



A NATIONAL HERO...

FILIPINOS REMEMBER ANDRES BONIFACIO

A grateful nation remembers one of its national heroes—Andres Bonifacio—on Thursday, 30 November 2017, which is a non-working holiday.

Born on 30 November 1863, Bonifacio is considered as the Father of the Philippine Revolution against Spanish colonization. He, along with some others, started a movement known as the 'Katipunan' in 1892. The Katipunan was a secret revolutionary society that instigated military revolts against the Spanish colonizers.

From 24 August 1896, the Katipunan became an open de facto government. The society had been organized as a secret organization with its own laws, bureaucratic structure and an elective leadership. But a working government was imperative once the August 1896 revolution had begun. Bonifacio, when questioned at Tejeros, Cavite, defined the letter "K" in the flag to mean "kalayaan" or freedom.



Bonifacio became the Katipunan's military leader and the president of the revolutionary government, which (according to some historians) makes Bonifacio the first president of the Philippine Republic. Bonifacio and the Katipunan recruited many citizens to their cause, eventually becoming the most prominent revolutionary force the Spaniards had to face.

However, Bonifacio's leadership was contested by some others, and in particular, Emilio Aguinaldo. After a series of leadership challenges and internal rifts, Aguinaldo violently took over the revolutionary forces and unjustly ordered Bonifacio to be tried and executed under the guise of treason.

Bonifacio Day is held every 30 November, or the Monday nearest this day to create a long weekend. Unlike the main national hero, José Rizal, Bonifacio Day is celebrated on his day of birth, rather than his day of death. This is because Bonifacio was killed by his fellow countrymen, rather than at the hands of foreign colonizers. (*Philippine Revolution*)

...AND A PAULINIAN ROLE MODEL

ALUMNA APPOINTED ERB CHAIRPERSON



MANILA, Philippines – Former solicitor general Agnes Devanadera (*SPCM HS 1966, BSC 1970*) will once again don a new hat after she was appointed Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Chairperson by President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday, November 22.

She will serve until July 2022, replacing Jose Vicente Salazar, who was dismissed by Malacañang over “simple and grave misconduct” in connection with corruption charges.

Devanadera will oversee ERC and its four commissioners who earlier asked the Office of the President to dismiss Salazar.

Time with Arroyo

No stranger to politics and the government, Devanadera is perhaps best known as the first woman solicitor general in the Philippines. She was appointed in 2007 by then president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. She held the position until 2009 when she was appointed justice secretary before Arroyo’s term ended.

Her involvement with the Arroyo administration, however, started when she was appointed executive director of the Philippine Development Alternatives Foundation (PDAF). Devanadera later became the undersecretary for legal and legislative affairs in the Department of the Interior and Local Government – a position she held from 2003 to 2004.

In 2004, Devanadera became the Government Corporate Counsel and in 2007, briefly became the DOJ acting secretary when Raul Gonzales went on medical leave.

Her stint in government started when she was elected mayor of Sampaloc, Quezon in 1988 and served until 1998. Her father also previously served as mayor.

During her stint as president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines in 1997, she pushed for charter amendments to pave the way for reelection of then president Fidel V. Ramos, according to a 2006 *Newsbreak* report.

In 1998, she became the executive director of Lakas-National Union of Christian Democrats (Lakas-NUCD).

The activist

Before she took on many government positions, Devanadera was a private lawyer and an activist who fought against the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos.

Her activism was evident when she joined anti-Marcos rallies during her time at St. Paul College, according to a 2006 Newsbreak report. She eventually went to help organize farmers in Quezon and educate Kalingas of the Cordillera.

The daughter of a former mayor was persuaded to join an auditing firm but left after she led a strike. She then studied law and went to the United States where she was admitted to the New York bar.

In 1983, Devanadera went back to the Philippines and became managing partner at the Balgos & Perez law firm while joining rallies that culminated in the 1986 People Power Revolution.

"I was very involved in student activism, it didn't take a second for me to say that this is it," she said in 2016.

AND OVERSEAS...

PAULINIANS MEET IN HSK

Contributed by Marilyn Abalos
Chair SPCM USA

St. Paul Manila Alumnae USA took part in the 6th Homecoming sa Konsulado (HSK) on October 21, 2017 in New York City. The program featured a parade of schools with participants wearing their school colors and carrying their respective banners and introduction of alumni associations.

"Homecoming sa Konsulado is a fun and lively event!" **Patsy Santiago-Schultz**, Co-Chair of St. Paul Manila Alumnae USA, said. "It fosters not only unity, cooperation and camaraderie among the different colleges and universities in the Philippines but also promotes a work ethic in meeting a common goal. It is an event not to be missed!"

Consul General Theresa Dizon-De Vega thanked all those who contributed their time and resources to making the 6th HSK possible. She encouraged the participating alumni associations to use the HSK as a venue to strengthen and expand their respective associations and to take part in the HSK collective programs, such as the "Gabay Mag-aaral."

A highlight of the 6th HSK was the Project Update on "Gabay Mag-aaral," a mentoring program for Philippine public schools being undertaken on a pilot level by volunteers from the HSK Core Group.

Leila Dizon-Sumulong said, "The homecoming was quite enjoyable...meeting schoolmates as well as being among others from different schools. It brings that warm feeling and happy

memories of yesteryears' school days back in Manila/Philippines. Adding games, some entertainment and raffle drawings for grand prize added to the fun and excitement."

The 2017 participating alumni associations were—Assumption, Ateneo Alumni Association, Cebu Normal University, College of the Holy Spirit, De La Salle University, Letran College, Maryknoll/Miriam College, Mindanao State University, Philippine Women's University, San Beda College, Silliman University, St. Paul University, St. Scholastica's College, University of Santo Tomas and UP Alumni Association. Alumni of other schools such as Mapua Institute of Technology, and Lyceum of the Philippines also attended the event.

"Look who you can find if you go to the Homecoming Sa Konsulado!" exclaimed **Cora Yabut-Custodio**. A number of alums were "dual alums" having graduated from one high school and another college or university. It was especially poignant for St. Paul graduates, Maripaz Calero and Cora Yabut Custodio, to meet up at the University of the Philippines Table; they discovered they were sorority sisters!

The pre-Launch of the Department of Tourism's "Bring Home a Friend to the Philippines" project was likewise introduced by New York DOT Officer-in-Charge and concurrent Tourism Representative in San Francisco, Ms. Purificacion Molintas.

Ms. Molintas outlined the project mechanics and encouraged everyone to be an active for Philippine tourism and join the program. The "Bring Home a Friend Program" runs from October 15, 2017 to April 2018. Details may be found at www.bringhomeafriend.online.



**Hark Daughters of the Great St. Paul!
Myrna De Guia-Gutierrez, Patsy Schultz,
Sylvia Javier, Maripaz Calero
and Marilyn Abalos
in the Philippine Consulate General, New York.**



**SEARCH FOR THE OUTSTANDING
PAULINIAN STUDENTS OF THE
PHILIPPINES (SOP)**

2017 SOP FINALISTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| ACAIN, Nikko Jake | St. Paul University Philippines |
| AUMENTADO, Natirose | St. Paul University Quezon City |
| CEYNAS, Reynalene Rose | St. Paul University Dumaguete |
| IMPERIO, Maria Estrella | St. Paul University Philippines |
| MABBAYAD, Cheeni | St. Paul University Philippines |
| MACARUBBO, Sarah Jane | St. Paul University Philippines |
| MARIMAT, Ray | St. Paul University Dumaguete |
| ONDOY, Nica Dominique | St. Paul University Manila |
| ORTEGA, James Anthony | St. Paul University Dumaguete |
| PAJO, Eric John | St. Paul University Surigao |
| PLATA, Maria Mitzi Kathleen | St. Paul University Manila |
| RESO, Quennie Dawn | St. Paul University Dumaguete |
| ROGAYAN, Renz Arnie | St. Paul University Manila |
| UMPIL, Ian | St. Paul University Surigao |
| VALENCIA, Ely Jose | St. Paul University Dumaguete |

**See you all in St. Paul University Philippines
on February 2018**



ALUMNAE GATHERINGS

**High School 1962
Mini-Reunion
Max's, Glendale**

**L-R: Caloy Sison,
Roy and Rose Raj,
Sonia Calleja,
and Brenda Sison**



**High School 1964
Christmas Party
Lipa, Batangas
13 November 2017**

Seated: Nini Icasas, MOM, Erlinda Garcia, Marilen Ponce. Standing: Evelyn Rivera, Linda Caraig, Evelyn Umali, Connie Torres, Arlene Enriquez, Cora Trinidad, Mila Godinez, Sherry Alingod, Babes Sarmenta, Brenda Nuval, Dinggay laO, Baby Doble, Lydia Ochoa, and Menchu Morfe.