historic first flight to Baguio in 1941, Philippine Airlines has, for 54 years, continued to be part of the Filipino's life. Its selfless dedication to the Filipino is seen in the many routes that bridge the nation's larger cities to the most remote towns. From as far south as Tawi-Tawi to the less travelled towns of Tandag and Bislig. Where the passion to serve outweighs the need for profit. Philippine Airlines also continues to make travel more convenient. Through domestic services like Davao, Laoag and Cebu Express, the City Check-in, Palakbayan tours and many others.

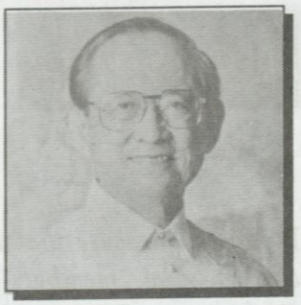
But beyond transporting 11,000 passengers daily to 43 domestic destinations and 33 ports worldwide, Philippine Airlines continues to touch the lives of over 60 million Filipinos, even those who do not fly. By carrying 180 tons of cargo daily. Cargo that is the lifeblood of a nation. Cargo that includes medicine for the needy. Our export products destined to reach different parts of the world: electronics, furniture, marine products among others. Information that keeps the Filipinos in touch with one another with the world through newspapers and mail. As Philippine Airlines puts another year behind it, it has no more fervent wish than to be able to continue for another 54 years the task of being the airline of the Filipino people.

Philippine Airlines

PILIPINO. PARA SA PILIPINO.

Message

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA



Greetings and best wishes to the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Inc. (EPAPI) on the celebration of your 36th foundation anniversary on April 27, 1996.

Your anniversary theme, "Pagdamay na Wasto sa Kapwa Beterano at Sundalo", vividly reflects your strong sense of brotherhood and concern for one another. May this inspire you to manifest this sense spirit as well in the bigger task of securing peace and development for our beloved nation.

Now more than ever, every Filipino -- whether civilian or military -- must pitch in his or her share of effort to make the Philippines a peaceful and progressive nation. Soldiers and veterans alike are especially called upon to serve the nation -- not with weapons of war but with tools for nation building and development. In this new challenge, the same qualities -- selfless dedication, love of country, valor and daring -- that bring victory in battle will take us all to a triumphant future -- "PHILIPPINES 2000!!!"

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

MANILA
April 27, 1996

Message

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER
CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINE COMPLEX
MANILA



It is my great pleasure to greet and congratulate the officers and mèmbers of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAPI) as you celebrate your 36th Foundation Day on April 27, 1996.

This year's anniversary theme "Pagdamay Na Wasto Sa Kapwa Beterano At Sundalo", could not have been more aptly chosen. It underscores the importance of unity, cooperation and camaraderie in achieving every cherished goals, and the EPAPI's role as the people's guardian of peace and security.

Today, more than ever, the stability of our democratic institutions and processes, and the dynamism of our economy demand a favorable atmosphere of peace and security. With these thoughts, I am confident that the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines will always be a vanguard of peace and stability and a worthy of their highest esteem, trust and confidence.

Walang Tutulong Sa Pilipino, Kundi Kapwa Pilipino!

JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

Message

Republic of the Philippines
Senate
Manila



It is with pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and felicitations to the officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP), Inc. on the momentous occasion of their 36th Foundation Day this April 27, 1996.

The country is relentlessly pursuing the path threaded by the Industrialized Nations. We are proud to take note of our gains toward their direction. The signs are all around us indicating that we may complete the course. However, along the way, adversaries are ever alert to frustrate our efforts. The pillars of our society must remain firm and vigilant against these elements.

Needless to say, the enlisted personnel has with it the privilege and the challenge being one of the pillars of economic progress and socio-political stability. We have no one else to turn to but to your ranks whenever the lofty ideals and aspirations of this country are being violently threatened. To say the least, you are the "muscle" of our country. It is truly heartening to note that the bond you forged among yourselves has continued to solidify over the years to be found equal of the challenge and our people's expectations.

Again, my congratulations and more power to all!

NEPTALI A. GONZALES
Senate President

Message

Republic of the Philippines
Senate
Manila



I am very honored to greet the officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Inc., (EPAP) on the occasion of their 36th Foundation Day.

Our nation has depended heavily on you for the past years. From your ranks rose great men and women who offered their future in the service of our motherland. Our democratic institutions are maintained and secured by your disciplined personnel. Your dedication is unparalleled. Your loyalty, the citadel of our democracy.

In our collective effort to pursue our aspiration for economic prosperity, we continue to rely on you. We are confident that you will preserve and protect the bedrock of our freedom that governs this land.

I salute all of you. Mabuhay kayo!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL
Senator

Message

Republic of the Philippines
Senate
Manila

My warmest greetings to the members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Inc. on the occasion of your 36th Foundation Day.

The theme for this year's celebration, "Pagdamay na Wasto sa Kapwa Beterano at Sundalo, "speaks well of the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity that exist among the hearts of the Filipinos. These virtues have ever since helped us in attaining the freedom which we now enjoy.

The battles that the Filipino soldiers have fought and won since the beginning deserve commendation. The nation will forever be grateful for the courage you have shown in defending the freedom and sovereignity of your beloved country.

More power and God bless!

SEN. RAMON B. MAGSAYSAY JR.

Message

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Manila



I am deeply honored to extend my warm greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (EPAPI) on the occasion of its 36th Foundation Day with the theme: "Pagdamay na Wasto sa Kapwa Beterano at Sundalo".

I commend the EPAPI for your commitment to the government's aspirations for the country and the Filipino people.

Amidst the current take-off and upward surge of the economy, let us continue to encourage the cooperative efforts among all sectors in order to foster genuine unity among our people and increase the momentum of the Philippine economic turn-around.

It is time to put an end to the chronic cycle of boom-and-bust as we put our economic miracle on track in our transit to the new century.

JOSE DE VENECIA
Speaker

Message

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City



I convey my warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (EPAPI) on the occasion of your 36th Foundation Day on April 27, 1996.

Your anniversary theme, "PAGDAMAY NA WASTO SA KAPWA BETERANO AT SUNDALO," underscores the thrust of the government to help our veterans and retired soldiers to be self-reliant and productive so that they can also contribute to national development efforts.

To be sure, the valuable contributions of our veterans and retired soldiers in the promotion of the national welfare will go a long way towards the attainment of progress and development as envisioned in the Philippines 2000!

Congratulations on your anniversary and best wishes for more success in all your endeavours for the greater good of our enlisted personnel.

RENATO S DE VILLA
Secretary

Message

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS



I convey warmest congratulations to the advisory board, officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP) on the 36th Foundation Day Anniversary of your organization.

Our enlisted personnel are the backbone of the armed forces, being a formidable force in times of war and peace. Today, as our nation surges forward towards greater stability and progress, your organization continues to stand at the forefront of our national security and nation-building.

Your guiding theme: "Pagdamay Na Wasto Sa Kapwa Beterano At Sundalo" underscores the unity, camaraderie and innate strength that resides in your ranks. I urge your to keep these sterling values as we join hands with the national leadership in "Winning the Future" for all generations of Filipinos.

May your meet the best of success in your undertakings.

Godspeed.

MANUEL T. YAN
Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process *and*
Chairman, GRP Negotiating Panel for Talks with the
Southern Philippines Autonomous Groups (GRP-SPAG)

Message



On the occasion of the 36th Foundation Day of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, I am both pleased and honored to commend and congratulate all the members of the Association.

Your Association celebrates its 36th Foundation Day this year when the entire nation remembers and reflects on the beginning of our Independence in 1896 from a foreign power. One hundred years ago, our race witnessed the courage of its soul in the martyrdom of Jose Protacio Rizal, who today has become a role model of greatness not only to Filipinos but to Asians as well. If we can see the relationship between the greatness of Rizal and the nobility of your Association's purpose, then we can also see the significance of your 36th Foundation Day.

Also as a soldier and a veteran in the service of this fatherland, I am greatly inspired by your theme this year - PAGDAMAY NA WASTO SA KAPWA BETERANO AT SUNDALO. Once again, our country and our people are reminded of the bravery and valor of their soldiers in times of war. It can never be too much of an asking if the same soldiers are treated as well as during peacetime.

In our own country, we can not - and we shall not - allow our soldiers to be forgotten and forlorn. With the Creator's continuing intervention and grace, I know that this world can still become a better place for all of them.

Congratulations and Carry on!

LT. GEN. RAFAEL M ILETO
Chairman
Presidential Advisory Committee on
PNP Promotions

Message

Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
National Police Commission
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
Camp Crame, Quezon City



On behalf of the Philippine National Police, I am both pleased and honored to greet the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP), its officers, members, and friends on the occasion of its 36th Foundation Anniversary. Organizations like EPAP demand from society the latter's vigorous support and patronage at all times and under all conditions.

Your theme - "Pagdamay Na Wasto Sa Kapwa Beterano At Sundalo" - nails an urgent mesage to our civilization at this time. While it places focus on intensified cooperation and commiseration amon men of arms, retired and active, its call must not be lost among the citizenry. Soldiers are recognized in war time all the time. After all, we go to war only to preserve peace and freedom.

It is not coincidental that EPAP celebrates its 36th Foundation Anniversary during the centennial of our national hero's martyrdom. The message of Jose Rizal is the same; only its expressions have changed from time to time. We have only one nation to love. And there is only one soldier who will die for that nation - the Filipino soldier.

It is in that context that I extend the best wishes and congratulations of all the men and women of the Philippine National Police to the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines!

RECAREDO A SARMIENTO II
Police Director General
Chief, Philippine National Police

Message

ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
HEADQUARTERS PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDING GENERAL
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City



It is with deep sense of pride and pleasure that I greet the Officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Inc. on the occasion of their 36th Foundation Day.

Your anniversary theme "Pagdamay Na Wasto Sa Kapwa Beterano at Sundalo" clearly manifests your enthusiasm and strong desire to help the AFP leadership boost the morale and welfare of our comrades-in -arms. In a broader sense, it is gratifying to see military personnel bonding together towards a noble objective. In particular, your participation in scholarship program, among others, augurs well towards this direction. Indeed, your untiring quest to better serve the men in uniform and the retirees, as well, deserves the highest esteem and accolade.

As you mark another milestone in your history, it is my fervent hope that your Association will thrive and continuously reap the success you deserve in all your endeavors.

Happy anniversary and more power.

ARNULFO G ACEDERA JR
Lieutenant General, AFP
Commanding General

Message

COMMANDING GENERAL
PHILIPPINE ARMY
Fort Andres Bonifacio, Metro Manila



I am honored to join the legions of friends, admirers and supporters of the ENLISTED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION of the PHILIPPINES, INCORPORATED (EPAP, INC.) in greeting it on its 36th Foundation Day Anniversary.

Throughout the years, EPAP, INC. has consistently stood true to what it was conceived to be - an instrument for the unity and promotion of the welfare of enlisted personnel to enable them to render greater service to our country and people.

EPAP, INC. has faced numerous challenges, including serious ones, that threaten its good name and very existence. As testimony to its strength and relevance, however, it has successfully withstood and overcome them all and came out prouder and stronger.

To its leadership, my salute and challenge to continue the good work. May God help you and guide you always in pursuing the objectives of your Association.

CLEMENTE P MARIANO
Major General, AFP

Message

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF
CAMP GENERAL EMILIO AGUINALDO, QUEZON CITY



I take pleasure in expressing my warmest felicitations to the officers and men of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines Incorporated (EPAPI) on the occasion of its 36th Foundation Day.

Indeed, the chosen theme for today's occasion "Pagdamay Na Wasto Sa Kapwa Beterano at Sundalo" is a timely response to the call of the national leadership for unity as we work towards attainment of a progressive and peaceful country.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines places its hopes and trust in you as I am confident that you will continue to prove to be an able and reliable partner of our organization in the task of nation-building.

With these thoughts, I extend every good wish for the continued success of the association in its aim to serve the best interest not only of our enlisted personnel but our veterans as well.

Congratulations!

JAIME V ILETO JR
Major General, AFP
The Deputy Chief of Staff

Message

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



I wish to extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the Officers and Members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Inc.

The Association is the epitome of the dynamism of the civic-oriented citizens in the community. For the past years, it has been making a difference in its commitment to service and nation-building. Its adherence to its noble precepts is remarkable.

As it marks its 36th Foundation Day, I hope and pray that the Association remains firm and steadfast to its aspirations. Further, may it continually be a strong pillar of uniting individuals committed to the cause of improving other people's lives.

Again, my congratulations and may God bless you all!

Sincerely yours,

MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Representative, 3rd District, Quezon City

Message

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Quezon City, Metro Manila



It is my honor and privilege to greet and congratulate the ENLISTED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. on the occasion of your 36th FOUNDATION DAY.

Your association has been very diligent in promulgating different programs and projects for the benefit of veteran and active soldiers.

Continue with your noble deeds and may the Lord Almighty shower you with all the good blessings.

MABUHAY!

ISMAEL A. MATHAY JR.
Mayor

Message

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE VICE MAYOR
Quezon City, Metro Manila



It is with with great pride and pleasure that I extend my warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP), Incorporated on your 36th Foundation Day.

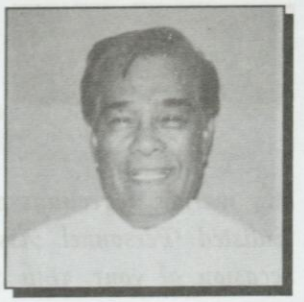
This occasion presents me the perfect opportunity to express my admiration for your dedication to extend selfless service to the community and to the whole nation as well. You have set up yourselves as examples of courage, fostering the value of brotherhood and peace.

I fervently hope that what you have attained as an organization will continue to inspire you in your future endeavors. Rest assured that I am one with you in your commitment to protect the welfare of all enlisted personnel.

HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
Vice Mayor

Message

Republic of the Philippines
Regional Trial Court
National Capital Judicial Region
BRANCH CLXIII (163)
Pasig, Metro Manila



As a former member of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (EPAPI) and an active participant in the organization of said association, I indeed feel delighted to extend my warmest congratulations to its officers and members for keeping the organization alive for the last thirty-six (36) years. And, the theme you have choosen for this year's anniversary "Pagdamay na Wasto sa Kapwa Beterano at Sundalo" is a fitting thesis for it is my perception that pagdamay sa kapwa Beterano at Sundalo was the very objective and purpose for which EPAPI was organized. Therefore, I urge every officer and member of EPAPI to hold that theme dear in your hearts, so that EPAPI will continue to grow and be of greater service to the soldiers of our land.

Mabuhay!

AURELIO C. TRAMPE
Judge
RTC, NCR, Branch 163

Message

VFP

Veterans Federation of the Philippines
(CHARTERED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2640)
PVAO ANNEX, ARROCEROS ST., MANILA
TELS.: 528-0609; 528-0610
FAX: 528-0749



I extend my heartiest greetings to all of the officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Inc., on the occasion of your 36th anniversary.

Your anniversary theme is most appropriate for the thrust which the VFP is propagating -- true concern for each other among members of the extended veterans family. In this, I look upon the EPAP as among the frontliners now and in the years to come.

May your anniversary this year be meaningful and relevant for all of you.

EMMANUEL V. DE OCAMPO
President

Message

PHILIPPINE VETERANS BANK



My warmest greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines, Inc. (EPAPI) on the occasion of your 36th Anniversary on April 27, 1996.

As you celebrate today the founding of your association, not only do you strenghten the spirit of camaraderie within your organization, but is in many ways, a reiteration of your commitment to the sterling ideals of patriotism, service to the community and the Nation.

Your theme for this year's celebration, "Pagdamay na Wasto sa Kapwa Beterano at Sundalo," aptly reflects your concern for the well-being of the veterans and those in the profession of arms, who have selflessly dedicated their lives to protect the safety of our shores and the sovereignty of the Nation.

The Philippine Veterans Bank joins you in keeping alive the ideals of patriotism and love of country as we affirm our commitment to the country's veterans and the communities we serve.

Mabuhay ang Beteranong Pilipino!!!

SUNDAY LAVIN
President

27 April 1996
Makati City

Message



As the ENLISTED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHLIPPINES (EPAP) Incorporated goes to commemorate its 36th year anniversary, we can always be happy in the thought that we stayed solid and firm in the mission and commitment to help one another in the finest of our efforts as a fraternity of the Enlisted Personnel.

A credit to everyone in the Association that all through these years there was never any wandering off the attributes and requirements of discipline and loyalty working and seeking better and improved welfare benefits and services sourced from the government and neither, in those instances we had to turn to the private sector for advice, counselling and assistance exclusive for the well-being of our members. We can always look back at this thirty six years of existence as a monumental inscription where in those years was the strength of our fidelity and faith to stay together unified and strong, and losing not, to the consciousness to remain productive citizens even after leaving the military service.

To the officers and members of EPAP therefore, that as we pat each other's back in commemoration of our foundation day, I extend my most profound anniversary greetings hoping as well, that what mellowed us to stay loyal and coalesced shall endure; extending also our gratitude and acknowledgement to all those who stood by with our ideals and aspirations.

ESMERALDO R ACORDA
Lt-Col & Ret. Fiscal, QC
President

April 27, 1996

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The EPAP Story

by

Atty. Esmeraldo R. Acorda and Lt. Modesto M. Cunanan

Quezon City
Philippines
1996

PREFACE

The acronym EPAP stands for Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP), Incorporated. It is a government enrolled organization registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 1960, whose members are the enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces, both in the active service and those in the retired status, including commissioned officers with previous enlisted service.

In attempting to write its beginning and essay its evolution, it is our unpretentious motivation to reflect the organizations pasts and how it vied the dares and hardstick to unity and loyalty and emerging to win due recognition and reckonable achievements.

Adverted as the power and backbone of any military organization there were the posturing in some quarters that for the enlisted personnel to congregate and unite outside the grip of the chain of command is, without precedence and can be perilous. They have the numbers; the rigid training to do battle with weaponry that exploitations for purposes other than their traditional dues of defence and security is not difficult.

Now a part of its enriching history, within the exacting norms of discipline and order, EPAP and its members stood well as a noteworthy assemblage in Philippine society remaining steeped in its pledge and aspiration is to make its mark in the realm and confines of welfare benefits and services.

This brief EPAP Story can also come as a good reference for students of military history, all because EPAP is about the only organization of its kind anywhere today in the world where its members are all enlisted personnel, self-governing themselves and comparable in cause and mission and strayed not, to the stem discipline of a military establishment since its formation in the post war years of world war II of this date.

ESMERALDO R. ACORDA
Lt-Colonel, JAGS (AFP-Res)
President

THE EPAP STORY

Its Beginning

The birth of this soldiers' organizations can be equated to an innate search for simple abundance in the ordinary life of the Filipino enlisted man. Flickered and animated by the emergence of disconcerting and worrisome news, it necessitated unity in the rank and file to contend the lurking inequity. Unadorned in its beginning with a message that was not meant to stray away from the norms of loyalty and discipline, it was indeed a quest for righteousness, not in dearth of nobleness in design and deliberate to a pathway licit to good order in the armed profession.

And as one soldier from Southern Luzon now among those in the scrolls of its departed members said: "It's the voice in the wilderness" paraphrasing the need for those in command and power to recognize the validity, its formation and its ideals for welfare for the enlisted personnel.

Even the core group of soldiers spreadwise from the different Major Services of the Armed Forces who formed the nucleus of its organizers were not without apprehension as to the licitness of an organization purely membered by enlisted personnel. There was the greater awareness that none of its kind is known to exist and with precedence in the country and even in other lands.

A ranking officer at General Headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo whose forte is non intelligence when informed that a sizeable assemblage of senior enlisted personnel were forming an organization that shall bind and commit the entire enlisted corps in the AFP was quoted as saying: "what all the EM to form an organization like a labor union? They are no cicies unbound by military rules and by training and nature of their duties and oath of allegiance the chain of command can impose sanction against them. No, let us stop the move before it gets anywhere"

One morning in a sultry day, the Airmen's's Clubhouse at Nichols Air Base, now the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, was already teeming with soldiers, some in civies others in uniform coming from all the Major Services of the Armed Forces; Philippine Army, defunct Philippine Constabulary, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Navy and from GHQ and AFP-Wide Support Units and a considerable number from the Retired Group. There was the din of euphoria ringing perceptively clear; the almost unbearable heat within the clubhouse was not to unload the spirit and enthusiasm of those present many of them now standing eager to near and get involved. The clubhouse, a typical simple military structure was not big enough. They were the presidents of the enlisted personnel clubs in all commands of the AFP and their delegations. They were mostly senior enlisted leaders in their units.

It was a crucial meeting. It was the event that actually saw the beginning of this organization.

Soaked in enthusiasm and acknowledged as the most senior in that meeting, the late M/Sgt Cleto B Tabonigao was then presiding.

Ablazed in spirit to rally the attendees, he explained the rationale behind the need of uniting all enlisted personnel for a common stand, to contain the perceived seeping injustice being dealt for those in the ranks in terms of financial need and social upliftment.

In his stirring discourses, M/Sgt Tabonigao who died peacefully in his sleep years back at his home in Fort Bonifacio, said that top brasses at the reins of the AFP in Camp Aguinaldo were poised to issue two policy guidelines that will dent considerably the economic life of the soldiers. These were the move to exclude the Master and First Sergeants from enjoying the one-rank higher upon retirement or the Second Lieutenant rank; and the exclusion of all enlisted personnel to the Longevity Pay popularly known as Foggy Pay. But the officers will not be affected for they will continue to relish these privileges and benefits, he emphasized. This is utter discrimination; a clear case of injustice, a vaunted decision out to establish a strong line that even on social

needs the officers must lord it over the enlisted personnel. There is only one reason for this inequity, he added. "We are only enlisted men who can be taken for granted; we should unify our stand against this negative dealing" and then continued: "but through peaceful means."

In almost wild shout of unison and ringing outcry of approval, into a man, everybody was jubilant, full of zeal and intense feeling over the move.

There were doves and hawks so to speak in the stance of some who saw the apparent unfair treatment as deliberately schemed. Nowhere in the law governing retirement of military personnel does it qualify in explicit language that only officers are entitled to the one-rank higher upon leaving the service via retirement.

The resolve was instant and overwhelming. The better alternative to organize a body that shall be managed and controlled by equitable representation from all the enlisted sectors of the AFP was readily considered. It is this body which shall represent, appeal or formulate pleadings and proposals for and in behalf of the enlisted personnel exclusive on the fields of welfare and general interest.

What followed in those precious moment in that heat-bound clubhouse was the formation of the AFP ENLISTED PERSONNEL CLUB (AFPEPC). That was in summer of 1956. It was the first name of the organization.

The Maiden Years

Essentially, the Association was in the nature of an umbrella organization of the enlisted personnel clubs of the four (4) major service commands plus the GHQ AFP-Wide Support Units and the Retired Group or an assembly of six groups.

As constituted, the members shall be the enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces both in the active service and those in the retired lists. Membership is open to any person who has served in the military service as an enlisted personnel provided he has been honorably discharged or separated or carried in the military roster as inactive reserves or retirees. While those who were separated from the service other than honorable are not qualified to be members, EPAP has adopted a policy however, to assist them in the best it can consistent with available resources of the organization.

In the main, EPAP is a rallying organization to serve as the mother front in all valid quests and representations of the enlisted personnel in the principal areas of welfare benefits and services and allied problems where the stakes and concern involved morale, discipline and service performance.

While all the major services had their own peculiar tasks, missions and components, in matters of pay and allowances (except in hazardous pay in some instances) all enlisted personnel (Private, First Class, Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Technical Sergeant, First and Master Sergeants and their equivalent in the Navy) enjoy the same compensation based on rank and number of years of service. Thus, there was wisdom in forming one homogeneous front in the interest of unity, order and expediency to preclude multiplicity of efforts and representations to any problem by individual club members. The consolidation of efforts also enhanced "esprit de corps" and camaraderie a positive factor to the overall traditional mission of defense and security by the Armed Forces.

The six groups (PA, PC, PAF, PN, AFP Support Units and the Retired Group) constitute the Association Council. Each group is allowed six delegates with a head of delegation (normally the president of the local enlisted club) and this Council is the policy and governing body with a presiding officer or president elected by the six groups. The Association council has elected officers and also officers appointed by the president with the concurrence of the Council. It has standing work committees which are the Plans and Projects, Finance and Appropriation, Membership, Legislative, Ways and Means, Social Activities, Rules and Regulations, rehabilitation and Services, and Public Relations. Other study groups are created from time to time on those special projects and situations requiring more research, survey and consideration.

Later on chapters were established across the country like the Philippine Military Academy, Jungle Fighters. V Luna Medical Center, AFP Logistics Command, Chief Petty Officers, Sea Lions, 51st Engr Brigade, 5th Inf Div (Sep), 1st Inf Div PA, Basa Air Base, Fernando Air Base, Marine Brigade, I, II, III and IV PC Zones and 1st PC Brigade.

After several rewriting and refinements, its Constitution and By-Laws was framed and ratified with the lead objective "to promote the general welfare and interest of all the enlisted personnel and their families." By common agreement, regular meetings will be held and sponsored on a rotation basis among the group at various AFP camps and installations. The purpose was to increase its membership and acquaint the rank and file of its aims and purposes. There was the wide acceptance, willingness and support openly shown and many were soon seeking membership. Soon AFPEPC became a byword sweeping in every camps visited that even smaller Units were volunteering to host meetings of the organization.

Regular meetings which were earlier confined at major services headquarters like Camp Aquinaldo, Fort Bonifacio, Nichols Air Base and Camp Crame are now held in military posts as far as Fort Magsaysay in the north and Zamboanga City in the South. Soon major services and intermediate commanders began extending support and encouragement to the organization by providing land and air transport planes to ferry members meeting at remote places in the country. Senior commanders manifesting their highly spirited support always deliver sort of "pep talk" in these meetings.

In an almost overnight decision, the unanimous move to work for the increase of pay and the need to reward and extend commission to deserving and qualified enlisted men became the lead projects of the organization.

The working committee on Legislative Affairs dubbed as "bulldog committee" the main task of which is to lobby for AFP bills under consideration by congress, particularly the pay-increase bill, was an active spirited group. Personalized individual approach to senators and congressman were resorted to. Like a tryst of sort, every session day of congress after office hours, a core group and as many available members not on interior guard duty repair to the congress building in Manila to lobby. This was one of the most animated activities for here soldier's spirit is exemplified at its best for members in mixed cities come in droves at the session hall.

Here it pays to recall a member who met some kind of freak accident while part of the lobby group, an unfortunate incident that must have been the cause of his death later on.

This process of lobbying is a prohibition among military personnel. But because it was a process aimed to improve the living condition of the members, the organization kept its hope alive and continued with the lobbying activity which in the first place, was never objected to by the legislators.

As an inevitable outcome, senior staffs of GHQ AFP became somewhat wary of the increasing passion and intuition of unity of the enlisted personnel across all areas of command. Indeed, on several occasions and instance intelligence operatives were sent out tailing its leaders and activities. There were occasions when meetings are held at the private residence of members.

Finding no valid cause to put sanction and/or pressure for the organization to disband and sensing frustration to seal out the driving passion of the members to rally behind the organization, the then AFP chief of staff sought to intervene and convinced the officers to convert the organization into a mere "steering council."

But Atty Esmeraldo Ramos Acorda then already pacing the leadership of the organization was not quick to acquiesce to a "steering council" without the assurance that the organization is at liberty to continue promoting its basic aims and agenda of welfare. The assurance pledged by GHQ AFP, it was only then that Atty Acorda agreed to the conversion. Thus, from AFPEPC the organization was changed to ENLISTED PERSONNEL CENTRAL STEERING COUNCIL (EPCSC). This was the second name of the organization. Impliedly however, its Constitution and By-Laws remained as the body of principles and laws governing its management and operation even as a steering council.

The stalking problem on the inclusion of Master and First Sergeant to the one-rank higher upon retirement was finally considered by GHQ AFP; while the late Congressman Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur who was a Sergeant during the war, filed a bill which was enacted into law RA 3725 providing for Longevity Pay or Foggy Pay for the enlisted personnel and that was in 1962.

All told, these positive results were the aftermath of the sustained efforts of EPAP sans of breach of discipline in the chain of command. Even under its structure as a steering body, it never relaxed on its activities mustering unity and cooperation avowedly for better and improved benefits and services.

The Steering council was a short-live body however, for President Acorda who was then already a lawyer in 1955 was in the thick of his study for a truly independent organization freed from the "over the shoulder watch" of GHQ AFP. There were unfounded reports that the organization might possibly lean to the left the reason why in previous instances intelligence people were snooping on its activities.

To this baseless suspicion of some GHQ Staff, Atty Acorda said: "what a maddening thinking."

Incorporated in 1960

Now a major segment of its history, the organization was finally reorganized and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 24, 1960, with Registry No. 25012, as a civic and nonsectarian organization under its present corporate name ENLISTED PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (EPAP), Incorporated to stay dedicated to the promotion and safeguard of the servicemen's welfare.

Apart from its fundamental objective of promoting the general welfare and interest of the members and their families, it added additional aims and objectives to give more substance and meaning to its aspirations and these were! To uphold and defend the democrative way of life as envisioned in the Constitution; to represent and defend the interests of the enlisted personnel and their families; to foster "esprit de corps" and camaraderie; to foster harmony and cooperation; to assist the government in giving improved and efficient public service and to foster love of country and of things Filipino.

Soon it began to earn more recognition and a kind of identity and distinction as a servicemen's organization. Congress leaders were among those who acknowledged its potential as an ally and worthy society out to be counted in the vast task of nation-building; and deservingly, out of the patriotic services of the soldiers to the country particularly in the last war, to condescend to the their livelihood needs is only proper and fitting became the common receptive comment of those in the top echelon of the government. Meanwhile, the organization and its members with utmost civility and loyalty continued to confine activities primed to the search for better living conditions.

This led to the organization appearing at the Senate committee hearing on national defense headed by Senators Camilo Osias and Raul Manglapuz in 1962 then deliberating on the bill seeking to increase the pay of the enlisted personnel, the lead objective of EPAP. The delegation then headed by Atty Acorda came out with so much justification for the approval of the bill.

It bears to recall that during the third reading of the bill, EPAP members in full combat fatigue uniform came out in sizeable number occupying almost half of the audience gallery at the Senate session hall. This prompted Senators Ambrocio Padilla and the late Rogelio dela Rosa to move for the approval of the bill upon perceiving the presence of the uniform soldiers. Indeed, Senator Padilla visibly impressed, before he moved for the approval of the bill in the final reading in a likeable gesture, beaming with smile, pointed to the soldiers meekly seated at the gallery, akin to saluting them.

Before President Diosdado Macapagal ended his tenure of office, he signed the first major increase in the pay of the soldiers. This can go down as the organizations's major achievement. It was the result of the lobby in congress, personalized approach to the legislators, appearance before the Senate committed hearing

and sustained coordination with Defense and AFP officials. And there was also the tactful following up of the bill for signature of Speaker Cornelio Villareal and to Senate president Eulogio (Amang) Rodriguez, Sr. When President Macapagal signed the law at his Malacañang office, it was in the presence of EPAP members and their families.

This rapport with congress leaders led to a situation that in all major socialization events of EPAP like anniversaries, ranking legislators and local leaders like President Marcos even and after he became President, Vice President, Fernando Lopez, Senator President Gil Puyat and other senators, congressmen and local executives and those from the Defense and Armed Forces have been gracing the affairs. Indeed, all major services commanders and even the AFP chief of staff and senior commanders have been frequent guests of the organization.

EPAP did enlivened the socialization thrusts by launching controlled activities like Popularity Contest participated by WAC soldiers and immediate female dependent of members. A highly spirited activity, even major service commanders and senior officers get themselves involved in this activity rooting for their candidates.

President Marcos who succeeded President Macapagal in 1965, when informed of the objectives and various activities of EPAP for better livelihood posture of the enlisted personnel readily gave a 2-units of the Marcos Type Pre-Fab building. This became the first EPAP Center where the members congregate and hold meetings and conferences and served as its administrative office.

In equal concern and regard, General Manuel T Yan, the AFP Chief of Staff following his analytical judgement that EPAP is not a strayed organization that can cause detriment to discipline and loyalty within the AFP provided a space for the Center at the site now presently occupied by the new multi-million peso AFPMBAI Annex building along Col B Serrano Road, corner EDSA.

General Yan giving more credence and recognition to EPAP as a worthy institution even circularized a command letter to all major service an intermediate commandeers allowing and enjoining the enlisted men under their commands to support and seek membership with EPAP. General Yan remains today as one of the Advisers of EPAP steady in sharing his wisdom, counsel and leadership.

In evidence, to show the EPAP did earned due recognition by both the AFP and the Defense authorities, it bears to cite the following documents:

1. Memorandum of Undersecretary of National Defense to AFP Chief of Staff dated September 17, 1965, directing that EPAP be extended all necessary support and assistance towards the attainment of its goal and that, the officials of EPAP be authorized to intensify their campaigns for membership from all enlisted personnel in all AFP units, camps, post and/or stations.

2. Letter-Directive of AFP Chief of Staff dated October 4, 1965, subject: "Authority to Intensify EPAP Membership" circularizing the said Memorandum of USND to all major service commanders including GHQ and AFP-Wide Support Units.

3. Letter-Directive of AFP Chief of Staff dated December 8, 1968, to all major service commanders including GHQ and AFP-Wide Support Units that he has authorized EPAP, Inc. officials to campaign for membership among enlisted personnel in all AFP units, camps, posts and/or stations and that EPAP, Inc. be extended all necessary support and assistance towards the attainment of its goals.

Noteworthy to mention that in all meetings now spread out in various AFP field units, current circular and letter-directives involving morale, discipline and benefits and services source from the AFP and Defense authorities, are discussed and presented in the interest of efficient public service as espoused in its Constitution. It actually supplemented in some way military commanders and staffs to reach out the troops particularly those in the remote areas for these much-needed information and guidance concerning the service. In some instances, the provisions of the Articles of War are also discussed and explained in an effort to present the ramifications and for the troops to know their rights and obligations and all the defined offences punishable under the said military law. EPAP has members who are full-pledged lawyers.

The organization also managed to put up its own newspaper, in 8-page broadsheet named the "EPAP Newscope," a vehicle of information for all enlisted personnel. Relevant news and major events and wholesome features, plans and projects are published and the paper is distributed free. The inception of the emergency rule in 1972 caused the stoppage of the paper.

As part of its reckoned achievement in this spanning period was EPAP's involvement in the affairs and management of the AFP Mutual Benefit Association, Incorporated (AFPMBAI), the mutual insurance group of the Armed forces and also a financial institution.

Displaying enough of unity and cohesion, EPAP members who are AFPBMAI members won majority seats in the directors, board through election in the Chamber or Representatives, including the positions of vice president, treasurer and assistant general manager. It was during their tenureship when the present AFPMBAI main building was built.

Also worth mentioning was the rebleak event in the operation of AFPMBAI that gave attest to the creditable performance and integrity of the EPAP members who served in the management of this corporation. Upon the declaration of martial law in 1972, a Board of Inquiry headed by a rankling general from the AFP Joint Staff investigated alleged anomalies and irregularities in the AFPMBAI. It is a matter of record that as a result of this investigation, the then duly elected Board of Directors were all removed and replaced by an Interim Committee which took over the management and control of AFPMBAI in 1973. Additionally, its Constitution and By-Laws was suspended or deemed inoperative and the Chamber of Representatives, the electoral body that elects the members of the board, was dissolved or abolished also as an aftermath of this inquiry.

What is being pointed out here is the fact that no EPAP officer or member who held top positions in the AFPMBAI was ever involved or implicated. The investigation extends to all those who served earlier in the management of this financial institution.

There is also the strike that stalked AFPMBAI in 1970 declared by the employees union of AFPMBAI for alleged unfair labor practices. Necessarily, the officers of the Association were closed because of the strong picket lines put up by the strikers.

Again it pays to recall that at the personal sacrifice, inconvenience and discomforts of the family of Atty. Acorda (then the Asst General Manager and Corporate Secretary of AFPMBAI), his private residence at No. 287 Col. B. Serrano Road, near the AFP Logistics Command, was made temporary office of AFPMBAI for free.

"We cannot bear to see widows and orphans becoming more destitute if they cannot be paid of their benefits particularly death benefits in their moments of bereavement" is all he can say when queried of his sacrifice allowing his residence to be temporary office of AFPMBAI for almost a year.

And when AFPMBAI which was then only a System called Mutual Benefit system, was being reorganized into a corporation in 1965, EPAP in behalf of the enlisted men appeared before the committee of Congressman Manuel Condordia of Laguna. Atty Acorda batted for a fair representative in the Board of Directors to allow Enlisted Personnel to sit in the board the moment the System is incorporated. This actually led to the creation of the chamber of Representatives, the electoral body that chooses the members of the board.

Another major project of AFPMBAI that became a permanent fixture in the management is the putting up of a news organ named "THE MUTUAL" in October 1970. The news organ is still in existence and for more than 20 years. It was managed and edited by an EPAP member, now retired Lt. Modesto M. Cunanan.

It was also at the beginning of the corporate life of EPAP when its motto: "Service to God, Country and People" was adopted as its guiding principle. Its logo a circular figure bordered by the inscription Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines with a map of the Philippines as backdrop and superimposed therein two hands in handshake pose symbolizing unity, amity, esprit de corps, cooperation to help and understand one another int he best tradition of the military. It adopted the colors "green and gold". Gold denoting its high values of service and integrity and green the great hopes that it must muster.

It was also during this period when several bills affecting the enlisted personnel were filed at the instance of the organization.

There was some kind of hiatus that existed in its management when Atty. Acorda upon his retirement in 1961 was tapped to head the Anti-Smuggling Unit in Palawan and then in Bataan and Zambales. But it was a short-lived gap in its management for not long after he was named Quezon City assistant fiscal, the usual ardor and enthusiasm within the organization was back for members in particular, the old guards, began congregating again holding meetings and conferences and socialization activities. All working committees back to their usual desk studies.

The martial rule in 1972

The declaration of Martial Law in 1972 was another significant period in the history of the organization.

Just like any entity or institution, upon the inception of this crisis regime, the organization was not spared of the initial impact of the emergency rule. Some kind of confusion and even feelings of uncertainly seeped in for martial law in its common connotation is an arbitrary system of law imposed by military authority suspending all civil laws. There was the non-experience of the people on a regime of its kind, although the country was virtually under a military rule during the three and a half years of Japanese occupation where civil obedience was exacted by the conquering country through their armed soldiers. No laws, no courts, no warrants.

There was the transitory shutdown of all media outlets, the radio, TV, print and postal communications for sometime and some arrests were reported effected. But for the battle-geared troops seen patrolling the streets and a few tanks rambling down in some thoroughfares, nothing was practically audible depicting a pulse of indignation by the people.

The late President Marcos was quick to contend the situation though, by announcing that what was declared was a crisis rule or administration based on constitutional authority where the President as Commander-in-Chief remains the head of the civil, government with the military subject to his command and order. Rhetorically, it was dubbed Martial law, "Philippines Style".

Obviously, the normal management of EPAP was somehow hampered. This was because its member in the active services could not now stay active in their involvement with the organization as they used to be. There was the need for maximum deployment of troops for field duties made extremely imperative to maintain order and control especially in those rebel-influenced localities. Field duties must take precedence over ordinary garrison or headquarters assignments. The exigency became more severely and strategically felt for there was the escalation of the violent armed activities of the rebels and insurgents who identified themselves openly as NPAs seeking political power and reported gaining influence and adherents in the principal areas of Southern Luzon in the Bicol Region. There were also the armed group in Mindanao known as the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic liberation Front (MILF), both groups aiming to secede from the country similarly in their continued pursuit of resorting to ambuscades, raids and running skirmishes with government troops. Except a few members who are headquarters personnel or units within Metro Manila, practically the rest of the EPAP members in the active services were now curtailed from their usual participation in meetings and planning studies and other involvement in the management of the organization.

It was at this instance, when a core group mostly from the Retired members and few from the active service was formed to attend to its day-to-day operation. This group was later on elegantly named the "Achievers Group" by Atty Acorda which he himself headed.

On account of the crisis government, largely most of the organization's activities were on a controlled basis. However, it was during this period when it strenghtened its planning arm for ways and means to approach with feasible projects the vow and commitment to provide and extend ameliorative assistance.

This gave rise to create the position of Project Development Officer and the formulation of a project study towards the establishment of a Soldiers Corporation that shall be initially provided with government money support. As conceptualized, the corporation shall be managed, controlled and operated by enlisted personnel with EPAP as the controlling institution. The working committee was headed by Atty Acorda.

As evolved, through lateral coordination with the AFP Joint Staff, the corporation shall bear the corporate name EPAP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT SERVICES, INCORPORATED (EPAP EDSI).

The salient considerations in its corporate operation is to develop business ventures tailored for the enlisted personnel to manage and control. These ventures were identified as Security Guard and Investigation Services, Janitorial Services and Landscaping, Marketing/Trading, Medium Infrastructures, Tourism and Motor Services Works. Immediately, there was the widespread support and jubilation from the rank and file when informed that EPAP was establishing a Soldier Corporation that can be the source of additional financial amelioration to the members and also provide employment for their dependants. While the corporation shall be a government-assisted firm as the required capital shall be sourced from the government, the study points to its eventual transfer of ownership to the enlisted personnel, stocks, assets and resources.

In condensed presentation, EPAP EDSI shall be provided money government-support of Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) which shall be divided into common shares of P10 per share. Every member shall be entitled to three shares each given free, but such stock shall be held by the government for and in behalf of the enlisted personnel for three years, after which, the corporation shall be exclusively owned by the enlisted men through EPAP.

Also formulated by this working committee headed by Atty Acorda was another project called SOLDIERS IMPACT FUND (SIF) where minimal amounts ranging from two to five pesos is assessed monthly from every enlisted personnel; and upon separation from the services, any mode of separation, the contribution is returned to the member under the "double the amount" scheme. Again, this is tailored for the enlisted personnel for what is two or even five pesos to those who smoke or drink once in a while. It also encouraged the habit of savings. This particular project has undergone intensive actuarial valuation that its solvency has been assured. Indeed, the late Undersecretary of National Defense Carmelo Barbero had already approved the project but for some few refinements int he mechanics of collection of contribution.

EPAP was also active and serious in its involvement in the KKK livelihood project advanced by GHQ AFP. Its officers and members attended pertinent seminars in and out of the military and held dialogues with other government agencies.

It bears to mention that EPAP through contacts and coordination managed to establish through documented agreement, a side by side contract with the purported owner of a sizeable 300 hectares of raw agricultural land in Boso-Boso, Antipolo, Rizal. Again the committee chaired by Atty Acorda evolved a study that all the six groups in the structural organization of EPAP will equitably share in the development and size (50 hectares each) of this vast tract of land.

Envisioned to be set up and developed are "tilapia" fishponds, goat raising (Anglo-Nubian breed), swine and poultry raising, short-term vegetable farm and fruit trees.

These three major projects: Soldier Corporation or EPAP EDSI, Soldiers Impact Fund (SIF) and Agri Development project in Antipolo, were the subject of almost everyday meeting, conferences, analysis, and sustained coordination and briefings. It was one facet of EPAP members mustering the best of hopes and collective efforts that through these projects a kind of livelihood boom shall dawn upon them. So exhaustive were the studies on these projects that all pre-operation requirements were completed in record time, fast tracking all contributory factors that shall insure availability of the envisioned business ventures.

Meantime also, the association AFPREVA standing for AFP Retired Veterans Association, the first chartered organization of retirees and veterans of the country, has also been the focus of EPAP's attention and concern. The organizations began to resuscitate this particular association being an entity which commitment is also welfare for all those with extensive service in the military. In fact, by these efforts, EPAP officers predominated in its management that EPAP president Atty Acorda also became the president of AFPREVA.

Another AFP-oriented organization RIOEPAP (Retired Inactive Officers Enlisted personnel Association of the Philippines) whose members included enlisted personnel who became officers was also rehabilitated B EPAP being actually a sister organization with similar objectives promoting the general interest of its members.

Briefly said, the inclusive period covering martial rule was mostly concentrated in the evolvement of those projects mentioned intended to be potential sources to ameliorate the living conditions of the entire soldiery.

Marial Law Lifted in 1981

In 1981, after almost nine years, martial law was finally lifted and concomittantly, a new AFP leadership was installed.

Among the leading event that can be prominently cited thereafter was the building of the present EPAP Center also along Col Bonny Serrano Road situated almost at the back of the Nursery School and the Chapel at Camp Aguinaldo at the far end of the putting range of the golf course.

Then AFPMBAI management headed by Brig General Pacifico M. Lopez de Leon and retired Col Ciceron P dela Cruz, offered EPAP to vacate its former Center (given by President Marcos) besides AFPMBAI building and in return, through their efforts and resources, with the support and approval of the then AFP Chief of Staff, Gen. Fabian C. Ver, AFPMBAI-AFP combine will build EPAP a new Center. This Center is now the present EPAP Center. It was an offer that bears and carries all aspects and attributes of a legal act for it is viewed in the nature of a swap agreement mutually agreed upon. Saying it in another way, EPAP merely agreed to the offer that it will vacate its old Center and AFPMBAI with the approval of the Chief of Staff, will build EPAP a new Center. The old site vacated by EPAP now stands a multi-million AFPMBAI Annex building, the reason why AFPMBAI made this swap offer.

To generate reasonable income to meet normal maintenance and operational costs, EPAP on its own initiative managed to put up a 6-lane bowling alley in the Center through soft loan, an account now fully liquidated.

It was also during this period when President Marcos in a personal audience with him at Malacañang Maharlika hall announced his approval of the establishment of the Soldiers Corporation earlier mentioned as EPAP EDSI, before a very large delegation of EPAP officers and members and their families.

Recalling the event, President Marcos in explicit words said" You took care in defending our country through your toils and sacrifices from the last war and even to this date helping our nation to progress; it is now time that the government shall take care of you. I am approving this corporation and we will provide the money support."

Following studies and briefings and presentation attended by General Ver and his Joint Staff, EPAP EDSI was evolved with a P5-milion capital coming from the government for the formal and official approval of the President. Through the government corporate counsel, President Marcos affixed his formal approval and the money government-support to come from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes.

Simultaneously, the Agri-Livelihood project at Boso-Boso was almost completed in its development plans. Some of EPAP officers attended seminars at the Bureau of Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Plant and Industry and Bureau of Soils attuned with the development plans. EPAP had already surveyed the Boso-Boso tract of land through a licensed surveyor, its soils components analyzed by the Bureau of Soils and appropriate documents of ownership over the land holding already coordinated with the Rizal provincial government and in the process of being cleared in accordance with legal requirements.

Also, appropriate printed briefing materials and primer on the Soldiers impact Fund were also repro-

duced and mailed to as many Units in the field to acquaint the enlisted personnel on the wherefores of the project. As earlier said, it was a project aimed to inculcate the value of savings at the same time, a sound investment.

As projected, the moment the money support from the government shall have been released, a reasonable amount will be appropriated to start the initial operation of the Agri project in Antipolo.

Other side activity was EPAP joining the first Philippine born Fraternal Order of Eagles (Philippine Eagles), an organization similar to such foreign societies like Lions, Kiwanis, Jaycees, Rotary International and others. In concept, finding Eagleism another opportunity to help enlighted communities through brotherhood, it managed to have its own chartered Eagles Club named Cubao Eagles now among the biggest in terms of membership after its members completed the required leadership training and ample exposure in the various humanitarian activities of the Order.

Most of EPAP members also found their way affiliating with other service, civic and culture oriented organizations. Atty. Acorda even became the president of Downtown Cubao Rotary International, member of PHILCONSA, Lions and other prestigious civic societies. Still others joined such organizations as Knights of Columbus, Damayan Magkakapit Bahay ang others at barangay level.

Given its aims and objectives refined through the years and its phenomenal growth after its incorporation, the impetus of progressive expansion into an institution that can help provide additional economic improvement became evident with the growing support of many including ranking officers and local executives.

And as potent and unique factor as an organization -EPAP never exacted any dues or contributions or financial assessment from the members, a commitment that still remain in force.

The new national leadership in February 1986

Now a major chapter in the history of the country, an unexpected turn of events in the political life of the people took place in February 1986. Popularly known as the "February Revolution" it was another national experience deeply etched in the minds of the people for there were other grim events that followed afterwards.

Initially, there was the change in the national leadership or the position of president and the concurrent emergence of new leaders in the upper echelon of the government principally in the executive branch. There were the series of "coup" attempts, again a new national experience of the country and the people.

Once more, this is another event that affected the leading projects of EPAP. Indeed, it was an occurrence that blotted out the organization's bigger hopes to be of real help to the soldiers given the struggling efforts it did invest all over the years searching for ways and means to be equal to its pledges.

Foremost, the great dream for the eventual operation of the corporation EPAP EDSI was thwarted. The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes pledged to release the P5-million government support fund for the soldiers corporation in the first quarter of 1986 or even earlier. The February Revolution or the inception of the so-called Revolutionary Government took place on February 26, 1986 and what followed was some kind of confusion and disorder in both private and public offices not only within Metro Manila but in many urban centres in the country.

Obviously, the new national leaderships initial concern was to reorganize the government , realign its bureaucracy and secure the national assets and resources. The series of "coups" that ensued later brought some internal strife as government forces are battling elements from their own ranks. This situation was aggravated by the continuous armed skirmishes also by government troops against the insurgents and rebels from the region of Luzon and down south in Mindanao in equal intensity against the Muslim secessionists.

Given these situation, there is the bleak and dreary hope of getting the money support from the gov-

ernment which meant the tacit loss of the Soldiers Corporation. Even the Soldiers Impact Fund appeared moribund and the Agri Project at Boso-boso confronted with some kind of problem as the procured tract of land was reportedly a part of the government watershed area.

These "coup" attempts allegedly out to destabilize the government and seize power gained international attention.

There is no doubt that these armed attempts had somehow dented the good image of the AFP and its members. There is the fact that the protagonists are both officers and men of the Armed Forces. There were deaths and casualties and destruction of properties and adverted as strong motive was to overthrow the government, although others said it was a struggle for good government . It was though, a kind of dark page in the country's history and could have been a real bloody event for the use of weaponry was a dominant factor.

Again, it comes as a shining record, that no EPAP officer or member was ever involved and/or participated in these armed efforts by the "coup" leaders and stagers.

In synchronized efforts, EPAP continued to attend to the affairs of AFPREVA and RIOEPAP with usual dedication conscious of the fact that members of these organizations are mostly living under reduced income after leaving the military.

The sports development program featured mostly by friendly bowling tournaments became one of its acclaimed activities as the participants are defense and security-oriented groups, like the members of the military, policemen, and civilian employees from camps and AFP posts and financial institutions of the AFP. This rapport and cordial relations with defense and AFP top officials was another concern that was never abandoned for the then Defense Secretary was General Fidel V. Ramos, one of the advisers of EPAP.

Entertaining optimism, projects mentioned as appearing to have been aborted are being reviewed particularly the Soldiers Corporation in the hope of reviving it.

The decade of the 90's

Understandably, EPAP musters enough pride at this point in its history in the election of President Fidel V. Ramos for he is one of the Advisers of the organization. But over an above this, in the knowledge that, , he is basically a military man who practically held all positions of command in the AFP from platoon leader, company commander, battalion commander, division commander and member of Joint Staff and finally as AFP Chief of Staff, he knew and saw at close range the living conditions of the soldiers. It is not therefore difficult to entertain high hopes that he will help to consider the long standing clamor of the servicemen for more economic lift particularly the old retirees for the increase of their pensions long authorized by law, but which the government failed to implement for some reasons or another.

But this is not a factor for EPAP to create its own plumes all because the President is one of its adviser, for the organization as repeatedly said, had lived up to its vow to be a deserving component of society, by its own record preserving its earned esteem in the name of the servicemen.

The beginning of this decade had its pro and con so to speak. It began when from some quarters came the move to eject EPAP and removal of its P3-million Center from its present site along Col B Serrano Road within the compounds of camp Aguinaldo.

EPAP officials submit that the ejectment move had no basis, either from the moral or legal point of view. EPAP president himself a lawyer as pointed out was quick to file an injunction to contain the action which the court considered. EPAP has more to say on this case at more appropriate time.

However, as a prelude EPAP could only restate that the organization is composed of enlisted personnel who had spent the best years of their lives as defenders and guardians of the people and the country reckoning

the period from the last war to the present in the national struggle for progress regimented to the virtues of loyalty and patriotism. If such other entities like the Republic Bank, Golf Course Facility, Association of General and Glad Officers, Philippine Veterans Bank and private concessionaires doing commerce and business inside Camp Aguinaldo with their buildings and structures, why not EPAP, who has been said was not involved in any of those armed struggles that sought to run over the government?

It is also during the start of this decade that its officers and members became more involved in the affairs of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines (VFP). In fact, its president is one of the vice presidents of the Federation for chartered organizations. Through its involvement with AFPREVA, it has now its own chapter of Sons and Daughters of Veterans, a subsidiary organization of VFP whose member are dependent of veterans.

One of the standing projects jointly pursued by EPAP along with other organizations like VFP and ARMOUR, was already practically considered by President Ramos - in the case of the Old Age Pensions for retirees and veterans; and hopefully, the regular pension to be increased at reasonable level to meet increasing cost of living.

To enhance the information drive on all the continuing plans and projects at the same time bring out stories and news of vital interest to both military and police personnel, the latter now being the organization of those members that were from the defunct Philippine Constabulary, it decided to put up a quarterly magazine named "The Soldier". In accordance with feedback received from readers, later on pertinent directives from the AFP and defense officers of general concern to the people were also published.

In consonance with the national economic agenda of President Ramos -the Philippines 2000 where the thrust is to improve and provide greater opportunities for the people for abundant living, officers and members of EPAP have attended a seminar conducted by the Bureau of Cooperatives and expectedly to prepare the members and the organization to set up cooperatives to propel the efforts for economic gains.

A more well-acclaimed project that drew praise and clamor in this period is its educational Scholarship Program. A total of 21 grants were extended for the school year 1994-95, all in the high school level. Obviously, the program is only for the dependants of members. For this purpose, EPAP tapped the services of an associate member to overseer the program. Those students with free tuition fees from public institutions are extended instead, stipends allowance. Also, as a policy, only those highly destitute dependent are given priority in the grant. And Educational Board processes and screens all applicant. As projected, as soon as the finances of the organization improves, the grant will extend to a 4-year college course.

EPAP also was summoned and appeared in a Senate Committee hearing chaired by Senator Rodolfo Biazon former AFP Chief of Staff on EPAP's position in a bill proposing additional enlisted ranks over and above the Master Sergeant. Proposed new ranks are The AFP Sergeant Major, Command Sergeant Major and Senior Master Sergeant. In a position paper it submitted to Senator Biazon, EPAP urged the early consideration and approval of the bill. Sergeant Major formerly a titled position now becomes a rank under this bill.

Equally, its sports development program continued to be pursued in high gear as more private and civic organizations began to participate in many amity tournaments.

Like in all previous years, EPAP sans of fanfares and flourishes hopes to add more, expect to struggle more, in the interest of its avowed aims of welfare for the enlisted personnel during this decade.

A broad profile

Along with this condensed account it is remarkably well to recite additional notable facts and events to show what EPAP has all been about, what it did, what it worked for, the magnitude of its efforts in this length of time.

Few knew, except the "old guards" of the organization, some of them had already passed away, that from the decade of the 50's to the 80's, there are bills, proposals and appeals which were either filed in congress at the instance of EPAP, or through the concern and benevolence of legislators. EPAP lobbied for them in congress, some pleaded for their consideration by AFP and national defense authorities.

Some of these proposals were enacted into laws, some overtaken by deliberations at various working committees in congress; some later on considered at modified versions in accordance with obtaining conditions.

The attempt to recite them is an effort to show that EPAP has never been remiss in looking and continue searching for all possible areas where the enlisted personnel could be assisted and be well-provided economically. And even officers as well, in those legislation where all AFP personnel will be benefited.

These are:

*** Proposal for an enlisted rank above the Master and First Sergeant for reasons that when one reaches any of these ranks, it would be the last enlisted promotion unless for a commissioned appointment. It proposed the creation of a "Warrant Officer" with corresponding pay increase similar to that in the US Army with distinct uniform and confined to administrative duties. But Warrant Officer in the US Army are addressed "Mister" and GHQ AFP is not prone to this kind of appellation among its uniform members and such other considerations if warrant officer will be subjected to the usual military rules and regulations specifically the grip of the Articles of war.

*** Proposal for the adoption of a "Family Allowance" where all children of minor age will receive each an allowance until reaching the age of maturity. This is a social move intended to benefit and help those enlisted personnel with comparably big family. The constraint on financial requirements became a drawback to its consideration.

*** Proposal to give priority to enlisted personnel holding reserve commission in the call to Active Duty (CAD). Somehow this was considered to some extent the reason why we see many of those who rose from the ranks retiring as field grade officers.

*** Proposal providing Longevity Pay for the enlisted personnel also known as Foggy Pay. A bill to this effect filed by the late Congressman Floro Crisologo of Ilocos Sur, was enacted into law, as RA 3725.

*** Proposal to increase sea duty pay of Navy personnel from 10% to 30% in consideration of the various physical discomforts attendant to sea life by amending RA 1831.

*** Proposal to extend educational benefits to any member of PHILCAG amending Sec. 2 of RA 65. This refers to those who actually served overseas.

*** Proposal providing for the redemption of the unpaid balance of emergency and guerilla currency notes filled by Congressman Aldeguer to benefit those legitimate members of resistance movement. Held at lower house committee hearing.

*** Proposal to extend to Philippine Constabulary retirees who died after retirement but prior to June 19, 1960 and to their widows and minor children the benefits of RA 340 filed by Congressman F San Juan.

*** Proposal providing for security from reversion reserve officers who have served or will thereafter serve in Vietnam filed by Congressman Floro Crisologo, Ilocos Sur.

*** Proposal providing for the transfer to the surviving spouse or widow of the disability pension upon death of a veteran disability pensioner, filed by Congressman F San Juan.

*** Proposal to authorize members of AFP who are professionals like doctors, lawyers, engineers and others to practice their professions to do away with requirements of seeking prior permission or authority from the defense department.

*** Proposal to increase the death gratuity of those who die while in the active service and doubling the CDD benefits, enacted into law as RA 5859 in 1970.

*** Proposal to authorize payment in advance to an officer or enlisted personnel who retires without getting one lump sum gratuity an amount equal to his pension for the first three years following retirement.

*** Proposal to amend certain sections of RA 138 known as the Pay Status Act, as amended by RA 1067 for enlisted personnel to receive full pay and allowances while awaiting trial by court martial during pendecy of case.

*** Proposals to increase rates of rental allowance also known as quarter allowance to higher and realistic level.

*** Proposal to grant enlistment gratuity pay to enlisted personnel now known as "reenlistment bonus"

*** Proposal to amend RA 340 that pension passes to lawful heirs upon death of the pensioner officer or enlisted personnel.

*** Proposal to increase the base pay of enlisted personnel enacted into law as RA 3460 which President macapagal signed in 1962 in the presence of EPAP members and families.

*** Proposal to grant civil service eligibility to certain officers and enlisted personnel.

*** Proposal to grant automatic promotion in rank to enlisted personnel based on their length of service. There are enlisted men who have been long in the service that are not promoted for some reasons like lack of T/O (Table of Organisation) position or comparably low in academic attainment but with honest and faithful service.

*** Proposal to grant to non-commissioned officers with the highest enlisted rank in the regular force automatic commission and appointment as Second Lieutenant in the Reserve Force upon retirement and for other purposes. Considered later with some modifications.

***Proposed gratuity for surviving widow and/or children of deceased soldiers to P6,000 in lump sum P2,000 of which shall be paid within 24 hours. Filed by Congressman Floro Crisologo.

***Proposal to withdraw 1,000 hectares from the military reservation at Fort McKinley (Ft Bonifacio) to be subdivided into small lots and to be sold to personnel of the AFP who are retired.

*** Proposal to amend RA 610 to include loss of hearing as a disability.

*** Proposal to amend RA 304 to include service with the Philippine Scout as part of active service with the AFP.

*** Proposal to amend RA 304, to include 23 September 1945 or 26 September 1946 for purposes of computation in Back pay Law. Filed by congressman Eladio T Balete.

*** Proposal providing compensation for those killed while trying to prevent a crime. Filed by congressmen Mitra, Felipe and Imperial.

*** Proposal to authorize the granting of loan by the Philippine Veterans Bank to veterans at the rate of 6% for the purpose of constructing their residential homes or investment in their business ventures. Filed by congressman Ramon Bagatsing. (This was during the former management of the PVB).

**** Proposal to extend free legal services by any lawyer from the department of Justice to those facing court charges resulting from acts committed while in the performance of duties. Filed by Congressman Simeon Valdez.

*** Proposal authorizing retired military personnel to receive compensation corresponding to the

salary and allowances of the civilian position to which they maybe appointed. Filed Congressman Lucas Cauton.

*** Proposal for setting up of Post Exchange or PX similar to those in US military posts. In some way, this was considered by GHQ AFP at much later date and on a different scheme.

*** Proposed and appealed for the giving priority to qualified enlisted men's dependants for employment in military offices. In some way, this was considered by GHQ AFP as more immediate dependants of soldiers are now employed in several AFP and police headquarters some holding key positions.

*** Proposal to increase hazardous pay of soldiers exposed to comparably higher risks like those in the bomb disposal unit, divers or underwater workers or rated crew members of PAF.

*** Proposal for the needs to rewrite the policy in the implementation of the 24th Articles of War. Under this particular article, commanders are clothed with authority to discharge an enlisted personnel from the service prior to his term of enlistment for some infractions or violations or offenses. EPAP contended that this is too arbitrary in some cases by citing particular instance of those enlisted personnel with 20 years or more of service. An enlisted personnel with these years of earned service establishes the fact that during this inclusive span of time, his services were honest and faithful; and since they were years of service well within the right to retire, these category of enlisted personnel must be allowed to retire honorably but for the commission of capital offenses, than be summarily discharged under the 24th Article of War where he loses or forfeits all rights to monetary benefits due and to become due.

This particular matter was even published in several military periodicals by an EPAP member to dramatize the wisdom of the proposal.

*** Proposal through an EPAP delegation for the recall of the Executive Order of President Marcos on the 200 hectares in Ft. Bonifacio. During the tenureship of President Diosdado Macapagal, he issued an Executive Order setting aside 200 hectares in fort Bonifacio to subdivided into home lots for the enlisted personnel. Upon becoming president in 1965, President Marcos rescinded this executive order of President Macapagal. EPAP delegation headed by Atty. Acorda appealed to then Acting Defense Secretary Manuel B. Syquio who promised to work for the recession order. Evidently, President Marcos was ill-advised on the matter.

*** Proposal for the granting of the 13th month pay extended to the civilian work force of the government also to members of the military on the ground that they are also government workers. Whether this was considered or not by GHQ AFP, EPAP did not fail to appeal to authorities of the equitable need for those in the military service to be extended the same benefit.

*** EPAP which has also a pool of full pledged lawyers had been providing free legal services like counselling, preparation of and documentation of legal papers like affidavits, complaints and pleadings, particularly to those high destitute members.

*** One morale-boosting grant worked out by EPAP was its representation to General Fabian C. Ver for EPAP to be among those group recipients for the yearly Christmas gift bags being given by Malacañang. EPAP as a separate entity receives its Christmas bags yearly thereafter until the inception of the new national leadership in 1986.

*** During national disasters and calamities, the organization in its own small way contributes to government relief agencies.

*** The EPAP Center for sometime also provided free sleeping spaces for enlisted men coming from the provinces to work for their retirement papers and benefits with no place to stay within Metro Manila.

*** Over the years, the giving of awards and recognition to members with outstanding and meritorious services was a part of its agenda for management. Among the innovative grant was the Leadership Award" in three degrees culminating to the "Grand Leadership". Non-EPAP members on the basis of their distinct and meaningful support and assistance to the organization are also presented appropriate awards.

*** As a special project during Christmas and new years celebration, EPAP officers and members contribute reasonable amount exclusively of gifts to the children. This is a yearly activity.

*** As an aside, arising from its record as a servicemen's association deeply infused with discipline and loyalty as it pursues its objectives of welfare and livelihood improvement, GHQ AFP in an unprecedented act provided EPAP with civilian employees and even an MP security. Due to the exigency of the service, this kind of support was eventually terminated.

*** All through the years, EPAP maintained close rapport and coordination with the Office of the AFP Sergeant Major, the personal staff and adviser of the AFP Chief of Staff on the area of morale, discipline and performance in the rank and file. Indeed, former top officials of the AFP Sergeant Major are now occupying key positions with EPAP.

*** But all is not men's work at EPAP for even the better halves members organized themselves in an effort to contribute and help in the overall commitment of the organization. They formed the Enlisted Personnel Ladies Association of the Philippines (EPLAP). They have their own organizational structure and working committees and they also join meetings of EPAP even in remote military posts and camps.

*** EPAP also joined various moves and appeals for the United States government to readjust the monetary benefits for those who served during the war similar to those other components of (USAFFE) United States Armed forces in the Far East like the Philippine Scouts and members of the 31st Infantry Regiment (US) and others under the US- Philippine Department. Also, it joined in the appeal to reopen the recognition of deserving Filipinos who really fought and suffered during the resistance movement but for some reasons or another failed to be recognized. And there are also existing laws enacted by the USA government where war veterans are still entitled to some monetary benefits and again, for unknown reason never extended. EPAP is working closely with Retired Brig General Dionisio S. Ojeda, former PEKTOK commander and president of AFPREVA on this matter in coordination with the VFP.

*** Among the major resolutions adopted and approved was its objection to a proposal for a US Statehood for the Philippines like Hawaii and Alkaska as advocated by Congressman Bartolome Cabangbang for the simple reason that nationalism is well ingrained in the minds of EPAP members.

This broad bio sketch of EPAP in terms of its orientation to unity, seriousness of purpose and deeds can be further capped by its attributes of loyalty and patriotism for in any of those violent activities by either the insurgents, rebels, secessionists, "coup" stagers or by any armed group out to take power of government or for whatsoever motivation, the organizations or any of its members were ever entwined holding inviolate its love of country.

A virtual representative of the Enlisted Personnel

By these reflections, it is rationally clear that EPAP in more ways and beyond doubt, did represent the entire enlisted corps in the quest and search for improved welfare benefits and services at the same time, help strengthen the resolve for higher levels in discipline, loyalty and performance within the AFP establishment on the side of the rank and file.

This is no misnomer or misappellation of what it did and struggled to work for through the years. The core of its activities, vision and behaviour of its members attuned with its fundamental aims and objectives are open and overt.

The series of testimonials given and extended by top officials of the government and specifically, those from the AFP and Defense authorities speak for themselves. They are flawless in citing the invaluable contributions and labors of EPAP for a better soldiery. Invariably, this amounted to an explicit nod and recognition

that the organization was indeed, a virtual representative promoting the general welfare and interest of all the enlisted personnel in the country. These terstimonials even carried the injunction for EPAP to continue its idealisms of concern and welfare for the enlisted personnel.

This recognition is tactily seen and drawn from facts and events that bears to be repeated in brief to bring forth the materiallity of being a forefront organization where the welfare of the enlisted men is at stake.

It is thus restated: the occasion when EPAP was summoned to appear in Senate committee hearing on the pay-increase of the enlisted personnel; summoned and appeared for the enlisted personnel position on the proposed conversion of the present AFPMBAI into a corporation before a lower house committee hearing; President Marcos' approval of the Soldiers Corporation to be named EPAP EDSI; President Macapagal summoning EPAP members to be present in his signing of the pay increase bill; various testimonials from civil and military leaders commending and urging EPAP to continue on its mission for a well-provided soldiery; letter directives of the Defense Department and AFP Chief of Staff General Manuel T Yan to extend support to EPAP and allow enlisted personnel to seek membership with the organizations.

The 15-man Advisory Board headed by the President of the country and four AFP Chiefs of Staffs acquiscing to provide counsel and guidance to EPAP in the sheer knowledge that EPAP is all for the enlisted personnel in its noble design as an organization.

And prominent fact - EPAP during all its almost four decades of existence, has never been censured, restrained or repressed in its posturings of representing advancing and working to upgrade the economic level of the soldiers in obedience to one of its aims and purposes -"to represent and defend the interest of the enlisted personnel and their families" as enshrined in this constitution.

The testimonials

- with much pleasure, I extend my congratulations to the Enlisted personnel of the Philippines as it celebrates its anniversary. I regard your anniversary theme as a most laudable response to my call for greater unity, solidarity and involvement in our quest for peace and progress - PRESIDENT FIDEL V RAMOS

- am well aware of the EPAP's effort as a whole in furthering the welfare of our enlisted men. Undoubtedly, it has brought many benefits that have contributed significantly to the improvement of the quality of life of our enlisted personnel and their families. MAJOR GEN FIDEL V. RAMOS, Chief of Constabulary and Director General Integrated National Police.

- I commend you for dedicating your lives to the safeguarding of our people's liberties. While working for the protection of our country you have likewise made valuable contributions towards sustaining our efforts to promote genuine peace - SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.

- I hope EPAP will be at the fore of realizing that the ends of defense must be achieved through development and diplomacy. In the words of Sun Tzu, the military strategist: "The supreme act of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting". SENATOR ALBERTO G. ROMULO.

-I would like to express my congratulations to the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP), Inc. for being of service to the country for more than three decades. SENATOR ORLANDO S. MERCADO.

-To achieve your organization's goals, I urge EPAP officials and members to strengthen unity of efforts and devotion to duty as you move ahead to meet present and future challenges. SENATOR LETICIA RAMOS SHAHANI.

- Mabuhay ang mga pagpupunyagi ng EPAP para sa pagkabansa at kaunlaran ang ating bayan. SENATOR (General) RODOLFO G. BIAZON

-Indeed, the EPAP, Inc. has garnered a long, veritable and enviable service to our soldiers. It has become a home, a bastion and a sanctuary to the often neglected Filipino fighters. CONGRESSMAN (Brig General) EDUARDO R. ERMITA.

-For the past three decades, the EPAP has been actively involved in laudable activities geared to foster camaraderie and unity within the Armed Forces. CONGRESSMAN JUAN PONCE ENRILE.

- It is reassuring that your association is determined to pursue its avowed mission to protect and promote the interest and welfare of AFP servicemen and their families and to assist in upgrading discipline and efficiency in the military service. SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE JUAN PONCE ENRILE.

- I take this opportunity to commend the entire personnel of our Armed forces for keeping the backbone of our defense establishment strong and straight. Indeed, no army can long survive, much less render effective service if the rank and file are substandard. In recent years the EMs of the armed forces have responded to the effort toward upgrading the quality of our military by doing their work better and by improving their relations with the public. I trust that EPAP will lead the Way. PRESIDENT FERDIAND E MARCOS.

- Indeed, the record performance of the EPAP demonstrates the dynamism of its officers and men in carrying out the vital role entrusted to them . PRESIDENT FERDINAND E. MARCOS.

-Government policies have made the welfare of the Filipino soldiers and their families a central concern. It is heartening to note the cooperative spirit and self reliant attitude that an organization as the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines manifests. PRESIDENT FERDINAND E MARCOS.

-EPAP, in more ways than one, contributed much in bringing to the attention of Congress and the President vital and needed legislation affecting our military personnel. I join President Macapagal in wishing EPAP more power. MACARIO PERALTA JR. Secretary of National Defense.

- It has succeeded in bringing the enlisted personnel, both active and retired, into a homogeneous group. It has promoted and protected their best interest. SENATOR RODOLFO GANZON

- I can unreservedly assure the members of the organization that as long as I live, I shall continue serving the best interests of the members of the Armed Forces. My fondness of the men in uniform stems not only from my close associations with them during the war years when we fought together in the battlefields, but also because of my services and sacrifices as a soldier in your ranks. CONGRESSMAN FLORO CRISOLOGO.

- As one among you, I am delighted to see the EPAP still a vigorous organization and I fervently hope that it will continue to grow, to emerge as one of the most potent associations in this country. COMMISSIONER ALBERTO R. DE JOYA.

- As an association whose membership comes from all the major services of the Armed Force, it can be expected to provide guidance towards our common effort in promoting the welfare of the enlisted men corps as well as in enhancing the best interest of the AFP. AUGUSTO L. JURADO, Brig Gen, CG PAF.

- In this era of peace and security, like fraternity of citizen soldiers could serve as the moving spirit behind the economic well-being of the people just as they could be the motivating force in our peacetime effort to establish a truly vigilant citizen force for national security. I am happy to greet the members of EPAP on the occasion of their 1st Anniversary. ISMAEL D LAPUZ, CG, PA.

- You are the proud heirs of a fine tradition of service to God and country that your predecessors have bequeathed to you. Through the years, the enlisted men have shown a sterling example of soldiery; courage in the face of crisis; prudence in time of peace. I ask you not to tarnish this enviable record, but rather to do something in your power and add more glory and honor to maintain the good name of the military service. FLAVIANO P. OLIVARES. Brig Gen, Chief PC.

- I am gratified to note that the Association is doing its part with sustained enthusiasm. It has my support and encouragement. I reiterate the hope that it will continue to be, as I said before, a partner of the

AFP in the service to our country. GEN MANUEL T. YAN, AFP Chief of Staff.

- It is satisfying to note the EPAP's role in the promotion of the welfare of its members. In its more than a decade of existence. The Association has served as an effective instrument in bringing about closer understanding among the enlisted men in the various services including those in the retired lists. LT-GEN RAFAEL M. ILETO.

- It must be born in mind however, that the members of EPAP are military personnel and are expected to act within the framework of the military organization, unlike other persons who are members of labor unions, etc. The leaders of EPAP too must exhibit selfless interest and show that they deserved the trust of the members. BRIG GEN EDUARDO M GARCIA, Chief PC.

- EPAP more than a unifying organization is a force good in our democratic society and capable of constructive undertakings that would redound to the benefit not only to the enlisted personnel, active and retired, but also of their dependent and the nation in general. SPEAKER CORNELIO VILLAREAL.

- Through your Association, I feel confident that greater progress can be attained for the enlisted personnel. It is a fact that a contented servicemen is a better soldier and a better soldier is what our people needs at this time when aggression and subversion confronts every free society in this part of the world. SENATOR ARTURO M. TOLENTINO.

- My heartfelt congratulations and may the EPAP realize the aims and purposes of their organization for a more devoted service to the nation, N.S. AMORANTO, Mayor, Quezon City.

- With members of EPAP, I would not only be in the midst of comrade-in-arms but also among friends. TIRSO L. RODIRGUEZ, President National Press Club.

- Collective discipline is the call of our present times. I am happy to note that EPAP and its members have been aware of this and have tried to be exponent to this demand in the interest of national growth. COL TOMAS BATILO, PA, AFP Camp Commander

- The Armed Forces of the Philippines relies heavily on the enlisted rank in the accomplishment of its mission. Your choice of theme is fitting in the light of greater responsibilities entrusted to the Armed Forces. Let your nineteen years of dedicated service be a source of pride and inspiration to continue with the good work. GENERAL R. C. ESPINO, AFP Chief of Staff.

- It is therefore, with great pride that I extend my warmest congratulations to the members, and I am confident that with their commitment and dedication to duty, every challenge will only serve to spur them to greater achievements. Congratulations and carry on. GENERAL R C. ESPINO, AFP Chief of Staff.

- Since its foundation, the EPAP has effectively provided a vehicle for collective action to advance the cause of the Enlisted Personnel and their families. MAJOR GENERAL FABIAN C VER, CG PSC

- For 20 long-years of its existence the EPAP has accomplished its mission with unwavering loyalty and total dedication. Its achievements are truly reflective of your highest sense of involvement and commitment to the ideals of national-building. BRI GEN FABIAN C. VER, CG, Presidential Security Command.

- Through the years, the Association has greatly assisted the Armed Forces of the Philippines in safeguarding the best interest and welfare of our servicemen and their families. MAJOR GENERAL FORTUNATO U ABAT, CG PA.

- For two decades the Association has been very much involved in the welfare of its members in the active and those who have retired as well as their dependants. MAJ GEN FORTUNATO U ABAT, CG PA.

- Nothing could be more appropriate and representative of your movement than your theme, "The Enlisted Personnel as Vanguards and Protectors to the Increasing Mission of National Welfare and Development." This continued effort by EPAP to promote unity and cooperation among our people is deeply gratifying.

MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL O SARMIENTO, CG, PAF

- For the past twenty years, the EPAP, Incorporated has played a vital role in helping the military organization by fostering harmony and cooperation among enlisted men and upgrading the profession of soldiery. MAJOR GEN SAMUEL O SARMIENTO C, CG, PAF

- It is gratifying to note that EPAP has metamorphosed into a vast organization whose members come from all the enlisted personnel of our Armed Forces including those who are now under retired status. Its objectives of assisting the AFP in looking after the welfare and interest of the servicemen and their families is truly a noble task. REAR ADMIRAL ERNESTO R OGBINAR, FOIC, PN.

- In many years of its existence, EPAP has continuously worked for the benefit of the enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We could mention the creation, by decree of President Marcos of the EPAP Investment Development Corporation through EPAP's representation. REAR ADMIRAL ERNESTO R OGBINAR, FOIC PN.

The members of EPAP, have always played an important role in the Armed Forces of the Philippines in particular to the country in general. I hope that your Association will continue to encourage and inspire the soldier-members to carry on in exemplary manner its pursuit of the lofty ideals of your Association. COMMODORE JAIME FRANCISCO, CG AFP LOGCOM

- It is gratifying to note that your celebration is focused on the them: "The Enlisted Personnel as Vanguards and Protectors to the increasing Mission of National Welfare and Development." This reflects the noble aspiration of the association, not only to cater to the needs of the enlisted personnel members, but also to contribute to national progress and development. BRI GEN BENJAMIN G. SANTOS, Brigade Comdr, 5th Inf Bde (Sep) PA.

- Ang tanging paglilingkod ng inyong samahan para sa pangkaraniwang kawal ay hindi na kailangan na bigyan nang diin sapagkat ang pagkilala sa EPAP ay sa ating pinakamahal na Pangulo ng Pilipinas na nanggaling sa isang pinuno ng hukbo na tulad ko. COL ARTURO T. ASUNCION, PHILIPPINE MARINES.

- Bequeathed with the historic fiat of the support of no less than our Commander-in-Chief, this eventual occasion marks the full institution of the EPAP Inc. towards the attainment of its objective in support of the New Society. COL BENJAMIN N SANTOS, CO, PA TRAINING COMMAND.

- It is my fervent hope that EPAP in coordination with TANGLAW could evolve a continuing program that would-enable the disciplines embodied in TANGLAW to seep into the ranks of active as well as retired and inactive personnel. This is particularly true in the case of EPAP for EPAP is not just a body but the soul of the Armed Force. BRIG GEN ALEXANDER L FELIX, CG CIVIL RELATIONS SERVICE.

- I likewise congratulate the officers of the Association which have efficiently managed and steered the affairs of EPAP in order to keep it active and responsive to the social and economic needs of the members and their dependent. BIG GEN PEDRO S BALBANERO (RET-ADVISER EPAP

- For more than any other group your organization can, and must spearhead the efforts of responding to the call of unity and increased productivity. As you have fought, so you must continue to fight to sustain the structure of peace, freedom and stability in our country. BRIG GEN JAIME C ECHEVERRIA (RET), Adviser.

- I trust that the members of the association shall redicate themselves to continue the task of preserving the unity to be strong enough as partners in nation building. COL JULIAN M MAALA, (Ret) ADVISER.

- In reflecting upon the role of EPAP, it is evident that the Association continues to prove itself in properly representing our enlisted personnel on issues collectively affecting them. Through the years it has lived to its self defined role as active partner of the AFP hierarchy in promoting the welfare and camaraderie of the rank and file. It is indeed a potent organization that it has been most helpful in assisting the enlisted personnel as they continue to serve the Armed Forces of the Philippines. BIRG GEN PABLO V GALVEZ, CG, 51st Engineer Brigade.

- It is a great privilege for me to be identified with this association as the spiritual adviser during its formative years and I am glad to know that today it is an institution - a prestigious organization which has contributed a lot not only in increasing the unity, understanding, brotherly love among its members in the whole Armed Forces but also in building credibility, interest, respect to the civilian population. MSGR (BRIG GENERAL) DOMINGO L NEBRES

- May your organization continue to be a vital element in our search for unity, peace and progress. REP. JOSE V YAP, 2nd DIST TARLAC

- EPAP has faced numerous challenges, including serious ones, that threatened its good name and very existence. As testimony of its strength and relevance, however, it has successfully withstood and overcome them and came out prouder and stronger. COL ALFREDO P. CALLANTA, Adviser

The Board of Advisers

EPAP has an Advisory Board who are consulted on a need basis. They are President Fidel V Ramos (even before he became president of the country), ex-Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, General Renato S De Villa, RTC Judge Aurelio C Trampe, General Arturo T Enrile, Lt-General Rafael A Ileto, Brigadier Generals Alexander L Felix, Pedro A Balbanero, Jaime E Echeverria, Alfredo S Olano, (Nsgr) Domingo L Nebres, General Manuel T Yan, Col Santiago L Cayton, Col Alfredo P Callanta and Col Julian M Maala.

It would not be extremely necessary to present the dazzling profile of its Advisory Board. Enough to say, all were adopted and chosen not merely on the basis of their individual merits and qualifications and invaluable service to the country, but similarly on their distinct viewpoints and outlook and understanding on the social and welfare needs of the soldiers lifted from their thorough knowledge and attachment to the organization. Of course, except Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile who nevertheless was defense secretary for a number of years, all are backed up by their praiseful record of military service and as stated, one even becoming the president of the nation. Eleven are star officers and four of them becoming AFP Chief of Staff and the rests as top senior field commanders and members of the AFP Joint Staffs. Also, one rose from the rank and became a Regional trial Judge and one is a Chaplain but also a star officer who provides and attends to the spiritual needs of the organization and its members.

It is a high privilege and distinct honor for EPAP for them to be associated with the organization.

THE ADVISERS



PRES. RAMOS



GEN YAN



GEN DE VILLA



HON. J. P. ENRILE



GEN ENRILE



LT-GEN ILETO



B/GEN FELIX



B/GEN ECHEVERIA



B/GEN BALBANERO



COL CAYTON



COL CALLANTA



HON A TRAMPE



COL MAALA

Its Present Officers

The present officer-component of EPAP mirrors and disclosed a blending of a capable, competent and experienced group in the fields of welfare, morale and management as borne by their qualifications, training and key positions held in and out of the military services.

One was a former The AFP Sergeant Major and now a devout religious leader and two are command Sergeant Majors one of whom is still in the active service representing an engineering brigade and the other from the Philippine Navy. Some are former soldiers from the Philippine Scout; a good number are US-trained in various military fields; all of college levels in academic credential; and all with ample exposure in both combat and administrative and technical duties. Also, they are enlisted leaders in their units.

Of course, the president is a member of the Philippine bar, retired assistant city fiscal, a World War II veteran and retiree, a Lt-Colonel in the AFP Reserve Force and a noted civic, cultural and community leader.

Unfinished Conclusion

While there is pride and delight in presenting the history of EPAP, it becomes inevitable to remember those departed members who were much a part of its enriching account. They labored much as well as the others.

They are remembered in deep respect: Federico Ondoy, Manuel Soriano, Eliseo Fernandez, Vicente Brillo, Ambrocio Odono, Vicente Oncita, Alipio Carpio, Tomas Guiang, Mateo Tinonas, Ramon Panis, Nicanor Ricalde, Benjamin Corpuz, Cleto Tabonigao, Leandro Quimel, Pedro Villablanca, Supicio Corpuz, Hilario Fernandez, Victor Jamandron, Eugenio Puente, Florencio Milana

THE OFFICERS



E R ACORDA
President



J GUZMAN, Jr.
EVP



S V EDADES
1st VP



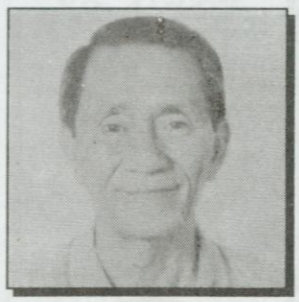
E V SARCEDA
2nd VP



J MALAGUENO
3rd VP



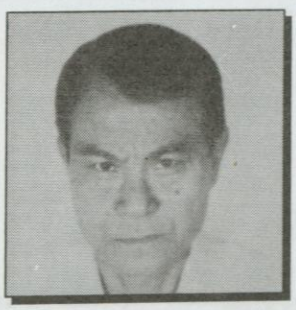
A MANOLO
4th VP



G GARCIA
5th VP



S VERSOZA
6th VP



T IBARRA
Exec Assistant



J R SAGUN
Sec Gen



C A VILLEGAS
Treas Gen

THE OFFICERS



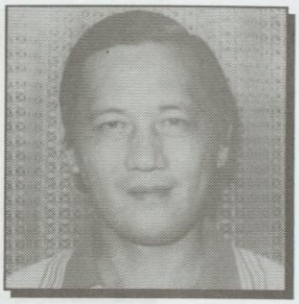
P E ILAGAN
Auditor Gen



F EVANGELISTA
Asst Auditor



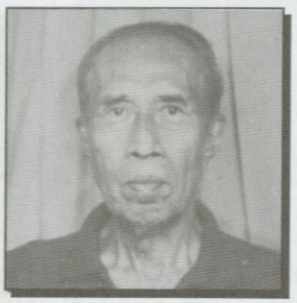
O MADIAM
Business Mgr



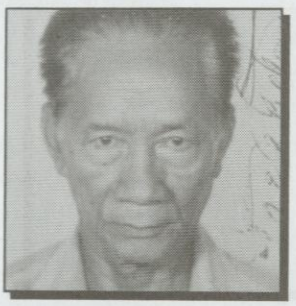
T CALAUNAN
Dep Marshall



T TULLIAO
2nd Asst Sec



R AGUILAR
Asst Legal Officer



J BAJARIAS



R FERNANDEZ
Coordinator



D BASA
Asst Coordinator



B DE VERA
Bowling Mgr



M M CUNANAN
Historian



V G VALERA
Center Secretary

Some of the deceased members. There are more but because of communication gap over the years and their geographical location, they could not be cited in this account.



M TINONAS



S CAPUZ



E PUENTE



R PANIS



A CARPIO



L QUIMEL



T GUIANG



B CORPUZ



H HERNANDEZ



J VILLABLANCA



V JAMANDRON



H DIALO



V DOMONDON



V ONCITA



SANTILLAN

Unfinished Conclusion

A mere gladdening ambience worthy to cite is the other side of this account. In all its meetings and congregations, like a covenant of sort, members mostly now in attire of mixed civies, wrinkled-swept faces, in grayish to white hairs meet each other and relive their memories and experiences in the military services. From the war years, post was era and the decades thereafter, to the anti-dissident campaigns and simple garrison duties and some not making it long enough to see some progress of the country, they recall the nostalgic pasts. But in the knowledge of having had the rare opportunity to serve as defenders of the country and the people in many crucial times, is enough to see them appearing yet vibrant and proud though in their now reduced income.

There are also ribald jokes and laughter among them and the famous "old man's glee" trying to feel younger though with wobbling knees. Exchanges of fascinating tales back from their boot camp training days, then field assignments, patrols and encounters, then getting hitched up to marital life and now in their retired status as AFP pensioners with meager pensions comes enlivening.

And a common scenario - old buddies who have not seen each other after leaving the service so many years back would always ring clear and fondly such greetings as: "dito lang pala sa EPAP tayo muling magkikita" (its only in EPAP where we meet again), just too nostalgic.

This story is not complete by itself. For it had to be continued somehow.

But an organization reaching the span of more than four decades with a beginning webbed out of a simple pursuit for equity in social want, sustained and nurtured in the best tradition of soldiery and flourishing into an assemblage exemplary in its deportment on loyalty and discipline must have somehow, earned a deserving place in society.

The officers and members and all those associated in tis evolution, EPAP stands to acknowledge and reach them out gratefully all those who gave support and encouragement to the organization.

In the best of times, a sequel to this story may certainly follow clear in the perception that those who will come to take over its management hereafter, will keep to document and chronicle every little effort and achievement of the organization deserving of a truly soldiers dream in the interest of posterity for all.

The President of EPAP

By: Lt. JUAN R. SAGUN
Secretary General

He has been providing leadership and direction in the management of EPAP in the unprecedented span of 36 years as its President.

Long had been his desire to leave the position for others to take over. But he was such a man who would not dodge responsibility and tasks demanded of him by his peers. Varied reasons come to fore. He was one of the old guards of the organization starting as a member in the early post war years of World War II and later to pace its leadership following his perception and militant crusade for a truly soldiers' organization worth the effort in establishing it.

A scion of a married educators from the work-oriented racial lineage from the North who were among the early pioneering public mentors in the then back country of Mindanao, Atty. Esmeraldo R. Acorda was born and grew up into manhood in this region.

It was at this stage of his life when the last war broke out. Like all young men imbued with patriotism and love of country, he joined the 1st Bn, 112th Infantry, 110th Division, 10 MD, then in the forefront of the resistance movement against the Japanese in many hinterland of Mindanao. This was the beginning of his military life. Raw in courage, but determined to accept the dares of soldiering, he was among the fortunates to survive the cruelties of war.

Shortly after the country was liberated by the American Forces, his family returned to Luzon where he found himself assigned as a non commissioned officer with the defunct Philippine Constabulary in Camp Crame now the main headquarters of the Philippine National Police.

His love for the science of law began to seep in as his ambition after he was sent to take the Criminal Investigation Course at the 1st PC Zone Headquarters in Bamban, Tarlac emerging as the second placer. Thereafter, this was followed by other assignments until he was moved to the Finance Center of GHQ AFP in Camp Aguinaldo. This assignment provided him the opportunity to pursue a law career.

His extended assignment with the AFP Finance added another new and irreplaceable charter in his life. He met a pretty lovely lass from the province of Cavite, an acquaintance that led to a marital tie years later. The former Zenaida Alix was then also a finance personnel who finally retired as a senior AFP governments employee.

In 1954 he finished his law course at the Far Eastern University and passed the Philippine bar the following year. At his GHQ AFP assignment, he was immersed in investigative and intelligence work in relation to finance matters. But lawyering was his innate ambition that soon after reaching and qualifying for retirement, he left the military service.

Now out of the Armed Forces, he was named legal officer and later head of the Anti-Smuggling unit in Palawan and then in Zambales until he was tapped assistant fiscal of Quezon City staying in this position until he retired in 1987.

Augmenting his exposure in law and of his other interest, he attended several abridged courses and seminars among them:

Army Extension Course, AFP Managment & Supervision Course, Top Echelon Management Development, Seminar for Education Members, at UP, Annual Institute on Labor Relations Law at UP, Seminar on P.D. 603, Regional Seminar for Government Prosecutors, Regional Seminar on Probation at Supreme Court of the Philippines, Manila World Law Conference; Seminar or Criminal Law, Remedial Law, Trial Techniques, Special Court at UP Law Center; Symposium on the Adult Probation Law and Current Issue



LT-COL ESMERALDO R. ACORDA, JAGS (RES)

Common to Medicine and Law at UP Law Center National Prosecution Service Seminar, Seminar on Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran and Seminar on the Constitution of the Philippines.

As a professional and community and civic leader, he has been either an officer or member of such prestigious organizations as: President, AFP Retired Veterans Association (AFPREVA) Inc., Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippine (EPAP), Inc., Capitol City Residents Association (CACIRA), Inc., Damayan Ng Magkakapit Bahay (DAMAYAN) , Inc., National Commander, Retired & Inactive Officers & Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (RIOEPAP), Inc., Past National President, The Fraternal Order of Eagles (Philippines Eagles); Past President, Rotary Club of Downtown Cubao, District 380; Trustee, World War II Veterans; Charter President, Cubao (EPAP) Eagles Club; Charter Member-club Service Director, Rotary Club of Downtown Cubao; Charter Member-PRO, Silangan Lions Club; Executive Secretary, Philippine Eagles Foundation (PEFI), Inc., Assistant Treasurer, Government Employees Funds Investment Corporation (GEFIC), Inc., Director, Kaisahan Ng Mga Kawani Ng Pamahalaan (KKP), Inc., Member, PHILCONSA, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, The Last Watering Hole Association, Inc., Quezon City Bar Association, Inc., Armed Forces Savings & Loan Association, Inc., Philippines Association of Judge Advocates, Armed Forces of the Philippines Finance Service Association, Guard of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Name Society, Cubao Walking Corporation, Philippine Constitution Association (PHILCONSA), United Way; Chairman, Scouting movement, Libis Elementary School; Adviser, PEMBO PTA, Murphy-Crame Jeepney Driver's Association, CURSAC (Libis Chapter), South Crame AC Operators and Drivers Association, Bgy. No. 5 (Bgy, San Roque) and Quezon City Science High School PTA.

Additionally, he is one of the most energetic war veterans involved in the affairs of retirees and veterans of the country being the Vice-President of the veterans Federation of the Philippines.

He earned the rank of Lt-Colonel in the Judge Advocate Service reserve force of the AFP and at present a law practitioner with his own law firm "Acorda and Associates" to be joined by his son and daughter-in-law who are also both lawyers manning it.

He has sired five children-all professionals and gainfully employed: Eszen an engineer; Jesie a doctor of veterinary medicine; Ida a nurse, Leza a fishery scientist and Eviess a lawyer.

As a civic, cultural and community leader, he is a multi-awardee, presented to him by various organizations and institutions.

His late parents never left the field of education until they both retired as public school teachers.

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On behalf of all their clients and the worlwide staff of The Immigration Centre (TIC), we offer our congratulations to the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines for spreading goodwill towards the preservation of life and prosperity in the Philippines. Thus allowing TIC to successfully help hundreds of Philippine families who seek to expand their knowledge into other countries. Without your unwavering support to the Government who trust that TIC can definitely deliver, as they have done hundreds of times, it would not have been possible as confirmed in herein letter from The Office of the Philippine Vice President.

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TO: *The Manila Bulleting for standing beside TIC in its endeavors to help Filipinos. TIC further wishes the Bulletin a good anniversary and many prosperous years to come.*

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ROYCE LANE
Chairman of the Board at
Hong Kong TIC Office

THE T

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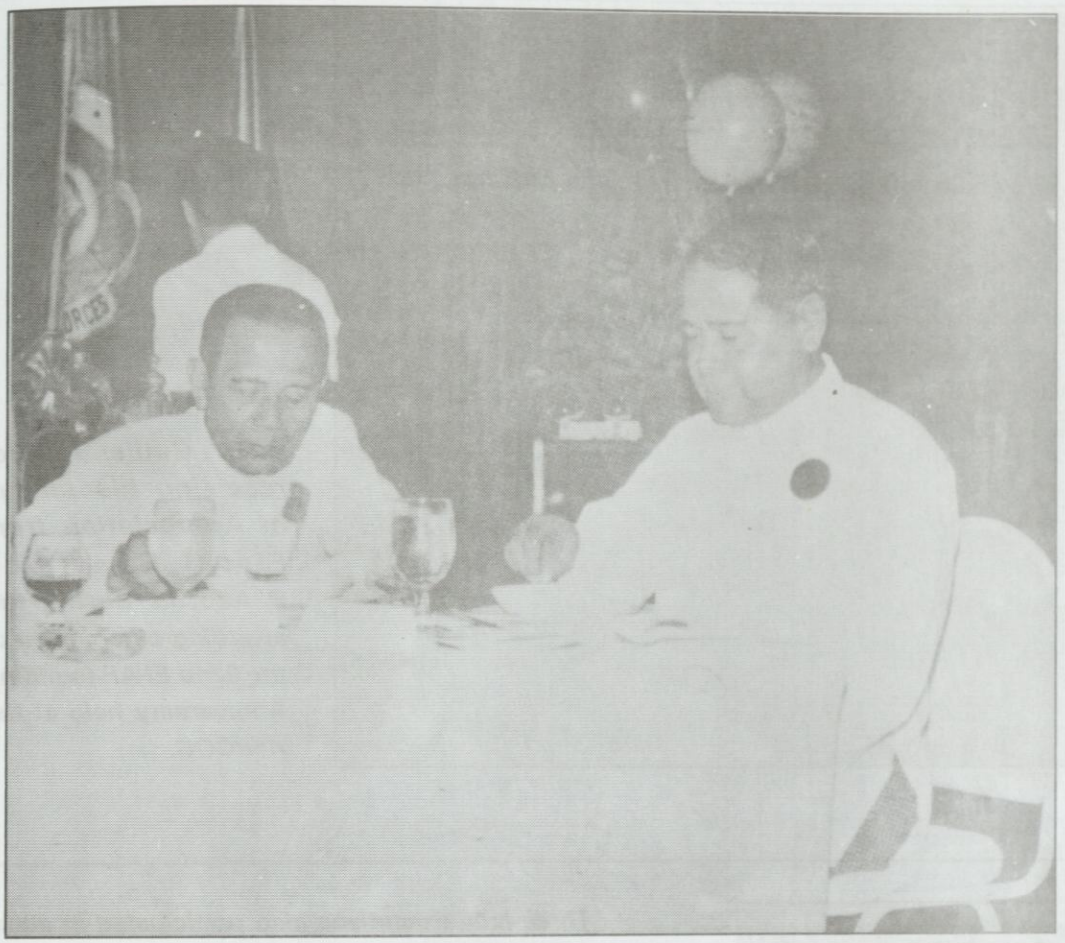
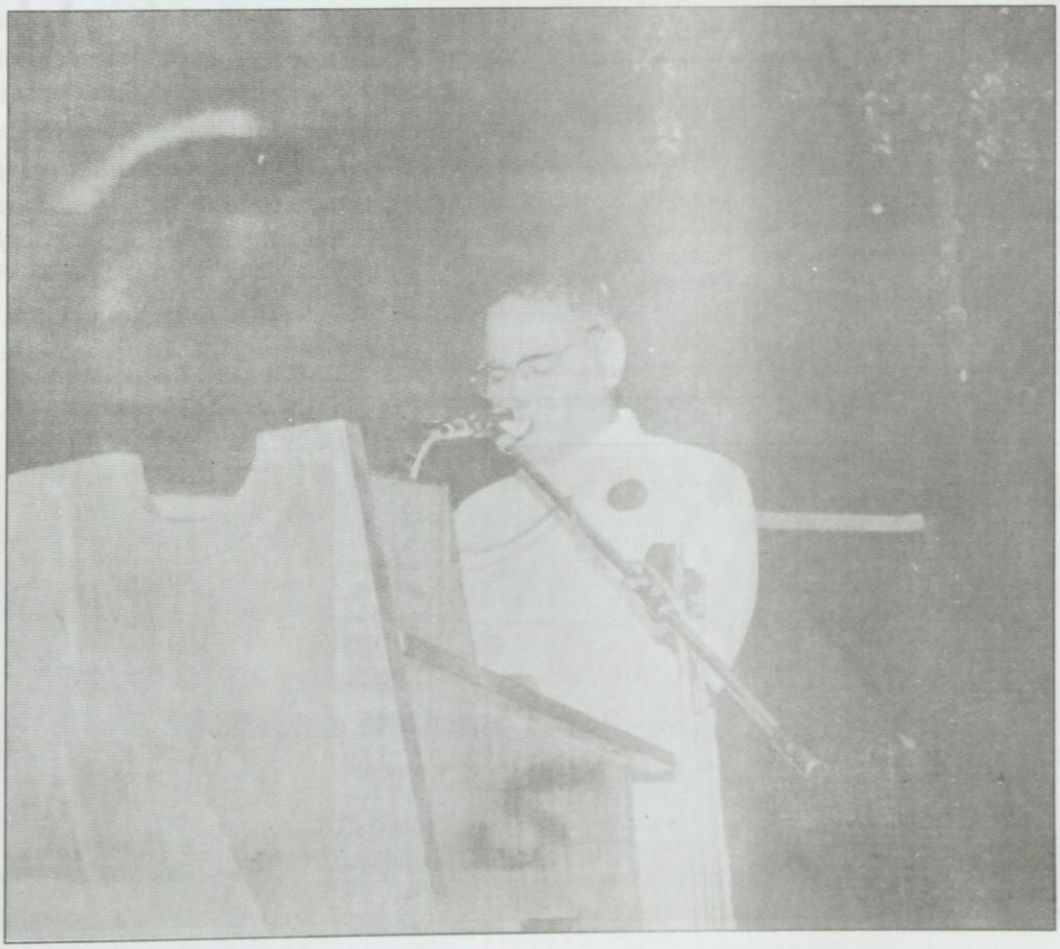
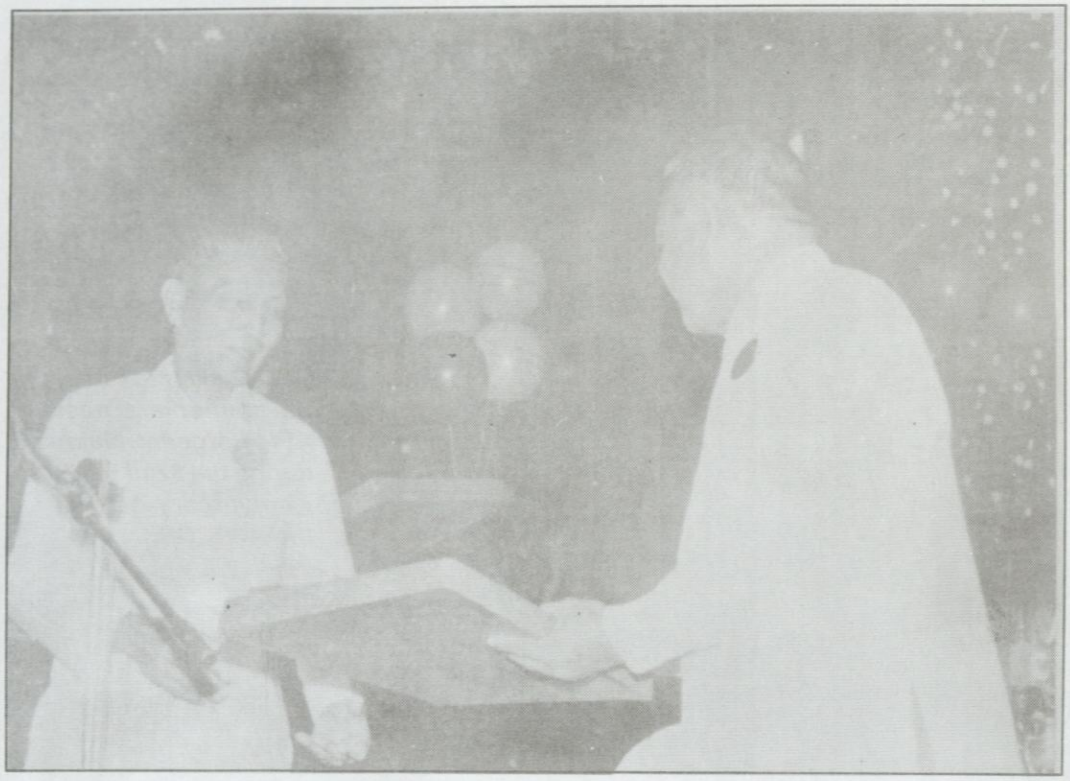


CPO Guillermo Buffe, the immediate past AFP Sergeant Major during the 32nd EPAP Anniversary held at the AFPCOC.



The AFPSM, CPO Buffe delivering the closing remarks during the 32nd Anniversary of EPAP, Inc.



CPO Guiller Buffe, receiving his plaque of Appreciation from Fiscal Esmeraldo R Acorda during the awarding ceremonies of the 32nd EPAP founding Anniversary held at the AFPCOC.

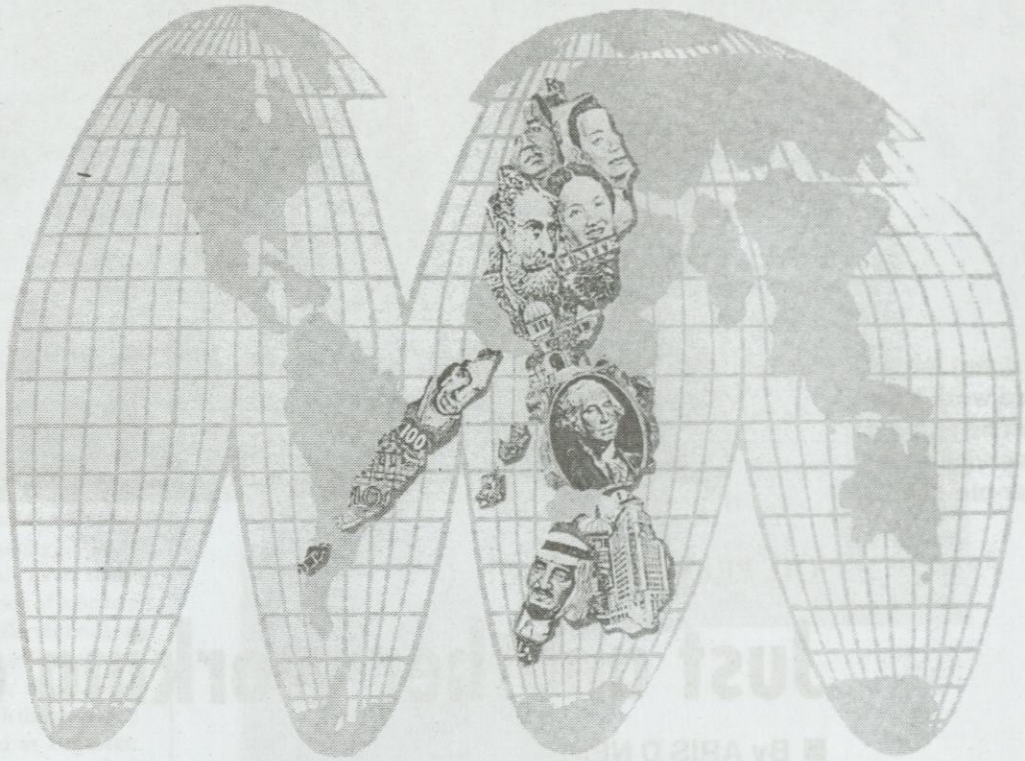


Three lady executives also participated in some EPAP activities, such as bowling tournament. Photo above left is former Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito Planas delivering her speech as guest of honor and speaker at the opening of EPAP 1995 1st Quarter Bowling Tournament. At left below is the most beautiful Quezon City Lady Councilor Connie Angeles, also delivering her speech during her cup's bowling tournament. While the lady below in her ceremonial throw is Elvie Cabacungan, the VP-Admin of AFPSLAI.





In Using its Global Network to Energize the Countryside,



PNB TAKES THE LEAD.

At 79, PNB remains a key partner of the government's accelerated socio-economic development program. Having the most extensive domestic branch network in the countryside, the Bank helps create more economic opportunities outside the pale of traditional low-value agriculture. With its wide range of innovative banking services, it effectively rechannels much-needed resources to small and medium industries .

PNB has become a major player in the investment banking arena, significantly contributing in the deepening of the local capital market. It has led in the underwriting of major securities issues to satisfy the corporate world's fast-increasing appetite for long-term capital. And thus levelling the playing field for the country's re-energized trade and industry sector.

With its fast-growing international connections, PNB effectively projects the country's comparative advantage abroad, tapping the vast global resources to create more economic opportunities at home. It has also opened new markets by providing budding Filipino exporters with liberalized import-export financing facilities, and the country's new heroes, the OCWs, with reliable and safe remittance services.

PNB's increasing global strength and undisputed local base will continue to serve as the link of mainstream national and global markets to the countryside—now throbbing with economic activities.

At 79, PNB faces up to the challenges of the dynamic world as the country marches onward to Philippines 2000!

Philippine National Bank

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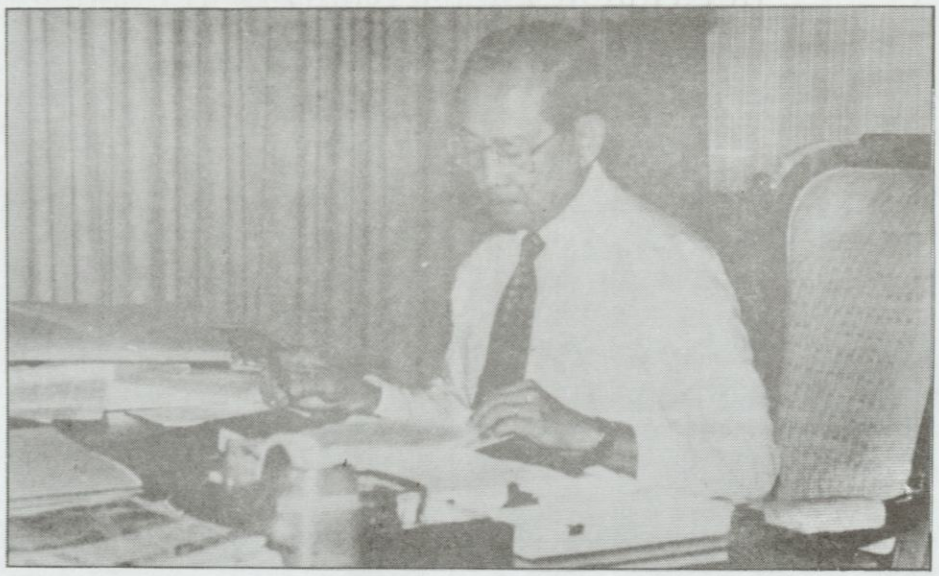


'THIS IS a President that is used to hard work from way back when he entered government service as an 18-year-old cadet.'

THE PRESIDENT AT 68

Just another working day

■ By ARIS D NENE

On his way off to official functions, FVR always makes time for the little people taking a tour of the Museum at Malacañang Palace.

Does he ever stop working? He, of course, is **President Fidel V. Ramos**. But the bewildered inquirer could be anyone - from a former Constabulary soldier to a government employee, Cabinet member, businessman or plain citizen.

Up at about 5 a.m. for his regular jogging, aerobics or weight lifting and still at work at home late at night after a back-breaking grind in the field or office, Ramos has maintained a routine of work-exercise-family time for decades.

"This is a President that is used to hard work from way back when he entered government service as an 18-year-old cadet," says Ramos. Anybody who has been following Ramos' rise from soldier to general to chief executive would have said the same.

"He hasn't changed," says Exequiel Valle, a Malacañang photographer who has been with Ramos even in the old Constabulary.

Ramos would be out in the field as early as 4:30, 5:00 in the morning, in shorts and sweatshirt, working out with the other officers and men, Valle recalls.

After at least 30 minutes of jogging, with orders or instruction squeezed in for officers and men to do this and take care of that, Ramos would be back in his family quarters for a cup of coffee - still standing ramrod, picking up the morning dailies for a quick read of the news.

Back then, as is still the routine in his official Arlegui residence across from Malacañang, all the newspapers would be spread out on the coffee table - beside clippings of select news stories and commentaries, and documents awaiting signature.

Even on overnight trips to the provinces or long-haul visit to foreign countries, Ramos would expect the dailies to be spread out on the table alongside clipping or fax copies of select stories and commentaries.

Ramos would pick up news clippings, give them a fast run-through and, with his ever-handy red felt-tipped pen, scribble orders and instructions. Official reports and documents would go through the same treatment until it's time to take shower and get ready for work.

In the car on the way to office or a field inspection or conference, boxes of papers and documents requiring his review and signature would be resting on the floor or beside him. The President would often stay in the car until all the papers have been sifted or signed, aides say. And late at night, after work in the office or field he would not march into the house until the last piece of report or request is read and acted on.

In between is a busy but balanced mix of work and relaxation, leisure and business.

"Keep busy," the President advises fellow workers. "Keep a balanced routine with a mix of relaxation... You must know how to relax. You must know how to play. You must exercise."

"In my case, I am able to work and exercise all at the same time," he adds.

At night, after a long day of groundbreaking, spot inspections, conferences, signing ceremonies, interviews, speeches, Ramos would hide off to the Malacañang golf course across the Pasig.

The President reveals that whenever he play golf-whether in Malacañang Park, the provinces or abroad- he gathers together people he must consult and confer with. "And in the course of a two-hour round of golf, we are able to come to some decision," he adds.

With the Central Bank Governor or Trade Secretary, he would be charting the future course of the economy while shooting for a birdie. With a visiting chief executive, minister or business leader, he would be parleying the prospects of another joint venture. And with the First Lady, herself a golf enthusiast, they would also be discussing family matters.

Whenever they cross each other's path at official functions in the course of their separate duties as President and First Lady, Eddie and Ming give each other a buss.

"They're like lovebirds," says Valle. That's because of the hectic schedule each has to stick to and follow in the service of the people, the ex-PC man and official photographer explains.

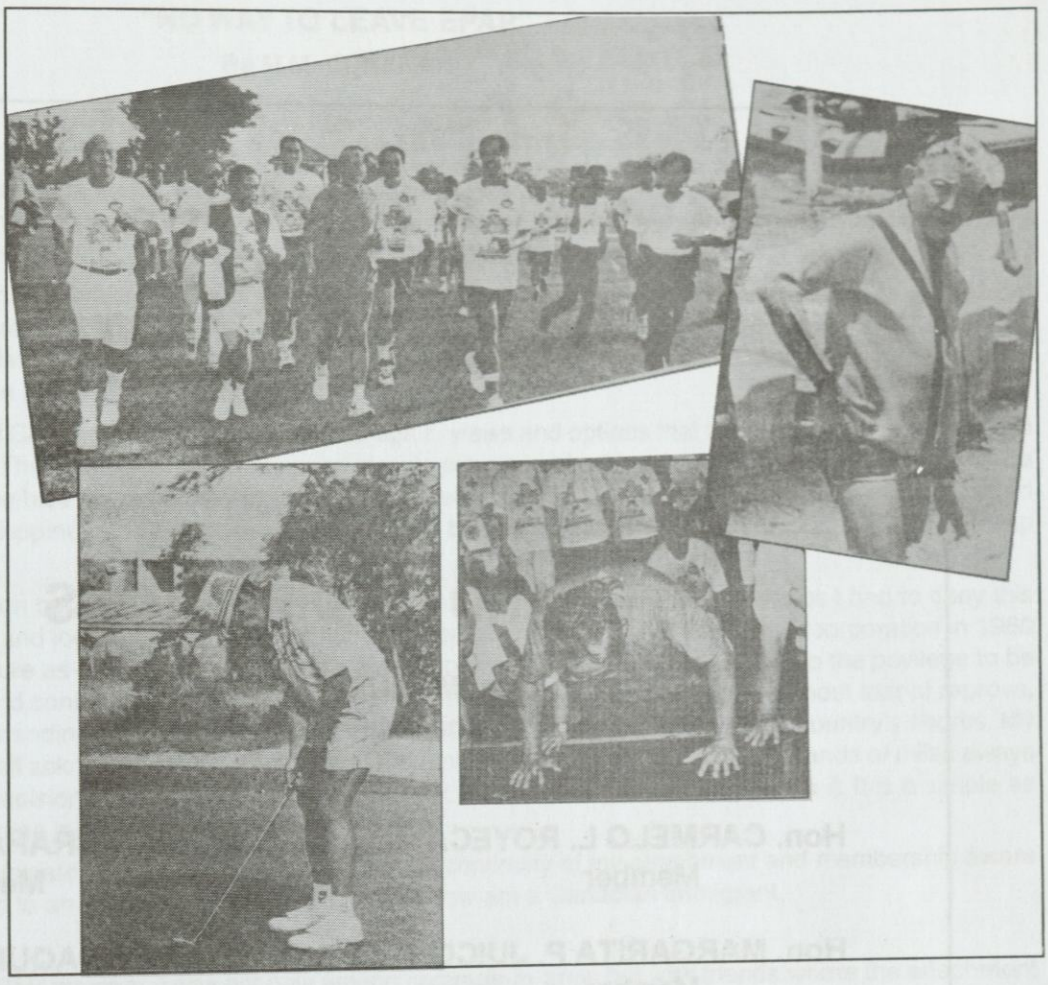
The President is such a workakaholic that even on days when his official calendar reads "No Activities Today," he winds up in the golf course with a government official or adviser to discuss affairs of state, goes scuba diving with a foreign visitor to show off the natural wonders of the country and talk business, or takes an early morning dip in the hotel pool with members of his official delegation in some foreign land to ply them with questions on the prospects of expanded investments.

On weekends, Ramos is known to surprise his Cabinet with calls for an unscheduled inspection of projects in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

The President would give his security men the slip by asking his driver to sneak off to the Pasig River slums to check on the relocation of squatters along the banks and under the bridges. Security agents would scramble, until they finally find him, in shirt-sleeves and slacks, talking with the people or, with his background as engineer, giving orders on how work should be done.

One weekend, the President gathered all his Cabinet members, drove to Tagaytay and ordered them split into different groups with different assignments. Early in the afternoon, they found themselves together discussing a province-wide plan for Cavite that would also benefit the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Rizal and parts of Metro Manila.

The President would even surprise his in-house Malacañang reporters and photographers with a call asking them to join him in a suburban town where he's inspecting a road and bridge project. "*Scoop ito*," he would say.



Ramos is his own editor. On clippings of news stories or reports from various departments and agencies, he would scribble his HWI - hand-written instruction - in red pentel, defining the lead of the story, the second lead, etc. by numbering his directives 1-2-3-4 in their order of importance. He even makes his own follow-up stories with his "spin around" instructions and calls for detailed articles with his "in-depth" markings where to get more facts and data.

As a hands-on President, Ramos always makes the headlines. As a hands-on executive, he also gets all the flak - even when the fault lies somewhere else and the blame should fall on somebody else's lap.

No thing is too small for Ramos to attend to.

"Some people don't realize that the Philippines has 78 provinces, 65 cities and 69 million people," he points out. "And our culture appears to demand service delivered in a personalized way."

"That is why I am happy that the Good Lord has given me a strong constitution and a lot of energy which has been developed through the years," the President declares. "I am able to manage my time properly so that I can attend to big and small matters for the country."

On his way off to official functions, Ramos always makes time for the little people talking a tour of the Museum at Malacañang Palace.



He would talk to them, shake their hands, even pose for souvenir pictures. He would then flash his signature thumbsup, wave goodby, and then climb into his car with the big smile of a happy father.

The little people, students from different schools all over the country, are the happiest. They go home with stories about their encounter with the President, experiences they will tell and retell their friends, their parents, and their grandchildren.

Even March 18, his 68th birthday, is just another working day. He celebrates with the poor in a working visit to Laguna and Quezon where he will also inspect various projects to benefit the people in the Marilague (Marikina-Rizal-Laguna-Quezon) Growth Center.

The red-letter day in the Ramos family calendar has always been an occasion for the President to be in some remote area with the people. In 1993, he was in Batanes, where he laid out plans for a world-class hotel. In 1994, he was in the Cordilleras for the installation of Skycable connections for the Mt. Province, Abra, Ifugao and Kalinga-Apayao. Last year, he was in Cebu to reach out to the people to listen to their problems and concerns.

Greetings from

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"NO WAY TO LEAVE EPAP"

By M M CUNANAN

About two years ago, I immigrated to Canada for family reasons. Like any other major decision in a man's life, there were plans and moods to contend with; preparations after preparations and even hesitations and apprehensions over a lot of things.

Later, it became final. I had to make the trip for after all family needs and feelings had to take precedence. Apart from leaving relatives behind, there are also friends and associates whom I know I may not see for so long a time for that is always the nature of going to foreign lands where distance, meeting new people with different culture can be anything but the uncertainity of what is to happen in any unpredicted day.

Out in the vast prairie of Canada, I had to count my ways again, views and options that will approximate how I intend to enjoy my stay with my family. There was the immediate need to write everyone of my brothers and a sister. Then came the innate feeling like a bolt from the blue Canadian sky in equal consequence that I had to write the President of the Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP) and in simple language beg of him that I be allowed to retain my membership with the association.

It was a flawless decision bereft of any compulsion or irrational urgings. For some few moments I had to deny this sensitibity. There was the clear and logical reason that I had already served the Association since its incorporation in 1960 and even before its early structure as a steering council and a kind of loose-leaf organization; I had also the privilege to be one of its officers and helped and contributed in the formulation of some of its plans and programs. Without fear of reprove, I had been a member of good standing and indeed, one of the oldest members until the day I left our country's shores. My peers in the organization can well acknowledge this. The counter thought that the vast distance of thousands of miles aways from the Association held my decision for a time for it matters not now, if I severe my membership with it. It is a simple as saying - who cares for an absentee member?

But I went on to communicate with the EPAP president for the continuity of my attachment and membership aware of being looked upon consigned to an unproductive member, if at all, now am a Canadian immigrant.

I like to recall.

With the years as an EPAP member, I was not only among comrade-in-arms but with friends where the attachment and bond of brotherhood is great and rewarding. We have shared the harshness and rigidity of military life. From the imposing routines and sometimes travails of barracks life; rising to join reveille and retreat; the many ribald jokes and we join the mess line; sweating it out in dusty training fields in bad or good weather; assimilating loyalty and patriotism as dictated by our oath of allegiance; savoring the sense of "esprit de corps" as a part of our military regimentation; the boredom and weariness of interior guard duty. And there are the patrols, raids and sudden running skirmishes and the great loneliness of knowing we had to count casualties among us and then, amassing contentment even at our meager salary. These are the members of EPAP and in some moments and consequence some answered the call of the Maker earlier than us.

At EPAP, we meet each other again relatively rugged and gray swept in age, breaking bread with each other anew and back to the barracks ribald jokes told and retold and exchanges of tales and even yarns of how it was after leaving the military service still trying to remain ramrod straight good for a bottle of beer or two. And beyond all, remaining unified in the resolve to work again as a team to enhance life after retirement. The old spirit back in our soldiering days still there much alive but sometimes punctuated by deep pause and silence when we remember our departed comrades. Through EPAP, we visit camps and installations for regular meetings, a much awaited opportunity of meeting other fellow soldiers who just cannot make it visiting the EPAP Center in Quezon City for the purpose. In all these meetings, we formulate ways and means for the economic upliftment of all AFP personnel, featured by following up bills in congress; maintaining rapport with top officials of the executive and legislative departments to include direct interaction with AFP and defense establishments authorities. Also, EPAP is never an absentee group in all government sponsored activities, particularly, those relating to livelihood projects. At EPAP, there are also socializations held to spice life at retirement.

As I ponder all these times and events staying clear in my mind is the great sense and pride of being a part of the Association.

And as I cast a deep stretching eye over the vast plantations fields of wheat and the sweet smell of spruce and elm trees and the several scenic lakes that make up the landscape in our place here in Canada, I said to myself: How can I leave an institution which I know I had been much a part of it sharing its pitfalls and basking in its glory - the soldiers' way.

A couple of weeks later, the President of EPAP in his usual erudite decision and himself and organizer and pioneer in the Association, readily found his way writing me that my membership with EPAP stays and that, in absentia, even appointed me as Historian. Even only through short letters, me and my colleagues at EPAP continue to write one another as if they are only a block away. And I say it all over again - there is no way for me to leave EPAP. -♦

More than just casinos

PAGCOR helps take care of street children.



Don Bosco Hall, Araneta Ave., Q.C. Inset: Child and Family Services, Phils., Inc., Baguio City

There is more to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation than just casinos, than just affording gaming and leisure activities. Among the many roles it plays and the many tasks it performs, PAGCOR helps take care of street children, to make life a little less harsh and a little more comfortable for them.

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KNOWING THE NEW ARMY CHIEF

Maj. Gen. Clemente P. Mariano took over as the new Commanding General of the Philippine Army during a turn-over of command held at the General Tirso Fajardo Bldg. in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, last January.

Aware of the importance of continuity of programs, Mariano assured that he will continue the programs started by his predecessor Lt. Gen. Orlando V. Soriano.

Diverting from traditional belief that the Army functions mainly times of war Mariano categorically said "We shall continue our involvement in rescue and relief work, environmental protection, countryside literacy patrol, rural health work, and other non-traditional activities."

On the modernization plan, Mariano said it includes improving equipment capability, acquisition of modern equipment, development of human resources considered as vital component of modernization skills and doctrines.

"Kailangan din ang modernization of doctrines upang mai-consider ang makabagong pamamaraan for our reserve component," he said.

The Army Chief admitted that not enough attention was given to the reserve component because the concentration was on the counterinsurgency effort. But realizing the paramount importance of the reserve component, Mariano said this is a big challenge to the Army because of their capability in external defense function.

The Philippine Army is assisting the Philippine National Police (PNP) in internal security function though they are tasked on the protection of external security as stated in an Executive Order.

He noted that the rebel movement has declined during the past years since most of the encounters were initiated by the AFP.

"Before they had the edge in encounter for being the first one to initiate it. Now in 20 encounters almost all were initiated by the AFP," he said.

Mariano stressed that the total approach of the national government contributed to the decline in the rebel movement that basically is the product of poverty, injustice, and ignorance.

The Army Chief who has been exposed to countryside rural areas like Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur said progress is coming to these and other areas as seen through construction of roads and putting up of schools and job generation adding that the flow of investment is getting better.

Mariano is optimistic that the peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front will succeed to finally end the decades-long hostilities in Mindanao.

"We can say that the MILF problem is a threat but there is progress in the peace process where differences can be ironed out because we and our Muslim brothers are tired of war and we only want peaceful means to attain progress," he said.

A role model to his men, Mariano encouraged the Army to serve the colors in the best traditions of people-oriented service after taking the initial steps to modernization.

"Many Filipinos look up to the soldiers and his tools, as ready and reliable in time of emergency. With our thrust in modernization, the growing capabilities of the Filipino soldier must be tapped to the limit, in partnership with other government agencies, to make the lives ordinary Filipinos better, safer and fulfilling. We shall continue our involvement in rescue and relief work, rural health work, infrastructure development, schoolbuilding program, and other nation-building activities, supportive of the civil agencies of government. Let us make the Army worthy of his esteem and support," he said.

Truly, it is hightime to look deeply at the functions of the Philippine Army since they not only serve in times of war but they are engaged in nation-building roles that can be of great help to the citizenry.



MGEN. CLEMENTE MARIANO



THE COMMANDING GENERAL with his General Staff

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"AT THE THRESHOLD OF ANOTHER YEAR"

By Fiscal Esmeraldo R Acorda

The Enlisted Personnel Association of the Philippines (EPAP) marks another milestone, its 36th year. Like any other organization it finds the need to engage in the challenging after-thought, go on self-appraisal given its avowed aims and objectives.

Inversely though, it is not enough to look back at the year ago transpirations. There is the imposing awareness more exigent to accept, that to visualize what it expects to meet and confront in the coming year in terms of challenges both existing and new.

Its uniqueness as the exclusive union of the enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces, distinct in their sensitive years of service securing the defense and sovereignity of the country set them apart from other component of society. To keep the great and endearing memories of their services fighting in the last war to the post war traditional task of staying guardians and protectors of the people extending to the ugly internal strife in the more than two decades of the insurgency conflict, is a brief preface to the wherefores of the organization. Easily reflected as well, is the vast spirit of camaraderie that abounds within it with loyalty deeply ingrained.

Deducingly, when the organizers and members established EPAP 36 years ago, wrapped within their motivations as they reminisce their experiences and war exploits and all that made up their military life, the rigors and even drudgery of their calling profound in their resolve is to perpetuate these testimonials with the concurrent objective to promote their general interest and welfare within the capability of the government to provide and extend. Most of them now at reduced income and in their ebbing years would still picture themselves with enough delight as they go about projecting the shortening span of their lives.

And as they await the generosity and sense of compassion of the government in recognition of their years of patriotic services, the best of their hopes and optimism, as it has always been so all these years, would always advert to their organization the EPAP.

We take time to restate this simple interaction and relationship between EPAP and its members for whatever the Association did and worked for is premised or ensued from this condensed kinship.

The Association had its own problems, some of which appear to be invincible, that demands a lot of planning and resources. But the magnitude of the spirit, enthusiasm and teamwork characterized by everyone's willingness to take added sacrifice became the potent asset that led to the containment of these confrontational situations.

A few and brief recapitulation of these problems are just too haunting to recall. There was the leading problem on the need of a building to house its administrative affairs or even a meeting place where plans and programs could be formulated. We succeeded with its first Center, a 2-Unit Pre-Fab building donated to us but later on replaced by its present Center within the compounds of Camp Aguinaldo along Col B Serrano Road. There was also the need for a sports facility for its sports development program and happily too, this was solved with the installation of a bowling alley within its Center built out of soft loans. But there is the more telling gains which can be called as the permanent fixture in the structure and operations of the Association and this is the integration of its aspirations and priorities animated by the esprit de corps instinctively rooted and inspired when it earned recognition and acceptance by all departments of the governments. And readily, we could mention the series of upward increase and readjustments of pensions and benefits including the pay increases of those in the active service and this applies to both officers and enlisted personnel extended at different periods from post war years to the present. EPAP as an organization had its humble share in the approval of these benefits by way of pleading, working and sustained following up with government authorities concerned. Woe to those who could say otherwise.

Now at the threshold of another year, EPAP and its present leadership and membership has yet to see the realization of some of its projections, among them the implementations of its involvement and participation in the Cooperative Movement under RA 6938. While it recently established its Multi-Purpose Cooperative and registered under AFPREVA, it is to be stated that the management and membership of this Cooperative are all bonafide EPAP members who are also members of AFPREVA, the first chartered organization of veterans and retirees. Indeed, this Cooperative was established at the continuing linkage of EPAP with other agencies commited to help and assist all retirees and veterans of the country to include sustained interaction with the Office of the incumbent President and Commander-in-Chief who is one of EPAP's Adviser. There is no gainsaying in stressing zeal and collective efforts in all other projects that maybe formulated as we commemorate this Anniversary, for all over again, deeply within the organization is loyalty for one another we can always be proud to say. Additionally, we can add, EPAP has rightfully earned a mark of distinction that go forth we must in our aims and purposes for we have the will, enthusiasm and spirit as a fraternity of the Enlisted Personnel. -♦

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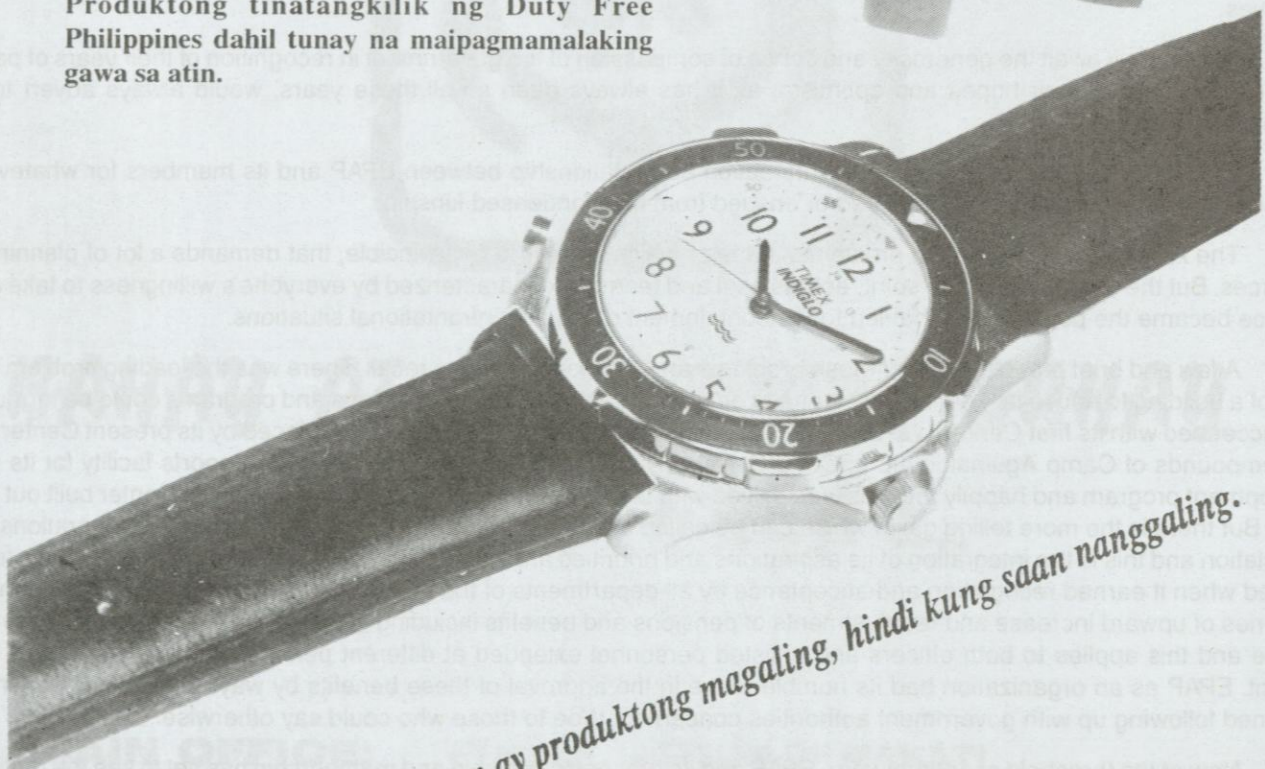

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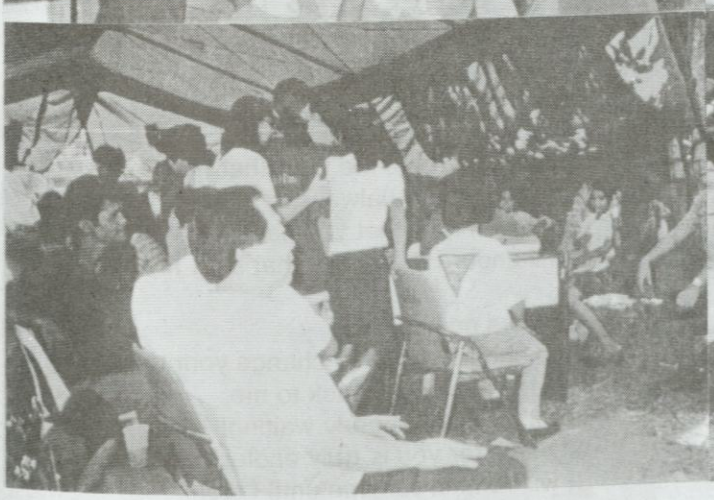



SONG VERSIONS

By Col S Edades (Ret)

KUWENTO NG PAG-IBIG

Himig: 'Love Story'

Saan ko simulan
Ang kuwento ng pag-ibig na sakdal dangal;
Maalab at kasingdakila ng buwan.
Sa wari ko'y nag-iisang pagmamahal;
Saan simulan!

Noong una pa lang,
Ang buhay ko'y nabigyan ng kahulugan;
Nabihag niya ang puso kong nagdaramdam,
Ngunit ngayon lubos na ang kasiyahan ng puso
ko...ng puso ko!

Siya ay nagmistulang isang anghel
Na may dalang lunas sa dibdib ko na may sugat.
Damdamin ko ngayon... o kay ligaya't walang lumbay!
At halos laging siya'y naroroon sa 'king piling!

Kailan magwakas?
Pagibig ba'y nadarama bawa't oras?
Marahil nga pagkat aking dinaranas;
Maging sa panaginip ko na kay dalas,
Siya'y naroroon!

-Repeat Last Stanza-
(Refrain)

ONE-WEEK LOVE AFFAIR

Himig: 'Isang LInggong Pag-ibig'

Monday when we came to know each other;
Tuesday once again we met together.
Wednesday you intimated that you love me so;
Thursday I gave my answer to you!

Friday was full of fun and thrilling moments;
All the joys that we shared filled our hearts with plea-
sant memories!
Saturday our romance vanished in the air!
And when Sunday came along,
Your finally left me alone!

-Refrain-

My knowing you just occurred suddenly;
Your leaving me was as quick as could be!
Whenever I slept you were there beside me
In a wink of an eye...
Everything passed away!

----------o0o----------

LIVING IN DISGUISE

Himig: 'Balatkayo'

I
Our lives are make-believe,
In this world where we live.
We still afford to smile,
Despite all the pains.
You're like a summer rose
that's lovely from afar,
But once I get near you,
I smell no scent.

II
Indeed your love for me
is just make-believe;
It's full fo disguise and pretense!
Oh how painful to know that
I've wasted my love for you.

III
Our lives are make-believe,
In this world where we live.
We still afford to smile,
Despite all the pains.
You're always in my dreams,
Merry and gay to tell;
But all turned out to be a fantasy!

Repeat II

Coda:

That is why my life nowadays is make-believe;
That is why my life nowadays is make-believe...!

ENDLESS AS THE SKY

Himig: 'Kapantay Ay Langit'

I love you so;
It's truly endless as the sky!
I have prayed to the Lord that happiness
be with you always.
And even now that you have found another one!
I will endure the agony that beat my heart!

As days go by,
And should you ever change your mind.
Please just come back to me;
I will be there eagerly waiting!
My love for you is truly endless as the sky.
It will remain sublime until I die!

----------o0o----------

















Part of EPAP 34th Anniversary last April 24, 1994 at the Sulu Hotel, Quezon City.

These were part of the EPAP 34th Anniversary held at the Sulo Hotel last April 24, 1994, with former AFP Chief of Staff and Ambassador (Gen) Manuel T. Yan as guest of honor and speaker.



Some of the EPAP members & guests. ▶

◀ *EPAP members & guests.*

EPAP prexy Fiscal Esme R. Acorda delivereing his speech. ▶

◀ *EPAP officers with (Gen) Ambassador Manuel T. Yan*

Msgt Jose de Guzman EPAP EVP in his opening remarks. ▶

◀ *The famous movie celebrity and TV Host Kuya Germs (German Moreno).*

The arrival of the guest of honor and speaker Ambassador (Gen) Manuel T. Yan. ▶

◀ *The arrival of Hon. Quezon City Mayor Mel A. Mathay, Jr.*

Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. receiving his plaque of appreciation from Fiscal Esme Acorda on the occasion of EPAP 34th Anniversary while other officers look on. ▶





◀ *On photo is Ambassador (Gen) Manuel T. Yan, also receiving his plaque of appreciation from EPAP president on its 34th Anniversary held at Sulo Hotel last April 24, 1994.*



SHOOTFEST CHAMPION. *Philippine Army chief Major General Clemente P. Mariano (left) hands over the championship trophy to Col. Julius L. Javier (right), First Scout Ranger regimental commander, for winning the overall championship in the recent Commanding General, Philippine Army shootfest held at Fort Magsaysay, Palayan City from March 1-5. Col. Josefino Manayao (center), chairman of the competition, looks on. - (ARIS D NENE)*

2 military camps set to open to all vehicles

by ARIS D NENE

Villamor Air Base and Fort Bonifacio will be open to all vehicles, including cargo trucks and passenger buses, starting April 1996 to help ease traffic.

Lt. Gen. Arnulfo Acedera Jr., PAF commanding general, said vehicles bound for Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Pasay, Cavite and Laguna, can now use the two camps as alternate routes.

"The move to open the two bases to traffic is in line with the directive of President Ramos to allow non-military vehicles to use both camps and decongest traffic along EDSA and other southbound or northbound routes," Acedera said.

During the past, the Nichols interchange is one of the major source of traffic jams, owing to the bottleneck caused by the military's refusal to open the two bases for traffic.

Southbound vehicles, specially those using the South Superhighway must take long routes but would eventually congregate in the interchange.

Vehicles bound for Pasay and Baclaran on the other hand still has to traverse the South Superhighway or EDSA from Makati, Mandaluyong or Pasig thereby clogging further the two major routes.

An agreement for the opening up of the two camps were signed by the Philippine Air Force, Philippine Army, the Metro Manila Development Authority, and the PNP Traffic Command at the hall of Flags inside the Villamor Air Base.









Photos on top were part of the EPAP 35th Anniversary held last April 30, 1995 a the Camelot Hotel in Quezon City.

- *Photo 1 shows the entry of color by the PMI cadets with Hon. & Mrs. Leonardo A. Quisumbing as guest of honor & speakers accompanied by Fiscal Esme R Acorda, EPAP President.*

- *Photo 2 shows the induction and oath taking of EPAP officers by Hon. Leonardo A. Quisumbing.*

- *Photo 3 shows the EPAP officers with Leonardo A. Quisumbing in the usual picture taking.*

- *Photo 4 shows the acceptance of plaque of appreciation of Hon. Leonardo A. Quisumbing, as guest of honor and speaker from Fiscal Esme R. Acorda, while his beloved wife and other officers look on.*

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The military's traditional approach to its profession clearly manifests a sense of purposefulness derived from its role as the defender of the nation. The historical figure of the soldier who obeys out of duty and consent to sacrifice with the joy of self-fulfillment is still the ideal that permeates the military establishments of contemporary times.

One of the most important factors in the success or failure of the soldier is his motivation. If a soldier is attracted to the military service because of he material benefits he expects to get, it is doubtful whether he will make good in the service.

Therefore, it would be easier for the military to develop professionalism because of its inherent patriotism and well-developed discipline. Couples with increased knowledge, defense of justice and integrity in the service, the military may show the path for a kind of professionalism that enhances national unity and progress.

Training of soldiers to win without fighting

In an effort to accomplish the Philippine Army's mandated missions, the soldiers need only seek out and destroy the enemy. The soldiers should not only be trained thoroughly to move, shoot and communicate as the Army has ceased to function as just a fighting machine.







The Army has to perform functions outside the traditional concept of the military to cope with the demands of national defense through effective civilian-military relations and psychological operations encompassing economic, political and psyco-social activities.









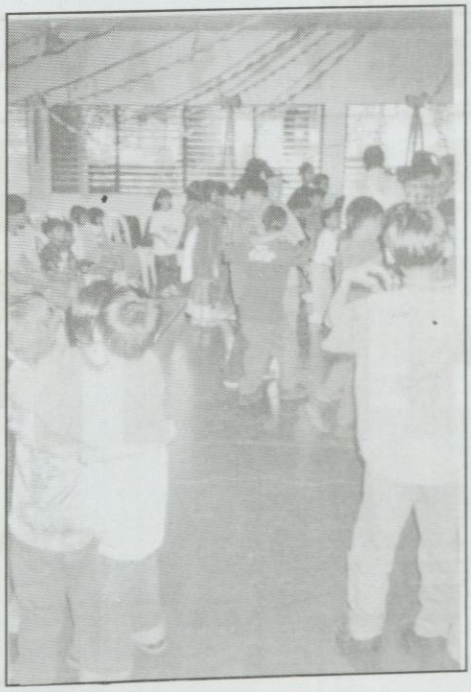
EPAP have also Christmas party every December. How nice to see the kids playing and sharing and the old soldiers still dancing during this occasion.











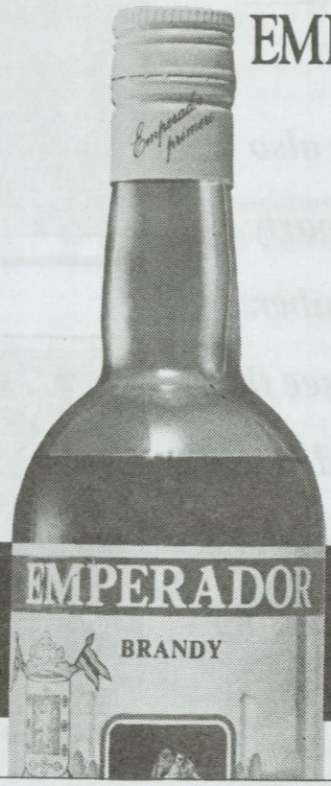
"Ang sweet mo talagang kasama..."

"Kasi...totoo ka."

EMPERADOR and *Cola*

Ang Totoong Halo.

Matamis talaga ang totoong pagsasama. Tulad ng Emperador and Cola. Lasap na lasap ang tamis. 'Yan ang totoong halo. Sarrraaap!





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6. NAME: MARLON A. LIBRADO
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DOING ONE'S BEST

Col S V Edades (Ret), CSP

To say that leaders of men are born is a fallacy. It is safer to state that they are born.

The subject exemplifies the following lines of an unknown writer. "You may talk of the battle-scarred heroes, of martyrs and all the rest; but there is another I think just as worthy, and that is the fellow who is doing his best."

Whatever we are today is the result of what we have thought up to this moment. What we will be tomorrow depends upon the thoughts we think from now on. We really need to think well, because it is wise; but we should plan well, because it is wiser, and foremost, let us do well, because it is wisest and best of all.

It pays to have an aim in life always, regardless of our age, because an aimless life is just like a rudder. As such, it is at the mercy of the waves. It drifts with the tide, and without a destination in mind, it arrives nowhere and finally joins the wrecks of time, strewn on the sea of life. It is not even wrong to build air castles. Once these are done, all we have to do is to lay the foundations under them.

The open road awaits us, and everywhere is ringing the faithful echo, that the possibilities of self-realization are just around the corner. Figuratively, it is just a matter of picking out the correct conveyance with the right destination.

It has been said that the man who accomplishes something and then stops to rest, will never be a leader. We are also aware that men who have succeded in life have always been cheerful and hopeful men, who went about their responsibilities and daily chores with smiles on their faces, and took the changes and chances of this mortal life as they came about.

We need no towering intellects, genius or capacity to attain success. Neither can success be bought at the bargain counter. The price one has to pay in order to succeed, remains the same, and these are determination, hard work and perseverance. In like manner, we cannot simply buy health at the drugstore. We may be able to purchase all the medicines in that drugstore, if we have the money, but health - never? Otherwise, only the wealthy will remain healthy forever.

It is just unfortunate that there are still people who simply feel contented of what they are, and sad to say, are not willing to pay the price. Hence, the saying that the heights of men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.

Even the late General Douglas MacArthur believed that the highest genius is willingness and ability to do a hard work, and that any other conception of genius makes it a doubtful, if not a dangerous possession.

There is nothing to lose, but everything to gain in doing our best, whatever we shall be and wherever we may be. It always pays and brings satisfying returns. The fame and glory of those who have done and are doing their best, had been told and retold thru the years, and reviewing their exploits would be superfluous. Suffice to say that no yardstick could possibly underscore the splendor of their feats. This is corollary to the saying that the highest reward for a man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.

To start a much-needed action, every moment is a new beginning. "Do It Now" is more than an injunction, and it is the principle of success. Yes, we can do almost anything if we have enthusiasm or the resolve to do it. It is the yeast that makes our hopes rise to the stars. Enthusiasm is the sparkle in our eyes; it is the swing in our gait, the grip of our hands, the irresistible surge of our will, and the energy to execute our ideas. With it, there is accomplishment, and without it, there are only alibis.

It is worthwhile therefore to refrain from negotiating very often the Avenue of Least Resistance, for all you know, it is the opposite direction towards Success Boulevard!

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Congratulations and more power to EPAP 36th Founding Anniversary

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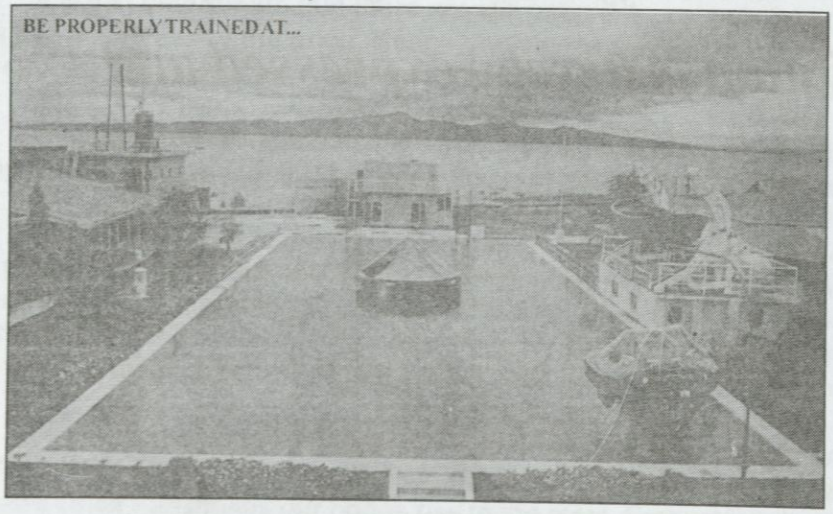

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1994-1995 EPAP INC. SCHOLARS: Front Row (From left): Beejay Tuliao, Marlon Librado, Gilbert Victoriano Frederick Besenio, Arlene Versoza, Mylene Cruz, Irene V Lingad, Second Row (From Left): Ramil Librado, Joyce C Pestaño, Sussanah Villegas, Gladys Fernandez, Jomaris Puquiz, Melanie Fabito and Jose Marie Martinez.



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