THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

January 2013

NEWSLETTER

Mail:

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

Department Commander

Fellow Legionnaires:

This picture was sent to me by the Adjutant of American Legion Post 149, Las Vegas Nevada.

Congressman Joe Heck is a member of that Post. They presented him the letter I sent thanking him for bringing S3202 bill to the floor for vote on 31 December. If not for his actions that day, the cemetery would have
remained in limbo for god knows how long. This was our way of saying Thank you Congressman.

We have entered a New Legionnaire membership year for those of you who have yet to renew your membership please do so as soon as possible, for you are currently in a delinquent status, your membership means a lot to not only our Department but to the American Legion National as well.

At the present time, we are on a crusade to have over 3 million members by our 100th Anniversary. The American Legion membership numbers mean an awful lot when it comes to getting Veterans Bills and Laws passed in the House and in Congress. When we lobby for our rights and entitlements if is the weight of membership numbers that count, for each member represents a vote to our lawmakers and they know that without those votes their days are limited.

We as Veterans owe it to ourselves and our Comrades in Arms to protect the rights and benefits we not only fought for but were promised and which we rightfully deserve. This can only be done by support from all our Veterans Organizations and in particular the American Legion. We need the numbers to present on the hill and this will be done again this month in Washington at our Annual Washington Conference. Our National Commander will go to the Hill and address the House and Congress regarding Veterans issues. So please help us all by renewing your membership in our great organization by doing so you will also help yourself.

During the month of January we were privileged to host a member of the National Office Staff Mr. Michael Buss, Deputy Director A/C and Y division. Mr. Buss and his family were hosted by our Department and Posts 4, 10 and 123. On 3 January they visited Post 4 and our Adjutant Mr. Chris Schrauben, then on 4 January traveled to Angeles where they were given a tour and briefing of the Clark Veterans Cemetery by Mr. John Gilbert of VFW Post 2485 and Mr. Dennis Wright of the Clark Veterans Cemetery Restoration Association, after which we visited Post 10 then to Post 123 for lunch. Mr. and Mrs. Buss expressed their thanks for our Department and the actions we take. They will take our greetings back to the National Commander and his staff...

February is our National Membership month, with meetings in Washington D.C. for the Washington Conference and the VARO training sessions which will be attended by Mr. William Brown, Department Service Officer and Mr. Edward Craft Department Assistant Officer. These gentlemen will be out of country until April in the meantime our Department 1st Vice will act in their stead with the assistance of past and present Post service officers as needed.

Now is a good time to start write ups for Awards for Commander of the year, Vice Commanders of the Year, Adjutant, chaplain and any other officers that you have and feel they should be recognized by Department or higher. Remember the people who work with you deserve to know that you appreciate them, even if they don’t win the Department Award they know that you as Commander submitted them and appreciate the work they do.

Send you recommendations to the Department Awards Committee c/o Department Adjutant, 370 Batangas Street, Balibago, Angeles City 2009. Or you may send via Email with attachment letter.

Yours in Service

Joseph Carsley
Department Commander
amlegionpi_dc@yahoo.com

Comrades,

An “informal” yet significant U.S.National organization within the American Legion is “F.O.D.P.A.L.” (Foreign Overseas Departments & Posts of the American Legion) Recently, Doug Hagan (France), the Secretary, has masterfully initiated a website within the legion.org site.

Incidentally, as the Philippine Dept. representative, I was the President for the 2011-2012 term.

Without further ado, please enjoy the January 2013 issue of the FODPAL news:

MEMBERSHIP: Four Departments narrowly missed the 75% cutoff, missing it by just a handful of members. Very
few Veterans are currently sitting in Congress, so we must keep the American Legion membership numbers as high as possible. The higher our numbers, the stronger our position the next cutoff is 80% on 1/16/13.

FODPAL WEBSITE: First, to the Departments and Posts who have shared information for the website—thank you! To those who have not yet shared, we look forward to your future input. Thank you to Laura Edwards from the Headquarters staff for all her hard work in adding updates to our website and sharing our message with others. For those who have not yet found FODPAL online, our website is easily located by entering Legion.org into your browser, scrolling down to the FODPAL emblem and clicking to read.

SOCIAL MEDIA: The importance of Facebook in reaching younger members and future members cannot be overlooked. I have shared some great items from your Departments and Posts and I have tracked the “hits” each of the updates has received:

- “45 Years in the Legion” from Canada Post 75 had 63 hits
- The “Battle of the Bulge Walk” from Paris Post 1 had 76 hits
- The “9/11 Ceremonies” from Canada Post 20 had 64 hits

We can reach many members with our Facebook updates—please “Like” FODPAL on Facebook, or click the Facebook link on our FODPAL website.

IMPORTANT DATES: No information available at this time—please send me future important dates such as Department DEC dates, Post Meeting dates, and Special Event dates.

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Boy Scout trailer from Troop 621 in Greenwood IN has been found however it was missing a lot of items from the inside and had some damage to the outside, I will provide more info as it becomes available. I hope the newsletter was informative; I look forward to sharing more with you in 2013. Happy NewYear to you and your families.

Doug Haggan
FODPAL Secretary

Yours in Service
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

January 2013

NEWSLETTER

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.

Appeal 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 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: United 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)


Veterans Legislation:
http://thomas.loc.gov

USAF Afterburner
http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner/

1st Vice Commander

AL Nat’l Committee Chmn-Michael Buss, was briefed on AL Post 123 events and activities by Cmdr Carsley and myself. AL Post 123 & Post 10 provided refreshments and open discussion at their Post’s for Chmn Buss. Chmn Buss seem greatly impressed with our community activities and programs.

Department of the Philippines membership requirements, continues going well for 2013l. Let’s continue our recruiting for our membership quota.

The AL Department of the Philippines Office area will be Renovated by the beginning of March 2013’. Our AL Post 123 roof repair begins the end of Feb 2013. A room for our AL Dep’t Service Officer, has been allocated, adjacent to the AL Dep’t Commander’s Office.

AL Dep’t Cmdr Carsley kindly consented to dress up in a Santa Claus suit and hand out toys to local children, at our Joint ALA and AL Post 123 Christmas Party, 22 Dec 12.

S.A.L. has 41 members, in two squadrons, assisted by Detachment Cmdr-Ariel Mercado.

We’re working on the AL Dep’t of the Philippines June 2013 Convention, to be held here in Angeles City, RP.

Yours in Comradeship,

1st Vice Commander
Rhett Webber
rhett_webber@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 4
ADimirAL ARTHUR F. SPRING
21 Magsaysay Dr., New Asinan, Olongapo City 2200
Telephone: 47-222-2071

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

The American Legion Post 10
CLAUDE A. THORP
484 Don Juico Avenue, Clarkview
Angeles City, Pampanga 2009 Philippines
Telephone: (45) 322-1950, (45) 322-6061
FAX: (45) 322-1950

Yours in Service,
Commander William C. Johnson
The American Legion Post 10
alpost10pi@gmail.com
wc21john@hotmail.com

The American Legion Post 21

Yours in Service,
Commander Jesus Locquiao
jesslocquiao@yahoo.com

________________________________________________________
The American Legion Post 28
WAYNE E. MARCHAND
PSC 557, Box 123
FPO AP 96379-0123

Got the volunteers to cut the grass at the Tomori International Cemetery on 20 January.

Held Post elections on 24 January followed by a free dinner for all in attendance.

Continuing to clean and improve our Post from top to bottom.

Yours in Service,

Commander Donald B. Allen
The American Legion Post 28
amlegion@sunny-net.ne.jp

The American Legion Post 63
NORBERTO B. ROMUALDEZ
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

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

We all Thank God for the successful Gift Giving.

AL Nat’l Committee Chmn-Michael Buss, visited AL Post’s
10 & 123 and CVC, on 03 Jan 13, receiving an in-depth CVC briefing from CVC Chmn-John Gilbert and Peregrin Pres.-Dennis Wright. Mr. Buss was very impressed with the CVC condition and AL programs.

Our Clark K-9 Cemetery Caretaker Project still awaiting approval, of AL Post 123 MOA, by CDC. 3SPG Association $837.00 donation cleaned over 400 headstones, for the VFW Post 2584 Clark Veterans Cemetery “Headstone Renovation Project. CVC will be maintained by ABMC, once Obama signs the bill, with full operations around 2014-15. Contributions still needed to maintain CVC until ABMC begins operations.

Ron Woodson still very ill at home, Ron Burrus doing better at home receiving dialysis twice a week. Robert Perkins at home, multiple health issues. Cmdr Webber and Adjutant Wade conducted seven hospital/home visits for veterans. Two Americans, John Reavis and Daniel Paige awaiting burial. Two deceased Americans disposition being tracked by Cmdr Webber, SO Brown and US Embassy Chief Consul-Bob Jachim. AL Post awaiting approval, from U.S. Embassy American Services, so John Reavis can be buried at CVC. Daniel Paige receiving pauper’s burial. Current policy, U.S. Embassy isn’t funded to bury unclaimed Americans.

Our Post Service Officer Bill Brown and Cmdr Webber conducted many briefing sessions, assisting veterans and families, on VA/SS/American Services benefits and assisting in filing VA benefit claims. Conducted a Post Everlasting ceremonies for and Larry A. Abraham. Have 8 U.S. Burial Flag on hand.

We held our monthly executive and Post meeting on 09 Jan 13 voted in 6 new members, bringing our current total membership to 146 members for 2013. We’re at 95.4%, of achieving 100% membership for 2013.

S.A.L. has 41 members, in two squadrons. S.A.L. Sqdn 123 needs to meet ASAP and will be arranged by S.A.L. Detachment Cmdr Ariel Mercado.

There’s multiple DoD websites you can order a free pair of eye glasses. Just send a copy of your current eye exam, not older than one year from exam date and copy of your retiree ID card, front and back. If it’s an older version of ID card, white tape over your SSN. You can receive glasses, via any APO/FPO MPP address.

AL Dep’t Cmdr-Carsley advised all AL Nat’l HQ’s front and center supporting CVC bill for ABMC to begin operating CVC. Letters of Appreciation sent to Congressman Heck; Senator Ayiote; Senator Murray and Senator Singinsa.

Kathleen Gonzales-Post Historian developed an AL 123 Facebook page and invited all members to review it for photo’s of AL 123 events and projects.

ALA dispersed 580 food bags to indigent families, 19 Dec 12. AL 123 members donated funds, food items and toys toward the project. The joint ALA & AL 123 Pot Luck Xmas Party, on 22 Dec 12, went very well, with about 75 attending. We thank AL Dep’t Cmdr Carsley, as Santa Claus, dispersing toys to kids.

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

Name/ Post
Email-Add.  Position

AL Dep’t Cmdr-Carsley advised all AL Nat’l HQ’s front
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

January 2013

NEWSLETTER

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r.noli48@yahoo.com

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Fernand T. Locquiao/ 021
n

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hjscholten@yahoo.com

Herbert J. Scholten/ P/04
hjscholten@yahoo.com

Joseph Carsley/P/0123
joecarsley@yahoo.com

Detachment Commander

Vice Commander

Adjutant

Finance Officer

Chaplain

Historian

Sergeant/ At- Arms

Judge Advocate

NECMAN

ANECMAN

SAL- Adviser

SAL- Adviser

2012 SAL FINAL Membership Report - December 31, 2012

All Time High 2012 Memb. 2012/2012 2013 Membership

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<td>Grand Totals</td>
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<td>345,752</td>
<td>12,461</td>
<td>353,295</td>
<td>101,411</td>
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</table>
### Unit 79

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 123 and UNIT 123**

**Joint Annual Community Service**

**December 19, 2012**

580 gift packs was distributed to 580 families around our community to those unfortunate.

Dec. 18, 2012 - The wrapping day of groceries. (Legionnaire and Auxiliary help together preparing the 580 packs).

---

**Auxiliary Units**

- **Unit 1**
- **Unit 4**
- **Unit 10**
- **Unit 21**
- **Unit 28**
- **Unit 62**

---

**Commander**

**Ariel B. Mercado**

arielmercado76@yahoo.com

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Western Region</th>
<th>Mark S. Severance (CA)</th>
<th>Mid-Western Region</th>
<th>Mike Deutser (OK)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>PHILIPPINES</td>
<td>23 41 173.261</td>
<td>MONTANA</td>
<td>85 600 105.594</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAWAII</td>
<td>43 46 111.628</td>
<td>OAHU</td>
<td>679 918 104.437</td>
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<td>NEW MEXICO</td>
<td>1.668 1.729 102.429</td>
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<td>KANSAS</td>
<td>0.092 6.237 102.360</td>
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<td>760 765 100.000</td>
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<td>NEVADA</td>
<td>323 280 93.388</td>
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<td><strong>MEXICO</strong></td>
<td><strong>0 0 0.000</strong></td>
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### Central Region | Harri R. Semels (RI)

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<th>Actual</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<td>IOWA</td>
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<td>3.382</td>
<td>112.658</td>
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<tr>
<td>WISCONSIN</td>
<td>3.329</td>
<td>3.590</td>
<td>107.568</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISSOURI</td>
<td>3.345</td>
<td>3.415</td>
<td>102.123</td>
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<tr>
<td>OHIO</td>
<td>30.606</td>
<td>31.050</td>
<td>101.486</td>
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<tr>
<td>INDIANA</td>
<td>37.426</td>
<td>37.890</td>
<td>101.240</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILLINOIS</td>
<td>14.672</td>
<td>14.023</td>
<td>100.341</td>
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<td>MINNESOTA</td>
<td>10.965</td>
<td>10.902</td>
<td>99.972</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHIGAN</td>
<td>20.246</td>
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<td><strong>124.311</strong></td>
<td><strong>125.893</strong></td>
<td><strong>101.300</strong></td>
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### Southern Region | John T. Jenkins (FL)

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<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
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<td>2.158</td>
<td>107.044</td>
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<tr>
<td>TENNESSEE</td>
<td>1.272</td>
<td>1.500</td>
<td>106.671</td>
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<td>103.476</td>
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<tr>
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<td>532</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>103.006</td>
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<td>GEORGIA</td>
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<td>PUERTO RICO</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.774</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.908</strong></td>
<td><strong>102.388</strong></td>
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### 2012 Membership:

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<th>Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/31/2012</td>
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### 2011 Membership:

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<td>12/31/2011</td>
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<td>348,361</td>
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</table>
People fall in line and wait to receive the gift packs. They began to line up at 0600.

Unit 123 Ladies Auxiliary giving the gift packs with bread and juice.

Post Commander and Ladies Auxiliary include his wife after the community service.
UNIT 123 Activities for January 2013

January 19, 2013- Third Saturday of the month

We have our monthly meeting, held in American Legion 123 Post Home.

Officers table.

Members table

Cecille Luther
Unit 123 Historian
ccel_luther@yahoo.com

Unit 125
Mercedita Trasmil
Unit 125 Secretary

Unit 155

Unit 190

Unit 229