THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

June 2013

NEWSLETTER

Mail:

The American Legion
Department of the Philippines
370 Batangas St.
Mt. View Subdivision,
Balibago, Angeles City,
Philippines 2009

Department Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of the Philippines

Department Commander
Joseph Carsley

Department Adjutant
Christopher Schrauben

National Executive Committeeman
Herbert J. Scholten

National Executive Committeeman Alternate
John Hunt

Department Service Officer
William T. Brown

1st Vice Commander
Rhett Webber

2nd Vice Commander
Ignacio F. Palad

Chaplain
Lawrence Wade

Judge Advocate
Charles Cathey

Finance Officer
Thomas Burnett

Editor / Publisher
Martin V. McGee

The Department of the Philippines is an approved private organization. Any Department Officer, Committee Chair, Program Director, or Post Commander can input material to this newsletter. Input is due the Last week of the month for next month’s newsletter. Send input to: macmcgee3790@yahoo.com

Commanders Corner:

Fellow Legionnaires:

Words cannot express how I feel and how proud I am to have been your Commander for the past two years. No Commander could ever ask more from their people than what you have given me and our Department. This Department has moved from number 55 the lowest ranking in the National Line up to Number 1 last year and Number 2 this year. After wiping the map with the Legion last year a number of Departments got off their duff and said they were not going to let a little Department like the Philippines show them up. Guess what folks you did it again, we may not have placed first this year but we only missed by about 22 members and came in 2nd. Believe me that is a great accomplishment and YOU DID IT.
Through your efforts this Department showed our National Organization that the Department of the Philippines is doing the work of the ‘AMERICAN LEGION’.

Not only that, we have re-established a presence in Manila Post 1 the oldest Post in the Philippines and one of the oldest Posts in the” AMERICAN LEGION” itself, gaining their Temporary Charter 20 Nov 1919 just 2 months after Congress granted the American Legion a National Charter (September 1919) and 8 days after the first National Convention held in Minneapolis Minnesota (November 10-12, 1919) they received their Permanent Charter 4 June 1922. It is a pleasure to see the resurgence of that significantly historical Post.

We look forward to working with the new officers and will prepare for the festivities of a Centennial Post in just a few short years. This re-connect is a major step forward within our Department. Thank you all for the work done to bring this about. Absolutely marvelous.

Our membership is not the only thing that grew this year we were able to send two people to Service officer school. Mr. William Brown our main Service Officer and Mr. Edward Craft his assistant. Both men will be taking the VA tests and will soon be accredited by the American Legion so that they may represent you. I tell you this has been a most rewarding year, one that you should all be proud of.

I leave you not with a heavy heart but with an elated heart to think that so many of you worked so hard to put our Department in the National Limelight. It is a credit to you and your desire to help your fellow Veterans, showing your Patriotism, standing up and being counted. Because of your efforts, I was given the most prestigious award of being named Commander of the Year, there is only one out of all 55 Departments and you are the ones that made it happen. Thank you is hardly enough to say there are not words to express the honor you have bestowed upon this Commander. I leave you knowing that this Department has definitely done its’ part and its’ best. It surely shows.

This year’s theme is Veterans Always Serving Veterans – Past, Present and Future”

This theme is to remind us that although some veterans are no longer in uniform we still fight the good fight to maintain the rights and benefits that our valiant brethren fought for and are still fighting for. It is one of the main reasons the Legion was founded to ensure that we never forget those who have gone before us giving their all and those that are currently doing the same. We must never forget our fighting men and women of the Armed Forces whether in or out of uniform. We must never forget for it is extremely important that the world “never forget” the atrocities of war and what it does to mankind, the world must “never forget” the young men and women that died in defense of their country. Who by doing so ensured the freedoms we enjoy today, and we must never ever forget their sacrifices.

Over the last two years I had the distinct pleasure of representing you and the American Legion Department of the Philippines at numerous Memorial Dedications, Veterans Days, and Ceremonies for Medal of Honor Winner, Hometown Hero and the Deceased Veterans of the Bataan Death March, plus attending a number of funeral services to say a last farewell to previous Department Officers.

I met and talked with many WWII Filipino Veterans both here on Luzon and in Leyte. I was able to thank them for their service, their heroism and our freedoms. I am so proud and grateful for having the opportunity to have shaken a few hands that helped save the world in those darkest of days.

My friends, fellow legionnaires we have a responsibility to keep this great organization alive
and well, not only for those that have gone before but also for those that are yet to come.

Please join us in revitalizing our Posts, continue with the recruiting and help the American Legion reach their goal of 3 million members by 2019 the 100th anniversary.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as Commander of this great Department during the past two years.

Yours in Service

Joseph Carsley
Department Commander
amlegionpi_dc@yahoo.com

___________________________
Department NECman’s Comments

Comrades,

Yours in Service

Department NECman
Herbert J. Scholten
amlegionpi_neccman@yahoo.com
hscholten@yahoo.com

___________________________
Department Adjutant

Yours in Service,

Department Adjutant
Chris Schrauben
amlegionpi_da@yahoo.com

___________________________
Department Service Officer

To contact

Department Service Officer
William T. Brown

Mail: The American Legion
Department of the Philippines
370 Batangas Street,
Mt. View Subdivision,
Balibago, Angeles City
Philippines 2009
(Mark Attn: DSO)

All VA claims initiated or assisted by The American Legion in the Philippines will be forwarded to the Department Service Officer or an Assistant Department Service Officer for review PRIOR to being submitted to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

This review will ensure that the claims are complete and ready for submission to Veterans Affairs.

What are your responsibilities?
If you receive benefits from the VA:
You are responsible to report the following to the VA:
Your income or the income of your dependents changes (earnings, Social Security Benefits, lottery, and gambling winnings).
Your net worth increases (bank accounts, investments, real estate)
Your continuing medical expenses are reduced
You gain or lose a dependant
Your address or phone number changes.

What YOU can do: If you are not satisfied with the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (BVA) decision about your claim, you have a number of options to avail for relief:

Motion for Reconsideration. You may file a “motion” asking the BVA to reconsider its decision by writing a letter to the BVA showing why you believe that the BVA committed an obvious error of fact or law in its decision in your appeal. If the BVA decided more than one issue, be sure to tell us which issues you want reconsidered. Address your letter to: Director, Administrative Service (014), Board of Veterans’ Appeals, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. There is no time limit on filing a motion for reconsideration.

Motion to Revise the Board’s Decision based on Clear and Unmistakable Error. You may file a motion asking that the Board revise its final decision if you believe the decision is based on “clear and unmistakable error” (CUE). Care should be used in preparing such a motion because it must meet very specific requirements and the Board will not review a final decision on this basis more than once. The Board encourages you to carefully review its rules on CUE and seek help from a qualified representative before filing such a motion. There is no time limit on filing a CUE review motion.
Apex to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. You have the right to appeal a BVA decision to the United States court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court). A Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Court within 120 days from the date of the mailing of the notice of the BVA’s decision. The date of mailing is the date that appears on the face of the BVA decision. The Court’s address: Unites States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004.

Be advised, there is a new government website sponsored by THE NATIONAL PERSONEL RECORDS CENTER where veterans can gain access to their DD-214's online:
http://vetrecs.archives.gov

Respectfully yours,

Department Service Officer
William T. Brown
sweet_bill@yahoo.com

We have included hyperlink(s):
TRICARE: TRICARE Area Office - Pacific, (81)6117-43-2036, TPAO.CSC@med.navy.mil
The Veterans Affairs:
http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel
RAO Bulletins:
for PDF Format and/or
http://415vva.homestead.com/Home.html
(Word format)
http://www.veteransresources.org/rao-bulletin/.
Veterans Legislation:
http://thomas.loc.gov

USAF Afterburner
http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner/
S.A.L. is the only 100% SAL out of 55 Departments. Congratulations to Detachment Cmdr-Ariel Mercado.

Yours in Comradeship,

1st Vice Commander
Rhett Webber
rhett_webber@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 4
ADMIRAL ARTHUR F. SPRING
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Yours in Service,
Commander Chris Schrauben
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chrisretusn@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 10
CLAUDE A. THORP
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Yours in Service,
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wc21john@hotmail.com

The American Legion Post 21

Commander Jesus Locquiao
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The American Legion Post 28

WAYNE E. MARCHAND
PSC 557, Box 123
FPO AP 96379-0123

Yours in Service,
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AmLegionOK28@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 63
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PHIL-AM POST
Leyte Park Hotel Resort
Magsaysay Blvd, Tacloban city
Leyte 6500 Philippines
(63)(53) 325
P.O.Box 184
Tacloban City, Leyte
6500 Philippines

Our monthly meeting is the first Friday after the fourth of the month.
Ask for the floating restaurant

Commander Thomas Stephens
The American Legion Post 63
sailore8@gmail.com

The American Legion Post 66

Adjutant, Andy Siapno
andy_siapno@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 94
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

June 2013

NEWSLETTER

Commander
The American Legion Post 94

The American Legion Post 123
ALLEN “POPS” REEVES
PHIL-AM POST
370 Batangas St., Mt. View Subdivision
Angeles City, Pampanga 2009 Philippines
{63} (045) 625-5584

May 2013
Post Adjutant Wade reported Legion Year 2013 Post membership stat’s are 178, or 115.7% paid members for 2013, 28 Paid-up-for-Life (PUFL) Members, 96 Renewal Members, 05 Reinstated Members, 02 Transfers and 47 New Members). AL Dep’t is 47th out of 55 AL Nat’l Dept’s, with 793 out of 793 ending 2012 members for 100%.

Ron Woodson, Herb Gage; Tom Webb; Bob Perkins Darrell Stockdale, Lowell Johnson and Arvel Stewart very ill. Post Cmdr Webber and Adj. Wade make 9 hospital/home visits during April 13. Also Cecil Johnson AL Post 10 Cmdr and Peter Scalzo VFW 9892 hospitalized for medical treatment. Post Cmdr Webber advises John J. Reavis can be buried at CVC. Philip-Pangalinan Mortuary, will release the body for P4,500, with coffin.

VFW Post 2485 will bury Reavis at no cost and will donate a casket at no cost. Daniel M. Paige probably will be a pauper’s burial.

Post SO Bill Brown stated 35 veteran’s widows, spouses assisted with VA/SSN paperwork, American Services POC’s and burial briefings. Cmdr Webber assisted veteran, families and widows. Have 5 U.S. Burial Flags on hand. SO Brown completed his VASO training in Wash., D.C.

Election Committee Chmn Donaldson conducted 2nd and final nominations 2013-14: Nominees for Cmdr-Mike Campbell and Rhett Webber; 1st Vice Richard Hodges, 2nd Vice Kathleen Gonzales; Finance Officer Lafayette Donaldson; Chaplain Ray Jones; JA Gordon Grubb Jr.; and Sgt-at-Arms Edward Nava

VA Clinic advises appointments can be made normally now. Cmdr Webber advises if you need.to see VARO and have a projected VA Clinic appointment, contact VARO and set up an appointment with them, so you can take care of both appointments the same day. Hepatitis C, have VA Clinic do test if served in Vietnam.

Cmdr Webber, Adj. Wade, Historian Gonzales, Sgt-at-Arms Yakich; James Brown, AL Dep’t Cmdr Carsley, SAL Mercado; ALA Unit 123 Rose Webber attended the Bataan Death March Memorial, 18 April 13, 10:30 hours, Capas Tarlac, hosted by VFW Post 2485. Best turnout of veterans in recent years.

Post Adj. Wade, SO Brown and AL Dep’t Cmdr Carsley attended the ANZAC Day Memorial at Clark Veterans Cemetery, 25 Apr 13. Post Cmdr Webber attended the VFW DPA Dist. VII convention, 25 Apr 13, held at VFW Post 9892, Bauang, La Union, RP.

June 2013

Post Commander’s Quarterly DEC Report – 22 June 13

1. AL Dep’t and AL 123 SO William Brown and AL Post 10 SO Edward Craft completed a VA training course in Washington, D.C. and can now provide updated valuable assistance for our Post Legionnaires, their families and widows. Post SO Brown assisted over a hundred veterans, widows and families with VARO; Social Security; U.S. Embassy issues and claims.

2. Our Post will have 26 authorized delegate’s for voting issues at the AL Dep’t Convention.

3. AL Dep’t Convention Book Ad response has been very good again this term. Our 2012-13 AL Dep’t Convention Book will be as prosperous and as large, or even larger than last term.

4. Multiple Post members remain home, or bed bound and are regularly visited by Adjutant Wade, SO Brown and myself. Adj. Larry Wade, SO Brown, myself and other Post members attended multiple Clark Veterans Cemetery burial ceremonies this past quarter.

5. Adj. Wade, Historian Gonzales, Sgt-at-Arms Yakich, member J. Brown, SAL Det Cmdr A. Mercado, ALA Unit 123 Member R. Webber, AL Dep’t Cmdr Carsley and myself attended the Bataan Death March Memorial,
8 April 13, 10:30 hours, Capas Tarlac, VFW Post 2485.

7. AL Post 123 Cmdr Rhett, 1st Vice Cmdr Hodges; Adj.-Wade, member James Brown, AL Dep’t Cmdr Carsley, attended U.S. Veterans Cemetery-Memorial Day Ceremony, Manila, 26 June 13.

8. AL Post 123 hosted the 30 May 13 Memorial Day Ceremony, CVC, over 150 participants, including guest speaker Ms. Vicki Randall-VA Clinic Mgr and other dignitaries, Col. Carter-JUSMAG; CMSgt Dube-DAO; Col. Estabillo-600th PAF Wing Cmdr; Larry Atkinson-ABMC Pacific Dir; Rep CDC Tugade/Frank Madlangbayen and Joseph Carsley-AL Dep’t Cmdr.

9. AL Post 123 Historian Kathleen Gonzales, OPC’d the ALA Unit 123 volunteers, who planted U.S. and RP flags in front of 700 CVC headstones, 29 May 13, for the Memorial Day Ceremony.

10. Post member Ed Jernigan actively supported Little League Teams in the Philippines, expending hundreds of hours, traveling thousands of miles and donating thousands of Peso’s buying and donating baseball equipment to Little League Baseball teams.

11. Our Post members have been busy with community and Post’s projects, donating tens of thousands of Peso’s to veteran’s families, for burial fees, Post Home renovations, and food dishes to ALA Unit 123’s Valentine’s Day Ball Room affair.

12. Election Cmte Member’s and Chmn Donaldson announced Rhett Webber as re-elected AL Post 123 Cmdr with new officer’s 1st Vice Richard Hodges, 2nd Vice Kathleen Gonzales; Finance Officer Lafayette Donaldson; Chaplain Ray Jones; JA Gordon Grubb Jr., Sgt-at-Arms Edward Nava and IT Manager-Michael Camara for the 2013-14.

13. A VARO Outreach was conducted 20 June 13, at Zepellin St., Hensonville, Angeles City, RP. Of special note, U.S. VARO acting Director Nick Pamperin was the guest speaker and his staff provided a three hour VARO Outreach.

14. Adjutant Wade confirmed Dep’t Adj. Schrauben’s 2012 end of term membership figures at 159 and for 2013 Post membership stat’s 176, or 110.69%, 28 Paid-up-for-Life (PUFL) members, 96 Renewal members, 05 Reinstated members, 02 Transfers and 45 New members. AL Dep’t is 5th out of 55 AL Nat’l Dept’s, with our SAL over 100%! We have 14 paid members to begin the new for 2014 membership term.

Yours in Service,

Commander Rhett Webber
The American Legion Post 123
alpost123pi@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 125
COLONEL “PING” PARAAN
Luna, La Union, meets every 2d Saturday of the month at our American Legion Post Home in Darigayos, Luna, La Union.

Yours in Service,

Commander Cesar Noble
The American Legion Post 125
cesarnoble_58@hotmail.com

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)
Squadron 21
SAL Elected Officers
**Philippine Detachment 2012-2013**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name/ Post</th>
<th>Email-Add.</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
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**Commander**  
Ariel B. Mercado  
arielmercado76@yahoo.com

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**PHILIPPINE FOREIGN DISTRICT**

**Auxiliary Units**

**Unit 1**

**Unit 4**

**Unit 10**

**Unit 21**

**Unit 28**

**Unit 62**

**Unit 79**

**Unit 123**

Cecille Luther  
**Unit 123 Historian**  
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370 Batangas St. Mt. View Subdivision  
Balibago, Angeles City, Philippines 2009  
Tel No. (045) 625-5584

**Unit 125**

Mercedita Trasmil  
**Unit 125 Secretary**

**Unit 155**

Adviser

**Unit 190**

**Unit 229**