Human Trafficking: Are Nurses Immune?

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Philippine Nurses Association
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Filipino American History Month
* 18 October 1578 *

Filipino American History Month is celebrated in October to bring awareness to the role Filipinos have played in American history. The month was chosen as it was in October 1587 when “Luzones Indios” landed at Morro Bay, California.

These “Indios” from Luzon were the first DOCUMENTED Filipinos (and Asians) to arrive in America.

In 2009, U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino/a American History Month in the United States.
Celebration
Started in 1992
Filipino American National Historical Society (FANHS)

James Sobredo is co-founder of FANHS, East Bay Chapter & former President & national Trustee

FILIPINO AMERICAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
810 18th Avenue, Room 100, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 322-0203 http://www.fans-national.org

A Resolution

OCTOBER IS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, the Filipino American National Historical Society had declared the Year 1988 to be the 225th Anniversary of the Permanent Settlement of Filipinos in the Continental United States and had set into motion its year-long, national observance in order to focus on the story of our nation’s past from a new perspective by concentrating on the critically economic, cultural, social and other notable contributions Filipino Americans had made in countless ways toward the development of United States History; and

WHEREAS, efforts must continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture, so mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, because the role of Filipino Americans and those of other People of Color have been overlooked in the writings, teachings and learnings of United States History; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative for Filipino American youths to have positive role models and to instill in them the importance of education, complemented with the richness of their ethnicity and the values of their legacy; and

WHEREAS, the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the Continental United States falls on October 1587, more recently published by Lorraine Jacobs Crouchett in her book, Filipinos in California (1982), annotating John Walton Caughey in his book, California (1953), and that definitive dates of written landings on the shores of California have been recorded with the earliest on October 18, 1587, according to Crouchett, annotating H.R. Wagner’s Unamuno’s Voyage to California in 1587 in the Quarterly of the California Historical Society (July 1923), among others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Trustees of the Filipino American National Historical Society establish Filipino American History Month and that it be observed annually and nationally throughout the United States and its Territories during the Month of October, commencing in the Year 1992 to mark the 405th Anniversary of the Presence of Filipinos in the Continental United States as a significant time to study the advancement of Filipino Americans in the history of the United States, as a favorable time of celebration, remembrance, reflection and motivation, and as a relevant time to renew more efforts towards research, examination and promulgation of Filipino American history and culture in order to provide an opportunity for all Americans to learn and appreciate more about Filipino Americans and their historic contributions to our nation, these United States of America.

*Authorized and introduced by Trustee FRED CORDOVA, Founding President.
*Moved for its adoption by Trustee LOREA ACUSZAAR; and seconded by Trustee STEVE K. OH.
*Unanimously adopted also by Trustees PETER M. JAMERO, KAREN N. JOHNSTONE, Treasurer; Dr. TETSUDEN KASHIMA, NANCY ORDONA-KOSLOSKY, and LOURDES CERENO MARKLEY, Secretary.
*In a special meeting of Trustees, presided by President JERESA ROMERO JAMERO and arranged by Executive Director DOROTHY L. CORDOVA, on February 15, 1991, in Seattle.
*Submitted to the remaining Trustees for ratification on March 15, 1991.

http://www.fans-national.org/History.html
History & Contributions of Filipino Americans

I. Early History
   A. Manila Galleons: 16\textsuperscript{th}-19\textsuperscript{th} Century
   B. American Colonialism: 1898 to 1945 (cf. 1991-1992)

II. Labor Migration
   A. Hawaii & CA: 1920s-1930s
   B. Labor union organizing & activism

III. Post-1965 Immigration & Global Migration
   A. Post-World War II: major changes $\rightarrow$ RNs/MDs
   B. Supply & Demand: Labor & economics
   C. Changes in immigration & patient care laws
   D. US population grows older $\rightarrow$ healthcare needs
Early Asian American History
16th - early 19th Century

MANILA GALLEON TRADE
“unfree labor”
“Involuntary labor”

Luzones Indios in the Americas
Filipinos in the Americas
“ocho Indios Luzones”
Morro Bay, California
October 1587
San Augustin, December 1595  
Point Reyes, Marin County

Bear Valley Visitor’s Center  
Point Reyes National Seashore
1898 Spanish-American War

Battle of Manila Bay: 1 May 1898

- *USS Olympia*: modern naval warship (SF Bay/Vallejo)
- Commodore Dewey becomes a national hero
- Start of American colonialism & *benevolent assimilation*
Large Scale Asian Migration: The Traditional Narrative

19th-20th Century

Chinese, Japanese/Koreans & Filipinos

Contract labor & agricultural work

* America & racism *
HAWAII PLANTATIONS
Filipinos in Pineapple Field

Photo: ©James Sobredo
Immigration to California

2 Routes:
Manila to Seattle
Manila to Hawaii and then to SF/LA
Bacon Island: Zuckerman Farm STOCKTON Area

Photo: ©James Sobredo
Filipinos formed United Farm Workers Union with Mexicans

1965 Delano Grape Strike

(7448) Pete Velasco, Larry Itliong, and Cesar Chavez, 1968

Pete Velasco, Larry Itliong, and Cesar Chavez meet at the Filipino Hall, Delano, California, Christmas, circa 1968.

Date: circa 1968
Physdesc: Photograph
Photographer: Mike Calamar

Photos:
https://www.reuther.wayne.edu/
Wayne State University
Post-1965 Immigration

1965 Immigration Reform Act

Main Goals

Recruit Professionals
- Technicians
- Scientists
- Health Professionals

Family Reunification
- European Families
- Asian Families
- Chicanos/Latinos

Refugees
- From "Communist" Countries
- Vietnam/SE Asia, Cuba
- USSR/Russia
10,000 Filipino Nurses migrated (1960s)

Source: “Why the US has so many Filipino Nurses,” VOX: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yw8a8n7ZAZg
Empire of Care: 
Nursing & Migration in Filipino American History

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Screenshot source: UC Berkeley, Ethnic Studies
Jason DeParle, NY Times

&

Rosalie Comodas Villanueva, nurse from Manila: Middle East to USA
Filipino Transnational Families

“...A Good Provider is One Who Leaves,”
Jason DeParle, NYTimes, 22 April 2007

Red-Carpet Treatment
O.F.W.’s, or Overseas Filipino Workers, are often treated like heroes upon their return to Manila because of all the money they send home.
Employment Crisis in Philippines (2013)

• Prevailing economic stagnation & stratification
  – National: 34.2% live below poverty line
  – RURAL: 47.4% live below poverty line

• Large supply of RNs
  – 100,000 under-employed RNS (cf. Rhacel Parrenas)

• Large number of unemployed RNs
  – 10,000 graduates each year (2003) (35,000 in 2010)
  – Only 1,000 nursing jobs available (2003, Philippines)

• HK = low UNEMPLOY & low UNDER-employment: 3.3% & 1.5% (2013) (HK Census)

Sources: Sheila de Tores (2002); Ron Hoppe, NPR, Feb. 2005; Melissa Howell Alipalo, SF Chronicle, November 5, 2003, “Why the US has so many Filipino nurses,” VOX
“100 percent of my students will apply to go abroad, especially to the United States”

-Dr. Betty Pulido

*Professor of Nursing, Central Philippine University & Former Dean of Nursing College, 2005
FILIPINO TRANSNATIONAL MIGRATION:
Images and Stories from the Philippines, Hong Kong and Barcelona

Dr. James Sobredo, Professor Emeritus
Department of Ethnic Studies

Photography Exhibits in 2019 (Sacramento) & 2020 (Aklan)
Hong Kong: World Class Capitalist City
The “Wall Street” of Asia

Photo: ©James Sobredo
Economic Factors & Context

• **HK: higher incomes** (GDP per capita) compared to the Philippines (World Bank 2013 data) ($250/$500 US)

• **Hiring of Filipino OFWs** began in late-1970s (cf. 1997): shift from manufacturing to service economy

• **Hong Kong & maids** (Filipino/Indonesians)
  – “highest number of maids per capita in Asia” *(South China Morning Post, 2012)*

• **Globalization of economy & labor migration**
  – 1974 Marcos “Manpower” program to now 10% of total Philippine population are OFWs (IMF/2013)
Filipino Transnational Migration: Images & Stories from Aklan, Manila & Hong Kong

Photography Exhibit by James Sobredo

Photo: ©James Sobredo
Human Trafficking: Are Nurses Immune?

“Illegal immigration”
“unauthorized entry”
“undocumented immigrants”
Illegal recruitment practices (cf. POEA)
unfair employment practices
65% of “illegal” immigrants enter the country “legally” (via airports & proper documents) & only become “undocumented” (47%) afterwards.

Data gathering is difficult.

*The Overlooked Undocumented Immigrants: From India, China, Brazil*

President Trump has focused on blocking unauthorized crossings on the Southern border. But nearly half of those who are in the country unlawfully actually entered with permission.

Miriam Jordon, *NY Times*, 1 Dec. 2019
Marilyn Omatang (Silicon Valley) came to “visit” Disneyland, arrived legally as a tourist & became undocumented.
The high point of the KDP’s civil rights work in the nursing community came in 1977, when it successfully defended two Filipina nurses, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez. These Filipino nurses were "accused of murdering thirty-five patients at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan." A broad-based national campaign led by the KDP widely amplified the nurses’ proofs of innocence and helped lead to their acquittal. It also exposed the VA hospital’s attempt at blaming scapegoats for its incompetent management. Simpson writes, "This is the first time in Filipino American history that the community held an orchestrated nationwide protest against a domestic injustice."
570 Nurses Smuggled into US (Texas, 1998)

The New York Times

U.S. Strikes at Smuggling Ring That Exploited Foreign Nurses

By Katharine Q. Seelye
Jan. 15, 1998

More than 500 nurses were smuggled into the United States from the Philippines and South Korea over the last several years by an illegal ring that capitalized on the nationwide nursing shortage plaguing hospitals and nursing homes earlier in the decade, Federal prosecutors said today.

Federal officials said this was the first time that the law-enforcement authorities had uncovered a smuggling network involving so many people with such high professional skills.

"We've never found a case of this magnitude," said Paul E. Coggins of Dallas, the United States Attorney for the northern district of Texas, where many of the nurses worked.

Illegal placed, skilled workers who depressed wages.

The workers were brought into the United States on fraudulent visas to do manual labor or as domestic workers with fraudulently obtained visas.

The nurses were paid at least $25 in the United States and some American companies paid $1,000 or more in cash to get nurses to work in the United States.

The nurses were kept in a hotel for two years and were paid $1,000 for each foreign nurse who had been illegally placed in a position, paid substandard wages and given unclean, unsanitary working conditions.

The nurses could be charged with fraud and deportation, said Lynne Liper, a spokesperson for the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Dallas.

Officials said the smuggling ring was being run by three men with ties to a company in the Philippines that paid $1,000 for each foreign nurse who was placed in a position.

The first ring was picked up by a controller at the United States Department of Labor, who detected an unusually high number of people applying for special visas to work in the United States.

They were all signed by the same person, Billy Dewey Jewett of Lubbock, Texas, who officials identified as the ring leader.

In a two-year period, Mr. Jewett submitted more than 1,500 fraudulent applications to bring in registered nurses, said Mr. Coggins, the United States Attorney in Dallas.

More than 30,000 visas were issued to foreign nurses.

The authorities said that in August 1996, Mr. Jewett made an agreement with Raucoek Kim, also known as Clara Kim, owner of International Nurses Exchange of Wayne, N.J., in which Ms. Kim would furnish 1,500 nurses to work at the Southern Manor Nursing Home in Lubbock, Texas, who also pleaded guilty today.

Each visa cost for visa fraud carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and fines of $250,000. Sentencing by Judge Linn R. Bary of the 5th District Court in Lubbock is expected in two months.
“Caregivers” (Filipinas) in the Middle East (elderly population)

“on call” 24 hours, little employment protection or rights, unscrupulous “recruitment agencies,” expensive fees/loans

Dr. Sobredo
Filipino OFWs on Sunday (no work day) in Hong Kong
Filipinos in Barcelona, Spain

Photo: ©James Sobredo
Filipinos in Barcelona, Spain
St. Augustine Church
*Filipino Mass*
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