

Media Kit

DUTY TO COUNTRY

DutyToCountry.org

A story of brave soldiers who served under the American flag during WWII, only to be forgotten by the U.S. government after the war.



THE FILIPINO VETERANS RECOGNITION
AND EDUCATION PROJECT

CONTACT

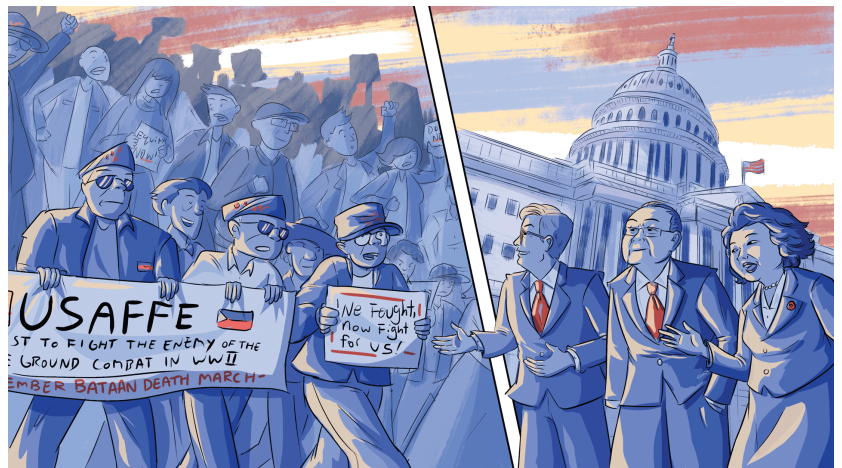
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ABOUT THE PROJECT

Duty to Country is an online educational project produced by the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project. It tells the important, but little-known story of brave soldiers who served under the American flag during WWII, only to be forgotten by the U.S. government after the war.



The project includes an online exhibition and state of the art fully-free educational programs accessible to the public. It showcases compelling historical accounts, oral histories, primary sources, lesson plans, teaching activities, and custom artwork depicting the legacy of the Filipinos and Americans who fought in World War II in the Philippines.

PROJECT GOALS

RAISE AWARENESS

Provide a unique platform to highlight Filipino and American World War II veterans and connect younger generations to those who have and have not worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces.

INCLUSIVE STORYTELLING

Share the story of not only the American and Filipino soldiers, but also the Filipinos who were not a part of the official military efforts during World War II. This includes guerrillas, resistance fighters, women and children, all of whom were crucial in the war effort.

EDUCATE

For the second phase of the project we have developed engaging and easy-to-use educational curricula to teach the story to students in middle and high school. We have also provided a comprehensive list of academic resources for use by educators.



“We want the American public to know that there was another side to WWII.”

Major General (Ret) Tony Taguba
Chairman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition
and Education Project

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TEACHER RESOURCES

Designed for teachers in the classroom, these online educational resources include:

- 10 Detailed Lesson Plans:** The lesson plans incorporate primary and secondary sources and contextualize media and content from the “Under One Flag” exhibition and oral histories.
- 14 explainer Activities:** explainer activities engage students directly with primary documents, archival photographs, oral histories, videos, profile cards and include maps and infographics. Lesson plans and activities are aligned with curriculum standards for ease-of-use.

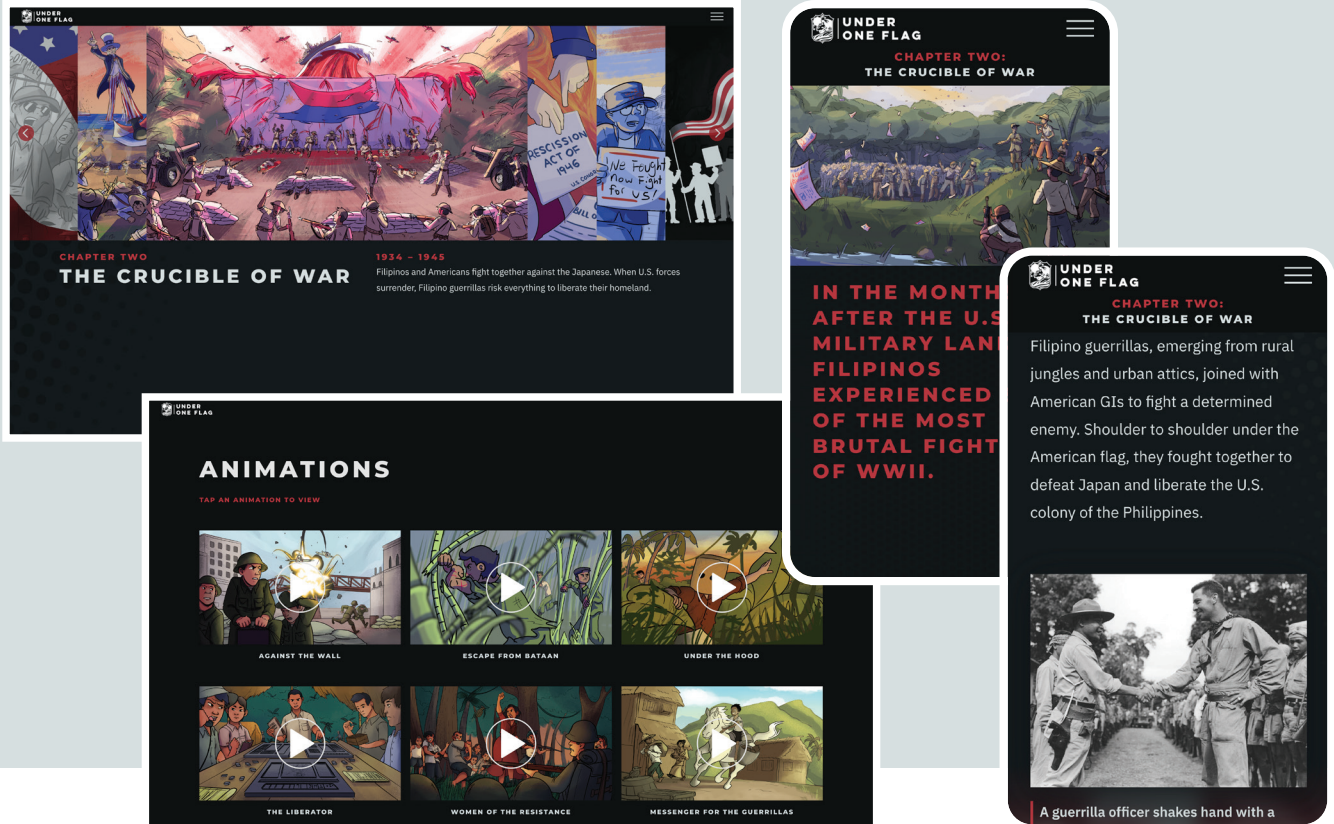


- 30 Cards of key figures** from the colonial era to the present
- 10 Short animations** based on the stories of veterans and activists
- 19 Rich and detailed Illustrations** that depict key moments from the story



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UNDER ONE FLAG

This **online exhibition** explores the untold story of two nations—the United States and the Philippines—fighting together under the U.S. Flag. Across a century of history, *Under One Flag* features first-hand accounts of living veterans, historians, and community advocates. It showcases archival photographs, films, and historical documents, and is designed to work hand in hand with FilVetREP’s free curriculum.

Under One Flag sections include:

The Story: Explore the story chapter by chapter, starting with the Colonial period, continuing to World War II and concluding with the civil rights struggles for recognition that came after.

Animations: Experience the stories of veterans and activists brought to life through short animations, ranging from firefights in the jungle to protests in Congress.

Illustrations: Witness significant moments across this history brought to life through the richly detailed illustrations crafted by artist Aria Villafranca.

Profile Cards: Explore the roles played by key people in this story by browsing their profile cards, featuring illustrated portraits and short biographies.

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ORAL HISTORIES

With **20+ hours of video interviews**, *Duty to Country* showcases a rich archive of compelling first-hand stories. The archive provides access to topic-based short compilations, highlight clips, full interviews and searchable transcripts. This timely effort captures stories told by the last of the living veterans of World War II, their families, activists and historians. Clips range from 30 second highlights to full interviews.



GRAPHIC NOVEL

(FALL 2023)

In the Shadow of Giants is an **upcoming graphic novel** commissioned by the *Duty To Country* project to engage the next generation of Americans in this rich history. This work of historical fiction tells the story of a young Filipino American who discovers that her grandmother lived a secret life as a Guerrilla during World War II. It recounts her life during the Japanese Occupation and the lasting impact of the war and its aftermath on Filipino Americans today.

Written by *Duty to Country* producer Matthew Fisher and illustrated by *Under One Flag* artist Aria Villafranca, the story is inspired by the real-world experiences of veterans and their descendants as captured through the *Duty To Country* oral history project. *In the Shadow of Giants* is expected to be released in Fall of 2023.

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TESTIMONIALS

“ [Duty to Country] is engaging and relevant and makes the history come alive.”

“ This is a really important story of veterans and how their rights were denied, but also of how they fought to gain them back.”

“ The rich content of the curriculum tackles some of the biggest questions in world and U.S. history – war, empire, colonization, military service, racism, immigration, civil rights, and fight for racial justice.”

Inquirer.net

AWARDS

Duty To Country was awarded:

AAM Media & Technology MUSE’s Silver Award in the category of Online Experience

MuseWeb GLAMi’s Silver Award

Muse Creative’s Gold Award in the categories of Education and Activism

Horizon Interactive’s Gold Award



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PROJECT BIOS

MAJOR GENERAL TONY TAGUBA



Major General Tony Taguba is Chairman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project. He is also President, TDLS Consulting LLC, which provides business consulting services to small

companies – disabled veteran owned and economically disadvantaged. He is the Chairman, Pan Pacific American Leaders and Mentors (PPALM).

Born in Manila, Philippines, MG Taguba was commissioned as an Armor officer following his graduation from Idaho State University in 1972. He served in numerous command and staff positions from platoon to General Officer level. His numerous military awards include the Army Distinguished Service Medal (2 awards), the Legion of Merit (4 awards), the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (6 awards), the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

MARIE C. BLANCO



Ms. Marie C. Blanco worked for the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye for 34 years. Her legislative issue areas included agriculture, banking, budget, business, energy, finance, insurance, and taxes. Ms. Blanco is a

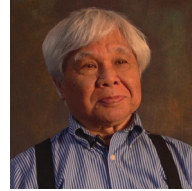
strong advocate for the Filipino veterans of World War II. She successfully and tirelessly worked on legislative measures that recognized the sacrifice, service, and contributions made by these veterans in defense of our nation.

Two most notable measures that became public law granted naturalization to approximately 25,000 Filipino World War II veterans, and provided a one-time benefit payment to over 18,000 Filipino World War II veterans. In May 2013, she formed MCB Consulting, LLC, a government relations consulting company based in Falls Church, Virginia.

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JON MELEGRITO



A son of a Filipino World War II veteran, Jon Melegrito is a founding member and former executive director of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA). Melegrito was co-chair of

the National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity (NAFVE) and has served in various advisory boards. A journalist by profession, Melegrito retired in 2012 from the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME), where he worked as a publications specialist in the Communications Department. He currently writes for the Philippine Inquirer (Inquirer.net), Positively Filipino, Pinoy Newsmagazine, and Manila Mail.

MATTHEW FISHER



Matthew Fisher is principal and founder of Night Kitchen Interactive, where he has produced interpretative and educational experiences for arts, cultural heritage, and science organizations since 1997. Matthew is

passionate about the transformative power of interactive storytelling and participatory engagement and speaks on these topics at museum conferences and universities regularly.

PARTNERS



The Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project is a 501(c)(3), tax exempt, nonprofit, community based, all volunteer, charitable and educational organization. It is committed to educating and raising awareness of the national recognition of Filipino and American World War II soldiers across the United States and the Philippines for their wartime service to the US and the Philippines. The United States promised these brave men and women American citizenship and Veterans' Administration benefits, and yet they were denied these benefits after the war and for over seven decades. Many died without receiving any recognition from the US Government for their sacrifice.



Night Kitchen Interactive is an award-winning design firm with 20+ years of experience partnering with museums, science centers, and arts and cultural heritage organizations.



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