

# Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Mary Ann Koucky

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library  
*Veterans Remember* Oral History project

Interview # VR2-V-L-2016-008

Mary Ann Koucky, who spent over three years as a young child in a Japanese internment camp in the Philippines from December 1941 to February, 1945, was interviewed on the dates listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jan 29, 2016    Location: Illinois Information Service Studio, Springfield, IL

Date: Feb 3, 2016    Location: Illinois Information Service Studio, Springfield, IL

Interview Format: Digital video, HD Wide Screen

Interviewer: Mark R. DePue, Director of Oral History, ALPL

Technical Support (Videographers): Mark Suszko, Tony Bateman & Aubry "Bobby" Troesch, IIS videographers

Transcription by: \_\_\_\_\_

Edited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Transcript  
being processed

Total Pages: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Time: 2:03 + 2:18 / 2.05 + 2.3 = 4.35 hrs

Session 1: Mary Ann's childhood in Japanese internment camps in Philippines

Session 2: Liberation from Bilibid Prison and Mary Ann's life in the U.S.

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on May 10, 2016.

The interviews are archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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**Redacted material: There is a minor redaction made from session 2. Access to this redaction is currently restricted. This material will be restored on January 1, 2025.**

## Abstract

### Mary Ann Koucky, *Veterans Remember*, VR2-A-L-2016-008

**Biographical Information Overview of Interview:** Mary Ann Ladic was born on April 10th, 1934 in Los Angeles, California, the daughter of Sanford ‘Sam’ Ladic, a mining engineer and a former Dominican sister, Cecilia (McCrave) Ladic. In 1937 Mary Ann’s father found work in the Philippines as a gold mine supervisor, and the rest of the family (Cecile and three daughters) soon followed. In December, 1941 they were living in the Philippine resort community of Baguio in northern Luzon Island when the Japanese invaded the island. The family was soon taken captive, and for the next three years they lived in Japanese internment camps. They spent several weeks at Camp John Hay, near Baguio, then over two years at Camp Holmes, also near Baguio. In late December, 1944 the Japanese moved their civilian prisoners to Bilibid Prison in Manila. The conditions at Camps John Hay and Holmes were poor, and gradually got worse. The men were separated from the women and children. By the time the Ladic family were displaced to Bilibid, the conditions were deplorable, with only one very meager meal a day. On February 4th an American armored unit reached Bilibid, as well as nearby Santo Tomas prison, where Mrs. Ladic would soon be hospitalized for amebic dysentery; she was thought to be near death. One of the first Americans to reach the prison was Francis Callaghan, Mrs. Ladic’s cousin, who fought with the 530th Engineer Light Ponton Company. That unit was building a ponton bridge across the Pasig River in Manila when Francis asked permission to search for his relatives on his own.

After their liberation, the family was moved to Leyte Island, where they all gradually recovered their strength, and a month later headed by troop ship for the United States. Sam Ladic soon found work at a coal mine in Taylorville, which is where Mary Ann and her sisters grew up and attended parochial middle school and Taylorville High School. Mary Ann attended a nursing program at Loyola University for two years, but quit school at the urging of her mother to marry George Hubbard, a Notre Dame graduate, in 1954. In 1962, with six young children at home, she returned to college, taking weekend and evening courses until she earned a bachelor’s degree in 1971. (Mary Ann eventually had nine children.) She began teaching in the Decatur Public School system, and steadily progressed in her career in education as she also earned additional degrees. In 1983, after having earned two Masters Degrees, Mary Ann became a financial consultant for E.F. Hutton. She divorced George in 1987, and in 1997 married John Koucky.

**Subject Headings/Key Words:** Civilian prisoner of war in Philippines during World War II; Baguio, Philippines; Sanford Ladic; Cecilia ‘McCrave’ Ladic; Camp John Hay, Philippines; Camp Holmes, Philippines; Bilibid Prison, Manila, Philippines; Francis Callaghan (cousin); Japanese guards’ treatment of prisoners; Decatur Public Schools; George Hubbard; John Koucky; Cecile Ladic; Marie Ladic; E.F. Hutton;

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