



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

December 2012



NEWSLETTER



THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of the Philippines

Department Commander
Joseph Carsley

Department Adjutant
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Herbert J. Scholten

National Executive Committeeman Alternate
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1st Vice Commander
Rhett Webber

2nd Vice Commander
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**The American Legion
Department of the Philippines**
370 Batangas St.
Mt. View Subdivision,
Balibago, Angeles City,
Philippines 2009

Department Commander



Commanders Corner:

Fellow Legionnaires:

Legion Statement on Senator Inouye

INDIANAPOLIS (December 18, 2012) – National Commander of The American Legion James E. Koutz issued the following statement on the death of Sen. Daniel Inouye: “America lost a true hero and veterans lost a staunch advocate with the passing of U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye. His love of country was never more evident than when he earned the Medal of Honor and incurred serious wounds while leading his men in battle at San Terenzo, Italy. His lifetime passion for veterans, our military and our national security led The American Legion to present him with our prestigious Good Guy Award in 2005. Sen. Inouye was a proud Legionnaire and a great patriot.”

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



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As we enter December my staff and I wish each and every one of you a:

“VERY MERRY, JOYOUS AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS” AND A “HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR”

“MALIGAYANG PASKO AT MASAGANANG BAGONG TAON”

On 13 December we will hold our quarterly Department Executive Committee meeting and one of the items that will be discussed is the location of our June Convention.

Meanwhile our Department Service Office is working very hard on our behalf to ensure that claims are processed in a timely and efficient manner.

Once again, I thank each and every one of you for your time, effort and dedication. It is a pleasure serving as Commander of this Department for each of you turns the tasks at hand into a labor of love. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the American Legion.

My Fellow Legionnaires, Sisters in the Auxiliary, SAL Members and VETERANS belonging to other Veterans Organizations:

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that “The Dignified Burial of Veterans Act of 2012” was passed by the House at 7:23PM, December 30th, which is 8:23AM here in the Philippines, December 31st”.

This bill once signed by the President will place the Clark Veterans Cemetery under the control and maintenance of the American Battle Monuments Commission and afford it the National Cemetery Status that it so richly deserves.

Two years ago the American Legion at it's National Convention adopted a resolution to support legislation to make this happen, this Past year at the VFW National Convention they did the same.

At this time, I wish to THANK ALL the VETERANS, Veteran Family members and all our supporters throughout the world that helped to make this happen. I also wish you all a **'VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR'**

OUR VETERANS OWE A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO VFW POST 2485 AND THEIR COMMANDER MR. JOHN GILBERT, FOR THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE THAT THEY HAVE PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS.

TO MR. DENNIS WRIGHT CHAIRMAN OF THE CLARK CEMETERY RESTORATION ASSOCIATION AND TO A YOUNG MAN FROM AVON INDIANA, MASTER NATHANIEL BEELER AN 11 YEAR OLD STUDENT THAT TOOK THE CLARK CEMETERY RESTORATION AS A SPECIAL PROJECT. HE COLLECTED OVER 1000 SIGNATURES AND ACTUALLY MET WITH CONGRESSMEN AND WOMEN IN WASHINGTON ON HIS BIRTHDAY AND MADE A PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE CEMETERY. THANK YOU NATHANIEL. You may be young but you are a "TRUE PATRIOT"

Yours in Service

Joseph Carsley
Department Commander
amlegionpi_dc@yahoo.com

Department NECman's Comments

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.

Rather than repeat the information available, let me encourage you to explore & consider the benefits of both the FODPAL group as well as it's website regarding our Dept. attached.

Yours in Service

Department NECman
Herbert J. Scholten
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hjscholten@yahoo.com



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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.

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 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.

As many of you are aware, the first phase of the Philippines Demonstration Project commences 1 January 2013 in metropolitan Manila, Angeles and Olongapo. At the request of International SOS (ISOS) and Global 24 Network Services (Global 24NS), I've been asked to make you aware that preliminary dates and times have been set for a round of Demonstration Project Beneficiary Information Forums that they will be conducting during the second week of January.

Venues have yet to be definitively confirmed, but should be known by the first week in January (if not earlier). Final details will be shared once confirmed, but early indications are that the meetings will be held at the Richmond Hotel in Ortigas, Manila; Holiday Inn in Angeles City; and location TBA in the Subic Bay area. Each venue will have enough space for 100 attendees, and any TRICARE beneficiary who is interested in hearing about the Philippines Demonstration Project and/or have questions about it may attend. The projected schedule will be:

Wednesday, January 9th, 1400 PM: Beneficiary Education Meeting in Manila

Thursday, January 10th, 1000 AM: Beneficiary Education Meeting in Angeles City

Thursday, January 10th: 1500 PM: Beneficiary Education Meeting in Subic Bay/Olongapo

Attendees will be asked to sign in before entering the meeting. At the briefings, there will be ample time for both the presentation and questions. To minimize interruptions and keep things moving along smoothly, attendees will be asked to hold onto their questions, if at all possible, until the conclusion of the presentation.

Please feel free to pass along this "heads-up" to interested members of your groups and other TRICARE beneficiaries. We hope to follow up shortly with additional details regarding



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the upcoming educational briefings.

V/R,
Thomas W. Halliwell, FACHE, FAHM
TRICARE Area Office - Pacific
Chief, Hawaii Satellite Office
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Honolulu, HI 96819
(808)438-1600 ext 3540
Thomas.halliwell@us.army.mil

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:
<http://sjcvets.zymichost.com/index.html> .
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/>

1st Vice Commander

Commander Carsley, passed out many membership awards, at the 13 Dec 12 Quarterly DEC meeting, at AL Post 123 and he was presented awards from AL National HQ's, as Outstanding AL Dep't Commander, for the 2011-12 Term.

The AL Dep't of the Philippines Convention, June 2013 will be held in Angeles City, RP. We'll publish the place/time/date, once they've been selected. Don't forget to solicit your AL Dep't Convention Book Ad's early. Our 2011-12 AL Dep't Convention Book, was the most prosperous and largest in recent memory.

We'd like to surpass that and have an even larger convention book for 2013.

Department of the Philippines membership requirements, for 2013 are going well. We have received a few inquiries, asking about possibly forming new Post's, in other areas of the Philippines. We should have another very good term for membership recruiting.

The AL Department of the Philippines Office area will be renovated, once the AL Post 123 roof has been replaced. A room for our AL Dep't Service Officer, will be provided, 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.

AL Post Commander's gave their quarterly activity reports.

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

Have a very safe, prosperous and Happy New Year!

Yours in Comradeship,

1st Vice Commander
Rhett Webber
rhett_webber@yahoo.com



The American Legion Post 4

ADMIRAL 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



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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

Commander **Jesus Locquiao**

jesslocquiao@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 28

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

20 Dec 2012 - Held the Post Executive Meeting.

22 Dec 2012 - Hosted a Christmas Party for the American Legion Kids and the kids from the AmerAsian School of Okinawa. This is an annual event sponsored by our Post. Kids were treated to Lunch, with each child receiving 2 toys each.

27 Dec 2012 - Held General Membership meeting with free dinner/drinks for membership after completion of meeting.

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



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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

Our Clark K-9 Cemetery Caretaker Project still awaiting approval, of AL Post 123 MOA, by CDC. 3SPG Association recently sent a check for \$837.00, for the VFW Post 2584 Clark Veterans Cemetery "Headstone Renovation Project, that will clean 400 headstones.

Since our last input, AL Post 123 members attended, both the U.S. Veterans Cemetery, in Manila and the Clark Veterans Cemetery (DVC) in Angeles City, for the annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Attended the MOH Pvt Nisperos, Lingsat Cemetery, La Union and SGT John Fortune, CVC, Angeles City, RP. Attended Gen. MacArthur annual ceremony, Tacloban Leyte, RP. AL Dep't of Philippines Quarterly DEC meeting held, at AL Post 123 Home, 13 Dec 12

Post Projects in Angeles City, RP: We donated 300 pens and notebooks to students attending the Youth Fellowship Symposium.

Donated gallons of paint to the Balibago Elementary School, Mt. View Subdivision, which sustained damage from a heavy rain storm, Donated \$1,000.00 to a pay hospital and funeral bills for a deceased veterans widow, in Ormoc, Northern Leyte, RP.

Donated food items and toys to fill over 500 bags, given away to poor families, Mt. View Subdivision. Donated over \$400.00 to help pay hospital bills for one of our employee's. Multiple members donated funds for Post projects.

AL Post 123 received numerous Letters of Appreciation for community support and AL Nat'l awards for achieving 100% plus, for 2011-12.

Our Post Service Officer Bill Brown and Cmdr Webber conducted over 100 sessions briefing veterans and families on VA/SS/American Services benefits and assisting in filing VA benefit claims. Conducted two Post Everlasting ceremonies for James Shaw and Melvin 'Bud' Cole.

Participated in the annual VFW Post 9892 Chili Cook-Off, In Bauang, La Union, RP. Joint Post and ALA Pot Luck Christmas Party 22 Dec 12

We held our monthly executive and Post meeting on 12 Dec 12 and voted in 5 new members and 1 transfer, bringing our current total membership to 129 members for 2013. We're at 84.5%, 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.

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 |
|--|----------------------|
| Ariel B. Mercado/ 0123 arielmercado76@yahoo.com | Detachment Commander |
| Noli Rosales/ 021 r.noli48@yahoo.com | Vice Commander |



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jupaka_arabani@yahoo.com

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Finance Officer

Cecille Luther
Unit 123 Historian
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Robert A. Wade/ 0123
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Chaplain

Unit 125

Fernado T. Locquiao/ 021
jesusloquiao@yahoo.com

Historian

Mercedita Trasmil
Unit 125 Secretary

Fernand T. Locquiao/ 021

Liaison Officer

Jose Europa Bello Jr./ 021
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Sergeant/ At- Arms

Unit 155

Rafhael Reyes/ 021
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Judge Advocate

Unit 190

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NECMAN

Unit 229

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ANECMAN

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SAL- Adviser

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SAL- Adviser

Adviser

Commander **Ariel B. Mercado**
arielmercado76@yahoo.com

Auxiliary Units

Unit 1

Unit 4

Unit 10

Unit 21

Unit 28

Unit 62

Unit 79
