

Maywood Bataan Day Organization

PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information:

Col. Richard A. McMahon, Jr. (USA, Ret.), President

Phone: (708) 366-8761

Email: Ramcmahon1@aol.com

Website URL: <http://mbdo.org>

Alternate Contact:

Maj. Edwin H. Walker IV (USMC)

Phone: (708) 345-7077

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Maywood Bataan Day Memorial Service Marks 66th 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 Service will be held on Sunday, September 14th at 3pm at Maywood Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of 1st 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.

Master of Ceremonies will be MBDO Vice President, Edwin H. Walker IV. 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.

This year, the Keynote Speaker is Stephen E. Gibson, son of the late Lt. Emmett F. Gibson, who was a member of the famed 192nd Tank Battalion. Mr. Gibson will speak on the horrors of the Hell Ships, suffered by the Bataan prisoners of war after the infamous Bataan Death March. The terrible Hell Ships are mostly forgotten by history, shadowed by the more public brutality of the Death March. However, more American POWs died on the Hell Ships than in the Death March. In fact, more POWs died in the sinking of a single Hell Ship than all of the passengers, who were lost on the Titanic. The DuPage Chapter of VietNow will conduct a moving “Monument Ceremony” to honor veterans, POWs and MIAs.

Col. Richard A. 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 Stephen E. Gibson is a Director of the Maywood Bataan Day Organization. He is also the webmaster for the MBDO and Maywood Chamber of Commerce websites. He is a career US Postal Service employee, and currently Information Systems Manager for the Northern Illinois District, responsible for more than 1,500 computer systems, and 5,000 users in more than 300 Northern Illinois postal facilities.

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.

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