

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 70

www.axpow.org

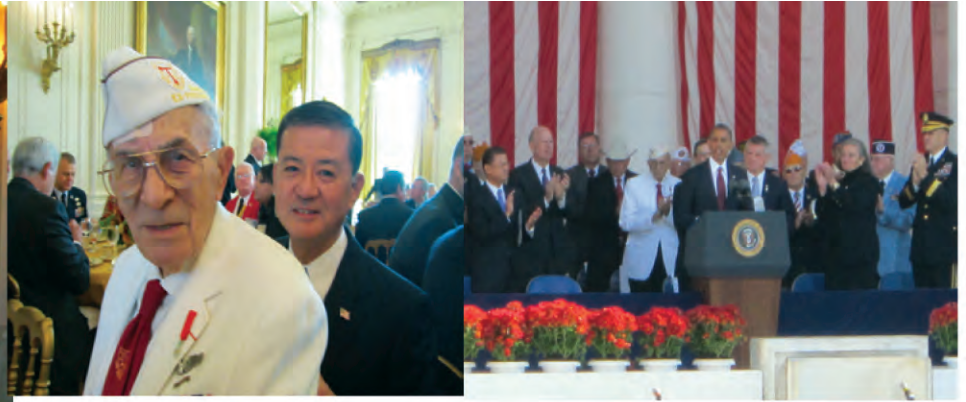
Number 1/2

January/February 2013



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves





Veterans Day in Washington, DC
with Commander Susino

and Veterans Day in
Waco, TX
with PNC Barker



Vermont Chapter #1

At a luncheon and VA benefit meeting at the Lebanon, NY Elks Club hosted by the VA. Seated: Richard Hamilton, Tullio Zampieri, Harry Howe, Bill Busier. Standing: Clarence DeGrave, Bob Lizotte, Clyde Cassidy, Francis Angier, Ernest Murray. Being honored on POW/MIA Recognition Day by the Vermont National Guard and Air National Guard State at Camp Johnson in Colchester, VT. Left to Right: Robert Lizotte, Clyde Cassidy, Bill Busier, Bruce Cram, Roger Layn, Ralph McClintock, Richard Hamilton, J. Francis Angier and Lieutenant Governor, Phil Scott.



Fall Meeting in Berlin, VT during which the exPOWs have a show-and-tell program following a banquet. Seated front are Richard Hamilton, Tullio Zampieri, Bill Busier, Kenneth Brown. Standing rear are J. Francis Angier, Ralph McClintock, Harry Howe, Clyde Cassidy.

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January/February 2013

*Sun nien fai lok Xin nian yu kuai
Godt Nyttår Gelukkig nieuwjaar
Bonne année Aith-bhliaín Fe Nhaise
Dhuit Gutes Neues Jahr Hauoli
Makahiki Hou Shanah tovah Nav
Varsh Ki Badhaai/ Naya Saal
Mubarak Ho Buon Capo d'Anno
Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu
Maligayang Bagong Taon
Szczesliwego Nowego roku Feliz ano
novo S Novym Godom Feliz Año Nuevo Gott Nytt Ar Yeni Yiliniz
Kutlu Olsun Blwyddyn Newydd Dda*



National Convention ! It's coming June 26-29, 2013 at the Arlington Hilton, Arlington, TX. There's more information in this Bulletin and every Bulletin until Convention. Bring your kids...your grandkids...Activities abound! Six Flags, Cowboy Stadium, Hurricane Park, The Ballpark at Arlington...and plenty more. You'll have a great time meeting old friends and new. We're also working to ensure the future of AXPOW and different ideas will be presented at the Convention and be voted on. Make your voice heard!

And speaking of conventions, our state departments and chapters are dwindling because of age and health. If you see your dept. convention coming up, make an effort to attend. You'll be glad you did.

On the Cover: Navy divers, assigned to Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2, Company 4, and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, stand with the American flag, and the POW/MIA flag on the wreckage of a B-17 bomber that was shot down and sank during World War II during a dive Oct. 19, 2012. The team is deployed alongside JPAC aboard the USNS Grapple as part of a 30-day underwater recovery mission for an unaccounted-for service member who went missing during the crash. (Credit: Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System).

Renewal Notice! Annual Members!

This issue will be the last one you receive if you don't renew. Take a minute and send your 2013 dues to
National Headquarters.

Don't miss out on all the benefits membership in AXPOW offers!

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*Deadline for the Mar/Apr 2013
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Please send all materials to the
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**National Commander
Charles Susino, Jr.**

Lee and I wish you & your families a Happy & Healthy New Year! This coming year has many challenges and opportunities. Some we are addressing already and others will be a result of new activities outside of our control. Regardless, we stand ready to serve and respond. Thank you for your efforts and contributions to making 2012 a successful year and please continue your support for 2013.

EX-POW Organization- We need to be vigilant on our day to day responsibilities within the organization however, it is equally important to plan for the longer terms needs in serving our Ex-POWs. With the numbers of Ex-POWs declining, the organization needs to evolve to continue to serve the needs of our members. To that end, the Board of Directors has established two committees to examine what changes are necessary over the next 5 year horizon. They will determine our future goals and any changes to our organization, by-laws, and governance. We have introduced these initiatives in previous bulletins and our expectation is by the June Convention, we should have recommendations and decisions. To site one area, reviews are being conducted regarding Chapters and State level departments, moving to close some where it makes sense to consolidate. Yet, there are small groups who would like to gather, and have a sounding board for their issues. They don't have a quorum, but it's possible they should exist on an ongoing basis.

Our core has been and will continue to be serving the needs of the veterans and their families. We often speak about the declining number of members/EX-POW's. It is great news that over the more recent conflicts only a relatively small number of serviceman were taken prisoner, however, we should not be short sited that the next conflict will not result in POW's. We need to stand ready to serve our members needs. As a result of our declining membership, the efforts of our organization has increased to include public awareness and education. Society at all levels must continue to be made aware of the true price of a war, in terms of human lives, injuries and suffering and the impacted families and friends. To that end, we are considering including as part of our charter, the POW historic society to reflect these efforts of our members. Our numerous members' talks provided to all levels of schools and the interviews provided to radio, newspapers and other media, etc. serve a vital role to society, student education, and represent our membership.

Our POWs/MIAs- We as a nation are not whole as long as we have Prisoners of War. Although there are ongoing efforts to bring our soldiers home, there are still tens of thousands still missing in action or prisoners of war from past conflicts. One current POW, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, 26, has been held by a group of terrorists in Afghanistan for three and a half years. We as ex-prisoners of war know first-hand what he is experiencing. Our country needs to stay focused, be action oriented, and exhaust all means in bringing him home before it is too late. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Washington D.C.- The revamped Stolen Valor Act Bill, H.R. 1775, has successfully passed the House of Representatives with bipartisan support with an overwhelming passage vote of 410 to 3. It moves to the Senate where we believe they will follow the House's lead in passing the Bill. In June of 2012, the Supreme Court ruled in U.S. vs. Alvarez that the original Stolen Valor Act was an unconstitutional abridgement of the freedom of speech under the first amendment for wearing an unearned medal. The new Bill makes it a crime for individu-

als to fraudulently hold themselves out to be recipients of a military decoration or medal to obtain money, property, or anything of value. Penalties include fines and imprisonment. To protect the honor and valor earned by the veterans, I encourage each of you to write your U.S. Senator asking them to support its passage.

This past Veterans Day, I participated in the ceremonies in Washington D.C. It was heartfelt to see the effort and dedication across the nation in recognizing our veterans. Our country's highest governmental and military officials were present. I was fortunate to have met and sat at the breakfast table with the Secretary of the Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki. Secretary Shinseki is a strong leader dedicated to improving the services for our veterans. It was my honor to represent the Ex-POW organization and provide visibility to the President, Vice-President, Secretary of Veteran Affairs and others during the ceremonies.

State level activities- I hope all state level functions were successful during 2012 and wish your continued success through 2013. From my home state, our commitments for November and December were met. On December 13, 2012, we had a Christmas party for 80 veterans at the Lyons Campus CLC in Bernards Township, New Jersey. They participated in a luncheon and received Christmas gifts. A good time was had by all with lots of singing and interacting.

The New Jersey Chapter is seeking veterans in need due to the devastation caused by Super Storm Sandy. We have a total of \$2000 to disseminate among the needy. Those seeking assistance may contact me directly.

God bless our Troops

God bless America

---Remember---



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VA Benefits: How to Establish Service-Connection by Secondary Connection.

§3.310 Disabilities that are proximately due to, or aggravated by, service-connected disease or injury.

(a) *General.* Except as provided in §3.300(c), disability which is proximately due to or the result of a service-connected disease or injury shall be service connected. When service connection is thus established for a secondary condition, the secondary condition shall be considered a part of the original condition.

(b) *Aggravation of nonservice-connected disabilities.* Any increase in severity of a nonservice-connected disease or injury that is proximately due to or the result of a service-connected disease or injury, and not due to the natural progress of the nonservice-connected disease, will be service connected. However, VA will not concede that a nonservice-connected disease or injury was aggravated by a service-connected disease or injury unless the baseline level of sever-

ity of the nonservice-connected disease or injury is established by medical evidence created before the onset of aggravation or by the earliest medical evidence created at any time between the onset of aggravation and the receipt of medical evidence establishing the current level of severity of the nonservice-connected disease or injury. The rating activity will determine the baseline and current levels of severity under the Schedule for Rating Disabilities (38 CFR part 4) and determine the extent of aggravation by deducting the baseline level of severity, as well as any increase in severity due to the natural progress of the disease, from the current level. (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1110 and 1131)

(c) *Cardiovascular disease.* Ischemic heart disease or other cardiovascular disease developing in a veteran who has a service-connected amputation of one lower extremity at or above the knee or service-connected amputations of both lower extremities at or above the ankles, shall be held to be the proximate result of the service-connected amputation or amputations. (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 1110-1131)

[44 FR 50340, Aug. 28, 1979, as amended at 66 FR 18198, Apr. 6, 2001; 71 FR 52747, Sept. 7, 2006]

This type of service connection occurs when any disability or injury you have is the result of another service-connected disability or injury. It can occur when a service-connected condition causes a new disability or merely makes a pre-existing or non-service connected disability worse. Your compensation will only be to the increase in the second disability by the original service-connected disability.

You will not succeed in this type of claim without sufficient medical evidence. The standard is to produce sufficient medical evi-

dence to show that it is as likely as not that the second condition was caused or aggravated by the first condition. To establish this to the satisfaction of the VA, you will most certainly need at least one medical expert opinion.

Here is an example of secondary connection:

(This general scenario appears in the Veterans' Benefits Manual, page 132.) A veteran has a 30% rating for a service-connected knee injury. As a result of that injury, the veteran now complains of chronic back-pain and walks with a limp. Is the low-back pain and limp a secondary connection?

Answer: It depends. You may be able to establish that the second injury, the low back pain, is connected to the original knee problem. This is a tougher claim, because there are many causes for low back-pain.

You need not provide clear and convincing evidence that the secondary condition is connected to the prior service-connected disability or that the prior service-connected disability is the *sole* cause for the second condition. The VA is supposed to give the Veteran the benefit of the doubt. If your claim for VA benefits will be based on service-connection by secondary connection, or if you are not sure whether your second injury can be service-connected, please contact a National Service Officer.

**For AXPOW National Service Officers:
VA FORM 21-22 has been updated**

The new form: "APPOINTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION AS CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE" must be used for all new claims. To get copies, go to: <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-22-ARE.pdf>. There are also copies available at National Headquarters.

Pneumonia

What Is Pneumonia?

Pneumonia is an infection in one or both of the lungs. Many germs—such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi—can cause pneumonia.

The infection inflames your lungs' air sacs, which are called alveoli. The air sacs may fill up with fluid or pus, causing symptoms such as a cough with phlegm (a slimy substance), fever, chills, and trouble breathing.

Overview

Pneumonia and its symptoms can vary from mild to severe. Many factors affect how serious pneumonia is, such as the type of germ causing the infection and your age and overall health.

Outlook

Pneumonia is common in the United States. Treatment for pneumonia depends on its cause, how severe your symptoms are, and your age and overall health. Many people can be treated at home, often with oral antibiotics. Fatigue from pneumonia can last for a month or more.

Types of Pneumonia

Pneumonia is named for the way in which a person gets the infection or for the germ that causes it.

Community-Acquired Pneumonia

Community-acquired pneumonia (CAP) occurs outside of hospitals and other health care settings. Most people get CAP by breathing in germs (especially while sleeping) that live in the mouth, nose, or throat.

CAP is the most common type of pneumonia. Most cases occur during the winter. About 4 million people get this form of pneumonia each year. About 1 out of every 5 people who has CAP needs to be treated in a hospital.

Hospital-Acquired Pneumonia

Some people catch pneumonia during a hospital stay for another illness. This is called hospital-acquired pneumonia (HAP). You're at higher risk of getting HAP if you're on a ventilator (a machine that helps you breathe).

HAP tends to be more serious than CAP because you're already sick. Also, hospitals tend to have more germs that are resistant to antibiotics (medicines used to treat pneumonia).

Health Care-Associated Pneumonia

Patients also may get pneumonia in other health care settings, such as nursing homes, dialysis centers, and outpatient clinics. This type of pneumonia is called health care-associated pneumonia.

Other Common Types of Pneumonia

Aspiration Pneumonia

This type of pneumonia can occur if you inhale food, drink, vomit, or saliva from your mouth into your lungs. This may happen if something disturbs your normal gag reflex, such as a brain injury, swallowing problem, or excessive use of alcohol or drugs.

Aspiration pneumonia can cause pus to form in a cavity in the lung. When this happens, it's called a lung abscess.

Atypical Pneumonia

Several types of bacteria cause atypical pneumonia, a type of CAP. Atypical pneumonia is passed from person to person.

What Causes Pneumonia?

Many germs can cause pneumonia. Examples include different kinds of bacteria, viruses, and, less often, fungi.

Most of the time, the body filters germs out of the air that we breathe

to protect the lungs from infection. Your immune system, the shape of your nose and throat, your ability to cough, and fine, hair-like structures called cilia (SIL-e-ah) help stop the germs from reaching your lungs. (For more information, go to the Health Topics [How the Lungs Work](#) article.) Sometimes, though, germs manage to enter the lungs and cause infections. This is more likely to occur if:

- Your immune system is weak
- A germ is very strong
- Your body fails to filter germs out of the air that you breathe

For example, if you can't cough because you've had a stroke or are sedated, germs may remain in your airways.

When germs reach your lungs, your immune system goes into action. It sends many kinds of cells to attack the germs. These cells cause the alveoli (air sacs) to become red and inflamed and to fill up with fluid and pus. This causes the symptoms of pneumonia.

Germs That Can Cause Pneumonia

Bacteria

Bacteria are the most common cause of pneumonia in adults. Some people, especially the elderly and those who are disabled, may get bacterial pneumonia after having the flu or even a common cold.

Many types of bacteria can cause pneumonia. Bacterial pneumonia can occur on its own or develop after you've had a cold or the flu. This type of pneumonia often affects one lobe, or area, of a lung. When this happens, the condition is called lobar pneumonia.

Another type of bacterial pneumonia is called atypical pneumonia. Atypical pneumonia includes:

medsearch continued...

· *Legionella pneumophila*. This type of pneumonia sometimes is called Legionnaire's disease, and it has caused serious outbreaks. Outbreaks have been linked to exposure to cooling towers, whirlpool spas, and decorative fountains.

· *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. This is a common type of pneumonia that usually affects people younger than 40 years old. People who live or work in crowded places like schools, homeless shelters, and prisons are at higher risk for this type of pneumonia. It's usually mild and responds well to treatment with antibiotics. However, *mycoplasma pneumoniae* can be very serious. It may be associated with a skin rash and hemolysis (the breakdown of red blood cells).

· *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae*. This type of pneumonia can occur all year and often is mild. The infection is most common in people 65 to 79 years old.

Viruses

Respiratory viruses cause up to one-third of the pneumonia cases in the United States each year. These viruses are the most common cause of pneumonia in children younger than 5 years old.

Most cases of viral pneumonia are mild. They get better in about 1 to 3 weeks without treatment. Some cases are more serious and may require treatment in a hospital.

If you have viral pneumonia, you run the risk of getting bacterial pneumonia as well.

The flu virus is the most common cause of viral pneumonia in adults. Other viruses that cause pneumonia include respiratory syncytial virus, rhinovirus, herpes simplex virus, se-

At Right: Figure A shows the location of the lungs and airways in the body. This figure also shows pneumonia affecting the lower lobe of the left lung. Figure B shows normal alveoli. Figure C shows infected alveoli.

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vere acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), and more.

Fungi

Different types of fungi in the soil in some parts of the United States can cause pneumonia.

Most people exposed to these fungi don't get sick, but some do and require treatment.

Serious fungal infections are most common in people who have weak immune systems due to the long-term use of medicines to suppress their immune systems or having HIV/AIDS.

Pneumocystis jiroveci, formerly *Pneumocystis carinii*, sometimes is considered a fungal pneumonia. However, it's not treated with the usual antifungal medicines. This type of infection is most common in people who:

- Have HIV/AIDS or cancer
- Have had an organ transplant and/or blood and marrow stem cell transplant
- Take medicines that affect their immune systems

Other kinds of fungal infections also can lead to pneumonia.

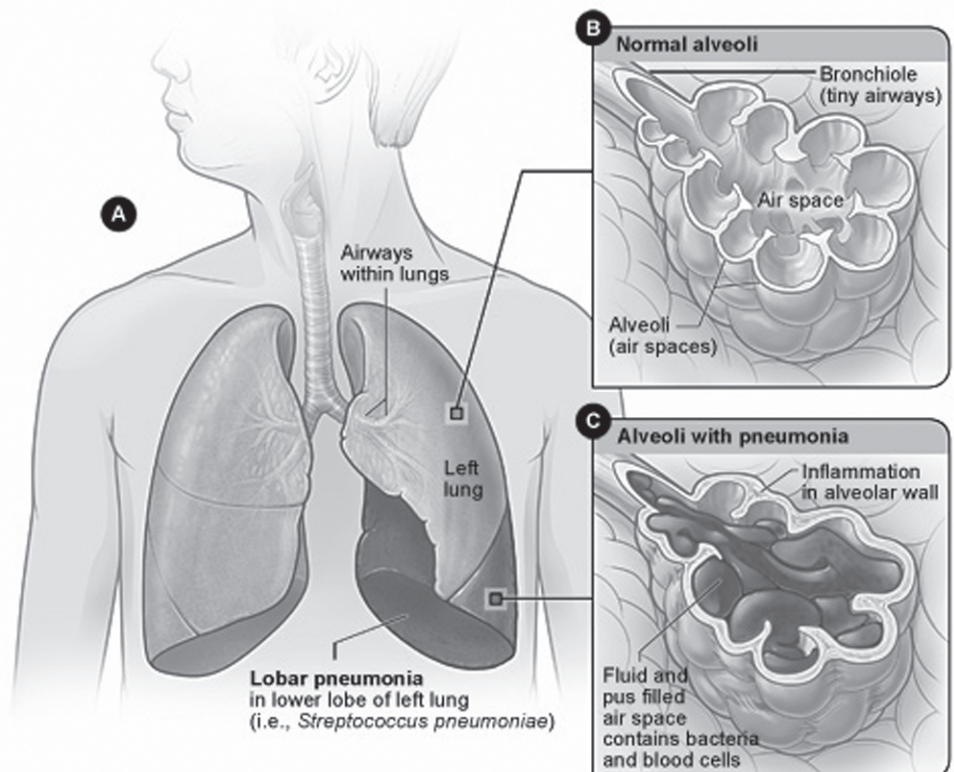
Who Is at Risk for Pneumonia?

Pneumonia can affect people of all ages. People who are 65 years old or older are at greater risk of developing pneumonia.

Other conditions and factors also raise your risk for pneumonia. You're more likely to get pneumonia if you have a lung disease or other serious disease. Examples include cystic fibrosis, asthma, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), bronchiectasis, diabetes, heart failure, and sickle cell anemia.

You're at greater risk for pneumonia if you're in a hospital intensive-care unit, especially if you're on a ventilator (a machine that helps you breathe).

Having a weak or suppressed immune system also raises your risk for pneumonia. A weak immune system may be the result of a disease such as HIV/AIDS. A suppressed immune system may be due to an organ transplant or blood and marrow stem cell transplant, chemotherapy (a treatment for cancer), or long-term steroid use.



medsearch, continued

Your risk for pneumonia also increases if you have trouble coughing because of a stroke or problems swallowing. You're also at higher risk if you can't move around much or are sedated (given medicine to make you relaxed or sleepy).

Smoking cigarettes, abusing alcohol, or being undernourished also raises your risk for pneumonia. Your risk also goes up if you've recently had a cold or the flu, or if you're exposed to certain chemicals, pollutants, or toxic fumes.

What Are the Signs and Symptoms of Pneumonia?

The signs and symptoms of pneumonia vary from mild to severe. Many factors affect how serious pneumonia is, including the type of germ causing the infection and your age and overall health.

See your doctor promptly if you:

- Have a high fever
- Have shaking chills
- Have a cough with phlegm (a slimy substance), which doesn't improve or worsens
- Develop shortness of breath with normal daily activities
- Have chest pain when you breathe or cough
- Feel suddenly worse after a cold or the flu

People who have pneumonia may have other symptoms, including nausea (feeling sick to the stomach), vomiting, and diarrhea.

Older adults and people who have serious illnesses or weak immune systems may have fewer and milder symptoms. They may even have a lower than normal temperature, if they already have a lung disease, it may get worse. Older adults who have pneumonia sometimes have sudden changes in mental awareness.

How Is Pneumonia Diagnosed?

Pneumonia can be hard to diagnose because it may seem like a cold or the flu. You may not realize it's more

serious until it lasts longer than these other conditions.

Your doctor will diagnose pneumonia based on your medical history, a physical exam, and test results.

Your doctor may recommend other tests if you're in the hospital, have serious symptoms, are older, or have other health problems.

How Is Pneumonia Treated?

Treatment for pneumonia depends on the type of pneumonia you have and how severe it is. Most people who have community-acquired pneumonia—the most common type of pneumonia—are treated at home.

The goals of treatment are to cure the infection and prevent complications.

General Treatment

If you have pneumonia, follow your treatment plan, take all medicines as prescribed, and get ongoing medical care. Ask your doctor when you should schedule followup care. Your doctor may want you to have a chest x ray to make sure the pneumonia is gone.

Although you may start feeling better after a few days or weeks, fatigue (tiredness) can persist for up to a month or more. People who are treated in the hospital may need at least 3 weeks before they can go back to their normal routines.

How Can Pneumonia Be Prevented?

Pneumonia can be very serious and even life threatening. When possible, take steps to prevent the infection, especially if you're in a high-risk group.

Vaccines

Vaccines are available to prevent pneumococcal pneumonia and the flu. Vaccines can't prevent all cases of infection. However, compared to people who don't get vaccinated, those who do and still get pneumonia tend to have:

- Milder cases of the infection
- Pneumonia that doesn't last as long
- Fewer serious complications

You also can take the following steps to help prevent pneumonia:

- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based rubs to kill germs.
- Don't smoke. Smoking damages your lungs' ability to filter out and defend against germs. Although this resource focuses on heart health, it includes general information about how to quit smoking.
- Keep your immune system strong.
- Get plenty of rest and physical activity and follow a healthy diet.

If you have pneumonia, limit contact with family and friends. Cover your nose and mouth while coughing or sneezing, and get rid of used tissues right away. These actions help keep the infection from spreading.

Living With Pneumonia

If you have pneumonia, you can take steps to recover from the infection and prevent complications.

- Get plenty of rest.
- Follow your treatment plan as your doctor advises.
- Take all medicines as your doctor prescribes. If you're using antibiotics, continue to take the medicine until it's all gone. You may start to feel better before you finish the medicine, but you should continue to take it. If you stop too soon, the pneumonia may come back.
- Ask your doctor when you should schedule follow-up care. Your doctor may recommend a chest x ray to make sure the infection is gone.

It may take time to recover from pneumonia. Some people feel better and are able to return to their normal routines within a week. For other people, it can take a month or more. Most people continue to feel tired for about a month. Talk with your doctor about when you can go back to your normal routine.

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9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda,
Maryland 20892*



1. Santo Tomas prison camp internees Lee Rogers and John Todd.



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



2. Pvt. Robert Collins & M/Sgt. Woodrow Haines back behind UN lines, Chechon, Korea.



3. Pfc. Robert Brandon distributes Red Cross parcels, Stalag IX-B.



4. Nichols Field Detail, PI, taken at Pasay Schoolhouse.



5. An American POW suffering from dry beri-beri being treated in Bilibid.



6. Private Joe Demler and another POW are liberated from XII-A, Limburg.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



8. Three American POWs released by the Viet Cong near Tay Ninh City.



9. Nick Mustacchia. 100 days as a POW -- 100 lb. weight loss. Stalag Luft IV.

POW Photos Order Form

These black & white 8x10" photographs are available from MedSearch. Please include a donation of \$5.00 per picture, or \$50.00 for the complete set of 12 with your order. Fill out the form below with selections.

Fill in the number of copies of each picture desired in the blank beside the picture's identification number:

1. _____ 5. _____ 9. _____

2. _____ 6. _____ 10. _____

3. _____ 7. _____ 11. _____

4. _____ 8. _____ 12. _____

Set of 12 photos _____

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Checks payable to AXPOW

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
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Name _____

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andersonville



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

Son of a Korean War POW Volunteers at Andersonville

By Eric Leonard, Chief of
Interpretation and Education

Volunteers provide critical assistance to the operation of the park. In the past year, a number of volunteers have stayed in the park for one to three months and worked in the National Prisoner of War Museum, greeting visitors and leading programs. All of these volunteers are drawn to this place to help us tell the prisoner of war story to the visiting public; this fall, we were joined by a volunteer who had another reason to volunteer here - his fa-



ther had been held as a prisoner of war in Korea for 33 months.

Pat and Diana Curry, of Lubbock, Texas, joined us in mid-September. They had arranged to volunteer here a year earlier, and we had discussed at that time Pat's interest in volunteering at the museum. Pat was drawn to the park as a way to learn more about his father's experiences in Korea. My first assignment to them was to spend a day being visitors, exploring the entire park, in order to get to know all that the park offers.

While taking in the museum's exhibits the next day, they discovered something that none of us expected - as it turns out, the video loop in the *Freedom* room, which shows news footage of returning POWs from WWII through the First Gulf War, includes a brief shot of Pat's parents embracing, when his father, Lt. Jim Curry, returned home in 1953. Also in the picture is Pat, at age seven.



This unexpected moment more than exceeded Pat's hopes for his volunteer experience here, and was a good start to two months of volunteering. In addition to serving visitors in the museum, Pat gave several presentations to the public, including one at the Sumter County Elementary School for Veterans Day. His wife Diana provided valuable assistance to our expanding living history program by stitching the letters U. S. on nearly 50 reproduction army blankets which will

be used to create replica shelters at the prison site.

The Currys are experienced National Park volunteers, having also served at Jewel Cave National Park, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as well as other sites. Yet, their experience at Andersonville was a real highlight, because of their personal connection to the stories we tell. In just two months with us, they gave over 500 volunteer hours.



Photos: Young Patrick Curry is pinned with a medal for his father who was still missing in action. Still photograph of the newsreel footage used in the exhibits which shows Pat Curry's parents embracing when he returned home in 1953. Volunteer Pat Curry delivering a program about his father's experiences.

COMING SOON: In March (second weekend) there is "Andersonville Revisited". Activities include Confederate guards and Union prisoners as portrayed by living historians. Various scenarios and drills depict the life of the guards and prisoners when Andersonville was a prison camp. On the last Sunday in May, Memorial Day, there are ceremonies honoring American veterans from all wars. Ceremony includes music, guest speaker, and the Laying of Wreaths by civic and patriotic organizations. An American flag is placed on each of the 18,000 graves in the national cemetery. The traditional Avenue of Flags displays the burial flags of American veterans.

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Paul E. Galanti
804.389.1668 (cell)
p.galanti@verizon.net

The Buck Stops Here – Mission Accomplished

Judge Roger Gregory of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals and I were discussing Naval Aviation at a dinner in September when he mentioned that he'd like to visit an aircraft carrier sometime. I didn't think it was possible in these days of force reduction but told him I'd check. To make a very long story short, he and I along with five members of the Virginia Aviation Board journeyed to the Naval Air Station Norfolk to fly aboard the *USS Harry S. Truman (CVA-75)* on a Saturday morning, October 20, 2012, spend the night and return mid-day Sunday. Whatta deal!

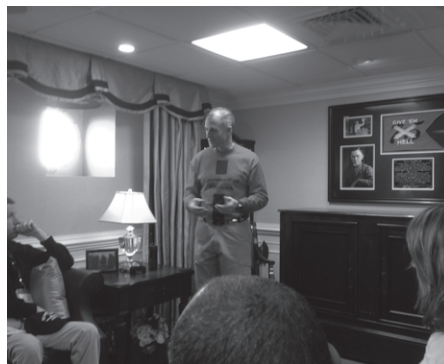
It occurred to me that I hadn't flown from a carrier since my last mission on June 17, 1966 that ended up rather poorly when this budding "Top Gun" joined the Hanoi Skydiving Club to begin some extended "over-seas shore duty" in the prison camps of North Vietnam. I actually have a patch that proclaims 96 ½ Missions in North Vietnam! Big joke. I had one more catapult shot than trap (arrested landing) – something that had always bugged me. So now, 46 years later, I was about to symbolically balance out my logbook by equalizing those numbers!

The Navy C-2 "Greyhound" is a twin-turboprop transport version of the E-2 Early Warning Radar aircraft. It's

used to carry cargo and passengers to the aircraft carrier at sea. Fighter pilots refer to these with barely disguised contempt as "Trash Haulers" as contrasted to the sleek, supersonic hot rods they were flinging into the "long, delirious, burning blue"* but in my case, after 46 years, the mission would finally be accomplished. I couldn't wait!

But it was definitely different this for this veteran of the single-seat carrier aircraft to be strapped in facing aft in the darkened fuselage of the C-2 with about 20 other passengers, droning out to the ship (about an hour) to Truman 100 miles at sea in the Atlantic off Cape Hatteras. Trapping backwards, we were thrown back against our seatbacks as the C-2 after a loud "band" as it slammed into the arresting wires, and stopped in a few hundred feet from its near 130 mph approach speed! Yeee-ha!

We were met the *Truman's* Skipper, CAPT S. Robert Roth, USN, himself an FA-18 Super Hornet pilot and a historian of the heritage of his ship that had been turned into a living shrine memorializing its namesake. The entire ship has been turned into a *de facto* Truman museum incorporating many artifacts on loan from the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri.



Capt. Robert Roth briefs the embarked group

I didn't feel old until the Strike Group Commander, RADM Kevin Sweeney, USN introduced himself as one of my former midshipmen from 30+ years before! I spent the night in the luxurious Captain's In-Port Cabin filled with many photos and other artifacts of the life of President Truman. My body's 73 years of, ahem, seniority requesting that I skip

another trip up the vertical ladders, I watched the second hour of night operations on a large HD screen from the luxury of a King-Size bed surrounded by "Give-em-hell" Harry's memorabilia. A far cry from the tiny, unair-conditioned *USS Hancock* of my youth where my skinny cot in my "stateroom" had a steam pipe close enough that I'd sleep leaning against its asbestos!

How far we have come!



Playing Captain of the Harry S Truman (note the VA-216 ballcap)

Summary: I was very pleasantly surprised by the very high morale of all hands – and I talked literally to hundreds of the officers and crew. A favorite was Boatswain's Mate Chief Christian, head of the Foc'sle gang, reputedly the roughest sailors on the ship (the handle the ship's 60,000 lb. anchors!). Every member of *her* division wanted to just like Chief Christian. And they were omitted to Naval careers. The reason why, as surmised by an FA-18 squadron commander: The Navy is the only family many of these youngsters have ever had... Profound.

Judge Gregory and I had many things to discuss on the way back to Richmond on Sunday afternoon. But I thanked *him* for suggesting the trip. So, end of story.

The buck stops here! Mission Accomplished!

va outreach



**JVC Bill Jeffers
Chairman**

The last VA Outreach article commenced a series addressing VA health care benefits available to any veteran meeting eligibility requirements. This article continues addressing VA health care benefits.

Recently discharged combat veterans (subsequent to November 11, 1998) can receive VA health care and medications at no cost for any condition related to their combat service. This is referred to as enhanced "combat veterans" benefits. Veterans who enroll with the VA under this enhanced benefit authority retain enrollment eligibility even after their five year post discharge period ends.

The VA provides counseling and treatment to help veterans overcome psychological issues resulting from sexual trauma that occurred while serving on active service. Appropriate services are provided for any injury, illness or psychological condition resulting from such trauma.

Most veterans not already receiving VA disability compensation or pension are subject to a financial assessment of their gross annual household income and net worth (means test). This assessment determines if the veteran falls below a predetermined financial threshold and thus is exempt from payment for all but

a portion of the cost of VA medical services and medication. The VA is not currently enrolling new applicants who decline to provide the financial information necessary to make this assessment unless they have a special eligibility factor which exempts such disclosure.

Some veterans are subject to co-payments to receive VA health care and medications. Those in Priority Group 7 are responsible for paying 20% of inpatient care (\$226) for the first 90 days during any one year period. For each additional 90 days, the charge is \$113. Additionally, there is a \$2 per diem charge. For Priority Group 8, the inpatient copay is \$1132 for the first 90 days care during any 1 year period. For each additional 90 days, the charge is \$566. Additionally, there is a \$10 per diem charge.

For VA extended care services, veterans may be subject to a copay determined by information supplied by completing a VA Form 10-10EC. VA social workers can help interpret eligibility and copay requirements. The copay amount is based on each veteran's financial situation and will range from \$0 to \$97 a day. A three-tiered copay system applies to all outpatient services. This is \$15 for a primary care visit and \$50 for some specialized care. Compensable service-connected veterans and veterans who are catastrophically disabled are exempt from copay requirements for inpatient and outpatient medical care for service-connected and non-service connected treatment. Non-compensable zero percent service-connected veterans may be required to complete a copay test to determine if copay is required for treatment of their non-service connected conditions. The copay is limited to a single charge per visit, regardless of the number of providers provided in a single day.

civilians



**ND Alice Gollin
Chairman**

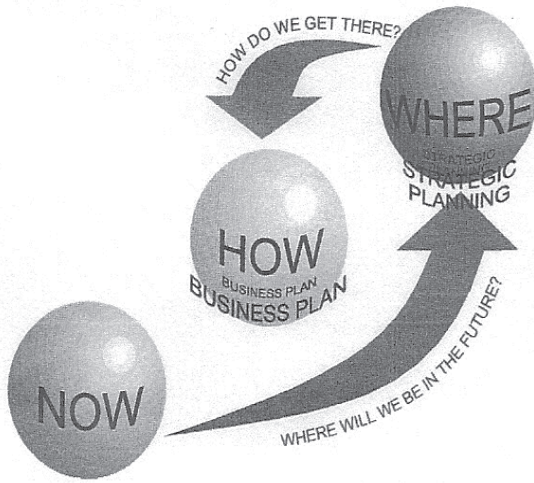
If you are having difficulty proving that you were incarcerated in the Philippines, the answer could well be in the National Archives Information Center. Your family is very likely there.

Under the Scope & Content Note, you can see that the information about each prisoner includes the military prisoner of war or civilian prisoner of war site where he or she was held.

And guess what? You might just have one of the Archives Library Information Centers in your city. If not, call Carolyn Gillian Bailey at 301-837-3415 or write her as Reference Librarian, Archives Library Information Center, National Archives and Records Administration. She will be quite a held to you and besides that, she is a delight to talk with.

And now, for all our Civilian POWs: Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to all the people who have been touched by war: God Bless you all.

Alice



A Production of The Next of Kin and Strategic Committees

Will WE Become a Legacy Organization?

The mission statement of our new combined Next of Kin and Strategic Committee contains the word legacy. Let us be clear that we do not envision a pure legacy group with members who are all our children and grandchildren. The structure and name will remain the same. We will have members who are ex-prisoners of war for many more years, and we need to always be ready to accommodate ex-prisoners of future wars.

No, we will not change the name or nature of our AXPOW organization.

What we aim to do is to prepare for what might be come one where the leadership consists predominately our children and grandchildren. As we try to peer into the future, we research the composition of our present membership. We see that all but one thousand of our fourteen thousand members are of WWII age and most above ninety years of age. Thus we guess these members will prefer a rocking chair that an executive one.

So, we look at all of the remaining one thousand members consisting of

a few Korean and Vietnam vets, and the rest are next of kin. These members are already moving into Board members, and we predict they will fill all of the Board positions in the next few years. What one could say is that this is not a legacy organization, but what is a predominately legacy run team.

Our committee sees a need to sensitively help guide this transition. Our ex-prisoners and spouses will continue to be assisted for benefits, but the Bulletin will gradually expand article to the good of our children and grandchildren.

There are other challenges which we will present to you subsequently. For one thing, we hope to find a way to make it more exciting for our kids to join.

Lew Sleeper

A POW CHAT

Son, do you want to know what I learned the most about being a prisoner of war? "Of course, Dad". It is how to best insure world peace. Before the war I thought world peace was best achieved by just renouncing war, and everyone would agree. This was tried after WWI when there was the greatest assembly of peace groups in all of our history. At the same time we let down our national defenses. When this happens, Experience shows time and time again that some potential dictator, king or rebel seeking power will take advantage of this military weakness and build his nation's power to create an empire. Yes, life has demonstrated this since the beginning of time when King Narma built an army, killed all of the tribal heads around him, and declared himself Pharaoh of Egypt. Maintaining their military might, the succession of Pharaoh's enforced peace and prosperity for over 1000 years. Then in subsequent years we see in the Middle East a "continuous crucible of conflict and a graveyard

of empires" a quote from Professor Rufus Fears in his lectures on the Wisdom of History. Hitler did this in my war. He set out to conquer all of Europe, and nearly did.

Son, do you know what I would like you to do to help insure your future peace? "Of course, Dad". Well, always support a strong national defense. One way to do this is to take part in an organization that presses congress to maintain our military strength. The organization I belong to do this is the American Ex-Prisoners of War. As my descendant, you are eligible to join and become a member. Taking pride in being a next of kin of an ex-prisoner of war, you could attend our annual conventions, make friends of other children and grandchildren, proudly recite the Pledge of Allegiance, and salute your American flag. Thus, you would carry on the AXPOW mission to help keep our country strong. Oh, there are many other benefits and fun to be had. You could participate in our congressionally approved annual POW Recognition Day, and share with the public the sacrifices we made as prisoners of war. You could participate in the annual celebration of Veterans Day proudly carrying the flag, and showing the uniform of our Ex-Prison of War organization. You would carry on our specific mission statement of helping those who can not help themselves.

So, son, how would you like to join me at our next convention? Let's give it a try, and see if you believe that I am right? By the way, we have lots of fun visiting historical places, and partying. We might even celebrate kicking our heels to a dance band.

Lew Sleeper

Save the date!
National Convention
in Arlington, Texas
~ June 26-30,
2013

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards Chairman

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

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED-FOR

There are still 1,655 personnel listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. The number of Americans announced as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is 928. Another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the official total recovered and identified from the Vietnam War to 991. Of the missing and unaccounted-for 1,655 personnel, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,280 (VN-470, VS-810); Laos-314; Cambodia-54; PRC territorial waters-7; more than 450 were over-water losses.

POW/MIA Background

The US Government has established the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) in Washington as the focal point within the Department of Defense for Prisoner of War and missing personnel affairs. It provides policy guidance to organizations, such as the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). Fulfilling its mission comes at no small cost. It employs more than 600 joint military and civilian personnel a budget of more than \$24 million.

JPAC conducts global search, recovery, and laboratory operations to identify unaccounted for Americans

from past conflicts. The command is located on the island of Oahu in Hawaii and was activated October 1, 2003. There are over 400 joint military and civilian personnel, JPAC continues its search for more than 83,000 Americans still missing from past conflicts. The laboratory portion of JPAC, referred to as the Control Identification Laboratory is the largest and most diverse forensic laboratory in the world.

Investigation & Analysis

The core of JPAC's day-to-day operations involves researching case files, investigating leads, excavating sites and identifying Americans who were killed in action, but were never brought home. This process involves close coordination with U.S. agencies involved in the POW/MIA issue, including the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office, the Armed Forces mortuary affairs offices, U. S. Pacific Command, Department of State, the Joint Staff, Defense Intelligence Agency, the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory and the U.S. Air Force's Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory.

On average, JPAC identifies about six MIAs each a month. The search for unaccounted-for Americans starts with in-depth research. JPAC historians and analysts gather information such as correspondence, maps, photographs, unit histories, medical and personnel records about POW/MIAs from many sources. At any given time, there are more than 1,000 active case files under investigation.

Recovery

JPAC has 18 Recovery Teams whose members travel throughout the world to recover Americans missing from the Vietnam War, the Korean War, World War II, and the Cold War.

A typical recovery team is made up of ten to 14 people, led by a team leader and a forensic anthropologist. The team leader is responsible for the overall safety and success of the mission, while the civilian anthropologist directs the excavation of the site much like a detective oversees a crime scene. Other members of the team typically include a team ser-

geant, linguist, medic, life support technician, forensic photographer, communications specialist, and an explosive ordnance disposal technician. Additional experts are added to the mission as needed, such as mountaineering specialists or divers.

Once the recovery effort is completed, the team returns to Hawaii. All remains and artifacts found during the recovery operation are then transported from a U.S. military plane to JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) for analysis.

Identification

Depending on the amount and condition of recovered remains, the CIL's staff of forensic anthropologists first produce a biological profile from recovered skeletal remains that includes sex, race, age at death, and height of the individual. Anthropologists may also analyze trauma caused at or near the time of death and pathological conditions of bone such as arthritis or previous healed breaks.

While JPAC's CIL identifies about six Americans a month on average, the recovery and identification process may take years to complete. Evidence must be examined at the CIL (bones, teeth, and material evidence) and correlated with all historical evidence. All reports must also undergo a thorough peer review process that includes an external review by independent experts. Additionally, if mtDNA is part of the process, the search for family reference samples for mtDNA comparison can add a significant amount of time to the identification process.

Missing/Captured

US Service member reported missing or captured while supporting combat operations: Army Spc. Bowe R. Bergdahi, 25, June 30, 2009, Afghanistan

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New Forensics and Facilities for POW/MIA Recovery

By Alice A Booher

Aggressive efforts are underway to more efficiently and responsibly address the difficulties of accounting for the 83,000 still missing Americans worldwide. For years, the headquarters location of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) has been on Oahu, Hawaii, which may be optimal for collections in the Pacific, but inconvenient for the needs of the American families who depend on them to resolve the questions surrounding their missing loved ones. JPAC's main mission is to locate, recover and identify missing armed services personnel from past military conflicts while it coordinates with other military groups.

Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, JPAC identified a serious need for a forensic laboratory facility in the "lower 48" states to facilitate a speedy response to other tragedies. Congress mandated the intensification of the process of identifying remains, and additional missions are being developed relating to missing personnel in the China, India and Burma Theatre, all of which stretched aging and outdated JPAC resources.

Intense but cordial negotiations led to the May 2012 announcement that scientists at Creighton and the University of Nebraska Medical Center would join-up with the existing facilities at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska, a decision made with the concerted action and support of local realty, schools and business leaders.

The site of the new Offutt AFB facility is the old on-base Glenn L. Martin Company bomber plant where many WWII planes were built. The laboratory, covering about 27,000 square feet at a cost of about \$5 million, will house some 50 anthropologists and other staff.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 charged JPAC with identifying 200 remains each year by 2015, more than double the 80 identifications made in FY 2011. To meet the mandate, the JPAC now has some 104 researchers searching worldwide and is actively recruiting for additional employees.

JPAC will also have another new facility from which to work, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where ground was broken in 2011. By 2016 there will be an additional 250 military and civilian personnel. Recent change of command ceremonies reflected on some of the new challenges at leech-infested sites in Vietnam, tropical rain forests at 8,000 feet in Papua, New Guinea and the stifling heat of Cambodia.

Both the Offutt AFB and Joint Pearl Harbor-Hickam facilities will continue the extraordinary and newly expanding work, using upgraded tools for studying skeletal remains as well as sophisticated DNA and other testing.

The Offutt building "D" which will be renovated for JPAC is the former home of the Air Force Weather Agency. But Offutt has a wider history, beginning with commissioning

by the War Department as Fort Crook in 1890. In September 1918 it became an Army Air Service balloon field, and was renamed in 1924 after Omaha WWI casualty, SE-5 fighter pilot 1st Lt Jarvis Offutt.

Its legacy includes 40 years as the headquarters for the Strategic Air Command and aerial and ground central control for the U.S. in case of nuclear war during the Cold War years; it is currently the HQ of the U.S. Strategic Command, the Air Force Weather Agency, and the host unit, the 55th Wing of the Air Combat Command.

The new JPAC facility at Offutt expects to be fully operational by the end of 2013, and to have passed the Society of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board by Spring 2013, with scientific and support personnel.

Perhaps the measure of the grassroots warmth of the community feeling for the incoming JPAC at Offutt may be seen in the work on Highway 75 near the base, rendered by a local farmer who does it with his tractor and uses a GPS to get the letters right. No matter what the cargo or passenger list, when military flights land at Offutt AFB, this is what they see:



MEMBERSHIP COUNT

11/1/2012

Alabama	248
Alaska	15
AP/AE	3
Arizona	359
Arkansas	152
California	1,091
Colorado	184
Connecticut	147
Delaware	44
District of Columbia	7
Florida	1,202
Georgia	301
Guam	2
Hawaii	37
Idaho	58
Illinois	446
Indiana	259
Iowa	202
Kansas	242
Kentucky	133
Louisiana	178
Maine	92
Maryland	236
Massachusetts	424
Michigan	298
Minnesota	270
Mississippi	233
Missouri	353
Montana	61
Nebraska	124
Nevada	85
New Hampshire	79
New Jersey	403
New Mexico	163
New York	663
North Carolina	340
North Dakota	56
Ohio	780
Oklahoma	314
Oregon	180
Pennsylvania	616
Puerto Rico	6
Rhode Island	59
South Carolina	276
South Dakota	49
Tennessee	305
Texas	1,131
Utah	57
Vermont	43
Virgin Islands	2
Virginia	323
Washington	405
West Virginia	102
Wisconsin	508
Wyoming	19
Foreign	41
Address Unknown	182

14,588

ETO	4,918
PAC	636
KOREA	498
USS PUEBLO	17
VIETNAM	100
IRAN	2
IRAQ	5
SOMALIA	1
FARS/CHINA/2001	2
CIVILIAN	153
SPOUSES	2,987
SURVIVING SPOUSES	4,718
NOK	551
ANNUAL	741
LIFE	13,847

Submitted by:
Clydie Morgan
National Adjutant

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March 14-16, 2013. USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations Annual Reunion will be held at: Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown. Contact: John Keith Schwarz Executive Director- USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations; contact@usshouston.org; 202-268-2261/703-867-0142.

June 26-30, 2013. The American Ex-Prisoners of War National Convention will be held in Arlington, Texas at the Hilton Arlington Hotel. We've got a great convention planned, so now it's your turn to start planning to attend. There is more information on the following pages.

looking for



We live in **Memmingerberg near Memmingen** where there was a prison camp during WWII. Now we want to write down the history of our village and cannot find any information about the camp. Does anyone have information about it? With regards from Germany. Ursula Stetter; familystetter@t-online.de

My name is Sandy Glascoe, Alpharetta, GA. I am writing on behalf of **Roy E. Glascoe who was a POW in Romania** in 1942. Roy was my father-in-law who passed away in November 2011. While going through some of his papers I saw

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where he had copies of a newsletter and pictures of reunions of the "Association of Former Prisoners of War in Romania". I am trying to contact them to let them know of his passing. If you know of this organization and could send me their contact information, I would greatly appreciate it. Kind regards, Sandy; sandraglascoe@att.net.

My name is Nina Newton Pace. My father was **Frank M. "Tex" Newton who was in Stalag Luft III**. I am searching for an extraordinarily kind gentleman in The Netherlands. I've looked through mother's addresses and cannot find his phone number or address. His name is **Ben VanDrogenbeck**, although I may have not spelled it correctly. I have an original Stalag Luft book which was given to my dad and I'd like Ben to have it. Also, to tell Ben that my mother passed away on January 14, 2012. Anything you can do to connect me with Ben would be appreciated. My home phone is 512-524-2018. Sincerely, Nina Newton Pace; nn_pace00@yahoo.com.

I am writing to try and find anyone who may have been held prisoner with by great uncle **Ydilio Cubero**. He was born May 29, 1922 in Florida; he died July 4, 1983 in Florida. He enlisted Nov. 20, 1942 Camp Blanding Florida, Unit 339. I think May 12, 1944 was the date he may have been captured and June 14, 1945 may have been his release date. These were dates I found on the U.S. National Archives & Records Administration. He was detained in Germany at Stalag 2B Hammerstein, West Prussia 53-17. I appreciate your help. Angela Vetrano, 813-598-3583; angvetrano@msn.com; tel:

I am writing a story about my step-father **Willis Earl Bain who was a POW in Stalag III-C** (37 miles east of Berlin - now Gorzow), who was captured at the Battle of Mortain in August 1944. He was captured in August and escaped from the Stalag on New Year's Eve '44/'45 with two other men. They traveled from Gorzow to Naples, Italy and caught the S/S/ Mariposa (Matson Lines) on 8 April '45 to Boston. The trip took

3 months. (I am guessing the route would have taken them through: German/Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Yugoslavia, and down the Adriatic coast of Italy - over the mountains south of Rome where the U.S. airfields were to Naples. I am trying to locate the two men who escaped and traveled with him, and also any information about their time in Stalag III-C, including a schematic of the camp. I appreciate any information. Please contact me at: Caroline Kennedy - cwknenned@aol.com - 843.705.5654.

MAY FREEDOM EMBRACE



Within the shadows and beyond the
wire
Hope is caged from view,
Bruised and battered, fed with fear
Freedom longs for these few.
While upon the tower and filled
with hate
A guard creates the pain,
A soldier's prayer of family and
home
Are the thoughts that keep him
sane?
Days to weeks, and weeks to years
Locked into this cage,
His soul succumbs to loneliness
His heart fills with rage.
A growing hope and guiding light
Awaits the MIA,
The Prisoner of War will lead the
fight
And will bring them all home some
day.
We will not leave our Brothers in
Arms
In lands that are distant and rotten,
May Freedom embrace the ones we
love
YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.
James A. Locke
9-6-2004



AEPW Convention 2013
Arlington, Texas
June 26-29, 2013



American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2013

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

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Jan/Feb 2013



AXPOW Convention 2013
Arlington, Texas
June 26-29, 2013



Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington



2401 East Lamar Boulevard, Arlington, Texas 76006-7503
Tel: 1-817-640-3322, Fax: 1-817-633-1430
Room Rate \$119 night/free airport shuttle/free parking
Hilton Arlington is located 10 miles south of DFW Int'l Airport in the entertainment district of Arlington.

Attractions:

Area attractions include 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.



Short Agenda:

<u>JUNE 26</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u> BOARD MEETING
<u>JUNE 27</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u> OPENING CEREMONY MEDSEARCH SEMINAR TOURS
<u>JUNE 28</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u> NSO TRAINING CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER COMMANDER'S RECEPTION
<u>JUNE 29</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u> CONTINUE BUSINESS MEETINGS NEW BOARD MEETING BANQUET

AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11/due date May 15, 2013

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Full Page	\$250	\$500
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Quarter Page...	\$125	
BusinessCard.	\$.50	

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Organization: _____

Ad-
dress: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Ad Size: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Checks Payable to:

AXPOW

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National Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer

Pkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010



American Ex-Prisoners of War
2013 National Convention
June 26 - June 29, 2013
Arlington Hilton
2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas
(817) 640-3322



Name _____

Spouse (if attending) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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Branch of Service _____

POW Camps _____

Please list any special needs _____

Mode of Transportation _____

Hotel provides free shuttle to/from DFW Airport. To make arrangements, contact the hotel at (817) 640-3322

In addition to the customary functions, Registration Fee also includes full breakfast buffet and lunch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

Banquet Meal Selection _____ Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

REGISTRATION (postmarked by June 15) - # of Persons _____ x \$130 = _____

LADIES' LUNCHEON - Number attending _____ x \$25 = _____

LATE REGISTRATION (postmarked after June 15)

REGISTRATION (late fee) - # of Persons _____ x \$150 = _____

LADIES' LUNCHEON (late fee) - # attending _____ x \$30 = _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send registration and payment, made payable to AXPOW, to

American Ex-Prisoners of War

3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40

Arlington TX 76010

(817) 649-2979

Ex-POW Bulletin

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From the Bass River Rod & Gun Club, Yarmouthport, MA...The 4th Annual Disabled Vets Shoot included disabled Veterans from the Brockton VA Medical Center as well as members of the MA Paralyzed Veterans Association. The Outdoor Rifle and Pistol Range portion went smoothly with 1500 cartridges of 5.56 ammunition expended, 150 cartridges of 30.06 ammunition expended and 100 12 gauge shot shells fired at the Shotgun Range. All the targets were reactive making for a lot of excitement on the firing line as you could easily tell by the big smiles sported by the Veterans and the Range Officers alike. 1903 Springfields, M-1 Garands and 30 Cal Carbines and Browning shotguns were all in the armory for use by the Veterans. This is the fourth year that Bass River has sponsored this event. Thank you to the 40 plus volunteers who worked at this event from food preparation and serving to the Range Officers on the firing line and the harried magazine loaders behind the firing line. Many more were watching the excitement from the observation area.



News Briefs

2013 COLA

On Nov. 27 President Obama signed into law a bill that gives veterans and survivors a 1.7 percent hike for the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Effective Dec. 1, the increase will appear on January paychecks—directly deposited on Dec. 31, 2012—and affect about 4 million veterans, military retirees and survivors. The average increase in income for the year is \$500. Dollar amounts will vary on an individual basis depending on disability rating.

The Senate passed the cost of living adjustment (COLA) bill for the 1.7 percent increase for military retirees and veterans' survivors. Those affected by the increase will see the increase in monthly benefit payments in 2013. The House version of the bill that passed unanimously in June also called for a 1.7 percent increase. The Senate acted when it returned from the election recess to guarantee January payments reflect the increase.

The COLA will increase pay for Social Security recipients and military retirees who receive disability compensation and pension, as well as veterans' survivors who receive dependency and indemnity compensation.

Veterans in Congress

The 113th Congress that takes office in January will have the fewest military veterans since World War II, although the number of members who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq wars is growing.

Nineteen percent of the next Congress will be veterans, with 85 in the House and 18 in the Senate, according to a tally compiled by the American Legion. In the current Congress, there are 91 veterans in the House and 25 in the Senate.

The decline isn't completely surprising. The 95th Congress of 1977 and 1978 — just after the draft ended in 1973 — had 412 veterans. The percentage of members who served in the military has steadily fallen since.

CONGRESS

HOUSE (435 Members)

SENATE (100 Members)

94th (1975-1976)	306H, 73S
95th (1977-1978)	347H, 65S
96th (1979-1980)	242H, 58S
97th (1981-1982)	269H, 73S
98th (1983-1984)	248H, 56S
99th (1985-1986)	181H, 57S
100th (1987-1988)	175H, 52S
101st (1989-1990)	202H, 49S
102nd (1991-1992)	161H, 51S
103rd (1993-1994)	126H, 44S
104th (1995-1996)	154H, 55S
105th (1997-1998)	141H, 48S
106th (1999-2000)	135H, 44S
107th (2001-2002)	130H, 38S
108th (2003-2004)	114H, 35S
109th (2005-2006)	107H, 29S
110th (2007-2008)	97H, 28S
111th (2009-2010)	96H, 28S
112th (2011-2012)	91H, 25S
113th (2013)	85H, 18S

Service Members, Vets Celebrate Military Legacy of Women

Army News Service

Hundreds of active-duty women and veterans turned out Oct. 20 at the gateway to Arlington National Cemetery to celebrate the legacy of more than 2.5 million women who have served in the nation's military.

Former WACs, WAVEs, WMs,

WAFs and SPARS shared with their active-duty counterparts in the contributions women have made to the U.S. military that are enshrined at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, dedicated by President Bill Clinton on Oct. 18, 1997.

While WIMSA serves as a memorial to all of America's service women, Wilma L. Vaught, president of the Women's Memorial Foundation, said she doesn't consider it a museum, though the building does contain a gift store and features numerous artifacts and photographic exhibits.

"This is more than a memorial; it's an educational center meant to tell the story of women in the military from the American Revolution through Iraq — it was an opportunity to tell the story of women's service individually and collectively," said Vaught, who enlisted in the Air Force in 1957 and went on to retire as a brigadier general in 1985 as one of only seven women serving as general or flag officers in all of the services at the time.

Vaught said WIMSA was also created because many women going back to World War II felt they never received recognition for all they did — from the nurse corps of the Army and Navy to the Army Air Corps WASPs who delivered fighter and bomber aircraft across the country. WIMSA also honors all women who served overseas during conflicts such as those who served with the Red Cross, USO and Special Services.

"They deserved recognition, because they changed the military and they changed life in America for women [and] because they

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stepped out and did things women hadn't done before. ... They created a new day for women," she said. "Many of today's military women go through the memorial and realize for the first time what women in the military did before them. "We stand on the shoulders of all these women who met up with all kinds of obstacles and barricades and they overcame them," Vaught added. "Today, they can say, 'I can have a career, I can have the opportunities for education, I can have a family and be in the military, when they couldn't stay in the military if they were pregnant.'"

The afternoon ceremony included memories from active duty or retired speakers from each service branch who told the stories of why they served and the challenges they faced at the point in history in which they joined. Speakers included Allison A. Hickey, undersecretary of veterans affairs for benefits and a retired brigadier general, whose military career started when she graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1980 — the first class to include women. Too many women veterans just fade away, she said, not thinking too much about their service after they leave the military.

She encouraged women veterans to stand proudly and declare themselves veterans, and did so herself. No fewer than 10 other women stood and joined in the declaration.

Keynote speaker Jessica L. Wright, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, was the Army National Guard's first woman CH-

47 Chinook aviator. She began her association with the Army by enlisting in 1975, obtained her bachelor's degree and retired as a major general in 2010 after commanding the Pennsylvania National Guard.

"There's not a better or [more] fitting place to pause and reflect on those contributions than here at the Women's Memorial." She said. "It is a wonderful testament of the power of women in the service to our country. This monument honors the legacy and the proud and distinguished service of women. With every passing day, there is a new and enthusiastic group of young women who join the list of forbearers that we honor here today. They have the same determination and courage that runs through our current serving women that was in our predecessors."

WIMSA Foundation officials hope to have 250,000 women veterans in the memorial's historical record by the end of the year. Vaught said they're just 301 shy that figure, and that she's confident the foundation will reach its goal.

VA Announces \$300 Million to Expand Homeless Prevention Program

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today announced that a new national report shows that homelessness among Veterans has been reduced by approximately 7 percent between January 2011 and January 2012.

"This report continues a trend that clearly indicates we are on the right track in the fight to end homelessness among Veterans. While this is encouraging news, we have more work to do and will

not be satisfied until no Veteran has to sleep on the street," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "The success we have achieved is directly attributable to the hard work by all of our staff, and the federal, state, and community partners who are committed to ending Veteran homelessness."

The 2012 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, prepared by HUD, estimates there were 62,619 homeless Veterans on a single night in January in the United States, a 7.2 percent decline since 2011 and a 17.2 percent decline since 2009. The AHAR reports on the extent and nature of homelessness in America. Included in the report is the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count, which measures the number of homeless persons in the U.S. on a single night in January 2012, including the number of homeless Veterans.

VA has made ending Veteran homelessness by the end of 2015 a top priority, undertaking an unprecedented campaign to dramatically increase awareness of VA services available for homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk of becoming homeless. While the number of homeless people in the U.S. dropped by less than 1 percent, according to the 2012 AHAR, Veteran homelessness has shown a more robust decline.

VA also announced the availability of \$300 million in grants for community organizations, estimated to serve approximately 70,000 Veterans and their family members facing homelessness. The deadline for applying to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, a homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing program, is Feb. 1, 2013.

news, continued

SSVF grants promote housing stability among homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families. The grants can have an immediate impact, helping lift Veterans out of homelessness or providing aid in emergency situations that put Veterans and their families at risk of homelessness.

Through September 2012, SSVF has aided approximately 21,500 Veterans and over 35,000 individuals. Since SSVF is able to help the Veteran's family, 8,826 children were also assisted, helping Veterans keep their families housed and together. Grantees provide a range of supportive services to very low-income Veteran families living in or transitioning to permanent housing, including case management, legal assistance, financial counseling, transportation, child care, rent, utilities and other services aimed at preventing homelessness.

NMMC Opens New Exhibits Honoring Medal of Honor and Purple Heart Recipients

The Purple Heart and Medal of Honor are this country's the most well-known military awards. Less well-known are the individual stories behind those awards. The new Purple Heart and updated Medal of Honor exhibits at the National Museum of the Marine Corps have changed that, at least for some of the medals in the collection. The exhibits humanize the medals with photos and stories of the Marines who earned them.

"We wanted to create an exhibit that allowed the Museum to tell the story of individual Marines and the Purple Heart medal. The

medal is one of the more unique military honors due to the great variety of ways in which it can be earned. Behind each medal is a story," said Owen Conner, Curator of Uniforms and Heraldry for the Museum.

The exhibit was designed to be flexible, allowing medals to be rotated annually with different themes and stories in mind. The medals selected for the exhibit's inaugural display document the first Purple Hearts awarded in the 1930s as well as a Purple Heart awarded to legendary Marine Lt.Gen. Chesty Puller. Rounding out this first exhibit are medals awarded posthumously to a Marine killed in action in Vietnam and medals for Marines who served in Korea and Iraq who were forced to live with the long-lasting legacy of the their wounds. Future exhibits will be dedicated to specific wars, posthumous awards, and other topics.

The Medal of Honor exhibit follows a similar design, allowing the medals to be changed out periodically so visitors have an opportunity to learn about more of the Marines who have earned the Nation's highest military honor. The current exhibit actually features not only Medals of Honor from the Museum's collection but also original portraits of the Marines who earned them. The portraits, by Marine Corps combat artist Col. Charles Waterhouse, which were recently donated by Waterhouse to the Museum's combat art collection.

The changing nature of these exhibits gives visitors another reason to make return visits to the Museum. Temporary exhibits and changes to existing galleries also ensure there is always something new to see.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is located at 18900

Jefferson Davis Highway, Tri-
angle, Va. The Museum, which
opened November 10, 2006,
brings to life the U.S. Marine
Corps' rich history and honors
the commitment, accomplish-
ments, and sacrifices of all Ma-
rines. It is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00
p.m. every day except Christmas.
Parking and admission are free.
For more information on the Na-
tional Museum of the Marine
Corps, call 703-784-6107 or visit
www.usmcmuseum.com.

Arlington National Cemetery Launches Burial Database

Arlington National Cemetery has unveiled a public database of the 400,000 burials there.

Called ANC Explorer, the database is available online and as a Mo-
bile app. You can search it to lo-
cate gravesites on a map; get de-
tails including birth, death and
interment dates, and branch of
service; generate front and back
photos of a headstone or monu-
ment (where available); and get
directions to those gravesites.

Building it led to the first review,
analysis and coordination of al-
most 150 years of Arlington Cem-
etry records. The Army photo-
graphed 259,978 gravesites,
niches and markers and instituted
a rigorous process to review each
headstone photo with cemetery
records and other historical
documents. The effort grew out
of reports in 2010 of
misidentified graves and poorly
kept records at the cemetery.

Arlington National Cemetery was
established during the Civil War
on the grounds of Arlington
House, once the estate of the fam-

news, continued

ily of Martha Custis Lee, wife of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Veterans and family members from the Civil War and every subsequent US war are buried on its 624 acres.

The first soldier buried there is Pvt. William Henry Christman of Pennsylvania, on May 13, 1864.

It can be accessed through the cemetery's website: www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

When a name is called up, a viewer can see when the person was buried and the dates of their birth and death. Photos of the front and back of the headstone can also be viewed. Monuments and memorials that commemorate the service of specific military units are also included in the database.

(Editor's note: I tried it out with my dad's information and it worked!)

Surviving Spouse SSA

Benefits

Normally, when a veteran dies the surviving spouse, starting at age 60 [50 if handicapped], is entitled to collect full monthly social security benefits based on the veterans' SSA account. This is true only if the widow(er) is not drawing another pension based on his/her prior employment (such as schoolteacher or postal worker) with an employer that had its own retirement plan under which there was no deduction for social security. However, if the widow(er) receives anything from that pension, regardless of the amount, his/her entitlement

based on the veterans SSA account will be reduced by two thirds. (Source: SSA)

Ex-POW and the *Enola Gay*

by Suzanne Simon Dietz



Robert Wyatt Granston was born December 28, 1916, in the Hamlet of Richmond Highlands, north of Seattle, Washington. After high school, he enrolled in the Navy ROTC program at the University of Washington. Following graduation Granston was chosen and commissioned into the Supply Corps of the Navy. Six months later, he volunteered for the Philippines and crossed the Pacific on board the USS *Henderson*, arriving in Manila on May 1941.

Ensign Granston's first duty assignment was at the Cavite Naval Yard as Assistant Supply Officer and subsequently a Supply and Disbursing Officer of the Receiving Station. The after duty "good life" of tennis, golf, travel, and movie queens came to an abrupt halt following the bombing of Pearl Harbor and attacks on the Navy Yard by the Japanese on December 10, 1941.

Near the end of January Granston was moved from the Section Base at Mariveles to the Island of Corregidor. Corregidor had been under fire from Japanese bombardment since the end of December. On May 6, 1942, he was in Queen's Tunnel when General Wainwright surrendered. From the first bayonet drawn by a Japanese soldier in the tunnel to Bilibid prison, Camp 3 and Camp 1, and the *Oryoku Maru* hell ship Granston endured slave labor, beatings, and inhumane conditions.

After more than three years of his captivity on August 6, 1945, lives lost in the Asian-Pacific war had reached unfathomable millions. The numbers were growing by roughly 150,000 Allied and Axis lives (substantially civilians) a week. As the battles moved closer to the main islands, the Japanese became better at fighting their enemy causing more losses. The Surgeon General had ordered almost half a million body bags for the planned initial land invasion on Kyushu.

Granston and the other prisoners of war held faced certain execution if the Allies invaded the main islands or sooner death due to their deteriorating physical condition. However, at 0245 hours the Silverplate B-29 bomber, the *Enola Gay*, left Tinian Island piloted by Paul W. Tibbets and navigated by Theodore "Dutch" Van Kirk to its eventual target, the T-shaped bridge in Hiroshima, with hopes to end the war.

Sixty-three years later the ex-POW moved next door to the sole surviving crewman of the *Enola Gay* whose mission Granston credits with saving his life. His poignant experience of life and death struggle to survive in prisoner of war camps and hell ships is the opening chapter of *My True Course* Dutch Van Kirk Northumberland to Hiroshima.

news, continued

Van Kirk's biography is an authentic American story of the home front, in-service, and Special Mission No. 13, the first atomic strike in history.

Robert Granston received the Navy Cross for his heroic actions and distinguished service following the bombing of the Cavite Navy Yard on December 10, 1941. In 2009, he donated the Navy Cross to the Supply Corps Museum. Granston does not believe that his actions were anything out of the ordinary and said, "There is no larger word in the English language than 'duty.' You can do no more than your duty and you should never do less."

Note: Suzanne Simon Dietz is the historian for the Aero Club of Buffalo and the Town of Porter (home of Fort Niagara), New York. She is the author of more than half a dozen historical books including Van Kirk's authorized biography, Honor Thy Fathers & Mothers Niagara Frontier's Legacy of Patriotism and Survival (includes more than a dozen accounts of American POWs held by Germany), and POWs Interned at Fort Niagara A Reference Manual. Her latest publication is Honor Thy Brothers The Fight Against Communism, a collection of veterans' stories from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.

SBP/DIC Offset

Sen. Bill Nelson has submitted an Amendment to the fiscal 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (S.3254) to repeal the DIC offset to SBP. To aid in this effort the military community can request their Senate representatives to do the right thing and fully support Sen. Nelson's amendment which would correct an important inequity faced by our military widows and our military retirees. Specifically, the Nelson amendment would repeal

the SBP/DIC offset, ending the unfair dollar-for-dollar deduction of the Defense Department Survivor Benefit Plan against the Veterans Department Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Military members and retirees have paid for SBP and have the most obvious of expectations to receive what they purchased. Surprisingly, that's not what happens. Under current law, SBP is reduced one dollar for each dollar received under DIC. In some cases survivors of retirees who die as a result of service related cause lose a majority — or all too often — the entire amount of the monthly SBP annuity purchased by the servicemember.

Medicare Premiums 2013

Medicare officials have announced the new Part B premium rates for 2013 - and they were slightly lower across the board than what many had predicted. The basic monthly premium for Part B will jump 5% in 2013. The increase - which previously had been projected at 9% translates to a \$5 monthly increase for single Medicare-eligibles with incomes below \$85,000 (\$170,000 for married couples). For those with higher incomes, the monthly Part B increase will range from \$7 to \$16 (see chart below). By law, the premium must cover 25 percent of Medicare's expenses for the basic category, and cover 35% to 80% of expenses for higher-income groups.

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

On Nov. 15th, Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) announced she will step down as chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) to seek the chairmanship of the Senate Budget Committee in the 113th Congress, filling a vacancy created by the retirement

of current chairman Sen. Kent Conrad, (D-ND). Her move, which will receive almost certain approval from her fellow Senate Democrats, provides an opportunity for Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-VT), an independent who caucuses with and receives committee assignments from Democrats, to become the new chairman of the veterans' committee. Murray said she would remain a member of the veterans' committee and stay active on it.

Vet Drivers License

It can be difficult for military veterans to prove they served in the military. The only federally issued military ID cards are military retiree ID cards, veterans ID cards issued by the VA for eligible veterans, and other veterans on a limited basis. Veterans who are ineligible for one of these ID cards are often left without an official ID card that proves they served in the military. Some veterans get around this by carrying around a copy of their DD form 214, but this presents a several issues: it is not a photo ID, so many places won't accept it, it is bulky and difficult to carry in one's wallet, and it has the veteran's Social Security number on it, which presents an identity theft risk if it is stolen. Thankfully, many states are taking notice of this and are including a designation on drivers licenses and state issued ID cards. Some states, such as Virginia, are issuing a separate photo ID that identifies veterans.

At present 27 states offer a military service or veterans designation on drivers licenses and their state issued ID cards. Some of the 27 states recently passed legislation and haven't yet

news, continued

begun issuing the veterans IDs at the state or county level. These cards can often be used for military and veterans discounts, or to prove you served in the military. However, it's important to note that these ID cards are not official military ID cards in the sense that they will allow you to enter a military post or receive military benefits. You will need to show your DD Form 214 or other official military documents to receive military benefits. Legislation to add a military service designation on state issued ID cards is currently pending in 13 states, and 10 states currently don't have any pending legislation to add a military service or veterans designation to drivers licenses (12 if you count Washington D.C among those without pending legislation).

Original American Heroes: Creek Nation Honors POWs

by Alice A. Booher



The two remaining former POWs from the proud Creek Nation were present, front and center, as witnesses to the recent dedication of a magnificent POW statue at the Tribal Veterans' Building in



Okmulgee, OK. Eighteen members of the Muscogee Creek Nation were POWs and all are listed on the new memorial. The POW survivors are Vernon Wright, who was held for 20 months by the Chinese in North Korea after his plane was shot down; and Philip W. Coon, who was captured and forced on the Bataan Death March.

Coon was raised in Okemah, part of the Alligator Clan of the Nuyaka Tribal Town. The current tribal Chief George Tiger referred to both men as national treasures. Said Coon, "we ran out of food, ammunition and men, but we didn't run out of prayer". And noting the tribal presence at the dedication, Wright observed, "the way these people love their people, you know, it's something you don't see very often". Both remembered their Creek brothers who died in captivity: three POWs from the Creek nation died in camp and one died when a POW transport ship sank in WWII; in North Korea, three died in captivity. In the latter case, to date the Koreans have been uncooperative in recovering their remains so that they can be brought home.

Both men recalled other Native Americans of other tribes with

whom they were POWs, like Coon's friend Jacob Cornsilk, a Cherokee from North Carolina who died of malaria. Coon, and some of his family (including his wife Helen, with whom he celebrated a 65th wedding anniversary in December 2012), traveled to the Philippines 10 years ago to pay tribute to the fallen, and he was able to visit the grave of his friend Cornsilk.

Coon is proud to honor fellow veterans and when able, travels to do so. He and other OK veterans made the Honor Flight Oklahoma in May 2011 when it visited the WWII Memorial in Washington. For Coon, born May 28, 1919, Memorial Day 2011 was also a birthday party; he is one of the two oldest members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, sharing the honor with Ann Holder, [a Euchee-Cherokee mother of 8, grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of 10], who served as a WAC in WWII. Remarkably, Holder, Coon and Coon's wife Helen all attended Haskell Indian School as kids.

PICS: Philip W. Coon, Bataan Death March Survivor; Okmulgee, OK POW Statue

Members' forum



Sirs:

Are you aware that the US Naval Academy removed the "Yankee Station" symbol from the Navy Marine Corps Memorial Stadium Battles Lists that are displayed around the sides of the stands? That symbol of course stood for all the Naval and Marine Air combat casualties including POWS MIAS KIAS and WIAS., in the Air War in S.E Asia.

I don't know what criteria the Committee used by they kept Bosnia, Kosovo, The Cuban Missile Crisis [1 US casualty] etc. [see attached lists of previous and current battles.] The Memorial Stadium was meant to honor Navy, Marine Corps losses but especially USNA grads casualties.

The Yankee Station was a proud moniker symbolizing the carrier position at sea for launching combat sorties over a 9 year period, day and night 24 hours a day. We were called "Yankee Air Pirates" and "Gulf of Tonkin Yacht Club" pilots in defiance of Jane Fonda et al. That war was difficult enough to fight with little public support but to make it worse now by removing that name from the Academy Stadium is the limit.

I have written The USNA Superintendent and advise your members to do likewise:
VADM M.H. Miller USN .,
Superintendent USNA,
121 Blake Rd.,
Annapolis, MD. 21402.

Tom OConnor USNA '67
287 combat missions '70-'72

Dear Cheryl,

I have been alerted by Kim Guise, curator of the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, LA that the museum is featuring an exhibit "Guests of the

Third Reich: American POWs in Europe", which started in Nov. 2012 and continuing until July of 2013. The exhibit also is being shown on the museum's website:
www.nationalww2museum.org.

It turns out my old WWI French Army jacket, worn as a POW on a work detail in Germany until my release on April 15, 1945 is a part of that "Liberation" exhibit.

The US Army combat jacket I wore as a member of the 103rd Inf. Div. in action in the Vosges Mountains of France before my capture on Dec. 2, 1944, was replaced by the Germans and I was given the old French Army gear...a couple of weeks later I understand US Army uniforms were worn by the Gerries on roadblocks against the Americans during the Battle of the Bulge...I surmise this is what happened to my US combat jacket!

It is likely that other POW artifacts, in addition to mine, are being included in this exhibit, and I thought you may want to mention in your publication where those interested may observe these on the website or see them if they visit New Orleans.

Enjoy reading each issue of the Bulletin.

Sincerely, Harry Nixon
231 Veda Mae Drive
San Antonio, TX 78216

Greetings

As the National President of the Silver Star Families of America, I wanted to tell you how honored we were to be able to present one of your members a Silver Star Service Banner. (Jefferson City MO).

Jeremy Amick, our PAO, and a key member of our staff, presented the Banner and had nothing but good things to say about the American Ex-Prisoner of War organization.

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.

We work 7 days a week 12 hours a day to fulfill our mission of Remembering, Honoring and

assisting the wounded, ill, injured and dying of our Armed Forces from all wars. We try to treat them all like our own children, and in many situations, that is the case.

The history of the Silver Star Service Banner goes back to 1918 and the American War Mothers who used the blue banner for those serving, the silver banner for those wounded or invalidated, and gold for those lost in battle. The practice of displaying a silver banner fell into disuse until we revived it in 2004. All 50 states and more than 3000 cities and counties across the United States have issued proclamations approving the Silver Star Service Banner and declaring May 1st Silver Star Service Banner Day. The United States House of Representatives and the Senate followed.

We have several programs one of which is issuing Silver Star Service Banners to our wounded and to which every member of your organization would be entitled due to your status as an ex prisoner of war. You can fill out an application for a Service Banner here: <http://www.silverstarfamilies.org/RequestSSBanner.html>

We have a program to feed our homeless veterans, a program directed by our Chaplain who distributes Prayer Blankets to our hospice veterans, a program to distribute donated I-Pods to our spinal cord injured, a letter writing team, etc. We also advocate for veterans courts, state issued veterans marked drivers licenses, testify before congress and sit on the V.A. volunteer Services Advisory Board.

If we can assist you in anyway, please don't hesitate to contact us. God bless

Steve Newton
The Silver Star Families of America
525 Cave Hollow Rd.
Clever, MO. 65631
www.silverstarfamilies.org

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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 issue.

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

Please circle one category:

Individual

Chapter

State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Please make checks payable to
American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding
Mail contributions to:
National Headquarters
American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010

contributions



Please send donations to:
National Headquarters, 3201 East
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,
Arlington, TX 76010.

Checks must be made payable to
AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners
of War You can also make a
donation with a credit card
(MasterCard or Visa). Just call 817-
649-2979. Thank you!

GENERAL FUND

In honor of PNC Carroll Bogard,
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Walz

In memory of Anthony
DeBenedictus, by The Kepples
In memory of Capt Thomas
Comi, by Herman Lodinger
In memory of Ellen Baum, by
Inland Empire Chapter
In memory of Herb Kohnke, by
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Krautkremer, by Bob & Jan
Knobel

In memory of Sophia Scepaniak,
by the Central Minnesota
Chapter

In memory of W.J. Stephenson,
by Jean Porter, sister

BULLETIN

Gladys Rask, Woodbridge NJ

LEGISLATIVE FUND

In memory of Ellsworth Keys,
by the Department of Maryland

MEDSEARCH

In memory of Casper Vecchione,
by the Department of Maryland

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

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In memory of Arthur Linrud, by
Adela Linrud

In memory of Chester Przybysz,
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In memory of Co E, 115 Inf, D-
day veterans, by John Trzasko,
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In memory of Harrison Burney,
by Mrs. Harrison Burney

In memory of Rollin
Krautkremer, by Millie
Krautkremer

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

An important way you can help
ensure that the American Ex-Pris-
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returning POWs, their families
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your will or living trust.

It's very simple to make a be-
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3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,
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\$_____ or _____percent of the
rest, residue and remainder of
my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your
time to help.



You know you're in Texas when...

*You no longer associate bridges with
water.*

*You can say 110 degrees without
fainting.*

*You eat hot chilies to cool your
mouth off.*

You can make instant sun tea.

*The temperature drops below 95
and you feel a bit chilly.*

*You discover that in July it takes
only two fingers to drive your car.*

*You discover that you can get a sun-
burn through your car window.*

*You know the best parking place is
determined by shade instead of
distance...and more!*

***Come see! National
Convention June 26-29,
2013***

**Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2013**

new members

National Headquarters
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Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979
Marsha.Coke@axpow.org



New Members "Welcome Home"



Samuel Mastrogiacomo
Joan
Edgewater, FL
8AF
German Occupied island off
Denmark

Sharon Lee Fertig
Buffalo, MN
Daughter of Raynold Winter, ETO

Robert M Saurin
Barbara B
Mesa, AZ
Son of Robert W Saurin, ETO



Certificate of Captivity

Prisoner of War Certificate of Captivity

Name
Serial Number
Branch of Service
Unit when captured
Prisoner of War #
Camp names & locations

Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½" x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To receive this certificate from AXPOW, please order from National Headquarters. If you are ordering at Convention, you can place your order in the Merchandise Room. We will need your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations. You can call 817-649-2979 or email: axpow76010@yahoo.com. You may include a picture with your order.

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2013
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American Ex-Prisoners of War
Arlington, Texas



taps



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

ARNEY, Athel V., 88, of Sun City West, AZ and member of the Agua Fria Chapter AXPOW passed away on November 12, 2012. He served in the ETO, 15th Wing, 97th BG, After capture, he was held in Luft 4 & 11B from 9/13/44 to 5/2/45. He is survived by his wife, Nona Mae.

BROWDER, Jack L., 88, of Tyler, formerly of Lubbock, TX passed away December 6, 2012. During WWII, he served with the 327th BS, 92nd BG. He was shot down, captured and held for more than 1 year. Jack was a member of AX-POW. He leaves his loving extended family.

COOK, Julia Loris, long-time member of the Tulsa OK Chapter, AXPOW died Oct. 15, 2012. She was the widow of ex-POW Harlan. Survivors include 2 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-granddaughter and 2 sisters.

DONOVAN, Lawrence E., of Pittsburgh, PA passed away Oct. 31, 2012 at the age of 82. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Pittsburgh Chapter. While serving in the Army (25th Inf. Div., 65th Combat Eng.) in Korea, he was captured and held in Camp 5 for 33 months. He is survived by his loving wife of 55 years, Eleanor.

DuBOIS, Albert J., of Webster WI, died in August, 2012. He served with Co A 192nd Tank Bn and was held in Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Camp 17 and others. He is survived by his wife, Susan.

ESTES, Oliver Coleman, age 92, passed away Thursday, May 24, 2012. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and was a POW in Germany until liberated at the end of the war. Oliver was a mem-

ber of the Dept. of Missouri. He is survived by his wife, Sue Estes.

FONTAINE, George C., 91, of Falmouth, MA passed away September 28, 2012. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 379th BG, 525th BS as a radio operator. He was shot down over Beauvais, France, captured and held a POW in Stalag Luft 6, East Prussia for the remainder of the war. He leaves his wife Joan, 1 daughter, 1 stepdaughter and 1 granddaughter.

FRANK, Wencel A., of North Olmsted, OH died Nov. 28, 2011 at the age of 97. During WWII, he served in the Fifth Army. He was captured in Italy with the survivors of his company - B338, and held in Stalag VIIA until liberation. Wencel was a member of the Barbed Wire Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 73 years, Helen, 1 son, 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

GLICK, Irving H., of Glendale, WI passed away Nov. 16, 2012. He was the 88th American shot down in Germany; he was held in Stalag Luft III where he helped with the "Great Escape" by putting dirt in his trousers and pulling on the suspenders. His beloved wife of 63 years, Janice, predeceased him. He is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, extended family and friends. Irving was a member of the Barbed Wire Chapter, WI.

GUIDETTI, Charles G., of Ft. Lauderdale FL, died November 27, 2012. He served in the 5th Rgt, was captured and was held in various camps in Korea. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Louise.

HANUS, Gerald J., long-time member of the Milwaukee Barbed Wire Chapter, AXPOW, passed away Nov. 23, 2012 at the age of 94. He was captured while serving with the Army Air Corps, 452nd BG; he was held in Luft 1, Barth until liberation. 6 sons, 8 daughters, 17 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren survive him.

HELFB, James, of Thornville, OH died November 16. He was a member of Ohio Chapter One. He was an airman serving in the 417th BS. After capture he was a POW in Luft 4. He is survived by his son Gary, 2 grandsons and two great grandsons.

HOGAN, Mary Lou, of Longmont, CO passed away May 15, 2012. She was 91 and the widow of ex-POW Vincent. Mary Lou was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 3 daughters, 4 sons, 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

ISHEE, Rev. A.W., 88 of Laurel, MS died June 28, 2012. During WWII, he served in Co. L, 42nd Div., 232nd Inf. Bn. He was captured and held in 4B, 5A and 7A. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Norma, 3 daughters, 1 grandson and 4 great-grandchildren.

KELLEY, Luther Irwin, of Colorado Springs, CO, died in November, 2012. He served in the 8th AF and was held in Stalag 17B. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Eva.

KRAUTKREMER, Rollin A., member of the Lakes Region Chapter

taps continued...

(MN), AXPOW, passed away Oct. 26, 2012. He was captured while serving in the Army; he was held in 2A, 12A and a labor camp near Rostock. Rollie leaves his wife, Millie, 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

LaBella, Frank, of Chester, NJ, died November 13, 2012. He served with the 168th Inf., 34th Div. and was held in Italy, camps 98, 66, 59 and Stalag 2B. A member of Garden State Chapter #1, he is survived by Mary Ann Quinto LaBella.

LITTLEJOHN, George F., of Cedar Hill TX, died November 26, 2012. A member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, he served with the 449th BG. After capture, he was held in Luft 4. He is survived by his wife.

MARSH, Harold P 'Red', of Kingsport TN, died Oct. 19, 2012. A b-17 Bombardier, he was held in Stalags 7A and 17, from 2/14/45 to 4/29/45. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Anne.

MICELI, Sarah A "Sally", of Westerville, OH, widow of ex-POW Jacob [Jake] died June 24, 2012. She was 95. Survivors include her son, Jack, 2 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and a host of extended family and friends.

OVERTURF, Neil L., age 88, of North Tonawanda, NY passed away Nov. 22, 2012. He served with the 45th Inf. Div. (Thunderbirds) and was captured at Anzio Beach, Italy. He spent 14 months in a German POW camp. He leaves 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He is dearly missed.

PAINTER, Florence, 89, formerly of Home and Plumville, PA died Sept. 20, 2012. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Marion "Earl" (8th AF, POW in Stalag Luft 6). She also is survived by 6 children and many grandchildren.

PEPPER, Herbert E., of Lake City, FL died October 2, 2012. He served with the 454th Aviation Ord., 27th BG, survived the Bataan Death March and was held in O'Donnell, Bilibid, Cabanatuan and Fukuoka. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Pauline, 3 sons, 2 daughters, 1 sister, 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

PESTRAK, Chester, of Mt. Prospect, IL passed away recently. He was captured in Rimling, France while serving with the 397th Inf. Reg, Co. F and held in Bad Orb, 9A and 9B. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, 3 sons, 1 daughter and 8 grandchildren.

PHIPPS, David K., 89, of Oklahoma City, OK died Sept. 18, 2012. During WWII, he served in the Army, 60th Coast Artillery, was captured and held in Bilibid and Mukden. David leaves his loving wife of 66 years, Jewel, 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

PLESA, Frank T., 87, of Lenexa, KS passed away Nov. 29, 2012. He was taken prisoner after the bomber he was in was shot down over Germany. Frank was a member of AXPOW and the local chapter. His beloved wife of 58 years, Rose, survives him; he also leaves many extended family.

PORTER, Ruby I., of Littleton, CO passed away Oct. 20, 2012. She was the widow of ex-POW Raymond. Both were members of the Mile High Chapter and life members of AXPOW. Surviving family includes 3 daughters, 1 son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

RIVERA, Bernie, of Dixon, NM, died in November, 2012. She was the widow of Porfirio, who survived the Bataan Death March. She was a member of the Albuquerque Chapter.

RODENBAUGH, Robert Charles, 92, of Columbia, Missouri passed away Nov. 22, 2012. He served in World War II from June 1944 through November 1945 for Combat Infantry 157, Company C.. He was captured by the German SS and became a prisoner of war. He and four others tried to escape three times, and on the third try they made it. He is survived by his wife, Katherine and other family members.

ROSENTHAL, Frank D., of Naples, FL died Sept. 1, 2012. He was 88. He was captured in France in the fall of 1944 while serving with the 109th Inf., 28th Div., Co. K; he was held in Stalag 3C. Survivors include his wife Florence.

RUDOLPH, Irene H., of Denver, CO passed away Oct. 28, 2012. She was the widow of ex-POW Ray (9th AF, Stalag Luft I). Irene was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves 4 children and 8 grandchildren.

SCHENEMAN, Alma, 89, of Ft. Morgan, CO died Aug. 13, 2012. She was a member of the Northeast CO Chapter, AXPOW. Alma was the widow of Walter (80th Inf. Div., 317th Reg; held in 7A and 12A). Survivors include 3 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

SNYDER, Frank E., of Massillon, Ohio, died October 18, 2012. Frank served in the US Army and was held in Stalags 7A, 3C and 3B. A member of the North Central Ohio Chapter, he is survived by his wife of 66 years, Doris.

SPARKS, Ronald C., of Orlando, FL, died January 19, 2012. He served in the 106th Division, 423rd Anti-

taps continued...

Tank Co. After capture, he was held in Stalag 9B. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Hershel.

SPEED, Mary Lou, of Wylie, TX died Oct 10, 2012. She was the widow of Col. Worth M Speed, who died in July, 2011.

STAUDENMEIER, Louis J, of Ashland PA died June 24, 2012. A member of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, he was a B-24 Gunner in the 15th AF, 98th BG. He participated in Ploesti raids. Shot down over Hungary, he walked the Black March. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Winifred.

TEKLER, John S., of Conifer, CO passed away Sept. 30, 2012 at the age of 88. He was captured in the

Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 78th (Lightning) Division, 310th Inf. John was held in 5 different camps until he escaped and made his way to American lines. He was a member of the Mile High Chapter. Both he and his wife Vivian were life members of AXPOW. In addition to his wife of 67 years, he leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 6 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 1 sister, 1 brother and 2 stepsisters.

national chaplain



PNC Gerald Harvey

“Character counts with God”

2 Chronicles 34: 1-4 “Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols, and cast images. Under his direction the altars of the Baals were torn down; he cut to pieces the incense altars that were above them, and smashed the Asherah poles, the idols and the images. These he broke to pieces and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them.”

Young King Josiah sought to reverse the negative corrupt trend of his father and grandfather, who both encouraged idolatry and blatant disregard for God’s Word and will. Though he was crowned

king at eight years of age and only ruled for 22 years, Josiah accomplished much because he followed the example of King David and did what was right in the Lord’s sight.

Josiah even read aloud the whole Book of the Law that was discovered in the refurbished temple, publicly committed to following it, and encouraged his people to do the same. He kept to the straight path of obedience. In our time, dedicated youth are serving the Lord around the world.

I have a granddaughter who served on a summer mission trip in Europe. Now that she has finished college, she hopes to be a missionary. I have another granddaughter who teaches English in China. I have a grandson who is a captain in the Air Force. He and his wife are missionaries by helping people on his bases. Young people are spreading the Word of God.

Let us also make a commitment in serving even at our extended age. Let us pray, “God, Enable me to walk a straight path and honor you in all I do.”

Gerald



Ronald

I sit alone beside his bed, the family has gone, goodbye’s are said. I run my fingers through soft, silver hair. I kiss his lips, he doesn’t know I’m there. Many years have come and gone since “I do’s” were said and then I was alone. Off to war he did go to defend this country we both love so. He didn’t talk much but over the years I did glean some of the facts as he told them to me. The battle was hot, the weather was cold. Worst in 50 years so I’ve been told. Our food was gone, the last shell was fired, we had no choice, we were outnumbered by far. On frozen feet we trudged through the snow, herded on boxcars pulled by a train, later strafed by our own planes. The prison camp was dreary and cold. We had one arm load of wood for the day, a few bunks for beds, others slept on hay on stone cold floors where the vermin did play.

Spring came at last, our troops set them free and now my love returns home to me. Sixty five years we’ve been together, for better, for worse, mostly better. He stirs on his bed, he’s awake at last, takes hold of my hand, hold fast, hold fast!

Hold fast we did for two more years filled with joy and suffering and not a few tears, But God called him home as I sat by his side. He’s fought his last battle, now peace that will abide.

By Hershel Bowman Sparks,
Ronald’s wife of 67 years.

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2013

Cultural Icon and Resistance Heroine

by Alice A. Booher

She would become internationally famous, but for the Johannesburg, South Africa native, born on March 28, 1917 as Sadie Rigal and Jewish, most of the world knew neither of those things. One of 7 kids of David Rigal and Gertrude Woolf Rigal, her dour father, a traveling salesman, was often away or residing in a boarding house. In an award winning documentary film copyrighted in 2004 by her son, Mark Waren, *Dancing Lessons*, Sadie recounts their impoverished life in a Jewish enclave. Her mother, who had once taught in NYC, was institutionalized for a nervous breakdown following the death of her youngest son in the 1919 flu epidemic. Decades later, Sadie would admit that she had long faulted her father, but now realized how hard it must have been.

After seeing a Johannesburg performance of the Ballet Russes at Albertsea Theater, Sadie could dream of nothing else. She began lessons from master Audrey Gross whose group included the great ballerina Anna Pavlova. Concurrently, Sadie developed friendships with more worldly folks including a Zulu South African Communist Party member, and politically aware friend, Sydney Gottlieb, both of whom admonished her to take care of herself and be sure of her beliefs.

Sadie won dancing competitions, and before graduating high school, in 1928 she asked her brother Eric, living in Pretoria, to take her once more to see her mother in the asylum. Her mother rebuffed her, telling her never to return as they lived in

two different worlds, sane and insane. Thus, at age 21, Sadie left South Africa for London and then Paris.



She became a habitu  of Paris spots such as Sylvia Beach's Rive Gauche bookstore, and studied with legendary taskmasters such as Madame Egorova. In 1939, after a taxing audition *en pointe*, her beauty and extraordinary grace became showcased at the Bal Tabarin Music Hall when costumes went from gloriously elaborate to nonexistent, and the Gestapo filled the audiences after the German occupation. In *Dancing Lessons* she describes, in animated, French accentuated English that this was the first time she had her own money to pay rent, buy food and even a few clothes.

Tabarin was filled with famous musicians, directors, comedians (Jacques Tati) and show business personalities such as Marcel Berger, ballet master. But Sadie still craved the Russian Ballet, so encouraged by her boss, Pierre Sandrini, proprietor of Tabarin, during a short earned holiday period, she and new Seattle-born friend Jacoba Vermuelen packed up for London to audition. They were accepted, and told that Sergei Diaghlev's famed Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo would be arriving in Paris in November/early December, and that they

could join then. "Things were looking up", she recalled. Meanwhile, the Tabarin world provided challenges, including a stunning production on the Garden of Eden choreographed to special works by the famous French author Colette; Sadie and her friend danced the parts of elegant brightly plumed long-legged birds.

But by Fall, war had broken out, and any Ballet Russe dreams went unfulfilled. Tabarin, whose lights, noise and excesses could not be tolerated in curfewed Paris, closed. She recalls that she had been fairly isolated from political exigencies, but there came a Jewish exodus from the city by any means possible. Many performers at Tabarin had been Jewish, herself of course included. She joined the exodus briefly to a farm outside the city, but as "foreigners" they were not welcomed so returned to Paris.

As the Germans occupied France and started for Paris, bad things began to happen to people they knew. News of atrocities was frequent and when friends and colleagues asked if she could help, she did so with alacrity. Her boss and friend Sandrini's son advised her not to tell anyone or register as a Jew, which was the new law, and noted that few besides the two of them knew she was a Jew. She wisely followed his advice.

Classified as an enemy alien [with South African and thus British Commonwealth citizenship], in November 1939, the Nazis took her (along with about 4,000 other "enemy-alien" Brits) by train to imprisonment at Caseme Vauban in Besa on, guarded by French police and Germans soldiers. Imprisonment was rough and they bribed a cop to get them a razor to shave their bodies to be rid of lice infestation. Later re-encountering many of these former fellow prisoners, Sadie recalled that she felt horribly helpless, and

began to help whenever she could.



Early in 1941 she was released to go back to Paris, but had to “sign in” daily at the police station. She slept for awhile at Tabarin, lacking a permit to be out at night; when she did get a pass, she used it to “move” others escaping. She soon met Frederic Aparcar, a handsome, talented dancer with whom she developed a dance partnership and briefly, a promantic relationship. Sadie renamed herself Florence and “Florence et Frederic” became one of the top dance teams in Europe. Concomitantly, and still hiding her Jewish heritage, she became involved in the Resistance to assist other Jews, “moving” them, securing weapons, or hiding them in her own often-changing quarters. She was clever but also lucky. A French policeman, whom she did not know, quietly sought her out to warn her that two Jewish girls, hiding in her apartment were to be seized on the word of her landlady; and on another occasion, that she was about to be arrested on a weapons charge. Some of those she helped were music hall friends like Jewish composer Maurice Lebowici, whose non-Jewish British wife, Bluebelle, she had tried to help while pregnant at Besancon prison with Sadie. [Bluebelle would become famous for hosting a review at the famous Lido for some 40 years]. Sadie escorted myriad Jews through the streets in “passing on” through a loose Resistance network to freedom. One of her most audacious assists to the Resistance involved Dr. Gilbert Doukan, a Jewish Resistance hero, escaped from Drancy and later a

French military officer during the Liberation of Paris, through a phalanx of police and soldiers to a train, disguised as his eye-catching wife.

In *Dancing Lessons*, she speaks about walking two sibling female camp escapees to security at a convent in the city. The two Jewish sisters would later seek out Sadie in NYC after seeing her poster. Asked by her young granddaughter, Xian Chiang-Waren, what she most remembers of that time, she emotionally described that across the street from the convent was an orphanage where she witnessed German troop defenestration of Jewish babies.

A unique opportunity presented itself. The Germans invited a core group of well known performers to visit 4 German POW camps, and promised that if they gave 3 performances, 500 POWs would be released. Accepting the offer with some trepidation were “Florence et Frederic”, singers Charles Trenet, Edith Piaf and Maurice Chevalier. Florence recalled that she felt “so stupid” dancing around in a fluffy dress to the tango in front of these POWs, but one of them approached her and said she was not being silly, but bringing beauty and hope to them all. She was shocked when some of the POWs offered tiny handmade gifts in thanks. Of course the promise of POW release was not fulfilled, but as the entertainers returned from the trip, Sadie carried a huge suitcase filled with hundreds of POW letters to their families. In interviews with her in 2003 and with Frederic Aparcar in 1998, both captioned the group photo of the trip, where blatantly sitting in the front of the group was the huge suitcase, contents of which would have doomed them all; it was never opened by the Germans. On the way home, they stopped in Berlin where during an allied bombing, they cheer-

fully played jazz in a bomb shelter to the supreme irritation of the Germans.

They all kept each other safe. When a German cultural officer, near the end of occupation, warned Frederic that Sadie (Florence) was about to be arrested, he quickly rented a secluded safe house where they secured many Jewish friends and fellow entertainers. They gleefully gave directions to and then followed an American tank crew that rolled up to ask which way to Paris. In 1947, Sadie was named a “privileged resident” of France for her activities during the war. The following year, “Florence et Frederic” took the act for a US tour including the Copacabana, where she fell in love with a young actor named Stanley Waren. She trained Frederic’s wife Aimee to replace her in the act and married Stanley in 1949. Frederic took the act to Las Vegas where he remained as a businessman, promoter and producer of the Dunes hotel and casino shows until his death in 1998.

With a career in television on The Ed Sullivan and Kate Smith Shows, and on Broadway, Sadie, now called Florence gave birth to their only son, Mark at the age of 42. In 1996, she returned to South Africa to visit her parents’ graves. After giving up performing, she worked as choreographer, with her husband as director, on shows in Africa, Taiwan and China. From 1978-1983, the high school dropout was professor of theater and dance at City College, leading the department for part of that time. She was a dance panelist on the NY State Council on the Arts. The remarkable heroine, Florence Waren died on July 12, 2012, at her home in Manhattan at age 95. She is survived by her husband, son and granddaughter.



**American Ex-Prisoners of War
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to honor a loved one or a former colleague
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Please feel free to make copies of this form and use when making donations.

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(rev. 02/07)



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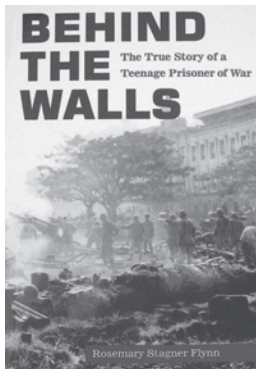
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AMAZING TRUE STORY!

Rosemary Stagner Flynn was born in Manila, Philippines. During WWII, Rosemary and her family hid in the mountains, but were eventually captured by the Japanese Army. They spent three long years in a prison camp, enduring starvation, torture. BEHIND THE WALLS tells Rosemary's incredible story including the heroic rescue by General MacArthur and US Army Troops.



"It was many years later that Rosemary Flynn was prompted to share her family's war years with her children. It is our good fortune that she chose to do so." Sascha Jansen. Review from BACEPOW: Beyond the Wire.

Please send \$20.00 (USD) for the 221 page book, which includes shipping in the United States. Send check or money order (no cash) to: FLYNN, PO BOX 1813, SANTA CLARITA, CA 91386 Make check/money orders payable to "Flynn." Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. International price is \$30.00 (includes shipping).

50/50 drawing

November, 2012
Arlington, TX

1st Place	Vera Meinhardt, WI	\$160.40
2nd Place	J.D. Griffin, NY	\$120.30
3rd Place	Abraham Corpuz, CA	\$80.20
4th Place	Robert Fortnam, NY	\$40.10

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:

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The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
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Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2013

39

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2013
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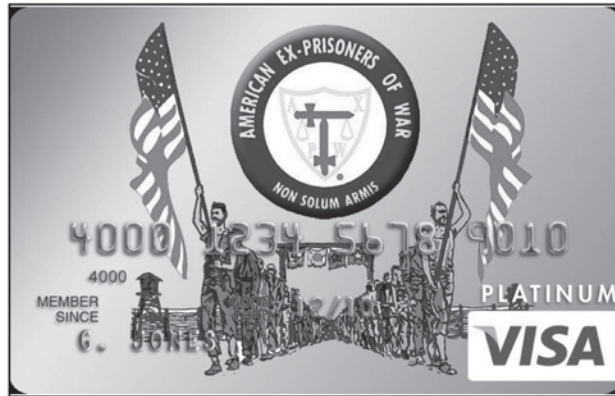
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**Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2013**

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(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



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Name _____
 Line 1 _____
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Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**

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Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) _____

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Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

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(regular only)		Vest Chainguard w/eagles	8.00	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
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