

## 2015 Pamana Awardees

### **Pamana Heritage (Community Service) Awardees**

This year, FANHS RG salutes these New Mexicans, not necessarily of Filipino descent, who have contributed substantially to the **community service** of Filipinos in New Mexico and/or the Philippines. The services rendered anytime after 2000 when Pamana Award was introduced.

(This year, no awards were given on Personal Achievement, Educational Contribution & Cultural Heritage and Historical Contribution categories.)

**Scott Berry** traveled to Bohol, Philippines in 2012 to help build a church and discovered the incredible need facing many Filipino children. Despite having no relatives or affiliations to the Philippines, Scott set out to create Educate Bohol, Inc., as a 501(c)(3) public charity to help children in need by providing school supplies, uniforms and backpacks (as the major project). His organization started out helping just a few dozen children the first year. By 2014, that number had increased to over 500 and in 2015, 1,100 students got their backpacks. To donate to or inquire about Scott's project, visit: Educate Bohol.

**Jenny DeBouzek**, took the time to learn a Philippine ethnic musical instrument. She studied *kulintang*, the traditional gong/drum music of Southern Philippines, both in the San Francisco Bay Area and in New York City. She performed with the Karadya'an Ensemble of the Amauan Workshop. She was a member of and kulintang instructor for the Kulintang Ensemble of Albuquerque. In addition, she has taught kulintang workshops sponsored by the NM Asian Family Center in 2010. Some of Jenny's students have passed on the kulintang music to the Filipino youth today. Jenny is also the artistic director of Gamelan Encantada.

**Dr. Theodore Jojola** was a founding member of the FANHS Rio Grande and is a board member of the Bataan Corregidor Memorial Foundation of NM. He was the editorial consultant of the book, *The Filipino American Experience in New Mexico*. He and his Filipina wife, Dr. Dely Alcantara, founded the Manoa Endowment for Diversity and Manoa Youth Awards (see above). He created exhibits and a video about Filipinos in NM and Bataan Veterans (Just Like Us). He did his dissertation research on cultural survival with the Bontoc in the Cordillera and has lived in the Philippines for two years.

**Major Gloria Kauz**, a nurse at the Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center, has helped many Filipinos (outside of work) who needed medical assistance and never hesitated to help no matter how tired she was. For three years, she spearheaded the Asian Pacific American Islanders Heritage Month at the VA Medical Center when she was the EEO Special Emphasis Program Manager. She is currently the president of Federal Asian Pacific American Council Rio Grande Chapter and was instrumental in starting a project of giving care packages to veterans at the VA Medical Center during Veterans Day. She was a secretary of FAFNM for two years and a member of FAFNM Cultural

Dance Group.

**Ong Family (Welliver, Marigene, Francis and Sharmaine)** has donated and personally served with other members of the Sagebrush Community Church. Gene and some church members went for a mission trip (Food for the Hungry program) to Camarines Norte in 2013 where the goals were to provide good education, clean water supply and food for the poor to better their lives. Francis and Sharmaine went on the same mission in 2014 where they taught children about sanitation and built hand washing stations. The Ong family contributes school supplies (backpacks) to children which are distributed through the City Bible Church in Bolinao, Pangasinan. In Albuquerque, the family provides community service (with Sagebrush church members) such as cleaning and preparing beds for the homeless, painting public school, fixing senior citizen home and building Galloping Grace, a horse ranch for children with disabilities.

**Project Hope nurses: Wallace Winter and Veronica Rodriguez Jumalon.** When Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest tropical cyclone in history, hit central Philippines in November 2013, two nurses and neighbors responded to the call for help through Project Hope. Veronica, a wife and mother, went back to the Philippines to volunteer as a nurse and interpreter for foreign medical staff for a month. (She also volunteered as a nurse for a year in the poor areas in the Philippines when she lived there.) Wally, a retired Air Force Lt. Col., left the comforts of New Mexico and packed his bags to the disaster areas where there were no running water, no electricity and poor sanitation. Despite having no affiliations to the Philippines, he volunteered for two missions for a total of 10 weeks where he supervised and directed work of more than twenty medical staff. He received the Volunteer Service (Gold) Award from Philippine President Aquino.

**Louie Velasquez:** A Greek-Spaniard and married to Vicky Lopez, a Filipina, Louie embraced the Philippine arts and culture through his love of Arnis, the Philippine national martial arts which he has practiced for more than 40 years. He volunteered and taught Arnis and pencak Silat (Indonesian martial arts) to Filipinos and any interested party in New Mexico. He opened a Martial Arts School in Surigao (Southern Philippines) and taught self defense techniques to prevent domestic violence.

NOTE: For the Manoa Youth, see separate document: Manoa Youth 2015.

The articles about the recipients are documented in the souvenir program and the banquet was videotaped for historical records.