



June 16, 2017

by Alfred Lugo

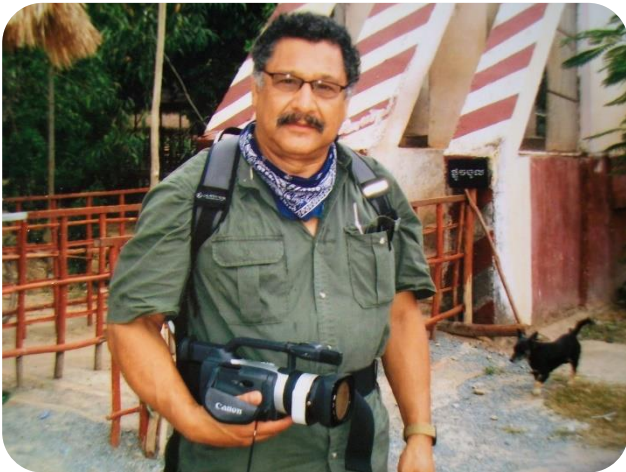
## 201 Fighter Squadron Monument

### El Mercado De Los Angeles ©

FOUNDER, ALFRED LUGO,  
DOCUMENTARY PRODUCER/PLAYWRIGHT

**STARTS NEW CAMPAIGN**

**FOR THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR  
MEXICO'S ESCUADRON 201 FIGHTER SQUADRON©**



Alfred Lugo working on his documentary at the Killing Fields in Cambodia

It all started at the American GI Forum's National Conference where Alfred Lugo met the pilots of Mexico's Escuadron 201 Fighter Squadron.

Being a Crew Chief on Republic's F-105F Fighters in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and a documentary producer on Hispanic Veterans, drew interest in the stories of the Mexican pilots and their fighter squadron and their Republic's P-47

In 2006, Mr. Lugo wrote a resolution which was submitted and excepted at the El Camino Real Chapter of the American GI Forum, Commanded by Mr. Jake Alarid, Past America G I Forum National Commander. Passed and submitted to National.

Campaign began by Mr. Lugo's efforts to have his resolution passed by the American GI Forum's National Conference in 2007. Again, the resolution was presented at the League of United Latin American Citizen's (LULAC) National Conference supported by Mr. Paul Martinez, Past New Mexico LULAC State Director.

### The campaigning began.

**Note: 201 Fighter Squadron Monument El Mercado De Los Angeles Resolution  
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## THE PHOTO CHRONICLE OF EVENTS



Reception for Escuadron 201 Los Angeles, Ca.



Artist Rendition



Jose Luis Gonzalez

**El Camino Real Chapter AGIF  
commissions artist and muralist Jose  
Luis Gonzalez for a rendering of the  
mural and monument**



Artist Rendition at location El Mercado de Los Angeles

**Location selected was at the Mercado in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles. Sponsorship for construction by owner Pedro Rosado.**

When presented with the proposal to build a monument for Escuadron 201, Mr. Rosado, owner of El Mercado De Los Angeles, requested that it be built at the Mercado. Building of the monument was delayed due to city issues with permits. A lobbyist was hired and over two years of negotiations, all permits were issued. Unfortunately, Mr. Rosado passed away and with his passing, the sponsorship also passed as well, His Dream.

**We are currently looking for another venue and location.**





**Supporters and Artists**

Top Row: Alfred Lugo, Founder, Jose Luis Gonzalez, Co-Founder Artist  
Bottom: Victor Mancilla, Producer of his documentary, "The Forgotten Eagles" Actor/Director/Playwright Enrique Castillo, Manuel Gonzalez



**Reception at the Los Angeles Mexican Consulate  
April 19, 2012**

L to R Mexican Consul-General David Figueroa Ortega, Philippine Consul-General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon, Alfred Lugo Founder, Jose Luis Gonzalez artist/muralist Co-Founder, Mr. Jake Alarid, El Camino Real Chapter Commander.

On April 19, 2012 we were invited to attend a reception given by the Los Angeles Consul-General David Figueroa Ortega and was also introduce to the Philippine Consul-General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon. I was given the opportunity to make our proposal to all of the invited guests.



## **EL MERCADO DE LOS ANGELES 3425 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles, California, Friday June 1, 2012 Ground Breaking Ceremony**



**Friends of Mexico's Escuadron 201 Monument**

L to R Joe Leal, Founder of Vet Hunters, Alfred Lugo, Founder of Monument, Lupe Vonk Owner of Garduno's Montebello, Larry Madrid, Jose Luis Gonzalez, Artist/Muralist, Victor Mancillas, Producer of the documentary "Forgotten Eagles," Ray Ramirez. Member of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne, (not in photo) Sgt. Rudy Garcia, President 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter.

**Plans are being made today for a new  
Campaign Kick-Off at Los Angeles' Patriotic  
Hall, with The Mexican Consul-General, The  
Philippine Consul-General and the Mayor of  
the City of Los Angeles**

## ON TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO LOBBY

OCTOBER 1, 2017



Alfred Lugo & Lupe Vonk in D.C.

Alfred Lugo and Lupe Vonk went to Washington D.C. to lobby for the Congressional Gold Medal for Mexico's Escuadron 201. With only two days they were able to meet and discuss the resolution and resolutions for the Medal of Honor for Six (6) Hispanics in WW I, WWII and Vietnam. Five resolutions were authored by Alfred Lugo and passed in 2007 by the American GI Forum National Conference and the League of United Latin American Citizens Conference.

### CONGRESS MEMBERS CONTACTED



Congressman Beto O'Rourke Texas 16<sup>th</sup> District



Congressman Duncan Hunter California 50<sup>th</sup> District



Congressman Juan Vargas California 51<sup>st</sup> District



Congressman Salud Carbajal California 24<sup>th</sup> District



Congresswoman Grace Napolitano California 32<sup>nd</sup> District



Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard California 40<sup>th</sup> District



Congresswoman Linda Sanchez California 38<sup>th</sup> District



Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham New Mexico 1<sup>st</sup> District



Kamala Harris California Senator

### RESOLUTION: CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR ESCUADRON 201 THE WW II MEXICAN FIGHTER SQUADRON 201 ©

By Alfred Lugo

WHEREAS, El Escuadron 201 (also known as the "The Aztec Eagles") was a Mexican Fighter Squadron, part of the Fuerza Aerea Expedicionaria Mexicana (FAEM-Mexican Expeditionary Air Force") that aided the Allied war effort during WW II.

WHEREAS, The Aztec Eagles were attached to the 58<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group of the United States Army Forces during the liberation of the main Philippine Island of Luzon in the summer of 1945.

WHEREAS, the pilots flew P-47D "Thunderbolt" single-seat fighter aircraft carrying out tactical air support missions.

WHEREAS, Escuadron 201 was composed of more than 300 volunteers – 36 experienced pilots and the rest ground crews who trained at Majors Field in Greenville, Texas on November 30, 1944 for advanced training in combat air tactics, formation flying and gunnery.

WHEREAS, In June 1945, the squadron initially flew missions with the 58<sup>th</sup> FG's 310 Fighter Squadron and flew more than 90 combat missions, totaling more than 1,900 hours of flight time. They participated in the Allied effort to bomb Luzon and Formosa to push the Japanese out of those islands.

During their fighting in the Philippines, 5 pilots died (one was shot down, one crashed and three ran out of fuel and died at sea.)

WHEREAS, when the 58<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group left the Philippines for Okinawa on July 10, the Mexicans stayed behind. They flew their last combat missions as a full squadron on August 26, escorting a convoy north of the Philippines. The 201<sup>st</sup> returned to Mexico City in November 1945.

WHEREAS, Their actions earned praise from Allied Theater Commander General Douglas MacArthur, President Harry Truman and decorations from the United States, Mexican and Philippine governments

WHEREAS, In November 22, 2004, the squadron was awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor, with a rank of Legionnaire, by then president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

WHEREAS, The **Philippine Legion of Honor** (Filipino: *Lehiyong Pandangal ng Pilipinas*) was established by President Manuel Roxas, through Philippine Army Circular No. 60 dated July 3, 1947. The Philippine Legion of Honor was patterned after the Legion of Merit of the United States of America, and was meant to honor both civilians and members of the military, Filipino or foreign. Today, the Philippine Legion of Honor is conferred upon a Filipino or foreign citizen in recognition of valuable and meritorious service in relation to the military affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. It is thus the primary order of military merit of the Republic of the Philippines.

WHEREAS, All the veterans of Escuadron 201 earned the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (with Battle Star) and the WW II Victory Medal. The Philippine Legion of Honor may be awarded by the Secretary of National Defense in the name and by authority of the President of the Philippines.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT: The United States of America and the Legislature honor Escuadron 201 by awarding the fighter group the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award bestowed by the federal legislature. The Congressional Gold Medal, equivalent to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, is awarded to individuals or groups for singular acts of exceptional service and lifetime achievements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: By awarding such a prestigious medal will instill pride in the members of Escuadron 201 and give proper recognition by the United States to Mexico, the Mexican pilots and their ground crews for their contribution and their losses in defending the United States in WWII in the Philippines in 1945.

AUTHORED AND SUBMITTED BY:  
Alfred Lugo, Founder, 201<sup>st</sup> Mexican Fighter Squadron Mural Project

*\*Passed by AGIF and LULAC 2007*