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70th Anniversary Commemoration of MacArthur's Return to Luzon

January 9th 2015--MacArthur's Memorial Park Lingayen Philippines



70th Anniversary Commemoration of MacArthur's return to Luzon at Lingayen, Province of Pangasinan, Philippines. The event took place at MacArthur's Memorial Park with a Ceremony and Banquet. Honored the memory of Russell Sandlin's grandfather "Oscar Rogez", and Oscar's brother, great uncle "Henry Rogez", who participated in that invasion on January 9th 1945. As part of the ceremony, 70 ship models were officially donated, exhibited on October 20th 2014 at Magellan's Museum, to the MacArthur's Memorial Park. The Governor of Pangasinan received the donation and presented Mr. Sandlin with a letter of acceptance. A copy of the DVD "Victory at Sea, Return to the Philippines" was presented. The video was shown on Big Screen to all attending the Banquet. The story was covered by ABS-CBN Channel 2, GMA 7, as well as the Manila Bulletin and the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspapers.



The 70 Miniature Ship Collection entitled Lingayen Invasion Fleet. The US General and Philippine officials are gathered around the display. The person at left is the Pangasinan Vice-Governor; he told me he came from Olongapo during our conversation. The 4th person from the right in a black shirt and engaged in conversation with the US General is retired Sailor Russell Leon Sandlin. The person to his immediate left is the present Pangasinan Governor (Philippine Daily Inquirer)



MINIATURE US NAVAL FLEET - Officials are awed at the miniature replicas of the WWII warships that made up the US Naval Fleet that landed on the Lingayen Gulf on Jan 9, 1945 donated by retired US Navy Weatherman Russell Sandlin, a Vietnam war veteran who resides in San Marcelino, Zambales, for display at the Veterans Memorial Park in Lingayen. (Jojo Rifaal)

