

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 71

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Number 1/2

January/February 2014



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Deadline for the Mar/April
2014 issue is Feb. 1, 2014.

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

January/February 2014

USS Pueblo (AGER-2) is an American ELINT and SIGINT Banner-class technical research ship which was boarded and captured by North Korean forces on 23 January 1968, in what is known as the Pueblo affair. The capture, less than a week after President Lyndon B. Johnson's State of the Union address began an 11-month prisoner drama for her crew. North Korea stated that Pueblo strayed into their territorial waters, but the United States maintains that the vessel was in international waters at the time of the incident. Pueblo, still held by North Korea today, officially remains a commissioned vessel of the US Navy.

Philippine Typhoon ~ How You Can Help

You should know by now that the Republic of the Philippines was hit by a devastating typhoon. At press time, we still do not have final figures on how many people have been killed, injured, or left homeless. The estimates are astounding. The circumstances in the vast affected areas are extreme and lethal. The survivors are in need of immediate relief from starvation, dehydration and exposure. If these conditions are not properly cared for, diseases will soon take their tragic toll. Officials and the media have not been able to visit the outlying areas.

The Aboitiz Foundation, the social development arm of the Aboitiz Group has set up a command center in Cebu to help in the assessment of damage in the Visayas and extend assistance to victims of super typhoon Yolanda.

The Aboitiz Foundation has a long history of philanthropic work and of providing assistance to victims of nature's calamities in the Philippines. They have sent their own teams to the affected areas to determine how to best assist the victims. You will be able to follow their progress in the link to their website and through their Facebook page.

If you wish to help the victims of this tragedy, you can make a donation at <http://ushare.unionbankph.com/abotiz>. Although the denominations are Pesos, it will be converted into dollars when your credit card is charge. The current exchange rate is, approximately, P43.35 per \$1.00. It goes up and down a few centavos everyday.

The money you spend for dinner in a restaurant can save many lives.

Visit www.abotizfoundation.org and click the "Donate" button.

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National Commander James L. Lollar

First of all, I'd like to wish all of you a belated Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. I certainly hope you had a great and safe Holiday Season.

Let's all welcome Col. David W. Eberly (USAF-ret.) as the newest member to the National Board of Directors. David was nominated and unanimously elected during the recent National Mid-Year Meeting. He was a POW during the First Gulf War and will be an excellent addition to the Board to serve as National Director for the East Central Region.

On 17 January 2014 I will be attending the formal dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony for the Andersonville National Historic Site's Travelling POW Legacy Exhibit. The ceremony will be held at the Carter Library on the campus of Georgia South Western University located in Americus, Georgia. This location will also be the first public viewing/showing for the exhibit now that all fabrication and production is completely finalized. The exhibit will be moving to various locations around the U. S. beginning in 2014, and hopefully it'll be coming to a library or museum close to where you live for your viewing and enjoyment. The ceremony is open to all POW's and

their families, so plan to attend if at all possible.

I recently wrote a letter inviting the Korean War POW's and Vietnam War POW's to once again consider joining and becoming active members of AXPOW. Declining membership is effecting most all service organizations, especially the Korean War EX-POW Association since they will be dis-banding in 2015. To enhance this request to the Korean & Vietnam era POW's, please talk to those members you personally know, and ask them to come on-board with us...a little friendly arm-twisting and persuasion is appropriate in this situation.

To increase our legacy and visibility, I ask each of you to post your biographies to our organization's web-site, which is located at: <http://www.axpow.org> The site contains valuable information to all members and historical researchers. I especially ask that each member of the Board of Directors to post your biography to allow our membership an opportunity to better know who you are, where you're from, and what you're currently doing. Many thanks to those of you who have already posted your biographies, but many, many more of you should take the time to do so. The minimal cost of \$65.00 for the posting will not only help to increase our organization's financial position, it will ensure our legacies are preserved for future generations.

To close my comments for this edition, please support your local festivities on POW Recognition Day, 9 April 2014. Also, don't forget to plan on attending our National Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Arlington, TX on 25-28 June 2014.

James L. Lollar

news from hq



Happy Holidays from everyone at National Headquarters. Hope the New Year is one that is healthy and prosperous.

We just a another successful board meeting here in Arlington. There was a lot of discussion and work was accomplished.

It's not too early to plan on attending the 2014 National Convention, June 25 - 28, at the Hilton Arlington. The hotel is being completely renovated. They will be finished in February 2014 and will be all ready and shiny-new when you arrive.

We have a trip to the President George W. Bush Library and Museum planned on Thursday, June 26. A bus has been ordered to carry you to Dallas and bring you home. Tickets have been procured. The cost is \$30 per person and is limited to the first 50 who sign up. Please check the convention registration page for more information. The library is brand new and is located on the SMU campus.

Also, there will be a joint session of NSO and MedSearch on Friday, June 27. This seminar will cover PTSD and the effects on former POWs and veterans in general. It should be an informative and helpful seminar.

Starting this year, voting will be by ballot printed in the EX-POW BULLETIN. It will be in the May/June issue and all members are eligible to vote.

We will have more information next issue. Please note that once the deadline for nominations for office has passed there will be no more nominations taken by mail or from the floor of the convention. If you want to run for office, please contact David Claypool or Ben Garrido of the Nominations committee.

Clydie, Marsha, Sally and Donna



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From Hanscom Air Force Base

A former prisoner of war was the scheduled guest speaker during the Heritage of Freedom event at the Hanscom Conference Center Oct. 24, 2013.

Air Force retired Lt. Col. Barry B. Bridger is a highly decorated veteran and survivor of six years in Vietnam’s infamous “Hanoi Hilton” prison camp.



USAF photo by Walter Santos

Bridger was flying a mission over North Vietnam when his F-4 Phantom jet was hit by a surface-to-

air missile in January 1967. The plane burst into flames and fell beneath the cloud layers. No parachutes were seen or any beeper signals heard, so he was considered missing in action.

In early 1970, the North Vietnamese acknowledged his presence and his family received their first letter from him in May 1970. Bridger was imprisoned until his release in March 1973.

Following his repatriation, Bridger requalified in jet aircraft and was assigned to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C. He served as an instructor pilot in air-to-ground combat and held positions as flight commander and assistant operations officer. Bridger spoke about his experience in prison camp and about his career in the Air Force.

His personal awards include the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star with a Valor device, Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters and Prisoner of War Medal.

The Heritage of Freedom speaker series is a free event that features speakers who discuss their experiences serving in combat or while deployed. Their presentations are followed by short question and answer periods.

From Ruth: I attended this guest speaker’s presentation at Hanscom AFB on Oct. 24th. I must admit it was the most informative, detailed account of life and death in the prison camp (Hanoi Hilton) given by the man who lived it – Lt. Col. Barry Bridger. He was a dynamic speaker, he shared graphic accounts of everyday life, torture, diet and even threw in a little humor along the way. The film he showed was exceptional. I introduced myself to him after-

ward and mentioned Paul Galanti and he said “Oh, Paul and I were in the same room together”. It was a pleasure and honor to meet such a wonderful individual; we can be proud of him and Paul, and all our ex-POWs.

COLA for 2014

Every year, most people receiving federal payments receive an increase called a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). This amount is calculated based upon statistics called the Consumer Price Index (CPI). These statistics are compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and include the costs of various goods and services. For the month, the CPI increased to 230.537. The COLA baseline for next year is 230.327. The 1.5% 2014 COLA will be the fourth-lowest COLA since the turn of the century – trailing only the zero-COLA years of 2009-10 and the 1.4% of 2002.

The 2014 COLA for military retired pay, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities, Social Security benefits, and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability and survivor benefits will be 1.5%. This change will be effective 1 December 2013 and it will first appear in the January checks, which will be paid on 31 December 2013.

But there are two categories of military retirees who won’t receive a 1.5% COLA.

Some servicemembers who retired during calendar year 2013 will receive a somewhat smaller, partial COLA for this year only, because they weren’t in retired status for the full year.

REDUX Retirees: Servicemembers who entered service on or after Aug. 1, 1986 and who elected to accept a \$30,000 career retention bonus at the 15-years-of-service point agreed to accept reduced retired pay and COLAs as a trade-off for the bonus.

Low Vision Rehabilitation

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) recognizes the importance of providing blind and low vision rehabilitation care to Veterans. VHA estimates that there are almost one million severely visually impaired Veterans.

VHA Optometry Service offers a wide variety of services along the continuum of visual impairment ranging from primary eye and low vision care to Visual Impairment Center to Optimize Remaining Sight (VICTORS) programs and Blind Rehabilitation Centers (BRCs). Optometrists strive to help visually impaired Veterans maintain functionality and independence by addressing visual problems, determining goals, and evaluating specialized devices to aid Veterans in achieving those goals.

Vision loss can have a great impact on a person's ability to perform routine activities of daily living. Functional losses may include decreased ability to read or recognize faces, problems with paying bills, writing checks and taking care of personal finances, difficulty with watching television, cooking, and participating in hobbies or avocational activities. Vision loss can have a profound effect on mobility, with the loss of ability to drive, or worse, the loss of safe ambulation. A significant problem for elderly Veterans may be the inability to self-medicate because of the inability to read the labels on medicine bottles.

Optometrists evaluate decreased distance vision, decreased near vision, central vision loss, peripheral vision loss, reduced contrast sensitivity, and problems with photophobia, glare, and lighting. A variety of low vision devices may be prescribed for the visually impaired Veteran, including specialized lens designs and

prescriptions, illuminated and non-illuminated stand, pocket and hand held magnifiers, prismatic eyeglasses, telescopes, special lighting, tints and filters, non-optical devices, and electronic devices such as Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTVs) and head-mounted displays.

VHA Optometry Service strives to contribute to the care of visually impaired Veterans through advanced training of clinicians in low vision rehabilitation in established Optometry Residency Programs. Many VA optometrists are actively involved in research pertaining to vision loss and vision rehabilitation, and some are renowned national leaders and educators in the field of low vision rehabilitation.

History of Blind Rehabilitation Service

For more than five decades, the leadership, programs, and principles established within VA Blind Rehabilitation have contributed significantly to raising the level of quality services for the blind in the United States and abroad. It has been through the VA's pioneering and sustained efforts in research, education, and training that many innovative advances have been realized.

Much of the methodology currently being utilized in the field of blind rehabilitation can be directly traced to the experiences of Russ Williams as he learned to cope with his own traumatic loss of sight and as he attempted to utilize the assistive techniques being taught to him by other individuals. An immense amount of credit should also be given to the early pioneers at Hines, who further refined the techniques taught to them by Williams, and who developed a sequential learning experience built on little blocks of success until the patient ultimately achieved his established goals.

The Hines experience created an atmosphere of respect for what blind people could do. It respect earned from outside observers watching the blinded Veterans perform newly learned skills. It was a respect from new patients beginning their BRC training program toward the seasoned patients demonstrating their newly learned skills. Finally, it was an internal respect acquired by the individual patient, himself, as he began to accomplish tasks that he never dreamed were attainable.

To their credit, the Hines Blind Rehabilitation staff was largely responsible for instilling this respect as they, themselves, were the true believers. They believed in their techniques and teaching methods. They maintained high expectations for those who participated in the rehabilitation program. They firmly believed that the blinded veteran could successfully be reintegrated into the family unit and the community at large. Not only did the Hines staff convey this belief to their patients but, ultimately, they would pass this conviction on to the graduate school programs and the future generation of blind rehabilitation specialists.

Blind Rehabilitation Services (BRS)

The Blind Rehabilitation Programs:

Support blind and low vision Veterans and active duty Servicemembers in regaining their independence and quality of life to enable their successful integration into family and community life.

Support family and significant others to better understand visual impairment and foster the provision of appropriate support, to assist in en-

medsearch cont'd...

hancing home environments and to reduce caregiver burden.

Vision

Blind Rehabilitation Service will provide high quality care in a timely and appropriate manner enabling blinded Veterans to acquire the skills and capabilities necessary for the development of personal independence and emotional stability.

"A Blind Center is where faith is strongest that blind people deserve hope, respect and freedom. These are accorded first, followed by the means of achieving them. Our civilization permits wholesome living when blind and here one learns how."

Russell C. Williams

First Chief, VA Hines Blind Rehabilitation Center

Rebuilding Lives Through Excellence in Rehabilitation

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides blind and vision rehabilitation programs to eligible Veterans and active duty Servicemembers who are visually impaired. Veterans Health Administration is the first national healthcare system to completely and seamlessly integrate rehabilitation services for patients with visual impairments into its health benefits. This ensures that patients receive the finest medical and rehabilitation care, as well as cutting-edge assistive technology.

There are approximately 157,000 Veterans in the United States who are legally blind, and more than one million Veterans who have low vision that causes a loss of ability to perform necessary daily activities. Those figures are expected to increase in the years ahead as more Veterans from the Korean and Vietnam conflict eras develop vision loss from age-related diseases such as macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.

Beginning in 2008, the VA implemented a progressive plan to expand vision and blind rehabilitation to Veterans and eligible active duty Servicemembers with visual impairments, ranging from earliest vision loss to total blindness. New programs in BRS provide opportunities to keep those with early vision loss active and integrated in their families and communities.

Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Specialist (BROS)

An outpatient training program that employs a multi-skilled and experienced blind rehabilitation instructor who teaches skills in the Veterans home environment and/or local Veterans Affairs medical center. The BROS instructor has advanced technical knowledge and competencies in least two of the following disciplines at the journeyman level: orientation and mobility; living skills; manual skills and visual skills. The BROS has been cross-trained to acquire broadly based knowledge in each of the BRC disciplines including computer access training.

Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinators

The Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinators are case managers who have responsibility for the coordination of services for severely disabled visually impaired Veterans and active duty Servicemembers. VIST coordinator duties include providing and/or arranging the provision of appropriate treatment in order to enhance functioning such as making referrals to Blind Rehabilitation Centers, Blind Rehabilitation Outpatient Services, VICTORS, VISOR, and low vision clinics. Other VIST coordinator duties include identifying newly identified individuals who have severely disabling visual impairment, providing counseling, problem resolution, arranging a review of benefits and needed services, and conducting educational and outreach programs relating to VIST and blindness.

Veterans and eligible active duty Servicemembers should contact the

VIST Coordinator in the VA facility nearest their home or by contacting the Blind Rehabilitation Service Program office at 202-461-7317.

Visual Impairment Centers to Optimize Remaining Sight (VICTORS) Program

The Visual Impairment Center to Optimize Remaining Sight (VICTORS) concept was developed to complement existing inpatient Blind Rehabilitation Centers (BRCs) to care for Veterans with significant visual impairment (20/70 to 20/200 or worse visual acuity and/or significant visual field loss). The interdisciplinary VICTORS outpatient program represents a unique team approach to vision rehabilitation using the disciplines of optometry, ophthalmology, social work, psychology and low vision therapists. VICTORS provides rehabilitation through definitive medical diagnosis, functional vision evaluation, prescribing and training in use of low vision aids, counseling and follow-up.

There are currently 3 VICTORS programs:

Palo Alto, CA

Northport, New York

Lake City, Florida

Blind Rehabilitation Services Outpatient Clinics

The VA Blind Rehabilitation Service model of care encompasses an array of rehabilitative services, extending from the patient's home to the local VA care facility, and to regional low vision clinics and lodger and inpatient training programs. Blind rehabilitation services may be provided through a variety of programs:

Intermediate and Advanced Low Vision Clinics

When basic low-vision services available at VA eye clinics are no longer sufficient for veterans with low vision, intermediate and advanced low vision clinics provide clinical examinations, a full spectrum of vision-enhancing devices, and specialized training in visual perceptual and vi-

medsearch cont'd...

sual motor skills. Eye care specialists and Blind Rehabilitation Specialists work together in interdisciplinary teams to assure that Veterans and active duty Service Members with low vision are provided with technology and techniques to enhance their remaining sight and facilitate their independence.

Each patient attending the program receives a comprehensive eye examination by a low vision eye care specialist, and a thorough visual skills assessment.

The Intermediate Low Vision Clinics focus on effective use of remaining vision through the development and use of visual motor and visual perceptual skills. Assessment and instruction with special optical and electronic devices is provided. Ergonomic equipment such as special lighting and positioning devices are provided to assist Veterans in using vision effectively. Therapy may employ the use of visual and ergonomic equipment and new visual skills to address routine daily tasks such as reading, writing, managing medications, cooking, locating and reading signs.

In the Advanced Low Vision Clinics, patients are also provided with orientation and mobility training. Principles of independent travel are taught using the long white cane, when appropriate, to enhance the user's safety and independence. Maximum use of any remaining vision to assist travel is evaluated, and in many cases low vision devices are provided and made an integral part of mobility training. Sensory training classes teach the Veteran how to more effectively use remaining senses, particularly hearing, as an aid in travel. In addition, exercises in mental mapping serve to enhance the Veteran's orientation while traveling through different kinds of environments. Orientation and mobility instruction in relatively simple routes to increasingly complex routes builds confidence in the ability to travel independently.

Vision Impairment Services in Outpatient Rehabilitation (VISOR) Programs These programs provide short-term (about 2 weeks) blind and vision rehabilitation. They provide comfortable overnight accommodations for Veterans and active duty Service Members who are visually impaired and require lodging. Those who attend VISOR must be able to perform basic activities of daily living independently, including the ability to self-medicate.

In addition to the low vision and orientation and mobility services already described, VISOR also provides training in communication, activities of daily living and computer use.

Communication instruction is designed to enhance and restore abilities in written and spoken communication. Strategies and tools for communication are offered, such as typing, handwriting, telling time, management of financial records, Braille, recording devices and other electronic equipment. These skills help the Veteran to maintain effective communication with others, and keep up with current events, correspondence and personal files.

Patients learn strategies to accomplish tasks ranging from routine (e.g., telling time, making a cup of coffee) to complex activities (e.g., arranging an entire wardrobe, shopping, kitchen organization, preparing complete meals). The emphasis is on learning by doing; techniques and methods are taught and then integrated into the individual's daily routine. By the completion of the program the Veterans should be capable of handling daily living tasks with complete or greatly enhanced independence.

The computer equipment issued by VA is state-of-the-art technology with all necessary peripherals and accessible hardware/software to meet the patient's identified needs. Computer training may include an adaptive needs assessment, recommendation of appropriate computer equipment, training on recommended equipment, issuance of equipment upon suc-

cessful completion of training, and follow-up technical support as required. Individualized training may further include instruction on accessible hardware/software, computer literacy, familiarization to computer keyboard, fundamentals of disk operating systems and fundamentals of word processing, internet access and email.

Blind Rehabilitation Centers

The Blind Rehabilitation Centers (BRC) are residential inpatient programs that provide comprehensive adjustment to blindness training and serve as a resource to a geographic area usually comprised of several states. BRCs offer a variety of skill courses designed to help blinded Veterans achieve a realistic level of independence. These skill areas include:

- § Orientation and mobility
- § Communication skills
- § Activities of daily living
- § Manual skills
- § Visual skills
- § Computer access training
- § Social/recreational activities

The Veteran is also assisted in making emotional and behavioral adjustments to blindness through individual counseling sessions and group therapy meetings.

Centers:

Central Blind Rehabilitation Center

Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital
Hines, IL

Western Blind Rehabilitation Center

3801 Miranda Ave.
Palo Alto, CA

Eastern Blind Rehabilitation Center

VA Connecticut Healthcare System
West Haven, CT

American Lake Blind Rehabilitation Center

VA Puget Sound Healthcare System
Tacoma, WA 98493

Waco Blind Rehabilitation Center

Central Texas Veterans Healthcare System

4800 Memorial Drive

Waco, TX 76711

Southeastern Blind Rehabilitation Center

Birmingham VA Medical Center

Birmingham, AL 35233

Puerto Rico Blind Rehabilitation Center

VA Caribbean Healthcare System

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San Juan, PR 00921-3201

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Tucson, AZ 85723

Augusta Blind Rehabilitation Center

Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center

Center

Augusta, GA 30904

West Palm Beach Blind Rehabilitation Center

West Palm Beach VA Medical Center

Center

West Palm Beach, FL 33410

Long Beach Blind Rehabilitation Center

Long Beach Healthcare System

5901 E. 7th Street

Long Beach, CA

Biloxi Blind Rehabilitation Center

VA Gulf Coast Healthcare System

400 Veterans Ave

Biloxi, MS 39531

Louis Stokes Cleveland Blind Rehabilitation Center

16701 East Boulevard

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Possible help in locating POW records

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shows location of 76 camps

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Map of Location of Japanese POW Camps

21" x 32" with camps featured in red

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AXPOW, 3201 East Pioneer Pkwy., #40, Arlington, TX 76010

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City, State, Zip

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andersonville



Andersonville NHS
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Andersonville, GA 31711
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Brad Bennett, Superintendent
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POW Traveling Exhibit Debuts!

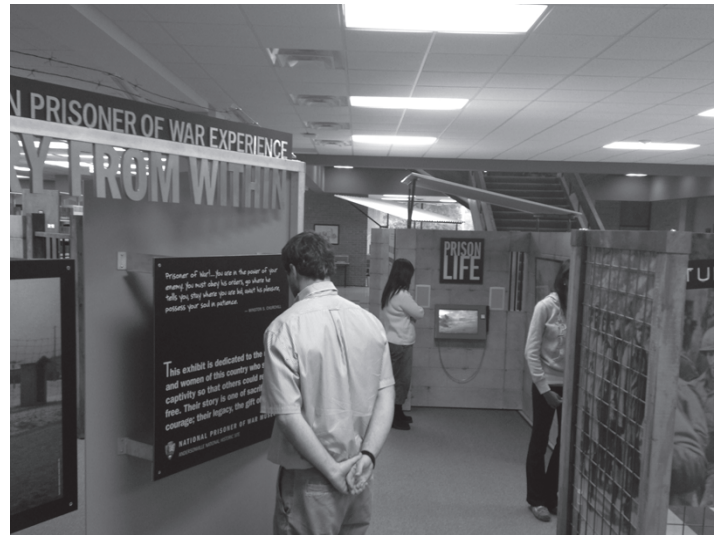
by Alan Marsh, Chief of Resource Management, Andersonville NHS

The long-anticipated traveling exhibit ***Victory From Within: The American Prisoner of War Experience*** opened November 9, 2013 at Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia. The exhibit details the prisoner of war experience through the use of text, photographs, oral history interviews and items from the Andersonville museum collection. The exhibit will be housed on campus at the James Earl Carter Library through the end of January 2014. Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia will display the exhibit from February to July of 2014.



The idea of a prisoner of war traveling exhibit was first conceived by Fred Sanchez, former Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management of Andersonville NHS and was supported by former Superintendent Fred Boyles. Although the two agreed an exhibit would be useful, the idea gained momentum when Vietnam War veteran Robert Blackwell approached the two with a similar idea. In 2009 Brad Bennett arrived at Andersonville as superintendent and assured the POW community that the project would move forward with continued support of the National Park Service.

The American Ex-Prisoners of War (AXPOW) organization and the Friends of Andersonville embraced the project and agreed to financially support the effort. Contributions by the Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation, the Korean War Ex-POW Association, and many members of the AXPOW – led by the tireless efforts of former prisoner of war Ed Dement – raised public awareness and tens of thousands of dollars to support exhibit production. Due to these efforts, the National Park Service was able to work through its interpretive media center to have the exhibit designed by Museum Design Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts. After the design phase, work to physically create the exhibit fell to Exhibitology of Paterson, New Jersey. Andersonville NHS Chief of Interpretation and Education Eric Leonard oversaw the fabrication process, including the final inspection in September, 2013. Years of effort culminated in the final exhibit opening to the public in November 2013. The 1,200 square foot exhibit is based on the thematic organization of the National Prisoner of War Museum and includes sections on Cap-



ture, Prison Life, Those Who Wait, and Freedom.

The National Park Service also created a companion middle school and high school educational curriculum in conjunction with the exhibit. Educators can access, download, and print the curriculum from the Andersonville website: <http://www.nps.gov/ande/forteachers/classrooms/curriculum-vfw.htm> Although Georgia is the first stop for *Victory From Within*, Andersonville plans for the exhibit to travel the nation and reach people who would otherwise be unable to visit the National Prisoner of War Museum. AXPOW members are encouraged to suggest future venues to the park. For display requirements, and further information, please contact Alan Marsh via email at Michael_Marsh@nps.gov or by phone at (229) 924-0343 x115.

“This traveling exhibit is really the continuing legacy of prisoners of war and is a testament to the belief that these stories should never be forgotten,” said Brad Bennett, Superintendent of Andersonville National Historic Site.

Photos: Andersonville employees James Taylor [L] and Julius Lumpkin [R] work with Georgia Southwestern staff to setup exhibit. Visitors examine exhibit at James Earl Carter Library.

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2014

namPOW news



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Operation Homecoming

Starting in February 12, 1973, Vietnam POWs began to be released in large quantities. After more than 10 years of war fighting, the end was in sight. The peace talks had been basically a sham since they started in 1968. The Vietnamese had no real desire for peace. They were using the time to rebuild their arms and raise another generation of cannon fodder. It wasn't until President Nixon laid the B-52s on North Vietnam that the North Vietnamese begin to talk turkey.

In October 1972 it seemed that the peace talks might bear fruition however the Vietnamese walked out. All during 1972 bombing had restarted in North Vietnam but it was the same small tactical strikes seen in Vietnam since 1965. The Vietnamese had learned how to survive under these small strikes. The Christmas bombing lasted for 10 days over Christmas 1972 and had a devastating effect on North Vietnam. Many in the United States were afraid of another 10 years of war but the POWs in the North Vietnamese POW prisons were cheering knowing (and having known for many years) that this is what it would take to get

North Vietnam to end the war.

We had known that the end to the war was very close. The bombing was quite heavy in 1972 - there was much flak, much yelling and screaming from the propaganda radio station and yet our treatment got better. We knew that the Vietnamese were hurting and that their own people didn't have much food and yet they were giving us Chinese canned pork and Russian sardines with the rice supplement. This was the opposite of what happened for the rest of the war.

Several hundred of the POWs had been moved to a camp near the Chinese border early in 1972. All of a sudden we were moved back to Hanoi and broad daylight and no blindfolds. We knew the something big was up. When we arrived in Hanoi, we were put into rooms based upon shutdown date. We were also allowed to mingle in the courtyard which had never been done before during our captivity for some of us nearly 8 years. Some of the POWs saw American C-130 Hercules aircraft flying around the camp. This was unheard of the North Vietnam were such a large aircraft would've been instantly shot down only a few months before. It was obvious something big was happening.

Then one night the Vietnamese propaganda radio went crazy. It sounds exactly like a propaganda radio in January 1968 at the start of the Tet Offensive. We watched with some amusement as a Vietnamese climbed a very tall radio tower next-door and put a huge North Vietnamese flag for all to see - upside down. Since flying a national flag upside down is an international sign of distress we thought that was pretty funny.

Col. John Flynn our senior officer for all the camps put out the word that we are not to show any emotion when anything was happening because we did not want the Vietnamese to use it for propaganda. Sure enough, within days the camp commander called everyone out in the courtyard. We assembled a military formation stood at attention with perfectly

straight faces and no emotion while the interpreter read the accords signed in Paris on January 26, 1973. The Paris Agreement said we were to be released in three groups - first would be the sick and wounded and the rest in order of shoot down starting in two weeks from the time we heard the message.

And so it happened!

The night before release (February 11, 1973), each of the first group was issued some Czechoslovakian shirts trousers and a jacket and also a small overnight bag. We also got shoes for the first time for most of us for many many years.

I guess it was true - at last we were going home! The first group left Hanoi on February 12, 1973. Many of us saw this C-141 aircraft for the first time. As much as we all liked airplanes, the C-141 was developed, became the workhorse of the war and flew many missions without our knowing what it even looked like! The first C-141 that came to get us became known as the Hanoi Taxi, was kept in its 1973 paint style and became a flying museum before eventually being enshrined at the USAF Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton. Vietnam POWs attending our annual convention there in 2007 were treated to the last flight.

It was an unforgettable experience and remains as clear in old memories today as it was in 1973. CAPT Jeremiah Denton, senior American off the first airplane in the Philippines spoke for all of us when he stepped up to the microphone and said: "We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander-in-Chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America."

Jerry Denton became an Admiral, a U.S. Senator from Alabama and accomplished much after having incarcerated for such a long time. But his simple remarks still sound great to us after all the years. Indeed. God Bless America 41 years later.

legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr
Chairman

The political landscape in Washington continues to be ever changing with proposed legislation that advocates for the veteran as well as Bills which threaten or erode the benefits earned by our veterans. We continue to encourage our members to play an active role by contacting your Congressional member so your voice is heard. Our Bulletin will continue to highlight some key proposed Bills.

Please refer to the last bulletin for further details; however chained CPI

2013-2014 Legislative
Committee
PNC Charles Susino, Jr.
ND Charles Anthony Susino
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for cost of living adjustments is still under consideration by the current administration. This promises not to go away soon with Washington's continued struggle to provide a responsible budget in light of the ever increasing deficit, we need to monitor this situation and continue to let our congressman know our position. Politicians refer to these as "entitlements" as opposed to what they really are, earned benefits. Once something is earned it is unconscionable to not be taken away.

Proposed Senate Bill 932 provides for advance appropriations for certain discretionary accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs. On November 19th, the committee has assigned it for introduction to the Senate and House floor for vote. This is a critical time for the Congressman to hear from us and imperative

that you act now and write them to show your support of the Bill!

Proposed Senate Bill 851, Caregivers Expansion and Improvement Act of 2013, extends to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury the eligibility to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program of comprehensive assistance to family caregivers of such veterans. (Under current law, such eligibility is limited to those veterans who incurred such an injury on or after September 11, 2001.

We encourage you to visit the website"

http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/browse#current_status=2&committees=2688 which provides easy access to all proposed bills and listings of your Congressman

Stay active supporting veterans!
Charles Susino Jr. & Charles Anthony Susino

The Congressional Gold Medal for the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders

The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders was a group eighty men from all walks of life who flew into history on April 18, 1942. They were all volunteers and this was a very dangerous mission. Sixteen B-25 bombers took off from the deck of the USS Hornet, led by (then Col.) Jimmy Doolittle. They were to fly over Japan, drop their bombs and fly on to land in a part of China that was still free. Of course, things do not always go as planned.

The months following the attack on Pearl Harbor were the darkest of the war, as Imperial Japanese forces rapidly extended their reach across the Pacific. Our military was caught off guard, forced to retreat, and losing many men in the fall of the Philippines, leading to the infamous Bataan Death March. By spring, 1942, America needed a severe morale boost. The raid on Tokyo on April 18, 1942, certainly provided that - cheering the American military and public. Yet, the Doolittle Raid meant so much more, proving to the Japanese high command that their home islands were not invulnerable to American attacks and causing them to shift vital resources to their defense. Two months later that decision would play a role in the outcome of the Battle of

Midway, the American victory that would begin to turn the tide in the Pacific War.



In order to honor all the Raiders, past and present, for their valor, courage and patriotism, we are working to get the Congressional Gold Medal awarded while we still have three members who are able to travel to receive the award. Please contact your Senators and ask them to co-sponsor S.381, which is the Senate bill authorizing the Congressional Gold Medal, and contact your Representative and ask them to co-sponsor H.R.1209, which is the House bill. Both bills must pass by two-thirds majority.

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va outreach



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VA Outreach #11

The older a veteran becomes, the more likely he/she may encounter a situation which requires emergency medical care as the result of an injury, a sudden heart problem, or some other unexpected and serious medical problem. When it is not possible, or time does not permit going to a VA Medical Center, the veteran should go to the nearest hospital that has an emergency room. If in the hands of an ambulance crew, they will usually transport the patient to the nearest emergency room that is staffed to deal with the medical condition involved. By definition, a medical emergency is when an injury or illness is so severe that without immediate treatment it threatens life or health.

A veteran experiencing a medical emergency is not obligated to first contact the VA to arrange for acceptance at a non-VA emergency room. Instead, the veteran, a family member, or the hospital treating the emergency case should contact the nearest VA Medical Center as soon as possible.

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sible (preferably within 72 hours) to learn what services the VA may or may not cover. The VA needs to be provided with information about the nature of the emergency and what services are being provided. The VA can then give guidance concerning what emergency charges may or may not be covered so that the patient can plan settlement of the financial aspects of the case.

If the non-VA doctor wants to admit the patient following the emergency staff involvement, advance VA approval is not necessary if the admission is an emergency, but prompt notification to the VA is necessary. If admission is not an emergency, advance approval from the VA is necessary.

If a VA facility bed is available to the veteran and he/she can be safely transferred, the transfer should be done if the veteran wants the VA to continue paying for the care. If the veteran refuses to be transferred to a VA facility, the VA will not pay for any further care.

If a veteran is admitted to the non-VA hospital as the result of an emergency, the VA may pay all, some, or none of the charges, dependant on the veteran's eligibility for service-connected conditions. Some of the criteria that must be met are: 1. Care or services were provided in a medical emergency, and 2. VA or another federal facility were not feasibly available, and 3. The VA was notified within 72 hours of the admis-


sion. 4. Ask the local VA Medical Center's Non-VA (fee) Care Office for further eligibility guidance. For non-service-connected conditions, some of the criteria that must be met are: 1. The veteran is enrolled in the VA Health Care System, and 2. The veteran has received health care services from the VA within the previous 24 months, and 3. The veteran has no other health insurance coverage. 4. Ask the local VA Medical Center's Non-VA (Fee) Care Office for further eligibility guidance. A service-connected condition refers to an illness or injury that was incurred in or was aggravated by military service and has a rating assigned by the Veterans Benefit Administration.

Filing a claim to the nearest VA Medical Center for reimbursement for emergency medical care should be done quickly because time limits usually apply. For non-service connected care, the time limit is 90 days. The local VA Medical Center can provide more information about this.

The VA will only pay for emergency care outside of the U. S. if it is related to a service-connected condition. For more information about care provided outside the U. S. , contact the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) at 877-345-8179, or go to the FMP website <http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/fmp>.

For more information on non-VA emergency care, visit <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov>

AXPOW
National Convention
June 25-28, 2013
We've planned a visit to the
new George W. Bush
Presidential Library &
Museum. The tour is limited
to 50, so get your
registration in early!



pow-mia



PNC John Edwards
Chairman

889 Randall Road
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Americans Accounted For: There are still 1,643 personnel listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO recently posted the identification of SSG Lawrence Woods, USA/SF, of TN, listed as KIA/BNR in South Vietnam on October 24, 1964. His remains were recovered on April 13, 2010 and identified September 4, 2013. Earlier, DPMO posted the identification of Colonel Francis J. McGouldrick, USAF, CT, listed as MIA in Laos on December 13, 1968, as now accounted for. His remains were repatriated May 22, 2012 and identified August 28, 2013. The number of Americans announced by DPMO as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 940. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and ID'd before the end of the war, bring the official total of US personnel accounted-for from the Vietnam War to 1,003. Of the 1,643 unaccounted-for personnel, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,275 (VN-469, VS-806); Laos-308; Cambodia-53; PRC territorial waters-7; over-water losses on DPMO's list

Captured/Missing:

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

of No Further Pursuit cases number well over 600.

Vietnam: US-Vietnam POW/MIA Consultations were held September 26th, led by JPAC Commander Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, USAF, with DPMO, DIA's Stony Beach and Embassy-Hanoi participation. A commemorative dinner was held the night before to celebrate recent years of steadily improving POW/MIA cooperation. The Joint Field Activity (JFA) in Vietnam, scheduled for November, was initially postponed due to lack of funding. Once agreement was reached on a Continuing Resolution to temporarily fund the government, the Vietnam JFA was back on, though significantly reduced in scope. JFAs scheduled earlier in Laos, Cambodia and the PRC were indefinitely postponed due to lack of funding in time to continue.

Cambodia: Consultations were held September 30th in Phnom Penh, also led by the JPAC Commander, with DPMO, DIA's Stony Beach and Embassy-Phnom Penh participation. It is hoped the legal obstacles raised by the US bureaucracy will not recur to pose further difficulties for JPAC teams and counterpart Cambodian officials who, though puzzled, have been most patient. The long-delayed JFA in Cambodia was scheduled to take place from October 23 - December 6th but was again postponed, as noted above. Operations in Cambodia by two Recovery Teams (RTs) and one Underwater Recovery Team (URT) have been postponed twice this year.

Laos: On August 16th, US-Lao Bilateral POW/MIA Consultations, led by JPAC Commander Maj Gen Kelly McKeague, USAF, with Embassy-Vientiane and DPMO representatives participating, were held in Vientiane, Laos. The talks were the most productive such discussions in quite some time. At long last, the Lao Government agreed to allow the Defense Intelligence Agency's (DIA's) Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist to pursue field investigations year-round, on an as-needed basis. Though the details have yet to be worked out, the League welcomes Lao responsiveness to specific appeals, including

on Stony Beach, contracting the use of smaller helicopters and on-site base-camping. These Lao Government decisions are in keeping with the improved political, economic and military relationship. This latter agreement was to have been tested during the October 16 - November 29th JFA that was postponed due to lack of funding.

The Family Member Update (FMU) program reached 833 family members in 2013. Of that total, 489 were first time attendees. The FMU program continues to inform family members of the work being done to account for their missing loved ones. Despite budget uncertainty, we plan to continue the Family Update program. The first Family Update is tentatively scheduled for January 11, 2014, in Portland, Oregon.

France Investigation Team: In September, a team of historians and analysts from DPMO traveled across France to investigate 10 WWII loss incidents from which a total of 17 U.S. personnel are still missing. On average, the cases have been under active research by DPMO analysts in the U.S. and French archives for more than a year. This trip was coordinated with mayors and regional officials through 8 months of careful planning in order to ensure that the sites, mostly in rural areas, would be cleared of crops. The France trip represents the second such investigation DPMO has made in France since 2012.

U.S. Side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC): On October 22, 2013, Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter approved a request to convey special government employee status upon General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAF, Retired. This action strengthens General Foglesong's ability to carry out duties associated with his role as the Co-Chairman of the U.S. Side of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs (USRJC). It also underscores DoD's commitment to support the work of the USRJC.

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civilians



Alice Gollin
Chairman

Prisoners and the YMCA

By Dorothy Janson

The Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War was signed by 43 nations in 1929, and remains the international law on the subject. It contains the following stipulations: War prisoners entitled to adequate food and clothing. No punishment for attempted escape. Right to exchange correspondence and receive parcels. Officers may not be required to work. Enlisted men may not be required to work in a location related to military operation. Each prisoner shall be allowed a rest period of 24 hours per week. Prison camps shall be open to inspection by a representative of a neutral power.

Japan did not sign this pact. In 1942, they gave a qualified promise to abide by the Geneva rules, but flouted every tenet mentioned above during their 38 months occupation of the Philippines. As our troops later learned, it was almost impossible to take a Japanese prisoner. In the feudal, emperor-worshipping culture of Dai Nippon, to be captured is to be dishonored, but did this in any way condone their inhumane treatment of Allied soldiers who, faced with impossible military odds, had surrendered?

The plight of all the prisoners was a constant anxiety for us and other neutrals in Manila who were not incarcerated. Nearly 30,000 survivors of Bataan, the Death March, and

Corregidor were penned behind barbed wire in various parts of Luzon; more than 3,000 civilian men, women and children, and most of our friends, were behind walls in the non-protective custody of the Imperial Japanese Army. We had some contact with the civilian camps, but information about war prisoners came mainly through the courageous Filipino underground.

On December 9th, immediately after the attack on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines, my Swedish husband took me and our two small sons to the illusionary safety of mountainous Baguio, where he left us with friends before returning to our not-so-safe home in Pasay, which was uncomfortably close to both the harbor and Nichols Field airbase. But the Japanese invaders, after landing at Aparri and Lingayen in northern Luzon, swiftly advanced up the steep terrain and took Baguio on December 28th. I am an American and the children and I were among the 300 Americans and British who were immediately interned.

My experience in a prison camp was decidedly disagreeable, but fortunately brief. My husband, Helge A. Janson, who had been Consul for Sweden in the Philippines since 1935, was not interned after the Japanese took Manila on December 26th. On Jan. 14, 1942, he managed to get a permit from military headquarters to find us in prison at Camp John Hay, was able to effect our immediate release as Swedish nationals and we returned to quite a different city from the Manila I had left just over a month before.

While the battle raged on Bataan and Corregidor, the Japanese were firmly in control of Manila. Because Consul Janson was accredited to Washington, the Japanese refused to recognize his diplomatic status unless his credentials were established via Tokyo...an alteration he respectfully declined. But he was eventually recognized as "Representative of the Swedish Community in the Philippines" and allowed to communicate with the Swedish Legation in Tokyo. Even though all correspondence was censored and had to go through the Japanese Bureau of External Affairs, this was our only and very valuable life line to the world beyond the confines of our occupied islands.

Before the war the view across Manila Bay from our home on the boulevard had been delightful. Now we watched Japanese bombers roaring overhead to rain death and destruction on Bataan and Corregidor, saw the glare of distant shelling compete with the vivid sunsets, and, after Corregidor fell in May, we looked with great distaste at a harbor full of Japanese ships.

We were not sorry to leave our waterfront home early in July when M. Verlinden, the Consul for Belgium, offered us his house on the corner of Fernando Rein and Park Avenue in Pasay. He expected to be included in the Teia/Maru-Gripsholm exchange and hope that, if the Swedish Consul lived in his home, the Japanese would not take it. A spacious, sturdily-built two-story house, surrounded by a large garden with papaya and banana trees, it also had space to grow vegetables and a poultry house where we could try to raise chickens and turkeys.

Unfortunately, the view from our new residence turned out to be far more depressing than our vista of Manila Bay. We knew that there was a war prisoner camp a few blocks away in the Pasay elementary school, three low buildings partially enclosing a dark sandy playground. The area was now surrounded by ugly rusted iron sheeting, crowned by loops of barbed wire, and all that could be seen from the street was a high watch tower where two Japanese soldiers manned a machine gun. An open, fetid sewer crawling with vermin meandered sluggishly past the encampment, and there were armed guards on the road at intervals of about 100 feet. The first morning on Park Avenue, I was awakened by what I thought was the gentle swish of rain on banana leaves, of wind rustling the palm fronds, but the morning was cloudless, still, and hot. Wondering what the unusual sound could be, I went down to the garden. I grew louder and closer, rose to a shuffling, a murmur of voices. Then I saw them as they rounded a bend in the road, and a wave of nausea swept over me when I realized I was looking at Americans, American prisoners walking four abreast in a ragged formation, their heads bent to the rough surface of the road, emaciated, ragged, barefoot. Guards with fixed bayonets patrolled the column, and when the

Prisoners cont'd...

two children rushed over to the fence to get a closer view, they were threatened and shouted at by the guards. The boys came crying back to where I stood near the patio, and we dashed upstairs. Helge, appalled and grim stood at the big window and the four of us watched, horrified, until the two guards on bicycles at the end of the column wobbled around the corner where Park Avenue turned onto Taft Avenue. My husband uttered some untranslatable Swedish profanity.

Hearing the stories and rumors about the war prisoner camps was distressing; to actually see these few hundred men was heartbreaking. The sad procession, in blistering heat or sodden rain, passed our house twice a day on the way to and from work on Nichols Field. We tried hard not to watch, but there was an almost mesmeric compulsion to stand helplessly by the side of the window. When they returned from twelve hours of slave labor, many of them were unable to walk without their comrades' support, and on some occasions it was obvious that they were already dead from heat and over exertion. They were so close! We were infinitely separated. It would have been nice to hang out an American flag, but mine was buried deep in the garden; even our Swedish flag was not permitted, and we were forced to fly the red circle of the Land of the Rising Sun on the Emperor's birthday and other special occasions, such as "Attack on Pearl Harbor Day" or "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Day". We prayed that there would be some way to help those prisoners.

Up to this time correspondence with the Swedish Ministry in Tokyo dealt primarily with sending messages to families in Sweden and the States, the possibility of arranging repatriation for neutral nationals, and requests for financial aid. Sweden was now also handling the affairs of a number of enemy nations: Belgium, Mexico, Netherlands and Norway to mention the most important. This added to the volume of correspondence which was not merely the posting of a letter but, for the Swedish Consul, necessitated many hot and dusty rides to Japanese headquarters on our houseboy's bicycle which was much too small and had solid rubber tires.

On July 27th, we were elated by a letter from the Swedish Minister, Mr. Wider Bagge, advising us that a committee of neutral members of the War Prisoners Aid of the International YMCA had been set up in Tokyo to promote the welfare of war prisoners and internees in Japan and her territories of military occupation. Minister Bagge was the chairman, and he requested my husband to take up the post as representative in the Philippines. Helge immediately cabled his acceptance and was in turn advised that permission to operate in the Philippines had been applied for and that he would be advised as soon as it was granted. Would it be a matter of days - or weeks?

Shortly after our hopes had been lifted by the possibility of a legitimate method of war prisoner aid, a different opportunity presented itself. A shy little Filipino girl named Esperanza came surreptitiously to our house after dark and asked to see Mr. Janson. She told him that she could get messages in and out of Pasay camp through one of the less severe guards, and that the prisoners were sometimes able to buy bibingkas, a native rice cake, from a small tienda just at the end of Park Avenue. The two worst guards were at the rear and in the evening when the column turned from Taft onto Park Avenue, the prisoners in front were out of their view. After a bit of undercover work we were sure that the tienda owner was trustworthy and we began supplying him with milk, eggs and vitamins to add to the simple batter. In order not to arouse suspicion, there was no change in the setup and the prisoners continued to pay five or ten centavos, but they were getting considerably more nourishment for their money. Everyone who had seen the Park Avenue parade of captives was eager to help and we were often able to augment the bibingkas with bacon and chopped meat.

Through Esperanza, some money and clothing got into the camp and we received some messages in return. We never knew which of the men wrote the following, but he painted a very vivid picture:

Dear Sir, Thanks for the pants you sent me. They sure come in handy. You asked me to describe conditions in this camp - well, here goes.

This is known to be the worst prison outside of Ft. Santiago in the Philippines. The Americans at Cabanatuan and Bilibid call it Devil's Island. The nips at those places call us the Iron Men. The white-cap captain here we call "Cherry Blossom" because of his cherry blossom insignia; the captain in the field is called "Wolf". He and Cherry Blossom are the ones that ride the bicycles in the rear. They are both sadists. The Wolf has beaten two men to death with a black jack so far. I've been here since last Sept. and I'm getting used to all this routine and beginning to take it in stride. In the morning we get up at 5:45. We eat at 6 and go to work at 7. We work till 12:30 and eat and then go to work at 1. We work till 5 and get in about 7, but we aren't allowed to go to bed until 9. You hardly have time for anything. We are supposed to rest every second Sunday, but it's hardly ever on schedule. Most of the men are suffering from pellagra and beriberi, but we have to work just the same. When the men get too bad, they send them to Bilibid at the hospital. This is paradise and where all of us want to go, but few get there - you almost have to be dead to get there. This new bunch of men have been resting for a year now and all are fat and look healthy compared to us, but in the field they can't take it. There's at least 7 or 8 pass out a day from the heat or over-exertion. We old men look scraggly and crummy, but we have hardened up to the work. We get paid once a month, ten cents a day; you don't get paid for rest days. There's at least 3 or 4 beatings a day. All the sentries except a few are scared to death of Wolf and try to imitate him. But we just take it and bear it and wait for that day when we can be in charge of them. If you can, will you send some egg omelet and peanuts. They contain many vitamins and I need vitamins for my pellagra. We have only one kind of medicine here and that's "purple paint".

Part II in Mar/April issue

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March 13-15, 2014. USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations Reunion will be held at: Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown. Contact: John Keith Schwarz Executive Director- USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations; 202-268-2261/703-867-0142. contact@usshouston.org.

April 25-27, 2014. Flatiron Air Ambulance Crash-Rescue Bi-Annual Reunion will be held at Fort Rucker, AL. For information, contact: Warren R. Blake, P.O. Box 67, North Conway, NH 03869. 978-994-7935 ; flatironcrs@juno.com

April 24-27, 2014. Norfolk reunion for civilian internees and families. We are booked and contracted at Marriott Courtyard in Norfolk. Our hotel is a block and a half from MacArthur Memorial property. Contact: Sascha Jansen Mabuhayma@aol.com.
GOING TO THE NORFOLK REUNION NEXT APRIL?
Then - I have a suggestion for you.

This will be an opportune time to take advantage of our BACEPOW visit to the General MacArthur Museum in Norfolk, in April of 2014, to bring some of our artifacts and memorabilia from our prison camp days as a gift to the museum. Our gifts of valued treasures we saved from WWII camp days meant so much to our families, or to us individuals in the years past. Would we be able to part with these icons today?

Imagine this for a moment. One hundred years from now when researchers, historians and educators wander the halls of the General's vast campus, we will be telling our story from our personal voices, and bring to life our true war experiences from

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the past. Through our books, oral histories, manuscripts, pictures and memorabilia from the individual camps we lived in during WWII, you and I will be creating a whole new world of understanding and learning.

School children will learn so much from our home made toys, tin cups we drank from, bamboo bowls and mugs, needles and pins made from bamboo, underwear made of string, and what patched up clothing we wore. What a way to learn history.

When we were in Santo Tomas, most of the girls and women would save something of value to wear "when our boys came in." I saved a pair of socks. My mother was saving a brand new, geranium colored blouse to put on for our boys. But as Christmas 1944 approached, she realized she couldn't find a gift for me. Hurriedly she cut a pretty generous square of material from the back of the blouse, hemmed the sides, and embroidered various names and words on the cloth. Not having much thread, she painstakingly extracted some thread from various clothing and used some of this to embroider the names. I cherish this precious piece of cloth with these wonderful, familiar words - "benjo - Maureen Edgar - Lugao - Garden Court -Annex - Carolyn Bailey -STIC - Rumors - ACK ACK- Air raid!, Talinum, and so forth.

When I arrive in Norfolk with this special treasure next year, I will be handing my gift from my mother over to Jim Zobel, the Archivist, with great pleasure and with honor. Honor? Yes, honor to be allowed to pass on our unique WWII history experience, as children prisoners of war of the Japanese, to a highly regarded institution of learning and research.

The MacArthur Memorial will be honoring our presence, at this "Liberation Manila 1945" reunion, by displaying all our artifacts, manuscripts, pictures and memorabilia at the Visitors Center next April of 2014. Will yours be among them?
Sascha Jansen; Mabuhayma@aol.com
707-448-2909

looking
for



My father, mother, younger brother and myself were POWs in Santo Tomas from Jan. 1942-Feb. 1945. In the summer of 1944, the **Japanese took pictures of the male and female adult POWs**. The men had their pictures taken first, then the women. The pictures were taken outdoors in small groups while seated on a bench with their prisoner numbers displayed across their chests. The location of this event was in front of the main building at the west corner next to the seminary. I would appreciate any information regarding these pictures. Thank you! Bill Leslie, 106 Surrey Place, Lebanon, TN 37090; 615-444-8595.

My name is Bernie Rader and I was a soldier in WWII and fought in France. On Oct. 2, 1944, I was in an ambush, wounded and became a prisoner of war. I was held in Lorient Hospital in Brittany and we were starving. An American representative from the Red Cross, Andrew Hodges, made 4 exchanges from German soldiers for Allied forces and I was one of 149 men on Nov, 1944. This was the only exchange in WWII. We have traveled in France a few times and have gone to Brittany and Normandy. We made a plaque for the French people who gave food to us when we were starving and other things and became friends in France. In 2004, the French President - Sarkozy - presented me the French Medal of Honor in Washington. My wife and I would like to go to **Normandy for the 70th Anniversary of D-Day** in June, 2014. I was 90 years old in December, so we don't want to go alone. We would like to take a tour with other people. If possible, we'd like to go to Brittany first, then to Normandy. Are you going at that time? Please let us know. Thank you. Bernard Rader berniej1@optonline.net; 191 Wilson Place, Freeport, NY 11520.

My name is Richard Michael Volpe. My Grandfather was **Private Nichols**

looking for, cont'd..

Distasi, 101st Airborne Able Company Sniper. My grandfather was captured June 6, 1944 around Ravonville? on D-Day along with Private Archie Ponds 101st Able company. What I know is that he landed on D-Day and was ordered by his Lt. (Lt. Muir) to get rest after parachuting during the D-Day invasion. My grandfather explained to my mom and uncle that he was awoken by a German soldier pointing a gun in his face. He had also told my mom and uncle very little about prison camp (Statlag 4F) only that they shared one cow between 500 men to eat and that they messed with the guards pretty often. My grandfather said that while in prison camp an unexpected person showed up as a prisoner; it was his best friend. If anyone has information on my grandfather's experiences, I would appreciate hearing from them. Thank you. Richard Michael Volpe; (908) 907-8956;

richardmichaelvolpe@gmail.com
12586 Grandezza Circle. Estero, FL 33928.

Andi Gustavson, a graduate student at The University of Texas at Austin, is building a digital archive for an important group of conflict photographs that has yet to be recognized by museums, archives, or historians. She is trying to gather the personal snapshots that were most significant to servicemen and women while they were enlisted or serving in warzones. The archive is called **the Personal Pin-up Project**. People willing to share their images can upload their photographs at <http://www.personalpinupproject.com/>. Andi is also willing to digitize hard copy snapshots if vets mail them to her at 110 E. 37th St. Apt. 208, Austin, TX 78705. Please consider uploading an image and spreading the word about this important historical project. Thank you.

June 25-28, 2013

AXPOW

National Convention

See you in Texas!

News Briefs

Cresskill American Legion Post 21 honors POWs and MIAs on national day

by Caesar Darias
Correspondent, Northern Valley Suburbanite

© North Jersey Media Group (NJMG)

Photo: © 2013 Viorel Florescu /



northjersey.com

Herb Gold, 93, a former POW during World War II stands watch at the third annual vigil paying tribute to former POWs and MIAs at American Legion Post 21 in Cresskill on Sept. 21.

CRESSKILL — Camp Merritt American Legion Post 21 commemorated National POW/MIA Recognition Day with a vigil and ceremony on Saturday.

The third annual "Dawn to Dusk" vigil started at 6 a.m. and had pairs of veterans in rotating half-hour shifts, keeping silent watch under a white canopy to recognize the ultimate sacrifice of their comrades and to remember those who are still missing in action. The stars and stripes, the POW-MIA flag and two empty chairs symbolizing the missing served as the backdrop during the solemn 12-hour day. Herbert S. Gold, a 93-year-old World War II veteran who served seven months as a prisoner of war in Germany, anchored the vigil and was recognized as the day's special hon-

oree. The Cresskill High School band honored the veterans by standing at attention themselves as they faced Gold. They followed with the Star-Spangled Banner and a two-trumpet echoing rendition of "Taps" by students Seri Park and Paul Sim. Gold served as a gunner in the U.S. Army Air Force, Eighth Air Force, 705th Bomb Squadron of the 446 Bomb Group. After dropping bombs on an ammunition factory in Hamm in 1944, Gold and his B-24 crew came under enemy fire and had to parachute to safety. When he landed, Gold was almost immediately taken prisoner. He served time in the Stalag 4 prison camp, followed by a grueling 87-day, 650-mile Black March across Germany. "They kept us all on back roads," said Gold, who said the German were trying to avoid Russian troops who were closing in. "Eventually we had about 250 troops on the march." The march culminated in the German surrender to British Gen. Bernard Montgomery's troops. Gold received many decorations including a Purple Heart and the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters. Gold, a Dumont High School graduate and former Cresskill councilman, urged students, residents and elected officials to participate in veterans events and to learn about their history. Michael J. Drumgoole, senior vice commandeer of Post 21, was co-chairman of the event. Drumgoole, a retired Army captain, served as an intelligence officer in Vietnam from 1970-1971 with the 525th Military Intelligence Group. He lamented that during his time in service no POW extractions were completed. "It's incredibly horrible," said the 67-year-old Drumgoole, who added not enough is being done to recognize POW-MIAs and to locate missing personnel. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, 16 million Americans served in World War II; more than 400,000 died and 73,000 remain unaccounted for. More than 7,500 Americans who fought in the Korean War, and 1,600 from the Vietnam War remain unaccounted for.

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Mission Accomplished



The Doolittle Raiders flew into the history books during their historic sneak attack on Japan in April 1942. It was a successful mission, but nearly all 16 planes crash-landed in China.

While the U.S. airstrikes did little lasting damage to the Japanese military infrastructure, American officials felt it dramatically demonstrated Japan was vulnerable — and following Pearl Harbor, it gave the American people a much-needed shot in the arm.

Since then, the Doolittle Raiders have gathered each year to toast those who died.

Veteran's Day weekend 2013, however, was bittersweet for the four Doolittle Tokyo Raiders who are still alive today: Richard Cole, 98, Robert Hite, 93, Edward Saylor, 93, and David Thatcher, 92. For 68 years, they have gathered to raise a toast to all Raiders who died before them. Each Doolittle Raider has his name inscribed upon his own silver goblet, which is turned over upon death.

Because of their age, the four living Raiders decided this would be their last toast. At Doolittle's wish, they used a bottle of co-

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gnac, distilled in 1896, the year of Doolittle's birth. Thousands turned out at the National Air Force Museum outside Dayton, Ohio, to honor them.

For the four, this was the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders' final mission.

VA Offers Dental Insurance Program

VA is partnering with Delta Dental and MetLife to allow eligible Veterans, plus family members receiving care under the Civilian Health and Medical Program (CHAMPVA), to purchase affordable dental insurance beginning Nov. 15, 2013 VA officials announced.

More than 8 million Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care can choose to purchase one of the offered dental plans.

This three-year pilot has been designed for Veterans with no dental coverage, or those currently eligible for VA dental care who would like to purchase additional dental coverage. Participation will not affect entitlement to VA dental services and treatment.

There are no eligibility limitations based on service-connected disability rating or enrollment priority assignment. People interested in participating may complete an application online through either Delta Dental, www.deltadentalvadip.org, or MetLife, www.metlife.com/vadip beginning Nov. 15. Coverage for this new dental insurance will begin Jan. 1, 2014, and will be available throughout the United States and its territories.

Also eligible for the new benefits are nearly 400,000 spouses and dependent children who are reimbursed for most medical expenses under VA's CHAMPVA program. Generally, CHAMPVA participants are spouses, survivors or dependent children of Veterans officially rated as "permanently and totally" disabled by a service-connected condition.

Enrollment in the VA Dental Insurance Plan (VADIP) is voluntary. Participants are responsible for all premiums, which range from \$8.65 to \$52.90 per month for individual plans. Copayments and other charges may apply.

Historically VA's free dental services have gone to Veterans with dental problems connected to a medical condition that's officially certified as "service connected." Free dental

Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Hospital ~ MA
POW/MIA Recognition Day luncheon - thanks to Bob Noble



news, cont'd...

services will continue for those Veterans.

For more information on VADIP, visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip, or contact Delta Dental at 1-855-370-3303 or MetLife at 1-888-310-1681.

Surviving Brutality: Continuing The Oral POW History

by Alice A. Booher

Through a number of venues, organizations and individuals, the State of Florida has a number of ongoing efforts to expand the educational opportunity from and to their growing and significant veteran population. The *Bulletin* has reported a number of these including several remarkable DVDs made by Michael Rothfeld of FVPPI and his associates which have placed special focus on members of their POW community. One on-site event in the Fall featured WWII Boatswain Mate Bill Ingram, USN (Ret), speaking as a former Japanese POW

in Burma at an event hosted at the Maritime Heritage Center in Jacksonville with the assistance of Robert Mitchell of Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 4 and Museum Executive Paul Ghiotto.



Early in November, Vietnam POW Giles Norrington, Captain, USN (Ret), shared details on his

experiences at Hoa Lo and other prisons. This "Lunch and Learn" experience, which included Rothfeld's DVD POW documentary, was hosted by the Orange County Regional History Center, located at 65 E. Central Blvd., in Orlando, whose Assistant Director is Kimberlee Riley (seen in photo with Giles). At the event, it was learned that Ms. Riley's uncle was Major Robert Franklin ("Wild Bill") Coady, USAF, a rescue pilot flying an A1H "Skyraider" who went down in Laos on January 18, 1969. Listed as MIA, Coady had been recorded by hearsay in the early release debriefs for Department of State on September 25, 1969 and Defense Intelligence Agency on October 3, 1969, given by Capt. Wesley Rumble, (who had coincidentally been Giles' roommate for a time at Hoa Lo). As has been the case with the others lost in Laos, which was not part of the Paris Peace Accords and thus not part of direct negotiations, Ms. Riley notes that it has been difficult to get additional information, but before her mother dies, she hopes that something more will become available about the fate of her godfather and her mother's only brother, so there can be some modest element of family closure.



If any reader is able to provide independent information on Coady [602nd SOS, 56th SOW (Nakon Phanon RTAFB), 7th AF, USAF, (DOB: September 11, 1939) out of New Orleans], please contact Cheryl Cerbone who can help you share the information.

Native American Tribes Whose Members Served as Code Talkers Honored with Congressional Gold Medals

Twenty-five Native American tribes received Congressional Gold Medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of the code talkers and their service to the United States Armed Forces during WWI and WWII. Eight additional Native American tribes also were honored during the ceremony, held in Emancipation Hall in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, and will receive medals at a later date. Following the ceremony, a reception held at the National Museum of the American Indian included an appearance by Edmond Harjo (Seminole Nation - Oklahoma), one of the last surviving code talkers.

The term "code talkers" refers to those Native Americans who used their tribal languages as a means of secret communication during wartime.

The U.S. Department of Defense has so far identified 33 Native American Tribes from 11 states that are eligible to receive a gold medal with a unique design. The United States Mint prepared and struck all medals as authorized by the Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 (Act) (Public Law 110-420). Information about the eligible tribes, descriptions of each medal, and images are available the United States Mint's web site at www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/medals/?action=codeTalkers.

The Act also authorizes the United States Mint to strike the silver duplicate medals that will be awarded to the code talkers, or their family member or personal representative. In addition, it authorizes the bureau to make available for sale to the public three-inch and 1½-inch bronze replicas of each medal.

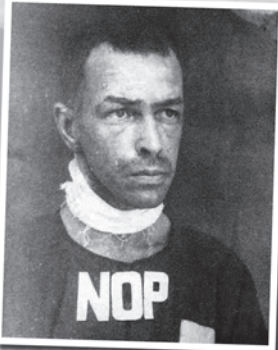
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ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL
HISTORY CENTER

LUNCH & LEARN WITH
**CAPT. GILES NORRINGTON
AND MICHAEL ROTHFELD**



**PRISONERS OF WAR:
STOLEN FREEDOM**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Learn how four former American POWs who fought in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War managed to survive the brutality of being captured—and hear from one of them, Capt. Giles Norrington, who was in the Hanoi Hilton.

NOON-1 P.M. • FREE • (407) 836-7010

THEHISTORYCENTER.ORG

news, cont'd...

These medals can be purchased at the bureau's online catalog, www.usmint.gov/catalog. The medals also can be purchased by calling 1-800-USA-MINT (872-6468).

The three-inch medals are priced at \$39.95 each, and the 1½-inch medals are priced at \$6.95 each.

Food Stamps

About 900,000 veterans and 5,000 active duty troops received cuts in their food stamp benefits 31 OCT as \$5 billion was automatically trimmed from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program for low-income families. "The reduced benefit cut will reduce SNAP benefits, which are already modest, for all households by 7 percent on average, or about \$10 per person per month," according to an analysis by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. "Nationwide, in any given month, a total of 900,000 veterans nationwide lived in households that relied on SNAP to provide food for their families in 2011.

The SNAP program received a boost under the 2009 Recovery Act, or stimulus bill aimed at lifting the nation out of recession, but that temporary increase expired as Congress continues to debate a new farm bill which would separate farm subsidies from food stamp benefits. In addition to the 900,000 veterans, the cut in SNAP benefits will impact about 5,000 military families that currently receive food stamps, mostly from the junior enlisted ranks, according to the Defense Department. A Department of Agriculture report last year showed that more than 5,000 of the total of 48 million Americans receiving SNAP benefits listed their employment status as "active duty military," Pentagon officials said.

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Members' forum



US Army Men Captured During the Korean War Were Not Paid Combat Pay While a Prisoner of War!

Two years after the Korean War began the Army made a change to its regulations saying Army men captured would be paid Combat Pay for only three months after capture. This change was then dated 1 May, 1950, which was before the Korean War began.

Combat pay was \$45.00 a month during the Korean War. Men captured in July, 1950, spent over 37 months in Communist hell holes in North Korea. They were not paid for 34 months of Combat Pay. This amounts to \$1530.00 for each soldier in that particular group.

The death rate of American POWs of the Korean War was higher than any other war. For those captured early in July 1950, (the Tiger Survivors) the death rate was a staggering 58%.

The Defense Department has recognized those men who died while a Prisoner of War in Korea, and has awarded a Purple Heart Medal to each and every one of them. It is historic that those men died under combat conditions!

How can the Army and only the Army still refuse to pay this past due Combat Pay to former Prisoners of War of the Korean War.

When the Korean War began the Army deployed a little more than 500 men (Task Force Smith) from Japan to Korea. This included Medical and

Artillery. This initial group was outnumbered more than 10 to 1. They went into a meat grinder. The United States had no combat troops in Korea at that time. The 7th Infantry Division had been pulled out of Korea the year before.

Now we hear that the Korean War was not a forgotten war. It must be strongly stated that for all the Army Prisoners of War held in North Korea, it is still a forgotten war.

We now see the POW flag flying beneath the American flag over our capitol in Washington. We hear all the talk of how the brass honors us. The President has even sent a letter to us telling of how grateful our country is for our honorable service.

It must be noted that the 21 turncoats who chose to turn their backs on this country and who went to China rather than return home, were paid back pay for time spent as a Prisoner of War in North Korea. They were even allowed to come home later on when they could not learn Chinese or when they discovered that system was not for them. How were they punished? The answer is not at all.

How were we honored? No Combat Pay!

The Tiger Survivors has 61 men still living. Will they be promoted to Glory with this final chapter of the Korean War not being written?

Senator Barbara Boxer of California is concerned with this issue. She was the Senator who caused the Purple Heart Medal to be awarded to those who died while a Prisoner of War from December 7, 1941 to the present and indeed into the future.

Shorty Estabrook
Tigerul@verizon.net
POW North Korea 37 months and 13 days

**Korean War Ex-POWs
2014 Reunion
July 27 - Aug. 3, 2014
Louisville, KY**

MEMBERSHIP COUNT

11/21/2013

Alabama	238
Alaska	14
AP/AE	
Arizona	341
Arkansas	142
California	1,018
Colorado	166
Connecticut	137
Delaware	40
District of Columbia	6
Florida	1,061
Georgia	278
Guam	2
Hawaii	34
Idaho	54
Illinois	413
Indiana	243
Iowa	186
Kansas	219
Kentucky	132
Louisiana	164
Maine	86
Maryland	220
Massachusetts	387
Michigan	283
Minnesota	251
Mississippi	223
Missouri	313
Montana	47
Nebraska	109
Nevada	144
New Hampshire	74
New Jersey	385
New Mexico	149
New York	602
North Carolina	315
North Dakota	49
Ohio	720
Oklahoma	277
Oregon	173
Pennsylvania	545
Puerto Rico	6
Rhode Island	55
South Carolina	255
South Dakota	42
Tennessee	291
Texas	1,069
Utah	50
Vermont	42
Virgin Islands	2
Virginia	312
Washington	382
West Virginia	93
Wisconsin	469
Wyoming	14
Foreign	41
Address Unknown	131

13,494

ETO	4,432
PAC	569
KOREA	455
USS PUEBLO	17
VIETNAM	101
IRAN	3
IRAQ	5
SOMALIA	1
FARS/CHINA/2001	2
CIVILIAN	148
SPOUSES	2,434
SURVIVING SPOUSES	4,643
NOK	684
ANNUAL	653
LIFE	12,841

PREPARED BY
Clydie J Morgan
Executive Director

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Bracelets: Part II of II – Until They Come Home

by Alice A. Booher

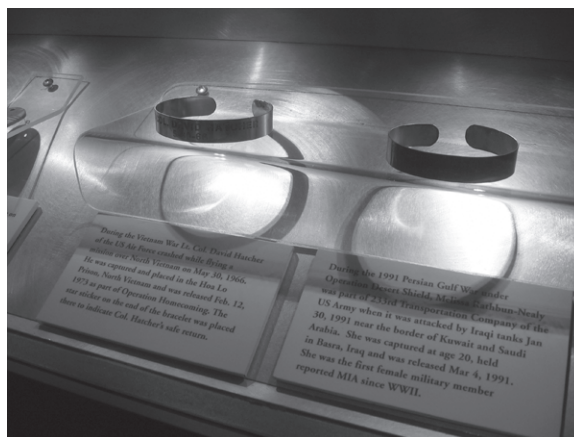


In Part I (November-December 2013 issue of the *Bulletin*), we discussed the origins of the POW/MIA bracelet. The plain metal or leather wristband originated with the Montagnards, indigenous people of Vietnam, and many of these original bracelets would reach the U.S. gifted to the wrists of soldiers. The bracelet concept was translated into a commemorative effort to honor and remember the POW/MIAs of the Vietnam War: metal bracelets engraved with name, rank, service branch, home state, date of capture, worn by those at home until the serviceperson or their remains returned home. Although 5,000,000 bracelets were distributed from 1970-1976, and a few POWs learned of the bracelets from new captives who had worn them, the first actual sighting was when released POWs reached Clark Field, The Philippines. In one instance, a rolled up cardboard sign on which a bracelet had been slipped remarkably found its way through the bus window of the man whose name was on it, Giles R. Norrington. Thus began an ongoing 60-year

phenomenon of returning the bracelet to the person commemorated thereon. Some Vietnam veterans have worn one or more buddy's bracelet for decades.

Myriad archives are filled with touching and extraordinary incidents of these returns, meaningful for both those giving and receiving the bracelets. Every military exhibit has a collection such as those from Lt. Col David Hatcher, USAF, POW in Vietnam; and Melissa Rathbun-Nealy (Coleman), USA, POW in

Iraq in 1991, on display at the Andersonville POW Museum, GA.



Virtually every former POW will tell you of having the gratifying experience of receiving a bracelet and the associated warmth from a person, heretofore unknown, who had been thinking of him or her during captivity. Some POWs were not quite sure what to do with the treasured returned bracelets; others gave them to institutions. Capt. Jerry D. Driscoll, who decided to stay in the Air Force after the Vietnam War to fly jet fighters, wrote to those who gave him their bracelets:

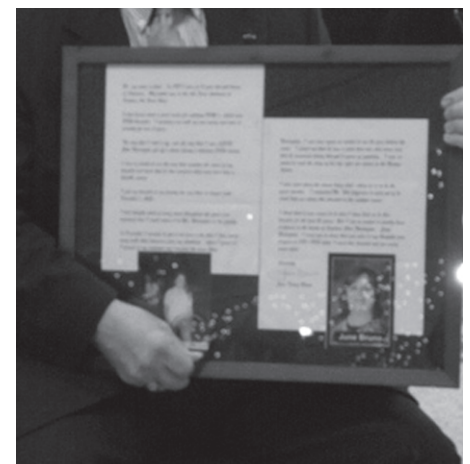
"It certainly is wonderful to come home after so many

years to a great nation and people. I want to thank you and everyone who prayed for me and my fellow POW's.

Since I've been home, I have found out how much the VIVA bracelets meant to so many people. I still find it hard to believe that so many people wore them, but it is proven everyday by the many letters I have received since coming home.

Because the bracelets have meant so much to so many people, I would like for everyone with "my" bracelet to keep it to show that I was "your" POW. As an example, some bracelet wearers I have met have put "my" bracelet in plastic to permanently protect it. And it will serve as a reminder to continue praying for those who have not returned. As for those who have already returned bracelets, I will give them to the United States Air Force Academy to be used in a memorial to those graduates who didn't return."

After Vietnam, many POWs went on after captivity to do community based activities, including politics. In that arena, many functions were punctuated by someone quietly coming up and slipping them a bracelet. Former



bracelets, cont'd...

POW, Texas Congressman Sam Johnson estimated that in the first years after homecoming, he received thousands of bracelets, but later, only one or two per year. In October 2006, Johnson received one more bracelet from Paula Chambers, who was in school with his kids during his nearly 7 years of captivity. Former POW Senator John McCain has similarly received numerous bracelets by mail or nestled into a suit pocket on a campaign tour bus.

Many POWs donated the returned bracelets to one or another program/project. The late Medal of Honor wearer, Col George E. (Bud) Day, donated the bulk of those returned to him to two art projects where they were fashioned into POW statues.

Many civilians who wore the bracelets remember the details like their own. *Bulletin* Editor Cheryl Cerbone treasures her bracelet for Capt John William Kennedy, USAF, born May 1, 1927, from Arlington, VA, an aviator, first listed as MIA, whose remains came home in 1995 for burial in Arlington Cemetery.



Former POW, Navy LCDR Paul Galanti, now Director for Virginia on

Veterans Affairs, meets and speaks to many veterans. At one such AXPOW meeting in Johnson City, TN, and dedication of a Huey Cobra aircraft for Bristol's fallen sons in August 2002, Paul was approached by a woman who worked at City Hall who handed him his bracelet she had worn.

Dr. Thomas McNish, (Col, USAF Ret), currently Chair of the Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Advisory Committee on Former POWs, recalls that few bracelets were made in his name due to some family reservations about exploitation of the names of the POWs. Tom says he has only met one person who wore his bracelet, the daughter of a dying patient he was caring for while he was in medical school, and she recognized his name from his white coat.



Giles Norrington has had some fascinating experiences with the bracelet phenomena. At the Nixon White House in 1973, singer Vic Damone was serenading the returned POWs when he stopped in the middle of the show and said he wanted to return the bracelet worn for 2 years by his arranger's daughter, to Giles. Over the next 6 decades, there were many happy returns. Then in March 2013, two days before the 40th anniversary of his release, Giles first met Peggy (Byrne) Cornacchio at



a scholarship program in St. Augustine, FL where Giles was keynoter. Peggy was age 11 in 1971, when she started wearing Giles' bracelet. She rejoiced with her folks at his release in 1973, and then packed it away while she went to college. Recently found in two pieces in a keepsakes box, she searched the internet for Giles and found that he was scheduled to soon speak in Florida. A local jeweler volunteered to fix the bracelet free, and Peggy bought a plane ticket for Jacksonville. At the Chase-Rescorla Scholarship event, Giles first received a mailed-in item, a framed letter from June Bruno and a bracelet. Then Peggy stood up and told her story as a Massachusetts 6th grader. A glowing example of many such meetings, national press coverage was gracious, and 6 months later, e-mails from both Peggy and Giles recalled the evening with gratitude, joy and tears. Peggy articulated what so many knew that night, and before and since, that a simple gesture by a little kid let a soldier knew he was not forgotten, bonded into "*that we all need to continue to tell the story so that others will not forget the sacrifices that so many have made*".

In some special circumstances, from the cache of returned bracelets, a former POW might in turn give one of those bracelets to someone who had done something

bracelets, cont'd...

special, as Giles Norrington did for the chair of a salute to women POWs in Washington, DC in March 1996, and for whom there could have been no greater gift.

Following the popularity of the Vietnam Era bracelets, a blue enamel version was conceived to remember the thousands of Korean War service personnel who remained unaccounted for. A KIA bracelet was also born to remember those who were killed in action or died of causes related to combat. With armed conflicts such as Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan, the bracelet tradition was yet again rejuvenated. The renewed interest occurred in both civilian and military populations, and the wearing bracelets expanded to include POW/MIAs and KIAs.

Since 1972, military members have been permitted to wear a bracelet for POW/MIA. However, services' uniform policies differed as to whether active duty personnel could also wear KIA bracelets bearing the names of the fallen in Afghanistan, Iraq or other combat zones. One community organizer for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, former Marine captain Timothy Kudo, wears one for Staff Sgt Javier Ortiz-Rivera, killed by a Taliban bomb in Helmand Province. At Ortiz-Rivera's memorial at Camp Lejeune, NC, his widow gave out 70 of the black with purple writing bracelets and asked that they be worn in his memory. In October 2011, a policy change was announced by Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos, settling the debate and making it unanimous for all services:

"We are acknowledging the close personal nature of our 10 years

at war and the strong bonds of fidelity that Marines have for one another, especially for those fellow Marines who we have lost".

Many Desert Storm service personnel and civilians wore bracelets throughout the many incarnations of status associated with Capt. Michael Scott Speicher, USN, shot down the first day of Operation Desert Storm, January 17, 1991. Speicher was the last accounted for of 49 Americans listed POW/MIA/KIA, with ultimate conclusions taking a long time, and a lot of people wore his bracelet. When his remains were finally identified, many wanted to return the bracelets to his family. With family overwhelmed, the Military Affairs Office of the City of Jacksonville, FL, undertook collection and these bracelets were buried with his remains. The Navy Casualty Assistance Division, POW/MIA Branch (N135C), in Millington, TN then asked that the bracelets be sent to them for his family with a letter that would be forwarded as long as they wished, or would be retained there for periodic display. Some of the bracelet wearers in the interim were his fellow POWs. The same is true for current POW Sgt Bowe Bergdahl, USA, taken in June 2009 purportedly by the Haqqani network, and for whom thousands of bracelets continue to be worn.



The bracelet wearing population has ranged from hopeful 11 year olds to Presidents and Generals. Former Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey wore a bracelet on duty and in the official portrait of him that was hung in the Pentagon after his retirement in Spring 2011, clearly showing the name of Sgt. 1st Class Randall L. Lamberson, who died in Iraq in 2006.

Anyone with a bracelet who would like to get information on the individual whose name is on it, may send a letter to Defense POW Missing Persons Office, Attn: Public Affairs, 2400 Defense, Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-2400; give the data and ask for current status.

There is another group that continues to wear the bracelets with somewhat more complicated feelings and hopes: those folks are the family members of those remaining MIA/POW or KIA without remains identified or returned. Their bracelet wearing somehow shares that experience with the millions of others worn.

The tradition cited above is to wear, then return, the bracelets until the named individual comes home. However, one service website has interesting comments from a civilian daughter:

"I have a POW bracelet. I got it in the early 70's when I was in my mid-20's. The POW came home but I could not bring myself to give up the bracelet. It became such a part of me that I couldn't mail it. I have it in the box with my father's AF wings" - just an example of the impact these small items have come to hold. One former Vietnam POW calls it the "miracle of the bracelets". They are certainly unique and extraordinary wearable memorials. It is quite simply "keeping the faith" to wear them until they come home, whenever that may be.



**American Ex-Prisoners of War
2014 National Convention
June 25 - June 28**



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 28

Arlington Hilton

(817) 640-3322

2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas

Name _____

Spouse (if attending) _____

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Branch of Service _____

POW Camps _____

Please list any special needs _____

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

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

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

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Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send registration and payment, made payable to AXPOW, to

American Ex-Prisoners of War

3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40 • Arlington Texas 76010

(817) 649-2979

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AXPOW Convention 2014
 Arlington, Texas
 June 25-28, 2014



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

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AD Order Form

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Your Stories



Story of a Watch

During my interrogation after being shot down over Ploesti in July 1944, the interrogator took my watch. Apart from worrying what was going to happen to me next. I was concerned about my watch. It had been a gift from my parents the year before for my 21st birthday. I began to whistle. I didn't realize I was whistling. Whistling in the dark I guess. Then I noticed that the interrogator was motioning me to return to his table. I was already frightened about what the future might bring and now I seemed to have done something the interrogator didn't like. When I got to the table, my watch right there in front of me. He asked, "Do you know the name of that song?" I had to stop and think what I was whistling. I went over it in my mind and realized what it was. I answered, "Romanian Rhapsody". Who wrote it he asked. Georges Enesco I answered. I saw that my answer pleased him so I pointed to my watch. He then slid it across the table to me. It is still working just fine.

It pays to know a little bit about music.

True story.

John E. Lee

200 N. Maple Ave. #617

Falls Church, VA 22046

Grandpa

For Charles(Flash) Moening

by Evan Carr (ecarr008@gmail.com)

1.
I clench the war aftermath
That lingers the bold crevices
Of my grandpas face.
I'm curious, prying open my young

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soul,
In an attempt to absorb
Every generous word,
Every line that carries a forever last-
ing wisdom.

I only ask to be half as humble as
him.

I turn around inside his memory.

Half a smile parts his lips,

His heart cautiously pokes

its head out.

his eyes trained to be alert,

prepared to retreat at any time.

He never really learned how to talk
about it.

We are startled by a flare of gunshots
that echo in the distance. He pulls a
grenade from

his pocket, examines, reflects, his fin-
ger

rests on the pin of a story few will
ever hear-

2.

What wage for three and a half years
of expending life

a prisoner of war. (an ocean away
from the ones you love).

What wage for waking to battle the
doubt of waking again.

What wage for crowded, pitch black,
under the floor boards of a Japanese
ship, 35 hours without sunlight,
passed around a rusted can for the
restroom. (didn't crap for 18 days,
had a friend that went 25)

What wage for a tea cup of water
per day. a small bowl of rice, maybe
vegetable scraps, once a month
maybe a scrap bone with pork or
beef. Beriberi revealed your bones,
pellagra had wasted your soul. you
were surviving off the tangerine peels
you gathered from the floor. your
eyes were deteriorating from watch-
ing your friends starve to death. Be-
fore the war you weighed 168
pounds, when you came back home
you weighed 76 pounds.

What wage for the guard shouting
commands in Japanese, waiting for
the lack of response from the Ameri-
can prisoners, then punching their
blank faces square in the jaw, often
dropping the prisoners to the floor,
often followed by steel toe boots
denting the prisoners ribs. At the
Japanese took pride in dropping de-
fenseless men twice their size. Af-
terwards the Japs would boast with
broad chests and loudly laugh and

point and joke.

What wage? Earthquake, the ground
rumbling, undulating like ocean, you
injured your hip badly stepping on
the ground as it was coming up, Japa-
nese jumping in the sea.

What wage? B29's dropping bombs
that fall from sky like rain, rock-
knots in the stomach (could explode
at any time). *I can hear explosions
teeming his memory, the shock
trembles my bones.*

What wage for the cold blood (of fel-
low soldiers, fellow prisoners, fellow
comrades) mixed with mud, it turns
the brown grass around the body to
seeping crimson (your armor is only
skin and only bones) button up the
cold soldiers coat.

What justice rests on the wrinkles of
his closed eyelids, sprawling flesh?
mystery decays the battered heart.

3.

August 15th, 1945:

"I think the good lord was

Looking out for me that day"

I was scheduled to work

All that day and night

I was exhausted and didn't know

If I would be able to make it through.

I was relieved to find that

All the guards were nowhere to be
found,

American planes flew overhead

And dropped down food for us.

At that moment we were free-

4.

For years since, your reminiscent
eyes, thoughts, and heart have
wielded your agony into strength.
Pain is weakness leaving the body.
From this tragic experience you
gained the world, a sincere appre-
ciation for life. You never once lost
the desire to live. I admire your per-
severance; you encourage me to per-
severe in my own battles. When I hear
your story, I know there is nothing, I
mean nothing, I can't defeat. I have
been blessed by your story and I want
your story to bless others.

I have learned that every soul has a
battle, every soul has a wound, every
soul has the opportunity to overcome
and prosper. The importance lies in
the journey. Grandpa, with all my
love, I appreciate you.

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 memory of Charles "Chuck"
Hartney, by Sally Morgan

In memory of Dorothy Mullany,
by James Mullany

In memory of Friederiche
"Fritzi" Blaney, by Charles
Blaney

In memory of Kenneth

Porwoll, by Richard Carroll

In memory of Howard Kushner,
by ACCES-VR of the NY State
Education Dept.

In memory of Irene Scaglione,
by Joseph Scaglione

In memory of Joe Schultis, by
Marvin & Josephine Roslansky

In memory of Kenneth Porwoll,
by Perky Burke

In memory of Lew Sleeper, by
Phyllis Dirksen

In memory of Rudy H Johnson,
by Ruby Johnson

In memory of Truett Ford, by
Accent Graphics

In memory of Violet Horn, by
Bayard Horn

2014

National Convention
in Arlington, Texas

June 25-28

Bring the kids...bring the
grandkids...there is plenty to
do and plenty to see!

BULLETIN

Gladys Rask, Woodbridge NJ

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

In honor of Sally, Clydie & Mar-
sha, by Frank & Anne Kravetz

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mit MO

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Tacoma Chapter

Bernard Pavlik, Lehighton PA

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

An important way you can help
ensure that the American Ex-Pris-
oners of War is always there for
returning POWs, their families
and their dependents is through
your will or living trust.

It's very simple to make a be-
quest to the American Ex-Prison-
ers of War. Simply share this sen-
tence with your attorney or finan-
cial planner and they can add the
following to your will or living
trust:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the
American Ex-Prisoners of War,
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,
Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of
\$_____ or _____percent of the
rest, residue and remainder of
my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your
time to help.

Living & Giving

*Whatever you give
away today
or think or say or do
will multiply about ten fold
and then return to you*

*It may not come immediately
nor from the obvious source
but the law applies
unfailingly, through some
invisible source*

*Whatever you feel about
another be it love or hate or
passion will surely bounce
right back to you in some
clear (or secret) fashion*

*If you speak about some
person a word of praise
or two
soon, tens of other people
will speak kind words of you.*

*Our thoughts are broadcasts
of the soul,
not secrets of the brain
Kind ones bring us happiness
petty ones, untold pain*

*Giving works as surely as
reflections in a mirror
If hate you send, hate you'll
get back but loving brings
love nearer*

*Remember as you start this
day and duty crowds your
mind that kindness comes so
quickly back to those who
first are kind*

*Let that thought and this
one direct us
through each day
The only things we ever keep
are the things we give away.*

~Author Anonymous

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new members

National Headquarters
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010;
(817) 649-2979



New Members "Welcome Home"

Terry M Geloneck
Jane B
Montgomery AL
USAF 744 BS 43 Strat Wing
Hanoi Hilton, The Zoo 12/20/
72 to 2/12/73

Andrea Fisher
Sherwood AR
Granddaughter of Austin L
Knapp, ETO

Raymond F Hamel Jr
Wellesley MA
Son of Raymond F Hamel, ETO

Fran Treski Pitts
F Lee
Columbia SC
Daughter of Edward S Treski,
PAC

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.

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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

ALBERT, Lorenzo, member of the Brooklyn Key Chapter passed away May 2013 at the age of 89. He was captured while serving with the 106th Inf. Div., 590th AB HQ Battery. He as held in 12A, 3B, 3A, 4B until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Josephine, 1 son and 1 daughter.

BARRETT, William G., of Osterville, MA died Aug. 17, 2013. He was captured in France while serving with the 151st Inf., CO I. He was the loving husband of 63 years to Ruth, 2 daughters, 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, 1 brother and 1 sister. Both he and Ruth were life members of AXPOW.

BLANEY, Friedericke Hermine "Fritzie", of Colorado Springs, CO, died Oct. 10, 2013. She was the beloved wife of ex-POW Charles (8th AF, 448th BG, 20th wing; Luft 1). In addition to her husband, she leaves 1 grandson, and 1 niece. She will be missed by all who knew her.

BOWYER, "Wren" Edwin, of Oceanside, CA died Aug. 27, 2013. He served with the 15th AF, 461st BG, 767th BS during WWII. He was shot down on his 50th mission; held in Luft 1. He was a member of the Vista Group of the San Diego POW Chapter.

BRAEUNIG, Ewald Christian "Chris" of El Cajon, CA passed away Sept. 7, 2013. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 446th BG, 704th BS. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft III until liberation.

BUCHER, Rose Dolores, of Poway, CA died Sept. 8, 2013. She was 87 and the widow of ex-POW Captain Pete Bucher of the USS

Pueblo. She was a tireless worker for the release of Pete and the crew. She is survived by 1 son and 3 grandchildren.

CAPE, Jack, 93, of Lawton, OK died October 3, 2013. He joined the Army and was assigned to the Philippines. After Pearl Harbor, he was moved to Bataan and, in April, became a part of the Death March. He was held in O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Las Pinas, Bilibid and Sendai #6. Jack was a life member of AXPOW and ADBC. He is survived by 2 nieces, 3 nephews, and several great-nieces and -nephews.

CILESTIO, Lawrence, passed away June 1, 2013. He was captured while serving with the 15th AF, 350th BG, 723rd BS; he was held in Stalag 7A. Larry was the leader of the Vista POW Group that was related to the San Diego POW Chapter. He was a dedicated person and worked hard to inform the community of the Veterans who lived there.

COLONNESE, Frank P. Jr., of Miami Beach, FL died March 31, 2013 at the age of 91. He served in the USA, 137th Inf., 35th Div., CO H during WWII; he was captured in Germany and held until liberation. Frank was former commander of the Manasota Chapter, AXPOW, current member of the Gold Coast Chapter. He is survived by 6 children, 11 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

CWIEK, Norma, died Mar. 25, 2013. She was the wife of ex-POW Mitchell Cwiek; both were members of the Oceanside POW Group, AXPOW.

ERICKSON, Nils A., of New Britain, CT passed away Oct. 9, 2013 at the age of 91. He served in the Army during WWII; 80th Inf., Div., 318th, CO H. He was captured in France and held in Stalag VIIA. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Anne, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

FINK, Robert L. Sr., 93, of Austintown passed away Oct. 4, 2013. He served with the 20th AF, 505th BG; he was shot down over Tokyo and held until liberation. Robert was a member of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 2 daughters, 2 sons, 11 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

FISHER, Robert W., 90, of Lenoir City, TN died Oct. 16, 2013. He was captured while serving in the Army during WWII. Bob was past commander for the Dept. of Florida, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Lorraine, 5 sons, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 1 sister, 17 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

GARNER, Eldon Jewell, of Haltom City, Texas, died Oct. 12, 2013. He served with the 168th Inf. Div., Medical Corps, and was held in Stalags 3A and 7B. A member of the Fort Worth Chapter, he was an AXPOW life member since 1984. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Pauline.

HARTNEY, Charles W., of Wichita Falls, Texas, died October 23, 2013. "Chuck" served our country proudly for 24 years in the United States Air Force. Dur-

taps cont'd...

ing his military career, he flew combat in Europe and Korea, was shot down in Germany on 32nd mission, and was taken as a POW for nine months during WWII. Chuck served on the chapter and state levels, and served several years on the National level at Conventions as National Director and National Sergeant-at-Arms. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Audivee "Audie", both AXPOW life members since 1975.

HELMS, Joseph Eugene, of Memphis, TN passed away Nov. 9, 2012. He was 93. Gene was captured while serving with the USAAF during WWII. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Katherine, 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren and their families.

JOHNSON, Rudy H., of Aitkin, MN passed away Sept. 13, 2013 at the age of 92. During WWII he was captured while serving with the 8th AF, 338th BG. He was shot down, captured, force-marched and held in Luft III. He was a member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Ruby, 5 daughters, 10 grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

KEENAN, Alouise, of Old Lyme, CT died Aug. 21, 2013. She was the beloved wife of James G "Tim" (513th Prcht., 17th AB Div, 12A, 9B). "She made my life better. She will be missed by everyone who knew her."

KREGG, David H., of San Diego, CA died Oct. 19, 2013. He was in the 327th Field Artillery in Germany and taken prisoner on the 9th of April 1945 and Liberated on the 10th of April.

MASOOMIAN, Zaven Noobar "Doc", of Plano, TX passed away Oct. 11, 2013. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 401st BG, 615th BS, flying out of England. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft I, Barth until liberation. Doc was an active member and past commander of the North Central Texas Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

MASKO, John, of Bristol, PA, died February 10, 2013. John served in the 109th FA, 28th Div. After capture, he was held in Stalag 9B, An AXPOW life member since 1988, he was a member of the Liberty Bell Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane.

MASSEY, Hazel V., of Remlap, AL passed away Nov. 11, 2013. She was the wife of Joseph A. Massey for 65 years. He was in the 106th Inf. Div., 422nd, C Company. She is survived by her husband Joseph, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

MEFFE, Angelo John "Butch", of Fairmont, WV died Oct. 17, 2013. He was 93. He was captured in the Battle of Kasserine Pass while serving with the 805th Tank Destroyer Btn, 1st Armored Div. He was held in Germany until liberation. Butch was an active member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineer Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife of 61 years, Mary Rose, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, 1 sister and numerous extended family.

MEYER, Phyllis, 86, of Belfair, WA, charter member of the Kitsap Chapter and long-time member of the Christmas Town Chapter, AXPOW died Oct. 26, 2013. She was past commander for the Dept. of Washington. For 67 years, she was the wife of Bob Meyer (28th Div., captured in the Battle of the Bulge). In addition

to her husband, she is survived by 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

MOATS, Helen Louise, 89, of Grafton, WV passed away Oct. 24, 2013. Her husband, ex-POW Paul, passed away in 1991. She was a member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineer Chapter #1, AXPOW. Survivors include 1 son, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters and their families.

NOBLE, Gloria, of Quincy, MA died Oct. 1, 2013. She was a committed volunteer and supporter of her community; she and her husband were very active in AXPOW; she was devoted to her family. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Robert; she also leaves 3 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren and a large and loving extended family.

PETERSON, Keith A., passed away in Nov. 2013. He was a crewman on a B-24 with the 8th AF, 489 BG, 71st BS. His plane was shot down, he was captured and held in Stalag Luft IV and the winter march across Germany.

PLATTENBURGER, Archie "Bob", of Indian Land, SC died Oct. 2, 2013. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Both Bob and his wife were active members of the Catawba Chapter, AXPOW. Surviving are his wife, Mary, 3 sons, 3 daughters, 2 brothers, 1 sister, 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

PLOTTS, Donna Myers, of Grove City, Ohio, died Nov. 15, 2013. She was the widow of Elmoyn Plotts who was a prisoner in 7A.

PORWOLL, Kenneth J., of Roseville, MN passed away Nov. 11, 2013 at age 93. He was captured while serving in the Philippines with CO A, 194th Tank Btn.;

taps cont'd...

he survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. In 2004, President Bush presented Ken with the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Award for almost 5,000 hours at the Minneapolis VA Hospital. Ken leaves his wife, Mary Ellen, 9 children and their families.

PRUSSMAN, William Neal of Haxtun, CO passed away Sept. 23, 2013. He was 93. During WWII, he served with the 330th Inf., 83rd Div. After capture, he was held in 12A, 4A, 4B. Neal was a life member of AXPOW and former member of the Northeast Colorado Chapter. His wife of 72 years, Virginia, 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 1 brother survive him.

ROLAND, Jack C., died Aug. 23, 2013. He was captured while serving as a paratrooper; he was on a forced march to Stalag 7A. He was the "gofer" for the San Diego POW Chapter; providing coffee, donuts, Red Caps with AXPOW insignia, special caps for officers, and through his relations with the VFW arranged annual Dinners for the SD Chapter. His collection of German uniforms, guns and paraphernalia is housed in the VA Regional Office museum. Survivors include 1 daughter.

SCHROSKI, George F., of Lake Ronkonkoma, NY passed away Sept. 6, 2013. During WWII, he served with the 45th Div; he was captured in Germany and was a POW for 13 months. He is survived by 1 daughter and 2 granddaughters.

STEEN, Walter McRufus, of Chester, SC passed away Oct. 5, 2013. He was 91. Walter was captured while serving in the Army during WWII; he was held 15 months until liberation. He leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grand-

children, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and numerous extended family.

STEERE, Robert L., 93, of Jamestown, NY died April 29, 2013. He served in the 106th Inf. and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was held in 9A and 9B. Bob was a life member of AXPOW and member of the local chapter. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Phyllis, 6 daughters and several grandchildren.

STRUHAR, Letha, of Santee, CA died Oct. 20, 2013. She was the widow of ex-POW August "Gub" Struhar, Army Air Corps. They were members of the San Diego POW Chapter.

TATMAN, Carl John, of Racine, WI passed away Aug. 14, 2013. He was 90. He proudly served his country in the US Army; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Carl is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dolores, 3 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

TURNER, Houston, of West Hills, CA died Nov. 9, 2013. During WWII, he was captured on Bataan April 9, 1942. He spent 3 ½ years as a POW. Houston was a member and officer of the San Fernando Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Georgia, 2 son, 5 grandchildren and many good friends.

UNGER, Florance M., of Loveland, CO passed away Oct. 17, 2013. She was 89. Florance was the widow of ex-POW Allen (USAAC, 739th BS, 454th BG, Vienna, 7A, Bavaria). She was a life member of AXPOW and the former Northeast Colorado Chapter. She leaves 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters and 1 great-grandson.

WOODEN, Meryle Lyle of West Line, MO passed away Sept. 21, 2013. He was 87. After graduation,

Meryle proudly served in the AAF, 759th BS, 459th BG during WWII. During his service he was captured and held in a POW camp in Moosburg, Germany. His wife preceded him in death. He also was a member of the Heart of America EX-POW Chapter. He is survived by two sons, two daughters, one brother, a special aunt, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

WRIGHT, Dennis Leo, 89, of Lawson, MO, passed away October 4, 2013. He was a WWII veteran and a prisoner of war, captured at the Battle of the Bulge. He was a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was preceded in death by his wife and two sons. He leaves behind his two sons and two daughters, one brother, a brother-in-law, many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and his dog, Baxter.

WRIGHT, Flora Myrtle, of San Antonio, TX died Nov. 22, 2013. She was the widow of ex-POW Leon B. (2B) and was a member of the San Antonio Chapter, AXPOW. 1 daughter, 2 grandson, 2 sisters and their families, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Flora loved life and will be missed by all.

ZAK, George K., member of Company M, 422nd Regiment, 106th Infantry Division (Golden Lions) of the US Army passed away Sept. 20, 2013. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held at Stalag IV-B. Stalag IV-B was reached first by the Soviet Army from whom he escaped in May, 1945. He leaves four children, five grandchildren, and many friends. He was an active member of the Stalag IV-B Association, the 106th Infantry Division Association.

chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

As I write this we are in the midst of the Holiday Season. However, by the time you read this, we will be beyond Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukah and New Year's. It is possible, as you read this you will have forgotten your New Year's resolutions. (If you made any)

New Year's resolutions are usually efforts we make to better ourselves. While the Bible does not speak of New Year's resolutions it does speak of starting over, literally, turning from wrong doing to God and right doing. II Chronicles 7:14 (If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.) although this verse was written for the Israelites, you don't have to be an Israelite to receive the promise of this verse because anyone who trusts God is a part of "my people".

Being a part of God's people means leaving behind our sinful ways and making a new resolution to trust God ("seek my face") and to live a better life ("turn from their wicked way"). This results in "hearing from heaven" In

short God acts (or moves) to forgive those things we have done wrong, and "heals our land."

Americans have three favorite pastimes, complaining about our jobs, complaining about other people and complaining about our government. The solution to all three problems are simple. For jobs, seek another, for people, tolerance and understanding are needed, for our government every citizen needs to trust God so He will "heal our land."

So the question can be logically asked, "Are you complaining or are you trusting?"

My closing scripture is I Timothy 2:1-3. Verse one plainly states

"prayers ...for all men" and Verse two specifies our rulers "and for all that are in authority", in modern English, everyone in our government. Verse three states "good thing to do" and I would like to make this prayer for the New Year. Father in Heaven, Great God of Mercy, Forgive what we have done amiss and bless our efforts to do rightly and to better ourselves in this coming year. Bless our jobs, our fellow citizens, and our government. In Christ's name. Amen Happy New Year.



Benny

*62 Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron
Reaper Aircraft Maintenance Unit
This flag was flown in combat over the skies of Afghanistan on
19 September 2013,
carried by an MQ-9 (Tail Number 4023) Reaper in support of
Operation Enduring Freedom
In honor of American Ex-Prisoners of War
We present this certificate on behalf of the men and women of
the 62nd ERS and Reaper AMV*

Received from Melanie Buchanan, served for 18 years ,
5 deployments, will be deployed again in February 2014.

The pictured plaque was received on behalf of AXPOW by member Debbie Lyon, of Rowlett, TX. Debbie has been sending "care boxes" to Melanie to share with her unit.

Debbie received a flag from them last year (and displayed it at the National Convention).

The unit wanted to do something special for the former POWs, so they chose to fly a flag in their honor on POW/MIA day, Sept 19. There is a handwritten note on the "strapping" of the flag, thanking the former POWs for their service and sacrifices made.



**American Ex-Prisoners of War
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION**
to honor a loved one or a former colleague
Donations are not tax-deductible.

Please feel free to make copies of this form and use when making donations.

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY: _____ Date of Death _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

To be contributed to the _____ **Fund.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

Memorial donations should be sent to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War

3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40

Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40

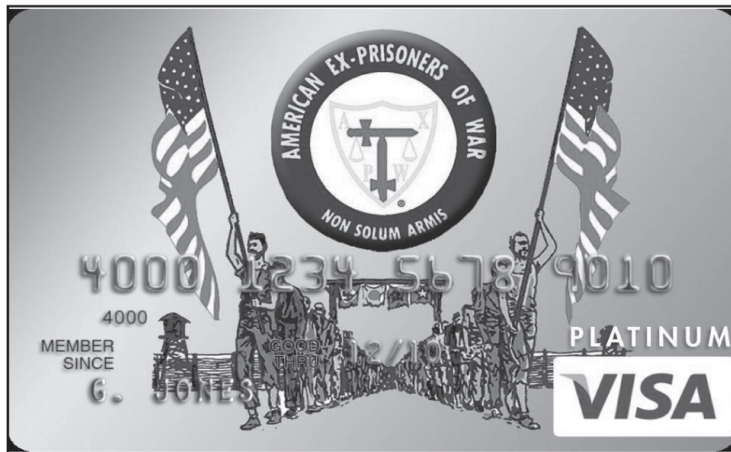
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)

ALL CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO
AXPOW OR AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

**Every credit card sends you a statement.
This card lets you make one.**

American Ex-Prisoners of War Custom Visa® Platinum Rewards Card.



- No annual fee.
- \$50 donation by the bank when you first use the card.*
- Ongoing contributions made when you continue using your card.
- Low Introductory APR on purchases and no balance transfer fees for 6 months.[†]
- Enhanced Visa Platinum benefits, including 24/7 Emergency Customer Service, 100% Fraud Protection, Auto Rental and Travel Accident Insurance and much more.
- Earn points at hundreds of participating online retailers redeemable for name-brand merchandise, event tickets, gift cards or travel reward options.

Make your own statement with your custom



American Ex-Prisoners of War

Visa Platinum Rewards Card

VISA

Apply today at:

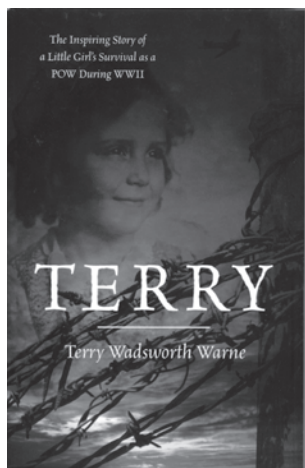
<http://www.cardpartner.com/app/axpow>

The AXPOW Visa card program is operated by UMB Bank, N.A. All applications for AXPOW Visa credit card accounts will be subject to UMB Bank N.A.'s approval, at its absolute discretion. Please visit www.cardpartner.com for further details of terms and conditions which apply to the AXPOW Visa card program. * Donation made when card is used once within 90 days of issuance. † After this period a low variable APR will apply.

CardPartner.com Powered by CardPartner. The #1 provider of custom affinity credit card programs.
From UMB

TERRY

Terry Wadsworth Warne



The Inspiring Story of a Little Girl's Survival as a POW in the Philippines During WWII.

- *Life was sweet on the pineapple plantation until the war started.*
- *Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Pres. Manuel Quezon and their families hid in Terry's remote home while escaping to Australia.*
- *Terry and her parents hid in the jungle until finally surrendering when the army surrendered on May 10, 1942.*
- *Interned in Impalutao, Davao, and Santo Tomas.*
- *Twice transported in the holds of Japanese ships.*

Available on the internet:
Amazon, Barnes&Noble and e-books.

50/50 drawing

November 2013 Arlington, TX

1st Place	Adene Miles, MS	\$241.40
2nd Place	Skip Moore	\$181.05
	<i>donated back to organization</i>	
3rd Place	Velma Wilson	\$120.70
4th Place	Alice Gollin	\$ 60.35

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

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396

request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Membership is open to US Military and Civilians captured because of their US citizenship and their families.

Do NOT send dues with this request for an application

Mail to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5936
(817) 649-2979 voice
(817)649-0109 fax
e-mail:HQ@axpow.org



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active
since 1946

If you are a former 106th Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106th, a relative of a 106th veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.

The CUB Magazine is published three times per year. Published since 1946.
Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.

Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman
121 McGregor Ave.
Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856
973-663-2410
E-mail: jsc164@aol.com

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2014

<p style="text-align: center;">American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing</p> <p>PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: () _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p>Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. Mail your donation American Ex-Prisoners of War and entry to: 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396</p> <p>You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support. (6/14)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing</p> <p>PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: () _____ Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p>Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. Mail your donation American Ex-Prisoners of War and entry to: 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396</p> <p>You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support. (6/14)</p>
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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

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2014

AXPOW Gravesite Medallion



The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer. Hardware for mounting is included. Weight - approximately 1.25 lb.

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

\$75.00

**plus \$15.00 S/H/I
Shipping costs on two
or more is \$20.00.**

AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement)

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest

Chapter Name (back of vest)

Price: \$55.00, includes S/H

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

AXPOW Challenge Coin



great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization
AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

\$10.00ea

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00
Necktie w/logo (regular only)	30.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00
Brooch pin	5.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00
Logo pin	5.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00
Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Challenge Coins	10.00
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire (specify gold, silver or antique gold)	8.00
Vest Chainguard	8.00
3" Blazer Patch	4.00
4" Blazer Patch	4.00
8" Blazer Patch	10.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	5.00
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00

Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**(includes S/H)

Ship to: _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

We accept Master Card/Visa

12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo with grommets, outdoor use	60.00
3x5ft. blackPOW/MIA flag, outdoor use	25.00
Aluminum License Plate	5.00
3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
3" Inside Decal	1.00
8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
POW DVD - ETO or Pacific	11.00
"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
CLOTHSTRIPES (specify which title)	3.00
Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas	
Chapter Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer · Dep't Commander	
Past Dept. Commander · Dep't Adjutant	
Dep't Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander	
Jr. Vice Commander · Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer	

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 4.00, add \$3.00; For orders 4.01 to 7.99, add \$4.00; For orders 8.00 to 25.00, add \$8.00, For orders 25.01 to 49.99, add \$13.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$15.00
For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

Total: \$

For credit card orders: Card # _____ Expiration: _____

(Check one) Master Card _____ Visa _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

**FOR ALL ORDERS, MAIL TO:
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396
817-649-2979
axpow76010@yahoo.com**



American Ex-Prisoners of War Website Biography www.axpow.org

If you are not a current member of AXPOW, you must submit documentation of your POW status.

Name:

Nickname:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Telephone:

Spouse:

Email:

Conflict and Theater of Operation:

Branch of Service:

Unit:

Where were you captured?

Date captured:

POW camps you were held in:

How long were you a POW?

Date liberated:

Medals received:

Job in the military:

After military service:

Your biography listing may include 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white) and a 1000 word or less narrative. Please type or print your narrative. Photos and narratives may be emailed to hq@axpow.org please reference "Biography" and your name.

Send to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40Arlington, Texas 76010-5396. Please include your check for \$65.00, your photos and narrative (or indicate what date they were emailed).



All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:
American Ex-Prisoners of War
National Headquarters
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

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great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization

AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

\$10.00ea

change of address form

Include your mailing label for address change or inquiry. If you are receiving duplicate copies, please send both labels. If moving, please give us your new address in the space provided.

Please print:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396
Or fax: (817) 649-0109
Or e-mail: axpow76010@yahoo.com