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# The FilAm Quarter

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CESAR "BOY" FAJARDO  
EDDIE AGUINALDO  
MATTHEW CASAMINA

WE LOVE YOU DADS!

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS





Dearest Yoo-hoo,  
 You are more than a great guy – you’re an amazing, loving, so smart and one of a kind guy - who works hard to take care of our children and grandchildren and make me feel special and the love of my life. I am so lucky to have married someone like you. Thank you so much for your full support and being always there for us and bringing me to my meetings and events and being so nice to my family and friends. Happy Father’s Day – every day of the Year.

– Love Always – Dette

Dearest Daddy,  
 I will forever be thankful that you have been chosen to be my daddy! Thank you for being so kind, patient, and sacrificing so much for all of us. You taught me how to be strong, be a good parent and the importance of a strong family foundation. **Daddy’s little girl is what – I will always be.** – Candee

Dearest Lolo,  
 Lolo, you are my role model. Growing up, you are always the nicest and kindest person and still up to now, everybody loves you because you are the best Lolo. I am grateful to you in my life and always helping me to be whom I am today.

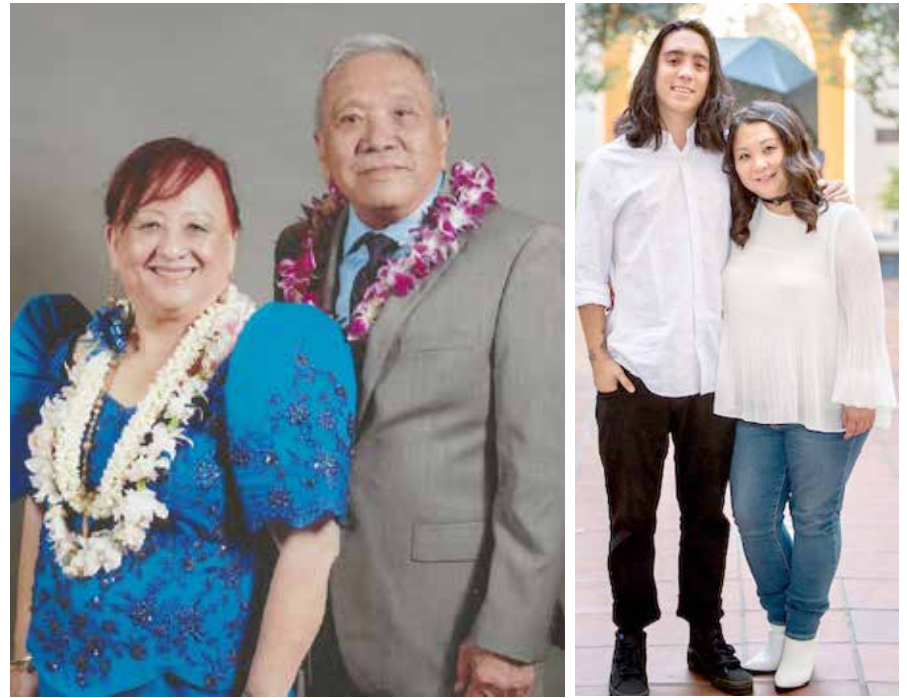
**Thank you Lolo and Happy Father’s Day.** – Austin

Dearest Dad and Lolo,  
 Happy Father’s Day , Dad! We love you very, very, very much!!! Thank you for all the sacrifices you do for our family. You are such a blessing to all of us and all those who knows you. Please enjoy your day, take care and God Bless you always.

**Love – Bency, Jessica, Chloe and Jordyn.**

Happy Father’s Day, Lolo! We can’t wait to see you again.

**We love you so much.** – Chloe & Jordyn



## Congratulations & Happy Father’s Day

# CESAR F. FAJARDO

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Cesar & Bernadette  
 Fajardo



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 Cesar!**

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## publisher's note



By MARY LLANOS CORDERO

For this second half of June issue, we are pleased to feature three amazing, wonderful, and incredible fathers who are definitely role models to their children and to our community: Cesar Fajardo, Eddie Aguinaldo & Matthew Casamina. Each of them has touched and inspired their family in such a profound way that only their children/family member can describe them in their own words. They have inspirational stories to share. These three fathers are great representatives of ALL the Fathers today. Of course we can only select three fathers to feature and this issue is especially dedicated to the fathers out there. If you're reading this and you're a father, this is for you too! We appreciate YOU for all the sacrifices you have had to make for the sake of your family especially to your children.

Certainly, no dad is the same. No matter how they are related to a child's life, their love and courage is truly worth celebrating. Every father is special and each father experiences fatherhood differently. That's why we honor them by looking through their eyes and considering their perspectives.

If we were to describe the perfect father, what would he be like? Well he would have the qualities of humility, patience, understanding, gentleness, and good sense of humor. He is also a pillar of support, discipline and strength. A father is someone who protects, loves, provides, supports and disciplines his own child. A father bonds and connects with his kids in powerful ways that matter. He would engage in deep conversations free from life's many distractions. No doubt, great

# THROUGH OUR FATHER'S EYES

dads are someone we all look up to no matter what transpires.

I have to admit, I envy my friends who grew up with their dads at their side. They have many fond memories of their dads. Most of these memories are the things they've done together, the many adventures and exciting activities that brought fun and laughter together. These are all so priceless!

My father passed away when I was less than five years old, so I had little recollection of him.

In fact, I don't remember crying or showing any signs of missing him. I was lucky not to feel any signs of anxiety, depression, anger or grief.

As a daughter whose father passed away early on, the only memories I have of him are his pictures that my mom have kept and preserved all through the years. She showed me photos of him always dressed in suits and wore stylish clothes and shoes. He was very charismatic and was always happy and in high spirits. He loved to entertain his many friends and treated them to expensive restaurants. He was very much an extrovert and so full of life. Looking at his pictures, he was surrounded with bodyguards 24/7. He liked the finer things in life-- good food, fancy hotels and fashionable clothes. Apparently,

my father was a businessman and also a professional volleyball player. As an athlete, he always put his heart and soul to every practice and every game. He traveled all over the world and was away most of the time. He was highly accomplished, deeply spiritual and gifted.

People who knew my father had good things to say about him-- that he was a kind, generous and a gifted person. I asked what was his special gift--and they said that he was a great psychic and a healer. He helped many individuals and families with their problems, needs and ailments. He once healed a very wealthy man from cancer. This multimillionaire person was so grateful that he gave my dad a lot of money as a token of his appreciation for healing him. With that, he was able to start a tailoring business in Manila. When he passed, my mom was able to expand this business and she opened two more shops. I even remember the name: Debonair. The three locations were in Baclaran, Tagaytay and Cainta.

Back to his special "gift." He somehow passed this on to us, his children. When I was a kid, I was always nervous, not knowing why. Immediately after his death, I felt that he had passed on his special gift to me. At a young age, I had

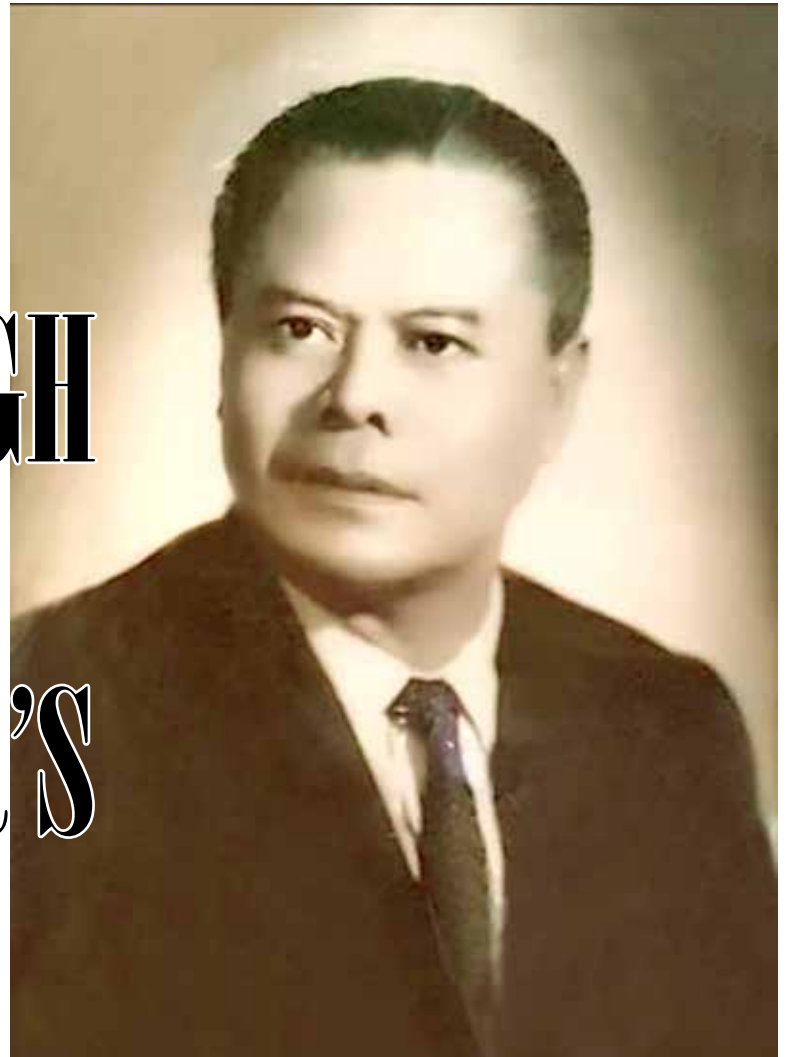
no clue what a third eye meant up until I started seeing spirits in my dreams and in my waking moments. It was quite scary and surreal. Spirits would appear in front of me out of nowhere and whenever I stared at the apparition, it vanished. As I grew up, I learned to suppress and control it. Today I don't see any spirits anymore -- but I still can sense their presence.

According to family, my dad was a kind, humble and generous person yet he had enormous power and responsibility and could perform phenomenal feats. He was bigger than life. He was generous with his time, talent and treasure.

These memories that are embedded in my mind bring a smile to my face. His spirit lives on... I cherish and appreciate the simple legacy he left behind. Through his eyes, his family was his true treasure.

A Happy & Blessed Father's Day to All!

*Mary Llanos Cordero*





# cover story

ABOUT OUR COVER



For our Cover Story, Cesar Fajardo is one of the three special dads who has been selected to be on the Cover. He is adored and loved by family for the many things he does. Tagged as Super Dad, he is the Superman and hero in the eyes of his family.

Find out why!  
Cover concept by Armando Busmente of ACB Graphics. Armand can be reached at abusmente@ymail.com

COVER STORY BY:



CANDICE BERYL DARIO FAJARDO

*Candice obtained a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Master of Business Administration. She recently moved from Los Angeles, California to Honolulu, Hawaii last January 2020. Prior to her move to Hawaii, she holds the position of Regional Director of Business Development at West Coast University, Irvine, California for almost 10 years and University of Phoenix as Executive Corporate Education Liaison for 5 years in Los Angeles, California. She started working on January 20, 2020 with Pro Service Hawaii as Client Success Partner. Before moving in California in 2005, she owned B2B Promotions and Director for Career Services, Heald College. She was also Vice President for Hawaii Junior Chamber of Commerce. She is also proud mother of Austin Cole Mathes, a newly graduate with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies and Arts from University of Hawaii.*



# CESAR FAJARDO

# THE SUPERMAN OF THE FAJARDO FAMILY



Candee, Cesar, Dette and Bency

Cesar Fajardo was born in the Philippines and is the son of Esperanza Flores and Juan Fajardo and raised by his step father Celso Carmona. My dad was the apple of his mother's eyes. He was a very responsible son that took wonderful care of his mother and sisters. His family was always in awe of what a great child he was. One thing that stood out from my Dad was his amazing sense of humor. He was the life of the party with his funny jokes, making everyone laugh, and his family always adored him.

While he was attending college at the University of the Philippines, he became a working student at Philippine Airlines. That is when his dream of becoming a Mechanical Engineer became a reality. He then transferred to the Mapua Institute of Technology where he received his degree and license. He climbed the ladder with his hard work and received a promotion to become the crew chief.



Chloe & Jordyn Sta. Maria Fajardo



80th Birthday of Cesar Fajardo - Hotel Rembrandt, Philippines



Cesar & Austin Fajardo Mathes



Bernadette, his wife came into the picture in 1966 when they were working together at Philippine Airlines. After one year of knowing each other, they became sweethearts. He proposed to her in 1970 before he was assigned to Honolulu as PAL Station Engineer and came back to marry my mom in Dec 1971. My parents got married on Dec. 18, 1971 at Pope Pius X11 and Sheraton (Savoy Hotel) in the Philippines and then relocated to Hawaii in Jan 1972 to start their new lives and family. That was the beginning of the Fajardo Family. Candice Beryl, their eldest child was born in January 1973 and then Cesar Benedict, their second child came along in July 1975. Candice Beryl has a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Master of Business Administration and Cesar Benedict, a degree in Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and Doctor of Physical Therapy. Candice is a proud mother of Austin Cole and Cesar is married to Jessica Edita Sta. Maria Fajardo, Doctor of Pharmacy and have 2 beautiful daughters Chloe Edita and Jordyn Bernadette.

I remember when I was a little girl growing up, I always wondered to myself if my Father ever slept. Every day after school, he would pick my brother and I up from school, feed us a snack, and then he would take us home and help us do our homework. After an hour or so, he was out the door picking up my mom from work. By the time they got home, he already had dinner prepared for us. When we went to bed, he was ready to go to work for his midnight shift at Philippine Airlines. By the time we woke up, my dad was back



The Fajardo Family

home greeting us to have a great day at school. This was a tradition till I was able to drive my brother and I to school. Talk about the definition of a Super Dad, he would always be at so many places in a day.

My father has always been the Family Man. He always put his family's needs before his own and sacrificed so much for all of us. To me, he is the most selfless human being that was ever created. Family has always been my Father's priority. His main intention in life was to make sure my Mother, Brother, His Grandchildren, and I were well taken care of. It didn't matter how tired he was or how many hours of sleep he had, he made sure that none of us had to take public transportation and food was always prepared for us. Up to this day, he still drives my mother around in her many millions of meetings. You would never hear him complaining even if he had to wait in his car for my mom to be done. My mother definitely got so blessed having my dad as her life partner.

Growing up, My brother and I were involved with sports and

activities. You could count on him to always be at every game that we were playing and cheering in. He was our biggest fan. Then came my son Austin, and as soon as he started playing sports, he was always present. Even when he would visit us in California, as freezing as it was in the month of December, he was in the stands watching Austin and cheering so loudly when Austin would score a goal. It didn't matter if it was 40 degrees or 90 degrees weather, my father did not want to miss any of Austin's games. He was once again, Austin's biggest fan.

During our childhood with our cousins and friends, my father was everyone's favorite uncle. He was so popular with our friends and was known as "the coolest dad" ever. Our friends would also tell us, "you are so blessed with your dad, he's the best." Everyone always wanted to come over to our house because my dad had the best home cooked meal to serve us and made sure that everyone was well fed. He made sure that all of our friends were treated as family and felt a part of our home.

Talking about cooking, my dad is the best cook ever! He is esp known for his kare-kare, salmon, leche plan and spaghetti. When I lived in the mainland, I was always missing my Dad's cooking. I couldn't wait till I came back to visit or when he would fly out to see me so I could have his home cooked meals. Up to this day, he still loves to cook and feed everyone.

Every day I give thanks that my father was chosen to be ours. Because of him, my brother and I have learned the importance of being good parents to our children. He is the loveable grandpa aka as "lolo" to

his 3 grandchildren who are so crazy about him as well. Austin, Chloe, and Jordyn are truly attached to my father. They have so much love and admiration for him.

The love that my father has provided for our family is unconditional. He was our support and been present in all milestones in our lives. He disciplined when he needed to, picked us up when we stumbled, and pushed us to be the best that we can be. He taught us the importance of being good parents and putting your children before your selves. We are grateful for him believing in us and allowing us to spread our wings to grow, even if it meant letting us go to chase our dreams.

Absolutely blessed is what us Fajardo Family feels for having Cesar Fajardo in our lives, our rock and the patriarch of our family. He has built a solid foundation and exemplifies a true father who deserves not only the father of the year in 2020 but for us, he is our Super Man the father/grandfather of champions every single year.



Celso & Esperanza Carmona & Atty. Benedicto & Modesta Dario



Cesar & Dette Fajardo Wedding Day



Cesar & Dette Fajardo - 25th Silver Anniversary



Boy, Dette, Candee & Bency Fajardo



Cesar & Bernadette Fajardo - 40th Anniversary



# cover story

By STAFF WRITER

ABOUT OUR COVER



For our Father's Day issue, Matthew Casamina is one of the fathers who is selected to be featured. Through example, he has instilled great values such as discipline and hard work in his children. He has given them guidance and advice about life. He is a godly man who loves his family unconditionally.

Cover concept by Armando Busmente of ACB Graphics. Armand can be reached at [abusmente@gmail.com](mailto:abusmente@gmail.com)



# Matt Casamina through the eyes of his family

## Yuka (wife)

My husband Matt and I have known each other for many years and have been married now for 14 years. He is a loyal friend and a good husband, always reliable, capable, comforting, and kind. Sometimes quirky, very stubborn, often impatient, quite dramatic. By the grace of God, we have grown up together through the good and not so good years. As the saying goes, time

flies when you're having fun.

We have two children together and I can proudly attest that he is a great dad to our children. He does his best to teach kindness, humility, responsibility, common sense, and of course, a joyous sense of humor. He looks forward daily to making us laugh, trying to get one of the kids to crack up is his favorite hobby. There is really no shortage of bad dad jokes when Matt is around the

kids. Though it's not always received well, it's one of Matt's good qualities, reminding us to lighten up a little and to have joy in the moment.

It's actually been over the course of a few years of raising children that I have come to appreciate Matt more, as inevitably the kids have taken on many of his characteristics in their own surprising ways. Loving those around us, appreciating what is given, praying through

life's challenges, thinking through words and actions, being mindful of others.. these are things that Matt does so naturally that cannot be taught by words alone. Both the kids and I learn a lot from him, and I am thankful and blessed that Matt is the husband and the dad that he is.

Happy Father's Day!







**Kenshin (son)**

Raising kids, the right way and just raising them, parents know that it is and always will be hard. Especially in these times where most people are financially in trouble just made it about 2x harder. My Dad has raised me well. He has always supported me and raised me to have manners and be the best person you can be. Even though these times are hard, my Dad has raised me as if nothing has changed. Throughout raising me, my Dad has taught me so much. He has taught me to try in everything, and to be again the best person I can be. He has taught me to do so many things and is raising me well even throughout coronavirus.



guidance, but through example. Matt is as diligent in supporting them through their schoolwork as he is in ensuring their holistic experiences in fishing, cooking, sports, and fun! He drives them to work hard, to push through adversity, and to pursue their passions. Above all, he loves them, unconditionally and unwaveringly. Matt has always been an incredible brother. It has been the ultimate gift to witness him become the incredible father and husband he is today, and to enjoy the unbounded love we as his sisters share with our niece and nephew.

**Mari (Daughter)**

Life is hard, but there's always someone who'll help you, and that someone for me is my father. My father had taught me things I would need to know in the past because he knew that I would need it in the future, but there are three things that I remember by heart. *"Life isn't all sunshine and rainbows, there are always challenges that you'll have to face. You can't learn anything without trying so just do it the best*

*you can. Be thankful for the things you have because not everyone has the same things."* Another few things he taught me was how to play the bass, some singing, and a bit of cooking.

**Celine (sister)**

Kamusta lahat! This is Celine Casamina. Anyone who knows me knows that I am but one part of a four-part harmony: Matt, Clarice, Chanel, and me, Celine. We, along with all of our cousins, were blessed to be brought up not only by wonderful women, but equally by men who were strong in every sense of the

word, and gentle, loving, and kind in ways that would surprise most. Our grandfathers, uncles, and father played active roles in shaping our journeys through adolescence into adulthood. In my life, I have seen Matt go from playful yet protective older brother, to among many things, but most importantly, a dedicated and loving father of his wife and their children. Matt and Yuka changed our lives when they turned me and my sisters into aunts. Kenshin and Mari, their 13-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter are exemplary humans, and true testaments of who Matt is as a father. As a family of

God, they have instilled noble values in their children not just through anecdotal advice, discipline, and

Happy Father's Day to all.





# cover story

By KRISTIANNE AGUINALDO & ADRIENNE AGUINALDO

ABOUT OUR COVER



For our Father's Day issue, we feature Pastor Eddie Aguinaldo who is not only a father to his children but a father to a whole church congregation- Light of the World Ministries From Entertainer to a Builder and to a Great Pastor, Pastor Eddie has been richly blessed in everything he put his hand to.

Cover concept by Armando Busmente of ACB Graphics. Armand can be reached at abusmente@gmail.com



## THE HEART OF MY FATHER: His Legacy



With Alexandria and Raymund Eddie

I pondered for a while on what to write for my dad. What tribute would match the legacy he would leave behind? Then I am reminded, one Sunday morning, my dad spoke of "legacy." In his sermon, he asked, "What is a legacy?" He emphasized that "A legacy is not WHAT you leave behind, but it is WHO you leave behind." It did not make sense to me at the time, but by his life example, it became clear. At the age of 54, his journey has not been easy. My parents went through many struggles and challenges, but they faced each one with confidence that God is more than able to give them victory. Watching my father deal with a situation unfazed is one to emulate.

Therefore, it is difficult to fit the entirety of his journey in a 1000 words. He's earned many roles that are hard to maintain yet easy to cherish. To start, he is first and foremost a father to my three sisters and I, and a dotting Papa to my

nieces and nephew. He was an entertainer and a talented musician in his earlier days, a businessman, a politician, a craftsman and finally, the Senior Pastor to Light of the World Ministries. The most prominent memory I have of my dad was when he found God and started to support the church with his affinity for music. From there, we grew together as a family, both spiritually and musically. He taught my sisters and I everything he knew about music and imparted in each of us a piece of that creative, musical legacy. His hard work and stubborn drive to build a good life for his family and community is the reason why, I am honored to share a glimpse of his life story....

### LOOKING BACK TO WHERE HE WAS....

My dad, Eddie V. Aguinaldo came to Hawaii when he was 11 years old. He was born to Adriano and Paz Aguinaldo of Pasuquin,

Ilocos Norte on August 7, 1965. He is the eighth child of 10. His mother, Paz was born in Hilo, Hawaii, but was raised in the Philippines. Dad grew up in a family with a passion for music and learned to play the guitar at a very early age. When he came to Hawaii, he continued his musical path as a drummer for his brother's band. He graduated from Farrington High School in 1983. And although he had built a career around music, he received an education in Accounting, before excelling in the Construction Industry.

On June 25, 1988, my dad married his high school sweetheart, Imelda (Melle) Sevilleja. He is the brain and she's his great supporter. The greatest combination to pursue the American Dream. According to my mom, they set goals to pursue together which they saw come to fruition before they became pastors. I admire my parents' love for each other and enjoy listening to their

love stories. I'd hope to find a good man like you one day, dad. You have been such a great husband to mom. If truth be told, you adore and spoiled her rotten with the best things in life. You've taken her to places only many can dream about and not many couples work best together as you do. To me, their lives is the epitome of great marriages. It's been 37 years of being together and they continue to work as a couple, as pastors and business partner.

As a businessman, my dad expressed pride in how he worked his way up in the construction industry. From a working foreman to becoming the youngest superintendent for one of the largest drywall companies in the islands, to finally owning his own construction company in May 1994. My parents set their goals and worked hard together to fulfill their American Dream. It was through this hard work and perseverance that Eddie's company prospered and





became one of the fastest-growing companies in the state of Hawaii in 2000, earning \$7 million a year. He was also recognized as the Most Outstanding Young Businessman Under Forty of the same year by the Pacific Business News. His business acumen honored him with many more outstanding business awards.

My dad often shared how he was inspired by my grandparent's hard work and determination to make a living. He shared stories of how he would go and help them mop and clean offices when he was 13 years old. He promised himself that he would do better in life. He knew that education was important to achieving his dreams. He put himself through college during the day and worked at a gasoline station at night, getting paid \$2.86 an hour. While waiting for cars, he would do his homework. Life was tough, but he supported himself by doing something he loved: music. With tenacity and determination, he learned everything he could to not simply get by, but to go further. He'd tell us why he leaves the house early morning: **so that he could go and learn more of the trade for our benefit.** His employer, (Clyde Taketsuki) saw a great potential and invested a lot in him. At 28, my dad was running his own multi-million company. He took in and mentored many young individuals and encouraged them to own their own businesses. He is never shy of sharing what he knew. Dad is proud to mentor successful and young entrepreneurs that followed

in his footsteps. That is the heart of my father... his legacy in business.

**The Song in His Heart**

My dad loves music. So much that he taught it to my siblings and me. When we began to show interest, he turned my mom's beautiful living room into a music room. He taught me how to play drums when I was 9 years old. Then the guitar, the keyboard, the bass, except the saxophone, which was my main instrument. At least, even when he taught me everything, I got to embrace music in my own way. I could honestly say that my dad was a tough teacher, but he made sure we had all we needed to succeed in music. Music to my dad is a lot like our lives: music is hard to learn, but it can get better if you keep at it. Dad transferred his gift of music to many, young and old. His words that resonates is: **there is time to play and there is time to be serious.** We also inherit his knack of knowing who makes a mistake and who didn't practice.

Whether it be in music, construction, ministry or the community, my dad left his brand to many people. He taught with passion. He kept no favorites when it came to teaching his craft. I remember a time while practicing with the worship team, dad scolded

me for not giving it my all when playing the drums. I remember those tears streaming down my cheek as I pounded the drums. I was mad at him for embarrassing me in front of the team. Looking back, I am grateful for his discipline as I now travel and play music with the best of the best musicians in the country. Not bad for the only browned skinned girl from Hawaii, right? In return, I now lead and teach others as my dad taught me. From his teachings, my sisters and I inherited his gift of music, which we all still use to this day. And from that love of making music, my sisters and I have grown up into vastly creative people.

**Personal Letters to Dad**

**Eddie Justine (23, B.S. in Business Administration)**  
Honolulu, Hawaii

*To my amazing father, papa, and home-dawg. What an honor it is to be your daughter and junior. When mom asked us to write our tributes, I was afraid to begin writing because I didn't think I could stop boasting about how awesome you are. I was terrified that the words I share could not do you any justice. The thought of you brings me to tears because you are truly the best person I know. Many people in the*



Kristianne, (29); Adrienne (27)  
Aimee (26); Edie Justine (23)

Ordination as International Bishop and receiving his PhD in Theology

*Filipino community know you as Eddie Aguinaldo, the entertainer, but for this moment they will get to see you through my eyes.*

*During our Saturday morning coffee and breakfast, I often look at you and mom then think to myself, "I am so grateful to be a part of this family." The life that you and mom created for us is without a doubt God blessed. Some think that a blessed life consists of riches, but that is far from the truth. You often say, "I may not have silver and gold but with Jesus I have everything."*

*We are blessed because you've built and continue to build our lives on God. We are blessed because you've surrendered your whole life and family to God. Even though we faced many trials as a family, you always led with the righteousness of Christ. This is one of the many reasons why I believe you are the best father anyone could ever have.*

*I love that you can find joy in the hardest situations. You are the only person that can make me mad for a moment and within seconds we are making jokes about our argument.*



Edie Justine graduating in college  
Bethany, Oklahoma



With Edie Justine







Just us



Kristianne Melodie, College Graduation

*I love when mom does something silly, we automatically look at each other, shake our heads, and laugh without even using words. It is the most fun that we look the same when we laugh; squinty eyes and thin lips. I always admired you in the rough times, because you never let it get the best of you. They say you get to know a person when they are under pressure. You always respond with a big smile on your face. When faced with challenges you work hard and make the best with what you have. You live with purpose and never take an opportunity to grow for granted. I learned that dreams are fulfilled through hard work and dedication. This is a principle I believe you learned at a young age and carried throughout your life. I am so thankful for little Eddie that came to America with only one bag. He has taught me the importance and joy of working hard. Not only that, but you have inspired me to strive for better in my own life. Success is available for anyone willing to go out and get it. You give me a reason to get up every morning and give my best in everything!*

*You are full of love, faith, humility, and compassion. The love you give is selfless and unconditional. I'll never forget the moments you embraced me with open arms regardless of any faults. Even when you have the right to be angry, you choose kindness and never seek to repay a wrong. Some would portray this as a weakness, but I believe it is a strength to trust in the Lord as you do. You love with so much grace and sincerity. There is not a moment that you are not yourself. The person you are in secret is who you are in public. Funny, charming, friendly, and loving. It's not a secret that you are incredibly talented in music, but your heart and soul are*

*what catch the attention of people. Whatever you do, you do it with your whole heart and hold nothing back. You always have something to share or teach whether it is music, carpentry, food, or Jesus. Everyone who leaves your life always leaves better than they did when they entered. You give until you have nothing left and expect nothing in return. You sacrifice so much to care for others and everything you've ever accomplished is never kept to yourself. I hope to share the kind of love you give to me and everyone else you come in contact with. The love you show helps me better understand the love of our Heavenly Father and for that, I am most grateful.*

*You are truly a blessing from God. The best father I could ever hope for. Thank you for passing your musical talents and good looks to me ...haha! I am grateful for who you are and all you have implanted into my life. Seriously, everything I am is because of you. I am so proud to be called your daughter.*

*Happy Father's Day, Dad. I love you, I love you, I love you!*

**Aimee Gabrielle: (25, Pharmatech)**

*Husband: Gereldson, Children: Alexandria, Raiboi and Little Ella*

*Dad, I know it isn't easy to raise a child, let alone a family, and many more extended families, but I want you to know how much my little family appreciates you so much, Papa. It didn't matter how far I go in life, you are always there and will always be my number one provider, protector, and my hero. You will always be my dad and my pastor. You've raised us strong women in the faith. You've taught me the*

*lessons of what is RIGHT is right and what is WRONG is wrong. Even when I may fail, you always guide me back to the Lord. You continue to believe in me even as I doubt the best in me. You shape me to be the person God has called me to be. I am forever grateful for the unconditional love you showed for my husband, our 3 children, and most of all for me. I love you so much, papa. Have a wonderful Father's Day.*

**Adrienne Rose (27, Graphic Artist)**

*Bethany, Oklahoma*

*My dad is a hero not only to me and my sisters, but I believe, to many. He has given more than he could offer to help in any way he can. Though often unappreciated by those he has unselfishly mentored and help over the years, dad's unrelenting love and understanding never fails. Sadly, a lot of heroes go without recognition. I am grateful to The FilAm Courier for featuring my dad on Father's Day. Indeed, my dad truly deserves this recognition as a great father, as an exemplary community leader and a spiritual father/mentor. Dad put's in so much time and patience into people's lives without sugarcoating the fact that life isn't always fair. He has imprinted in me "you can only make the best of life when you stick to your moral principles and being a light to an otherwise dark world". Of all the lessons that have stuck with me from my dad is that "integrity matters most when no one is watching", when there is no reward, or no chance of recognition for it. Being a light to the world means you're shining no matter what people do or say to you. You remain strong for all of us. Dad, for all that you do for us and for many.... Thank you with a grateful heart!*

**Kristianne Melodie 29, B.A. in Liberal Studies, M.A. in Theological Studies**

*Bethany, Oklahoma*

*There is a famous quote that says, "Some people don't believe in heroes, but they've never met my dad." Dad, you are my hero. You left your home in the Philippines with one bag and built a life for yourself in the United States. Not many people take advantage of the opportunities that are offered here in the USA, but you worked hard for everything that you own today and you strived for that "American Dream." You built your business with hard work and determination and you raised your family well. You always made sure that we ate and provided us with things that you didn't have growing up. But I am more thankful that you are a MAN OF GOD, a pastor, and a spiritual father to many. I am thankful for the wisdom that God bestowed upon you. I got to watch how you influenced and loved people. You gave even when you didn't need to or when you didn't have anything to give. You are an amazing leader and one that does not compromise your belief for anything. You are strong in faith and you never waiver even when things seem impossible. I've seen God do great and mighty things in your life. I LOVE YOU, DAD! Thank you for giving your very best to us and for loving us unconditionally. You're legacy lives on in my heart. I WILL BE HOME SOON!*

**AN AMBASSADOR OF CHRIST**

*Dad was not called to be a politician, but an Ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ. "So, we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead . . . " 2 Cor 5:20. One of my*

*dad's greatest regrets is not knowing Christ Jesus earlier in his life. He became a "born again" Christian at the age of 32. Once he started getting to know more of what the Bible says, he made a promise to devote the remaining years of his life to the service of God. He left his entertainment career and everything that was a part of his past to become a minister of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He diligently studied the Word of God and attended many conferences and seminars. He was an example of obedience and faithfulness. He is ordained as an International Bishop and has in his rights a Ph.D. in Theology. As humble as he is, he is known to everyone as Pastor Ed. The greatest blessing is knowing that many love and appreciate our dad. Through his tenure as the Senior Pastor of Light of the World Ministries, dad and mom also planted the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao of the Philippines. My Dad believes that a church must have a strong Mission Ministry in place. LotWM planted and supported nine churches in the Philippines and has an outreach in Eureka, California. We are one small church doing great things for the community. In 2019, we reached out to one of the poorest neighborhoods in Honolulu to bring the "Family Fun" event, wherein, we gave food, gift prizes, children fun and entertainment to the community. During COVID-19, LotWM was a channel of blessing to many through Food Drive and distribution, and by distributing masks to the homeless and US Vets. Whenever there is a great need, Light of the World Ministries is always more than willing to lend a helping hand. **This is the heart of my father.** He is one who would always bring the best in others and bring out the best in every situation. On behalf of my family, I want to express my warmest gratitude to The FilAm Courier for including my dad in your Father's Day Tribute. Our love unending and our Kudos to you. God Bless TheFilAm Courier!*

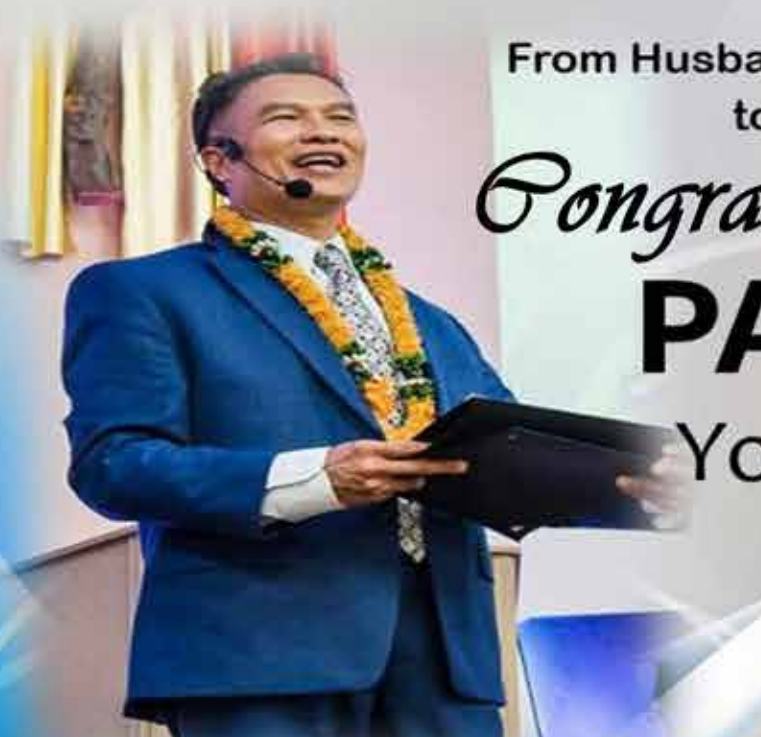


From Husband to Father and Grandfather; from Entertainer to a Builder and to a Great PASTOR....

*Congratulations and God Bless!*

# PASTOR EDDIE

**You DESERVE THE HONOR!!**



"Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness; But a faithful man who can find? The just man walketh in his integrity; His children are blessed after him."

Proverbs 20:6-7

Frank & Adre Cachola



Pastor Ed, Congratulations! You are definitely called and ordained by GOD for such a time as this. You are resilient and Passionate in the Kingdom of God. God continue to use you for the end time Harvest. Esther's Champion loves you!  
-Apostle Tammy Hara



A Pastor devoted to giving so much. God only knows all the souls that you touched. Committed to serve when you answered God's call, you prove it by being a servant to all. Thank you for everything you do, Pastor Ed, for all of us and the ministry.



Raisy & Grace Richard



## CONGRATULATIONS, BROTHER!!

"... The LORD your God will bless your work and in everything you put your hand to ..."

Deuteronomy 13:10

We are very proud of you, Bagis! We are praying that you will always remain humble and loving in all that you do. You are a great father, a wonderful brother and a compassionate pastor to all your church family. God Bless You!!

**THE AGUINALDO OHANA**

*Congratulations, Pastor Eddie!*



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*Pastor Eddie*

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AND YOUR HEART

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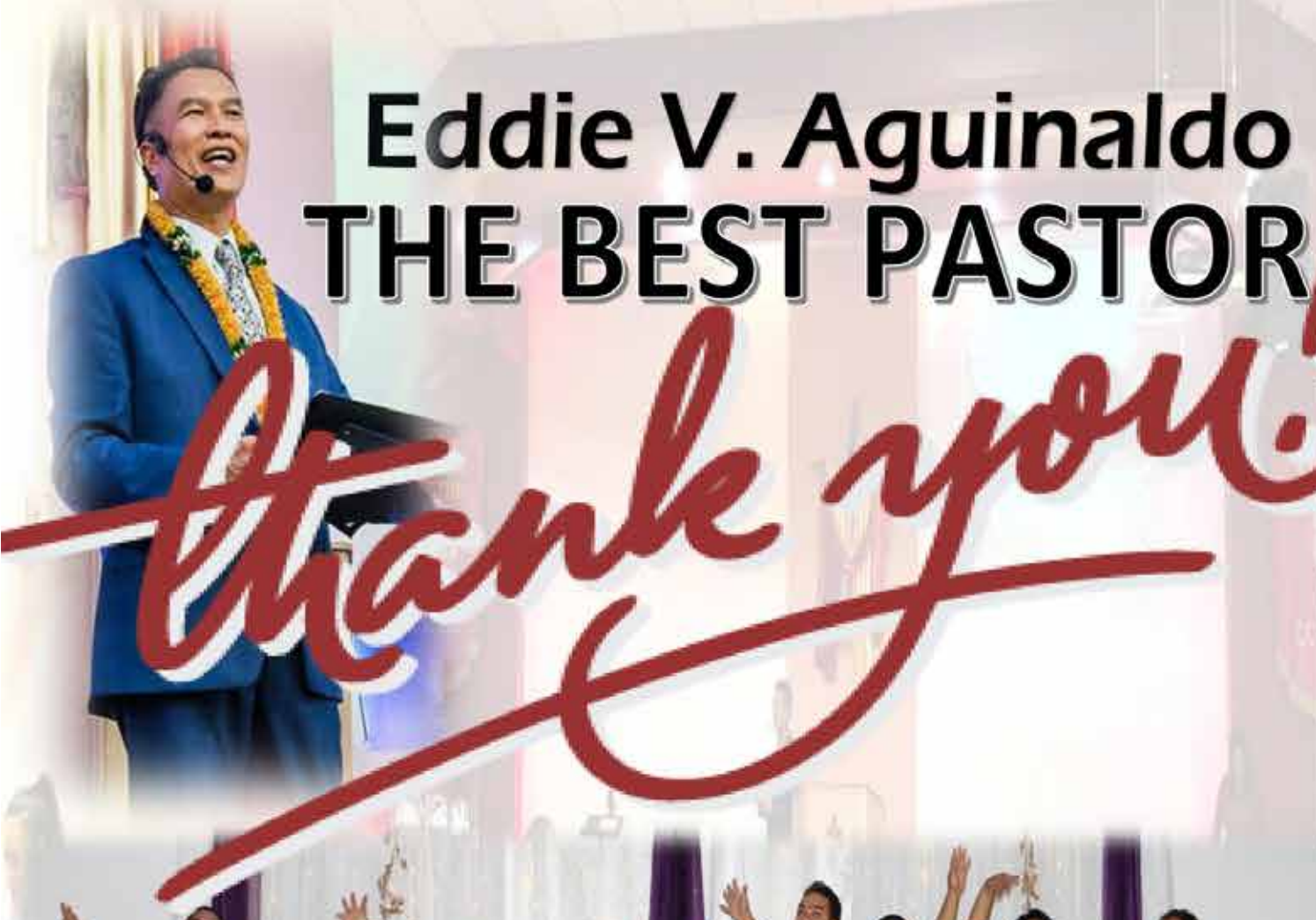
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**OHANA MEANS FAMILY**

And Family Means Ohana

We want to express our warmest "THANKSGIVING" to all who contributed to the printing of this Father's Day Tribute to Pastor Eddie Aguinaldo. We are forever grateful to **Ms. Mary Cordero** of the **FilAm Courier** and its editorial staff for the given opportunity to share the untold testimony of my husband. Indeed, it is an opportunity to share yet another fascinating life story of the "American Dream". We want to give our loudest SHOUT OUT to our LotWM Ohana for your willingness to QUICKLY act upon the request. **GOD IS GOOD AND HE IS FAITHFUL!** You are an awesome family. Also to the AGUINALDO family (Evelyn Gombio, Linda Velasco, Helen and Elive Aguinaldo) for your love and support. We thank you for RAISING the best brother, husband, father, grandpa, mentor, leader, teacher to a spiritual father to many. **WE ARE A RECIPIENT OF SUCH A GREAT BLESSING!** Thank you to ALL...



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Kristianne, Adrienne, Aimee/Gereldson (Charis, Rayboi, Ella) and Edie Justine



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# Congratulations and Happy Father's Day to Cesar "Boy" Fajardo



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Cora Baclig-Credo



Maria Jo Farina



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Fe Velasco



**Congratulations and  
Happy Father's Day!  
Cesar Fajardo**

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MR. CESAR FAJARDO  
a wonderful and Happy  
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*Happy Father's Day & Congratulations to  
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*Happy Father's Day Cesar Fajardo*



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# Happy Father's Day Cesar "Boy" Fajardo & to All Wonderful Fathers!



Eddie & Aurea Agas



Paul & Mary Ann Alimbuyao



Gerhart & Dr. Nancy Atmospera-Walch



Larry & Marietta Bustamante

**Congratulations & Happy Father's Day, Cesar!**



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**Congratulations & Happy Father's Day, Cesar!**



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Eddie Aguinaldo & Matthew Casamina



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## 4 GENERATIONS OF CASAMINAS: ROLAND, MATTHEW, SANTOS AND KENSHIN





feature



By ANNIE SOKOL

# Entrepreneur ERIC HEENAN: Leading a Balanced Life

Upon hearing that I was interviewing the founder and President of Alaka'i Executive Search, Eric Heenan, I immediately assumed we would conduct the interview in his office. Instead, I found myself sipping coffee and talking stories with him on a beautiful, breezy morning in the outdoors restaurant of The Pacific Club.

It turns out that we are actually in his "office" where he had spent many days as a child. It was also where he and his wife got married. Nowadays, he conducts most of his team meetings within the walls of the club before leaving in the early afternoon to pick his son from school.

It is a routine (pre-Covid) that Heenan looks forward to, on a daily basis, even as he remains committed

to being an involved father and loving husband.

Eric was born in New York and raised here in Honolulu by a Caucasian father (business guru David Heenan) and Filipino mother (Neri Heenan). His mother hails from Lumban, Laguna and she made sure that she passed on to her sons, her culture and traditions. Their family visited the Philippines



Eric, Nozomi and Issei at Villa Escudero in the Philippines.

often and Heenan expressed his closeness with his cousins who live in the Philippines. He shared memories of visiting Villa Escudero and experiencing the beauty of El Nido, Palawan.

Heenan admits to speaking "konting Tagalog" but he is fluent in Japanese since he spent twenty years of his career working for big companies such as JAC International, Cisco and Apple, just to name few.

This Iolani graduate fell in love with Japan after a school field trip, prompting him to study Japanese in college at UCLA. His first job after college was at a supermarket in Japan, where he opened its doors at 4 o'clock in the morning, drove his bike in the snow and manned the register. He took the valuable lessons he learned from that supermarket job as he pursued his career in Japan.

In addition to working for the large firms, he also built a company recruiting for IT start-ups.

Clearly, Heenan was not afraid

to take risks and step up as a leader to make his vision a reality.

But as work consumed him more and more, Heenan realized what was important in life.

After twenty years in Japan, Heenan left the hustle and bustle of Tokyo and came back to Hawai'i, with his wife Nozomi and son, Issei.

Having grown up in Hawai'i, Heenan felt it was important for his son to spend more time with his parents who are his mentors and who he always looked up to.

He also wanted his son to experience the diversity of Hawai'i and to teach him about his roots.

In fact, Eric proudly shared that his son actually learned to count from one to twenty in Tagalog in just an hour while on a trip to the Philippines.

Where once he could only spend one meal a day with his family in Japan, Eric now enjoys many meals with his wife and son.

In fact, he does the Friday lunch duty at his son's school. With his lifestyle, he has the luxury to spend time with his son and watch him grow.

Heenan also gives back to the community by providing seminars to college students on professional branding especially on LinkedIn. He also sits on the Board of Directors for Filipino Community Center.

As far as his company is concerned, Heenan said business has been steadily growing every year and he is cautiously optimistic about the future.

As I sat across him, I realized that this man may have found what many are still looking for: the elusive work-life balance. With deliberate effort, he continues to redefine the meaning of success, leadership, and yes, fatherhood.



Eric and his wife Nozomi, with their son, Issei on his first day of school.

*Annie Sokol is originally from Mindanao in the Philippines. She speaks Tagalog and Visayan. She is currently a Partnership Specialist with the U.S Census Bureau and her role is to educate and encourage the community to participate in the 2020 Census.*



# council corner



By **BRANDON ELEFANTE**  
Councilmember  
City and County of Honolulu

## Bulky Item Appointment System Coming to All of Oahu

The City's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) is expanding the bulky item appointment-based collection system island-wide starting July 1, 2020, for all individual residents and multi-unit residential buildings. The original pilot project from Foster Village to Hawaii Kai has wrapped up, and lessons learned were applied before the Oahu rollout.

Under the old system, the bulky item collection trucks had to drive down every street on the island on designated days to make a pickup. This island-wide appointment system helps our island to be more efficient and environmentally friendly by reducing the driving distances of its bulky item collection trucks.

Residents may schedule their bulky item appointments starting June 1 for the month of July at [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org). Those who do not have online access may call ENV during normal business hours (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at 768-3200 option "0." When calling, an ENV employee will assist in scheduling the appointment through [www.opala.org](http://www.opala.org). All scheduled appointments for bulky item pickup means items need to be curbside no earlier than 6 p.m. the night before the collection appointment day.

Note that multi-unit dwellings

have two options: (1) "Default Option" - Each individual unit for multi-unit properties may make their own appointments for up to five bulky items or two metal appliances; and (2) "Alternative Option" - Multi-unit dwellings may "opt out" and a property or resident manager may manage and schedule appointments for the entire building, limiting the total amount of items to 20 bulky items or eight metal appliances per appointment.

## Draft Pedestrian Priority Network—We Need Your Feedback

The City's Department of Transportation Services (DTS) just published the Draft Pedestrian Priority Network, which will help to later develop the first ever Oahu Pedestrian Plan, and requests comments and input from the public.

The Pedestrian Priority Network consists of the City streets that provide important pedestrian connections to transit, schools, employment, and other major destinations. The network will be used as the basis for identifying where pedestrian infrastructure improvements are most needed.

Help to be part of the pedestrian improvements that will be designed around the City by providing your feedback on the Draft Pedestrian Priority Network until Monday,

July 6th 2020 at 4:30 p.m. Please visit <http://www.honolulu.gov/completestreets/pedplan> to submit any comments. The public may also contact Daniel Alexander at [daniel.alexander@honolulu.gov](mailto:daniel.alexander@honolulu.gov) or 808-768-6652 for any additional information or comments.

## It's Not Too Late—Fill Out Your 2020 Census Now!

<https://2020census.gov/>

Filling out the US Census has a direct impact in your community. So much of public policy and public funding at the Federal, State, and at the City and County of Honolulu levels relies on data from the US Census. Your answers help to feed our students lunch during the summer, build highway projects, keep our public transit running, and support families in need through housing, job training, and assistance to our kupuna.

You can respond, online, via the mail, or on the phone. And language support is also available at: <https://2020census.gov/en/languages.html>

\_\_\_\_If you don't have the paper mailed to you to use for your online response, or if you have questions, just call the US Census Bureau at 1-844-330-2020. It's toll free, and they are open Monday through Friday from 1AM to 8PM Hawaii Standard Time.



.....  
I am proud to serve you as your area Councilmember of the vibrant communities of Aiea, Pearl City, and Waipahu and thank you for allowing me to be of service to you these past five and a half years. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduates in the calss of 2020. You have embraced hardship, proven to be resilient, and are admired for their

resolve. We celebrate all graduates and wish them all the best as they continue to reach and grow. And we look forward to seeing what you do next!

*Brandon Elefante represents Honolulu City Council District VIII, which covers Aiea - Pearl City - Waipahu. He can be reached at (808) 768-5008, and his email is [belefante@honolulu.gov](mailto:belefante@honolulu.gov)*

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## eye care



By **DR. STEVEN RHEE**  
Medical Director of  
Hawaiian Eye Center



# Keeping Your Eyes Young & Clear

## June is Cataract Awareness Month

(Honolulu, Hawaii), May 29, 2020 – You may be asking a common question: what exactly is a cataract? Inside our eyes, we have a natural lens which bends light rays as they come into the eyes to help us see. This lens should be clear, but if you have a cataract, your lens becomes cloudy. This can be like looking through a foggy or dusty windshield. The world may look blurry, hazy, or less colorful with a cataract in your eye.

Dr. Rhee of the Hawaiian Eye Center provides common symptoms of cataracts:

- Having blurry vision
- Being extra sensitive to light
- Having trouble seeing well at night
- Seeing glare or halos around lights

- Needing more light when you read
- Seeing bright colors as faded or yellow

Everyone develops cataracts as they age. The lens gradually becomes cloudy over time and people over age 60 usually have some amount of clouding of the lens.

Other risk factors for developing cataracts include diabetes, certain medications such as steroids, and

prolonged exposure to UV light from the sun. Dr. Rhee of the Hawaiian Eye Center shares, “Cataracts are one of the leading causes of reversible vision loss in the United States. We can treat this condition with cataract surgery which is one of the most common outpatient procedures performed in the US.”

During Cataract Awareness Month in June, the American Academy of Ophthalmology reminds the public that early detection and

treatment of cataracts is critical to preserving sight.

So, what should you do if you suspect that you or a loved one is suffering from cataracts?

1. Call your eye doctor and set up an appointment
2. Wear proper sunglasses to protect your eyes from harmful UV rays whenever your eyes are exposed to the sun.

*Dr. Steven Rhee, Medical Director of Hawaiian Eye Center, along with his colleague, Dr. James Pitts, hosts “The Hawaiian Eye Show,” a weekly informational radio program about healthy vision broadcast live every Saturday at 8 a.m. on KHVH 830 AM. Hawaiian Eye’s dedicated doctors and support staff are committed to educating the public about the importance of preventative eye care. To learn more about a variety of eye health issues, please call 621-8448 or visit HawaiianEye.com. “For over 40 years, life has never looked better.”*

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# It's time to talk to your parents, titos and titas about internalized racism

By KIT FURUKAWA

You may have heard these phrases:

"Those thugs mean trouble."

"Hold on to your purse."

"Marry a white guy so you have better-looking children."

"I'm worried about inviting your Black friends."

"Ganyan talaga silang mga itim..."

With all things considered in our Filipino history of oppression and colonial mentality, won't you agree that most Filipino families have anti-black sentiments?

We don't just bleach our skins with whitening products, the papaya soap made our minds white, too. TV ads in the Philippines literally demonstrate how better your life will be with opportunities if you have fairer skin.

I think the time is now to make an effort and have difficult conversations in our homes to cultivate a culture of empathy. If our goal is to have racial equity and justice for our kids in the future, everyone in the family needs to be on the same page: we need to make conscious choices with our words and actions. Otherwise, the bad habits will just be passed on.

Before I proceed, it is important I set the framework for what's to follow. I'm a 30-something millennial who is not a counselor nor an expert at the topic. I just want to share my experience and research as it might help you.

Some of the points I'll raise may not apply to you, and it's important to note that Filipino families are not all the same.

If you care about them, help them see what they don't.

IF YOU FIND COURAGE to speak up, I need to commend you because the path to get there is difficult and stressful. I know because I tried and wasn't received very well.

I wasn't surprised though, and I'm glad I did it.

I wouldn't be writing this article if my experience was an isolated event.

Reading so many similar comments online gave me hope. What I found validates this: a lot of Fil-Am youth chose to speak up because we love and care for ur families.

You must come from a place of love and concern when you're pointing out something they don't see. If you are expecting to be labelled "disrespectful," or if they come back with "kapal ng mukha mo, akala mo kung sino ka" (How dare you, who do you think you are) rhetoric, I may have some tips that will help manage your expectations because this will be an emotionally charged endeavor.

## 1. Proceed with caution and proper timing

Before you say nothing, make sure you are in the right mind. We are coming from the heels of COVID-19 anxiety, highest rates of unemployment, too-many zoom meetings, and we don't even know what day it is. If the timing, mental capacity and situation doesn't align for you, I say revisit the family talk at another time.

## 2. Research and prepare.

You may be gearing up for a debate, so get educated about the issue. Learn why using the hashtag #AllLivesMatter is not helpful in the #BlacLivesMatter movement. Find memes that have concise and impactful responses to usual points of confusion. If they are religious, prepare your Bible verses. If they love cooking, use food as examples. If they idolize certain basketball players, research if the athletes have made statements to support your position. If you find the right "language" to use, you may increase chances of getting their buy-in.

## 3. Dami mong alam!

### You know too much.

You might hear this as a common tactic to shame your knowledge. The status quo is typically kids don't have an opinion because speaking up and disagreeing are disrespectful. I say give them the credit for it. Our parents, titos and titas have worked hard to provide us education so we can "have a better life." Now that we are educated

and have different experiences of our own, we are simply sharing the blessing of knowledge with them.

## 4. You cannot change the world.

This statement or a variation of it might come when the complexity of the issue is discussed. There's systemic racism that involves many players in society-how can one possibly do something about all that?

This is the same mentality that dismisses the power of ONE, which is why others don't vote. They may acknowledge the importance of family in one's upbringing and that's your opening to explain your objective of changing certain things inside the home, instead of the world.

## 5. Looting is easier to understand

Don't be surprised if the whole racial narrative is skipped and the focus of your discussion will revolve around the looting. If you support the Black Lives Matter movement, their assumption is that you support the looting. Set the record straight by condemning the act and acknowledge their fears because these are all valid. Use the opportunity to reassure them that you are on the same side-stealing is wrong.

Videos of police brutality in general have been shared excessively that we are now desensitized every time we see one. But looting images of young ladies smiling with armloads of bras from a Victoria Secret are strong new images that cause worry.

It is important to differentiate peaceful protestors and looters-these two separate things. The root cause of the looting is racially charged police brutality. If they are concerned about the looting, the solution is to address the root cause.

## 6. But I've been discriminated against as a Filipino

The purpose of this argument is to seek empathy from you, and that's alright. The unsaid portion of this sentence is "I've been discriminated against as a Filipino, so I'll discriminate against Blacks." There may be



trauma from a past experience, so the fact they are openly sharing this with you is already an indication of openness that will bring you closer. Again, use the power of "listen" and acknowledge their experience. If you have a similar story, share away.

important to remember that you will not change their minds over night. Maybe you will not change their minds at all. But the key is you have created a channel where you can now freely navigate and discuss unintended racist remarks when they come up.

Remember that while their generation is busy making a living for you and me, assimilating to the "white culture" may also be an act of survival to blend in. The act of speaking up will allow for much needed self-reflection that's built on a foundation of honesty and love for each other.

If you find this effort exhausting, remember that our friends in the Black community have fatigue fighting for justice every day in their lives.

## 7. You cannot teach an old dog new tricks

There's a sentiment shared among young Fil-Ams that the effort is "useless" and that we should just accept the fact that they will be stuck in their ways. I agree the effort is difficult but if we are trying to shape the moral compass of our kids, it will be more difficult to shield them from the previous generation's influence.

Plus, we want our children to have a relationship with their grandparents. There's power in shared experiences.

Prejudices usually disappear with exposure and experience. It is

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# May isa tayong magagawa, sabay sabay!

## Ikumpleto ang 2020 Census online ngayon.

Ikumpleto ang census ngayon para makatulong i-inform kung saan ilalaan ang bilyones na mapupunta sa mga bagay katulad ng health care, transportation at education kada taon sa susunod na sampung taon. **Ilang minuto lamang para mabigyang hugis ang ating kinabukasan, kaya kumpletuhin and census online, sa telepono o by mail.**

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