

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE SECOND SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD NG ORMOC HELD AT  
ITS SESSION HALL ON FEBRUARY 3, 1981

PRESENT:

Hon. Jose C. Aviles, Vice-Mayor, Presiding Officer  
Hon. Benjamin F. Tugonon, Kagawad  
Hon. Cristobal S. Mendola, Kagawad  
Hon. Anastacio D. Besabella, Kagawad  
Hon. Dionisio B. Torrevillas, Kagawad  
Hon. Cesar S. Samson, Kagawad  
Hon. Jose O. Bandalan, Kagawad  
Hon. Dionisio S. Santiago, Kagawad  
Hon. Romeo M. Hermosilla, ABC President, Kagawad

ABSENT:

None. One seat vacant.

RESOLUTION NO. 935

A RESOLUTION REITERATING THE STAND OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD NG ORMOC TO RENAME CAMP DOWNES IN ORMOC CITY "CAMP RUPERTO KANGLEON"

"WHEREAS, a great majority of the Members of this august Body, then Members of the First Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Ormoc, will recall having passed Resolution No. 435 on September 13, 1977, renaming Camp Downes in Ormoc City 'CAMP RUPERTO KANGLEON' in response to a request from the Military for a resolution to change the name of the camp which is of American occupation vintage;

"WHEREAS, more than three years have passed since the passage of Sanggunian Resolution No. 435 copies of which were furnished His Excellency, President Ferdinand E. Marcos, the Honorable Secretary (now Minister) of National Defense, the III PC Zone Commander in Cebu, the Provincial Commander of Leyte, and the 352nd PC Commanding Officer of this City, among others, but until now the name of Camp Downes still remains;

"WHEREAS, this Honorable Body deems it wise and proper to remind the Commander In Chief, the Military and all and sundry, even as we reiterate the stand of the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Ormoc that Camp Downes should be renamed 'CAMP RUPERTO KANGLEON';

"NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of Kagawad Tugonon, seconded unanimously by all the other Mga Kagawad; be it

"RESOLVED, to reiterate the stand of the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Ormoc to rename Camp Downes in Ormoc City 'CAMP RUPERTO KANGLEON' and do, as this Body hereby does, justify the renaming of the same in view of 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 and 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 UP College of Liberal Arts. 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. Thereafter, 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 disappeared, he was ordered to go to Davao where he moved his regiment by 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 stating 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 guerrilla warfare, establishing contacts with already existing resistance forces to which he furnished with essential intelligence reports.

In 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 guerrilla 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 enabled 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 units 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:

*W. W. Fertig*

"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 an 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 in 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 much so that, upon liberation, he returned P98,700.00 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 receive 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 guerrillas: "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 Philippines."

On October 23, 1944, General MacArthur personally pinned the award of distinguished service and gallantry on guerrilla 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 in his own country. He had the distinction of being the most featured guerrilla 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 in 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, guerrilla recognition and arrears in pay, then the negotiation of the Military Bases and Military Assistance Agreement with the United States, establishment and reconstruction of permanent housing and facilities for the Philippine Army, integration of reserve officers into the regular force, implementation of the Rogers Act, mobilization of the PEFTOK 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.

*will*

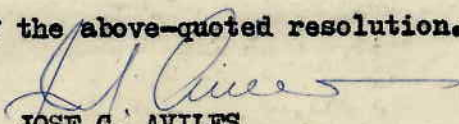
ism of Rizal, del Pilar and Mabini, the genius for organization of Bonifacio, the military leadership of Aguinaldo, the daring and intrepid courage of Gregorio del Pilar, the anonymous greatness and disdain for self-exaltation of the unknown soldier. The whole nation mourns and condoles with the bereaved 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."

Among the many World Wars 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.

"RESOLVED, FURTHER, to furnish a copy of this resolution each to His Excellency, President and Prime Minister Ferdinand E. Marcos, Malacañang, and the Honorable Minister of National Defense, both in Metro Manila; the PC Regional and PC Provincial Commanders, both in Camp September 21st, Tacloban City, and the Commanding Officer, PC, Ormoc City;

"CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY."

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

  
JOSE C. AVILES  
Vice-Mayor  
Presiding Officer

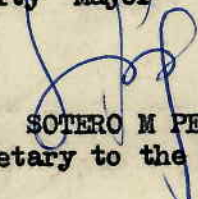
ATTESTED:

  
VICTORIANO L. DE LOYOLA  
Kalihim  
(Secretary)

APPROVED:

  
INAKI A. LARRAZABAL  
City Mayor

ATTESTED AS APPROVED:

  
SOTERO M. PEPITO  
Secretary to the City Mayor