

## **On My Honor: Stories of Scouts in Action**

Some heroes act in the daily round of existing, others act at the moment. This is a book about heroes who were and who are members of the great Movement known as Scouting. Some of them received official recognition for their acts, some did not.

*On My Honor: Stories of Scouts in Action* narrates stories of Scouts and Scouters who have displayed heroism in the service of fellow human beings. It is a landmark work in the history of BSP publishing.

Special thanks to Bong Saculles for creating a digitized copy of this book for the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

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**July 20, 1950**

**Dear Miss Vivian Parlade,**

**I saw this letter on the road. I picked it up and found that it must have been dropped and lost unknowingly by the owner. Since your address is on the envelop, I am respectfully returning it with the money, fifty dollars, untouched. I am a Boy Scout and I feel good that I am doing this. I am not after any reward nor compensation that is why I am not giving you my name nor my address, only my initials. I hope you are happy.**

**For service,  
BH  
Boy Scouts of the Philippines**

**To all the Scouts.**

# FOREWORD

*It is fitting that we remember the past. It is practical that we move with the times. It is important that we serve the youth of today. It is necessary that we face present realities.*

*No monument ever suffices to honor acts of heroism. Imitation is the best praise. So the best tribute which can be rendered to people who have performed heroic acts is to publicize the deed in order that an example can be set before others to inspire them to do likewise.*

*On My Honor: Stories of Scouts in Action* narrates stories of Scouts and Scouters who have displayed heroism in the service of fellow human beings. It is a landmark work in the history of BSP publishing. As with most of our publications, it is the product of joint effort.

*The Public Relations Office, Office of the Secretary General, labored hard to bring out a quality work, notwithstanding the time constraints which have placed some limits on the extent that the writers and editors could pursue their ideas. As a pioneering effort, this work may not be flawless, but it is the first work of its kind in our organization's history.*

## **To The Youth**

*You, my dear young men and women, are growing physically, mentally and emotionally. I hope you are also growing spiritually. Scouting is a good place in which to grow and develop your physical, mental, and spiritual health. In Scouting you are given the opportunity to exercise them while having fun at the same time. Today, many of you will try considering learning more about the many ideals Scouting provides. Just open your hearts and minds and see how playing and working with other boys gives you the opportunity to grow well. Listen to other voices, hear their songs and watch them play and see how beautiful it is to be growing up in Scouting. The fact is, we should all be growing - whatever age we are at. Healthful growth happens when we are active in healthful endeavors and when we know how to grow with other people.*

*Please grab the growth opportunities that come your way, and do not waste your time in growth-obstructive activities. Soon you will be adults, and responsibilities shall come your way. Handling these responsibilities will be easier for you if you have educated and trained and prepared yourselves well.*

## **To The Scouters**

*Seldom has anyone given you appreciation for the million little things you do everyday to help our boys, our program, our association, and our nation. So let me, at this moment, give you thanks and appreciation for your work. This book is also for you.*

*Many people in our country still are not aware of the service our association has rendered through the years to our youth. So, let people know of our activities. There's nothing wrong with publicizing our good work, as long as we do it with grace. We can be humble, but we can also let the public be aware of our work at the same time. This takes maturity, but it can be developed through practice.*

*The reason we want people to know about our work is not only to solicit public support, but to set an example for others to follow, and to inspire others to do likewise. When you light a candle, you do not hide it under a cover. Let its light shine freely.*

*We hope that this work will inspire young people everywhere to devote their lives to following the example*

*set in the stories of Scouts in action.*

Jejomar C. Binay

National President, Boy Scouts of the Philippines

## **PREFACE**

*The courage to face the trials and to bring a whole new body of possibilities into the field of interpreted experience for other people to experience — that is the hero's deed.*

~ Joseph Campbell

The hero confronts the spots and episodes of life with sight and act out of the ordinary and mundane. The hero is one of us. Yet often he is not of us. He has seen the world we have seen; often we do not see the world he sees. The hero may be steadfastly and doggedly hammering at the mountains on humanity's path. He may be a crouching tiger who pounces only when prey fleets by him. They have had emotions and experiences in life as we have. They have had problems, concerns and activities, triumphs and failures. They have made mistakes, conflicts, apprehensions. Yet at the moment of truth, they let their talk merge with that truth.

Some heroes act in the daily round of existing, others act at the moment. This is a book about heroes who were and who are members of the great Movement known as Scouting. Some of them received official recognition for their acts, some did not. Many of these stories have appeared in the pages of the *Philippine Scouting Magazine*. They compose just a small number of incidents where Scouts, Scouters, and former Scouts willingly offered their efforts and took risks in the service of others. It is not a complete documentation of all the acts of heroism performed by Scouts and Scouters. No book can accomplish such a task, for there surely have been many more heroic acts which have gone unrecorded. Yet we endeavor in this work to remember and retell the exploits of **Valeriano Abello, Oscar Alcaraz, Octavio Alvarez**, and many others like them, so that these stories may give succeeding generations inspiration, encouragement and guiding zeal.

Readers will notice some unevenness in the treatment of individual person's story. This is not intentional as there is no attempt to make comparisons between the individual stories. It is due to limitations in available information. Inaccuracies in detail may even be present. The purpose of this work, however, is not to focus on a meticulous documentation of historical data, but rather to inspire people to develop themselves and others.

# The Supreme Sacrifice

ARIS C. ESPINOSA

If you would ever be in a situation where you could save the lives of other people, but with the necessity that you sacrifice your own, would you be prepared to do it?

In the Bible, it is said: *“There is no greater love than this, that one lays down his life for his friend.”* (Johan 15:13). In this world of enmity and ill-will, there are a handful of souls who have been filled by God with such love and spirit that they can easily give up the gift of physical life in His service to awake into eternal life. One such person was Aris Espinosa.



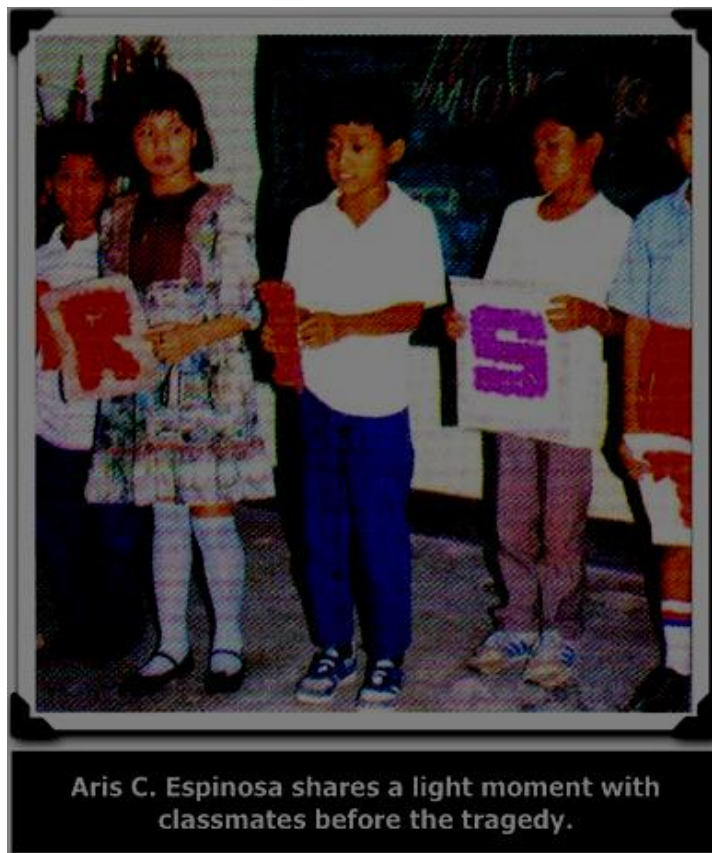
Aris had learned the ideal of service. He had taken an oath which said, “to help other people at all times.” This oath Aris had taken to heart, perhaps more seriously than many other people, young or old.

On 30 January 1994, at around 2:40 in the afternoon, some boys were playing with a hand grenade. The boys were tossing the dangerous weapon around as if it were a ball, and then hurled it towards a basketball ring.

Aris was just a short distance away as the grenade rolled towards a group of children. Shouting at the children to get away, Aris dropped face down on the explosive and covered it with his body. Witnesses Rodrigo Gapor, Ponciano Jamoroi, and Cirilo Senangote were at the scene of the incident within two minutes of the explosion. Recovered from the site were parts of Aris' face, breast, and arms.

Scout Aris Espinosa of Troop 60, Rupagan Elementary School. Lanao del Norte Council, was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

Aris Espinosa, 13 years old, offered the supreme sacrifice. Reflecting on his shining example, one stands in awe at his selflessness almost too noble to believe. It stands at the very pinnacle of heroism, for though many heroes risked their lives not knowing whether they would survive or not, Aris must have known that he would die - and gave his all nevertheless. No human award can do justice to honor one so sublime, yet it is our duty to ourselves that we honor his memory.



Aris C. Espinosa shares a light moment with classmates before the tragedy.

### **SAHJID S. BULIG and RICHARD H. CELESTINO**

On July 2, 1993, the famous “Pagoda” of Bocaue, drifting on the Wawa River, started sinking from the weight of devotees who had boarded the floating shrine. Richard Celestino was at home when his mother arrived crying and told him of the tragedy.

Richard rushed to the scene of the incident to see if his sisters were among those on the pagoda. The place was dark, but a search light was being used on the scene. Richard swam across the lighted portion of the river, and boarded the sinking edifice on the left side. On the platform, Richard found his friend Sahjid Bulig standing at the center.

Sahjid dove into the lighted water and taking a little girl with him, swam towards the river bank. Richard jumped in after Sahjid in the same direction, saving a boy and girl. Moments later, Richard, sensing danger, stopped diving and shouted to Sahjid to stop, too. Sahjid, however, went on diving and swimming in the current, searching for more drowning victims. He was able to save five more children, before succumbing himself to the murky waters.

Sahjid’s body was retrieved the following morning. Richard lived to tell the tale of his friend Sahjid. Tokens and honors were offered to the family of Sahjid. Richard himself, though he received nothing other than a lone recognition from the BSP, proudly narrates the exploit of his friend whenever he can.



Scouts Sahjid and Richard, both of Troop 564, Bambang Elementary School, Bocaue, Bulacan Council, were conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor** and the **Silver Medal of Honor**, respectively, on October 31, 1993.

In the same year, the **Sahjid Bulig Presidential Award for Heroism** was instituted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government to honor individuals or groups who have demonstrated courage and selflessness in serving others. Later Sahjid's memory was enshrined at the Museo Pambata at Roxas Boulevard, Manila, alongside national heroes Rizal, Bonifacio, and other patriots.

### **FLORENCIO AGAPITO and ROBIN GARCIA**



On July 16, 1990, at about 4:30 p.m., an intensity 7.7 earthquake hit Luzon creating havoc on the huge island. Particularly hard hit were Baguio City, Cabanatuan City, and Dagupan City. Many buildings were toppled, the biggest of which was the Hyatt Terraces Hotel in Baguio.

In Cabanatuan, Florencio Agapito and Robin Garcia were in class when the killer quake hit and wrecked the six-storey building of the Christian College of the Philippines. Robin cleared a passage through debris enabling three fellow students to escape from the collapsed building. Florencio led 45 classmates out to safety. Robin was hit by falling debris in the abdomen and left thigh and died of his injuries on the same day at Nueva Ecija Provincial Hospital. Florencio got his legs pinned by a falling beam and died 16 days after his legs were amputated at Subic Bay Naval Base. Some 29 people died at the school.



On August 30, 1990, Anastacia Agapito and Marina Garcia received the Gold Medals of Honor posthumously conferred on their sons, Scouts Florencio and Robin, at a special ceremony at the BSP National Headquarters.

## EXEQUIEL V. MONTILLA



Scout Exequiel Villanueva Montilla was destined to be immortal. In the eyes of fellow Scouts and co-Butuanons, he was a hero *par excellence*.

During an enemy air raid on the Navy yard in Cavite at the outbreak of the war in the Pacific, Exequiel Montilla left shelter to help a mother and her children get to safety. The young Scout dashed towards the victims to pull them to safety. The bombs, however, proved mightier than the boy. An explosive fell on Montilla as well as the mother and her children. After the smoke cleared, the young Scout's body and the mother and her children were found among the debris and shrapnel.

Today, Montilla Boulevard in Butuan City stands as a living testament of his heroism. The war has long been over, and the wounds have since healed. Yet, Montilla's bravery remains fresh in memory of proud Butuanons and fellow Boy Scouts. Scout Montilla was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor** in 1941.

## ALFONSO VILLANUEVA

The opportunities for heroism are limited to those with a genuine love for fellowmen. According to a report by Scout Executive Deogenes Fallarme of Baguio-Mountain Council, on the night of September 28, 1950, Alfonso was enjoying a quiet night with his mother and three younger sisters when armed men broke into their house. Fate's folly had it that the man of the house, Benjamin, who worked for a mining company, was still out at the mining camp. Thus, the unwelcome task of saving the family from imminent danger fell on Alfonso. The unexpected specter of a robbery failed to take the boy by surprise despite his innocence and small frame.



This sense of preparedness drove Alfonso to charge at the enemies even at the risk of death. Fueled by an acute presence of mind, Alfonso blocked the bandits' efforts to further gain entry into the residence. The absence of fear in the child lit the fire of courage in his mother and sisters, who were emboldened to stoutly fight off the intruders. They joined the fray against the suspects. Alfonso quickly found that he was no match for the robbers, who were probably more burly than his mother.

The tiny boy stood helpless against the towering presence of the suspects. Undaunted, Alfonso started shouting for help. His sisters then chorused in their pleas for assistance in a desperate attempt to attract the neighbors' attentions. The shouts unnerved the bandits, sending them into a shooting spree. A bullet found its mark in little Alfonso's breast. The armed men fled as the young boy tried to hold on to dear life on the floor, without success. His supreme sacrifice prevented loss to property and the greater tragedy of more lost lives in the family.



Alfonso Villanueva, an intrepid 10-year-old Cub Scout of Pack 1, Government Center School, Baguio City was buried in his uniform with honors.

## JAMIRI ABDULMALI

Jamiri Abdulmali was guarding the provincial grandstand during an athletic meet in Jolo, Sulu, ushering visitors and guiding spectators to their seats, when he spotted a suspicious-looking character in the crowd. The man's strange behavior prompted Jamiri to approach the suspect with gentle caution. Jamiri courteously asked the guest to present his admission ticket. This irked the suspect, who became agitated and tried to force his way to the grandstand. Instinctively, Jamiri blocked the suspect's path and tried to stop the man from bullying his way in. The unwanted guest lunged at Jamiri with a knife without warning.

The assailant fled during the commotion that ensued, while Jamiri lay bloodied and dying on the pavement. He was dead within minutes.

Jamiri paid a stiff price for carrying out his duty to the hilt. He sacrificed his life to stop what could have been a carnage at the stadium. Exemplifying virtues, willingly and probably wittingly, Jamiri prevented the loss of lives other than his own. For his supreme act of selflessness, Jamiri received more than what he and his parents could ask for: lasting honor and recognition as a hero. A simple task, standing guard during an athletic meet, forever etched Jamiri's name in a list of heroes.

Scout Jamiri of Troop 5, Jolo Central Elementary School, was posthumously conferred the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1960.

## GEORGE FAJARDO

George Fajardo was born on February 2, 1918 in Ts'ing Tao (Qing Dao), China. His mother was Portuguese. He had his early education in Ts'ing Tao and Pei Ching (Bei Jing) but he was through and through a Filipino. At age 12, he arrived in the Philippines and later studied radio mechanics.

In 1942, Fajardo joined the US Army Quartermaster. Assigned to bring supplies from Manila to Corregidor by raft, he had to engage in night movement which incurred the risk of being shot at by friend and foe. It was then that his skill in Morse was put to good use.

In Corregidor, Fajardo joined the USAFFE. The Rock suffered massive pounding by the enemy and eventually capitulated. Fajardo was taken prisoner, incarcerated for a while in Capas, Tarlac, and then assigned by the invaders to work with them at various places, particularly Nielsen Airfield, San Beda College, and the University of Santo Tomas. While working with the enemy, he engaged in reconnaissance and espionage, passing out important information on enemy installations and movements to US forces.



Fighting with the US Army 37th Division, Fajardo was killed in action on February 11, 1945, on Otis Street, Pandacan, during the battle for Manila. He was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

As a Scout, George Fajardo had been a member of Troop 61, and later Troop 41 (the Drum and Bugle Corps), Holy Ghost Church, Rizal Avenue, Santa Cruz, Manila, Philippine Council, Boy Scouts of America. He specialized in semaphore and Morse, and attained the Life Scout rank.

### **RICHARD MICHAEL RAYMUNDO FERNANDO**

On December 7, 1996, the Ateneo Alumni Association held the Ateneo Heroes Memorial to honor distinguished Ateneo alumni. The year's honorees included Benigno Aquino Jr., Evelio Javier, and Edgar Jopson. Among them was Richard Michael Raymundo Fernando, or "Richie" as he was known to many. He was a Scholastic of the *Societatis Jesu*.

Richie was born February 27, 1970. He was an excellent student at the Ateneo de Manila and had a special interest in Philosophy and Religion. He had been a Boy Scout at the Claret School in Quezon City.

Richie went to Cambodia in 1995 to serve a two-year stint among the handicapped. He went to work at *Banteay Prieb* (Centre of the Dove) in Kandal, near Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The center is a technical school, run by the Jesuit Refugee Service, for handicapped students. Most of the students missed a limb or two due to land mines.

At the center, Richie served his regency -- when candidates for priesthood were immersed in apostolate work. He had many duties befriending, managing, guiding, counseling and organizing the students and their activities.

Richie developed a great rapport with the teachers at the center. He played basketball with them every afternoon. He loved to cook and often took this chore for the workers himself when the cooks were away.

He was fond of the dogs around their place and had instituted himself resident dog cleaner. The dogs followed him everywhere and the fellows joked that if the three dogs were around, one could be sure that Richie was also somewhere near.

Richie was also a bit inclined to mischief. His naughtiest joke was playing along whenever mistaken for a local, until his identity got revealed to the mistaken person by some accident. He was always in

faded denim jeans and slippers and even attended Mass in them. Once, someone who did not know him complained that a "pagan" had been taking Holy Communion.

On October 17, 1996, school managers decided to suspend a certain student for involvement in gambling, an activity which exerted a negative influence on the students.

The suspended student, a handicapped ex-soldier and known troublemaker, came to the school armed with a grenade, apparently intending to lob the bomb at his classmates and fellow disabled. Richie embraced the man to restrain him. In the commotion the bomb exploded, but the massacre was averted. The students were all saved (two were injured) and left to mourn for Richie, along with his many friends and family in Cambodia and the Philippines.

The story of Richie, his funny ways, his good heart, his work with the poor in Cambodia, and his ultimate sacrifice, have been recounted over and over again in many articles published in various journals in several countries -- and yet again once more here.

### OSCAR Y. ALCARAZ

On August 30, 1970, 22 Scouts of Quezon City were camped by La Mesa Dam for tree-planting when Themistocles Amper, a dam official, slipped on the bank and fell into the water. Oscar Alcaraz leapt in and was able to help Amper get untangled from the thick weeds in the lake, but himself got caught in the muck. He was engulfed by the waters while shouting to the others not to jump in after him. Oscar's body was retrieved from the weed jungle the following morning by Navy frogmen.

Senior Scout Oscar, 17, of Post 14, Eulogio Rodriguez High School, Quezon City Council, was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**. On September 11, 1970 he was conferred the **Presidential Medal of Merit** in ceremonies at Malacañang. Alcaraz Street in La Loma, Quezon City was named in his memory. Next to Valeriano Abello's, Oscar's story is probably the most known among Scout heroes.

### CESAR GEPIGON

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese forces attacked the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines, both US possessions. In Jolo, Sulu, the Civilian Emergency Administration assigned Oscar Gepigon and other Scouts to man a first aid station at Jolo Central School. On Christmas eve of 1941, the invaders landed in Jolo at Taglibi Beach. The Scouts at the first aid station decided to retreat to the hills away from the approaching enemy. All prepared to move except Cesar.

He refused to leave in the absence of orders from higher authorities. Their Scouter Mr. McCormick also decided to stay with the station. On Christmas morning, the enemy arrived, spotted the first aid station and opened fire.

Scout Cesar Gepigon of Sulu High School was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**. Today, six decades after, their courage and martyrdom is remembered in the very name of McCormick-Gepigon Sulu Council."

### PREMY E. PUNSALAN

On March 3, 1984, Premy was enjoying his group's backyard camping at the San Nicolas Elementary School, San Simon, Pampanga when he heard a cry for help and saw his cousin Mervin Punsalan drowning in the strong current of the Pampanga River. Premy jumped into the water and reached his cousin. He was unable to hold his cousin against the current, but still went on trying to save him. Both boys drowned before adult rescuers could reach the scene.

KAB Scout Premy was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

### SONNY R. BAUTISTA

On New Year's Day, 1993, Sonny Bautista was teaching outdoor skills to a group of Girl Scouts from Rizal Memorial Colleges at Saavedra Beach Resort, Matina, Davao City, when one participant, Maria Lin Agulan, fell from a *banca* at the boating demonstration. In rushing to her rescue, Sonny was able to place her on the banca, but then developed leg cramps and was carried away by the swift current. His body was found later.

Senior Scout Sonny, a grown man with all of 17 years, of Outfit 7, Rizal Memorial Colleges, Davao City, was posthumously **conferred the Gold Medal of Honor**.

### FULBERT T. GUERRERO

On January 1, 1993, at 11:00 a.m., Mark Lester Mira, Joni Pacamara, Edison Tejada, Manuel Tejada Jr, Allan Trasmano, and Mitchell Triumfante went swimming. Unknown to the rest of the group, Edison Tejada started to drown. Fulbert Guerrero, who was then walking home after attending a mass at Baras Catholic Church, saw Edison calling for help. Without hesitation, Fulbert took off his shoes and swam toward the drowning boy. At the same time, strong, turbulent waves hit both the victim and rescuer, tossing them around.

Fulbert's head hit a rock. Noticing the two, Allan Trasmano swam over to help them. Allan brought Edison ashore first and returned for Fulbert who was already motionless. Edison survived, but Fulbert was pronounced "dead on arrival" at Baras Hospital.

Scout Fulbert, 12, of Baras Central School, Catanduanes, was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

### RODERICK E. FLORES

On August 18, 1984, some 30 Service Scouts of Don Bosco Technical College set up camp by the sea near the Naval Station in Ternate Cavite. At 2:30 p.m., Noel Briones and Glen Magsadia shouted for help from the waters.

Responding to their cries, Eric Benedicto, Roderick Flores and Joey Giron swam out to help. Roderick developed cramps, and was pushed back by Eric. Eric then went for Glen, already limp, but found him too heavy to tow back. Roderick went out again to help Eric and Glen, and they were all engulfed by strong waves. Finally, Eric, Glen, and Noel made it to the beach. Roderick's body was found in San Juan, Batangas on August 25.

Scout Roderick was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

### DANTE B. COLOMA

On December 29, 1980, Dante Coloma died saving his friends Bernardo Carta and Bartolome Tadeo from drowning in the sea off Burgos, Ilocos Sur

Scout Dante, 12, of Antamok Mine Elementary School, Benguet, was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor** in 1982. His school's industrial arts shop has been named the Scout Dante Coloma Shop.

### PAUL EDWARD BAILEN

On October 14, 1961, a group of 26 Scouts and PMT cadets went out exploring in Pangasinan. While crossing the Agno river, their boat capsized. Paul Edward Bailen drowned while attempting to save Manolo Sendaydiego and Robert Tabora.

Scout Paul Edward was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor** in 1962.

### ALEJANDRO LUCAS, JR.

On November 23, 1970, Alejandro Lucas of Rizal Council died in an effort to save a schoolmate, Gerardo Plascencia, 8, from drowning in the swollen Kawa-Kawa River, Taytay, Rizal, in the aftermath of Typhoon Yoling.

Cub Scout Alejandro of Taytay Elementary School was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

### ALFREDO BAGNES

On October 2, 1955, Alfredo Bagnes and 17 other boys went to Puting Buhangin River, San Juan, Batangas, not far from the town center, bringing native safety appliances known as "*timbulan*," each made of two coconuts tied together. At the river, Eufrosimo Sera, 7, who could not swim, was carried by the current into deeper parts, and started crying for help. The group heard him but hesitated to plunge into the treacherous waters. With a *timbulan*, Alfredo swam to the victim, who had turned unconscious, took him to safety and revived him.

Alfredo then rested on the riverbank. The loose soil on the edge gave way under him and he fell into the water and was carried away. Too exhausted to fight the strong current, Alfredo drowned.

First Class Scout Alfredo, 12, of Troop 12, Batangas Council, was posthumously conferred the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### ELISEO C. GADOR III

On the morning of March 3, 1990, Eliseo Gador and his cousins Lea, 13, and Leo Jamelano, 7, went to a pond to check for prawns. At about 11:30, the three went to bathe in nearby Sibud Creek, Sitio Pinanayan, Barangay Sampinit, Bago City. A few minutes later, Eliseo and Lea heard a shout for help. Seeing Leo being carried away by the stream, Eliseo jumped in to save him. Leo, however, caught Eliseo in the vise-like grip of the drowning person and they were both taken by the strong current. With nobody around to help, Lea went home and told her parents of the incident. After an hour of searching, the bodies of Leo and Eliseo were found upstream.

KAB Scout Eliseo, 10, of Kawan 1216, Bago City Elementary School, Negros Occidental Council, was posthumously conferred the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### OSCAR JOSON

When the WWII came to the Philippines, most able-bodied men joined in the country's defense. Scouts took over the jobs which the men had left. In Balanga, Bataan, Troop 8 replaced policemen in directing traffic. The height of USAFFE movements to transfer men and materiel saw Oscar Joson and three other Scouts directing cars to clear the way for a military convoy. It was then that sirens sounded the dreaded warning of Japanese air attack. People ran for cover and jumped into holes, but Oscar stayed in place.

In his mind, Oscar must have thought of the vital importance of the military movement. As bombs fell around them, Oscar's Scoutmaster called out to him to take shelter. Oscar kept to his position anyway. Scout Oscar Joson continued signaling to the army vehicles until he was felled by a bomb.

In 1946, Scout Oscar was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

### JOSEPH E. DANDAL

On May 27, 1991, at 6:00 p.m., Joseph Dandal and his cousins Bebot Edep and Donnabel Badayos left Sitio Capampanan, Barangay Biton, Taytay, Palawan, on a *banca*. The craft capsized between Icaduambanua Island and Biton. Joseph struggled to keep his cousins from sinking, while they were pushing him down in their panic. When rescuers led by Esio Edep arrived, they were able to get the two girls, but Joseph could not be found. Joseph's body was recovered some four hours later by professional diver Nicolas Cabanos.

Scout Joseph, 13, belonged to Troop 129, Biton Elementary School, Biton, Taytay, Palawan Council.

### ARNEL VILLALOBOS

On November 11, 1968, Arnel Villalobos saved three victims at a gasoline explosion in Barrio Don Esteban, Iloilo City, and attempted to help another one, but got caught by flames and was fatally burned.

Scout Arnel was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor** in 1968.

## FIDEL TABASAN

In 1949, Fidel Tabasan was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor** for attempting to save his friend from drowning at Casili, Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur on June 15, 1947.

## ASPI ANAHON

The barrio of Bilaan, Talipaw, Sulu, was under threat of attack from lawless elements on April 3, 1951. Aspi Anahon and another person volunteered to keep watch. The attack came at 12:20 a.m. The two volunteers engaged the attackers as the villagers awakened from the sound of shots and responded. Aspi took a bullet in the head.

Scout Aspi was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

## VIRGINIO A. LEAL

On February 18, 1971, Virginio Leal went with his grades 5 and 6 pupils to the Pampanga River Irrigation System, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, to study rain gauge reading in connection with their science and civics studies. While there, two women shouted for help because they slipped down the river while washing their hands. They were carried away by the water current. Leal rescued one of the two women. He drowned while trying to save the other victim.

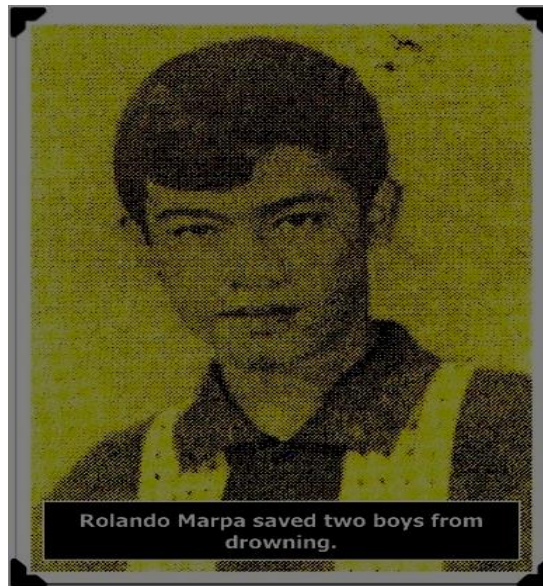
Scoutmaster Leal was posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

## ROLANDO MARPA

Rolando Marpa led a rescue operation which saved seven Scouts in Bangalbalbac River, Naulo, Santa Cruz, Zambales, on March 10, 1974, but lost his own life in the process.



Senior Scout Rolando of Ramon Magsaysay Council, Zambales was later posthumously conferred the **Gold Medal of Honor**.



### DAVID REBAMONTAN

On March 12, 1976, the **Silver Medal of Honor** was posthumously conferred on Kab Scout David Rebamontan of Kawan 153, Eastern Samar Council, who died while attempting to save another boy from drowning in Guimbatan, Tabac, Borongan, Eastern Samar on July, 1975.

### ROBERTO ALDEN GARAY

On June 26, 1978, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was posthumously conferred on Kab Scout Roberto Alden Garay of Kawan 3, Matnog Central School, Matnog, Sorsogon Council, who died while attempting to save an eight-year old girl, Maria Galalde, from drowning Camcaman beach, Matnog, Sorsogon on November 27, 1977.

## Lifesaving

### ELEUTERIO REYNOSO

On January 29, 1962, the motor boat *Sapu Express*, carrying 30 people from Gen. Santos to Glan, Cotabato, was overtaken by a storm and capsized off Celebes Sea. The boat's passengers floated on the sea for two days and nights exposed to the elements waiting for rescue. Eleuterio Reynoso then decided to swim for shore to get help. After swimming seven miles in nine hours through shark-infested waters, he was picked up by Indonesian fishermen 50 yards from shore. By Eleuterio's efforts, the victim were rescued and 26 survived.

Rover Scout Eleuterio received the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

## LAURENCE A. BEROS

On July 28, 1990, many boats were taking people to Ando Island, Borongan, Eastern Samar, for the barrio fiesta. At about 8:00 a.m., Laurence Beros was enjoying the sight of the approaching visitors when he saw a motorboat traveling between Ando and Monbon Islet capsize in the waves and winds. Laurence took a banca and directed it to the capsized boat. At the spot he saw Myla Borata, 6, and Jomel Borata, 4, holding on to their mother. Laurence dived in, held one of the children to the side of the banca, and then climbed into the boat and pulled the child in. He then rescued the other in the same way. One of the men paddled the banca to shore.

KAB Scout Laurence, 8, of Kawan 66, Ando Elementary School, Borongan, Eastern Samar Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1991.

## TROOP 76 SCOUTS, PALAWAN COUNCIL

It was balmy day September 21, 1976, when a boatful of passengers enjoyed a leisurely ride across Araceli Bay, Palawan. The atmosphere was festive as the seacraft was filled with the excited banter of the children and amused giggles of their mothers. Little did they know that the sun had risen on that occasion for a purpose - to make heroes out of a troop of young boys.

Without warning, the mood turned menacing as the boat was swamped by hostile waves and capsized, its passengers thrown into raging waters. The sea was immediately dotted by men, women and children frantically flailing their arms as they struggled to keep afloat. Ominously, the drone of frightened voices filled the air. Quick thinking and the highest sense of duty to others kicked the Scouts of Troop 76 of the Palawan Council into action. There was no time to assume that there were other rescuers nearby. The young Scouts searched the waters and grabbed the victims before they could be pulled downstream by the strong current.



Scout Jimmy Abaigar reached out for two children and towed them to safety. He then administered first aid on the young victims, making sure that the water had not damaged their weak lungs.

Scout Builberto Beguina mustered all his strength to rescue an elderly woman and a child. Scout Nestor Coronia saved three children. Scout Efren Revillas saved two women and a man. The Scouts battled poor

visibility, a strong current and floating debris in order to save the lives of others. The heroes held on to the frantic men, women and children, fully aware that the victims' lives depended on them. They simply ignored the fact that by doing so, they were swimming alongside death.

With their bravery, they young heroes showed the highest ideals of dedication for others. They plunged into perilous depths and saved lives without regard for their own safety.

The Scouts of Troop 76 also showed a novel aspect of their valiant deed. They did not merely rescue women and children. They saved the mothers of future generations and prospective parents as well.

On April 19, 1977, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on the Palawan Scouts for their valorous act.

### SANTOS GUNDA

On the morning of December 23, 1950, five girls — Edita Ador, 14; Beatriz Aquino, 13; Maria Aquino, 10; Josefina Balderrama, 14; and Monica Dor, 15 — all of Barrio Alang-Alang, Borongan, Samar, agreed to go bathing at the river of Lo-om. The river was full with a strong current because of the heavy rains the previous night. The girls went ahead anyway, unmindful of the danger.

In time, one of them, Maria Aquino, was drawn into the deep whirlpool where the waters of the river met the sea. The four other girls, seeing Maria in danger, all swam to her rescue, but unfortunately they only found themselves in the same critical situation as their companion.

Meanwhile, as the girls struggled vainly in the water, Felipe Gunda, 18, happened to pass by, and seeing the girls' plight, lost no time but plunged into the river in the hope of rescuing them. But on reaching them, the girls held on to him, putting them all in peril of drowning. Just then, Santos Gunda arrived on the scene. He got a long pole and used it to tow each of them to shore.

Scout Santos received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1951.

### MARCO NORBERTO GO DE VERA

On the afternoon of April 24, 2000, Marco Norberto de Vera, Marco Hintay, Kevin Saribong and Nestor Saribong were out swimming in Buliasnin River, Boac, Marinduque, when strong waves hit them and quickly moved them some seventy meters from shore. A good swimmer, Norberto reached for Kevin and placed him on a log with the help of Marco. He then reached for Nestor and towed him to safety. After this Norberto swam back to Kevin floating on the log and rescued him with an inner tube.

Senior Scout Marco, 15, of Barangay Buliasnin, Boac, Marinduque Council, received the **Sahjid Bulig Presidential Award for Heroism**, with P20,000 and a plaque from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in ceremonies at Malacafiang Palace. Norberto has also been awarded the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

### JULITO SEMINE

On the night of January 1, 1933, a crowd was waiting for the steamship *Bolinao* to dock at a wharf in Butuan. In the crowd's rush, a boy, Teopisto Sevilla, 9, fell into the crocodile-infested Agusan river. Julito Semine jumped into the river to rescue Teopisto.

Tenderfoot Scout Julito of Troop 79, Butuan, Agusan, received the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

## WILFREDO P. BINAL

In 1965, Wilfredo Binal saved 8-year-old Susan Ortaliz from drowning in Cansilayan Creek at the height of typhoon Dading.

Cub Scout Wilfredo Binal, 10, of Iloilo Council received the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

## RICO CALMA

On Oct. 5, 1983, Rico Calma was crossing the San Miguel Bridge spanning the Pampanga River on his way to school when he heard cries for help. Marilyn Salas, a grade one student, fell through an un-repaired hole in the bridge and was being carried downstream. Rico fought the strong current to bring the unconscious victim back to shore and then revived her.

Scout Rico of Troop 119, San Simon Elementary School, Pampanga Council, received the **Gold Medal of Honor**.

## JOSE ARJONA, JR., ROMEL TRADIO, and LEANDRO T. VALLEJOS

On the afternoon of March 5, 1988, a group of boys were at the last base of an emergency preparedness training course during a Council Senior Scout Rendezvous. The final activity called for a crossing of the 7.6-meter wide, 3.5-meter deep Baan River. A rope was tied across the river as a line for them to hold on to while crossing. Although the river was swiftly ebbing, plants floated around and the waters were murky.

As four boys were making a crossing, one Jeffrey Batula lost his hold on the middle of the rope, and was swiftly carried away by the fast current. Leandro Vallejos immediately swam after the drowning Jeffrey. Unfortunately, while towing Jeffrey in, Leandro himself developed leg cramps and started drowning too. Jose Arjona then ramped in and towed Leandro to the riverbank, where he was revived by Romel Tradio. Two other Scouts pulled Jeffrey in.

Scout Jose received the **Gold Medal of Honor**. Scouts Romel Tradio and Leandro Vallejos each received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

## FIDEL EXCONDE

In 1951, Scout Fidel Exconde received the **Gold Medal of Honor** for swimming to the rescue of Encarnacion Panlasigui, 50 yards off Talomo Beach, Davao City.

## VICTOR NARTATES

On August 23, 1955, Dionisio Madis, 10, fell off his carabao into a pond while bathing the animal and was saved by Victor Nartates who swam out to rescue him. Four days later Guillermo Nartates, 9, and Roberto Salvador, 11, also fell off a carabao in the same pond and was saved again by Victor who made

a riding rescue, reaching the boys with his own carabao and pulled them onto the animal's back.

In the same year, Scout Victor of Troop 87, Nueva Ecija Council received the **Silver Medal of Honor**.

### JOSE MAGLACAS

Imelda Luna, 15, and Luzeli Sevilla, 16, of Immaculata Concepcion Academy were bathing and playing in the Boac River, Marinduque. The girls were enjoying themselves when a strong current suddenly carried Imelda away. Luzeli attempted to rescue her friend but was also carried away by the strong current.

Jose Maglacas was washing clothes about a hundred yards upstream when he heard the shouts and rushed to their aid. He grabbed the unconscious Imelda and brought her to the bank first. It took him several dives to find Luzeli who had sunk in the turbulent waters. A passerby, Isidro Peranco, helped Jose revive the victims.

Jose, 15, of Troop 4, Marinduque Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1948.

### MICHAEL M. MANAPOL

Scout Michael Manapol of Basilan City Council received the **Silver Medal of Honor** for saving a young girl, Josefa Lazaro, from drowning on February 27, 1968 in the waters off Sumandang Beach, Isabela, Basilan City.

### VICENTE MASANGKAY

On March 14, 1952, at about 9:00 a.m., Ernesto Villafuerte, 12, was swimming in Davao River when he got overwhelmed by the waters. His cousin cried for help, and Vicente Masangkay responded to the call. After several attempts, he located Ernesto half-buried in the mud at the bottom and took him out of the river.

Scout Vicente of Davao Council received the **Silver Medal of Honor**.

### RUBEN AMOR

On October 14, 1961, a group of 26 Scouts and PMT cadets went out exploring in Pangasinan. While crossing the Agno River, their boat stalled and was capsized by the rough waters. Ruben Amor risked his life attempting to save the passengers.

Scout Ruben of Pangasinan Council received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1962.

### PAUL PASCUAL

On December 6, 1974, Cub Scout Paul Pascual of Bulacan Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving his sister from drowning in the river in Santa Cruz, Monica, Hagonoy, Bulacan. Paul, himself a non-swimmer, held on to a wire attached to a fence.

### RICARDO ENERO

Scout Ricardo Enero of Quezon Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1951 for swimming to the rescue and saving Salome Cas, 15, and Lucena Enero, 22, on the morning of February 26 in Talon, Tumayan, Gumaca, Quezon.

### REMIGIO BULASCO, AVELINO CAGUIAT, and ALFREDO TIAMZON

On November 12, 1955, a group of students from San Francisco Elem. School, Concepcion, Tarlac, went to a 20-foot deep, 36-foot wide irrigation dam to swim. In the middle of the dam, two boys, Agaton Datu and Gregorio Quiazon, got exhausted and started to struggle. Remigio Bulasco and Avelino Caguiat swam out and towed them back, but then had become too exhausted themselves to push the victims up the slippery sides of the dam. Alfredo Tiamzon then jumped in to get all four out of the water.

Tenderfoot Scouts Remigio Bulasco 14, Avelino Caguiat, 15, and Alfredo Tiamzon, 15, of Tarlac Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### EMILIO DAYAG

On Christmas morning of 1950, two women fell into the Chico River, Tanglag, Lubuagan, Mountain Province. Emilio Dayag rescued Magdalena Gayawa and attempted to save the other woman, but she died.

Assistant Scoutmaster Emilio Dayag of Baguio-Mountain Province Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### ANGELITO DAWADAO

In 1951, Scout Angelito Dawadao of Baguio-Mountain Province Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving two girls from drowning in Ba-ay River on April 18, 1949.

### ROLANDO BATARA

On December 9, 1950, Arturo Pilberio, 15, got carried by the current in Ermitanio Creek, Rizal, and was rescued by Rolando Batara.

Scout Rolando of Rizal Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1951.

### FELIX TAGURA

On September 3, 1966, Michael Brillantes, 7, and Teddy Brillantes, 9, went swimming in a river in Bangued, Abra and went into water above their depth. Felix Tagura was about to leave the same place

after a swim when he heard the two boys cry for help. “Responding to the call of duty and without thought of his personal safety,” according to Provincial Division Scout Coordinator Federico Versoza, Felix “plunged into the river and retrieved the boys one after the other.”

Scout Felix of Troop 29, Abra Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1967.

### RUEL E. LEDESMA

On September 28, 1989, at around 6:30 a.m., Scouts of Troop 287, Pantad Elementary School, San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur, were participating in a briefing on aquatics as part of their Patrol Leaders Training at Marcos Port. As the group assembled at the aquatics area for instructions, Domingo Parba, a non-swimmer, strayed from the group unnoticed, waded into the water out of his depth and got pulled away by the waves.

After several minutes of struggling against the waves to get back shore, he was overcome by fatigue and started calling for help. Ruel Ledesma went into the water, made a swimming rescue and brought Domingo back safely.

Scout Ruel, 15, of Troop 287, Pantad Elementary School, San Pablo District, Zamboanga del Sur-Pagadian City Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### JOSE B. VILLARUZ, JR.

In 1967, Scout Jose Villaruz of Confesor Council, Iloilo, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for rescuing Elicita Dela from the sea off Villa Beach, Iloilo.

### EBEN RYAN A. DE LA CRUZ and ROBERTO A. DURANO

On April 27, 1996, at about 8:00 a.m., Eben Ryan de la Cruz, 12, was invited by Dave Decierto, 11, to swim at Ravena's Mini-Port in Estancia, Iloilo. The port was a good place for non-swimmers because of its wide concrete steps on which one could go wading. Ryan and Dave were joined by their friends Roberto Durano 12, and Whel Mark Setera, 11. Dave and Mark were left at the shallow part by the Port's stairs and told to stay because they could not swim. Roberto and Ryan swam to the docked fishing vessels to practice swimming and life-saving skills learned barely a week before at District Summer Camp.

A few minutes later, the two non-swimmers went boating. As they were watching the swimmers, Dave suddenly made a dive, hitting Mark with his feet and causing the *banca* to turn sideways. Ryan and Roberto immediately swam to the rescue. Ryan got hold of Dave, while Roberto rescued Mark. Swimming over 30 meters in the 8-meter deep water, they reached the mini-port safely.

Scouts Eben and Roberto, both of Estancia Central School, Iloilo Council, each received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### VIRGILIO DIZON

May 1, 1956, started out like any other merry day at Angat Dam, Bustos, Bulacan, a popular swimming

resort. People from afar had come to enjoy the scenery or take a refreshing dip in the crystal clear waters of the dam. At mid-afternoon, the excursionists gathered under the shade of the huge trees along the banks. Laughter and song filled the air until shouts for help were heard.

Rolando Crisostomo Perez, 11, of Bagna, Malolos, Bulacan, had apparently developed cramps and then disappeared in the deep area of the dam. Virgilio Dizon, who was strolling in the shade with some companions, quickly responded to the call for help. Several people gathered at the bank as Virgilio swam to the spot where the boy disappeared. After several dives, Dizon found the victim behind a rock at the bottom of the dam. He pulled him up and started towing him to shore.

Normando Ursaiz, a former member of Troop 149, saw that Virgilio was exhausted and went in to help. They lifted the unconscious boy to the dry land. Virgilio then started to revive the boy, but some men intervened and volunteered to work on the victim.

Second Class Scout Virgilio, 15, of Troop 149, Rizal Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### KENT BRIAN C. TAN

On May 1, 1997, students of Ateneo de Zamboanga went to Busay Falls, San Roque, Zamboanga City, for the student summer program. After going through the forest and rocky terrain, some of the participants went to the falls while others went around to appreciate the scenic site. Madelyn Antonio dived into the water to meet a fellow participant at the center of the eight-foot deep lake. After a few seconds, the victim cried for help while treading towards the deepest part of the lake.

Unfortunately, her playmate had already swam to the lakeside. As the victim panicked and gasped for air, Kent Brian Tan swam to her rescue.

Scout Kent of Western Mindanao State University received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### RODOLFO ANTE and EDILBERTO FLORES

On April 3, 1949, Benjamin Avila and Edilberto Flores were swimming across the Abra River in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, when Benjamin was overcome by exhaustion and cried for help. Edilberto, although himself exhausted, turned back to help Benjamin. Meanwhile Rodolfo Ante jumped in from the bank and the two saved Benjamin.

Scouts Rodolfo and Edilberto of Troop 60, Ilocos Sur Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1949.

### ENRIQUE DENNA

On July 5, 1950, at 8:00 a.m., Mangawi Bag-ay and a companion were fording a river in Pacil, Kalinga, when Mangawi was carried off by the current and lost consciousness. His companion could not rescue him, but Enrique Denna made a swimming rescue and revived the victim.

Explorer Scout Enrique Denna of Baguio-Mountain Province Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.



## PABLO DORONILLA, JR.

In 1959, Second Class Scout Pablo Doronilla, 14, of Troop 45, Iloilo Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for rescuing and saving two-year-old Ronnie Lausa from drowning after the child fell off the bridge over the Tabucan River in Dumangas, Iloilo at noontime on March 27, 1959.

## KENNETH ESPIRITU

On the afternoon of September 15, 1984, Kenneth Espiritu and several boys were having fun splashing in the rain in Calamba, Quezon City. Raymond Laudencia, 9, was sitting on a pile of earth on one side of an excavation ditch where large drainage pipes were being laid when he fell into the hole. Due to the heavy downpour, the ditch was filled with water.

Kenneth jumped into the current and grabbed Raymond by the hair. Kenneth kept Raymond's head above the water and swam with him toward the side of the excavation ditch where Kenneth's cousin Onag helped pull the victim to safety.

Scout Kenneth of Troop 875, Francisco Balagtas Elementary School, Manila Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

## HERMINIO BUNAGAN, RENE PANABANG, and RODEL SAMSON

On April 21, 1976, a group of boys went swimming in a pond at Sitio Asban, Patiao. Benedicto Lubuang, a Grade 2 student and the smallest in the group, jumped into the pond with the bigger boys but failed to resurface.

Sensing something wrong, the victim's companions started shouting for help. Herminio Bunagan, 12, Rene Panabang, 12, and Rodel Samson, 13, responded to the call, and swam around the five-meter wide, two-meter deep pond searching for Benedicto. After about five minutes, they found the victim, lifted him out of the water, and revived him.

Scouts Herminio Bunagan, Rene Panabang, and Rodel Samson each received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

## LUISITO BITUIN

On March 25, 1951, at around 4:00 p.m., Luisito Bituin was on a *banca* driving his flock of ducks home in Guagua, Pampanga when he heard a boy on the river bank calling out to him. The boy told Luisito that a little child, Alfredo Pineda, had been playing in the water, but strayed too far out and disappeared. Luisito immediately dived into the river, took the little boy from the bottom and revived him.

Second Class Scout Luisito, 13, of Troop 100, Pampanga Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

## CRISTETO BANGGA, VICENTE MAONGAT, NOLISITO NANG, ALADINO

## TOGUTAN, and SARECER ESCALONA

On September 8, 1955, a motorized *banca* was carrying 30 people from barrio Lucatan to the fiesta in Mati, Davao, when a sudden explosion caused by a careless smoker sitting near the gasoline container wrecked and set the craft on fire some 200 meters offshore. Four Scouts and their Scoutmaster quickly pushed out towards the area of the explosion. Eight people were rescued, 10 unconscious persons were revived, while five victims were found dead. Seven other persons were unaccounted for and presumed dead.

Scouts Cristeto Bangga, Vicente Maongat, Nolisito Nang, and Aladio Togutan and Scoutmaster Sarecer Escalona each received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

## HERMINIO CRUZ

In the afternoon of November 6, 1967, Ernesto Daos, 10, and Socrates Robles, 8, were splashing in the water in Santiago River, Malolos, Bulacan, when they lost hold of the inner tube they were using to keep afloat. Herminio Cruz towed the two non-swimmers ashore one at a time

Cub Scout Herminio Cruz of Kawan 385, Bulacan Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor**.

## AMANDO OBLANCA

On July 25, 1948, five-year-old Leopoldo Obtinario was hit by a bus on Embarcadero bridge and fell to the river below. Attracted by the commotion, Amado Oblanca rushed to the scene, plunged into the river, rescued the child, revived him, and took him to a physician.

Rover Scout Amado of Circle 10, Bani, Pangasinan, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1948.

## JOSE NANOLA

In 1949, Scout Jose Nanola received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving six-year-old Jaime Racelis, Jr. from drowning in Lucban River Quezon.

## ROGELIO QUIMBO

On March 19, 1952, at about 11:00 a.m., Isabelo Ramil, 7, tried to cross the Davao River but got exhausted in midstream and sank in the current. Rogelio Quimbo, who was bathing by the river's edge, swam out and rescued the child.

Scout Rogelio received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

## JOSE MAYOR

On January 13 1951, at about 8:00 a.m., Jose Mayor, on his way to school, saw a boy drowning in the sea off Romblon, Romblon, and rescued him.

Scout Jose received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

### BUENAVENTURA MANUEL

In 1952, Scout Buenaventura Manuel received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving a boy from drowning during the 6th anniversary of the Philippine Republic at Luneta.

### CHARLITO FRANCISCO

In 1967, Scout Charlito Francisco received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving Jose de los Reyes from drowning in Canal de Reina, Manila.

### REYMUNDO K. QUINTO

Scout Reymundo Quinto of Cagayan Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving Hubert Ruiz one morning in May 1968 in Callao River, Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

### CELSO BALMACEDA, ELEAZAR GARCIA, and DANTE SANA

Scouts Celso Balmaceda, Eleazar Garcia, and Dante Sana received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** for saving a little boy, Oscar Onza, from drowning on September 30, 1968, in Gonzaga River, Gonzaga, Cagayan.

### MAXIMO EISMA

Julio Guerrero, 4, and his sisters were taking a bath outdoors when the boy fell into the deep well. A sister of the victim saw that Julio was not moving and sought assistance. Maximo Eisma heard the call and rushed to the scene of the accident. Maximo went to the bottom of the well and retrieved the victim. The boy had hit his forehead against an iron pipe. Maximo dressed the boy's head wound and sent him to the doctor.

Scout Maximo received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

### JESUS JIMENEZ

On September 1 1956, at around 11:00 a.m. Jesus Jimenez, 9, and his brother Primo, 5, went to a well to wash a hoe used in digging a canal. After washing the hoe, Jesus gave it to his little brother and told him to follow. Primo however returned to the well to wash his hands and fell in. Fortunately, he was able to hold on to the board placed across the well. Hearing his cries, Jesus rushed back and pulled his brother out.

Cub Scout Jesus of Pack 2, Dasol Central Elementary School, Pangasinan, was awarded a **Certificate of Commendation**.

### ARTHUR ARTICULO

On the morning of Sunday, June 26, 1960, many people were swimming and bathing in the Cagayan River in Tuguegarao. The river was some 500 meters wide and 20 feet deep in some areas, with some shallow spots where the children could swim. The peace was soon shattered by the panic-stricken shouts of two children who got carried to deeper parts. A bather, Catherine Gutierrez, responded quickly to the call for help, swam out into the middle of the stream, and got hold of Nick, 7. The other child Rebecca Gonzales, 7, was left alone.

Arthur Articulo, who was also bathing in the river, went out to rescue Rebecca. He swam some 50 yards to get to the drowning girl. Rebecca thoroughly frantic by then, tried to grab hold of Arthur as soon as he came within her reach and a slight tussle ensued. Arthur escaped the girl's grasp, dived under, surfaced behind her and towed her ashore.

Tenderfoot Scout Arthur, 11, of Cagayan Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1960.

### RAYMUNDO HERUELA

On September 24, 1950, Sea Scout Esperidion Dagis was swimming off White Beach, San Jose, Tacloban, Leyte, when he developed cramps and began to drown. Raymundo Heruela rescued him and managed to take him ashore. Esperidion appeared lifeless but he was revived after receiving artificial respiration from Raymundo.

Sea Scout Raymundo was Skipper of Ship 3, Leyte Teachers College, Leyte Council.

### FRANCES RANCES

One of the programs of Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary is its Annual Summer Mission Camp which usually lasted five days. In April 1991, the camp was held in Barrio Binaybay, Baco, Oriental Mindoro.

On the fourth day, April 4, at 2:15 p.m., a teacher, Eden Gutierrez, was wading in shallow parts when she lost her footing and was thrown off balance by the strong current. Gutierrez could not swim. She sank in and was carried by the current. Scout Ursus tried to rescue her but could not overcome her panicky grip. Another Scout Fleischer did the same to no avail. Frances, who was resting on the riverbank, rushed to the teacher's rescue and towed her back to shore.

Scout Frances, 14, Progress Badge holder, of Troop 10, Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary, Manila Council, received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1993.

### JIM I. PAULINO

In October 1993, at 3:45 p.m., 30 students from Assumption School of Davao went to Paradise Island Beach Resort, Davao City. Among them were Marvin Velasco, 16 and Ralph Rollon. After playing volleyball, both of them went swimming. At 30 meters, Marvin developed muscle cramps and began to struggle. Ralph, exhausted, could not help Marvin and shouted for help. Jim Paulino went to the rescue, brought the victim ashore and revived him.

Scout Jim, 16, of Troop 165, Assumption School of Davao City, and member of the Emergency Service Corps, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** on May 27, 1995.

### EDMOND M. TRIA

On March 5, 1995, at about 2:00 p.m., a group of students from the Divine Word College were at a birthday party at Cyper Resort Swimming Pool. Moments later, Suzette Gaudiel, 13, was seen drowning and shouting for help. Edmond Tria swam out and brought her to safety.

Senior Scout Edmond, 14, of Outfit 42, Divine Word College, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro Council, received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

### ERNIE CARNAJE

On February 22, 1972, at 10:30 a.m., at the Iloilo Provincial Jamborette, Buenavista, Guimaras Scout Napoleon Calderon went out of his depth in the pool and started drowning. Ernie Carnaje jumped into the water and towed Napoleon to safety.

### SAMUEL B. SIMAPAO

On November 20, 1989, at 2:00 p.m., classes were dismissed early due to the floods caused by strong winds and rain. On the way home, Samuel Simapao saw Joselito Famor, a pupil of Cabal-asan Primary School, fell into a 10-meter wide, three-meter deep creek, his face sunk in the muddy water. Samuel immediately jumped into the creek, dragged Joselito to safety and applied artificial resuscitation on the victim as a crowd of boys gathered around and taunted him.

Scout Samuel, 15, of Troop 286-B, Don Pelagio Villegas Memorial Elementary School, Sitio Paz, Hibaiyo, Guinhulgan, Negros Oriental-Siquijor Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1991.

### RUBEN FENIS

On January 1, 1957, Ruben Fenis was walking along Libmanan River when he heard some children shouting for help from the other side. The kids pointed to where Efren Abiner had fallen in. Ruben dived in and found Efren unconscious at the bottom of the river, three meters deep. Ruben grabbed Efren on one arm, brought him to the surface, and immediately applied artificial respiration. The victim revived after half an hour.

Ruben Fenis, 12, of Troop 12, Libmanan, Camarines Sur, received the **Silver Medal of Honor** from Chief Scout Jorge Vargas at the 1957 National Court of Honor in Naga City.

### ERNESTO M. ABONO

Ernesto Abono was working with Troops 207 and 130 of Mandaluyong in aiding local authorities in directing traffic and operating lost and found centers and first aid stations at a summer resort, when he spotted a drowning girl. Without a moment's hesitation, Ernesto dived in and fished out the sinking girl. Felipe Planta, Jr., Rizal Council Scouter and Red Cross first aid and swimming instructor resuscitated the victim. The victim's mother Polly Reyes-Perez recommended Ernesto for an award to his Scoutmaster Aladino Caberte.

Scout Ernesto, 15, was Junior Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 207, Manuway Elementary School, Rizal.

### PAUL FREDERICK A. PIGAR

On February 3, 1997, at 9:00 a.m., Paul Frederick Pigar was playing with friends when he saw something floating on the sea. Thinking that it might be his dog, he swam out to the rescue. When he reached the spot, he found a little boy, Florencio Nerecena. Frederick quickly brought the victim back to land. On the shore, Kawan Committee Chairman Jesus Yao-co immediately applied cardiac compression and instructed the victim's father to give mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. After about thirteen minutes, the little boy regained consciousness and was brought to the hospital.

Scout Paul Frederick Pigar of Troop 245, Antique Council, received a **Plaque of Commendation**.

### JOSE BONZA

On March 8, 1969, while swimming at the newly-inaugurated swimming pool at the Negros Occidental High School, Jesus Anino, 17, developed cramps. Tenderfoot Scout Jose Bonza, 12, one of the safety coordinators in the seven-day West Visayas athletic meet, was passing by the pool when he saw Jesus drowning. Without removing his uniform, Jose jumped into the pool and rescued Jesus.

Tenderfoot Scout Jose Bonza of Bacolod City High School received a **special citation** on the closing day of the West Visayas athletic meet from Vice Governor and BSP Occidental Negros Council President Miguel Gatuslao.

### PERLITO SUNGA

A group of eight delegates from the Araullo High School attending the National Secondary Schools Press

Conference in Dumaguete City, set out on February 10, 1958, to take a dip at the swimming pool of Councilor Feliciano Duran in Barrio Pulangtubig. After swimming, Perlito Sunga noticed a shadowy figure at the bottom of the pool. Thinking that one of the boys might be testing his endurance underwater, Perlito surfaced and stood at the edge of the pool waiting for the water to clear up. After 10 seconds, he noticed that the figure had not moved and shouted for help. Perlito Sunga dived and retrieved Jose Hernandez, Jr.

The victim was believed to have been underwater for no less the eight minutes. Meanwhile, a man grabbed the victim by the feet trying to force Water our from his lungs. Perlito however insisted that he continue applying artificial respiration. Before the ambulance arrived, the victim was already vomiting. Sunga continued applying artificial respiration on Hernandez all the way to the hospital.

Star Scout Perlito belonged to Troop 4, Negros Oriental High School.

### RUBEN DE LOS ANGELES

Danilo Romero, 8, was wading by a waterfall when he slipped from a ledge and fell into the pool basin. Ruben de los Angeles quickly swam out and rescued Danilo.

Scout Ruben, 13, belonged to Troop 145, Concepcion Elementary School in Busuanga, Palawan.

### PAUL ULRIC LLANES CAÑETE

On April 4, 1988, Paul Ulric Cañete and his brothers, sisters, and cousins were swimming in the sea a few meters from his parents' house in Poblacion, Liloan, Cebu. The children were using the water breakers as a diving platform. The water by the breakers was overhead deep. Margarita Goc-Ong, 18, the new neighbor's maid, then arrived and waded in. She had moved towards the spot where the children were swimming, but moments later started drowning. Paul Ulric, who was standing on the sea wall, jumped into the water, grabbed Margarita's arm and pulled her in.

KAB Scout Paul received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1988.

### ANDREW LADAO

On October 11, 1974, at 4:35 p.m., Janet Montes, 5, daughter of Councilor Jose Montes of San Miguel, Linapacan, Palawan, accidentally fell into a deep well not far from the San Miguel Elementary School. Andrew Ladao went down the well by securing himself with a rope tied to a strong stone and rescued the little girl.

Scout Andrew Ladao belonged to Troop 775, Linapacan Central School, San Miguel, Linapacan, Palawan.

### ALLAN HIPE

On September 11, 1970, teachers from Alangalang District II held. picnic near Mainit River, Leyte. Imelda Gariando was carried by a strong current to a deeper part of the river and sank to the bottom, about eight feet deep. Allan Hipe tied the victim's hair to his right arm and pulled her to the river bank.

Gariando regained consciousness half an hour later.

### ROMANDO SAMBILE

On July 31, 1959, Romando Sambile of Malaybalay saved the lives of two boys and a carabao in the Swanga River, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

First Class Scout Romando Sambile of Bukidnon Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1959.

### JOHN NOBLE

On January 30, 1937, John Noble saved his father from drowning in Manila Bay.

Tenderfoot Scout John Noble of Manila Council received the **Silver Medal of Honor** in 1938.

### TOMAS NABALES

In 1962, Tomas Nabales saved one-year-old Lino Castillejos from drowning in Balwarte Bay, Batanes.

Scout Tomas Nabales received a **citation for heroism**.

### DANNY BRINGAS

On March 10, 1978, the **Silver Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Danny Bringas of Troop 49, Sinalang Pilot Elementary School, East District, Bangued, Abra, for saving two young girls from drowning in Sinalang River on October 6, 1977.

### ERNESTO CASTILLO

On June 16, 1975, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Cub Scout Ernesto Castillo of Kawan 140, Pangasinan Council, for saving 9-year-old Cub Scout Nelson Paningbatan from drowning in a flooded fishpond in Caturay, Bayambang, Pangasinan on September 15, 1974.

### VICENTE GENOTIVA

On June 19, 1975, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Vicente Genotiva of Northern Samar Council, for saving Emerita Celespana, 16, and Erlita Celespana, 12, from drowning in a river in Mondragon, Northern Samar on January 19, 1975.

### BONIFACIO ARANCES

On June 19, 1975, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Bonifacio Arances of Outfit 135, Misamis Oriental Council, for saving two boys, 5-year-old Vox Albert Janubas and 3-year-old Jade Janubas, from drowning in the river near Alubijid High School, Alubijid, Misamis Oriental, in January



1975.

### CLAIDEZAR KAPA

On December 30, 1974, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Claidezar Kapa of Troop 503, San Pablo Central Elementary School, San Pablo, Zamboanga del Sur Council, for saving Aaron Luna from drowning in the sea off San Pablo Wharf, Zamboanga del Sur.

### JAIME CELONES

On August 19, 1975, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Jaime Celones of Troop 1227, Punta Community, Manila Council, for saving a 7-year-old boy from drowning in the Pasig River on February 8, 1975.

### NEMESIO MEDINA

On February 18, 1976, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Nemesio Medina of Troop 127, Bulacan Council, for saving a boy from drowning in the river in Santa Elena, Hagonoy, Bulacan on February 9, 1975.

### ROGELIO RECENTE

On February 18, 1976, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Rogelio Recente of Outfit 43, Misamis Oriental Council, for saving a drowning victim at Chali Beach, Cugman, Cagayan de Oro City on March 8, 1975.

### ISMAEL BANSIL

On January 28, 1971, the **Bronze Medal of Honor** was conferred on Scout Ismael Bansil for saving a 14-year-old girl, Rosemarie Ramos, from drowning in Look River, Basilan City on April 30, 1970.

Rosemarie was bathing in the river when a swift current carried and forced her into a drainage pipe. Ismael dove into the river, worked his way towards the pipes, and pulled her out. They both sustained abrasions and contusions.

## Fire

In modern society, firefighting has been determined to be the most dangerous of jobs. Proportionally, more persons have been injured or killed in firefighting than in any other profession. Firefighters have been burned or suffocated, have fallen from buildings or have had buildings fall on them. It is a noble job especially when undertaken as a volunteer. The best organized and best equipped volunteer firefighters are the Chinese volunteer firefighting groups. With training and practice, Scout groups can also perform important services during fires. In fact, the very first mention of the presence of Scouts in

the Philippines is connected with fire. In the first edition of the Handbook for Boys (1911) of the Boy Scouts of America, one may read a letter from Col. Theodore Roosevelt (BSA Honorary Vice President) addressed to James Edward West (BSA Executive Secretary). In the letter Roosevelt cites Scouts who performed valuable service during a fire in Manila. That good turn establishes the fact that Scouting had started in the Philippines as early as 1910.

### **PONCIANO N.C. DACALLOS**

One night in April 1957, a fire of undetermined origin broke out in a building in the commercial district of Catbalogan, Samar. Fanned by a brisk wind, the blaze spread quickly and was further aggravated by exploding cans and drums of gasoline. The conflagration raged unchecked and reached the vicinity of the Catbalogan Municipal Hall as lack of equipment and low water pressure hindered firefighting measures. Directly in its path was a big house owned by one Arsenio Sison.

Seeing the emergency, Ponciano Dacallos jumped into action. He grabbed two cans and ran back and forth taking water from a nearby fire hydrant. Spurred by his example, people rallied around and splashed water against the burning kitchen walls of the Sison residence and tore down the Window curtains to prevent them from catching fire.

When the house was safe from the blaze, Ponciano and the others turned their efforts on the municipal hall. Pails of water were splashed against the part of the building that was about to erupt in flames. In the blistering heat, suffocating smoke, and flying embers, Ponciano clambered up the walls of the building several times to pour water on critical areas.



The blaze lasted till the early hours of the following day. The fire gutted nine blocks of the town, razing about half-a-million pesos worth of properties to the ground. The successful efforts to save the Sison house and the government building resulted in saving the rest of the district of Patag, a congested area, from the conflagration.

Ponciano sustained second degree burns in the arms and legs, while his companion Antonio Tuazon got first degree burns. Suffering from injury and fatigue, Ponciano could only weakly raise his hand in the Scout sign when people started greeting and congratulating him.

Men of courage do not stalk recognition. It is honor and glory which pursue them. Ponciano's courage and dedication to serve others contributed greatly to the safety and well being of his community even during a crisis. The suddenness of the blaze apparently stunned the town's residents into a moment of helplessness. Ponciano stood out as he knew exactly what to do. Quick thinking helped him prevent the loss of lives and greater damage to property. He responded to the emergency not giving a second thought that the fire could devour him, or leave him disfigured for life.

He was able to put out the blaze by virtue of a more noble fire that raged within him: the flames of courage. It was this same burning passion that helped him open the floodgates of bravery and determination among his fellow volunteers. Ponciano lit the fire that stopped the flood of fear which initially enveloped his community. His heroic deed imparted an important lesson: that a sense of preparedness, among other virtues, can enable anybody to overcome monumental disasters.

Scout Ponciano of Troop 10, Samar Trade School, Samar Council, received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1957.

### **ANICETO ENERIO**

On February 13, 1955, the residents of Burgos Street, Cagayan de Oro City, slept soundly not knowing that their homes could become a heap of ashes by morning. At around 2 a.m., a fire started in a house on Burgos Street. Awakened by cries, Aniceto Enerio rushed into the burning house, gathered all the blankets, and single-handedly smothered the flames which were eating the floor, furniture, and laundry. Aniceto's quick thinking and action prevented the fire from spreading and destroying a whole neighborhood.

First Class Scout Aniceto Enerio of Troop 85, Misamis Oriental Cagayan de Oro Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1955.

### **SANTOS BALAEREZ**

On April 7, 1951, Santos Balaerez rushed into a burning house at Bonifacio and Mabini Sts., Makati, Rizal, and saved a child, sustaining burns in the daring rescue.

Scout Santos received the **Gold Medal of Honor** in 1951.

### **SIMEON PATAO**

On July 16, 1949, a fire broke out in Bantay, Ilocos Sur. Simeon Patao rushed into a burning house and saved a child.

Scout Simeon of Ilocos Sur Council. Received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** in 1950.

### **JAVIER NASOL and BENEDICTO OSABEL**

On January 5, 1956, Javier Nasol and Benedicto Osabel were on their way home at about 4:30 p.m. when they saw houses being licked by flames in Barrio Kamalig, Albay. The two boys rushed to the scene and lost no time in organizing a bucket brigade with other boys in the street. Javier climbed to the roof of one house while the other boy firefighters passed him pails of water which he poured on the burning structure. Mustering his strength, he then tore up the glowing nipa shingles and threw them to the ground.

Scouts Javier and Benedicto of Albay Council each received a **Certificate of Commendation**.

## ERRYL TEMPLO

On April 13, 1997, at 8:00 a.m., Erryl Templo saved his younger brother from falling into a burning compost pit. Erryl's concern to prevent his brother from being injured and to reach him on time led him to reach out beyond his grasp. In saving his brother, he himself fell into the pit and suffered second degree burns.

KAB Scout Erryl Templo, 8, of Kawan 93, Panayakan Elementary School, District Tangalan, Aklan Council, received a **Plaque of Commendation**.

## CIRIACO GATON

On September 18, 1966, Rover Scout Ciriaco Gaton of Confesor Council Iloilo, rushed into a burning house and rescued an 86-year-old man in Barrio Buyu-‘an, Tigbanua, Iloilo and suffered third degree burns.

A year later, Scout Ciriaco Gaton of Confesor Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor**.

## NAMEI POLYTECHNIC EMERGENCY SERVICE GROUP

On April 2, 1968, a fire hit an area on Mabini Street, Mandaluyong. Responding to the incident, the Sea Scouts Emergency Service Group of Namei Polytechnic Institute, under the leadership of Scouter Luis Padilla, Namei vice president, formed a bucket brigade to help fight the fire. They also set up a foot bridge across a nearby creek to help people transfer their belongings to a safe area. By taking responsibility, they helped prevent loss of lives and more damage to property.

The Namei Sea Scouts included Orencio Borja, Rodolfo Buaron, Olando Calderon, Joselito Halili, Manolito de Paz, Alberto Pedro, Alberto Reyes, Arnulfo San Juan, and Felicisimo Vicencio.

## CABADBARAN Scouts

On May 17, 1992, at about 3:00 a.m., a fire of undetermined origin broke out in Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte. A group of 13 boys went out to help battle the fire. They had previously been taught firefighting skills by Municipal Fire Marshall SFO4 Ricardo Racaza. The fire was placed under control after two hours.

On December 30, 1992, Scouts Brian Anino, Errol Cadavero, Adonis Estomo, Bryan Funcion, Ryan Lee, Jan Marfe Mahinay, Darwin Herbas, Luis Labial, Cleto Rey Palanca, Chacie Petalco, Cris Polgarinas, Wilmar Quijote, and Edemar Sajor received **tokens of appreciation** from the municipal government of Cabadbaran and the municipal fire marshal. '

## BUKIDNON Scouts

On March 29, 1972, at about 2:00 a.m., a fire broke out in a small canteen in Maramag, Bukidnon. Winds blew the flames in the direction of a hotel-restaurant, bakery, and gasoline station. Arriving at the scene, Scoutmaster Angel Giner, Jr. found people just watching as the fire grew bigger.

Giner mobilized his Scouts and they formed a bucket brigade from a nearby creek to the blaze and helped fight the fire. Giner's leadership and the boys' quick action helped prevent the conflagration from wreaking more havoc in the community. The quick-acting Bukidnon Scouts were Benjamin Aton, William Cabaguas, Ernie Carnajo, Alfredo Castaneda, Bienvenido Daiton, Remegio Garcia, Ulysses Gurrea, Edgar Ledesma, Emmanuel Ledesma, Pedritos Ormillada, Antonio Pailagao, Conrado Plete, Jr., Ronnie Serapion, and Cesar Yandug.

## NEGROS OCCIDENTAL Scouts

A group of Boy and Girl Scouts and Scouters numbering to about 49, under Scouters Apolinario Bisfis, Jr., Wilfred Gavares, and Joelito Oberes, were in session at the Negros Occidental Council Scout Forum in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, when a fire broke out.

The group suspended their proceedings and rushed to the scene. They assisted the aged, disabled, and children move to safety. Others cordoned the area to prevent looters from getting the victims' belongings.

The Scouts were awarded **medals** by Council Chairman Wilmar Drilon in La Carlota City.

## SORSOGON TROOP 25

On February 26 1957, at 2:00 p.m., fire broke out in Barrio Cabiguan, Pilar, Sorsogon. One group of boys left their class when they heard the commotion and rushed towards the scene of the blaze. On the way, they met panic-stricken residents in a frenzy to save their personal belongings.

When the boys arrived, they saw men frantically trying to prevent seven houses from being completely devoured by the conflagration. The boys pitched in with their firefighting efforts by demolishing the burning structures with poles, bolos, and axes. Their timely action prevented the blaze from spreading and damaging more property. More importantly, no lives were lost as a result of their valorous act.

For presence of mind and swift action in the face of adversity, Second Class Scouts Cesar Banastao, Geronimo Lositano, Jesus Lupo, Ronaldo Macabuhay, Laurencio Malto and Rodrigo Millano of Troop 25 Sorsogon Council, each received a **Letter of Commendation**.

## TROOPS 406 and 117

On October 28, 1993, Troops 406 and 116 and their sister Girl Scouts were camped inside the San Mariano Central School in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro. At 2:00 p.m., a fire broke out in the house of one Gloria Cleo.

The Scouts quickly formed a fire brigade from the artesian well to the burning house. Some of the other campers rushed to the house and helped the Cleo family evacuate belongings to a safer area. The noble actions of the boys and girls created good feelings and impressions on the local officials and residents and enhanced the good name of Scouting.

## BUKIDNON Scouts

When a fire broke out in a reforestation project in the mountains of Malaybalay, Bukidnon, the local Scout leaders knew that their Scouts were prepared to act in times of emergency in the service of the community. The Scouters promptly mobilized Scout fire brigades to help fight the blaze.

The forest fire raged for eight hours, threatening to destroy several thousands of pesos worth of young pine trees plus government structures and private houses near the reforestation area. Some 400 Scouts participated in the mobilization and were later cited for their service by the District Forester, along with Scouting officials Mayor Lorenzo Dinlayan, Engineer Orlando Coruna, Clodoaldo Leocadio (Provincial Scout Commissioner), Edilberto Mamawag (Scout Executive), Timoteo Ocaya, and Jose Vahnore.

## OUTFIT 28

On June 19, 1975, a **Certificate of Commendation** was awarded to each member of Outfit 28, Quezon City Council, for assisting in firefighting, crowd control, and security during a fire on Gumamela, Roxas, Quezon City on December 1, 1974. The conferees included Edwin Baguiwen, Pablo Boyagan, Pablo Dicdican, Joseph Domogo, Antonio Gomowad, Ben Kiwang, Joseph Laus, Frederick Pangsiw, Braille Reyes, Eduard Sumedca, and Alexander Wandag.

## LAERTES ALAS, ALEJANDRO QUILINGQUING, and ROGELIO RECENTE

On December 30, 1974, Certificates of Commendation were awarded to Scouts Laertes Alas, Alejandro Quilingquing, and Rogelio Recente, all of South City Central School, Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental Council, for helping fight a fire in Pinihitan, Cagayan de Oro City on April 19, 1974.

# Crime

*“The conquest of fear yields the courage that is the cardinal initiation of every heroic adventure —fearlessness and achievement.”*

~ Joseph Campbell

## RONNIE CABAMUNGAN

There probably is no crime more heinous than the one committed on and witnessed by children. There may not be sweeter justice than a criminal case's solution with the help of a young person who became witness to it.

On 9 January 1997, Ronnie Cabamungan and classmate Jerry Saac, both 7, were running an errand for a teacher of Pikit Elementary School. Along the way, they passed by Laila Rose Arco, 6. The child, a student in the same school, was relieving herself by the riverside. In their statements, the two boys claimed that a man suddenly grabbed the girl from behind and carried her to a nearby cottage. The horror of the scene failed to unnerve both boys. Ronnie and Jerry decided to linger in the area motivated by the instinct that something ominous was afoot. Moments later, the two boys saw the same man throw a barely discernible form out of the cottage and into the pond.

The suspect and two other companions then fled the area towards the highway. Ronnie and Jerry went closer to inspect the thing dumped by the suspects into the river only to be left aghast by the sight of Arco's bruised and ravaged body. Medico-legal probers later confirmed that the little girl was raped before she was killed.

During investigation, Ronnie volunteered vital information: he recognized Laila Rose's assailant as somebody he had seen before in the cockpit arena near their house. Although the young boy did not know the suspect's name, he had provided authorities with a big piece of the puzzle. Ronnie's elder brother then decided to bring him to the cockpit arena to identify the suspect. As it turned out, Laila Rose's assailant had dyed his hair and had grown a beard to avoid arrest. Yet, Ronnie's keen eye for details saw beyond the suspect's camouflage. Ronnie was able to point to the man from among the crowd. The suspect, allegedly the husband of the local municipal treasurer, surrendered to authorities. His two companions remained at large. Criminal charges were filed against the arrested suspect before the Regional Trial Court in Midsayap, Cotabato.

Ronnie and Jerry testified against the accused, not heeding the threats their testimonies courted for their lives and their families. Later, however, despite the security escorts provided them, Jerry backed out from the case leaving Ronnie as lone witness. He pushed youthful chivalry to greater dimensions by helping authorities arrest a suspect, despite threats to his life and his family. Ronnie's hunger for truth and justice helped him fend off the uncertainty of being alone in the face of adversity. Although still a child, he exemplified the virtue of courage like a grown man. His determination to carry on the battle despite abandonment imparted a noble message to future generations: that a world fraught with ill-will and violence can be purified by strong values like courage, selflessness, dedication to serve fellowmen, a strong commitment to truth and justice, among others.

Scout Ronnie Cabamungan of Cotabato Council received the **Bronze Medal of Honor** from the BSP and the **Sahjid Bulig Award** from the government.