

PPBS Honors Top 7 High School Graduates of Santa Clara County in Celebration of its 51ST Anniversary

The Philippine Professional & Business Society of Santa Clara Valley, Inc. (PPBS) led by their Society President Gus Olmedo will celebrate the 51st Anniversary of its founding on Saturday, October 25, 2014. It will be held at the Holiday Inn (formerly Wyndham Hotel) at 1350 N. First Street in San Jose.

The PPBS was organized by Dr. Ted Ulanday together with Reppie Bautista, the Late Faustino Gamboa and the Late Camilo Valderama in 1963 in San Jose, California, with some Filipino-American Professionals and Business Owners in Santa Clara County. All the past presidents in attendance will be recognized during the Dinner-Dance Program which will start at 7:45pm.

One of the main projects of the Society is to award plaques of recognitions and cash awards to the deserving High School Graduates with high scholastic achievements who are children of Filipino-American parents. This project was initiated by Emmer D. Dela Cruz during his first term of office as President in 1978, which has been continued as the main project by all his successors every year to the present. Another project initiated by Mr. Dela Cruz is to provide financial assistance to the Filipino-American Seniors in Santa Clara County.

This year, seven outstanding Fil-Am graduates from public and private schools in Santa Clara County will be honored during the evening ceremony, together with their parents. This will be the 37th year of the Scholarship Program since its inception in 1978.

Scholarship Awards Chairman, Emmer D. Dela Cruz, assisted by Hon. Mayor Jose Esteves, will lead the honoring ceremonies during this Gala Affair. The honorees are the following:

- ★ Marisa Kwiatkowski, daughter of Stephen & Lilian Kwiatkowski of Sunnyvale, California, graduated from Adrian Wilcox High School with a GPA of 4.00 unweighted (4.42 weighted). She is presently enrolled at Stanford University taking Psychology.
- ★ Adam Romayor, son of Adam & Gwen Romayor of San Jose, California, graduated from William C Overfelt High School with a GPA of 4.00 unweighted (4.40 weighted). At present, he is taking Computer Science at UCLA.
- ★ Daryl Cristobal, son of Francisco & Naomi Ruth Cristobal of San Jose, California, graduated from James Lick High School with a GPA of 4.00 unweighted (4.33 weighted). He is now taking Political Science at UC Berkeley.
- ★ Carolyn Diloreto, daughter of John & Donna Diloreto of Campbell, California, graduated from Presentation High School with a GPA of 4.00 Unweighted (4.38 weighted). She is presently enrolled at University of Southern California, taking Media Arts.

- ★ Julianne Torres, daughter of Ron & Narcisa Torres of San Jose, California, graduated from Presentation High School with a GPA of 3.96 unweighted (4.23 weighted). She is enrolled at University of Southern California taking Engineering.
- ★ Alexa Cacao, daughter of Freddie & Darra Cacao of Milpitas, California, graduated from Milpitas High School with a GPA of 3.90 unweighted (4.17 weighted). She is presently taking Mechanical Engineering at University of Southern California. She is also the first high school girl to win four consecutive diving championships in Central Coast Section History since the beginning of CCS girls diving in 1974.
- ★ Mark Villegas, son of Angeles Villegas of San Jose, California, graduated from William C. Overfelt High School with a GPA 3.90 unweighted (4.21 weighted). He is presently taking Nursing at UC Irvine.

The 7 Scholarship Awardees will receive PPBS Plaques of Scholastic Achievements and total cash awards of \$5,000.00 to help them in their first year in College.

The selection and ranking of the awardees was based on 3 categories: 1) Min. of 3.50 GPA Unweighted, 2) School & Community Activities, 3) Letters of References from School Teachers.

The Scholarship Awards Committee Members are: Emmer D. Dela Cruz, Chair; Tessie Pacheco, Vice Chair; Zenny Esteban, Alice Navarro, Joe Salcedo, Gus Olmedo, Virgie Estrada & Eric Tigmo, Members.

The Event Chairman, Emmer D. Dela Cruz, promises a very enjoyable and memorable evening which starts at 6:30 pm with a No-Host Cocktails; Dinner at 7:30 pm and Program will start 7:45 pm. The Master of Ceremonies is Fernando Saraya, presently the PPBS Vice President. The Guest Speaker will be the Hon. Mayor of Milpitas, Jose Esteves. The Invocation will be given by Rev. Fr. Mark Gazzingan, Pastor at St. Victor's Parish Church. Dancing music to be provided by the Ballroom Band till midnight.