

Duty to Country

Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project

Interview Transcript: Guadalupe Dee

Please Note: Due to a machine-automated transcription process, there are significant errors. The times noted are taken from the unedited audio files and do not match the edited videos.

Guadalupe Dee [00:00:05] My name is Guadalupe Dee and. I am the third of the siblings of Mr. Potenciano Dee, my father was born in Alaminos Laguna. He was born May nineteen nineteen twenty five in the province of Alaminos Laguna Philippines, his parents. Live in Alaminos, and they have a small store and they said that they are selling rice sugar. Just like I said, this is but there's a small start for them to survive, as I heard from my and this, my dad is really very friendly and he always goes to the group because as they said, and then without the knowledge of their of his parents, he always goes with the that until finally when the war started, he was with them, too. With his early age of 16, he joined the Guerrilla. And at first there were five in the group. And joining with Major OMalley when they started when he started that guerrilla fighting during the World War Two, that's how.

Guadalupe Dee [00:01:41] They started it and then the see as as he told me, sometimes the parents are looking and trying to find them without their knowledge that this is already joining those military men during that, why they didn't know where they go without knowing that they is already joining these military people. My dad works as one of the spy. Actually, I bringing letters from one to another come up with this is more letters, a small letter from the company hiding inside this man's body to so that they cannot catch him. So as a little boy, it's something like a teenager is he was wearing a shirt pants so that they cannot recognize that this is one of these spy and delivering a letter from this group to another group. That's the saddest story that he's always telling us, that he always seen in this situation that the Filipinos called Filipinos are putting these the Bible to their face with the open. You know, they covering the face and then from them, they're asking about who is where is the job, where are these military people? They are making some more reporting, these people, these are military people to the Japanese so that they can protect themselves so that their family will not be beaten or will not killed by this Japanese, that they tell the world these military people are hiding.

Guadalupe Dee [00:03:38] During that time, my my dad, according to him when he was watching this collaborators, is not the only one. Several of the Filipinos who are pro Japanese. He is watching as a little boy, he watched these people, that collaborator's reporting to the Japanese. So when when they remove the cover to their face, my dad can witness who these people and after that. He reported it to the media as. And after that, when they found that these people are the collaborators of the Japanese, they kill them. They. The advocacy that I heard from him, I hear it from him and he always joined with these Vietnam veterans, veteran people, the World War two veterans, together with Lechuga and other majors. One time they told me that they lined up, they story, they went to the Philippines, they went to the US embassy so that the White House I mean, and. They tied their hands, they put it in the pens, and then the police got them and they put it

into the jail for one to two days and they said they need to pay the fifty dollars or something by Monday in order for them to release.

Guadalupe Dee [00:05:21] And that's part of the advocacy that the joint and also another one I know that he always went to Capitol is joining with these people, the capital. With that and talking to the senators, the. And requesting for the reunification, what is equitable, he's always joining with these people. He's very proud of telling the US and to my children, to our grandchildren that he is he is a worldwide veteran and he fought for this country. That's why we are enjoying now the freedom. I'm very proud of him. Of course, you're not thinking about this is one of the hero, because my coworker in a veterans hospital, I met him when my dad is scheduled for Kaija Kaija. Good job, checkup, cardiology checkup, and one of them is a nurse named Judy Centralizers, we found out that she is Filipino and my dad is a Filipino. So when I say that, OK, they are both Filipino and then my dad asawa. Where were you, where in the Philippines, as you said, Latinos, and then my dad started talking about or do you know these people? So you started filling in for a surprise. Do this until I said that it's my uncle. That's my dad. And that is the story of my mother that I saw. You are the one you are potentially the you are the one who assisted my mom three nights and four days walking to the mountain to bring my dad, my mom, my mother to my dad in the camp. And I'm very proud of it. It is a living testimony. And they still here. And then my and then and my dad started talking about this.

Guadalupe Dee [00:07:31] My dad is an old one. When they started talking, it kept on talking that. I know. I know. Major, major Baiame. After that, they got married and they got 12 children, one of them is a priest, one a doctor, one nurse, one engineer, and all of them are professionals out of that thing, out of the simple things that my dad was done to, the simple things accompanying the the. I forgot their name, accompanying the mother to the mountain. See what they got? They brought a good family, a big family of professionals, and they're all successful. And the children I met all these children and they are very thankful. And that's how I use that. That's how I heard that, that my dad was one of her dad's friends who assisted in taking care of me. Sister, for you that the pilots October 19 for the part of Mr. Jan Boyle, one of the pilot I found in the mountain, followed by another pilot, which is really down for you in November of 1944. And my dad is the one who saved them and brought them in the mountain with them, with this Kamata and coconut and whatever. They found the animal in the mountain like the wild big. So throw him. At least these two pilots survive until the Americans help them to bring back these two pilots, but.

Guadalupe Dee [00:09:21] According to the daughter of a major. My dad is one of the big help. To help these two pilots to survive, and because it's hard during that time, it's hard for them to cook the food, so they're trying to hide. This is smoke this come out. And just to be properly this to the American people, the American pilots, they call at nighttime so that they cannot see, so that they cannot see them, they cannot see the smoke. That's what I heard. And the thought that is really very proud of my dad for what they did because my dad knows or the family or the the family of Mr. Biyani, Major Biyani and my dad and these and the children. And what he did is just like they treat my dad as a hero. Mr. Pooya son. He's trying to find our address and find and he wants to find my dad to thank him about what they did one of these days, he's coming to see my dad, the thank him about the the goodness that made that the two arteries that made that as a worldwide veteran. When I started back home, I had a scholarship given by the Veteran Bay in the Philippines as they paid back. Now, I am working as a nurse in the veterans hospital, serving all these military people, and I'm very proud of it, serving this military that military people, who is the heroes

of this country. And I'm very proud of it. I am a dialysis nurse in a veterans hospital, D.C., VA in Washington, D.C. When my dad received the congressional award I was so proud of. It's a lifetime award that my dad can I can bring or can live the memories to the grandchildren. This is very important for me. Especially for my family and the Philippines, also, at least they recognize. The heroism of this worldwide two veteran.