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**NONNOY MENDOZA, Editor & Publisher**

Mailing Address :

P.O. BOX 40068 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016 • U.S.A.  
OFFICE: (202) 370-6446 • FAX: (703) 465-8708

EMAIL: [nonnoymendoza@filamimage.com](mailto:nonnoymendoza@filamimage.com)

WEB SITE: <http://www.filamimage.com>



**TOFA 2008 AWARDEE .....**

## ***Levy Mendoza Paler of Norfolk, Virginia, Named As One Of The Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)***

**WASHINGTON, D.C., June 16 (PINOYGLOBAL) -** Levy Mendoza of Norfolk, Virginia, an outstanding community and project leader, is unanimously selected as one of the 2008 *Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)* by the TOFA Panel Board of Judges of the *Filipino Image Magazine (FILIM)* and the *Pinoy Global Online News (PGON)*, and the *Roxanne Andrea Mendoza Memorial Foundation (RAM)*. The TOFA was initiated in 1990 and the bio-data and photographs of the 340 Past TOFA Awardees are found 24/7 in the popular worldwide *PGON* web site: **[WWW.FILAMIMAGE.COM](http://WWW.FILAMIMAGE.COM)**.

The 3-day 15th annual event starts on Thurs., Sept. 11, 2008 with an informal get-together for the 2008 awardees; followed by on Friday with a VIP Luncheon at the hotel. At night is a reception at the Philippine Embassy. The following Saturday morning, a VIP Photo Opps at various historic spots, and a luncheon. At night is the formal prestigious Gala Banquet and Ball Award Ceremony; capped by the traditional Filipino breakfast immediately after the ball. All 2008 TOFA Awardees are Special Guests of Honor to all the activities. Guests wishing to attend any functions are asked to donate entrance fee. *As a tradition since 1990, net proceeds to all the TOFA functions are donated to charitable Filipino organizations.*

Levy Mendoza Paler, RN, MSN

*"In the beginning lies our journeys' end."* Kofi Annan

Levy is known to many in the Hampton Roads area as an outstanding nurse administrator and dedicated community leader. It was her father's dream that she goes to America. He passed on before his dream was realized.

Levy's life began in Taliba, San Luis, Batangas, as the oldest of eleven children. At an early age her father instilled in her love of GOD and family, the value of hard work, honesty and education as ingredients of a happy life. She began her childhood education at the Lady of Kaysasay Academy in Taal, Batangas where her Catholic faith took roots. The family moved to Mindoro during the third grade,



Levy Mendoza Paler, RN, MSN  
Norfolk, Virginia

where she attended Malinao and Borbocolon Elementary School and graduated valedictorian. She obtained a high school diploma from Oriental Mindoro High School in Calapan. It was during high school that she developed her leadership abilities as a Girl Scout platoon leader and as a representative to the Student Council. She competed in many contests and learned the ethics of competition at an early age. Levy holds a BS degree in Nursing from the University of Santo Tomas and a Masters degree in Nursing Administration from Hampton University at Hampton Virginia.

Levy is currently an Associate Chief Nurse at the Veteran Affairs Medical Center at Hampton Virginia and the Outpatient Community Clinic in Virginia Beach. She is the Clinical Director of the Care Coordination Home Telehealth Program focusing on the patient's use of technology at home to interact with the nursing staff. In these roles, Levy is directly responsible for the integration of all programs in Primary Care, Medical and Surgical Outpatient services. She oversees the functions of the organization, monitors and evaluates services related to customer satisfaction and systems to ensure access,

efficiency and quality care. She has the authority and responsibility to make decisions about health care services and organizational priorities within the Ambulatory Care areas. While her expectations are high and unyielding regarding nursing practice and patient care, she is a strong advocate for both patients and nurses. She believes in a direct but non-adversarial approach to problem resolution. She serves as mentor and preceptor to many graduate students at the local universities and serves as role model, advocate, coach, and teacher.

Levy was an Assistant Director at Norfolk General School of Professional Nursing and was responsible for curriculum planning and implementation of the Medical, Surgical, Psychiatric, Obstetrics, and Nursing Management components of the nursing program, including Tuition Aid for students.

Levy's appointment to the Virginia State Board of Nursing in 1994, as the first Filipino American to hold that prestigious position in the state, placed Filipino nurses on the map. It brought to the forefront the school diploma from Oriental Mindoro High School in Calapan. It was during high school that she developed her leadership abilities as a Girl Scout platoon leader and as a representative to the Student Council. She competed in many contests and learned the ethics of competition at an early age. Levy holds a BS degree in Nursing from the University of Santo Tomas and a Masters degree in Nursing Administration from Hampton University at Hampton Virginia.

**Levy was a recipient of many awards** locally and nationally. To name a few, the Nursing Excellence Award in Nursing Administration presented by the Philippine Nurses Association of America, Outstanding Member Award, Philippines Nurses Association of Hampton Roads, Board Of Nursing Service Award, University of Santo Thomas Distinguished Graduate Award, and many performance and achievement awards in the work setting.

Levy is a strong voice in the Hampton Roads Filipino American community. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of United Filipino Organizations of Tidewater, Chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and consultant to the Mrs. Philippines Contest. It is by her guidance that the Mrs. Philippines Contest continues to be productive in its fundraising efforts for the Philippine Cultural Center. She was president of the Philippine Nurses Association of Hampton Roads, the Batangas Association of Hampton Roads, and The Philippine American Community of Tidewater, Virginia. She is often seen in community functions either as a keynote speaker, nursing graduation speaker, mistress of ceremony, or a volunteer in fundraising activities to support victims of disaster in the US and the Philippines, as well as, health screening activities.

A cancer survivor for five years, she is grounded in her faith, goal-driven in her profession and focused on her family as a source of her strength. Levy shares her life with her husband, Bernie, three sons, two daughters-in-law, six grandchildren and ten brothers and sisters and their families. She and Bernie are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the twin granddaughters. Of her sons, Joselito was the recipient of the 2007 Recruiter of the Year Award from the Virginia Army National Guard; Eric is a manager for software development projects; and Tony owns Possible Solutions, an Engineering firm. Her daughters-in-law, Catherine and Julie, are nurses and were recipients of the Nursing Awards at Sentara Health Care Systems. Her two oldest grandchildren, Jazlynn and Kaylee, are honor students in their respective schools. Joshua, Dean, Keona and Celina are beginning to show great potentials.

If her father were here, he would say, "Good job. I am proud of you, my daughter." To which, Levy would reply, "You and mother taught me well."

#

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- Dante Raul Teodoro, New York City, New York
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- Edmundo Relucio, Coal City, Illinois
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*Levy Mendoza Paler*  
*Norfolk, Virginia*



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