

THE MAFFAA JOURNAL



July 2020

Message from Editor-in-Chief



Dear MAFFAA Supporters,

Wishing you all an early 4th of July at the start of this new month! Despite the continuing challenges presented by the ongoing global pandemic, I still believe all of us can find safe and simple ways to celebrate this important national holiday here in the United States.

Historically, I have always tied this time of year to Filipino-American Friendship Day because of my upbringing. However, today amid the recent movement for social and racial justice, I find myself thinking more broadly of what America truly should be doing for all of its diverse communities across this country we call home.

I fully acknowledge that the U.S. is by no means perfect and that correcting injustices should indeed be an ongoing endeavor. Admittedly, I have taken stock of my past and present experiences with the African-American community in light of current events and have sought to find new and innovative ways to do my part. One particular instance that I found very worthwhile was joining my friend U.S. Shadow Representative Mr. Franklin Garcia on Father's Day as we partook in a special motorcade across Washington, DC to highlight the important value of Black Fathers. This unique event was courageously organized and led by Mr. Chuck Hicks of the DC Black History Celebration Committee other among many other partnering organizations.

In closing, I wish you all a very happy and healthy month ahead. With so much uncertainty still lingering in our lives today, I think we sometimes forget the importance of just remaining optimistic. Let's make the most of what we have before us. Whether it is as simple as wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or something more complex such as speaking out on systematic injustices in our society, we too can make a lasting and positive difference.

All the best,
Patrick Realiza
Co-Executive Director, Mid Atlantic Foundation for Asian Artists, Inc.

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