

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



Spring 2001 Issue

Annual Reunion Coming Soon!

Don't Miss Out! Register Today!

The 17th Annual Reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society will be held May 10-12, 2001 at the Villa Hotel, 4000 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, California, 94403. This delightful and familiar location affords the ideal setting for our grand social events, business meetings, and banquet. Again, we are indebted to the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter for its magnificent hospitality. The registration form is attached. Attendees are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations as indicated at the end of the form. This will be another lovely and memorable event, with Lt.



Join us for the 17th Annual Reunion of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society from May 10-12, 2001! As you can see, everybody enjoyed last year's reunion and this year's is going to be better than ever!

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Gen. Raul Urgello as the special keynote speaker for the evening.

All members, guests, spouses, friends, and all interested parties are encouraged to attend. The \$35.00 suggested donation includes the spectacular banquet and dance, registration, hospitality hours, and business sessions.

Please consider placing an advertisement in our souvenir program to help defray our expenses. To our widows, sons and daughters, and other

relatives of deceased Scouts, placing an ad is an ideal way to pay tribute to your loved ones who have gone before us. An ad also may be placed to honor the living Philippine Scouts who fought so bravely to secure our freedoms.

Fill out the registration form inside and return it today! Be sure to call the Villa Hotel for reservations. A good time will be had by all! Look inside to see some photos from last year's reunion! Mabuhay!

A Message From Our National President

I am honored and humbled to report the following for your information and guidance:

The Philippine Scouts Memorial Committee under the outstanding leadership of Colonel John E. Olson is going great. He made a special trip to the Philippines along with Maj. Fred Foz arriving in Manila Sunday, January 21, 2001. Maj. Foz arrived in Manila a week earlier. Together, they went to work unrelentingly and coordinated with several Philippine officials presenting their objective to have and install a Philippine Scouts Memorial at Camp O'Donnell.

Accordingly, they accomplished their mission with a great success with some minor adjustments. The inscription on the plaque as described by Colonel Olson is very meaningful and boldly drafted. The finishing touch is under the careful hands of Maj. Foz, who was left behind. The progress report rendered by Colonel Olson is exceedingly beyond compare. Please join me in extending our heartfelt thanks to these two outstanding leaders of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. They sacrificed their personal time and money to pursue the continuity to preserve the history and legacy of the elite Philippine Scouts. This Committee is also

charged with the responsibility to coordinate the placement of a Philippine Scouts Memorial plaque in Washington, D.C. This will follow after the Memorial plaque at Camp O'Donnell is accomplished.

Planning for the 17th Philippine Scouts Reunion and commemoration of the 59th fall of Bataan and Corregidor is in full swing. The Reunion committees under the leadership of General Chairman Delfin V. Pahed are asking the support of our members. The success of this annual reunion is dependent upon your cooperation. Raffle tickets were mailed to our members and friends very recently. Your kindest consideration is deeply appreciated.

Also, it is felt that the registration fee is minimal at a cost of \$35.00 donation per person. This covers the banquet and dance, hospitality hours, and the general business session. Tickets were mailed to members. Again, it is requested your immediate action be taken as soon as possible.

To the widows, sons, and daughters of the Scouts, this is the right time to enjoy and rejoice. Place an advertisement in our souvenir program in honor of your loved one. Remember the dates, May 10-12, 2001, are days of great rejoicing. Please attend and



meet your old and new friends. The National President will personally welcome you, your family, and friends.

I am looking forward to welcome each of you at the 17th Philippine Scouts Reunion 2001.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jose D. Aquino'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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

National Officers To Be Elected & Committee Appointments Made

The following National Officers will be elected on May 12, 2001, at the General Business Session during the Annual Reunion: 2nd Vice President, Assistant Treasurer, and Legal Advisor. Menandro Parazo, of the General John J. Pershing Chapter in El Paso, TX, is Chairman of the Nominating Committee and will

conduct the election of officers, to be assisted by the members of the committee.

Effective January 20, 2001, the following members are hereby appointed by the National President to the following committees:

Nominating Committee:
Menandro Parazo-Chairman, Col.

Nicoll Galbraith-Vice Chairman. Members: Major Fred Foz, Greg Ramos, and Guillermo M. Torres.

Audit Committee: Larry L. Pangan-Chairman, Sen. John A. Patterson-Vice Chairman. Members: Clinton Jennings, Jesus V. Okialda, and Felix Peralta.

Gentlemen, I Give You The Scouts!

Excerpts from a speech of Col. Nicoll F. Galbraith to the Winter Night Club, Colorado Springs, CO on November 15, 1945

Gentlemen, I give you the Scouts, the Philippine Scouts! Of their loyalty and professional ability, I cannot speak too highly. As you know, they were our Regular Army, though native troops. We had one division on Luzon and two regiments on Corregidor, a total of 12,000.

Based on my experience, I feel safe in stating that when properly disciplined, trained, and led, they have few military superiors. When their record is written, it will be a worthy addition to American history.

The day following the capitulation, the Commanding General and his staff were taken to Manila to be held there as hostages until certain requirements had been fulfilled. At that time, all the troops and the many civilian employees had been assembled in the open and were living scattered among the debris. The General and I walked side by side at the head of our little column as we left the west exit of Malinta Tunnel. There was no announcement, no fanfare. But someone saw and recognized that man with a heavy heart. Almost simultaneously, as if by prearranged signal, officers and men, scattered as they were throughout that devastated acreage, rose to their feet and with a salute paid silent tribute.

One seldom witnesses in real life such touching and beautiful drama. Whatever the nation might feel about him, at least his troops to a man were behind him.



Headquarters of the 24th Field Artillery (P.S.) at Fort Stotsenberg, Philippine Islands. Maj. Nicoll Galbraith (left) and Col. Louis Dougherty, 1940.



Troops of the 24th Field Artillery (P.S.) on parade ground of Fort Stotsenberg, Philippine Islands, 1940.

Gala International Event Planned For Centennial

The Philippine Scouts will be celebrating their 100th birthday this year. The Scouts were established by Act of the United States Congress on October 8, 1901. President Joe Aquino has appointed a rather large ad hoc committee to begin preliminary planning for a centennial celebration. Chairman and vice-chairman of the committee are Nicoll Galbraith and David Rosen respectively.

A meeting was held in San Francisco on January 20, 2001, with Senator John Patterson attending from Rhode Island. Preliminary plans are for a one day affair, Saturday, October 6, 2001 (to avoid conflict with Columbus Day), at the Presidio, in San Francisco, hosted by the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter. Plans for ceremonies and VIP guests are evolving. An evening banquet will be held at the

Fort Mason Officers Club. This will be an elegant affair, consistent with the historic deeds of the Scouts.

A subsequent meeting was recently held in San Francisco with Senator Dianne Feinstein's staff and the Philippine Consulate to discuss the possibilities of high-level government representation from both countries. The ultimate goals of this event are to: 1) honor and commemorate the heroic deeds of the Philippine Scouts, 2) educate the public about the critical role the Scouts played in WWII, and 3) generate increased interest and membership in the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society. Further notice will be forthcoming as details emerge.

Other members serving on the Centennial Event Committee are: Colonels John E. Olson, Melvin H. Rosen and Julian V. Sollohub, Major

Fred Foz, Lavinia R. Aquino, Sol V. Aquino, Tim Aquino, Ed & Silveria Basa, Al Caballes, George and Miriam Cawley, Jose Calugas, Jr., Nita Fernandez, Carolyn Fernandez, Delfin & Antonia (Toni) Pahed, Clinton & Esther Jennings, Nita Guiang, Evelyn Guiang, Zosimo Guiang, Romeo & Lisa Guiang, Carroll W. May, Helen Osborne, Larry L. Pangan, Lourdes Escala, Felix & Lucila Peralta, Jesus V. Okialda, Kermit Lay, Rosario Seva, David & Ming Tejada, Greg & Conchita Ramos, John & Rebecca Morano, Juan & Mary Tuscano, Fely Urban, Wanda Wilson, Nora Warren, Peter & Audrey Locarnini, Bill & Jovita Torres, Julian Canido, Charlie Mills, Peter S. Wainwright, Albert & Maura Wait, Isaac & Ciony Fabian, Ray Henderson, and Fely & Virginia Cabaddu.

We've Got Your Number!

Buy Your Raffle Tickets & Be A Winner!



The 17th Annual Reunion Committee has mailed raffle tickets to our members. Please send your check to Mrs. Toni Pahed, 848 Cayuga Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112, as soon as possible. As you can see, many prizes are awarded, including 1st prize-\$200; 2nd prize-\$150; and 3rd prize-\$100. Raffle tickets cost \$1.00/ticket or get 6 tickets for only \$5.00! The drawing will be held at the annual banquet on May 12, 2001. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter Report El Paso, TX Jan. - Sept. 2000

The chapter participated in an annual installation dinner for the local chapter of the Ex-POWs. Mr. Parazo, Past TX State Commander, had the honor of officially installing the new officers. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Parazo.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars invited members of the chapter to join in their annual Loyalty Day Parade. Dignitaries from the military and civilian community also participated.

The chapter was invited to an annual Flag Ceremony sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars. There were about 45 civilian and military organizations that attended with their flag and colors.

The Ex-POW local chapter in El Paso commemorated the Fall of Bataan at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery. A few survivors of Bataan and Corregidor attended the celebration. Guest speaker was the director of the local VA.

On April 16, the commemoration of the 58th Anniversary of the Bataan Death March was held at the White Sands Army Missile Range in New Mexico. About 3,000 marchers participated. Military participants from England, Germany, Canada, the

Philippines, and from 35 states in the U.S. were among those who braved the 26.2-mile distance. Hundreds of civilians, young and old, boy and girl scouts, high school and college students also were in the march. The Ex-POWs and their families were treated with an early special breakfast. The march started at the firing of a cannon after a brief opening ceremony held at about 0645 hours. TV reporters interviewed Mr. Parazo about his experiences as a POW. A special program and awards ceremony was held at the conclusion of the march.

Mr. and Mrs. Parazo were special guests at a Junior Navy ROTC dinner and awards ceremony held at a local high school. Mr. Parazo was a featured speaker. He was also the presenter of a few awards and certificates from the Military Order of the World Wars and a certificate from the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society Chapter. Mr. Parazo is an active member of the Military Order of the World Wars.

Four high school students from different states interviewed Mr. Parazo for their history projects. They chose the Philippines during WWII and the Bataan Death March. This was their

first time to hear about the Philippine Scouts. They were very glad to share some of the veterans and POW experiences during that period.

El Paso Chapter members who attended the 2000 Annual Reunion held in San Mateo, CA are Col. and Mrs. John Olson of San Antonio, William and Charito Cazar of Hawaii, and Mr. Parazo.

Veterans, POWs, family, friends, and soldiers came together in August as Fort Bliss paid tribute to a leader from both world wars by dedicating Sage Hall. This was in honor of MG Charles G. Sage, former commander of the 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, National Guard, who later led an anti-aircraft unit in the defense of Manila, Bataan, and Corregidor during WWII. Units of the regiment were camped east, next to the 26th Cavalry when they arrived at Fort Stotsenburg in Sep/Oct, 1941.

A reminder for the J.J. Pershing Chapter members: Dues for the year 2000 are now overdue. Please mail your dues. Fifty percent of the annual dues go to national headquarters.

Respectfully submitted,
Menandro Parazo

Obituaries

Dulcesimo Habal: Died August 6, 2000 Los Angeles, CA. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross on Bataan. He escaped from the Bataan Death March.

Angelina Flores Estropia: Died on October 31, 2000, at the age of 81 years. A life member of the PSHS, she was the beloved wife of SFC Miguel Estropia and a native of Corregidor, Philippines. She is survived by her

children Nieves Estropia, Miguel Estropia Jr., Virginia Sief, Arturo Estropia, and Manuel Estropia. She was the dear grandmother and great-grandmother to many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Please remember her in your prayers. May her soul rest in peace. You may send condolence cards to Arturo Estropia, 825 Carlston Ave, Oakland, CA 94610-1732.

If you know of the recent death of a Philippine Scout or family member, please notify Public Relations Officer Nicoll Galbraith. We would like to include a short biography written by someone who knew the deceased personally.



Which End's Up?



The Philippine Defense and Liberation Ribbons

Our Legal Advisor, Col. Melvin H. Rosen, noticed in the last issue of this newsletter that the Philippine Defense Ribbon and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon were both displayed improperly in the nameplate design. Despite the way it is worn on General Wainwright's uniform in the accompanying photo, the preponderance of evidence shows that the Philippine Defense Ribbon should have two stars below and one star above. Col. Rosen also pointed out that the Philippine Liberation Ribbon should have the white stripe on the right side. As you'll see, these have been fixed in the newsletter design. Kudos and thanks to Col. Mel Rosen for knowing which end's up!



Annual Reunion 2000 Flashback



Left: Col. Mel Rosen and Capt. Kermit Lay reminisce at the 2000 Philippine Scouts Annual Reunion.



Right: Smiling faces await you at the registration table of the 2001 Annual Reunion! See you there!

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

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society Honors POW Comrades Who Died In Camp O'Donnell

The members of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (PSHS) are planning to place a plaque at the site of the Japanese POW enclosure known as Camp O'Donnell in the Philippines to honor their comrades who died of starvation and disease in the prison in 1942.

The Philippine Scouts were formed in 1901 by Act of the United States Congress to assist in the pacification of the islands of the Philippines, following the departure of Spanish troops in 1899. Following WWI, 6,000 of the Philippine Scouts were inducted into the Regular Army of the United States. In response to the growing expansion of the Japanese Empire during the 1930s, the U.S. Congress increased the Philippine Scouts' strength to 12,000 in the spring of 1941.

When the Japanese invaded the archipelago in December 1941, the Philippine Scouts, although outnumbered, stubbornly opposed the enemy, thus permitting the United States Army Forces in the Far East (USAFPE) to withdraw to the Bataan Peninsula. From this strategic point, the Scouts could prevent the Japanese from utilizing Manila Bay to support their drive south.



The Society's Historian, Col. John E. Olson, has worked tirelessly on the Camp O'Donnell Memorial Plaque.

For over three months, the Philippine Scouts stopped enemy attempts to push into Bataan; destroyed several landings; and crushed three penetrations of the USAFFE lines. Debilitated by disease, starvation, and lack of ammunition, the Scouts were striving to halt the overwhelming numbers attacking them, when they were ordered to put down their arms by higher headquarters.

In the ensuing three weeks, the exhausted survivors were forced to march north over sunbaked roads with virtually no food and insufficient water to Camp O'Donnell. Many who were too weak to walk were brutally shot or bayoneted. The survivors of the Death March were herded into the Camp. The Japanese failed to provide sufficient food or medicine and refused to let the International Red Cross and other relief organizations render aid.

From late April until the end of June the deaths increased in staggering numbers. Finally, when the story of the extermination of captives became known, the Japanese High Command began gradually to release the Philippine Scouts and their Philippine Army comrades. But by the time the last Philippine Scout staggered out the camp gate, over 2,600 had been buried.

The unveiling and dedication ceremony will take place on April 9, 2001 at Camp O'Donnell, on the Philippine side. All former Scouts, family members, and friends are cordially invited to attend. The plaque bears silent honor to the heroes who paid the supreme sacrifice for their country. May they never be forgotten!

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!

Please return completed application to: Philippine Scouts Heritage Society
Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter • Veterans War Memorial Building
401 Van Ness, Room 126 • San Francisco, CA • 94102-4587

17th Annual Reunion Registration Form - May 10-12, 2001

NAME AND ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____ UNIT ASSIGNED _____

WIFE'S NAME _____ NUMBER OF PERSONS _____

DATE OF ARRIVAL _____ REGISTRATION FEE: \$35.00 PER PERSON

MAIL YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO GOLDEN GATE BAY AREA CHAPTER TO: MRS. ANTONIA (TONI) PAHED, CHAIR, FINANCE/REGISTRATION COMMITTEE, 848 CAYUGA AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112. Phone: (415) 239-4248.

DINNER MENU: PLEASE CHECK ONE ONLY... BROCHETTE OF BEEF () OR STUFFED CHICKEN VILLA (). SERVED WITH ALL TRIMMINGS...

DEADLINE: APRIL 20, 2001

(Signature)



ADVERTISING (ADS) FORM

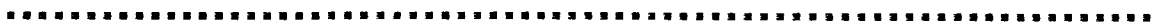
NAME AND ADDRESS/TEL. NUMBER _____

PLEASE INDICATE SIZE DESIRED: FULL PAGE - \$100.00 () ONE HALF PAGE - \$50.00 () ONE FOURTH PAGE - \$25.00 () ONE EIGHT PAGE - \$10.00 () BUSINESS CARD - \$10.00 ()

SEND YOUR PHOTO, FORMAT AND ANY DETAILS DESIRED TO BE PRINTED AND ANY LOGO AS DESIRED TO: MR. DELFIN A. PAHED, 848 CAYUGA AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94112. PHONE; (415) 239-4248. MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: GOLDEN GATE BAY AREA CHAPTER.

DEADLINE: APRIL 20, 2001

(Signature & Telephone Number)



HOTEL RESERVATIONS

VILLA HOTEL, 4000 SOUTH EL CAMINO REAL, SAN MATEO, CA 94403. TELEPHONE NUMBER: (650) 341-0966. FAX: (650) 573-0164.

SINGLE OR DOUBLE: \$82.00... TRIPLE: \$92.00... QUAD: \$102.00... SUITES: \$169.00 UP...

CUT OFF DATE: APRIL 28, 2001 OR BLOCK WILL BE RELEASED. ARRANGE FOR YOUR OWN RESERVATION DIRECT TO THE HOTEL... MENTION PHILIPPINE SCOUTS IN ORDER TO GET THE REDUCED RATES AS INDICATED.....

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



*Col. Nicoll F. Galbraith
Public Relations Officer
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*Give us a call any-
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like to become
involved with the
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