

PPBS Honors Top 8 High School Graduates of Santa Clara County with Mayor Jose Esteves as Guest Speaker in Celebration of its 53rd Anniversary

San Jose, CA, November 5, 2016 - The Philippine Professional & Business Society of Santa Clara Valley, Inc. (PPBS) led by their Society President Emmer D. Dela Cruz will celebrate the 53rd Anniversary of its founding on Saturday, November 12, 2016. 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 Valderram 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 8:00 pm.

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, eight 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 39th year of the Scholarship Program since its inception in 1978.

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

Kayla Torres, daughter of Dudley & Sonia Querubin Torres of Morgan Hill, California, graduated from Ann Sobrato High School with a GPA of 4.00 (unweighted). She is presently enrolled at UC San Diego taking Biochemistry..

Bridgitte Agcaoili, daughter of Bernard & Fatima Agcaoili of San Jose, California, graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School with a GPA of 3.90 (unweighted). At present, she is taking Business Marketing at CalPoly Pomona.

Julia Offutt, daughter of Matthew & Aira Offutt of San Jose, California, graduated from Presentation High School with a GPA of 3.95 (unweighted). She is now taking Political Science at UC Davis.

Mariah Manzano, daughter of Rhoderick & Holly Manzano of Campbell, California, graduated from Westmont High School with a GPA of 3.90 (unweighted). She is presently taking Web Design & Computer Engineering at University of Santa Clara.

Ashley Ricks, daughter of Scot & Macaria Ricks of Morgan Hill, California, graduated from Milpitas High School with a GPA of 3.90 (unweighted). She is taking Business Management at University of Santa Clara.

Jack Shannon, son of Sean & Christina Shannon of San Jose, California, graduated from Oak Grove High School with a GPA of 3.90 (unweighted). He is presently taking Anthropology at UCLA.

Craig Jacob Roey, son of Dr. Steve & Agnes Roey of Sunnyvale, California, graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory with a GPA of 3.70 (unweighted). He is taking International Relations at George Washington University.

Christian SY, son of Jose & Rhodora Sy, of San Jose, California, graduated from Willow Glen High School with a GPA of 3.81 (unweighted). He is presently enrolled at San Jose State University taking Materials Engineering.

The 8 Scholarship Awardees will receive PPBS Plaques of Scholastic Achievements and total cash awards of \$5,500.00 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, Members.

The Event Chairman, Emmer D. Dela Cruz, 5-Time President of the PPBS, promises a very enjoyable and memorable evening which starts at 6:30pm with a No-Host Cocktails; Dinner at 7:30 pm and Program will start 8:00 pm. The Master of Ceremonies is Gus Olmedo, Past PPBS President. The Guest Speaker will be the Hon. Jose Esteves, Mayor of Milpitas. The Invocation will be given by Rev. Fr. Mark Gazzingan, Pastor at St. Victor's Parish Church. Entertainment to be provided by The Free Lancers Dance Group. Dancing music by the Ballroom Band till midnight.