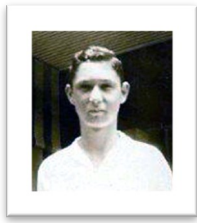


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bataan Legacy Historical Society Volunteers
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IN MEMORY OF LT. ALFRED MCMICKING
51ST INFANTRY DIV., USAFFE
SURVIVOR OF BATAAN DEATH MARCH
EXECUTED WITH HIS FAMILY BY THE
KEMPEI TAI IN 1945

CONSUELO HALL MCHUGH &
FAMILY
FOR MEMORARE MANILA 1945 &
FOR THE VICTIMS OF
THE BATTLE OF MANILA

DONATE



SPEAKERS' BIOS



THE BATTLE OF LEYTE GULF

80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION
FORGING AN ENDURING ALLIANCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 AT 5PM

CRYSTAL BALLROOM

MARINES' MEMORIAL CLUB & HOTEL

609 SUTTER ST.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA



RSVP on Eventbrite



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MESSAGE

Eighty years ago, October 20, 1944, General Douglas MacArthur fulfilled his long-awaited promise of “I Shall Return” to the Filipino people. The landing on the shores of Leyte by Gen. MacArthur’s six divisions has been well documented and ingrained in Philippine history, especially with his famous words, “People of the Philippines, I have returned! By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil – soil consecrated in the blood of our two people.”

This was the beginning of the liberation of the Philippines, a war that ultimately claimed thousands of Filipino and American soldiers and approximately one million civilians.

But the largest naval battle in history was about to begin not far from the great landing of some 200,000 soldiers. The Battle of Leyte Gulf has been obscured through the years by the Battles of Midway, Guadalcanal and Okinawa. This was a series of four battles in the Sibuyan Sea, Surigao Strait, Samar and Cape Engaño which covered 100,000 square miles and took place October 23-26, 1944. It was the last nail in the coffin for the Imperial Japanese Navy. But the outcome could have been much different if not for the sacrifice of the tin-can sailors of the Seventh Fleet’s Taffy 3, comprised of six small escort carriers, three destroyers and four destroyer escorts. They were astounded to confront the Japanese Center Force’s four Japanese battleships, six heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and 11 destroyers. Taffy 3’s David vs. Center Force’s Goliath. The lack of a unified command structure almost resulted in a strategic disaster.

Today, the Philippines’ strategic position in the Pacific is once again being tested but with a different adversary. It is our hope that this symposium can teach us the lessons of the past so that we can prepare for a better outcome tomorrow. During these precarious times we need to keep alive the legacy of those who fought and made the ultimate sacrifice to remind us that the cost of freedom is very steep.

Cecilia Gaerlan	Lewis Loeven
Executive Director	Executive Director
Bataan Legacy Historical Society	San Francisco Fleet Week Association

PROGRAM

- 5:00PM **Welcoming Remarks**
Lewis Loeven
Executive Director, San Francisco Fleet Week Association
- 5:05PM **The Battle of Leyte Gulf**
RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret)
Director, Naval History & Heritage Command
Introduction by RADM Jonathan Yuen, USN (Ret)
47th Chief of Naval Supply
- 5:35PM **USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55)**
CMDR Brian Harrington, USN
Commanding Officer, USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55)
- 5:45PM **Video Message** from The Honorable Jose Manuel Romualdez
Philippine Ambassador to the U.S.
- 5:50PM **Philippines and U.S. Relations**
The Honorable Neil Frank Ferrer
Philippine Consul General in San Francisco
- 6:05PM **Keynote Speaker**, Vice Admiral Toribio Adaci, Jr., PN
Flag Officer-in-Command, Philippine Navy
Representing the Honorable Gilberto Teodoro, Jr.
Philippine Secretary of National Defense
- 6:35PM **Q & A**
Rapporteurs
Prof. (Ret) James Holmes Armstead, Jr., Naval War College,
Surinder Rana, Ph.D., Assoc. Dean, Defense Language
Institute & Prof. (Emeritus) Larry Martinez, California State
University, Long Beach
- 6:55PM **Thank You**
Lewis Loeven, Executive Director, San Francisco Fleet Week
Cecilia Gaerlan, Executive Director, Bataan Legacy Historical
Society
- 7:00PM **Reception**