

# SURVIVOR OF WORLD WAR II BATAAN DEATH MARCH DIES AT 100



In this photo taken April 6, 2017, Bataan Death March survivor Ramon Regalado looks over a map showing where he marched with Cecilia Gaerlan outside his home in El Cerrito, Calif. (AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

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SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco Bay Area man who survived the infamous 1942 Bataan Death March and symbolized the thousands of unheralded Filipinos who fought alongside American forces during World War II has died. He was 100.

Regalado died Dec. 16 in El Cerrito, California, said Cecilia I. Gaerlan, executive director of the Bataan Legacy Historical Society, which has fought Ramon to honor Regalado and others. She did not have a cause of death.

"He really embodied the qualities of the greatest generation and love for country," she said. Regalado was born in 1917 in the Philippines. He was a machine gun operator with the Philippine Scouts under [U.S. Army](#) Forces when troops were forced to surrender in 1942 to the Japanese after a grueling three-month battle.

The prisoners were forced to march some 65 miles (105 kilometer) to a camp. Many died during the Bataan Death March, killed by Japanese soldiers or simply unable to make the trek. The majority of the troops were Filipino.

Regalado survived and slipped away with two others — all of them sick with malaria. They encountered a farmer who cared for them, but only Regalado lived.

Afterward, he joined a guerrilla resistance movement against the Japanese and later moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to work as a civilian for the U.S. military.

In his later years, he gave countless interviews to promote the wartime heroics of Filipinos, who were promised benefits and U.S. citizenship but saw those promises disappear after the war ended.

More than 250,000 Filipino soldiers served with U.S. troops in World War II, including more than 57,000 who died.

The veterans have won back some concessions, including lump-sum payments as part of the 2009 economic stimulus package.

In an October ceremony in Washington, D.C., remaining Filipino veterans of World War II [were awarded the coveted Congressional Gold Medal](#), the nation's highest civilian award. Gaerlan said Regalado did not make the trip due to poor health, but he received his medal in December in an intensive care unit in Richmond, California.

He is survived by his wife Marcelina, five children and many grandchildren.

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