

14 September 2014

BATAAN DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

REDEDICATION OF PLAQUE

*Edwin H. Walker IV  
Master of Ceremonies*

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (ON 17 MAY 1959) AT THE CONCLUSION OF A SPECIAL ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE, A BRONZE PLAQUE WAS DEDICATED IN FRONT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY AT MADISON STREET AND GREENWOOD AVENUE AS A MEMORIAL TO COMPANY "B", 192<sup>ND</sup> TANK BATTALION. THE PLAQUE AND MEMORIAL INSTALLATION WAS A DONATION FROM E.D. COLEMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE E.D. COLEMAN INSTRUMENTS CO. (LATER OCCUPIED BY SALZMAN PRINTERS). THE INVOCATION WAS GIVEN BY FR. BENJAMIN R. MORIN, S.J., FORMER LT. MORIN, CO. B TANK COMMANDER AND BATAAN DEATH MARCH SURVIVOR. FR. MORIN, WHO

RESIDES IN A JESUIT RETREAT FACILITY IN  
NORTHEASTERN MICHIGAN, IS ONE OF THREE LIVING  
SURVIVORS OF CO. B AND RECENTLY CELEBRATED HIS  
94<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY. SERVING ON THE ARRANGEMENTS  
COMMITTEE WAS GEORGE DRAVO, BATAAN SURVIVOR  
AND FATHER OF MICHAEL E. DRAVO, A MEMBER OF THE  
MAYWOOD BATAAN DAY ORGANIZATION BOARD AND  
CARETAKER OF THE TANK AND CANNON, WHO, WITH HIS  
SON MICHAEL JR., GAVE A FRESH COAT OF PAINT TO BOTH  
TANK AND CANNON IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S  
CEREMONY. GUESTS AT THE 1959 CEREMONY INCLUDED  
THE PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL, A U.S. ARMY  
BRIGADIER GENERAL, AND REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD R.  
COLLIER, CONGRESSMAN FROM THE 10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, WHO  
FLEW FROM WASHINGTON TO MAKE THE DEDICATORY  
ADDRESS.

BEFORE READING EXCERPTS FROM REPRESENTATIVE  
COLLIER'S REMARKS IN THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES ON TUESDAY, 19 MAY 1959, ENTITLED  
"A TRIBUTE TO THE GOOD CITIZENS OF MAYWOOD", I  
WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY SINCERE THANKS TO OUR  
ASSISTANT VILLAGE CLERK, MRS. JOANN MURPHY AND  
VICTOR DIXON, MEMBER OF THE MAYWOOD PUBLIC  
LIBRARY STAFF, WHO ASSISTED ME IN RESEARCHING THE  
HISTORY OF THE PLAQUE AS WELL AS THE APPELLATION  
"VILLAGE OF ETERNAL LIGHT".

REMARKS OF REPRESENTATIVE COLLIER IN THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES, TUESDAY 19 MAY 1959.

*It was an occasion of mixed emotions, one of many recollections for the families and friends of those who made the supreme sacrifice at Bataan or on the "death march" after its fall. Yet there was a feeling that the event embraced more than a tribute to the members of the fighting Maywood Corps which is*

recorded in the annals of heroism in World War II. It was a symbol of solemn gratitude of the folks of this village to every veteran who contributed in any measure to the preservation of the ideals of this great Republic.

There on the site of this historic old armory now stands a bronze plaque with the names of each member of this gallant company there inscribed, and the "eternal light" which will illuminate this plaque after the light of day has passed will serve as a reminder of the gratitude, respect and honor which will be indelibly written upon the history of this typical American community.

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AND, FINALLY, ON THE NEXT DAY, 20 MAY 1959,

HONORABLE EVERETT MCKINLEY DIRKSEN, SPEAKING

FROM THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE, ADDED THE

FOLLOWING STIRRING EXHORTATION.

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The hero dead of the last great world conflict and those who were spared from the supreme sacrifice were American patriots,

strong of body, strong of mind and spirit, and strong in their belief in God.

They did not hesitate to fight for the right as God gave them to see the right.

For if we but stop to appreciate the true values of our heritage we must, by the same token, concede that there can be no guarantee of life or liberty or the pursuit of happiness unless we know what it means to defend it with the same full measure as the men who fought on Bataan.

For those who died that we might be here today with the same traditions, ideals, and freedoms as the day they left these United States for the Pacific battlefields, the job is done.

And well done it was.

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But our work and responsibility to do in our own way what must be done in preserving all of these things remains as a challenge.

For even as we are gathered here today, there are millions of human beings behind the Iron Curtain of communism enslaved as the tyrants of our time would spread its godlessness and suppression of democracy around the world.

May the eternal light which will burn here on this spot after the light of each day has passed, for time immemorial be a reminder to each of us that the light of freedom may flicker and die if we, as Americans, falter in our responsibility to God and country in the years before us.

For those few who gave so much for so many, we must never forget.

ON THIS SACRED OCCASION, LET US ALL BE MOTIVATED  
AND INSPIRED BY THE WORDS FROM THE SERMON ON  
THE MOUNT.

“LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE MEN THAT THEY  
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO YOUR  
FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN.”