

EX-POW BULLETIN

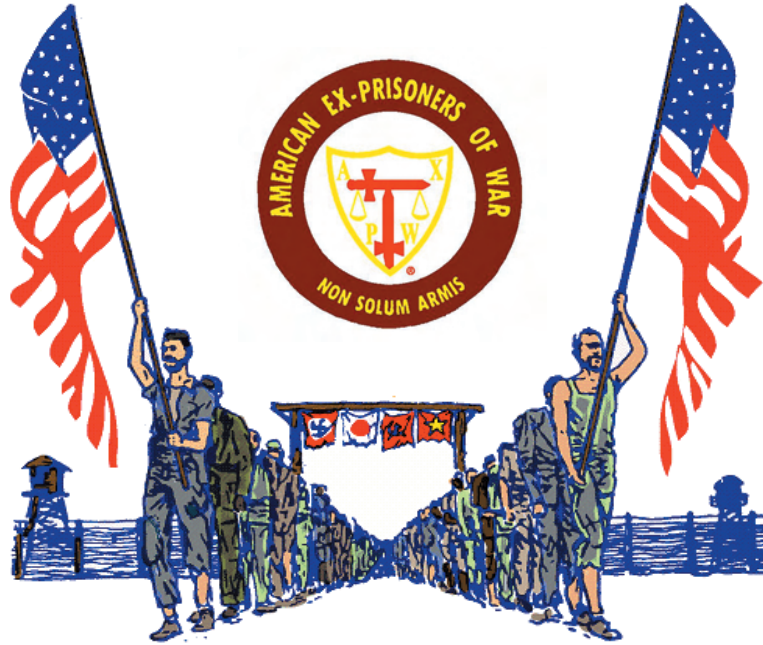
the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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We exist to help those who cannot help themselves

A composite image featuring a large black and white photograph of the USS Houston CA-30 at sea. Two smaller inset photos show the ship's crew. The text describes the ship's final battle on March 1, 1942. Logos for the US Navy and US Marine Corps are at the bottom.

During night action on Feb. 28, 1942 in Sunda Strait with the HMAS Perth at her side, the USS Houston CA-30 steamed to her death in a desperate battle against an entire Japanese battle fleet. It was over by 12:40 am, March 1.

USS HOUSTON CA-30
The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast



Ex-POWs from the V.A. Boston Healthcare System were treated to a luncheon at the Jamaica Plain Campus. Seated in the center is Michael Lawson, Director of the BHS. PNC Bill Bearisto is on his right and PDC Bob Noble on his left. Far right is Kay Arnold and far left is Charlie Walsh Boston Ex-POW Coordinator. Jim Campbell from Mass Chapter 1 is in the

first row. The Luncheon has been an annual affair. Photo by: Diane Keefe, Public Relations Officer.



Above: Chaplain Gerald & Eunice Harvey are shown with their granddaughter, Ruth Anne Owens, who was just inducted into the Missouri Reserves. She has joined the ROTC Nursing program.



Above: Members of the Air Capital Chapter were honored at the Wichita, KS Veterans Day parade by being guests of the Wichita Horseless Carriage Club. Most of the vintage cars are older than the ex-POWs. Chapter SVC Ray Avila and Juliana Menestrina are shown with a 1916 Model T.

The Ohio Valley Barbed Wire Chapter 1 meets monthly at various restaurants with John Chernenko as Commander. Shown at the annual picnic at the Marshall County Hunting & Fishing Club in Moundsville, WV: (back row) Charles Terrill (ret) Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Wheeling, WV; Ex-POWs Bill Daniels, Boyd Engle, Ted Finck, Jim Robinson, Cmdr. John Chernenko, Ex-POW widows Helen Petri, Carol Peklinsky; (front) Gene Camiletti, Beverly Camiletti, Judy Donato, Helen Petri, Carol Peklinski (Ex-POW widows) and Clara Robinson (mother of Jim Robinson).



Congratulations! To Florida Gulf Coast Chapter! They celebrated their 40th anniversary October 22, 2011, with a buffet luncheon in Seminole, FL. The first meeting was held at the home of Chuck and Alice Gillespie on Oct. 10, 1971. Mr. James Atwell and Mrs. Warren Atkeison assisted in formation and establishment of the chapter. The first officers were: Charles Suprenant, Cmdr; Joseph Patterson, VCmdr; Theodore Schmuck, Adj/Treasurer. The Charter was issued Jan. 1972. Current officers are: Ed Dement, Cmdr; Bill Aldhizer, SVCmdr; Esther Carboni, Treas; Ann Still, Adj. Pictured (L/R): Dept. of FL Commander Bruce Hall, Chapter Organizer Chuck Gillespie, Chapter Commander, Ed Dement.

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On 28 February 1942, the day after the Battle of the Java Sea, the ABDA cruisers *Perth* and *Houston* steamed into Banten Bay. It is believed that they had no knowledge of the Japanese battle fleet, their last intelligence report having stated that the only Japanese warships in the area were 50 miles away and headed away. It is however possible that they were hoping to damage the Japanese invasion forces there. The two ships were attacked as they approached the bay, but evaded the nine torpedoes launched by destroyer *Fubuki*.

The cruisers then reportedly sank one transport and forced three others to beach. It is more likely that the transports were damaged by some of the over 90 Long Lance torpedoes fired at the two cruisers by Japanese destroyers. A Japanese destroyer squadron blocked Sunda Strait, their means of retreat, and the Japanese heavy cruisers *Mogami* and *Mikuma* stood dangerously near. The *Houston* and *Perth* could not withdraw. *Perth* came under fire at 23:36 and in an hour had been sunk from gunfire and torpedo hits. *Houston* then fought alone until soon after midnight, when she was struck by a torpedo and began to lose headway.

Houston's gunners had scored hits on three different destroyers and sank a minesweeper, but then suffered three more torpedo explosions in quick succession. Captain Albert Rooks was killed by a bursting shell at 00:30 and as the ship came to a stop Japanese destroyers moved in, machine gunning the decks. A few minutes later, *Houston* rolled over and sank, her ensign still flying. Of the original crew of 1,061 men, 368 survived, *Houston's* fate was not fully known by the world for almost nine months, and the full story of her last fight was not told until after the war was over and her survivors were liberated from prison camps including 24 of the 74-man USMC detachment.

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Please send all materials to the editor at the above address.

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**National Commander
Carroll Bogard**

It is my honor and pleasure to be a part of this organization. All you need to do to have that feeling is to remember what you went through to qualify to belong to the AXPOW group.

When you think of the presumptives, DIC and other benefits obtained by this organization with the assistance of doctors and legislators - and the hard work of many members - you have to give thanks and be proud to be a member.

We keep hearing of members who are not aware of the benefits or did not pursue taking in the advantages until they were in deep problems. Thanks to the NSOs for their efforts to help these people.

The following is an excerpt from the Ft. Worth TX Chapter newsletter: "Legislation: Congress passed a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for veterans receiving compensation for service-connected disabilities. The COLA also affects the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation of veterans who died as a result of service. ..there had not been an increase since 2009. The COLA is tied to the Consumer Price Index, which also adjusts benefits for Social Security recipients. The 3.6% COLA increase will go into effect on Dec. 1, 2011." To give us an example of how some states are aiding veterans, I

want to insert another part of that same newsletter. "TEXAS NEWS: In May 2011, the Texas Legislature unanimously passed a measure that will extend the 100% property tax exemption provided to totally disabled or unemployable Veterans to their (surviving) spouses. Because the change required amending the Texas constitution, the proposal was placed on the November 8 statewide election ballot. It passed. The change rectifies a problem experienced by spouses when a 100% disabled Veteran passed away. Under the old law, surviving spouses of a 100% disabled Veteran must not only deal with the grief of their loss, but with a potentially daunting tax bill as well. The median Texas homeowner pays \$2,275 per year in property taxes. This tax hit, in conjunction with the loss of much of the monetary benefit the family had received from the VA can threaten the financial security of military families. The legislation now entitles the surviving spouse to the 100% property tax exemption if: 1) The property was the surviving spouse's homestead when the Veteran died; 2) The property remains the surviving spouse's homestead; and 3) The surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the Veteran. According to the legislation the spouse is not obligated to remain in the original home so long as the new home is designated a homestead and the spouse does not remarry: 'If the surviving spouse subsequently qualifies a different property as a residence homestead and has not remarried, the surviving spouse would be entitled to a property tax exemption on that homestead of the same dollar amount received on the former homestead that qualified for the surviving spouse homestead exemption.' The new exemption takes effect on Jan. 1, 2012."

New Appointment: Bill Jeffers, Jr. Vice Commander of the Eastern Zone, will take over as Chairman of the Outreach Committee. Thank you, Bill.

Hope all of you had a good holiday season.

Carroll

news from hq



Happy New Year! We hope all y'all had a great Holiday Season and got all the goodies you wanted.

We are working on the National Convention scheduled for June 27 - July 1. Opening ceremonies will be Thursday, June 28 and the banquet will be Saturday, June 30. The convention will be at the Hilton Arlington located at 2401 East Lamar, Arlington. Call 817-640-3322 for reservations. The room rate is \$109 a night.

Registration will be \$115 per person and will include 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, the banquet and the Commander's Reception. It will also give you access to the Hospitality Room.

There are a lot of things to do here in Arlington. We are working on AXPOW night at the Ranger Ballpark! There is the new football stadium to tour and 6 Flags over Texas and Hurricane Harbor for the kids. Bring them along.

The National Board of Directors' meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 17 at the Hilton. Call 817-640-3322 for reservations. There will be a dinner on Saturday night. It is very informal and a chance to visit. Hope to see you there.

This will be the last issue for annual members who have not renewed. Get your dues in ASAP, please.

Clydie, Marsha & Donna



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POW Presumptives

Focusing on different POW presumptives

Department of Veterans Affairs/
National Center for PTSD

1. PTSD

What is PTSD?

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is an anxiety disorder that can occur after you have been through a traumatic event. A traumatic event is something horrible and scary that you see or that happens to you. During this type of event, you think that your life or others' lives are in danger. You may feel afraid or feel that you have no control over what is happening.

Anyone who has gone through a life-threatening event can develop PTSD. These events can include:

- Combat or military exposure
- Child sexual or physical abuse
- Terrorist attacks
- Sexual or physical assault
- Serious accidents, such as a car wreck
- Natural disasters, such as a fire, tornado, hurricane, flood, or earthquake

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After the event, you may feel scared, confused, or angry. If these feelings don't go away or they get worse, you may have PTSD. These symptoms may disrupt your life, making it hard to continue with your daily activities.

How does PTSD develop?

All people with PTSD have lived through a traumatic event that caused them to fear for their lives, see horrible things, and feel helpless. Strong emotions caused by the event create changes in the brain that may result in PTSD.

Most people who go through a traumatic event have some symptoms at the beginning. Yet only some will develop PTSD. It isn't clear why some people develop PTSD and others don't. How likely you are to get PTSD depends on many things:

- How intense the trauma was or how long it lasted
- If you lost someone you were close to or were hurt
- How close you were to the event
- How strong your reaction was
- How much you felt in control of events
- How much help and support you got after the event

Many people who develop PTSD get better at some time. But about 1 out of 3 people with PTSD may continue to have some symptoms. Even if you continue to have symptoms, treatment can help you cope. Your symptoms don't have to interfere with your everyday activities, work, and relationships.

What are the symptoms of PTSD?

Symptoms of PTSD can be terrifying. They may disrupt your life and make it hard to continue with your daily activities. It may be hard just to get through the day.

PTSD symptoms usually start soon after the traumatic event, but they may not happen until months or years later. They also may come and go over many years. If the symptoms last longer than 4 weeks, cause you great distress, or interfere with your work or home life, you probably have PTSD.

There are four types of PTSD symptoms:

Reliving the event (also called re-experiencing symptoms)

Bad memories of the traumatic event can come back at any time. You may feel the same fear and horror you did when the event took place. You may have nightmares. You even may feel like you're going through the event again. This is called a flashback. Sometimes there is a trigger — a sound or sight that causes you to relive the event.

Avoiding situations that remind you of the event

You may try to avoid situations or people that trigger memories of the traumatic event. You may even avoid talking or thinking about the event.

Feeling numb

You may find it hard to express your feelings. This is another way to avoid memories.

Feeling keyed up (also called hyperarousal)

You may be jittery, or always alert and on the lookout for danger. This is known as hyperarousal.

What are other common problems?

People with PTSD may also have other problems. These include:

- Drinking or drug problems
- Feelings of hopelessness, shame, or despair
- Employment problems
- Relationships problems including divorce and violence
- Physical symptoms

There are good treatments available for PTSD

· Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) appears to be the most effective type of counseling for PTSD. There are different types of cognitive behavioral therapies such as cognitive therapy and exposure therapy.

· A similar kind of therapy called EMDR, or eye movement desensitization and reprocessing, is also used for PTSD.

· Medications can be effective too. A type of drug known as a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), which is also used for depression, is effective for PTSD.

Age-Related Macular Degeneration

This information was developed by the National Eye Institute to help patients and their families search for general information about age-related macular degeneration. An eye care professional who has examined the patient's eyes and is familiar with his or her medical history is the best person to answer specific questions.

What is age-related macular degeneration?

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a disease associated with aging that gradually destroys sharp, central vision. Central vision is needed for seeing objects clearly and for common daily tasks such as reading and driving.

AMD affects the macula, the part of the eye that allows you to see fine detail. AMD causes no pain.

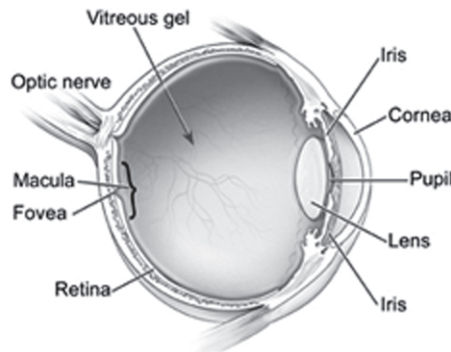
In some cases, AMD advances so slowly that people notice little change in their vision. In others, the disease progresses faster and may lead to a loss of vision in both eyes. AMD is a leading cause of vision loss in Americans 60 years of age and older.

AMD occurs in two forms: wet and dry.

Where is the macula?

The macula is located in the center of the **retina**, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. The retina instantly converts light, or an image, into electrical impulses. The

retina then sends these impulses, or nerve signals, to the brain.



Cross section of an eye

What is wet AMD?

Wet AMD occurs when abnormal blood vessels behind the retina start to grow under the macula. These new blood vessels tend to be very fragile and often leak blood and fluid. The blood and fluid raise the macula from its normal place at the back of the eye. Damage to the macula occurs rapidly.

With wet AMD, loss of central vision can occur quickly. Wet AMD is also known as advanced AMD. It does not have stages like dry AMD. An early symptom of wet AMD is that straight lines appear wavy. If you notice this condition or other changes to your vision, contact your eye care professional at once. You need a comprehensive dilated eye exam.

What is dry AMD?

Dry AMD occurs when the light-sensitive cells in the macula slowly break down, gradually blurring central vision in the affected eye. As dry AMD gets worse, you may see a blurred spot in the center of your vision. Over time, as less of the macula functions, central vision is gradually lost in the affected eye.

The most common symptom of dry AMD is slightly blurred vision. You may have difficulty recognizing faces. You may need more light for reading and other tasks. Dry AMD generally affects both eyes, but vision can be lost in one eye while the other eye seems unaffected. One of the most common early signs of dry AMD is drusen.

What are drusen?

Drusen are yellow deposits under the retina. They often are found in people over age 60. Your eye care professional can detect drusen during a comprehensive dilated eye exam.

Drusen alone do not usually cause vision loss. In fact, scientists are unclear about the connection between drusen and AMD. They do know that an increase in the size or number of drusen raises a person's risk of developing either advanced dry AMD or wet AMD. These changes can cause serious vision loss.

Dry AMD has three stages, all of which may occur in one or both eyes:

Early AMD. People with early AMD have either several small drusen or a few medium-sized drusen. At this stage, there are no symptoms and no vision loss.

Intermediate AMD. People with intermediate AMD have either many medium-sized drusen or one or more large drusen. Some people see a blurred spot in the center of their vision. More light may be needed for reading and other tasks.

medsearch continued...

Advanced Dry AMD. In addition to drusen, people with advanced dry AMD have a breakdown of light-sensitive cells and supporting tissue in the central retinal area. This breakdown can cause a blurred spot in the center of your vision. Over time, the blurred spot may get bigger and darker, taking more of your central vision. You may have difficulty reading or recognizing faces until they are very close to you.

If you have vision loss from dry AMD in one eye only, you may not notice any changes in your overall vision. With the other eye seeing clearly, you still can drive, read, and see fine details. You may notice changes in your vision only if AMD affects both eyes. If blurriness occurs in your vision, see an eye care professional for a comprehensive dilated eye exam.

Ninety percent of all people with AMD have this type. Scientists are still not sure what causes dry AMD.

Frequently Asked Questions about wet and dry AMD

Which is more common—the dry form or the wet form?

The dry form is much more common. More than 85 percent of all people with intermediate and advanced AMD combined have the dry form.

However, if only advanced AMD is considered, about two-thirds of patients have the wet form. Because almost all vision loss comes from

advanced AMD, the wet form leads to significantly more vision loss than the dry form.

Can the dry form turn into the wet form?

Yes. All people who have the wet form had the dry form first.

The dry form can advance and cause vision loss without turning into the wet form. The dry form also can suddenly turn into the wet form, even during early stage AMD. There is no way to tell if or when the dry form will turn into the wet form.

The dry form has early and intermediate stages. Does the wet form have similar stages?

No. The wet form is considered advanced AMD.

Can advanced AMD be either the dry form or the wet form?

Yes. Both the wet form and the advanced dry form are considered advanced AMD. Vision loss occurs with either form. In most cases, only advanced AMD can cause vision loss.

People who have advanced AMD in one eye are at especially high risk of developing advanced AMD in the other eye.

Causes and Risk Factors

Who is at risk for AMD?

The greatest risk factor is age. Although AMD may occur during middle age, studies show that people over age 60 are clearly at greater risk than other age groups. For instance, a large study found that people in middle-age have about a 2 percent risk of getting

AMD, but this risk increased to nearly 30 percent in those over age 75.

Other risk factors include:

Smoking. Smoking may increase the risk of AMD.

Obesity. Research studies suggest a link between obesity and the progression of early and intermediate stage AMD to advanced AMD.

Race. Whites are much more likely to lose vision from AMD than African Americans.

Family history. Those with immediate family members who have AMD are at a higher risk of developing the disease.

Gender. Women appear to be at greater risk than men.

Can my lifestyle make a difference?

Your lifestyle can play a role in reducing your risk of developing AMD.

Eat a healthy diet high in green leafy vegetables and fish.

Don't smoke.

Maintain normal blood pressure.

Watch your weight.

Exercise.

Symptoms and Detection

What are the symptoms?

Both dry and wet AMD cause no pain.

For dry AMD: the most common early sign is blurred vision. As fewer cells in the macula are able to function, people will see details less clearly in front of them, such as faces or words in a book. Often this blurred vision will go away in brighter light. If the loss of these light-sensing cells becomes great, people may see a small—but growing—blind spot in the middle of their field of vision.

For wet AMD: the classic early symptom is that straight lines appear crooked. This results when

medsearch, continued

fluid from the leaking blood vessels gathers and lifts the macula, distorting vision. A small blind spot may also appear in wet AMD, resulting in loss of one's central vision.

How is AMD detected?

Your eye care professional may suspect AMD if you are over age 60 and have had recent changes in your central vision. To look for signs of the disease, he or she will use eye drops to dilate, or enlarge, your pupils. Dilating the pupils allows your eye care professional to view the back of the eye better.

AMD is detected during a comprehensive eye exam that includes:

Visual acuity test. This eye chart test measures how well you see at various distances.

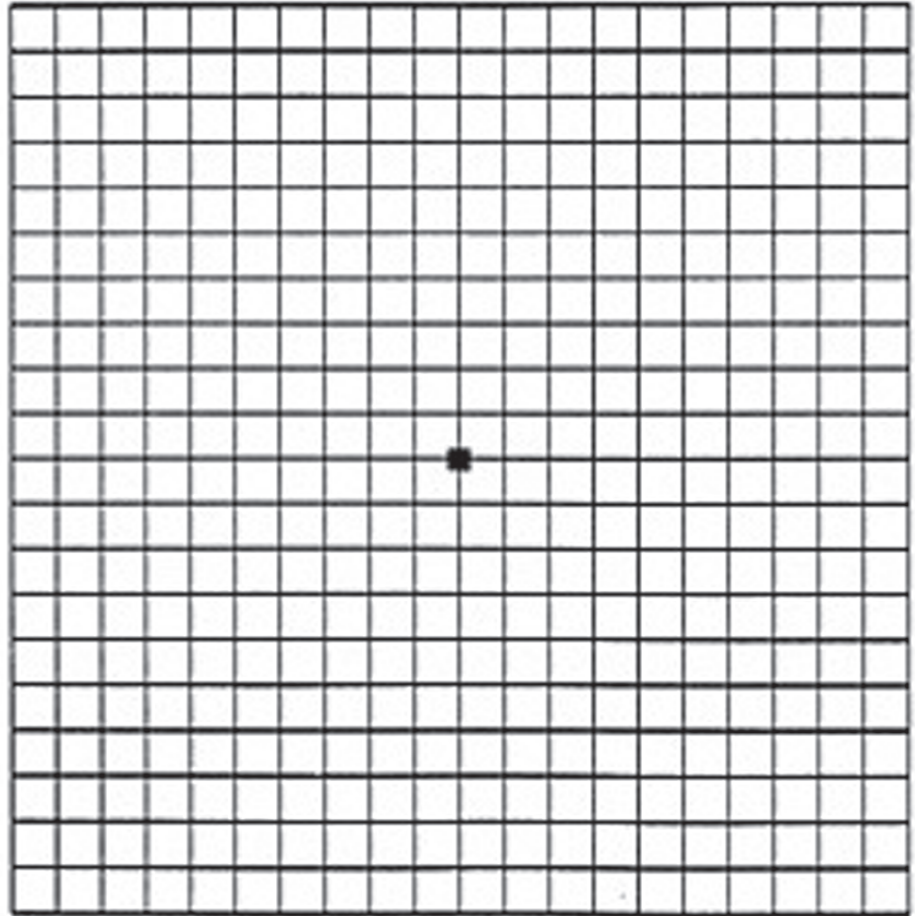
Dilated eye exam. Drops are placed in your eyes to widen, or dilate, the pupils. Your eye care professional uses a special magnifying lens to examine your retina and optic nerve for signs of AMD and other eye problems. After the exam, your close-up vision may remain blurred for several hours.

Tonometry. An instrument measures the pressure inside the eye. Numbing drops may be applied to your eye for this test.

Your eye care professional also may do other tests to learn more about the structure and health of your eye.

During an eye exam, you may be asked to look at an **Amsler grid**. The pattern of the grid resembles a checkerboard. You will cover one eye and stare at a black dot in the center of the grid. While staring at the dot, you may notice that the straight lines in the pattern appear wavy. You may notice that some of the lines are missing. These may be signs of AMD.

Amsler Grid Testing



Procedure:

1. Hold this grid at 30cm or 12".
2. Always wear your reading glasses and look through the reading portion if wearing a bifocal.
3. Always test one eye at a time, cover the other eye with the palm of your hand.
4. Perform test with ample room lighting

Questions to ask yourself:

1. Always keep your eyes fixated at the center black spot. If you cannot see the black spot, then fixate your eyes to where the diagonal lines cross.
2. Keeping the gaze fixed upon the black spot in the center, can you see all four corners of the big square? Can you see all four sides of the big square?
3. While always keeping your gaze fixed on the center black spot, are there interruptions in the grid, such as holes, spots, or blurring?
4. While always keeping your gaze fixed on the center black spot, is every small square equal in size and perfectly regular?
5. While always keeping your gaze fixed on the center black spot, do any of the vertical or horizontal lines appear to be wavering, vibrating, or shining? Any change in color or tint?

Do NOT depend on the grid for any diagnoses-check with your eye care professional.

medsearch, continued

Treatment

How is wet AMD treated?

Wet AMD can be treated with laser surgery, photodynamic therapy, and injections into the eye. None of these treatments is a cure for wet AMD. The disease and loss of vision may progress despite treatment.

Laser surgery. This procedure uses a laser to destroy the fragile, leaky blood vessels. A high energy beam of light is aimed directly onto the new blood vessels and destroys them, preventing further loss of vision. However, laser treatment may also destroy some surrounding healthy tissue and some vision. Only a small percentage of people with wet AMD can be treated with laser surgery. Laser surgery is more effective if the leaky blood vessels have developed away from the fovea, the central part of the macula. (See illustration at the beginning of this document.) Laser surgery is performed in a doctor's office or eye clinic.

The risk of new blood vessels developing after laser treatment is high. Repeated treatments may be necessary. In some cases, vision loss may progress despite repeated treatments.

Photodynamic therapy. A drug called verteporfin is injected into your arm. It travels throughout the body, including the new blood vessels in your eye. The drug tends to "stick" to the surface of new blood vessels. Next, a light is shined into your eye for about 90 seconds. The light activates the drug. The activated drug destroys the new blood vessels and leads to a slower rate of vision decline. Unlike laser surgery, this drug does not destroy surrounding healthy tissue. Be-

cause the drug is activated by light, you must avoid exposing your skin or eyes to direct sunlight or bright indoor light for five days after treatment.

Photodynamic therapy is relatively painless. It takes about 20 minutes and can be performed in a doctor's office.

Photodynamic therapy slows the rate of vision loss. It does not stop vision loss or restore vision in eyes already damaged by advanced AMD. Treatment results often are temporary. You may need to be treated again.

Injections. Wet AMD can now be treated with new drugs that are injected into the eye (anti-VEGF therapy). Abnormally high levels of a specific growth factor occur in eyes with wet AMD and promote the growth of abnormal new blood vessels. This drug treatment blocks the effects of the growth factor.

You will need multiple injections that may be given as often as monthly. The eye is numbed before each injection. After the injection, you will remain in the doctor's office for a while and your eye will be monitored. This drug treatment can help slow down vision loss from AMD and in some cases improve sight.

How is dry AMD treated?

Once dry AMD reaches the advanced stage, no form of treatment can prevent vision loss. However, treatment can delay and possibly prevent intermediate AMD from progressing to the advanced stage, in which vision loss occurs.

The National Eye Institute's [Age-Related Eye Disease Study \(AREDS\)](#) found that taking a specific high-dose formulation of antioxidants and zinc significantly reduces the risk of advanced AMD and its associated vision loss. Slowing AMD's

progression from the intermediate stage to the advanced stage will save the vision of many people.

Age-Related Eye Disease Study (AREDS)

What is the dosage of the AREDS formulation?

The specific daily amounts of antioxidants and zinc used by the study researchers were 500 milligrams of vitamin C, 400 International Units of vitamin E, 15 milligrams of beta-carotene (often labeled as equivalent to 25,000 International Units of vitamin A), 80 milligrams of zinc as zinc oxide, and two milligrams of copper as cupric oxide. Copper was added to the AREDS formulation containing zinc to prevent copper deficiency anemia, a condition associated with high levels of zinc intake.

Who should take the AREDS formulation?

People who are at high risk for developing advanced AMD should consider taking the formulation. You are at high risk for developing advanced AMD if you have either:

1. Intermediate AMD in one or both eyes.
- OR
2. Advanced AMD (dry or wet) in one eye but not the other eye.
- Your eye care professional can tell you if you have AMD, its stage, and your risk for developing the advanced form.

The AREDS formulation is not a cure for AMD. It will not restore vision already lost from the disease. However, it may delay the onset of advanced AMD. It may help people who are at high risk for developing advanced AMD keep their vision.

Can people with early stage AMD take the AREDS formulation to help prevent the disease from progressing to the intermediate stage?

medsearch, continued

There is no apparent need for those diagnosed with early stage AMD to take the AREDS formulation. The study did not find that the formulation provided a benefit to those with early stage AMD. If you have early stage AMD, a comprehensive dilated eye exam every year can help determine if the disease is progressing. If early stage AMD progresses to the intermediate stage, discuss taking the formulation with your doctor.

Can diet alone provide the same high levels of antioxidants and zinc as the AREDS formulation?

No. The high levels of vitamins and minerals are difficult to achieve from diet alone. However, previous studies have suggested that people who have diets rich in green leafy vegetables have a lower risk of developing AMD.

Can a daily multivitamin alone provide the same high levels of antioxidants and zinc as the AREDS formulation?

No. The formulation's levels of antioxidants and zinc are considerably higher than the amounts in any daily multivitamin.

If you are already taking daily multivitamins and your doctor suggests you take the high-dose AREDS formulation, be sure to review all your vitamin supplements with your doctor before you begin. Because multivitamins contain many important vitamins not found in the AREDS formulation, you may want to take a multivitamin along with the AREDS formulation. For example, people with osteoporosis need to be particularly concerned about taking vitamin D, which is not in the AREDS formulation.

How can I take care of my vision now that I have AMD?

Dry AMD. If you have dry AMD, you

should have a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year. Your eye care professional can monitor your condition and check for other eye diseases. Also, if you have intermediate AMD in one or both eyes, or advanced AMD in one eye only, your doctor may suggest that you take the AREDS formulation containing the high levels of antioxidants and zinc.

Because dry AMD can turn into wet AMD at any time, you should get an Amsler grid from your eye care professional. Use the grid every day to evaluate your vision for signs of wet AMD. This quick test works best for people who still have good central vision. Check each eye separately. Cover one eye and look at the grid. Then cover your other eye and look at the grid. If you detect any changes in the appearance of this grid or in your everyday vision while reading the newspaper or watching television, get a comprehensive dilated eye exam.

Wet AMD. If you have wet AMD and your doctor advises treatment, do not wait. After laser surgery or photodynamic therapy, you will need frequent eye exams to detect any recurrence of leaking blood vessels. Studies show that people who smoke have a greater risk of recurrence than those who don't. In addition, check your vision at home with the Amsler grid. If you detect any changes, schedule an eye exam immediately.

What can I do if I have already lost some vision from AMD?

If you have lost some sight from AMD, don't be afraid to use your eyes for reading, watching TV, and other routine activities. Normal use of your eyes will not cause further damage to your vision.

If you have lost some sight from AMD, ask your eye care professional about low vision services and devices that may help you make the

most of your remaining vision. Ask for a referral to a specialist in low vision. Many community organizations and agencies offer information about low vision counseling, training, and other special services for people with visual impairments. A nearby school of medicine or optometry may provide low vision services.

Current Research

What research is being done?

The National Eye Institute is conducting and supporting a number of studies to learn more about AMD. For example, scientists are: Studying the possibility of transplanting healthy cells into a diseased retina.

Evaluating families with a history of AMD to understand genetic and hereditary factors that may cause the disease.

Looking at certain anti-inflammatory treatments for the wet form of AMD.

This research should provide better ways to detect, treat, and prevent vision loss in people with AMD.

Please call the Eye Clinic with any problems or questions. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

On weekends, go to the VA Urgent Care Clinic or local Emergency Room if needed.

National Eye Institute
31 Center Drive MSC 2510
Bethesda, MD 20892-2510
(301) 496-5248
www.nei.nih.gov

AXPOW MEDSEARCH CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

Camp descriptions available from AXPOW. All are from the National Archives. If your camp is not listed, it is because the National Archives does not have it available.

JAPANESE CAMPS

	DONATIONS
Akenobe #6	\$.70
Batavia, Java	.90
Beppa	.50
Bilibid Prison	1.30
Bridge House Jail, China	.50
Burma	.40
Cabanatuan #1	.50
Cabanatuan #3	2.10
Camp O'Donnell	.60
Changi, Singapore	.70
D 12, Hitachi	.90
Davao Penal Colony	.70
Fengtai, China	.50
Fukuoka #1	.90
Fukuoka #2	.90
Fukuoka #3	.90
Fukuoka #10	.70
Fukuoka #11	.50
Fukuoka #17	.70
Fukuoka #22	.70
Hakodate Branch Camp #2	.70
Hoten, Juken, Manchuria	.70
Initial Phase – Philippines	1.10
Jinsen, Korea	.50
Kiangwan, China	.70
Manila, Port Area	.40
Mitushima, Tokyo Camp #2-D	.70
Makaishima, Honshu	.70
Mukden, Manchuria (temporary)	.50
Nakhon Pathom, Thailand	.50
Naval POW Camp, Shanghai	.40
Notogawa #9-B	.50
October Ship (Hellship)	.90
Omine	.50
Osaka #3, Oeyama	.70
Osaka #5-B	.70
Osaka #12-B	.70
Osaka Group, Sakurajima, Osaka	.70
Palawan Barracks	.90
Rangoon Prison, Burma	.90
Roku Poshi	.70
Saigon POW Camp,	.50
French Indo-China	.70
Sendai Camp #6, Hanawa	.50
Sendai Camp #11	.50

JAPANESE CAMPS

	DONATIONS
Southeast Asia-Saigon, Port Area	.50
SS Oryuku Maru (Hellship)	.90
Sumatra	.90
Thailand (Siam)	.50
Tientsin, China	.40
Umeda Bonshu	.70
Utashinai, Hokkaido	.50
War Road Jail, China	.50
Woosung	.50
Zentsuji Headquarters	1.10
Taiwan Formosa, includes Camps 31,	
Taihoku: Camp V, Taihoku: Camp VI,	
Taihoku, Kinkaseki: Camp II, Taichu:	
Camp III, Heito: Camp IV, Kagi &	
Tako	2.10

GERMAN CAMPS

	DONATIONS
Camp Conditions (general)	.70
Dulag Luft	.40
Hohemark Hospital & Luckenwalde	.90
Marlag und Milag Nord	.90
Oflag 13-B	1.50
Oflag 64	
Reserve-Lazaret Obermassfeld	.70
(the orthopedic hospital)	
Rumania	.50
Stalag 2-B	1.50
Stalag 3-B	1.70
Stalag 7-A	1.50
Stalag 9-B	1.10
Stalag 17-B	1.50
Stalag Luft 1	1.50
Stalag Luft 3	1.50
Stalag Luft 4	.40
Stalag Luft 6	.40
Transit Camp - Section of Dulag Luft	1.10
German Orders Governing Prisoners	
of War in Europe	2.30

***Shipping / Handling fees:** For orders up to 4.00, add \$3.00; For orders 4.01 to 7.99, add \$4.00; For orders 8.00 to 25.00, add \$8.00, For orders 25.01 to 49.99, add \$13.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$15.00 For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00.

Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

Check packets you wish to order and send with payment to: AXPOW, 3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40, Arlington, TX 76010

Name _____
 Phone _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Amount enclosed \$ _____ (includes shipping/handling*) **MasterCard and Visa accepted (circle one)**
(\$5.00 minimum charge)
 Card Number: _____
 Expiration Date: _____

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andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Brad Bennett, Superintendent
Brad_Bennett@nps.gov

Happy New Year!

Brad Bennett, Superintendent

The production of the “*Victory From Within: the American Prisoner of War Experience*” traveling exhibit project, made possible through many of your donations, is proceeding on schedule. Our park project team had an opportunity this fall to review mock-ups of the exhibit panels to make some minor corrections to text and photographs. Ed DeMent, your fellow AXPOW member and current National Director for the Southeast Region, continues to champion this traveling POW tribute at every turn; please join me in thanking him for his continued dedication to this partnership project. We are greatly anticipating completion of the important exhibit in 2012. As always, we welcome your suggestions for host venues, as well as your participation as Guest Hosts at future grand opening events. Please contact Chief of Interpretation and Education, Eric Leonard, at 229-924-0343 x201 or via email at Eric_Leonard@nps.gov for more information. You may also view the exhibit project update posted on the park’s website at: <http://www.nps.gov/andefotosmultimedia/upload/VFW-update-09092011.pdf>

In other recent happenings at the Andersonville National Historic Site, we welcomed back a long-time volunteer group from nearby Warner Robins, Georgia, home of Robins Air Force Base.

The “Robins Riders” represent several active and retired military members – who also happen to enjoy riding motorcycles! These passionate patriots ride to the park three times per year (Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day) to raise the “Avenue of Flags” in Andersonville National Cemetery to pay homage to the men and women of the armed forces interred in this permanent place of honor. Seeing the large flags glowing with sunlight and waving in the breeze never fails to inspire visitors from afar and local residents alike. We appreciate the many veterans organizations such as the Robins Riders, AXPOW, and others who support the National Park Service mission at Andersonville.

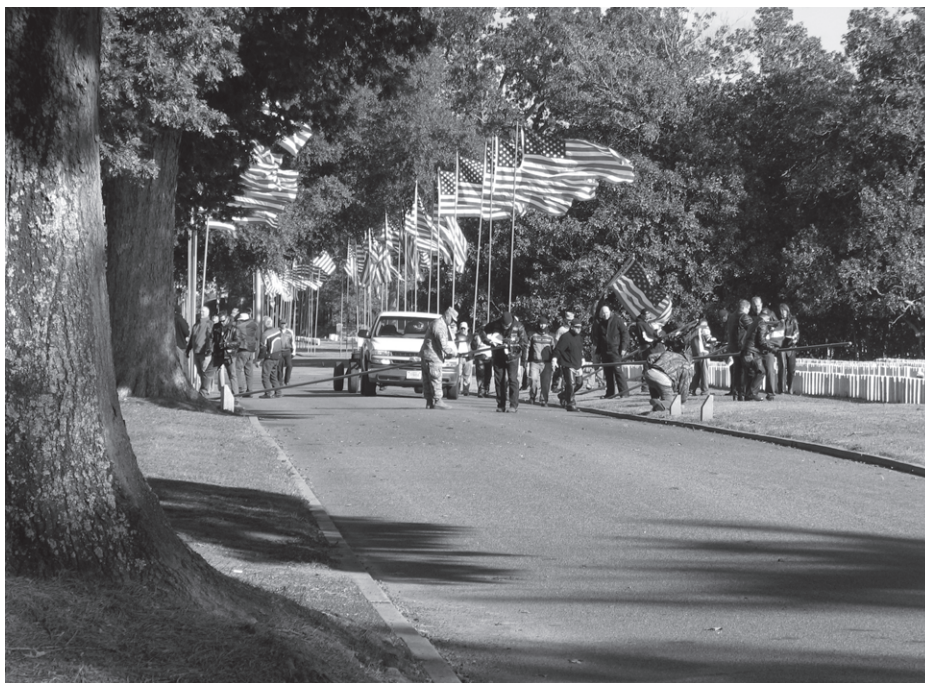
Finally, we join you in mourning the loss of former AXPOW member, Richard E. Francies. As some of you

may know, his family requested that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to Andersonville National Historic Site. As a result, many donations have indeed arrived, all of which will certainly help us in our daily purpose of sharing the stories of sacrifice made by American Prisoners of War – and their families – while defending our collective liberties.

On that note, on behalf of all of us with the National Park Service, we thank you for your service – past and present – to our country. Warmest of wishes to you and your loved ones in the New Year.

Commemorating the Civil War Sesquicentennial

2011 to 2015 marks the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. Through 2015, in programs, publications and special events, Andersonville National Historic Site will mark this important anniversary and explore how the story of Andersonville fits into the larger Civil War experience.



Robins Riders - Avenue of Flags

namPOW news



Paul E. Galanti
National Director, East Central
804.389.1668 (cell)
p.galanti@verizon.net

The Golden Guinea Advertising & Plumbing Corporation

(REDUX)

The weeks in Hanoi, North Vietnam following the November 21, 1970 Son Tay Raid were filled with activities not seen by most of the Vietnam POWs in years. In a panic following the raid on the empty POW camp 20 miles west of Hanoi, the North Vietnamese communists hauled most of the American POWs from the outlying camps all over the countryside to the central Hoa Lo Prison known to the Americans as the Hanoi Hilton. To put this in proper chronological perspective, Everett Alvarez had been a POW for more than six years and most in my 48-man cell had been in captivity more than four years. For the first time for nearly all of us since we'd been captured, social relationships evolved in our 40-58 man cells. A society was born from the rubble of spirits smashed in solitary confinement or four souls stuffed into a 7' by 7' individual cell.

We got organized immediately - the Senior Ranking Officer in each room was identified and immediately appointed a chain of command. The room was organized like an Air Force squadron. Individuals were tasked to use their particular talents to help the group. Those with the good eyes and ears became our communicators

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with other rooms. Those who had teachable talents taught their cellmates their subjects. Within a very short period of time we had a full-blown school going three or four hours a day with courses ranging from languages (I taught French and learned Spanish, German and enough Russian to insult a Russkie!)

Since there were no books or writing materials, all subject matter had to be memorized which came easily to most of us after so much time in solitary confinement.

But my favorite course was the music class taught by Bill Butler, an Air Force F-105 pilot and amateur musician. He taught by using roofing tile to scratch musical staves on the floor of our cell and would point to different notes while the class would sing them. It worked well until it became time to teach chord theory. How could that be done without musical instruments?

Four of the gents in the room had sung in school or church choirs and they provided the impetus for Bill Butler's human piano keys. Gene Smith, the bass stood on "C," Jim Ray, the baritone, stood on "E," Ray Alcorn stood on "G" as the first tenor and Ron Mastin stood on the the higher "C" key to complete the C-major chord! Since North Vietnam was a communist country it seemed appropriate to call it the "Peoples' Organ."

Bill Butler would sing a song, signal his "organ" to change pitch by using our communication "signing" language and the choir would change pitch to the new note as they jumped to the appropriate key. It was a little crude but it worked and it was fun for both the Peoples' Organ and us students. And during these hi-jinks, I discovered that I had a hidden, latent talent.

At night, somebody would "tell a movie." I had always had trouble remembering anything about a movie other than the way it was filmed and how the graphics were done but I could never remember plots. Or characters' names. Or even the actors' names. But some of this mostly en-

gineering group were sufficiently right-brained to make up for the rest of the number-crunching group's mentality. The longest "flick" I remember was "War and Peace" which took six weeks for Russ Temperly to tell!

My hidden talent? I could think of a product and an advertising jingle would pop into my mind. Just like that. Sooooooo, since this was a Communist country, we decided a little commercialism would be a welcome relief. And for the next two years Bill Butler's singers and I worked up an advertising skit with a different singing commercial almost every single night!

The movie-teller would take a break and the commercial would come on. They were clever, they were funny, and they were multi-lingual. It was a tremendous mental exercise to write funny singing commercials in a foreign language keeping the meter intact and having it rhyme. Many of them can't be displayed in a "family magazine" such as the Bulletin but here's one that can!

Picture the Cisco Kid and Pancho. Galloping away from the sheriff. "Hey, Cisco!"; "Hey, Pancho!"; "Hey, Cisco, We got to get outta her, Mon. Dese horses, dey ain't fast enough!"

"Hey Pancho! Look up there. It's an hombre with a Ferrari."

Then, in Four Part Harmony, Cisco, Pancho, the Sheriff and guy with the Ferrari would sing (to the tune of *Mañana*):

The engine is a V-12 the car she go so fast

When you drive Ferrari, I think you don't get passed.

So buy a new Ferrari, Twelve Grand is all you pay... (editor: That was 1965 prices!)

Drive a new Ferrari and drive your cares away!

<Chorus>

Ferrari, Ferrari, Ferrari is good enough for me.

Ferrari, Ferrari, faster than an A-4C..... Si!

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards Chairman

889 Randall Road
Niskayuna, NY 12309-4815
(518) 393-3907 phone & fax

AMERICANS IDENTIFIED:

There are now 1,679 Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

On November 8th, DPMO added two names to the list of accounted-for US personnel: Captain Charles R. Barnes, USAR, listed as MIA in SVN on 3/10/65, and SGT David E. Lemcke, USA, listed as KIA/BNR in SVN on 5/21/68 in SVN. Captain Barnes' remains were recovered 6/27/00, and identified 8/8/11. SGT Lemcke's remains were recovered 6/23/11 and identified 9/12/11. Previously, DPMO had announced the name of LCDR Edward J. Broms, Jr., USN, listed MIA in North Vietnam on August 1, 1968. His remains were recovered 8/4/93 and identified 9/12/11. Earlier, DPMO announced the name of Sgt. 1st Class Marvin F. Phillips, USA, listed as KIA/BNR in SVN on 9/26/66. His remains were recovered on 6/24/10 and identified on 7/29/11. The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 904; another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 967. Of the 1,679 unreturned American veterans from the Vietnam War, our POW/MIAs, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,288 (VN-472, VS-816); Laos- 326; Cambodia-58; Peoples Re-

public of China territorial waters-7; over 450 were over-water losses.

ACCOUNTING COOPERATION:

On September 9th, The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) hosted a military Arrival Ceremony at the flight line on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to honor remains of fallen U.S. personnel from the Vietnam War whose identities remain unknown. The remains were recovered in Laos and Vietnam during joint recovery missions. JPAC's Underwater Recovery Team (URT) recently suspended operations off the coast of Vietnam and redeployed to Hawaii. Some 35 US personnel concluded field operations in Vietnam, testing a new recovery process. Vietnamese Recovery Teams (VRTs) handle all logistics requirements and advance preparation, before being joined by a smaller number of US personnel. This new recovery construct is viewed as a way to expand the pace and scope of field operations, called for by. Initial reports indicate the process is working well; however, increased accountability will determine success.

Korean War Accounting:

The US and North Korea (DPRK) recently held talks in Bangkok in an effort to re-start remains recovery operations that were halted in 2005. Announcements at the conclusion of the talks indicated that field operations will resume in Unsan County and the Chosin Reservoir area. Also, recently, there were two RTs in South Korea; and an Underwater Investigation Team (UIT) is now conducting operations there. The reality is that there has been very little success to date on field recoveries in South Korea. Heavy population reduces chances for successful excavations. Field recoveries in the DPRK beginning in 2012 will build on attempts to identify remains previously returned unilaterally by the DPRK and those disinterred from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl) that were buried post-war as unknowns. The identification process has advanced dramatically, now enabling such IDs to be made,

but more forensic anthropologists are needed. Ironically, qualified forensic anthropologists are frequently assigned to lead field excavations, diverting their time and attention from remains identifications.

WWII Accounting:

JPAC recently had a Field Forensic Review (FFR) then a Joint Forensic Review (JFR) in England on remains turned in, and earlier conducted JFRs in Poland and The Netherlands. In addition, Two Phase Two Testing Teams (P2Ts) and one RT were deployed on Wake Island, three RTs in Germany, one IT in Micronesia, and an advance team was in the PRC.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY:

The President issued a proclamation designating September 16th as this year's date to honor America's POW/MIAs from all wars and to commemorate their sacrifices and those of their families. Ceremonies were held across the country and around the world POW/MIA Flag was again raised, as required by law, over the White House, the US Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, all offices of the US Postal Service, all VA cemeteries and military bases, posts and stations as designated by the Secretary of Defense. Posters were designed and distributed by the Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO); can be accessed and downloaded for printing at the DPMO website, www.dtic.mil/dpmo.

Missing/Captured

US Service members reported missing or captured while supporting combat operations:

Army Spc. Bowe R. Bergdahi, 25, June 30, 2009, Afghanistan
Army Staff Sgt. Ahmed K. Altaie, 45, Oct. 23, 2006, Baghdad

civilians



ND Alice Gollin
Chairman

On September 11, 2011, we arrived at the Department of Labor in Cleveland, Ohio. Our mission was to make the Civilian ex-POWs' benefits, earned during their imprisonment, much easier to obtain than they had been.

Medical doctors, dentists and insurance companies use codes for their billings and this can certainly be perplexing to you and I. So I thought you would like to know that the doctors and dentists and medical insurance companies all use the same codes throughout. Example: All doctors use the same code for a medical procedure; all dentists use the same code for a dental procedure. The insurance companies use these codes for insurance coverage. I have copies of the codes and if you are in doubt as to a code's meaning, call me at 760-610-1271 or drop a line to me at 37231 Turnberry Isle, Palm Desert, CA 92211.

Now let's kill all the negative feeling about how difficult it is to get the forms you need and the difficulty of filling them out.

Question 1: Why do you have to call the Department of Labor in order to see a doctor or a dentist?
Answer: To keep a record that is up-to-date in your file. They also want to make sure you are who you say

you are. This is a good thing for the Department and the person applying. There is no 30-day wait once you have filled out the form that investigates your internment.

Next: If you are in pain, go to your doctor or dentist immediately. When you are well, call and the staff will help you decide which forms you will need to use to apply for payment to the doctor. When you get your forms, don't delay in filling them out. If you have a problem with the forms, call the Department of Labor; they are there to help you and will do so immediately.

Next: If the dentist is reluctant to fill out a 16-page form, just have him or her fill out the front page in total and it will suffice if the code for the procedure performed is on the form.

The Department of Labor will be hiring a new Financial Company about the first of the year. I have asked to be present when the staff meets their new financial company. If the Department of Labor staff agrees, we will be asking you to give us your thoughts about changes in the way they do it now.

Until that time, the easiest way to ease the forms problem, if possible, is to pay your dentist up front. Then fill out the one page and send it to the Department of Labor, Office of Workers Compensation Program. Don't forget to send copies of how your payment was made and the receipt your dentist gave you. Your best friends could be your Claims Examiners, so please use them.

Patricia Taylor (216) 357-5318;
Paula Mindes (216) 357-5349;
Daniel Wieber (216) 357-5831;
Tammie Kristoff (216) 357-5375.
Senior Claims Examiners: Annette Kayser (216) 357-5314; Roberta Podnak (216) 357-5331.



Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services

The Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services Organization (VAVS), a department of Veteran Affairs was established in 1946 with only eight charter organizations. Today, more than 350 national and local organizations are represented in VAVS nationwide from approximately sixty Veterans' service, fraternal, civic, and other voluntary organizations. The purpose of the VAVS is to provide voluntary services for our nation's veterans while they are cared for by VA health care facilities including augmenting staff in various needs.. The VAVS is the largest centralized volunteer program in the Federal government..... it's 140,000 volunteers providing more than 12.5 million hours of service to veterans in FY 2010, and over 700 million hours of service since 1946. In 2010 alone, VAVS volunteer hours applied to a dollar amount based on \$20.85 per hour (Independent Sector value in 2010), equated to \$261,661,417. This is in addition to \$107,067,497 in monetary and non-monetary donations. VAVS volunteers are a priceless asset to America's veterans and to VA said, Laura Balun, Director Volunteer Service, Washington DC. Included in the VAVS is The National Advisory Committee (NAC) whose responsibility is to advise the Under Secretary for Health on matters pertaining to the participation of volunteers in VA medical facilities, assist in recruitment and orientation of volunteers, and keeps the officers and members of participating organizations (AXPOW) informed of volunteer needs and accomplishments. Our organization (AXPOW) is represented in the VAVS by PNC Morris Barker through recommendation of National Adjutant Morgan, appointment by NC Bogard, and certification by the VAVS National Director Balun. PNC Barker also serves on the National Advisory Committee.



March 17, 2012. The AXPOW MidYear Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the Arlington (Texas) Hilton. For more information, please contact National Headquarters at 817-649-2979.

April 2012. Bataan and Corregidor Memorial. Sascha Jean Jansen will lead a tour to the Philippines to memorialize the 70th anniversary of the surrenders on Bataan and Corregidor and visit the POW camps. Contact her at (530) 795-0411 mabuhayma@aol.com.

April 17-21, 2012. Stalag Luft III reunion is being planned in Dayton, Ohio, right near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. The hotel selected is ten minutes from there. This reunion would be held at the same time the Doolittle Raiders are holding their reunion at WPAFB. We will do our planning in a way that allows our attendees and those at the Raider event to interact and participate in one another's events—kind of a “two for one.” Contact: Marilyn Walton, 1275 Fareharm Drive, New Albany, OH 43054; waltonk9@gmail.com.

April 18 & 19, 2012. Dept. of Missouri State Convention will be held in Columbia, Missouri. Hotel accommodations will be at the Staybridge Suites located at 805 Keene Street, Columbia, Missouri 65201 (phone# 573-442-8600). Contact: Adjutant/Treasurer Delta Endecott, 816-657-4422, deltaj@casstel.net .

July 29-Aug 5, 2012. The Korean War Ex-POW Association annual reunion will be held at he Marriott Regency Hotel, 10220 Regency Circle, Omaha, NE 68114; 402-399-9000. For more information, contact Bill Norwood, President at: info@koreanwarexpow.org.

looking
for



Looking for any information on the **medals sold by Lt. John Welles** while he was a POW at Stalag 7A, Mooseburg. He had made wooden models to memorialize the trek from Sagan (Salag LUFT 3) to Mooseburg. The original story about these medals was in the 1989 November issue of the XPOW Bulletin. Welles home address was Ponchatoula, LA. Secondly, looking for information on any other medals especially struck for WWII. Gerald L. Smith 1 Back River Rd. Durham, NH 03824-1819; ctuveson@msn.com.

I am looking for a copy of the **EX-POW Bulletin from August 1983**. There is an article written by I believe Lt Mitchell. It describes why the surviving crew members of a B24 were treated so harshly as spies by the Germans. The B24 they were flying was shot down on May 29, 1944. Turns out the plane had been returning from a mission and shot down over a German secret rocket base. Peenemunde The crew knew nothing of the base, and Dad, Ken McCracken Sr found out for the first time after reading that article

why they were treated so badly. ThankYou. Ken Mc Cracken, 203 Coleridge Ave Altoona, Pa 16602; B24mac@aol.com.

I spoke with MGen. Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces of the Philippines (Ret.). He informed me that all **veterans who served in the Philippines during WW II** would qualify for one, two or all six of the following **medals**. Next of kin may receive these medals on behalf of their relative.

1. Philippine Liberation Medal
 2. Philippine Independence Medal
 3. Philippine Defense Medal
 4. Asiatic Pacific Medal
 5. WW II Victory Medal
 6. Presidential Unit Citation Badge (for belonging to specific units)
- These medals are issued by the Armed Forces of the Philippines and certificates will be included with each medal. The medals themselves are free, but there is a small shipping and handling fee for each medal. If your relative died during the war, in all probability, he did not receive any of these medals. If you are interested, contact me. fbaldie@pacbell.net.

We came across a **FIFTY CENT PIECE** that belonged to **POW Memory Cain** (his name is on the back). If anyone knows how to get this to his family, please contact us at: hsiaggas@ameritech.net.

The Purple Heart

It is one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces. Introduced as the “Badge of Military Merit” by General George Washington in 1782, the Purple Heart is also the nation’s oldest military award. In military terms, the award had “broken service,” as it was ignored for nearly 150 years until it was re-introduced on February 22, 1932, on the 200th anniversary of George Washington’s birth. The medal’s plain inscription “FOR MILITARY MERIT” barely expresses its significance.

News Briefs

USS HOUSTON Survivors Dedicate New Model Case

credit Naval Historical Foundation



USS HOUSTON (CA 30) veterans pose before a new painting, "They Sold Their Lives Dearly," by Tom Freeman. The veterans are (left to right): Raymond Kester, David Flynn, Howard Brooks, Bill Ingram.

On Thursday 17 November the National Museum of the United States Navy hosted a remarkable event to honor those who were lost and those who survived the sinking of USS Houston (CA 30) on 1 March 1942 off Java. Over the past 17 months, the Curator of Ship Models with Navy Sea Systems Command, Dana Wegner and his staff, have spent hundreds of hours refurbishing a 1929 vintage model of the Northampton-class cruiser USS Houston. In the meantime, the USS Houston (CA 30) Survivors and Next Generations Association paid for the construction of a beautiful wooden/glass case to host

the 1/48 scale model. From 1100 through noon there was an official Model unveiling ceremony that included remarks by Director of Naval History, Rear Admiral Jay A. DeLoach, Lieutenant Commander Carl Holmes of the Royal Australian Navy, and John Schwarz who is the president of the USS Houston (CA 30) Survivors and Next Generations Association.

Following a luncheon underwritten by the Surface Navy Association and the Naval Historical Foundation, Dr. Dave Winkler of the Naval Historical Foundation had the opportunity to do an 80 minute roundtable with 3 of the Houston veterans: Raymond Kester, Howard Brooks, and David Flynn. In the case of Kester, he had transferred to the cruiser Marblehead before the battles of February 1942. He recounted how Japanese bombers heavily damaged Marblehead during air attacks on 4 February. Marblehead would make it back to New York for repairs in May. During the air attack of 4 February, a bomb hit turret #3 on Houston. Brooks was part of the aft damage control party stationed aft of the barbet and was sent away to repair an ammunition hoist. When he returned he found that the bomb had killed or wounded all of the other Sailors who had been part of the repair team.

Both David Flynn and Brooks discussed the battle that led to the loss of Houston and their escapes. Flynn, wounded with shrapnel, considered himself lucky in retrospect because his injuries deemed him of little use to the Japanese and he spent the rest



Chaplain LT Jonathan Craig reads the benediction closing the dedication ceremony for the USS HOUSTON (CA 30) model case at the National Museum of the United States Navy. At the far left podium is Dr. Ed Furgul of the Museum. Behind LT Craig (left to right) are RDML Jay DeLoach, USN (Ret), Director, Naval History and Heritage Command, LCDR Carl Holmes, Royal Australian Naval attache, and Dana Wegner, Curator of Ship Models, Naval Sea Systems Command.

of the war on Java. Brooks, on the other hand, found himself mixed in with thousands of British, Australian, Dutch, and other prisoners working on a rail line to link Thailand and Burma. Brooks gave a twenty minute narrative of his experience that was illustrated in the movie "The Bridge On the River Kwai." The roundtable ended with an upbeat note as Brooks and Flynn discussed their liberations. Those wanting to learn more about the experience of these brave men should read James Hornfischer's "Ship of Ghosts."



news, continued

New Initials for Former POW

Alice A. Booher



As of 1 February 2012, an additional set of letters will follow the name of former Persian Gulf POW, Brigadier General; (BG) Rhonda Leah Scott Cornum, USA MC - and they will be "(Ret)" standing for retired.

Dr. Cornum entered the Army in 1978, with a PhD. (Cornell University, 1978, biochemistry and nutrition); graduated Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences with an M.D. in 1986; and an MA in national security strategy from National War College in 2003. After captivity in 1991, (as has been traced in this publication), she commanded the 28th Combat Support Hospital out of Ft. Bragg to Bosnia for SFOR 9, deploying three subordinate units to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, and then commanded the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Her extraordinary Army career concludes with a remarkably successful Directorship of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program.

It will not come as a surprise to anyone who knows her, but retirement does not mean that General Cornum intends to do nothing. She will remain on several committees and advisory boards, including as a member of the

Secretary of Veterans Affairs' POW Advisory Committee. She will also be involved in private consulting, most immediately in the areas of psychological fitness training, health policy and electronics record integration.



Canine showing venues such as Crufts (England), Westminster (NYC) and National (Philadelphia) are certainly in the plans. Cornum

intends to continue work with her beloved dogs (specializing for now in the Sporting Group of Red and Whites and Gordon Setters), breeding and showing them as she has for years in the U.S. and Europe, but also in the judging of pointing dog field trials and hunt tests.



Cornum is considering various options in corporate, service or charitable board work but is looking forward to time at her beautiful farm in Kentucky where they have herbs and other gardens and crops, chickens, dogs, cats, cows and baby race horses and draft horses. She also has plans to travel and write and perhaps return to school. Her daughter Regan completes Auburn University veterinarian school this year and plans to reside on a nearby farm in Kentucky with her own husband Rodney.



Immediately on "retirement", Rhonda Cornum will live on the Gulf Coast with her USAF husband, Brig. Gen. Kory Cornum, an orthopedic physician who remains on active duty as Commanding General of the 81st Medical Group, Keesler AFB, MS; Senior Market manager for TRICARE's Gulf Coast Multi-Services Market (which includes five military medical facilities stretching from Mobile, AL to New Orleans, LA); and co-lead for the Biloxi Department of Defense/Department of Veterans Affairs joint venture centers of excellence initiative. Understandably, both Doctors/Generals Cornum will both be looking forward to more time (after his USAF retirement) on the farm with their horses and dogs, and planning other adventures, "retired" never being synonymous with "retiring" or "idling" for either of them.



58 Purple Hearts Awarded POWs in New Hampshire

Allan Gavan
603-253-9359

New Hampshire ExPOW Chapter Commander Irene Wells reports the delivery to next-of-kin of Purple Hearts awarded to 58 N.H. POWs who died in captivity during WWII and the Korean War, in accordance with the DOD Directive of October 1, 2008.

Three award ceremonies, presided by Governor John Lynch and Major Gen-

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eral William Reddel III, were held at the N.H. State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen over the past three years. Personal out-of-state deliveries to relatives were arranged through local ExPOW Chapters and other veterans organizations across the country.

"Our thanks to committee members Allan Gavan, Chairman, Jerry Hebert and Ed Parker," said Wells, "They were also instrumental in developing our POW Memorial at the cemetery." At the Memorial, the names of 60 N.H. men who died as POWs are engraved on two black granite markers, 42 during WWII and 18 in Korea. Each marker now carries a Purple Heart medallion.

"We are committed to securing Purple Hearts for the remaining two whose applications are on appeal with the military," added Wells, "We believe New Hampshire will be the first state to achieve the goal of Purple Heart awards for all its fallen POW heroes."

Invaluable pro bono help on the lengthy project was provided by Dennis Wolfe of Red Oak, IA and Michelle Dexter, a private investigator with MetroInvestigations, Inc. of Braintree, MA.



Guy Kenneson accepts his uncle's posthumous Purple Heart. Russell Kenneson of Rumney, N.H., died in 1943 while a POW in Camp #1, Cabanatuan, P.I.

California State Assemblymember Fiona Ma, D-San Francisco, authored and Governor Jerry Brown has signed into law (2011-2112 Legislative Session) Assembly Bill 199: "School Curriculum: Social Sciences: Filipinos in WW II - Encourages instruction in social sciences for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, to include instruction on WW II and the role of Filipinos in that war. Encourages the instruction to include a component drawn from personal testimony."

BACEPOW Commander Angus Lorenzen writes:

This presents an opportunity for BACEPOW members to volunteer to teach a class period on the Filipino contribution to the rescue of the three camps on Luzon, as well as other things based on our personal knowledge about the Filipinos' contribution to the war. If anyone is willing to do this, I can provide some presentation material to help them.

Mukden Survivors and Descendants Group Reunion

2011 POW Reunion

The Holiday Inn and Suites at Ameristar Casino in Council Bluffs, Iowa was the site on October 4-8, 2011 for the annual reunion of the Mukden Survivors and Descendants Group. The reunion was hosted by descendant, Gloria Myers, National Historian, whose father, Louis E. Myers and her uncle, Elvin J. Myers were among the 1500 American and Allied prisoners of war held in the Mukden POW Camp for three and one-half years during World War II. Mukden was a Japanese prisoner of war camp in northern China in the province of Manchuria from 1942 to 1945.

Attending the reunion were four Mukden Prisoners of

War, Randall Edwards of Lakeland, Florida, Ralph Griffith of New London, Missouri, Robert Rosendahl of Springfield, Missouri, and Erwin Johnson of New Orleans, Louisiana. Also attending part of the reunion was Frank DeVivo of Council Bluffs, also Japanese prisoner of war, held in the Sendai POW camp in Japan.



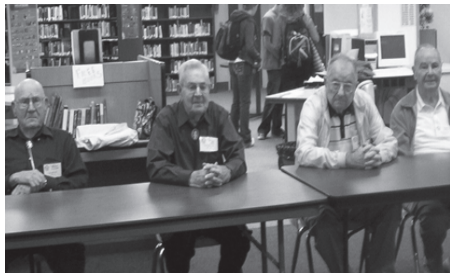
Rosendahl and Johnson were surrendered on Bataan and are Bataan Death March survivors. Edwards, Griffith and DeVivo were surrendered on Corregidor. All the men were in the Philippine POW camp of Cabanatuan when Edwards, Johnson, Griffith, and Rosendahl were transported on a "Hell Ship" to Mukden, Manchuria to become slave labor for the Japanese.

During the reunion week, the men and the descendants toured Council Bluffs including the Commemorative Air Force, the Union Pacific museum, the Veterans Plaza in Council Bluffs and the Eagle of Honor Monument in Crescent, Iowa. They also visited the Lewis and Clark Monument in the Loess Hills near Council Bluffs and the Black Angel monument in honor of the wife of Gen. Grenville Dodge. Gen. Grenville Dodge was instrumental in building the Transcontinental Railroad westward beginning in Council Bluffs, Iowa. This was the birth of the Union Pacific Railroad. They visited and toured the SAC Air Museum near Ashland, NE as well.



news, continued

The museum houses many fine examples of aircraft both vintage and modern. In particular is a display honoring Clayton Anderson, NASA astronaut from Nebraska who flew aboard the space shuttle, Atlantis and spent 5 months aboard the International Space station.



The group also toured Boys Town where they held a memorial service to remember their comrades. The men were privileged to speak of their experiences to the high school history classes on the campus.

A highlight of the reunion was a panel discussion held on Oct. 8 for the media and the public. The men spoke of their experiences as prisoners of war and answered questions from the public. The week ended with a banquet where the men were honored and presented a Certificate of Merit from the City of Walnut, Iowa by Walnut Mayor Gene Larsen. They also received a Certificate of Merit from the City of Council Bluffs, Iowa signed by Mayor Tom Hanafan, and recently received a certificate recognizing their military service and sacrifices from the State of Iowa signed by Governor Terry Branstad.

VA Stroke Program

Strokes are not only deadly, but they can lead to a lifetime of cognitive issues. Out of 12,000 Veterans admitted for strokes at VA facilities every year, 20-35 percent develop aphasia which can impair the recollection of words or render a victim unable to speak, read, or write. Aphasia is a language disorder resulting from brain damage — most often from a left-hemisphere stroke — that impairs communication. This

can range from mild word-finding difficulty to a complete inability to speak, understand, read or write. Cognitive abilities in other areas remain relatively well preserved. While individuals with aphasia typically experience significant physiological recovery in the first six months after onset, many continue to have significant long-term communication problems. Aphasia can affect psychosocial adjustment, the ability to function independently in society and vocational opportunities.

According to the National Aphasia Association (NAA) Aphasia affects about one million Americans -or 1 in 250 people- and is more common than Parkinson's Disease, cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy. While aphasia is most common among older people, it can occur in people of all ages, races, nationalities and gender. If the symptoms of aphasia last longer than two or three months after a stroke, a complete recovery is unlikely. However, it is important to note that some people continue to improve over a period of years and even decades. Improvement is a slow process that usually involves both helping the individual and family understand the nature of aphasia and learning compensatory strategies for communicating. More than 100,000 Americans acquire the disorder each year. However, most people have never heard of it. NAA is a nonprofit organization that promotes public education, research, rehabilitation and support services to assist people with aphasia and their families. They maintain a website at <http://aphasia.org> which contains a wealth of information for those having to deal with this condition.

Now, a program at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare System has been developed to help combat the degenerative effects of aphasia. So far, 39 Veterans have gone through the Program for Intensive Residential Aphasia Treatment and Education (PIRATE). The program is notable for its one-on-one therapy sessions instead of group therapy. The intensive treatment packs five six-hour sessions with a speech

pathologist into one month. Normally, that amount of treatment would take place in a year. PIRATE shows promise for those who've had their cognitive abilities curtailed by stroke. Website address: <http://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/PIRATE/index.asp> to learn more, and if you or someone you know would benefit from treatment, get in touch with the PIRATE team to get on the list. To contact the Pittsburgh VAMC use mail or Fax to: VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, PIRATE, 7180 Highland Drive 132 A-H, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 Fax: 412-954-4629.

Panetta Pays Tribute to Fallen Sailors in Tripoli

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta paused during his historic visit to Tripoli to lay a wreath on the graves of U.S. sailors lost aboard the USS Intrepid more than 200 years ago.

Panetta, the first defense secretary to set foot in Libya, said he felt honored to pay respects to heroes of the United States' first overseas wars, interred in Tripoli's Protestant cemetery.

The crew aboard the Intrepid was on a mission Sept. 4, 1804, to destroy pirate ships moored in Tripoli harbor during the First Barbary War when their vessel exploded.

Navy Lt. Richard Somers, its commander, and his dozen officers and sailors were killed.

"These brave sailors from the Intrepid, who died in the service of their country, have our nation's enduring respect and gratitude," the secretary said in a statement released after today's visit.

"Having sailed into harm's way to

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secure our nation's interests, they volunteered for a dangerous mission and paid the ultimate price," he said. "Their courage, and that of their fallen sailors and Marines, have forever emblazoned the shores of Tripoli in our nation's conscience."

Panetta expressed appreciation that despite differences in U.S.-Libyan relations over the years, the Libyan people have maintained the cemetery with the respect and honor it deserves and designated it a protected historic property.

The United States looks forward to working with the Libyans "to ensure that this very special place remains an honored and protected landmark for both of our nations," he said.

The 2012 Defense Authorization Act, as passed by the House in December, includes a provision that requires the Defense Department to begin the process of identifying and returning Somers and his sailors to the United States.

Specifically, the bill instructs the Secretaries of Defense and the Navy to report back to Congress on the feasibility of recovering and positively identifying the missing commandos.

Veterans' Homelessness Drops Amid Partnerships, Outreach

American Forces Press Service

The U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development announced that a new national report shows that homelessness among veterans has been reduced by nearly 12 percent

between January 2010 and January 2011.

The federal government has pledged to end veterans' homelessness by 2015, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said.

"This new report is good news for the tens of thousands of veterans we have helped find a home," Shinseki said. "Our progress in the fight against homelessness has been significant, but our work is not complete until no veteran has to sleep on the street."

According to the 2011 supplement to the Annual Homeless Assessment Report released, 67,495 veterans were homeless in the United States on a single night in January 2011 — a significant reduction from last year's single-night count of 76,329. The complete 2011 Annual Homeless Assessment Report will be available in 2012.

Shinseki credited the decrease in veterans' homelessness to strong leadership by President Barack Obama, "and hard work by countless community organizations and our federal, state, and local partners who are committed to helping veterans and their families get back on their feet."

HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan added, "We're absolutely headed in the right direction, as we work to end homelessness amongst those who have served our nation."

The decline in veterans' homelessness, Donovan added, highlights government efforts "to target federal resources to produce a sharp and measureable reduction in veteran homelessness.

"As we put forth in the first federal plan to prevent and end homelessness," he continued, "there's plenty of work ahead to reach our goal, but these numbers validate the work done by both HUD and VA to reach our nation's homeless veterans and get them into permanent housing."

Since 2009, working with over 4,000 community agencies, VA and HUD have successfully placed 33,597 veterans in permanent housing, officials said, with dedicated case managers and access to VA health care.

VA also announced it will make \$100 million in grants available to community agencies across the country to prevent nearly 42,000 veterans and their families from falling into homelessness, or to quickly return them to stable housing. The funds are offered for fiscal year 2012 through VA's Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, a homelessness-prevention and rapid re-housing program.

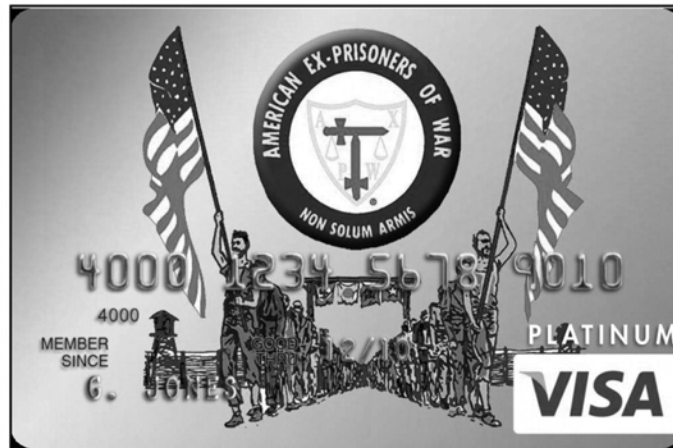
"The problems that lead to homelessness begin long before veterans and their families are on the streets," Shinseki said. "By putting more resources into prevention services for those at risk of becoming homeless, we will continue to help more veterans and their families turn their lives around."

Last year, VA provided \$60 million through the SSVF program to community providers, which will affect nearly 22,000 people through 85 nonprofit community agencies in 40 states and the District of Columbia. The program provides community organizations with funding for counseling, training, education assistance, direct time-limited financial assistance, transportation, child care, rent, utilities, and other services aimed at preventing homelessness or providing homes for participating veterans and family members.

VA is sponsoring free workshops this month and next to review the grant application process. Community organizations interested in applying for funds under this program can use the website to find dates for workshops in Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver, San Francisco, and St. Louis. Community organizations seeking more information on the SSVF program can also contact VA at 1-877-737-0111 or at SSVF@va.gov.

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Buckles Family Revisited

Alice A. Booher

The cover story for the March/April 2008 issue of the Bulletin was on Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last surviving American WWI veteran who drove Army ambulances and motorcycles, and guarded and then escorted German POWs as they returned home in WWI. Buckles later (while working with White Star Line in Manila) was taken prisoner by the Japanese for 3 years, 2 months, at Santo Tomas in WWII where he planted a vegetable garden, helped with therapeutic exercises for a polio victim and tended other POWs. A follow-up article on Mr. Buckles ran in the May/June 2011 issue of the Bulletin after his death on February 27, 2011 at age 110.

After WWI, Buckles had not pursued recognition or benefits as a veteran, but after WWII, he used VA educational benefits at business school and later VA medical benefits including hearing aids. He also remained a staunch advocate for veterans, was National Commander of the Veterans of WWI and encouraged its publication *The Torch*. An articulate, erudite man, who read classics in their original Greek and Latin, into his late 90's he rode his John Deere tractor on the 320 acre farm that had been in his family since 1732 in Charlestown, WV, overlooking the Civil War battle sites of Antietam and Harpers Ferry. In his last few years, the national press featured his regular participation in Veterans Day activi-

ties at Arlington National Cemetery, pictured in his Army long coat, cap at a jaunty angle with wool scarf and wooden wheelchair usually near GEN Pershing's grave.

On one such visit to Washington, D.C., Buckles was driven past and took notice of the local D.C. WWI memorial, then a rather seedy looking edifice hidden in brambles on the back of the Mall off Constitution Avenue. The DC WWI Memorial had been dedicated on November 11, 1931 by President Herbert Hoover, GEN John J. Pershing and band leader John Philip Sousa. It is a domed, wedding-cake shaped, 47 feet tall, small, white and round with Jefferson Memorial-like columns, paid for by locals to honor DC residents who served and died (1914-1918). Buckles' ongoing attention and facile use of the otherwise unwanted publicity on him personally that came from his visits, suggested that it might be suitable as a WWI National Memorial. At the very least it should be cleaned up, he suggested, noting the broken fieldstone pathways, cracked marble and overgrown scrubs and grass. A Foundation was set up and effectuated renewal, using some Federal stimulus money and donations, and the site was rededicated on November 11, 2011. The site is now cared for by the National Park Service, but Frank Buckles' idea to make it a National memorial met some opposition from the DC folks who bristle at home rule issues (other options might be Pershing Park in downtown D.C.). Nonetheless, but Frank Buckles had made his point and past age 109, he continued to make a difference!

In the less than a year since Frank Buckles death in February 2011, at

which time he was honored by President Barack Obama and national leaders, a remarkable companion story has surfaced at the Naval Submarine Base in New London, Connecticut. A young Navy LT, Robert Buckles, assigned to the sub base there, had been inspired by the heroism of an uncle, Army Captain Richard L. Buckles, who died in Vietnam in 1969, (earning the Purple Heart and Silver Star trying to save a comrade). It turns out that the modern-day Robert Buckles shares his name with a wealthy English land-lord, who left England in 1719 on a ship for America. Genealogical research showed Buckle relatives serving in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, WWI and WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam and present day conflicts.



Milton Abraham Buckles fought in the Civil War, and left diaries of his service. With six months remaining on his enlistment, Milton's diary for February 15, 1865, noted: "We have high hopes of seeing home, and the loved ones who have so long patiently endured trial and hardship for ours and their country's sake. We have endured and suffered more during the time we have been in the war, but no man now regrets what has passed but all are glad to have done something for their country". It is evident that Milton Buckles spoke for a patriotic veteran family for generations of a continuing humbling and awe-inspiring American legacy.



AXPOW Convention 2012
 Arlington, Texas
 June 28-July 1, 2012

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Notes from your committee chairman

To
Any family members who may consider attending

I assume for anyone who starts to read this their first thought might be “where is Arlington Texas?” Well, it is between Dallas and Forth Worth. Next thought might be what time of the week is June 28 to July 1? Well it’s Thursday to Sunday. The convention opening ceremonies is Thursday morning and the banquet is Saturday evening, with other stuff in-between and on either end. Okay so far, but what is this “other stuff”? Well frankly it’s pretty much what you want it to be.

Let’s start with a short bit of background. The American Ex-Prisoners of war is an organization that was originally made up of mostly returning WWII veterans that had been held as a prisoner of war. There were tens of thousands of them. Something like 80,000 and it was a huge organization. Time, age and mortality has reduced that number to a few thousand members in their late 80’s and 90’s. Likewise the annual conventions have gone from 2,000 to 3,000 attendees to between 100 and 200. Many of those attendees are spouses and family members who are also members of the organization. Some years ago the organization decided to offer membership to family members and that offer has since been expanded to include a large extended family group. The organization is gradually becoming a “heritage” organization made up of proud family members of these men and women who sacrificed so much to make this country and the world what it is. The “Greatest Generation” they have been called. There are those of us who

AXPOW Convention 2012
Arlington, Texas
June 28-July 1, 2012

have found ourselves in the unfortunate circumstance of being prisoners of war of other conflicts since and have joined the organization but, though younger, we are small in number. The point of this being that the organization, The American Ex-Prisoners of War, needs the descendants of these aging hero’s, to carry on their legacy by keeping the organization alive. It will be their task to reform it to their way of thinking and to make it to be what they will it to be. But first they must become the organization and that is where we are now. We want you to come and be a part of your parents and grandparents legacy. To join the organization, if it suits you, and together with other descendants carry it into the future that others may know that legacy.

For some reason unknown to many of us, those of you who are descendants of former POW’s have been referred to as “next of kin”. It’s perfectly descriptive but rather colloquial. That has been shortened to “N.O.K.”, again, communicative but doesn’t sound as respectful of your group as it should. I mention this in passing but, if you join us either socially or in membership you will hear it a fair amount, know it is a fond reference of you for us.

My hope in this letter is to give any family members who might be thinking about the convention a bit of an orientation to make them feel welcome and comfortable in attending. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND. You may be given the opportunity to join as we would like to have you as a member but that has nothing to do with assisting your parent or grandparent to attend, or attending alone or with your family just to “check it out”.



YOU DO NOT NEED
TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND THE
CEREMONIES OR MEETINGS.

You DO need to be a member and/or a delegate to vote, but many non voting attendees go to the meetings just to find out what is happening in the organization, to listen to the committee reports and the items being discussed and argued. Some times it gets down right entertaining.

Dress for these meetings is casual. Uniforms of red vests or caps and the like are not necessary, member or not. If you wear shorts however, you will feel like a standout. The banquet is the only dress up event and you should plan to wear a tie and sport coat or suit with the ladies dressed accordingly. If you don’t have a tie and sport coat, and some would prefer to wear nothing to wearing a “tie”, then don’t go out and buy one, just what you wear to church will do nicely. If you don’t go to church then ask your mother. Maybe you should just ask your mother anyway.

There are many attractions in the area around the hotel, which is the Hilton Arlington on East Larmar, and hopefully this issue of the Bulletin will highlight some of these. Of course the Dallas-Ft. Worth metroplex is replete with things to do, see, buy and eat if you wish to stray further afield. For the kids do not overlook the theme park just across the interstate from the hotel. You can even hear the rollercoaster from outside the hotel. I will not go into details. I leave that to others. But suffice it to say you can go to meetings & events as you choose as well as enjoy the entertainment and night life of the area. Doubtful there will be anything that qualifies as “night life” for the convention. The hotel will extend the convention rates for those wishing to come early or stay late to vacation in the area. Think about it, it’s a great opportunity.

Notes from your committee chairman, continued...

To start the convention period there will be a devotional and a Board of Directors meeting the day before on Wed the 27th. This meeting is open to everyone and many other than the board members and officers will attend. It is anticipated and seating is provided for those who wish to attend.

On Thursday there will be the opening ceremonies and a memorial service which usually lasts 45 min to an hour with welcoming remarks by local VIP's. We strive to make it so that your patriotic sprit is awakened and your thoughts are taken to those who have given their all for us. Filling up the rest of the morning is usually a meeting where current medical issues and benefits are discussed by experts in their field. After lunch may be some personal time or a tour of some sort. Thursday evening will most likely be the Commanders Reception with some entertainment and finger food or deserts. Its kind of a wander in, wander out sort of thing where one can commiserate with old friends and make new ones, telling lies and gross exaggerations and repeating stories that everyone has already heard but since forgotten.

On Friday the past national commanders will have breakfast together

and do what I'm not sure, never having been a national commander, but they enjoy it. Later in the morning some of the outdated voting protocol commences along with registration and the convention is called to order by the National Commander. There are points of order, committee reports, nominations for elected positions to numerous to mention and other business. At noon the ladies have a luncheon and it has always been well attended and very popular. I would recommend it to any of the ladies attending the convention and let me remind you that you NEED NOT BE A MEMBER or SPOUSE OF A MEMBER to attend, only that you be willing to have a good time. That evening has usually been reserved for reunions of members of various combat units or POW camps or it is free time to enjoy friends and the night life for those younger among us.

Saturday brings voting, tallying of ballots, reporting of results and more general business. Among the business is the most important of all, the selection of the 2014 convention site and reasons why it can't be where you want it to be. This is the time set aside for embarrassing me. 2013? Oh it has already been selected to be in Arlington also because we expect people will want to have more of a good thing. In the afternoon when most of us have had all the business we want and the commander decides it is nap time we knock it off and rest

up for the banquet. I am pleased to report that the character of the banquet has changed from stuffy protocol with speeches to a reunion flair emphasizing entertainment, dancing, and fun. There is the formal installation of new officers which is a time honored tradition. You might find the music tending to the music that dad or grandpa and grandma like and dance to, but I'm sure that will change in time. For now they still dance. Missouri even has a WWII Ex-POW spouse, remember late 80's & early 90's, that treated us last year at our state convention to a demonstration of line dancing to "Boot Scootin Boogy". She brought the house down.

If the business of the newly elected Board of Directors is not completed on Saturday afternoon then there will be a Devotional and a Board of Directors meeting Sunday morning. Again everyone is invited to attend, but fewer people do because for the most part they want to get started home. We accomplished concluding all of our business this last year on Sat afternoon and it worked to everyone's liking. We will try again this year pending few controversial issues.

I hope I have put the convention of the American Ex-Prisoners of War in some prospective showing it to be an open and welcome affair and one in which your ex-POW relative is willing to let their Next of Kin, that would be you, take over while they enjoy the camaraderie and reunion of those so many who have shared their experiences. Many are too proud to ask for help in attending themselves but too golden to attend by themselves. After you have thought about it consider if they would want to go if you escorted them. We want to see you, we want to see the future of the organization.

Yours Truly:
John Clark, National Director
Chairman, National Convention Committee

Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington

2401 East Lamar Boulevard, Arlington, Texas 76006-7503

Tel: 1-817-640-3322, Fax: 1-817-633-1430

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Area attractions include the new Cowboys Stadium, Ranger Ballpark in Arlington, Six Flags and the Arlington Convention Center. Situated in a suburban business area, the Hilton Arlington is located within walking distance of many area restaurants.



AXPOW Convention 2012
 Arlington, Texas
 June 28-July 1, 2012



American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2012

Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

Military Service Organization (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or civilian):

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

To be eligible to run for a national office, a candidate must have been a member for the 3 previous years.

Submit to: Milton M Moore, Jr., Chairman, 2965 Sierra Bermeja, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650

Ex-POW Bulletin

email: skip.m.moore@us.army.mil Phone: (520) 459-7925

Jan/Feb 2012



AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

The AXPOW Voluntary Giving Program parallels that of other VSOs, whereby the entire membership, including life members, is given the opportunity to contribute to the operation of our organization, based on ability and willingness to contribute.

All contributions are to be sent directly to National Headquarters to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each month.

I am enclosing my contribution to support the operation of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

\$20.00 \$30.00 \$40.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 Other

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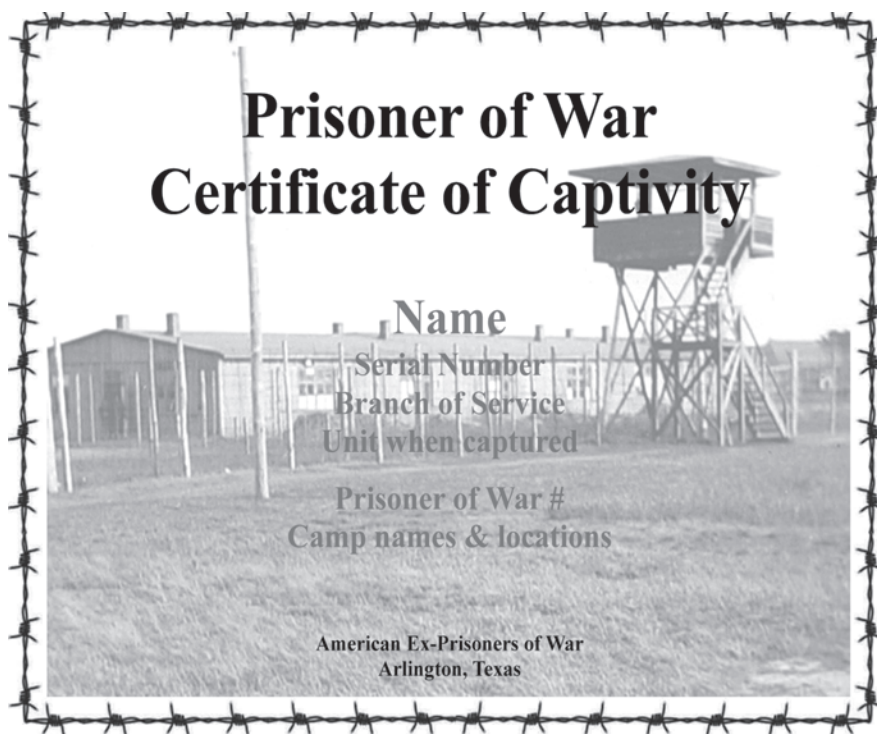
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3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010

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Please order from National Headquarters. If you are ordering at Convention, you can place your order in the Merchandise Room.



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Membership Rates

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\$40
Husband & wife
\$50

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In memory of Earl Miller, by Marvin
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daughters, Beth, Kathy, Nancy &
Karen
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by Mrs. Robert Kirstein
In memory of Leona Dye, by C P Dye
In memory of Malcolm Amos, by
Opal Burns
In memory of Oscar Thomas, by the
Oscar Thomas Family
In memory of Paul Tweedy, by Irene
Tweedy

In memory of Thomas J Miller, by
the Inland Empire Chapter
In memory of Walter F Kichline, by
Shirley Hill
Inland Empire Chapter of Califor-
nia

BULLETIN

In memory of Agnes Roberts, by
PNC Zack Roberts
In memory of Chuck & Ruth
Williams, by PNC Zack Roberts
In memory of Stanley Corrington

LEGISLATIVE FUND

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The Legacy of your love can live on after...

An important way you can help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is always there for returning POWs, their families and their dependents is through your will or living trust. It's very simple to make a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Just add the following to your will or living trust: "I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of \$_____ or _____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

New Members "Welcome Home"



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CIVILIAN
SANTO TOMAS, LOS BANOS 7/15/
42 TO 2/23/45
DONNA M WHITE
GLENMONT NY
DAUGHTER OF CALVIN 'MICKEY'
WHITE, ETO, DECD

JEFFREY H BOGARD
SUSIE
GOLDEN CO
SON OF NC CARROLL BOGARD,
ETO

LIZATH A BOGARD
JIM
MASON CITY IA
DAUGHTER OF NC CARROLL
BOGARD, ETO

BARBARA E WEINER
RICHARD
NORA SPRINGS IA
DAUGHTER OF NC CARROLL
BOGARD, ETO

NORMA M MAURER
CLEAR CREEK TX
SISTER OF CARROLL BOGARD,
ETO

QUINCY, MA...

Roughly 125 people came to the Neighborhood Club in Quincy for the first ever Elizabeth A. Swanton Community Service Award Breakfast. The award, given by Manet Community Health Center, recognizes an individual or group who has "demonstrated a significant commitment to volunteerism and community service."

Elizabeth Swanton worked as a volunteer at Manet for over 30 years, at one point becoming President of the organization's board of directors, and was active in the Quincy Public Schools and other organizations before dying in January at the age of 69.

This year's recipients were Bob and Gloria Noble who were recognized for their volunteer efforts with numerous organizations throughout the city. In accepting the award Bob Noble offered words of praise for those who are also doing good works on the community. "While we've taken part in a lot of things we haven't been like many of you who have devoted yourself to a particular cause" said Noble "your whole soul is involved in what you do." Mrs. Noble said she was honored to receive an award named after such a prestigious person. "I'm getting the first award of someone who worked so hard in this city" said Gloria Noble.

Members of Elizabeth Swanton's family were also on hand to pay tribute to her and this year's winners. "It was a beautiful tribute to my mom," said Swanton's daughter Maureen Donahue "I know the Nobles have been very involved in the community and it's great to see that service being rewarded."

Among those in attendance were Quincy Mayor Tom Koch, District Attorney Michael Morrissey, and State Representative Tackey Chan. Chan praised the Nobles volunteerism and said they were, "the heart of the community...but from my standpoint the most important thing is their friends and I couldn't ask for any better friends in my life."

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taps



Please submit taps notices to: Cheryl Cerbone, 23 Cove View Drive, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

AMOS, Harold Malcolm, of Afton, IA passed away Oct. 5, 2011. He was 89. During WWII, he served in the Army. He was stationed in the Philippines and was captured in April 1942. He survived the Bataan Death March and nearly 3 years in Camp O'Donnell and Cabanatuan. Harold leaves his loving wife of 66 years, Loraine, 4 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and his dog, Henry.

AQUILA, Andrew Joseph, 93, formerly of Northridge, CA, died Nov. 28, 2011, in Grants Pass, Oregon. During WWII, he served in the Philippines with the 192nd Tank Battalion as both a clerk and a messenger for B-Company's HQ. In April of 1942, he was captured on Bataan, survived the Death March, Camp O'Donnell, and Cabanatuan. He was shipped to Japan in July of 1944 aboard the hell-ship *Nissyo Maru*, was interned in Fukuoka Camp #3 and worked for the remainder of the war in the steel mills around Yawata. He was a member of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor and the American Ex-Prisoners of War, San Fernando Valley Chapter. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years, Susan, three sons, a sister, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

BIGGS, Chester M. Jr., 90, of Hope Mills, NC, died Dec. 7, 2011, exactly seventy years after he was captured in Peking, China while serving in the Marine Corps. He was held as slave labor at Woosung, Kiangwan, and Fengtai in China and Hakodate in Japan until liberation on 15 Sep 1945. He is survived by his wife Betty, 4 children, 12 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

BLAKFORD, Lloyd, of Heath, Ohio, died November 20, 2011. He served in the ETO with the 392nd Bomb Group and was held in Luft 4 after capture. His wife Ethel survives him. Lloyd was a member of Ohio Chapter #1

BREMERMANN, Floyd "Bix" 85; passed away Dec. 21, 2009 at the Chula Vista Veterans Home in San Diego County. He was a Bombardier and the sole survivor when his plane was shot down over Hungary. He was with the 15th AF, 449th BG, 716th BS and spent time in Stalag 7A. He leaves his loving wife, Margaret, 3 sons and 1 daughter.

BROWN, William L. of Oxford, MS died Oct. 5, 2011. He served with the 803rd Engineers/AAC during WWII and was captured on Corregidor. He spent 3 ½ years as a POW before liberation. William is survived by his wife of 64 years, Doris, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

BRYAN, Bruce R., of Allen Park, MI, died October 22, 2011. Bryan was a B-24 pilot with the 15th AF, 449th BG 716th BS and was held in Luft 1, Barth after capture. An AXPOW life member since 1986, he was a member of the Wolverine Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, also a life member.

CARTER, Richard F., of Concord, CA passed away in July, 2011 at the age of 91. He was shot down while serving with the 461st BG (H) over Hungary. He was held in Budapest Prison, Stalags III and 7A. His wife, Lu and 2 sons survive him.

CLAUSEN, Walter, Jr., 86, of Fenton, MI died July 9, 2011. He was captured while serving with the 781st BS, 465th BG, 15th AF, flying out of Italy. He was shot down over the Blechhammer oil refineries and was a POW. He leaves his wife, Connie, 3 sons, 5 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

COLLINS, Elias James, of Downers Grove, IL passed away Aug. 12, 2011. During WWII, he served with Co. F, 2nd Bn, 377th Reg., 95th Div. He was captured near Metz, France and held in Stalags 12A, 3B and subsidiary

camp 483C at 3A. His daughter, Marilyn and her family survive him.

COWAN, William D. died September 15, 2011 at the age of 91. He and his crew were shot down on their 9th mission and held prisoners for a little over eleven months at Stalag Luft III - Nuremburg and Stalag 7B. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Marcy, two daughters and one grandson. William was a long time member of the Tacoma Chapter, AXPOW.

CRAWFORD, John 'Jack', of Philadelphia, PA, died Sept 8, 2011. Jack served with the 590th FA, 106th Div. He was captured Dec. 19, 1944 and sent to Stalag 9B. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Teresa. He was a member of the Liberty Bell Chapter.

DRAPES, Alex G., of Sun City West, AZ passed away Oct. 26, 2011. He was a long-time member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he was captured while serving in the Army in the Battle of the Bulge. He was held in Lufts 4B and 4F. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, F Patricia, 3 children and grandchildren.

EARNEST, Malcolm (Mike), of Shreveport, LA died Nov. 22, 2011 at the age of 95. During WWII, he served with the 27th BG and was sent to Nichols Field in 1941. The Japanese captured him on Bataan and he was forced into the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity in Camp O'Donnell, then Mukden, Manchuria. His wife, Mary, survives him; he also leaves 1 son, 1 daughter and their families, and 3 stepchildren.

ELTON, Calvin William Jr. (Bill), age 89, of Provo, Utah, passed away No-

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ember 20, 2011. He enlisted in the AAC then, after being trained in California, he was transferred to Nichols Field in the Philippine Islands. Five months later, he was captured by the Japanese and spent 42 months as a World War II Japanese prisoner of war. He was one of nearly 10,000 prisoners that was forced to trudge in the Bataan Death March, sent to Japan and used as slave labor in the coal mines. He was honored as a Freedom Award Recipient at Provo's 4th of July Freedom Festival in 2006. Bill is survived by his wife Norma, his 3 children, 12 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren.

FELTY, Warren Z., 94, of Middletown, PA passed away Dec. 2, 2011. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF; he was captured while flying over Germany and was held until liberation. Warren was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves one son and family, one granddaughter and family and numerous nieces and nephews.

FINK, Robert H., member of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW, died in Oct. 2011 at the age of 85. He is survived by his many friends.

FITZGERALD, Bernard J. of Laramie, Wyoming died at age 90 on Dec. 13, 2011. He enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 17 and was captured on Dec. 7, 1941 while serving with the North China Marine Embassy Guard in Peking, China. He was held at Woosung, Kiangwan, and Fengtai in China and Osaka and Naoetsu in Japan, finally liberated on September 12, 1945.

FRANCIES, Richard Evan, age 94, of Willoughby, OH passed away Oct. 13, 2011. He was captured while serving on Bataan and he endured 3 ½ years of captivity. He leaves his companion Margaret, 2 daughters and their families and 4 grandchildren.

GRASSO, Salvatore, of Brooklyn NY, died July 30, 2011. Captured at the

Battle of the Bulge, Sal was held in Stalags 12A, 2D, 2C and 2A. He was an AXPOW life member since 1986, and a member of the Brooklyn Key Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

GELMAN, Martin, of Englewood, NJ passed away Dec. 4, 2011 at the age of 89. He was the commander of the Big Apple (NYC) Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF; he was shot down, captured and held in Luft 3, Moosberg, Sagan & Nuremberg. His wife of 59 years, 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren survive him.

GUZMAN, Anthony P., of Denver Colorado passed away in October 2011. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 2nd Div., 23rd Bn in the Ardennes. He was held in Stalag 4B. Anthony was a long-time member of the Rocky Mt. Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 1 son, 2 daughters and families.

HEAD, Donald H., member of the Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW, passed away Nov. 27, 2011. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944 while serving with the 423rd Reg., Co. G. He was held as a Prisoner of War until March of 1945 in Germany. In 1946, he married Patricia Higgins, who predeceased him. Don was beyond proud to be veteran and wore his Ex-POW uniform on Veterans Day, in parades throughout the community and in support of his fellow veterans. Don is survived by his son, daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

HORGER, Thomas G., of Dearborn MI, died Oct. 22, 2011. He served in the 8th AF, 305th BG H and was held in Luft 4. An AXPOW life member since 1985, he was also a member of the Wolverine Chapter.

HUBLEY, Lorraine, Chaplin of the Greater Chicago Chapter and the Dept. of Illinois, passed away Aug. 28, 2011. Her husband, Robert was Commander of the Dept. of Illinois. Lorraine will be missed by her many friends.

JAMES, William Haley, 90, of Moberly, MO passed away September 20, 2011. He leaves his wife, Norma.

JOHNSON, Alvin (Dale), age 91, of Loveland, CO passed away May 1, 2011. He served with the 44th BG during WWII. He was captured and held in Stalag 17B until liberation. He leaves his wife of 68 years, Darlene, 2 children, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

JONES, John Evan of Bellevue, WA died Nov. 27, 2011. He was captured while serving with the 8th AF during WWII and held in Stalag 17B. Jack was active with AXPOW on both the local and national levels as chapter and dept. commander and on the National board of directors. He was particularly involved in securing benefits for fellow veterans. His wife of 65 years, Lucille, survives him; he also leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

KATHMAN, Clemons, of Brenham, Texas, died November 19, 2011. "Clem" survived the Bataan Death March and was held 3 1/2 years by the Japanese in O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Nagoya and Hirahata. In 1942, a fellow prisoner, Dr. Sidney Seid, saved his life by performing an emergency appendectomy using a straight razor and alcohol, and nothing for pain. He was a member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter.

KING, Charles Quentin, 90, member of the Dept. of Missouri, AXPOW died Oct. 24, 2011. While serving in the AAC, his plane received enemy fire and the crew was ordered to bailout shortly before the plane exploded in mid air. Charles assisted a comrade during the bailout that resulted in saving the man's life. He was captured by the German Army and was a POW for seven months in the German POW camps. General George Patton's 14th Armored Division liberated him in Moosberg, Germany, in April 1945. Quentin is survived by his wife, Doris.

KINGERY, Hugh McKee, of Birmingham, AL passed away July 31, 2011. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106th Inf. during WWII and held until libera-

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tion. Hugh leaves his wife Nina, 3 sons and 2 grandchildren.

LARSON, Robert Perry, of Sacramento, CA died Nov. 26, 2011. He was 88. During WWII, he served with the AAC, 8th AF, 448th BG, 714th BS. He was captured and held in a POW camp, then marched across Germany until liberation. His loving wife of 65 years, Virginia, survives him; he also is survived by 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

LOWMAN, Marvin D. of Plano, TX died Sept. 19, 2009. He was shot down while serving in the AAC, taken prisoner and held in Luft 1, Barth. Marvin is survived by his wife, Dorothy, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

LUGO, Luis E. of Metairie, LA passed away Nov. 19, 2011. He was captured during the Korean War while serving with the 3rd Div., 65th Inf. Reg. and held in Camps 1 & 3, by the Yalu River. Luis was a member of the South LA Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 53 years, Alida, 4 sons, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

MARTIN, Grant, of Shongaloo, LA, died November 10, 2011. Grant served in the 90th Div, 358th Inf. Reg. He was held in Stalag 12A after capture. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Noda.

McQUILKIN, Harold A., 91, of Harrisburg, PA passed away Dec. 6, 2011. During WWII, he served in the Army and was a POW in Europe. His wife, Esther, predeceased him; he leaves 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

MICHELS, Jack, 89, of Lake Worth, FL passed away Nov. 5, 2011. He served in WWII as a pilot of a heavy bomber and became a POW when shot down on his 34th mission. His wife, Beryl, a son and daughter, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren survive him. He and his wife have been members of the Suncoast Chapter for many years.

MILLER, John A., of Hilliard, OH, died Nov. 2, 2011. He served in the 45th Division, 645th Tank Destroyer Bn. He was held in Stalags in Augsburg, Hamburg, Bremerhaven, Dresden, Dusseldorf and Wurzburg IVB, John is survived by his wife Betty, 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

MONTER, Sol, of Toms River, NJ passed away Nov. 22, 2011 at the age of 91. During WWII, he served with the 106th Inf. Div, Co. H, 422nd Inf. Reg. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 4B. Sol is survived by Anne, his wife of 70 years, 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

OKIALD, Jesus V. (Jesse), of San Francisco, CA died Sept. 27, 2011. He was 88. He enlisted in the Navy in Cavite, Philippines and was captured while on Bataan - surviving the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years imprisonment in Camp O'Donnell. Jesse was a member of the Luzviminda Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 7 children and their families.

OVERTURF, Helen, of North Tonawanda, NY passed away Nov. 19, 2011. A member of the East Valley Chapter (AZ) and the Western NY Chapter, AXPOW, she is survived by her husband of 65 years, ex-POW Neil, 4 children and 7 grandchildren.

QUINN, William A., of Lakewood, CO died Nov. 25, 2011. He was 90. Bill was captured while serving with the Navy in the Pacific during WWII. He was held in Saigon Indo-China. He was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

PATRICK, Louis D. Sr., of Memphis, TN passed away Aug. 6, 2011. He was 95, a veteran of WWII and an ex-POW. Louis was a member of the Mid-South Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Daisy, preceded him in death; he is survived by 1 son, 1 sister, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

PATTON, Leonard (Lee), of Springfield, IL died Oct. 25, 2011. During

WWII, he was serving with the 83rd Inf. Div. when he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge near the Hurtgen Forest. Lee was past state commander of the Dept. of Illinois and a hard worker for veterans. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Shirley, 3 children, 2 sisters, 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

PETERSON, Hubert O., 89, of Harrisburg, PA passed away Nov. 15, 2011. He served with the AAC during WWII; he was a POW in Germany. Hubert was a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Mary, survives him; 2 sons, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren also survive.

REILLY, Henry P., 88, of Methuen, MA died Dec. 19, 2011. While serving with the AAC, he was shot down over Berlin and was a POW in Stalag 17B. He leaves 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

ROBINSON, William James, of Genoa, AR died Oct. 20, 2011. He was 90. A member of the Texas Lost Battalion, he spent 43 months as a POW of the Japanese. He was a member of the former Four States Chapter, AXPOW, where he served as chaplain. William leaves his precious wife of 65 years, Paula, 1 son, 1 daughter, 14 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

ROSSI, Anthony M., 94, of Greeley, CO passed away Oct. 18, 2011. He was a member of the Northeast Colorado Chapter and life member of AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 94th BG, 331st BS; he was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft 3 and 7A. His wife, Marianne, 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 1 sister survive him.

SPANN, Leo G., of Mobile, AL died Oct. 16, 2011. He was shot down after a raid over the Ploesti oil fields, ditched in the sea and was picked up by Italians - later turned over to the Germans. He was a POW until liberation. Leo is survived by his wife,

taps continued...

Charmaine, 4 sons and 5 grandchildren.

STEPHENSON, William J., of Jacksonville FL, died November 27, 2011. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and was held in Stalag 11B. An AXPOW life member since 1989, he was a member of the North Central Florida Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Helen.

STIELER, Bert, of Albany, NY, died October 22, 2011. He served in the 8th AF, 91st BG, 401st BS and was held in Dulag Luft, Stalag 17B, Bks 18B after capture. Bert was an AXPOW member since 1986 and was a member of the Northeast New York Chapter.

STUPAK, Steven J., 91, of Watertown, CT died Sept. 5, 2011. He served with the 331st BS, 94th BG, 8th AF during WWII. His plane was shot down and he was captured and held in Stalag Luft 4, then marched across Germany. Steven was a life member of CT Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves one stepson, brothers and sisters.

WALLENMEYER, Leonard A., 94, of Russellville, MO died Nov. 13, 2011. In April 1941, he joined the US Army, serving in WWII. He was a prisoner of war in Germany for 26 months until June 1945 when he returned home. His wife, Helen, preceded him in death.

WEIR, Harold, of Hinsdale, IL passed away Nov. 3, 2011...just one day after returning from the Honor Flight to Washington, DC. He was serving with the 26th Div. when he was captured; he was held in Stalag 17B. Harold leaves his wife, Catherine, 3 daughters and grandchildren. He will be missed.

WITT, Richard, 88, of Fargo, ND and Mesa AZ died Oct. 25, 2011. He enlisted in the AAC after the start of WWII; he was flying out of Italy with the 464th BG when he was shot down over Vienna. He was held in Stalag Luft III, then Stalag 7. Most important to Richard were family, faith and friends. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Colleen, 1 son, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and 1 sister.

national chaplain



PNC Gerald Harvey

Being a General of a Small Army

We find ourselves in American Ex-Prisoner of War, being a general, responsible for a small army.

Judges 7:1-8

Gideon faced a huge army of the Midianites, but God whittled his army down from 32,000 to 300.

God intended to release the uncommitted, those who had come from some sense of obligation, peer pressure, or other less than compelling

reasons. When offered the chance to go back home and avoid risking their lives, over two thirds of the army went, leaving Gideon with 10,000.

But god wasn't though yet. He had Gideon give a test to determine the alertness and battle readiness of the troops. They were brought to a spring and given the opportunity to take a drink. Most of the men knelt by the water and buried their faces to get a drink. But some of them cupped their hands and brought the water to their mouths to drink, while keeping their eyes on their surroundings.

That small group, only 300 men became Gideon's army. Why did God reduce this group to about one per-cent of its original size?

God knew that if Gideon had a large army, and God caused them to win - they would want to take credit for the victory.

We as prisoners, have had experiences that we know there was no other explanation except that God had his hand in it.

Gideon used the element of surprise. They went at night and surrounded the enemy encampment. Each had a trumpet, empty pitcher, and a torch. Then they shouted, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." When the enemy heard the noise, they destroyed themselves.

We all face battles in life and our organization. Sometimes it seems as if the odds are very much against us.

Gideon must have had to suppress his own reasoning and his natural fears to believe that God could win the battle with so few.

But isn't that what faith is?

Faith allows me to believe that no matter how weak I am, God has sufficient power to overcome what lies before me. Faith lets me listen to the still small voice of God's spirit, even when my mind is shouting that there is no hope.

We, the select few of our organization, are facing a new year. Let us look to God for guidance and help.

Let us sing: To God be the Glory.

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2012

36



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to honor a loved one or a former colleague
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Memorial donations should be sent to:
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Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

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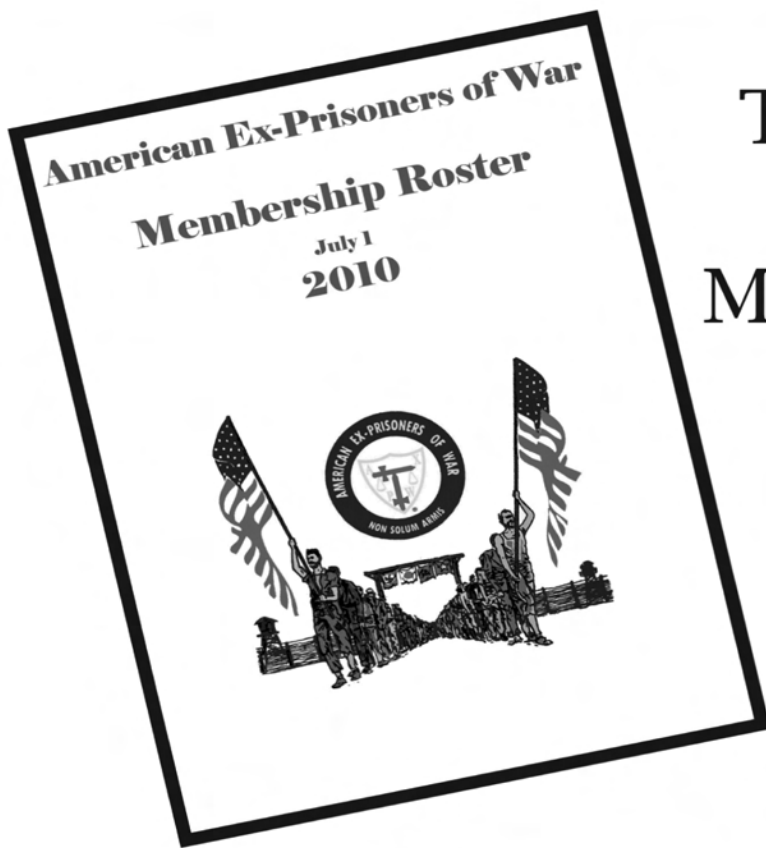
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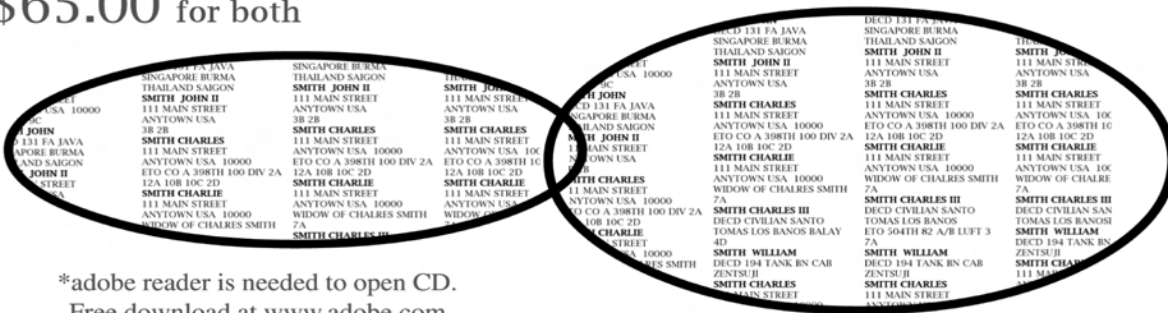


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Bean Camp to Briar Patch
Life in the POW Camps of Korea and Vietnam
 by John N. Powers

The majority of books about POWs concentrate on the experience of one individual. However, there were thousands of prisoners during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and over thirty major sites which they were held. Conditions varied from camp to camp and even within sections of a single camp. *Bean Camp to Briar Patch* is unique in that it describes all the major POW camps from both the Korean and Vietnam wars. In one single source, EX-POWs and family members now have information on the location of the camps and the conditions in those camps. The book has 214 pages with over thirty maps, photos, and diagrams.



\$17.20 including shipping. Can be ordered at www.croninbooks.org or by sending a check to Cronin Publications, Box 151, Wittenberg, WI 54499

Life's Journey

Authored by Cor Longiotti
List Price: \$17.95



Growing up in a small town. Enduring Life in the great depression era. Attending Catholic school for six years and graduating from Public High School. Serving in U.S. Army with the 179th Infantry as a machine gunner in Sicily. Fighting in Italy, landing on the beaches of Salerno and fighting our way to Casino then retreating to make a landing at Anzio. After much fierce fighting getting captured, and spending time as a POW in Italy and Germany. Returning home, getting married, raising a family and working to build a better life.

For a copy of book, go to;
Amazon.com/life_journey-cor-longiotti/dp/1449596630

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 Cor Longiotti, 522 E. Valley View Rd. Ashland, Or. 97520

50/50 drawing

September 2011
Dayton, Ohio

1st Place	Skip Moore, AZ Donated back to AXPOW	\$308.20
2nd Place	Gloria Hicker, WA	\$231.15
3rd Place	Jay Johnson, OK Donated back to AXPOW	\$154.10
4th Place	Bonnie Weatherford, TN	\$77.05

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes. The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40
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Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2012
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Name: _____ Telephone: () _____
Address: _____
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Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

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Thank you for your support. (3/12)

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Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2012
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Thank you for your support. (3/12)

The Quartermaster's Shop

order on page 42



AXPOW Pocket Knife

11 function pocket knife includes a stainless steel knife, screwdrivers and much more! AXPOW imprint is protected by an epoxy dome, lasting a lifetime. Rubber grip ensures easy handling...individually gift boxed...folded knife measures 3 3/4"x1"

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\$55.00 each includes shipping/handling

For pins, vest guards and other items to "dress up" your vest, order from the merchandise page.

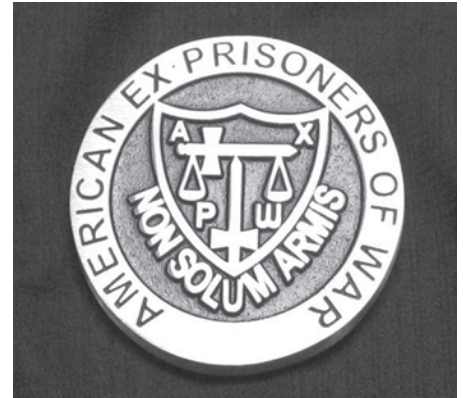
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check with your local cemetery before ordering to see if medallions are permitted.

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(\$15.00 for one; \$20.00 for two or more)

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2012

Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
 Line 1 _____
 Line 2 _____

Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**

(includes shipping and handling)

Ship to: _____
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Mail orders to:

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AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

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City, State, Zip _____

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Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

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Necktie w/logo	30.00	2" Medallion (for plaque)	5.00	Aluminum License Plate	5.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)		Vest Chainguard w/eagles	8.00	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
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