

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

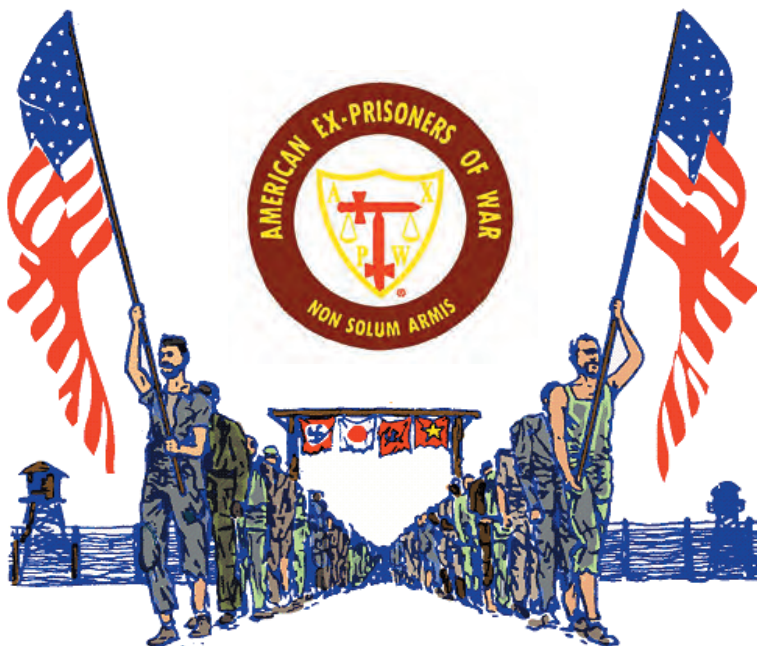
Volume 74

www.axpow.org

Number 1/2

January/February 2017

DONATE TO AXPOW: <https://www.gofundme.com/2d8rbt7s>



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Operation Homecoming 1973

Veterans Day 2016~ Washington, DC




The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
and
The Veterans Day National Committee
cordially invite you to attend the
Sixty-third Annual Veterans Day National Ceremony
on Friday, the eleventh of November
Two thousand sixteen
at ten-thirty o'clock
Memorial Amphitheater
Arlington National Cemetery

 **Veterans Day**
Wreath Laying
and
National Ceremony
Friday, November 11, 2016, 10:30 a.m.
Arlington National Cemetery
A reception hosted by
The Polish Legion of American Veterans, U.S.A.
Salute to the Women in Military Service
for America Memorial, Arlington, VA
Box 29 Seat 8
VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE



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Deadline for the Mar/Apr issue
is Feb. 1, 2017

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

Jan/Feb 2017

It has been 75 years since the Japanese entered Manila...72 years since Cabanatuan, Santo Tomas, Los Banos were liberated...49 years since the USS Pueblo was seized in North Korea...44 years since the Vietnam War ceasefire went into effect...26 years since Kuwait was freed...

On the cover...

Operation Homecoming Facts

591 POWs released to U.S. authorities...13 captured in Laos and released in North Vietnam...122 Captured in South Vietnam...28 released in the South...94 released in the North ...3 released in China...Released from enemy control prior to Operation Homecoming...76 early releases...5 released by Laos...32 released by Cambodia ...13 released by North Vietnam ...1 released by China ...25 released by South Vietnam ...Escaped from enemy control prior to Operation Homecoming...32 early releases...30 captured in South Vietnam...2 captured in Laos ...Escaped from enemy control post Operation Homecoming...2 captured in South Vietnam and escaped to Saigon.

It was an overcast day, but beautiful to the POWs.

Larry Chesley had been a POW for more than seven years. In his book, "Seven Years in Hanoi", he wrote:

"February 12th was a beautiful day in North Vietnam, - at least to 112 American POWs. We had received our going away clothes the night before and cleaned up our rooms as well as we could. We assembled in the courtyard and made our way under guard to the gate of the Hanoi Hilton. This was the first time we had moved anywhere from there without being blindfolded and handcuffed."

Camouflaged buses carried the men to the airfield in Hanoi.

Happy
Valentine's
Day

EX-POW Bulletin (ISSN 0161-7451) is published bi-monthly (six times annually) by the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington, TX 76010. Periodical postage paid at Arlington, TX and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to EX-POW Bulletin, AXPOW Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396. Founded April 14, 1942, in Albuquerque, NM, then known as Bataan Relief Organization, Washington State non-profit corporation, "American Ex-Prisoners of War", October 11, 1949, recorded as Document No. 133762, Roll 1, Page 386-392. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. Nationally Chartered August 10, 1982. Appearance in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the American Ex-Prisoners of War of the product or service advertised. The publisher reserves the right to decline or discontinue any such advertisement.



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**National Commander
Charles Susino, Jr.**

The very best to you and your family on this Holiday Season and wishing all a safe and healthy New Year. For many of us, we establish New Year resolutions and new directions for ourselves and our family.

For AXPOW, we established a new direction honoring the wishes of the membership vote last year to transition the organization as a result of declining membership and funding. While work continues on that initiative with the transition team lead by David Eberly, it is comforting to me that our future is being well thought and respectful of all ex-prisoners of war. It would be negligent to do anything less. This is the window in time where we still have the human and financial resources to map this transition. I am further optimistic about the early reports that I have received involving initiatives to reduce operating costs which are the first steps in the transition and partnering with the National Prisoners of War Museum at Andersonville to serve as the legacy centerpiece. I am proud to serve as your Commander during this important time in our history.

—Remember those that have sacrificed to protect our freedom—

news from hq



**Clydie Morgan
Chief Operating Officer**

Now is the time to begin making your plans to come to Arlington, Texas in June. It's the annual convention and AXPOW family reunion. There is plenty to do with your kids and grand-kids and the hotel rates could not be better! There are amusement parks, water parks, museums, and music venues. You can take tours of the sports arenas located just a couple of miles from the Hilton. We even have free trolley transportation to most of the attractions around Arlington. Just show the driver your pass and climb aboard. Come old and young and reunite with your longtime friends.

Here are just a few of the adventures you can have!

Dallas Cowboys Stadium

Attend an event or plan a tour at Dallas Cowboys Stadium, just minutes from our hotel.

Six Flags Hurricane Harbor

Just down the street from our hotel, the largest water park in North Texas with attractions that cover over 47 acres.

Rangers Ballpark in Arlington

Catch a game at the home of the American League Champs while staying at the Hilton Arlington.

Six Flags over Texas

This 212-acre theme park is located a short drive from our Arlington hotel.

Flight Deck Trampoline Park

Flight Deck Trampoline Park is DFW's hottest destination for family fun!

International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame

Explore, play, and bowl! Located just across the street from Six Flags, the International Bowling Museum is loaded with interactive fun and world-class exhibits.

K1 Speed

For the best karting in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, look no further than K1 Speed! Our indoor go-kart racing center, situated just across from Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in Arlington, is a world-class entertainment venue and unlike any karting center you've visited before.

AT&T Stadium Art Tour

Our stadium art tour is a creative and educational opportunity for all ages. Throughout the tour, you will explore many different areas of the stadium including the Main Concourse and club locations to see these monumental pieces.

The Planetarium at UT Arlington

The Planetarium at UT Arlington has a 60 ft diameter dome, and recently upgraded to become the only planetarium in the state with a Digistar 4 system with DLP projectors. The planetarium can project the stars as they look in the real sky as well as immerse the audience into a full dome animation show.

Louis Tussaud's Palace of Wax & Ripley's Believe It or Not!

Seven minutes from the Hilton Arlington, with more than 200 contemporary and historic wax figures, including life-like versions of U.S. Presidents and your favorite movie stars. Then, find your way through Ripley's Mirror Maze, with an endless array of mirrored paths, dead ends and continuous circles.

See you here! June 22-25, 2017!
Clydie, Marsha, Donna, Sally

from the CEO



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Memories, Traditions and Transitions

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." wrote Charles Dickens as he introduced the literary world to *A Tale of Two Cities*. In our times, these words serve as a monocle of our personal family and of our organizational family.

As you read this issue, another holiday season has passed: our Christmas tree has been put out on the deck and smothered with grain for the Winter birds, the last sugar cookie has been eaten, and finally, the last rerun of National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation is over. Our family traditions and the cards from friends around the world are priceless memories and they mark the celebration as we end another calendar year. But as we age, some traditions bring not joy but sadness as friends and family—our heroes, our mentors, and our *grands* move on. Like you, this year, I too lost

loved ones, and others I so deeply admired throughout my career. And so at the magic hour, we clasp together and sing for (the sake of) old times, Robert Burns' "Auld Lang Syne" Memories are often the tie that binds.

AXPOW memories bind us together as a family organization and bring together individuals who may have passed lifetimes in the same camp or prison cell. Past conventions sold out most city hotels and banquets held in aircraft hangers brought together attendees from our 32,000 members. Hundreds of returnees (POWs) from WWII exchanged hugs and told stories into the late night. Those memories celebrated renewed opportunity while others were rooted in camaraderie during unimaginable times—they will never be forgotten either. In contrast to those conventions, we booked only twenty rooms last summer in Arlington, and sadly only three of the Greatest Generation were there to offer counsel.

Our traditions also serve as an uncommon thread and form the foundation upon which our legacy must be continued through cascading

next of kin and recorded history. AXPOW has been a champion to many—pressing for benefits and recognition. Fortunately, since 1991, less than 35 Americans have been held as prisoners of war, and the battlefield continues to evolve; our work is waning, but our mission is ever so important.

Dickens' wrote of two cities, but I remind you of the reality we face and while we cherish the traditions of the past we must open our minds to the coming of a new year and the opportunities 2017 will bring to us.

This year our organization will tackle a most difficult transition. Spawned by the realization that our membership has rapidly dwindled and our financial glory days are past. The Board is committed to the concept of preserving the POW legacy through an association with The National POW Museum. I am encouraged by the words of our National Commander, and I ask that you embrace the future.

David

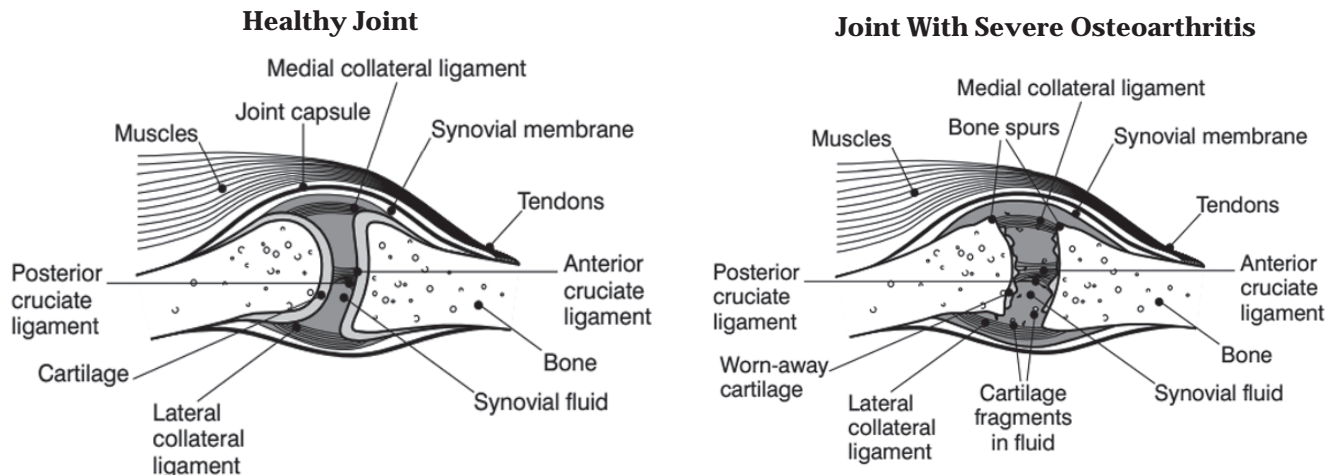


Vt Ch #1 members honored by the VT National Guard on POW/MIA Recognition Day 9/16/16. From Left VNG Adjutant General Steven Cray; Clyde Cassidy, featured speaker; Harry Howe, Richard Hamilton, J. Francis Angier, William Busier and Governor-elect Phil Scott

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What Is Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis is a joint disease that mostly affects cartilage. Cartilage is the slippery tissue that covers the ends of bones in a joint. Healthy cartilage allows bones to glide over each other. It also helps absorb shock of movement. In osteoarthritis, the top layer of cartilage breaks down and wears away. This allows bones under the cartilage to rub together. The rubbing causes pain, swelling, and loss of motion of the joint. Over time, the joint may lose its normal shape. Also, bone spurs may grow on the edges of the joint. Bits of bone or cartilage can break off and float inside the joint space, which causes more pain and damage.

People with osteoarthritis often have joint pain and reduced motion. Unlike some other forms of arthritis, osteoarthritis affects only joints and not internal organs. Rheumatoid arthritis - the second most common form of arthritis - affects other parts of the body besides the joints. Osteoarthritis is the most common type of arthritis.

Who Gets Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis occurs most often in older people. Younger people sometimes get osteoarthritis primarily from joint injuries.

How Do You Know if You Have Osteoarthritis?

Usually, osteoarthritis comes on slowly. Early in the disease, your joints may ache after physical work or exercise. Later on, joint pain may become more persistent. You may also experience joint stiffness, particularly when you first wake up in the morning or have been in one position for a long time.

Although osteoarthritis can occur in any joint, most often it affects the hands, knees, hips, and spine (either at the neck or lower back). Different characteristics of the disease can depend on the specific joint(s) affected. For information on the joints most often affected by osteoarthritis, see the following descriptions:

Hands: Osteoarthritis of the hands seems to have some hereditary characteristics; that is, it runs in families.

If your mother or grandmother has or had osteoarthritis in their hands, you're at greater-than-average risk of having it too. Women are more likely than men to have osteoarthritis in the hands. For most women, it develops after menopause.

Knees: The knees are among the joints most commonly affected by osteoarthritis. Symptoms of knee osteoarthritis include stiffness, swelling, and pain, which make it hard to walk, climb, and get in and out of chairs and bathtubs. Osteoarthritis in the knees can lead to disability.

Hips: The hips are also common sites of osteoarthritis. As with knee osteoarthritis, symptoms of hip osteoarthritis include pain and stiffness of the joint itself. But sometimes pain is felt in the groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or even the knees. Osteoarthritis of the hip may limit moving and bending, making daily activities such as dressing and putting on shoes a challenge.

medsearch, cont'd...

Spine: Osteoarthritis of the spine may show up as stiffness and pain in the neck or lower back. In some cases, arthritis-related changes in the spine can cause pressure on the nerves where they exit the spinal column, resulting in weakness, tingling, or numbness of the arms and legs. In severe cases, this can even affect bladder and bowel function.

What Causes Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis usually happens gradually over time. Some risk factors that might lead to it include:

- Being overweight
- Getting older
- Joint injury
- Joints that are not properly formed
- A genetic defect in joint cartilage
- Stresses on the joints from certain jobs and playing sports.

How Is Osteoarthritis Diagnosed?

Osteoarthritis can occur in any joint. It occurs most often in the hands, knees, hips, and spine.

Warning signs of osteoarthritis are:

- Stiffness in a joint after getting out of bed or sitting for a long time
- Swelling or tenderness in one or more joints
- A crunching feeling or the sound of bone rubbing on bone.
- No single test can diagnose osteoarthritis. Most doctors use several methods to diagnose the disease and rule out other problems:
 - Medical history
 - Physical exam
 - X rays
 - Other tests such as blood tests or exams of the fluid in the joints.

On the Move: Fighting Osteoarthritis With Exercise

You can use exercises to keep strong and limber, improve cardiovascular fitness, extend your joints' range of motion, and reduce your weight. The following types of exercise are part of a well-rounded arthritis treatment plan.

- **Strengthening exercises:** These exercises strengthen muscles that support joints affected by arthritis. They can be performed with weights or with exercise bands, inexpensive devices that add resistance.
- **Aerobic activities:** These are exercises, such as brisk walking or low-impact aerobics, that get your heart pumping and can keep your lungs and circulatory system in shape.
- **Range-of-motion activities:** These keep your joints limber.
- **Balance and agility exercises:** These help you maintain daily living skills.

Ask your doctor or physical therapist what exercises are best for you. Ask for guidelines on exercising.

How Is Osteoarthritis Treated?

Doctors often combine treatments to fit a patient's needs, lifestyle, and health. Osteoarthritis treatment has four main goals:

- Improve joint function
- Keep a healthy body weight
- Control pain
- Achieve a healthy lifestyle.
- Osteoarthritis treatment plans can involve:
 - Exercise
 - Weight control
 - Rest and joint care
 - Nondrug pain relief techniques to control pain
 - Medicines
 - Complementary and alternative therapies
 - Surgery.

How Can Self-Care and a "Good-Health Attitude" Help?

Three kinds of programs help people learn about osteoarthritis and self-care and improve their good-health attitude:

- Patient education programs

Arthritis self-management programs

Arthritis support groups.

These programs teach people about osteoarthritis and its treatments. They also have clear and long-lasting benefits. People in these programs learn to:

- Exercise and relax
- Talk with their doctor or other health care providers
- Solve problems.

People with osteoarthritis find that self-management programs help them:

- Understand the disease
- Reduce pain while staying active
- Cope with their body, mind, and emotions

Have more control over the disease

Live an active, independent life. People with a good-health attitude:

- Focus on what they can do, not what they can't do
- Focus on their strengths, not their weaknesses
- Break down activities into small tasks that are easy to manage
- Build fitness and healthy eating into their daily routines

medsearch, cont'd...

Develop ways to lower and manage stress
Balance rest with activity
Develop a support system of family, friends, and health care providers.

What Research Is Being Done on Osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis is not simply a disease of “wear and tear” that happens in joints as people get older. There is more to the disease than aging alone. Researchers are studying:

Tools to detect osteoarthritis earlier
Genes
Tissue engineering—special ways to grow cartilage to replace damaged cartilage
A wide range of treatment strategies
Medicines to prevent, slow down, or reverse joint damage
Complementary and alternative therapies
Vitamins and other supplements
Education to help people manage their osteoarthritis better
Exercise and weight loss as ways to improve mobility and decrease pain.

For More Information on Osteoarthritis and Other Related Conditions:

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) Information Clearinghouse

National Institutes of Health
1 AMS Circle
Bethesda, MD 20892-3675
Phone: 301-495-4484
Toll free: 877-22-NIAMS (877-226-4267)
TTY: 301-565-2966
Fax: 301-718-6366
Email: NIAMSinfo@mail.nih.gov
Website: <https://www.niams.nih.gov>

Information for National Service Officers:

Camp Lejeune Family Member Program

The Camp Lejeune Family Member Program is for family members of Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987. During this time, Veterans and family members living or serving at U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene and other chemicals.

On August 6, 2012, the *Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012* was signed into law. This law (H.R. 1627, now Public Law 112-154) requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide health care to Veterans who served on active duty at Camp Lejeune and to reimburse eligible Camp Lejeune Family Members (CLFM) for health care costs related to one or more of the following 15 specified illnesses or medical conditions listed in the law:

Illnesses/medical conditions identified in Public Law 112- 154

Bladder cancer	Miscarriage
Breast cancer	Multiple myeloma
Esophageal cancer	Myelodysplastic syndromes
Female infertility	Neurobehavioral effects
Hepatic steatosis	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Kidney cancer	Renal toxicity
Leukemia	Scleroderma
Lung cancer	

Eligibility and enrollment information

For more information on eligibility and how to apply, claims payment, appeals and other issues, family members may call the toll-free CLFMP customer service line at 1-866-372-1144 or visit the CLFMP website at <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov>.

Veterans can apply online at www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply or call 1-877-222-8387 for assistance.

medsearch packets

<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 1~VA Claim Information	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 2~Stresses of Incarceration & After Effects Extreme Stress- Covers the after effects on the nerves and body organs	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 3~After Effects of Imprisonment- Covers arthritis, alcoholism, visual, ulcers, varicose veins, impotency, brain damage, etc	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 4~After Effects of Imprisonment	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 5~What Every Wife Should Know Before She Is Your Widow - Social Security, insurance, burial procedures, allowances, etc. including what pathologist should look for in an autopsy	\$11.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 6~Micro-Film Index: Asiatic Theater - Japanese	\$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 7~Micro-Film Index: European Theater - Germany	\$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 8~The European Story, History of POWs in Germany, and after-effects	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 9~The Korea Story, History of POWs in Korea, and after-effects	\$8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 10~The Japanese Story History of POWs in Japan, and after-effects	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Packet 11~NSO Director Answers Your Questions	\$11.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation Set~(Packets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)	\$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Modern Day Tragedy~medical & claims evidence in support of PL 97-37	\$4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> POW: The American Experience~overview on POW experience; reviews vitamin deficiencies, infectious diseases and service-connected statistics	\$6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Map of German POW Camps~shows location of 76 camps	\$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Map of Japanese POW Camps~21" x 32" with camps featured in red	\$4.00

Name _____ Phone () _____

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City, State, Zip _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (includes shipping/handling*)

*Shipping / Handling fees: In U.S.A.: 1-3 packets, add \$6.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$9.00; 7 or more packets, add \$12.00. In Canada; 1-3 packets, add \$9.00; 4 -6 packets, add \$14.00, 7 or more packets, add \$20.00. Overseas (US Currency Only); 1-3 packets, add \$16.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$22.00, 7 or more packets, add \$30.00

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legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr Chairman

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With a new Presidential administration in office in January and the control of Congress all Republican, we need to double our efforts to let our voices be heard. While we know all incoming Presidents have a short term agenda for their first 100 days in office, the presence and voices from the veteran organizations and all veterans insures our opinions and needs are heard. Please do your part at the local and federal level.

Our actions do matter and make a difference. Since our last Bulletin reported on Senate Bill 1004 Veterans' Day Moment of Silence Act this Bill was signed by President Obama into law.

Veteran's health care continues to be on the forefronts of our minds especially in the area of suicide prevention because of the nearly 20 deaths per day of veterans. VA initiatives include positioning a suicide specialist within every VA Medical Center by the end of 2016 and adding the option to press the number seven on the Veterans Crisis Line to immediately speak to a person.

Veteran homelessness continues to be an initiative within the VA. Although progress is slow one resource was added when the presi-

2016-2017 Legislative
Committee
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dent signed a law to authorize VA to use its West Los Angeles campus for veterans' programs including veteran homelessness reintegration service.

For those of you using TRICARE, there has been a change from Express Scripts, the contractor who manages the TRICARE Pharmacy Network, announced that starting December 1, 2016, service members, retirees and their families will no longer be able to have their prescriptions filled at CVS pharmacy stores.

The government continues efforts to bring home POW/MIA's from foreign soil and each year achieves many positive results where families can bring closure. In an effort to enhance this initiative, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is seeking families of missing American service members to attend informational update meetings and to collect DNA samples if one is not already on file. Learn more at: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/>

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) launched a new Health IT initiative that enables VA to share medical records electronically with Social Security Disability processors. This replaces SSA obtaining medical records through a manual process so time and money should be saved.

The House recently passed six veterans-related bills, including:

H.R. 3286, the Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2016, would require the Department of Labor to better recognize employ-

ers' efforts to recruit and retain veteran employees and provide community and charitable services to the veteran community.

H.R. 5600, as amended, the No Hero Left Untreated Act, would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out a one-year pilot program to treat veterans with PTSD, TBI, chronic pain, and opioid addiction or who have experienced military sexual trauma with magnetic EEG/EKG-guided resonance therapy, which uses magnetic stimulation to help restore proper functioning in the brain.

H.R. 4757, as amended, would require VA to supply a headstone, marker or medallion for Medal of Honor recipients buried at private cemeteries. The bill would also allow VA to send a Presidential Memorial Certificate, which is a certificate that expresses the nation's recognition and gratitude of military service, to the families of deceased veterans and to the families of deceased members of certain Reserve components of the Armed Forces.

H.R. 5166, as amended, the WINGMAN Act, would allow veterans to authorize qualified congressional staffers to access their benefits claims information, including medical and pay records.

H.R. 6323, to name the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system in Long Beach, California, the "Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center."

Please play an active role in our legislative process and contact your Congressman on the Bills you believe should be passed.

Charles Susino, Jr

—Remember those that have sacrificed to protect our freedom—

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Jan/Feb 2017

andersonville



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Night Museum at Andersonville National Historic Site

By Jennifer Hopkins, Park Guide



During November 1864, Andersonville prisoner James Vance wrote in his diary, "Preparations for exchange through the week. Taking names of the sick." With General William Sherman occupying Atlanta, Georgia, talk of exchange was the main point of conversation within the stockade-styled prison pen, formally known as Camp Sumter Military Prison. These sentiments and others were reflected during Andersonville National Historic Site's annual Night Museum event that occurred on November 12, 2016.

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When the prison at Andersonville comes to mind it is the overcrowded summer months that are seared into memory. But what about the cold winter months when there were less than 2,000 prisoners remaining in the stockade, waiting for the war to end and the opportunity to go home? During the Night Museum event, visitors were given a rare opportunity to explore the Civil War prison site by lantern light while living historians portraying Union prisoners and Confederate guards occupied the reconstructed corner. It was the first time in three years that the historic prison site had been open to the public at night. This gave visitors a unique occasion to interact with the past and learn about the history of the site during the often overlooked winter months of 1864-1865.

Along with living historians on the prison site, a special ranger-led program used the night sky to discuss starlight, symbolism, and ways we are still connected to our ancestors. "Just like it's sometimes hard to see the stars in our night sky due to light pollution," explained seasonal ranger David Tise, "it can be hard to make connections with our ancestors."

Most of the visible stars seen in our night sky are in the 150-155 lightyear range, meaning it takes approximately 150 years for their light to reach Earth. Therefore, as visitors looked at the vast sky above, they were seeing light from the Civil War era. In that moment they were making direct connections with the thousands of Civil War soldiers who looked toward the night sky for hope, direction, and healing.



In addition to the outdoor programs, Night Museum featured a presentation by guest speaker Pat Curry at the National Prisoner of War Museum on life as the son of a prisoner of war. Pat's father, Lieutenant James Curry, spent nearly three years as a prisoner in North Korea. Pat shared his personal account of his father's prisoner of war experience and the resulting struggles faced by Pat and the rest of his family as they waited for word of their loved one's fate, coped with his long absence, and hoped for his safe return.

This year's Night Museum was a great success and resulted in a significant increase in attendance thanks to the hard work and dedication of park staff and over fifty volunteers! This after-hours event is a great way for Andersonville National Historic Site to reach local visitors who do not have the chance to visit during the park's normal operating hours, as well as other families across the country that planned their travels around this special event. When asked about volunteering at the event, Wade Barr stated, "Even though we can only imagine what the sights and smells of Andersonville were really like, experiences like Night Museum and Living History Weekend give both visitors and volunteers a small taste of Camp Sumter."

PHOTO CREDIT: Hugh Peacock

namPOWs

Fifty Years and Counting

by Richard "Beak" Stratton
rastratton@msn.com



I do not pay much attention to my birthdays; each one is just another day in a continuum of pleasant surprises since I survived the explosion of my aircraft at 2, 200 feet and 220 knots over North Vietnam in January 1967 and then survived over six years in a series of communist prisons. Each day subsequent to my release is a gift; each day is a blessing. I was captured at age 35 and remain in my own mind still 35 despite the fact that 50 years have passed.

We expected that the VC would try to keep some of us back at the time of release as the North Koreans attempted to do in the 50's. We were not really convinced that we were actually free until we were "feet wet" out over the South China Sea out of range of SAM missiles. We were grateful that Mr. Kissinger specifically negotiated our release.

Operation Homecoming was the Navy's finest hour. Originally called "Operation Egress Recap" (!!!), this bureaucratic monstrosity morphed into a family and service member oriented program dedicated to the

returning prisoner's needs and that of their family. Debriefing, after the identification of prisoner names and sightings, was accomplished at our convenience and leisure.

Each of us was assigned an escort officer whose function was to mentor us upon Trans-Pac flight and to commence the debrief initially of the names of any prisoners we had run across during our incarceration. In my case I was assigned two escorts. As a result of my bowing picture appearing in Life magazine in 1967, DoD was not sure of my mental state or degree of loyalty. They were taking no chances. They had all kinds of stuff for us to read enroute including **Playboy** magazine. When offered that skin trash I declined and facetiously asked for a copy of a Sears catalogue which was the teen skin (ladies underwear section) publication of the thirties. They immediately radioed ahead that I failed their mental status exam opting for a Sears catalogue over a **Playboy**.

We had a three-day layover at Clark AFB PI to get dewormed, deloused, debriefed and triaged. They had a dietician on the chow line to make sure that we did not overeat. I lusted after a dozen scrambled eggs and was only allowed to have six, having to take a steak along with the eggs, which steak I promptly threw away. Then I went through the line a second time tossing the steak and saving the next six eggs. Naturally, being from Boston I slathered ketchup all over the mess of eggs. Another radio flash went out stating that I had thrown away perfectly good steaks in favor of ketchup covered scrambled eggs!

That evening, tossing and turning on a soft mattress after six years on cement and boards I could not get to sleep. So I rolled up on a blanket getting a great sleep on the floor with a nice soft pillow.

Another flash message reporting that I refused to sleep in a bed and rolled up on the floor - I had gone native. Three strikes and I was out. They kept me an extra day hoping that the release publicity back home had slowed down. They cautioned my family to meet me at Oak Knoll Hospital rather than on the tarmac of Travis AFB CA.

On my first overnight at home in Palo Alto on St. Patrick's Day, my son Patrick convinced me that I should stay in character. The hospital was still requiring a stool sample each day since it seems that we brought an infinite variety of worms home with us. Pat suggested that we go out in the yard, dig up some earth worms and put them in with the day's stool sample.

We did so; my Navy reputation was secured.

The return of our fighting men from Vietnam, especially through the San Francisco Bay area was an absolute disgrace. Returnees were met by draft dodging, communist loving "students" spitting upon our troopers, calling them "baby killers" and throwing garbage at them. May God forgive these idiots; I will not.

The returning POWs were an exception. Our return was treated as a national cause for celebration and rejoicing. We were welcomed by those who supported the war, those that opposed the war and those that were weary of the war. It was an embarrassment to us, as the true heroes of the Vietnam War were the foot soldiers, the brown water navy and the helo pilots who slugged it out on the ground, in the air, in the jungles, on the rice paddies, and on the rivers of Southeast Asia. We had received their welcome.

Every day since our release has been a ball. We have been blessed.

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pow/mia



Status of the POW/MIA Issue

National League
of POW/MIA Families

1,618 Americans are listed by DoD as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War: Vietnam - 1,261 (VN-463, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters-7. (These numbers fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.) The League seeks the full-est possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains. Highest priority is accounting for Americans last known alive. US intelligence indicates some Americans known to be in captivity in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were not returned at the end of the war. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that these Americans could still be alive, and the US Government should not rule out that possibility.

Vietnam established comprehensive wartime and post-war processes to collect and retain information and remains; thus, unilateral efforts by them offered significant potential. Vietnam has since taken many unilateral actions that are welcome and appreciated, plus announced that there are no obstacles to full cooperation. Recently, Vietnam has increased implementation of commitments to provide long-sought archival records with relevant, case-related information, thanks in part to improvement of working-level ef-

forts, but primarily due to increased bilateral relations across the board. The early 2015 League Delegation brought commitments that offered real promise for increased success. First undertaken in northern Vietnam in 1985, joint field operations have dramatically changed and are now much more effective. Vietnamese officials are participating with greater seriousness and professionalism, achieving increased results, including both US-led Joint Excavation Teams and Vietnamese Recovery Teams (VRTs), led by Vietnamese and supported by a few US personnel. This formula allows a greater number of teams to "increase the pace and scope of field operations," as requested by Vietnam during discussions since 2009. Due to increased military-to-military cooperation, US Navy assets are now allowed to participate in underwater survey and recovery operations, when requested. These steps, long advocated by the League, are now coming to fruition and reportedly are raised by US officials at all levels.

After a rough period, joint field operations in Laos are now increasingly productive, even though more difficult than elsewhere. Accounting efforts had slowed due to Lao Government inflexibility, attempting to over-price payment for helicopter support and denying permission for ground transport to accessible incident sites. Laos is now showing greater flexibility, earlier having increased the number of US personnel permitted in-country, allowing ground transport to accessible sites, and has renewed a business license to a foreign company to provide reliable, small helicopter support. When helpful, Vietnamese witnesses are also allowed to participate in joint US-Lao operations.

DIA's Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist is assigned full time in-country; however, his efforts are impeded by Lao reluctance to permit him to operate outside the confines of scheduled DPAA field operations. Also, despite strong support from, and interventions by, US Ambassador Dan Clune, a border dispute with Cambodia that was ongoing

when the League Delegation visited over a year ago continues to impede recovery operations in that area. The League urges officials in Laos and Cambodia to temporarily set aside their political disagreement and work trilaterally with the US to proceed on this humanitarian recovery.

Related to DIA's Stony Beach Team, one Cambodia specialist works full time at the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, and research and field operations in Cambodia have received excellent support. Two Stony Beach personnel have for years rotated on temporary duty in and out of Vietnam, collecting information via archival research and interviews of potential witnesses. Vietnam was long ago requested to permit, and is still reportedly considering, permanent status for these two POW/MIA specialists. Successive US Ambassadors have strongly supported this important move, but increases in bilateral military relations should be sufficient to overcome any reluctance. The US Ambassador to Laos continues to support full use of the Lao specialist. It is hoped that the expanded bilateral relationships with Laos and Vietnam will mean positive decisions on challenges facing this mission. The Stony Beach specialists are sorely needed to augment the investigation process while witnesses are still living and able to facilitate locating incident sites for follow-up DPAA recoveries.

The greatest obstacles to increased Vietnam War accounting efforts are too few qualified scientists, and unreliable funding that has caused US cancellation of scheduled operations, thus sending negative signals to foreign counterpart officials, especially in Vietnam. Since over 80% of US losses in Laos and 90% in Cambodia occurred in areas where Vietnamese forces operated during the war, Vietnam's expanded provision of helpful records, improved and increased archival research, interviews and field operations are the core means to expand accounting for Vietnam War missing personnel.

civilians



Alice Gollin,
JVC

*“Welcome to America, folks!”
“You are now on U.S. soil!”*

by Sascha Jansen
mabuhayma45@gmail.com

With this wonderful refreshing welcome, we stepped on the property of the United States Embassy in Manila, the guests of Ambassador Francis Ricciardoni and his staff.

The fifty something group of ex-internees, POWS, liberators and veterans with family members, were in Manila for the 60th Anniversary of the Battle for Manila. We were thrilled with our invitation and our tour was indeed a surprising and fulfilling journey into the past.

The forerunner of the U.S. Embassy in Manila was the American High Commission Office built on this same property on Manila Bay - an outstanding edifice on the famous Dewey Blvd..

Completed in 1941, it stood, without apology, as an American Federal Government building, as American in character as it could be. It was built as a modern development of the old American colonial design, suggesting strength, dignity, stability and purity of line. Referred to as “indestructible” of fire, typhoon, earthquake and bombing, she was a queen among the grandest of dames. To the U.S. High Commissioner, Frances P. Sayre, it was simply called, “The House.”

On this day, as we strolled these cool halls in this magnificent structure worthily representing American presence and influence in this our adopted country, we were learning many things.

Just last year, The Embassy saw fit to dedicate some rooms of historical presence at “the house,” by paying tribute to four extraordinary civilian individuals.

In choosing them, the staff considered three criteria. Since this is the U.S. Embassy, they had to be American. Secondly they wanted those selected to be great Americans, not famous ones. They wanted to honor those who were not as well known as General MacArthur, but none the less deserving of this great recognition.

Lastly, they wanted these individuals to have a special connection and bond to the Philippines.

When we arrived at this elegant, but simply appointed ballroom, we are reminded of great people in time who graced these Romblon halls. Many Presidents, high military heroes, artists of note, literary geniuses, sports figures and common men have passed through. Here too was the sight of General Yamashita’s famous war trial, ultimately sentencing him to death. Today, we learn, this historical ballroom has been dedicated to a civilian, well known for his heroic deeds during WWII.

Chick Parsons. Charles Parsons, Jr. (Chick) came from America to the Philippines in his fifth year. Throughout his adult years his highly developed business interests took him on an extensive journey in his newly adopted country making Chick the ennoblement on Philippine history and lore.

At the start of WWII, he and his family managed to get back to the United States. But, Chick couldn’t sit still. He had to get back to the Philippines and volunteered to return. His numerous secret submarine missions and vast knowledge of the intimacies of the Philippines was a plus in his return. His networking with local contacts enabled Chick to support and communicate effectively with country wide guerrilla units. Chick was a household word in the Far East and in the an-

nals of U.S. history. He is a strong reminder of those heroes of WWII who selflessly gave to two countries. After the war, he continued his businesses in his beloved Philippines where he chose to live out his life.

Claire Phillips – “High Pockets.”

When Manila was under the Japanese Imperial Army in 1942, a woman by the name of Claire Phillips owned and operated a cabaret not far from the High Commissioner’s Office, named, “Club Tsubaki.” To save the man she loved, and with a burning desire to be part of the war effort, Claire immediately switched gears forward. Her determination to extract valuable information from the enemy and pass it on to U.S. intelligence and Filipino guerrillas, was paramount.

Using her club to spy on the Japanese customers proved to be a huge bonus for the war effort. She dipped deep in the well of information Tsubaki afforded her, thus she accomplished much and was known by her code name, “High Pockets.” This code name was bestowed upon Claire as a euphemism for her brassiere, where she would hide coded messages.

Her double life, eventually caught up with her when she was arrested and tortured by her captors.

After the war, Claire, co-authored a book about her wartime experiences and later her book was dramatized into a movie of note. We found ourselves in the prestigious Claire Phillips Room which stands today as the Chancery Conference Room.

Dr. Najeeb Saleeby. A naturalized American, Dr. Najeeb Saleeby, came to Manila along with hundreds of other teachers aboard the S.S. Thomas. He was born in Syria and studied at the American University of Beirut but had a unique fascination of Moro culture in the Philippines,

civilians, cont'd...

publishing two hugely respected books on the subject.

As the superintendent of schools in Sulu and Mindanao, he was a tireless advocate of education from the beginning. Dr. Saleeby's deep affection for the Filipino people and their country, inspired him to make the Philippines his home.

In 1907, Dr. Saleeby became the first medical director of St. Luke's hospital and thrived continually expanding our knowledge of the Philippines. Today, The "Najeeb Saleeby Court Yard" stands as a proud reminder of the many generous gifts of education and trust this gentle man gave to the Philippine people.

The Honorable Francis Murphy. In 1933, Frank Murphy was appointed Governor-General of the Philippines. He held well to this position till President Roosevelt appointed him to the Supreme Court where he became a staunch advocate of civil liberties and is duly remembered for his scathing dissent in the court case that sanctioned the internment of Japanese-Americans.

At the dedication ceremonies in the Embassy, Ambassador Francis Ricciardoni remarked on these honorees.

"Each of the above - mentioned individuals are unique, and being unique what I like most about them is that they may not have even liked each other had they met. They almost certainly would not have agreed with each other on political matters. And maybe that is one of the more enduring and endearing qualities that they share as Americans: being disagreeable and refusing to conform to the status quo. But they were all great Americans, all great friends of the Philippines, and all greatly committed to freedom and justice."

To Be Continued...

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Feb. 1, 2017. BACEPOW Reunion in New Orleans, LA. The WWII Museum in New Orleans was inspired by Stephen E. Ambrose, American historian and biographer, a long-time professor of history at the University of New Orleans and the author of many best selling volumes of American popular history. Mr. Ambrose's life passion was concentrated on the European Theater of WWII.

Ambrose's works and avid interests and specific works with D-Day veterans, inspired him to found the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans. He initiated fundraising by donating \$500,000 and secured large contributions from the federal government, the State of Louisiana, Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg and many individual smaller donations. In 2003, Congress designated the museum as "America's National World War II Museum." The Stephen E. Ambrose Memorial Fund continues to support the development of the museum's Center for Study of the American Spirit, its educational programs and oral history and public initiatives. **Arrival: Wednesday - February 1st** Hotel: Embassy Suites New Orleans **Banquet: February 2nd. All Day Program and Visit at WW II Museum - February 3rd. Departure Dates: Feb 4th** or choose your own personal departure date. For any questions please contact: Sascha Jansen mabuhayma@aol.com 707-448-2909

Jan. 6- 14, 2018. USS Pueblo 50th Anniversary Cruise will be taken aboard the popular Carnival Conquest. For information/reservations: VIP World Travel, 4971 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota, FL 34235; 941-377-0017 or 800-323-7448; mail@vipworldtravel.travel. Website: www.vipworldtravel.travel

News Briefs

The Armed Forces Retirement Home

The premier retirement community for eligible American veterans - is now accepting applications. AFRH offers residents an affordable lifestyle on a scenic, wooded campus just minutes from downtown Washington, DC - home to museums, monuments, and a host of entertainment, sports and other cultural options.

Many veterans choose to live at AFRH for the superior medical, dental and vision care offered, with amenities that include: private rooms with a shower, cable TV, three delicious daily meals prepared by licensed nutritionists in our modern dining facility, a wellness program and deluxe fitness center, movie theater, bowling center and hobby shops.

Services include recreational activities, resident day trips, a full-service library, barber shop, 24 / 7 security, beauty salon, computer center, mailboxes, banking services, campus PX/BX and off-campus shuttle and public transportation.

Persons are eligible to become AFRH residents who:

Served as members of the Armed Forces, at least one-half of whose service was not active commissioned service (other than as a warrant officer or limited-duty officer)

Are 60 years of age or over; and were discharged or released under honorable conditions with 20 or more years of active service

Are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of a service-connected disability in-

news, cont'd...

curred in the line of duty in the Armed Forces.

Served in a war theater during a time of war declared by Congress or were eligible for hostile fire special pay; were released from service in the Armed Forces under honorable conditions; and are determined to be incapable of earning a livelihood because of injuries, disease or disability.

Served in a women's component of the Armed Forces before June 12, 1948; and are determined to be eligible for admission because of compelling personal circumstances.

Fees for independent living are 40 % of total current income (not to exceed \$1,425 / month). For further information or to request an application, visit: <https://www.afrh.gov/> apply or contact the Office of Public Affairs at: public.affairs@afrh.gov 1-800-422-9988.

Armed Forces Retirement Home
3700 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20011

P: 202-541-7550/ F: 202-541-7519

Christopher.Kelly@afrh.gov

www.afrh.gov

www.facebook.com/AFRH.gov

Military Hero Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr., Inducted into Alabama Men's Hall of Fame

The late Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr., was cited for his courage and his love of Alabama and the United States during his in-



Department of Missouri, American Ex-Prisoners of War Deactivated

The Missouri POW/MIA Museum hosted the deactivation ceremony of the Department of Missouri American EX-POWs on September 16, 2016. Originally planned as an outdoor ceremony, it had to be moved indoors due to the off and on heavy rain showers that hit St Louis that day. The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Rocky Sickmann, a hostage in Iran after the Embassy takeover. The event was covered by several St Louis television stations.



Center: Presentation of Department flags to the museum. Left to right: Presentation of check to Ken Kennedy for the museum; Russ Carnahan (co-founder of Museum and former US Congressman); Steve Stenger, St Louis County Executive; Presentation of check to Lt Gen Rich Harding (USAF, ret) for Welcome Home; Rocky Sickmann, featured speaker.

At the ceremony, checks for over \$8000 each were presented to the POW/MIA Museum and to the Welcome Home Organization of Columbia which provides care and shelter for homeless veterans.

Also presented to the museum for their archives and display were the original charter and copy of the state by-laws in their decades old folder; an original document of the proclamation declaring the 16th of September the official POW/MIA recognition day signed by Missouri's governor; a plaque listing all former state commanders; and the Department flags. The Missouri Department of AXPOW's flags were accepted by the museum unfurled — not folded or encased. There is symbolism in the gesture. POWs had to surrender their flag once as captives and they will not be made to do so again.

To honor our past and to symbolize our deactivation, the bottom of the plaque is engraved:

"WE EXISTED TO HELP THOSE WHO COULD NOT HELP THEMSELVES"

duction into the Alabama Men's Hall of Fame on Sept. 20, 2016.

The honoree, who died in 2014 at age 89, was a U.S Naval Academy graduate, Vietnam War hero and naval aviator. After being shot down while leading a bombing mission over North Vietnam, he was held as a prisoner of war for seven years and seven months in North Vietnamese prison camps before his release in 1973. He was later elected to represent Alabama in the U.S. Senate in 1980.

"Faith, family and freedom was what he was fighting for in the air, in cells, in the senate and in humanitarian projects around the world," said his son, Michael Denton, speaking for the family at the induction ceremony at The Club in Birmingham. "He gave more than his measure and he calls on others to do no less."

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Denton is known for a May 1966 interview during which he voiced an endorsement of U.S. policy in Vietnam. While pretending to blink in reaction to bright lighting, he blinked out the letters T.O.R.T.U.R.E in Morse Code as a signal to American officials that the North Vietnamese were torturing captive American pilots.

The Men's Hall of Fame was founded by the Alabama legislature in 1987 to recognize men whose lives have impacted the state, the nation and the world. "Induction standards are high," said Hall of Fame chair Frank McDaniel, and require a unanimous vote of the board of directors, which includes representatives from Alabama's seven congressional districts.

Denton, this year's only honoree, is the 59th man to be tapped for the honor. A plaque engraved with his accomplishments will join those of other honorees on display on the third floor of Samford University's Harwell G. Davis Library.

The luncheon was co-hosted by the Women's Committee of 100 for Birmingham, which Nan Teninbaum serves as president. Guests included representatives of various veterans groups, including the American Legion, U.S. Naval Academy alumni chapter, Still Serving Veterans organization and Vietnam Veterans of America. Attendees also included Denton's 1947 U.S. Naval Academy classmate John Snyder of Huntsville, Alabama.

See you
in Arlington!
June 22-25, 2017

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Members' forum



In the September/October 2016 issue of this publication, Sascha Weinzheimer Jansen used me as the focus of an attack column. She is a total stranger to me and never knew my mother although her words claim expertise on both our lives. I am responding to Mrs. Jansen's column for my children who, because of the war, were born to quiet holidays absent of maternal grandparents or aunts or uncles and in memory of my mother who would have required me to respond.

Mrs. Jansen states, as fact, I was in Idaho speaking at a Reunion of the 196th Regimental Combat Team. *The closest I have been to Idaho is to eat a potato. I have never been in Idaho. I had never heard of this group until I read Mrs. Jansen's assault. I have no idea how the words she quoted were published, or in what form, by a group unknown to me.*

I am a private, some would say, reclusive person. I do not speak publicly, or write columns, or attend reunions, or engage in social media. I have no Facebook page, no Twitter account. I have also chosen not to discuss the war with friends of a lifetime as they live innocently in the center of life's spectrum.

I am not a professional POW.

In 2005, eleven years ago, I wrote what constituted a love letter to a small gathering of the 11th Airborne, to the boys, now grown into old men, who saved all of us at Los Baños. I wrote it with the understanding it would not be published, much in the same way I would not

want published any letter I wrote my husband while he served in Vietnam, or any I wrote to our only son while he served with the 1st Armored Division in the desert. These are the exact words, apparently used in Idaho in some form, I wrote in 2005 on the 60th anniversary of the rescue at Los Baños. I stand by each of them:

"Einstein tells us it's impossible to know how fast we are moving or where we are without a fixed point of reference. He was right. February 23, 1945 is an eternal compass for anyone rescued at Los Baños. For those of us with two birthdays, it is the measure of all things.

There is a place in the brain impervious to the passage of sixty years, where smell and sight and sound remain vivid and evergreen. The word, "rescue," is more than the sound created by an arrangement of six letters if you understand the character of our captors. That February morning I knew only one thing. I knew life was a desperate enterprise where you pleased or you were punished. The first time I failed to please, they pulled out my fingernails. The second time, I was hung on barbed wire for a night and two days without water. I was three years old.

In the last days of Los Baños, my mother taught me a game. On her signal I fell on the ground and she fell on top of me. We did this over and over until I could fall and remain absolutely still. She was a twenty-three year old mother who'd just heard we were all to be executed the next morning. She reasoned they would use machine guns and aim chest high. If she fell on me when she was hit, her body might save me until American troops found me. The morning of the rescue, our ritual of preparing for roll call was different. That morning she reached into a

members' forum, cont'd...

hiding place and took out a little piece of cloth with red and white stripes and tiny stars on a square of blue. She tucked it into her blouse, took my hand, and smiled at me. We went to roll call. That moment is evergreen.

When my mother first saw a star painted on the side of planes approaching Los Baños, she felt grateful just to have seen them before she died. But when the sky filled with parachutes, she grabbed me and repeated again and again, "You're going to be old, you're going to be old." And, now, I am old. My mother died at the age of forty-four from the effects of torture. Her last thoughts were of the men who'd saved us, of the magical morning when she knew her only child would live, of the pure luxury of dying on clean sheets.

I grew up in a strange place called Los Angeles where healthy people said they were starving if they skipped breakfast, where children threw tantrums if given vanilla ice cream instead of chocolate, where growing old was unwanted. I've seen the play with different eyes. I know the distillation of freedom is simply to say, "No," because if you aren't free, the answer is always, "Yes." When I say that blissful word, I remember the guys who bought and paid for it. Those glorious and profane young men belong high in the pantheon of all the "Aw, shucks, I was just doing my job," American kids who risk death to pry the boot off enslaved people.

I live just outside Washington, DC with its postcard monuments to our vanished past. No monument there commemorates Los Baños. But the monument to Los Baños isn't made of bronze or

marble, it's alive. It lives within every survivor, within children born who might never have been, within the generations to come, within the lives of strangers enriched through all those touched that morning by the grace of God.

I think I just said, "Thanks, guys." Thank you for my children, birthdays, weekends, snow, hot buttered popcorn, days at the beach, the voting booth, a full refrigerator, falling in love, napkins, air conditioning, Christmas mornings, hot baths with soap, baseball games—each of which remind me of you. Although I've grown old, I still think of you with that intense affection found only in a child's heart."

I have researched the existence of government and medical records validating the cause of my mother's death, fifty years ago, and that of my own voluminous and uncommon medical records which support what I described in 2005. My mother's last attending physician is still practicing in Beverly Hills, California. And, yes, I have the little forty-eight star American flag my mother tucked in her blouse that morning at Los Baños. I wouldn't trade it for a trunk-full of diamond bracelets by Cartier.

The personal shards of the experience of war are too humbling to imagine our own can define all experience. We came from different backgrounds, educations, religions, families. Our parents survived in their own way and that path directed our lives during and after the war.

The Ex-POW Bulletin is the expression of a serious and worthy cause. It must be equal to that cause. Mrs. Jansen's submission begins in essential error and degenerates into strings of exclamation marks, whole sentences in all caps, and red flag phrases, e.g., questioning a stranger's "lack of sensibility and mental capacity," "proclivity for bla-

tant lies," and mocking the cause of death of a stranger's mother, unknown to her, because they have, "a mind that has a need to place itself on center stage in a WWII tragedy, plagiarizing other's real life horrific events, no matter what the cost." That should give pause and concern. These are the slurs of the schoolyard, not the discourse of adults.

This publication has had my correct address for over thirty years. I was never contacted for comment prior to publication of Mrs. Jansen's column. It took a moment's research to find Mrs. Jansen has focused her pernicious attention on others, I am not alone, and that she first printed this assault on me in 2013. In 2016, three years later, she was again submitting the same threadbare diatribe about me to a national audience. Going to print without care or checking has violated my family by subjecting my husband, our children and grandchildren to the immortality of the Internet. The standards of publication employed were below that of fliers which arrive by mail addressed to "occupant" and transfer ink to your fingers when you touch them. It was unworthy.

We are the children of war. Seven decades have passed forming a scab that insulates us from the bewildered children we were. No individual should grant themselves permission to rip off that scab, to use others as fodder, and to enjoy publically trampling within our most sacred precincts presumably in the interest of promoting themselves as the arbiter of all child war experience.

War has no single experience.

Diana Russell Cantrel
dianarcant@aol.com

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WW2 Allied Escape and Evasion Agencies; MIS-X and British MI9

by Phil Froom
phil.froom@rockwellcollins.com

At the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, the British Government made a decision not to repeat the intelligence shortcomings of WWI, and established a military intelligence bureau dedicated to the preparation and execution of plans to facilitate the escape of British evaders cut off behind enemy lines and of Prisoners of War already in custody. This new organisation was tasked with arranging instruction to British troops in evasion and escape activities, and its work was later also adopted by the U.S. and the other Allies.

Based upon the total unpreparedness of the Allied Nations to make any provision to support evaders or escapers, or in most cases to even bother to debrief them following successful escapes during WWI, a new agency was established on 23 December 1939. The British Evasion and Escape agency (known as MI9) was responsible for the collection



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and dissemination of information from escaped British prisoners of war, “the facilitation of the return to the United Kingdom of those who succeeded in evading capture in enemy-occupied territory”, and to advise on counter-escape measures for German Prisoners of War in Great Britain, if required to do so. MI9 was initially headquartered in room 424 of the Metropole Hotel London. Beyond the early training of British Officers and senior NCOs in evasion and escape, one of the most important tasks of MI9 was to devise purpose built ‘devices’ to enable those air crew or troops shot down or cut off behind enemy lines, to retain their freedom, or for those already in captivity to regain theirs.

Initial studies proved that evading or escaping troops could not hope of retaining or regaining their freedom for long, without a reliable compass or map, and these items would need to be sufficiently compact to allow them to be secluded in the uniforms, and personal belongings of operational air crew and troops. Led by a slightly eccentric but highly inventive ex Royal Flying Corps Major called Christopher Clayton

Hutton, the MI9 ‘Devices’ team produced a variety of ever smaller escape compasses, varying from a single compass needle known as a swinger, which was simply suspended from cotton and allowed to swing north, to compasses concealed in military brass buttons or collar studs, until eventually they became small enough to conceal inside a pencil or cigarette.

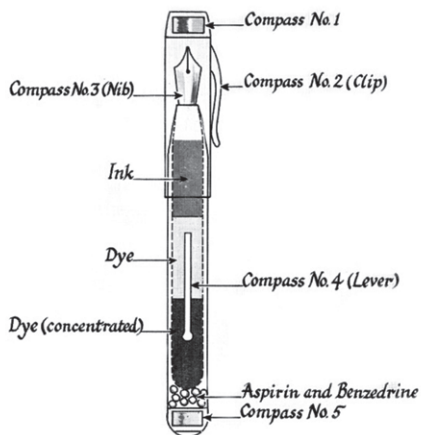
Once compasses were mastered, MI9 began to look at how to provide maps which would not turn to pulp and fall apart in wet harsh conditions, would not be bulky (and so easily discovered upon a post cap-



escape, cont'd...

ture search), yet be useful for long distance navigation across occupied Europe. After various failed trials with paper maps, Hutton decided that a perfect material would be silk, which did not rustle, could be compacted into the palm of a hand, would not rub or disintegrate when wet, and most importantly, could be sewn into the linings of uniforms to prevent discovery until required. Next, MI9 set out to provide food and water rations to evaders, to sustain them during long periods of evasion. These 'ration packs' became known as 'Aids Boxes' and like the other devices produced by MI9, evolved through a number iterations before becoming an invaluable source of sustenance for air crews bailing out over occupied Europe (and ultimately all other Theatres of operations).

In February 1942, U.S. Major General Carl Spaatz travelled to England to make arrangements for the U.S. 8th Army Air Force to transfer its headquarters there. During his visit Spaatz was briefed on MI9 and its role in aiding downed air crew to escape and evade back to England. Spaatz was extremely impressed with the idea and immediately set out to form a U.S. evasion and escape agency. In October 1942 the embryonic U.S. Military Intelligence Service X (MIS-X) came into being and was based at Fort Hunt in Virginia.



Upon its formation, MIS-X comprised five sections—interrogation, correspondence, prisoner of war locations, training and briefing, and technical. With British and American air crew operating in the same skies over Europe, it was entirely logical for MI9 and MIS-X to work in close harmony and to share knowledge on escape lines and escape and evasion techniques. Following its establishment, MIS-X began to mirror the procedures already established by MI9, and it was decided that all U.S. air crew in Europe would be supplied with evasion and escape devices by MI9, since it made little sense to ship them from US to UK. However, MIS-X took the lead in all U.S.-led theaters of war—predominantly the Pacific. U.S. air crews were issued with evasion and escape devices including ration boxes, money purses containing foreign currency, maps of their operational area, a hacksaw blade, and a miniature compass.

Unfortunately, many men were already incarcerated in Axis PW camps in Europe, and they too needed MI9/MIS-X support. Both agencies therefore turned their designers to providing E&E gadgets which could be shipped into PW camps inside innocent 'carrier' devices, to enable PWs to plan and then execute their escapes.

Eventually both agencies began to ship toiletries: brushes, combs, shaving brushes, soap, razors, uniforms, games, smoking items; lighters, tobacco pouches, cigarette holders, sporting goods, books, shoes, and a variety of other innocent devices into the camps. Many of these items slipped past inexperienced censors and mail searchers. So successful were these infiltration methods, that by late 1944, some PW camps were asking the agencies to *stop* sending E&E devices, as they had run out of space to store them.

By war's end, MI9, MIS-X and other Allied covert agencies were respon-



sible for the repatriation of over 12,000 men (equating to some 1,200 B-17/B-24 or 1,714 Halifax/Lancaster bomber crews), had debriefed many thousands of men, gaining key intelligence, and had built up a huge amount of detail on Axis dispositions across occupied Europe, thereby preparing later crews to avoid enemy checkpoints and traps and to evade home.

A fantastic achievement of the two agencies which pioneered a completely new military skill, which has now become the norm amongst air crews and Special Operations Forces globally and continues to bring our troops home from harm's way.



The book is currently available from the publisher, from Amazon, or from other US book shops.

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2017



American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 22-24, 2017



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 24

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 _____

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 14) - # of Persons _____ x \$130 = _____

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

↓ LATE REGISTRATION rates below ↓

REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked after June 14) - # of Persons _____ x \$150 = _____

LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending _____ x \$40 = _____

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

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2017



American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 22-24, 2017



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 \$122 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, 2017

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Full Page	\$200	\$300
Half Page... .	\$130	\$200
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AXPOW

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

Short Agenda:

JUNE 22

THURSDAY

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 23

FRIDAY

OPENING CEREMONIES
MEMORIAL SERVICE
LADIES LUNCHEON
MEDSEARCH/NSO SEMINAR
CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER
COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

JUNE 24

SATURDAY

BUSINESS SESSION CONT'D
NEW BOARD MEETING
BANQUET/INSTALLATION

JUNE 25

SUNDAY

CHECK OUT

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2017

AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

LIGHT JACKET

Light weight 65/35 poly/cotton twill blend jacket

Treated with Teflon® Fabric Protector

Sizes to 6XL(men's) or 4XL (women's)

S-XL \$45.00 (Call 660-627-0753 for pricing larger orders)

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

Plus \$2.00 for each size above XL

\$6.95 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



Jacket Size _____ Gender (men's/women's) Color _____

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 660-627-0753



new members

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



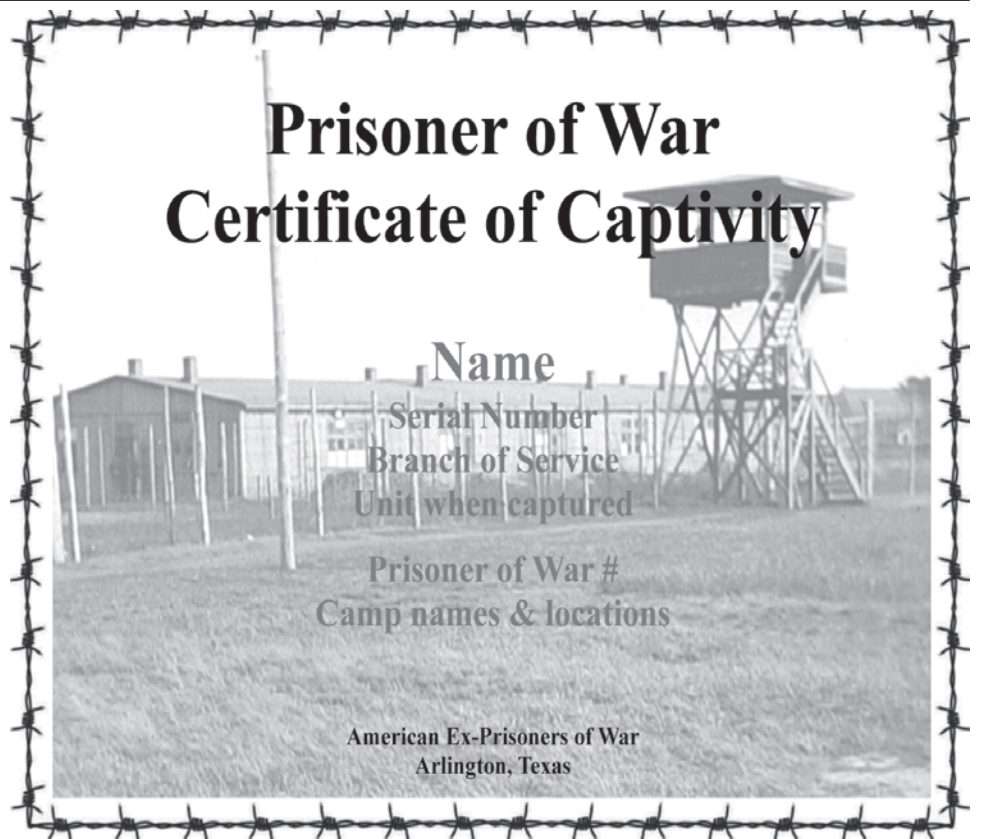
WELCOME!

Margaret Batte Moore
 Sanford NC
 Daughter of
 Edward G Batte, ETO



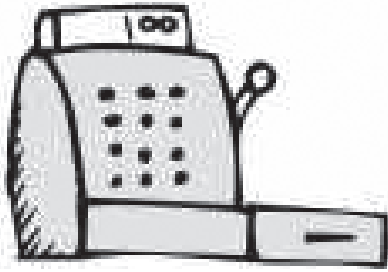
Certificate of Captivity

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. You may include a picture with your order.



Ex-POW Bulletin
 Jan/Feb 2017

contributions



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

Checks must be made payable to
AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of
War.

Thank you!

GENERAL FUND

In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
Mark & Stefanie Wihrl
In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
Harry Wills

In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
M/M Robert Lombardi
In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
The Wills Family
In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
Kathleen GooDman & Marty
Lawler
In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
Partners of Bowman & Co, LLP
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Anthony & Susan Pugliese
In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
Nancy & Gary Seigle
In memory of Anna Muschynka, by
Donald Patrick
In memory of Audrey Dugmore, by
Bruce, Pamela, Owen and Eric
Dugmore
In memory of Audrey Dugmore, by
Gail & David Crispin
In memory of Audrey Dugmore, by
Brian, Robin and Brendon Winnett
In memory of Audrey Dugmore, by
Dave Furst
In memory of Bonita Parsons, by
the Beckley and Janiski families
In memory of Georgia & Sidney
Kadlec, by Diane Kadlec
In memory of Irma Burke, by
Charles & Denise Duitnan
In memory of Kenneth Thomas
Lockhart, by Ramapo HS Apts
In memory of Kenneth Thomas
Lockhart, by Barbara & Ned Cooke

In memory of Kenneth Thomas
Lockhart, by Risch Family
In memory of Kenneth Thomas
Lockhart, by Judy Belluardo
In memory of Kenneth Thomas
Lockhart, by Janet Drogo
In memory of Kenneth Thomas
Lockhart, by Suzanne Rayot
In memory of Louis M Smith, by V
Jean McLane
In memory of my husband, Irving
Bailey, by Dorothy
In memory of my husband, Paul
Bilchak, by Mary
In memory of PNC Warren King, by
Stephen & Maryjane Laznibat
In memory of Stanley W MacArthur,
by Joan MacArthur, his loving wife
& family
In memory of Stanley W MacArthur,
by Eleanor Havens
In memory of Stanley W MacArthur,
by Delores Perro

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Clifford Armgard, Genoa WI
Doris Martin, Surfside Beach SC
Nathaniel McCloud, Elizabethton
TN
Patricia Rangold, Stoughton MA
Phyllis Dunning, Cooperstown NY
Renatta Deitsch, South Bend IN

The Meaningful Gift

A number of years ago, one of our members made the decision to establish a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He felt strongly that he truly cared about the future of AXPOW and wanted to leave a legacy to us. He and his wife are now gone, but their generous gift enabled them to demonstrate in a very meaningful way their commitment to the organization.

You, too can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is there for return-

ing POWs, their families and their dependents through your will or living trust. This gift can be funded with cash or securities, mutual funds or other investments that are not serving your current needs. This special gift will benefit future generations as well as we transition to a legacy organization.

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 _____(named investment) or

_____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Your generous support of our programs over the years has made a tremendous difference to ex-POWs and their families. I hope you will seriously consider whether a final gift to AXPOW will be the right option for you and your family.

Please take a few minutes of your time to help. And feel free to contact CFO Marsha Coke at 817-649-2979/axpow76010@yahoo.com or CEO David Eberly at (757) 508-8453 /eberlydsl@verizon.net

Thank you!

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

Ex-POW Bulletin

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taps



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

ABBOTT, Dee Elizabeth Thornton of Hattiesburg, MS passed away Sept. 24 2016. She was 97. During WWII she joined the US Navy as a WAVE, and advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer, retiring after 33 years of active and reserve duty. In 1998 she was honored by the city of Hattiesburg as the first woman to be named Veteran of the Year. She was preceded in death by her husband Samuel W. Abbott. "Miss Dee" served for 20 years as adjutant of the W. Jack Cleere Memorial Chapter, AXPOW.

BARR, Alvin, 96, of Cape Fear, NC died Oct. 1, 2016. While serving with the 1st Army, 78th Div., 310th Reg., 3rd Bn., L Co., he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 12A, then marched until liberation. He was a life member of AXPOW, holding all offices in the Cape Fear Chapter. He leaves his loving wife of 74 years, Peggy, one daughter and her family.

BERG, Ruth, of Tampa, FL passed away Sept. 7, 2016. She and her late husband, Harold (WWII POW) were life members of AXPOW. Survivors include one son, Allan.

BRUMMOND, Mary Jo, of Crystal Lake, IL, wife of Bruce Brummond, died October 27, 2016 at the age of 100. Married in 1942, she endured her husband's capture and captivity and celebrated his release. Both were active members of the Central Minnesota Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her loving husband of 74 years, Mary Jo leaves 1 daughter, 4 sons, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and families.

BURGER, Francis passed away Oct. 10, 2016 in San Diego, CA at the age of 98. He was a "Crew Chief" on a B-24 "Liberator", 725th BS, 451st BG,

BOOHER, Alice Ann, Staff Reporter for the EX-POW Bulletin, passed away on Sept. 28, 2016 at the age of 74. She had been a resident of Washington DC since 1966. Alice was born in Indianapolis, IN and was the daughter of Drs Norman and Olga Booher. She graduated from Butler University with a B.A. degree in political science and economics in 1963, and received her LLB and Juris Doctor from Indiana University in 1967. She served as a Foreign Service Reserve Officer before joining the Veteran's Administration in 1968. From 1969-2011, she served with distinction as Counsel with the Board of Veteran Appeals. She was admitted to practice before a dozen state and federal benches including the US Supreme Court. Over the years, she had been professionally privileged to work in interesting case adjudication specialties, i.e., malpractice, AIDS; and had personally served on metropolitan commissions and boards for criminal and civil codes revision, homelessness, veterans, and victims of domestic violence and assaults.

Alice had been continuously involved in a myriad of Veteran oriented projects, with particular devotion to the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington DC. Alice served as an independent book reviewer and journalist for national print media, with special emphasis on Prisoners of War, women veterans, and Intelligence. Published in over 15 Journals, in 2015 she was the editor and contributing author of the book, Glimpses of the New Veteran: Changed Constituency, Different Disabilities, and Evolving Resolutions.

Alice is survived by three brothers, John, Robert, and Phil Booher. A celebration of her life will coincide this winter with Tet, Alice's most celebrated holiday since her Viet Nam service. She is missed.

15th AF. His plane was shot down, he was captured and held in Stalag Lufts 4 and 1 until liberation. Frank was an active life member for many years with AXPOW - both at the local and national levels. He was a National Director and Jr. Vice Commander. He served as a National Service Officer for the organization, helping veterans get the entitlements they deserved. He was the "VETERAN OF THE YEAR" in the San Diego Veterans Day Parade. He took the most pride in advocating for his fellow POWs by starting support groups and helping them to receive their veteran benefits. The chapter had a bust made of him, and had it placed in the VARO. He was relentless in his support of the effort to place a 25' tall statue of a POW at "LIBERATION" at the entrance to the new San Diego Miramar National Cem-

etry. He is survived by 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

CARMODY, Thomas L., of Escanaba, MI died Oct. 1, 2016. He was 91. During WWII, he was captured while serving in the Army, 45th Div., 180th Inf. in the Battle of the Bulge. Tom was a member of AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of nearly 70 years, Betty, 1 son and many nieces and nephews.

GIDEON, Willard Selleck, of Charleston, SC died Oct. 10, 2016. He was 85. While flying his 55th mission, he was shot down and taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese.

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taps cont'd...

He was held captive for 2,402 days, almost 7 years. After being freed during Operation Homecoming, he attended the University of Nebraska and then worked at the Charleston Air Force Base until his retirement in 1983. His wife, Jeannine predeceased him; he leaves two children, three stepchildren, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

GILBERT, Elizabeth Ann of Poplarville, MS passed away August 7, 2016 at the age of 91. She was a member of the W. "Jack" Cleere Memorial Chapter, AXPOW. Her husband, ex-POW Cragin, predeceased her. Survivors include 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

HROBAK, Charles J., 91, of New Kensington, PA passed away Nov. 3, 2016. Charlie served in the Army during WWII and the Korean War; he was captured in Korea while serving with the 7th Reg., 3rd Div, 7th Inf. Div. He was a member of AXPOW, Korean Ex-POWs, and other veterans associations. Surviving him is his loving wife of 62 years, Mary Gorta, 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

MacARTHUR, Stanley W., 96, of Mesa, AZ died Nov. 9, 2016. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 384th BG, 457th BS. He was shot down, captured and held in 7A, Dulag Luft and Stalag 17B until liberation. Stan was a life member of AXPOW and past commander of the East Valley Chapter. He leaves his wife, Joan, 1 son, 1 stepdaughter, 5 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandson.

MILEWSKI, Teddy, of Sun City, Arizona, passed away September 9, 2016. Teddy was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Sun City, Ari-

zona. He was in the 1st Ranger Battalion and held in Stalag 344. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Roberta, and two sons.

MIMS, John L., of Aberdeen, NC died Nov. 27, 2016 at the age of 94. In 1941, he was assigned to Co. B, 1st Bn., 31st Inf. Reg. and sent to the Philippines. After capture on Bataan, he endured the Bataan Death March, then 3 ½ years of captivity. He credited his late wife, Juanita with his survival. He is survived by his wife Nena, 4 sons, 4 stepchildren, 21 grandchildren, and numerous great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

MONTOYA, Tony, of Woodland CA, died July 22, 2016. Tony served with the 200 Coast Artillery, was captured and held in the Philippine Island, and was on the Oroku Maru Hellship. An AXPOW life member since 1979, he is survived by his wife of 70 years, Juanita.

MURRAY, ERNEST G. "JIM", 91, of Vernon, VT, died October 27, 2016. He was a life member of Vermont Chapter #1 and served as Jr. Vice Commander for the last ten years. During WWII, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served with the 310th Inf., 78th Div. stationed in Germany. He was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge and was held captive in several POW camps until liberation. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Evelyn, three sons, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

POLLARD, Ben Marksbury, of San Diego, CA passed away Nov. 11, 2016. Serving in the Air Force, Ben was selected to fly the F105 for possibly one of the most dangerous missions in Vietnam as the first crew in Ryan's Raiders. He was shot down on his 11th mission and held almost six years in the Hanoi Hilton. Ben served as President of NamPOW and was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his adored wife, Joan, 2 children and 4 grandchildren. In his words, "We had many twists and turns, but Life was a Blast!

REMPELAKIS, Mary P., of Framingham, MA died Nov. 18, 2016. She was the widow of Ex-POW Emanuel "Rumpy". She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and their families.

RIVET, Roger, of Bedford, MA died Sept. 17, 2016 at the age of 92. He was the beloved husband of Irene for 69 years. Roger served with the 3rd Inf. in the Africa Campaign. He was captured at Anzio Beach and held in Stalag 344. He escaped twice, was recaptured, then finally escaped near war's end. He and Irene were life members of AXPOW and MA Chapter #1. In addition to his wife, he leaves 4 children and many grandchildren.

SICILIANO, Marshall, of the Bronx, NY passed away July 12, 2016. During WWII, he was captured while serving in Tunisia. He was sent to Stalag 2B near Hammerstein, Prussia and held more than 2 ½ years. Marshall was an active member of AXPOW and the Greater NY Chapter. He leaves extended family and many friends.

SPENCER, George Wilbur, 93, of Grants Pass, OR died May 8, 2016. George enlisted in the Army in 1941 and was sent to Corregidor. He was captured, taken to Camp O'Donnell and assigned to a prison camp where he worked coal mines, an airport and dock for 3 ½ years. His wife of 50 years, Martha survives him; he also leaves 1 son, 2 stepsons and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

TIERNEY, Richard A., Sr., 99, of Lewiston, ID passed away July 2, 2016. In 1942 he enlisted in the AAC and was assigned to the 381st BG flying out of Ridgewell Aerodrome, England. He participated in the D-Day invasion, was captured in Sept., then held in Luft I, Barth until liberation. Dick served as a veterans service officer for many years. He is survived by 1 son, 3 stepchildren, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Will They Come Home?

Our loved ones heard the call to arms
Will they come home?
To offer help, to keep from harm
Will they come home?
Could they do less than heed the call?
So many went, and some would fall
Most did come home, but no, not all
Where are they now?
Will they come home?

The need is great, beyond belief
Will they come home?
To help, to aid, to give relief
Will they come home?
Against a changing, faceless foe
Our brave have stood, and thus 'tis so

Some killed, some lost,
whose names we know
They can't come home
They won't come home

But what of those who were not slain
Will they come home?
No peace, small hope, to dream seems vain
Will they come home?
In prison held with cruel bond
Their call cries out, shall we respond?
We must not quit 'til day has dawned
And they come home
And they come home!

Ralph Verdu
Bethel Baptist Church
511 Shenandoah Road
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
845-226-7973

chaplain



ND Benny
Rayborn

Have You Ever Been Hungry?

Our P.O.W.'s are going "Yeah, sure have". But what about the rest of my readers? Have you ever been hungry? So hungry your stomach growls? Have you ever felt an empty feeling in your stomach?

If you were hungry, what happened? For most of us, hunger

produces an action. If I feel hunger, I get something to eat. If nothing else, crackers and peanut butter or ramen noodles.

The point is, I do something about my hunger.

Matthew 5:6 says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Psalms 81:10 "I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it."

Just as we eat, so we need to fill ourselves on God, on knowledge about God. Knowledge as to what God wants you to do. Have you spiritual hunger?

It is amazing, most of us eat three meals a day, yet many of us do not attend worship services.

Do you think you can go days without food? The answer is "No". Most enjoy eating. We expect to eat several meals every day.

Similarly, God expects us to spend time with Him. Part of that time is reading the Scriptures, part is Prayer and part is thinking about God.

Are you hungry for Him today?

My prayer for each of you is; If you are spiritually hungry, that you will be filled. Amen.



Benny

Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2017



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

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

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY: _____ Date of Death _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

To be contributed to the _____ Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:

Name _____

Address _____

City, state and zip code _____

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

(rev. 02/07)



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

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

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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

(rev. 02/07)



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 for membership and reunion information.

"Steadfast and Loyal"

50/50 drawing

June 25, 2016 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place** ERNEST SMITH, KS **\$238.20**
- 2nd Place** JOHN ROBERTS, MI **\$178.65**
- 3rd Place** MARGARET MAHYFIELD, MS **\$119.10**
- 4th Place** NANCY GARRIDO, OK **\$59.55**

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:

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5936
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Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2017

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Ex-POW Bulletin
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AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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Ex-POW Bulletin
Jan/Feb 2017

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.

\$100.00 includes shipping/handling/insurance

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 _____

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

\$10.00ea

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00	Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
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U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00	Aluminum License Plate	5.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
Barbed Wire Pin	3.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Brooch pin	5.00	8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
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Logo pin	5.00	AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00	Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
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4" Blazer Patch	4.00	Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas · Chapter Adjutant · Chapter	
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00	Treasurer · Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander	
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00	Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · Sr. Vice Commander · Jr. Vice	
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00	Commander · Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer	
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For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order

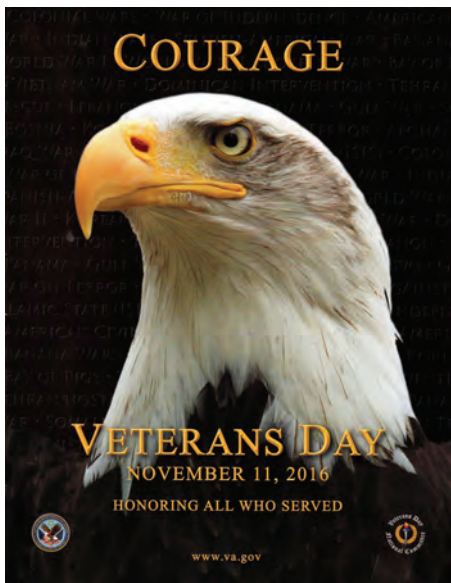
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Total: \$

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Veterans Day 2016~ Washington, DC





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Bronze Grave Medallions



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