

Maywood Bataan Day Organization

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Annual Maywood Bataan Day Memorial Service Marks 69th Anniversary in 2011

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 11th at 3pm at Maywood Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of 1st Ave. and Oak St. in Maywood, IL. This year, in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the program will be expanded to include tributes to those heroes, as well.

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, MU1 Ryan Ringnalda, Director, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker will be Colonel Paul Hastings, a member of the Illinois National Guard, and currently serving as Commander, 33D Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Urbana, Illinois.

As a tribute to the victims of the 9/11/2001 attack by the militant Moslems on the Twin Towers, a First Responder from The Salvation Army, Metropolitan Division Emergency Services Center, Elk Grove Village, Illinois; will relate personal experiences.

The ceremonies will include a guest speaker, Commander Emilio O. Hidalgo, a retired Colonel of the Judge Advocate Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He served the USAFFE in Bataan and was a prisoner of war, who actually witnessed the negotiations and surrender by General King of the USAFFE to Japanese General Homma on April 9, 1942. Colonel Hidalgo is the Commander of The American Legion Filo American Post #509 in Chicago. He will be introduced by Philippine Consul General Leo M. Herrera-Lim.

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 tenth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, it is important to confirm

our sacred vow to remember the heroes of the United States. All members of the public are encouraged to attend and pay tribute to these American and Filipino heroes, as well as remember 9/11.”

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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