

# EX-POW BULLETIN

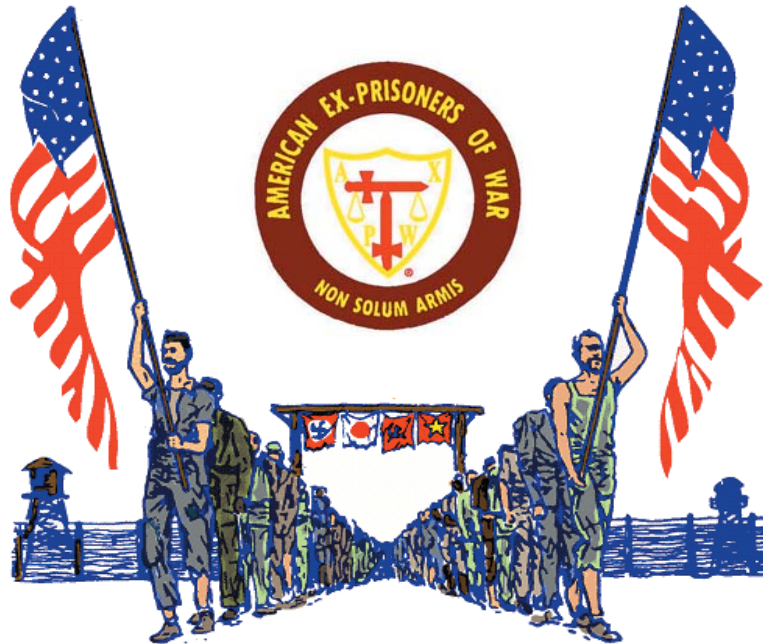
the official voice of the  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

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Number 1/2

January/February 2016



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*USS Pueblo under attack*



*Veterans Day 2015~  
Washington, DC*





## table of contents

officers/directors	4
commander/coo	5
ceo/planning	6
medsearch	7
nso	11
legislative	12
andersonville	13
namPOW	14
civilian	15
events, looking for	16
convention news	17
uss pueblo	20
mercy street	21
the march	24
your stories	25
news	26
new members	31
contributions	32
taps/chaplain	33
voluntary funding	38
raffle	39
quartermaster	42

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Please send all materials to  
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## January/February 2016



### Renewal Notice! Annual Members!

This issue will be the last one you receive if you don't renew. Take a minute  
and send your 2016 dues to National Headquarters.

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

National Convention! It's coming June 23-25, 2016 at the Arlington Hilton, Arlington, TX. There's more information in this Bulletin and every Bulletin until Convention. Bring your kids...your grandkids...Activities abound! Six Flags, Cowboy Stadium, Hurricane Park, The Ballpark at Arlington...and plenty more. You'll have a great time meeting old friends and new. We're also working to ensure the future of AXPOW and different ideas will be presented at the Convention and be voted on. Make your voice heard!

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

Cover: On January 23, 1968 USS PUEBLO (AGER-2) was attacked in international waters by North Korean forces. Eighty-two surviving crewmembers were captured and held prisoner for eleven months. Original oil painting by artist Richard DeRosset for USS PUEBLO crewmember Tom Massie. North Korean hull and aircraft have their actual numbers of the attacking forces.

### UMB Credit Card

Every time a member – or member's family or friends – signs up for the new UMB credit card (which features our marching men on the face), AXPOW receives \$50.00. That's like making a \$50 donation to the organization when you sign up. We also get a percentage of every dollar spent if you use the card each month. You also get benefits from using the card...there is no annual fee and at the end of the year, you'll receive a statement of your annual charges, broken down by category. Makes filing your taxes easier!

So benefits for us and benefits for you. Won't you take a few minutes and apply for this card today?

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## National Commander Edward DeMent

As we enter into the New Year, let's all say a silent prayer for peace throughout the world.

My son and I were invited to the White House on November 11, 2015 and had breakfast with the President. It was an honor I will never forget. We left our hotel and went to Ft. Myers. Boarded an army bus by 8:00 a.m. and drove to the White House. What a beautiful room and the food was excellent. Our picture was taken with the President and Vice President; pictures were also taken with Robert McDonald, Secretary of VA. He told me his father-

in-law was shot down in a B-24, an interned at Stalag 17-B. There were approximately 200 in attendance.

We returned to the bus and went to Arlington National Cemetery for the wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

What I saw was so impressive, it's very difficult to describe. All 5 branches of the military were in front of us at attention. I still get a lump in my stomach after all these years, This is patriotism.

After the ceremony, we were ushered to the amphitheater with over 1,000 attending. All national and presidents of various military organizations were seated on the stage with the president. When the program was over, Mr. President shook hands with everyone. When he came to me, I said, "Mr. President, you and I have something in common." He asked what? "We are both from Chicago." He indicated he wanted to talk, but the secret service made him move along. Our wreath was carried by my son.

FELLOW MEMBERS, NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> SHOULD BE ON YOUR BUCKET LIST.

Our midyear meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> at Arlington, Texas was a small turnout. Perhaps it was the wrong day.

I hope you all have had a wonderful holiday season! Now we're into the New Year and new opportunities for AXPOW.

Our Midyear Board meeting went well. We had several missing but did do some cyber-conferencing. It is the wave of the future for AXPOW. We are investigating holding a Board meeting entirely online. No travel expenses, minimal cost to the organization and high attendance. Board members will have to have an internet connection and good computer, tablet or a good smart phone. The software is free for the Board. It will cost AXPOW less than \$500 a year for the online app. It's an exciting idea!

The minutes for this past meeting consists of over 50 pages. If you want a copy, please send us a request by email and we will send them

to you. Our email is [hq@axpow.org](mailto:hq@axpow.org).

The Board voted to shorten the National Convention by one day. This will make the meeting more affordable. We will not schedule any tours. The new agenda will have the Board meeting on Thursday, Opening Ceremonies and Seminars on Friday along with the opening of the business meeting. The convention will continue on Saturday with the banquet on Saturday night.

The shortened agenda is on page 17, along with registration and hotel information.

We hope you are able to attend. Bring your grand kids and enjoy all the fun we offer in Arlington. Six Flags Over Texas and Hurricane Harbor are both within a short trolley ride from the hotel. The trolleys are free and will



There were a number of areas discussed that will be presented at our national convention in June, 2016. I will list a few points that are important:

1. Print our bulletin quarterly
2. Establish (4) scholarships at \$500
3. 2016 summer programs at Andersonville National Cemetery and museum
4. Shorten agenda for the National Convention to (3) days
5. Strategic planning committee presented an outstanding report.

WHAT IS OUR FUTURE  
GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS  
YOURS IN PATRIOTISM

*Edward L. DeMent*

## news from hq



take you directly to the attractions. Remember, the hotel rate is good for 2 days before and 2 days after the convention!

If you are an annual member, please send in your dues now. We appreciate your support.

Have a safe and healthy New Year.  
Clydie, Marsha, Donna, Sally

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016



## from the CEO



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### *Happy New Year*

The New Year offers each of us an opportunity to reflect again on our resolutions and to consider how we might tweak our conduct and relationships in the future. To some others it presents an opportunity to

change course—in a sense to reset our position to that fork in the road characterized by Poet Laureate Robert Frost where the road forks and he considers the options ahead unlike Yogi Berra who simplifies the choice by saying: “When you come to a fork in the road, take it”.

In this Bulletin and in future issues, leading toward our next annual convention you will read articles that reflect discussions and actions taken by your Board of Directors at the November highly productive mid-year meeting. In the minutes, you will see actions that support both themes of *pride in the past* and *faith in the future*.

The BoD moved to establish and fund a minimum of two intern *named* scholarships at Andersonville. In addition, we established an Outreach Committee to contact corporate sponsors and reestablish our participation in consolidated charitable organizations such as The Combined Campaign. Led by Charles A. Susino, the Strategic Planning Committee presented an outstanding look at the issues of our declining membership and the desire to create a lasting

legacy in honor of those who have served our nation so gallantly.

In my previous article, I challenged each of you to look at how you might serve today—what you might do for a member of *the greatest generation* and to reflect on our AXPOW family. Now, in this new year, each of us must consider the future. In my few years on the Board, I have seen attendance at the National Conventions and Board Meetings (including the recent mid-year) dwindle.

So, I ask you to consider again the words of Robert Frost and the analogy to AXPOW:

“I shall be telling this with a sign  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood,  
and I—  
Took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all  
the difference.

Reflect, consider, and plan now to attend our National Convention.

*David*

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### Positioning AXPOW for the Future

By Charles A. Susino,  
National Director and Chairman,  
Strategic Planning Committee

The American EX-Prisoners of War has a long and rich history of serving and representing the prisoners of war of all conflicts, both past and current. However, during WWII, more than 100,000 men and women were captured and held by enemy forces. The overwhelming need for a single voice to speak for these returnees and their families resulted in our current structure in 1949 and our Congressional Charter in 1983. Since then, AXPOW has worked tirelessly to serve those soldiers, sailors, air-

men, and civilians who faced the horrors of captivity. Over the past seven decades, our focus has been to serve the ex-POW's and veterans in general through direct assistance and through public awareness, to educate our political leaders and to raise public awareness to obtain critical health care services and service-connected disability compensation.

Our work may never be done, but fortunately, recent conflicts have resulted in fewer combatants taken prisoner—and for that, we are all very grateful. As a result, our membership is in transition from ex-POWs to families of next-of-kin.

With this transition, the demand for our services is shrinking daily, and the AXPOWs membership, its financial resources, and active members at the national level have dramatically reduced to the point where we need to look ahead to determine what and how to establish our permanent

legacy. The time is now to take these steps while there is the limited financial and human resources available to complete the tasks. And most appropriately, time while there is a still a critical mass of ex-POWs that can appreciate and take honor in establishing a legacy for perpetuity.

The task of the Strategic Planning committee is to review the possible approaches and actions worthy of our legacy. The committee's recommendations will be presented in future bulletins for review and vote by the membership. This will consist of two or three feasible plans of action leading us to our next phase of service and preserve the history and legacy of the American Ex prisoners of war.

In coming Bulletin(s), we will outline for your review options for you to decide and cast a vote.

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Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

6

## Agoraphobia

### What is the definition of agoraphobia?

A phobia is generally defined as the severe, unrelenting fear of a situation, activity, or thing that causes one to want to avoid it. The definition of agoraphobia is a fear of being outside or otherwise being in a situation from which one either cannot escape or from which escaping would be difficult or humiliating.

Phobias are largely under-reported and under-diagnosed, probably because many phobia sufferers find ways to avoid the situations to which they are phobic. The fact that agoraphobia often occurs in combination with panic disorder makes it even more difficult to track how often it occurs. Other statistics about agoraphobia include that researchers estimate it occurs from less than 1% to almost 7% of the population.

### What causes agoraphobia?

There are a number of theories about what can cause agoraphobia. One hypothesis is that agoraphobia develops in response to repeated exposure to anxiety-provoking events. Mental-health theory that focuses on how individuals react to internal emotional conflicts (psychoanalytic theory) describes agoraphobia as the result of a feeling of emptiness that comes from an unresolved Oedipal conflict, which is a struggle between the feelings the person has toward the opposite-sex parent and a sense of competition with the same-sex parent. Although agoraphobia, like other mental disorders, is related to a number of psychological and environmental risk factors, it also tends to run in families, and for some people, may have a clear genetic factor contributing to its development. For ethnic minorities in the United States, a number of factors influence the likelihood of developing agora-

phobia or any other anxiety disorder, like immigration from another country, language proficiency, feeling discriminated against, as well as the specific ethnicity of the individual.

### What are agoraphobia symptoms?

The symptoms of agoraphobia include anxiety that one will have a panic attack when in a situation from which escape is not possible or is difficult or embarrassing. Examples of such situations include using public transportation, being in open or enclosed places, being in a crowd, or outside of the home alone. The panic attacks that can be associated with agoraphobia, like all panic attacks, may involve symptoms and signs like intense fear, disorientation, rapid heartbeat, dizziness, or diarrhea. Agoraphobic individuals often begin to avoid the situations that provoke these reactions. Interestingly, the situations that people with agoraphobia avoid and the environments that cause people with balance disorders to feel disoriented are quite similar. This leads some cases of agoraphobia to be considered as vestibular function (related to balance disorders) agoraphobia.

### What are the risk factors for agoraphobia?

Women, Native Americans, middle-aged individuals, low-income populations, and individuals who are either widowed, separated, or divorced are at increased risk of developing agoraphobia. Individuals who are Asian, Hispanic, or of African/African-American descent tend to have a lower risk of developing this disorder.

Having a history of panic attacks is a risk factor for developing agoraphobia. Agoraphobic individuals are at increased risk for developing panic attacks, as well. Other anxiety disorders that tend to co-occur with agoraphobia include social anxiety

disorder (social phobia) and generalized anxiety disorder. Even the use of alcohol can result in severe, albeit temporary anxiety.

### When should one seek medical care for agoraphobia?

Call a doctor when the signs and symptoms of anxiety are not easily, quickly, and clearly relieved. For example,

- if the symptoms are so severe that medication may be needed,
- if the symptoms are interfering with someone's personal, social, or professional life,
- if someone has chest pain, shortness of breath, headaches, palpitations, dizziness, fainting spells, or unexplained weakness,
- if someone is depressed or feeling suicidal or homicidal.

When the signs and symptoms suggest that anxiety may have been present for a prolonged period (more than a few days) and appear to be stable (not getting significantly worse), it's advisable to make an appointment with a doctor for evaluation. But when the signs and symptoms are severe and come on suddenly, they may indicate serious medical illness that needs immediate evaluation and treatment in a hospital's emergency department.

### How do physicians diagnose agoraphobia?

Interestingly, physicians often diagnose and treat agoraphobia, like other phobias, when patients seek treatment for other medical or emotional problems rather than as the primary reason that care is sought. As with other mental disorders, there is no single, specific test for agoraphobia. The primary-care doctor or psychiatrist will take a careful history, perform or refer to another doctor for a physical examination, and

## medsearch cont'd...

order laboratory tests as needed. If someone has another medical condition that he or she knows about or there has been exposure to a medication, drug of abuse or other substance, there may be an overlap of signs and symptoms between the old and the new conditions. Just determining that anxiety does not have a physical cause does not immediately identify the ultimate cause. Often, determining the cause requires the involvement of a psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, and/or other mental-health professional.

In order to establish the diagnosis of agoraphobia, the professional will likely ask questions to ensure that the anxiety of the sufferer is truly the result of a fear of being in situations that make it impossible, difficult, or embarrassing to escape rather than in the context of another emotional problem (for example, fear of being near people that remind one of an abuser in the case of posttraumatic stress disorder or the fear of hearing voices that have no basis in reality as occurs in schizophrenia). The evaluator will also seek to determine if the symptoms of agoraphobia have occurred most times that the sufferer has been exposed to the previously described anxiety-provoking situations over at least a six-month period.

### **What is the treatment for agoraphobia?**

There are many treatments available for overcoming agoraphobia, including specific kinds of psychotherapy as well as several effective medications. A specific form of psychotherapy that focuses on decreasing negative, anxiety-provoking, or other self-defeating thoughts and behaviors (called cognitive behavioral therapy) has been found to be highly effective in treating agoraphobia. In fact, when agoraphobia occurs along with panic disorder, cognitive behavioral therapy, with or without treatment with medication, is considered to be the most effective way to both

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

8

relieve symptoms and prevent their return. In fact, sometimes patients respond equally as well when treated with group cognitive behavioral therapy or a brief course of that kind of therapy, as they do when treated with traditional cognitive behavioral therapy. Psychotherapy for agoraphobia is also effective for many people when they receive it over the Internet, which is optimistic news for people who live in areas that are hundreds of miles from the nearest mental-health professional.

Another form of therapy that has been found effective in managing agoraphobia includes self-exposure. In that intervention, the person either imagines or puts him or herself into situations that cause increasing levels of agoraphobic anxiety, using relaxation techniques in each situation in order to master their anxiety. As people gain access to the Internet, there is increasing evidence that exposure therapy can also be done effectively through that medium.

Regarding medical therapy, agoraphobia is usually treated in connection with panic disorder. Commonly, members of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) and the minor tranquilizer (benzodiazepine) groups of medications are used in treatment. Examples of SSRI medications include escitalopram (Lexapro), citalopram (Celexa), fluvoxamine (Luvox), sertraline (Zoloft), paroxetine (Paxil), and fluoxetine (Prozac). The possible side effects of SSRI medications can vary greatly from person to person and depend on which of the drugs is being used. Common side effects of this group of medications include dry mouth, sexual dysfunction, nausea or other stomach upset, tremors, trouble sleeping, blurred vision, constipation or soft stools, and dizziness. Phobias are also sometimes treated using beta-blocker medications, which block the effects of adrenaline (like rapid heartbeat, stomach upset, shortness of breath) on the body. An example of a beta-blocker medication is propranolol.

Panic disorder and phobias are sometimes treated with drugs in a medication class known as benzodiazepines. This class of medications

causes relaxation but is used less often these days to treat anxiety due to the possibility of addiction, increasing need for higher doses, and overdose. The risk of overdose is especially heightened if taken when alcohol is also being consumed. Examples of medications from that group include diazepam (Valium), alprazolam (Xanax), lorazepam (Ativan), and clonazepam (Klonopin).

As anything that is ingested carries the risk of possible side effects, it is important to work closely with a doctor to decide whether medication is appropriate, and if so, which medication would be best. Further, the treating doctor will likely closely monitor for the possibility of side effects that can vary from the minor to the severe and in rare cases may even be life-threatening.

### **What are the complications of agoraphobia?**

Agoraphobia increases the likelihood that the person will also suffer from another anxiety disorder, like social or other phobias, panic disorder or posttraumatic stress disorder. Agoraphobia also predisposes sufferers to having more severe and difficult to treat anxiety disorders of any kind. People with agoraphobia are more at risk for developing alcohol use disorder. Also, agoraphobia tends to occur more often in individuals who have a number of different physical conditions, including irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and asthma. If left untreated, agoraphobia may worsen to the point at which the person's life is seriously affected by the disease itself and/or by attempts to avoid or conceal it. In fact, some people have had problems with friends and family, failed in school, and/or lost jobs while struggling to cope with severe agoraphobia or another severe phobia.

### **What is the prognosis for agoraphobia?**

While there may be periods of spontaneous improvement of symptoms for people with agoraphobia, the condition does not usually go away unless the person receives treatment designed specifically to help agoraphobia sufferers. Some research has



## medsearch cont'd...

indicated a more chronic and debilitating course of agoraphobia in African-American individuals compared to Caucasians. One significant challenge of agoraphobia is revealed by the statistics related to treatment. Specifically, less than half of individuals with this illness in the United States are receiving treatment at any one time. Further, alcoholics can be up to 10 times more likely to suffer from a phobia than those who do not have alcohol use disorder, and phobic individuals can be twice as likely to be addicted to alcohol as are people who have never been phobic.

### **Is it possible to prevent agoraphobia?**

As agoraphobia often develops as a fearful reaction to having panic attacks, prevention of agoraphobia tends to focus on developing ways to cope with the anxiety about the possibility of another panic attack without avoiding leaving one's home. The treatments for agoraphobia previously described are usually used to prevent its development, as well.

### **Is there information on support groups and coping for both agoraphobia patients, their family members, and other loved ones?**

The following organizations can provide information, self-help tips, and/or support for individuals experiencing agoraphobia as well as their families.

#### **ABIL (Agoraphobics Building Independent Lives), Inc.**

3805 Cutshaw Ave., Suite 415  
Richmond, VA 23230  
Phone: 804-353-3964  
abil1996@aol.com

#### **Anxiety Disorders Association of America**

8730 Georgia Ave., Ste. 600  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Voice: 240-485-1001  
<http://www.adaa.org/>

#### **Council on Anxiety Disorders**

Route 1, Box 1364  
Clarkesville, GA 30523  
Phone: 706-947-3854  
slvau@stc.net

## **Agoraphobia facts**

Agoraphobia is a fear of being outside or otherwise being in a situation from which one either cannot escape or from which escaping would be difficult or humiliating.

Like other phobias, agoraphobia often goes unreported, probably because many phobia sufferers find ways to avoid the situations to which they are phobic.

There are a number of theories about what can cause agoraphobia, including a response to repeated exposure to anxiety-provoking events or a reaction to internal emotional conflicts.

Symptoms of agoraphobia include anxiety and subsequent avoidance of being in a situation in which one will have a panic attack, when in a situation from which escape is not possible, or is difficult or embarrassing.

The panic attacks associated with agoraphobia, like all panic attacks, may involve intense fear, disorientation, rapid heartbeat, dizziness, or diarrhea. The situations that people with agoraphobia avoid and the environments that cause people with balance disorders to feel disoriented are sometimes quite similar, leading some cases of agoraphobia to be classified as vestibular function agoraphobia.

Suffering from virtually any other anxiety disorder increases the risk of developing agoraphobia.

Symptoms of agoraphobia should be treated when the signs and symptoms of the associated anxiety are not easily, quickly, and clearly relieved.

Physicians often diagnose and treat agoraphobia when patients seek treatment for other medical or emotional problems rather than as the primary reason that care is sought.

To diagnose agoraphobia, the treating psychiatrist or other physician will usually take a careful history, perform or refer to another doctor for a physical examination, and order laboratory tests as needed. The presence of any medical condition or other emotional problem will be considered. Cognitive behavioral therapy and exposure therapy are the most effective psychotherapies that treat agoraphobia.

Medications like SSRIs, beta-blockers, and benzodiazepines most commonly treat agoraphobia. The risk of overdose, addiction, or need for increasingly higher doses make benzodiazepines a less desirable treatment.

Agoraphobia increases the likelihood that the person will also suffer from another anxiety disorder and that both conditions will be more severe and difficult to treat.

Agoraphobia tends to occur more often in individuals who have a number of different physical conditions.

If left untreated, agoraphobia may worsen to the point where the person's life is seriously affected by the disease itself and/or by attempts to avoid or conceal it.



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



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



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



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



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



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



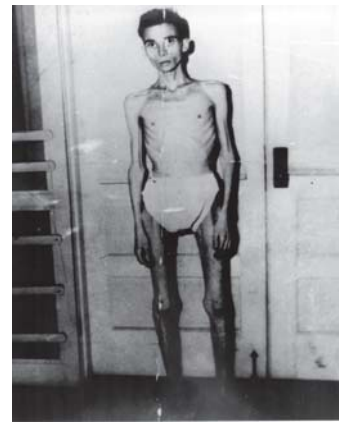
6. Private Joe Demler and another POW are liberated from XII-A, Limburg.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



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



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

## POW Photos Order Form

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

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4. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 12. \_\_\_\_\_

Set of 12 photos \_\_\_\_\_

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016

10

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# nso



Ruth Powell, Director  
191 Florence Road  
Waltham, MA 02453  
781-899-0726

## Board of Veterans Appeals

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (also known as "BVA" or "the Board") is a part of the VA, located in Washington, D.C.

Members of the Board review benefit claims determinations made by local VA offices and issue decision on appeals. These Law Judges, attorneys experienced in veterans law and in reviewing benefit claims, are the only ones who can issue Board decisions. Staff attorneys, also trained in veterans law, review the facts of each appeal and assist the Board members. {38 U.S.C. §§ 7103, 7104}

### What can be appealed?

Any decision made by VA on a benefit claim (disability; healthcare; cemetery) can be appealed for any reason.

### Where do appeals begin?

Appeals begin at the VA office that made the initial decision.

- 96% VBA
- 4% VHA, NCA, other

### How does it work?

Since 1933, the appeals process, which is set in law, has grown in complexity, with a continuous

open record leading to many repeat decisions in VA.

### Appeals at a glance...

·**Right to Appeal.** Veterans, dependents of Veterans, and survivors of Veterans have a **right to appeal** any aspect of a VBA claims decision.

·**One Year to Appeal.** Veterans have **one full year** to decide whether they wish to file an appeal of a VBA claims decision. On average, only between 11 and 12 percent of all VA's claims decisions are appealed - a rate that has held steady over the past 20 years, irrespective of rates of quality or production.

·**Multi-staged VA Appeals Process.** The appeals process is a complex, multi-stage, non-linear process set in law that has evolved over decades, with a **continuous open record** that allows submission of new evidence (medical records, statements, etc.) at any time. Each submission of evidence requires a new cycle of review and decision making.

·**Board Review.** The Board conducts a **de novo (new) review** of the entire case, without deference to the VBA decision and looking at an evidentiary record that has dramatically changed from the time of the initial decision.

### Why does the appeals process take so long?

·**Continuous open record welcomes new evidence to be submitted at any time.**

·There is no requirement to submit all evidence early in the process.

·New evidence generally requires a new decision every time.

·This differs from a traditional appeals process where the record is closed at the time of the initial decision.

·**Medical disabilities are dynamic.**

·VA is obligated to evaluate the Veteran's most current disability picture, which is constantly evolving (e.g. ongoing medical treatment; worsening or improvement in severity), leading to a continuous process of gathering new evidence.

·Varying treatment records and opinions between different physicians (private and VA) require full consideration by VA.

·**Complex, non-linear appeals process accumulated over 80 years is set in law and requires multiple layers of review.**

·Appeals do not proceed in a sequential fashion to a set end. The length of the process depends substantially on the number of cycles of redevelopment and readjudication that are triggered.

**Note:** As more claims have been completed over the past 5 years, more appeals have emerged at a steady proportionate rate (11-12% of VBA claims completed).

## DIC bill

H.R. 2539 Surviving Spouses' Benefit Improvement Act of 2015 has been introduced by Representative Joseph Kennedy of Massachusetts. H.R. 2539 would increase the DVA DIC for survivors from 43% (\$1254.19) to 55% (\$1598.76) of a single 100% disabled veteran's compensation (currently \$2906.63). Those survivors receiving higher than the \$1254.19 will vary in the amount of increase they will receive. Bringing DIC compensation to 55% would provide parity with other Federal survivor programs.



# legislative



**PNC Charles Susino Jr  
Chairman**

136 Jefferson Street  
Metuchen, NJ 08840  
(732) 549-5775 phone & fax  
(732) 713-8811 cell

Sometimes it is wise as we move forward to stop and look back. Remember where we have been to fully appreciate what has been accomplished for the veterans. This isn't about saying there is nothing left to do rather to use as motivation and pride what the AXPOW and other veteran service organizations have accomplished in the political arena to help the veteran, and especially the Ex-POW.

Without looking back, we might forget the 23 presumptives provided to the ex-prisoner of war in accessing their health and ultimately their disability compensation. Or maybe how it was to get a job when you returned from the battlefield to the states. Or maybe wondering how you would get a mortgage to buy a house. Or maybe going back and borrowing money to finish your education. Examples can go on and on but do not get realized without our reflection on what has been accomplished through our national and other national veteran service organizations at the Federal level. Please remember.

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

12

2015-2016 Legislative  
Committee  
PNC Charles Susino, Jr.  
ND Charles Anthony Susino  
charles.susino@gmail.com

During WWII, our young men and women left their jobs and went to war. Back at home, due to the labor shortage; this scarcity caused inflation in the workers' wages. For those of us returning back to our very same jobs, received the same hourly rate that we had received prior to going to war, only to find the workers on the job were making much more money than the returning veteran. The veteran was left to fight for themselves with their employer to get the deserved raises and bridged service time. We remember.

Or maybe it was after you returned home and tried to get the VA to treat illnesses caused by your imprisonment where you had to prove it was service related with your own limited resources to get them to address your medical needs. Or to solicit the VA for disability compensation just to get pushed back with limited recourse. Now with the medical presumptives entitled to the returned POW, that burden has been removed.

With today's veteran facing different enemies, new weapons, illegal chemicals, and unconventional war tactics, we need to stay vigilant with Washington to insure their needs are met. With the advances in the medical field, people live longer than they used to which is a blessing and a curse. You can enjoy life and family longer, but are challenged to maintain a quality of life through the VA system and hope to maintain financial independence. Aside from the modest COLA,

DIC has not been increased in decades. For those aging widows, an increase would make a significant difference in their quality of life.

Although, we as an AXPOW organization have less members and resources than decades past, I ask the local chapter as your membership drops and you close Chapters, please provide part or all of your Treasury funds to National. National needs adequate funding to continue the work on behalf of ex-prisoners of war and all veterans.

So as we are deep into the presidential campaign, remember the challenges and needs of the veterans as you assess and ultimately vote for our next president. We need candidates that understand our needs and willing to act on our behalf. Select the right candidate and encourage others to follow your lead.

—————REMEMBER—————

You can research the status of any Bill in Congress by accessing the website govtrack.us and search by Bill number or subject. Politicians must hear from us to take action!

## **House Veterans Affairs Committee**

Jeff Miller, Florida  
*Chairman*  
336 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4136

## **Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**

Johnny Isakson, Georgia  
*Chairman*  
131 Russell SOB  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3643

# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Supt. Charles Sellars  
charles\_sellars@nps.gov

## December 2015

The winter months provide the staff at Andersonville National Historic Site an opportunity to begin the planning for the upcoming year. 2015 has been a very successful year with the culmination of the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War and our capstone event, the Funeral for 13,000, which was held in September in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day. We continue to work with The Ride Home as we plan for the National POW/MIA Recognition Day events for 2016.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our new Chief of Interpretation and Resources Management, Jody Mays to Andersonville. Ms. Mays comes to Andersonville from Padre Island National Seashore in Corpus Christi, Texas. Ms. Mays has extensive experience in Interpretation and has held positions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Wildlife Biologist. We continue to reorganize the park's



operations, and in doing so, Ms. Mays will be taking on various roles previously done by Eric Leonard and Alan Marsh.

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, arborists and tree climbers from across the state of Georgia participated in Saluting Branches, a volunteer effort to provide tree services from pruning to removal in Andersonville National Cemetery. Nearly 60 volunteers participated, providing nearly \$30,000 worth of free services to the park. Lightning protection systems were installed in two of the trees and one system was repaired. This was a wonderful event for the National Cemetery. We are very grateful to all of the volunteers with Saluting Branches and hope that they are able to return again. You can read more about Saluting Branches by going to their website, [www.salutingbranches.org](http://www.salutingbranches.org)



The traveling exhibit has made its way to Salt Lake City, Utah, where it is on display at the Fort Douglas Military Museum on the campus of the University of Utah until May 3, 2016. As many of you saw at the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony, a very generous donation was made to the Friends of Andersonville by one of your sister groups, the Korean War Ex-POW Association, for the ongoing maintenance and operations needs of the exhibit. We continue to work with other venues as we plan for the exhibit's next stop.

The National Park Service Centennial celebration is in full swing. On August 25, 2016, the National Park Service will turn 100 years

old. Our park is part of a national movement to help Americans make their own personal connections to public lands and to launch the National Park Service's second century of service. We hope that you will visit <http://findyourpark.com> for more information as we campaign to invite you to discover something new at Andersonville National Historic Site. Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

# namPOWs



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

One of my trips last fall was attending the final send-off of a great man. Godspeed and thank you for the care you provided so many of us.

Robert Edward Mitchell, M.D., C.M.  
Captain Medical Corps USN (Retired)  
May 19, 1918 - August 4, 2015

Born in the shadow of the Naval Hospital in San Diego, California 19 May 1918 to George E. and Jessie Mitchell, his elementary and secondary education was in schools in central California. He received his bachelor's degree in 1942 from the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1947 he received his doctor of medicine and master of surgery degrees from McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and from there reported for duty in the United States Navy at Naval Hospital San Diego for his internship. This was followed by residency training in internal medicine at Naval Hospitals San Diego and Oakland. He had further graduate training at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Navy Diving School in Washington, D.C. and London Heart Hospital in England.

Doctor Mitchell was designated a naval flight surgeon in 1955, at which time he reported to the research division of the School of Aviation Medicine at Pensacola. During his subsequent tours at the Laboratory he was heavily involved in major re-

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

14

search efforts with the "Thousand Aviator" project. This ongoing study, begun in the mid 40s by Dr. Ashton Graybiel, was designed to track the careers and lives of 1056 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps pilots over their lifetimes, to assess the impact of such a career in both personal and professional terms.

Doctor Mitchell was also the prime researcher in the program assessing the health of Navy and Marine Corps personnel repatriated after being prisoners of war as a result of the Vietnam conflict. This program started in 1972, with a comparison group initiated in 1976. Air Force and Army RPWs were also eventually brought into this program. He is known as DOCPOWC. He was head of the Medical Sciences Department of the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory (NAMRL) from 1970 until he assumed command of the Lab in 1975.

Doctor Mitchell retired from the Navy in 1980 and was immediately recalled to active duty in order to serve at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI). He retired a second time and was recalled to active duty, again. After the third retirement, he was hired on a contract basis to continue his work with the repatriates, the comparison group and the "Thousand Aviators." He was also an original member of the medical team which worked with the American hostages who had been held in Iran.

During his career, Captain Mitchell served extensively in overseas assignments: Kwajalein, Marshall Islands; Naples, Italy, U.S.S. Shangri-La (CV 38); First Marine Aircraft Wing, Danang, Vietnam; and at Naval Station Rota, Spain, where he commissioned Naval Hospital Rota as its first commanding officer.

Doctor Mitchell was the recipient of many professional honors in the field of medicine and aviation. He was elected to the International Academy of Astronautics; elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in England; elected an honorary member of NAM-POW, Inc. That organization installed a bronze plaque in his

honor at the National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, FL. A second plaque was installed at the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Repatriated Prisoner of War Studies at Naval Air Station Pensacola; elected an honorary member of the Early and Pioneer Naval Aviators Association ("The Golden Eagles"); was the first recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award established in his name by The Society of U.S. Naval Flight Surgeons; received the Theodore C. Lyster Award of the Aerospace Medical Association "for outstanding achievement in the general field of aerospace medicine"; designated Honorary Naval Aviator #21 by the Chief of Naval Operations, the only flight surgeon in the navy so honored; elected to the Hall of Honor in the National Museum of Naval Aviation; mentioned in the record of the 101st Congress by Senator John Glenn of Ohio; honored by the Freedom Foundation/Navy League of Pensacola for his role in establishing the POW follow-up studies; honorary member of The Order of Daedalians.

He had 2000+ hours of flight time during his career, in all types of aircraft.

Doctor Mitchell was a member of the American Medical Association; the Aerospace Medical Association; the Royal Society of Medicine of England; a charter member of the Association of Naval Aviation; the Society of U.S. Naval Flight Surgeons; a Life member of the U.S. Naval Institute; the First Marine Aircraft Wing Vietnam Service Wing; The American Association for the Advancement of Science; the American Heart Association and had been the president of the West Florida Chapter on two occasions and a member of the association's Florida Affiliate Board of Directors; the California Alumni Association and the McGill University Alumni Association; the Navy League; the Wings of Gold Society. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.

On 4 August 2015, Bob passed his final flight physical in order to join his wife of 66 years, Viola Elizabeth (Liz) Mitchell. They will be together "Always".



# civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair

## The Story of the B-24 Liberator

by Sascha Weinzheimer Jansen  
Mabuhayma@aol.com  
Ex- Santo Tomas Prisoner  
Manila, Philippines

On January 8, 1945, from the steps of my shanty in Santo Tomas Prison Camp in Manila, my family and I were watching a bomb group of B-24s flying in formation right over head in the middle of a sky full of flack. I know everyone else in camp was as focused as we were. As usual they were on a bombing run which was always exciting for us to watch. We always thought they were gifts from heaven - shiny, silver slivers catching the sunlight which streaked across the sky.

The loud heavy droning we knew so well alerted us to their approach before sightings. It was like a symphony orchestra tuning up before the music began. We knew our liberation had to be near.

Where we were standing they were positioned at about 11:00 o'clock. When one of the bombers took a direct hit, projectile tears sprang from our eyes as we choked and grabbed our throats in horror, not believing the scene we were watching. The plane split apart and started its spiral downward in smoke and flames as it dispensed one parachute after another. We were devastated not knowing their fate. I can honestly

tell you that these boys became part of my daily prayers for the rest of my life. I prayed that they made it - that they went home to their waiting families - to their rich, full lives ahead of them.

After we were shipped back state-side and resumed a free life, all of us from Santo Tomas met each other at yearly reunions. I was amazed that among us younger people in these groups we always spoke about the B-24 incident and always wondered what happened to these boys. Funny, how this story never left our hearts and minds.

Frank Stagner, a childhood friend in camp who had their shack next door to ours, was my buddy during and after the war. Over the years Frank and I spoke often about this incident, always surmising and hoping that they were alive. It wasn't until I was 60 yrs old that I ran into an old friend, Bill Dunn, a CBS radio war correspondent during the war in the Far East, who listened to the telling of this story. I was living in Hawaii at the time and he excitedly introduced me to a friend of his who was a wing Commander for B-24s flying the Philippine campaign. We met, compared stories and the date of the hit. To our surprise, this was his bomb group. I was excited.

We spoke at length and he gave us contact numbers for the reunion group of his outfit, the 13<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 307<sup>th</sup> Heavy Bomb Group, 370<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron. As I was on my way back to Manila the very next day, Frank attended their reunion in my place and received this information.

The group also known as the Long Rangers, because of the large amount of fuel they could hold, had been based on Morotai and had flown up to Bomb Nielsen Field that day. The remains of most of the crew were

recovered from graves near the crash sight shortly after our liberation, while three or four were listed as MIAs. Today, some of these boys rest with The U.S. Battle Monuments Cemetery in Manila. The MIAs are remembered on the Walls of the Missing.

On my next trip to the Philippines I gathered most of my travelers at the grave sights and at the Wall. We finally could pay proper homage to our long time pals and liberators who had been with us all of our lives and who were so instrumental for our freedom. We owe these men and boys so much.

On one of my trips back to Manila, my good friend, Jim Litton, who was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with me and who still lives in Manila, also witnessed the same catastrophic scenario from his home on the outside. Sixty five years later Jim, Frank and I compared notes on what we had witnessed and the final closure of this heartfelt story.

This past February - 2015, when I brought back 78 people for our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our liberation, and while visiting the U.S. Battle Monuments Cemetery, we laid a wreath and paid homage to these amazing boys while I related their story of the B-24.

Allow me now to introduce you to these wonderful boys who sleep within these hallowed grounds and whose loving attentions are bestowed upon them each day by two wonderful, caring Superintendents, Larry Atkins and Burt Caloud. I thank them both from the very depths of my heart for their genuine care and devotion to so many who gave their lives so others could be free.

## civilian, cont'd...

Lt. John D. Lucy, Pilot - California - Plot C - Row 15 - Grave # 68  
Service #0771070

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William O. Goodlow, Co-Pilot - Oregon - Plot D - Row 8 -  
Grave #40 - Service # 0205878

Lt. Harvey Max, Navigator

Lt. Tris S. Hooker - Bombadier

Sgt. Forrest R. Phibbs, Engineer

Sgt. George Hadjopoulos - Asst. Engineer - New York- Army Wall of the Missing - Service # 12225898

Sgt. Theodore R. Bonner - Radio Operator -

Sgt. John C. Grim - Asst. Radio Operator -

Sgt. William O. Dilsburg - Gunner

Staff Sgt. - Harold R. Sargent - Cameraman - Service # 39408838 - Army Wall of the Missing - California

Cpl. Rudolph Szmans - Gunner - Service #42103316 - Plot J - Row 5 - Grave # 9 - New Jersey

### Addendum

January 9, 1945: At the same time the plane went down the day before, the Squadron came over again in Missing Man Formation. At the exact same spot where the plane had been hit, a huge rainbow puff of smoke was released and cascaded down like a fountain in between the black ack ack that had riddled the sky. It was a necessary sign we all needed, and an homage well paid to the downed crew.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016

16



This is a great site to download free books about military history (primarily AF). The links at the beginning are VietNam information but the link at the bottom takes you to their complete library to include WW II

The documents listed below can all be downloaded as .pdf files.

### **The U.S. Air Force in the Vietnamese Conflict**

USAF Southeast Asia Monograph series

Vol. I: The Tale of Two Bridges and The Battle for the Skies over North Vietnam

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-101013-042.pdf>

Vol. II: Airpower and the 1972 Spring Invasion

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100922-027.pdf>

Vol. III: The Vietnamese Air Force, 1951-1975: An Analysis of its Role in Combat and Fourteen Hours at Kho Tang

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-101013-043.pdf>

Vol. IV: Last Flight from Saigon

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100928-008.pdf>

Vol. V: Airpower and the Airlift Evacuation of Kham Duc

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100922-026.pdf>

Vol. VI: Linebacker II: A View from the Rock

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-101013-045.pdf>

Vol. VII: Air Force Heroes in Vietnam

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-101004-030.pdf>  
For additional books on this topic, see the AFHMP title listing page

(<http://www.afhso.af.mil/booksandpublications/titleindex.asp>) and the Special Studies/Blue Books section (<http://www.afhso.af.mil/booksandpublications/specialstudies-bluebooks.asp>). See the National Museum of the U. S. Air Force Southeast Asia War gallery (<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/exhibits/sea/index.asp>). Air Force Historical Studies Office, Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, DC.  
Ray Ruetsch  
[ruetschray@aol.com](mailto:ruetschray@aol.com)

My father was a lone rescuer of 800 POWs in the winter of 1945. He was an operative in a desperate clandestine effort to save soldiers, women and children who were "liberated" by the Russians in Poland, only to be left to die for lack of support (Stalin despised POWs). So the US sent one man in on foot, with the help of OSS intelligence, to find as many of them as possible and get them by rail to Odessa. Few know the real story of how these survivors made it to Odessa. My father saved hundreds of the 2800 Americans who made it. His story was featured yesterday in Stars and Stripes military news, as a tribute to the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII:

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?eid=525105bc-5a51-45f7-b318-82b425321410>

Please consider noting his story in your bulletin or website, as perhaps someone of these hundreds will remember him as their rescuer. He operated mainly in the Lvov, Poland area (Lviv, Ukraine now), but also near Auschwitz as well as Lublin. We have found two of the POWs he rescued and their stories, but I hope we can find more (and share more with them). My father risked being hunted by the NKVD while he searched for the helpless. In one rescue he secretly extracted 400 French women. In another, he heartbreakingly rescued about 25 Auschwitz survivors, while losing a baby born in the camp.  
Lee Trimble  
703-307-6559  
[www.beyondthecallbook.com](http://www.beyondthecallbook.com)



# American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 23-25, 2016



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 25  
**Arlington Hilton**  
(817) 640-3322  
2401 East Lamar · Arlington, Texas

## 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.

## AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11/due date May 15, 2016

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Checks Payable to:

**AXPOW**

Mail Form with Ad materials and check to:  
National Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkway,  
Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010

## Short Agenda:

**JUNE 23**

**THURSDAY**

BOARD MEETING

**JUNE 24**

OPENING CEREMONIES

MEMORIAL SERVICE

LADIES LUNCHEON

MEDSEARCH/NSO SEMINAR

CONVENTION CALL TO OR-

DER

COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

**JUNE 25**

**SATURDAY**

BUSINESS SESSION CONT'D

NEW BOARD MEETING

BANQUET/INSTALLATION

**JUNE 26**

**SUNDAY**

CHECK OUT

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016





# American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 23-25, 2016



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 25  
Arlington Hilton  
(817) 640-3322  
2401 East Lamar · Arlington, Texas

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

POW Camps \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special needs \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel provides free shuttle to/from DFW Airport. Upon arrival, contact hotel at (817) 640-3322**

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

REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked by June 13) - # of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$125 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

**↓ LATE REGISTRATION rates below ↓**

REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked after June 13) - # of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$140 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

**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



# American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 23-25, 2016



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 25  
**Arlington Hilton**  
(817) 640-3322  
2401 East Lamar · Arlington, Texas

## Candidate for National Office 2016

Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

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

**Submit to:** Ben Garrido, Chairman  
6813 W 60th Street, Tulsa OK 74107  
(951) 313-9838  
[bgarrido24@aol.com](mailto:bgarrido24@aol.com)

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016

# January 23, 1968 ~ Capture of the USS Pueblo

## US demands release of seized ship

By Richard Scott  
The Guardian  
January, 1968



The seizure of an American naval vessel on the high seas by North Koreans last night is regarded here as a serious international incident with potentially dangerous consequences. Informed sources said tonight that the US nuclear powered aircraft carrier Enterprise was on its way to the area from Japan. A Pentagon statement today said that the vessel, the USS Pueblo, 906 tons, a naval auxiliary used for the collection of intelligence, was surrounded by four armed North Korean patrol boats shortly before midnight about 25 miles off the North Korean coast.

Two North Korean MiGs flew overhead, it was stated. An armed force of North Koreans boarded the Pueblo, which had a crew of 83, and four American sailors were wounded, one of them criti-

cally. The ship was taken into the North Korean port of Wonsan.

The United States Government immediately asked the Soviet Union "to convey to the North Koreans our urgent request for the immediate release of the vessel and crew." The State Depart-

ment also said that the matter would be taken up directly with the North Koreans at a meeting of the Armistice Commission at Panmunjon called for tonight.

### Limit in dispute

Not since the American Civil War has an American naval vessel been seized and boarded on the high seas. The North

Koreans claim a 12-mile territorial waters limit. The US recognises only a three-mile limit. In any event, it says, the Pueblo was roughly 25 miles offshore and so, by any account, in international waters. A North Korean broadcast today claimed, however, that the Pueblo, which was admittedly occupied in the gathering of intelligence, was conducting hostile activities inside Korean waters.

The Pueblo is a smaller version of the USS Liberty, which was engaged in intelligence activities in the Eastern Mediterranean during the six-day summer war between Israel and her Arab neighbours, when she was attacked by Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats. The Pueblo, which had been in the Sea of Japan for the past two weeks, carried oceanographic equipment as well as a great deal of electronic and communications gear.

So far the Administration here has refrained from any detailed



comment on the incident, although Mr Dean Rusk described it as "a matter of the utmost gravity." The White House spokesman said it was "a very serious situation."

There is some speculation that the seizure of the vessel was part of a North Korean campaign of harassment which has already resulted in a dramatic increase in incidents along the demilitarised zone and an attempt at the weekend by a party of North Koreans to assassinate the South Korean President in the capital of Seoul.

Congress is likely to demand strong action by the Government unless the Pueblo is rapidly released. The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Richard Russell, has already characterised the incident as "almost an act of war" and has urged the President to take "a very strong position" in demanding the ship's release. Senator Mansfield described it as "a clear violation of international law."

### And Today~

The *USS Pueblo*, still held by North Korea, officially remains a commissioned vessel of the United States Navy. Since early 2013, the ship has been moored along the Botong River in Pyongyang, and used there as a museum ship at the Pyongyang Victorious War Museum. *Pueblo* is the only ship of the U.S. Navy still on the commissioned roster currently being held captive.



# The Dawning of New Years with Mercy

by Alice A. Booher

To paraphrase Benjamin Franklin's 1755 *Poor Richard's Almanac*, as we enter a New Year we should be at war with our vices, at peace with our neighbors, and



let the New Year uncover a better person.

For some, it is traditional to review the outgoing year and plan for the incoming. In that context, my 2-3 pieces in each of the six 2015's *Bulletin* had a few singular subject-articles: PBS' Betty White's WWII/PTO MIA Valentine film; POWs and the Armed Forces Retirement Home; POW animal friends; the VA Secretary's Former POW Advisory Committee; and belated POW medals to the Americans hijacked on Athens Flight 847 (Stethem). Otherwise, most of my regular feature articles were a subject trifecta: (1) the WWI Memorial; (2) JPAC/DPAA growth and changes; and (3) a series highlighting Civil War POWs, North and South (e.g., Camps Chase, Asylum, Sumter (Andersonville), Douglas, Johnson Island, Morton, Richmond, and Clara Barton's Missing Soldiers Office. Concurrently, off the pages, museums, National Park Service, Ford's Theater and other venues featured commemorations of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War including PBS' showing of Ken Burns' extraordinary remastered 7-part documentary.

For 2016, *Bulletin* articles on these subjects may be both encores and expansions with an in-depth assessment of JPAC/DPAA and positive progress; Civil War POW medicine and practitioners; war



remembrances from persons well-known for other reasons (e.g., Walt Whitman, Louisa May Alcott, Frederick Law Olmstead); Civil War African American (and Canadian) troops, MIA/POWs; and other select POW camps (e.g., Elmira, Annapolis). There also will be new topics (e.g., POWs of the War of 1812 and the American Revolution) and a few surprises.

Collaterally to that motif and jump-starting the New Year, PBS is presenting something extraordinary. The new series, called *Mercy Street*, debuts on January 17 at 2200 hours, a premium slot following the final season of *Downton Abbey*.



*Mercy Street*, a drama based on historical fact, features Alexandria, Virginia, the southern riverfront (Potomac River) town occupied by Union troops in 1862, with major segments involving the work and people of Mansion House Hospital. Alexandria is a beautiful old city, founded in 1749, and only a few miles from Mount Vernon. In the series, there is a lot of crossover between sites and the lives of the actors and actresses (some new and many with major credits to their name) inhabiting the parts. The story was well researched and inspired in part by memoirs and letters from the doctors and nurses at the actual hospital.

Considerable care has been taken for authenticity, whether it is the extraordinary costumes or the medical scenes. Experts called on to monitor everything with eagle eyes included historian James McPherson, Civil War medical historian Stanley Burns, local African American historian Audrey Davis and others.



A talented production of Lone Wolf Media and Scott Free Productions for PBS, with executive producers Ridley Scott (of "*Alien*", "*Thelma and Louise*", "*Gladiator*", "*Black Hawk Down*"); David W. Zucker (of "*The Good Wife*"); Lisa Q. Wolfinger ("*Desperate Crossing*") and David Zabel (of "*ER*"), and created by Zabel and Wolfinger, it is primarily the story of the Civil War life of two young volunteer nurses on both sides of the conflict. The Southern sympathizer is Emma Green (played by British-trained, Alexandria-native newcomer Hannah James), oldest daughter of the prominent family that once owned the luxury Mansion House Hotel which was transformed into a Union hospital. Emma's sweetheart and later husband was Culpepper County Confederate scout, Frank Stringfellow (played by Jack Falahee from "*How to Get Away with Murder*"). As war becomes dramatically invasive in their lives, and martial law assaults the city, Emma becomes a volunteer nurse.

The other key nurse figure is the historically better-known New

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

## mercy, cont'd...



England abolitionist and widow Mary Phinney (played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead (*The Returned*, *The Spectacular Now*, *Smashed*)). The rest of the cast is awesomely talented, huge and diverse. Well known actor John Rador (from *How I Met Your Mother*, *Liberal Arts* Broadway's *Disgraced*) plays Jedediah Foster, civilian contact physician and son of a slave-owning Maryland landowner; Gary Cole (*Veep*, *The Good Wife*, *Entourage*) as James Green, Sr., the patriarch of the family; Peter Gerety (*Syriana*, *Charlie Wilson's War*, *Prime Suspect*, *The Wire*) as Dr. (Major) Alfred Summers, aging but marginally skilled chief surgeon at the hospital; McKinley Belcher III (*Show Me a Hero*, *Power*, *Madame Secretary*, *Chicago PD*) as Samuel Diggs, a black laborer with hidden medical skills learned as a youth; the charismatic Norbert Leo Butz (*Bloodline*), as Dr. Byron Hale, an old-school Army surgeon who goes by the book; talented Shalita Grant (*NCIS: New Orleans*, *Bones*) as Aurelia Johnson, as a "contraband" working as a laundress; Cherry Jones (*24*) as Dorothea Dix. Other actors featured include Broadway's Donna Murphy (*Resurrection*, *Passion*, *The King and I*); and numerous others. Production additions have included acclaimed television director Roxann Dawson (*Stalker*, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*),

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

22

"Lost", *The Mentalist*) and Jeremy Webb who has directed myriad productions including *Masters of Sex*, *Turn*, *The Red Road*, *Doctor Who*, *Merlin* for BBC1 and *Shine*, and award winning episodes of *MASTERPIECE* for PBS including *Downton Abbey*.



The story, which is not of battles *per se* but rather the human turmoil and times of the early Civil War, is as intense and convoluted as was the history in the "border" city of Alexandria, the longest occupied Confederate city of the war. Martial law was uniquely handled in the melting pot community of POWs, injured and uninjured soldiers from both sides, prostitutes, medical staff, civilian and volunteers, runaway slaves, speculators and spies. Executive Producer Lisa Wolfinger describes it as "M\*A\*S\*H meets *Gone With the Wind*".

The State of Virginia gave the enterprise \$2.6 million in rebates for the production based on the \$20 million spent in the Commonwealth by the series during the year. Students from some 32 Virginia colleges with film or new media production classes were employed at one time or another.

The series of six episodes features Alexandria locations but was primarily filmed in nearby Richmond and Petersburg as filming in Alexandria would have shut down the busy city streets



for weeks. Nonetheless, the entire cast and crew spent a good deal of time in Alexandria and participated in local screenings at film festivals and in other PR events (and on-the-street "star-sightings"). When viewing the locations rebuilt for the film and the real remaining ones from history, the visitors were amazed at the confirmed authenticity of places such as the Carlyle House, cemeteries, hospitals and apothecaries.

The City of Alexandria embarked circa Veterans Day 2015 on a multi-layered program to stimulate tourism stemming from the series with a \$50,000 state marketing grant, a website ([www.vistalexandriava.com/mercystreet](http://www.vistalexandriava.com/mercystreet)), spiffed up local museum exhibits, teas, tours and "Beyond the Battlefield", a guided walking tour. According to *The Washington Post*, the city of Alexandria (via Patricia Washington, President and Chief Executive of Visit Alexandria, the city's tourism agency) predicts a 10% increase in visitors as a result of the coordinated effort and *Mercy Street*, which would bring some 330,000 additional visitors or transfer in tens of millions of dollars in restaurant meals, shopping and hotel visits. For those of us who live in Northern Virginia, it should be a glorious opportunity to share our beloved and beautiful venues and history with a much wider audience.



# Turning out the lights

by Robert Certain  
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On 1 February 1973, the prisoners of war housed in the Zoo (Cu Loc prison) were told to bathe, shave, and put on clean clothes. In the afternoon we were brought into a large theater where the camp commander made the official announcement that the Paris Peace Accords had been signed on 29 January. All prisoners were to be released on both sides within sixty days of the agreement.

We were elated! Linebacker II had been successful and the war was over. North Vietnam finally agreed to sign a treaty and exchange prisoners. We were now officially SHORT, and could start a real countdown to release (i.e. fifty-seven days and a wake-up.) When 10 February rolled around, we were all on edge as the releases of American POWs would begin - the longest held plus the wounded from the December raids. During the afternoon lockdown, we heard in the distance the distinctive whining of C-141 engines. Immediately, we were at the windows watching it make its approach to the airport - a beautiful gray and white transport with a big red cross painted on its tail. At the last minute it made a missed approach, turning right toward the Zoo. As he approached, he waved his wings in salute to us and reentered the landing pattern. We were shouting and jumping for joy. The guards tried to quiet us down, but it was no use.

The second release date was scheduled for Saturday, 24 February; but no C-141s arrived. What had gone wrong? Our fears of a new stalemate loomed large as we speculated and our hope for an on-time release fell into the cellar. An announcement over the camp radio claimed that the U.S.

had violated the terms of the treaty by failing to sweep the mines out of Haiphong harbor. That meant to us that the NVN government had probably done something to test the U.S. government. When the 141s appeared on Monday, the crisis was over. We later learned that NVN had refused to release four men captured in Laos but held in Hanoi, claiming they were Laotian prisoners. With the threat of renewed BUFF strikes, they relented.

The 17 March release occurred on schedule, and we grew increasingly restless, anxious, hopeful, and defiant. On 25 March we were measured for civilian clothes



and shoes and told we could carry home a souvenir from the prison. Two days later, we received a visit from the Four Power Commission and the international press corps. That gave us one more chance to demonstrate major defiance to the camp authorities. We had cleaned our rooms and laid out our "personal" belongings at the head of our bed boards as we had been told. Then we huddled with our SRO, Lt. Col. Lou Bernasconi. We knew the camp authorities hated it when we referred to each other by rank, so we took it several steps further. Our plan was to mill about the courtyard as usual, and when the gate opened to let in our visitors, to fall into military formation by cell, with the senior officer in the front, and lined up in file in order of rank. The camp authorities were taken completely off guard; the

camp commander was clearly flustered, but strained to make the best of the situation.

The next day, 28 March, we were issued the clothes (dark blue slacks and light blue shirt, belt, socks, shoes) and a vinyl tote bag. That day was also the freedom flight for half the camp. That night was very restless for all of us as we anticipated our flight out in the morning. We were up early, dressed in our release clothes, packed our bags and talked nervously as we waited.

The last release of American prisoners occurred on 29 March 1973, sixty days after the Paris Peace Accords had been signed. We were placed on buses and taken to Gia Lam Airport. We were driven to the front of the terminal, where we climbed out of the bus and formed two lines in order of our shutdown dates. When our names were called we marched across the tarmac to a USAF Colonel, saluted, reported for duty, and were escorted into the Starlifter.

We settled into our seats and buckled in so we could get underway. Quite soon the ramp came up, the doors closed, and the Hanoi Taxi moved out smartly to the runway. Although it seemed like hours, in a few minutes we were airborne. When the wheels left the ground and began their retraction, a spontaneous cheer arose. Fifteen or twenty minutes later, the aircraft commander announced we were "feet wet" (over water) and then that we were clear of North Vietnamese airspace. The last announcement resulted in seatbelts being unbuckled, cigars lit, and general movement, hubbub, and frivolity. We had turned out the lights on the prisons in Hanoi and were heading home.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016



# Different Views on the March from Nuremberg to Moosburg

by Patrick Hinchy  
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It is curious but true. POWs will often have sharply different views about the same experience which they shared in common. Bob Thompson, (2nd ID "Indianheads") has clear memories of the April 1945 POW march from Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg as "the best two weeks of captivity". So much so, that he is going to take his family back to Bavaria in April 2016 and retrace his historic POW march with them. In the July/August 2015 Ex-POW Bulletin, he explained why.

"What was so special (about this march)? Well, (1) the end of boredom and confinement, (2) beautiful Bavarian scenery, (3) the friendliness of the German farm families, and (4) and most important, was the sudden availability of plenty of food. The Krauts provided bread stations at various places and times along the route but the primary source of our good fortune was the Red Cross boxes!...(which also contained) Swan soap and cigarettes which we traded (with the local German fraulein) for eggs and other edibles."

But in the November/December 2015 Ex-POW Bulletin, George Rubin (486th BG) said that for him "the march was *not* 'the best of times' in captivity", and Ralph Kalberloh (100th BG) said "Bob Thompson must have been on a different POW march from Nuremberg to Moosburg, Germany, Stalag VII-A, because my experience was *not* a scenic tour with plenty of food, guards who let you fall out and join the march a day later, bread stations along the way."

How can we account for this great difference in their recollections, especially since all are obviously sin-

cere and ring true? The main difference between the men are their different POW histories, Bob's as a 2nd ID POW in contrast to George and Ralph's as 8th AF POWs. This may help explain it.

What Bob Thompson says is certainly not an old veteran fondly recalling misty wartime memories. It is based on his wartime diary painstakingly kept on scrap paper and old cigarette packets. He has collated them with all his wartime letters to his parents into an invaluable historical record which he has published himself and makes fascinating reading. The conclusion has to be that 2nd ID POW Bob simply had more luck than the 8th AF POWs.

Bob Thompson was captured in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium in December 1944 ending his time as a 2nd ID infantryman which had begun in Normandy and Brittany in Western France just under six months earlier. As a POW he traveled six days on foot and by train to his first POW camp, Stalag XIII-C in Hammelburg between Frankfurt and Nuremberg.

In the neighboring Oflag (officers camp) XIII-B in Hammelburg was Colonel John Waters, General Patton's son-in-law. In March 1945 a Third Army task force attempted to liberate Oflag XIII-B and Col Waters. But it went disastrously wrong (Patton always denied all knowledge and responsibility). Although Bob in Stalag XIII-C was not aware of the raid, it was enough to persuade the German Army administration to send all the Stalag XIII-C (Hammelburg) POWs in boxcars to Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg, 90 miles away. This huge camp belonged to the Nazi Party Rallies area, and was originally accommodation for the thousands of SA stormtroopers who participated in the prewar rallies.

Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg was also the destination of many AF POWs from Stalag Luft III in Sagan (in present day Poland), but after a far longer, more terrible winter journey than Bob had to endure from Hammelburg. Many AF POWs arrived in a bad condition. Then as Third

Army advanced on Nuremberg, the German Army authorities ordered all non-sick POWs to evacuate Stalag XIII-D and march southwards about 100 miles to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg just north of Munich.

From what 8th AF POWs George and Ralph said, it would seem that AF POWs headed the march column. This was tragically strafed and bombed just outside Nuremberg by P-47s thinking these AF POWs were German troops on the move until they were identified as POWs. By the time Bob Thompson marched out two hours later, the P-47 attacks had fortunately ceased. Also the never ending column of POWs was so huge (some estimates exceeded 100,000) that, as Bob Thompson related, a simple routine operated between the vastly outnumbered German guards and the POWs, which certainly made the march more tolerable for the POWs. You can take your time, but stay on the march route and you will be fed. Leave the march route and you will be shot.

It could well be the case that the AF POWs like George and Ralph at the head of the column under officious guards could unfortunately never enjoy the more relaxed conditions for the POWs farther back in the column which Bob experienced, and which made the march for him "the best two weeks of captivity". Anyway, he is certainly looking forward to taking his family back to beautiful Bavaria in April 2016, to retrace the route of his historic march from Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg, and to visit places like Munich, Salzburg and Berchtesgaden too. You too are very welcome to join him, his family and friends, if you wish. Just go to [www.gomilspec.com](http://www.gomilspec.com) and look for 'POW Commemorative March Tour'.

One thing is certain. There will be a big welcoming party in Moosburg. Mayor Anita Meinelt, has said "It is a great pleasure and honor for us that more than seventy years after the end of a terrible war, former prisoners of war and their families now want to come back as friends. We welcome you most heartily to Moosburg and very much look forward to being able to greet you and receive you in our town."

# Your Stories



## A POW STORY

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As a World War II POW in Germany, I remember many stories from that time. Here is one of them.

I was in a German Prisoner of War labor camp about sixty kilometers west of the Germany east border. I was on a detail, or as we call it a gang, working on the railroad. Our job was to fix what U.S. and Brits destroyed as well as maintain the tracks.

This day we were working near a town named Baluster. When it

was time for our noon break, we were next to the railroad-loading platform at the rear of an Inn. The Guard and the Workmaster found a shady spot sat down together opened their little tin lunch bucket and enter into a deep conversation. On the other hand, we had nothing to eat so we just took the time to flake out.

I noticed the Guard was not paying attention to us so I decided to look around. There was a door and I went in. I was in the kitchen. There were several women working there. A stout looking woman look at me and said, "Would you like some soup?" Without hesitation I said, "Yes Ma'am". We were always hungry and a bowl of hot soup sounded wonderful, and it was.

When I finished I thanked her and offered to pay. I had some German marks and held them out for her to take enough to pay of the soup and she did. I thought what the Hell; I didn't need the rest so I'll just give them to her. She misunderstood my intentions and took it as an insult. She pantomimed throwing the balance in the

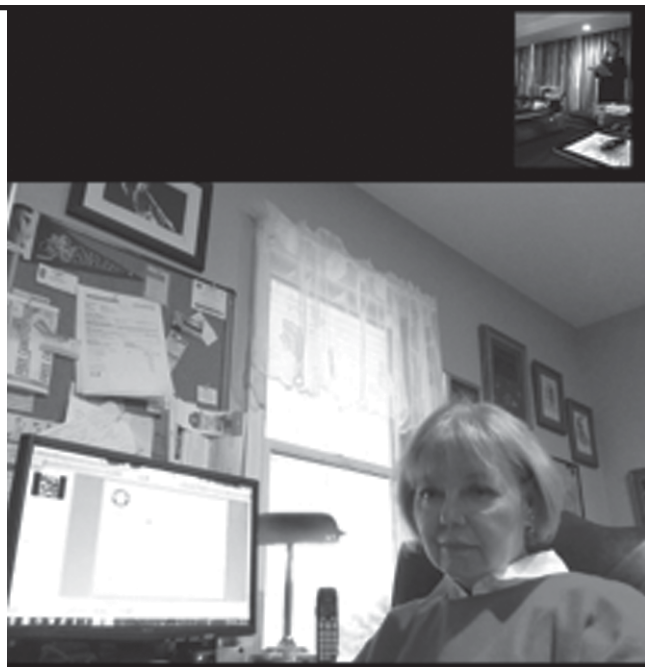
stove. I took the balance and quickly departed.

I headed for the nearest door. It was not the door that I had entered the kitchen through originally; it led into a sitting room. As I was standing there looking around I heard someone say hello. When I looked in his direction, I saw a German officer standing there. I noticed he had only one arm. He pointed at my watch.

When I was captured on the front lines and when the Germans were searching the fourteen of us that were captured together they missed seeing my watch or they would have taken it. That's another story.

The German officer said he wanted to buy it for his wife. He offered a hundred cigars. I said, "My Mother and my Father gave it to me, no, no." I turned and quickly walked away and found where I was supposed to be.

When I found the place where the rest of the gang was still laying around I sighed a sigh of relief and sat down with the others. My timing was perfect. The Guard was just closing his lunch bucket and made one last smiling remark to the Work-Master.



## MidYear Meeting by Remote

This year's Board of Directors Meeting was a little different than in the past. For the first time, we remotely connected to a board member who was unable to attend. The larger picture of JVC Cerbone in her office was what the Board was able to see in Texas; the smaller picture at top right is what she saw on Cape Cod. She was able to give her reports; we were both able to see and hear the Board Meeting from both locations. The first of the year, we're going to investigate GoToMeeting, so committees can communicate easily and remotely.

Welcome to the 21st century!

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016

# News Briefs

## USS Oklahoma Disinterments Complete

On Nov. 9, 2015, under a serene morning sky, save a low, solemn cadence, honor guardsmen assigned from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) escorted the last 4 caskets containing the remains of unidentified service members lost on the USS Oklahoma to loading trucks from their plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP).

The initiative to disinter these 61 caskets began in May, after the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Robert O. Work, released a memo allowing the Department of Defense to include remains commingled during the salvage operations of the USS Oklahoma in its identification efforts. Over the last six months DPAA, with the help of the Department of Veteran Affairs, exhumed the remains of up to 388 Service members from 45 graves at the NMCP.

After the remains are verified and accessioned into the DPAA Laboratory, the identification process begins.

"[The] identifications of the dental remains will be completed in Hawaii first," said Ben Soria, the lead evidence coordinator at the DPAA Lab.

According to Soria, the re-sorting and processing of the post-cranial remains will be performed at

the DPAA Laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha. Forensic scientists there will also organize the remains into individuals using anthropological and DNA analysis.

DPAA, in concert with the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, will use DNA samples donated by applicable family members, as well as medical and dental records, in the identification process. The agency estimates that 80 percent of the unknown remains associated with the USS Oklahoma can be identified within five years.

More than 70 years have passed since the USS Oklahoma capsized in defense of Pearl Harbor. With new technologies and advances in forensic science now available, DPAA will be able to put names to those previously buried as unknown, something long owed to those who fell. Those remains that still cannot be identified will be reinterred in a known group burial in Arlington National Cemetery, the NMCP, or another as of yet unknown course of action may be taken.

"As important as it is to return the fallen to their families, it's equally if not more important to the nation," said Brigadier General Mark Spindler, DPAA deputy director. "This is our sacred promise that we make to our sons and daughters when we put them in harm's way and ask them to do the most difficult tasks around."

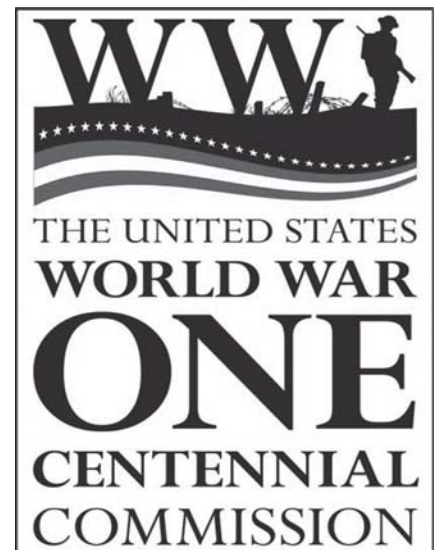
"We must work as hard as we can to restore their names," Spindler continued. "Right now they remain nameless out there, but what we do when we fulfill the nation's promise is restore the name; give the name back to the nation and give it back to their family."

## Private Health Care Referral System Changes Proposed

VA officials pressed lawmakers to consider streamlining several programs into a single initiative designed to improve veterans access to medical services. The ambitious plan would combine seven VA community health care programs, including the newest and largest, VA Choice, into a New Veterans Choice Program, with clearer eligibility rules, improved access to care and faster payments to participating providers. Deputy VA Secretary Sloan Gibson told members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee that the move is necessary to create the "Choice program of tomorrow." "Consolidation will improve access and make the process easier for veterans to use," Gibson said. "Veterans will have better access to the best care outside VA, providers will be encouraged to participate and to provide higher-quality care, and VA employees will be able to serve both better, while also being good stewards of taxpayer funds."

## WWI Memorial Update

by Alice A. Booher





## news, cont'd...

In the September-October 2015 issue of the *EX-POW Bulletin*, you learned about the long history and convoluted but ongoing plans for the WWI Memorial to be located at the site of the current Pershing Park on Pennsylvania Avenue between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets, NW in Washington, DC, a block from the White House on the West and with a direct view on the East up The Hill to the U.S. Capitol. The designated site is the current commemorative area for GEN John J. Pershing, the leader of the American Expeditionary Force in WWI, including



a pool, water-feature and a large statue.

It is unclear what if any of that current structure will remain in the final WWI Memorial, but an article in *The Washington Post* by Michael Roane, which headlined the new project choices as “serene”, indicated that at least the statue would probably remain.

Others, including Charles Birnbaum of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, oppose the entire project, expressing concern about saving all aspects of the current (admittedly neglected) site as being “historically important” work of landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg. *Stars & Stripes* reports that Friedberg himself, 83, who designed Pershing Park, was “shocked there even was such a contest”, and complains that he was not consulted in any of the plans.

In any event, since the “blind” design competition was opened on May 21, 2015, a remarkable number of some 350 proposals were submitted to the WWI Centennial Commission for consideration. According to Justin Stubow in *Forbes*, who analyzed the options of the various proposals, making the competition “open” (as was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial competition won by then unknown Yale student Maya Lin) avoided difficulties of some other closed memorial competitions over the years (e.g., the Eisenhower Memorial), and resulted in a creative, wide spectrum response. The entries were described by the Commission’s Vice Chairman Edwin Fountain as showing “a lot of imagination and creativity”, and included some apparently rather striking and/or unusual designs.

From that large multinational entry group, an independent expert panel selected five finalists, described by one analyst as exhibiting “less radical, if less eye-popping concepts”, noting that the memorial and urban park needs



to harmonize with its urban surroundings.

Announced on August 19, the finalists (who received \$25,000 each, and whose designs are available on the Commission’s website) are: “Plaza to the Forgotten War” by Andrew Cesarz, Johnsen Schmalting Architects (Milwaukee); “World War One Memorial Concept” by Devin Kimmel (Annapolis); “The Weight of Sacrifice” by Joseph Weisharr (Chicago); “An American Family Portrait Wall in the Park” by Luis Collado, Jose Luis de la Fuente, Jose Luis Perez-Griffo, Ignacio Espigares, Marta Bueno, Shoko Nakamura of STL Architects (Chicago); and “Heroes Green” by Maria Counts (State College, Pennsylvania).

In assessing the choices made, Shubrow opined that these five entries are all classic in nature; clear in meaning; sturdy and noble in materials; incorporate “symbolism and iconography legible to the ordinary person”; and prove that we “are still capable of building dignified, beautiful memorial”. Peggy McGlone in another *Washington Post* article quoted Fountain as stating that the designs were “wide ranging in style, a deliberate choice by the seven-member jury to offer a variety of options for the memorial”.

The five finalists will work with the commission, public agencies and myriad others to develop

news, cont'd...



and refine their initial design concepts. The jury will then assess the results and make recommendations to the WWI Commission which anticipates that the winning design and designer(s) will be announced in January 2016 with groundbreaking to follow on Veterans Day 2016. The goal is to have the memorial completed in time for the commemoration of the Armistice from WWI on November 11, 2018.

Fountain is quoted in *Stars & Stripes* as saying that it is premature to say whether there will be any legal challenges, but if it is determined that the current Pershing Park should be listed in the National Register of Historic Sites and thus cannot be substantially altered, then the designs can and will be altered to adapt to that exigency.

## COLA 2016

On October, 15, 2015, the Social Security Administration (SSA) announced that due to low infla-

tion this year, no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) would be made in 2016 for Social Security beneficiaries. Since that decision would also apply to veterans receiving financial benefits, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and 18 of her colleagues have jointly introduced a bill, S. 2251, the Seniors and Veterans Emergency Benefit Act. The bill would provide veterans and others in receipt of VA financial support a one-time payment of about \$580 (calculated based on 3.9 percent of the average annual Social Security payment). This one-time payment would soften the financial blow associated with the lack of an increase through a COLA, and the payment would be tax free. Payments would be disbursed to beneficiaries beginning 120 days after enactment. Even if eligible for multiple federal benefits payments, individuals could receive only one payment under this bill.

A one-time payment is not comparable to an annual COLA, and a one-time payment becomes less valuable to more seriously disabled veterans because of their higher cost of living. However, in absence of a COLA or other viable alternative, you should contact your elected officials in Congress and urge their support, co-sponsorship and passage of S.2251.

## Agent Orange Expansion

VA maintains a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records. This evolving list helps Veterans who served aboard ships, including "Blue Water Veterans," find out if they may qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure. Veterans must meet VA's criteria for service in

Vietnam, which includes aboard boats on the inland waterways or brief visits ashore, to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides. Veterans who qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure are not required to show they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides when seeking VA compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

The new additions include the Navy survey ships *Sheldrake* and *Towhee*, attack transport ship *Okanogan*, submarine rescue ship *Chanticleer*, destroyers *Frank Knox* and *James E. Kyes*, and transport ship *General W. A. Mann*. VA also expanded the dates of eligibility for sailors who served on the destroyer *Fechteler* and said veterans may be eligible for presumptive status if they went ashore from the guided missile cruiser *Dewey* or attack transport ships *Pickaway* or *Paul Revere* during certain periods during the war.

To see if your ship is listed, check VA's alphabetized ship list at [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp).

Need help determining qualifying service? VA will help determine qualifying service in Vietnam after you file a claim for compensation benefits. To contact VA: Call 1-800-827-1000 or Go to your nearest VA benefits office. Ships will be regularly added to the list based on information confirmed in official records of ship operations. Currently there are 344 ships on this list. A Veteran must file an Agent-Orange related disability claim before VA will conduct research on a specific ship not on VA's ships list. This requirement also applies to survivors and children with birth defects.

news, cont'd...

## VA Launches Hepatitis C-Advanced Liver Disease Disparities Dashboard

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is stepping up its efforts to accelerate treatment for Veterans with hepatitis C and advanced liver disease (ALD) through the creation of a Hepatitis C-ALD dashboard. The dashboard works by using a set of criteria, including age, gender, geography, service era along with and race and ethnicity, to distinguish Veteran groups at highest risk for ALD as a result of hepatitis C.

VA's Veterans Health Administration's Office of Health Equity developed the dashboard as part of its efforts to target and accelerate care of Veterans with this serious disease. The new resource promotes equitable diagnosis and treatment of underserved Veterans with hepatitis C and ALD nationally and compliments existing clinical hepatitis and liver disease dashboards available in some Veterans Integrated Service Networks or VISNs.

Chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection is the most common blood-borne infection in the world. Complications that result from untreated HCV infection include progressive liver damage leading to cirrhosis, primary cancer of the liver, liver failure and death. Although many of these complications are treatable or even preventable, three-quarters of the individuals with HCV infection in the U.S. are unaware they are infected. VA leads the country in hepatitis

screening, testing, treatment, research and prevention.

## Ending veteran homelessness: How cities around the US are doing

Since 2010, when President Barack Obama launched a five-year national campaign to end homelessness among veterans, the number of former service members living on the streets has dropped from over 76,000 to below 50,000. In early January, officials in New Orleans declared that their city was the country's first to find permanent housing for all of its homeless veterans, who numbered 227 at the start of last year. Here's a look at efforts in a handful of other U.S. cities, based on figures provided by federal, state and local agencies.

### New York

The city's population of homeless veterans fell by almost two-thirds between 2011 and 2014, with 3,032 former service members placed in permanent housing. Several housing projects are underway across the city as officials seek to place the remaining 1,300 homeless veterans.

### Houston

The city found housing for 2,800 homeless veterans from 2012 to 2014, reducing Houston's overall homeless population by almost 40 percent. Among the remaining 681 homeless veterans who were counted in a survey in January 2014, more than half were in the process of receiving housing by September.

### Portland, Oregon

City officials announced in November that 139 homeless veterans had been housed since April, exceeding the goal of 100 set in the spring. Housing advocates and city officials have announced a joint initiative to move 424

homeless veterans off the streets by year's end.

### Chicago

Mayor Rahm Emanuel unveiled a \$5 million plan last fall to provide housing for the city's 721 homeless veterans by the end of this year. Federal agencies will cover \$4.2 million of the tab, which includes construction of two permanent supportive housing communities for 127 veterans. The remaining veterans will be placed in existing affordable housing.

### Phoenix

From 2010 through 2013, the city housed 222 veterans classified as chronically homeless, making Phoenix the nation's first city to eliminate veterans' homelessness in that category. Among former servicemembers who lack permanent housing but are not considered chronically homeless, the city's population fell from 187 in 2011 to 48 last year.

### Los Angeles

The Department of Veterans Affairs has agreed to create a plan to end homelessness among veterans in the city, which has more than 4,200 former service members who lack permanent housing, the largest such population in the country. The agreement, reached in a lawsuit that accused the VA of neglecting homeless veterans in the city, also calls for the creation of permanent supportive housing on a 400-acre VA campus in West Los Angeles.

## DPAA Conducts Recovery Operations in India

Thirteen members from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, along with a team from Rimo Expeditions, conducted search and recovery efforts on the Himalayan Mountains in the Arunachal Pradesh region, India,



## news, cont'd...

in search of eight Army Air Corps members who went down in a B-24J aircraft in 1944.

Efforts began on October 2, 2015 with a 10-mile hike through treacherous terrain climbing nearly 10,000 feet to the base of the summit where a base camp was set up as home for the team's 35 day mission.

To reach the site daily, the team would have to walk a mile and half, climbing about 1,000 feet along the way. Working on the mountain side was extremely risky as the team had to dig on slopes ranging from 30 to 60 degree inclines. The excavation process was slow due to the larger amounts of moss covering the soil which revealed large unstable boulders underneath the excavation area.

"This site was challenging because it was located on dangerous terrain, physically demanding, and was archaeologically complex," said Anthropologist, Dr. Meghan-Tomisita Cosgriff-Hernandez. "But, the team stayed mentally vigilant and committed to the mission, which helped us excavate the site to its evidentiary and archaeological boundaries." Eleven days into the excavation, the team made an uplifting discovery as they unearthed potential evidence of the aviators they were searching for. The sense of accomplishment and excitement permeated throughout the team members as the possibility of identifying one of the missing was a close reality. Only a few days later the team was once again rewarded as more evidence emerged from the mountainside.

"It really was an incredible experience and an unforgettable suc-

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

30

cess being able to bring back remains and other evidence which hopefully will be identified as belonging to one or more of our unaccounted-for service members from WWII," said Cosgriff-Hernandez.

After 35 grueling days on the mountain, nobody could ask for more.

## New Fisher House Opens in Washington

On November 17th, Fisher House Foundation dedicated a second Fisher House at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington outside of Seattle. The new house will allow for 11 more families to stay close to their loved one getting care at nearby Madigan Army Medical Center.

## National Defense Authorization Act Signed into Law

After an extra month wait, the annual defense authorization bill finally became law. President Obama signed the budget and policy bill on Nov. 25, 2015, marking the 54th consecutive year the measure has survived Washington political fights to become law. The most significant result for troops is the renewal of dozens of specialty pay and bonus authorities, and a massive overhaul of the military retirement system. Starting in 2018, newly enlisted troops will no longer have the traditional 20-year, all-or-nothing retirement plan. Under the changes, it will be replaced with a blended pension and investment system, featuring automatic contributions to troops' Thrift Savings Plans and an opportunity for government matches to personal contributions. The new system is expected to give roughly four in five service members some sort of re-

tirement benefit when they leave the military, as opposed to the current system which benefits only one in five.

## Caregiver Support Services

Virtually all Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) promoted the advent of family caregiver support services for severely injured and ill veterans. Congress finally responded five years ago by enacting Public Law 111-163, the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010. However, that act limited services and supports to family caregivers of veterans injured or who became severely ill in military service only on or after September 11, 2001. That omission left thousands of veterans' families without the level of caregiver support and services they have needed because those veterans' health challenges occurred before that effective date.

In June, 2015, Representatives Elizabeth Esty and Ryan Costello introduced H.R. 2894, the "Caregivers Access and Responsible Expansion for All Veterans Act," or the "CARE for All Veterans Act." If enacted, this bill would finally address these families' needs on the same basis as those of veterans injured after September 11, 2001. Ultimately, when fully implemented, the bill would improve the lives of tens of thousands of veteran families, and will save the federal government massive sums that otherwise would need to be spent to provide institutional solutions to these veterans' health challenges and health maintenance. Therefore, this bill is both beneficial to these families and a taxpayer-friendly measure.

You can assist in getting this legislation passed by urging their Representative to co-sponsor and support of passage of H.R. 2894.

# new members

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



## New Members

Sondra Angleton  
Phoenix AZ  
Daughter of Stanley Angleton,  
ETO

Jacob Raymond Corbine  
Canton NY  
Grandson of Donald Corbine,  
Korea



WELCOME!

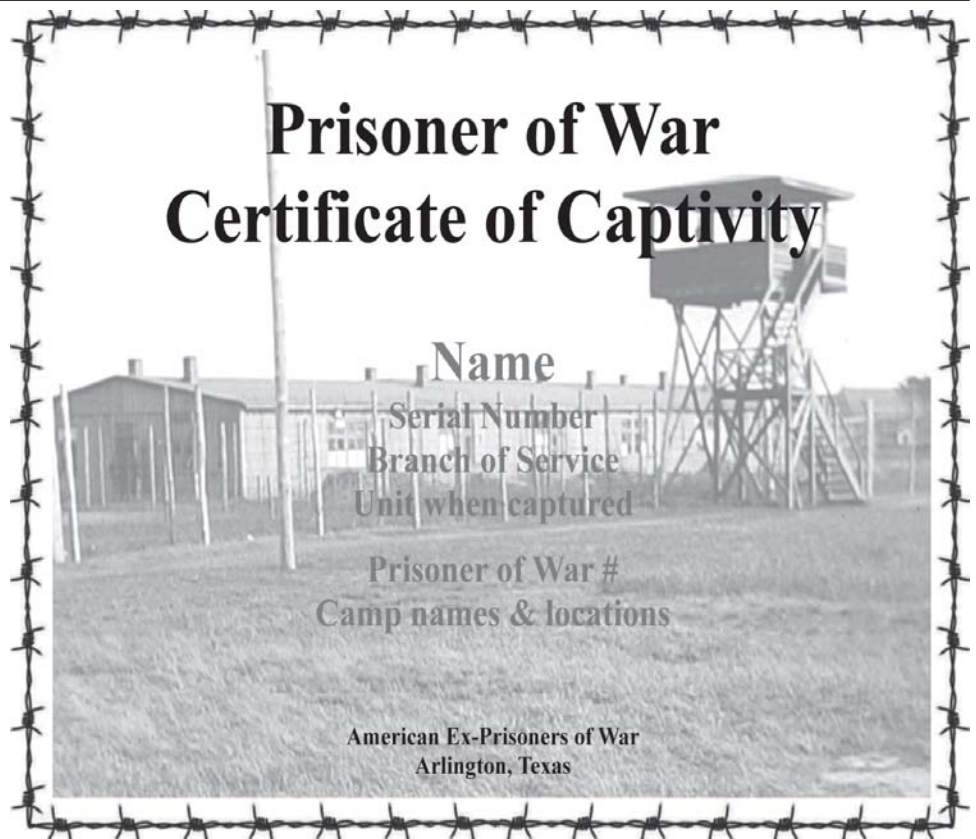
## New ASSOCIATE Members

Mary Lee Fielder (Nashville, TN) has been active in our local chapter and is our editor of our newsletter. She is a great advocate for veterans and has helped many POWs receive their 100% even after she retired from Federal Service.

Bryan Sing (Arlington, TX) has worked with AXPOW since 1983 when we purchased our first TRS80 computer. After 32 years, Bryan has his own company; he continues to be our I.T. and has become a member of the AXPOW family.

## Certificate of Captivity

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](mailto:axpow76010@yahoo.com). You may include a picture with your order.



Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016

# contributions



## GENERAL FUND

Tacoma Chapter, WA  
On behalf of Brenda Meyers, by  
Real Estate Roofing Services  
In memory of Vernon Rathbun,  
by Marcia Smith  
In memory of Vernon Rathbun,  
by Janet Thompsen  
In memory of Vernon Rathbun,  
by his wife, Virginia Rathbun  
In memory of Claire Stokes, by  
Ruth Kilmer  
In memory of Dr Edward  
Lindbloom Maj USAF, by John  
Sant  
In memory of Theodore Bassetti,  
by Gloria Tiralosi  
In memory of Irene Scaglione, by  
Joseph Scaglione  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Rosanne Everson  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Margaret Bates  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Jeanette Anderson  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Kathryn Westby  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Diane Hedberg  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Sue Damyanovich  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Mary Sterburk  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by K P Cattoor  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Charlie Carr  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Audrey Sumstad  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Melissa J Brown  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Thomas Hoban  
In memory of Russell Lloyd

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

32

McKenzie, by Kathryn Harrington  
In memory of Russell Lloyd  
McKenzie, by Shirley McKenzie  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements, by Bob Gentry  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Dennis & Joleen  
Kuchler  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Dick Oeffinger  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Chris & Augie  
Marcan  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Tom & Melissa Seare  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Barbara Stokes  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Gary Ousley  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Lewis Beem  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Members of  
Carpenters Local 232  
In memory of Paul "Gene"  
Clements by Irene & Randy  
Emmick  
In memory of my husband  
George Willoughby SCM, by  
Shirley  
In memory of William T  
McDermott, by Wallace & Mabel  
Hoffman

## MEDSEARCH

Barbed Wire Buckeye Chapter, OH

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Maurice Markworth, Palmyra PA  
Norman Gustafson, Scotch Plains  
NJ  
Ohio Chapter #1  
Robert Smith, Tomahawk WI

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

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

It's very simple to make a  
bequest to the American Ex-  
Prisoners of War. Simply share  
this sentence with your attorney  
or financial 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.

Thank you!

### *69<sup>th</sup> Stalag Luft III Reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana*







# taps



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

**BITTE, Evelyn A.**, of Elk Grove Village, IL passed away Sept. 1, 2015. She was 89 and the widow of ex-POW Robert. She is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and their families.

**BOGART, Martha L.**, of Groveport, OH died recently. She was the widow of Cloman D "Bogey". Martha was a member of the Fairfield Barbwire Chapter, AX-POW.

**BOYER, Donald R.** 90, passed away Nov. 21, 2015. A veteran of WWII, Don was a prisoner of war in Germany, having been captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Don was serving as Chapter Commander of the Heart of America Chapter of the Missouri Department Americans Ex-Prisoners of War. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Dorothy (Bonnie); four children, a sister, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**BURGESS, Harry F.**, of Logan, OH passed away recently. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 452<sup>nd</sup> BG, 731<sup>st</sup> BS; he was held in Lufts 4 and 6. Harry was a member of the Fairfield Barbwire Chapter, AXPOW.

**CIARRACHI, Harriet L.**, age 89, life member of AXPOW, died March 12, 2015. She was the widow of Victor (North China Marines, POW). Harriet leaves 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and their families.

**CLEMENTS, Paul E., "Gene"**, of Indianapolis, IN passed away Nov. 3, 2015 at the age of 86. Gene was captured while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Eng. Btn. in Korea. He was the 1<sup>st</sup> repatriated POW to be

released across the Freedom Bridge. He is survived by his wife of 17 years, Betty Louise, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and their families.

**DARBY, Lee**, of Acworth, GA, died August 21, 2015. Lee was a AXPOW life member since 1989. He served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 423<sup>rd</sup> Regt. He was captured and held in Stalag 4B. He looked forward to the arrival of his EX-POW BULLETIN, and when he could no longer read, he had his family read it to him. He was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine, in 2013.

**DOUGHTY, Orville Louis**, of Tucson, AZ, died August 9, 2015. Shot down flying a B-17 on Dec. 20, 1943, he was held prisoner at Stalag Luft 1 until the end of the war. He was co-founder of the Titan Missile Museum in Sahuartia, AZ.

**DUNBAR, Alan**, of Las Vegas, NV passed away Oct. 7, 2015. He was the beloved husband of Evelyn "Evie". During WWII, he was captured while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 422<sup>nd</sup> Reg. He was held in Luft III and VII-A before being liberated by Patton in Moosberg. Alan was a very active advocate for veterans benefits, serving as a National Service Officer for AX-POW for decades. He will be missed very much.

**ELICK, Kathryn I.** of Ashville, OH died recently. She was the widow of ex-POW Albert B, Jr., who was held in Stalag 8B. Kathryn was a member of the Fairfield Barbwire Chapter, AXPOW.

**FRINK, Eugene Francis**, of Hobe Sound, FL passed away Nov. 22,

2015. He was captured while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, flying out of Italy. He was held in Luft III, then marched to Stalag VII-A, Moosberg where he was liberated. He leaves his beloved wife, Barbara, 1 daughter, 3 sons, 2 granddaughters and 1 great-grandson.

**GIANNONI, Rudy**, 92, passed away Sept. 23, 2015. He was a waist gunner on a B-17 bomber and was shot down on his 7<sup>th</sup> mission on June 17, 1944 over Germany. He became a POW at Luft IV in Poland. After 87 days on a death march in Feb. 1945 he was liberated in May 1945. Rudy leaves behind one son & 2 daughters, a host of grandchildren & great grandchildren. As a faithful member of Fresno Chapter #1 AXPOW for many years, Rudy truly will be missed.

**GINSZANSKI, Edward L.**, 90, of Newington, passed away March 12, 2012. He was the beloved husband of the late Rose A. Ginzanski. During WWII, he served with the 29th Infantry Division and was a POW in Germany for 7 months. He leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren, 2 brothers, 1 sister and their families.

**GRAHAM, Charles Joseph**, of Punta Gorda, FL passed away Nov. 26, 2015 at the age of 96. He is survived by his devoted wife of 70 years, Betty Ann, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and their families. Charles was with the 445<sup>th</sup> HB, 702<sup>nd</sup> BS on a B-24 out of Norwich, England during WWII. He was shot down

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016

## taps cont'd...

on his 24<sup>th</sup> mission over Kassel, Germany and was a POW for 8 months in Luft IV, then marched across Germany before being liberated.

**HARRISON, Kendrick James Sr.**, of La Grange, NC died Sept. 22, 2015. Kendrick was a member of the Coastal Plains Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife and best friend of almost 72 years, Martha, 1 son and 2 granddaughters.

**JOHNSON, John T**, 94, of Boca Raton, Florida, passed away on April 21, 2015. John was a decorated veteran of WWII and also a POW, being captured in the Battle of the Bulge on Christmas Day, 1944. He was an active member of AXPOW and other veterans groups until his death. He is survived by his son, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**KROTHER, Robert "Bob"** died Oct. 8, 2015 at the age of 95. During WWII, Bob served with the US Army and was a POW for 3 years. He also trained and served with the British Commandos. His wife of 42 years, Doris, predeceased him; he leave 1 son, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and their families.

**LaBARBERA, Elsie**, of Mundelein, IL died June 19, 2015. She was the wife of the late Anthony (POW). Elsie leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and their families.

**LAU, Lucile**, 92, died July 25, 2015 in St. Louis, MO. Her husband, Luther who preceded her in death was a glider pilot captured by the Germans in WW II. Lucile volunteered her time in St Louis at

nursing homes and at a school for girls with special needs. She is survived by her son Merle, a granddaughter, a brother and sister, and a host of nieces and nephews.

**MARTIN, JD**, 91, of Glen Rose, TX passed away May 19, 2015. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 384<sup>th</sup> BG; he was held in Stalag 17B until repatriation. JD was proud to be a veteran. His beloved wife of 72 years, Nann, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren survive him.

**McGEEHAN, William "Bill"**, 94, of Jefferson City, passed away Nov. 6, 2015. His wife Kay preceded him in death. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in September 1941. Bill had flown 5 combat missions when his B-17 was shot down on July 25, 1943, over Hamburg, Germany. He was captured by the Germans and remained a POW for nearly 2 years before being liberated. Bill is survived by his six children, 17 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

**McKENZIE, Russell Lloyd, "Russ or Mac"**, of Maple Grove, MN, died October 18, 2015. He served with the 376<sup>th</sup> BG(H), the *Liberandos*, based in Italy. His plane was shot, down, he was captured and held in Stalag Luft IV. Russell then took part in the 600-mile march across Germany before being liberated. He is leaves his loving wife, Shirley, 1 son, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 brother, 2 sisters, and their families.

**MUSSER, Zephaniah Creed**, of Lancaster, OH died recently. During WWII, he served with the 79<sup>th</sup> Div., 314<sup>th</sup> Reg. He was captured and held in Stalag 13. Creed was a member of the Fairfield Barbwire Chapter, AXPOW.

**O'DOWD, Paul T. Jr.** of Rancho Murieta, CA passed away July 27, 2015 at the age of 90. He served

in WWII, then in 1949, he volunteered for active duty and was eventually sent to Korea. On Feb 12 1951, wounded, he was captured and held as a prisoner of war for 938 days. Survivors include his wife, Judy, and four children and their families.

**OSTRANDER, Elijah "Joe" Jr.**, of Gurnee, IL died Nov. 17, 2015. Joe was a POW in WWII. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Janet, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and their families.

**RAIMUNDO, Manuel**, 91, of Sacramento, CA, died Aug. 7, 2015. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 331<sup>st</sup> Medical Btn., 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. He was held in Stalag IV-B, and was liberated by the Russians on May 1, 1945. He was a life member of AXPOW and a vice-commander of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, CA. Manuel is survived by his wife Jeannette, three children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. This compassionate man served his country honorably, took great care of his family and will be remembered by all who knew him.

**RATHBUN, Vernon "Bud"** of Waterloo, IA passed away Sept. 24, 2015. He was 96. During WWII, he served with the 333<sup>rd</sup> BS, 94<sup>th</sup> BG. He was shot down, captured and held until liberation. Bud was an active member of AXPOW. He leaves his beloved wife, Ginny, 1 daughter, 1 son, 2 granddaughters, 4 great-grandchildren and their families.

**SCHOTT, Elwin**, 97, of Marquette, IA died Oct. 21, 2015. He was captured in Feb., 1943 while serving with Company K, 168<sup>th</sup> Inf. in North Africa; he was held in Stalag III-B, then marched to Moosberg and Stalag XI-A. Elwin is survived by 5 children and 3 grandchildren and their families.

# taps,cont'd...

**STOCKDALE, Sybil Bailey**, a Navy wife who fought to end the torture of U.S. prisoners of war in Vietnam, passed away Oct. 10, 2015 at the age of 90. She was the wife of the late Vice Adm. James Bond Stockdale. Sybil found her calling after her husband's plane was shot down during the Vietnam War in 1965 and he was taken prisoner. She organized military wives who demanded the U.S. government pressure North Vietnam to abide by the Geneva Convention. She met regularly with then-President Richard Nixon and confronted a North Vietnamese delegation at the Paris Peace Talks.

The military credited her with helping secure the return of her husband and other POWs in 1973. She leaves 3 sons and 8 grandchildren.

**SYLVESTER, Robert L.**, of Roseville, MI died Feb. 1, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 11<sup>th</sup> AAC. Survivors include one son, Robert.

**WALKER, Everett G. "EG"** of Pensacola, FL passed away Oct. 13, 2015. He was 91. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 458<sup>th</sup> BG, based in England. He was shot down, captured and held in Luft III, then marched to Stalag VII-A. EG leaves 1 daughter, 2 grandsons, 5 great-grandchildren and their families.

**WALTERS, Richard Allen**, 93, of Lancaster, SC died Sept. 30, 2015. He was captured while serving with the US Army, 7<sup>th</sup> Div.; he was held in Stalag 4B. Richard was a member of the Catawba Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Nancy, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, 1 sister and their families.

**WILLOUGHBY, George**, of Columbia TN, died in 2014. He served in the 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Inf, 82<sup>nd</sup> AB. He was captured and held in Stalags 12A and 2B. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Shirley. Both were AXPOW life members since 1983.

## chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

Very soon (if not already) we will celebrate my wife's favorite holiday, Valentine's Day.

Why is it her favorite holiday? Not because of an evening without cooking dinner, nor for the candy which will soon be eaten. Nor flowers, which wilt nor for cards that will probably be lost or balloon bouquets that will pop or deflate nor for the cute little dancing bear which will wear out its batteries.

It is her favorite holiday for the same reason that it is for many other people, some one that

loves you (and you love in return) is paying you attention. For one day out of the year, they realize that they are not being taken for granted.

We know (unlike Hollywood movies, television shows and many novels published in recent years ) that love is not about sex. It is being concerned about the welfare of another and exercising care for that person.

To define love required the whole 13th chapter of First Corinthians with the fourth verse describing why we buy candy, flowers, etc for the object of our love. Love"...vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." In modern English, love is not egotistical. We think of another on that day which brings us back to paying attention to that person.

Attention is good...ask any newborn baby as grandparents play "pass the baby"!

To love is a God given commandment. I could choose any of a dozen verses but I leave you with this thought: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love

one another." 1 Cor. 13:11. Not just for our spouses and families, but concern for the well-being of others will cause us to be kind to strangers who may be angels in disguise.

*Benny*



## What Love Is

- Love is when that special someone kisses you.
- Love is having someone to talk to.
- Love is being romantic on that one day.
- Love is happiness that is shown day after day
- THAT'S WHAT LOVE IS.

**Happy Valentine's Day!**





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to honor a loved one or a former colleague  
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Please feel free to make copies of this form and use when making donations.

**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:**

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City, state and zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**American Ex-Prisoners of War**  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)



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

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**IN MEMORY OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**GIVEN BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City, state and zip code \_\_\_\_\_

To be contributed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

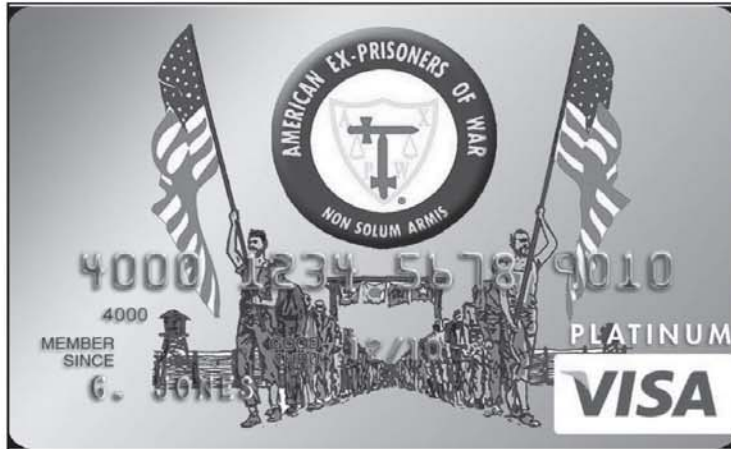
City, state and zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial donations should be sent to:  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

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From UMB

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016

**37**



## 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

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Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

**38**





**The National 4th (IVY) Division Association**

Formed at *Camp Greene, NC*, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units. The 96th Annual Reunion will be September 9-14, 2014, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Check our website at [www.4thinfantry.org](http://www.4thinfantry.org) for membership and reunion information.

**"Steadfast and Loyal"**

# 50/50 drawing

June 27, 2015 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place GROVER MULLINS, MO \$322.60
- 2nd Place ANGIE SARACENO, AZ \$241.95
- 3rd Place DOROTHY MURPHY, FL \$161.30
- 4th Place JACK WARNER, OK \$80.65

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 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106<sup>th</sup>, a relative of a 106<sup>th</sup> 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 2016

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
50/50 Drawing**

PLEASE PRINT  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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 and entry to:**      **American Ex-Prisoners of War  
50/50 Drawing  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

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. (6/16)

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
50/50 Drawing**

PLEASE PRINT  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan/Feb 2016  
**40**

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50/50 Drawing**

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Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

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Thank you for your support. (6/16)



AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

# TOP QUALITY WIND SHIRT

100% Microtech Microfiber with nylon lining for easy on/off

Wind and water resistant

Women's version has zipper for easier donning

Rib knit trim at vee neck, cuffs, and waist

S-5XL (men ) or S-3X(women) \$50.00

Add \$ 1.50 per line for added lettering such as "State Commander" or "Next of Kin" (14 characters/  
spaces per line)

\$12.95 shipping each within Continental U. S.

Shipments to Missouri add 5.6% sales tax

A portion of the price is returned to American Ex-Prisoners of War

Size \_\_\_\_\_ Please CIRCLE male or female style

Desired lettering under logo (\$1.50/line; 14 characters/ spaces per line) \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed or VISA/MasterCard/ AmEx \_\_\_\_\_

Card security code(4 digits on front of AmEX card, three digits on back of others) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (CC only) \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Lone Pine Embroidery, 32245 Lone Pine Way, Greentop, MO 63546

Or E-mail to Roger@lonepineridge.com

Or call us at 660-626-6902

Ex-POW Bulletin

Jan/Feb 2016

41





**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

**\$10.00 ea**

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 (silver)	8.00
Vest Chainguard	8.00
4" Blazer Patch	4.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
AXPOW By-Laws	5.00

**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
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
AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
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  
Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander  
Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · 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**



*Veterans Day 2015~  
Washington, DC*







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  
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org  
No collect calls, please

Thank you for supporting the American Ex-POWs with your purchases of National Merchandise.



## Challenge Coins!

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

AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

**\$10.00**ea

## 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