

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



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



Winter/Spring 2003

Don't Miss The 19th Annual Reunion! **May 1-3, 2003**

Again, the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter is hosting the 19th Annual Reunion to be held on **May 1-3, 2003, at the Villa Hotel, San Mateo, California**. As the reunion's General Chairman, I am now busy organizing the different committees for this affair. The reunion proper begins on Friday, May 2; however, through my personal connection with Robert Mondavi, I've arranged a Thursday tour of several vineyards ending with a luncheon at the Robert Mondavi Winery. The tour and the luncheon will be free to our members and their guests. However, I

do need to know by March 17 who will be arriving early for this May 1 tour, which will depart from our hotel at about 9 a.m.

I am particularly pleased that our confirmed guest speaker this year will be Lt. General Edward Soriano, commander of Fort Lewis, Washington and I Corps. As many of you are aware, he is the son of the late Major Alfredo Soriano, a Philippine Scout.

A reunion registration form is included in this newsletter. Please try to send in your registration early to get a better room selection. To receive our discounted \$79 room rate, be sure to let the Villa Hotel know that you're attending the PSHS reunion. The cutoff date for the reduced room rate and a guaranteed room is April 1.

For further information you can contact me or call any of the following Chapter Officers:

President Delfin Pahed
(415) 239-4248

Secretary Joe Aquino
(650) 873-5272

Treasurer Toni Pahed
(415) 239-4248

This annual reunion is always an event filled with happiness and comradeship. It also is a venue for setting an agenda for the coming year. Elsewhere in this issue you will find information on various initiatives we will be discussing during the business portion of our reunion.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this important and fun-filled event.

Sincerely yours,

Larry Pangan, General Chairman
(707) 426-0134
psllp@earthlink.net.

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Reunion Registration On Page 13

Be sure to fill out your registration form for the 19th Annual Reunion as soon as you receive this newsletter! It's important to return the form as soon as possible! If you want to reserve a spot on the FREE Mondavi Winery tour and luncheon, we need to receive your form by March 17. To

receive the special room rate at the Villa Hotel, your form needs to be received by April 1!

There also is a form you may fill out and return if you wish to place an ad in the Annual Reunion's Souvenir Program (see page 14). The deadline for ad submissions is March 1, 2003.

Editor's Comments

Since our last newsletter, the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society has moved forward on several fronts. A new initiative to develop a **Philippine Scout library** in the San Francisco area has held a successful fund raiser and is moving ahead under the stewardship of **Cion Rael** and her committee. We have become partners with the Library of Congress and the American Folklore Center in the **Veterans History Project**. A professionally-designed **website** for the Society has been launched. A **commemorative plaque** is under consideration for placement on the Memorial Wall at the National Museum of the Pacific War (Admiral Nimitz Museum). A retracing of the **Bataan Death March**, perhaps culminating with placing a replica of the cement cross at the Camp O'Donnell POW compound is being discussed. And several Society members have been active representing the Scouts at various **ceremonies**, exploring possible cooperative **museum projects** and **speaking** about the Scouts to school and professional groups. It has been a very active six months!

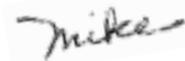
Since its inauguration last July, more than 900 people have accessed our attractive, user-friendly website at <http://philippine-scouts.org>. The site includes **Col. John Olson's** brief history of the Scouts, an extensive display of Scout insignia with commentary by **Robert Capistrano**, photos from various PSHS gatherings, articles, linkages to other sites of possible interest to society members, an "exchange" page where family members can request and obtain information on deceased Scouts, a bibliography of books and recent articles on the Scouts, an archive of past newsletter issues and more. The website should be an asset to our PSHS membership and to anyone else wanting additional information on the Philippine Scouts. If you have any suggestions on how you would like to see the website develop and expand, please email our webmaster **Christa Houlahan** at webmaster@philippine-scouts.org.

Sen. John Patterson, Capt. Menandro Parazo, Col. John Olson, Col. Mel Rosen and Jose Calugas Jr. continue as active speakers on behalf

of the Scouts. Visits to explore possible future cooperation have been made to the D-Day Museum in New Orleans by members **Chris Schaefer and Col. John Olson**. (Chris' report on the visit is carried elsewhere in this issue.) Also **Jose Calugas, Jr.** met with the curator of the Fort Lewis Military Museum in Fort Lewis, Washington to discuss a permanent display of Scout memorabilia in cooperation with the Fort Sam Houston Museum.

National President **Larry Pangan's** reunion letter is a must read. As you will see, he has obtained an excellent speaker with direct ties to the Philippine Scouts and furthermore has arranged an attractive tour for those interested in something extra from the reunion.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our reunion and receiving your ideas and submissions for our next newsletter edition.



Mike Houlahan
Public Relations Officer

A Message from Our National President

After assuming the duty of National President of this prestigious organization, I set a goal to focus my attention on recruiting our sons/daughters and others. They are the strongest link to keep the Society going after we old warriors



disappear into the twilight. I am urging all Chapter Presidents to give this recruiting drive your utmost priority. There are many potential members out there. We just have to keep on trying to persuade them. Think of events that will get their attention and entice them like our very successful Fiesta fund raising dinner-dance. I am excited and impressed by the hard work put forth by these sons/daughters, who, with my blessing, organized this whole event. The proceeds generated in this affair will help fund the proposed PSHS Library

to be build in the San Francisco Bay Area. If we are successful, it's going to be an extension of the Fort Sam Houston Museum where members and their families can visit and gather information about their fathers and grandfathers.



Larry L. Pangan
National President

Chapter Reports

Captain Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter:

Chapter was reactivated in August, with Jose Calugas, Jr. appointed by National President Larry Pangan as contact person. Ricardo de Villa is chapter president. Since August, Jose Calugas, Jr. has signed up fourteen new recruits, including thirteen life members. This brings the chapter total to 25 members.

In September, Jose Calugas, Jr. attended the Strickland Hall Dedication Ceremony at Fort Lewis, WA in honor of Sergeant Major Larry Strickland, who died in the September 11 Pentagon terrorist attack. There he met Lt. General Edward Soriano, commander of Fort Lewis and I Corps, and son of the late Major Alfredo Soriano a Philippine Scout.

Jose Calugas, Jr. also proposed a permanent display of the Philippine Scouts memorabilia to Alan Archambault, curator of the Fort Lewis Military Museum. Since that meeting, Mr. Archambault has been coordinating this project with John Manguso, curator of the Fort Sam Houston Military Museum.

The chapter organized a very successful Veterans Day celebration in November, which attracted Filipino veterans from as far away as Seattle.

LTC Lloyd E. Mills Chapter:

According to Chapter President Alex Andres, members marched in the

Veterans Day parade and held a very successful Christmas party.

Monterey County Chapter:

Chapter President Greg Ramos reports that his membership celebrated the Philippine Scouts anniversary in October and in April held a Bataan and Corregidor commemoration ceremony.

Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter:

Secretary Joe Aquino writes that our largest chapter now has 265 members, 227 of whom are life members. These numbers have increased substantially due to recruitment of 21 mostly second generation offspring of Scouts led by Bataan Death March survivor retired Master Sergeant Zosimo Guiang and his family. The chapter played an active part in the annual POW/MIA ceremony in September at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center and will host our 19th annual reunion in May. As reported in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter, new chapter member Concepcion Rael is chairing the Philippine Scouts Library Committee and serving as liaison with the Library of Congress on the Veterans History Project. The chapter's annual picnic was held in October.

New Member Roll Call:

Society Secretary Joe Aquino would appreciate all chapters sending him lists of their members, so our central records and newsletter mailing lists

can be updated. New members include the following thirty-five: (New life members are in italics.)

Tacoma Chapter:

Jorge Calugas, Federal Way, WA; *Noel Calugas*, Phoenix, AZ; *Democrito Cari*, Fircrest, WA; *Col. Melvin Holst*, Gresham, OR; *Minerva Javier*, Tacoma; *Anita Mocorro*, Seattle; *Jesse Mocorro*, Lakewood, WA; *Mario Mocorro*, Seattle; George Munson, Bremerton, WA; *Linda Nyman*, Portland, OR; *Eligio Regala*, Tacoma, WA; *Roland Santos*, Tacoma; *Evaristo Talvo*, Lakewood, WA and *Constante Villalobos*, Tacoma.

Golden Gate Chapter:

Leopoldo Duquette, Sacramento, CA; *John C. Eastman II*, North Kingston, RI; *Gregorio Garcia*, San Francisco, CA; *Gilbert Hair*, Miami Beach, FL; John & Kimberly Hughes, Glen Allen, VA; Nilda G. Malvar, Daly City, CA; Concepcion Rael, Daly City, CA; *Anunscion A. Pasol*, Daly City, CA; Alex Pautin, S. San Francisco, CA; Anastacio & Zenaida Pautin, S. San Francisco, CA; Ortañes Pautin, S. San Francisco, CA; *Malcolm Decker*, Lebanon, MO; Rodolfo Millan, San Francisco, CA; Aqulina Reyes, Vallejo, CA; Leonardo Baltbat, Pittsburgh, CA; *Angelito P. & Mrs. Seva*, Morgan Hill, CA; Marlin Servo, El Paso, TX; and *Herminia Ubaldo Smith*, Alexandria, VA.

Library Fundraising

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society (PSHS) in cooperation with the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter sponsored a fund raising dinner/dance on November 2, 2002, at the City Forest Lodge in San Francisco. This event had two purposes. First, it benefited the proposed Philippine Scouts library that will be built in the San Francisco Bay Area. Secondly, it

introduced the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and its new members, the sons and daughters, relatives, and friends to the general public.

The event was very successful as evidenced by the crowd that filled the Lodge hall and by the net proceeds of about \$2,000. The tables were beautifully decorated with fresh floral center

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The Golden Gate-Bay Area Chapter regrets to report the passing of Mrs. Felicidad Urban, widow of the late Philippine Scout Louie Urban. Mrs. Urban died of a stroke at the age of 77. She is survived by her son Judd and daughter Florence, two brothers and five grandchildren.

Library: from Page 3

pieces solicited by the Committee. There was plenty of donated food, including a whole roast lechon pig. The PSHS banner was displayed on the wall behind the DJ music of Danny Ignacio. There were many donated raffle prizes worth from \$20.00 to \$100.00. The grand prize was airfare for two to the Philippines, won by a residence of Daly City.

The success of this event was due entirely to the hard work and dedication of our new members in the Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter,

mainly the sons, daughters, relatives, and friends, who labored into the nights after coming home from their regular jobs. They made the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society very proud to have these young members as the future leaders of the Society who will carry on the mission of the Society preserving the history and legacy of the Philippine Scouts. The Society would like to recognize and thank the following members of the Committee. Chaired by the Chapter PRO Concepcion Rael, they are Nora G.

Warren; Ofelia P. Capuyan; Remy Maylas Wilson; Evelyn Guiang; Silveria Basa; Nita Guiang; Nilda Malvar; Laureta Imperial Ramos; Aquilina Guieb Reyes; Evangeline Sabio Stasfford; and Mildred Tango. The MC of the program was Benny Capuyan, son-in-law of President Pangan, who expresses his congratulations for a job well done. Let us hope this is the beginning of a trend we have been looking for in our sons, daughters, grandchildren, relatives, and friends of the Philippine Scouts.

Fiesta Filipiniana 2002 by Cion Rael

It was a very successful event and a night to remember for the PSHS members and guests who attended! A festive evening with American/Filipino food and cuisine, entertainment and awareness of the existence of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and it's objectives in the community. Some of the comments received:

Remy Wilson (Committee member) "My brother, sister-in-law, niece and nephew, Mr & Mrs Joseph S. Maylas and family, said: "Thank you for inviting us to attend such an enjoyable and meaningful event. We all enjoyed the great food and company."

Aquilina G. Reyes (Committee member) "My guests had a wonderful time! Dolly likes the way how the raffle was handled where the winner gets to pull his/her own prizes. 'It's fair to everyone' she said."

Eda Cruz (Daughter of Philippine Scout) "My co-workers from the State of California Board (8 guests) had a great time and enjoyed the evening of festivities. The PSHS Committee did a great job."

Most of the preparation work was undertaken by daughters of the

Philippine Scouts. We focused on the objectives of the PSHS, our library project, the benefits such a library will bring to the community, and recognition of the achievements of our fathers. This fundraising event for the National and GGBAC, reinforced for us the importance of networking.

Our generous sponsors gave us the support we needed to make the "Fiesta Filipiniana" a success. The Filipino food/cuisine, dance entertainment by the San Francisco State College Dance Troupe (which performed the Filipino folk dances so elegantly), and all prizes were donated by members, sponsors and friends of PSHS. We reached half the fundraising goal we anticipated. An ongoing campaign for sponsorship of the library will be

continued as we approach completion of the first phase of our project, the purchase of audio equipment.

I believe that the event enlightened and gained the support of our guests consisting of nonmembers of PSHS, as well as some second and third generation family members of Philippine Scouts. In addition, the support of the GGBAC officers and members who attended the event was highly complimented by our guests. Especially helpful were Mr. Larry Pangan, National President and Mr. Delphi Pahed, GGBAC President. If we continue these types of events it will reinforce the support and awareness of the members and also encourage more Scout sons and daughters to participate and join the society.



A delegation from the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society visited the Philippines to distribute Scout information and form linkages with Scouts still resident in the Philippines. Top left to Right: Evelyn Guiang, Remedios Wilson, Cion Rael; Front Left to Right: Nilda Malvar and Mildred Tango, USAF

Member Activities

This column will be a regular feature of the newsletter and will describe activities of members intended to publicize Philippine Scout contributions to the American and Filipino history.

Aniceto Bagley was interviewed for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. The interviewer was interested in photos. "All I could do was laugh" he reports, "and tell her that where I was out in the guerrilla controlled areas of Panay where cameras were not available."

He also was able to get Robert Dorr to do a short piece on the Scouts in the Army Times several months ago. He reports that his "latest unsuccessful attempts have been directed at The History Channel and E. R. Army (Mail Call.) Maybe some of you with more material and pictures can get these people interested. I would like to see a good documentary on the Philippine Scouts from inception until disbandment done before we all go the Post Everlasting as they say in the Legion."

Jose Calugas, Jr. recruited fourteen new members for the newly-reactivated Capt. Jose Calugas, Sr. Chapter in Takoma and explored establishing a Philippine Scouts exhibit at the Fort

Lewis Military Museum. The Fort Sam Houston Museum, official repository of Scout memorabilia, is now involved in this project.

Zosimo, Nita and Evelyn Guiang led a recruiting effort which resulted in twenty-one new members for our Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter.

Mike Houlahan's article "Their Finest Hour: The Philippine Scouts in Bataan" published in the October issue of Filipinas, a magazine published in San Francisco and targeted at the Filipino-American community.

Col. John Olson continues his active speaking schedule for the Scouts. Since the last newsletter he has been a panelist at Admiral Nimitz Museum and spoke to 300 students at the Incarnate Word High School. He also visited the D-Day Museum as part of our ongoing project to encourage museums to carry displays on the Philippine Scouts.

Sen. John Patterson continued his impressive speaking schedule and still found time to run for his North Kingston, Rhode Island town council. Senator Patterson also has negotiated an agreement with the Fort Sam Houston Military Museum covering donations of Philippine Scout memo-

abilia. Potential donors may contact Senator Patterson or Newsletter Editor Houlahan for a copy of this agreement.

Col. Mel Rosen and his wife Olive were guests of SECDEF at impressive POW/MIA ceremonies on 20 September at the River Entrance Parade Ground of the Pentagon. Congressman Sam Johnson of Texas, himself a POW for almost seven years, was the featured speaker.

Cion Rael and her library committee members successfully organized a fiesta which raised about \$2,000, much of which will go towards the library project. She and four fellow library committee members will visit the Philippines in February to distribute brochures on the Philippine Scouts in libraries and schools as well as to make further contacts in support of the library project. She is now our Veterans History Project liaison with the Library of Congress.

Chris Schaefer also visited the D-Day Museum in New Orleans and discussed with the curator the possibility of developing displays commemorating the Philippine Scouts. His report on the visit is elsewhere in this issue.

The National D-Day Museum

by Chris Schaefer

Last month (September 2002) I had the opportunity and pleasure to visit the National D-Day Museum, in New Orleans. Founded by historian Steven Ambrose, this is a first-class memorial to the veterans of World War II on the order of the Nimitz Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, or the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia. Here "D-Day" refers not just to the Normandy landing but to all of the amphibious assaults of the war.

New Orleans was the site of the Higgins Boat factory.

The well laid-out and highly visual displays in the museum's four galleries incorporate electronic maps, movies, combat photographs, lighting effects and dioramas to help the visitor see and understand what took place. The museum stresses the cost of the war in human terms. The destruction of Manila and the 100,000 civilians who died there is prominently told. This

museum brings out the human side of the war by placing personal displays and video interviews with individual participants throughout the area, including soldiers and non-combatants. Display cases featuring personal stories include souvenirs, a photograph, and sometimes a medal mentioned in the story.

The area of most interest to our membership is the opening display of

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the Pacific War Gallery which describes the buildup to war, the attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines, and the siege of Bataan and Corregidor. There is a brief mention of American troops fighting alongside “indigenous” soldiers, but there is no mention of the Philippine Scouts per se—which is why I was there.

After touring the galleries, I spoke with Paula Ussery, curator of the museum, and proposed that the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society provide text and materials that could be used to tell the Philippine Scouts’ story. She was very receptive and knew about the Scouts, having visited the display at the Fort Sam Houston Museum in San Antonio, TX. How-

ever, to date, the National D-Day Museum has not acquired or been offered materials suitable for a display dedicated to the Scouts.

In view of the “personal” approach the D-Day museum takes in its displays, I believe that a few stories of the heroism, dedication and determination of some individual Scouts would be a good way to present the Scouts’ story to the public at this museum. Most of the individual displays incorporate a few paragraphs of text about the person, a photograph, a couple of typical or unusual artifacts (uniform pieces, weapons, letters, etc.), and perhaps a medal. The Philippine Scouts’ story should not be left out of this important museum, and

I would like to call on our members to contact PRO Mike Houlahan with your own suggestions.

If you have an opportunity to visit the National D-Day Museum, do not miss the movies shown in the first floor Forbes Theater. Each hour they rotate between a movie on the European Theater and one on the Pacific War. The Pacific War movie was produced by Stephen Ambrose and Steven Spielberg (yes, that Steven Spielberg), and tells the story of the war through restored color movie footage and filmed interviews with individual soldiers—not generals. It is very poignant, and worth the trip. The Philippine Scouts’ story should be there too.

Fort Sam Houston Museum Policy Regarding the Philippine Scouts Collection

The following was negotiated with the museum by First Vice President John Patterson.

1. The Museum is encouraged to maintain the archival and photo files related to the Philippine Scouts in a separate series of files.

2. Materials related to the Philippine Scouts shall be available for public access to the greatest extent practical. It is the Society’s hope that the Museum will give appropriate notice of these materials to the historical and academic communities and to other interested entities. The Society will designate one of its members as official liaison to the Museum to assist in this regard.

3. The Society members shall be granted accompanied access at the Museum to the items which they donated to the Museum. The Museum shall, at the request of the donor member,

make available a reasonable number of copies of printed materials. The Museum shall also, at the request of the donor, provide photographs of the donated items.

4. The Museum shall make additions to the Philippine Scouts collection through the acquisition means normally available to it to the extent such additions are practical.

5. Upon request of the Society, but not more than annually, the Museum shall render a report to the Society on the status of the Philippine Scouts collections, including additions or acquisitions during the year.

6. If the Museum closes or if the Philippine Scouts collections are no longer applicable to the Museum’s mission or activities, these collections shall be transferred to the Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks or another official repository as directed by the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

7. The Society may make arrangements for an outside appraiser to make an appraisal of the Philippine Scouts collections for tax purposes. The Museum shall make these collections available at the Museum to the appraiser upon reasonable notice.



Bibliography on the Philippine Scouts

Books

1. Bataan: The March of Death by Stanley Falk probably is the most thorough and accurate treatment on this terrible subject.
2. Honorable Warrior: General Harold K. Johnson by Lewis Sorley. Gen. Johnson was the 57th Infantry (PS) Executive Officer when the Japanese attacked the Philippines.
3. The Fall of the Philippines by Louis Morton as part of the U.S. Army in WWII: The War in the Pacific series.
4. O'Donnell, Andersonville of the Pacific by Col. John Olson. Detailed documentary of the Japanese POW Camp in which thousands of Filipinos, including over 2,600 Philippine Scouts, died of disease, malnutrition and savage cruelty in less than six months. Author was personnel officer of the American Group. \$14.00 includes postage.
5. The Philippine Scouts edited by Col. John Olson. This large volume published by the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society can be ordered through National President Pangan for \$27, including postage and handling.
6. Anywhere-Anytime by Col. John Olson. History of the 57th Infantry (PS). Many maps rosters and pictures. \$17.00, includes postage.
7. The Guerrilla and the Hostage by Col. John Olson. A novel about two brothers-a PS Officer and an air force pilot who served on Bataan and their adventures during and after the collapse of the Fil-American defense. \$17.00 includes postage.
8. Lt. Ramsey's War: from Horse Soldier to Guerrilla Commander by Edwin Price Ramsey and Stephen J. Rivele.
9. History of the Philippine Scouts Field Artillery by Col. Melvin H. Rosen.

10. 26th Cavalry Regiment by George A. Rummel.
11. Ghost Soldiers by Hampton Sides. This best seller, soon to be made into a movie, tells a riveting story of the rescue raid on the Cabanatuan POW camp and much more.
12. History of the Philippine Scouts, 1899-1934 compiled by the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
13. We Remember Bataan and Corregidor by Mariano Villarín.
14. Bataan: Our Last Ditch by John W. Whitman.
15. The Philippine Scouts: The Development of America's Colonial Army by James Richard Woolard.

Articles

1. "Their Finest Hour: The Philippine Scouts in Bataan" by J. Michael Houlahan. *Filipinas*, October 2002, pp. 49-51.
2. "A Sack of Cement" by Col. John Olson. *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection Foundation*, October-December 2001, pp. 44-50.
3. "Philippine Scouts Celebrate Centennial" by Col. John Olson. *Bulletin of the American Historical*

Collection Foundation, October-December 2001, pp. 76-9.

4. "Remembering the Philippine Scouts" by Beth Day Romulo. *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection Foundation*, October-December 2001, pp. 71-5.

5. "The Philippine Scouts and the Defense of Bataan" by J. Michael Houlahan. *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection Foundation*, April-June 2001, pp. 4-12.

6. "Two Bataan Veterans Tell Their Stories" by Sen. John Patterson. *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection Foundation*, April-June 2001, pp. 13-43.

Editor's Note

Scout-related articles from the Bulletin or back issues of the newsletter may be obtained through Newsletter Editor Houlahan for postage and handling charges of \$1.75 for the first article or newsletter and \$1.50 for each additional article or newsletter back issue. See the newsletter back page for book order addresses of Col. Olson and National President Pangan or article/newsletter address of Editor Houlahan. Please include a check or money order to cover costs.

The Bulletin of the American Historical Collection Foundation is a quarterly published in Manila and dedicated to recording the historical record of Filipino-American relations during the colonial period and beyond. Individual copies (\$8.75) or subscriptions (\$35) are available through:

Book Bin Pacifica
 228 S.W. Third Street
 Corvallis, OR 97333
 Phone (541) 752-0045
 Fax (541) 754-4115
 e-mail: pacifica@bookbin.com

Scout Information Exchange

A new service on our website www.philippine-scouts.org is the Scout Information Exchange suggested by webmaster Christa Houlahan. This page is intended to improve communication within the Society and between our members and others interested in the historical heritage of the Philippine Scouts. It will function as an information exchange, reporting on new articles, books and films on the Scouts, aiding historical researchers and soliciting additional information on individual Scouts and Scout units.

Please contact us at info@philippine-scouts.org if you can supply additional information on the military service of any of the following personnel who served in or with the Philippine Scouts:

Dr. Phillip Bress was a medical officer who perished on the "hell ship" Arisan Maru. His U.S. serial number was O-311687 and his POW number 166110.

Tech 5 Joseph H. Egan, Jr., 35 217 915 joined the service on 26 April 1943. He served in the Pacific theater, possibly on Bougainville as well as on Leyte and Okinawa. He was attached to the Philippine Scouts sometime around 14 October 1944. His final known military address was the 25th Replacement Depot on Okinawa in 1945.

Capt. Emilio Mesias II, was a Philippine Scout from Samar who died somewhere in Mindanao during WWII. He joined the Scouts in the late 20s or early 30s and was stationed in Negros, Cotabato and Zamboanga before the war. He was either with an artillery or a cavalry unit at the time of his death.

Alfonso Policiano was born in Villa Real Islands in the Philippines and served in the U.S. Army from Aug. 16, 1919 until Aug. 15, 1925 and from Aug. 22, 1942 until April 16, 1943 during which time he served as a Scout with either the First Philippine Infantry or the First Filipino Infantry.

By America's entry into World War I, 52 companies of Scouts had been formed into a dozen battalions. In 1917, these battalions were further consolidated to form four provisional regiments, designated the 1st through 4th Philippine Infantry (Provisional), and the 1st Philippine Field Artillery (Provisional). These regiments were in turn formally incorporated into the numerical structure of the Regular Army when, in 1920, they were consolidated (on paper) with several inactivated Regular Army regiments formed during World War I and redesignated the 43rd, 45th, 57th, 62nd Infantry and 24th and 25th Field Artillery (Philippine Scouts). Although the 43rd, 62nd Infantry and 25th Field Artillery (PS) were disbanded in 1922 because of the reduction of the army, several of the battalions were used to form the new 26th Cavalry (PS).

Two units known as the First and Second Filipino Infantry Regiments were formed in California in 1942, consisting of Filipinos who were not in the islands when the Japanese attacked and Filipino-American volunteers. They were part of the Army of the United States and trained at Camp Luis Obispo, Fort Ord, Camp Beale, and Camp Roberts, California through mid-1943.

Around April 1943, General Courtney Whitney flew to California from MacArthur's headquarters in Australia, and selected several hundred men out of this organization to be brought to Australia for training in intelligence gathering, radio opera-

tions, weather observation and sabotage. They were formed into coast watcher and "penetration" teams that went into the Philippines ahead of the U.S. invasion.

Sgt. Felipe Ubaldo was in Battery A, 23rd Field Artillery Battalion (PS). He died at Camp O'Donnell on 4 September 1942. During his internment, he declined an invitation from his cousin to join in an escape attempt. The cousin, escaped, survived, and later told family members that Sgt. Ubaldo had declined to join them, saying he was "awaiting orders." Later, around July 1942, his wife visited Sgt. Ubaldo at Camp O'Donnell. He told her that he thought that all the Filipino POWs would be released "very soon."

[*Editor's note:* The Japanese did begin releasing Filipinos in July, but dragged this out over several months. Camp O'Donnell was completely closed in January, 1943.]

Prior to WWII, Sgt. Ubaldo and his family were stationed at Fort Stotenburg for over 18 years. There he was an active sportsman, captain of his battery's bowling squad, as well as competing on equestrian and baseball teams.

From 8 Dec 1941 to 25 Dec 1941 he was at Fort Stotenburg under Capt. Coverdale. From that date until 10 April 1942 he was on the Bataan Peninsula with his unit. He first enlisted on 2 May 1923 at Dagupan, Pangasinan and was initially assigned to the 24th Field Artillery (PS).

The 23rd Field Artillery (PS) was a small unit (regiment less one battalion). Battery A of the First Battalion survived until late January, 1942 when it was destroyed to prevent it from falling into Japanese hands. It had been used effectively to slow Japanese

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advances beginning 23 Dec. 1941. Batteries B and C were destroyed by Japanese counter battery fire in early January 1942. Surviving 23d Field Artillery Battalion (PS) personnel were then attached to the 91st Field Artillery of the Philippine Army.

Col. Eugene Laird served with the Philippine Division during the defense of Bataan. He was a advisor to General MacArthur and a battalion commanding officer. He was a POW at Camp O'Donnell and Camp Zentsuyi. The family would appreciate any further information anyone can supply.

Cabanatuan Rescue: Andy Zare, production coordinator for a documentary about the raid on Cabanatuan, is looking for Filipino guerrillas and veterans who participated in this POW rescue mission and who may have known Juan Pajota or Eduardo Josen. The documentary will be aired on the PBS series "The American Experience. Please let us know of possible interviewees for this project.

POWS on Japanese Hell Ships: Author John Glusman is looking for information on intelligence gathered

by guerrilla groups concerning POWs loaded aboard Japanese Hell Ships that departed from Pier 7 in Manila during WWII. Please contact him at john.glusman@fsgbooks.com

We also are interested in photos and information on the military experiences of former Philippine Scouts,

which will be added to our library archives. Short articles on the exploits of individual Scouts or Scout units may be printed in our newsletter or on this website. Material may be submitted by e-mail or through the postal service to our Public Relations Officer and Newsletter Editor whose address appears on our Membership page.

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

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

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

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

Other information of possible interest includes:
 Fact sheet for VA Benefits for Filipino Soldiers
<http://www.va.gov/pressrel/filipvet.htm>
 Veterans Benefits and Services for New Philippine Scouts
<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/foreign/scouts.htm>

A Letter To Our Website

Gentlemen of the Philippine Scouts:

My memories of the Philippine Scouts date back to 1924-26, but there may be some faint memories of that period still existent. My father, Captain Burton F. Hood USA arrived in Manila in 1924. He was initially assigned to a headquarters in Manila, but in 1925 he was reassigned to the 45th Inf. (PS) in Camp John Hay. I believe that he was assigned to Company A of the PS. A Captain Larry Myers commanded company B. The

post commander was a Major Garfinkle.

I was only a small boy 5 or 6 years old, at that time, but the adventure of living there is still fresh in my mind. About once a month the companies laid aside their native uniforms and the troops dressed out in their native garb. With their shields and head axes, this made quite an exciting sight for a boy. Eventually, my mother made me a small US officer's uniform that I wore continually. One day, an American Congressman, Mr. Maas, saw me

strutting around in my uniform and he was so impressed that he promised me, on the spot, that when the time came, he would award me with an appointment to West Point. Many of the soldiers in my Dad's company adopted me and took me on hikes around the reservation. I also remember that once a month the mess sergeant brought over to our quarters, a steaming bowl of bake beans—I still love baked beans.

There were about 10 kids living on
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the post so we did not have a school. But a Mrs. Icard took it on to organize a school and we all attended. Mrs. Icard promoted me several times, but when we left for the USA I still was illiterate, and had to do a lot of catching up at my first school in Iowa. Eventually I did catch up to my grade level and managed to graduate from

high school with honors. Unfortunately, Mr. Maas had Alzheimer's disease and I had to make it to West Point through the National Guard. I graduated in 1943, served in Europe in the infantry, then later, two tours in Viet Nam.

I have enjoyed the history and information your group has gathered

about the Philippine Scouts. I always knew that the Scouts would give a very good account of themselves in WWII and your account bears out my confidence.

Sincerely,
Burton F. Hood, Jr.
Colonel USA Ret.

Rearguard in Luzon by Captain John Wheeler

The following piece was published in the March 2, 1942 issue of LIFE magazine and is reprinted with permission of Time-Life. Captain Wheeler, of the 26th Cavalry Regiment (PS) survived combat, but died when the unmarked Japanese "Hell Ship" transporting him and other American POWs to Japan mistakenly was sunk by American airplanes.

After the battle of Damortis our cavalry was assigned to cover the withdrawal of the infantry to the south. Our tanks had just withdrawn through us, leaving us as the rear guard. Suddenly two more tanks came right down the middle of the road and stopped. I rode over and shouted, "What the hell's the idea?" A guy stuck his head out of the turret, but didn't say anything. I cussed him out. He banged the lid down and all hell broke loose. They were Jap tanks.

There was barbed wire on both sides of the road, so we couldn't deploy. If a man was knocked off his horse, he was trampled. The rest of the regiment went galloping down the road with bullets going by on both sides. I heard Major J.J.H. Trapnell calling my outfit and found him by a bridge. He wanted to defend the bridge, but we seemed to be the only ones left. At that moment Lieutenant Clayton Michelson of the Veterinary

Corps came up with the Vets' truck. Why it wasn't blasted off the road I will never know. I helped them push it down and pour gas on it and the bridge and light it. The fire just barely stopped the tanks from crossing the bridge and getting at our infantry.

On the way back we had to go through Damortis. Japanese patrols had slipped into Damortis on a flank, effecting a mild encirclement. There they were in our rear. The regiment went through Damortis fast—through mortar, rifle and machine gun fire, even shells from Jap 47-mm. tank guns. There was no sleep that night of December 22.

The following morning about dawn, the Japanese attacked, throwing fire from long range. Machine guns chattered on both sides. We withdrew troops as we usually do by delaying action, to Pozzorubio. We had to spend the day in foxholes.

That evening we were ordered to withdraw again—about 1.5 miles—to Binalonan. Everything imaginable was on the road—trucks, infantry, tanks, all mixed up in the pitch darkness that concealed us from planes. At Binalonan we managed to get a few hours rest for the first time in four days. By dawn we heard firing from the outposts and were hurriedly called into dismounted action to hold against what appeared to be an attack by an

unknown number of tanks and, without any question, a superior force of Jap infantry who had ridden down in confiscated red buses. I saw four tanks which moved back and forth on the highway in from of us about 300 yards away—but there were more, most of them medium Jap tanks camouflaged but with Jap flags flying—probably as protection against their dive bombers. We lay and shot at those damned Jap tanks with .30 caliber weapons, usually wondering if the Japanese in the tanks would think to overrun us. They would stop occasionally, letting us have a burst from their machine guns and 47's. Our fire seemed to stop the Japs—we know it didn't penetrate or damage their tanks, but full bursts caused them to slack off a bit.

It was here that Lieutenant Henry D. Mark of Los Angeles led one attack, forcing the Japs to draw back a little. Then Mark himself went across an open rice field with Japs pouring fire on him. Mark carried some grenades and was going to try to throw them into the tanks, but a Jap machine gunner in a tree got him before he was 20 yards away. Then Major Hubert W. Sandy of Ketchum, Texas, leaped on one of the self-propelled 75's that had come up and took off, chasing the tanks.

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One of our scouts, Juan Soria, managed to climb atop a Jap tank and tried to pry the lid open with a bayonet. When that wouldn't work, Soria tried to cram a grenade down the muzzle of its cannon. Finally one of the Japs in the tank managed to stick Soria in the seat of his pants with a bayonet, getting him off.

After this fight we dropped back again to Tayug. On Christmas Eve we ate for the first time in 48 hours—canned corned beef, asparagus tips, hardtack and coffee.

All this time the other divisions and regiments were pouring into Bataan behind us. During Christmas night we withdrew south of Tayug, reaching Umingan after a 13-mile march, which is plenty tough in this country. Some of us fell asleep in our saddles on the way. The horses were in bad shape, almost too tired to walk.

There was still nothing between us and the Japanese, but we had picked up some tanks in Tayug and that was a big help. We couldn't get water, but occasional native turnips were swell. The Filipino Scouts were absolutely splendid—again and again, when we came in so tired we couldn't see straight, I would watch them going miles away to find some sort of hay for the horses. We kept up the daily withdrawals until about December 28, when our last position covered the final closing of the "Gate to Bataan."

Then we were cut off and forced to take to the mountains as the only route of withdrawal. We rode off into the hills, wandering three days over the mountain trails, leading our horses and eating what little food there was in the saddlebags. Three of us would share a small can of beans, one a day. The third day we had to shoot a horse for food. We found a way out, but then discovered it was in the Japanese rear—so we had to go back in the mountains again. The possibility of



*Captain John Wheeler leads the Machine Gun Troop of the 26th Cavalry Regiment (P5) (Horse) just prior to the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. Captain Wheeler of St. Paul, Minnesota, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star for his heroism in opposing the Japanese landings and fighting a delaying action enabling General Douglas MacArthur to withdraw his Filipino-American forces to defensive positions on Bataan Peninsula. Prior to military service, Wheeler was cadet captain of ROTC at the University of Minnesota. Wounded in combat early in the war, Captain Wheeler recovered, only to die in the sinking of a Japanese "Hell Ship" near the end of the war. This photo from *The Cavalry Journal*, was originally featured on the cover of the now defunct magazine's March/April, 1943 issue.*

capture never bothered us. We knew we could eat horses indefinitely and we could go by dead reckoning, cutting trails if we had to. Lieutenant Hendricks and I, with a patrol, finally found ourselves overlooking Manila Bay. From there on we knew where to go—just a matter of bad trails and practically carrying the horses up and down. Finally we made Bagac on the China Sea side of Bataan. We had plenty of rest and most of the missing came in.

Recapturing A Village From The Japs

About January 16, we learned that the Japanese were moving south toward Moron with artillery, along beaches and over trails. The Philippine Army outfit was ordered to attack, with my mounted troops as advance guard. Under the very reassuring sound of our artillery, we moved forward across a stretch of rice

paddies into the woods which surrounded the town. Lieutenant Ramsey there delighted and relieved me by volunteering to take my advance guard into Moron, knowing very well that a battalion of roughly 300 Jap infantry was there. As we neared the town, our artillery barrage lifted, leaving an unearthly quiet.

Riding in between the houses with pistols raised, we did not know what was going to hit us, but knew something would. Halfway to the town square I heard Jap machine-gun fire—a characteristic snapping sound caused by higher velocity and smaller projectiles than ours, and unmistakable. I rode at the head of the advance party as we moved up, were fired upon, then turned around, rode back and went into dismounted action. We tied our horses between nipa huts, then moved forward down the road with men in

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each gutter along the sides of the houses.

A messenger came galloping back from Lieutenant Ramsey saying he had been ambushed by an enemy force with machine guns and wanted support quickly. From there on it was simply a matter of cautiously moving up under heavy rifle fire to Lieutenant Ramsey and his men. They had taken cover as best they could behind coconut trees and in a ditch. One was dead, three wounded in a small area. It looked like more.

Pedro Euperio, Private First Class, a 19-year-old raw recruit by Scout standards, saw three soldiers ahead wearing Philippine Army uniforms. He moved forward until they fired, then shot quickly—they were Japanese disguised as Philippine officers. Despite his wounds, Euperio crept on up until ordered to lie down. About the first thing I saw was Euperio drenched in blood, propped against the house—a pistol in his one good hand, directing us how to move up, indicating points under enemy fire.

We attacked first straight through to the beach. We fired where we heard fire and were happy to see when we went through the bushes that there were dead Japanese. We got straight through to the water reorganized and attacked around Ramsey, using him as a pivot, sweeping south and killing them under houses, in trees and under bushes. About 20 broke, throwing down all equipment, even guns, in the high grass. I was surprised to see two of my men with bullet holes straight through their helmets, yet unscratched. I had Private Gonzalez behind me and, as I went along, I grabbed the Jap maps, compasses and so forth, hanging them on Gonzalez.

When Ramsey and I met with all the shooting and shouting going on, I was

sure he said to me, “Come on, you yellow ——, let’s get after them.” So I was outraged and began doing silly things—going into bushes where no one else would go until I realized how foolish I was. He had meant that remark for the enemy all the time. Then there was a lull.

Ramsey and I saw three inert Japanese. Two were dead—the third had been hit in the thigh and shoulder. He would make a begging sign, pull open his shirt and pull a bayonet point toward him. He may have been told we killed all Japanese by torture, but I think he was just in terrible pain. We tried to give him water—I left him my canteen.

Suddenly we heard a machine gun from the river and all hell broke loose again. We realized what we had been fighting was an advance group and a battalion was forming across the river. We fought in small groups every man for himself. Sergeant Tolentino ran forward under heavy fire and threw a hand grenade in a house that had been giving lots of trouble. Later he grabbed a light machine gun and began chasing a squad of Japanese down the road—moving in on them absolutely alone and without fear. I grabbed a rifle and followed him because a machine gun does need a little security. We had no cover, but it seems to me if you run around and fight hard you don’t get hurt—you keep moving aggressively and it’s the best defense.

I hit one Jap who was trying to shoot Tolentino. He twisted, squirmed and finally ended hanging over a fence. Sergeant Tolentino closed in on one flank, while I went around the other, shooting another Japanese. Just then his companion leaned around behind a tree and shot me in the leg. I ran back under cover and saw that

Sergeant Tolentino had been shot too. We got him out on a shutter later. About that leg wound of mine—have you ever been kicked in the leg by a horse? It felt just like that. Knowing how it feels is a great satisfaction - leaving nothing unknown to fear.

Moron was a hail of bullets that never stopped. There were so many in the air that if you put out a sheet of cloth in five minutes it would have been riddled. At first, knowing the Jap tactics, I had a nauseated sensation of being trapped—thinking they had let us have our fun and were sweeping around behind us on both flanks. We were out shooting them and could any day. We fought all day. I can remember running through fire behind some little houses trying to get a drink, but all the pumps were dry—our lips were so swollen we could hardly talk. But the Scouts were loyal to the nth degree—all they said were things like: “Don’t go there, sir, I will go.” — “They are shooting from that, sir.” — “Be careful, Captain.” Late that afternoon my mission had been accomplished—the town was seized and held adequately and I was to fall back again in reserve.

We slipped out on a trail sound along the beach. The ocean looked so cool and peaceful that I felt like taking off all my clothes and swimming as far as I could—but had no time for that. Moron, incidentally, was held for 24 hours after our withdrawal and the final withdrawal was by order, making this a successful offensive operation. I haven’t seen the Silver Star or the Distinguished Service Cross they say I am getting, but I am curious to see how they look because somehow they mean a lot. I guess all I ask for after we win is that some day I may be able to take them home with me.

Don't Wait! Fill Out And Return Your Registration Now!

NATIONAL ANNUAL REUNION - MAY 1-3, 2003

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Number in Party: _____

Dinner Menu choices: (indicate number of each).

Brochettes of Beef: _____ Chicken Wellington: _____

Date of Arrival: _____

REGISTRATION CHARGE: \$40.00 per person

Make check payable to: Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter (GGBAC)
and mail to: Mrs. Toni Pahed, (Finance/Registration Chair).
848 Cayuga Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94112
(415) 239-4248

- Notes:
1. Upon receipt of your payment, your registration will be confirmed.
 2. Due to the increase in food charge by the hotel, we have to increase the registration fee by \$5.00 from last year. Still, it's a bargain considering the good times and the chance of meeting old and new friends once again.

LODGING: VILLA HOTEL
4000 South El Camino Real
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 341-0966 & FAX (650) 673-0164
Toll Free 1-800-341-2345
E-Mail: villa@villahotel.com

Rates: One to four persons per room: \$79.00
This is the same reduce rate for the Philippine Scouts given in 2002.

Cut-off date: April 1, 2003. After April 1, 2003, rooms will be provided on a space, and rate available basis.
So it's important that you make your reservation early prior to the cut-off date. Be sure to identify yourself as Philippine Scouts.

National President Larry L. Pangan is urging everyone to come for this once a year get together and enjoy the event. There will be many surprises, he promise.

Place An Ad And You'll Help Create A Library!

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Philippine Scouts Heritage Society will have their 19th annual reunion and membership meeting on May 1-3, 2003, to be held at the Villa Hotel, 4000 El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403.

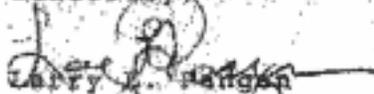
We would like to invite you and to support us by advertising in the Souvenir Program that will be printed for the occasion. Part of the net proceed will benefit the PSHS Library being planned in the San Francisco bay area.

Advertisement Rates

- Inside front cover \$120.00
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- Color back cover \$140.00
- Full page \$100.00
- 1/2 page \$ 50.00
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We thank you for your kind and generous support.

Sincerely,


 Larry L. Pangan
 General Chairman

Note: Please attach your ad to this form with your payment made payable to: Golden Gate Bay Area Chapter (GGBAC) and return it to your solicitor or mail it to: Mrs Toni Pahed

848 Cayuga Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94112

Deadline for submission of Ads - March 1, 2003.

Signature of Advertiser: _____ Date: _____

Tel. Nr: _____

Solicited by: _____

Application For Membership

Date: _____
 Name: _____ Nickname(if any): _____
 Home/Mailing Address: _____
 Date of Birth: _____ Telephone: _____

COMPLETE ONLY THE CATEGORY THAT APPLIES TO YOU.

CATEGORY I - PHILIPPINE SCOUTS; OTHER U.S. ARMED FORCES VETERANS.

Date Enlisted: _____ Date Disch: _____ Rank: _____
 Unit Assigned: _____ Branch of Service: _____
 Spouse or Next of Kin: _____ VA Claim Nr.: _____

CATEGORY II - SPOUSES/WIDOWS; SONS/DAUGHTERS; GRANDCHILDREN.

Check one: () Spouse; () Widow; () Son; () Daughter; () Grandchild
 Related to: (Name of PS or Veteran): _____
 Unit of PS or Veteran (if known): _____

CATEGORY III - RELATIVES; FRIENDS; USAFFE VETERANS/REC. GUERRILLAS.

Check one: () Relative; () Friend; () USAFFE VET.; () Recog. Guerilla
 If Relative; Related to: (Name of PS or Vet.): _____
 If Friend; (Name of PS or Veteran/Guerilla): _____
 If USAFFE Vet. (Name of Unit): _____ Date Enlisted: _____
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 Payment: (Check one) () Annual; () Life. Amount Paid: _____

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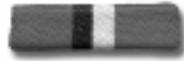
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RATES FOR LIFE MEMBERSHIP				
<u>Under 50</u>	<u>50 to 59</u>	<u>60 to 69</u>	<u>70 to 79</u>	<u>80 and Over</u>
\$75.00	\$60.00	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$30.00

The sharing on Life Membership Dues as approved by the Board of Officers between the Chapter and National is 50/50.

Philippine Scouts Heritage Society



J. Michael Houlahan
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J. Michael Houlahan
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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.
1527 Stanford St., #3
Santa Monica, CA 90104
(310) 449-6964

Ricardo de Villa
Capt. Jose Calugas Sr. Chapter
10858-111th Ave. SW
Tacoma, WA 98498
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1205 Bloomwood Rd.
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Christa M. Houlahan
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**Give us a call anytime
if you have questions
or would like to be-
come involved with
the Philippine Scouts
Heritage Society!**