

ERNESTO C. CARLUM

Heroes are born not only during wars, but in places and circumstances where danger is least expected. Ernesto Carlum became a hero right in his own home.

On the evening of March 27, 1971, the Carlum family was doing chores in their home in Barrio Gulod, Lemery, Batangas when armed men entered their house. Ernesto was asleep. The robbers demanded money and valuable articles. Not one to be easily bullied, Miguel Carlum attempted to fight off the thieves and was shot by one of the armed men. Despite his wound, Miguel tried to grab the firearms of the armed men and shout for help, emboldening his wife and mother-in-law to attack the suspects with iron bars.

Awakened by the commotion, Ernesto joined the fray. Without regard to his safety, the young boy rushed to his family's rescue and stabbed one of the suspects with a five-inch knife. The armed men fled and took with them P5,000 and other valuables worth P1,200.

Ernesto's sense of preparedness prevented what could have led to his father's senseless death and loss of property. Ernesto's heroism and the circumstances which led to his noble deed imparted a strong but alarming message: that anybody could be attacked anytime, even in the safety of one's abode; and that a sense of preparedness, of being "*Laging Handa*," saves lives.

The young Ernesto vowed to go after the suspects and ensure that justice was served on his family, regardless of the price it extolled. Three days later, Ernesto spotted his family's assailants in a hospital in Tanauan. Ernesto later identified them to police as the same men who staged a heist inside their house and nearly killed his father. Authorities lost no time in arresting the suspects. Ernesto's perseverance to pursue and identify his family's attackers showed Ernesto's determination to stop the criminals from sowing terror elsewhere and preying on other hapless victims.

Ernesto's presence of mind showed that he was not only more than good enough for the Scouting movement, but that he was good enough to be considered a leader for the youth. Ernesto transformed into a hero in a flash. From the confines of his bedroom, he jumped to his father's rescue and attacked a man probably twice his size, without even thinking. Apparently, he was led not by the basic instinct of self-preservation, but of the noble desire to serve others, even at the risk of death.

Scout Ernesto of Troop 449, Gulod Barrio School, Lemery, Batangas Council, received the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

PAMBILO LIBRADILLA

Eight bandits raided the house of Felipe Uy of Maasim, Kiamba, demanding precious items and money from the terrorized family.

Guided by an extraordinary sense of preparedness and a strong nose for danger, Pambilo Libradilla noticed something was wrong at the Uy residence. Without reflecting on the danger at hand, he rushed to the victims' rescue.

Pambilo stormed into the house as Uy was being hog-tied by the robbers. Pambilo made rid of one of the assailants, and got hold of another. He quickly freed Uy, who at once got his pistol and fought off the raiders. The incident was marked by tragedy as the robbers killed Uy's father, brother-in-law, and helper

before fleeing. But Uy's life was saved by Pambilo. Had Pambilo stalled in rendering assistance even for a few minutes, Uy could have also died at the hands of his captors.

As in most instances where great peril is involved, the incident was totally unexpected. Yet Pambilo was not the least bit taken by surprise. He was able to deal with the emergency with calm calculation that exemplified a true Scout. Pambilo proved that courage, a burning passion to serve others and selflessness can make a hero out of a boy.

Scout Pambilo of Troop 312, under Scoutmaster Lorenzo Zamorro, Happy Valley Primary Community School, was cited by the Kiamba District Committee.

RODOLFO BENITEZ

At 1:00 p.m. on February 6, 1955, Exaltation Pagal, Li Suan, and Lucio Tagaon were assaulted by two men who then fled in a jeepney. Rodolfo Benitez saw the incident and accompanied the victims to the police station. After this, he went out to search for the assailants and found them on the waterfront three hours later. He then took a police officer to the place and the culprits were apprehended.

Scout Rodolfo of Davao Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1955.

APOLINARIO ACOSTA

On June 7, 1957, Pilar Paras, 16, boarded a jeepney for home. The jeepney driver, seeing that she was the only passenger left, took her to a dark dead-end in Davao City and tried to rape her. The man tried to force the girl to alight from the vehicle and give in to him.

Just then Apolinario Acosta was passing by and heard the girl's cries. He rushed to the scene and shouted at the assailant. The jeepney driver sped away while Acosta brought the panic-stricken girl to the police.

Rover Scout Apolinario of Circle 1 received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

The Unexpected

BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

In the early morning of August 2, 1968, people around Luzon were sound asleep when a strong earthquake hit and frightened the inhabitants out of their wits. Tragically the intensity seven temblor felled the six-storey Ruby Tower, killing, injuring, and trapping dozens in the residential building on Doroteo Jose and Teodora Alonso Streets, near Rizal Avenue, Santa Cruz, a heavily-populated area in Manila.

Some 3,000 Scouts and Scouters trooped to the scene of the disaster in the following days to pitch in with the rescue and rehabilitation of the victims.

During the first days, the Scouters organized manpower for maximum and coordinated operations. The BSP National Office dispatched Scouter Benito Guzon as overall coordinator of the Scouts' work.



The first unit to respond was Rover Circle 6 of Santa Cruz, Binondo District, Manila Council. The Special Brigade and Multi-purpose team helped recover cash and valuables for safekeeping. The BSP Food Distribution Team and Water Bucket Brigade provided the needs of other rescuers at the site. The Health and Sanitation Team helped maintain cleanliness throughout the rescue operations. Scouts also performed odd tasks such as buying food, preparing meals, transporting and donating food, guarding the distribution center for relief goods, disinfecting and dressing cadavers, retrieving lost articles, conducting traffic, giving first aid, and carrying out other missions.

Councils that participated in the rescue operations included Manila, Pasay City, Caloocan City, Rizal, Quezon City, Cavite, Laguna, Cagayan, Baguio-Benguet, and Isabela.

The Makiling National Scout Reservation also sent a 10-man emergency team to the disaster area. Chinese boys in the Boy Scouts of China in the Philippines, under the leadership of Scouter Benito Uy, also worked in the rescue operations and received a Presidential Humanitarian Award from then President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

The BSP national leadership recommended for a single Presidential decoration instead of individual awards for the BSP members. This was received by National Scout Executive Godofredo Neric on behalf of the BSP.

CARLO P. GRAGASIN

On July 16, 1990, Carlo was rushing his way home from school immediately after a massive earthquake devastated Baguio City. Passing by the house of Benjamin Aquino, Carlo heard the latter crying for help for his family who were trapped inside his collapsed house.

Without hesitation, Carlo gathered lumber and with the help of a taxi driver used the jack of the taxi in lifting an opening where they could enter an area where the victims were trapped.

With the help of other passersby, they were able to bring out the trapped family members. Unfortunately, the youngest son was already dead, the wife suffered a broken neck and one boarder suffered a fractured leg. Carlo's concern for others and his Scout training helped prevent more casualties.

Scout Carlo, 16, of Troop 84, St Louis University Laboratory High School, Baguio City Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor**.

ANTONIO TRAJANO

On August 26, 1953, people were gathered in the house of Councilor Jose Salazar of Santo Nino, Bulacan, to take part in a Novena. While the Novena was going on, Salazar remembered that he had to feed the chickens before it got dark. He and his son went down to the coop in the yard which was damp due to rains earlier in the day. Moments later, a strident call from the yard was heard. Everybody in the house rushed to the yard to investigate. To their shock, they saw Salazar and his son standing stiff. The father was holding on to the wire mesh siding of a coop which came in contact with a loose live wire.

Antonio Trajano, who was passing by, responded to the call as onlookers stood helpless and bewildered. Antonio examined the area and saw that the ground was wet with nothing in sight that he could use to bail the victims out of their precarious predicament. The Scout placed a piece of lumber on the ground near the victims and stepped on it to avoid contact with the damp soil. The young Scout then grabbed the older Salazar tightly by the collar and freed the victim with a mighty pull. He also did the same to the son. Some men tried to pick up the unconscious victims and bring them back to the house.

Antonio told them to gently lay down Salazar and his son on the floor. Antonio, with the help of another Scout, succeeded in reviving the victims by artificial resuscitation.

Tenderfoot Scout Antonio of Troop 15 received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

SENADOR R. ORQUIA

Senador Orquia was mainly instrumental in saving the lives of his mother, two brothers, and two sisters from possible death when their house was caught in the crossfire between a detachment of soldiers and a band of dissidents.

The father of Senador was captured by dissidents and were leading him away for liquidation. When soldiers arrived, the captive tried to escape, prompting the dissidents to shoot him. He was wounded and had to remain on the ground where he had fallen and pretended to be dead. Although he cheated death, the task of attending to his family was left to 12-year-old Senador.

At the time when the soldiers and the dissidents were exchanging fire, Senador, with his presence of mind, courage and training, was able to act as a guide and escorted members of his family to safety.

WILFREDO SANTOS

Early in the morning of November 4, 1955, Wilfredo Santos was dressing for school when he saw Vicente Ferazol, 7, sideswiped by a speeding bus and knocked unconscious directly on the path of another oncoming bus. Wilfredo jumped out of the window and snatched the child off the highway.

Scout Wilfredo of Bulacan received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1955.

ANASTACIO GONZALO

In September 1989, Rodolfo Gimeno was on a bus traveling from Manila to Baguio. In Tarlac, two pretty women befriended him and offered him a soda. Gimeno fell unconscious within minutes of taking the drink. At Dagupan Bus Terminal in Baguio, Gimeno noticed his wrist watch missing. Some P800 had also been stolen from his pocket. Anastacio Gonzalo alighted from the bus to buy something when he noticed people milling around Gimeno, who was still feeling dizzy. The bus dispatcher lighted up at the sight of Gonzalo and blurted out, "Here's a Boy Scout who can help."

Gonzalo took the victim's clutch bag and found his diary. He learned the man's name, Prof. Rodolfo Gimeno, of Bayambang University. Gonzalo took Gimeno, who had fallen unconscious, to Baguio General Hospital. Gonzalo also contacted Gimeno's employer and parents. When Gimeno's parents went to Baguio to attend to their son, they offered Gonzalo money to defray the expenses of his taxi, telegram and telephone calls. Gonzalo politely turned down the offer saying that he was a Boy Scout and that he just did his "good turn." A week following his recovery, Gimeno went to Gonzalo's home in Agoo, La Union, to personally thank him.

PAOLO ANGELO B. DANILA

On June 2, 1991, Paolo Angelo Danila and his father Fidel decided to visit their farm. They brought with them their lunch so they could stay longer and have a rest. While they were resting inside their nipa hut after taking lunch, his father saw a snake. Fearing that they would be beaten by the snake, the duo went outside the hut and stayed under the coconut tree. While there, Paolo's father felt chest pains and began to perspire. Thinking that his father was only tired and exhausted, the young Scout wiped his perspiration and let him sit down comfortably. However, Paolo noticed that his father was not feeling better, so he brought him to a nearby nipa hut where young men were resting. There, Paolo let his father lie down, removed his belt and loosened his shirt. Minutes passed but there was no improvement in his father's condition. So his father decided to be brought to the hospital.

Paolo got help from the young men and had them form a six-man carry to bring his father to the main road. There he got a jeepney and brought his father to the Community Hospital. His father lived, thanks to Paolo's knowledge learned from Scouting and timely assistance.

He received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

VIRGILIO VISAGAR

On 8 December 1958, Louis Barbour, a crew member of the *SS Pioneer Minx*, was on shore leave and enjoying himself in the town of Puerto Princesa. He was wandering around town when he chanced upon a group of people lighting up rockets. The men good-naturedly gave Barbour a rocket to light up. The firecracker was already lighted and was starting to sizzle. Before Barbour could let go of the explosive, he suddenly felt dizzy and the rocket exploded in his hand.

People around him scampered to safety while others were injured.

When the smoke had cleared, the people examined Barbour who appeared barely alive. Barbour's left arm was badly burned. A finger was almost severed and was bleeding profusely. The sailor was bleeding

seriously.

Virgilio Visagar lost no time in applying a tourniquet and first aid on Barbour, and rushed him to the hospital. Doctors confirmed that the victim would have died of hemorrhage, blood poisoning, and shock, had it not been for Virgilio's quick work.

Star Scout Virgilio of Troop 29, received a **Letter of Commendation**.

GABRIEL LAROZA

On 13 February 1965, Gabriel Laroza was on his way to Camp John Hay when he saw a boy lying gravely ill on a roadside outside Davao City. Gabriel got off the passenger jeepney to help the boy unmindful of missing his appointment in Davao City. Gabriel helped the boy to his feet, then flagged down the next passing jeepney. At Davao General Hospital, doctors diagnosed the boy to be suffering from acute malaria. The boy later identified himself as Catalino Corda, 14, from Panabo and was looking for a friend in Sasa when he collapsed on the road. Gabriel went out of his way and helped save Catalino's life.

Star Scout Gabriel was a member of Troop 10, Davao Council.

VICENTE VELEZ

Second Class Scout Vicente Velez, 16, of Troop 16, Misamis Oriental-Cagayan de Oro Council, saved a fellow Scout, wounded on the lower right jaw during an overnight camping trip, from bleeding to death.

VICENTE TOSING

In 1948, Scout Vicente Tosing of Troop '10, Pambujon, Samar, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for coming to the aid of a group of women and children and taking them to a place of safety during a typhoon in December 1947.

FEU TROOPS 171 AND 173

Scouts of the Far Eastern University were on the way home from a camping trip in Tagaytay when a speeding Mercury Sedan which overtook their bus flipped over into a rice paddy in Dasmarinas, Cavite. The boys promptly assisted the victims. They administered first aid on the injured passengers and then loaded the casualties on passing buses and jeeps for treatment at San Juan do Dios and Philippine General Hospital. Some of the boys attended to the injured, while the rest maintained traffic along the troubled highway and gathered the victims' scattered valuables which were later turned over to the Constabulary.

Scouts Igmidio Arcilla Jr., Marvin Jose Rolando Guevarra, Vicente Jimenez, Guillermo Lagula, Jr., Eusebio Lumantao, Conrado Polintan, Felino Rabano, and Assistant Scoutmaster Agustin Olmedo of Troops 171 and 172, Far Eastern University, received **special commendation**.

TROOP 27

On the morning of October 11, 1952, Scouts of Troop 27, Kiangang, Ifugao, with Scoutmaster Antonio Balili, were on their way home from a long hike and overnight camp in the mountains. They passed by a shack in a secluded place called Napoklihan, where they stopped for water. The owner of the hut was only too eager to let them come in. Inside the shack, the group found the shack's owner's son sick from the bite of a poisonous snake. The father had been treating the boy without results. The Scouts volunteered to treat the boy with their snake bite kits, but Balili saw that it was too late to administer first aid. The boy's body was already swollen from head to chest. The scouts made a stretcher out of blankets, and transported the victim through sixteen kilometers of rough road and inclement weather to a clinic run by missionaries.

Troop 27 and Scoutmaster Antonio were cited by the National Court of Honor and received many congratulatory letters.

PASAY Scouts

“Two persons burned to death and seven others suffered burns and other injuries when a service jeep and an AC jeepney collided at the intersection of Taft and UN avenues in Ernita at 4:30 p.m. yesterday.

“The fatalities were identified as Amando Cotangco, 30, of Malibay, Pasay City, and Judito de Jesus, 20, of 320 Malibay, Pasay City.

“Injured were Jose Acosta, 32, of 320 Apelo St., Pasay City, driver of the service jeep; Danilo Bigonia, II, Salud Cabillas, 54, of 320 Malibay, Pasay City; Fruto Emano, 25, of 1951 Sampaguita, Pandacan, Basilio Drona, 35, of 236 Zaragosa, Tondo; and Anacleto Barrientos, 30, driver of the AC jeepney.

“Acosta, his shirt on fire, barely escaped death by jumping out of his burning jeepney. Boy Scouts saved his life by rolling him on a grassy spot to snuff out the flames. Then he was taken to the Philippine General Hospital.

“Mrs. Cabillas, a businesswoman from Pasay City, told police investigators their jeepney, with plate No. 12-62, was travelling southward on Taft Ave., when it was hit by the AC jeepney, with plate No. 95-1, travelling eastward on UN ave.

“The service jeep turned on its right side after it was hit. Its gasoline tank exploded and the vehicle caught fire.

“Acosta, the driver, Mrs. Cabillas and Danilo Bigonia were able to get out. Cotangco and De Jesus were trapped inside and burned to death.

“Boy Scouts from Pasay City who were at the corner of Taft and UN avenues rushed to help rescue other passengers of the vehicles. Those who assisted were Benedicto Job, Mesner Dimaano, Danilo Balles, Edgardo Mohado, Wilfredo Piña Redondo, Eduardo Cornejo, Mario Guzman, Virgilio Pablo, Edilberto Ofracio, Lamberto Mayor, and Oscar Nalangan.

“A Manila fire truck arrived later.

“Traffic was snarled for sometime as hundreds of people milled around the scene of the accident.

“It took 20 traffic policemen of Precinct 8 to restore the normal flow of traffic.

“Pats. Fernando Fanio and J. Pangan, both of Precinct 8, investigated the incident.”

~ *The Manila Times*, Aug. 17, 1970, Page 1

BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES

On July 16, 1990, at about 4:30 p.m., a 7.7 earthquake hit Luzon wreaking havoc on the huge island. Particularly hard hit were Baguio City, Cabanatuan City, and Dagupan City. Many buildings were toppled, the biggest of which was the Hyatt Terraces Hotel in Baguio.

In Baguio, the Lepanto Mining Company, Philippine Military Academy, US Forces, and Scouts joined hands in rescue and relief operations. In Nueva Ecija, Clark Air Base personnel, the Department of Education, Subic Bay Naval Base personnel, and Boy Scouts pitched in to help.

True to their motto “Laging Handa,” the Scouts immediately responded to the call to service in affected areas hit by the killer quake.

BSP National President Isidro Cariño publicly commended their performance on radio dzRH a few days later.

Secretary General Carlos Escudero said that in Baguio, Council Scout Executive Gregorio Espiritu, with a sizable number of Scouts, set up tents at Burnham Park for the quake victims. The Baguio Scouts were also among the first to go to Hyatt Terraces Hotel to render service, but were prevailed on by authorities to assist instead at the Disaster Relief Center set up by the government and the Red Cross.

In Cabanatuan City, the Scouts pitched tents inside the hospital compound on July 17 to house the patients brought out from the badly-damaged Christian College of the Philippines where hundreds of students and children were trapped. Another group of Scouts assisted in the disaster relief center set up by the government of Cabanatuan.

Some 66 Scouts from nearby Zaragoza town also arrived in Cabanatuan City to help in the relief work.

Dagupan City which was reported to have sunk as deep as two meters in some places was also served by Scouts of Dagupan City Council, cooperating with the Department of Social Welfare and the Red Cross in the relief center. The Scouts helped in providing information to the TV show “Eye to Eye” during the visit of the TV personalities in Dagupan City on July 15.

The Scouts of Agoo in La Union, responded by rendering service at the relief center of that town while La Union Council itself was involved in the repacking of the relief goods and distribution of the same.

Council Scout Executive Jose Daulayan of Benguet also reported that the Scouts in their areas likewise helped in the distribution of relief goods.

Manila Council Scouts helped in sorting and repacking of relief goods on a 24-hour basis at Channel 13 and distributed also these solicited items direct to the affected areas in Dagupan City.

Council Chairman Roger Limso, with the Emergency Service Corps of Davao City Council, reported that 20 Senior Scouts supported the ABS-CBN program in helping earthquake victims for five days collecting relief items and pledges. They also worked on the packing and transporting of these relief goods to the airport for distribution to affected areas in Luzon.

The BSP National Headquarters contributed relief goods and turned them over to the Council Scout Executives for distribution to victims in their respective areas.

On October 31, 1990, the Boy Scouts of the Philippines presented Certificates of Commendation to eleven Councils for their contributions to relief operations for the rehabilitation of victims of the July 16, 1990 earthquake that devastated Baguio, Cabanatuan and Dagupan. Individual honorees included:

LA UNION

Bernardino Boado

Marcos Boado

Leonard Carino

Ignacio Gacayan

Andres Joey Galera

Lutgarda Galera

Sergio Alfredo Galera

Anastacio Gonzalo

Rodrigo Jacaban

Melvin Lacebal

Alex Milana

Ronald Milana

Christian Rivera

Ildefonso Rivera

Ericson Silva

William Padilla

MANILA

Marlo Adriano

Ruth Alcantara

Teddy Alcantara

Renato Araojo

Francis Balais

Joey Bernardo

Crispin Castro

Amada Castuera
Joan Castuera
Jeoffrey Castuera
Joven Castuera
Rommel Catimbang
Rodrigo Corpuz
Hector Elizares
Jay de la Fuente
Dario Garcia
Cesar Javier
Bernard de Leon
Enrique Lolarga, Jr.
Ernesto Lolarga
Allan Martinez
Joel Mesa
Michael Obligacion
Manuel del Rosario
Aida Serrano
Ian Serrano
Sebastian Trinidad
Judelio Yap
Antonio P. Pascua, Jr.

METRO MANILA WEST

Josefina Bautista
Roman Cruz
Remy Dacanay
Precy Hernandez
Pacifico Ilang-ilang
Lucy Santos

Armando Velasco

NUEVA ECIJA

Florencio Amano

Joselito Concepcion

Jose Cuison

Menandro Escueta

Florentino de Guzman

Ruben Inhenti

Jon-Jon Nerosa

Melecio Ortiz, Jr.

Ricky Ramos

Arnold Reyes

Be Prepared!

THE DAVAO EMERGENCY SERVICE CORPS

In 1959, a group of Scouts known as the "Bagobo Tribe" under Eagle Scout Antonio T. Uy was practicing troop formations in preparation for the 10th World Jamboree when they noticed heavy smoke coming from the Santa Ana districts. The Scouts rushed to the fire scene, and helped put out the blaze and evacuate victims. Later in the afternoon, the troop was entering the fire area when a big building started to collapse. The Scouts were able to run out of the place but five men were trapped and died inside the burning structure.

From this experience, Scouter Uy decided to organize a group of Scouts trained to assist during emergencies and disasters. After the Jamboree, he stayed in Manila and conferred with the BSP National Head about organizing such a group.

Uy started recruiting Scouts and getting them trained in fire fighting, first aid and rescue, traffic assistance, physical fitness, and self defense as well as camping. He also called a meeting to formally organize the Emergency Service Corps. The Corps started with traffic assistance. They cleaned the parks and carried garbage from the streets to the dump.

On the evening of August 31, 1961, a fire broke out in the laboratory of the University of Mindanao (formerly Mindanao College).

The Corps assisted in bringing out the students and laboratory equipment from the school.

During Scouting Week in 1961, a blaze destroyed the Juberz tailoring building along Claveria Street. The

Corps assisted in controlling the fire from spreading to other structures.

The Corps rushed to Reyes Apartment Building when it caught fire on December 10, 1961. The Scouts climbed to the upper floor to bring out the occupants who were mostly students. Their deed was featured in *Boys' World*.

The Emergency Service Corps went to Bolton, Magallanes, and Bangkerohan on Jan. 15, 1962, to bring out stranded residents when floods devastated Davao del Norte and started destroying houses along Davao River. Many residential units including the big ice plant were carried away by the strong river current. Despite heavy rains, the Corps evacuated the victims, even at night. They also brought food to hundreds of stranded families. This service was highly commended by Davao Congressman Ismael Veloso. The Scouts evacuated and rescued more families along Davao River Jan. 28, 1962, as more floods followed.

On the evening of February 28, 1962, a flash flood hit Toril District (18 kilometers away) and the Corps lost no time going to the area to evacuate residents. A person had died, while two children in their nipa hut were dragged by the river current and trapped on a sandbar. Using jeep lights, Corps members plunged into the murky river amid the strong current using a rope to reach the nipa hut and brought the victims to safety. This deed was recognized by the National Court of Honor.

The Corps assisted government agencies during the 1963 Indonesian repatriation operations by sorting persons out and conducting mass feeding.

When floods devastated several municipalities in Davao del Norte with famine reported in many places, the Corps brought relief goods and medicines to the municipalities from February 7 to 12, 1963. The Scouts used an army truck and got supplies from the Davao SWA office. They crossed the river and flooded areas to reach stranded families.

The Corps was requested by the Girl Scouts of the Philippines to assist in their National Encampment in 1963. They met participants at the wharf and airport, and brought them to the GSP Camp in Daliao. They also provided security for the Girl Scouts.

The Rolling Camp was conducted from April 14 to 20, 1963 with hiking from Mati, Davao Oriental to Davao City, 166 kilometers away. On the last night of the hike, they were camped at the school on the corner of the highway turning to the Davao airport. The Corps was providing security and services to the hikers. Late in the evening, a car sped toward the road junction, hit the concrete island and turned turtle. The Corps immediately ran to the government car and brought the drunk passengers to the hospital.

The Corps assisted in fire fighting and evacuation activities when a big fire destroyed the Bangkerohan market on January 10, 1964.

On February 10, 1964, a fire spread over the commercial areas of San Pedro, Anda, Legaspi, Bolton and Magallanes. The Corps evacuated patients in Brokenshire Memorial Hospital. They formed brigades to prevent the fire from spreading. Later in the afternoon, the Corps stopped the blaze on Bolton Street by using water from the tanks on the buildings' rooftops. Uy's house and store along Anda Street were destroyed.

Floods again destroyed houses along the river and the Corps evacuated and gave relief assistance to the families along the Bolton area from February 14 to 15, 1964.

Other activities and services by the Corps included: setting up first aid stations on beaches on Sundays and holidays; assisting in Holy Week and All Saints Day processions; assisting in Operation Quick Count

during elections; participating in parades and other programs; acting as security for movie personalities during shows at the PTA and CYO gymnasium.

From May 1 to 3, 1964, the Corps conducted a hike around Samal Island; the first recorded hiking by a group to the island fronting Davao City.

When a big fire was spreading fast in the Santa Ana district on July 27, 1964, the Corps formed bridges and climbed the roofs of buildings to stop the blaze. They were able to stop the fire at the ABACORP building. Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez who was visiting the fire scene publicly commended the Corps for its "outstanding services." A special plaque of recognition by the Lions Club of Davao was presented by Senate President Ferdinand Marcos at Davao Insular Hotel.

The Corps assisted in the fire that hit the house and commercial building of then Mayor Carmelo Porras on Magallanes and Legaspi Streets on December 24, 1964. Senator Alejandro Almendras congratulated the Corps for its valuable service.

The Corps represented the Davao Council, BSP during the third National BSP jamboree in Capitol Hills in 1965, at the first Region VII Jamborette in Malaybalay, Bukidnon in 1967, the second Region VII Jamborette in Tagum, Davao del Norte in 1968, and in other activities.

The Corps responded to a fire that razed the San Pedro Hospital in 1968 during the holiday seasons, by bringing out the patients and hospital laboratory equipment.

The Corps assisted in Operation Quick Count in 1969 and supported various organizations in this activity.

The Corps represented the Davao Council at the first Mindasul Jamborette in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, 1970. The Corps presented fire fighting and rescue displays during the arena shows.

When typhoon Titang devastated Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, and Davao City, the Corps assisted and evacuated hundreds of residents along the Davao River, Talomo and other endangered places by bringing them to evacuation centers. The Corps brought food and relief goods to city districts and rural municipalities. They borrowed a motorboat and brought food to Malita in Davao del Sur from October 18 to November 1, 1970. They worked closely with the Philippine National Red Cross, SW A Davao, and Operation Tabang of station DXMC.

An upsurge in crime was noted in December 1970 and the Corps was requested to assist in maintaining peace and order. From December 13 to 28, 1970, the Corps supported policemen in arresting snatchers and shoplifters in downtown Davao City. The Corps was publicly commended by Police Chief Col. Mariano Solis.

On February 10, 1971, the Corps was mobilized as floods from week-long rains endangered residents along the Davao River. The Scouts evacuated the victims to designated centers. In Upper Malabog a landslide affected several families. They proceeded to the area in a truck despite heavy rains, stayed the night, and went to the disaster site in the morning, where 13 people got buried.

A violent demonstration erupted in 1972 near the University of Mindanao and along Claveria (now Rector) Street, and the Corps went to the area to assist in controlling the fire caused by molotov bombs and torches thrown by demonstrators. They rendered first aid to injured persons and policemen. On Oyanguren (now Magsaysay) Avenue, they pushed a stranded car with its passengers to safety as shots rang.

Explosions were heard on Tomas Claudio Street when a fire destroyed several stores in the area on March 15, 1973. The Corps assisted in evacuating occupants of a nearby hotel and in putting out the

conflagration.

On September 4, 1973, food poisoning was reported in Toril District and the Corps rushed to the area. Victims falling on the streets were carried to downtown hospitals the whole day and until the following day.

A fire razed commercial stores on Ilustre and San Pedro Streets. The Corps assisted in preventing it from spreading to nearby residential houses. The Scouts also distributed relief goods on February 26 and 27, 1974.

More Stories of Gallantry & Heroism

The following are more recent (2001 to 2011) accounts of exemplary courage, selfless acts, and commendable honesty -- all in keeping with the principles and ideals of Scouting.

RONALD G. DALOGDOG

On the afternoon of January 21, 2001 while having a picnic with other children of their neighbors along the bank of the river Lanoy in Barangay Wakat, Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur, KAB Scout Ronald G. Dalogdog, in complete disregard for his personal safety, immediately jumped into the river to save his sister who was in danger of drowning when she accidentally fell into the water. Unfortunately, Rachel took hold of him so tightly dragging them both to the bottom of the river. The incident was immediately reported by the other children to their parents who rushed to the scene of the accident but it was already too late. Rachel's body was recovered three hours later while that of Ronald's the following day.

On May 27, 2001 KAB Scout Ronald G. Dalogdog of Zamboanga del Sur Council was posthumously awarded the **Silver Medal of Honor** at Cebu Plaza Hotel, Cebu City, Philippines, on the occasion of the 45th Annual National Council Meeting.

ROMEO D. R. JUACHON

It was the morning of March 6, 2001 at 10:52 A.M. when Scouter Juachon, driving a car and cruising along the north expressway bound for Pampanga with his friend when he saw a Tamaraw FX at the south bound lane hit the concrete culverts causing it to lose control and hit a lamp post. He calmly pulled over and run towards the wrecked van and pulled the injured passengers to safety. But three were pinned down by the vehicle.

With the aid of a utility truck, in complete disregard for his own safety Scouter Juachon crawled underneath the wreckage, pulled the remaining passengers and rushed them to the nearest hospital. One passenger died on the spot while the other two died at the hospital, five survived.

For his exemplary courage and in keeping with the principles and ideals of Scouting, Scouter Romeo DR. Juachon, Quezon City Council, was given a **Certificate of Commendation**.

JULIO D. PEG-ED

Scouter Peg-ed together with a fellow Scouter Quero, after attending the special Scouting activities with their boys and were traveling on the way back to the campsite, chanced upon and saved the lives of two passengers injured in a vehicular mishap. He immediately administered first aid to stop the profuse bleeding of the driver and rushed the other victim to the nearest hospital. However, the doctors refused to admit the victim because of inadequate facilities. Scouter Peg-ed again rushed the victim to another hospital while constantly keeping him awake by talking to him and constantly checking the bandage to avoid loss of blood. He personally paid the bill, as the hospital authorities refused admittance without payment. Later, the victim's brother reimbursed him of the payments he advanced.

Scouter Julio D. Peg-ed, Benguet Council, was awarded a **Certificate of Commendation** for his selfless dedication and devotion to the service of others nurtured by his training in Scouting. His good Samaritan gesture exemplifies the qualities of a true Scouter.

FELIPE JOSE B. PERALTA

For his presence of mind and quick response to the call of service for others as nurtured through continuous training in Scouting, Scouter Felipe Jose B. Peralta was presented a **Certificate of Commendation** for having saved the lives of three young boys in two separate drowning incidents.

The first incident happened on May 2, 1998 at 11:00 AM. At a youth camp, two boys drowned in a pool in a resort, and were later found unconscious by the other boys. Scouter Felipe Jose Peralta, the Camp Director, wasted no time to pick up the unconscious victims with the aid of by-standers. They carried the victims to a nearby truck and brought them to the nearest hospital, ten kilometers away from the scene of the accident. While on board the truck, Scouter Peralta administered cardiac pulmonary resuscitation to both victims and were revived along the way.

The second incident happened at the end of a youth camp. Scouter Peralta was gathering materials left behind by campers when another drowning incident took place. Scouter Peralta applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on the victim. After several attempts, normal breathing was restored. The victim was rushed to the nearest clinic where the physician, after examination, declared that the victim is out of danger.

MARCO NORBERTO G. DE VERA

On April 24, 2000, Scout Marco and a friend were playing along the bank of the treacherous Buliasnin River in Boac, Marinduque. Two other boys, brothers Kevin and Nestor Saribong, Jr., unaware of the rising depth due to high tide, continued frolicking in the river. Later Scout De Vera heard cries for help. He quickly instructed his friend to find him a floater.

Responding to the call of duty and without thought for his personal safety, Marco swam to Kevin and left him temporarily on a floating log. He immediately proceeded to Nestor who was already very weak and fast sinking. Marco grabbed him by the breast and swam toward the shore. Marco managed to bring

Nestor back to shore with the help of Mang Benito who arrived with an inflated rubber tube.

Meanwhile, Kevin was still hanging on the floating log. Although already exhausted Marco swam back to Kevin and retrieved him. He then applied first aid to both victims.

For exceptional courage and gallantry coupled with quick thinking Scout Marco Norberto G. De Vera of Marinduque Council was awarded the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 2001.

RANDY C. MORI and MINORU EFREN S. ESTRADA

With his exemplary courage in the service of others as inspired by the principles of Scouting, Scout Randy C. Mori proved once again that a Scout would always be a Scout, ready to serve.

On December 29, 2002, the Eastern Mindanao Regional Junior Leaders Camp was held at Camp Bulatukan, Sitio Cevoleg, Barangay Lamutan, Gingoog City. At around 11:40 a.m., during a Mountaineering activity, a drowning incident happened at Mt. Claveria.

Although he does not know how to swim and believing that the water level was low, Scout Jonathan Macaday of Halilangan National High School, Bukidnon was persuaded by his co-Scouts to dive in the lagoon. The lagoon is approximately 15 meters wide and more or less 10 meters deep.

Scout Randy C. Mori, together with Scout Minoru Efren, rescued the victim, who was already recovered half-conscious. First aid was administered by the rescuers. The victim soon recovered.

On May 17, 2003, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was each presented to Scouts Randy C. Mori and Minoru Efren S. Estrada of Agusan del Sur Council.

LYMUEL D. LEDA

This is an account of the incident that happened while the Scouts of St. Mary's Academy of Capiz had a hike on September 14, 2002 at the mountain of Manay, Ivisan, Capiz.

Around 10:00 in the morning, a group of Scouts went down the hill immediately going to the waterfall but heavy rain overtook them. Scout Lymuel D. Leda sat down at the bank of the waterfall while Ken John Hoshida sat down on a rock which is at the center of the water. All of a sudden, Scout Ken John was carried by a strong current downstream. Grabbing Ken John from the middle of the flowing water, Scout Lymuel swam towards a root that protrudes from a rock and hold on to it for approximately 15 minutes. He was advised by a classmate named Mark Montaña to move upwards because every minute, the water level rises. Some natives arrived and helped them out of danger.

For his selfless dedication in keeping with the high ideals and traditions of Scouting and the oath, "To serve other people at all times," Scout Lymuel D. Leda, Capiz Council, was presented the **Bronze Medal of Honor** on May 17, 2003.

JOLLY A. CABANGON, ERWIN S. ESTO, TEODORO S. URQUIOLA, and MEDSIL C. CARRILLO

An incident happened during a Provincial Jamborette on December 6, 2001 at 9:45 a.m. in the vicinity of Jawili Beach, Tangalan, Aklan.

While everybody was busy preparing for a break camp, a commotion in the beach occurred.

~o0o~

Field Scout Executive Jolly A. Cabangon noticed that a boy, John Brencel P. Magdaluyo, was drifting away because of the strong current. Several rescuers attempted to save him but they themselves failed to return back to the shore due to the strong waves.

Immediately, Scouter Cabangon rushed to the Administration building and requested the assistance of the SEALS and KABALIKAT CIVICOM volunteers. They then secured a boat with life jackets inside, paddled towards the drowning victim and his rescuers, and brought them all back to the shore safely despite the strong current.

~o0o~

Scouter Erwin Esto heard a voice shouting for help in the beach. Scouter Esto immediately swam towards the victim and held him with a container gallon as his floating device. Their long stay in the sea and continuous swipes of violent waves weakened his body, however. Fortunately, a person manning a *banca* tossed two life-jackets at them. The rescuer placed the victim safely in the *banca* while Scouter Esto was advised to stay in the water to avoid overturning the small craft with his body weight if he clambered aboard. They made it slowly to the shore with Scouter Esto holding on to the rear of the boat.

~o0o~

Scouter Teodoro S. Urquiola saw some Scouts running towards the beach shouting for help. Sensing that something terribly wrong was happening, he left his things and went to the beach. There, he saw several persons trying to save a drowning boy. Noticing that one of the rescuers Mr. Jerome Roba, a member of the SEALS and KABALIKAT CIVICOM, was already too tired and could hardly swim anymore, he swam towards the group and helped the foundering rescuer who was nearly collapsed by then. He held Mr. Roba's shirt and towed him to shore. It was very hard for him to swim because the Mr. Roba is huge and could hardly swim, but they eventually made it ashore safely."

~o0o~

Upon hearing the commotion in the beach, Scouter Medsil Carrillo immediately ran to the shore, shouted for help, asked for a rope from his Scouts and instructed them to secure a *banca*. He put on his life jacket, tied a rope to his waist, and waded into the water. While he was halfway, the *banca* arrived manned by FSE Jolly Cabangon who is accompanied by a member of the SEALS rescue team. When they were close to a victim, Scout John Brencel P. Magdaluyo, he saw another rescuer, Ted Urquiola, who was in the water holding another victim in the back. The two were being pounded successively by strong waves separating them, and the victim was left floating alone. Scouter Carrillo decided to swim underwater, reached for the victim, and helped him get aboard the *banca*.

He saw another person heading towards them, exhausted and half-drowned, floating on his back and calling for help. He swam towards the person drowning, pulled the collar of his shirt, and tapped on him lightly for him to regain his consciousness. He then let the person hold in the outrigger of the *banca*. FSE Cabangon started turning the *banca* towards shore, while Scouter Medsil was tying a rope to the outrigger.

When the boat was near the shore, people at the beach started tugging on the rope, pulling Scouter Medsil underwater. He was nearly drowned by their action but survived.

~o0o~

Field Scout Executive Jolly A. Cabangon, Scouter Erwin S. Esto, Scouter Teodoro S. Urquiola, and Scouter Medsil C. Carrillo, all of Aklan Council, were each presented the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in May 2003.

MELCHOR Y. MASNAYON

It was midnight of February 23, 2003 when Mr. Masnayon, a watchman/utility-man, was performing his daily rounds within the premises of BSP Batangas Council Headquarters, found a brown leather wallet containing cash amounting to Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (PhP 14,600.00).

Mr. Masnayon immediately informed the acting Field Scout Executive, Marlon G. Antonio, who advised him to relay the matter to the Scout Executive, Thelma R. Panganiban.

Through a business card found with the cash in the wallet, it was found out that the owner was a certain Mr. Peter Go, Operations Manager of Citimart Department Store and Supermarket in Batangas City.

They contacted Mr. Go through the number indicated in the card but could not reach him because the number was always unattended. They then solicited the assistance of *Radio Balisong* to reach The following day Mr. Go through radio broadcast. Mr. Go claimed the wallet with the exact amount of money.

Mr. Go rewarded Mr. Masnayon a thousand pesos for his honesty. Moreover, during the induction of the local executive board, Mr. Masnayon was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his commendable deed.

Melchor Y. Masnayon of Batangas Council was presented the **Honesty Award** on May 26, 2004, at the Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City, on the occasion of the 48th Annual National Council Meeting.

RODMAN P. ANGGABAN

On the morning of July 25, 2004, Donas Dagoh, Vester Tucdaan, Rodman Anggaban, Jake Licyayo, and Asher Dagoh were playing in a pond near the former CECAP Building in Hiwang Gohang, Banaue, Ifugao. Attracted by a glittering object on the ground, Donas picked it up but got electrocuted and was rendered unconscious. Their playmate, Vester, attempted to help him but was hit by the electric current himself. Vester then ran to Rodman for help.

With his Scout training, Rodman rescued Donas with a dry tree root and saved his life.

Scout Rodman P. Anggaban of Ifugao Council was presented the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

DEONICK C. AROTCHA

On January 30, 2005, at around 2:28 pm, Mario Tapel together with Joseph Cabangon, Kevin Bueno, and Micoy Disquetado, all residents of Pandacan, Manila, had been swimming in the Pasig River when Deonick Arotcha arrived together with Jeffrey Colibao and Binok, also residents of the same place.

Mario heard Deonick informing Jeffrey that they will swim, but the latter refused and advised him not to

swim. However, Deonick disregarded it and went to swim. Jeffrey and Binok later joined in. At this juncture, they heard and saw Micoy and Kevin asking for help because they were being carried away by the current. This prompted Deonick to attempt to rescue the duo, but failed due to the strong current.

Seeing what was happening, Mario and friends sought the assistance of Chairman Domingo Seposo of Brgy. 836, Zone 91, District 6, Pandacan, Manila and a certain Ellis who immediately responded to the scene. Ellis retrieved Deonick and brought him to Medical Center Manila where he expired as pronounced by the attending physician, Dr. Andely Mendiola.

Scout Deonick C. Arotcha of Manila Council was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor** on May 27, 2005 at the Manila Pavillion Hotel, United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Manila, Philippines, on the occasion of the 49th Annual National Council Meeting.

FLOR VINCENT V. TAOC, CHRISTIAN N. HINGPIT, and JASON D. YANGZON

“The courage to face the trials and to bring a whole new body of possibilities into the field of interpreted experience for other people to experience - that is the hero’s deed.”

On January 30, 2008 at around 8:30 in the morning, seven (7) Boy Scouts from Danao Scouting District, Cebu Council went to a small man-made pond within the Jamboree site at Forest Park, Maasin City.

Several scouts boarded a raft and then went floating in middle of the pond. Overloaded, the raft soon tipped off to one side, forcing some Scouts to jump into the water.

One of the Scouts who jumped was struggling for his life. Seeing that the small Boy Scout was in danger, Scout Flor Vincent V. Taoc dived and swam to rescue the drowning boy, who was later identified as Khent Durano of Danao City.

Before the accident, Scout Venn Lois Armenteras and Scout Christian Dave Caputulan, both 12 years old and pupils of Guinsay Elementary School, Danao City boarded the raft already filled with other Scouts. When the raft tipped off to one side, Venn Lois and Christian Dave fell overboard. Venn Lois, the bigger boy, was holding on and clinging to Christian Dave, a smaller boy, pushing the latter down in the deep and muddy pond. The two were struggling to come out of the surface when Scouts Christian Hingpit and Jason Yangzon saw them. Christian and Jason immediately jumped and pulled out Venn Lois who was still pushing down Christian Dave. Christian lifted Venn Lois to the surface while Jason brought the other boy to the bank of the pond.

For their heroic act the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was each presented to Scouts Flor Vincent V. Taoc, Christian N. Hingpit, and Jason D. Yangzon, all of Negros Oriental-Siquijor Council on May 22, 2008 at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City, Cavite on the occasion of the 52nd Annual National Council Meeting.

MARK VINCENT D. BERNAS

On the evening of May 26, 2008, while Eagle Scout Mark Vincent D. Bernas was inside his bedroom together with his visiting friend, Marino Bendicio, at the ground floor of their house, they suddenly overheard disturbing noises emanating from their adjacent kitchen, then horrifying cries and shrieks broke out.

Instinctively, as a Senior Scout, he went out to check what was happening. He was stunned when he saw his mother down on the doorstep of their kitchen injured and groggy, with a train of blood droplets from the dining room to the kitchen portion of the house.

Mark Vincent rushed to the kitchen and he saw Jorene Ramos, their former houseboy, about to give a deadly strike using a 2x2 piece of wood on his sister. In shock and down on the floor, his sister had both her hands crossed and covering her face, helplessly waiting for the blow to land. His father, on the other, was also down and unconscious with knees to the floor and head on the folding bed at the place where Jorene was supposed to be sleeping during that night.

Instinctively, he rushed into Jorene and grappled with him for the possession of the 2x2 piece of wood. During their scuffles, he managed to shout at his sister to run outside and seek assistance. Mark Vincent strongly wrestled with Jorene until the former was able to disarm the latter.

Responding folks came and mobbed Jorene Ramos and consequently subdued him.

In May 2009, Eagle Scout Mark Vincent D. Bernas of Capiz Council was awarded the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for his courage and for exemplary heroism in the noblest tradition of Scouting.

CLIFF IAN SALCEDO, ARVIN VIOS, MARK RYAN B. OBSIOMA, and GIOVANNIE CAGURIN

December 16, 2011 ~ an unforgettable tragedy befell Cagayan de Oro City. Typhoon Sendong, considered worst to hit the city in decades, washed away much of the city resulting to the death of thousands of Cagayanans.

It was 11:00 in the morning when the acting Adviser Leader Arnold Somoza called the Corps Commander of the Emergency Service Corps under the supervision of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines-Cagayan de Oro City Council, to raise an alert status level to all the members of the Corps. Around 10:00 pm on that faithful night when the Cagayan de Oro river started to rise after continuous heavy rains and strong winds.

At about 1:00 am on December 17, the Corps Commander received a call for rescue from one of the unit leaders who, together with other people, was trapped on top of his house's roof. A Rescue Operation was immediately launched on the mostly affected areas of Balulang, Carmen, and Macanhan. Using an improvised lifeboat, some floating devices, and a rope the rescuers composed of five Scouts and Leader proceeded for a search and rescue.

Eagle Scout Cliff Ian Salcedo, assisted by Scout Arvin Vios, was able to successfully conduct the EVAC. Operation and able to perform Search and Rescue which saved the individuals who requested to be rescued while trapped on the roof of their house.

As a trained rescue volunteer, Scout Mark Ryan B. Obsioma, was able to give proper direction to the victims for them to be free from rapid flow of water and reach the safer ground where rescue vehicles could safely pick them up and bring to the evacuation center. He was also able to rescue an older person who suffered from stroke from being trapped inside his house. Mark Ryan destroyed the front door of the old man's house and brought the latter to a safer ground.

Scout Leader Giovanni Cagurin applied first aid on flash flood victims who had wounds. He also assisted the young children and elderly persons to safer ground.

Eagle Scout Cliff Ian Salcedo of Cagayan de Oro City Council was conferred the **Silver Medal of Honor** May 16, 2012.

The **Bronze Medal of Honor** was presented to Scout Mark Ryan B. Obsioma, also of Cagayan de Oro City Council.

Scout Arvin Vios and Scout Leader Giovanni Cagurin, likewise of Cagayan de Oro City Council were each presented a **Certificate of Commendation**.

JOHN WALTER ESPERIDA

On February 24, 2008 at about 10:00 o'clock in the morning, John, Racy, and Johanna were swimming in the river of Barangay Ariman, Gubat, Sorsogon, when a sudden flash flood occurred. Caught unaware, they were carried away by the strong current. Racy and John immediately got off the water while Johanna was left behind. When John found out that Johanna was still in the water he wasted no time and jumped back to save Johanna. Due to the very strong current, John became too tired and was not able to return to the riverbank.

For his exemplary courage in the service of others as inspired by the principles of Scouting, Scout John Walter Esperida of Sorsogon Council proved once again that a "Scout is always a Scout, ready to serve." He was posthumously awarded the **Gold Medal of Honor** on May 22, 2008.

MUHAMMAD ADEL E. ROA

"At around 10:00 pm, a strong wind uprooted a 10-year old Mahogany tree along Gardenia's access road. When we went out to check, we noticed that water was already ankle deep. A brown out followed.

"At 12:30 am, a commotion – hardly audible persistent shouts of help and panic – awoke my mother. Going to check on it, she discovered water at her feet. Flood is imminent due to the intermittent rain! Mom suddenly remembered my sister. I responded and grabbed my ready flashlight as it was so dark and ran toward the ante room door so I could check on my ate Dee Ann's condition

"I heard someone shout, 'Get out, water is rising!' I had to peep through the high window to see what it was all about.

"Murky water begun spilling into the master's bedroom. Sensing danger I was determined to reach my sister's bedroom. But the door was jammed. With all my might I could not open the door. I went back inside Mom's room. The murky water was already waist high. Bang! Something exploded and more water rushed into the room.

"Finally together, my mother, sister and myself, holding one another, were helpless inside the master's bedroom as the dirty water was rising fast! We had to move speedily to get out of the room before the water traps and drowns us all. Searching for the door, I led, ducking floating objects, to find a safer way to bring my mother and sister to safe ground. We went underwater and successfully made it to the other side.

"We thought we were in the cradle of safety already, only to find out that our problem had simply multiplied. The turbulent dark water would obviously sweep us out into the CDO river and out to sea or be hit by floating logs or debris.

“Miraculously, a bamboo raft, which is actually just a native decoration, floated by. My mom, my sister, and myself immediately grabbed it for dear life. We were saved once again!

“Around 12:45 am. I saw people on a roof deck. I shouted for help and waved my flashlight to get their attention. Luckily a group of Nursing Reviewers saw us and scrambled to find a way to rescue the three of us. We spent the night shivering on the roof deck until the rain stopped and the muddy water subsided.”

Scout Muhammad Adel E. Roa

Cagayan De Oro Council

The **Gold Medal of Honor** was presented on May 16, 2012 to Scout Muhammad Adel E. Roa of Cagayan de Oro City Council for displaying bravery and extraordinary presence of mind that led his family to safety during a major disaster that claimed thousands of lives.

DEO NIEL B. MALLA, PAUL GILBERT V. MAGLAYA, and ZED A. FUENTES

It was 5:00 in the morning of December 18, 2002, when Mrs. Azucena Baloloy, a grade six teacher of Cembo Elementary School, Makati City discovered that her septuagenarian mother was missing.

Upon hearing the news during a Christmas Party held the following day, Scouts Deo Niel, Zed, and Paul Gilbert immediately decided to skip the party and instead volunteered their services to search for Mrs. Baloloy's missing mother. The three Scouts then asked for the missing person's picture, had it enlarged at their own expense, and posted copies everywhere with a note “Wanted: Lost Lady.”

During the search, Deo Niel asked Mrs. Baloloy to take a rest as he noticed that she is already tired, giving her assurance that they would continue the search and would not stop until they find her missing mother. After several hours, Deo Niel together with the two Scouts came back with Mrs. Baloloy's missing mother, who looked pale, tired, and dirty.

Though exhausted from the long search, the Scouts presented the missing mother to Mrs. Azucena with a cheerful, “Merry Christmas, Ma'am!”

With their exemplary sense of duty and selfless service to others as inspired by the principles of Scouting, Scouts Deo Niel B. Malla, Paul Gilbert V. Maglaya, and Zed A. Fuentes proved once again that a Scout is always a Scout, ready to serve.

The three great Boy Scouts of Cembo each received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

JACK E. CASTANO, III, KEITH JUSTINE A. VALIENTES, GIOVANNI PAJUDPUD, JOHN HAROLD AGITO, and BENEDICT JOHN H. ACEBES

On November 29, 2010 the Beechcraft aircraft, RPC 1111, owned and operated by *Air Guzzi* was cruising an altitude of 5,000 feet while approaching Tuguegarao Airport, Cagayan. On board were 11 passengers, among whom were five (5) Scouts of the Batanes Council, namely Council Scout Executive Jack E. Castano III, Scouts Benedict John H. Acebes, John Harold Agito, Keith Justine A. Valientes and Senior Scout Giovanni Pajudpud. They were on their way to attend the 4th IR/NELR Jamboree in Daclapan Namruangan, Cabugao, Ilocos Sur on December 1-5, 2010.

As the plane approaches Tuguegarao City, one of the pilots suddenly uttered: “May Day ! May Day!” Castano instinctively instructed the two Scouts at the rear end to take their seats and fasten their seat belts. Turning to all other passengers, he repeated his instruction to brace for a rough landing. It was then that the plane was fast losing altitude and in great danger of crashing. Upon landing at the banks of the Cagayan River and the plane’s door was opened, Jack E. Castano, III commanded everybody to get out and to not panic. He assisted everyone to the door where Capt. Dela Cruz reached for them. He likewise instructed everybody to hold on to the sides of the now partially sunken plane. Outside, Castano asked the older male passengers to assist first the boy Scouts to climb to the flaps. There, they reached two minors and their companion, Mae Jane Agcaolli, and others, as well as their personal belongings. Castano gave instructions to everyone on the flaps not to make unnecessary movements as this might tilt the plane causing everyone to slide to the water. He then distributed the weight of the plane by directing his Scouts to move one after the other to the starboard (right) side. From there, Castano and Pajudpud reached for the baggages from Capt. Dela Cruz, Elep, and Hontomin which they laid on the plane’s roof and which he told the three Scouts to hold in place to avoid them from falling down. His presence of mind together with the five Scouts and their willingness to help the other passengers in maintaining the plane’s balance and to take hold of the baggages retrieved from the plane, prevented a major disaster

In May 2011, Council Scout Executive Jack E. Castano III, Scout Keith Justine A. Valientes, Senior Scout Giovanni Pajudpud ,Scout John Harold Agito, and Scout Benedict John H. Acebes, all of Batanes Council, were each presented a **Certificate of Commendation** for their act of courage and for living up to the ideals of serving others at all times.

HARRIED H. ESCALONA, JR.

It was on the morning of January 3, 2005 when they traveled from Los Baños, Laguna to the Negros Navigation Port. They arrived at the port around 11:00 AM. At 6:00 PM. the vessel left. Scout Harried Escalona, Jr. together with some friends roamed around.

They joined their group of Eagle Scouts -- sharing stories, laughing, and playing games.

It was about 9:30 PM when Harried asked permission to go back to his bunk. As he was leaving the economy-dining saloon, he saw folded money. He thought it was only play/fake money. He got curious and picked it up only to find out that it was real. It was folded in quarters with four one-thousand-peso bills. Harried immediately informed the vessel's front office (Information). After the announcement, the owner claimed the money with the exact amount.

Negros Navigation Company Inc. awarded Scout Harried H. Escalona, Jr. a **Certificate of Recognition** for his commendable deed.

On May 25, 2006, at the Grand Men Seng Hotel in Davao City, on the occasion of the 50th Annual National Council Meeting, Scout Harried H. Escalona, Jr. of Negros Occidental Council was presented the **Honesty Award** for trustworthiness and exemplary conduct.

SCOUT HOBARD JONN KENNIE J. LIM

It was on the afternoon of November 21, 2006 when Scout Hobard Jonn Kennie J. Lim, student of Chiang Kai Shek College was attending his class where he found an unidentified wallet containing cash in the amount of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 7,500.00)

Hobard Jonn Kennie immediately informed the administration office and turned over the said wallet. The

owner, Jerald Christopher Ngo, claimed the wallet with the exact amount of money, the following day. Jerald Christopher was very thankful Hobard Jonn Kennie for his commendable deed.

Scout Hobard Jonn Kennie J. Lim, Manila Council, was presented the **Honesty Award** in May 2007.

Breaking their promise: The Jamboree tragedy of '63



Rain was coming down hard, and most of the boys had preferred to stay in the comfort of their rooms, when Chito sat down to write on a postcard. He did not know that it was to be his last message:

Dearest Pa, Ma, Brothers, Sister and Everybody

We arrived in Bangkok at 10:25 PM (Manila time) safe and in good condition. We departed Hong Kong at 8:45 p.m. (Manila time). I already sent to Pati a postcard. Please pray for me. Thank you.

Love, kisses and prayers,

Chito

From Bangkok, Chito and his fellows boarded a flight bound for Bombay, India. It was their last flight on earth.

Men, fishing on the sea off the town of Madh, heard the loud explosion. Morning arrived only to bring the start of search operations.

"They are so young to die."

Throughout the country, news of the disaster spread like wild fire. Shock reigned among relatives, friends, and the entire organization. Everybody hoped and prayed - but in vain. Misfortune carried the day. Everywhere, newspapers confirmed the great tragedy.

"He is not dead," one mother wailed, "he promised to return. He cannot be dead."

The Scout broke his promise: he did not return alive!

At the BSP National Headquarters, a prayer vigil was held as calls, telegrams, and cable messages in a massive display of sympathy poured in.

Luminaries of many countries on earth, such as the head of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Paul VI, the President of the Republic of India, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the President of Indonesia, Sukarno, offered their condolences.

Expressing the bereavement of an entire nation, President Diosdado Macapagal said:

The Boy Scouts died in the line of duty. Their noble death shall inspire the youth and the nation.

Amidst the sadness and suffering, the Filipinos determined to fulfill their duty to participate in the historical gathering in Europe.

On the third of August 1963, Scouts Nicasio Fernandez, Guillermo Flores, and Louis Santiago left Manila as a token delegation to the Greek Jamboree. The following day, the frigate *Kripan* of the Indian Navy steamed to the site of the crash in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Madh. Indian Consul General to the Philippines K. M. Modi and Commander J. D. Cooper of the Indian Navy laid a giant wreath on the waters to honor the dead.

In Europe, in the historic plains of Marathon, at the very site of the great international event, the Chief Scout of Greece, Crown Prince Constantinos, formally opened the Eleventh World Scout Jamboree amidst the 14,000 delegates from 85 nations of the world - minus the 24 heroes from the little country in the far corner of Southeast Asia.

The Flag of the Republic of the Philippines stood at half-staff at the Sub-Camp called Antiochis, where the Filipino boys would have stayed had they made it alive to the great gathering. Fifty-mile winds struck at Marathon, knocking tents down, spraying sand and dust everywhere, sweeping and destroying many fixtures. Nature herself was crying and sending a somber atmosphere in sympathy at the ill-fate which befell the noble Scouts of the Philippine contingent.

While the Scouts of the world - minus their Filipino brothers - came together in the ancient country of Greece, Masses and necrological services were being offered in the Philippines. At the Rizal Memorial Stadium, Fernando E. V. Sison, President of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, spoke to the parents and kin of the 24 Scouts and Scouters:

My friends, it is not given to man to bring the dead back to life. But perhaps it would be wrong or amiss for me to say here that in more than just a symbolic way, these Scouters and Scouts are not dead. They live, and shall continue to live in our midst. Their spirit of honor, of loyalty to God and country, their allegiance to the Scout Law of helping people at all times, this spirit of honor did not perish in the Arabian Sea; this spirit of honor came back to us with these mortal remains. And this spirit has entered into thousands of young hearts who look forward to their Scouting days tomorrow. And it has even come back to us who are no longer young, but who can still remember how real and sacred the sense of honor and loyalty was in our own Scouting days of yesterday.

A grieving Antonio C. Delgado, father of Scout Jose Antonio Delgado, responded on behalf of the parents and relatives of the fallen Scouts and Scouters:

For this is the other side of the coin of grief. The glory. The honor. The triumph. In the forefront of these boys' minds were always held as shining goals the noble ideals of the Scout Oath: 'honor... duty... God... country.' These boys kept their honor; and they kept the faith; and they gave their all for their country... and I am sure they kept themselves in the friendship of God.

A time to grieve

After the tragedy, the parents and relatives of the departed continued to meet and exchange stories of their young boys. Their meetings led to the formation of the 11th World Jamboree Memorial Foundation. Memorial and markers were put up. The Ala-Ala Mausoleum was erected at Manila's North Cemetery. Streets in Quezon City were renamed in honor of the Scouts. The fallen Scouts and Scouters were each conferred a special **Gold Medal of Honor**.

Two years later, in 1965, the Maharashtra State Association of the Bharat Scouts and Guides set up a memorial tablet in honor of the twenty-four. In July 4, the tablet was unveiled by Srimati Lakshmi Mazumdar, National Commissioner of the Bharat Scouts and Guides.

The tablet read:

In memory of the twenty-four Boy Scouts & Scouters of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines who perished in an airplane crash over the turbulent waters of the Arabian Sea near Bombay before dawn of Sunday, July 28th 1963 on their way to the 11th Boy Scouts World Jamboree in Marathon, Greece.

Many years later, in 1988, Her Excellency President Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, declared the 28th of July of every year as Scout Memorial Day.

Today, years after that Black Sunday, the 24 Scouts and Scouters are not just streets, monuments or markers but are still symbols of Scouts who live by their promise to fulfill their duties. They remain as shining example of young people embedded with the values and virtues worth emulating by all. Let us relive their fond memories.

They may have never sang the Jamboree song for the world to hear, but they are now singing with the Great Scoutmaster because they have never died. Scouts never die... they just hike to heaven.

Contingent to the 11th World Jamboree



Scouter **Bonifacio Vitan Lazcano, M.D.**

Reverend Father **Jose Agcaoili Martinez, Jr., S.J.**

Scouter **Librado L. S. Fernandez**

Scouter **Florante Lirio Ojeda**

Air Scout Observer **Ramon Valdes "Chito" Albano**

Senior Scout Pathfinder **Patricio Dulay Bayoran, Jr.**

Air Scout Observer **Gabriel Nicolas Borromeo**

First Class Scout **Roberto Corpus Castor**

Senior Scout Pathfinder **Henry Cabrera Chuatoco**

Life Scout **Jose Antonio Chuidian Delgado**

First Class Scout **Felix Palma Fuentesbella, Jr.**

First Class Scout **Pedro Hermano Gandia**
First Class Scout **Victor Oteyza de Guia, Jr.**
First Class Scout **Antonio Mariano Limbaga**
Rover Scout **Roberto del Prado Lozano**
Senior Scout Pathfinder **Paulo Cabrera Madriñan**
First Class Scout **Jose Fermin G. Magbanua**
Star Scout **Romeo Rafael Rallos**
Senior Scout Pathfinder **Filamer Santos Reyes**
Star Scout **Wilfredo Mendoza Santiago**
First Class Scout **Benecio Suarez Tobias**
Eagle Scout **Antonio Rios Torillo**
Star Scout **Ascario Ampil Tuason, Jr.**
First Class Scout **Rogelio Celis Ybardolaza**

Scouters and Former Scouts

VALERIANO I. ABELLO

On October 2-, 1944, US warships begun firing at the shore of Telegrafo, Tolosa, Leyte, in preparation for invasion. The town of Telegrafo had hundreds of residents but was not actually occupied by the Japanese. On the beach Valeriano Abello started signaling to the US forces using makeshift flags.

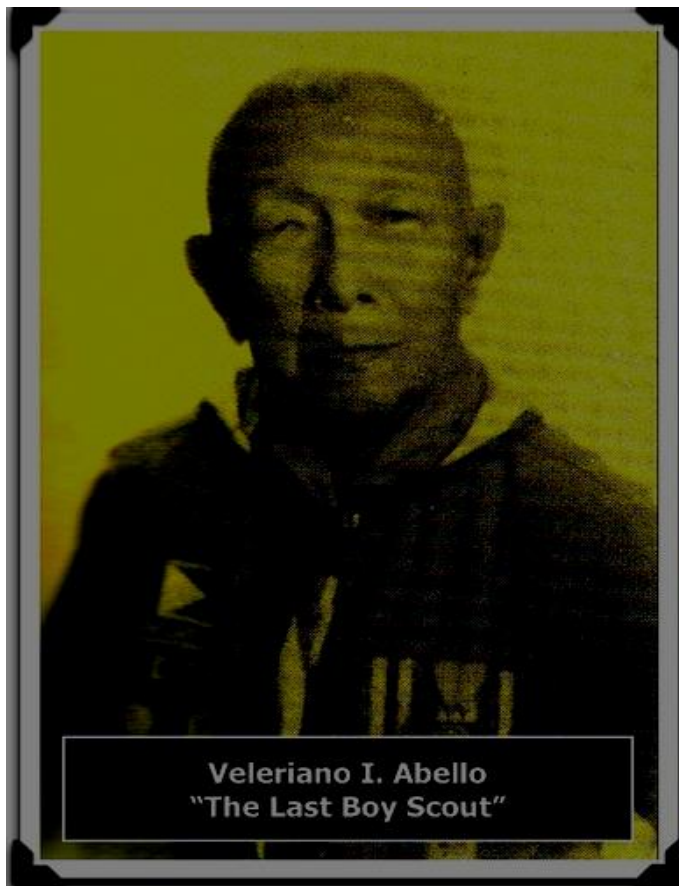


Warship 467 responded: “Who are you? Identify.”

Abello answered back: “Boy Scouts of America.”

He was then directed to come aboard. With two others - Antero Junio and Vicente Teston - Abello got a *banca* and paddled toward the ship. They were spotted by enemy forces at midway and were shelled at. Aboard ship, Abello pointed out enemy positions to aim at and inhabited locations to avoid. Abello's action made good copy for the correspondents on board.

On May 6, 1946, Valeriano Abello, 31, received the Gold Medal of Honor at the National Council of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines at Manila Hotel. Since the war, Abello's exploits has been one of the most recounted of Scouting stories. Over the decades, it has been retold in the BSP handbook, *Scouting for Filipino Boys*, the *BSP Diamond Jubilee Yearbook*, and several newspapers.



As a Scout, Abello had been a member of Troop 11, Leyte Council. After the war he continued serving the Movement with the BSP Leyte Council, and received the Bronze and Silver Thanks Badges in 1958 and 1969, respectively. In July 2000, Abello died. Attended by residents of Tolosa, local government officials, local Boy and Girl Scouts, he was buried in Diit Cemetery, Tacloban City, after his family failed to obtain proper permission to have his remains interred at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

EMILIO P. ADVINCULA

Emil, as he is fondly called by his friends and fellow cab drivers, hails from Pio Duran, Albay, a remote and quiet fishing town in the Bicol region. As a kid, Emil used to sell native “*kakanin*,” “*pinangat*” and “*suman*” made by his mother. He also served as a helper in a slaughterhouse in his hometown. He took his elementary education at Pio Duran West Central School. At 12, he ran away from home and tried his luck in Manila. He took odd jobs. He learned to drive and became a cabbie.

Advincula lived a normal life -- with his wife, Gracita Trinidad, and three sons, Ian Joseph, 6, Jayson, 3, and John Carlo, 1 -- until one day when a simple good turn he did to a passenger changed everything.

On January 25, 1996, at around 10:30 a.m., Advincula drove to Manila Domestic Airport to find passengers. One Cornelia Escalona, an elderly '*balikbayan*' from San Francisco, California, boarded his taxi cab and asked to be taken to the nearby Duty Free Shop. When they arrived, he reminded his passenger to check her things before getting off lest she might leave something behind. The woman, however, quickly left without even getting the change for P100-bill she paid him.

From the shopping center, Advincula proceeded to the Philippine Village Hotel where he chanced upon another passenger. But, to his surprise, when he opened the luggage compartment of his cab, he found out that the other passenger had left her bag. So, instead of taking the second passenger, he excused himself and drove back to the Duty Free Shop hoping to find the *balikbayan*. He couldn't find her, and with nowhere else to look, he returned to the Domestic Airport and proceeded to the Airport Police Station to report the left item. Inside the station was the woman who on seeing him, immediately ran to him and hugged him tightly.

For records purposes, Escalona was requested by the police authorities to declare the contents of her bag. To everyone's amazement the bag yielded US \$75,000 and jewelry amounting to some P2 million.

As a gesture of gratitude, Escalona offered P500 to Advincula but he refused to accept it saying that it was not necessary because it was his duty to his passengers and fellowmen to be honest. After all, it was not the first time he did the same. He recalled that six years before, he also returned some P240,000 and important documents left inside his cab.



The next morning, as he was about to go to his usual work, many media people from different publications, TV and radio stations were already waiting for him. For days, his figure graced the pages of newspapers and he was featured in TV shows. He became an instant celebrity and became in-demand as guest speaker in commencement exercises, civic group meetings like Rotary Club assemblies and other gatherings.

Dubbed by many as a “witnessing teacher,” Advincula is frequently asked if he had the strangest notion of not returning the money. His firm reply would always be a big NO. He also adds what motivated him: *“Takot sa Diyos, katapatan sa sarili at tungkulin. Mahalaga ang katapatan sa pakikipagkapwa.”* (Fear of God, truthfulness to self and duty because he believes that honesty is an important value in relating with other people.)

For setting an example for others to follow, Emil received various awards and citations from different groups and individuals, the most noted of which is the lifetime inscription of **“Honest Driver”** on his professional driver's license. He also received a house and lot in Cavite, personal and accident insurance, and scholarship grants for his children.

Taking cognizance of his good deed, which he himself attributes to the good training he received from his parents and the values instilled by Scouting, the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines unanimously decided to confer on former Boy Scout Emilio Advincula the prestigious **Honesty Award** at the 40th Annual National Council Meeting held in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, on May 10, 1996.

The National Court of Honor, chaired by BSP National President Jejomar Binay, cited him “for putting into life the Scouting tradition and practice of being trustworthy and by doing a good turn to other people without expecting anything in return, which is a traditional teaching and practice in Scouting.”

In receiving the award, he said that it was his youthful dream to be recognized and be accorded with distinction because he believed that one's stature in life and educational attainment are not a hindrance in doing good. He urged everyone not to be self-centered and to be caring of others, a value which he believes would prevent social problems such as graft and corruption. His words, coming as they were

from a true human being, awakened the mind, touched the heart and moved many to tears. In the course of his speech, the audience gave him a number of standing ovations.

"A Scout is trustworthy. He tells the truth and keeps his promises. Honesty is a part of his code of conduct. People can always depend on him." Thus explained the first point of the Scout Law, and so did the actions of Emilio Advincula.

ANTONIO T. UY and TEODORO PABUNAG, JR.

Two Scouters played heroic roles on April 5, 1961, when the bus they were riding figured in a vehicular accident resulting in injuries to more than 30 passengers.

Teodoro Pabunag, Jr. and Antonio Uy, while on their way home from the training camp for the 2nd National Jamboree, helped save their co-passengers.

The Suaybaguio bus they were riding turned turtle after overtaking a logging truck at 4:30 p.m. It landed in a ditch. With presence of mind, the two went into action and started helping the passengers.

Some were bleeding, others were confused while a Woman fainted. Uy felt her faint breathing, removed her jewelry then placed it in her pocket. He then opened the window to let air inside the congested bus. He cleaned the women's wound with his neckerchief drenched from the rain and applied a tourniquet to stop severe bleeding. The driver wanted to let the woman down along the highway but Uy refused. The Scouter later said he was afraid the clinics along the highway did not have necessary medicine or medical equipment to help her. With the help of the Scouters, the injured passengers were transferred to another bus and rushed to the nearest hospital and while on the way, the two applied first aid to wounded passengers.

RODRIGO B. CORPUZ

Suppose you were giving first aid to an accident victim and someone pointed a gun at you to stop you. What would you do? Believe it or not, this happened to Scouter Rodrigo Corpuz of BSP Manila Council and BSA Far East Council.

On April 2, 1984, Corpuz was riding on a bus on his way home when an accident occurred. A pedestrian, Myrna Salamillas, was crossing the road when she got hit by a motorcycle being driven by Vicente Rellores. Both cyclist and pedestrian got thrown and knocked out by the accident. Corpuz got off the bus to help the victims. A man in the crowd, however, told him to stop. Corpuz tried to reason with the man that the victims needed help. Without identifying himself and his motive for intrusion, the man drew a gun, pointed it at Corpuz, and ordered him to stop. Corpuz took out his cards identifying himself as a Scouter and Red Cross first aid instructor, and went ahead with applying first aid on the victims, while the unidentified man drifted away.

Scouter Corpuz received the **Silver Medal of Honor** on February 22, 1985.

OCTAVIO ALVAREZ

In 1967, Octavio Alvarez saved a 15-year-old boy from drowning in a swimming pool. On July 27, the following year, he saved four-year-old Dolores Ramos from drowning in the waters below the Dario

Bridge in Quezon City.

Rover Manager Alvarez received the **Gold Medal of Honor** in 1968.

CALBERITO CABALLERO and FILOMENO G. OSMIL

Scoutmaster Calberito Caballero of Cataban Elementary School, Talibon, Bohol Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor** for rescuing and saving 19 people with his pump boat at a sea tragedy which claimed six lives.

During the same accident, Scoutmaster Filomeno Osmil of Jao Elementary School, Talibon, Bohol Council, struggled hard to help his fellow passengers survive. He too received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1974.

PERFECTO C. DE JESUS

Retired school teacher Pio Santos, 81, was sleeping in his home in Siling Bata, Pandi, Bulacan when a fire broke out. He woke up to find himself trapped and quickly succumbed to the thick smoke. Perfecto de Jesus, unmindful of personal risk and danger, entered the burning house, carried the unconscious Santos to safety, applied artificial resuscitation, and then rushed Santos to the hospital where the victim was confined for two months.

Scouter de Jesus, 50, Institutional Head of Siling Bata Elementary School, Bulacan Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1984.

REYNALDO I. CASTILLO

On April 28, 1955, at around 6:00 p.m., pandemonium broke loose inside the Ruby Theater in Batangas, Batangas when a madman started threatening to kill patrons. When the confusion cleared, however, concerned moviegoers saw that the nose of Hermenegildo Perez, 16, was bleeding profusely. His attacker, a mentally deranged young man, managed to escape at the height of the chaos. Reynaldo Castillo and other folks rushed the victim to the hospital. Inside the jeepney, Castillo applied first aid on the victim but the bleeding did not stop.

At Batangas Provincial Hospital, doctors told Castillo that Hermenegildo's injuries were serious and that the victim had to be taken to Manila. Castillo paid for the ambulance which took the victim to the city. They reached Manila at around 10:00 p.m.

Hermenegildo was admitted at North General Hospital on April 28, and discharged May 14. Castillo donated 350 cc of blood for Hermenegildo's transfusion and kept watch over the boy during his confinement.

Scoutmaster Castillo of Troop 72, Batangas Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1955.

FAUSTIN O SARIANOSAS

Scoutmaster Faustino Sarianosas received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1950 for saving the life of movie actress Naty Bernardo who was overwhelmed by exhaustion while swimming off Villa Beach in 1949.

SATURNINO LAROCO

In 1967, Scouter Saturnino Laroco of La Union Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving Julieta Dacuyan and her child from drowning in Aringay River on 19 August 1966.

MANUEL B. NOLASCO

On January 6, 1956, a Chinese businessman jumped into a dirty *estero* to kill himself. Attracted by the commotion that ensued, accountant Manuel Nolasco of La Fortuna Distillery, San Nicolas, Manila, came over to investigate. He was warned that the canal was seven feet deep and filled with dangerous debris, but still jumped in. Nolasco could hardly swim in the mud and slime, but managed to get the victim out. The suicide was taken to the hospital by the police, but was declared dead on arrival.

Nolasco, Assistant National Scout Commissioner and Member of the Executive Board of Manila Council, was the first BSP official to receive the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

LAURO PEREZ

On June 29, 1996, while the oil tanker *Coop Sunrise* was cruising towards Dubai, the shipmaster received a distress call from a Romanian cargo vessel which had caught fire. Lauro Perez and other Filipino and Polish seamen put out the blaze after several hours, saving the lives of many Romanian sailors. While Perez and two other Filipinos were mooring their life craft to the vessel, it accidentally slipped back to the sea. Perez was seriously injured while his two companions got pinned to death.

Scouter Perez of Bulacan Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1997.

NICOLAS T. JUMAQUIO

On June 11, 1997, a group of retired teachers from Paombong, Bulacan, went to visit Baler, Aurora. The following day, the group went to El Pimentel Waterfalls, noted for its clear and waist-deep water. Two retired teachers could not resist the crystal clear water, and went wading at the shallow end of the stream. One of them, Salud Borlongan, slipped on the moss-covered stone, lost her grip and fell into the deeper part of the stream. Her companion, Elvira Tangal, tried to help her but also fell in. The strong current carried the victims towards the boulders at the end of the falls. Nicolas Jumaquio saw the two women,

jumped into the water, and rescued them.

Scouter Jumaquio of Bulacan Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1998.

FELICISIMO PEÑARANDA

At 12:30 p.m. on February 25, 1957, Simon Elnar was working with nine others at a fish corral. Simon was tying woven bamboo splits at the bottom of the sea 3 1/2 fathoms deep. After about five minutes, other workers saw bubbles on the surface of the water. They then sensed that something was wrong. Peñaranda dived into the water to check on Simon, whom he found unconscious at the bottom. While pulling the boy to the surface, Peñaranda was praying hard that he get the victim to safety. Peñaranda helped place Simon in a *banca* and successfully resuscitated the victim.

Peñaranda, Scoutmaster of Troops 13 and 72, Zamboanguita, Negros Oriental, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1957.

ALEJANDRO EDEP

On September 2, 1949, Eusebio Badenas of Linapacan, Coron, Palawan, was attacked by three-meter long crocodile. Alejandro Edep rushed to his aid and fought off the saurian.

Scoutmaster Edep of Palawan received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1950.

LEONILA M. RAMIREZ and GREGORIO C. SANDOVAL

On October 16, 1995, at around 7:00 a.m., Elvis Perez, a Grade 6 student in charge of the school's flag-raising ceremony, climbed the flag pole to fix the ropes. Unfortunately, while securing the pulley, he lost his hold and fell from the 20-foot high pole. Fortunately, he was caught by Gregorio Sandoval and Leonila Ramirez, preventing him from hitting the ground. They also gave the unconscious boy first aid.

Scouters Ramirez and Sandoval of Pangasinan Council each received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1997.

ROMAN MONTEMAYOR

On October 28, 1966, at about 4:45 p.m., an F-86F of the Philippine Air Force, piloted by Captain Epifanio Raymundo crashed upside down on a sugar cane field a mile and a half north of the runway in San Jose, Floridablanca, Pampanga. The plane burst into fire and the pilot was helplessly trapped in the plane's cockpit. At this instance, the first group of rescuers composed of Roman Montemayor and three other PAP personnel, arrived on the scene. They broke the half-buried plane's canopy using a knife and spade, and with the same tools and their bare hands, they dug underneath to make an escape route for the pilot.

Scouter Montemayor of Pampanga Council and three PAP personnel received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1967.

JESUS R. MATA

On July 4, 1951 at 9:30 p.m., Jesus Mata was on his way home from watching a stage show at Plaza Santa Cruz when he saw a boy, Alberto Albano, 13, of San Andres Bukid, Manila, hanging from electric wires near Crespa Store. He climbed the building and pushed at the boy with a pole. The boy was unconscious and fell from 22 feet. Mata and Patrolman R. Ramos of Manila Police Department Traffic Division took the boy to the North General Hospital.

District Scout Commissioner Mata of Manila Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1951.

ELPIDIO C. ZARAGOZA

Scoutmaster Elpidio Zaragoza of Iloilo Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1968 for saving and reviving a child, Terce Sagre, from drowning on April 18, 1968 in Buenavista, Guimaras, Iloilo.

MANGONA MAWALIL

Scouter Mangona Mawalil received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for rescuing and reviving one-year-old Munira Balhana from drowning.

LEOCADIO F. ALIPO-ON

On February 15, 1995, four delegates from Maguindanao-Cotabato City Council to the Values Formation Seminar in Capitol Hills, Cebu City decided to swim at Talisay Beach. After about two hours, the group went for rest and snacks at a nearby cottage. Moments later, they heard a boy shout for help. Leocadio Alipo-on responded and reached the drowning boy in minutes. He applied artificial respiration and revived the victim. The rescued boy's companion was found underwater, about six feet deep. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital.

Scouter Alipo-on, 55, Commissioner for Programs and Activities of the Maguindanao-Cotabato City Council, received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

AUGUSTINE L. PALACOL III

In October 1993, Augustine Palacol, a member of the Sanggunian Bayan of Antipolo, Rizal, was in his office preparing for a meeting when he heard a commotion on the fifth floor of the municipal building. Palacol stood up and went to check. At the top floor, he found two men who had been tasked to paint the building's water tank, suffocating due to the red oxide contained in the paint they were using. With the help of other men in the vicinity, Palacol disconnected the tank from the pipes and overturned it in order to pull out the unconscious men inside. The men had stopped breathing. Palacol began to apply cardio pulmonary resuscitation. Some minutes later, the victims revived. He then rushed them to Morong General Hospital.

Palacol, 49, Member of the Board of Rizal Council, received a **Plaque of Commendation**.

JOSE D. LINA, JR.

On December 17, 1997, Laguna Governor Jose Lina was invited to attend the Youth Assembly and to inaugurate a road in Sulsugin, Nagcarlan, Laguna. During lunch, Gov. Lina and his party were startled by a boy calling for help – a girl who had been playing by the lake was drowning. Four local fishermen rescued the girl and brought her ashore. They held her by the legs and tried to shake her into breathing. Gov. Lina intervened and, with naglarcan's Mayor Comendador, applied the proper first aid, and then had her rushed to Nagcarlan Hospital.

Governor Lina received a **Plaque of Commendation**.

ELADIO BAYOCOT

On the night September 13, 1958, Eladio Bayocot had just arrived home when he noticed a fire blazing on Mount Omagas. Bayocot went out and by the time he reached the Teachers' Park area, about two kilometers from his home, the fire had already spread to other hills in the 10-hectare reforestation site. Bayocot first put his attention on the blaze at the Region VI Scout camp. Using tree branches, the only implement he could get at hand, he struggled with the intense heat and thick suffocating smoke as it swept through dry cogon grass. At about 9: 00 p.m, forest guards Ruperto Dante, Benito, and Ambrosio Cagampang arrived on the scene and pitched in, concentrating their efforts on the cottages on High School Hill. Bayocot fainted for a moment from fatigue and stress, but resumed his efforts on waking up. The four were able to contain the fire at about 2:00 a.m.

Scoutmaster Bayocot of Teachers' Park Intermediate School, Sierra-Bullones, Bohol, received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

ADONIS D. V. PRINCIPE

In 1996 Adonis Principe was in Sarangani, South Cotabato with a group from Southern Tagalog to take photographs of the ongoing Palarong Pambansa. On April 17, at around 4:00 p.m., while the group was heading for the Sarangani Sports Complex, they heard a strange noise. A motorcycle speeding from a side street had hit a van crossing the highway at Kiamba, Sarangani. The group quickly rushed to the scene of the accident. One victim was seriously injured and bleeding. Unmindful of the heavy rains and at the risk of being mobbed, Principe went to his aid. Principe made the victim sit up to minimize bleeding, and told a rescuer to maintain pressure on the head Wound as they rushed him to General Santos Doctors Hospital.

Scouter Principe of Troop 42, Cavite City Council, received a **Plaque of Commendation**.

ROBERTO PALOMA

Roberto Paloma, an employee, was at the office of the property custodian on the ground floor of the capitol building at about 8:00 a.m. when he saw an old man pulling six-year-old Beatisma Maglantay towards a dilapidated building. Paloma realized that mischief was afoot based on the old man's actions. Enraged by the thought that the suspect was going to rape the girl, Paloma shouted at the top of his voice to attract attention, then ran after the suspect with a piece of wood. Paloma's actions frightened the old man, who hurriedly abandoned Beatisma and disappeared into the bushes.

Paloma rushed Beatisma to the hospital for medical examination.

Doctors later diagnosed that the girl was not harmed. With his presence of mind, bravery and dedication to help others, Paloma prevented a beastly act and saved Beatisma from being ravaged by a sex fiend.

Scouter Paloma received a **Letter of Commendation**.

FELIX LEGASPI BONIFACIO

On April 13, 1983, the third day of the 7th National Jamboree in Camp Fuentebella, Goa, Camarines Sur, Felix Bonifacio was swimming in a man-made earth pool when he heard a cry for help. Amando Concepcion, a volunteer lay leader, at the center of the pool had developed cramps. Bonifacio immediately swam to Concepcion's rescue and brought the victim to safety.

Scoutmaster Bonifacio of Troop 15, Metro Manila North Council was commended by his Council.

EXPEDITO C. SATINITIGAN

On March 24, 1994, at about 9:00 a.m., a service jeepney of Mati Polytechnic Institute with five passengers met an accident at Dawan, Mati, Davao Oriental. Expedito Satinitigan were with a group of men waiting for a ride at a shed in Dawan Crossing when they heard a strange sound. They rushed to the scene and were shocked to see injured passengers scattered in different directions. Acting with presence of mind, Satinitigan led his companions in bringing the victims to a safe place and administered first aid to them. Fortunately, a passenger jeep came along and all the injured victims were brought to Mati for medical treatment.

The timely assistance of the group led by Satinitigan prevented what could have been serious injuries or possible deaths to the victims.

Scouter Expedito Satinitigan received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

ANTONIO BURDIOS and SANTIAGO PADILLA

On the night of January 5, 1960, a fire broke out on Raja Matanda Street, Baguio City. The fire spread quickly and soon many residential and commercial houses along Magsaysay Avenue and Lapu Lapu Street, were also in flames. Scouters Antonio Burdios and Santiago Padilla of Baguio-Benguet Council came hurrying from different parts of the city and, reaching the scene, pitched in.

They joined Field Scout Executive Narciso Padillo who was manning a fire hose with several auxiliary firefighters. As the blaze grew worse and threatened to destroy the entire block, the volunteer firefighters were instructed to concentrate on Panglao building. But with the low water pressure and the closed windows they could not make much progress. Padilla, seeing the futility of fighting the fire that way, asked for a fireman's ladder to be placed against the side of the building. When it was up, he started climbing it, dragging a fire hose with him. Burdios climbed the ladder after him. Padilla broke the glass in one window to gain entry and Burdios followed him inside. The two were almost knocked out by the fumes and heat, but dragged the hose and went on fighting the fire from room to room. The duo managed to help contain the fire.

REMIGIO P. MACABIOG

On February 15, 1976, at 1:00 p.m., Remigio Macabiog, 30, Scoutmaster of Troops 276 and 277, Laurel High School, Tondo, Manila, was swimming with his child and fellow teachers in Pansolito pool, Los Baños, Laguna. While Macabiog was in the pool, he heard a fellow teacher, Mrs. Lopez, hysterically shouting at a group of people that they were doing the wrong thing. Responding to the commotion, Macabiog found out that wrong measures were being applied on an accident victim. He saw that a boy lay on the ground and showed no sign of life. Macabiog ordered the crowd to give him and the victim space. He applied cardiac compression while Mrs. Lopez applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. After fifteen minutes, the boy moved and gasped for air. A relative of the victim then brought him to the hospital.

FELICISIMO MAGNO

In 1971, Felicisimo Magno returned a handbag containing \$600 found in one of the seats at the Manila International Airport pre-departure area. The bag's owner, Norma Ebreu, was bound for Chicago aboard a Northwest Orient Airlines.

Scouter Magno of Parañaque Rover Circle, Rizal Council, was commended by the Airline Operators Council International, and was promoted from lieutenant to captain in the CAPP police force.

ISMAEL PARRENAS

On April 29, 1958, Ismael Parrenas was waiting for a bus when he saw a fence on fire near a house on the corner of Jalandoni and Commission Civil Streets. He raised alarm and helped people put the fire out.

Scoutmaster Parrenas of Troop 62, Patalan, Iloilo City, was cited for preventing a blaze from spreading.

PABLO CARCASONA

In 1960, Amada Galanida, 14, of Barrio West Lungsoddaan was bathing at Garcia-Hernandez beach when big waves abruptly swallowed her into the deep. She developed cramps as she tried to wrestle with the waves to get to shore. Pablo Carcasona saw her floating on the water, towed her ashore, and gave her artificial respiration. After almost two hours, the girl revived.

Scoutmaster Carcasona of Troop 393, Cayam Elementary School, was a delegate to the 10th World Jamboree, Mt. Makiling.

SONNY MARIA ELEGADO

A Pantranco bus abruptly stopped before a railway station in Bayambang, Pangasinan. The conductor stepped down, and was mauled by an unidentified person. The driver left the wheel and rushed to the conductor's rescue. The bus then began to move down the incline, creating panic among the passengers. Elegado, one of the passengers, rushed to catch the wheel. The bus was about to hit the police outpost stand when he hit the brakes, and saved the bus and its passengers.

Elegado was an instructor at the Luzon Colleges in Dagupan City.

AUREO B. BUSTINERA

It was the height of the fluvial procession in honor of Our Lady of Penafrancia. At about 4:50 p.m., just as the procession was about to cross the third and final bridge, tragedy struck. The Colgante Bridge collapsed. Aureo Bustinera heard a crashing sound, and the next thing he knew he was being shoved by the crowd of onlookers. Bustinera was shocked by the sight of people in the water shouting for help and clinging to each other.

The river was some 12 feet deep and at least 30 meters wide. Unable to bear the cries and wails of the drowning victims, Bustinera took off his clothes, then dived into the water. He swam about 15 meters away from the bank towards the women and children. He grabbed a woman who had sunk several feet underwater. Bustinera carried her back to the riverbank, then dived into the water to save a 40-year-old man.

CLODULFO CESPON

On May 7, 1991, Ben Ciruela and Maria Sechie Penales left their three children at Caingget beach, Booy district, in the care of their home helper. Eventually someone noticed Methosila, 5, floating limp on the water and jumped in and rescued the child. On land people gathered and were unsuccessfully attempting to revive the child, when Clodulfo Cespon interrupted and gave the victim the correct first aid.

Scouter Cespon belonged to Troop 516, Booy Elementary School, Tagbilaran City.

ALFREDO S. ISRAEL

In 1951 Scouter Alfredo Israel received commendations from Scout Executive Jose Panlilio and Chief Scout Executive Exequiel Villacorta for conducting a swimming rescue and saving the life of a two-year-old boy in Manay, Davao Oriental.