



# The QUAN



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

## San Jose Site of 5th ADBC Memorial Society Convention; Actress Loretta Swit of “M\*A\*S\*H” Fame Keynote Speaker



According to 2014 convention planners the Convention is going to be the largest since the 2009 ADBC Final Convention. See the schedule on page seven and information on the hotel and shuttle on page eight.

## Our Japanese Friends Donate to the ADBC Museum

Yuka Ibuki has sent money to the ADBC Museum from accumulated sales of Lester Tenney's book, "My Hitch in Hell." Yuka and three other teachers translated the book into Japanese. Yuka's funds came from an account that was entitled, "Educational Fund for US-Japan Understanding."

An individual donation was also given after Yuka translated Ed Jackfert's "Brooke County Public Library Educational Project." Ed Jackfert read this document to a class of students from Franciscan University. Dr Doyle, a POW expert and a Vietnam veteran, brings his students in every year to the museum, and several of his students have come to the museum to volunteer. Many of these volunteers had grandfathers who fought in the Pacific theater.

Ed Jackfert wishes for the repository at the museum to lead viewers to the "conclusion that war is nothing but "death and destruction" and should be eliminated as a means of settling differences between nations of this world." Yuka Ibuki translated Ed's speech into Japanese, so it can be read on Kinue Tokudome's US Japan Dialogue website.

The museum staff and board members are grateful to Yuka, Kinue and others in Japan who seek to understand the history of World War II as it relates to the POW experience. The preservation of this history is the main purpose of the ADBC Museum.

This support to the museum and the continuation of Friendship

Visits to Japan give hope that reconciliation is possible and that understanding is the answer.

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# The ADBC Memorial Society



of the  
American  
Defenders of  
Bataan &  
Corregidor



The Quan



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Editor, The Quan



**ADBC Memorial Society**  
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

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Above, Back row: Patty Prickett, Kris Dahlstrom, Judy Pruitt,  
Front row: Jan Thompson, Jim Erikson, Caroline Burkhart

Contributors to this issue: Jan Thompson, Pat Wang, Judy Pruitt, George Wallace and Linda McDavitt. I want to thank Regina Szyszkiewicz, Sarah Snider, Jan Thompson, Caroline Burkhart and Judy Pruitt for their proofreading help among others.



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## President's Message -- Jan Thompson

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Dear Friends,

Much has happened in the last several months.

To keep our POWs on the White House and federal administration's list of important issues, we have written a couple of letters. One was to Vice President Biden on the eve of his trip to Japan. We wanted to emphasize the importance of the POW/Japan Friendship Trips and encourage his support. The letter is included in this issue-page 19.

As many of you may be aware, Caroline Kennedy is now our Ambassador to Japan. It wasn't long after her arrival that she had to issue a statement about the unfortunate visit by Prime Minister Abe to the Yasukuni Shrine-where World War II criminals are also enshrined. You will see a letter that we wrote to Ambassador Kennedy thanking her for her prompt response to the Prime Minister's visit on page 19. By the way, a number of other nations have protested Prime Minister Abe's actions.

In December, the Japanese Embassy in Washington DC recognized Lester Tenney (PNC) for "his distinguished service in contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States of America."

We have not had the official word yet but all indications are there will be another trip this fall for our former POWs to visit Japan. The Board sees these trips as important and instrumental to ensure the history

and legacy of our former POWs-there are photos of the presentation in this issue.

In addition, this past fall at the Evergreen Air & Space Museum, 15 of our former POWs were flown in for several days to speak about their POW experience to over 25 high schools. This was an impressive event and all arranged by descendant Ken Buckles.

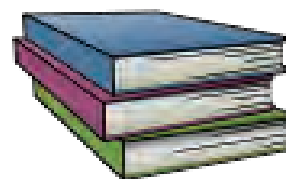
It has come to our attention that a middle school in Nagasaki Japan is building a Memorial to a POW camp that had been located on its grounds. We are making a donation to help with the creation of the Memorial and hope to have more to report soon.

We are busy setting up the convention in San Jose and we are fortunate to have Loretta Swit as this year's banquet speaker. Loretta also paints and draws and she is donating some of her own artwork to help raise funds for our auction. Loretta has become passionate about preserving the legacy of our former POWs and getting the attention they so richly deserve.

Please register early as we anticipate there could be a shortage of rooms this year. We believe this will be one of our biggest Conventions.

Hope to see you soon and safe travels to San Jose CA!

*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.

Contact: Marianne Rohrbough,  
13219 W. Twin Peaks Rd., Marana, AZ  
85653

**Once Forgotten**, by D.Randall Haley, Ph D and retired Army Major. It is about Philip R. Haley's combat and prisoner of war experiences in the Far East. It can be purchased 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 it can be purchased at [www.survivorbook.com](http://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](mailto:gwenajm@hotmail.com) for \$14.00 or e-mail requests to address below. Gwen J. McGarry, PO Box 392, Ephraim, Utah 84627

**ADBC  
Museum  
is located  
945 Main Street  
Wellsburg, WV  
26070  
Come visit us  
304-737-1551**

# Correspondence



## ***Finding Uncle Mike: My Journey for Answers*** **by Robert Priganc**

My dad proudly shared stories about his older brother, my Uncle Mike. He helped a lot of people with food and other basic items during the depression. He lived on a houseboat on the Ohio River and enjoyed the thrill of dodging the river barge traffic coming and going to Pittsburgh. He would share his belongings to help family and friends in need.

He joined the Army around 1939 or 1940. He stayed in contact with my dad and other family during this time, sending back souvenirs and swords from the Moro Tribesmen, native people of the Philippines. All communication ceased after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the Philippine Island. My Uncle Mike was MIA, thought to be part of the Bataan Death March, and presumed dead in 1944.

Years later, my dad met up with a friend who had survived the Bataan Death March and imprisonment by the Japanese. What they talked about and shared was never shared with me; at first because of my youth and later in life just never discussed. My Dad died on July 28th, 1978 at age 60 and never shared any stories about Uncle Mike's situation, other than he was captured, imprisoned, and was in the Bataan Death March. That was the end of the story. I know his soul ached for answers, which he never found.

As an adult, I continued my dad's pursuit for answers. For years, I read a number of books on the Bataan Death March and called survivors who had their stories published in our local papers; but all answers were the same, 'no, I didn't know him.' In 2010, I attended the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor convention. I brought pictures of my Uncle Mike, asking everyone I saw, 'did you know my uncle.' The response was always, 'no.' Abie Abraham, the 'Ghost of Bataan,' gave me some hope that he might know some answers, but Abie and I never connected again before his death.

The flame stayed on in my search. At Abie's funeral, I was fortunate to meet George Wallace, who owns and operates the Brooke Review and Jane Kraina, who helped George with the Quan and who works at the ADBC Museum in Wellsburg, West Virginia. Mentioning the 31st Infantry, I Company seemed to strike a nerve with Jane. She connected me with Houston Turner from California, who served in the same unit as my Uncle Mike.

Why I didn't call him immediately I don't know; but when I did call and ask if he knew Michael Preganz, he said the name sounded familiar but he couldn't remember anything about him. "If I sent you some pictures, would you look at them? I'll even send a return envelope to make it easy to return them to me."

Within a few days I had a voice mail saying, "I reviewed the pictures and your Uncle was one of my friends in Manila. Give me a call." I had goose bumps and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. I did both, and I shared this with others. My sharing was tearful and joyful. As I prepared to call Houston, I prayed I wouldn't cry and that I'd be able to carry on a conversation with him. Within 3 months we met at his home in California.

What a delight it was to introduce ourselves and begin the sharing process. I discovered my Uncle died about 90 days after I was born, in May of 1942, and Houston was there for my Uncle Mike's final hours. He was able to share with me that

my Uncle Mike was not shot, bayoneted, bludgeoned, or run over by a tank, but that he most likely died from cerebral malaria or a heart attack. The answer was finally there for us.

Houston shared the great times they had before the war started; how they visited the mountains and befriended the Moro Tribesman, which now provided answers about the swords my Uncle Mike sent to my Dad before the war started.

Knowing that my Uncle Mike was not alone, knowing he had close friends, and knowing that his death was not as brutal and violent as so many has given me comfort. I know my dad would have cherished knowing such information. I am grateful to Houston Turner, George Wallace, Jane Kraina, and the countless other people I have spoken to. The Museum of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor located in Wellsburg, West Virginia has been a wonderful resource. Additionally, Houston Turner's book, titled, 'Six Years Overseas in the 31st Infantry During World War II in the Pacific,' has provided me with a wealth of information. I encourage anyone pursuing a similar journey utilized these wonderful resources.

Turner, H., *Six Years Overseas in the 31st Infantry During World War II in the Pacific*, Lulu Enterprises, Inc., 3101 Hillsborough St., Raleigh NC, 27607 ([www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)).

Houston's story may also be found at the ADBC Museum site at [http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/turner\\_houston\\_bio.html](http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/turner_houston_bio.html)

Note from editor:

Interestingly when Bob Priganc came to the library he brought with him Bob Daley whose brother Frank Daley had perished in the Philippines. I looked him up on the Pacific War Roster that was provided to us by Roger Mansell. I found that his brother had perished on the Tayabas Road Detail. I told him that if he wanted to know about his brother's trials he should read the book "Tears in the Darkness" by Michael and Elizabeth Norman. He read the book and said that it was emotional for him. He did speak to Ben Steele. He gave us letters from his brother. One of them we put in the correspondence our new kiosk. (See page 16)

Bob Daley came and led the color guard for our last Bataan Death March Memorial Walk (2013). He recently passed away. It was a great moment to connect these men up with their relatives and have their questions answered. Bob Daley mentioned that finding out about his brother meant a lot to him.

Jane Kraina

**Correspondence continues on page 13**

## ADBC AUCTION 2014

San Jose Silent Auction is shaping up to be our most exciting fund raiser to date. Our enthusiasm to support the Educational Grant Program is at an all time high. Your creativity and generosity will put us over the top. Plan to donate something, buy something, and we can make 2014 one for the record books! And this year, we will be not only be able to pay with checks or cash, but credit cards also.

The proceeds go to fund the Educational Grants, which are given to winning applicants to create materials which educate students at all levels, and the general public about the events of WW-II in the Pacific and the POWs who fought on after being surrendered.

Please be thinking of something you might contribute. WW-II books and artifacts are top sellers but many of us have passed our artifacts on, so we have branched out - hand painted items, patriotic items, jewelry, food items, gift cards from national chains, etc. are also great. Use your imagination!! If you like it, someone else will also.

Remember, each dollar collected at the auction is a stepping stone to keeping history alive. This year we have a wonderful volunteer helping with the auction and she has agreed to collect the donations if you are unable to bring them to the auction. You can send them any time now, but any items mailed need to be sent by May 20 to the following address.

**Tom & Andrea Krempa  
C/O Village Bridgeworks  
9059 Soquel Drive, Suite C  
Aptos, CA 95003**

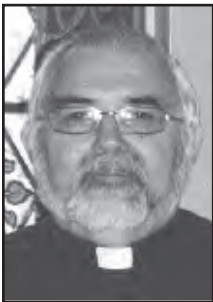
You don't need to be present to donate, but you can also bring them with you when you register. The auction table will be in the registration room.

Want to help at the convention? Contact Pat at [patwangnc@yahoo.com](mailto:patwangnc@yahoo.com) or 704-264-9877. See you at the ADBC Memorial Society convention in San Jose CA. May 28-31, 2014, and the auction at the Quan Party on May 30.

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## The Chaplain's Corner - Davis Ferrell

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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 outcroppings 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 off 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 San Jose.

**D+**



## 2014 ADBC Memorial Society Youth Project Competition

In 2014, the ADBC Memorial Society will be sponsoring their first YOUTH PROJECT COMPETITION. It will be a contest for students ages 12 to 18 and the winner will get a \$250 prize. The judging will be for creative projects providing information about the story of the Japanese Invasion of the Philippines and other Pacific islands and the POWs that were held there or moved to another location by the Japanese for slave labor. These projects can be done through the development of a play, video production, art display, or essay that depicts the story of the experiences of the POWs of the Pacific theatre in WWII.

In order to enter the contest, one must fill out the following "Intent to Compete" form and send it to: (NOTE: the project is not due at that time, only the Intent to Compete form)

Linda McDavitt  
5201 McCormick Mountain  
Austin, Texas 78734

The deadline to enter their "Intent to Compete" form will be March 31, 2014. Entries will be judged the morning of May 30, 2014 starting at 9am. All entries must be sent to Linda McDavitt and received prior to Friday, May 23, 2014 unless it will be a live presentation. Those doing live presentations must check into the convention by 5pm Thursday, May 29, 2014 to receive instructions as to where they will need to be for the judging on Friday, May 30th. Winner of the contest and runner ups will be announced at the General meeting, Friday, May 30, 2014 and at the Annual Banquet Saturday, May 31, 2014 at the Hyatt Place Hotel, San Jose, CA.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT MY PROJECT May 30, 2014 at the ADBC MEMORIAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CONVENTION IN San Jose, California.

YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ BUT MY PROJECT WILL BE THERE

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions, please contact Linda McDavitt at [bandboat@hotmail.com](mailto:bandboat@hotmail.com) or call 512-731-6614.

# ADBC Memorial Society Convention San Jose, CA May 28-31, 2014

Tentative Schedule

Day	Time	Activity
<b>Wednesday</b>	Morning 10-11:30	DG Board meeting
	Afternoon 1-5	Registration room/Book sales/Merchandise sales
	Afternoon 3-4	Seminar/Lecture
	Evening 7-11	Hospitality Room
<b>Thursday</b>	All day	Registration room/Book Sales/Merchandise sales
	Morning 8-8:30	Church service
	Morning 9-10:30	Seminar/Lecture
	Morning 11-12	Seminar/Lecture
	Afternoon 1:30-2:45	Seminar/Lecture
	Evening 7-11	Hospitality Room
<b>Friday</b>	All day	Registration room/ Book sales/ Merchandise sales
	Morning 8-8:30	Church service
	Morning 9-10:30	Youth Project competition
	Morning 11-12	Seminar/Lecture
	Noon-1:30	Widows luncheon
	Afternoon 1:30-2:45	Seminar/Lecture
	4:00-5:45	General meeting
	Evening 7-11	Quan Party/ Silent Auction
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00-12:00	Registration room/Book sales/Merchandise sales
	Morning 8-8:30	Church service
	10:11:00	Memorial service
	Afternoon 1:30-2:45	Film
	6:00-6:45	Head table reception
	7:00-11:00	Banquet





# San Jose ADBCMS Convention 2014 Information

The fifth annual ADBC Memorial Society convention will be held in San Jose, CA from Wednesday, May 28 through Saturday, May 31. The hotel is the Hyatt Place San Jose/Downtown, 282 Almaden Boulevard, San Jose, CA. The room rate is \$109 plus tax per night. For reservations, please call 888-942-8847 or 408-998-0400 being sure to mention ADBC Memorial Society to receive our rate. Website to make reservations:

<http://www.hyatt.com/reservations/flow6/propCheckAvailability.jsp?pid=SJCZ&extCorporateID=G-ADBC>

The hotel is located three miles from the San Jose International Airport. It is also possible to fly into San Francisco; however, the hotel does not provide an airport shuttle. We have made arrangements with Super Shuttle for a discounted House.

rate. For the San Jose Airport, rides must be pre-arranged/reserved and everyone in your party has to board at the same time. You can call 800-258-3826 using group code EB8HN. There is a \$2 extra charge for reservations made by phone. Or make reservations on line using this link and group code EB8HN: <http://groups.supershuttle.com/adbcmemorialsociety2014airport-transportation.html>

The hotel does have on-site parking and has waived its parking charges for our group. The Hyatt is located in the downtown area and there are a number of restaurants located within a few blocks. It is also close to Santana Row which has numerous shops, coffee places, restaurants and other interesting places. There are also many interesting local attractions such as the Winchester Mystery

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN SAN JOSE

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By George

After working six and a half-years for the library, part of it as a paid coordinator for the ADBC Museum in Wellsburg, Jane Kraina is retiring from the state system where she has worked for twenty-seven years. During her excellent service, the Museum continued its growth with added floor space, cabinetry, display equipment (interactive kiosk) and our relationship with varied constituencies, including very important alliances to several universities in the area, and in their history departments. The internship program has been an important asset to both the students, departments and the museum.

Donations of materials, artifacts and other museum items continue to flow in almost daily and the web site has become a most important destination for those seeking information on POW's. Jane also has attracted financial support, an important and much needed function. We salute Jane for her great work, much of it as a volunteer. As we seek a replacement, we know she will be hard to replace.

Mary Kay and I also are retiring from our jobs as Library Director, and Newspaper Publisher, respectively, and we both are committed to stepping up our volunteer activities with the museum. We are thankful that Mary Kay's cancer is in remission. I will again take over publication of the Quan, and also begin active fund raising programs.

I again invite everyone to visit the museum when anywhere is near Wellsburg, WV. I believe those who have visited before will be amazed at the considerable growth, and first time visitors will be surprised at what a huge amount of work, commitment, and great support has brought during the 12 years since we began with one man's collection of precious and important material and memories.

The museum and Mary Kay are located at 945 Main St., I am at 67 7th St.: both Wellsburg, WV 26070. Our phone numbers are 304-737-1551 and 304-737-0946, respectively.

We welcome your call or visit.  
By George (Wallace)

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Note from Jane: It has been meaningful to do this work for the POWs. They have given new meaning to my life, and made me understand how to survive in the worst of conditions. When our culture gives more press to movie celebrities and sports stars than to true and unsung heroes in our midst, I find it a sad statement. I hope to volunteer after I have hand surgery in both hands and get my health in better shape. I thank Mary Kay and George Wallace for giving me the opportunity to work in this museum. I give my love to the POWs, who have made such a difference in my life.---Jane Kraina









**Front row: Ralph Griffith, Marvin Roslansky, Oscar Leonard, Ben Steele, Phillip Coon, Harold Bergbower, Tuskegee airman Alexander Jefferson. Back row: Bill Elridge, Erwin Johnson, John Mims, Jesse Baltazar, Bill Overmeier, Don Lucero, James Martin, Randall Edwards**

## Evergreen Museum Event November 2013



**Loretta Swit and Ben Steele**

Loretta  
Swit  
Brings  
On The  
Smiles



**Oscar Leonard and Loretta Swit**



**Deputy Assistant Secretary for Japan and Korean Affairs James Zumwalt, Mr. Satoru Yatsuka, Betty Tenney, Lester Tenney, Congressman Darrell Issa**

## *Dr. Lester Tenney, last ADBC Commander Receives Honors*



On December 2, 2013 Dr. Lester Tenney, the last National Commander of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, was honored at the Japanese Embassy in Washington DC. Mr. Satoru Yatsuka of the Japanese Embassy presented a medal and a commendation letter to Dr. Tenney.



# ADBC Memberships and Quan Subscriptions

The ADBC Memorial Society will now become your one stop shopping for ADBC Memorial Society Memberships and Quan Subscriptions.

You can make checks out to Judith Pruitt, ADBC Memorial Society, 23 Elwell Road, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

(Street)

(City, State)

(Zip)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ (if you are receiving e-mail copy of the Quan)

Even if you are not a member of the Memorial Society and want copies of the Quan you will pay ADBC Memorial Society and they will pass on the money to the Quan publication. We hope this stops confusion and all the information is in one place on this form.

All POWs and Widows receive their copies free of charge whether E-Mail or Hard Copy!!!!

## POWs and Widows

☐ I am a POW or widow or POW and want my Quan in e-mail no cost

☐ I am a POW or widow or POW and want my Quan hard copy no cost

## Non POWs and Widows

☐ I want Membership to ADBCMS and receive an e-mail copy of the Quan Cost \$31

☐ I want Membership ADBCMS and want a hard copy of the Quan Cost \$37

☐ I want Membership ADBCMS and both e-mail and hard copies of Quan Cost \$43

☐ I just want the Quan in e-mail form and not join ADBCMS Cost \$10

☐ I just want the Quan in hard copy and not join ADBCMS Cost \$16

NAME OF POW RELATIVE/FRIEND \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY UNIT & PRISON CAMP (S) (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO POW \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WANT TO BE INCLUDED ON ADBC-MS MAIL LIST ? Y N PUBLISH E-MAIL ADDRESS ON WEB SITE? Y N (Circle Y or N)

Note: After one year Quan will be put up online at <http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/>



# ADBC Memorial Society 2014 Grants

The following grant awards were made for 2014:

• **\$2,250 to Theresa Loong** for the Development of an educational screening kit for “Every Day is a Holiday”. It will consist of a DVD and a curriculum guide for use in middle schools and high schools. The 56 minute documentary will be divided into segments appropriate for World and American History courses.

• **\$2,250 to Mary Cronk Farrell** for development of ready-made curriculum plans to be used along with her newly published book *Pure Grit: How World War II Nurses Survived*

*Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific*. Her goal is to provide educators a practical and easy way to highlight the war in the Philippines as part of their WWII curriculum and to keep the events of Bataan and Corregidor alive in the memory of our youth.

• **\$500 to Scottie Kersta-Wilson** for *Art and Survival: Music and Theatre in Cabanatuan*. This will be a fully staged drama production with music that will explore art and survivor themes that she began in her curriculum book, *The Show Must Go On: The Story of the Might Cabanatuan Orchestra and Art Players*.

contributed by Linda McDavitt

## Correspondence (cont.)

### Chesapeake Bataan Death March Memorial Walk

I am writing an open letter about the dates and times for this year's Chesapeake Bataan Death March Memorial Walk. This year's walk will be on May 24th at the Chesapeake Dismal Swamp trail. This year we will of course honor all World War II veterans and their families. As we have in the past we will make a special effort for the POWs and their families, but all veterans Cold War, Korean, Vietnam and on through today's active duty are welcomed guests and will be recognized. We are doing the walk on Memorial Day weekend, which I believe is fitting and will bestow the proper honors to all of our veterans past and present. Our mission is to do what Memorial Day is intended to do: Honor our Veterans, not just have a BBQ and watch a baseball game. I want to redouble my effort to get youngsters around these heroes and make sure they know what it is to take part in service for their country and to meet those who have given so much.

I have been behind in the planning process due to my personal situation. That is why we will not do the event in April as we have in the past. The time line should remain the same 0600 for the 16.8 mile walk, 0900 for the five mile walk, 1100 for the one mile walk and a

closing ceremony at noon.

VFW Post 2984 will be the sponsor for the event. We are looking for more corporate or individual sponsors.

We took all of your critiques and are going to have more food available and maybe a T-shirt as a keepsake. There will be more to follow on the logistics of those initiatives.

Chesapeake has done a lot of great work on the Swamp trail. You will be impressed with the new facilities and better parking this year.

Thank you all for your support and patience. I hope that you all can come. Tell a friend to come and/or invite a Bataan Survivor, WWII veteran or family member or any veteran to come down to the Bataan Death March Memorial Walk 24 May 2014. Also bring children, high school JROTC, ROTC and young active duty Service Members and families. God bless you and your families.

Very Respectfully,

Matt Schweers (Organizer)



## Remembering Henry Lee

the poet of Bataan, wrote this poem. His poems were dug up at Cabanatuan when the 6th Rangers rescued those in the camp. Sadly, Henry Lee had perished weeks earlier on the Enoura Maru.

Above is his favorite poem,

### “Fighting day”

I see no gleam of victory alluring  
No chance of splendid booty or of gain  
If I endure--I must go on enduring  
And my reward for bearing pain--is pain  
Yet, through the thrill, the zest, the hopes are gone  
Something within me keeps me fighting on---Henry Lee

# ~ Deceased ~

## DEATHS

### This Issue

**Bazewick, Casey T, Sr.**  
**Bennett, Lee**  
**Bilek, Tony**  
**Cunningham, Ruth**  
**Lucero, Anna**  
**Luna, Rosendo C.**

### Casey T. Bazewick, Sr.



Casey T. Bazewick, Sr., 94, defender of Bataan and Corregidor, Liberator of Seoul, died on December 3, 2012 in Mount Vernon, Washington. Born in Chicago in 1918, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve in 1936, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps two years later. From 1940, in Shanghai, he served with the Fourth Marines. Just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, Casey evacuated to the Philippines. After an aerial attack on the Bataan peninsula he was ordered to defend the island fortress of Corregidor. During the epic siege of Corregidor, lasting over four months, Casey and his squad endured massive bombardment from land and air, while in exposed foxholes on Topside, the highest part of the island. They held out against overwhelming enemy forces until May 6, 1942. For two weeks, Casey and thousands of captives were held hostage in the open at 92nd Garage, which they called "Fly Camp." Baking in the tropical sun, they subsisted on little food and water, while Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright desperately convinced his remaining forces in the Philippines to surrender. Then, after being paraded before the horrified citizenry of Manila and briefly held at Bilibid Prison, they were stuffed into stifling boxcars for a hellish ten-hour rail journey. They were force marched a dozen miles to Cabanatuan, where conditions at the prison camps were

primitive and deadly. In October, two thousand POWs were shipped from the Philippines, crammed like cattle into the holds of the "hellship" Tottori Maru. Conditions were worse than in prison camp. Only a day out of port, Casey and another POW on deck witnessed the near sinking of their ship by the American submarine USS Grenadier. Two torpedoes narrowly missed the ship by feet, one on either side. A month later Casey and others disembarked in bitter cold at Pusan, Korea. Among 1,300 prisoners, Casey arrived at Mukden, Manchuria, to 40 below zero temperatures. Casey was forced to work in Mitsubishi's MKK Company, where the men sabotaged as much as possible. He painted the number tags they wore. For not bowing, Casey was nearly beaten to death by guards, who repeatedly knocked him out and revived him. In December 1944, an American B-29 bombed the unmarked camp, killing 19 POWs within feet of him on the open parade ground. OSS paratroopers liberated the camp in August 1945. Casey's weight had dropped as low as 86 pounds. At war's end, Casey remained in the Marine Corps as a War Dead Escort. For two years he returned the repatriated remains of servicemen to grateful families for burial. While posted in Columbus, Ohio, he met and married Thelma. Casey and his rifle company appeared in the 1949 Academy Award-nominated film Sands of Iwo Jima, starring John Wayne. In 1950, Casey's company became the first Marine infantry unit committed to combat there; meanwhile, as First Sergeant, he readied another rifle company for deployment. He was commended with special praise as outstanding First Sergeant of the 1st Marine Division. In September, Casey's Charlie Company participated in the massive Inchon Landing, to save South Korea, then on the brink of collapse. Outside Seoul – the largest single objective ever assigned the Marines – Casey volunteered to replace a platoon leader killed in fierce action. He led the platoon at the front line, driving into the heart of the ancient capital. For the rest of his life, he would be haunted by memories of killing 22 North Korean soldiers in two grueling weeks of hand-to-hand and close-quarter fighting, and of the war's brutal impact on civilians.

The 1st Marine Division had reached South Korea just in time to save it. After Seoul was liberated, Casey was hospitalized in the U.S.

For the remainder of the war, Casey became a nationally recognized Marine recruiter in South Bend, Indiana. Widely respected in the community, he earned four coveted "E" flags for excellence in recruiting. Suffering from trigeminal neuralgia and PTSD transitioning to civilian life was tough, but he eventually built a career in sales and real estate. In 2009, Casey was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds he received as a prisoner of war. His nursing home was packed with his proud family, residents, and Marines for the moving ceremony. His funeral Mass was celebrated at his beloved boyhood church, St. John Cantius, in Chicago. On May 17, 2012, he was interred, with full Marine Corps honors, at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

*From Casey Bazewick, Jr. who went to two ADBC conventions with his dad: Pittsburgh, 1960, at which Sen. Lyndon Johnson spoke, and Binghamton, NY, 1961.*

### Bennett, Lee

Lee Bennett, 91, St. Joseph, died Thursday, April 25, 2013, at Heartland Regional Medical Center. He was born June 11, 1921 to Lee and Maude Bennett in Hamburg, Iowa. Lee married Mary Edith Woods on February 20, 1948. She preceded him in death on August 25, 2006. He was a superintendent with Mead Products and retired in 1983. Lee served in the United States Army, where he was a POW of the Japanese at Cabanatuan during of World War II. He also served in the Korean War. He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled Veterans of America, American Legion Post #164 of Mound City, and the American Defenders of Bataan and Caregiver. He was also preceded in death by his parents; sister, Dorothy Bennett; brother, William and half-brother, Gerald. Survivors: daughter, Vickie Lee Bennett, St. Joseph; son, Richard Bennett (Diana), Beresford, S.D.; grandchildren, Christine Seymour (Kevin), Cynthia Schweder (Steve), Charles Bennett, Travis Bennett, and Teryn Bennett; and several nieces and

# Deceased-Continued

nephews.

## Tony Bilek

Tony Bilek, 94, of Rantoul, Illinois, died Jan. 13, 2014 at home. He grew up in Chicago initially and then went to Rantoul where he was stationed at Chanute Field as part of his Air Corps experience. He worked on repairing planes at Chanute and before his capture in the Philippines. He originally wanted to be a pilot, but he found he was colorblind. He endured the brutal Bataan Death March and became a prisoner of the Japanese, writing a book about this experience called, "No Uncle Sam—The Forgotten of Bataan," published by Kent State Press. A letter from his sweetheart kept him going throughout the war. However, while he was gone she had married another. She thought Tony had died. He credited his farming experience at Cabanatuan for making him interested in gardening. In 1944, Bilek volunteered to go to Japan and there he worked in the Japanese coal mines. After the war he helped with making aircraft replicas for the Chanute Air Museum. Mr. Bilek kept busy according to his daughter, Karen McCartney and felt it was a kind of therapy to him. He and his wife Millie who was the love of his life started by raising tomatoes and flowers. His specialty was his red geraniums. Eventually he had 12 greenhouses and two stores. He also was interested in the Rantoul Historical Society. Another interest of Tony's was building. He built six houses in Rantoul. His wife preceded him in death in 2010. Surviving him are two sons, Donnie (Debbie) Bilek, Kenny (Debbie Bilek) and Karen (Danny) McCartney, 17 great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren; a sister-in-law; and nieces and nephews.



ly active in the chapter and served as adjutant for over 30 years. Ruth received the Out-Standing Female Non-Veteran Award by the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs in 2001. Ruth's husband, Cecil, was a prisoner of war of the Japanese and interned in Davao, P.I. and Yokkaichi, Japan for 3 ½ years. He served in the 7th Material Sqd- in the 19th B.G. Cecil was a Life Member in ADBC and Ruth was an honorary member. They were active in the N.W. Chapter of ADBC and attended many chapter and national conventions. Ruth is survived by two loving daughters, Susan and Gloria, and their spouses, three granddaughters and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil in 2002 and her grandson in 2010.

## Anna Lucero (widow of Robert Lucero)

Anna Lucero, 98 of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died Monday September 16, 2013. Anna is the widow of Robert Lucero who was in the 200th/515th Coast Artillery from New Mexico. He was captured April 9th and endured the Bataan Death March. Anna was a member of the Catholic Church and a member of the Croation Fraternal Union for many years. Anna and Bob were members of the Albuquerque Chapter of American POWs and the ADBC. She loved cooking and baking, dancing, singing and family reunions. She is survived by her daughter, Betty A. Chepin and husband, Joseph of Gallup, NM; sons, William P. Mataya and wife, Doreen of Gallup, NM, Phillip J. Mataya and wife, and Patricia of Minco, OK, Laurie Conner and husband, Jimmy, Joey Chepin and wife, Kelli, Annette Mataya, William Mataya and wife, Dee, Jerry Butler and husband, Chuck, Mark Mataya and wife Dee, Jerry Mataya, Juliana, Bergin and husband, Chuck, Mark Mataya, Kim McKinley, Shelly Butler and husband Joe, 16 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. On October 3, a memorial gathering took place at Sante Fe National Cemetery followed by burial.

## Rosenda Luna

ROSENDO LUNA (SFC USA RET), 98, of Seattle, Washington passed away on January 5, 2014. FC Rosendo Luna was born on February 20, 1915 at Camp Keithley,

Lanao, Philippines. His education consisted of studies in Business Administration at the Manila Business College, electronics at the Arts and Trade School in Manila, tax preparation with H&R Block and an Associate of Arts Degree in Accounting and Data Processing from Seattle Central Community College. Luna enlisted in the United States Army, Philippine Scouts, on June 10, 1937 at Company "B", the 14th Engineering Battalion and then transferred to Company "C" at Fort William McKinley in Rizal, Philippines. Luna was a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March and was a Japanese Prisoner of War from April 15, 1942 through April 17, 1945. He was in POW camps at Orion, Balanga, Orani, Bataan Labao, San Fernando, Pampanga and then in Camp O'Donnell in Capaz, Tarlac in the Philippines. He also fought in the Korean War from 1952-1953 with the 45th Infantry Division, HQ Company, 180th Infantry Regiment. Luna received various commendations and accolades for his valor and bravery, among which included the Bronze Star and Military Order of the Purple Heart. Luna retired on January 31, 1958 at Ft. Lewis, Washington. He went on to work in civil service at the GS-6 level at Fort Lawton Reserve Camp in Seattle. He was a life member of the National AXPOW, Seattle Chapter, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter No. 12. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ballard-Eagleson Post 3063 (ADBC & DGBC), CFER, Inc. and the Bataan Corregidor Survivors Association and their Families in Seattle, Washington. Luna is survived by his wife, Salvacion B. Luna, two children, nine grandchildren and two great grand children. He was preceded in death by his eldest child. He was an avid supporter of veterans and assisted numerous veterans through his volunteer work for over ten years with the Veterans Administration in Seattle processing POW claims.

Obituaries should be sent to  
thequan@comcast or mailed to:

## The Quan

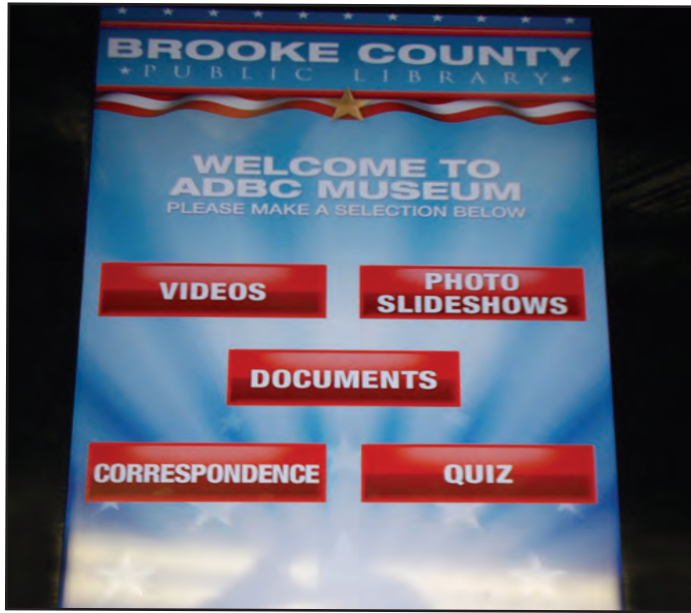
67 7th Street  
Wellsburg, WV 26070

## Ruth Cunningham

Ruth G. Cunningham, 91, of Spokane Valley, WA, passed away on October 10, 2013. In 1980, she was instrumental in organizing the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter of the AXPOW. She was extreme-



# Happenings at the ADBC Museum



## Touch Screen Kiosk

Dr. Agnes Ahn has given the museum a sizable amount of money towards a touch screen kiosk (computer encased in metal frame). Dr. Ahn said, "I would like my donation to honor three of my friends: Mr. Julius Rosen, WWII veteran, Lt. Col. Enoch Woodhouse, Tuskegee Airman, and Retired Major David Han, Iraqi War Veteran." Dr. Ahn visited the museum with Ed Jackfert and suggested the museum get a touch screen computer for the public. We are grateful for her interest.

We are really excited about our new kiosk which holds 22 DVD clips from POWs or pertaining to POWs. We have a variety here with clips from Linda Goetz Holmes interviews, tapes made by POWs at libraries and their local television stations, and also videos produced by different organizations. We have 300 photos on the kiosk and ninety one pages of documents, along with 10 letters, and a quiz. We can add more data to the kiosk in the future.

## Donations to the Museum

Charles Underwood, Jr. Deadline, Captain Charlie Bataan Diary, (Charles Underwood Jr. is the son of Charles Underwood Sr., the subject of the book (available on Amazon)

Guardians of Bataan: Bataan in a Box

Linda Goetz Holmes--a box filled with more articles and POW stories

Danny Duffy--History Magazine, Nov./Dec. 2013--includes story by David Hawley, "An Unfathomable Toll," pp. 50-53 about Bataan Death March

Mindy Kotler--70th Anniversary Guestbook, (Washington DC Memorial 2012 we don't have,

Charles Sadler, 100 books of World War II - We are just starting to look through this collection and there are books included we do not have.

Jane Kraina, "I Was an American Spy," movie based on Claire Phillips (see page 17), and Death on the Hellships: Prisoners at Sea in the Pacific War, by Gregory Michno, and the documentary by Jan Thompson, "The Tragedy of Bataan"



## Regina Szyszkiewicz and Justin Coen

Justin Coen from Colliers, West Virginia is a student at Eastern Gateway College in Steubenville, Ohio and is majoring in Information Technology. His experience with video editing and his knowledge of computers is a welcome addition to the museum and he is the first intern that has come to us from the Informational Technology Field (IT). He has been sending some of the biographies over to the POW Biography Page. Justin has put nine of Linda Goetz Holmes' videos on YouTube. Justin says of his time here, "While working at the ADBC Museum I have gained on-the-job workplace experience, along with learning fascinating historical events and POW experiences."

Genette Paprocki from Steubenville, Ohio attends West Liberty University and plans to be a social studies teacher in secondary education. Genette has been working on organizing and labeling folders in our boxes.

Regina Szyszkiewicz continues to work as a volunteer. She graduated from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio with a degree in history. She and Dr. Lizza helped write the quiz for the kiosk. She will be presenting the story of Claire Phillips to the Questers.

## Upcoming Events

March 27th Program on Claire Phillips for the Questers Group

April 12th 3rd Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk

A walk will commemorate the Bataan Death March. The Wellsburg Elks has written a grant and will be hosting and feeding the walkers and honor guard. The Filipino American Association of Pittsburgh, PA (FAAP) will send dancers to Wellsburg to perform traditional Filipino dances. Reenactors will be setting up their military vehicles in the morning and registration will start at noon.

The walk will begin at 1:00 and walkers receive a bag and a book. The walk will end at the Wellsburg Elks, hold a short program and the dancers will perform. We are glad to be a part of the many walks being held around the country.



# Song, “I Don’t Want to Set The World on Fire,” Meaningful to POW Billy Templeton, and Claire Phillips “High Pockets” Spy



Billy Templeton, of Iowa signed up for the Army in 1939 hoping to join the Veterinary Corps. Instead the recruiters convinced him to join the Air Corps, then part of the U.S. Army Air Corps. His eyesight wasn’t good enough to be a pilot, so he became a radioman. He was assigned to the 19th Bombardment group. He attended radio school and worked with B-17s. In October, in the first mass flight of B-17s, he headed from Albuquerque to Clark Field. After the aircraft losses, they moved the radio equipment on a truck and parked under a Filipino house that was up on stilts to avoid detection. In December, Templeton volunteered to go to Bataan and run a base station for a network on Bataan. Once there the group worked round the clock. They built shelters and trenches for protection against the strafing.

In February, he recalls an advantage of being in the communications unit. “Since we had a receiver in our truck, we could pick up of some of the commercial stations on the mainland. In particular, we listened to KGLE in San Francisco. There were nine of us combat radio operators and three mechanics who took care of our vehicles and the generator. One day we heard the song, “I Don’t Want to Set the World on Fire” by the Ink Spots. We liked it so much that we got together and sent in a letter with all of our names and ranks on it. We asked them to play the song again. At that point, mail went out of our area by submarine.”

Templeton endured the Bataan Death March, and went onto Camp O’Donnell in Cabanatuan. He then went on the *Tottori Maru* and onto Mukden. Years later he tried to make sense of his war experience.

Billy said, “Sometimes the things that I found out made me smile. Long after the war was over, a man affiliated with a radio station in San Francisco died. In his possessions, relatives discovered a letter from a group of eleven sergeants on Bataan in early 1942. They had requested that the station play a song that they liked--”I Don’t Want to Set the World on Fire.”

Claire Phillips also had memories of “I Don’t Want to Set the World on Fire.” After a marriage gone wrong, she went to the Philippines. She had been there before as part of a musical troupe, and returned on September 20, 1941. She obtained singing jobs at the Manila Hotel ballroom, and the Alcazar Club. It was at the Alcazar Club that she met Sergeant John Phillips and thought he was the most handsome man she had ever met.

She chose the song, “I Don’t Want to Set the World on Fire,” and intended it for him.

The song begins,  
“I don’t want to set the world on fire,  
I just want to start a flame in your heart...”  
and continues,  
“In my heart, I have but one desire  
And that is you, no other but you...”



John Phillips asked her to dance, and the romance began with the soldier from the Communications Section of the 31st Infantry, originally from California. The attack on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines dramatically changed their lives, but John and Claire said their vows to a local priest on Christmas.

Other men in John’s outfit came to where Claire and her daughter were being sheltered and Claire helped them out with additional food. One of them was the first commander of the ADBC, Harold Spooner. In her book, “Manila Espionage” they are shown in the book after a reunion at the Letterman hospital. She had helped him during imprisonment.

Claire helped in many ways by providing supplies nursing type duties, and other tasks. Claire and her daughter Dian followed John Phillips around the island, and finally she had to flee to the hills and there she said her last goodbye to Phil. She met John Boone and was a contact for the guerrilla group they were forming. She blew up a munitions building, and opened up a nightclub, pretending to be Italian using the name Dorothy Fuentes. Her Tsubaki club catered to Japanese officers and she was part of a large spy ring. Eventually, the Japanese captured and imprisoned Claire and tortured her. She was saved by the Americans coming to the Philippines and in February of 1945 she was rescued and sent to Santo Tomas.--by Jane Kraina

Sources: “Manila Sunset”, by Billy Templeton; “Manila Espionage”, by Claire Phillips and Myron B. Goldsmith,

Note: The ADBC Museum has both books and has acquired a copy of “I Was an American Spy,” a movie based on the story of Claire Phillips. The book by Claire is becoming a rare book. Manila Sunset is for sale from the ADBC Museum.

# New ADBC-MS Meetings Committee Seeks Help for Conventions

This year's ADBC-Memorial Society meeting in San Jose, CA is expected to be one of the largest since the Descendants Group picked up the reins in 2009. With the larger turnout expected the Board of Directors is seeking volunteers to help with meeting materials and activities this year and going forward.

According to Jan Thompson, president of the Board of Directors, this year's attendance is expected to include members of the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society and Filipino re-enactors, plus descendants and former POWs who live on the West Coast and have not previously attended.

"The San Jose conference will be ex-

citing and full of new members to meet, new resources and research to learn about and new information to gather," Jan said. "We're expecting lots of people in San Jose so we're asking for help to assure another smooth registration procedure and merchandising sales area. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes preparation before the conference starts and we need more hands on deck. We need help not only in San Jose but to benefit future meetings, as well."

To facilitate that help, we are asking anyone interested to join a newly-created ADBC-MS Meetings Committee directed by Judy Pruitt, board treasurer, and Kristin

Dahlstrom, board member and Conference Registration Chairman. The committee will be responsible for meeting activities and preparations, including pre-meeting and on-site registration, meeting packets, daily schedules and program brochures, and other details.

The Conference Registration Committee is the first official ADBC-MS group to be comprised of members from outside the Board of Directors. Contact Judy Pruitt at [pruittja13@aol.com](mailto:pruittja13@aol.com) or Kristin Dahlstrom at [krisonluau@comcast.net](mailto:krisonluau@comcast.net) to join or for more information.

## Five Reasons to Order Remembrance and/or Ben Steele Photo Note Cards

You are honoring WWII POWs who fought and endured so much in the name of freedom.

You are passing on a story that every generation must hear of loyalty and bravery.

You are reminding others of our WWII POWs' courage and heroism.

You are paying tribute to those who sacrificed their freedom for ours.

You are supporting the ADBC Memorial Society.

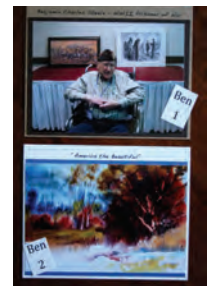
The cards with envelopes are \$2.00 a piece plus shipping. You receive 1 free for every 5 ordered. The cards are individually made, and many may be viewed on the ADBC Memorial Society website.

I am also willing to take special orders for theme based cards – patriotism, flowers, seasons, holidays, animals, sunsets, etc.

Contact: Sharon Cooper(509) 582-8601 (509) 554-4551

2610 W. 8th Pl. Kennewick, WA 99336 [fromtheheart2007@aol.com](mailto:fromtheheart2007@aol.com)

Note from editor: More pictures can be found at [http://phillippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/sharon\\_cooper\\_card.html](http://phillippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/sharon_cooper_card.html)



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# President of ADBCMS Pens Letter to Vice President Joseph Biden, and to Ambassador Caroline Kennedy

Jan Thompson, President of the ADBCMS, wrote the following letters explaining positions of the ADBCMS. The first letter was sent on November 25, 2013 and the second on January 6, 2014.

Dear Mr. Vice President:

As you meet next week with members of Japan's government to confirm the significance of the U.S.-Japan Alliance, I hope that you will share with them the importance of the U.S.-Japan Alliance, I hope that you will share with them the importance of remembering those American veterans who became prisoners of war of the Imperial Japanese during World War II.

With the help of President Obama's Administration one aspect of Japan's reconciliation with American POWs began. In 2009, a Japanese government Cabinet-approved apology was offered and in 2010 a program of understanding and visitation to Japan was initiated for former POWs. This year it was expanded to include widows. The visitation program's success should encourage Japan to do more: educating future generations in Japan and the U.S. on the POW experience in the Pacific and its lessons for war and peace needs to be the goal.

How Japan addresses its responsibilities toward the American POWs can be a model for Tokyo on how the historical reconciliation process can proceed. The American POWs ask for respect and that history to be not revised, but preserved. They want Japan's great multi-national corporations to acknowledge their use of POW slave labor. They ask the United States Government to aid and preserve their experiences under Imperial Japan for future generations.

We ask that you take a moment in your talks in Tokyo, to speak up for those veterans who defended America in the Philippines, Java and Wake Island and how, as captives, endured the horror of the Bataan Death March, the "Hellships", enslavement on the Thai-Burma Railway, and the brutal conditions in slave labor camps in Japan.

We ask that the United States Government express its strong desire for Japan to establish a permanent fund for education, remembrance, and reconciliation. The goal is to: continue the POW visitation program for former POWs, widows and descendants; a program for research, documentation, education, and people-to-people exchanges and National memorials to the POWs who slaved and died on Japanese controlled soil or aboard the "Hell Ships."--Ms. Jan Thompson

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Dear Madame Ambassador:

On behalf of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society (ADBC-MS), I thank you for issuing your prompt statement regarding Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to the Yasukuni Shrine.

The Prime Minister's visit to the Yasukuni Shrine was troubling for many of members as it suggests an official reluctance to deal honestly with Japan's WWII history. The American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society is an educational organization that consists of former POWs of Imperial Japan and their descendants. Over the years the leadership of our organization has ceded to the descendants of the men and women who suffered so much for their country during their captivity. We are the second generation who remembers Imperial Japan's role in World War II.

Although the visit to Yasukuni Shrine was disappointing, we note that the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made some positive steps to promote reconciliation and mutual understanding on behalf of the history of American POWs. In particular, the POW/Japan Friendship Trips are a model of the kinds of programs that can successfully promote understanding while dealing honestly and openly with WWII history. The ADBCMS is preparing to assist with the planning of the fifth POW/Japan Friendship Trip later in 2014. Again, thank you for support. We stand ready to work with you in these educational efforts in the future.--Jan Thompson

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The Quan

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### The Quan

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Wellsburg, WV 26070



# The QUAN



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



The picture at left shows the Basketball Team, 1940 Clark Field, Pampanga, P.I. Tony Bilek sent us this picture and he is in the second row, second to the left. Sadly, Tony passed away and his obituary is on page 15.

Tony donated many items to the museum including a machine gun replica that Tony built for his children and grandchildren.