

Maywood Bataan Day Organization

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Maywood Bataan Day Memorial Service Marks 67th Anniversary in 2009

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 13th 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 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. Preceding the service will be a concert by the Ceremonial Band from the Navy Band Great Lakes, Chief Harold Mahannah, Director.

Keynote speaker will be the Honorable Judge James J. Gavin, 4th Circuit Court of Cook County. Judge Gavin attended District 89 grade schools, as well as Proviso East High School. After high school, he enlisted in the Army in 1974 and served with the 82nd Airborne for three years, thus following his father, who was a WWII veteran of the Pacific Theater of War. Upon his return to civilian life, Judge Gavin continued his education, finishing with a JD from the Northern Illinois College of Law in 1985 and joining his father as an attorney. In 1996, he was elected Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County and currently sits in the Maywood 4th District Courthouse.

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.”

In case of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the Maywood Public Library at the west end of Maywood Park (corner of 5th Avenue & St. Charles Road).

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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