

# **Maywood Bataan Day Organization**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **55 Year Old War Memorial Plaque To Be Replaced and Rededicated In Western Suburb**

MAYWOOD, IL – On May 17, 1959, a little over 17 years after their sons had been taken prisoner by the enemy on the far-flung beaches of Bataan in the Philippines, and nearly 15 years after fewer than 50% of those who left to fight returned from slave labor in Japan and deadly prisoner of war camps, the people of Maywood dedicated an impressive bronze plaque to the memory of those who fought on Bataan.

On September 14 of this year, the people of Maywood will again gather to dedicate a plaque to the memory of those, who fought on Bataan. Decades of research has revealed that some names were missed on that original plaque, and the stress of relocating the plaque in 1999 to the new Veterans Memorial Maywood Park in Maywood has taken its toll on the original plaque. So members of the Maywood Bataan Day Organization have commissioned a new plaque, and that new plaque will be dedicated in Veterans Memorial Park at the Annual Bataan Day Memorial Service.

Master of Ceremonies will be MBDO Vice President, Edwin H. Walker IV. Colors will be presented by several area American Legion, VFW, and ROTC Color

Guards. In past years color guard units from Maywood, Melrose Park, Berwyn, Hillside, Des Plaines, Chicago, Palatine, Elmhurst, Frankfort, Mokena, River Forest, LaGrange, Northlake and many other Chicago and suburban cities have participated. A Rifle Squad Gun Salute will be provided by the Howard H. Rohde American Legion Post #888 in Northlake, Illinois. Preceding the service will be a concert by the Navy Ceremonial Band, Great Lakes, led by MU1 Garrett Stephan, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker will be Command Sergeant Major, Mark W. Bowman, currently serving as Land Component Command Sergeant Major for the Illinois Army National Guard.

The ceremonies will also include guest speakers: Philippine Consul General Generoso D.G. Calogne and Barry C. Cicero, Past Cmdr., First Division, American Legion Department of Illinois. Other highlights of the Memorial Service include the Monument Ceremony by the DuPage Chapter of VietNow Color Guard and a Wreath Laying Ceremony, featuring members of all branches of our Armed Forces, as well as related community organizations.

Additional special guests scheduled to attend include Maywood Mayor Edwenna Perkins and other members of the Village of Maywood Village Board of Trustees.

Col. Richard A. McMahon, Jr., President of the Maywood Bataan Day Organization, extends an invitation to the entire community, saying, "On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Maywood Bataan Day Annual Memorial Service, it is important to confirm our sacred vow to remember the heroes of the United States.

The Maywood Bataan Day Organization is dedicated to preserving the memory of Bataan Day and perpetuating the observance of Maywood's Bataan Day on the second

Sunday of September. Our modern mission includes supporting veterans of all wars and providing educational resources through our archives and our website (<http://mbdo.org>).

The organization is a non-profit 501(c)(19) organization, that is supported by donations of time and money from the community, as well as relatives and friends of those who have served their country.

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If you would like to schedule video interviews or additional photos of the service participants, or would like additional information on this ceremony or the Maywood Bataan Day Organization, please contact Edwin Walker at 708-345-7077.