Ilokano birthday song

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It is with great pleasure to participate in the commemoration of Howard McKaughan’s illustrious career. In celebration of such a momentous occasion, I thought it would be fitting to honor Howard with a popular Ilokano song, this being the first of many Philippine languages that Howard has studied (McKaughan & Forster 1952/1957). The following is what is normally sung in the Ilocos region to honor a celebrant’s birthday.¹ There are minor variations of the piece; the one I have chosen to portray here hails from Currimao, Ilocos Norte, with the addition of a final stanza.²

Padapadatayo nga agsisiragsak
a kumabaaw, mangipaduyakyak
ta nagtengngan ti aldaw
a pannakayanak ni Howard
a napuan gasat.

We all happily congratulate (you) and declare
as it’s the very day
Howard was born
filled with luck.

Balangat nga naurnos dagiti sabsabong
nga umaymi kenka isaad ta ulom.
Kasta met nga iyawatmi kenka
ti naindayawan unay a palma
tapno isu ti mangipakita ti
gragsakmi amin a sangapada.

A crown arranged with flowers
we come to place on your head.
And likewise hand you
an honorable palm (wreath)
to show
all our joy.

Sapay iti Dios ta ilayonna koma
ta salun-atmo, piam ken regtam
Ken ta singpetmo a nagpaiduma
nga ap-apalan dagiti kas kenka.

May God continue to bless
your health, wellbeing, and honesty
and your distinguished virtue
envied by your peers.

¹ Please refer to Rubino (2000) for a more detailed treatment of Ilokano morphology and syntax or for a collection of other Ilokano popular songs.
² The song is rendered in the official orthography, as standardized by weekly Bannawag magazine.

Glossing conventions used here are: 1, 2, 3: first, second, and third person (in pronouns); ADV: adverbial; ART: Core (non-oblique) article; AV: actor verb; CAUS: causative; COLLECT: collective; CONT: continuous/progressive; CV(C): consonant-vowel(-consonant) reduplication; DETR: detransitive; DV: directional verb; EXCL: exclusive (excluding addressee); GEN: genitive; INCL: inclusive (including addressee); LIG: ligature (constituent linker); MD: medial deictic (article referencing second person); NOMZ: nominalization; OBL: oblique; OPT: optative; P: plural (in pronouns); PA: personal article; PL: plural; POTEN: potentiial; RED: full reduplication; S: singular (in pronouns); STAT: stative; SUPER: superlative (degree intensifier); TV: theme verb.

Naragsak nga aldawmo
Good day to you
Aldaw a panagkasangay. on your birthday.
Naragsak nga aldawmo
Good day to you
Manayunan biagmo. (best wishes) for a longer life.

Interlinearized

Padapadatayo nga agsisiragsak
RED-pada=tyo nga ?ag-CVsi-ragsak
COLLECT-equal=1p.INCL LIG AV-ADV-happy
We all happily congratulate (you)

a kumablaaw, mangipaduyakyak
?a k<um>-ablaaw mang-?i-pa-duyakyak
LIG <AV>greet DETR-TV-CAUS-declare
and declare

ta nagtengngan ti aldaw
ta nag-tengnga=n ti ?aldaw
because SUPER-middle=ADV ART day
as it’s the very day

a pannakayanak ni Howard
?a pan-naka-y-anak ni nagan
LIG NOMZ-POTEN-TV-born PA name
Howard was born

a napnuan gasat.
?a na-punno-an gasat
LIG STAT-full-STAT luck
filled with luck.

Balangat nga naurnos dagiti sabsabong
balangat nga na-?urnos dagiti CVC-sabong
crown LIG STAT-arrange PL PL-flower
A crown arranged with flowers

nga umaymi kenka isaad ta ulom.
nga ?<um>ay=mi kenka ?i-saad ta ?ulo=m
LIG <AV>come=1p.EXCL 2s.OBL TV-set MD head=2s.GEN
We come to place on your head.

Kasta met nga iyawatmi kenka
kasta met nga ?i-y-awat=mi kenka
like.that also LIG TV-get=1p.EXCL 2s.OBL
And likewise hand you

ti naindayawan unay a palma
ti nain-dayaw-an ?unay ?a palma
ART SUPER-honor-STAT very LIG palm
an honorable palm (wreath)
tapno isu ti mangipakita ti
tapno ?isu ti mang-?i-pa-kita ti
so 3s ART DETR-TV-CAUS-see ART
to show

ragragsakmi amin a sangapada.
CVC-ragsak=mi ?amin ?a sanga-pada
PL-happy=1p.EXCL all LIG one-equal/all
all our joy.

Sapay iti dios ta ilayonna koma.
sapay ?iti dios ta ?i-layon=na koma
OPT OBL god LIG TV-continue=3s.GEN OPT
May God continue to bless

ta salun-atmo, piam ken regtam.
ta salun?at=mo pia=m ken regta=m
MD health=2s.GEN well.being=2s.GEN and honesty=2s.GEN
your health, well being, and honesty.

Ken ta singpetmo a nagpaiduma
ken ta singpet=mo ?a nag-pa-?i-duma
and MD virtue=2s.GEN LIG AV-CAUS-TV-unique
And your distinguished virtue

nga ap-apalan dagiti kas kenka.
nga CVC-?apal-an dagiti kas kenka
LIG CONT-envy-DV PL like 2s.OBL
envied by your peers.

Naragsak nga aldawmo
na-ragsak nga ?aldaw=mo
STAT-happy LIG day=2s.GEN
Good day to you

aldaw a panagkasangay.
?aaldaw ?a pan-ag-kasangay
day LIG NOMZ-AV-birthday
on your birthday.

Naragsak nga aldawmo
na-ragsak nga ?aldaw=mo
STAT-happy LIG day=2s.GEN
Good day to you

manayunan biagmo.
ma-nayun-an biag=mo
STAT-add-STAT life=2s.GEN
(best wishes) for a longer life.
References
