

Historic battle. Quezon City marked the 114th anniversary of the Battle of San Mateo at Silangan where Gen. Henry Lawton was killed on December 19, 1899 during the Philippine-American War in the hands of Gen. Licerio Geronimo under Katipunan Supremeo Gat Andres Bonifacio. District 2 Councilor Voltaire Godofredo Liban III (2nd from left) represented Mayor Herbert Bautista and Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte who both joined the QC humanitarian mission in Leyte. At the rites were QC cultural and tourism affairs chief Rosario Yara, Gen. Geronimo's grandson Edgardo Ocampo, Barangay Bagong Silangan Crisell Beltran of Bagong Silangan, and senior consultant Gilbert dela Fuente of District 2 Rep. Winnie Castelo. Lawton, the highest US military casualty at the time, became famous for capturing Apache chief Geronimo.

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Belmonte, Fernando lead Battle of San Mateo rites

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Metro Manila Development Authority chairman Bayani Fernando called for heroic efforts to strengthen national unity as the city commemorated the 109th anniversary of the Battle of San Mateo on Dec 19.

The site of the encounter on Dec. 19, 1899 between Filipino and American troops, where US Army General Henry W. Lawton was killed, is now known as Barangay Bagong Silangan, now a part of Quezon City.

Before introducing the guest of honor at the commemorative program, Mayor Belmonte emphasized in his inspirational talk that Quezon City takes pride not only in being the fields of freedom at the start of the Revolution of 1896 but also in being a melting pot of migrants from different parts of the country.

"It is phenomenal that the parochialism of yesteryears among Filipinos who made Quezon City their permanent home had disappeared as we worked together to build our city," the Mayor said.



Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. and Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando lead the commemoration of the 109th anniversary of the Battle of San Mateo, which actually took place in the area now known as Barangay Bagong Silangan, Quezon City. In that encounter between Filipino and American troops on Dec. 19, 1899, US Army General Henry W. Lawton was killed in action by a small force led by Gen. Licerio Geronimo. Also in photo with the guests are QC Police District director Magtanggol Gatdula, Bagong Silangan barangay chairman Engr. Armando Endaya, and Gen. Geronimo's grandson Edgardo Ocampo.

He added that "now that there is a global economic crisis, to be non-parochial will help us...because we have to first strengthen ourselves in our own country."

MMDA Chairman Fernando, the guest of honor, said "we need more heroes today because we have more problems facing both the government and the people."

Fernando said every Filipino can also be a hero today without fighting in a battlefield, "all we have to do is to always bear in mind that there are two important things we can and should always do: number one is to obey the laws, and number two, let us do our duty, whatever we are or whatever our job is."

He said that doing these two things should be our own measures of heroism today.

The MMDA chairman lamented, however, that "real heroes are hard to find these days."

He said, "we should build monuments for those whom we could find and call heroes today."

Among the guests at the commemorative rites were Gen. Geronimo's grandson Edgardo Ocampo and Kaanak ng mga Bayaning Pilipino president Eugenio Roy Daza.

Bagong Silangan barangay chairman Engr. Armando Endaya led the welcome ceremonies.

The Philippine STAR METRO

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005

Belmonte to lead Battle of San Mateo rites

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. will lead city officials in the commemoration of the 106th anniversary of the Battle of San Mateo tomorrow in fitting ceremonies at the Gen. Geronimo Park in Barangay Bagong Silangan.

The National Historical Institute (NHI) and the city government have prepared a simple cultural program to honor the heroes of the Battle of San Mateo, led by General Licerio Imaya Geronimo, the Filipino general who killed US Gen. Henry Ware Lawton.

Dr. Edna Azurin, one of this year's Gawad Parangal awardees, has been invited as the guest of honor.

The commemorative program will formally start at 8 a.m. with a drum and lyre parade. It will be immediately followed by a wreath-laying ceremony. Belmonte will be joined in the floral offering by members of the Quezon City Council, led by Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, officials of the NHI, Knights of Columbus (Gen. Licerio Geronimo Assembly of Rodriguez, Rizal), Descendants of the Heroes of Philippine-American War 1898, the QC schools division, the barangay council of Barangay Bagong Silangan, led by Barangay Captain Armando Endaya, and the Boy and Girl Scouts of the Philippines.

Mayors Pedro Cuerpo of Rodriguez and Jose Diaz of San Mateo, of the province of Rizal, are also participating in the wreath-laying ceremonies since Bagong Silangan used to be a part of San Mateo, a town in Rizal located between Montalban and Marikina.

Roy Daza, president of the Descendants of the Heroes of Philippine-American War 1898, will deliver an inspirational talk.

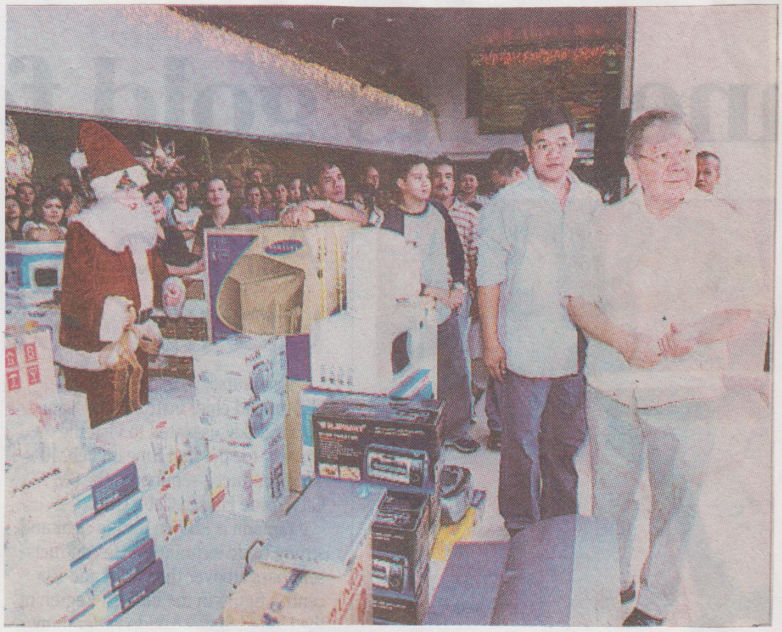
Dr. Regino Paular, chief of the historical education division of NHI, together with Cuerpo and Diaz and Sir Knight Roperto Somera of the Knight of Columbus-Gen. Licerio Geronimo Assembly, will deliver short messages.

Responding to their messages will be Edgardo Ocampo, a descendant of Gen. Licerio Geronimo.

According to Edgardo Geronimo Ocampo, a grandson of the hero of the battle of San Mateo, it was Gen. Geronimo who shot Gen. Lawton, who was then desperately trying to stop the Filipino general's men from retreating.

Lawton is remembered in American history as the man who captured the indian chief who, by coincidence, was also named Geronimo.

Gen. Geronimo was already the leader of the Katipuneros in the Montalban area even before General Emilio Aguinaldo became the president of the first Philippine Republic.





Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. spreads Yuletide cheer at City Hall as he shares the spirit of the season with employees during their Christmas party. Cash prizes, appliances and several sacks of rice were raffled off during the occasion.
JOEY VIDUYA

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People/Events

THE PHILIPPINE STAR

32 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2001



Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. (center) leads the wreath-laying ceremony to highlight the 102nd anniversary of the historic Battle of San Mateo in ceremonies held at the Geronimo-Lawton Park, Bgy. Bagong Silangan, QC. It was in the Battle of San Mateo where Gen. Henry Lawton was killed by Filipino troops, under the leadership of Gen. Licevio Geronimo. With the Mayor are QC Councilors Almario Francisco and Eric Rey Medina, Montalban Councilor Edgar Geronimo, who is a grandson of the late general and barangay captain Armando Endaya of Bagong Silangan.

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LOCAL HISTORY



BATTLE OF SAN MATEO. Quezon City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. is joined by National Historical Institute chairman Dr. Pablo S. Trillana III, San Mateo Mayor Crispin Santos, Rodriguez (formerly Montalban) Mayor Rafaelito San Diego and Councilor Edgardo Ocampo, grandson of Gen. Glicerio Geronimo, during the unveiling of the historical market and wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the infamous Battle of San Mateo led by General Glicerio Geronimo in Bagong Silangan, Diliman, QC. Mayor Mathay cited the 'heroism and bravery of General Geronimo.' He noted the speedy socio-economic development in QC, San Mateo and Rodriguez. Also in photo are Councilor Eric Rey Medina, City Administrator Dr. Manuel Alba, assistant school division superintendent Dr. Lorenzo Rupin and barangay captain Armado Endaya.