

## **Aggies of the Pacific War** **New Mexico A&M and the War with Japan**

World War II, the most significant event of the 20th century, touched New Mexico A&M and alumni. From the defense of Bataan and POW camps, and 'up the ladder' to the liberation of the Philippines and the surrender of Japan, they were involved. As a Land Grant College, New Mexico A&M was the only four-year educational institution in the state with an ROTC program.

Because of this, many of the graduates commissioned as officers in the 1930s and early 40s participated in the Pacific Theater. Other attendees did not have an opportunity to graduate but served with distinction in all branches of the military. Many paid with their lives.

**Walter Hines** is the son of Jerry Hines, New Mexico A&M Athletic Director and coach from 1929-1940. He grew up on stories of Aggie Greats. He is a graduate of New Mexico State University (formerly New Mexico A&M) and a licensed Civil Engineer who currently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico with his wife Bettie.

