

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



Preserving the history, heritage, and legacy of the Philippine Scouts for present and future generations



Fall 2000 Issue

New Newsletter!

Revised Format to Attract Next Generation

This current issue of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society Newsletter is presented in a new format. The policy is to provide the Society with a renewed viewpoint, in accordance with the Mission Statement.

The objective is to emphasize the historic importance and deeds of the Scouts and their units, so as to preserve their heritage. With this new emphasis, we hope the newsletter will be more *keepable*.

By direction of the National President, the names of the *next generation* individuals (compiled by Senator John Patterson) are now included in the mailing list, and we encourage them to become life members of the Society.

Our profound thanks and gratitude are extended to David Rosen and his lovely wife, Jeanette, for their time and expertise devoted to designing and laying out the newsletter in its new format.



Four-star General Crosbie E. Saint was the keynote speaker at the May 5, 2000 Annual Reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. Look inside to read the General's inspiring address and to see more photos of the event.

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Happy 99th Birthday Philippine Scouts!

Ninety-nine years ago, on October 8, 1901, the United States Army was authorized by Congress to enlist 6,000 Filipinos as what was termed "Philippine Scouts." These Scout units, commanded by American officers, became one of the most elite U.S. Army forces in history.

During World War II, the dedication, skill, and perseverance of these soldiers, while enduring the worst of conditions, successfully stalled the Japanese expansion through the

Pacific. By upsetting the Japanese military timetable, the Philippine Scouts were instrumental in averting an otherwise certain Japanese invasion of Australia, New Zealand, and possibly Hawaii.

Had it not been for the bravery of the Philippine Scouts, we may have experienced a very different outcome to the war in the Pacific Theater.

Mabuhay (long live) Philippine Scouts!

A Message From Our National President

First and foremost, my grateful thanks to the 140 members, their families and friends, who attended our National Reunion 2000. Their presence made a tremendous impact toward a very successful affair.

My special thanks to all the widows, along with their families and relatives, for taking their time to share with us reminiscing the old Scouts' glorious days. Some of the widows, sons and daughters, and other relatives of deceased Scouts in attendance were: Fely Urban and family, widow of SFC Louis G. Urban; Carolyn Fernandez and family, daughter of SFC Victor Garcia; Rosario Seva and family, widow of Sergeant Major Cristobal Seva; Lila Roque, widow of SFC Dan Roque; Nita Fernandez, widow of Lt. Florentino Fernandez; Ed Basa and family, son of Captain Elias Basa (Korean War MIA); Helen Osborne and family, daughter of LTC Walter L. Dencker; Lucy Duldulao, widow of Sgt. Duldulao; Remy Abapo, widow of Sgt. George L. Abapo; David V. Tejada, son of Sgt. Loreto M. Tejada; and Sen. John A. Patterson, nephew of Lt. Alexander R. Nininger, a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. We missed Mrs. Felisa Beltran and family, widow of Lt. Ludovico Beltran.

We hope to see more of the widows, sons and daughters, and other relatives of the Scouts attend the next reunion.

Some Chapter Presidents were not able to join us at this year's reunion. They were: Lt. Alexander R. Nininger chapter (Los Angeles, CA); LTC Loyd E. Mills chapter (Long Beach, CA); and Captain Jose Calugas, Sr. chapter (Tacoma, WA). It is my fondest hope that all Chapter Presidents will be able to attend our next National Reunion and help us pay tribute to the heroes of Bataan and Corregidor.

History was made during the National Reunion 2000. For the very first time, a FOUR STAR GENERAL (Gen. Crosbie E. Saint) was our guest speaker. He electrified the audience by describing the role of the Philippine Scouts since its inception in 1902.



National President Joe Aquino presented Gen. Saint with a beautiful plaque depicting the logos of the Philippine Scouts, as well as a history book of the Philippine Scouts.

Following the presentation to General Saint, National President Aquino presented a special plaque to Colonel John E. Olson for outstanding leadership and dedicated service as the Society's National Historian since 1989.

My heartfelt and sincere thanks to the outstanding leaders of the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter, the members of various committees, and all others, for their unselfish devotion and dedicated service in making the 16th National Reunion and the 58th anniversary

of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor, a great success. These members demonstrated a high degree of hospitality and friendship.

We would like to see a huge turnout for the 17th National Philippine Scouts Reunion, which will be held on May 10-12, 2001, at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo, California.

As your National President, I have approved the bid of the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter, to host the 17th National Reunion. Colonel Melvin H. Rosen graciously offered to host our National Reunion 2001 in Washington, D.C.; however, there were some factors that I have considered. The Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter has about 240 members with much younger leaders to tackle the task of hosting this prestigious memorable occasion. Many of us are victims of aging (some with canes to balance their movements); Washington D.C. is too expensive; and many of us do not wish to travel a long distance.

Please mark your calendars May 10-12, 2001, National Philippine Scouts Reunion and the 59th anniversary of the fall of Bataan and Corregidor. For your advance information and guidance, the hotel rates are as follows: Single-\$82.00; Double-\$82.00; Triple-\$92.00; Quad-\$102.00; and Suites-\$169.00. Cut-off date: April 28, 2001.

Hoping to see all of you at the National Reunion 2001! •

Jose "Joe" Aquino
National President
(650) 873-5272

Philippine Scout Heroes of World War II

By John A. Patterson, 1st Vice President

Those who know the history of the Philippine Scouts stand in awe of their exploits during World War II. Even though they performed extraordinarily well before the war as regular U.S. Army soldiers charged with the defense of the Philippines, it is their spirited combat against the Japanese in one action after another from early December 1941, until the fall of the Philippines in May of 1942, for which they are most famous.

Colonel John E. Olson writes in his book, *Anywhere - Anytime: The History Of The Fifty-Seventh Infantry (PS)*, of the large numbers of decorations for valor awarded not only to the 57th but to other Scout units as well. These included three Medals of Honor.



Army Medal of Honor

By any standard these decorations reflect the heroism of a large number of Philippine Scouts who fought early in the war under extremely difficult conditions marked by inadequate food and medicine, deteriorating health due to tropical diseases, obsolete weapons and ammunition, and no hope of support from the United States.

The following highlights the three Philippine Scouts who were awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery above and beyond the call of duty: Jose Calugas, Sr., Alexander R. Nininger, Jr., and Willibald C. Bianchi.

Jose Calugas, Sr., had a long and illustrious career with the U.S. Army, first as a Philippine Scout and then in a range of assignments after the war until his retirement with the rank of captain. It was as a Scout that Calugas was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism on January 6, 1942, at Culis, Bataan Province. As a Sergeant in Battery B of the 88th Field Artillery (PS), Calugas witnessed the Japanese bombing and shelling of a nearby Scout gun position until it was put out of commission and its crew members killed or wounded. Calugas from his own battery, in the words of the Medal of Honor citation, "voluntarily and without orders ran 1,000 yards across the shell-swept area to the gun position. There he organized a volunteer squad which placed the gun back in commission and fired effectively against the enemy, although the position remained under constant and heavy Japanese artillery fire."

I met Jose Calugas and his family in Tacoma, Washington, during a reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. It was a great honor to speak with him and to be in his presence. In frail health, Jose Calugas, Sr. passed away in 1999. He is remembered in many ways including Calugas Circle, a section of family quarters at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. After the dedication of Calugas Circle in 1999, Jose Calugas, Jr., and the entire family presented the Medal of Honor to the Fort's museum for



Jose Calugas, Sr.

safekeeping and display. It will always be symbol of an extraordinary man who went to extraordinary lengths to defend his country and his fellow man.

Alexander R. Nininger, Jr., was my uncle. For obvious reasons, I know more about him than the two other Scouts who were awarded the Medal of Honor. Sandy, as he was known, grew up in Florida where he was quite active in elementary and high school activities. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in May of 1941, and as a second lieutenant, was posted to the Philippines in November of that year, where he was assigned to the 57th Infantry Regiment (PS).

My uncle's Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously for actions near Abucay, Bataan, which resulted in his death on January 12, 1942. Because Sandy's company was not engaged in combat, he voluntarily attached himself to another unit that was being attacked by the Japanese. In

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the words of the Medal of Honor citation, "In hand-to-hand fighting which followed, 2d Lt. Nininger repeatedly forced his way to and into the hostile position. Though exposed to heavy enemy fire, he continued to attack with rifle and hand grenades and succeeded in destroying several enemy groups in foxholes and enemy snipers. Although wounded three times, he continued his attacks until he



Alexander R. Nininger, Jr.

was killed after pushing alone far within the enemy position. When his body was found after recapture of the position, one enemy officer and two enemy soldiers lay dead around him."

My uncle's heroism has been commemorated in a number of ways including the naming of a building at West Point and erection of a statue in his home town of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. And, of course, the "quiet

hero" lives on in the hearts of his family and those who knew him.

Willibald C. Bianchi was assigned to the 45th Infantry (PS) at the time of the action (February 3, 1942) for which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He entered the service from his hometown of New Ulm, Minnesota. As noted in the Medal of Honor citation, Bianchi received the nation's highest award "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy ... near Bagac, Province of Bataan. When the rifle platoon of another company was ordered to wipe out two strong enemy machine-gun nests, 1st Lt. Bianchi voluntarily and of his own initiative, advanced with the platoon leading part of the men. When wounded early in the action by two bullets through the left hand, he did not stop for first aid but discarded his rifle and began firing a pistol. He located a machine-gun nest and personally silenced it with grenades. When wounded the second time by two machine-gun bullets through the chest muscles, 1st Lt. Bianchi climbed to the top of an American tank, manned its antiaircraft machine-gun, and fired into the strongly held enemy position until knocked completely off the tank by a third severe wound."

Little is known about Bianchi regarding his early years, military service and activities after World War II. We are aware of a commemorative ceremony and plaque created in his home state of Minnesota. In fact, our society contributed financially to the cost of the plaque. It would be very helpful if we could have more infor-



Willibald C. Bianchi

mation from family and friends about all three individuals. Anyone with such information or vignettes should send them to the Public Relations Officer, Dr. Nicoll Galbraith, so they can be included in our newsletter.

In sum, we are all enormously proud of the Philippine Scouts who fought so valiantly in service to their country. While there were three Medals of Honor awarded to Scouts, clearly more were deserved. The combat history of this military unit is unparalleled and each and every Scout is a hero. We owe the Philippine Scouts our undying gratitude.

Editor's Note: The United States Army Medal of Honor was a Breast Order, from 1913 to 1944 (with an optional cravat hook) In mid-1944, the Medal of Honor was converted to a Neck Order (cravat).

Minutes from the Annual Board Meeting May 5, 2000

The annual meeting of the Board of Officers, Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, held at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo, California, was called to order by the National President at 6:05 PM.

Secretary Basa took roll call of officers. Present: President Joe S. Aquino; 1st Vice President Sen. John Patterson; 2nd Vice President Larry Pangan; Asst. Treasurer Guillermo M. Torres; Public Relations Officer (PRO) Col. Nicoll Galbraith; Historian Col. John E. Olson; Legal Adviser Col. Melvin Rosen; and Secretary Ed Basa. Chapter Presidents: David Tejada, Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter (GGBAC); Menandro Parazo, Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter; and Greg Ramos, Monterey County Chapter. Absent: President Emeritus Brig. Gen. Royal Reynolds, Jr. (excused); Treasurer Feliseo Cabaddu (excused); Asst. Historian Martin Callahan (excused); and Chapter Presidents: Manuel Mabunga, Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Chapter; Alex C. Andres, LTC Lloyd E. Mills Chapter; and Ricardo de Villa, Captain Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter.

The minutes of the Board of Officers meeting on April 9, 2000, compiled by National President Aquino, were distributed for review. The minutes were approved as published and distributed. Col. Olson inquired if there is any information regarding the formation of a chapter in the Philippines. President Aquino replied that he has been in contact with Simplicio Babao of Davao City, and there is no action taken so far. There was no old business discussed.

Correspondences: Secretary Basa read three letters from Major White, and two sons of former Philippine Scouts. The National President instructed Secretary Basa to make

copies to be distributed to the Board members. At that point, 2nd Vice President Larry Pangan turned over his audit report to Secretary Basa for distribution to the Board members.

Col. Olson suggested that the National President include in his agenda for tomorrow's general business, a recognition and tribute to the oldest living Philippine Scout, Lt. General Thomas Jonathan Trapnell, 100 years old. General Trapnell served with the 26th Cavalry (Philippine Scouts) as a major and he was promoted to Lt. Col. in Bataan, and consequently, captured and taken as POW. The National President added to pay tribute to Master Sergeant Ricardo Villarina, 97 years old, 45th Infantry Regiment. Brig. Gen. Royal Reynolds, Jr., President Emeritus, will be 90 on October 17th.

Site of the next national reunion 2001 was briefly discussed. Col. Rosen graciously offered to host the reunion in Washington, D.C. Sen. Patterson moved and seconded that if the Washington D.C. proposal fails, Reunion 2001 shall be hosted by the GGBAC. The motion of Sen. Patterson was unanimously approved. The reason why the GGBAC was selected was because of its tremendous 240 current members and previous experience in hosting reunions during the last few years. Col. Olson suggested encouraging the second-generation people to get involved. This has been the project of Sen. Patterson for the last few years. He has at least 105 names on his list.

Printing of the Philippine Scouts history book was discussed. Burke Publishing Company's price was too high. It costs about \$2,600 for 100 books. PRO Galbraith will look around for a cheaper rate; probably

Kinko's in Modesto. He will keep in touch with the National President for further details. Col. Olson raised a question on the copyright of the history book. The board suggested that the National President write a letter to the Burke Publishing Company and ask for the disc.

Report on the membership status of the various chapters: Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter in CA has 235 members; Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter in El Paso, TX has 37 members; Monterey County Chapter in CA has 70 members. No reports rendered from the rest of the chapters. PRO Galbraith discussed a new format for the national newsletter that must reflect the mission of the society, including articles from the officers, fund-raising incentives, etc.

2nd VP Larry Pangan gave his audit report as follows: General Fund as of March 31, 2000 contained \$8,170.99, and the Museum Fund as of March 31, 2000 contained \$2,105.99. It was moved by Col. Rosen and seconded by Sen. Patterson that the audit report be approved. Motion passed. Chairman Pangan turned over the audit report to the National Secretary to be copied for distribution at the annual meeting on May 6. The transfer of the Museum Fund to the General Fund was briefly discussed. It was moved by Col. Rosen and seconded by Asst. Treasurer Torres that the Museum Fund be transferred to the General fund. Motion rejected.

Sen. Patterson indicated that he will say something in his remarks tomorrow about the members of the Society for the first time. He also indicated that he has copies (taped interview) from Gen. Reynolds and Col. Rosen available. Sen. Patterson commented

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that memorials had been erected for his uncle, Lt. Alexander R. Nininger, Jr., in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and for Captain Jose Calugas, Sr., at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He asked if we have done something for Captain Willibald Bianchi. The National President replied that we donated \$500 for a plaque on display at the University of North Dakota.

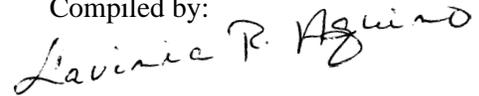
Col. Olson moved and seconded that a Philippine Scouts Memorial

(plaque) be erected at Camp O'Donnell and Washington D.C. The National President appointed the following to survey the feasibility of erecting the memorials: Col. John E. Olson, Chairman. Members: 1st VP Patterson, 2nd VP Larry Pangan, Col. Melvin Rosen, Col. Nicoll Galbraith, and Menandro Parazo (President of the Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter).

2nd VP Pangan announced that a documentary about the Bataan Death

March will be shown on the History Channel on May 14 and May 20. National President Aquino announced that the general business meeting tomorrow will start about 9:30 AM. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Compiled by:



Lavinia R. Aquino
National Secretary

From The Historian's Corner *By Col. John E. Olson, National Historian*

Thanks to the generosity of Kermit Lay we now have a real treasure of information and pictures of the Philippine Division. It is a photo album with dozens of shots of the 1936 "Division Maneuvers." It is my intention to write an article that will cover the activities that took place over these several weeks. In our *PS History*, we have some data on maneuvers that were held during the 1920s, but they provide only fragmentary accounts of the conduct, and are supported by only a few illustrations.

This document contradicts the claim that is made about the Philippine Garrison in December 1941. "They were unprepared." This allegation is true for the Philippine Army, which was not ready. But, not the Philippine Scouts. Those who served with them in the two decades before that "Infamous Day" know full well they were not only on an alert status, but from the annual rehearsals of War Plan Orange, knew the terrain over which the enemy would be coming.



The Society's Historian, Col. John E. Olson, shared some of his wealth of knowledge with the audience at the Annual Reunion in May.

The only PS units that engaged the enemy in the withdrawal into Bataan punished them severely. These were the 86th Field Artillery (PS) and the

gallant 26th Cavalry (PS). But they were forced to pull out when the Philippine Army elements on their flanks gave way.

Mr. Martin Callahan, our Assistant Historian, and I are attacking the numerous file boxes and albums that contain much valuable and interesting material that will be better arranged for the persons who wish to learn the full story of the deeds of the Philippine Scouts.

Please send us any documents, photos, letters or other items that will help us to fill in the gaps. How better to perpetuate the memory of your relatives who were Philippine Scouts, or even yourself? We hope the souvenirs you send will be given to the PS Collection, but if you wish to retain them, we will return them after we have made copies.

Marami Salamat! Mabuhay!

The Philippine Division Patch: The Carabao

By David V. Tejada, President of Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter

The patch is the carabao head which many are not aware of its origin. The carabao is the Filipino faithful animal everyday companion to work. This animal is treated like one of the family. It is very powerful, docile, slow in movement, and easy to train. This animal can be dangerous and deadly once pushed to anger. This animal is a work partner of farmers. It works from sunrise to sunset, as long its body is kept cool by watering. After work, it is brought to the river and soaked for few hours, then fed.

The American forces during the Fil-American war used the carabao. Faithfulness is not a carabao trait which this animals were use to transport guns, supplies, and Americans that were wounded. Americans admired this animal and in 1900 founded the Military Order of the Carabao in Manila. Open to those who served in the American Forces during

the Fil-American War. Its object: "To foster a high standard of military and social duty and to perpetuate the memories and association of military service in the early days of the American occupation."

Why the Carabao? It was chosen in recognition of the services rendered by the faithful carabao to the American forces, principal beast of burden in the Philippines, which was used in the absence of the mule. In April 1899, Gen. Lawton's men were shooting at the Filino troops when a heard of carabao attacked the American troops. This is not an isolated case, since another attack occurred in Maycauyan. Maj. Puttman Bradlee Strong who served with Gen. MacArthur's staff related that a heard of carabao ran straight into their battery and ruined their battle formation. Surprisingly, after the rampage, the carabao became tame again.



Then the United States Army chose the carabao head as the shoulder patch for the early Philippine Scouts, which it indicate the Philippine Division. It was worn by the best and gallant soldiers of the world, the Philippine Scouts. Don't forget the officers of these brave and gallant soldiers were all Americans from West Point.

Deep in my heart I feel sorry for this animal for the years working for its master, its life was not spared. The animal got to the stage of weakness and old age, the animal was killed and once more it served its master in the dining table as stew or BBQ. While the American Race horses, greyhound, and BlindGuiding dog were put in the retirement farm to enjoy the remaining years of their life.

I owe this story of the carabao from the author Ambeth R. Ocampo.



Four-star General, Crosbie E. Saint, Captivates Crowd at Annual Reunion

The following is the text of General Saint's keynote address as delivered on May 5, 2000 at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo, CA:

It is an honor and a privilege for me to be with you tonight, both as a soldier and as an American. For you are veterans and heirs to the traditions of valor, self-sacrifice, and devotion to duty that have been the bedrock upon which this nation has been built. Tonight, we gather together to remember a defeat and to celebrate a triumph. For, make no mistake about it, Bataan and Corregidor were among the most humiliating and one-sided defeats ever suffered by America's army.

And the Death March that followed the surrender on Bataan was the nadir of America's military fortunes. It was a national tragedy and one that was very personal. For, among the ranks of the Bataan Death March were many thousands who would never return to the promise of America, or to the families they had left behind. One of those many thousands was a young Philippine Scout who was in the 14th engineers; Maj., later LTC Frederick Saint; my father. So I share very personally the importance and the emotion of this evening.

My dictionary tells me that the word "heritage" means something that is handed on to a person from his/her ancestors or what comes to a person from the circumstances of his/her birth. Mel Rosen tells me that he recommended the name to General Reynolds and that you all approved it because no one wanted this to be a "last man out" organization where the last man drinks the bottle of cognac and that's the end of the organization. We children and grandchildren of



Head table welcomes General Saint to the podium for his keynote address.

Philippine Scouts have an obligation to keep alive the unique and proud heritage of the Philippine Scouts, some of the best and definitely the most tenacious soldiers, proven in combat, that the United States Army ever had. Even in defeat, these splendid soldiers of the United States Army, the Philippine Scouts, may have given the United States one of its most important victories by completely upsetting the Japanese timetable for victory in the Pacific.

The Imperial Japanese headquarters had given Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma 50 days in which to completely conquer the Philippines. At that time, half of his 14th Army and appropriate parts of his Navy and air support were to be taken for operations in the south, presumably New Zealand and Australia. I have been told that there were only about 6,000 troops in Australia at that time. The Japanese probably could have cut through New Zealand

and Australia, and probably Hawaii, like a hot knife through butter. That all this did not happen is due in great measure to those Philippine Scouts that stood and fought on Bataan and Corregidor for 150 days until their ammunition, weapons, medicine, food, and people (there were zero replacements and zero air support) all gave out. The United States, still reeling from the disaster of Pearl Harbor, might not even have been able to institute its Europe First Policy!

The first two Medal of Honor winners of WWII were Philippine Scouts Sergeant Jose Calugas, Sr. and Lt. Alexander R. "Sandy" Nininger, Jr., for whom two of your chapters are named. I know Lt. Nininger's nephew, Senator John Patterson, is here. Is Jose Calugas, Jr. here? You all certainly must be very proud of your heritage. Those events of so many years ago were indeed the nadir of our military

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power but, from that point forward, it would change. We, as a nation, would rebuild and reconstruct until we produced a force of such power and professionalism that it would bring both Germany and Japan to their knees.

But in those dark days 58 years ago, there was little to give our nation heart and hope; little except for the valor of the soldiers of Bataan and Corregidor and the Philippine Scouts. For in the midst of the loss on Bataan, the valor, courage, and dedication of the Philippine Scouts was a shining promise of the future; seeds of victory sown in the ashes of defeat. The courage of the Scouts is recounted in deeds of heroism that ring through the decades to the Army of today. Indeed, three Philippine Scouts were awarded our nation's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor. They were Sergeant Jose Calugas, Captain Wilibald Bianchi, and Lieutenant Alexander Nininger. And beyond those three were countless stories of individual and collective heroism under fire, the sort of valor that is unique to the soldier. Through the uplands and jungles of Bataan and on the rock itself, America's soldiers showed a watching world a new definition of courage and laid the foundation for the triumph of freedom in the greatest of all human conflicts.

There are many gatherings of old soldiers where organizations slowly disappear as the members pass on. However, you have wisely focused on heritage and tradition, and in your case, proud and brave. But, while we reflect on the glories of the past, we also look ahead to the challenges of the future. For the sacrifices of yesterday are the building blocks of today, the foundation upon which the security of our nation depends. As we look at

the world of today, we see an environment that is laden with opportunities, but laced with dangers as well. In the Taiwan Strait, in the Balkans, in Africa and Latin America, in the new democracies of Eastern Europe, the forces of progress and peace are everywhere on the march. Yet, lurking behind each step of progress are powers that would take us back into the bad old days of violence, schisms, anarchy, and war.

Contrary to some popular mythology, the future of the international community is not secure. Democracy and peace are not mankind's endstate if events are left to unfold by themselves. Indeed, at the risk of sounding the tocsins of conflict when many want to hear nothing but a symphony of peace, we would do well to remember the words of Plato, words that echo to us over the span of the millenia, "Only the dead have seen the end of war."

In the world of the 21st century, we honor the men of the Philippine Scouts who helped pave the way for the triumphs over fascism in the 1940s and communism in the 1990s, by recognizing that the United States must accept the mantle of leadership that history has bequeathed upon us. And we must be prepared to commit our national treasure and send our sons and daughters into harm's way in defense of freedom, peace, and democracy. When the Philippine Scouts were committed to stemming the Japanese onslaught on Luzon, they knew that they were part of a final defense; that little lay between them and the entire South Pacific, all the way to Australia. And they knew that they were expected to give the last full measure of their being in defense of a cause greater than themselves. The Philippine Scouts were among the brave who upset the Japanese time-

table. Sacrifice was not in vain.

As America confronts the challenges of a new world, we must never lose the lessons taught us by the Philippine Scouts, this fundamental element of our national character. But, in this era of instant communication and the ubiquitous presence of the media, some in our nation have become so concerned with battle casualties that they have turned away from the tough decisions that undergird a successful national security policy. From Haiti to Somalia to Bosnia to Kosovo, we have become so frightened of losing a single soldier that we have forgotten about the lessons taught so poignantly by the Philippine Scouts; that Freedom is not free. It is often purchased with the blood and sweat of the American soldier. When we turn away from critical options simply because we are afraid of casualties, we mock the sacrifice of men and women of past generations. And we demean the men and women of today whose courage under fire would ever be in the finest tradition of the Philippine Scouts, and of American soldiers since our history began.

There is yet another myth that has developed, particularly as a result of the one-sided operation in Kosovo. That myth is that the Philippine Scouts of today, the land forces of this nation, have somehow passed their prime; that we are now in an era of high-tech, stand-off, bloodless war. Yet, nothing could be farther from the truth. For, in the face of the revolution in human affairs in which we find ourselves, the Army is the nation's primary strategic force. Alone among the nation's armed forces, the Army has the capacity to dominate on land and to sustain its presence indefinitely; the elements

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that are at the heart of our national security strategy. This is made even more evident because virtually every conceivable security threat to our national objectives is a land threat, whether it is a serious humanitarian emergency, a threat to international commerce and trade, a peace-keeping mission, a small-scale contingency, or a major war. By dint of its mission, its organization, its training, its culture, its experience, and its sustainability, the Army is the nation's primary instrument for defending our national objectives worldwide.

Indeed, the historian T.R. Fehrenbach's words, written in a different era, are even more applicable today than they were half a century ago. He reminds us that, "You may fly over land forever. You may bomb it, pulverize it and wipe it clean of life. But if you desire to defend it, protect it, and keep it, you must do it on the ground the way the Roman legions did; by putting your young men in the mud." This is not to say that the other services aren't also important; indeed,

the support they provide is crucial to achieving our nation's objectives. But, as good as the other services are, they cannot do what the Army can do. What the Army can do is the centerpiece of our nation's security.

While the Army assumes a role of ever-increasing importance in our nation's security, the composition and design of the Army must change, and they are changing. It is no longer sufficient to focus entirely on fighting and winning a major land war, although that must remain the quintessential essence of the Army's design. The Army must also be structured to respond quickly and effectively to a range of peace operations, across the entire spectrum of challenges. Had we the organizations then that we have today, had we the strategic mobility that we have today, there would not have been a Corregidor or a Bataan Death March.

Now let's be clear on this point, the Army, at 450,000 soldiers, is too small to deal with the range of tasks that the nation has assigned to it. No matter

what kinds of arguments or figures are presented, that is cold, hard reality. There are significant implications of this gap between manpower and requirements; implications that manifest themselves in skyrocketing optempo, in long separations, in ruptured families, and in major degradations in training and readiness throughout the force. We cannot, we must not, pretend that these implications do not exist. Having said that, there are organizational and structural changes that can and are being made to minimize these implications and to position the Army to be better able to execute its mission across the entire range of assigned tasks. Let me mention a couple of these.

- The Army is examining ways to accelerate the deployment of combat power. One such option is the so-called medium brigade, a unit with considerable combat power but much, much lighter than our armored and mechanized infantry brigades. While it will not be able to engage in sustained, high intensity combat, it will provide rapidly deployed forces with medium punch.

- The Army is refocusing its training to accommodate the range of missions, which it will be called upon to execute.

- The Army is rewriting its capstone document, FM 1100-5, to make the doctrinal adjustments necessitated by the new environment in which we find ourselves.

- Finally, the Army is reordering its priorities in a direct and unambiguous fashion. The Army's senior leadership has mandated that the tactical units in the Army, the divisions, brigades, battalions, and companies will be filled to full strength. This will provide the Army maximum capabilities at the



Col. Mel Rosen (left) and Gen. Crosbie E. Saint enjoy good food, good wine, and good conversation during the Reunion dinner.

see Saint: Page 11

Saint: from Page 10

point of the spear; but it will have significant impact in building and sustaining the force over time.

These changes are necessary to insure that the soldiers of tomorrow, the heirs to the proud traditions and honor of the Philippine Scouts, are

trained and ready to fulfill their strategic purpose; anytime and anywhere. But, while change in some aspects of the Army is necessary, the Army of today and tomorrow will maintain and buttress its fundamental strengths, strengths and values that

were etched in the rock of Corregidor and in the jungles of Bataan. Strengths of character and spirit. Strengths of mind and body. Strengths that led the Philippine Scouts to accomplish feats of bravery and military achievements that will be remembered for as long as soldiers honor their past.

The suffering of POWs was a sacrifice so that others might be free. We today are privileged to enjoy the fruits of our forefathers' sacrifices, to learn from their values and dedication, for these are what our real heritage is all about. Those are the values that stand at the heart of the Army of today and they are your ultimate legacy to this nation.

Thank you for inviting me to share in this homecoming. Goodnight and God bless you.



The new officers for the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society were sworn in at the Annual Reunion banquet. From left: Mel Rosen, Nicoll Galbraith, Lavinia Aquino, Joe Aquino, John Olson, John Patterson, Larry Pangan, and Guillermo Torres.

Obituaries

Lt. Col. Harry J. Stempin, US Army (Ret), born March 1, 1918 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, passed away Wednesday, May 17, 2000, at the age of 82. He graduated from Marquette University in 1941 and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army. He was immediately called to active duty and assigned to the Philippine Islands. He was in "G" Company of the 57th Infantry (PS) at the outpost line during the first action on Bataan. Later, he was Commander of "K" Company. He became a prisoner of the invading Japanese forces, survived the infamous Death March, and survived the sinking of two Japanese "Hell Ships." As a prisoner of war aboard the third "Hell Ship" he was moved to Fukuoka, Japan, then to Korea and Mukden, Manchuria where the Russian Forces

liberated him in September 1945. He retired from the US Army in 1963 and lived an active, fruitful life in San Antonio until his death. Lt. Col. Stempin was a Life Member of American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. His loving wife Dorothy and one sister, Phyllis Stempin of Milwaukee, WI, survive him. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of choice. Interment with full military honors took place in Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Mrs. Consolacion Valdevarona, 86, died of cardiac arrest on July 13, 2000 at the Alameda County Hospital. Her beloved husband, Pacifico Valdevarona, two daughters and a son survive her. In your prayers, please remember her. We send our deepest sympathy to her bereaved family and

friends. May her soul rest in peace.

First Sergeant Ricardo Villarina, United States Army, Retired, 99, died at his home of old age. Born February 3, 1901, he enlisted in the Philippine Scouts on August 9, 1919. He retired on July 6, 1946. He is survived by his beloved wife, Arsenia Villarina, five sons and three daughters, and 40 grandchildren and great grandchildren. Led by National President Joe S. Aquino, a joint Memorial Service was rendered by the American Legion, San Francisco Post #1; the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter, Philippine Scouts Heritage Society; and the Luzviminda Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War. In your prayers, please remember him. Please send cards to Mrs. Arsenia Villarina, 155 Paraiso Place, San Francisco, CA 94132.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date: _____

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Spouse or Next of Kin: _____ Check One: Spouse () Son () Daughter ()

Date Enlisted: _____ Date Disch: _____ Branch of Service: _____

Unit Assigned: _____ Social Security No: _____

VA Claim No: _____ Guerrilla Recognized: Yes () No ()

Date You Joined: _____ Place of Operation: _____

Why Would You Like to Join the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society?

Check One: Friend of PS () Will help support and preserve PS History ()

<u>Type of Dues</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>National</u>	<u>Life Membership</u>	<u>Total Dues Enclosed</u>
Annual	5.00	3.00	See Rates Below	_____ Per Member \$8.00 for Annual

Donation to Special Project: _____ Sponsored By: _____

Applicants Signature: _____ Payment Received By: _____

Rates for Life Membership

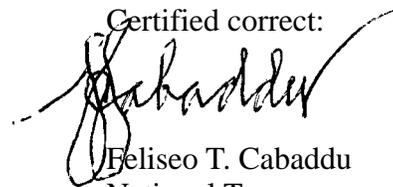
<u>Under 50</u>	<u>50 to 59</u>	<u>60 to 69</u>	<u>70 to 79</u>	<u>80 and Over</u>
\$75.00	\$60.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$30.00

Save yourself the trouble of sending in annual dues!
Rates for life membership are minimal. Become a life member today!

National Treasurer's Financial Report

3/31/00 – 6/30/00

PSHS General Fund: Balance in bank (submitted for audit at 16 th Annual Reunion 5/5/00) as of 3/31/00	\$8,117.99
Plus Receipts:	
Philippine Scouts History book sales (Pangan sold 2, Aquino sold 1)	57.00
Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter membership dues	380.00
Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter membership dues	112.00
Interest paid by bank on this checking account	7.61
Sub-total of General Fund	\$8,674.60
Less disbursements:	
PRO's national newsletter #4 expenses	342.48
President's expenses	33.00
Treasurer's expenses	5.00
Trophy for Historian Col. Olson	70.36
General Fund cash balance in bank as of 6/30/00:	\$8,223.76
PSHS Museum Fund: Balance in bank (submitted for audit at 16 th Annual Reunion 5/5/00) as of 3/31/00	\$2,105.99
Plus Receipts:	
Interest paid by bank on this savings account	5.25
Sub-total of Museum Fund	\$2,111.24
Less disbursements:	
None	0.00
Museum Fund cash balance in bank as of 6/30/00:	\$2,111.24

Certified correct:

 Feliseo T. Cabaddu
 National Treasurer
 7/10/00

Financial Report From Annual Reunion

By David V. Tejada, President, Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter

As your General Chairman of the recent reunion, I am very proud to announce the financial report of Mrs. Toni Pahed, Chair, Finance	and Registration Committee as follows: Receipts/Income: \$9,254.00. Expenses: \$6,954.62.	Profit: \$2,299.38. Profit Sharing: Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter \$1,379.63 (60%), National Treasury \$919.75 (40%).
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*Col. Nicoll F. Galbraith
Public Relations Officer
315 El Rio Avenue
Modesto, CA 95354*



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***Give us a call any-
time if you have
questions or would
like to become
involved with the
Philippine Scouts
Heritage Society!***

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