

# SIKARAN SUPREMO TURNS 84

By: Emmanuel Querubin

Meliton C. Geronimo turned 84 on March 10, unfortunately he has not fully recovered from a bout with stroke he suffered a couple of years ago. He is reverently called Supremo (leader) or Grandmaster by Sikaran practitioners all over the world. He is also called by his military rank, which is Lt. Col. (PAF Ret.), or by his political and his silver screen moniker of Mayor Latigo.

A potluck party was held at his residence in Antipolo City, which also serves as the national headquarters of the World Sikaran Brotherhood. Several black belts from around the area led by Jimmy Geronimo, Chief Instructor of the World Sikaran Brotherhood and younger brother of the Supremo celebrated the Supremo's birthday. Among the visitors were seniors from Sikaran Pilipinas headed by ninth Degree Black Belt Emmanuel Querubin, who presented Meliton C. Geronimo complimentary copies of the book SIKARAN the Fighting Art of the Filipino Farmer and a specially made calendar featuring the Supremo. In



**Sikaran Supremo Meliton C. Geronimo turned 84.**



**From left: Emmanuel Querubin, Rodrigo Espiritu, Meliton C. Geronimo, Jimmy Geronimo, and Ramon Valdenor.**



**Sikaran Black Belts celebrated the Supremo's 84th birthday (he is seated next to Emmanuel Querubin in blue shirt) on March 10, 2011.**

addition, present to celebrate were Ramon Valdenor and Rodrigo Espiritu, both 8th Degree Black Belts. Other Black Belts who were on hand were Ernesto Millanes, Regional Director of NCR, Silvestre Monforte, Rommel Guivisis, Rodolfo Concepcion, Emily Samillano, Allan Villamor, Rogelio Zuniga, Auxilio Ello and many more. Leonila Pilar, Secretary of the World Sikaran Brotherhood brought munchies while Ramon Valdenor's catering service provided the main course.

Meliton C. Geronimo holds the distinction of being the only Filipino 10th Degree Red Belt in the Filipino Martial Art of Sikaran, a rank vested on him in 1966 by the now defunct Asian Karate Association, when the art was also known as Philippine Karate. This reference to Sikaran as Philippine Karate was completely dropped in 1972, after Meliton C. Geronimo resigned from the



**A meeting of the minds, Emmanuel Querubin and Supremo Meliton Geronimo.**

World Union of Karate-do Organizations (WUKO) which was formed in October 1970, at Tokyo, Japan and of which he is a signatory founder.

The Geronimo lineage is the only Sikaran progenitor that survived for more than 200 years to the present. Supremo Meliton Geronimo is the protégé of Cipriano Geronimo, Melencio Bigasin and Manuel Ocampo, the last Sikaran Haris of Baras.

In the 1960's, the Philippines garnered seven gold medals in the Asian Karate Championships under the leadership

of Meliton C. Geronimo.

After retirement from the Philippine Air Force, Meliton Geronimo run for Mayor of Baras, Rizal and served 4 terms. His first official edict as Mayor of Baras was to acknowledge Baras as the birthplace of Sikaran. An Executive Order to this effect was issued and was unanimously approved by both the Municipal and the Provincial Boards.

As part of this Executive Order, the seal of the World Sikaran Brotherhood and the term Baras, Home of Sikaran was adopted as an official part of the Municipal Letterhead. As far as it is known, the Municipality of Baras is the only official government agency anywhere in the world that honors the birthplace of a martial art and publicly displaying it on its letterhead. The Municipal Board has likewise designated the last Sunday of March as Sikaran Festival Day and has earmarked the logistical appropriation for the event. Presently underway is placing a monument of bronze of two Sikaran fighters exchanging biyakids in front of the Municipal Hall. The existing monument will be moved next to the main entrance to the gymnasium. Two new bronze boundary markers welcoming people to Baras with the words "Welcome to Baras, Home of Sikaran" are also being worked on to replace the old one erected more than 20 years ago. One marker will be facing Morong and the other facing Tanay. Funds are also being appropriated to pave the mountain road leading to the Sikaran Training Camp up in the mountain bordering Antipolo where the BBC series Last Man Standing was filmed.



**A toast for a longer, healthier life.**



For its part, the Rizal Provincial government has made Sikaran the most awaited event in its annual Palarong Pambansa (Provincial Athletic Meet).

**The Sikaran Gymnasium erected by the Municipality of Baras.**

### **OTHER PICTURES DURING THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**



**Black Belts performing Balangkas ng Agila led by Jimmy Geronimo.**