

Republika ng Pilipinas
LUNSOD NG ORMOC
SANGGUNIANG PANGLUNSOD
Tanggapan ng Kalihim

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE FIRST
SANGGUNIANG PANGLUNSOD NG ORMOC HELD AT ITS SESSION HALL
ON SEPTEMBER 13, 1977



Hon. Cesar S. Samson, Member,	Presiding
Hon. Jesus B. Lladoc,	Member
Hon. Cristobal S. Mendola,	Member
Hon. Eduardo P. Tan,	Member
Hon. Albino P. Porcadilla,	Member
Hon. Rafael M. Mejia,	Member
Hon. Leonardo B. Aberilla,	Member
Hon. Anastacio D. Besabella,	Member
Hon. Jesus F. Doyon,	Member
Hon. Placido C. Enecio,	Member
Hon. Jose S. Kangleon,	Member
Hon. Grace E. Mendola,	Member
Hon. Dionisio S. Santiago,	Member
Hon. Asela R. Villamor,	Member

ABSENT:

Hon. Iñaki A. Larrazabal, Mayor & Presiding Officer	(in his Office)
Hon. Jose C. Aviles, Member (O.B., Metro Manila)	
Hon. Bruno T. Marquez, Jr.,	Member
Hon. Dionisio B. Torrevillas,	Member
Hon. Romeo M. Hermosilla,	Member



RESOLUTION NO. 435

Presented for consideration is the renaming of "Camp Downes",
in the City of Ormoc, is the following biography:

RUPERTO K. KANGLEON

Ruperto K. Kangleon was born in Macrohon, Leyte on March 27, 1890,
one of five sons and a daughter of Braulio Kangleon and Flora Kadava.

He had his elementary school education in Leyte. Then he went to
Cebu where he completed his high school course. There he distinguished
himself as an athlete and was made a member of the Philippine Olympic
teams of 1912 and 1913.

After graduation, he went to Manila and enrolled at the College
of Liberal Arts, University of the Philippines. However, the lure of
the military service was so great that he later entered the Philippine
Constabulary Academy in Baguio where he graduated in 1916. His first
assignment after securing his commission was to fight the notorious
Panay bandit "Oto" whom he subdued in no time. He participated in the
famous Pulahan and Entrancherado campaigns on Negros Island. There-
after, he was assigned from one constabulary station to another in the
country, but more extensively in the Visayas and Mindanao. He was
assigned as District Commander of the 3rd Military District in 1938,
and of the 9th Military District, up to 1941.

At the outbreak of World War II, then Lieutenant Colonel Kangleon
commanded the 81st Infantry Regiment, USAFFE, which was immediately
dispatched by General MacArthur to meet an expected landing of the
Japanese on the Island of Samar. As the threat of the landing
appeared, he was ordered to go to Davao where he moved his re

way of the Agusan River. His most outstanding engagement against the Japanese in Mindanao was the fight for the Davao-Agusan national highway. On May 9, 1942, he was cited and awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Mindanao, the citation partly states thus, "To Lieutenant Colonel Ruperto Kangleon, Infantry, PA, O-1059, for meritorious achievement while Assistant Executive Officer, Agusan Sector, Visayan-Mindanao Force, February 1-28, in Davao Province, P.I. Disregarding hardship and the constant dangers of traversing jungle trails through territory controlled by hostile troops and unfriendly savage tribes, Lieutenant Colonel Kangleon visited remote areas, reorganized and inducted scattered Philippine Constabulary units and inspired the loyalty of civilian populace that had been terrorized by the enemy, thus contributing to the success of our military operations against the Japanese in Davao". Upon receiving the order to surrender from his superiors in conjunction with the surrender of the Philippines, he disbanded his men and together with his Division commander obeyed the order for surrender. While in the Agusan concentration camp, he laid the groundwork for his guerilla warfare, establishing contacts with already existing resistance forces to which he furnished with essential intelligence reports.

On December, 1942, Colonel Kangleon, with the help of some of his Leyte soldiers, managed to escape from the Japanese concentration camp in Agusan and proceeded to Leyte where he effected the hazardous task of unifying the numerous guerilla units operating on the islands of Leyte and Samar under the 9th Military District. With strong determination and industry, he was soon able to put up a radio transmitter station that enable him to establish contact with Colonel W.W. Fertig, Commander of the 10th Military District in Mindanao, and thence directly with General MacArthur in Australia. General MacArthur designated him commander of the Leyte Area Command and ordered him to organize the 92nd Infantry Division. In November of 1943, he received his first shipment of arms and supplies which was the beginning of a continuous flow until his unit were fully equipped and supplied. Thereafter and during liberation, his forces continuously harassed the enemy all over Leyte. When he was awarded by the United States Government the Distinguished Service Cross, the citation read thus: "Colonel Ruperto K. Kangleon, O-1059, Infantry, Philippine Army. For extraordinary heroism in action in Leyte, Philippine Islands, from 21 October 1943 to 20 October 1944. Colonel Kangleon displayed outstanding courage and resourcefulness in the development and unification of the resistance movement in Leyte, Philippine Islands. In complete disregard of the presence of vastly superior enemy occupying forces, he deployed his own units in a manner best calculated to obtain detailed and reliable information on enemy positions, and developed an island-wide radio communication network to permit the rapid transmission thereof to General Headquarters, Southwest Pacific Area. Such information proved of incalculable value in the planning and execution of operations designed to liberate the Philippines. Through persistent and violent harassing action against the enemy, the forces under the heroic leadership of Colonel Kangleon succeeded in denying the enemy the use, occupation, and fortification of large and strategically important areas. Through exemplary conduct and command ability, Colonel Kangleon set as inspiring example for the members of his forces as well as the civil populace, thereby contributing immeasurably to the joint cause of the people of the United States and the Philippines".

Prior to the landing of the American liberation forces on October 20, 1944, Colonel Kangleon's 92nd Infantry Division, Leyte Area Command, had killed 3,800 Japanese troops in 304 engagements, had captured or forced the evacuation of 85 out of 101 Japanese garrisons in the area, and had cleared the southern part of Leyte of over 2,000 enemy troops. In contrast, the Leyte Area Command lost 235 men officially reported killed in action.

Colonel Kangleon reestablished the civil government of Free Leyte on July 1943 having been given the authority to proclaim its provincial officials and to issue emergency war notes to maintain the government and the resistance forces. When finally the governor and the members of the provincial board were captured by the Japanese, he took over their functions. All officers of the Leyte Area Command regardless of rank, including himself, and upon his orders, were to receive sixty pesos monthly as compensation. The enlisted men received thirty pesos. He was authorized by General MacArthur to issue two million pesos of these emergency war notes. Soon after liberation, he submitted an accounting showing that only one-fourth of the authorized amount was actually disbursed and the balance was properly turned in and destroyed. Because of this honest and scrupulous handling of government funds, General MacArthur ordered the immediate redemption at par value of all the Leyte emergency war notes.

Sometime in early 1944, General MacArthur sent to Colonel Kangleon by way of submarine the amount of one hundred thousand genuine Philippine pesos for intelligence purposes. He used this intelligence fund wisely and prudently so so much so that, upon liberation, he returned ₱98,700.00 of it with the proper accounting of the amount disbursed. MacArthur's headquarters did not know what to do with the money being returned as it was considered expended already but Colonel Kangleon insisted that they received the same. At General MacArthur's command headquarters that morning, the colonel left a perplexed and astonished American finance officer scratching his head in wonder.

On January 6, 1944, then President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines Manuel L. Quezon, on exile in the United States, awarded Colonel Kangleon the Distinguished Service Star for his distinguished service to the Filipino people. The message was relayed to him by radio from Australia via Mindanao. To colonel Kangleon and his men in the lonely mountain fastnesses all over Leyte, this message from their President was a source of encouragement and inspiration.

On October 16, 1944, a few days before the landing on Leyte, an American destroyer picked him up on the eastern shores of Leyte and brought him to the USS WASSAT, command ship of General Walter Krueger, commanding general of the US Sixth Army. On the same day, he conferred with General of the Army Douglas MacArthur aboard the command ship USS NASHVILLE, a heavy cruiser, somewhere in the Pacific. Later he met with the commanders of the landing forces and went ashore with the first assault wave on October 20, 1944. Shortly after the American landing, General MacArthur paid tribute to the Filipino guerillas: "Seldom," he said, "has a military commander penetrated enemy-occupied shores with great potential of interior support than that which I today rely from the people of the Philippine".

On October 23, 1944, General MacArthur personally pinned the award of distinguished service and gallantry on guerilla leader Colonel Kangleon in a simple ceremony on the steps of the Provincial Capitol of Leyte in Tacloban. Present were President Sergio Osmeña, his cabinet, numerous high ranking military men, and thousands of American and Filipino troops. On that memorable day just two days after the landing, Colonel Kangleon was appointed military governor of Leyte. Upon the reestablishment of the Commonwealth Government, he continued as civil governor. During his incumbency, he strived hard to restore peace and order throughout the province and rebuild it from the ruins of war. On July 31, 1945, he resigned the position and reported back to duty with the Philippine Army.

Paradoxical as it may seem, Colonel Kangleon, at the time of the liberation of the Philippines, was better known in the United States than his own country. He had the distinction of being the most

featured guerilla leader in political, literary and even the real adventure magazines in the United States. It is noteworthy to mention in this connection that the name "GENERAL KANGLEON" was mentioned now and then in the San Francisco broadcasts during the later part of 1944.

On May 28, 1946, newly elected President Manuel A. Roxas appointed Colonel Kangleon Secretary of National Defense as the man who embodied the resistance movement. In justifying his choice, President Roxas said, "Very few Filipinos have, like you, devoted their lives almost exclusively to the service of our country. Very few have served our nation with equal loyalty, integrity, and unselfishness. I am proud to count you among my friends and to have a man like you in the high councils of our government". It was hard work for a man and a country that has just come out of a devastating war. He encountered grave problems during his tenure of office such as the demobilization of a war-swollen Philippine Army, its reorganization, formulation of top-level policies, redirection of army goals along the concepts laid down by the National Defense Act, readjustment of ranks, guerilla recognition and arrears in pay, the negotiation of the Military Bases and Military Assistance Agreement with the United States, establishment and reconstruction of permanent housing and facilities for the PA, integration of reserve officers into the regular force, implementation of the Rogers Act, mobilization of the PERTOK outfit, the Huk problem, to mention a few. As Defense Secretary, he was responsible for many reforms which considerably bolstered the army's efficiency and morale, as well as brought new benefits to officers and men in the organization. He supplied an iron-fist policy against the Huks. Colonel Kangleon was reappointed by President Elpidio Quirino and held the position until September 1, 1950 when he resigned because of disagreements on certain administration policies. A few months later, December 19, 1950, he retired from the active service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and a cabinetman.

Three years later, as if the long years of service for the country was not enough, Kangleon, who was then at a retireable age, was persuaded by President Ramon Magsaysay and then Senator Fernando Lopez to accept a berth in the senatorial ticket of the NP-DP coalition. Due to the insistent demand of the common masses for a clean and honest government, he was elected to the Senate in 1953 for a six-year term. As senator, he continued to serve as spokesman and champion of the army and of war veterans, sponsoring many measures directly benefiting the military organization, particularly enlisted men, and war veterans and their heirs. He was the author of a Senate resolution calling for a revision of the bases treaty with the United States. Senator Kangleon had consistently identified himself with movements and drives aimed at insuring for the individual a greater measure of freedom in the exercise of his civil liberties. He had been an outspoken enemy of official graft and corruption and at no time his service in the government had his name linked in any manner or form to any kind of anomaly or dishonesty.

In the fifth year of his term in the Senate, Senator Kangleon fell gravely ill and passed away on February 27, 1958 at the V. Luna General Hospital, barely a month before his 68th birthday. He succumbed to a heart ailment. Full military and state honors were bestowed upon him before he was laid to rest as befitting a man of his stature who gave the best part of his life to the service of his country. His devotion to duty was equalled only by his honesty, humility, and integrity.

It would be worthwhile to quote herein a portion of the funeral oration on Senator Ruperto K. Kangleon delivered by his colleague, Senator Lorenzo Sumulong, a brilliant parliamentarian and orator, in the halls of the Philippine Senate during the funeral services on March 4, 1958:

"When a man holding high office dies, and funeral oration are composed to honor his memory, the cynics say that we measure the pedestal along with the man. If he were not on the pedestal of a high office, these cynics would say, he would not have been the object of fulsome praises, he would not have been the recipient of so many ceremonial honors. In the case of Ruperto Kangleon, however, even these cynics, I dare say, must admit that the greatness of a man rises far above and beyond the pedestal of the office which he happened to occupy at the time of his death. We honor him not because he was a Senator when he was struck down by death, nor because he was at one time Secretary of National Defense. We honor him because he was a tried and tested patriot who braved a thousand deaths in the defense of his country and to uphold his belief in freedom and in democracy. We honor him because he was a great Filipino who gave honor to the offices he held rather than the offices giving honor to him. We hold this Necrological Session for him not simply as a ceremony of a formality dictated by parliamentary tradition, but more so because all of us deep in our hearts know that there was true greatness in this simple and unassuming man, and that the story of his life and patriotic labors must be told and retold by his contemporaries to serve as a shining example and as a source of constant inspiration for our children and our children's children.

"Thomas Carlyle once said that the history of the world is but the biography of its great men. If that be so, it may likewise be said that the history of a country is but biography of its great man. To the historian who plan to write the history of the Philippines during the Japanese Military Occupation and the first years of liberation, I commend a thorough and searching study of the life and labors of Ruperto Kangleon because the biography of this great if humble man will picture the Philippines at its finest hour during those dark pages of our history. Here was a man who had the nationalism of Rizal, Del Pilar and Mabini, the genius for organization of Bonifacio, the military leadership of Aguinaldo, the daring and intrepid courage of Gregorio del Pilar, the anonymous greatness and disdain for self-exaltation of the unknown soldier. The whole nation mourns and condoles with his bereaved family, but we can all take solace in the consciousness that he leaves us to join the ranks of our immortal heroes, and that the memory of his heroic deeds and glorious sacrifices will forever remain in our minds and in our hearts to guide and inspire us and those to come after us to serve our country and mankind with the same firm resolve and with the same full measure of devotion as his

Ruperto K. Kangleon is survived by his widow, Valentina Tagle, of Amus, Cavite, and with whom he had ten children, namely, Benjamin, Juanito, Flora, Corazon, Lourdes, Teresita, Aida, Jesus, Jose and Cecilio. Two of his sons, Benjamin and Juanito, fought with him in the resistance forces.

Among the many World War I and II citations, decorations and medals that Colonel Kangleon held in his lifetime were: from the United States Government - Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star Medal, World War I Medal, American Defense Ribbon, Philippine Defense Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, World War I Ribbon, World War II Ribbon, Distinguished Unit Badge, and the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation; from the Philippine Government - Distinguished Conduct Star, Distinguished Service Star, Military Merit Medal, Visayan Campaign Medal, Visayan Campaign Citation, Long Service Medal, Resistance Movement Ribbon, Distinguished Unit Badge, and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.

WHEREAS, as a fitting tribute to the man who has spent the best years of his life in the military and civil service to his fellow countrymen, it becomes appropriate that a military camp bearing a foreigner's

name in the City of Ormoc be now renamed after him;

NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Kagawad Besabella, unanimously seconded; be it

RESOLVED, to adopt:

ORDINANCE NO. 13
AN ORDINANCE RENAMING CAMP DOWNES IN
ORMOC CITY "CAMP RUPERTO KANGLEON"

BE IT ENACTED, by the Sangguniang Panglunsod ng Ormoc,
That:

SEC. 1. Renaming of Camp Downes. - Camp Downes, in the City of Ormoc, is hereby renamed "Camp Ruperto Kangleon."

SEC. 2. Effectivity. - This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED, September 13, 1977.

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish a copy of this resolution-ordinance each to His Excellency, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, Malacañang, and the Honorable Secretary of National Defense, in Metro Manila; the Zone Commander, III PC Zone, Cebu City; the Provincial Commander, PC, Tacloban City; His Honor, the City Mayor, the Commanding Officer, 352nd PC Company, and the general public, all in Ormoc City;

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY."

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the correctness of the above-quoted resolution-ordinance.

Victoriano L. de Loyola
VICTORIANO L. DE LOYOLA
Secretary

ATTESTED:

Cesar S. Samson
CESAR S. SAMSON
Member, Presiding

APPROVED:

Inaki A. Larrazabal
INAKI A. LARRAZABAL
City Mayor

ATTESTED AS APPROVED:

Sotero M. Pepito
SOTERO M. PEPITO
Secretary to the City Mayor