

## National President Larry Pangan Dies Suddenly



Photo: David Rosen

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Philippine Scouts Heritage Society President Larry Pangan passed away suddenly on November 18, 2004. Larry was one of the founders of the Society and served for many years in various capacities in the Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter and at the national level. In 2002 he became National President and held that post until his sudden passing. His stewardship was notable for the support he gave successor generation members as they began to take over leadership positions. He also was supportive of efforts by this new leadership to standardize and make more businesslike the policies and practices of the Society.

Larry was born in Arayat, Pampanga, but moved to Manila in 1938 to attend a business college. He joined the Philippine Scouts in March 1941 and was assigned to the 57th Infantry Regiment. Larry survived the Bataan Death March and incarceration at the infamous Camp O'Donnell. Although seriously ill with malaria, dysentery, beriberi and malnutrition, he was able to escape. Upon regaining his health, Larry joined an American-led guerrilla group in central Luzon. For his combat service in WWII he was awarded the Bronze Star and several other medals. He later would receive a second Bronze Star for his service in the Korean War. Larry retired from the U.S. Army in 1961 and became very active in various veterans' organizations.

Larry's wife Lucina predeceased him in 1995. He is survived by his nine children, Angelita, Esther, Manual, Ofelia, Zeniada, Rosemary, Patrick, David and Ricky, 10 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, and his companion of many years, Lourdes Escala.

His sudden death is a terrible loss to his family, his many friends and to all of us who came to know him over his years of service dedicated to preserving the memory and heritage of that legendary group of fighting men, the Philippine Scouts. His family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent to the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

### In Memoriam Funds

In Memoriam funds have been established for both Larry Pangan and BG Royal Reynolds. To date over \$1000 has been contributed to each fund. Contributors include Brian Burn, the Guiang Family, Maj. Fred Foz, Ron Alivia, Paul Bolton, Jess Okialda, the Warren Family, David Tejada, Joseph Catalucci, Gloria Lugos, Mike Houlahan, Col. Mel Rosen, Col. John Olson, Col. Nichol Galbraith, Andrea Hatamosa, Sen. John Patterson and Gloria Plante. Those wishing to contribute should make their check payable to PSHS, indicate which fund is the recipient and mail to PSHS Treasurer Nora Warren, 92 Russell Drive, Antioch, CA 94509.

# Editor's Comments

The sad news of National President Larry Pangan's sudden passing came as a shock to all of us. Larry distinguished himself as a father, husband and friend, as well as through the important leadership role he played within the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. He was one of a small group, most of them also former Scouts, who founded our Society in 1989. An *in memoriam* piece on Larry is the lead article in this newsletter.

Our Twenty-first reunion will take place at the <u>Radisson Villa Hotel in San</u> <u>Mateo on Friday and Saturday, May 27-</u> <u>28</u>. A reunion registration form is elsewhere in this newsletter.

Program highlights of the weekend will be the keynote address of the Honorable Rowena Sanchez, newly-arrived Philippine Consul General in San Francisco, and a book presentation and signing by Chris Schaefer, whose just-published <u>Bataan Diary</u> is reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

During the business meeting portion of this gathering, we will discuss how best to memorialize our two deceased National Presidents, Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr. and Larry Pangan. Already over \$1,000 each has been raised for this purpose.

We also will be asked to ratify amended national bylaws which incorporate the recommendations of the <u>Financial</u> and <u>Management Review Committee</u>, which were approved overwhelming by the Board of Officers last May. (The report and its recommendations were printed in our last newsletter.) The amended bylaws incorporate those recommendations intended to further discourage the questionable activities and expenditures that sometimes took place during recent years. As we broaden our membership and raise money for the Society, it is crucial that our financial affaires are well documented and transparent, and that an effective system of fiscal and administrative checks and balances is operating.

Finally, an election will be held to fill three-year terms for the President's, Treasurer's and Historian's positions. The National's candidates for these positions are respectively Fred Foz, Nora Warren and Col. John Olson.

Winnie and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our May reunion!

mike\_

Mike Houlahan, Editor

#### Advertising Rates

Our newsletter advertising rates are as follows:

Full page:\$100Half page:\$55Quarter page:\$30Business card:\$15

Our current circulation is slightly over 500 copies per issue. For advertising placement or additional information, please contact newsletter editor Mike Houlahan through our website or at:

J. M. Houlahan Editor, PSHS Newsletter 6774 Lakeside Circle West Worthington, OH 43085

## Newsletter

#### Donations & Subscriptions

Our Philippine Scouts Heritage Society newsletter fund already has received generous donations totaling over \$1000 from the following eleven individuals: Malcolm Decker, Col. Mel Rosen, Sen. John Patterson, Col. John Olson, Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey, Ed Lawton, Major Fred Foz, Lt. Joe Aquino, Chris Schaefer, Felipe Fernandez and MSG Michael Woods. Thank you gentlemen!

Annual subscription may be obtained by non-members for \$4.00 and overseas subscribers for \$5.50. Electronic subscriptions are available for \$2. Donation and subscription checks should be made out to the "PSHS" and mailed to the address listed below:

J. M. Houlahan Editor, PSHS Newsletter 6774 Lakeside Circle West Worthington, OH 43085

# National President's Letter

The sudden death of the Society's President, Larry Pangan, was a shock and very, very sad for us all. He was a wonderful and loyal friend.

Larry's leadership of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society was marked by initiative, energy and enthusiasm. Among his many activities, Larry led the effort to bring the "next generations" into the Society so that the Scouts' legacy would live on.

When facing difficult situations, Larry didn't get angry, he became determined. Yet, he was always gentle and kind, helpful and encouraging. He conveyed satisfaction and happiness by his smile and the twinkle in his eyes.

I attended the funeral on behalf of the Society on November 28, 2004, along with many others from the Society and had the honor to speak at his service. There was sadness, of course, but laughter too as his children and grandchildren told stories about Larry that were heartfelt and, at times, characterized by great joy at having known this fine man.

Larry Pangan was a true friend and outstanding leader. He will be sorely Pangan approved Articles of Associamissed. We share our sorrow with the family of this remarkable man.

#### Larry's Legacy

Larry would want us to carry on with our efforts to preserve the history, heritage and legacy of the Philippine Scouts. The best way to do so is to remember his activism, especially in bringing in to the Society the "Next Generations"-the sons, daughters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and all others interested in remembering these outstanding warriors.

Various individuals have contributed funds in Larry's name which have been put aside pending our next annual meeting/reunion in San Mateo May 27 & 28, 2005. At that time the Society will decide on a proper memorial for Larry and General Reynolds as well. We welcome suggestions on what would be appropriate memorials for these fallen leaders of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society.

Those wishing to donate towards memorials for either of these men should send a check made out to "PSHS" to National Treasurer Nora Warren, whose address is on the final page of this newsletter.

#### **Future Business**

Shortly before his death, President tion which will be presented to the membership at our meeting in May.

These Articles are required as we discuss our tax exempt status with the IRS. In addition, the Society has successfully filed for incorporation with the State



John A. Patterson, Interim PSHS President Photo: David Rosen

of Rhode Island as a non-profit organization.

These items will all be discussed at the annual meeting/reunion in May.



John Patterson **PSHS** Interim President

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# Book Review: Bataan Diary by Chris Schaefer

Reviewed by J. Michael Houlahan

Schaefer, Chris. *Bataan Diary: An American Family in World War II, 1941-1945*. Riverview Publishing, Houston, Texas, 2004. Pp. 434, incl. 60 pp. endnotes, extensive bibliography and index, as well as 5 maps and 12 pp. of photos. ISBN: 0-9761084-0-2. SRP: \$14.95, paperback available through either www.bataandiary.com or amazon.com.

Chris Schaefer's extremely readable <u>Bataan Diary: An American Family in</u> <u>World War II, 1941-1945</u> is a well-documented story of resistance and survival during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines.

Built around the World War II diaries kept by Major Frank R. Loyd and his wife, Evelyn, the book chronicles the difficult struggle of Frank Loyd, halfstarved and seriously ill, sheltering in a series of jungle hideouts. Then, as Mac-Arthur's return approaches, he joins the guerrilla war.

Another dimension is added by an occasional chapter detailing the stateside fears and frustrations of Evelyn, not knowing if her husband was still alive, while she immerses herself in supporting the war effort.

However, the book is more than the combined diaries of the Loyds. It also examines the larger war effort in the

It has been two and a half years since our Philippine Scouts Heritage Society **website** was launched and the number of visitors continues to escalate and will soon total 9,000.

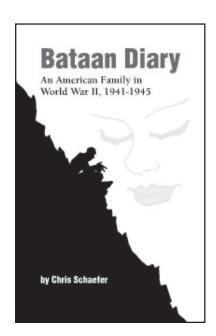
Our **message board**, where visitors can post information and opinion on various subjects relating to the Philippine Scouts, is also well launched with over 350 entries on about 130 subjects. You are invited to visit the PSHS website and share your own thoughts or questions: **www.philippine-scouts.org**  Pacific and the involvement of other Americans and Filipinos, many of them Philippine Scouts, in the anti-Japanese guerrilla movement on Luzon. It contains interesting information on commando infiltration teams, both Filipino and American, sent in by submarine to help shore up the resistance movement. It also examines in some detail prison camp conditions and the brutal counter intelligence activities of the dread Japanese *Kempei-tai*.

The book begins with the idyllic tropical existence of the Loyds during nearly a year and a half of pampered and languid duty in peacetime Manila. He was Provost Marshall at Fort McKinley and she taught fourth grade at the base school. American officers in this peacetime army worked half days and spent their evenings socializing with other military families. Training of the Philippine Army also proceeded at a leisurely pace, which would have important ramifications when war broke out.

### Website News

We continue to welcome **queries** concerning former Scouts or **answers** to questions posted on the Message Board or Exchange page. We also will consider appropriate and **original short articles or vignettes** for posting on our website or including in our newsletter.

The website also is useful for **research** purposes. The exchanges page lists research projects and requests, and contains a bibliography of books and articles on the Philippine Scouts and on World War II in the Philippines.



As U.S.-Japanese relations deteriorated in the summer of 1941, this colonial idle ended as military families, including Evelyn and the two children, were sent back to the United States. In late

See Bataan Diary Page 6

The Resources page has links to other websites containing useful information and to U.S. government sources of information on former Scouts and on benefits available to them.

Thank you for your support!

Christa Houlahan Webmaster

## Notes from Bilibid Prison

Capt. Charles T. "Charlie" Brown, M.D. was stationed at Ft. McKinley before WWII. He served on Bataan in the 12<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion (PS) and was assigned to the 14th Regiment of Engineers (PS). Capt. Brown was liberated from Bilibid Prison in 1945. The following slightly edited story was contributed by Mary P. Wood, whose father, Capt. Joseph F. Peters, M.D., serving in the 12<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion (PS), Headquarters Company, was a friend of Brown's. Editor

Dad knew Dr. Brown and the funniest thing happened about five months ago [March 2004]. A man named Blair Howell, called and told me this story: He was at an estate sale in San Antonio and bought a good looking brief case with a \$4.00 price tag. Inside he found extensive hand written notes of Capt. Charles T. Brown from a POW camp. There were the poems he used to write "Bars from Bilibid" published in 1947. The poetry is written on scraps of paper, many of

which have orders from China and some dated as early as 1933. There were a few pictures, too. Mr. Howell, a young timeshare salesman, said he wanted some names of former POWs who might have known Dr. Brown. He made several calls and named it the "CTB Collection" and said he wanted to publish or make some money from it. He wanted my help, but I mentioned giving it to a museum because I would think it a treasure. He called me again about three months

ago [roughly in May 2004] and said Sotheby's Auction House had given him a possible sales price quote of \$18,000. to \$20,000. I havent heard anything since, so a few days ago [in Augusts] I sent him an e-mail and inquired if he had sold it. To date I've received no answer. Anyway, I guess Dr Brown's family is gone and all those precious papers went to a garage sale and possibly now to an auction.



#### Bataan Diary From Page 4

July, the Japanese invaded French Indo China and the U.S., Britain and the Netherlands embargoed all trade with Japan, cutting off the flow of oil, rubber and other strategic material needed by the Japanese to sustain their conquest of China. War now appeared inevitable.

Shortly following the devastating Japanese surprise air assaults on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines in early December, a Japanese invasion force landed on Luzon and forced the Filipino and American troops back to defensive positions on Bataan and Corregidor. When Bataan surrendered in early April, Major Loyd was among the small group of American and Filipino military men who escaped to nearby mountains and jungles. Most of these men, including Frank Lovd, spent many months surviving at a subsistence level thanks to the courageous generosity of the local Filipino population.

Eventually Frank and many others would join guerrilla groups, the nucleus of which was organized by American officers put in place by General Mac-Arthur before the surrender. Most of these guerrilla leaders and about half of the 400 Americans who joined them would not survive the war.

In recounting the failures and successes of these guerrilla units, Schaefer also examines the indigenous civilian intelligence network in Manila, which consisted predominantly of upper class Filipinos. Many of these civilian patriots also did not survive the war, as the Japanese successfully infiltrated the movement.

Another interesting feature of the book is a description of the infighting among the various guerrilla leaders, as they vied to assert command over each other and to expand their geographic sway. Although largely ego-driven, this also was the result of a need to claim scant resources in manpower and civilian support. Further complicating the resistance mix, were the Communist-led Hukbalahap, who, when not fighting the Japanese, often clashed violently with American-led guerrilla groups.

Despite the burdens of hunger, disease, scarce resources, infighting and the depredations of the Japanese, sufficient guerrilla forces were mobilized and trained to form a very useful auxiliary force when MacArthur returned to liberate the Philippines. An important component of these guerrilla groups was the Philippine Scouts, superbly-trained Filipino soldiers who comprised the majority of the regular U.S. Army's infantry and cavalry troops in the Philippines. (The Scouts should not be confused with the Philippine Army troops, who were mostly conscripts and not nearly as well trained.) Rallying to the cause in large numbers, the Scouts were crucial in the training of other Filipinos in guerrilla warfare. The Scouts themselves proved as adept at guerrilla warfare as they had been in their heroic defense of Bataan and Corregidor during the early months of the war.

An attractive feature of the book is its map collection which helps the reader visualize where the action took place. Indeed, with its maps, bibliography, extensive endnotes, and lengthy index, this book is a useful reference tool for more serious students of World War II guerrilla warfare on Luzon. As such it is an excellent companion volume to Malcolm Decker's On a Mountainside, reviewed in our last newsletter.

Note: Among the Philippine Scouts mentioned in the book are Capt. Joseph Barker, Lt. Col. Peter Calyer, Sgt. Esposito, Col. John Horan, Maj. Harold Johnson, Lt. Robert Lapham, Lt. Felipe Maningo, Lt. Col. Narcisco Manzano, Col. Gyles Merrill, Lt. Col. Martin Moses, Capt. Guillermo Nakar, Lt. Col. Arthur "Maxie" Noble, Capt. John E. Olson, , Sgt. Marcelo Peralta, Capt. Ralph Praeger, Lt. Edwin Ramsey, Major Royal Reynolds, Lt. Col. Claude Thorp, Lt. Col. Ovid O. "Zero" Wilson, Lt. Col. Edgar Wright, Jr. and Pvt. Samuel Zozabrado. (The ranks ascribed to these men are those they held in 1942.)

## Oral History Offer from Paul Ruiz

Larry Pangan's passing drove home the point that the Scout numbers are dwindling and in a few more years, may be no more. My father, an ex-Scout, died 13 years ago and not only did I lose a tremendous friend, but a wonderful resource about a part of history that in many respects has been long forgotten and not given its due recognition. Ten

years ago, I began a project regarding the history of the Scouts, which included personal interviews. With Larry's passing, I am recommitting myself to someone you know would be interested this project, and would like to extend the in participating in this project, please invitation to any available Scouts, as well as their families, to speak with me either in person or by phone. I am a member of the Golden Gate Bay Area

Chapter, and located in the San Francisco area. I can best be contacted by email: akbar8@pacbell.net. If you or contact me and I can discuss particulars further with you. Thank you, and happy New Year. Paul Ruiz.

# Scout Information Exchange

Due to the heavy volume of queries concerning former or possible Philippine Scouts, we now only list individual names and units in the newsletter. For more details check the Message Board on our website at **www.philippine-scouts.org**. Please place any information on these men directly on our Message board or mail information directly to the newsletter editor.

Lt. Col. Bienvenido Mobo Alba, survived war and commanded 5<sup>th</sup> Military Police BN (PS) post-war.

**Capt. William C. Anderson, Jr., 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS),** died 1/20/45 on a Japanese "Hell Ship".

Major Ernest L. Brown, 57th Infantry (PS).

**Col. Nemesio Catalan** from Los Banos, Laguna was Chief of Staff in the **21<sup>st</sup> Division, PA**, so almost certainly wasn't a Scout.

Capt. Pedro Dagucon (10/22/16-6/7/87).

Capt. Ira L. Davis, Signal Corps Officer.

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Louis Nathaniel Dosh, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS), died on 1/20/45 when the Japanese "Hell Ship" transporting him to Japan was sunk.

Ramon Velasco Estevanez, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS), died as POW.

PFC Alfonzo Fontanos, 12th Medical Regiment (PS).

**Col. Abraham Garfinkel,** enlisted in early 1900s, survived POW camp.

Lt. Marvin Ramos Hill, 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS), (1940-46).

Ira Levy, unit unknown and may not have been a Scout.

Lt. Col. Gyles Merrill, 26th Cavalry (PS).

Facundo Penaflorida Morandarte, Buhi, Camarines Sur.

Restituto Navarro.

Marcos Obana.

Antonio G. Pagsibigan, 57th Infantry (PS), who became an officer as a guerrilla.

**Pvt. David Pallingayan,** probably in a "New" Scout Ordinance Company on Okinawa (8/29/46-2/9/49).

SSgt. Alejo Saguing, 12<sup>th</sup> Medical Regiment (PS).

**Ramon Velasco, 57<sup>th</sup> Infantry**, died as POW at Camp O'Donnell on 6/23/42.

**Fort Sam Houston Museum:** Further information is available on the Philippine Scouts at the Fort Sam Houston Museum website (<u>http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc</u>). The portion of this site devoted to the Scouts is available by clicking on "Did You Know?" (<u>http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc/philp\_scouts.html</u>). The Museum, located on a U.S. Army base in San Antonio, Texas, is the official USG repository for Philippine Scout memorabilia.

We also are interested in photos and information on the military experiences of former Philippine Scouts, which will be added to our library archives. Short articles on the exploits of individual Scouts or Scout units may be printed in our newsletter or on our website. Material may be submitted by e-mail or through the postal service to Mike Houlahan, our Public Relations Officer and Newsletter Editor whose address appears on the final page of this newsletter.

While the PSHS is pleased to assist where possible in obtaining information on former and deceased Philippine Scouts, our archives are not extensive. More complete information often can be acquired through the Department of Verterans Affairs.

To obtain a request form, please call your County Veterans Service Office or the national VA at **(800) 827-1000** and ask for VA Form 180 (Request Pertaining to Military Records). This form is also available on the VA website: **www.va.gov**.

You also may be able to get a copy of your relative's military records by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Road St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Other information of possible interest includes: Fact sheet for VA Benefits for Filipino Soldiers http://www.va.gov/pressrel/filipvet.htm

Veterans Benefits & Services for New Philippine Scouts http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/foreign/scouts.htm

It is with a great deal of sadness that we report the following members passing:

Lifetime member of the GGBAC. Juanito Dalisay died peacefully on January 3, 2005 in Alameda, California. He was 90. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Maria Bergantinos Dalisay, his children Lucy Dalisay Jackson, Marilyn Godfrey, John Dalisay, Cynthia Marvar, Michael Dalisay, and Jane Kirkman, as well as eight grandchildren. A native of Rosales, Pangasinan, Philippines, Juanito was proud to have served in the US Army from 1941-1965. He survived the Bataan Death March during WWII and POW camp.

Long-time PSHS member Clinton Samuel Jennings died peacefully in San Francisco on October 28, 2004. Clint was born in Long Beach, California in December 1919. He served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1937-39. In 1941 he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was shipped to the Philippines. Captured by the Japanese, he spent 31/2 years as a POW in the Philippines and Japan. He retired after 25 years in the Army on a Friday in 1965, and then worked at the Bank of America. He retired again in 1985. He is survived by his wife of 34 years Esther; daughters Andrea Mains and Margaret Cruz and several grandchildren. Besides the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, Clint was a member of American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor; Ex-Prisoners of War; The Great War Society; The Retired Officers Assn. and the Reserve Officers Assn. and several other civic and fraternal organizations.

Mario Mocorro, brother of the late first President of the Tacoma Chapter. Mark Mocorro, died in November 2004. He was 74 years old. As his wife Ruth preceded him, his closest surviving family member is his sister, Anita Mocorro,

# In Memoriam

from Seattle. Mario was a life member of the Chapter, which he joined to honor his brother Mark.

Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter Lifetime member Probo P. Pansov, 92, passed away on October 1, 2004. He was preceded in death by Maria A. Pansoy, his wife of 54 years. He leaves behind his children Fernando, Lazaro, Robert, Condrada, Josephina, Rosario, Paul, Maria Victoria, Maria Elizabeth and Christopher; 20 grandchildren; and 18 great grandchildren. A native of the Philippines, Probo joined the HQ Company, 2nd Battalian, 24th Field Artillery (PS) November 4, 1934 and survived heavy combat and prison camp during WWII. He remained in the post-war U.S. Army and retired after 30 years of service. Mr. Pansoy and his wife spent over 50 years in Albany, California, where they raised their family. He was a member of Bohol Circle, Santo Nino de Cebu, Damas Philippinas and the Knights of Columbus. His love of music led him to join a band in his 70s and 80s in which he sang, and played piano and guitar.

Colonel Morris Loeb Shoss. a former Philippine Scout, was born April 10, 1915 in Houston, Texas and passed

A 1940 gradu-



the Philippine Islands, where he served as Executive Officer of Battery C, 91st Coast Artillery (PS), charged with the defense of the Manila and Subic Bay regions. After the surrender, he survived prison camp and the torpedoing of the prison ship transporting him to Japan. He managed to swim ashore from the sinking vessel, was rescued by Filipinos and eventually evacuated by submarine. He retired from the U.S. Army following a distinguished thirty year career. His medals and commendations, include, among others, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts, one with Oak Leaf Cluster, and two Bronze Stars. one with Valor.

Following his military career, Morris joined the faculty of San Antonio College as chair of the Technical Mathematics Program, where he taught for more than a decade.

Col. Shoss is survived by his son, Dr. Robert G. Shoss of Albany, New York, and daughter and son-in-law, Maurie Lynn and Paul Haas of McAllen, Texas, several grandchildren and a great grandson, as well as many other friends and relatives.

Larry Pangan, 57th Infantry Regiment (PS). Please see front page article.

Carlos Yap passed away peacefully in the presence of Rose, his wife of 49 years, on September 21, 2004. Born in Pototan, Iloilo, Philippines May 15, 1922, Carlos enlisted in the Philippine Scouts with one of his younger brothers in 1941 and served with the 12th Quartermaster, which was attached to "B" Company 91st Coast Artillery (PS) on Corregidor. After the surrender, he was a POW in the same camp where his younger brother died a month earlier.

After the war he continued his military service with the U.S. Army and retired in 1961. He and Rose permanently settled in Tacoma, Washington, where he worked for the Boeing Company. Carlos, was a life member of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, Tacoma Chapter.

Carlos is survived by his wife, Mrs. Rose Yap of Tacoma, Washington, as well as four children, fourteen grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Monterey County Chapter: Eighteen members were present at the June meeting when Chapter President Greg Ramos reported on the annual reunion of the PSHS at San Mateo. Nine chapter members attended the national reunion.

In October the chapter celebrated the Philippine Scouts Organization day and Veterans Day (as there was no meeting in November). In addition to chapter members, there were 6 Philippine Scout widows who attended. Members representing different organizations came forward and lighted candles to honor our departed brethren. The final business meeting of the year was held in early December. During the meeting Chapter President Greg Ramos discussed CRSC (Combat related Special Compensation) and passed out application forms for this benefit. There also was an explanation given for disparities in compensation between U.S. Army soldiers and Philippine Scouts during WWII. This sparked a spirited discussion. (This disparity was removed when Scouts joined non-Scout units following the war.) An election was held, which returned the incumbent slate of officers. The evening ended with a Christmas party, which attracted 37, including family members and guests. (This report was submitted by Chapter *Vice President* **Filipe Fernandez**.)

**Captain Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter:** In October, the Tacoma chapter placed the Philippine Scout poster exhibit at Pierce College in celebration of World War II week.

In early November Chapter President Jose (Joe) Calugas, Jr. was a guest of LTG Edward Soriano at the General's change of command ceremony. General Soriano, the son of a Philippine Scout, was the first Filipino general in the U.S. Army and remains its highest ranking Filipino officer. He now is retired to Colorado Springs.

# **Chapter News**

The Chapter celebrated Veterans Day in a ceremony at Mountain View Memorial Park in Tacoma and had a Christmas potluck in mid-December.

The Chapter has added ten new lifetime members in 2004, which brings their total to forty, all lifetime members. Sadly, the Chapter also lost two longtime members when **Carlos Yap\*** and **Mario Mocorro\*** passed away in September and November respectively.

Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter: Already Chapter President Cion Rael and her team are busy organizing our 2005 reunion. Many Chapter members turned out for the memorial service for National President and long-time Chapter activist Larry Pangan\*. Interim National President John Patterson was one of several speakers delivering eulogies at his funeral. Other GGBAC members who passed away this fall are Juanito Dalisay\*, Clinton Samuel Jennings\* and Probo P. Pansoy\*. The oldest GGBAC lifetime member is **Juan Fontanilla** who is 93 years old. The Chapter has identified 30 surviving Philippine Scout members, most of whom are no longer active participants in Chapter activities.

LTC Lloyd E. Mills Chapter: Felix Azur of Long Beach is the new Chapter President. He is attempting to reactivate the chapter.

General John J. Pershing Chapter (El Paso): Colonel Morris Loeb Shoss\* died in August. No chapter activities were reported.

**Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Chapter:** No activities reported.

\* See front page and **In Memoriam** page for obituaries.



Tacoma Chapter: L to R Camilo Rameriz; Lauro Villagracia, Sr.; Arturo Garcia, son of Lt. Bonifacio Garcia, Commander "L" Co. 45th Infantry (PS); Dan Figuracion, 26th Cavalry (PS). Arturo Garcia is wearing a Philippine Scout uniform (circa 1904).

## **Member Activities**

An important objective of this newsletter is the encouragement of our members to raise public awareness of the proud patriotic legacy of the Philippine Scouts. Examples of member's efforts to accomplish this over the last six months follow:

Interim National President John Patterson spoke for the Society at the funeral of National President Larry Pangan, whose obituary appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Senator Patterson also registered the Society in Rhode Island and crafted <u>Articles of</u> <u>Association</u> to secure nonprofit status with the IRS thereby enabling donations to the PSHS to be tax deductible. Hopefully the results of this will be known for our next reunion.

John continues to serve as liaison with the <u>West Point Museum</u> housing a book and memorabilia collection honoring his uncle, Philippine Scout Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Alexander Ramsey Nininger, Jr. He recently donated another sixteen books to the collection.

National Second Vice President Menandro Parazo appeared at several military events and awards ceremonies.

Tacoma Chapter President Joe Calugas' and GGBAC Chapter President Cion Rael's activities are detailed in their chapter reports.

Fort Sam Houston Museum Director John Manguso continues to provide our chapters additional copies of the excellent twelve-panel <u>Philippine Scout exhibit</u> his museum developed. A copy of this exhibit it was also sent to the *U.S. Embassy in Manila*. He is producing a panel depicting the two memorial plaques we donated to the museum. The Museum website (http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/rlbc) currently features "A Soldier's Christmas."

The Museum just successfully completed its periodic certification inspection by the Army Center of Military History.

Lt. Col. William Meder donated a Philippine Scout campaign hat to the

Fort Sam Houston Museum. (A photo of the hat, which belonged to his father, **Captain Leland Grant Meder**, can be seen on our PSHS website.) **Capt. Meder**, a dentist, served in the **12th Medical Regiment (PS)** in the period between the World Wars. He retired in 1960 as a Colonel. **Major Fred Foz** also donated a **45<sup>th</sup> Infantry (PS)** regimental crest to the museum.

Malcolm Decker's excellent book On a Mountainside: The 155th Provisional Guerrilla Battalion Against the Japanese on Luzon was published by Barbed Wire Publishing last spring. A review of his book, carried in our last newsletter. can be found on the PSHS website. The book is available through the Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites and directly from the publisher. Malcolm has held a series of book signings and spoke on the book at the10th National Conference of the Filipino American National Historical Society in St. Louis last July, as well as at our last national convention. He also has had several radio interviews and newspaper articles on the book. By the time this newsletter goes to press, sales will have gone well past 600 copies.

ne Scout exhibit<br/>hisChris Schaefer<br/>also has justA copy of this exhib-<br/>launched his bookBataan Diary: An<br/>Bataan Diary: An<br/>American Family in World War II,<br/>1941-1945 released by Riverview Pub-<br/>lishing. He has held fifteen book sign-<br/>ings/presentations and initial sales are<br/>encouraging. The book, reviewed else-<br/>where in this newsletter, is highly rec-<br/>ommended. Chris's website at<br/>(www.bataandiary.com) is interesting<br/>and worth a visit. The book is avail-<br/>able through the Amazon and Barnes<br/>and Noble websites and directly from<br/>the publisher.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Aniceto Bagley has placed one set of the Philippine Scout poster display with the *Philippine-American Association of Alabama* and a second at the local <u>Veterans</u> <u>Memorial Museum</u> in memory of Major Eriberto Caranto, a former Scout.

On Veterans Day Lt. Col. Ed Ramsey and wife Raquel were in La Jolla, California at the Mt. Soledad Memorial, representing WWII Veterans honoring President Reagan.On Nov. 18th, they met **President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**, in San Francisco as she stopped enroute to Santiago, Chile, for a conference. Ed presented her with an autographed copy of his book along with several photos taken of him and her father (**President Diosdado Macapagal**) together. (They became friends when **Macapagal** was a lieutenant in **Ramsey**'s WWII guerrilla forces in Pampanga Province.)

Ed's book, <u>Lieutenant Ramsey's War:</u> From Horse Soldier to Guerrilla Commander, co-written with **Stephen J. Riv**ele is to be republished in pocket book size as part of Brassey's new Memories of War series.

In June, **Ed** and **Raqui** attended the Oklahoma Military Academy reunion where most of his memorabilia is displayed in the Oklahoma Military Academy Museum at Rogers State University.

**Col. Mel Rosen** spent a day being interviewed and speaking on his war experiences with *Rocky Run Middle School* students in Chantilly, Virginia. He also was interviewed on his Bataan Death March, POW camp and Hell Ship experiences by *Channel 8*, the Washington D.C. area ABC television outlet. The

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#### Member Activities From Page 10

interview was rebroadcast several times. **Mel** was one of the organizers of the *West Point Military Academy*'s 1940 Class Reunion, which was timed to allow the reunion group to participate in the World War II Memorial dedication. **Mel** reports that, despite involvement by many of the class in three major wars, 105 still survive from a graduating group of 449.

National Historian **Col. John Olson** continues to devote extensive time to organizing the Fort Sam Houston Museum archives on the Philippine Scouts and helping answer Scout-related questions coming to our website. He also spoke in June and October to the *Filipino Veterans Foundation of Southern California* and to the *San Antonio Soci*- ety of Senior History Students. John also participated in memorial services for Major Whitehurst, 45th Infantry (PS) and maintains close contact with the U.S. Military Academy Society of Graduates in Houston which honors those who lost their lives in the Philippines in WWII.

Gary Hurd has organized a 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (PS) Memorial Regiment of reenactors at Fort Stotsenbeg/Clark Field in the Philippines. The four-member group, authentically uniformed and equipped, has held several mounted drills in the U.S. and in the Philippines.

Gary also rode in a Memorial Day event in Idaho celebrating the WWII Memorial unveiling in Washington, D.C. and his group won the 2nd Place Award at the Northwest MilitaryVehicle & WWII

Commemorative week-end held in Idaho in June. Anyone wishing to contact **Gary** about his group may do so through e-mail at cloudhorse@hotmail.com.

Newsletter Editor **Mike Houlahan** presented a paper entitled "America's Gurkhas: The Philippine Scouts—1901 to 1950" at the 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference of the Filipino American National Historical Society in St. Louis July 21-25. The 12-panel Philippine Scout poster <u>exhibit</u> was displayed for the duration of the three day conference. **Mike** also delivered five talks on the Philippines including commentary on the Philippine Scouts in WWII—as part of the Columbus Council of World Affairs Great Decisions lecture series.

# Philippine Scout Roll Call

The following group of retired Philippine Scouts has held an annual muster in Seaside, California for many years. **Felix D. Saguing,** son of a former Scout, recently visited them and would like to share the results of the latest roll call, Although **SSgt. Juan Guzman** reported all present or accounted for, **Felix** couldn't help but notice open spaces in the ranks.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Olfeo Antang, 57th Infantry Regiment (PS): Deceased 12/9/00

SP5 Gavino Cabanilla, Battery C, 91st Coast Artillery Regiment (PS): Age 86

**SFC Pedro Capili, Battery E, 88th Field Artillery Battalion (PS):** Deceased 3/2/00

**Sgt. Sonito Castillo**, **45th Infantry Regiment (PS):** Deceased 4/6/00

**Sgt. Major Vic dela Cruz**, **57th Infantry Regiment (PS):** Age 84

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Mark Da-Aton, Battery D, 91st Coast Artillery Regiment (PS): Deceased 1996

SFC Elliot DeSoto, 12th Signal Company (PS): Age 86

SSgt. Juan Guzman, Battery D, 91<sup>st</sup> Coast Artillery Regiment (PS): Age 88 **Sgt. Genaro Iglesias, 12th Quartermaster Battalion (PS):** Deceased 10/7/02

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Virgil Inductivo, 45th Infantry Regiment (PS): Deceased 1991

**1**<sup>st</sup>. Lt. Amando Julian, 14th Engineer Battalion (PS): Deceased 3/1/00

**SFC George Neel, 12th Medical Battalion (PS):** Deceased 1983

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Glen Olea, 57th Infantry Regiment (PS): Deceased 9/5/03

SFC Jack Pangilinan, 26th Cavalry Regiment (PS): Age 92

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Marcial Sabado, 12th Signal Company (PS): Age 87

# New PSHS Secretary Elected

As we go to press, the National Board of Officers has elected Angie Pangan-Gasq to be Secretary of the Society. She will hold office for the unexpired term of Jose Aquino, who recently resigned. During the Annual Meeting/Reunion in 2006 we will elect a Secretary for a full three year term.

Ms. Pangan-Gasq is the daughter of the late Larry Pangan who was Presi-

dent of the Society at the time of his death in November of 2004. Ms Pangan-Gasq has recently retired fromAmerican Airlines were she was employed for a number of years.

# Letter Concerning Major Helmert J. Duisterhof

To whom it may concern:

My name is Bradley Duisterhof-De-Boer and I am the grandson of the late **Major Helmert J. Duisterhof** of the **57th Infantry (PS) Regiment** in the Philippines during WWII. I am contacting you because I came across your web site and email address on the Web site in hopes that you might have known, or know of someone still living who knew my grandfather.

I am doing some research on my family history and have been trying to trace my grandfather's life. The information that I have on him during WWII is sketchy. What I do know are these facts:

He was a Dutch-born American officer assigned to the 57th Infantry (PS) at Ft. McKinley in the Philippines around June 1941. InAugust he was transferred to the Philippine Army.

During the Army's withdraw into Bataan during January 1942, my grandfather led the 2nd Battalion of the 11th Infantry under the command of Col. Glen R. Townsend.

I have come across a couple of accounts of my grandfather's name being mentioned in the published book which I came across on the Internet -US Army in WWII: Fall of the Philippines, which recognized my grandfather's heroics and strategic maneuvering of his battalion during the Bataan defense during the "Battle of the Pockets".

I am also aware that my grandfather survived the "Death March" and made it to Camp O'Donnell, but died soon after from exhaustion, malnutrition and untreated malaria.

I found supporting recollection of this from a story written by former POW and 45 Infantry (PS) veteran/survivor Kary Emerson titled "Guest of the Emperor", which references my grandfather as a survivor of the "Death March" having been the only person he knew who wore his boots the entire time during the march, and was from the "Old School" army. I don't know if Mr. Emerson is still living.

After the war my grandfather's body was recovered in a mass grave containing 365 people. His remains were sent back to the US, and he is buried in Arlington Cemetery.

In 1946 the Army posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to my grandfather "for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against the Japanese invasion forces in the Philippine islands on or about 15 February 1942.

I know that it has been over 60 years since the war, and a majority of the veterans who survived are no longer



around. However, since the wonderful age of the internet, I thought I'd give it a try to see if there was anyone who knew or who fought with my grandfather in the Philippines during WWII. I would really appreciate any help that you could give me!

Sincerely, Bradley DeBoer 22410 Woodhenge Dr. Mattawan, MI 49071 (616) 668-3559 Email: deboer@net-link.net

(This letter was slightly edited for publication.)

# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society 21<sup>st</sup> National Annual Reunion May 27 - 28, 2005

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

Name:				
(Last	Name)	(First Name)		
Address:				
(Stree	et) (	(City)	(State/Zip)	
Phone No.:			Number in Party:	
	DINNER MENU CHOIC	CES: (indica	ate number of each)	
Brochettes of Beef:	Chicken Wellin	gton:	Filet of Sole:	
Date of Arrival:				
	<b>REGISTRATION CH</b>	IARGE: \$4	<b>10.00</b> per person	
Please make chec	ck payable to "PSHS GGBA	C" and mc	il to:	
	PSHS Golden Gate Ba	ay Area Ch	apter (GGBAC)	
	c/o Evelyn Guiang, Fi	nance/Regis	tration Chairperson	
	614 Brunswick Street			
	San Francisco, CA. 94	1112		
Notes: 1. U	pon receipt of your payment, you	ur registratio	on will be confirmed	
		-	LATER THAN April 30, 2005.	
			—	
3. Groups / Party of 5 or 10, please list the names on the reverse side of the paper so that we may arrange your seating accordingly.				
	that we may arrange your seat		igiy.	
	LODGING: Ra	adisson V	Gilla Hotel	
		n El Camino		
		teo, CA 944		
Telephone (650) 341-0966; Fax: (650) 573-0164				
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KAILS.	This is the same reduce rate fo	*		
	This is the sume reduce fute fo	r uie r innpp	sile Securs Herriage Society.	
<b>CUT-OFF DATE:</b>	April 30, 2005. After April 30,	, 2005, room	ns will be provided on a space, rate and	
	availability basis. It is important that you make your reservation prior to the			
		ır reservatio	n, <b>identify yourself as a Philippine Scouts</b>	
CR: 15 Dec 2004	Heritage Society member.			
CR. 15 DEC 2004				

## Former Pacific Theater POWs Needed for a Research Study

#### **Background:**

A study currently being conducted for the **Department of Veterans Affairs** by the **Hines VA Hospital** in North Chicago suggests several differences between the experiences and outcomes of World War II prisoners of war held captive in the Pacific Theater versus the European Theater. These findings have important implications for the care of former POWs and others who have experienced traumatic events. However, the number of Pacific Theater veterans who have participated in this study is small and more are needed to strengthen these important findings.

#### Purpose:

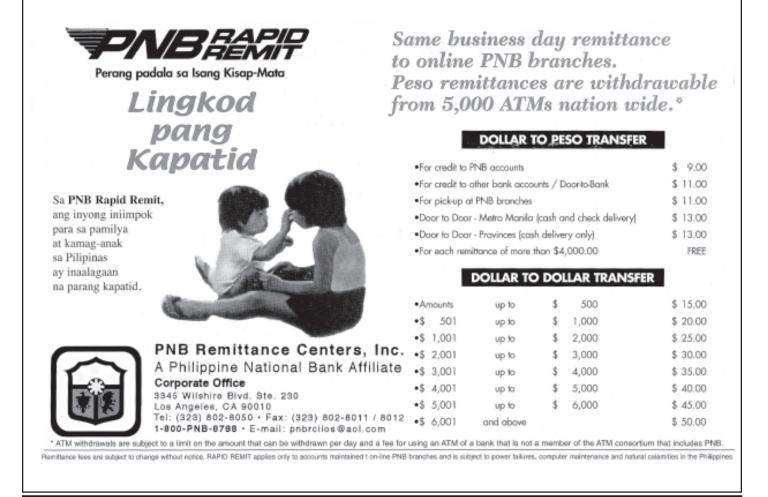
The VA is interested in recruiting WWII Pacific Theater POW veterans to gather information about their POW experiences and the effects these experiences have had on their lives. Participants in the study will be mailed a single survey and self-addressed, stamped envelope. The survey takes about 30 minutes to complete. After completing the survey, participants can place the survey in the self-addressed envelope and drop it in the mail. It is also possible to do a videotaped interview at the Hines VA Hospital. A copy of the taped interview will be given to the veteran <u>after the interview</u>. Participation in this study is completely voluntary.

#### **Eligibility:**

American veterans who were captured during their tours of duty in WWII and held as prisoners of war in the Pacific Theater are eligible for this study.

#### **Contact:**

If you would like to participate in this study or have any questions about it, please contact Dr. Lance Rintamaki by phone at (708) 202-5737 or via e-mail at: lance.rintamaki@med.va.gov.



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SAN MATEO Radisson Villa Hotel 4000 South El Camino Real San Mateo, California 94403 650-341-0966 Fax 650-358-4070 www.radissonvilla.com Reservations 800.333.3333

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### Philippine Scouts Iheritage Society



J. Michael Houlahan Public Affairs Officer 6774 Lakeside Circle West Worthington, OH 43085



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### Meet Our National Officers and Chapter Presidents

Sen. John A. Patterson Interim President 721 N. Quidnessett Rd. North Kingstown, RI 02852 (401) 885-7776

Menandro Parazo 2nd Vice President & President Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter 6705 Morningside Cir. El Paso, TX 79904 (915)565-7607

Nora G. Warren Treasurer 92 Russell Drive Antioch, CA 94509 (925) 757-3267

Angelina Pangan-Gasq Secretary 223 Fox Glen Drive Fairfield, CA 94533 (760) 484-446

Nita Guiang Asst. Treasurer 614 Brunswick Street San Francisco, CA 94112 (415) 239-2342 Col. (Ret.) John E. Olson Historian 1 Towers Park Lane #510 San Antonio, TX 78209 (210) 821-6017

Martin Callahan Asst. Historian Fort Sam Houston Museum Fort Sam Houston, TX 78209 (210) 221-0019

Col. (Ret.) Melvin H. Rosen Counselor 3415 Arnold Lane Falls Church, VA 22042 (703) 560-5557

J. Michael Houlahan Public Affairs Officer and Newsletter Editor 6774 Lakeside Circle West Worthington, OH 43085 (614) 847-1016

Isabelo S. Torio, M.D., Contact Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Ch. 11374 Grassy Trail Drive San Diego, CA 92127 (858) 485-5696 Jose Calugas Jr., President Capt. Jose Calugas Sr. Chapter 2907 Narrows Place Tacoma, WA 98407 (253) 752-2573

Felix Azur, President LTC Lloyd E. Mills Chapter 575-585 Pine Avenue Long Beach, CA 90802

Greg Ramos, President Monterey County Chapter 708 John Street Salinas, CA 93905 (831) 424-9084

Concepcion M. Rael, President Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter Veterans History Project Coord. P.O. Box 179 Daly City, CA. 94016-0179 (650) 756-9057

Christa M. Houlahan Website Designer and Manager Newsletter Design and Layout webmaster@philippine-scouts.org If you would like to contact us via email, visit our website: www.philippine-scouts.org

Past issues of this newsletter are available on our website.

Please contact us if you have questions or would like to become involved with the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society!