

# Maywood Bataan Day Organization

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Annual Maywood Bataan Day Memorial Service Marks 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

MAYWOOD, IL – As they have every year since 1942, the Village of Maywood and the Maywood Bataan Day Organization will mark Maywood Bataan Day on the Second Sunday in September. This year the memorial will be held on Sunday, September 9th at 3pm at Maywood Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and Oak St. in Maywood, IL.

Each year since 1942, friends, family and community leaders have gathered to pay tribute to the Maywood National Guardsmen who served in the Philippines at the beginning of World War II. Most of these men did not return, and the story of their tribulations has recently been documented on television specials and a movie, “The Great Raid”. Today, the memorial service has grown to encompass veterans from all wars, and includes active participation from the Filipino-American community in Chicago in memory of the many thousands of Filipinos who also lost their lives defending the Philippines in WWII shoulder to shoulder with Americans.

This year, the keynote speaker is the Honorable Blesila C. Cabrera, Consul General of the Philippines, Chicago Consulate. Other special events include a special United States Postal Service rededication of the Purple Heart stamp. The DuPage Chapter of VietNow will hold a moving “Monument Ceremony” to honor veterans, POWs and MIAs.

Colors will be presented by many 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. Music will be provided by the Navy Band, Great Lakes Woodwind Quintet “Fair Winds”.

Col. Richard McMahon, Jr., President of the Maywood Bataan Day Organization extends an invitation to the entire community, saying, “All members of the public are encouraged to attend and pay tribute to these American and Filipino heroes.”

Keynote speaker Consul General Blesila Cabrera is a career diplomat. Prior to her present assignment here in Chicago, she served in various offices at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, including the Office of the Migrant Workers Affairs, the Office of ASEAN Affairs, and the Office of Asian Pacific Affairs. Her previous postings in the Foreign Service include assignments as Vice Consul and later Consul at the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, Canada and as Deputy Consul General at the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles.

The Maywood Bataan Day Organization is dedicated to preserving the memory of Bataan Day and perpetuating the observance of Maywood’s Bataan Day Memorial. Our modern mission includes supporting veterans of all wars and providing educational

resources through our archives and our website (<http://mbdo.org>). This organization is a non-profit 501(c)(19) organization that is supported by donations of time and money from the community.

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