

# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



Summer 2002

## Death March Horrors to the Fore

### Bataan Survivors Sue, Push for Recognition of Suffering 60 Years

By Steve Vogel  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Sunday, May 26, 2002; Page A1

Mel Rosen's introduction to being a prisoner of war came in the first hours after he and his troops surrendered to the Japanese in the Philippines in spring 1942.

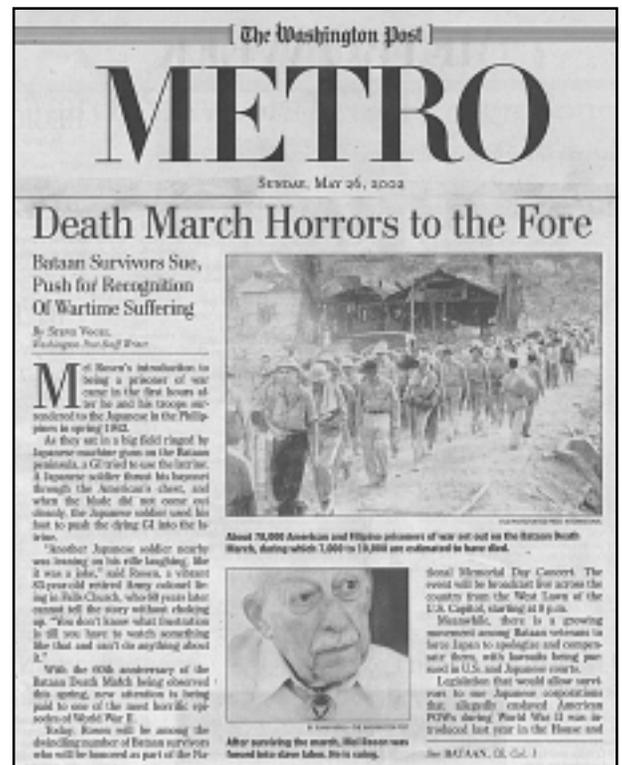
As they sat in a big field ringed by Japanese machine guns on the Bataan peninsula, a GI tried to use the latrine. A Japanese soldier thrust his bayonet through the American's chest, and when the blade did not come out

cleanly, the Japanese soldier used his foot to push the dying GI into the latrine.

"Another Japanese soldier nearby was leaning on his rifle laughing, like it was a joke," said Rosen, a vibrant 83-year-old retired Army colonel living in Falls Church, who 60 years later cannot tell the story without choking up. "You don't know what frustration is till you have to watch something like that and can't do anything about it."

With the 60th anniversary of the Bataan Death March being observed

See Death March: Page 4



The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society's Legal Advisor Col. Mel Rosen was featured in a Washington Post article describing WWII atrocities committed by the Japanese and the continuing efforts by the victims to receive an apology. The text of the article is at left.

### What's Inside?

#### Summer 2002 Issue

President Aquino's Farewell.....	2
Message From Our New President.....	2
Victory In Defeat.....	3
About Our New President.....	6
Meet Our New 2nd Vice President.....	7
Annual Reunion Attracts 116.....	8
Chapter Reports.....	9
Lt. Gen. Thomas Trapnell Dies.....	10
Willibald C. Bianchi: Heroe.....	11
Bataan & The Philippine Scouts.....	12

## Editor's Comments

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter members and spouses, our 18<sup>th</sup> Philippine Scouts Heritage Society reunion commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the fall of Bataan

and Corregidor was a resounding success. About 116 of our members and friends paid tribute to the brave resistance of the Scouts and enjoyed the good fellowship of the event.

See Editor's Comments: Page 3

## National President Aquino's Farewell

Once again, we were privileged to be given an opportunity to enjoy and rejoice during the 18th annual reunion of the renowned Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, accented by the 60th anniversary of the fall of Bataan (4/9/42) and Corregidor (5/6/42).

Those who fought in the battlefields of Bataan and Corregidor left an ageless heritage. Had they had the chance to look back, theirs would have been the greatest satisfaction to see their efforts had not been in vain. Let it be the duty of every freedom loving members to uphold and preserve the dignity of our heritage.

The 18th annual reunion marks the termination of one of the many activities I have devoted time to. As one steps down from a coveted office, such as the presidency of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society, he finds it the greatest privilege to look back to the recorded history of his performance.

This privilege he can do with his honest thinking, his term of service has been spent worthily in the realiza-

tion of goals, in the furtherance of amicable relationships and in the rendering of unfaltering loyalty and untainted dedication to service despite the many obstacles that were so often strewn in the way. Discharging the duties and responsibilities of the office of the National President has been challenging and rewarding.

To my fellow members, I have this to say: For all my shortcomings, I gratefully appreciate your tolerance and understanding. For your faithful cooperation and unrelenting moral support during the six years of my administration, my heartfelt thanks. I can only say that I am a better man for having served you. Thank you for letting me.

May the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society keep its banner waving high and may the spirit of our reunions be kept alive in our hearts and reflected in our thoughts.

To the incoming National President, I gracefully extend my warm congratulations. May Our Lord bless us all. God bless America!



Photo: David Rosen

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

## A Message from Our New National President



Photo: David Rosen

Dear Members and Friends,  
It is now official. At the general membership meeting on May 11, 2002, at the Villa Hotel, San Mateo, the following National Officers were elected and installed by Maj. Gen. Walter Titus, SNG (Ret).

President: Larry L. Pangan  
2nd Vice President: Menandro Parazo

Secretary: Joe S. Aquino  
Treasurer: Nora G. Warren  
Assistant Treasurer: Nita Guiang

On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joe Aquino for the years of hard work he has put in as President of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (PSHS).

I am also pleased to note that he will continue to serve the organization as Secretary and as a member of the Board of Directors.

On behalf of the Society, I would also like to thank retiring officers Lavinia Aquino (Secretary), Feliseo Cabaddu (Treasurer) and G.M. Torres (Assistant Treasurer). Their efforts have been invaluable in assuring that the PSHS ran smoothly.

During the Board of Directors meeting on May 10, we agreed that we should focus our membership recruiting on the second and third generation Scout blood relatives and friends. As your new President, I am appealing to

See Pangan: Page 5

*Editor's Comments: from front page*

The gathering also marked the passing of the leadership baton from Joe Aquino to Larry Pangan. Joe, who has been our active and capable leader since 1996, will continue to serve the Philippine Scout Heritage Society as Secretary and as a member of the Board of Directors. Thank you, Joe, for your able leadership, which will be long and favorably remembered!

We also are fortunate to have as able and dedicated a Scout as Larry Pangan as our new National President. Menandro Parazo, President of the General John J. Pershing Chapter in El Paso, has graciously agreed to be acting Second Vice President for the remainder of Larry's term. Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

By the time you receive this newsletter, our PSHS website will be up and running at <http://philippine-scouts.org>. My daughter, Christa Houlahan, who works in the website design field, has engineered a very professional looking site which should be an asset to the PSHS membership and to anyone wanting additional information on the Philippine Scouts.

In the coming months, the website will be expanded and various links will be provided to other sites relevant to the Scouts and their history. If you have any suggestions or comments, please email her at [webmaster@philippine-scouts.org](mailto:webmaster@philippine-scouts.org).

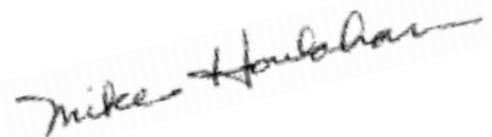
I also would like to begin listing speaking engagements of members talking about the Philippine Scouts. One of the missions of the PSHS is perpetuating the memory of the Scouts and their exploits, so such events deserve to be recognized and recorded. Please pass speech information on to me for inclusion in future newsletters. I am already aware that Sen. John Patterson, Capt. Menandro Parazo, Col. John Olson and Col. Mel Rosen are all very active speakers on behalf of the Scouts. I'm sure there are others.

Also I am interested in knowing about events which take place to honor the Scouts specifically or the defense of Bataan and Corregidor in general. For example, in early June, Col. Olson presented to the Fort Sam Houston Museum two Philippine Scout draw-

ings purchased by the PSHS from noted Filipino artist Daniel Dizon. As detailed in the El Paso Chapter report, Capt. Parazo also took part in a series of ceremonies and speeches in Texas and New Mexico.

I'm pleased that we are able to include in this issue an inspirational short speech by Col. Mel Rosen; an excellent article by Washington Post staff writer Steve Vogel on the efforts of U.S. POWs to obtain an apology and compensation from the Japanese; and an interesting piece by Sen. John Patterson detailing additional information on Scout Medal of Honor winner Capt. Willibald Bianchi.

I look forward to receiving material from many of you for our next newsletter edition.



Mike Houlahan  
Public Relations Officer

## *Victory In Defeat*

### *Comments by Col. Mel Rosen at 18th Annual Reunion*

I get rather disturbed by constantly hearing that the fall of Bataan and Corregidor was such a great disaster for the United States. Let me tell you my approach to this. If you agree with me, I request—no, I implore you to help me spread this word!

In 1941, the Japanese Imperial Headquarters gave Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma 50 days in which to completely conquer the Philippines. At the end of that time, they were going to take half of Homma's 14th Army with appropriate parts of his air and naval support for operations in the South

presumably against New Zealand and Australia. At that time, New Zealand had few if any defensive forces, and Australia had only about 6,000 troops, as their forces were all fighting in North Africa. The Japanese would have gone through New Zealand and Australia like a hot knife through butter. Then what was going to stop the Japanese from taking Hawaii? The U.S. was still reeling from the disaster at Pearl Harbor. Instead of 50 days, the Fil-American forces on Bataan and Corregidor held out for 150 days thereby completely upsetting the

Japanese timetable for victory in the Pacific. The Fil-American forces, fighting with no air support and with no hope of ever getting any replacements, held out until their ammunition, their weapons, medicine, food, and, yes, people just plain gave out. But we gave the United States what it needed most at that time and that was time!

I submit that even in defeat, the Fil-American forces on Bataan and Corregidor may have given the United States one of its more important victories of WWII.

*Death March: from front page*

this spring, new attention is being paid to one of the most horrific episodes of World War II.

On Sunday, Rosen will be among the dwindling number of Bataan survivors who will be honored as part of the National Memorial Day Concert. The event will be broadcast live across the country from the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, starting at 8 p.m.

Meanwhile, there is a growing movement among Bataan veterans to force Japan to apologize and compensate them, with lawsuits being pursued in U.S. and Japanese courts.

Legislation that would allow survivors to sue Japanese corporations that allegedly enslaved American POWs during World War II was introduced last year in the House and Senate. A House resolution with more than 225 co-sponsors will be pushed in coming weeks.

While the Bataan Death March has entered the lexicon – often in references that trivialize its inhumanity – the full extent of the horrors that ensued for survivors is little understood.

“I think its time people learned what happened over there,” said Paul Rutter, 81, an Oxon Hill man who survived the march and more than three years of captivity. “That part of history has been lost.”

Marching for days in terrible heat, beaten and deprived of food and water, an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 of the 78,000 Americans and Filipinos who surrendered to the Japanese died during the march.

Over the next three years, those who survived were kept in horribly debilitating conditions and exposed to tropical diseases, transported in “hell ships” to camps in Japan and elsewhere, and forced into slave labor.

Of the 12,000 Americans taken prisoner at Bataan, only 4,000 were

alive by the end of the war, according to authorities on the subject.

Rosen is the lead plaintiff in a \$1 trillion class-action lawsuit against Japan filed in September in federal court in Chicago. “Everything the Japanese did to us was deliberate, inhuman, brutal, calculated and racist,” he said.

#### **Rounded Up**

Hours after the raid on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, U.S. forces in the Philippines also were attacked by Japanese bombers and fighters, and later that month, by a large invasion force of the Imperial Japanese Army.

The U.S. troops and their Filipino allies fighting on the Bataan peninsula across the bay from Manila held out against heavy odds for 150 days, until their ammunition, medical supplies and food gave out. After their surrender April 9, the prisoners were rounded up and marched north for days, up to 55 miles in the heat without water.

“If anybody dropped or couldn’t make it, we were not allowed to help. The Japanese clubbed them to death, bayoneted them, shot them or beheaded them,” said Rosen, a 1940 West Point graduate who was a lieutenant with the Philippine Scouts. “There were hundreds of American bodies and thousands of Filipino bodies left along the route of the death march.”

At a railhead, they were loaded into hot, crowded box cars. “If you died in there, you couldn’t fall to the floor even,” said Rutter, a B-17 radio operator who had been based at Clark Field.

At their eventual destination, Camp O’Donnell, 54,000 prisoners were crammed into facilities built for a fraction as many people. Malaria and dysentery killed thousands more.

In November 1942, Rosen was sent to a penal colony on the island of

Mindanao, and he spent the next two years working in rice fields. “I planted rice, weeded rice, harvested rice, milled rice. Got damn little of it to eat,” he said.

#### **Aboard ‘Hell Ships’**

Two years later, he and 1,600 other Americans were loaded onto a ship bound for Japan, where they were to be used as slave labor in factories. Rosen was put in a 30-by-50-foot hold with about 680 prisoners.

People had diarrhea and dysentery, and the hold soon filled with human waste. The next morning, the ship was attacked by U.S. dive bombers, whose pilots did not know that Americans were aboard.

Another attack by U.S. planes came the next day, and as the ship began to sink, prisoners emerged from the hold. “Those of us still alive decided getting our heads blown off by machine gun fire was preferable to going down in a sinking, burning ship,” Rosen said.

The 1,300 American survivors who swam ashore were loaded onto a second ship. They reached a harbor in Formosa, now Taiwan, in January 1945 when U.S. bombers struck again. “The Japanese kept us down there with our dead and dying for four days, and on the fifth day, lowered a net and said, ‘Pile all your dead in here,’ “ Rosen said.

Aboard a third ship, prisoners froze as they sailed in the North China Sea with little protection from the January cold. “We were throwing American bodies overboard at the rate of 30, then 40, then 50 a day all the way to Japan,” Rosen said.

By various estimates, 200 to 300 of the 1,600 prisoners loaded on the first ship made it to Japan. “The death march was a Sunday stroll compared to the three hell ships,” Rosen said.

Rutter, who had been shipped to Japan earlier, spent two years working

*See Death March: Page 5*

*Death March: from Page 4*

in a steel mill south of Osaka. Others were sent to coal mines. "We were money machines for them," Rutter said.

One day in August 1945, Rutter and his fellow prisoners found that their Japanese guards were gone. The Americans asked some Korean prisoners what had happened. "They said the war was over. Something had happened at Hiroshima."

When Rosen arrived in Japan and

was put on a scale, his weight had dropped from a normal 155 pounds to 88 pounds.

"A lot of people say you must really hate the Japanese," Rosen said. He does not, he is quick to say. The home he shares with his wife, Olive, includes Japanese artifacts picked up on travels during a 30-year Army career.

The lawsuit he has filed is being pursued for symbolic, not monetary, reasons, Rosen said. "The Japanese are

waiting for us to die off," he said.

When a U.S. Navy submarine accidentally sank a Japanese trawler off Hawaii last year, the U.S. promptly apologized, a proper gesture, Rosen said.

"I have been waiting 60 years for an apology from Japan."

© 2002 The Washington Post  
Reprinted with permission

*Pangan: from Page 2*

you all, to do your very best to accomplish this recruiting drive.

I know most of us are having problems with our health. In my case, I am trying to ignore the many aches and pains. I do my walking exercise whenever I can during the day. Scouts just don't suddenly abandon their post, even under fire. We have proven this time and again.

What I am asking from all of you my fellow Scouts and good friends, is by next year's reunion time, each Chapter will be able to muster the old and new members to attend and enjoy the good times. Forget the pains and enjoy life while we can.

As you are all aware, Filipino Associations are in every corner of the country. Filipinos (especially the middle age parents) like to go out and socialize on Saturday nights. Maybe this is the time for every Chapter to think about fund raising. Call the event "Philippine Scouts Centennial Dinner and Dance." This is one way of attracting younger new members and letting the Filipino Community in your area that we exist. Believe me, every Filipino event I have attended is always well attended, especially if they have a good band or DJ playing.

If you agree with this idea, you can organize your Chapter Fund Raising



*National President Larry Pangan encourages Regional Chapters of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society to host dinner/dances to raise funds for the organization. Photo: David Rosen*

Committees. I recommend holding it during October, since this is the month that we celebrated the centennial. The only condition I ask of you, if you are going to hold this dinner-dance, is for the Chapter to donate 10% of your net proceeds to the National 'Treasury. Right now, the National cash assets are going down very fast. There is no revenue coming in as far as Chapter dues apportionment to National except

the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter which sent in their payment. The only other source is our annual reunion.

We also approved donating the centennial magazine to city and school libraries. This is one way of letting young students know about the history of the Philippine Scouts. I am asking Chapter Presidents to canvas your respective communities and find out if the libraries are willing to take the magazines. As soon as I hear from you, I will mail the box containing 50 magazines. If you need more, just let me know and I will ship them to you.

For your information and guidance, I am sending you a copy of the "By-Laws" of the PSHS. All I ask is for you to review it and let us all abide by its rules.

God willing, we will all be together next year. We have anticipated that next year our 19th annual reunion will be held in the Villa Hotel again, unless another Chapter is willing to host it.

My best regards to all of you and your families,

Larry Pangan  
National President

## Bataan Survivor Heads Philippine Scouts Group

*This article, from the June 5-11 edition of the Philippine News, is republished with permission.*

If Larry L. Pangan survived the death march, he can wing anything.

The Fairfield, California war hero was recently elected national president at the 18th annual reunion and general membership meeting of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society held at the Villa Hotel here. He is the third to occupy the post since the inception of the society in 1989. The first president is retired Brigadier General Royal Reynolds, Jr. of Arlington, Virginia; followed by Jose "Joe" S. Aquino of South San Francisco, California, from 1996 to 2001.

Pangan was born in Arayat, Pampanga, and moved to Manila in 1938 after graduating from high school. He was attending the Philippine Harvardian Business College when he was drafted in the Philippine Scouts at Fort William McKinley in March 1941 and assigned for training to the 57th Infantry Regiment. He was taken as prisoner of war when Bataan surrendered on April 9, 1942. A survivor of the infamous "death march," he was incarcerated in Camp O' Donnell in Capas. Four months in the camp, he was afflicted with

malaria, dysentery, beriberi, and malnutrition. From a healthy 135 pounds when he entered the army, he crashed to 70. The Japanese guards usually go out with a truck once a week taking at least four or five prisoners with them who can still walk and help them gather live stocks, like pigs, and chickens, and vegetables from the village farmers. They never pay for the food they take. Pangan was on one of the details one day in September 1942, when he managed to escape with another prisoner by running into the nearby sugarcane field while the two guards were busy fooling around with some young village women.

He returned to his hometown where he received medical attention. Within three months, he was able to regain some weight and strength. He then joined Col. W. Fertig's guerrilla unit as an intelligence officer operating in central Luzon, reporting to his friend and fellow scout Captain Jose Flores from Zamboanga. For his service in World War II, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, American Defense Medal,

American and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medals, Philippine Liberation Medal and the Victory Medal. His unit received three Presidential Unit Citations during the battles against a superior enemy in Bataan. Pangan received his second Bronze Star Medal during his service in Korea in 1951 to 1952. When he retired from the U.S. Army in 1961, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his excellent service as a



*In August 1952, while serving in Korea, Pangan received the Bronze Star Medal for service as S-1 Engr. Sec. Hq. X Corps.*

senior enlisted adviser to the USAR School at the Presidio of San Francisco. He is very active in the various veterans' organizations. Even at 82, Larry Pangan has not slowed down. He was past President of the Retirees and Veterans Association in San



*Pangan was presented with the Army Commendation Medal at his retirement from the U.S. Army March 31, 1961.*



*From 1958-60, Pangan was a member of the Sixth U.S. Army Shooting Team*

Francisco; past commander of the American Ex- POW Luzviminda Chapter in San Francisco; and currently post commander of American Legion Manuel L. Quezon Post 603 in Vallejo, California.

## Meet Our New Second Vice President

Captain Menandro B. Parazo, our new Second Vice President, joined the U.S. Army in February 1941 and was assigned to the 26th Cavalry Regiment (PS) stationed at Fort Stotsenburg, Philippines, the only mounted U.S. horse cavalry in WWII.

He was taken prisoner by the Japanese Imperial Army two days after Bataan surrendered on 9 April 1942 and was forced to join the Death March. Parazo escaped from the Japanese and joined the guerrilla resistance movement.



Menandro and Teofila Parazo  
Photo: David Rosen

In March 1943 he was recaptured and was brutally tortured at the Japanese Military Intelligence Unit in Manila. He later escaped from the Japanese again and rejoined his guerrilla unit. During the liberation of the Philippines, he rejoined the U.S. Army and participated at the Battle of Manila in 1945. After the liberation, he was sent to Japan with the U.S. occupation forces. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1971 with the rank of Captain.

His decorations include the Prisoner of War Medal, two Bronze Stars, the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic- Pacific Service Medal, the Philippine Defense Service Medal, the Philippine Guerilla Resistance Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, three Presidential Unit Citations, the Japan Occupation Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.

He is an active member of the U.S. Cavalry Association, American Ex-POW Association, Disabled American Veterans Association, the retired Officers Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Military Order of the World Wars, Philippine Scouts, the Bataan Veterans



Organization, and the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

He is also a member of the Philippine-American National Historical Society and the Philippine-American National Leaders Advisory Council.

Menandro Parazo has been married to Teofila Santos for 55 years. They have four children, 10 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Since retirement, he and his wife have resided in El Paso, Texas.

## A Message From Our Second Vice President

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society annual reunions, conventions and recent centennial historic celebration are reminders of the various unforgettable acts of heroism in the defense of the Philippines. Of particular importance are the defense of Bataan and Corregidor, the Death March, the concentration camps, the atrocities, and the resistance movement during the brutal Japanese occupation. They are occasions to cherish the freedom that a great

generation of those who served has passed on. Such deeds and sacrifices cannot be repaid or forgotten.

Many historians and writers have loaded history with stories of courage, valor, leadership and bravery. Yet a comparative few have written about the role of the Philippine Scouts in WWII. And their service didn't end with the Japanese surrender. At the conclusion of the war, the Scouts were sent to many Pacific bases as occupation forces to relieve the soldiers due

to go home. We who are still alive can do more to preserve the memoirs, history, dignity and legacy of the Philippine Scouts. Their history serves as inspiration to the young who have the desire to be a part of something meaningful that endures forever. They stand as shining examples, serving our country as Soldiers of Valor.

Menandro Parazo  
Captain, U.S. Army (Ret.)

# Philippine Scouts' Annual Reunion Attracts 116

Posting of the colors by the Diosdado Franco Post 714 color guard led by Commander Al Caballes and a prayer by Chaplain Carroll May launched the business meeting portion of the 18th annual reunion of the Philippine Scouts at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo.



*Outgoing President Joe Aquino (right) presents a plaque to General Titus.*

Speeches by retiring National President Joe Aquino and Golden Gate Chapter President David Tejada welcomed the members.

The nomination and election of national officers followed, with the following results:

Larry L. Pangan, National President  
Menandro Parazo, Second Vice President (for the remainder of Larry's term)

Colonel John Olson, Historian  
Joe Aquino, Secretary  
Nora G. Warren, Treasurer  
Nita Guiang, Assistant Treasurer

Following committee reports, it was decided to authorize expenditures to

establish a Philippine Scouts Heritage Society website [<http://www.philippine-scouts.org>] and to donate reproductions of two Philippine Scout drawings by Filipino artist Daniel Dizon to the Fort Sam Houston Museum, the official repository for Philippine Scout memorabilia. Also

the constitution was amended to place past presidents of the Society on the Board of Directors. Finally, the Villa Hotel was selected as the site of next year's reunion.

At the end of the business meeting a candlelight memorial service was conducted by Chaplain May; Col. John Olson delivered a eulogy for General Trapnell; and a roll call of deceased Scouts was read.

The reunion dinner dance that evening attracted 116 members, relatives and friends. Perhaps the highlight of the reunion was a short, impassioned statement by Col. Mel Rosen on the military significance of the Philippine Scout's heroic defense of Bataan and Corregidor (see page 3).

Other speakers included First Lt. Joe Aquino, National President; MSgt. Larry Pangan, National President-elect; Col. John Olson, Historian; Senator John Patterson, First



*Joe Aquino digs deep to pull a winning ticket during the ever-popular raffle. Photos: David Rosen*

Vice President; and Major General Walter Titus, U.S. Army Reserves (Ret.), the evening's keynote speaker. Delfin Pahed, General Chairman for the reunion, was Master of Ceremonies.

In his keynote address, General Titus delivered a brief, broad stroke summary of World War II, followed by a critical commentary on military readiness, stressing how poorly funded he feels U.S. military reserves have traditionally been and how dangerous this is to our national interests.

The evening also included an entertaining performance by the skilled Filipino-American dance group "Yaman ng Cultura," as well as dance music by Joe Simoni and his orchestra.



*Gen. Titus performs the induction ceremony for the national officers.*

## Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter Report

First and foremost, we are delighted to be hosting the 19th Annual Reunion on May 9-10, 2003. Under the leadership of Past National President (PNP) Joe S. Aquino, there will be a complete rejuvenation of our schedule. The planning committee will stage a raffle fund raiser—six tickets for \$5.00 or \$1.00 a ticket. This is intended to generate revenue to cover expenditures. Another possibility is to publish a souvenir program. Our experience shows this is a good source of income. Letters will be mailed before the reunion to all members and friends announcing advertising rates.

All this is under the leadership of National President Larry Pangan, who was elected as the general chairman of Reunion 2003. We know that his leadership will be productive and successful. He will get complete support from the officers and members of Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter. PNP Joe S. Aquino will support him as advisor and coordinator. As the other chapters do not seem to be interested in hosting our reunions, the GGBAC

has hosted the event for six of the last seven years. The exception was 1999, when the Monterey County chapter in Salinas hosted it with great success.

The GGBAC meets once a month with several activities planned. The annual picnic is September 21. Chief chef David Tejada and his assistants are ready to barbecue chicken, beef and hot dogs. Coffee and soft drinks will be provided. Just for a \$2.00 donation, you will enjoy the hospitality and camaraderie. November 16 is a consolidated Thanksgiving potluck and bingo. Ten huge turkeys will be given away. We invite the attention of bingo enthusiasts to attend. Win a turkey for your family Thanksgiving!

December 21 is a joint venture Christmas Party (GGBAC, SF Post #1 & Auxiliary, 8th District and Auxiliary). Children under 10 will be given gifts. Adults will exchange gifts valued at no more than \$5.00 and a potluck meal will be served. All attendees are requested to donate food of their choice. Caroling and live music are additional attractions.

**Post Everlasting:** Lt. Oscar Hernandez, a great Filipino-American hero of World War II and the Korean War, died in his sleep recently. The 80-year old veteran was a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March. A joint memorial service honoring him was held by the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and the American Ex-Prisoners of War on June 10. He is survived by his lovely wife, Cristina, four daughters, many relatives and friends. Please remember him in your prayers. May his soul rest in peace. Send cards to 517 Linden Avenue, San Bruno, CA 94066.

**Open Heart Surgery:** A letter was recently received from Mrs. Luningning Guevara, informing us that her husband, Dominador A. Guevara, had been hospitalized with quadruple coronary by-pass surgery at Lutheran General Hospital just outside Chicago. He is home now recovering. Send cards to 7533 Wilson Terrace, Morton Grove, IL 60053-1174. Mr. Guevara is a life

## Gen. John J. Pershing Chapter Activities May 2001 - May 2002

May 2001: Chapter members attended the Memorial Day celebration at the Ft. Bliss National Cemetery. Chapter President Menando Parazo was invited as the guest speaker at the Ft. Bliss annual celebration of Asian Pacific Americans' contributions to the nation. Theme of the event was "Emerging Together." Maj. Gen. Green, Commandant of Ft. Bliss, presented Capt. Parazo a plaque and Certificate of Appreciation.

June: Capt. and Mrs. Parazo attended the Bataan Veterans Organization Convention in New Mexico.

July: Members attended an Inde-

pendence Day celebration at Ft. Bliss.

September: Members attended the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony at Ft. Bliss.

November: Chapter President Parazo was one of the eight honored guests representing American Veterans of four wars at the Air Defense Artillery Association Veterans Day Gala 2001 held at Fort Bliss in an evening celebrating heroes and history. Major General Green, CO of Fort Bliss, presented a plaque and a Certificate of Recognition to Capt. Parazo. Members joined the Veterans Day Parade in downtown El Paso.

April 2002: Members participated on the anniversary of the fall of Bataan at the National Cemetery in conjunction with the national Ex-POW Recognition Day ceremony.

On April 9, Chapter President Parazo and members attended the unveiling and dedication ceremonies of the Bataan Memorial Monument at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Following the ceremonies, a ribbon cutting took place dedicating the Bataan Memorial Highway. Philippine Ambassador Albert Del Rosario was guest speaker at both ceremonies.

*See Pershing: page 10*

*Pershing: from Page 9*

Members also participated on the annual Bataan Memorial Death March activities at White Sands Army Missile Range, New Mexico on 14 April 02, commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the fall of Bataan. There were about 4,200 from six countries registered for the march of 26.2 miles. A roll call listing names of

deceased Philippine Scouts was read.

May: Members attended the Memorial Day ceremony in Ft. Bliss.

Menando Parazo attended the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The Commander, during his speech at the banquet, asked the Philippine Scouts to stand and said, "If

it were not for the brave Philippine Scouts we will not be here tonight."

There was a big standing ovation.

During the past year, Chapter President Parazo spoke about the Philippine Scouts and guerrilla resistance to the Japanese during WWII before students at Del Valle, Zavala, Bel Air and Socorro High Schools.

## *Lt. General Thomas "Trap" Trapnell Dies at 99*

It is with deep regret that we received word of the passing of Lt. General Thomas John Hall Trapnell, one of our oldest Philippine Scout veterans. "Trap" survived the Bataan Death March, served as an American adviser to the French in the final stages of their war in Vietnam and retired in 1962 as commander of the 3rd U.S. Army. He died of heart failure on February 13 in his home at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

General Trapnell's decorations included the Army's Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest award for valor. Then a Major, he was awarded the DSR in January, 1942, for actions taken in defending a bridge while commanding a 26<sup>th</sup> Cavalry unit as it fought a valiant rear-guard action allowing Fil-Am forces to withdraw to the Bataan peninsula.

After enduring three years of horrific conditions in a Japanese POW camp, in December 1944, he was among 1,600 American prisoners being transported on the Japanese Hell Ship Oryoko Maru when American dive-bombers sank the vessel, not knowing it was transporting POWs. His next ship, the Enoura Maru, also was sunk by U.S. planes. The approximately 300 survivors of the two sinkings, finally were transported to Japan aboard the Brasil Maru. In August, 1945, Trap was liberated in Manchuria by Russian troops.

The athletic six-footer, an All-American back on the West Point football team, weighed less than 100 pounds when rescued.

Promoted to general in 1951, he became commander of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. The next year, he helped subdue a rebellion of more than 80,000 North Korean and Chinese POWs on Korea's Koje-do Island. Communist leaders had fomented the insurrection, threatening truce negotiations and leading to the death of more than 40 prisoners.

From 1952 to 1954, General Trapnell was chief of the U.S. Military mission to Vietnam, where he predicted that the French would not overcome the Communists. He left Dien Bien Phu just before the Vietnamese victory over the French. Sent again to Vietnam, this time by President Kennedy in 1961, Trap advised against U.S. military involvement.

Trap's commands included the 82nd Airborne Division, the I Corps in Korea and the Strategic Army Corps, a highly mobile force commonly called STRAC, and the 3rd U.S. Army. He settled in the Washington area following retirement. Besides the Distinguished Service Cross, Trapnell was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, two awards of the Silver Star, three awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Trap was a native of Yonkers, N.Y.,



and a 1927 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was an All-American in football and lacrosse. Upon graduation, he was commissioned in the cavalry and was assigned to the Philippines in 1939. On the Bataan peninsula, mounted one of the last horse cavalry charges in Army history.

Trap was an advisory board member of the Florida-based Center for Internee Rights. He was married to his first wife, Alys Snow Trapnell, from 1929 until her death in 1953. He married his second wife, Elizabeth Jones Trapnell, in 1956 and she died in 2001. General Trapnell is survived by a sister, Eleanor Trapnell Dosh of Catonsville, Maryland.

## Philippine Scout Heroes of World War II: Willibald C. Bianchi

by John A. Patterson, First Vice-President

In an earlier Society newsletter (Fall, 2000 issue), I wrote a short article about the outstanding exploits of the Philippine Scouts during the early days of World War II. The article noted specifically the three Scouts who were awarded the Medal of Honor — Jose Calugas, Sr.; my uncle, Alexander R. Nininger, Jr.; and Willibald C. Bianchi.

At the time I wrote about these three heroes, the society did not know very much about Willibald Bianchi other than that which was contained in his official Medal of Honor citation. Fortunately, as a result of the article, I was given a lead by Major Thomas White of the U. S. Air Force, with respect to Bianchi's relatives in his hometown of New Ulm, Minnesota. After numerous phone calls, I was able to reach Bianchi's sister, Mag Marti. She talked at length about her brother and was kind enough to send along various materials that give a fuller picture of this extraordinary individual. We are now in close contact with all three families of these men. Thanks to Ms. Marti, I also contacted her daughter, Sue Marti, who is very interested in preserving the history of the Scouts and is, of course, very proud of her late uncle. Sue, her sisters and husband, are members of our society. She spoke movingly about her uncle at the Philippine Scouts centennial event on October 6, 2001, at the Presidio in San Francisco. Willibald (Bill) Bianchi was born on March 12, 1915, in New Ulm. He was raised on a farm near the town. When his father died during Bianchi's sophomore year in high school, Bill took over the farm. At the age of 21, he enrolled at South Dakota State

University where he majored in animal science, played football and was active in the Army ROTC. Upon graduation in 1940, Bianchi was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army. He requested duty overseas and was assigned to the Philippines in 1941.

Bianchi's exploits on February 3, 1942, while serving with the 45th Infantry Regiment (Philippine Scouts), led to the award of the Medal of Honor. In what became known as the Battle of the Pockets, Bianchi distinguished himself above and beyond the call of duty by voluntarily leading part of a rifle platoon against two fortified Japanese machine gun nests. He was wounded early on when two bullets passed through his left hand. He wouldn't stop for first aid, but, instead, discarded his rifle and began firing a pistol with his good hand. He located one machine gun and silenced it with grenades. After being wounded a second time by two bullets through the chest, Bianchi climbed on an American tank, manned its anti-aircraft gun, and fired into the strongly held Japanese positions until he was knocked off the tank by a grenade blast that wounded him yet a third time. As a result of Bianchi's action, the Japanese positions were then eliminated by the Scouts with minimal effort.

Bianchi was captured by the Japanese with some 75,000 other Filipino-American soldiers when Bataan fell on April 9, 1942. He and thousands of others then endured the infamous 65-



mile Death March. Somehow, despite brutal treatment by the Japanese, hunger, thirst and the tropical heat, he survived to be imprisoned at Camp O'Donnell. Bianchi was moved in the ensuing months from O'Donnell where conditions were horrendous to the prison camp at Cabanatuan where the situation was hardly better. Bianchi was well known for his honesty and integrity and for helping his comrades, who, like himself were suffering from the effects of Japanese savagery, poor diet, and slave-like working conditions. There was little food, clothing, medical supplies or sanitary facilities. Thousands died, but there would have been even more, were it not for the likes of caring individuals like Willibald Bianchi.

On October 16, 1944, Bianchi was transferred to the notorious Bilibid prison in Manila where the living conditions continued to deteriorate. On December 12, 1944, Bianchi was placed on one of what became known as the Japanese Hell Ships. These unmarked vessels, against all international conventions, transported allied prisoners of war under inhumane conditions to several Japanese slave labor camps in Japan, Formosa, Manchuria and Korea. Tragically, in one of the saddest ironies of the war, it was on one of these unmarked ships that Bianchi lost his life at the hands of an American dive bomber. He was 29. To preserve Willibald Bianchi's memory, South Dakota State University in 1998 and again in 2000 commissioned memorials in his name.

After the war, Carrie Bianchi (Willibald's mother) wrote, "As a mother, I am proud to be able to give to this generation and to our beloved America the most precious gift that life makes possible, my only son."

## *Bataan: Victory in Defeat*

*by Larry L. Pangan, MSgt. USA (Ret.)*

Sixty years ago on April 9, 1942, elements of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Far East fighting on the Bataan Peninsula, surrendered to the enemy. It was the largest known mass surrender of any contingent in U.S. Armed Forces history.

But on the comforting side, let us look back in history prior to that dark day of April 9. What the defenders of Bataan accomplished between December 8, 1941 and April 8, 1942 will remain as a major victory even in the face of humiliating defeat. During the many battles of this period, the records show that we inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. We disrupted the Japanese Imperial High Command timetable for taking control of the entire Pacific Rim, including the Philippines, by the end of January 1942. To save face, the Japanese ordered their advancing troops back to the Philippines to reinforce their already large numbers. Not only did they have superior arms; they also had complete control of air and sea. We were dug in and were getting weaker every day, being on short food rations and a limited supply of ammunition and medical supplies.

After General Douglas MacArthur slipped out of his headquarters in the Malinta Tunnel on Corregidor with the Philippine Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon and his family on their way to Australia, we were given orders to hold our positions at all cost. From that moment in late February 1942, we became expendable. We were the sacrificial lambs left behind at the mercy of the enemy. But before the enemy succeeded, we had killed thousands upon thousands of them. That earned us the name "The Battling Bastards of Bataan." In retaliation for their losses, during the "death march" and in the concentration camps, they tortured us. When reminded, they said

they did not believe in the provisions of the Geneva Convention. Our beleaguered forces were comprised of the Philippine Commonwealth Army (with little training and experience), U.S. Air Force and Navy personnel (who were given rifles and pistols to fight as infantry), and U.S. Army 31st Infantry Regiment, the 4th Marine Battalion, and a National Guard Tank Battalion from New Mexico. The main driving force in containing the enemy during the four plus months of fighting was the elite U.S. Regular Army Philippine Scout units. As recorded in military history, these Scout units fighting on Bataan, distinguished themselves in battle after battle, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. As a result of these engagements, three Philippine Scouts won the Medal of Honor, America's highest award for valor in combat. They are:

Sgt. Jose Calugas, Sr. of the 88th Field Artillery (PS), who was awarded his for actions taken on Jan. 6, 1942. Sgt. Calugas ran 1,000 yards to direct a battery gun, which a volunteer squad fired effectively against the enemy, although his position remained under constant and heavy Japanese artillery fire. Calugas survived the death march and concentration camp. He continued his military service and retired with the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army. He settled in Tacoma, Washington with his family, and passed away in 1999.

On January 12, 1942, 2nd Lt. Alexander R. Nininger, Jr. of the 57th Infantry Regiment (PS), inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. Although wounded three times, he continued his single attack deep in enemy terrain until he was killed. When his body was found after recapture of the position, one enemy officer and two enemy soldiers lay dead around him. He was awarded the

Medal of Honor posthumously.

The third recipient of the Medal of Honor is 1st Lt. Willibald C. Bianchi of the 45th Infantry Regiment, (PS) during the action on February 3, 1942, and "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty" in action with the enemy.

The records also show that each of the Philippine Scout Units earned three Presidential Unit Citations. Typical of the valor of the Scouts is the record of the 57th Infantry (PS), whose members were awarded 21 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 68 Silver Stars during their combat service in Bataan.

Just who are these Philippine Scouts? They are professional Filipino soldiers organized by authority of the U.S. Congress in 1901 to replace the American soldiers who were going home after the U.S. defeated Spain in 1898. The initial strength was 6,000 who were commanded by American Officers who were mostly West Point graduates. Well-known officers who have served with the Philippine Scouts are General John J. Pershing, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, General Douglas MacArthur, and General Jonathan Wainwright. By early 1941, their strength was increased to 12,000 due to the growing tension between Japan and the United States. Little known outside the Philippines and largely forgotten by the U.S. Army of which they were a proud part, the Scouts were soldiers par excellence, according to the statements of the Generals who have served with them. We celebrated the Philippine Scouts Centennial on October 6, 2001, at the Presidio of San Francisco. Today, there are just a few hundred of the original Scouts left who fought on Bataan and Corregidor. To preserve the history and legacy of the Scouts, we formed the "Philippine Scouts Heritage Society" in 1989.

***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*

# Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



NON PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

COLUMBUS, OH  
43218

PERMIT #8189

## *Meet Our National Officers and Chapter Presidents*

BG (Ret.) Royal Reynolds, Jr.  
President Emeritus  
1421-23rd Road South  
Arlington, VA 22202  
(703) 521-7325

Larry L. Pangan  
President  
2233 Fox Glen Dr.  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
(707) 426-0134

Sen. John A. Patterson  
1st Vice President  
721 N. Quidnessett Rd.  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
(401) 885-7776

Menandro Parazo  
2nd Vice President  
6705 Morningside Cir.  
El Paso, TX 79904  
(915) 565-7607

Jose (Joe) S. Aquino  
Secretary  
14 Clara Avenue  
So. San Francisco, CA 94080  
(650) 873-5272

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

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  
Legal Advisor  
3415 Arnold Lane  
Falls Church, VA 22042  
(703) 560-5557

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

Delfin V. Pahed  
Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter  
848 Cayuga Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94112  
(415) 239-4248

Manuel Mabunga  
Lt. Alexander R. Nininger Ch.  
1466 Federal Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
(310) 479-2578

Ricardo de Villa  
Capt. Jose Calugas Sr. Chapter  
10858-111<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW  
Tacoma, WA 98498  
(208) 582-0799

Alex C. Andres  
LTC Loyd E. Mills Chapter  
1205 Bloomwood Rd.  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90732  
(310) 833-0779

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

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

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