

Duty to Country

Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project

Interview Transcript: Aquilino Delen

Please Note: Due to a machine-automated transcription process, there may be errors in this transcript.

Aquilino Delen [00:00:09] Aquilino Suarez Delen, a native of Batangas City, Philippines. Nine months from now, I will be 100 years old. My birthday was October 19, on 1924, 25. Very close. It's 24, 25. And now in 2023. So I become 100 years old this coming October 19. I small child, in the Philippines I enrolled in the school. Very small, I was then only seven years old at that time. But because of God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, I became accelerated because I was given a very good mind in learning who I am and who I would like to be friends of people like you. So I am very sorry, only I cannot hear now. As a Filipino person who know very well where Tondo Manila is, and I, from young educator I usually go or went to Manila, back and forth, all day. And so I had many friends over there while I was young. But when I became a teacher, you know, I became a teacher for so long time. I know more about my past, but because of forgetfulness as an old man, so many I forgot. That is why I would like to see people as my brother or sister that would help me retain my memory. But anyway, I have three daughters. This is the second daughter of mine, Sonia Delen. My first daughter was Ester Delen, who was a long time, back to the Philippines. And still stayed there. She's from northern America.

Aquilino Delen [00:03:21] And went back to the Philippines where she came from. She was born in the Philippines, like also my second daughter, born in the Philippines. So perhaps because of too much work I became a little bit, my mind is becoming, but still there are so many things I know in my mind. My experiences as a teacher. A long time teacher, 39 years in the teaching profession continuously without any absentee. So I became a school principal for so many long time, 38 years old and three big counties in the Philippines. I came from this one, this is Conde Labac, Batangas City, Philippines. And this one is San Miguel Elementary School. And this one is San Isidro Elementary School. I was ten years teaching the place where I came from, Conde Labac, Batangas City, was promoted to San Miguel Elementary School after ten years stay as a school principal in that school. I became a school principal, ten years also in San Miguel, yes San Miguel Elementary School and because of good work, I was promoted to another school San Isidro Elementary School. There, I stay also ten years there so. Because of good mind. God gave me that, good talent while I was young. So because of God's, with me. God the Father, God the Son, Jesus Christ. I was a good follower of Christian religion in the Philippines. Because of my experiences, because of my talent and because of God the Father, God the Son, Jesus Christ, guiding me in what I am doing. So I became a professional at young age, and then I was recruited by the American soldiers to join against the Japanese soldiers in the Philippines.

Aquilino Delen [00:06:18] I was successful in dealing, with the help of the American soldiers, to fight with the Japan soldiers in the Philippines, and we were lucky to win the battle. And that is the beginning of my stay, long, in the armed forces of the Philippines, aided by American people. I was promoted step by step against Japan in the Philippines.

So America got me as one of the very good agent to help the American people. Perhaps because of God's help. God the Father, God the Son, Jesus Christ. I became a good leader. Being a good agent of the American people to the Philippines, to defeat the Japanese soldiers in the Philippines. So I became well known by the American people in leading our men against the enemies.