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Cory's Final Journey

More than 300,000 march from Manila Cathedral to Manila Memorial

by LOUIE JON A. SANCHEZ
AJPress Manila

MANILA—The heavens continued to mourn in her last journey. Thousands upon thousands of people braved the heavy rains and lined up Wednesday, August 5, to wait for the cortege of the late former President Cory Aquino along the routes leading to the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque City in Manila where she finally joined husband Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, Jr. As scheduled, the Requiem Mass for the former president ended at around 11am at the Manila Cathedral where her remains laid in state since August 3. After a very last response from the family delivered by youngest daughter and celebrity Kris Aquino-Yap, the family marched the president's remains out of the Cathedral for the burial. Concert King Martin Nievera and Songbird Regine Velasquez sang *The Prayer* during the entire duration of the departure.

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Former Philippine President Corazon "Cory" Aquino finally arrives at the Manila Memorial Park where she was laid to rest beside her husband, Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino last Wednesday, August 5. Inset photo shows Supporters light candles as the funeral cortege passes by. AJPress Photos by Andrew Tadalán

DATELINE USA

Highlights & Sidelights of GMA's trip to the US

RP sustains economic growth despite global recession, says GMA

NEW YORK—It was all about the economy, and during the numerous opportunities that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had to talk about it, she did.

From the White House to the Capitol, from Filipino community gatherings in Washington, DC to New Jersey, from interviews with Filipino media to CNBC's Maria Bartiromo, President Arroyo took pride in saying that the Philippines weathered a succession of global crises in fuel, food, finance and economy.

Two major events, however, overshadowed President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's trip to the United States: the

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RP gov't sees low turnout of OAV registrants

With less than four weeks before the registration deadline, the Philippine government is assuming it will enlist a much lower number of overseas Filipinos to participate in the May 2010 national elections.

As of July 30th, only 143,659 Filipinos have registered for overseas absentee voting (OAV), a recent report from the Philippine Information Agency showed.

The number is only a fifth of the government's goal of one million registrants for next year's election. It is also much lower than the 361,457 OAV registrants during the 2004 Philippine elections.

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said it is now hoping that the number of OAV registrants will total 200,000 before the registration deadline of August 31st.

But the Philippine Consulate General

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THE ASIAN JOURNAL AT OSMEÑA HIGHWAY AND QUIRINO AVE.

Aquino will always hold a place in the hearts of Filipinos

by ROCHELLE C. PANGILINAN
AJPress Manila

MANILA—The people who wanted to catch a glimpse of Cory Aquino's funeral procession started to gather at Osmeña Highway to Buendia Avenue, near Cash & Carry Supermarket, a few minutes before noon-time. These people braved the rains, which would pour torrentially one minute and stop the next, so they could see Cory's funeral cortege pass by on the way to Manila Memorial Park, where she will be buried beside her husband, former Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr. As we made our way to find a good spot, we saw most of the people, young and old alike, armed with their jackets and umbrellas, donning yellow shirts, emblazoned with either Cory's face, Cory's name or the mantra we have long associated with her and her husband Ninoy, "Di ka nag-iisa." A quick glance of the crowd and you will feel that that slogan truly rings true on this day.

At about 1pm, the crowd, which started light and barely noticeable, started to thicken, you can't help but wonder where they came from (perhaps even thinking that the country is indeed in dire need of population control). At a corner, a firetruck is on standby, with firemen holding up "Maraming Salamat Cory" posters, their radio tuned into an AM station where the announcer is providing every detail of this remarkable event. More and more people wearing yellow begin to line up the streets, practically marking their spots and patiently standing their ground amidst the rains, even though the funeral procession was a good two hours away from passing by. To pass the time away, some were texting away on their cellphones and others were munching on snacks, which probably were their lunch even. It was a good time for business for many of the vendors in the area who took advantage of the event to enjoy brisk sales of their



AJPress Photo by Andrew Tadalán

wares—a man was even selling yellow polka-dotted umbrellas. It was also a good time to share sentiments with others who have long been Cory followers and wanted to show their support for the former president, even up to her death.

Jocelyn Capino, has followed the life of Cory Aquino—from a simple housewife to the president of the country—ever since the assassination of Ninoy back in 1983. She joined the rally at EDSA, known around the world as the People Power Revolution, which eventually toppled the Ferdinand Marcos administration back in 1986. She is no stranger to the value of loyalty, having worked for the Treasurer's Office at the Manila City Hall for 25 years. Today, she proves how loyal she could be as she and her husband Jose chose to forego their lunch to go to Buendia Ave. as early as 1130am and wait for Cory's funeral cortege to pass by.

"I didn't think the crowd would get this big," she says, looking at the enormous crowd. "Sigurado ako mag-seselos ang ibang former presidents. *lisipin nila, ganito kaya karaming tao kapag namatay ako? Siguro nanaisin nila huwag muna sila mamatay!*" ("I'm sure other former presidents will get jealous now. They will think, would there be as many people when it's my time? They're probably wishing they won't die yet!") she jokes, providing

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A nation reunites for 'Icon of Democracy'

by MARIE ANGELI SYJUECO
AJPress Manila

MANILA—The Filipino nation is once again united as they were back on the streets to pay their last respects to the mother of the Philippine nation.

History could tell how former President Corazon Aquino had united the people in a fight for democracy. And in her lifetime she had done this not just once, at the EDSA People Power Revolution, but up to her death.

She had been a symbol of democracy. A widow and a mother who took up the courage to continue what her husband, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, had fought for. And when she became the first woman president of the Philippines, she became the mother to the entire Filipino nation.

It was raining, but this did not stop the people from flocking the streets just to witness what is to become a part of the Philippine history. The last time this happened was at the funeral of Cory's late husband, Ninoy. And truly, Cory, now a national hero herself, deserves this tribute.

At the LRT stations, the song *Tie a Yellow Ribbon* played endlessly, paying tribute to this day. It's a song closely identified to Cory during the People Power Revolution as a protest against the Marcos regime.

Everywhere, people wore yellow shirts, some even with Cory's face



AJPress Photo by Napoleon Laurel Jr.

printed on it and written was "We love Cory." Many others pinned yellow ribbons on their clothes, some were tied on cars, and even on the lamp post or trees on the streets.

This yellow ribbon was a symbol of waiting for a loved one. For the Filipinos, it is a symbol of waiting for freedom, for democracy and for peace.

At the Quirino station, there were a lot of policemen but they were not there to disperse ralliers. They were one

with their countrymen.

From the station the people waited and looked for a place to get a better look of the late president for one last time.

As early as 11am, the crowd started to thicken. And at the nearby fastfood restaurants, people had their early lunch as they waited for Cory's funeral procession to pass by. They watched the live telecast of the mass held at the Manila Cathedral on their phones and got emotional as Lea Salonga sang *Bayan Ko*.

Supporters stood under the rain and waited patiently, barely noticing the time that slowly passed by. There were both laughter and sadness in the crowd, and it was Cory who brought these people back together.

There was even the miracle of sharing as a couple gave away burgers to the multitudes of people waiting in the streets for the proces-

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Leaders From More Than One Thousand Buddhist Temple Associations, And Organizations Took The Exam To Become Masters Of Dharma-Listening Sessions

Second Ceremony to Confer the Title of Acarya & Master of Dharma-Listening Sessions

Administered by International Buddhism Sangha Association

第二屆阿闍黎及闍法上師授稱典禮

主辦單位：國際佛教僧尼總會

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