



I-socket Presse
42980 Ivy Street (P. O. Box 1126)
Murrieta, CA 92564
Phone - 951-677-3954
www.isock-it.com

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Torrie Kunkle
cell: 951-704-3948
torriek@isock-it.com

Author Re-enacts Bataan Death March in New Mexico

White Sands Missile Test Range, New Mexico, March 30, 2008 - J.L. Kunkle, author of the wartime epic "Carlos", based on the experiences of a Bataan Death March survivor will be participating in a re-enactment of the death march in New Mexico at the White Sands Missile Range.

Each year, the Army ROTC Department from New Mexico State University, along with the New Mexico National Guard and the White Sands Missile Range, sponsor a re-enactment of the notorious Bataan Death March from WWII.

In April of 1942, the Bataan Death March saw 70,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war suffer murder, disease and starvation at the hands of brutal Japanese captors over a 65 mile march in the Philippines from the Bataan peninsula to a POW camp inland. Approximately 13,000 men died over the course of a 15-day period.

Though any re-enactment could not possibly compare to this horrible event, every year more than 4,000 participants from around the world, both military and civilian, come to the New Mexico desert to test their mettle against a rugged 26.2 mile course that winds through desert sand and steep hills. The event is held in honor of the original marchers, and prior to the start, there is a solemn "roll call" of the few living survivors that remain, and of the brave men who have passed.

Author J. L. Kunkle, has written a gripping narrative based on the experiences of Carlos Montoya, 92, a living survivor of the original march. Kunkle, an ex-marine, has multiple sclerosis, but he has been training hard for the event and expects to finish the entire course; "I doubt seriously that I'll be first, or even 4,000th across the finish line, but that's really not the point, is it?" said Kunkle.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event and Mr. Montoya himself will be on hand to sign them. The March takes place on March 30 at the White Sands Missile Range outside Las Cruces; for more information go to www.bataanmarch.com.

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