

LETTER TO GLADYS MENOR FROM Mr. AURELIO S. AGCAOILI thru email

Patgen a Manang Gladys,

Ala man ngarud ta yan-anosyo koma daytoy. Sika koma laengen ti agpirma kas presidente tapno no al-alisto. Yun-unakon ti agdios-ti-agngina gapu it ayat ken anosyo.

Ninto Apo a Namarsua laengen it mangsupsupapak kadakayo. Ipakaasik pay: pakibusonyo la koma ditoy nga adress:

1568 W. Carson Street # 8

Torrance, CA 90501

Agyaman ken siraraem,

Ariel

March 15, 2004

The United States Department of Homeland Security
Citizenship and Immigration Service
Laguna Niguel, California

Sirs:

**LETTER OF ATTESTATION IN SUPPORT OF THE APPLICATION OF DR.
AURELIO S. AGCAOILI FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY**

I am writing this Letter of Attestation in support of the application of Dr. Aurelio Solver Agcaoili, Ph.D. for permanent residency on the basis of his being an alien of extraordinary ability. I am also writing this Letter in my capacity as President of the Gumil Oahu, an affiliate of the GUMIL Filipinas, the international group of writers of Iluko, English, and Filipino based in the Philippines, the United States including Guam and Hawaii, and some other parts of the world. I am fully convinced that Dr. Agcaoili very well qualifies as an alien of extraordinary ability because of his numerous awards, his advanced degrees, his scholarship and researches, and his literary and artistic excellence.

As a long-time member of GUMIL Filipinas, and then eventually President of Gumil Oahu, I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Agcaoili as prolific writer writing in three languages: Iluko, Filipino, and English. The quality of his works in various genres can very well equal those of the pillars of Ilokano writing in the Philippines and abroad. I am aware of how critics have not taken his works lightly and as a critic himself, he knows that the standard of excellence that he demands of others is the same standard that he sets for himself.

I can only summarize what quality gift and talent he possesses as a writer and cultural leader. Even in the academic community where he is most at home, he is known to be an expert on Iluko and Filipino life in all its forms and substance. He has brought his studies on Filipino life to diverse audiences in the Philippines and abroad—a laudable act of someone who knows his trade as a writer and social analyst with a clear purpose in mind.

We know that he has garnered many of the most coveted awards in writing both in the United States and in the Philippines. In the United States, he has won two Editor's Choice Awards for his Outstanding Achievement in Poetry for his two poems on migrant life; these poems have also been selected for publication by the International Library of Poetry, the same organization that recognized his poetic vision and that has continued to bestow upon him the honor, with a finalist award for Poet of the Year 2004, and three other semi-finalist awards. I must note it here that these awards are contested by thousands all over the world and representing 50 countries.

In the Philippines, he has received the Centennial Literary Prize for the Novel (1998), the Palanca Memorial Literary Awards, the Cultural Center of the Philippines Award, the Belmonte Prize, the Gumil Filipinas and many other prizes and awards. All told, his creative talent has given him the right to be in the forefront of creative writing in the Philippines.

In the area of social analysis and research, we have followed the various monographs of Dr. Agcaoili on so many issues ranging from the arts to philosophy. He makes it sure that his researches are shared with other academics by his taking a lead in national conferences, in participating as paper reader in international conferences, in directing teachers institutes and workshops. All told, what we have is an individual with extraordinary gifts.

In his work with Gumil Filipinas, I have seen up close how he helped lead the organization by helping define its vision and mission and by setting up the model for its various conferences and workshops. He has, in a leadership role, helped put a concrete face to what cultural and heritage appreciation is all about especially among the younger generation and among non-Filipino audiences.

Because of the above, in my capacity as President of Gumil Oahu, I firmly believe that Dr. Agcaoili is deserving of the permanent residency on basis of his extraordinary ability. He has so much to offer to this country and to its people.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this Letter of Attestation.

Very truly yours,

Ms. Gladys Menor
President