



## Connecting . . .

Volume 1, Issue 2

### Be at Peace - Our Dear Friend

Extending our thoughts and prayers to the Enverga family for the loss of a loving father, a good husband, and an energetic community leader. Senator Tobias Enverga was the first Filipino-Canadian to sit in the Senate.

His untimely death while on parliamen-



tary trip to Columbia is surely felt by the Community. No one can question his dedication and commitment to his work.

In 1999, he was the press relations officer of KFCO as well part of the membership committee.

### Get to know our KFCO Chairman: Eula Rulloda

Eula Rulloda's involvement with the center started 7 years ago when she was asked to be part of the Comelec during KCCC's annual general meeting but was instead voted as one of the member of the executive board as secretary and later VP – Programs Administration. She became a familiar face as officer and volunteer together with her husband Gerry at all functions of KCCC. When Gerry was elected to KCCC's board, Eula moved to KFCO where she became the Vice Chair to Rodel Meier. Prior to her involvement with KCCC, Eula and Gerry are actively involved with the Mapua Alumni group where she holds a Chemical engineering degree and he holds a Mechanical Engineering degree and was the president in 2000. Eula was also president in 2004. Mapua Institute of Technology now Mapua University honored the husband and wife team with The

Outstanding Mapuan award in alumni service.

Eula started her career in IT when she took a computer course at the National Computer Center in Camp Crame while waiting for the result of the engineering board exam. After completing the course she was offered a job as a computer programmer at the Philippine Bank of Commerce until she immigrated to Canada in 1975. She was employed by different Canadian companies such as Sears, CIBC, Indalex, and Northern Telecom where she was given the new thinking award trophy. She has worked independently in the past with her own company Info Logics serving companies such as Kmart, CCL, ERCO and Goodrich Landing Gear. She was offered a permanent position with ERCO where she retired in November of 2015.

Eula is a proud mother to Leilani, Jordan and

Juness who are all successful in their own endeavors and grandmother to three beauti-



ful children, Talia, Shane and Vanessa. She is also active in the faith community of St. Jerome's in Brampton where she is a lector. She is an avid 10 dance ballroom dancer with Dance Blue Silver where she learned her first ballroom dance steps more than 25 years ago.

Today, she keeps herself busy by being the chairman of Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO) and continuing her church obligations. She is still a ballroom enthusiast and just recently started hula dancing aside from her 3 days taking care of her 93 year old mom.

Extending KFCO's well wishes and congratulations to the newly elected Filipino Seniors of Mississauga (FSM) officers headed by Cesar Cruz, its current President—more power!

## Filipino Seniors of Mississauga A New Beginning

The Filipino Seniors of Mississauga (FSM) held their election recently for the 2018-20 administration. After four years at the helm of the association, President Vangie Alcasid is passing the torch to the newly elected executive officers as required by its Constitution.

Founded in 1982, the association has been in the forefront of the Filipino community in helping the flight of the seniors. Its dedicated leaders and loyal members has made it achieved its aims of promoting camaraderie and providing for their recreational and social needs. Over the years, it has grown in membership numbers, new activities were added and new equipment acquired. Thanks to the city, it is affiliated with Recreation and Parks Mississauga and as such is entitled to privileges of using some of their facilities free of charge.

In honour of its achievements and success, it recently celebrated its 35th Anniversary at the Kalayaan Community Centre. It is hope that the new leaders and their administration will continue to maintain its goals and aspirations for the benefit of the seniors in the future.

Rudy Alcasid, P.R.O.

Photo by Rudy Alcasid



**The newly elected Executive Officers.** Seated (L-R) **Connie de Leon**, Asst. Treasurer, **Luz Aguilar**, 2nd Vice President, **Archie Ayala**, 1st Vice President, **Cesar Cruz**, President, **Carmen Leon**, Treasurer. Back row (L-R) **Chit Atienza**, Property Custodian, **Mayette Balbastro**, Auditor, **Brenda Pangantihon**, Property Custodian, **Jimmy Villamater**, Special Service Officer, **Peter Santos**, P.R.O., **Ben Santos**, Asst. Auditor, **Rudy Alcasid**, P.R.O. Not in the picture: **Elsie Fajardo-Paez**, Secretary.

# Tribute to Senator Jun Enverga

by: Ruffy Romano

The Filipino Community are deeply saddened to the untimely passing of the Hon. Tobias C. Enverga Jr. (Founder of PCCF), who suffered a heart attack while attending the 14 Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas, the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system, in Medellin, Colombia. The conference was scheduled on November 15-17, Senator Enverga, Jr., representing Canada, died on the 16th.

Senator Enverga was a tireless advocate for the Filipino Community, he was a trusted friend, devoted husband to Rosemer and beloved father to Rystle, Rocel and Reeza.



We were very shocked and saddened to lose a very caring, dedicated, sincere friend who showed extreme care for his family and to our community. It is a big loss to all of us to lose the Senator.

Senator Tobias Enverga Jr. will always be in our hearts and always be in our memories and prayers and will be remembered....

Sen. Tobias C. Enverga Jr. was active in advocacies both at the international and domestic level. He was the founder of the “Philippine Canadian Charitable Foundation (PCCF)” in 2010, helping and donating monies for charity both in Canada and the Philippines.

In 2008, he was the recipient of the “Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL)” presidential award given to him by the former president of the Philippines, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

In 2010, he was elected as trustee for Ward 8 of the Toronto Catholic District School Board, which made him the first Filipino-Canadian elected to public office in the city of Toronto, and the first member of a visible ethnic minority elected to the Board. While serving on the Catholic District School Board, besides his many hours of volunteer work to several organizations serving the needs of different communities.

In 2012, he was one of the recipients of the “Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal” for his exceptional and meritorious service.

Seeing his generous character and ability to serve the common good, Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed him to the Senate on September 6, 2012. Since his appointment to the Senate of Canada, many observed that the Senator, aside from attending to his normal duties as senator, he was everywhere; at various festivities of Filipino organizations, birthdays, anniversaries or even funerals in Toronto or in Mississauga, particularly.

Eternal rest on his soul and may perpetual light shine upon him.

# Kalayaan Filipino Cultural Organization (KFCO)

## *Senator Jun Enverga with the Community*



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## Personalities of Kalayaan: Dr. Solon Guzman

Dr. Solon Guzman is a well-known, respected dental practitioner and benefactor in the Peel and Halton region. Just learned that he is adding another dental office soon in the Seafood City complex by the Britannia and Mavis area. On his free time, we see him present attending functions or at times, emceeding community events. Make no mistake, Dr. Solon has a good footwork and body swings on the dance floor.

He is not selfish in lending his full support to activities involving children, youths, and adults. He strongly believes that these groups should be given exposure and a chance to be known within the community. Dr. Solon Guzman has strong



convictions on what is right, just, and "fair play". He has displayed his broad mindedness in seeking and listening to the opinions of others to guide him in the decisions and actions that he will ultimately undertake. He has always been supportive of Filipinos who are trying to make it in the Canadian political, business or artistic field.

Dr. Solon is a family man happily supported by his mom, Zenaida Guzman, his wife Dr. Josephine Adorna-Guzman and his two young lovely daughters, Anne Marie Princess & Angelina Grace.

Dr. Solon Guzman was pushed into the Kalayaan limelight when he was elected chairman of KFCO for 2012 – 2013 term and after that with KCCC as their Press Relations Officer for 2015 – 2017. Even before these periods, he has been a strong supporter of Kalayaan and had a very close and fruitful relationship with the late Mama Ching. Unknown to others, Mama Ching would approach Dr. Solon on a personal basis during some financial crunch as KCCC was trying to stabilize its resources.