



ADBC MEMORIAL SOCIETY AND AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR

Volume 70

Wellsburg, West Virginia--Summer 2014

Number 1

ADBC Memorial Society Convention Held in San Jose, CA 2014



Pictured Front: Marvin Roslansky (POW), Doug Northam (POW), Lester Tenney (POW), Randall Edwards (POW), and standing front Ricardo Marivallis (POW). Back Row: Reenactor, Jim Colliers (POW), Harold Bergbower, (POW) Ralph Griffith (POW), Oscar Leonard, (POW) Dan Crowley (POW), Anthony Costa (POW), William Overmier (POW) and Bob Ehrhart (descendant). Other POWS who attended but not pictured here were Phillip Coon, William Eldridge. Sadly Jim Collier and Phil Coon have passed since the convention.

Sunny San Jose was a beautiful place to be as we enjoyed our 5th Annual ADBC-Memorial Society Convention. The excitement began with the arrival of the POWs, their spouses, and the widows. Old friends reunited and new friends were made.

Our first session with John Ream, A Child's Perspective as a Civilian Internee, was very interesting as we heard stories of the things they saw, heard about the way they lived and basically how they dealt with the adversity of being a POW. Held in Santo Tomas and Bagio where the nurses enlightened us to some insights into the story of Santa Tomas. Telling of seeing the planes go over, hearing about the submarine, the USS Trout, that came in and took the gold out helped me remember a former POW that had written an article about the USS Trout and his journey. John's session opened up yet another history lesson about the POW experience in my mind. Thank you for this amazing experience.

Thursday morning we heard the first of the POW panels with Harold Bergbower, Bill Eldridge, Ralph Griffith and Bill Overmier. After the men were introduced, the panel took questions from the floor. (cont. on page 6)

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The ADBC Memorial Society

ADBC Memorial Society

ADBC Memorial Society Board Information 2014-2015

Honoring the Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor
Dedicated to those persons living and dead who fought
against overwhelming odds against
the enemy at the outbreak of World War Two



President

Jan Thompson 3156 Myers Lane Makanda, IL 62958 JanlThompson@gmail.com At-Large Member Andrea Krempa PO Box 1149 Aptos, CA 95001 wildandi@aol.com

of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor

Vice President

Caroline Burkhart 2408 Elliot Street Baltimore, MD 21224 carolineburkhart@yahoo.com At-Large Member
Jim Erickson
1102 Santa Rita Ct
College Station, TX 77845

Treasurer

Judy Pruitt 23 Elwell Road Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 pruittja13@aol.com

At-Large Member

jwerickson@gmail.com

Jim Nelson 141 West Fremont Avenue Burlingame, KS 66413 jamesnelson47@msn.com



Secretary

Kristen Meilicke 712 6th Ave NEdmonds, WA 98020 kristen@kmclan.net



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> George Wallace Editor, The Quan



Pictured Above Officers, Andrea Krempa, At Large Member, Caroline Burkhart, Vice-President, Jan Thompson, President, Judy Pruitt, Treasurer, Jim Nelson, At-Large Member, President, Judy Pruitt, Treasurer, and Kristen Meilicke. Not pictured are Jim Erickson, At-Large Member

RESEARCH DESK APOLOGY

Due to network problems at the convention hotel I was unable to answer several questions of convention goers at the Research Desk. Please accept my apology, and if you still have unanswered questions please email me at jamesnelson47@ msn.com. I will do my best to get you the answers.



President's Message -- Jan Thompson

Dear Friends.

Our San Jose Reunion was a terrific success and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. We had 13 former POWS and nine widows attend.

Twenty "new comers" from eleven different states and Mexico also attended. Within days after the reunion I received numerous e-mails from our "new comers" who stated they thoroughly enjoyed the week and will be with us next year in New Orleans.

Each day was packed with panels, presentations and films. One highlight was the POW luncheon where the local Patriot Guard with the San Jose police and fire department escorted our guys to the restaurant. It was such a remarkable sight watching over 40 motorcycles and squad cars lead the procession. Apparently firemen and paramedics stood saluting on every viaduct that the procession went under. This was a spectacular event and it was covered by the local NBC news and other media outlets.

We had a special guest attend from the US Sate Department. Laura Till is our representative with Japan to coordinate the POW/Friendship trips. This fall will be another trip to Japan and this will be the fifth one. In addition, we are looking for former POWs who have not been on a trip yet and who would like to go on next year's trip. If you are interested please call me 618-521-3654. The Philippine Heritage Scouts also provided a presentation and were our Color Guard for the banquet. They at-

tended the reunion wearing the traditional World War II uniforms.

To top off the reunion the banquet speaker was Loretta Swit (MASH) who came in a day early to attend some sessions as well The Quan Party.

Loretta donated two pieces of art for our auction that night. Needless to say Loretta was a hit and she stated she had a marvelous time meeting everyone. We have made her an "honorary descendant" and she hopes to attend the reunion next year in New Orleans.

Congressman Michael Honda who has been a staunch supporter of POW causes could not attend the banquet but he did send a letter to be read at the dinner.

On business related news, we have two new board members: Andrea Krempa and Kristen Meilicke. Kristen is our first "grand child" to serve on the board! (We are trying to push our average age below 65)

For those of you who did not attend this year we missed you and hope to see you next year in New Orleans.

Jan Thompson





Books for Sale

Two books by Jannie Wilbrink Java Lost: A Child Imprisoned by the

Japanese in WWII.

Java Lost: Eighteen Inches on a Mattress

Each book is \$25.00 plus \$4.00 Shipping and Handling.
C o n t a c t : M a r i a n n e Rohr-

bough, 13219 W. Twin Peaks Rd., Marana, AZ 85653

Once Forgotten, by D.Randall Haley,, PhD, and retired Army Major. It is about Philip R. Haley's combat and prisoner of war experiences in the Far East. It can be pur chased at http://amazon.com for \$28.00

Survivor, An American soldier's heartfelt story of intense fighting, and survival from Bataan to Nagasaki -Msgt. Frank N. Lovato as told to Francisco Lovato. This book can be purchased at www.survivorbook.com for \$23.00

I Am Coming Home, by Wendell H. McGarry. It is a first person account of Dr. McGarry's experiences as a POW in the Philippine Islands. From Corregidor (1942) to Ft. Frank, to Bilibid, to Cabanatuan and to his liberation at Bilibid in 1945. It can be purchased at gwenajm@hotmail.com for \$14.00 or e-mail requests to address below. Gwen J. McGarry, PO Box 392, Ephraim, Utah 84627

Happenings at American Defenders of Bataan an Corregidor (ADBC) Museum in Wellsburg, WV



Walkers head through Wellsburg to remember the Bataan Death March began on April 9, 1942 where both Americans and Filipinos died. Over 15,000 soldiers perished on the walk.



Students from Franciscan University and their professor Dr. Doyle, meeting with Joe Vater, POW and former Quan Editor.

The Museum had their third Annual Bataan Memorial Walk. The cooperative event included students from Franciscan University attending accompanied by their professor Dr. Robert Doyle. Also, Justin Coen intern from Eastern Gateway College and Genette Paproki, intern from West Liberty University attended.

Dancers from FAAP came as well as members of their group who had relatives in the Bataan Death March and who support the museum. This wonderful group also brought native Filipino dishes to the luncheon held after the walk.

John Lukacs came to the museum and presented his 4-4-43 film. Local descendants were quite excite to meet John especially Mary Lou Rote whose uncle served in Davao.

Seven re-enactors came this year. They have brought more members every year they come and plan to camp out next year. They come from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Wellsburg Elks held the event at their lodge and provided a spaghetti dinner. Along with the food from the Filipinos it was quite a feast.

The Wellsburg Elks invited the West Virginia State Elks president John McIntyre and his wife Kim to the event. Kim's



Dancers from the Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh, PA performed at the Wellburg Elks



John Lukacs chatting with brother of Mike Preganz who died at Camp O'Donnell, and re-enactor.

father was stationed in the Philippines and she was born there.

Also attending was past Grand Exalted Ruler (national leader Ted Hess. Jeff Cionni local president applied for a grant to help pay for the expenses the Elks occurred. This Bataan Day remembrance was our largest thus far and we hope that it continues to expand.

Other events the Museum had was a Flag Day Celebration with hot dogs. In July, Justin Coen and Regina Szyskiewicz and Beth Patsch rode in the July 4th Parade.

Donations

Many item donations came into the museum including donations from Joe Vater and Judith Heisinger. Judith has donated many POW biographies.

Yuka Ibuki gave an Easter donation to the museum

Statistics

From May to July we had over 600,000 hits to the web page at http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us

Facebook likes have climbed to 273 likes

Submitted by Jane Kraina, former

ADBC Museum Coordinator

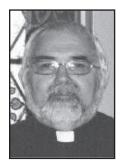




San Jose Draws a Crowd of Fourteen POWS

For many POWs they were drawn to California because of the attraction of keynote speaker Loretta Swit, a chance to bond once again with their fellow service men who shared tribulations, and the shorter traveling time to a state nearer to their homes. Above, left, Oscar Leonard hands the folded flag from the Memorial Service to Jan Thompson, ADBC Memorial Society President, while Ralph Griffith looks on. Above right, no POW can resist a smooch from Loretta Swit. Oscar Leonard watches Harold Bergbower get a hot one from the famous star who has been captivated by the story of the POWS.

The Chaplain's Corner - Davis Ferrell



Yesterday, I was standing on a low cliff looking down on the waves of the Pacific Ocean crashing on the jagged rocks and the lap up on the small beach below. As I closed my eyes I began to envision those waters also crashing against the rocks below Monkey Point on Corregidor. I can see the rugged coastline that dad painted for me in words. I can see the rock out-

croppings where he had placed machine guns and mortars waiting in anticipations of the eventual Japanese invasion.

I can even begin to imagine I hear the thunder from incoming artillery shells and bombs. Then the barking of a dog down on the beach brings me back to 2014 and away from thoughts of war. For me, it is once again just a glimpse of the horror that the members of the A.D.B.C. live with every day of their lives. It is a scar inside their bodies that they seldom if ever talk about. Then I remember accompanying dad to ADBC conventions, being able to sit there and listen to them talk about those days and even be able to laugh at times. It was the one place in their lives when they could feel safe to discuss the horrors that we cannot even imagine.

As I think about what dad told me about those days, I always remember what he said about how he started each day. When he would wake up, he would thank God for the day and begin trying to determine what purpose God had for him that day and what he could do to fulfill that purpose. It is a call I try to emulate.

My call to each of you is that you start of tomorrow in the same way. Fulfilling the purpose does not have to be something monumental. I am 77 years old and some mornings I wake up with pains that can distract my attention. At times, the purpose I decide to pursue is to simply smile at each person I meet that day.

Smiles can be contagious and I look forward to sharing one with you at the convention in New Orleans.



ADBC Memorial Society Convention 2014

(cont. from p.1)

After the men were introduced, the panel took questions from the floor. New thoughts and new answers came with the questions that we had not heard before. All of the POW panels were good and I enjoyed the question about "what did you think of MacArthur?" In all the panels there was 99% agreement that he was not looked upon with favor, but Harold made a good point. MacArthur was ordered by President Roosevelt to go to Australia and therefore had no choice. He also mentioned that if MacArthur had not been in Australia, who would have fought their way back up the islands to bring them home?

Grantee Scottie Kersta-Wilson provided us a glimpse into her new stage play about Cabanatuan. She first gave us the background as to how she decided to make this journey after writing her successful curriculum for middle school "The Show Must Go On: The Story of the Mighty Cabanatuan Orchestra and Art Players". After getting the information on how she came upon the idea of writing a musical about Cabanatuan she along with Kristen Meilicke and Terry Mitchell did a reading of a scene for us. I really did not know we had such talented performers in our group. The play will be great when it is finished. It has humor and lots of laughs. It is based on what the men did for entertainment in POW camp.

The POW Friendship Program panel consisted of POWs Marvin Roslansky, Michael Coon speaking for his dad Phillip, widows Marge McGrew, Lora Cummins and Esther Jennings and Nancy Kragh a descendant that was allowed on the first trip. They all shared their experiences and the one thing that stuck in my mind was the importance of making peace. The Japanese were extremely friendly to them and made every attempt to make their trip very special. I hope this will continue for years to come as I believe that it will provide a closing for many.

And then the Wives Tales panel. And what a group it was. Rosie Christie, Jean Pruitt, Ann Overmier, Rosemary Edwards, Ruth Wilber, Pat Thompson, Mary Griffith, Josephine Roslansky and Rose Bridges. They shyly told a little about their married life and POW effects on their family. Then the fun began with questions and our shy ladies were ready to jump in with information. From hearing about POW nightmares, women working in the shipyard, POW taking POW off his information because no one would believe what had happened to him as a POW and the relief that he felt when he discovered the ADBC and could be with others who knew what each other had been though. PTSD though not known about at the time was prevalent in the POWs. It affected each in different ways. A question was brought up about whether the families had more girls than boy children. All in all a great way to learn.

Friday brought a session with Mary Cronk Farrell and her book <u>Pure Grit: How American WWI Nurses Survived Battle & Prison Camp in the Pacific</u>. This was our second grant presentation and this book will be used as a curriculum to teach the history of the nurses in WWII. The book is great reading and has many wonderful pictures that help tell the story. Mary has also set up live Skype presentations for students. It was also great to have Sandra Harding, daughter of Evelyn Black Harding, there to hear more about her mother's adventures.

The final POW panel had Anthony Costa, Jim Collier, Randall Edwards, Oscar Leonard and Doug Northam participating. Doug and Anthony were seated at opposite ends of the table. As with the first panel, the men began by introducing themselves. Doug started and when Anthony told us his camp, Doug sat up straight up, leaned forward and said "TONY? IS THAT YOU?" Suddenly everyone in the audience was at attention – and it WAS the Tony that Doug remembered - they had been camp mates and not seen each other for 70 years. Everyone in the room was moved by this incredible reunion. One question asked at both POW panels was how many male and female children did each man have – the interesting result was that they had about 2-3 girls for each boy.

After a long and disjointed flight connection and trying time getting to San Jose, we finally had Grantee John Lukacs arrive to present his film 4-4-43: Lt. William Edwin Dyess and The Greatest Story of the War in the Pacific. This film was based on his book Escape from Davao. I really enjoyed the film and thought it was very well done. I did not know the story and did discover that Harold Bergbower was in that camp and if they had not needed to send the men to work as slave labor, there would have been 120 POWs shot for the 10 American POWs and the 2 Filipino convicts that escaped. The POWs in Davao were in many respects very lucky that day. I had heard about Dyess when I was young and it was great to actually learn more about this part of the war.

The whole convention was once again a learning time for me and to be able to visit with these men and learn more about what my own father went through is priceless. Thank you to all of you POWs and Wives and Widows for bringing history alive for me and helping me to understand some strange issues in my childhood.





SAN JOSE POW LUNCHEON

The morning began with dozens of Patriot Guard motorcycle riders arriving at the San Jose Hyatt Place hotel. Men, women, and service dogs had answered the call to action from Buzz Bickham, the local leader of the Patriot Guard. They were the official escort to C. B. Hannegan's Irish Pub in Los Gatos, CA for the POW luncheon. A flag line was formed and we were on our way. We had the full cooperation and participation of the police and fire departments from the cities of Santa Clara, San Jose, and Los Gatos. On every overpass of the 17 mile freeway ride, there were officers and firemen standing at attention on top of their service vehicles saluting our POW veterans. Chris Benson, co-owner of C.B, Hannegan's in Los Gatos first head about the ADBC Memorial Society from his friends Tom and Andrea Krempa. He was especially moved by the details of the POW experience. Upon learning that the group was meeting in San Jose



this year, he insisted upon hosting the luncheon to extend the Bay Area's gratitude to our former POWs. He enlisted the aid of his catering manager, Kristen Schulz, who quickly sprang into action. Her husband, Christian Nielsen is a member of the Patriot Guard and he connected us with Buzz Bickham. Kristen also reached out to a number of transportation agencies to find us a comfortable ride to and from San Jose

Paul Tatsuta, Transportation Manager at OUT-REACH, Mobility Management Center of Santa Clara County provided six large passenger vans. In addition, he had teams placed at each location to assist with our departure and arrival. Paul also had a film crew to document the entire event for a You Tube video. NBC Bay Area TV News sent reporters to interview our group and film the ride. We made the nightly news!

Arriving at the restaurant, our former POWs were met by officers of the Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department and the Santa Clara Fire Department, waiting to shake their hands and thank them for their service. A delightful lunch of traditional Irish dishes such as Shepherd's Pie and Corned Beef and Cabbage was enjoyed by all. A reporter from the San Jose Mercury News also conducted interviews at the luncheon and wrote a piece for the newspaper. ItwastrulyawonderfulafternoonandmanythankstoC.B.Hannegan's,thePatriotGuard,OUTREACH,andthelocalpoliceandfiredepartments.

One of the staff members of the Mobility Management Center created a video of the event. The 5+ minute video can be viewed https://youtube/watch?v=ghiuM6Oapmo.

Submitted by Andrea Krempa

By George



After a frightening scare with a returned breast cancer, Mary Kay has retired from her position as director of the library as of the first of August and I am serving as consultant to the new owners of my newspaper, which I sold in March. We are grateful to announce that she is in remission and that is a true miracle.

The change in our work lives will enable us to devote more time to the ADBC Museum, continuing as volunteers, of course. Neither of us has ever asked for nor received compensation since the first dedication ceremony in 2002. We are interviewing for a full time coordinator and applicants include individuals with Museum Studies degrees. This will advance us further. The museum is bulging at the seams with items and materials but we are finding space and will continue to do so.

We are nominating Jan Thompson and Joe Vater to the ADBC Museum board of directors and we are pleased that both have agreed to serve if elected. Since the Museum has become a major research facility for serious historians, authors, genealogists and others seeking authentic information from the collection, we are considering a name change to Museum and Research Center, or other name indicating education and research.

The Museum has become linked with the history departments of several universities and colleges and a steady stream of interns are of great value to our collection as well as an important component of their educational experience. We continue to sponsor local patriotic events and appreciate the growing support of the local communities.

George Wallace

Note: Please send news and photos for the Quan to the quan@comcast.net or mail to the Quan c/o the Brooke Review, 67 7th St., Wellsburg, WV 26070. If you are sending photos please take the time to identify people in the photos.

The deadline for the Winter Issue will be November 15.

New Mexico Guardians Offering Scholarships



Last year The NM Guardians of our Heritage Defenders of Bataan issued scholarships in September. In the upcoming scholarship cycle the Guardians will be will offer two \$1000 scholarships in March 2015. Applications will be accepted January 15 - February 28, 2015. Awards will be announced at the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range on March 21, 2015. For more information please see the Guardians' website at http://www.guardiansofbataan.org.

Submitted by Kate Ediger who is pictured with Phillip Coon. Phillip Coon has passed away since this picture was taken.

ADBC
Museum
is located
945 Main Street
Wellsburg, WY
26070

Come visit us
304-737-1551
If you want items
pulled to view, please
call first.

Next year's convention will be in New Orleans



ADBC-MS San Jose 2014 Convention Attendees

Adraktas, Mona Albitz, Karen

Amos, Jr., Harold Malcom

Anderson, David Anderson, David Anderson, Linda Anderson, Sheryl

Bergbower-Grunwald, Debra Bergbower, Harold** Bergbower, Michael Binkowski, Edna Boswell, Paula Bowden, Judie Brady-Smith, Karen Bridges, Rose Brown, Joseph Buell, John Bunger Evelyn Bunger, William Burkhart, Caroline Cabigas, Rudy

Cheung, Helen Christie, Rosie Collier, Carrie Collier, James** Collier, Julie Coon, Michael Coon, Phillip** Costa, Anthony** Costa, Maryann Crowley, Daniel** Crowley, Kelley

Cummins, Lora Dahlstrom, Kristin Diaz, Carolyn Diaz, Gerald Donnan, Mary Dee Dunn, Charles

Ebersold, Bowen, Victoria

Ediger, Kate

Edwards, RandalI** Edwards, Rosemary Ehrhart, Robert Eldridge, William** Elizondom, Rev Elms, Jennifer Elms-Pederson, Carol

Erickson, Lawrence Erickson, Leah Farrell, Mary Cronk

Ferrell, Davis Francis, Linda Frank, Dolores Gonzales, George Gonzales, Helen Gonzales, Jordan

Griffith, Mary Griffith, Ralph** Grunwald, Heinz Harding, Sandra Harless, Kimberly Hirabyashi, Johnathan

Ibuki, Yukako Jackson, Patricia Jennings, Esther Johnson, Ann Johnson, Erwin** Kai, Susan

Kersta-Wilson Scottie Kilchenman, Sue Kragh, Nancy Krempa, Andrea Krempa, Mary Krempa, Patrick Krempa, Roxanne Krempa, Patrick Krempa, Tom Kupsky, Gregory Ladd, Kevin

Leonard-Gonzales, Ida Leonard, Mary Ida Leonard, Oscar** Leonard, Sarah Lewis, Richard Lopez, Frank Malikowski, Edward Maravillas, Anthony Maravillas, Joseph

Maravillas, Lorenzo Joseph Maravillas, Mary Ann Maravillas, Ricardo**

McCorts-Blaine, Mary Jane

McGrew, Marjean McGrew, Steve Meilicke, Kristen Mislang, Gil Mislang, John Alex Mitchell, Nancy Morris, Emily Muriera, Ron Nelson, Jean Nelson, James

McDavitt, Linda

Nishisato Yamashita, Fuyuko

Northam, Douglas ** Northan, Hazel Obenauf, Gretchen Obenauf, Richard Ortega, Ray Overmier, Anna Overmier, Alan Overmier, William**

Page, Donald Patsch, Elizabeth Patterson, John Patterson, Lillian Pinson, Judtih Plata, Donald Prickett, Patricia Pruitt, Jean Pruitt, Judith Ream, John Ream, Renee Rodriquez, Angela Roslansky, Josephine Roslansky, Marvin** Rubenstein, Devorah Rubenstein, Scott Rushing, Keith Russell, Mary Schmalz, Donna Schmalz, Debbie Schmalz, Ted Schmelkes, Corina Sheasley, Marvel Sigala, Lucille Slocomb, Eugene Sutton, Glenda Szczepanski, Gloria Szczepanski, Richard

Taylor, Lori Tennant, Doris Tenney, Betty Tenney, Lester** Thompson, Patricia Thompson Jan Till, Laura Tipton, Kent Tipton, Wilhelmine Tipton, Ron Topping, David Valdez, Julian

Venezio, Margaret Wang, Ao Wang, Patricia Webb, Michael Weisshaar, Judy Weisshaar, Paul Whitehurst, John Wilber, Ruth

VanSkike, Linda

Witherspoon, Hanna Witherspoon, James

Indicates former **POW











San Jose 2014

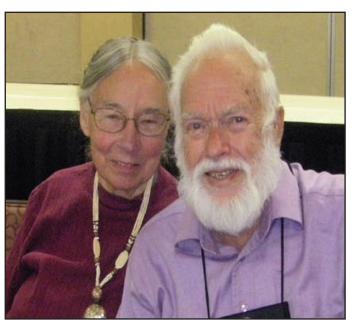
1st Row (left pic) Harold Bergbower, William Eldridge, Bill Overmier, and Ralph Griffith, (right pic) Carrie Collier, and Scott Rubinstein 2nd Row Randall and Rosemary Ed-Edwards and Nishisato Fuyuko Don Plata and Philippine Reenactor , rd Row Rose Bridges, Glenda Sutton, and Lora Cummins Opposite page 1st Row, Mary Griffith, Umadas, and Ralph Griffith, Doug Northam and Anthony Costa 2nd Row Mary Ida and Oscar Leonard, Phillip Coon and son Michael 3rd Row Linda Van Skike, Ruth Wil-

ber and Pat Thompson, Marjean Mc-

Grew and Nancy Kragh













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Note: After one year C	uan will be put up o	online at http:/	/philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/	





More Convention Photos

Above: Edna Binkowski, Caroline Burkhart, and Yuka Ibuki Photo left: The Philippine Scouts

The Philippine Scouts organized in 1902 to help the US with troop shortages in the Philippines. The Filipinos were enlisted into the Philippine Scouts and they were part of the United States Army for a little more than forty years. They served as Color Guard for banquet.

Book Review

Pure Grit: How American Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific Written by Mary Cronk Farrell



One of the presenters at the convention in San Jose was Mary Cronk Farrell the author of Pure Grit: How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific. Ms. Farrell was the recipient of one of the ADBC-MS grants for 2014 and as part of the stipulations of the grant presented an interesting hour for our members. Without giving away all the details of the book, Ms. Farrell's narration allowed the audience to get the story by using the many photos that she collected over the course of writing the book. There are over one hundred photos in the book which helps give a face to the names that are the mentioned through out the narrative. The book contains very useful features such as a glossary, timeline of the war, footnotes, bibliography, and picture credits that appeal to the detail oriented among us.

Although the book is officially geared toward "young readers" it holds up to scrutiny by those who have done extensive research on the Philippine campaign or those who lived through it. It has not been "dumbed down". The information is presented in a way that personalizes the stories of the

young women who pursued military nursing careers. Coming off the Depression these women were no different than the boys who joined the service or signed up for CCC wanting "three hots and a cot". In the days when one of the few careers available to young women was nursing, the opportunity to join the military threw in the added benefit of travel and adventure. What befell these optimistic young women in the Philippine battles, the internment camps at Santo Tomas and Los Banos, and the aftermath is the essence of the book. At the end of the war some of the women went on to have distinguished nursing careers but most faded into the comfort of family life where few of their acquaintances knew of the harrowing experiences they were suppressing. Just like the men, these prisoners were affected by what we now know as PTSD before there was a name for it.

Known as "The Angels" to our group, the timing is right for this book as the 70th anniversary of the end of the war in Japan will be commemorated next year. It is fitting that these women are given the recognition they are due.

Reviewed by Caroline Burkhart carolineburkhart@yahoo.com

~ Deceased ~

DEATHS

This Issue

Collier, James
Coon, Phillip
Cook, Ted
Diaz, Roy
Heffron, Charles, "Chuck"
Leith, Hal
Porvoll, Ken
Rose, Norman
Thompson, Dorothy

James Cecil Collier



James Cecil Collier passed away peacefully at home on June 5, 2014. Jim was born July 31, 1923 in Pardee, VA to Millard H. Collier and Martha J. Sturgill.

Jim was preceded in death by his loving wife Joan, who left us in 1993.

He is survived by his four children: Lynn Theresa of Monterey, Carrie Lee and James "Scott" both of Salinas, and Julie Anne Collier of Cameron Park. He had two grandchildren: Haley Elise and Olivia Joan Collier of Romeo, MI. Jim was the surviving member of his family of origin. His sisters, Carrie, Pauline, Monet, Stella and a half-sister all preceded him in death. Jim's nieces, Linda Conrad, "Betty" Sue Pelicano, and Amy Bledsoe, all reside in the eastern U.S.

Jim's father allowed him to join the Army at the age of 16. He was stationed in the Philippine Islands when Imperial Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and eight hours later the Philippines. Jim was a member of the U.S. Army 59th Coast Artillery Battery D "Cheney" on Corregidor Island and was surrendered to the Imperial Japanese Army in May 1942. Jim was held as a prisoner-of-war at the prison camp Cabanatuan and was used as forced labor at Clark Field before being shipped to

Japan on the Hellship the Noto Maru in Aug. 1944.

While a prisoner in Japan, Jim was again a slave laborer feeding iron ore into the open hearth furnace at the Nagoya-6B-Nomachi (Takaoka) camp for the Hokkai Denka Company, which was involved in ferroalloy smelting. Today the site remains in the ferroalloy business as Takaoka Works. Jim was liberated after the surrender of Japan on Aug. 15, 1945.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, Commendation Medal, POW Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense, American Defense, American Campaign, Asiatic Pacific, Philippine Defense, Philippine Liberation, World War II Victory Medal, and the Republic Presidential Unit Citation. When Jim enlisted in the Army he weighed 150 pounds. When he was finally liberated, he weighed 110 pounds. Seeing the S.F. Golden Gate Bridge when he returned from duty and imprisonment in Japan, he decided he wanted to live in California. Much later he was able to realize that dream.

After the war, Jim went on to earn two Master Degrees: a degree in the Teaching of English from San Jose State University and a Master's in School Counseling from the University of Oregon. He was a teacher and a counselor for many years at North Salinas High. His favorite job was a meaningful five-year stint at Hartnell College, counseling the many returning Viet Nam vets who used the G.I. Bill to go to college. He believed strongly in education. He was very proud that he had overcome the privations of his youth in the Appalachian Virginia coal country.

He was an active member of the ADBC (American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor) Memorial Society up until the end of his life, having just enjoyed the fellowship of great friends who met for the annual ADBC reunion last weekend in San Jose. The dialogue he shared with this group went a long way toward healing his past. Jim can be seen as an interview subject in the informative but as yet, unreleased documentary, "Never the Same" by filmmaker Jan Thompson and narrated by Loretta Swit of TV's long running show MASH.

Ted Cook

Ted Cook, 93, of Lexington, a World War II veteran who survived the Bataan Death March, died at Thomson-Hood Veterans Center in Wilmore.

Mr. Cook is survived by his wife of 52 years, Patsy Back Cook, and three children, Richard Cook and his wife Patricia, Jackie Merrifield and her husband Ron, and Libby Leedy and her husband Steve, all of Lexington.

His first wife, Lettie Craft Cook, as well as five brothers and three sisters, preceded him in death.

Mr. Cook was a native of Democrat in Letcher County. He joined the Army in June 1940. His company, the 17th Ordnance Co., was shipped to the Philippines in September 1941 and was responsible for maintaining tanks. Mr. Cook was a supply sergeant.

After the U.S. surrendered to the Japanese on April 9, 1942 on Bataan, Mr. Cook became a prisoner of war, enduring beatings, sickness, hunger and excessive heat on the death march and while being held in prisoner-of-war camps.

After arriving in Japan, Mr. Cook was put to work in a steel mill, where he remained until the war ended.

After the war, Mr. Cook finished his degree at Eastern Kentucky University and began a career as a high school teacher and coach.

Over the years, he taught at Lebanon High School in Marion County, Whitesburg High School, Lafayette High School and Bryan Station High School. He spent 16 years as director of adult education for the Kentucky Department of Education.

Patsy Cook said her husband rarely talked about his war experiences until the 1980s, when they took a trip to the Philippines with other survivors of Bataan. He became an active member of The American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor.

He also was a member of Beaumont Presbyterian Church and enjoyed playing golf and watching sports.

Phillip Coon

Decorated World War II veteran and survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March who persevered through three years as a Japanese prisoner of war, Phillip Coon died June 23, 2013. He was 95.

Coon was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Helen Coon; three children, Chester, Phyllis and Linda Coon; and his seven siblings. His survivors include his son, Michael Coon; seven grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Growing up, he attended the former Euchee Mission School in Sapulpa, which served Indian children, and then Haskell Indian School at Lawrence, Kansas. After graduation, he joined the Army in 1941.

Within days of landing in the Philippines with the 31st Infantry Regiment, Coon found himself in the thick of battle after the Japanese invaded. What would become known as the Bataan Death March took place in April 1942, when an Allied force of 75,000 that had surrendered was marched more than 60 miles in sweltering jungle heat to Japanese prison camps. Denied food and water, thousands never made it, either collapsing and dying on the way; or being killed by their captors, who showed little mercy. "They went hog wild on us." Coon said.

From brutal prison camps in the Philippines, Coon was eventually transported to Japan, where he was forced to work in a copper mine until he was liberated at war's end. Over three years as a POW, his weight dropped from 145 to 90 pounds. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said that when Coon was asked later how he survived, he would say "because of his faith and because he knew people back home were praying for him. He certainly had a tremendous amount of faith."

For years after coming home, Coon, a recipient of a Bronze Star and Prisoner of War Medal, didn't like to talk

about the war. When his son grew up to join the military and later his grandson, who has served in Afghanistan and Iraq, it prompted Coon to want to share his experiences with them. "He was very proud of us serving, too, making three generations of the family," said his son, Michael Coon, a former Army paratrooper.

A few years ago, he went back to the Philippines. He didn't want to go, but his wife encouraged him and, there, among other sites, he visited the grave of a good friend who had died as a POW. In 2013, Coon got the chance to return to Japan. Participating in Japan's POW Friendship Program, he spent a week there with other former POWs. The trip was a blessing, he said later, but he couldn't help quipping, "I had a lot more to eat this time." Coon gained a lot of closure from his trips, his son said. "He had held much animosity for the Japanese. But his attitude changed toward them and in general. Even at the VA clinic, they told him he was smiling and laughing more."

Tiger said: "I always loved to talk to him. I liked to hear what he had to say. He had a lot of things to say about life, about the Creek Nation. We're going to miss him. We already miss him." Tiger added that in Coon's death, "the Nation has lost a hero."

Roy Diaz

Mr. Diaz, the last of 47 Monterey County survivors of Bataan, died at the age of 96.

Roy Diaz was a survivor of the Bataan Death March, a World War II nightmare in which more than 70,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war were forced by the Imperial Japanese Army to walk more than 70 miles, almost entirely without food or water, in suffocating heat. An estimated 18,000 to 20,000 soldiers died from heat, exhaustion, brutal beatings, bayonet attacks and other methods of execution. He was one of 105 Monterey County members of Company C, 194th Tank Battalion, who were captured by the Japanese in March 1943 after three months of combat on the Bataan Peninsula, where they were overwhelmed by 100,000 Japanese troops and a shortage of supplies and weaponry. For Mr. Diaz, the Bataan Death March began with a 10- to 15-mile hike over a mountain to Mariveles, where he and fellow troops joined the rest of the U.S.

and Filipino POWs for the trek.

Mr. Diaz battled malaria and beriberi during two and a half years of captivity, during which he was forced to clean fish, plant rice and sweet potatoes, build runways and work at a smelting plant. The soldier who was 150 pounds when he enlisted weighed less than 80 pounds by the time his was freed in September 1945.

The 47 Monterey County soldiers who survived Bataan were honored with a parade in Salinas when they came home. Mr. Diaz's military honors included a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and 12 other medals.

In 1955, he was walking down a Salinas street during the Colmo del Rodeo Parade when he encountered Lorraine Sayers, a neighbor who had grown up down the hill from his house. She was 20, he was 38.

Roy and Lorraine were married 57 years, living in the farmhouse where he was raised. They attended numerous Bataan reunions, including one in the Philippines, and Roy met regularly with other Monterey County Bataan survivors — the 40-47 Club, so named because all were originally members of the 40th Tank Company of the California National Guard, and 47 made it back from Bataan.

Charles "Chuck" Buckner Heffron

Charles Buckner "Chuck" Heffron, 95, of Athens, died March 23, 2014 at his residence.

He was born April 15th, 1918 in Marathon, NY of parents William E. Heffron and Clara Buckner. He divorced in 1979 and married Frances C. Ringley of Sweetwater, TN in 1992.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Beth Heffron Taylor, a son, Bart Heffron, and a great-granddaughter, Tessa Hurst.

He is survived by his wife, Frances C. Ringley Heffron of Athens; two sons and daughters-in-law, Ward and Susan

Heffron of Harrisburg, North Carolina and Roy and Sharolyn Heffron of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; 7 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one sister, Elizabeth "Liz" Lash of Cortland, NY; and a brother, Clifford Heffron of Lakeland, Fla.

A graduate of Virgil, NY high school in 1936, he also studied for two years at Alfred University to become a radio technician.

During WWII he served in the U.S. Army for nearly six years and received the rank of Master Sergeant. In October 1941, as a member of the 1st Aircraft Warning Company, his company brought the first RADAR to the Philippine Islands. He was responsible for the operation and maintenance of RA-DAR at the air field in IBA, Luzon, Philippine Island. December 8, 1942 (December 7, 1942 Pearl Harbor time) IBA airfield installations were bombed by the Japanese and destroyed. He was transferred to Corregidor and worked in the encoding and decoding of messages the General Staff.

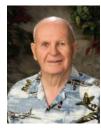
When the Philippines were surrendered to the Japanese May 6, 1942, he was sent to Japan prison camp Cabanatuan and Bilibid in the Philippines, and then on "Hell Ship" (the Nissova Maru) to the POW camp Fukuoka No. 3, Kyusha, Japan, where he was forced to do hard labor in the Yawata steel mills. He was a Prisoner of War for three and one half years.

After Japan surrendered in 1945, he returned to the United States, weighing only 82 pounds, and spent time recuperating in three different hospitals. He was discharged from the Army in August 1946, and enrolled at Cornell University where he earned a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree in 1950. He married Eva Sherman of Virgil, NY and they had four children, three boys and one girl. He was employed by the Television and Radio Division of Westinghouse Electric Corp. for 18 years, in the design and development department of home television systems.

In 1950's amd1960's he participated in the development and specifications of Color Television Standards that are used today. In 1968 he began working for Magnavox Company where he headed the research and development department in the areas of television, video games and computer studies. He retired in 1984. He holds fourteen U.S. Patents in the area of electronics. After retirement he did volunteer work assisting senior citizens with income tax filing for ten years, served on the Board of Directors of the Athens Senior Activity Center, and served in various capacities in Veteran's organizations. He served as Chapter Commander of the American Ex Prisoners' of War. and as Tennessee State Commander. He was a National Service officer with the American Ex Prisoners' of War, Inc. Of all his accomplishments he was most proud that he helped many fellow POWs' receive their disability benefits and their wives and surviving spouses to receive their medical insurance and survivors benefits. He was a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, and the DAV.

Hal Leith

Hal Leith, 94, of Golden, entered into rest peacefully on December 24, 2013 at his home.



He was born in Butte, MT. He was married to his love and dance partner, Helen Leith, for 69 years. Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfa-

ther; Hal is survived by his wife, Helen; children, Kathie [Joe] Porter, Mike [Beth] Leith, Larry [Marci] Leith; grand-children, Lori, Alex, Emily, Ally, Tommy, Danny, Cooper, Senna, Mika, Kaia; great-grandchild Becca & numerous other relatives. He was preceded in death by his beloved daughter Diane.

After studying at University of Chicago he was recruited by the OSS, later known as the CIA. At the close of World War II, Hal parachuted into Mukden, Manchuria to rescue high level POWs including General Wainwright.

Hal worked for the CIA for 33 years, & during those years he, Helen & at times their children lived in exotic loca-

tions such as Saipan, Tehran, Djakarta, Karachi. In retirement he was the spy who went out into the cold to help deaf & handicapped children learn to ski with the Winter Park program. Also in his retirement Hal became a GIA graduate, teaching gemology & goldsmithing both privately & at Metropolitan State College.

Hal is dancing gracefully in heaven patiently waiting for his beloved partner to join him.

Ken Porwoll

Ken Porwoll, of Roseville, died on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2013, at 93, leaving his grade-school friend, Walt Straka, as Brainerd's loneBataan March survivor from the



Guard's 34th Tank Company.

Porwoll is survived by Ann Porwoll of St. Paul, Jack Porwoll of Vadnais Heights, Mike Porwoll of Mounds View, Steve Porwoll of Oak Park Heights, Peggy Kulhanek of St. Paul, Joan Porwoll of Columbia Heights and Bill Porwoll of Golden Valley.

His tank company out of Brainerd, Minn., was among those caught on the Bataan peninsula of the Philippines, already starved and low on ammunition, when Japanese fighter planes screamed across the sky.

In defeat, the 21-year-old was among nearly 70,000 U.S. and Filipino soldiers forced to walk as many as eight days and 100 miles inland to the point of surrender.

The stories Porwoll would later tell of 1942's infamous Bataan Death March and the 3½ years he spent as a Japanese prisoner of war spoke of beheadings, starvation, terrorism and brutality. But they also spoke of strength and faith.

"It's strange what the human spirit will put up with, if you make up your mind," Porwoll told the Star Tribune in a 1992 interview. Nearly 1,000 Americans died on the march. Of the 64 National Guardsmen from Brainerd who went to the Philippines, only 32 returned.

After a 30-year career at a small ma-

chine shop, Porwoll began volunteering as a barber at a St. Paul drop-in center for homeless people. He showed up at Listening House every Wednesday, even on Christmas Eve, for 25 years. "These were men who might have felt unwanted," said Porwoll's wife of 60 years, Mary Ellen. "And it's how many of them felt as prisoners of war. They were dirty and without a home. It was how he gave back."

Porwoll also volunteered at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and gave speeches to high school and college students as well as military graduates; always working in the Charles Swindoll quote that "life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it."

Though told he would never have children after years of malnutrition and abuse, he and Mary Ellen had nine kids. Despite back pain caused by blows from a Japanese soldier's gun, Porwoll rolled on the floor with them to play, and took them hiking and agate hunting.

In recent years, as Porwoll was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, the family formed its own army of care, mobilizing to keep him in the home he and Mary Ellen bought in the 1950s to keep his mind from returning to the days when he was prisoner No. 362. They made sure Porwoll was in a place he knew, with the "touch of loved ones."

Norman Rudolph Rose

Resident of San Jose, Patriot, Husband, Father and Friend-WWII Bataan Death March and Prisoner of War Survivor.



Norman R. Rose passed away at home on March 25, 2013 due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. He is preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy in 2010 and is survived

by his two children, son Brink Rose (Cindy), grandson Norman Harley, two step grand-daughters Brianna and Alexandra Lipka; and his daughter Normandy Rose, grandson Isaac D. Esc-

obedo (Sabrina) and great grandson Isaac A. Escobedo.

Norman was born June 19, 1921, in the Mission District, San Francisco, California. Just prior to his mother's passing when he was 12 years of age, his family moved to Salinas, California where he made his closest friends that would last a lifetime. Norman and his friends were known for the "mischief' they created from Junior High through High School

After graduating, he and many of his High School friends joined the California National Guard in 1940. Made part of the US Army in 1941 and the 194th Tank Battalion out of Salinas, California, he shipped out to the Philippines, just prior to the declaration of war with Japan. There they fought the Japanese on Bataan for three months until their forced surrender. They would become part the 'Bataan Death March' where thousands perished on the 60 mile trek. These men became prisoners of war for the next three and one half years until the nuclear bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, forcing the surrender of Japan to the United States.

This was a defining moment for Sergeant Norman R. Rose. He lost his best friend Jack Brink and endured torture and inhumane treatment, but held no bitterness for his ordeal. An American flag has always flown proudly in front his home, a true patriot, he could be found saluting every American flag he encountered. When anyone would thank him for his service, he would say, "Why, I didn't do anything." He, like so many of the 'Greatest Generation,' rarely spoke of the atrocities of war.

The lessons of survival lasted his lifetime: all life deserves respect; near starvation taught him to always leave something for the next person; for these men who felt deserted by their Country, (No Mama, No Papa, No Uncle Sam- We are the Battling Bastards of Bataan), your word was your bond; truth, trust and integrity matter...you deal with what life hands you and are grateful for each day.

It was how he lived his professional and personal life: attending UC Berke-

ley on the G.I. Bill; drilling water and oil wells, working for Georgia Pacific Corporation in management, starting his own development/construction company; a successful/self-made business man, appreciative of the opportunities this Country provided; married to Dorothy for 60 years until her passing; raising two children, and traveling the world after retirement.

A resident of San Jose, CA for 53 years, Norman loved the family dogs. (always a Labrador Retriever) He loved to play poker and shoot craps but more than anything else, he loved to play dominoes, and until two months ago could still be found at the Sainte Claire Club in San Jose on Mondays doing just that. Norman loved to make people laugh and had an amazing, reputable and at times acerbic wit-a trait that although it robbed him of so much, even the Alzheimer's could not take away.

Dorothy D. Thompson

Dorothy Susie Davis Thompson died September 2, 2013 at the age of 95. She was born to Alfred C. and Marjorie (Anderson) Davis in Shanghai, China on October 26, 1917. Her husband of 67 years, Jack Harrell Thompson, Sr. passed away April 6, 2013. She is survived by their children Jack H. Thompson Jr. (wife Jane), Marjorie S. Camp (husband Roger), and Peggy T. McCray (husband John) as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Dorothy grew up in Shanghai, China, graduated from Columbia University -Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in 1940 and as told in her book, The Road Back, Dorothy then moved to Manila, Philippine Islands, to live with her parents and sister. In December 1941 she and her family became prisoners of war of the Japanese, at Santo Tomas University in Manila.

After being released through a POW exchange in 1943, Dorothy joined the U.S. Army and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps.

As an Army nurse she returned to Manila and, under fire, participated in the liberation of Santo Tomas. She earned

the Bronze Star Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty in providing emergency medical care to the sick and wounded internees. She distinguished herself by being promoted to First Lieutenant and then Captain and resigned from the U.S. Army in 1945 to be a full time mother and civilian nurse.

When the family moved to San Antonio in 1961, Dorothy worked as a nurse for Nix Hospital. She was recruited by the brand-new Methodist Hospital, where she worked until 1982, retiring as Director of Nurses. She and Jack Sr. were active volunteers for the American Red Cross and, as Ham Radio operators, were long time members of the Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS).

OTHER KNOWN DEATHS

Houston Turner Kam Choy Leong

If your obituary isn't in this issue please check the next issue. Some came in after we put the Quan together.

Quan Volunteers

Obituaries and other articles should be sent to the quan@comcast or mailed to:

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A Few More of Our Honored POWs



Lester and Betty Tenney



Jim Collier and Loretta Swit (Note: Jim Collier has passed away since the convention)

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E-mail address: fromtheheart2007@aol.com

Note from editor: More pictures can be found at http://phillip-pine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/sharon_cooper_card.html



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The ADBC Memorial Society and the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor





Pictured Above: Loretta Swit in the middle of Ann and Bill Overmier, and pictured right are Kelly and Daniel Crowley