

Spring 2013

## Spartan Salute, Vol. VII

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# *The Spartan Salute*

*Newsletter of San Jose State University's Burdick Military History Project,  
Veterans Advisory Committee and Veteran Students Organization.*

*Number 6*

*Spring 2013*



## **SJSU ALUMNUS RETIRES AS HIGHEST-RANKING FILIPINO AMERICAN**

Edward Soriano, San Jose State alumnus, was the first Filipino-American to become a General Officer in the United States Army. When he retired as Lieutenant General in March 2005, he was the highest-ranking Asian-American serving in the Armed Forces at that time. The General comes from a distinguished military background. His father, Fred Soriano, served as a non-commissioned officer in the 57th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Scouts, was captured by the Japanese invaders and survived the infamous Bataan Death March and years as a prisoner of war.

The elder Soriano served again in the Korean War, where he was again a POW. General Soriano graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management in 1970 from San Jose State and received his commission through SJSU's Army ROTC

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Tuesday, April 9, 5 pm: *Forgotten Soldiers*, film on the Philippine Scouts. Engineering Auditorium (ENG 189), SJSU campus.

Wednesday, April, 10 10 am- 3 pm. Mobile Vet Center in campus, between Sweeney Hall and Event Center.

Saturday, April, 27<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm: 2013 Burdick Military History Symposium: The Civil War. Engineering Auditorium (ENG 189), SJSU campus

**For more information see Page Two.**

## **SJSU TO HIRE VETERAN COORDINATOR, BUT DECISION ON VET CENTER STILL ON HOLD**

Art King, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, in charge of veterans matters, has announced that the university will be hiring a Coordinator of Military Affairs and Veteran Services, to be hired over the summer and in place in Fall of 2013. This full-time position is intended to work with the veteran community, military students, and spouses and dependents. Priority will be given to a veteran for this position.

At the same time, Art announced that Student Affairs has decided until the Veteran Coordinator is in place, before moving ahead with definitive plans for a Veteran Center.

## **VETERANS AND SUPPORTERS ADVOCATE FOR VET CENTER IN NEW STUDENT UNION**

The Veteran Students Organization and the Friends of Spartan Veterans, are advocating for a Veteran Center in the new \$92 million Student Union being built on campus. This initiative has been covered by San Jose State University media. Here are links to articles from the Spartan Daily newspaper:

<http://spartandaily.com/95760/veterans-and-supporters-petition-for-veteran-center> and the SJSU television show, Update News (<http://www.sjsu.edu/at/atn/webcasting/archives/UpdateNews/updatenews-spring13/index.html>)

The university administration's attitude to the proposed Vet Center is the subject of a Open Letter in the Spartan Daily by Dr. Jonathan Roth of the History Department:

<http://spartandaily.com/97386/sjsu-leadership-not-showing-it-cares-about-veterans>

A petition, asking that a Veterans Resource Center be placed in the Student Union is being circulated by the VSO, can be found at:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/san-jose-state-university-provide-a-veteran-center-in-the-student-union-currently-under-construction>

For more information contact Veteran Students Organization President Ben Sok at [bensokmpa@gmail.com](mailto:bensokmpa@gmail.com) or Friends of Spartan Veterans chair Burga Santiago at [burgasantiago@msn.com](mailto:burgasantiago@msn.com)

## **FILM ON PHILIPPINE SCOUTS SHOWN AT SJSU**

Ron Muriera, Administrator of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the Filipino American National Historical Society will be introducing *Forgotten Soldiers* a documentary about the United States Army's Philippine Scouts. These soldiers bravely fought the Japanese invasion, and half were killed in action or in captivity.

Doors open at 5:00, with the program beginning at 5:30. The film screens at 6:00 and will be followed by questions. For information contact Ron Muriera at [rpmuriera@gmail.com](mailto:rpmuriera@gmail.com).

## **MOBILE VETERAN CENTER COMING TO SJSU**

On Wednesday April 10, from 10am – 3pm the Veterans Administration's Mobile Vet Center will be on campus, on the lawn bordering Sweeny Hall at the end of the 7th St. Court. Mobile Vet Center provides VA enrollment services. The Veterans Student Organization, VITAL Office, Student Services, Disability Resource Center, and Center for Community Learning and Leadership will also be there. All veterans, spouses and dependents are invited. For more information contact the Damian Bramlett at [damian.bramlett@sjsu.edu](mailto:damian.bramlett@sjsu.edu).

## **2013 BURDICK MILITARY HISTORY SYMPOSIUM FOCUSES ON CIVIL WAR**

On Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 12:00 to 5:00, the Burdick Military History Symposium entitled "The American Civil War: A 150-Year Retrospective" will be held in the Engineering Auditorium (ENG 189). At 12:00, in the plaza outside the Engineering Building, Civil War reenactor Kermit Claytor will lecture and demonstrate the complete equipment and provisioning for a cavalry trooper and his horse, and how the equipage is packed for a fast march. Starting at 1:00, in the auditorium, there will be three lectures. First, public historian Jean Libby, will speak on "John Brown the abolitionist, African American support, and local connections." Then Economics professor Jeff Hummell will give a talk entitled "Two Nations Under Big Government: The Economic and Political Aspects of the American Civil War" and finally, we will hear about "African-American Soldiers and the Civil War" from Dr. Libra Hilde of the History Department. For information contact [jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu](mailto:jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu) or 408 924-5505.

## **VITAL OFFICE IN CLARK HALL HELPS VETERANS**

The Veterans in Transition to Academic Leadership (VITAL) Office located in Clark Hall 240. VITAL Coordinator Damian Bramlett, Mental Health counselor Dr. Trishna Vinatieri, and a staff of veteran students have been provided assistance and putting on programs for the past year. SJSU Veteran Students are encouraged to visit the office and its website: <http://www.sjsu.edu/vital>

## **SAN JOSE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED**

On March 30, 2103, the San Jose Vietnam War Memorial, located on West Santa Clara Street, just east of the HP Pavilion, was dedicated. The names of 142 San Joseans who died during the conflict are listed. Those wishing to donate to the cost of the memorial, please go to <http://sjwarmemorial.com/donations.html>

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO SJSU VETERANS**

On March 14, 2013 the first Veterans Advisor Committee and Community Partners Scholarship Awards Ceremony took place. Seven SJSU veterans and military students received scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000, donated by Cisco Systems, Mark Farbaugh and Mark Loveless, and also received a challenge coin from the Veteran Students Organization.

This year's awardees were José Calderon, Justice Studies; Serena Chan, Child and Adolescent Development; David Norman, Business Administration/Management; Patrick Rocero, Occupational Therapy; Dylan Wondra, Behavioral Science; Randy Ray Woods, Earth Science; and Kristopher Vallecer, Accounting.

## **WAR BRIDES EXHIBIT HOSTED AT SJSU**

The Northern California Chapter of the WWII War Brides Association put on an exhibit entitled "War Brides Past & Present"

in January and February, 2103. The exhibit, on the fourth floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library featured pictures, wedding gowns and other artifacts. In addition, war brides shared their personal histories.

## **WORLD WAR ONE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MEETS AT SJSU**

Nearly thirty members of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the World War One Historical Association (WW1HA) enjoyed an excellent meeting on Saturday, March 9, at San Jose State University's Burdick Military History Project library. Eric Narveson, Associate Director of the Burdick Military History Project, spoke on Static Warfare before and after the Great War, with examples from the Crimea, American Civil War, Russo-Japanese War and the Blitzkrieg of 1939-1940 (as a counter-example that the Germans developed out of their experiences of static warfare in the Great War), the Korean War, Iran-Iraq war (pictures of these last two were eerily reminiscent of the Western Front), and Afghanistan today.

This is a new venue for WW1HA and the group plans to hold at least two more meetings there, plus start planning for potential Symposia at SJSU during the Centennial years 2014-2018.

## **PANEL ON PAKISTANI NUCLEAR PROGRAM**

On November 20, 2012, the Burdick Military History Project, along with Political Science, the College of Social Sciences and Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science honor society co-sponsored a panel "The Pakistani Bomb: A Historical Perspective. Dr. Karthika Sasikumar of Political Science introduced Feroz Khan, retired Brigadier General of the Pakistani army and now lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School. Commentary was provided by Dr. Vipin Narang of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Dr. Målfrid Braut-Heggahmmmer of the Norwegian Defence College.



## **MONTHLY EAT-AND-GREET GIVE VETERANS A CHANCE TO MEET INFORMALLY**

The Burdick Military History Project and the Silicon Valley chapter of the Military Officers Association of America have providing food for a monthly get-together for SJSU's veterans at the Burdick Project room (IS 239). The Eat-and-Greet is held the last Thursday of each month and all veterans are welcome. For more information contact [jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu](mailto:jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu) or 408 924-5505.

## **BMHP AT SPIRIT OF '45 EVENT AT KELLY PARK**

The Burdick Military History project had a table at the annual Spirit of '45 "Day of Remembrance" held at San Jose's Kelly Park on August 8, 2012. The event included World War Two re-enactors, veterans and military history groups and others.

## **GENERAL SORIANO**

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Program in 1970, as a distinguished military graduate. He subsequently received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri. He is also a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College and the US Army War College.

After his initial assignment, with the 82nd Airborne, General Soriano's first command was an Infantry company in the 2nd Infantry Division, Korea in 1971. He went on to staff and command positions

with the 9th Infantry, the 8th Infantry (Mechanized), 2nd Armored, and 4th Infantry Divisions. General Soriano also served with the US Army Recruiting Command, in Albany, NY and as Special Assistant to the Army Chief of Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, General Soriano served with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. In 1992, he was a Brigade Commander with the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado, and then Chief of Staff, 3rd Infantry Division in Europe. Promoted to Brigadier General in 1995, he served as a Assistant Division Commander with both the 3rd Infantry and 1st Infantry Divisions in Bosnia. In 1996, he became Director of Officer Personnel Management, Army Personnel Command, in 1996, and then Director, Operations, Readiness and Mobilization Office.

In 1999, General Soriano was promoted to Major General and assumed command of the 7th Infantry Division (Light) at Fort Carson, Colorado. In 2001, and as a result of the attack on 9-11, he was assigned as the Director of Joint Forces Command's Homeland Security Department, Norfolk, VA. In 2002, General Soriano was promoted to Lieutenant General and took command of the US Army's First Corps at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Since his retirement in March 2005, General Soriano has worked for Northrop Grumman as Director, International Programs, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He has been active in non-profit organizations. He is currently President of the Mountain Post Historical Association at Fort Carson, Colorado. General Soriano and his wife, Vivian, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Back issues of The Spartan Salute are available at <http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu>. For further information, contact Dr. Jonathan Roth, History Department, San Jose State University, San Jose CA 95192-0117, tel: (408) 924-5505; email: [jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu](mailto:jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu)**

