



Maywood Bataan Day 2015 73rd Annual Memorial Service



Sponsored Jointly by
The Maywood Bataan Day Organization
And
The Village of Maywood

Sunday, September 13, 2015
3:00 PM

Veterans Memorial
Maywood Park
(Corner of 1st Avenue & Oak Street)
Maywood, Illinois

Keynote Speaker

Stephen E. Gibson
Director and Webmaster
Maywood Bataan Day Organization



Mr. Gibson stands near the KM102
Death March marker of the MBDO
in Bataan.

Stephen is the eldest son of Captain Emmett F. Gibson, HQ Co., 192nd Tank Battalion. Born in Maywood, he hardly knew his father, who died at age 42 when Stephen was just three. As a result of Stephen's work with the MBDO, he has been able to piece together a much deeper understanding of his famous father, who was the first Maywood soldier to return from the battlefields of Bataan in WWII. This past year, Stephen has traveled to Manila and visited the places his father wrote about more than 70 years ago. Stephen will talk about the journey of the men of Maywood from the Armory on Madison Avenue to the battlefields of Bataan, and follow his father who was severely injured at the front and evacuated from Manila on the last medical ship the Japanese allowed to leave Manila on New Year's Eve, 1941. Upon his return to America, Capt. Gibson helped organize the first Maywood Bataan Day and, as a Maywood police officer, devoted his short life to public service.

Programme

Navy Ceremonial Band Great Lakes

MUCS Jason P. Gromacki, Leader
2:30 PM

Bugle Call Assembly 3pm

Massing of Color Guards Posting of Military Colors

Welcome

Edwin H. Walker IV, Major, US Marine Corps,
Master of Ceremonies

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthems

The Philippine National Anthem -
"Lupang Hinirang"
The National Anthem -
"The Star-Spangled Banner"

Memorial Prayer

Bishop Dr. Reginald J. Saffo, Pastor
United Faith Missionary Baptist Church Maywood
President, United Faith Christian Institute and Bible Col-
lege, Maywood

Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Col. Richard A. McMahon, Jr., President
Maywood Bataan Day Organization

Remarks

The Honourable Edwenna Perkins, Mayor
Village of Maywood

Maywood Fine Arts Presentation

Col. Richard A. McMahon, Jr. on behalf of the
Maywood Bataan Day Organization

Welcome from the Philippine Community

Consul Alena Grace S. Borra
Philippine Consul General In Chicago

Keynote Speaker

Stephen E. Gibson
Member, Board of Directors & Webmaster
Maywood Bataan Day Organization

Monument Ceremony

DuPage Chapter of VietNow Color Guard
Jeff Agonath, Chairman

Guest Speaker

Wayne Wagner
Past Department Commander
American Legion of Illinois

Rifle Squad Gun Salute

American Legion Post #974
Franklin Park—Adjutant, Randy Thomas

Playing of Taps

Wreath Laying

Army—Colonel Robert F. Bracki
Navy—Commander Joseph E. Troiani
Air Force
Marine Corps—GySgt Leo Armwood, Cpl Marcus Davis
Coast Guard
American Legion Filipino Post #509 & Auxiliary
Philippine Campaign Survivors
American Legion—Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Wagner
Consul Borra—Philippine Consul General In Chicago
Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago
Merchant Marine Veterans Association Chicago
Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County
Daughters of the American Revolution
George Rogers Clark Chapter, River Forest
Village of Maywood
Maywood Bataan Day Organization

"God Bless America"

Benediction

Pastor Elliot Wimbush
First Congregational Church of Maywood

Release of Rifle Squad and Color Guards

Maywood Bataan Day Organization

President – Col. Richard A. McMahon, Jr.

Vice President – Edwin H. Walker IV

Secretary – Jose R. Galarza, Jr.

Treasurer – Patricia H. Besaw

Estrella R. Alamar	Kyle FitzGerald
Goran E. Anderson	Stephen E. Gibson
Edward M. Brotonel	Lennel Grace, Jr.
Barry C. Cicero	Stan D. Huntington
Michael E. Dravo	

Honorary Director: The Honourable Edwenna Perkins
Mayor, Village of Maywood

Village of Maywood

Mayor - Edwenna Perkins

Village Manager - Willie Norfleet, Jr.

Village Clerk - Viola Mims

Village Trustees

Isiah Brandon

Antonette “Toni” Dorris

Melvin L. Lightford

Ronald “Ron” Rivers

Michael A. Rogers

Henderson Yarbrough, Sr.

IN MEMORIAM

Leon Conner—Leon Conner, 96, a WWII Staff Sgt. In the US Army Air Corps, passed away on October 5, 2014. Leon was the beloved husband of the late Odie for 72 years; loving father of Joy, Marilyn, Melody, the late Mayor of Maywood Ralph W. Conner, and the late Vietnam War hero, PFC Thomas E. Conner, US Marine Corps. Leon was also a former Director of the Maywood Bataan Day Organization.

2nd Lt. Benjamin "Ben" R. Morin, Jr., S.J., Co. B—Last surviving officer of Co. B, 192nd Tank Battalion and formerly of Maywood, he fought the first US tank battle of WWII and was thought KIA for a time. He ended up as a POW and survived WWII to return home and make good on a promise he made to become a priest, if he survived the War. He served as a priest for 68 years. He died on April 23, 2015 at the age of 94.

Staff Sgt. Herbert "Bud" Kirchhoff, Co. B – Bud died peacefully in his sleep on June 10, 2015 at the age of 96. A member of Co. B, Kirchhoff fought in the Battle of Bataan as a tank commander. After surrender, he endured the Death March, POW camps in the Philippines and Japan, Hell Ships, and slave labor. He was within 75 miles of Nagasaki when the atomic bomb was dropped there and remembered a "big boom". Upon his return to America, he entered politics, and served, among other posts, on the DuPage County Board of Commissioners. He and his wife relocated to Idaho in 1985.

192ND TANK BATTALION SURVIVOR LIST

These are confirmed surviving members of the 192nd Tank Battalion.

CO. B

Pvt. Lester I. Tennenberg

CO. C

Pvt. Albert P. Naymick

CO. D

Pvt. William L. Arnold

For additional information about *Maywood Bataan Day* or the *Maywood Bataan Day Organization*, please visit our website at

<http://mbdo.org>

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