

Atty. ZOSIMO JESUS M. PAREDES II

Our next awardee is a Soldier, Lawyer, Legislator, Civil Servant, Teacher, Broadcaster, TV Host, and Servant Leader.

As legislator and civil servant, he has served in various capacities in the government. He was an Undersecretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Commissioner and Executive Director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement from 2004-2007. As a legislator, he worked in the committees on cultural minorities, domestic trade, national defense, security, and peace and order, tourism, youth and sports and trade and industry.

He also served as the Special Assistant to the Secretary, Legal Counsel, and Peace Program Officer, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), 1998-2003. In 1984, he decided to run for assemblyman of the *Batasang Pambansa* and won in his hometown in Ifugao in 1984-1986. Again in 2007, determined to make every Filipino a vehicle for social and political transformation and to translate into reality a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, he ran for senator under the banner of the *Ang Kapatiran* party.

He was the Deputy Minister (Undersecretary), Office of Muslim Affairs and Cultural Minorities (OMACC) from 1984-1986.

Known for wearing a long hair that not even GMA could make him cut short, he is in fact a true officer and a gentleman in his own right. He served as a military officer in the Philippine Constabulary and in the Armed Forces of the Philippines after having graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in 1971. From 1971 to 1984, he was the Assistant Provincial Commander & Legal Counsel, La Union Philippine Constabulary Provincial Command, and Commanding Officer of the 191st Philippine Constabulary Company among his many assignments in the military.

Our honoree graduated from the University of the Cordilleras College of Law, formerly Baguio Colleges Foundation in 1981, took the bar and started an illustrious law career the year after. As a practicing lawyer since then, he was a partner in several law firms including his own law offices in Manila and Quezon City.

He has been a member of the academe since 1992 and has taught law and government economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific and the Lyceum of the Philippines. He was the president of the Our Lady of Lourdes Academy in San Jose del Monte in Bulacan from 1992 to 1995.

Since January of this year, his cool and soothing voice can be heard over DZXQ 1350 KHZ AM Radio in his daily radio program "*Para sa Dios, Bayan at Sambayanan*". Since March 2005 he can be seen over Global Destiny Cable TV Channel 3 where he hosts the programs "Interactive" and "Talk News TV".

Our awardee took up graduate courses in economics at the School of Economics of the University of the Philippines, Diliman. He finished his Bachelor of Laws degree at the College of Law of the University of the Cordilleras formerly Baguio Colleges Foundation (BCF). He also got a Bachelor of Science degree at the Philippine Military Academy. He started off his college life at the University of the Philippines in Diliman in 1965 after receiving his high school diploma from Paco Catholic School.

He was the recipient of several fellowships from institutions in the United States including the East-West Fulbright-Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship on Public Administration that was jointly administered by Tufts University and Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts and another as Fellow of the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies, Senior Executive Course on Transnational Threats, Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S.A.

He is a member, organizer and trustee in many socio-civic organizations like the Rotary, the *Ang Kapatiran* party and Philippine National Prayer Breakfast Foundation, Inc.

Today, he goes around the country promoting his anti-corruption and anti-drug abuse advocacies that has brought him to all corners of the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future senator of the Philippines, Atty. Zosimo Jesus Paredes.

*Prepared and read by: Reynaldo A. Mones 1971
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