

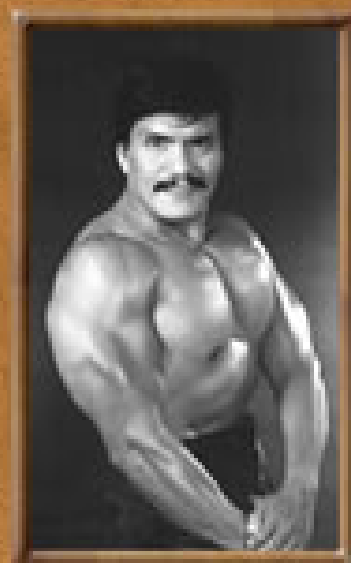
Filipino Martial Arts

Roland Dantes

Digest

Special Edition
2009

Body Builder and Actor
A Promoter and Promulgator of the Filipino Martial Arts



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Ambassador, Blood Brother, and Kampadre

He Was Always the Unconquerable

Condolences

Rapid Journal Vol13 No3

Successor

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From the Publishers Desk

Kumusta

Roland Dantes was a man that had touched everyone's life that had met him; a true crusader, untiring in his quest in the promulgation and promotion of the Filipino martial arts.

This Special Edition was put together to show others that might not have met Roland Dantes the kind of special person he was and how he will most definitely be missed by all.

The FMA Digest would like to thank Bella Marie "Peachie" Baron-Saguin (who knows many practitioners) for she put out the word to all about this Special Edition as did the FMA Digest did when sending out Vol6 No2 and to some personally.

To those that contributed and shared their experiences or just sent a condolence the FMA Digest would like to express its gratitude to them, and they submitted excellent material. To those that did not, we are sorry you were too busy or some other factor prevented you from contributing.

Anyway Roland Dantes was a Body Builder, Actor, and a man fully committed to the promotion and promulgation of the Filipino martial arts and the Filipino culture.

As you will read throughout this Special Edition you will remember or learn that Roland Dantes was a very special person with charisma, charm, and an understanding that the Filipino martial arts was a part of the culture of the Philippines and he was undaunting in his efforts to bring all the Filipino martial arts together in unity.

After reading all these remembrances of Roland Dantes that were contributed, you will have the feeling of knowing him. Then Kelly Worden shares with us his experiences and in the article is a link that will take you to an interview he had with Roland Dantes which you will find most interesting and knowledgeable and lets you into the mind of Roland Dantes.

This brings the article written by Edessa Ramos, "He Was Always the Unconquerable" which the FMA Digest feels is fitting, leaving you with a last word on Roland Dantes the true Arnisador.

And with permission from the owner of Rapid Journal magazine in Volume 13 No3, the Editorial has a lot to say. The issue came out April 1, 2009 and the owner even mentioned to me personally that he really wanted to write more, but time constraints did not permit.

So please enjoy this Special Edition about Roland Dantes a true ambassador of the Filipino martial arts.

Maraming Salamat Po

Tribute to Uncle Roland Dantes: **[Click Here](#)**

Grandmaster Roland Dantes Memorial Video: **[Click Here](#)**

The FMA Digest had been in the Philippines and had attended a gathering of Grandmasters, Masters, and instructors on March 15, 2009 at 3pm at the home of Bella Marie "Peachie" Baron-Saguin and Roland had dropped in to join the festivities, even though there was actually no agenda, just bonding of the Filipino martial artists since I was in Manila and a supporter of the Filipino martial arts with the FMA Digest. When Roland arrived, he was not already feeling well and was catching his breath, very pale and his skin was so cold. Peachie had asked him if he was sick but instead of answering her question, he said in reply "Peachie, I just don't want to miss this get together". It took him a while before he could go up on the second level where the rest of the group was having a nice time talking. Later, Peachie told him of her intentions to host a quarterly get together, just a bonding with no agenda whatsoever with the Filipino martial artists, and he was very happy about the idea and announced it to the group. That night although he was not feeling well, he was very happy talking with the Filipino martial artists who would one by one approach him and shake his hand. He left with Punong Guro Rey Dominquez about 8pm.

I received a call from Peachie around 5am and she had told me that Roland Dantes had passed away at 1:52am that morning (March 16, 2009).

Meeting Roland in 2004 upon his return from the 2nd FMA Festival which was held in Dortmund, Germany, I conducted an interview and learned from him his untiring quest in the promotion of the Filipino martial arts and his unselfish attitude and openness in sharing his past adventures and future desires in the goal of making the Filipino martial arts known throughout the world.

Roland Tangco Pintoy Dantes

FMA Digest Man of the Year 2004



Looking back to when the Spanish dominated the Philippines, Guro Dantes Spanish grandfather Loreto arrived from Spain, only to see that the Filipino people were being unjustly ruled and treated. Seeing this, his response was to join the resistance against the Spanish, he eventually came to the attention of the Spanish rulers and culminated in a move to capture and arrest him. This made it to where he was constantly on the move to elude them, moving from one place to another.

Realizing his life was in danger should he stay in Manila, his grandfather fled Manila on a ship whose Captain's name was Pintoy. Adopting the name Pintoy to assist him in eluding the Spanish authorities, he was constantly on the move from one island to another to evade capture and he found himself in the southern regions of Leyte and Mindanao.

Note: *There is an island off the coast of Leyte, which is named Pintuyon Island; this being named after his grandfather for this was his main refuge from the Spanish.*

Being Spanish, he was already familiar with the Spanish methods of fencing, however due to his involvement with the resistance, he was exposed to the various

approaches his Filipino resistance fighters he led and the Filipinos he came into contact with.

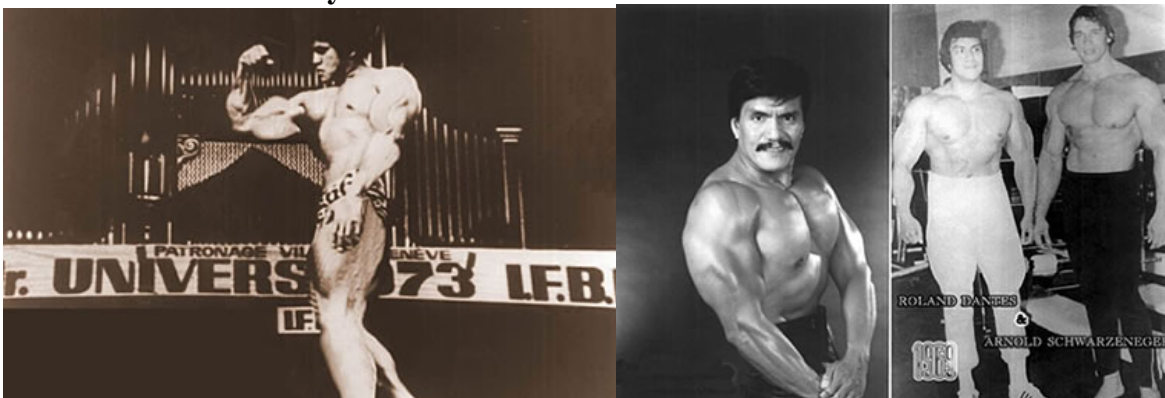
On a very sad day, while again moving to elude the Spanish, on a boat off the island of Mindanao, Roland's grandfather, grandmother and several of his men of the resistant were transiting in a boat. Pirates attacked the boat, and a fierce battle took place. Only the one of the men of Roland's grandfather is noted to be a survivor, and in accounting the events of the attack elaborated on what happened. He tells a story that Loreto, the grandfather of Master Dantes, was fighting fiercely against the pirates upon hearing his wife yelling from the rear; he turned to assist her only to be cut down from behind.

Two American missionaries took in Roland's father Climaco Pintoy now an orphan. Later, he entered the Philippine Military Academy and graduated as an officer of the Philippine Military. His father's career saw him assigned as Military Provincial Commanders of the provinces of Cotabato, Davao, Lanao, Dipolog and Zamboanga. After being promoted, Brigadier General Climaco Pintoy became the Military Zone Commander of the 4th military area, which comprised all the main southern islands including Mindanao, Jolo, Sulu, Palawan, etc. As Roland grew up in the different areas, he learned boxing from his father and was shown a little of arnis de mano before his father passed away. In teaching his son, Brigadier General Pintoy told Roland that what he was teaching him were techniques for survival and that the Filipinos had their own effective combat methods. After his father's death, Roland interest in martial arts stayed with him and he eventually earned black belts in Shotokan and Moo Duk Kwan.

While in college and majoring in PE (physical education), he met Professor Remy Presas. It was Professor Presas's program that was one of the first of its kind to be accepted by the Department of Physical Education to be used as a physical education subject. With his interest in arnis instantly re-ignited, Roland started training directly under Professor Remy Presas and went onto become one of his top students and close friends.

Roland assisted Professor Remy in traveling to the Japan and the US to introduce Modern Arnis in the 1970s. When Professor Remy left the Philippines to teach in the US in the late 1970s, Master Dantes still having a strong desire to learn the art and by this time since he was a well-known body builder and actor, he was fortunate to be able to study with several of the grandmasters and masters of different Filipino martial arts.

Roland Dantes the Bodybuilder





Always acknowledging these teachers of their skills and knowledge, Master Dantes believes in giving due credit. From his college days until today, Master Dantes passion for furthering his understanding of the Filipino martial arts still burns strongly.

Always one to contribute and assist in the preservation and promotion of the Filipino martial arts, Master Roland Dantes holds the position as Chairman of International Affairs of Arnis Philippines, and the International Arnis Federation, Arnis Philippines for those who do not know, are the official governing body recognized by the Philippine government are in fact the 33rd Member of the Philippine Olympic Committee. As the Chairman of International Affairs he works not just with organizations within the Philippines, but also with different countries to promote and bring unity to the Filipino martial arts.

With the next Southeast Asian Games being held in the Philippines in 2005, a historic event will take place for Arnis/Kali/Eskrima will be an official event and not simply a demonstration sport. So this in its self will be a monumental moment and will be noted in history. This came about not only through the efforts of Arnis Philippines and its President, Mr. Raymond S. Velayo and all officers and staff. But the many organizations, grandmasters and masters who have constantly shared their knowledge and have promoted and worked hard for this to come about. It is hoped that all practitioners of Filipino martial arts will come to share this most special time when the Filipino arts will compete showing the art to its fullest tradition, skills, and beauty. Not just as a sport, but as part of the history of the Philippines which has been continuously handed down from generation to generation. This has been through such men as Professor Remy A. Presas, Grandmaster Ben Luna Lema, Grandmaster Antonio Ilustrisimo, Grandmaster Angel Cabales, Grandmaster Filemon Canete, Grandmaster Filemon Caburany, Grandmaster Leo Giron, Mangisursuro Mike Inay, Grandmaster Timoteo Maranga, Punong Guro Edgar Sulite, to mention just a few, for the list goes on and on. It is because due to the

efforts of these great martial artists and the organizations that have promoted the Filipino martial arts so future generations can benefit.

This came about not only through the efforts of Arnis Philippines and its President, Mr. Raymond S. Velayo and all officers and staff. But for the many organizations, grandmasters and masters who have constantly shared their knowledge and have promoted and worked hard for this to come about. It is hoped that all practitioners of Filipino martial arts will come to share this most special time when the Filipino arts will compete showing the art to its fullest tradition, skills, and beauty. Not just as a sport, but as part of the history of the Philippines which has been continuously handed down from generation to generation. This has been through such men as Professor Remy A. Presas, Grandmaster Ben Luna Lema, Grandmaster Antonio Ilustrisimo, Grandmaster Angel Cabales, Grandmaster Filemon Canete, Grandmaster Filemon Caburany, Grandmaster Leo Giron, Mangisursuro Mike Inay, Grandmaster Timoteo Maranga, Punong Guro Edgar Sulite, to mention just a few, for the list goes on and on. Due to the efforts of these great martial artists and the Organizations, that have promoted the Filipino martial arts so future generations can benefit.

An Arnis Master in his own right, Guro Roland Dantes has studied under and exchanged ideas with a vast who's who in the world of Filipino martial arts, and has promoted the art of Arnis continuously throughout the world. Additionally, he has promoted the art of Arnis continuously throughout the world since the 1970s. Awarded a 7th degree Black Belt in Arnis de Mano in 1977 by the late Grandmaster Remy Presas of Modern Arnis, he was later promoted to the rank of 8th degree black belt prior to Professor Remy passing away. Guro Dantes has also studied with some of the most recognized Filipino martial artists such as: Grandmaster Ben Lima - *Lightning Scientific Arnis*, Grandmaster Johnny F. Chiuten, Grandmaster Filemon Caburnay - *Lapunti Arnis de Abaniko*, Grandmaster Antonio Ilustrisimo - *Ilustrisimo system/Kali Ilustrisimo*, Grandmaster Jose Mena - *Mena Style/Doblette Rapilon*, Grandmaster Dr. Guillermo Lengson (Kafephil / Arfephil/ Sagasa), Grandmaster Ciriaco "Cucoy" Canete - *Doce Pares*, Grandmaster Porfirio Lanada - *Lanada Arnis*, Grandmaster Edgar Sulite - *De Campo, Caballero style / Lameco*, Grandmaster Jose Villasin - *Balintawak*, Grandmaster Johnny Chiuten - *Combined Open style*, Grandmaster Chris Ricketts - *Bakbakan*, Grandmaster Leo Gaje - *Pekiti Tirsia*, to name just a few.



Guro Roland Dantes with the late Grandmaster Ben Lema of Lightning Scientific Arnis."

Photo from the private collection of David Foggie

In Roland's quest to bring together the Filipino martial arts throughout the world he formed The Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters. It is hoped that the Organization will continue with the same spirit that it was formed with. Below is what he sent the FMA Digest for publication.



Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters

The Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters; 1st World Invitational Arnis Championship, held at Camp Crame in December of 2005, was more successful than they had dared to hope - with participants from U.S.A., Australia, Vietnam, Sicily, Scotland, U.K., New Zealand and the Philippines, among others.

Senator Manuel "Lito" Lapid served as Honorary Chairman for the event and we had much appreciated support from Channel 9, Ray Langit, and visiting VIP's from the TV and film industry. It is our intention to host yearly expositions and tournaments, following such excellent reception from the international and local communities.

The Council has received unprecedented acceptance in the worldwide martial arts community (especially Filipino martial arts enthusiasts) and we are proud to be advancing the cultural and martial arts heritage of our country.

The Council is now both open to and aggressively seeking "Strategic Partnerships" in the business and arts communities, offering mutually beneficial opportunities for such cooperation.

We have now established a Committee to evaluate such relationships and to make determinations as to the most productive and viable alliances possible.

The Council represents Arnis clubs, organizations and enthusiasts, worldwide, accepting all styles and all Masters, equally. This innovative approach is proving to be exactly the unifying factor that has been lacking - in a milieu that is traditionally filled with less than productive jealousies and a lack of cooperation and common purpose.

We believe that the worldwide acceptance of Filipino martial arts and the ever-increasing interest from not only sport martial artists but also law enforcement and military professionals - has resulted in a newfound appreciation and respect for the Filipino culture and our traditional martial art. Arnis is now an Olympic medal event.

Objective: To establish and maintain a level and spirit of openness and cooperation to unite the worldwide community of enthusiasts and practitioners of "Arnis de Mano" Kali, Eskrima - promoting the art and enhancing the image of the Republic of the Philippines as its birthplace.

To promote "brotherhood and inter-style" appreciation, thereby overcoming the competition and petty jealousies, that are all too prevalent in the worldwide martial arts community.

To create an ongoing dialogue between Master and practitioners to refine, update and augment the Filipino martial arts.

To create a Physical Education curriculum for Philippine Public Schools, similar to the programs in Japan, Korea and other countries who place an emphasis on their traditional martial arts styles.

To produce documentaries for worldwide distribution to the international marketplace and Embassies of the Republic of the Philippines - for promotion of Filipino culture.

Mission Statement

It is the goal of the Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters to unite the practitioners of Filipino martial arts under an umbrella of “international brotherhood” and cooperation - recognizing the merits of all styles and schools as being equally relevant and appreciated. Any and all Masters of Filipino martial arts will be welcomed and respected, providing they adhere to the spirit herein described.

We seek to continue the recognition and legitimization of “Arnis de Mano” as both a competition sport and a combat art and to promote both sectors in and for those groups who seek to advance their knowledge and level of participation.

This includes the establishment of a Physical Education Curriculum for the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, as well as a standardized program for all public schools. As in countries such as Japan and Korea, where a student is required to earn a certain amount of credits in Judo or Tae Kwon Do - Philippines may, likewise, elevate its national sport and martial art to be a mandatory educational subject. We are hopeful that this will include the rich history of Arnis; including the role it played in the country’s struggle for independence and that it will foster national pride within the hearts of our youth.

For the worldwide law enforcement community and the armed forces that have recently recognized the martial arts of the Philippines as an invaluable addition to their training – we envision an ever-growing appreciation for our art and will attempt to provide the most advanced and effective training assistance possible.

Further, we seek to overcome the petty rivalries and jealousies that pervade so many similar societies and to relegate competition to “sporting events”. No politics and no denigration of any Arnisador or style will be tolerated and the Council will aggressively defend any who are unjustly or unfairly treated, within the community.

It is our sincere hope that we may establish a “Code of Ethics” for the practitioners that will be welcomed and subscribed to by Arnis Organizations, clubs and practitioners, worldwide. Respect for one’s Master, loyalty to fellow Arnisadors and devotion to the art are sacred tenets of our martial art. This tradition must be upheld.

With the appointment of representatives in areas around the world, annual competitions, ongoing communication and “Good Will Tours” demonstrating our art - we hope to achieve our goals and dreams for the Martial Arts of the Philippines.

Origin and History

Realizing the need for a body of impartial and senior “Arnisadors” to ensure fair and unbiased promotion of the national martial art of the Philippines, a group of Masters united to make this dream a reality.

The Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters was incorporated under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines in 2005 and registered with the Securities Exchange Commission (Registration # CN200519278).

There are many who are competing for recognition in the Arnis sector and unfortunately, some attempting to give the impression that their style or organization is superior or the only body qualified to represent Arnis. This has resulted in divisiveness and discontent and the Council is concerned about the observations and impressions of the international community.

Our country has suffered from such problems in other areas of society and we feel that there is neither reason nor excuse for this syndrome in the sports or martial arts community. Kali, Eskrima or Arnis, whichever term one may use - this martial art is a part of our national heritage and belongs to all Filipinos.

The Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters seeks only to unify the practitioners of Filipino Martial Arts, worldwide and to see equal acceptance and recognition for all. The enclosed Mission Statement describes the focus of our Council.

We welcome input and suggestions from any and all who share our vision of Filipinos united to further the above stated goals.

THE ARNISADOR CREED

PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF KALI ESKRIMA ARNIS MASTERS

Arnis is the tie that binds us
Respect for Masters is our first discipline
Never criticize the style, master or art of another
Integrity is the basis of our character
Show humility in victory and grace in defeat
Anger is a weakness to be mastered
Develop your inner self as well as your outward skills
Open your mind to learn from anyone at anytime
Remember – Arnis has its origin as a fighting art

Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters, which is headed by:

Chairman and President

Secretary General for Domestic Affairs

Secretary General for International Affairs

Grandmaster Roland P. Dantes

Master Victor Turdanes

Master Leo van Vogel

Board of Directors:

Grandmaster Vic Sanchez

Grandmaster Rodel Tagoc

Grandmaster Jerry de la Cruz

Grandmaster Pepito Robas

Grandmaster Roberto Presas

Grandmaster Yuli Romo
Master Rey Dominguez
Master Jon Escudero

A future of reality in the making:

The Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters is now preparing to produce a documentary film for Philippines culture promotion internationally, as well as sets of instructional CD sets for martial arts schools and a new Philippines initiative for compulsory Arnis training in all public schools. The documentary will be produced in multiple formats for movie theaters, embassies and Dept. of Tourism use.

Event marketing possibilities are virtually endless, considering the appeal and draw of exhibitions, demonstrations, tournaments, etc., by the most respected Masters of Filipino martial arts. These may be ancillary events included with other promotions, conventions or gatherings as either cultural or sports presentations. It is our experience that the opportunity to see and meet true Masters of Filipino martial arts draws every sector of Philippine society. Parents appreciate the positive aspects and families will often travel many miles to attend such exhibitions.

Television program segments and specials are yet another desirable and viable market, for which we are receiving considerable interest.

What we offer:

Sports related marketing, with its healthy and high profile, offers an image that is, quite literally, devoid of negative aspects. It is patriotic, appeals to virtually all age groups, men, women and youth and is an ever-growing international market. Interest in Philippines culture is at an all time high.

The need to project the most positive and “leading edge” advertising/marketing promotions to the public may be well served with both our wide demographic appeal and the Council’s exclusivity as the foremost internationally accepted Filipino martial arts Masters’ Council.

Our existing ties and relationships with Sen. Manuel “Lito” Lapid, the Senate Sports Committee, the World Council of Peoples for the United Nations, the Film Academy of the Philippines and the Boy Scouts Foundation of the Philippines - offer unique opportunities for “co-op” advertising and promotions - not to mention media exposure via Public Relations channels.

Roland on October 7, 2006 was admitted to St. Lukes Hospital, Manila, Philippines he had suffered a heart attack.

These past few months Roland Dantes has had a seriously hard time. Grandmaster Roland Dantes had suffered a heart attack on October 7, 2006. He was admitted at the St. Lukes Hospital (Manila, Philippines).

On October 13th the report: Basically, per conversations with the brother/sister, (Johnny Pintoy/Kenny) a heart artery was ruptured requiring immediate hospitalization. Apparently, his left lung was had also collapsed requiring drainage. His lung is better and recuperating. In addition, his kidney (not sure which or both affected) had also required temporary dialysis. The primary and immediate problem is his ruptured heart artery. This is the critical decision the doctors have to make very soon. They are planning on doing one of two options. The first option may be less risky and have a greater chance of recovery. This procedure will not require open-heart surgery. The second option is very risky and may have less than 50% chance of full recovery. This option will require open-heart surgery to replace or repair the ruptured artery. His other option is to not go through with any of the options as mentioned. To not do any of the procedures will mean a great possibility of another artery rupturing which will cause his life.

November 9th: Grandmaster Roland Dantes is still in the hospital. He was in critical condition with internal bleeding; they have since gotten that stabilized, and is due to have an operation on 15, November. Grandmaster Dantes suffered an aneurysm of the aorta and will have a stent inserted during the operation.

November 15th: Grandmaster Roland Dantes' went through a delicate heart surgery. He has made it through the procedure and is now in the recovery stage. "The STENT was fitted perfectly!"

November 24th: Grandmaster Dantes was released by the hospital and is already fine now. He's on his recovery state in the comforts of his home.

Roland Dantes Pumanaw na - News on death Tagalog: **[Click Here](#)**

Not to be deterred Roland Dantes recovered and continued to promote the Filipino martial arts.

Grandmaster Roland Dantes is Back

Singapore Arnis Workshop
April 28 - 29 and May 01, 2007
Gentle life Sports Studio
4th floor... Katong Mall
Corner: Joo Chiat Rd, Singapore

Guro Stephen Chee sponsored Grandmaster Roland Dantes and Punong Guro Rey Dominguez in Singapore holding a 3 day seminar of the Filipino martial arts.

Punong Guro Rey Dominguez

A three day seminar was conducted in Singapore; Punong Guro Rey Dominguez conducted his workshop sessions on April 28th and the 29th. Master Dominguez spent most of his Arnis life through sports and competing in several competitive events with different rules and organizations such as NARAPHIL, Doce Pares WEKAF, IFMAP, IMAFP, Arnis Philippines, PIGSAAI, Garrote, and among others.

Presently, he is the “work horse” for the promotion of the Philippine fighting art through sports competition with the help of the Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters, Inc. as one of the board directors and founders of the World Arnis Sports Alliance the Kali Sports. Punong Guro Dominguez has hosted two big successful International tournaments in 2005 and 2006 which were the World Kali Sports Championships in PNP GYM, Camp Crame, Quezon City, Philippines.



Punong Guro Rey Dominguez
Grandmaster Roland Dantes
Guro Stephen Chee

Grandmaster Roland Dantes



Grandmaster Roland Dantes conducted his workshop on May 1st. Professional competition body builder, movie actor, Filipino martial arts practitioner. Always one to contribute and assist in the preservation and promotion of the Filipino martial arts, Grandmaster Roland Dantes holds the position as Chairman/President of the Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters (PCKEAM) a council belongs to all regardless of style and affiliation.

Grandmaster Roland Dantes has been recovering from a heart attack on October 7, 2006. On November 24, 2006 Grandmaster Dantes was released by the hospital and

has been recuperating and getting back into shape. Simply said, he is back and ready to share, his knowledge and to promote the Filipino martial arts once again.



Grandmaster Dantes and Guro Chee
Exchanging tokens of gratitude.



Balintawak Arnis Practitioners with
Grandmaster Dantes and Punong Guro Dominguez.



His last seminar it seems was on February 25, 2009 as reported by the PIA Daily News

World-Renowned Arnis Guro Visits Davao

By Romy Sabaldan
PIA Daily News

Davao City (25 February) - World-renowned Filipino martial arts Master and movie actor Roland Dantes was the recent visitor of a little known municipality of Lupon in Davao Oriental, some one and a half hours drive from Davao City.

Arnis de Mano which had its origin during the Spanish era in the Philippines using the bamboo sticks and any available rounded sticks during emergency skirmishes was taught as a refresher and specialized course to a very select group of Barangay Peace

and Security Officers (BPSO), headed by Barangay Police Commander Antonio dela Cruz, Jr.

Known for his great following in the FMA (Filipino Martial Arts) in such Arnis de Mano-affiliated communities of Canada, US and Germany, The Australia-based Dantes, shared new techniques in "Defensive Tactics Seminar/Workshop for Law Enforcement Officers" during the 88th Araw Ng Barangay Poblacion, February 17 to 18.

International restaurateur Mercedes dela Cruz - Barner, who brought Dantes to the province and main sponsor of the event said bringing the world-famous grandmaster of Arnis here will revive our interest for Arnis, which is an original Filipino martial arts.

Mayor Domingo Lim thanked the dela Cruz family of Lupon for bringing Dantes to renew their interest for the sport which is related to the Filipino culture of self-preservation and national honor. He also thanked all the members of the Barangay Peace and Order Council headed by Kagawad Alan Balingit for their participation.

The Gathering of Filipino Warriors

March 15, 2009

The Gathering of the Filipino warriors took place last March 15, 2009 3pm at Peachie's place. There was actually no agenda, just bonding of the Filipino Martial Artists since Steven Dowd supporter of Filipino martial arts was in Manila that time.

Attendees were:

1. Garitony Nicolas	Founder	MAMFMA
2. Romeo Solatoria	Instructor	MAMFMA
3. Anthony Gatchalian	Club President	MAMFMA
4. Rene Joy Rivera	Club Secretary	MAMFMA
5. Vic Sanchez	Grandmaster	Kali Arnis International
6. Bert Labaniego	Grandmaster	Escrima Labaniego Traditional Espada y Daga
7. Rholee Maximo	Co-Founder	Bakbakan International
8. Dion D. Diaz	Founder	PIGSSAI/NFMA
9. Romeo Macapagal	Ilustrisimo Student	Kalis Ilustrisimo
10. Nico Dhaenan	Student	Kalis Ilustrisimo
11. Robert R. Morales	Founder	Olistrisimo Eskrima
12. Antonio R. Diego	Ilustrisimo Student	Kalis Ilustrisimo
13. Tony Sun	Guest	Kalis Ilustrisimo
14. Mark Anthony Cuaresma	Student	Kalis Ilustrisimo
15. Arnold Nazo	Student	Kalis Ilustrisimo
16. Bob Silver Tabimina	Grandmaster	Tabimina Balintawak
17. Jaime C. Paclibar	Maestro	Paclibar Bicol Arnis
18. Rodolfo O. Espinosa Jr.	Senior Instructor	Paclibar Bicol Arnis
19. Pepito A. Robas	Grandmaster	Robas Otsotiros Baston Arnis System
20. Jerry Evangelisan	Master	DTS
21. Joseph Jhun Tolleno	Master Instructor	DTS
22. Vanfel Genfil Villahermosa	Instructor	DTS

23. Dannie H. San Juan	Instructor	Samurai Gentlemarts
24. Rico Acosta	Guro/Maestro	Kuntaw Kali Kruzada
25. Frank Aycocho	Grandmaster	LAKAS 8
26. Roland Dantes	Grandmaster	PCKEAM
27. Rey Dominguez	Punong Guro	Kali Sports
28. Armando C. Soteco	Professor	School of Arnis Professionals
29. Salvador Dimaisip	Attorney	IMAFP

With the arrival of Grandmaster Roland Dantes, the community became livelier. Although it is evident that Grandmaster Roland is not feeling well, he said he did not want to miss the group's get together. Later on he announced that a quarterly get together is proposed and urged the Filipino martial arts community to push thru with the plan. An award was also given, the award was from the 4th FMA Festival which was held on July 25, 2008 in Iloilo City, Philippines.

Grandmaster Frank Aycocho received the award on behalf of the FMA Digest. But Since Steven Dowd was now present it was awarded personally to him that day by Professor Soteco, Attorney Dimaisip and Grandmaster Dantes giving the award to Steven Dowd for tirelessly support of the Filipino Arts.

Just before Roland Dantes arrived Garitony Nicolas had his students of MAMFMA do a demonstration on Sinawali.



Following the MAMFMA demonstration Master Tony Diego also did a demonstration.



Grandmaster Jerson Tortal Jr. Reads plaque out loud



Congratulated by Roland Dantes



Peachie and Master Tony



Master Tony Diego
demonstrating techniques



A couple students of
Master Diego getting it on.



A group photo just before Roland Dantes arrived



Roland with Grandmasters Tortal Jr. and Tabimina



Roland with Grandmaster Sanchez and Janfel Villahermosa



Back L-R: Vicky Dowd and Lady Lagarta
Front L-R: Peachie, Roland and Grandmaster Sanchez



L-R: Grandmaster Tortal Jr., Roland, and Steven Dowd





ABS-CBN NEWS.com | 03/18/2009 8:59 PM

Former bodybuilder and actor Roland Dantes dies

Internationally-renowned martial arts action star and former bodybuilder Roland Dantes died of heart failure Monday night.

Before his heart ailment, Dantes was suffering from gout last week, which caused a swollen right foot.

Dantes was brought to the Philippine Heart Center but was pronounced dead on arrival.

According to his nephew, rapper Chris Dantes, his uncle Roland, or Rolando Tangco Pintoy Dantes in real life, was able to attend a gathering of all masters of martial arts in the world Sunday evening.

“He was with his American as well as Filipino friends and associates during a party. But I noticed

in the photo sent just after he died that he was wearing tight shoes, and that aggravated his foot condition,” said Chris.

The popular arnis expert was also able to attend a party with bosom friend and Arnis aficionado Rusty Santos last Thursday. “But he was so hungry the first food served them was crispy pata. Since he was hungry, he ate it heartily, and the next day, his gout acted up again,” informed Chris. The next thing Chris and household members saw was a swollen right foot caused by gout.

“Then Tito Rollie did some heavy weights at the gym. He also pulled up some instruments to firm up his muscles, and that was the start of it. The next day, he was already burning with fever, but he just took it for granted and just took paracetamol,” said the musician.

On Sunday, Chris found Roland slouched on his seat with blood coming out of his nose.

“My uncle was murmuring something like, ‘Lord, please help me’ but it was so quiet. We waited for his fever to subside, but then it didn’t disappear so the following day, we brought him to the hospital,” recalled Chris.

Dantes won the "Mr. Philippines" bodybuilding title five times between 1969-1980 and placed in "Mr. Universe" and "Mr. World" competitions.

Dantes was famous for his appearance in the Hollywood production of “The Pacific Connection” with foreign stars Nancy Kwan, Guy Madisson and other artists.

He was also memorable in the National Artist for Film Eddie Romero’s “Banta ng Kahapon,” where he played a mute gun-for-hire of politicians. He had a string of Filipino films to his credit including “Lapu-Lapu” topbilled by Lito Lapid.

Recently, he did an important role in a foreign film with Filipino-Hawaiian-American actor Mark Dacascus.

At the time of his death, Roland was busy organizing Arnis workshops all over the Philippines, and was preparing a video and book version of his native martial art to be produced and published in Australia.

Dantes’ remains lies at the Marian Memorial Chapels along Marcos Highway in Antipolo City. Interment will be on Sunday. He was sixty four.

as of 03/18/2009 9:03 PM



showbizandstyle.inquirer.net

Martial Arts Master, Actor Takes Final Bow

By Marinell Cruz

Philippine Daily Inquirer

First Posted 20:22:00 03/22/2009

Filed Under: Entertainment (general), Celebrities, Martial Arts (general)

“HE WAS healthy as a horse. His death came as a shock to me,” said rapper Chris Dantes, nephew of actor and martial arts grand master Roland Dantes, who died of multiple organ failure arising from complications due to gout (metabolic arthritis) on March 16. He was 69.

Roland will be laid to rest at the Heaven's Gate Memorial Park in Antipolo City today after the 2 p.m. Mass at the Marian Memorial Chapel on Marcos Highway, also in Antipolo City.

He was rushed to the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City on March 15. He had had a swollen right leg for three days. He was pronounced dead on arrival at 1:52 a.m.

Party food

Chris said his uncle attended a birthday party on March 13. "Since he was so hungry, he ate a lot of the first dish that was served -- crispy pata. The next day, his right foot was already swollen," Chris told the Philippine Daily Inquirer in a phone interview on Saturday.

"From what I read about gout on the Internet, it gets worse if not treated immediately. My uncle simply took pain killers and refused to be taken to the hospital," he said.

On Sunday, Dantes, who was president and chairman of the Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters, attended a day-long meeting with fellow martial arts masters.

"He wore boots. When he came home, half of his leg was swollen to three times its normal size and his foot was bleeding," Chris added.

"He had a hard time breathing, but he still didn't want to see his doctor. He just wanted to rest," he said.

Aneurysm

Around midnight, Chris said he heard noise coming from Dantes' bedroom. "I found him there writhing in pain, saying 'Jesus help me!' His speech was already impaired. I also saw blood in his urine basin. That probably signaled that his kidneys had failed. I didn't know he was dying in my arms."

Chris said Dantes underwent surgery for heart aneurysm in 2006. "He became health-conscious after that experience. He refused to eat oily or salty food."

Dantes, Rolando Tangco Pintoy Dantes in real life, was the 2004 Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) Digest Man of the Year. He also won the Mr. Philippines title seven times between 1969 and 1980. In the '70s, he placed 4th and 5th in the Mr. Universe competitions won by actor -- now California governor - Arnold Schwarzenegger, and actor Lou Ferigno, respectively.

Advocacy

"He has done so much in the field of martial arts, specifically Arnis," said Chris. "He was a big help to (Bukidnon Rep.) Migs Zubiri in creating the Arnis Bill. He wanted Arnis to be the national sport."

Dantes, who was last seen in the Australian comedy flick "Trojan Warrior" (2002), was a member of the Actors Guild of the Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP). He was also a member of the Actor's Equity of the Australian Film Institute.

Workshops

He first appeared in the locally produced action film "The Pacific Connection" (1974). It is set in the Philippines when ruled by Spain. Three years later, he joined the cast of Eddie Romero's "Banta ng Kahapon," which also featured Vic Vargas and Bembol Roco. He was also part of the epic film "Lapu-Lapu" (2002), top billed by Lito Lapid.

At the time of his death, Dantes was touring Arnis workshops all over the country. He was also preparing a video and a book version on Arnis and other fields of martial arts that were supposed to be published in Australia.

Roland Dantes Pumanaw na - News on death Tagalog: [Click Here](#)

Grandmaster Roland Dantes

The Friend, the Grandmaster and the Ambassador of the FMA

By Datu Dieter Knüttel

I was very sad when I received the mail from Grandmaster Rene Tongson in the morning of the 17th of March that Grandmaster Roland Dantes had passed away at the 16th of March 2009 in the Philippines.

First of all, and on a very personal side, he was my friend. So I will first write about our personal relationship.

I met Grandmaster Roland during my first trip to the Philippines in 1983. I was "a young lad of 22 years from Germany" as he said later, and I was very impressed by him because he had arms like my thighs and he was very friendly and helpful. He introduced me to different Arnis Masters, like Edgar Sulite for example. We met several times, demonstrated each other our styles of martial arts and had long talks about the Filipino martial arts.

And, I had his most famous film "The Pacific Connection" in a German version with Danish subtitles. I told him about it and he was very interested to get a copy of that film.

So I promised to send him a copy. That was in 1983 and at that time I could not copy a video yet. We stayed in contact for a while, but lost trace of each other when he moved to Melbourne, Australia.



Melbourne-Australia-seminar with Grandmaster Remy Presas

By the time I could make VHS copies I did not have his address any more. I always remembered that I had given him this promise and I felt bad, that I could not send him the video. Sometimes in the late 90s, I heard of David Foggie, who trained in Melbourne under Roland Dantes. I immediately wrote to him, got Roland's address and this way, I could send Roland the video some 15 years after I had promised it to him!



Then time came, when Grandmaster Remy Presas was passing away. I decided, that I wanted to see him a last time, so I flew to Victoria, Canada, to see him, my teacher. (I was lucky to see him alive still, because I was there from Friday to Monday the 27th of August and Grandmaster Remy died the next day, on Tuesday the 28th of August 2001).

Anyway, I was accompanied by Mike Chin, who took care of Grandmaster Remy's visitors. And when we were talking about Grandmaster Remy and who was there to visit him Mike said, that Roland Dantes would be back to see



Victoria, Canada

Grandmaster Remy this afternoon. I was very excited because I did not know that Roland would be there.

So then, at this very sad occasion of being at Grandmaster Remy deathbed, we met again, 18 years after our first meeting. Despite of the sad



Grandmaster Roland and Datu Dieter busy signing passports after the Essen Seminar

occasion, it was a happy reunion. So there were long talks and Roland told me, that during the years Grandmaster Remy told him about me and the DAV and Grandmaster Remy was very surprised to hear, that Roland knew me from my times in the Philippines.

So I invited Grandmaster Roland to teach 2 seminars for the DAV in Germany in May 2002.



DAV seminar only for brown and black belts - Essen, Germany - 2002

He stayed in my house during that time and he was one of the most pleasant guests and the most humble person I have ever met.

I invited him again as the special guest star at the 2nd FMA Festival in Dortmund, Germany in March 2004.



2nd FMA Festival - 2004
Grandmaster Dantes and Datu Knüttel



Grandmaster Dantes, Grandmaster Dulay, Datu Knüttel,
Grandmaster Taboada, Punong Guro Plath

Here you can see his stage appearance during this festival: [**Click Here**](#)

He also taught Arnis during this Festival. He again stayed a few weeks in my house and taught another seminar together with Grandmaster Bambit Dulay the following weekend. From these visits many DAV members remember him as a very humble and friendly person and ambassador of the Filipino martial arts.





DAV seminar - Kassel, Germany - 2004

We stayed in friendly contact over the years, met again during the 3rd FMA Festival in the Philippines in Tagaytay and in Manila in 2006.

The last time we were in contact was in January 2009, where he congratulated me and showed his support for my recognition as a Grandmaster by the Modern Arnis and Filipino martial arts Grandmasters in the Philippines in summer 2008.

But of course, one can not only look at Grandmaster Roland from a personal view, because he was much more than a friend to many people in the Filipino martial arts world. He was a very successful martial artist, an 8th Dan Modern Arnis, a Grandmaster, and FMA Digest "Man of the Year 2004".

He was an actor. He played in "Delta Force 2" with Chuck Norris, "Pacific Connection", "Sticks of Death" and many other films, where he presented Arnis to a wider public.

Also, he was a very successful bodybuilder. Between 1969 and 1980 he had many 4th, 5th and 6th places at Mr. Olympia and Mr. World contests. Also, he won 5 times the Mr. Philippines title.



Pacific Connection - Grandmaster Dantes and Grandmaster Presas

But his love and passion were the Filipino martial arts, (FMA). First and foremost, he was the best friend and "compadre" of Grandmaster Remy Presas. For more than 30 years those two men were associated with each other and he had a special relationship to Grandmaster Remy Presas. Grandmaster Remy was (as far as I know) his first Arnis instructor and fight scene choreographer during the filming of "The Pacific Connection".

Grandmaster Roland Dantes helped Grandmaster Remy Presas to leave the Philippines in difficult times in 1975 and visited him in the USA many times. He accompanied Grandmaster Remy during his last days in 2001 and took care, that Grandmaster Remy finally came home to the Philippines after his death. This way, Grandmaster Roland is very much connected to Modern Arnis.

But he was much more than "just" a Modern Arnis man. Grandmaster Roland Dantes was an integration figure within the Filipino martial arts, for he had trained with almost all Filipino martial arts Grandmasters in the Philippines and he continued to have good contact with all styles. He always worked to unite the Filipino martial arts.

He did not only propagate a style, but he used his popularity for the propagation of all Filipino martial arts. And this made him very special.

He was a respected Grandmaster all over the world but much more than that, he was a symbol, a friend and an ambassador for the Filipino martial arts.

With him the Filipino martial arts world has lost an outstanding Grandmaster and many people a good friend.

He went way too early.
May he rest in peace.

Grandmaster

Datu Dieter Knüttel

Deutscher Arnis Verband e.V., DAV
Modern Arnis Germany/Europe



www.dieterknuettel.de

www.modern-arnis.de

www.abanico.de

Roland Dantes: My friend and Kuya

By Bram Frank



Roland Dantes was someone I had images of for many years before I had actually met him. He was one of those pictured in Professor Remy's second book on Arnis: "*Practical Eskrima*" (a copy of which I had found one day many years ago in Remy's briefcase and had begged him to sign it and let me "buy it" from him) and Remy (Professor Presas) was fond of showing me Roland's pictures and talking of the movies "*The Pacific Connection*" and "*The Sticks of Death*". Of course Remy used to point out that his friend Roland was not ONLY a movie star but that he had been Mr. Philippines several times. Of course I figured I would never really get to meet Roland in person.

Then in 2001 Remy got ill. He ended up back in Vancouver recuperating from brain surgery for brain cancer. There was a lot going on at the hospice making it hard to see Remy and I was there in Vancouver with my wife Mary, Shishir Inocalla, Scott

Brennan, Steve Shinde and Greg Beeman. Shir said I should come back the following week to see Remy and meet Roland. Unfortunately Remy died a couple of weeks later before I ever got a chance to get back to Vancouver to see him.

Roland sent me an email saying he was sorry I missed seeing Remy but that Remy had told him to give me this letter saying he loved me, he was proud of me and that I was ahead of my time... and that Roland would be my friend, (Yes there's more in the letter but that's between me, Remy, Roland and fate, and it's private and dear to my heart). It was at this point in my life that during a routine medical exam I was told I had "nodes" in my lungs. They gave me options and all weren't very good. I told my wife I wanted to spend time with her but she knew I had some unfinished business and she told me to go see Roland. Luckily Roland was going to be at the FMA #2 sponsored by Datu Dieter Knuettle. I contacted Dieter about attending and he gave me a chance to not only attend but to teach as one of the featured instructors. Against the doctor's advice I went to Germany accompanied by my friend and student Greg Beeman. I'm glad I did. I arrived in Germany and the first person I met was Roland.



He brought me to meet his wife and he told me a short story. Remy had told him about the first time he met me, that when we met, Remy had walked through the seminar crowd to me, introduced himself, asked me my name, and said he would be my friend and that I would be his friend. He had said to Roland that he wanted him to be my friend. At that point Roland looked at me and said "My name is Roland and I want to be your friend." We hugged and started our friendship. I guess it was good Karma, for after I got home, they told me the nodes were scar tissue from my years of having asthma.

I taught with Roland at the FMA Festival, he taught his sections and I taught mine. Guro Edessa Ramos wrote a nice review of my knife and bolo and the Gunting tool sections that I taught. I was with Roland, Master Bambit Dulay and Datu Dieter Knuettle, and I assisted and taught a section of his seminar the following weekend in Dortmund.. He graciously introduced me to those he taught and had me teach some Bolo to the advanced Black belts. (I was assisted by Greg Beeman). It was there that Guro Edessa Ramos was encouraged by Bambit Dulay to train with me, and Roland requested that I teach her Bolo and blade work. She has been training with me ever since, she was my direct communiqué with Roland in Tagalog.

During the 60th Anniversary of WWII and the freeing of the Philippines, Greg Beeman and I stayed at the Manila Hotel. Greg and I were representing Greg's dad Harold, who was too old and sick to actually attend the events; it was Harold who was in the lead tank into Santo Thomas freeing the imprisoned Filipinos from the Japanese internment camp. In his own way, Harold was a real hero. Roland came to pay his respects to the WWII group and Greg's dad. After that Roland took us around Manila, San Juan and a few other places over the next couple of weeks. We went to meet friends of Roland's like Rusty Santos and Raymond Velayo. Roland took us to the PNP

headquarters where Greg and I taught the PNP and we met (General) Police Chief Superintendent Oscar Valenzuela, Col. Gilbert Cruz and others at the bases. We went to a big Filipino style lunch, there were lots of food and of course they got me to eat Balut. Greg warned me not to eat that... and yes it ended up that I ate two portions of balut... and pigs' ears and snouts along with other assorted things which I first told them I wouldn't eat. We all had a great time and laughed a lot!



Roland took us to Engineer Jose Diaz who had Greg and I teach at the Arnis gathering at the park.

Roland took us to meet the heads of Arnis Philippines at Raymond Velayo's home (where Raymond raises fighting cocks) and they recognized my art and contributions to the art of Arnis. Arnis Philippines gave Greg and me certificates of appreciation of our teaching Arnis and later Roland took us to meet Vic Sanchez. Vic Sanchez has maintained relationships with me and my students since then. Roland went out of his way to make me feel at home, to feel as if I were a real-blood Filipino. It was during this time that Roland told me that he was my Kuya, my older brother and that I was part of his "arnis" family. It is, was a great honor for me.



At the 3rd FMA in Tagaytay, Roland came to meet my students and watch me teach and as my Kuya paid me great respect and honor. Roland, Rusty Santos, Rene Tongson and I ate talked and shared with my students as we took breaks from teaching. At the big gala dinner in Manila, he acknowledged my teaching, my designs and my training programs and his pride in my accomplishments.

What I saw that was special about Roland was the non-martial arts side. He donated his time to children in demonstrating the arts of Arnis. He was adamant about

bringing Arnis families together and that Arnis practitioners should actually be friends and respect each other. Many around the world cannot see the thread that ties all of arnis together and Roland wanted that thread to be a rope, a bond of friendship and commitment to each other. He wanted differences to be forgotten and Arnis to have a place in the world like karate: a dream his friend and teacher Remy Presas had also shared.



Roland was like several of the other first generation Modern Arnis family: we all studied with Remy, we all had other arnis exposure other martial arts input and we took Remy at his word of: “Make Modern Arnis your own; Modern Arnis is the art within your own art”. Remy recognized several of the styles of his students / friends and so did the other seniors in the Philippines and the Grandmaster councils: Arts such as Dan Anderson’s Mod-80 and my own CSSD

Combat / Tactical Arnis. Roland put together what he referred to as the Combined Open Style. The art he created will live on as Roland’s legacy and contribution to the arts he loved.

Hopefully his attitude about all the Arnisadors being friends and sharing the arts will also be his continuing legacy.



cssdsc.com

Farewell, Roland Dantes: A Life Well Lived

By Zena Sultana Babao

*“Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us, footprints in the sands of time.”
- The Psalm of Life by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Roland Dantes - famous action movie actor, 5-time “Mr. Philippines”, and Arnis Grandmaster who did a lot to propagate the culture and martial arts of the Philippines - has left the narrow bond of earth to touch the face of God!

Dantes passed away at age 69 last Monday, March 16, from heart attack and multiple organ failure arising from complications due to gout (metabolic arthritis). He was rushed to the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City, but was pronounced DOA (dead on arrival).



After a Holy Mass at the Marian Memorial Chapel in Marcos Highway, Antipolo City, he was laid to rest at the Heaven's Gate Memorial Park, also in Antipolo City, at 2:00 p.m. Monday, March 23.

"His death came as a shock to me," said rapper Chris Dantes, his nephew, "He appeared to be so healthy." Dantes was said to have eaten his favorite food (crispy pata) at a party and that probably precipitated both his gout and heart attack. He had a swollen right leg for three days before he was rushed to the hospital. In 2006, Dantes also suffered a heart attack, and Filipino martial artists from all over the world donated money for his hospital expenses. He was deeply loved and respected by the martial arts world!

Born in Cotabato, the 5'10" movie actor's real name was Rolando Tangco Pintoy. His father, Brigadier General Climaco Pintoy, was the Military Zone Commander of the 4th Military Area, which includes Mindanao and the southern islands of Sulu and Palawan. Dantes' father was his first instructor in art of Arnis de Mano. After his father's death, Dantes studied Shotokan and Tang Soo do, and earned black belt ranks in both arts, and later he studied Arnis de Mano from Professor Remy Presas and other FMA (Filipino Martial Arts) grandmasters and masters.

A dedicated bodybuilder, Dantes won the "Mr. Philippines" title five times: 1969, 1973, 1974, 1976 and 1980. He also placed several times in the "Mr. Universe" contest and took fifth place in the 1970 "Mr. World" contest. In 1980, he placed fifth in the World Games for Bodybuilding, and in 1982 received a Certificate of Merit from the International Federation of Bodybuilders. In the same year, Dantes received the President Marcos Gold Medal Award for Bodybuilding.

This extraordinary man was one of the best-known Philippine actors who had leading roles in American films, like the internationally released movie "The Pacific Connection" which featured Nancy Kwan, Guy Madison, Alejandro Rey and Dean Stockwell, and "Delta Force 2: The Colombian Connection" with Chuck Norris. He also starred in dozens of Philippine movies such as "Arnis: The Sticks of Death", "Trojan Warrior", "Tumbador", "Under the Gun", "Live by the Fist", "Tiger Shark", "Angelfist", "Uhaw na Dagat", "Durugin si Totoy Bato", "Banta ng Kahapon" and several other movies made in Australia, where he later established his residence.



Rusty Santos and Rolando Dantes

Before becoming a movie star, Dantes was a police officer for several years in Manila. It was while majoring in Physical Education in college when he met Professor Presas, the founder of Modern Arnis. His passion for Arnis was rekindled, and Dantes became one of Presas' top students and closest friend. Presas even choreographed his Arnis moves in most of his movies. After Dantes immigrated to America, he continued his Filipino martial arts

training with the late Filipino martial arts Grandmasters: Antonio Ilustresimo, Leo Gaje, Ben Lima, Johnny Chiuten, Edgar Sulite and others; and with the 88-year old living legend, Grandmaster Cacoy Canete, Founder of the Doce Partes Eskrido/Eskrima system of martial arts.

With his extensive martial arts and bodybuilding expertise and experience, Dantes was listed in the Philippine Martial Arts Grandmasters Hall of Fame in Florida, Martial Arts Hall of Fame in El Paso, Texas, and the Philippine Bodybuilding Hall of Fame. He held the position of Chairman of the International Affairs of Arnis Philippines and the International Arnis Federation, the officially-recognized governing body for Arnis by the Philippine government.

I first met Roland Dantes in August 16, 1981 when my husband and I attended the Kali Association of America (KAA) picnic at a park in Kauai, Hawaii. The day before, the KAA members gathered at the Kauai War Memorial Convention Hall for a martial arts exhibition and testimonial. It was during this event that the legendary Kali Grandmaster Floro Villabrille awarded the title of Grandmaster to Ben Largusa, his designated successor. Dantes dropped by, as he was in Hawaii promoting his movie "The Pacific Connection."

Kali Association of America (KAA) picnic at a park in Kauai, Hawaii.



Back, L-R: Richard Bustillo, Grandmaster Ben Largusa, Lucky Lucaylucay and Dan Inosanto.
Front, L-R: Grandmaster Braulio Pedoy, Zena Sultana Babao, Grandmaster Floro Villabrille and Joey Del Mar.



Roland, Zena and Narrie

In October 1, 2004 I met Dantes again when my husband and I attended the World Filipino Martial Arts Exposition in Las Vegas, Nevada, which was hosted by Punong Guro Myrlino Hufana of Seattle, Washington. Dantes was one of seventeen martial arts Grandmasters and Masters who each conducted a one-hour seminar in several kinds of Filipino martial arts systems.

He invited us to come to Manila in November 2005 for the Southeast Asian



Roland Dantes with Zena and Narrie Babao



L-R: Roland Dantes, Topher Ricketts, and his son Bruce, Zena Sultana and Narrie Babao and Rey Galang
Las Vegas, Nevada 2004

Games, but unfortunately, due to prior commitments here, we were not able to attend. This was a precedent-setting event because this was when Arnis was officially accepted as one of the sporting events that the Southeast Asian nations will participate in. The inclusion of Arnis as a sporting event in the Southeast Asian Games was one of Dantes' legacy to the world.

Roland Dantes - you're gone but not forgotten. You will forever be missed! Rest in peace with the Lord!

Grandmaster Roland Dantes

More Than a Legend... He Was Our Friend



compadre's illness. This was early 2001. I finally met Manong Roland, (*as I regarded him as my older brother*), in person when he came to visit his dying friend, the Professor. He stayed with me and my family during his visit to watch over and care

I can tell you that the late Professor Remy Amador Presas was responsible for connecting me with Grandmaster Dantes. It was before the death of the Professor that I was informed and educated of Grandmaster Roland Dantes. It was during Professor's fight with cancer that I eventually contacted Manong Roland in the Philippines to inform him of his

for the Professor. We became close friends and confidant since the times of the Professor's declining health and ultimate passing on August of 2001.

Grandmaster Roland Dantes has featured in two WFMAA Expo & Laban Laro events (2004 and 2006 in Las Vegas). He was always the first stop and contact when I visited the Philippines. He would open doors and introduced me to Masters, Grandmasters and Dignitaries whenever I was in the Philippines. He was one of the contributing factors to the success of the WFMAA! He had a big heart and he always extended his hands to those who asked and needed help.

Unfortunately, I was not able to see him once more before his untimely death. God Bless You Manong Roland!



My Tribute to Manong Roland - You are a true warrior and Master of our beloved art, an incredible man with conviction and passion, a good friend and family. You will be in our hearts and our minds forever. May the spirit of your strength live in the Filipino martial arts Brotherhood for generations to come. On behalf of my family (Tess, Michael and Lizelle), the HTAI Family and WFMAA, God Bless you, "Keep your sticks alive... even in heaven"!

You opened your hands and guided me to the Masters in the Philippines. You have been an encyclopedia of the Filipino martial arts, an Ambassador of our Culture and true Icon of the Filipino Fighting Arts.

We will miss you Manong Roland!!!

Your Kapatid
Punong Guro Myrlino P. Hufana

**Hufana Traditional Arnis International
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www.Arnisador.com



www.Worldfma.com

The FMA Community Mourns the Loss of Another Icon in Grandmaster Roland Dantes

By Punong Guro Nickie Esmero, Amara Arkanis

News about the death of Grandmaster Roland Dantes barely ruffled the general public and local showbiz circles, which cradled him in the limelight during his heydays as an actor. Sadly, I haven't encountered any news program or news paper article featuring this news, save for one article in the Internet. But to the Filipino martial arts community, the news of his death was met with a deep sense of grief and disappointment, for Grandmaster Dantes was one of the few who chose to advocate the cause of making Arnis gain the recognition that has long evaded the art locally and internationally.

Despite his stature, Grandmaster Dantes remained being a down-to-earth and humble soul. According to Mrs. Mercedes dela Cruz-Barner, a close friend of Grandmaster Dantes, he willingly obliged to her invitation to train the Barangay Tanods (village police) in her hometown in Lupon, Davao Oriental in the Philippines, just last February, 2009. Being a man who enjoyed the simple things in life, Grandmaster Dantes was elated to have been given the chance to stay away from the city for a change, and even looked forward to coming back for a vacation far from the hustle and bustle of city life.

We at Amara Arkanis Philippines were honored to have been graced by his presence last year, when he visited and paid homage to the memory of the late Punong Guro Mark Lledo, during the latter's commemorative gathering held last November 2008. Grandmaster Dantes was excited to see Mataw Guro Lou Lledo in action, gamely observing the training session that morning. He also spent the whole afternoon with our group, having lunch at Mataw Guro Lou's residence and then enjoyed recanting stories, expressing opinions and sharing old memories about martial arts with Mataw Guro Lou, Atty. Dimaisip of International Modern Arnis Federation-Philippines (IMAFP), Professor Armando Soteco of the School for Arnis Professionals and the Filipino instructors of Amara Arkanis. He was kind enough to greet and recognize everyone that was present that day, even going out of his way to thank the ladies at the kitchen for the splendid food that was served. As there was an ongoing boxing match in the background at that time, we capped that special afternoon rejoicing Manny Pacquiao's most recent victory, in addition to friendships formed, plans envisioned and new memories cherished. We are deeply saddened that we will not be able to have that kind of experience again, but nevertheless, we are extremely grateful that Grandmaster Dantes has honored us with his presence during his last remaining days.



Mataw Guro Louelle Lledo explaining his innovations in teaching Amara Arkanis Martial Arts Education Program, to his honored guests from IMAFP.



Amara Arkanis Mantas (Seniors) with guests from International Modern Arnis Federation, Philippines.

For Amara Arkanis and the rest of the Filipino martial arts community, Grandmaster Dantes' memory lives on. We may be saddened by his passing, but we are consoled by the fact that he is already at peace in heaven and is probably playing tapi-tapi with Grandmaster Presas by now. We hope to be able to do justice in taking the cudgels of his advocacy and continue to push forward in our efforts to bring about Filipino

martial arts' indelible mark in the global scene. We wish that all Filipino martial artists in the world will join hands to make Grandmaster Dantes' dream a reality soon.

Testimonial by: Punong Matawguero Louelle Lledo

I met Grandmaster Dantes way back in the Philippine Karate Association days when he was with the Philippine Body Building Association under then President Gen. Macasiano, who became the boss when I taught the INP training camaraderie. My aunt, Lulu Crespo, happened to be their Secretary General.

His brother Pintoy was one of the members of the Philippine National Training Team. He was a police officer, who eventually became the actor who made Filipino stick art famous all over the world when he showed the Filipino fighting art in the movie "Pacific Connection".

Grandmaster Roland Dantes, a noted Arnisador, was very neutral in his plans for Filipino stick fighting arts and very down to earth when you talk to him about the art.

He came to the tribute for my son, Punong Guro Mark Lledo, with IMAFP President Atty. Dimaisip and Professor Soteco, to offer their condolences.

Grandmaster Dantes was one of the original students of the late Grandmaster Remy Presas when the latter established Modern Arnis in the Philippines. Grandmaster Dantes was one of those who made Modern Arnis popular to the world. During our last talk, he told me about his real, honest plans of coming back to the Philippines. It was mainly about reviving and uniting the Filipino stick fighting arts with Filipino martial arts. We talked about how the Philippine Karate Association would merge with all the Filipino empty hand arts to make the Philippines known to the Karate world.

Grandmaster Roland Dantes, a devoted Arnisador, was one of the greatest Filipino warriors. With his charisma and his fame as a martial arts teacher, would have been one person who would have contributed so much to the unification of Filipino fighting arts and Filipino martial arts to the next generation.

"We will never forget you, because yours is not about the style, but character"

....May you rest in peace.



www.amara-arkanis.com

Salamat po.

Punong Mataw Guro Louelle Lledo, and the Amara Arkanis Sistemang Praksiyon International USA-Philippines.

To Grandmaster Roland Dantes,

Thank you for teaching us your skills and sharing us your precious time, we are happy to be a part of your dreams for the Filipino martial arts. It's a great experience to be with you and a part of your last days. You are a good father, a big brother, a best friend and the best teacher to us all.

May your soul rest in heaven with the Lord.



Big Brother ROLAND DANTES with little sister MERCEDES "GIGI" DELA CRUZ BARNER of Skye, Victoria Australia

Big brother Roland Dantes with little sister Mercedes "Gigi" Dela Cruz-Barner of Skye, Victoria Australia



GM ROLAND DANTES and ANTONIO P. DELA CRUZ JR.
Founding chairman of FMA-LUPON
DAVAO ORIENTAL PHILIPPINES

Grandmaster Roland Dantes and
Antonio P. Dela Cruz Jr.
Founding Chairman of FMA-Lupon
Davao Oriental Philippines

...ing to the Southern...
...ing to the Southern...
...ing to the Southern...

Pacquiao sends sparmate to the canvas bleeding

Is this a portent of things to come for Rocky Hatton? It is apparent...
...ing to the Southern...
...ing to the Southern...

CONTRAST TRAINING

A lot of 10 players, including two-jumpers, was submitted the other day by the...
...ing to the Southern...
...ing to the Southern...

ARNIS GURU REMEMBERED

Roland Dantes (in dark shirt) during his recent visit to Lupon, Davao Oriental with members of the Filipino Martial Arts (FMA) Davao Region headed by Antonio Dela Cruz.

...ing to the Southern...
...ing to the Southern...
...ing to the Southern...

SO LONG, ARNIS CHAMP

Vivid famous arnis guru and movie actor Roland Dantes (second from left) is shown here during his recent visit to Lupon, Davao Oriental with Mayor Domingo Lim and Antonio Dela Cruz (left) of the Filipino Martial Arts (FMA). Dantes, or Rolando Pintoy in real life, died Monday of cardiac arrest. He was 64.

Widows of slain cops seeking justice like P...

RANSALAN, Davao del Sur - Widows of the slain policemen in this town are still seeking justice after their families commuted the blood...
...ing to the Southern...
...ing to the Southern...



Your student,
Antonio P. Dela Cruz, Jr.
Chairman - FMA - Lupon
Davao Oriental, Philippines

A Man of Peace and A Understand Nature

By Ariel F. Mosses

I met Grandmaster Roland Dantes in the late 90's thru my brother in the arts, Myrlino Hufana (Founder of HTAI). Myrlino hosted Grandmaster Dantes in a Bellevue, WA. Filipino martial arts seminar where Grandmaster shared his knowledge with over 100 participants.

Of course right off the bat, we hit it off as if we knew one another since our younger years as he requested to be called kuya (elder brother). I was, so humbled by his demeanor as he paused during his teaching session to introduce me to the group. That was the kind of human being he was and will always be. He did not care about MA (martial arts) politics although he was always surrounded by it due to his association with so many Organizations. He used to tell me how he made so many friends through his years in the Philippines where one group of blood thirsty angry Pinoys (caused usually by cheap talk) would seek another for a no holds barred skirmish. Grandmaster was always requested for backup because of his expertise in the arts but before any bloodshed, ended up keeping the peace between the groups because they all knew him. So many of his compadres respected him not because of his celebrity status but his kindness and understanding nature. Through my experience with Grandmaster Roland, he never expected to be treated any different than his peers. "No one above - no one below, just respect for one another and not to be judge mental", he stated to me as he smiled.

On another subject, Grandmaster was diligent about training. He himself was always in good shape being the bodybuilder he was. I invited him to stop by our family reunion in Birch Bay, Washington; one year where we (Grandmaster, Myrlino and I) ended up taking a walk through the very scenic beach. Birch Bay has one of the most colorful sunsets in the west coast as Grandmaster Roland by the look on his face was enjoying and inhaling the magnificent view. As we all were enjoying the view, manong Roland took off his shirt as he revealed his muscles. I clearly remember Myrlino and I looking at each other thinking what the heck, let's take our shirt off too as we did simultaneously. We were cracking up on how not buffed we were compared to our dear friend and Kuya.

We know you will be with us spiritually through our journey in the Filipino martial arts.

With much love and prayers to you Kuya,
Ariel F. Mosses and Family

A Tribute to Grandmaster Roland Dantes

Grandmaster Roland Dantes, from my perspective and words written about "the Man", is the Philippines foremost and most notable figure in the Filipino martial arts Community and Brotherhood. He is the most consummate specimen of a true Filipino warrior, handsome, exemplary physique, an established actor, extremely talented and worthy Filipino martial arts ambassador. In most probability, his name comes to mind foremost and resonates to all Filipino martial arts practitioners out there. He's just everywhere regards the Filipino fighting art.

I have the special privilege of being present with him in several Filipino martial arts events/gatherings and thus my impressions. Last special time I recalled was that , we were hotel roommates in a 2006 US Kali Association Hall of Fame event in El Paso, Texas - up until now then my cherished times of him!

Whence, from our interactions, he calls me "Bai" - Visayan word for brother which I appreciated very much. Always humble and soft spoken, he told me countless memorable and nostalgic stories of his career and of course come visit the Philippines more often to see the many changes/beauty of our "Motherland". With eyes gleaming, he finds joy and pride talking about his old Filipino movie role as Tarzan (Og), body building career, world competition with California Governor Arnold "The Terminator" Schwarzenegger, and the current Filipino martial arts situations as a fighting art and as a trial event in the last Asian Games or perhaps in future Olympics.

Beyond, what is amusing and a real life tail tale of him was that, Roland was a "vane" man. Early morning, I have to use the hotel other bathroom to empty my bladder. He'd spent a long time in the bathroom grooming himself - trimming his mustache, blowing his thick hair, and whatever else pinoy men do, loves to don body hugging "jeans" and his cowboy boots. He'd make sure he'd come out of our room spick and span - what a guy!

Sadly, he is now with the "Grandmasters" of all and so: May you rest in Peace and I will hold dear in your memory the Arnis Stick you bestowed me. Thanks for being a friend, teacher, and one of Filipino martial arts icons."

Grandmaster Jorge V. Penafiel
Cincinnati Balintawak Club
Putakti System



Website

A Brief Meeting - Forever Remembered



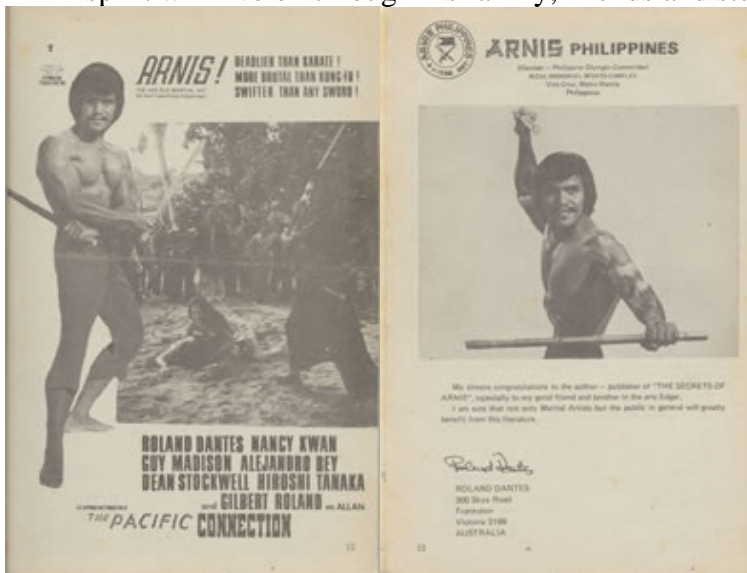
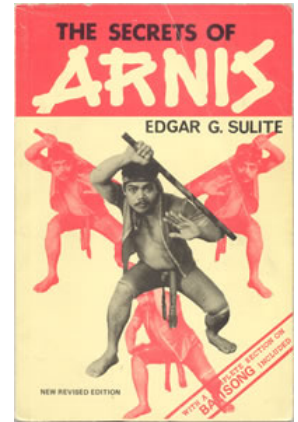
I became aware of Master Roland during the late 80's / early 90's when I first stumbled upon his name in one of the rare books that I have in my ever-growing collection. I remember Punong Guro Edgar G. Sulite sharing stories with us in the "backyard" about his first encounter with Master Roland in Manila back in 1981 that eventually led to their friendship.

I met Master

Roland for the first time in October 2004 at the 2nd World FMA Expo and Laban Laro in Las Vegas, Nevada. He, too, had fond memories of Punong Guro and was kind enough to share a few with me.

We continued our communication about current projects that he was working on towards the support, propagation and development of the Warrior Arts of the Philippines and I had a chance to meet up with him again in July 2006 at the 3rd FMA Festival in Pasay City, Philippines.

A true Ambassador of Arnis, he will be sorely missed but his spirit will live on through his family, friends and students.



Paalam.
Guro Arnold A. Noche
Lameco Sulite Orihinal Group (SOG)



MAMFMA

Modern Arnis Mano-Mano Filipino Martial Arts

Huling PagPubay (Last Bow)

I first met Grandmaster Roland Dantes during an Arnis Tournament in Pasay City last November 30, 2008. His speech displayed his loyalty to our beloved Filipino Martial Arts and encouraged everyone to continue teaching and promoting Arnis.

The last time I saw him was during the FMA Gathering and gave my “pugay” (bow) to him. We noticed that he was walking slowly and we wondered if something was wrong. Our group’s Founder sent us an SMS early next morning, shocking us with the news that he already passed away.

Truly, he will be remembered for his dedication and contributions in the Filipino martial arts community.

Lakan Anthony Gatchalian
Club President
MAMFMA - Central



Grandmaster Dantes with MAMFMA
Senior Instructor Dayang Rhiverli

Even though I've been involved with Filipino Martial Arts for a long time, I can't help but still be in awe whenever I meet the Grandmasters and Masters, and propagators of the art, most of which I just heard or know through the Internet. So you could just imagine when I first came face to face with Grandmaster Roland Dantes. The man idolized by many, somebody who is being looked up to by lovers of the art.

It was my first time last week to meet him up close and give my “pugay”. I went home very happy because even for a moment, I got a close glimpse of one considered as a living legend in our beloved Filipino martial arts. Too my shock, I learned later that night that it was my first and last time to have that moment when I learned about the news of his passing. It is a great loss to the not only to the Filipino martial arts community but to the Filipinos as a whole. But may his legacy continue among us, to continue sharing the art to the next generation.

Rene Joy Rivera
Club President
MAMFMA - Central



Grandmaster Dantes with MAMFMA student from R and O Academy

The last time I saw him, I was with Meo (Outgoing MAMFMA - Central Club President), my Secretary General and the incoming club President during the FMA Gathering at Dayang Peachy's residence. I saw him walking very slowly and gave our "pugay" (Bow).

I sent him an SMS, inviting him to be our guest of honor for our promotion and belting ceremony on March 19, 2009 and he said yes. But to my surprise, I received the news that he passed away already on the same night.

You will forever be remembered by everyone, Grandmaster Roland Dantes!
Pugay!

I first met Grandmaster Roland Dantes through Professor Soteco. During the several times I met him, I can say that he is a very nice person, very humble and approachable. He did not have second thoughts when I invited him to be the guest of honor/speaker during an event in R and O Academy. Truly, he is very supportive.

Grandmaster Dantes at R and O Academy 2009 - [Click Here](#)



Grandmaster Dantes with outgoing MAMFMA - Central Club President Lakan Romeo Solatorio

Punong Lakan Garitony "Pet" C. Nicolas
Founder and Chief Instructor
Modern Arnis Mano-Mano Filipino Martial Arts (MAMFMA)



Grandmaster Dantes with Punong Lakan Pet Nicolas

Rolando Dante

It was February 17, 2009, just landed from an 11 hour flight from the Philippines. I turned on my computer, clicked on the Philippine's Sun Star News and saw that Roland "Pintoy" Dantes had passed away just days before I left the Philippines.

I was shocked of his passing, since he seemed very healthy the last time I saw him in 2008. I had dinner with him in one of Manila's prominent restaurant, discussing the World Cup Championship in Moal Boal, Cebu and the World Council of Masters.



Grandmaster Rolando Dantes was one of the most humble human being. He was soft spoken and friendly to everyone. I ran into him a few times afterwards. I saw him when he became an action movie star starring in Pacific Connection. Then I saw him at the 1989 WEKAF World Championship Dinner, where he remembered me and greeted me like it was just yesterday since we saw each other. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to conduct a seminar together in Seattle, WA during an Arnis seminar hosted by Datu Kelly Worden in 2002 we also met at the 2005 Philippine Council of Kali Eskrima Arnis Masters World tournament in Antipolo City.



I met Grandmaster Rolando Dante through Grandmaster Remy Presas during one of my trips to the Philippines in 1973. Grandmaster Remy Presas would bring me around places where he would teach Modern Arnis. He would teach at the National College of Physical Education in Manila, where he would teach the college professors Modern Arnis.



I was sad to hear about his passing. I could have stopped over to Manila, if I had known at the time of his passing.

A great loss to Philippine Martial Arts....we have lost a leader and an ambassador of the Filipino martial arts, who I feel had the ability to bring all styles of Filipino martial arts together in harmony. He was one of the most discipline persons that I know.

My prayers to him and to his family and friends.

Grandmaster Max Pallen Sr.



www.senkotiros.org
www.senkotirosphilippines.com

Rolando Tangco Pintoy Dantes Ambassador, Blood Brother, and Kampadre

By Kelly S. Worden

In recent months and years the martial arts community has been impacted by the loss of many great leaders and practitioners. It seems dynamic Masters of the art are passing away at an alarming rate. Without question any loss is alarming, furthermore every death should be a message to all survivors to stand tall and honor those who have dedicated so much of their lives to the propagation of the arts we all love and cherish. That being said, we should seize the moment to document the techniques and concepts offered by the Master instructors who are sharing the arts today, our teachers and our mentors. There is no question that we have already lost much, complete systems fallen to the demise of time. Sadly, many arts have been lost with little documentation or technical history recorded to reference the contributions of great teachers and their dynamic systems. Understandably there was a time when martial arts did not have a large scale impact on modern civilization. I am sure that is not necessarily the case today at present time our global martial arts society has the technology to not only acknowledge but capture the combative methodology of the famous as well as the unknown for their collaborative contributions to the industry's evolution.

Generally speaking true leaders in the martial arts are now recognized worldwide regardless of their chosen style, system, or ethnic/cultural relevance. In truth all martial arts are connected by the code of the warrior; honor, trust, integrity, and social responsibility. Rare qualities in common men. However, these are highly refined personal traits in true men of martial spirit. It is their endearing charismatic vibrant persona that makes leaders of these arts stand apart from the masses. No fanfare is needed to announce their presence; we are naturally drawn to them and their uniqueness as well as our desire to emulate them. Energized by their spirit we seek their love for life, zest for adventure, and their indomitable courage to be one with life. Within life as well as martial arts there are followers and leaders. Of equally importance are the ambassadors who balance the challenges of dissention, social conduct, and spiritual harmony for everyone within their social circle of life. I would have to say without hesitation, that Roland Dantes was the definitive personification of who or what an Ambassador should be. From the day I met Roland it became evident his goal was to serve a higher cause. What cause you may ask?

Simply put; the world! His country, family, friends, society, and the art, there were no limitations to conflicts Roland Dantes confronted, challenged, or conquered. The really strange aspects of those potentially inflammatory words, is how he perceived them. In my personal experience Roland's heart was so pure he feared nothing. Descriptive words that may agitate or infuriate an average person, Roland blew off as only metaphors



Roland Dantes and Kelly S. Worden
in Victoria B.C. June, 2001

of how that particular state of affairs, should be prioritized in his attempt to seek peaceful resolution for those involved.

Being a lifelong martial artist I have little patience with political infighting. As Professor Presas always put it, “*Do your own work.*” Roland was the Master of resolution. He could resolve any conflict, even the smallest of issues, with the utmost discretion. I don’t sugar coat my views and this plain and simple honesty was one of the attributes that drew Roland and I close together as brothers. Hold on, here is another statement of truth, any practitioner in the arts worth a grain of salt knows personal or political conflicts within the martial arts are usually motivated by a lack of ethics, ego, jealousy, arrogance, greed, and more ego! Much to his credit, Roland Dantes possessed the ordained capability to accept every person as a man of integrity and respected them as such even when they were exposed to be arrogant, manipulative, unethical, a bully, or a blatant liar. Roland Dantes never intentionally sought a resolution that would create loss of face for either party involved. He was a man of honor and believed all martial artists deserved that respect even when they were wrong. That being said, Dantes drew a line of integrity. Once you violated his trust he avoided interactions with that person or group like the plague. In his heart, distance was better than discredit, everyone deserved respect but it was their responsibility to actually comprehend if they earned it or just demanded it. There is a difference Roland Dantes believed if you lived by the warrior code, respect was only a hand shake or embrace away!

Within the Communities of Body Building, Fitness and Martial Arts, Roland Dantes was a Philippine National Treasure! Got your attention? I’ll come back to his personal accomplishment shortly.

First and foremost Rolando Tangco Pintoy Dantes was the eldest son of Brigadier General Climaco Pintoy. Roland was born in Cotabato, on the island of Mindinao, Southern Philippines. The island of Mindinao is where you'll find the majority of Filipino Muslims, of the Muslim faith. Roland rarely spoke of specific religions yet he was a spiritual man of high moral conviction and faith, more than anything Roland Dantes Pintoy treasured his Philippine cultural heritage.

Highly relevant to Roland’s personal and professional success, his father, Climaco Pintoy supported Roland’s dreams and accomplishments including his academic endeavors of a college education, professional body building career, and his martial arts study. Roland was exceptionally proud of his father who in truth was a dynamic leader in his own right. Roland personally articulated to me how proud the Pintoy family was of their father. In his own words you can sense his pride; “*When my father passed away he was a Brigadier General. At that time there were only four Generals of the Philippine Army. Each General represented one of the four major groups of islands in the Philippines. He was the Commanding General of the fourth military area, which in fact was all of the islands located in the south of the Philippines. That's Mindinao, Haloes, Sulu and Palawan, the territory of the islands closest to Indonesia and Malaysia. I myself have Filipino Muslim relations on my father's side of the family. In recognition of his accomplishments and being a successful military officer the Muslim tribal elders within that region respectfully gave him the title of Datu. My father was respected in all facets of life. Militarily, to honor his accomplishments a Philippine Government military site located in Lanao, Mindanao, Cebu was named in honor of my late father Brigadier*

General Climaco Pintoy. The site was named “Camp Pintoy!” He was a great man and leader, and I loved my father very much.”

During the same interview, Roland also shared some insight into the beginnings of his involvement in bodybuilding; “Bodybuilding came to me almost like an accident, I was actually playing high school basketball and suffered an injury to my right knee from falling. The Doctor recommended a medical rehabilitation program which in turn introduced me to weight training. When I started seeing real results I dedicated myself totally to bodybuilding and (laughs) pretty soon I was competing. Fortunately, I met one gentleman who was tremendously instrumental in my bodybuilding progress. Mr. Pedador personally trained me and programmed my workouts, within a short time I entered my first competition and won the National Mr. Novice. This event was just for beginner bodybuilders, winning that event inspired me to push myself all the way and become a professional.

After that, (laughter), my first time to win the Mr. Philippine’s title was in 1969. Part of that prize responsibility was to represent the Philippines in the Mr. Universe Contest. At that time, the Mr. Universe Contest took place in New York City. Mr. Universe comprises all the contestants from different countries. This 1969 was the year Arnold Schwarzenegger won and he represented Austria. As a representative of the Philippines I became the fourth runner up in the Mr. Universe Contest.”

Although I’ve been around the block a few times in life, it ceases to amaze me how some feel compelled to relentlessly announce their accomplishments or contributions to the world in general. In all the time I have been associated with Roland Dantes the one thing that truly stands out is his humbleness to down play his success. Nevertheless, Roland’s accomplishments were nothing short of amazing. Over the span of 10 years Roland Dantes attained the title Mr. Philippines no less than five times. It was with this dedication to the sport that he achieved the epitome of fitness awards and honored by the Philippine Bodybuilding Federation. In 1976 Roland was inducted into the country's Hall of Fame as the Presidential Award Sports Hero and received the honorable "SIGLAKAS AWARD."

As Roland and I became closer friends our mutual respect became evident, he openly became my associate and a spiritual mentor within Natural Spirit International. My methods were different than he had ever experienced, especially regarding the military tactical module curricula. Roland would constantly inquire how I evolved Modern Arnis into the connecting the systems format that he experienced within our training regime. It is important to state at no time did I ever feel nor do I feel now that Roland was not capable of holding his own in any situation. Roland Dantes was a student of life and for the most part always intrigued by how others expressed their arts, simple as that. Roland’s training in N.S.I. was his way of clarifying his own evolution, finding the keys that allowed him to bind and connect all the technical information he had been exposed to for years and by countless masters of the art.

Roland never sought to emulate any one style or system. In truth it is the passion of incalculable Masters and the dynamic beauty of the art that motivated Roland’s dedication to support all arts as one. Over the years he trained with and/or exchanged knowledge with a virtual who’s-who in Filipino martial arts including; Grandmasters Remy A. Presas, Johnny F. Chuiten, Dr. Guillermo Lengson, Antonio Ilustrisimo, Ben Lema, Filemon Caburnay, Ciriaco "Cacoy" Canete, Porfirio Lanada, Jose Villasin, Edgar

Sulite, Christopher Ricketts, Bobby Taboada, Ben Andales and many other Maestros who he met during his extensive travels though out the Philippines.

A humble and honorable man, Roland Dantes ecstatically assisted Grandmaster (Professor) Remy Armador Presas in 1975 on ABC Wide World of Sports with a dynamic presentation of Modern Arnis live blade machete patterns. This awe inspiring performance happened during Aaron Bank's Oriental World of Self Defense at New York's Madison Square Garden. The fact that Modern Arnis received U.S. national television coverage was a huge cultural accomplishment, and in Professor's eyes, a rightful source of pride for all Filipino martial arts!

No matter how I approached Roland, he made me feel as if I was the important one. During one of the interviews we conducted I proposed the following; *"Roland, you have been instrumental in giving the Philippine Martial Arts a lot of exposure worldwide incorporating the art in your action adventure movies. You include not only training and fighting sequences but the historical significance and cultural connection Arnis has with the people of the Philippines."*

As you will read, Roland offers his approval of the question by responding that he is honored not only by my statements but by everyone who is associated to his accomplishments. Roland educated me on a daily basis in the etiquette of life. He was a simple man who understood the value of "making everyone feel more important than himself." Rare traits indeed!

Roland's response; *"Thank you very much; I feel honored by your statements Datu ... I owe a lot first and foremost again to Professor Presas. It was actually Pacific Connection that broke me into the movie world and started my career. Because of the success of Pacific Connection with me playing the lead with Hollywood stars like Nancy Kwan, Guy Madison, Dean Stockwell and the Japanese Samurai actor Hiroshi Tanaka, who also starred with Charles Bronson in the American Western Classic "The Red Sun." That initial exposure gave me the break I needed to become established in the movies. Sometime after the Mr. Universe Contest, I returned to the Philippines and was a guest on a television talk show. A movie producer approached me after the show and offered me the role. I didn't even know I was going to play the lead role I was just excited to be asked. When I found out the movie was about the Filipino martial arts and Arnis to be featured in the film, straight away it must have been destiny because I was then a student of the Professor (Presas). It coincided that I knew the Art because of the Professor and right away we worked close together as the*



"The Pacific Connection was beautifully choreographed and the success of that movie led to the follow up movie, Sticks of Death. After the movie, many Hollywood producers and actors realized the beauty and value of the Filipino Martial Arts and included the Philippine Martial Arts in their armed and unarmed combat scenes."

Professor choreographed the beautiful fight scenes, Arnis verses the Samurai. With due respect, of course to the Japanese martial arts, Professor Presas choreographed the fight scenes in a way that we never put down or played down the effectiveness of the Japanese art. In the fight scenes the katana wielding Samurai played an even lead just to assure the Japanese art respect! The Pacific Connection was beautifully choreographed and the success of that movie led to the follow up movie, Sticks of Death. After the movie, many Hollywood producers and actors realized the beauty and value of the Filipino martial arts and included the Philippine martial arts in their armed and unarmed combat scenes. In fact a lot of Steven Segal's empty hand moves come from the Mano y mano techniques of the Filipino martial arts. Additionally, I worked with Chuck Norris in Delta Force II. The film was shot in the Philippines. They even consented to my proposal that they include the Balisong with Chuck Norris fighting the bad guy actor attacking him with a Filipino Butterfly Fan Knife, the Balisong Knife."



Worden and Dantes train Espada 'y' Daga on the Silent Fighter training dummy located at Worden's home training area in Tacoma Washington. Worden was actually inspired by the training dummy from the movie "Sticks of Death" and has been personally manufacturing the Silent Fighter Training Dummy for over 14 years. The Silent Fighter is solid wood core with a completely padded body, the pivotal arms and legs are steel offering life like mobility. This one has been in use for over 7 years and still has game!

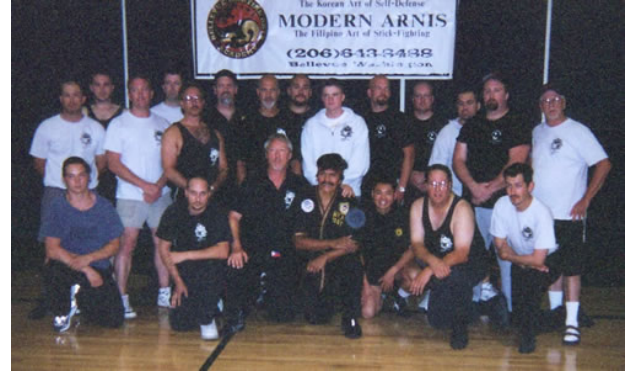
WWII Filipino Guerrilla warfare battles. These stories were well-received by all soldiers including command officers who embraced Roland Dantes as not only a friend but a great contributor to the training and warrior building morale of the U.S. Army 1st. Special Forces SFG team members.

Through our direct connection as students of the Grandmaster of Modern Arnis Professor Remy A. Presas, Roland and I became very close friends. This unique bond of brotherhood was a result of Professor bringing us together during his final months of life. Professor instructed us to share openly with each other and place our trust in destiny.

Roland returned to Tacoma Washington with me to live briefly with my family. During this time we conducted several videotaped interviews including Mabuhay Television. Furthermore Roland assisted me with the responsibility of training U.S. Army 1st. Special Forces Troops at Fort Lewis Washington. In addition to Roland training troops in the Worden Tactical CQC curricula, Roland also took time to share historical accounts of documented



Roland Dantes and Kelly S. Worden with U.S. Army 1st SFG Special Forces Airborne at Ft. Lewis Washington. The Worden WORTAC Training Team also consisted of (far left front) Rey Javier, (far left rear) Big Bob Riley, (far right front) Bob McCluskey



Dantes and Worden take a break with N.S.I. members during one of many seminar's they conducted in Washington State the Summer of 2001



With tears in his eyes Professor Presas embraced Roland and I proclaiming us "*his blood brothers*!." Together that night we shared a deep emotional bond of spiritual unity! As "*blood brothers*" we swore a pact to always keep the art alive!

Privately Professor explained to us he felt we were more than just his students. With tears in his eyes Professor Presas embraced Roland and I proclaiming us "*his blood brother's*." Together that night we shared a deep emotional bond of spiritual unity, and as "*blood brothers*" we swore a pact to always keep the art alive!

There is much more to the complete story. A few days after Professor Presas passed away, one of our last video interviews contained rare footage of Roland explaining the very real fact that Professor Presas possessed Anting Anting. Roland offered his personal experience with Professor as well as a conversation with Rosemary Presas calling the Victoria Care Center on Professor's final day of life

At this juncture in our relationship Roland Dantes maintained close communication with Professor Presas as we returned to Victoria B.C. on multiple occasions to be with him. Two additional interviews were conducted at that time, one specifically with Professor and one focusing on Roland's account of his relationship with Professor spanning over 20 years of immeasurable friendship and respect.



Worden and Dantes crossed sticks in brotherhood, proclaimed "*blood brothers*" by Professor Remy A. Presas the two formed a bond of trust from the day they met!

and asking Roland to take the Anting Anting from Professor. This event did happen and mere hours later Professor Presas quietly succumbed. In tears, Roland spoke of these final words between student and teacher, kampadres of life, and brothers to the end. I have not publicly released this DVD footage and have only mentioned the content to few others.

The Modern Arnis practitioners I have confided in discounted the belief of Professor's Anting Anting, yet in my own personal conversations with Rosemary Presas in San Francisco she confirmed the date, time, and name of the holy man who offered the amulet and orasyon/oracion prayer to not only Professor but her cousin as well. Additionally on separate occasions Roland and Rosemary both accounted how a gunman in Manila fired a 45 ACP at Professor in his gym at close quarters yet the bullets did not hit him.

Believe what you wish, Roland knew and understood much about his teacher as well as the warrior life of the Filipino. Rolando Tangco Pintoy Dantes was the best friend a man could have a brother in life, and a brother in the art.

He was the Ambassador of Filipino martial arts and a National Treasure!

With undying gratitude, "I love you Roland and you will be dearly missed but never forgotten!"

Respectfully,
Kelly S. Worden

Kelly S. Worden is a 40 + year practitioner of martial arts, teaching privately in Tacoma Washington. His curricula includes: tactical street defense based in Filipino martial arts for Military, Police, and serious Civilians. Worden was the first Non-Filipino promoted to Datu by Remy A. Presas in 1988. He is the International Director for Natural Spirit Int'l and Wortac Defensive Tactics. Questions or comments should be directed to: kellyswordsen@comcast.net



www.kellyworden.com

He Was Always the Unconquerable

A tribute to Grandmaster Roland Dantes

By Guro Edessa Ramos

“Enjoy your days and make the best of your relationships now,” he told me in one of his emails, “and let matters of the past rest with the past.” It was a few months after his release from the hospital.

He wrote very beautifully in Tagalog, simple and to-the-point, but sensitive and caring. And he only used the most beautiful words, the kind that are identified with pure and deep Tagalog. Once I sent him our pictures from the FMA 3 in Tagaytay, and some news about the seminars and activities that preoccupied me. I reminded him that we know how much he loved all of us. He thanked me profusely, then gave me the news I had been longing to hear, that he had recovered fully.



Maraming salamat sa iyong email at litrato at mga balita... sa inyong mga dasal at dalangin, tulong at suporta (Many thanks for your email, photo, and news... for your prayers, help and support) ... this is why my recovery was fast...

Thanks to Kapatid Bram too and the entire CSSDSC family! Salamat din (thank you also) for reassuring Bram and Dieter for me (referring to Bram Frank and Datu Dieter Knuettel) that they will always be close to my heart too. A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS, 'DES.....I'm mighty PROUD OF YOU!

I've recovered very well BY THE GRACE OF THE ALMIGHTYand I'm back to my "fighting weight (so to speak) !...I just got back from Singapore where I inducted the Officers of the FMA organization there (headed by a Police Colonel). I was with Police Officer Rey Dominguez.. Yes I agree with you...THAT WE SHOULD ALL DO OUR BEST TO PROPAGATE OUR BELOVED ART.

Your Kuya Roland

(All words and style of writing in the above quote are from Kuya Roland's email. The translations in parenthesis are mine).

It had seemed to me then, to all of us that he would be with us for much longer. Grandmaster Roland Dantes was a loving and forgiving man, always ready to think the best of others, always in search of what is positive. Though capable of rare flares of temper which I had witnessed in conversations with him, he had always been soft-spoken. And such temper displays only came about when we talked of injustices in

this world, of injustices that men are capable of inflicting upon each other, including unjust behaviors we have witnessed in the martial arts world. And in the same split second after I had glimpsed his anger, so would it subside, just as quickly, and his composure would be regained once more before anyone could have noticed the change in tempo.

I will always remember his soft-spoken ways, voice as gentle as his sticks were harsh. The gentle voice belied the quick uncompromising precision of his sticks. Whenever he took over the training floor, he was quickly overtaken by the warrior that he was.

I emailed him quite rarely, and usually to complain about something happening in the Filipino martial arts world. And he would usually write back saying: “Be calm, little sister, everything will be alright.” A number of times I complained about people whose behaviors disunited the arnis populations, and he wrote, “Let them find their own way; let us forget all of these; everything will be alright.”

And he added:

Napakaikli ng buhay sa mundo. Sana at ipinagdadasal ko na maayos mo ang problema mo sa iyong pamilya na mas mahalaga kaysa anumang bagay. Sumaiyo ang Grasya ng Panginoon, your Kuya Roland.

(Life is very short on earth. I hope and pray that you can solve the problems in your family, which is more important than all other matters. May the Grace of the Lord be with you).

His advice was very clear. His priorities were very clear. Family. Love. Friendship. More than anything else, and certainly more than all the politics and painful experiences of arnis. I decided to honor him by following his advice. I made no more mention of arnis issues from then on.

Although it felt as though he was preparing to say goodbye, I didn’t know then that it would be his last email to me.

During the past year, Grandmaster Roland gave indications that he had reached that higher place, that level of enlightenment where true grandmasters reside, that place where they can be above the conflict, above it all. He knew that he could not, and would not, always be the oldest brother forcing the younger ones to make peace. In Filipino culture, it is customary for our elders to tell us, “Find your own way, for I will not always be there.” He had tried to tell us that not everything needed his intervention. That not everything needed outside mediation. It was not a question of passiveness, but a standpoint whereby he encouraged us all to become mature enough to negotiate our own battles with each other. To take care of things ourselves, for he would not always be there. His advice prodded me to aspire for that higher place, to hope to reach it one day, that place of enlightenment and harmony. He taught us to believe, that if one can view the world and its conflicts from that enlightened point, then it would be possible to fix its problems without bias, without hatred or anger or hurt.

He was also a funny man. I remember the year when I first got the chance to really know him, back in 2004 during the FMA Festival in Dortmund, after which he was invited by Datu Dieter Knuettel to teach DAV seminars. He used to tell me: “Des, can we

find a grocery? I need to find food so I can have in-between meals. I'm a body-builder, Des; I can't survive the eating habits of Germans." I didn't ask for an elaboration, but he was winking the whole time, so I guess it must have been funny. I sure thought it was funny, for it was hard to imagine him starving. This big strong man, this giant of a Filipino, a titan who walked gracefully among us, who at his age had continued to conquer all ravages of time. He was always good-looking, always fit, always the Mr. World with the incredible biceps and handsome face. The kind eyes, the gentle voice, the infectuous laugh, the wise adviser, the considerate teacher, one of the true warriors of his time.

It was in 2003 when I was brought by my teachers to meet Grandmaster Roland. He had requested IMAFP to find me. He had read an article I wrote in the United States, wherein I spoke about the essence of arnis, that it was the symbol of the Filipino fighting spirit, how it enabled us to survive centuries of tyranny with our dignity intact, that it is this fierce spirit of arnis that became the main rallying point for our unity as a nation, as a culture. He told me that this article brought tears to his eyes and he simply had to meet me. He told me how proud he was that a small Filipina can make a big difference. Humbled and awed by such sentiments coming from a Filipino martial arts legend such as he, I made him a promise. I will never stop or tire of my work to let the world know, through the Filipino Martial Arts, how proud and undefeatable the Filipino truly is.

I did not cry or react much when I first received the news of his passing. It didn't hit me then. Until I realized that the last time I saw him was in Tagaytay in 2006, and it had only been emails since then. Only now can I grieve, when I suddenly realize, there will be no more emails, no more profound words in Tagalog, no more words of advice, no more chances to enjoy future days with him.

To all of us, he was always the unconquerable. The man was and always will be the legend that binds us together, not only in the Filipino martial arts, but all of us Filipinos in general, and the non-Filipinos who have sworn to be our brothers and sisters. With his passing, the Filipino people have lost a noble leader, a gigantic symbol, a catalyst of 2 or 3 generations, a truly admirable human being.

But in truth we have not lost him. He is still with us and will forever be our inspiration, the one who constantly reminds us of the achievements we are capable of. He continues to guide us, from up there, in his enlightened harmonious place. Our *Dakilang Puno*, our Grandmaster Roland Dantes.



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Condolences

The following prayer is from Master Ricketts.

Sending our thoughts and prayers to Kuya Roland's family.

Kuya Roland has always been a close friend and brother in the arts, someone I can look up to.

An ambassador to the Filipino martial arts, his efforts of propagating our art will not be forgotten.

God Speed,
Christopher "Topher" Ricketts
Kali Ilustrisimo

Personal Friend



Rolando Dante was a personal friend. He was a man of Integrity and Humility and an avid Escrimador. He made many friends all over the world. Our prayers go to his family and love ones."

Grandmaster Alfredo Bandalan Sr.
Bandalan Doce Pares

Prayers and condolences to the Dantes Family.

Always in our heart,
Grandmaster Conrad A. Manaois
and our MSI group,
MSI - Los Angeles, CA
MSI - Las Vegas, NV
MSI - Moses Lake, WA

With the permission of the owner of the Rapid Journal a Philippine magazine the FMA Digest is sharing Volume 13 Number 3 issue which came out at the beginning of April. Visit the website, to learn more about the Rapid Journal magazine and subscribe.



While working on this editorial, I received the sad news from a friend that former Mr. Philippines and Arnis ambassador, Roland Dantes passed away last March 16, 2009 at the Philippine Heart Center at the age of 64. It was quite a coincidence that my topic for this editorial was about the contribution of Filipino migrant workers in propagating Filipino martial arts abroad. In a way, Mr. Dantes can be considered one of them. After making a name in bodybuilding and later on as an Arnis instructor and movie actor, he left the country 20 years ago for Melbourne, Australia and continued to spread the art of Arnis in many countries around the globe. I understand that a few years back, he returned to the country to embark on a mission to unite the Filipino martial arts community by organizing a council open to all Filipino martial arts regardless of style and affiliation. Recently in several news articles by sports writer, Bill Velasco, Mr. Dantes had lamented that while the art of Filipino martial arts was well-received abroad; in the Philippines it has been sidelined and was largely unappreciated by its own citizens. Together with businessman and Arnis enthusiast, they were about to establish a framework to unite and build up the sport of Arnis.

The untimely demise of Mr. Dantes should be a wake-up call for Filipino martial arts practitioners in the country. It is rather strange for a man who had become famous in Filipino martial arts outside of the country to have to return in order to revive a native art in its country of origin. For a long time the Filipino martial arts community in the country have remained stagnant. I remember during the early 80s, while studying at the university, I frequently visited our library. During my free time, I would search the card catalogue for entries on Arnis and would find most of the articles dated in the mid 1970s onwards. I took special attention to look for write-ups in pre and post WWII magazines like the Philippine Free Press and Sunday Times Magazine but found nothing about Filipino martial arts. During that period foreign martial arts magazine like Black Belt and Inside Kung Fu were already featuring Arnis/Escrima/Kali covered by American authors. In fact, Black Belt had featured Filipino martial arts written by Filipinos as early as the 1960s! Even the local Martial Arts magazine published in the mid-1970s had to source its first write-up on Filipino martial arts in the United States.

Recently there's a resurgence of interest in the practice of Filipino martial arts mainly through movie exposures in the United States and Europe. Like many OFWs, Arnis instructors have also migrated abroad seeking greener pastures. If this trend continues, Filipino martial arts will soon lose its position in its country of origin. Unless the Filipino martial arts community here unite and educate the authority and the people to appreciate the art, we will soon have to source our Arnis lessons elsewhere. It is hoped that the efforts Mr. Dantes to promote and unite the different styles of Filipino martial arts will not be forgotten. His untimely death is a sign for us to start now.

The FMA Digest was informed that there is a successor to Grandmaster Roland Dantes fighting art, and here a little information about David Foggie.

Successor



The first group of students taught by Grandmaster Roland Dantes in Melbourne, Australia were taught a system which was predominantly Modern Arnis with some additional material from other systems. The following people attained black belt: Taga Turo Tom Gange (Lakan Isa), Taga Turo Gary Smith (Lakan Isa), Taga Turu Jess Rando (Lakan Isa), Taga Turo Dave Johnson (Lakan Isa), Taga Turo Andrew Humphries (Lakan Isa), Taga Turo Paul Woods (Lakan Isa), Taga Turo Rudy Bautista (Lakan Isa) and Trevor Koochew (Lakan).

From the mid 1990s, Grandmaster Roland Dantes was NOT teaching and after starting a class with ten students, eventually closed it down due to time constraints and took David Foggie as his sole private student.

The system taught to David used Modern Arnis as a framework, yet synthesized the knowledge Roland Dantes learnt from the many maestros he was fortunate to meet, train under and/or exchange knowledge with. Additionally, though the system still contained a lot of stick work, there was far more focus on the blade as this is where Grandmaster Roland Dantes true passion was. Continuing with David assisting him, 1998 saw the founding of Grandmaster Roland's OFFICIAL HQ at Malvern Martial Arts in Melbourne, Australia.

The union between Roland and David was more than that of a martial arts teacher and student. Roland viewed David as his son, and David thought of Roland as a father. Continuing teaching David privately saw David Foggie tested and promoted to Lakan Lima (5th degree) black belt) black belt) and given the title Ikalawang Guro. 2008 saw Chris Caprio testing and achieving the rank of Lakan Delewa (2nd degree black belt) by Grandmaster Roland.

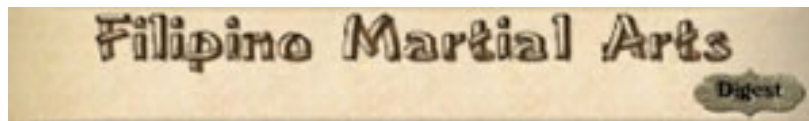
As a note, Grandmaster Roland Dantes officially named his system in 2004 when he promoted David Foggie and there are ONLY two certificates with the name of the system featured on them: those held by David Foggie and Chris Caprio. The name of the system was recorded in an interview Grandmaster Roland conducted and which will be published in magazines and on a memorial website being constructed. It has intentionally been kept back as it ensures pretenders are unable to come forward and lay claims on this great



man's legacy and top also differentiate the early students of Grandmaster Roland and the later ones who trained extensively and continually with him.

This has been confirmed by and is fully supported by members of Grandmaster Roland's family in Australia, Philippines, and the USA.

Contact David Foggie - **Click Here**



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