**15319, Zosimo Herrerra**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I want to welcome all of our alumni here tonight. Our association has been in operation for a long time and we have a great combination of graduates here. Our alumni groups in attendance have earned prestigious names for themselves, mainly our Golden (50 years), Ruby (40 years) and Silver Jubiliarians (25 years). I want to extend a special welcome for the Alumni attending from the Philippines, especially the Dean Alfaretta Tan and Dr. Andy Borromeo.

My congratulations to those who won the election, since this is an election year. I want to thank Dr. Susan Suntay, our forever Convention Commissioner, for producing a successful convention. Thank you Dr. Paul Hamor, outgoing President of the National Alumni Association, and Dr. Joselito Babaran, President of the California Chapter for hosting our national convention.

This year I am honored to be inducted as President of the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Alumni Association of America (UERMMMCAAA) on July 3, 2016 In Newport Beach, California. I graduated from my medical school in 1973 with an MD degree. I practiced in the Philippines and Germany as an Anesthesiologist and moved to USA when I married my wife who is also an anesthesiologist. In the USA, I worked as a scientist at Abbott Labs in Illinois.

As the new president I have some specific goals to accomplish. My mission is to unite all alumni and encourage them to join the association whether licensed or not. They earned their MD upon graduation and it doesn’t depend on licensure to practice. I also want to control the increasing cost of attending our alumni homecoming here in the US and the Philippines. I recognize that the cost can be a problem for some and I want to encourage everyone to attend. Another of my goals is to convince more of our new graduates to join, many who are still taking their exams for licensure in the U.S. I’d also like to convince new graduates to get residency training positions so I’ll be seeking out graduates connected to training hospitals to help out.

I was previously the president of the Midwest Chapter of the Alumni Association. I am proud to announce that we had started to raise money to establish a cardiac Cath lab in our Medical School Hospital in the Philippines. We need the support of the alumni here in the US and the Philippines to complete this project. This plan was spearheaded by Dr. Benjamin Lumicao, a prominent professor of cardiology at Northwestern University in Chicago, and one of our first graduates.

We have all travelled a similar path to reach our destination. As medical students, interns and residents we have, and will continue to endure night calls and sleepless nights, but we still enjoyed our rotations in different specialty departments. We feel very close to our classmates which we continue to stay in touch with these days. You should be proud of the journey you have made up to this point and feel strongly about your shared medical school. It is my hope that you will feel deeply about your medical school and develop a sense of family in our alumni association.

I would love for everyone to be charitable towards our school and give generously to our school. I have worked in volunteer organizations my entire life and I am proud of your past generosity. It is my hope that this year will be no different and you will show your love for the medical school and donate monetarily or by volunteering your services. You have always proven faithful toward the coming students and we ask that you continue funding academic scholarships and faculty development. I have every confidence that you will continue to take care of your colleagues, past, present and future.

Thank you.