

CHRISTMAS LETTER 2018

DEAR FAMILY & FRIENDS,

Christmas and 2019 are fast approaching. As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun," but it's been difficult at times with the absence of my LOVE. Happily, there have also been high points.

Ed's dream came true when Filipino Veterans were finally recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, and I received Ed's medal at the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society reunion in San Antonio in July. The photo below was taken during the Banquet with (from left to right) Lt. Gen. Kenneth Dahl, PSHS 1st VP Marvin Dumlao, and PSHS President, Brigadier Gen. Oscar Hilman. Below right I am surrounded by family, including Ed's sons Doug Ramsey (who traveled with me) and Col. Ed Ramsey, Jr., with wife Monica and daughter Amy (who all live in San Antonio).



Ed's documentary, "NEVER SURRENDER", continues to receive honors, including as a Semi-Finalist in the Courage Film Festival in Berlin, and the World Film Festival in NY in October. It was also shown at Ed's high school, Wichita High North in Kansas. Janine Ramsey traveled with Raqui to the showing, where we were joined by Barbara Stunz, Ed's 97-year-old cousin, and her family during the Alumni Day event on October 6. It was quite emotional for me as I remembered Ed and walked in the footsteps of his youth.

A feature film about Ed's WWII exploits seems closer to reality than ever, now that the two-time Academy Award-nominated Roland Joffe has signed on with Viewfinder Pictures to direct the movie. He is currently collaborating on script revisions with another two-time Oscar nominee, screenwriter Stephen Rivele, Ed's co-author of "Lieutenant Ramsey's War." Sony Pictures is reading the script, and our fingers are crossed that 2019 is when Hollywood gives the green light for the big-screen production.

I promised Ed that I would tell his sister Nadine's story, and our outstanding team – including Tricia Aurand, Shelly Kale and Doug Ramsey – has made great progress toward completion of the book, "Taking Flight: The Nadine Ramsey Story". It is now being reviewed by two potential publishers that have expressed interest: University Press of Kansas, and the Naval Institute Press. We hope to be offered a contract by the end of this year, for a publication in Fall 2019.

Vanilla Fire Productions (which produced Ed's documentary) is getting ready to start filming interviews for a planned documentary based on our biography of Nadine's life and years as a Women Air Service Pilot (WASP) during WWII. The few surviving WASPs are now in their 90s, so we are starting to film interviews with them, including Nadine's classmates and

friends, to flesh out the amazing story of these pioneers in aviation. I know she is watching from above with Ed and they are helping me in the process.

I am also happy to report that the Library of Congress invited us to provide content for an Ed Ramsey Collection of interviews and photographs to become a permanent part of its archives, to be read and viewed by coming generations of citizens and researchers. I am very proud of Ed's heroism and glad that his story will remain in perpetuity in both physical and digital/online archives.

My travels this year brought me back to the Oklahoma Military Academy in June where my Beverly Hills High School colleague, Karen Boyarsky, and her Dad, Abe (a 93-year-old WWII veteran of the European Theater), joined me to honor Vietnam Veterans with the WALL THAT HEALS. They also viewed Ed's display at the museum. In July, Doug and I traveled to San Antonio to attend the CGM Awards Banquet during the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society reunion (pictured above).

In October, Janine Ramsey and I attended the screening of Ed's documentary at his alma mater, Wichita North High School, and Ed Jr. will be with me in November in Norman, Oklahoma, when I present a Saber award to the outstanding cadet and recipient of the Ed Ramsey Scholarship Endowment Award at the University of Oklahoma (where Ed went to law school).

Thanksgiving will be spent with the Greenblatts (an annual tradition), and after a whirlwind year, I am looking forward to our family reunion in December in Hawaii. The family is expanding to include Daniel and Amy Ramirez's son Cristian (16 months old), and Emily's daughter Alana (nearly 2 years old). Janine, Doug and Bob will also be there, as will the Levy family.

As I look back at 20 years of celebrating with Ed our anniversaries at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, I am including a photo below of us with the Hawaiian dancers in 1997, along with song lyrics that capture the beauty of the islands. The song first appeared in a 1937 movie with Dorothy Lamour.

THE MOON OF MANAKOORA
by Frank Loesser and Alfred Newman

The Moon of Manakoora filled the night
With magic Polynesian charm
The Moon of Manakoora came in sight
And brought you to my eager arms

The Moon of Manakoora soon will rise
Again above the island shore
Then I'll behold it in your dusky eyes
And you'll be in my arms once more



Wishing you a beautiful Holiday Season surrounded by your family and friends and I look forward to receiving your phone calls, cards and letters which keep our friendships vibrant and long lasting. Thanks for your love and support as I continue my journey without my darling Ed. Let us always remember our veterans like Ed who fought for our freedoms and our Men and Women of the Armed Forces and their families who protect us daily all over the world, like our dear friends Megan and LTG Mike Bills who is now the Commander of the 8th Army in Korea.

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH and A HEALTHY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR!

With love & prayers for a better 2019,

RAQUI RAMSEY