

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

501(c)3 Veterans Service Organization

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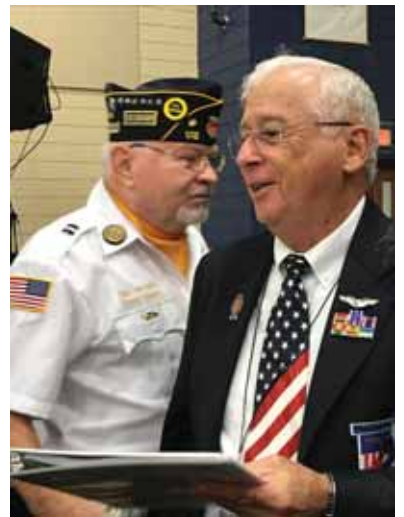
We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



The Ride Home - Until They ALL Come Home



The Ride Home - 2018



Jan/Feb/March 2019

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COLA 2019

2.8% Cost of Living Increase

The 2019 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is set for a 2.8% increase based on the final CPI calculations for 3rd quarter inflation measurement period. This is the largest COLA increase since 2011 when it was 3.6%. Last years increase was 2%. COLA increases are based on the inflation measurement period of the 3rd quarter (July, August, and September) compared to the previous 3rd quarter.

The 2.8 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to beneficiaries in January 2019.

A look at our future:



PHILIPPINE SEA (November 5, 2018) Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Fuel) Airman Moses Maldonado, from Irving, Texas, updates a flight schedule tracker on the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS

Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) during Keen Sword 2019. Keen Sword 2019 is a joint, bilateral field-training exercise involving U.S. military and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel, designed to increase combat readiness and interoperability of the Japan-U.S. alliance. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kyleigh Williams)

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Deadline for the Apr-June 2019 issue is March 1, 2019. Please send all materials to the editor at the above address.

Meeting Notice

A Board Meeting will be held in Arlington, TX at the Arlington Hilton on April 27, 2019. Organizational business will be discussed. All are welcome to attend.

Clydie Morgan Chief Operating Officer

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A Promise Kept

"Some events in life are beyond our imagination; other just happen"



President Bush with Barbara Eberly

Our lives are often touched by great men and women, and these experiences leave us in awe. For Barbara and I it was 1991 and the circumstances associated with the Gulf War: President George H.W. Bush came to Seymour Johnson AFB after I was shot down to meet with Barbara. No words can describe his compassion; his promise to her was simple: "I'll bring him home." Later, at a USO function, he remembered her and with a warm embrace, he welcomed me home. We will miss him.

We are entering a New Year, but take a moment now that the decorations are put away to follow the advice of Winston Churchill: "Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection."

For many, Christmas and Hanukkah is also a time to witness one's faith. For Grif and I it was after being captured in January 1991, on the road to Baghdad:

ARE YOU CHRISTMAS? (Faith beyond Belief)

"We had lost all bearing as we zoomed along. Jumping from the car would be foolish. Besides, there was no way Grif could get out of the middle seat. We had to stay together and continue to keep our senses keen.

Coming off a boulevard and hooking back left; the driver turned right and parked the white Toyota wagon facing the main road on a side street. Out of the warm car, we were pushed along a narrow walkway bounded by tall evergreens that approached the small front porch from the right of the white clapboard house. The driver's knock on the door reflected his weariness and growing frustration; the agitated tone of the Arabic greeting from the man at the door signaled that we were not welcome and that this would be just another stop to survive on our journey. Here, instead of another interrogation, however, we would face a most unusual opportunity: to witness to our faith and Christianity.

In the dim candlelight we could see the entry hall leading to a cross hallway with stairs on our right going up toward the front of the house to the second floor. Grif and I were made to sit side-by-side on the fourth row of steps. The doors to the other rooms were closed but we had gotten a glimpse of several men sitting around a

heater in the room across from us. They were arguing loudly and it seemed as though they were cursing our driver for bringing us there. I sensed there were other people in the house and strained to hear any sounds or English voices indicating they might be holding other prisoners here. Maybe this was the place where we would be held.

Two Iraqis guarded us; one had an automatic rifle, the other brandished a knife. One seemed more intent at jabbing at us and tormenting us in Arabic. At one point, he ripped Grif's T-shirt over his head and threatened us with his knife. This drew a rebuke from the other man and our agitator pulled back. Now we were alone with the armed guard standing at the foot of the stairs facing us. After some time, with the muffled talk in the background, he leaned forward and said quietly, "Are you Christmas?"

"Christmas?" I said, puzzled.

"He must mean Christian," Grif whispered.

Although my mind filled instantly with the fear that our Arab guards might simply be looking for a reason to kill us, I also felt that God was with us now as always. "Yes," I responded.

"Me, too," said the guard.

How ironic. Here, along this seemingly endless dismal road, we would meet a man with such courage.

And then it was time to go, again..."

Churchill gives us another and given the opportunities of a new year, more poignant and relevant quote: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

In 2019 let us live true to our AXPOW mission of serving those who cannot serve themselves.

This will be our Promise Kept.

Advance Care Planning: Healthcare Directives

Advance care planning is not just about old age. At any age, a medical crisis could leave you too ill to make your own healthcare decisions. Even if you are not sick now, planning for health care in the future is an important step toward making sure you get the medical care you would want, if you are unable to speak for yourself and doctors and family members are making the decisions for you.

Many Americans face questions about medical treatment but may not be capable of making those decisions, for example, in an emergency or at the end of life. This article will explain the types of decisions that may need to be made in such cases and questions you can think about now so you're prepared later. It can help you think about who you would want to make decisions for you if you can't make them yourself. It will also discuss ways you can share your wishes with others. Knowing who you want to make decisions on your behalf and how you would decide might take some of the burden off family and friends.

What Is Advance Care Planning?

Advance care planning involves learning about the types of decisions that might need to be made, considering those decisions ahead of time, and then letting others know—both your family and your healthcare providers—about

your preferences. These preferences are often put into an advance directive, a legal document that goes into effect only if you are incapacitated and unable to speak for yourself. This could be the result of disease or severe injury—no matter how old you are. It helps others know what type of medical care you want.

An advance directive also allows you to express your values and desires related to end-of-life care. You might think of it as a living document—one that you can adjust as your situation changes because of new information or a change in your health.

Medical Research and Advance Care Planning

Research shows that advance directives can make a difference, and that people who document their preferences in this way are more likely to get the care they prefer at the end of life than people who do not.

Decisions That Could Come Up

Sometimes decisions must be made about the use of emergency treatments to keep you alive. Doc-

Who should be involved in advance care planning?



tors can use several artificial or mechanical ways to try to do this.

Decisions that might come up at this time relate to:

- CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)
- Ventilator use
- Artificial nutrition (tube feeding) and artificial hydration (IV, or intravenous, fluids)
- Comfort care

Getting Started

Start by thinking about what kind of treatment you do or do not want in a medical emergency. It might help to talk with your doctor about how your current health conditions might influence your health in the future. For example, what decisions would you or your family face if your high blood pressure leads to a stroke? You can ask your doctor to help you understand and think through your choices before you put them in writing. Medicare

medsearch, cont'd...

or private health insurance may cover advance care planning discussions with your doctor.

If you don't have any medical issues now, your family medical history might be a clue to help you think about the future. Talk with your doctor about decisions that might come up if you develop health problems similar to those of other family members.

In considering treatment decisions, your personal values are key. Is your main desire to have the most days of life? Or, would your focus be on quality of life, as you see it? What if an illness leaves you paralyzed or in a permanent coma and you need to be on a ventilator? Would you want that? What makes life meaningful to you?

But, there are many other scenarios. Here are a few. What would you decide?

If a stroke leaves you unable to move and then your heart stops, would you want CPR? What if you were also mentally impaired by a stroke—does your decision change?

What if you are in pain at the end of life? Do you want medication to treat the pain, even if it will make you more drowsy and lethargic?

What if you are permanently unconscious and then develop pneumonia? Would you want antibiotics and to be placed on a ventilator?

For some people, staying alive as long as medically possible, or long enough to see an important event like a grandchild's wedding, is the most important thing. An advance directive can help to make that possible. Others have a clear idea about when they would no longer want to prolong their life. An ad-

Advance Directive Wallet Card

You might want to make a card to carry in your wallet indicating that you have an advance directive and where it is kept. Here is an example of the wallet card offered by the American Hospital Association. You might want to print this to fill out and carry with you.

The image shows a template for an "Advance Directive Notification" wallet card. The card is divided into two main sections. The left section is titled "Advance Directive NOTIFICATION" and contains fields for "Print name" and "Signature", checkboxes for "I have a health care power of attorney" and "I have an advance directive", a statement "I have talked with my family and my doctor about the care I want. If I am unable to speak for myself, please contact:", and fields for "Name" and "Number" with a note "(Additional names on back)". The right section is titled "Your life. Your terms." and includes the text "For more information visit: www.aha.org/putinwriting".

vance directive can help with that, too.

Your decisions about how to handle any of these situations could be different at age 40 than at age 85. Or, they could be different if you have an incurable condition as opposed to being generally healthy. An advance directive allows you to provide instructions for these types of situations and then to change the instructions as you get older or if your viewpoint changes.

Making Your Wishes Known

There are two main elements in an advance directive—a living will and a durable power of attorney for health care. There are also other documents that can supplement your advance directive. You can choose which documents to create, depending on how you want decisions to be made. These documents include:

- Living will
- Durable power of attorney for health care
- Other advance care planning documents

Medical issues that might arise at the end of life include:

- DNR orders
- Organ and tissue donation
- POLST and MOLST forms

Selecting Your Healthcare Proxy

If you decide to choose a proxy, think about people you know who share your views and values about life and medical decisions. Your proxy might be a family member, a friend, your lawyer, or someone in your social or spiritual community. It's a good idea to also name an alternate proxy. It is especially important to have a detailed living will if you choose not to name a proxy.

You can decide how much authority your proxy has over your medical care—whether he or she is entitled to make a wide range of decisions or only a few specific ones. Try not to include guidelines that make it impossible for the proxy to fulfill his or her duties. For example, it's probably not unusual for someone to say in conversation, "I don't want to go to a nursing home," but think carefully about whether you want a restriction like that in your advance directive. Sometimes, for financial or medical reasons, that may be the best choice for you.

medsearch, cont'd...

Of course, check with those you choose as your healthcare proxy and alternate before you name them officially. Make sure they are comfortable with this responsibility.

Making It Official

Once you have talked with your doctor and have an idea of the types of decisions that could come up in the future and whom you would like as a proxy, if you want one at all, the next step is to fill out the legal forms detailing your wishes. A lawyer can help but is not required. If you decide to use a lawyer, don't depend on him or her to help you understand different medical treatments. Start the planning process by talking with your doctor.

Many states have their own advance directive forms. Your local Area Agency on Aging can help you locate the right forms. You can find your area agency phone number by calling the Eldercare Locator toll-free at 1-800-677-1116 or by visiting <https://eldercare.acl.gov>.

Some states require your advance directive to be witnessed; a few require your signature to be notarized. A notary is a person licensed by the state to witness signatures. You might find a notary at your bank, post office, or local library, or call your insurance agent. Some notaries charge a fee.

Some states have registries that can store your advance directive for quick access by healthcare providers, your proxy, and anyone else to whom you have given permission. Private firms also will store your advance directive. There may be a fee for storing your form in a registry. If you store your advance directive in a registry and later make changes, you must replace

the original with the updated version in the registry.

Some people spend a lot of time in more than one state—for example, visiting children and grandchildren. If that's your situation, consider preparing an advance directive using forms for each state—and keep a copy in each place, too.

After You Set Up Your Advance Directive

Give copies of your advance directive to your healthcare proxy and alternate proxy. Give your doctor a copy for your medical records. Tell close family members and friends where you keep a copy. If you have to go to the hospital, give staff there a copy to include in your records. Because you might change your advance directive in the future, it's a good idea to keep track of who receives a copy.

Review your advance care planning decisions from time to time—for example, every 10 years, if not more often. You might want to revise your preferences for care if your situation or your health changes. Or, you might want to make adjustments if you receive a serious diagnosis; if you get married, separated, or divorced; if your spouse dies; or if something happens to your proxy or alternate. If your preferences change, you will want to make sure your doctor, proxy, and family know about them.

Be Prepared

What happens if you have no advance directive or have made no plans and you become unable to speak for yourself? In such cases, the state where you live will as-

sign someone to make medical decisions on your behalf. This will probably be your spouse, your parents if they are available, or your children if they are adults. If you have no family members, the state will choose someone to represent your best interests.

Always remember: an advance directive is only used if you are in danger of dying and need certain emergency or special measures to keep you alive, but you are not able to make those decisions on your own. An advance directive allows you to make your wishes about medical treatment known.

It is difficult to predict the future with certainty. You may never face a medical situation where you are unable to speak for yourself and make your wishes known. But having an advance directive may give you and those close to you some peace of mind.

NIH Senior Health

A service of the National Institute on Aging and the National Library of Medicine (NLM), NIHSeniorHealth provides health and wellness information, including complementary health approaches, for older adults.

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*Share
your
wishes*

*Start the
conversation
today*

legislative

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The 2018 midterm elections on November 6th ended with Democrats taking control of the House and Republicans fortifying their hold on the Senate. Thank you to all that went out to vote so that your voices were heard. America is changing in so many ways and this is reflected in the politicians running and voted into office. The elections contained many firsts. On the face that sounds so positive, but I am sure many of you reflect on these milestones and wonder how did it took so long.

Firsts:

- The first Muslim women elected to Congress
- The first Native American women to be elected to Congress
- First openly gay governor
- Youngest woman ever elected to Congress at 29 years old
- First Latina congresswomen
- 100 female members of the House of Representatives surpassing the previous high of 85
- There were many firsts at the individual state levels for Governors and members of Congress

The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine published a new report summarizing more than 4,000 scientific studies on how toxins

that Gulf War veterans, including post-9/11 veterans, have been exposed to impact their reproductive health and the health of their descendants. The report found that several toxins and diseases prevalent in Iraq and Afghanistan have reproductive effects on exposed veterans and birth defects in their children.

On a related matter the Blue Water Navy Bill continues to be stalled in the Senate despite the House unanimously passing H.R. 299, the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018*, to end the injustice of denying Vietnam, Korean DMZ, and Thailand veterans who suffer from life-threatening health conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange the care and benefits they deserve. Since all Bills will die at the end of this Congressional term when the new Congress begins on January 3rd, we will be needing your help to write your Representatives and Senators again to have this Bill receive the appropriate treatment it deserves. We will let you know the new Bill number as soon as it is reintroduced.

Another Bill has been stuck in Congress throughout the last term – *The Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Improvement Act of 2017* – and it looks like it will have to be reintroduced as well. A little history: DIC has only been increased by Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) since 1993. We need to increase DIC to the 55% level; this would make DIC equitable with other Federal employee survivor benefit plans. Even a “Sunset Provision” would be favorable. This would mean a gradual increase over a period of time. For example: a 3% increase

every year for 10 years. The monthly DIC is payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. So many of our surviving spouses are dependent on the small amount they receive. They deserve an increase.

In a review of the VA Nursing homes, 70 percent of the 132 homes received failure rating. It is truly unconscionable that well deserving veterans at their most vulnerable time receive the worst service from the VA. This directly impacts approximately 46,000 veterans and their families. It cannot be allowed to continue.

It has been reported by the VA that the number of homeless veterans has decreased by approximately 5% over the past year. While this is a positive sign, it continues to be very slow progress in an area of focus by the past several VA Secretaries still impacting approximately 38,000 veterans.

Once committees are finalized when the new Congress is in session, we will list the committee members' contact information so you can directly contact them to ask for support of Bills important to veterans.

Thank you for your support.

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In the last quarter of 2018 and in the last months of the 115th Congress, two important bills were introduced. At press time, and just days before Congress adjourned for the remainder of the term, it did not appear likely that either would pass. When they are introduced in the new session of Congress, we will be asking for your support in contacting your Representative/Senator. Thank you.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. COTTON) introduced the following bill;

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to require that the POW/MIA flag be displayed on all days that the flag of the United States is displayed on certain Federal property.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National POW/MIA Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. DAYS ON WHICH THE POW/MIA FLAG IS DISPLAYED ON CERTAIN FEDERAL PROPERTY.

Section 902 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) DAYS FOR FLAG DISPLAY

—For the purposes of this section, POW/MIA flag display days are all days on which the flag of the United States is displayed.”

~~~~~

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan introduced the following bill;

### A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require a full military honors ceremony for certain deceased veterans, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Full Military Honors Act of 2018”.

#### SEC. 2. FULL MILITARY HONORS CEREMONY FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.

Section 1491(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) The Secretary concerned shall provide full military honors (as determined by the Secretary concerned) for the funeral of a veteran who—

“(A) is first interred or first inurned in Arlington National Cemetery on or after the date of the enactment of the Full Military Honors Act of 2018;

“(B) was awarded the medal of honor or the prisoner-of-war medal; and

“(C) is not entitled to full military honors by the grade of that veteran.”

# andersonville



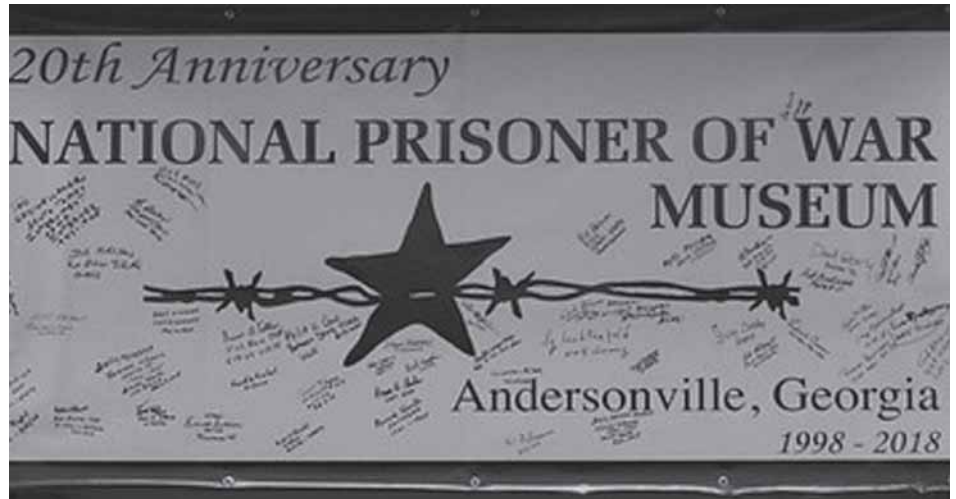
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The latter part of 2018 was a busy and eventful season at Andersonville National Historic Site, highlighted by the occurrence and aftermath of Hurricane Michael.

The park continued its commemoration of the 20-year anniversary of the National Prisoner of War (POW) Museum with special program offerings and recognition during our annual events. A special park stamp, a banner signed by former POWs, and special temporary exhibits were also offered in recognition of the anniversary.

In September the park participated in a coordinated, nationwide performance of Taps in honor of the passing of U.S. Senator and former POW John McCain. Local Navy veteran Mike Saliba volunteered to play Taps, along with buglers at locations across the U.S., as the funeral for Senator McCain began in Washington, D.C.

Annual National POW/MIA Recognition Day events in September



were very successful. During the Convocation, held at Georgia Southwestern University, Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation Director David Keller presented research on factors affecting Union and Confederate POW camps during the Civil War. Hundreds of former POWs, families of those Missing in Action (MIA), veterans, and others gathered at the National POW Museum for a ceremony featuring guest speakers former POW William Pebly, held by the Germans during World War II, and the family of Commander Michael Hoff, MIA in Vietnam. The ceremony honored those who withstood terrible suffering as POWs, those who left to serve their country and never returned, and grieving families still hungering for answers.

In November, the park gave visitors a glimpse of life for Union POWs in the winter of 1864, and a chance to explore the National POW Museum at night, during our Night Museum event. Guest speaker and author Gary Morgan revealed the real story behind the Raiders, infamous gangs who

robbed and murdered fellow POWs while imprisoned at Andersonville. Living historians portrayed guards and POWs out on the historic Civil War prison site.

In December, the Civil Air Patrol and Wreaths Across America will partner with the park for a special wreath-laying ceremony in Andersonville National Cemetery. Visitors are invited to sponsor and place wreaths on gravesites as a way of honoring and remembering the veterans buried there. In 2018 a new partnership was established with Bennett Motors to support and promote this event, and it has been extremely effective. The number of wreaths sponsored this year is expected to be over 11,000, far exceeding the previous record of 3,400 wreaths.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, Hurricane Michael swept across much of the southeastern U.S. and directly across

*"There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us." -Franklin D. Roosevelt (1936)*



## andersonville, cont'd..



Andersonville. Fortunately, no one at the park was injured and damage was limited. The national cemetery entrance and a portion of the road connecting the cemetery to the historic prison site were blocked by fallen trees. A large tree fell on the wall adjacent to the cemetery Rostrum. The National POW Museum roof leaked but no objects were damaged. The park was closed for two days as staff worked tirelessly to clear roads and ensure the grounds and facilities were safe for the public.

A number of improvements and projects have recently been completed or are underway in the park. With the support of the Friends of Andersonville, a new gravefinder kiosk was installed in the national cemetery to assist visitors in finding the graves of loved ones. A project to enter all historic burial records into the Veterans Administration database was completed. Through a partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, all roads and parking areas in the park were resurfaced. Several objects on exhibit in the National POW Museum were sent to specialists for preserva-

tion treatments. At Providence Spring, the slate roof was replaced and lead paint was safely removed.

Most of the trees growing on earthworks in the historic prison site were removed to prevent damage to the 152-year old structures. In the national cemetery, a portion of the historic cemetery wall that was damaged by a fallen tree during Hurricane Irma in 2017 was repaired by the staff from the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center. And an American Conservation Experience (ACE) youth crew began a project to conduct comprehensive cleaning of each headstone. This involves a very labor-intensive, five-step process in which each headstone is rinsed, treated, scrubbed by hand, rinsed, and re-treated.

The Victory from Within Traveling Exhibit has been on display at the Coronado-Quivera Museum in Lyons, Kansas, since May. In January 2019, the exhibit will move to Heroes Hall in Costa Mesa, California. It is scheduled to be on display at this venue through June. If you are in the Costa Mesa area we invite you to visit Heroes Hall and view the exhibit.

Several changes in staffing have occurred over the past few months. Todd Wooten, Facility Services Assistant, transferred to the U.S. Forest Service. Jake Koch, Lead Interpretive Ranger,

departed for a position at Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site. Parker Lewis, Administrative Assistant, accepted a position at Robins Air Force Base. Adam Childs came on board as a Maintenance Laborer. Tony Jago changed positions from a Heavy Equipment Operator to a Facility Services Assistant. The park also hired two new part-time Student Trainee Park Guides, Gloria Beard and Jaden Terry. Gettysburg Interns Jessica Greenman and Maci Mark finished their internship and returned to college. Resident volunteers Gerald and Rosemary Higgs returned for the winter to help staff the National POW Museum.

The park suffered a terrible loss in November when long-time volunteer Jimmy Culpepper passed away. "Mr. Jimmy", as he was affectionately known, began volunteering at the National POW Museum in 1998, shortly after it opened. He came to the park 7 days per week until his health deteriorated in 2017, and even after that he came 3-4 days per week. He contributed over 40,000 hours of his time to the National POW Museum and the park. He will be greatly missed.



# namPOW news

## National POW/MIA Recognition Day

by Bill Arcuri

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It is an honor and privilege for me to be here today to speak to you about this day and my experience in Vietnam.

There are two days each year to recognize POWs/MIAs. The first is National Former POW Recognition Day – April 9<sup>th</sup>.

April 9<sup>th</sup> is designated by Congress as the presidentially proclaimed observance of National Former POW Recognition Day.

What is the significance of this date? It was on April 9, 1942 that the United States forces surrendered on the Bataan Peninsula, beginning the Bataan Death March.

During our country's long history there have been about 565,000 former prisoners of war. From the Revolutionary war through WWI there were about 438,000.

WWII and Korea accounted for about 137,000 prisoners of war

leaving only about 800 men and women being classified as POWs since Vietnam through all the current wars to date.

The most recent accounting I could find was from 2015 where it was estimated that there were only 22,641 living POWs. The vast majority, approx. 22,000, are WWII and Korean war POWs. That leaves me in a small group of about 600 once that generation is gone.

The second day is National POW/MIA Recognition Day which is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. We take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war, those who are still missing in action and their families.

Last year the impacts from Hurricane Irma cancelled the "Ride Home". We all have been watching the Tropics carefully as this is the peak of hurricane season. Hurricane Florence came close and we should all pray for those who are now recovering from this storm. The only named storm I now worry about this year will be Hurricane Kirk as that Hurricane will go where no Hurricane has gone before.

My time as a POW in Vietnam was short as I was an FNG (Funny New Guy) shot down between 1970 - 1972. Most of the Vietnam POWs, my heroes, were FOGs (Funny Old Guys) shot down between 1964 - 1969.

The only similarities between me and older POWs were probably my last mission, shoot down,

capture and initial couple days in solitary. After that, there really is no comparison. As FOG Bob Jefferies so stated when he introduced me to his wife in Dallas at a Christmas party, "This is Bill. He came in with his overnight bag". My only response was, "Well there is a time to be first in your class and a time to be last in your class".

My 44<sup>th</sup> mission was on the third night of LBII. We were in the first wave of G-Models from Guam to strike that night flying the exact same routes, targets and TOT as the 6 waves on the previous two nights.

We had several SAM Sites tracking our cell as we were inbound and while 1 and 2 were dropping their bombs.

And we had several SA2s launched at us as we rolled level to drop our bombs and we were hit in our post target turn maneuver.

Two, possible three hit us, one which blew open the crew compartment and injured the Gunner and EW. The one that killed us, hit us in the tail. We had eight good engines, no major fuel leaks, all our generators on-line, but eventually lost all hydraulics and our ability to control the aircraft.

We were in a wing level-controlled attitude, descending through 30,000 ft at 500kts when I was immediately upgraded to Aircraft Commander. In fact, I can honestly say, although not for long, that I flew solo in a B52.

I always get asked what it is like to eject from a B52. Now I was in an airplane built in 1956. I was only 9 years older than the plane. Talk about having faith in your brothers in arms who maintain the egress systems.

## nampow, cont'd...

We never questioned that it would not work. We just thought we would never have to use it. We didn't have those fancy rocket seats.

To put it in today terms, we flown around sitting on an IED waiting for that one time we needed to blow ourselves out of the airplane.

As I rotated the handles, I looked up to verify that the hatch had been blown but as I prepared myself to squeeze the triggers there was another explosion on the right wing knocking me out of position and the plane started to roll inverted.

I immediately repositioned myself and squeezed the triggers and luckily everything worked but time is your enemy as the plane increases its speed in its dive to the ground.

As a result of the excessive air speed, I received arm and leg injuries from flailing as the safe ejection air speed is only 250kts or 288mph.

Why 250kts, well faster than that and you might not clear the aircraft tail. Yes, some of that Physics and Geometry that you took in school that you thought you would never use again. The force on the seat and my body was like hitting a stone wall as I figured my ejection speed was close to 500mph. The chute is programmed to open 1 second after passing through 15,000ft.

During this free fall, one would actually slow down to approx. 125 mph once you are in the correct freefall position which would help limit the impact on the body and chute when it opened.

I was unable to use my arms and legs to stabilize myself in the free fall after ejection and was tumbling uncontrollable so I made the decision to open my chute.

I remember grabbing and pulling the D-Ring with my right hand and hopping for the best.

The opening shock was excessive and I was now just floating down from over 20,000ft, and I thought of that old AF Wisdom which stated:

"It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed".

I would soon find out just how true that was. I looked up to check my chute and noticed there were a couple of panels with large rips in them from the opening shock, but otherwise it was intact and now I was in for a long ride down.

I remember thinking "What a sight", aircraft all over the sky above me, surface to air missiles launching and exploding, anti-aircraft fire, and the detonation of bombs on the ground below. For those of you old enough to remember, this was one Disney World "E" Ticket Ride.

Now I had to concentrate on my landing. With injured legs I knew it had to be my best Parachute Landing Roll ever. Sadly, to report it was not.

My concentration was broken when I started attracting ground fire from the armed militia and that ground I thought I was about to hit, was actually a stand of bamboo twenty feet high about the ground.

I hit the top of the bamboo and braced for impact but nothing happened. I relaxed my concentration thinking WHAT, using some expressive language and then I slammed into the ground and dislocated my right knee and found myself impaled by the bamboo and was barely able to move.

Since I wasn't going anywhere, I did a few things while I waited for the local civilians to find me. With only my right arm, I took my helmet off and pulled out my radio.

Each crewmember had a position to help those monitoring the airwaves determine who was making the call. We were the Quilt Cell, number 3 aircraft and my position as co-pilot was "Bravo". So, I made my final call "Quilt3B on the ground".

I pulled out my 38 revolver and used it to smash my radio and then emptied the gun, pushing the bullets into the mud. The armed Militia were firing their weapons into the bamboo and surrounding area in my general direction and I could hear the crack of the bullets passing over my head and the thump of them hitting the soft mud around me.

Being Catholic, I said my Act of Contrition and prepared myself for the end. I felt a calm settle over me. But that was short lived as I noticed movement and when I turned to see what it was, there was an old Vietnamese woman and I took the full force of the hoe she was swinging across the right side of my head.

One of the civilians picked up my revolver and pointed it at me and pulled the trigger. I had made two decisions, removing helmet was not a good one but removing the bullets was very good decision.



## nampow, cont'd...

I had now become the village piñata. The civilians were fighting over all my stuff. I was wearing one of those new Nomex flight suits which didn't have buttons or zippers as everything was Velcro.

I noticed a confused look on the faces of the civilians and as one of them pulled out his manchette I knew I had to take actions so I grabbed the top of my flight suit with my right hand and like magic pulled it open.

There was a moment of disbelief in the eyes of the civilians but I was soon stripped of everything but my civvies.

I was still being poked and hit when four militia men arrived and fought the civilians off me. While keeping the civilians at bay, one militiaman motioned for me to follow.

I shook my head and pointed to my dislocated right knee. This was when I received the only medical treatment while I was there. He shouldered his AK47, grabbed my ankle, put his foot in my crouch and forcefully popped my knee back in place. I remember using some very expressive language here also.

I was helped back to their village and then turned over to the North Vietnamese Army where I saw and had a short opportunity to talk to Terry my pilot. I was transported into Hanoi early the next day stopping in each village to be shown off.

Blindfolded and tied I heard that big iron gate open and close behind me and now I was in the Hilton Complex which was an old French prison named Hua Lo. It

wasn't until I was alone in my cell that I was really able to start to comprehend the situation I was now in.

I knew that I was alive but wondered what my wife and my family were being told. I also knew that some of the POWs have been here for over eight years.

During this time, I spent four days in solitary and endured a daily interrogation. I found out quickly during that first interrogation, that failing to answer questions could be very painful.

They had my flight suit which of course had my unit patches, rank and name. They also had my Military ID and Geneva Convention Card. The questions seemed to be more personal or political then seeking military information.

When I didn't respond, they used by injured right leg to inject pain by twisting my knee. I was using my injuries to my advantage also and I finally got so frustrated that I threw my pilot Terry under the bus as I said "I am just a co-pilot, I don't know anything, go ask the pilot".

On Christmas Day I was moved out of solitary into a room with nine wounded airmen, one of whom was my gunner.

So, I knew two of the crew had survived. Later two long held pilots were put in with us. Render Craton and Scotty Morgan both shot down in 1965. I got talking to Render about going home and he told me to be prepared to spend a long time here and he keep repeating that.

I said no Render, we are going home, and I added that I would be home in 55 days. He just laughed and said he thought the same thing and it was now eight years later.

In late January we were relocated to another section of the prison called *New Guy Village*. It was all the sick and wounded and that is when I met my pilot for the second time since the shutdown.

He had been held in another location and he informed me that our navigator Mike was ok also. So, we knew that four of the six-man crew had survived.

We were also told by the Vietnamese that a treaty had been signed and that we may be going home.

The older POWs always operated under the assumption that they would not leave until all the sick and wounded were released.

It was then that I was given a list of 250 American POWs who were not in Hanoi and told to memorize the list as they knew I would be in the sick and wounded group.

I really think it had to do with my plebe year at West Point where we had to memorize everything.

So, as a result of my injuries I was in the first group of POWs that was flown out of Hanoi to Clark AFB, Philippines on February 12, 1973. While on that flight to freedom I was also able to cross check the list of know POWs with the 250 names I had memorized.

At Clark that evening, I was in my hospital bed having my legs checked when Render entered my room. He said "Bill, "How did you know?" I looked at him and said,

## nampow, cont'd...

"What are you talking about". He said again, "How did you know it would only be 55 days?"

He had remembered our conversation when we first met back in early January. I laughed and said Render, you made me so mad being so pessimistic and I just said the first thing that entered my mind.

While I was home during Thanksgiving prior to my second tour, I had watched the movie "55 Days at Peking" starring Charlton Heston. I then did a quick calculation and it was exactly 55 days.

Being back at Clark was a wonderful thing but even I did not expect the reception that we received. No one had known about the plans for "Operation Homecoming". For me watching the expression of the POWs who had been held for so long was "Heartwarming".

I remember that first day at Clark, being able to take a hot shower, actually having a bathroom instead of a bucket, eating some real food, especially peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and all the ice cream you wanted, and having ice in your drinks.

I think what was most important to us all was being able to walk over and open that closed door to our room. But it also brought some heartbreaking news.

Two of our crewmembers were MIA. Our gunner Roy had to have his leg amputated to save his life.

I was one of the first 20 POW's returned to the US and I was reunited with my wife on Valentine's

Day when we landed at Travis AFB, California.

I never flew with any jewelry, so the Air Force had sent all my stuff back to my wife. She had worn my wedding ring on a chain around her neck and there at Travis on Valentine Day, she put it back on my finger.

We came home to the open arms of our nation which brother me for a long time. It was great to be free, to have your friends and neighbors welcome you home. To be treated with respect.

None of us considered ourselves to be heroes. We just did the job as best we could and among all other things "Returned with Honor". I have always felt that the 566 Military POWs, a very small percentage of those who served during the Vietnam War, were the only one who really received a Welcome Home. And it was years before this country acknowledge the service and sacrifices made by this generation of veterans.

That bring us back to why we are here today.

There are still approx. 82,000 missing in action from WWII to today and 75% of the still missing in action are located in the Indo-Pacific region.

Approx. 41,000 of this total are considered to be MIA and presumed lost at sea. There are still approx. 1,600 missing from Vietnam. We must continue to make the recovery of our service men and women a top priority.

Every young man and woman who takes the oath to defend our country needs to know that when this country sends them into battle that this country will do everything in its power to ensure they are brought home, that no one is left behind.

I had the opportunity this August after 46 years to finally fulfil my bucket list of paying my final respects to my EW Captain Craig Paul who was killed on 20 Dec 1972 and listed as MIA for many years and whose remains were finally returned was buried at the USAFA.

Hurricane Frances had kept my wife and I from doing that in 2004. I personally hope every family member who has a loved one still MIA, has that opportunity in the future.

To close I will quote the phrase inscribed on the Missing Man Memorial at Randolph AFB, TX. This Memorial depicts the Missing Man Formation flown by the AF Thunder Birds, a five-ship formation with number 3 missing.

Eleven words that reflect why we are all here today.

"We Who Came Home Must Never Forget Those That Could Not"

Thank you.

*Presented in honor of National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremonies, Sept. 20-22, 2018, Central Georgia Technical College, Warner Robins, GA*





pow/mia

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## More than a name

In 1988, the Staler Brothers released a song called "More Than a Name on the Wall." It became one of the top 10 singles that year.

In the POW/MIA issue, we often say one is not forgotten as long as there is a memory left, or the name is spoken. When there is no one left with a memory of someone, and the name no longer spoken, only then is one forgotten.

That mantra, our pledge to speak names aloud in this issue, was driven home this year, time after time, as we did Services of Remembrance, or I was Master of Ceremonies at various events.

At an event last October (2017), we did a medals presentation to a family in the little town of Cole Camp, MO. The father, PFC Don Harms, was a POW during WWII, and part of the 1<sup>st</sup> historic Red Cross arranged, POW exchange of the war. Months later, after returning to the states, surgeries, rehab and discharge, he returned home – and told no one of his experiences. The community knew him as the local cabinet maker, with a bad shoulder that failed to keep the strap of his overalls in place as he worked.

That day in October, more than 100 family members heard the true story, complete with a documentary, and original photos of the POW exchange. His records were there – a rare find – with millions of the Army records for WWII having burned in 1973.

The surgery in France without anesthetic; the potato, egg and ½ slice of bread diet; the efforts of the Red Cross worker to get them needs and wants, until he suggested the exchange – all available.

A year later, John's oldest son joined us at a formal affair. He was introduced, the abbreviated story mentioned from the podium, and a page dedicated to the story, was in the program.

His son just shook his head – "why my dad" he asked with regard to the recognitions.

Because history cannot be forgotten, and his story needs to be known, I told him.

Last September, at The Ride Home, we had an Honored Guest who brought another person with them.

Upon arrival, we found out that the young man, was also an "Honored Guest" - our way of identifying a former POW, family of a former POW, or relative of a POW/MIA yet unaccounted for.

There was a flurry of activity – changing a nametag, adding the name to recognitions, adding a place at the Missing Man Table – to now "seat" 30 individuals still missing.

At the banquet, we introduced every POW/MIA by name, as the family member laid a rose and inverted the wine glass, at the Missing Man service.

Among the names, I read "Thomas Montoya, USMC, MIA 7 Aug 1952 N Korea, unaccounted for."

Carlos stopped me later at dinner, and said, "I just want to know that was the 1<sup>st</sup> time I had ever heard his name."

We spoke the name again during the next day's Recognition Service.

During Branson Veterans Homecoming, where we have a full week of activities for Veterans Day. I introduced unique attendees at our Gala.

One of our volunteers had a missing relative, and a few years earlier I was asked to help her find the history of an MIA uncle, PFC Benjamin Williams. She shared an article entitled "Sheboygan Heroes are Missing" and said that was all she knew. We found out her uncle made it home from Stalag 2b after being held by the Germans for almost 2 ½ years. He died in 1998. But we said his name.

She stopped me afterwards and said, "I didn't know you mention Benjamin," who her son is named for.

Our Master of Ceremonies was a family member of a WWII MIA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt John A Mars, USAF, a navigator on a B-24, with the 69<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, 58<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, lost Sept 5 of 1944. Lt Mars was awarded the Silver Star after shooting down 3 German fighters. He remains unaccounted for and we read his name.

We also had a guest that sent a note after the event.

He said, "I was surprised and touched that you mentioned my dad. I've never heard his POW status mentioned before in a public setting. Thank you for that."

His father - Chief Petty Officer Kenneth Preston Moffett - served as a Corpsman in the Navy, survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years in the Fukuoka [FOO KOO OKA] POW Camp in Japan. He passed away in 1998. He was remembered.

Such a small thing - to say a name.

Speak their names, for as long as we do, they will not be forgotten. Speak their names because they remain a part of everything we do.



# Remains of Pearl Harbor Sailors Return Home after 77 Years

More than 75 years after nearly 2,400 members of the U.S. military were killed in the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, some who died on Dec. 7, 1941, are finally being laid to rest in cemeteries across the United States.

In 2015, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency exhumed nearly 400 sets of remains from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii after determining advances in forensic science and genealogical help from families could make identifications possible. They were all on the USS Oklahoma, which capsized during the attack, and had been buried as unknowns after the war.

Altogether, 429 sailors and Marines on the Oklahoma were killed. Only 35 were identified in the years immediately after the attack. The Oklahoma's casualties were second only to the USS Arizona, which lost 1,177 men.

As of early November, the agency has identified 186 sailors and Marines from the Oklahoma who were previously unidentified.

## CARL DORR

Navy Fireman 2nd Class Carl Dorr of Anderson is home. He died 77 years ago during the Japanese bombing at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Dorr was 27 when he was serving aboard the USS Oklahoma when it came under attack. The ship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. The Oklahoma was the only ship capsized at Pearl Harbor. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Dorr.

Dorr's remains were recovered from the ship; they could not be identified at the time and were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. He is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at Pearl Harbor. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced in July that the remains of Dorr was accounted for from World War II, and were being returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Researchers used DNA, dental records and other evidence to positively identify his remains.

Planeside honors with family members took place at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport Wednesday evening. Dorr grew up in the Sans Souci community in Greenville County.

The Oklahoma took the brunt of the torpedo attack on Pearl Harbor. Nine of 12 torpedoes hit their mark. The torpedo attack took only 11 minutes and the Oklahoma was capsized in 15 minutes.

## ROBERT KIMBALL HOLMES

The remains of Marine Pfc. Robert Kimball Holmes were interred in August in his hometown of Salt Lake City.

"It's strange, isn't it, to be here honoring a 19-year-old kid killed 77 years ago," nephew Bruce Holmes said.

Only one person in attendance at the graveside services — another nephew and namesake Bob Holmes — had any personal memories of the Marine, The Salt Lake Tribune reported.

The younger Bob is now more than four times older as the sailor when he died. He remembers his uncle

coming home on leave in the summer of 1941 when he was 6 years old.

Bob Holmes recalled talking to a friend of his uncle who served with him on the Oklahoma: "He said, 'One of the things that I remember most about Bob is that he had this attitude. Not just a Marine attitude, but a Holmes boy attitude — defiance, aggression and don't-mess-with-me.'"

## LEON ARICKX

More than 76 years after he died, the remains of Navy Seaman 1st Class Leon Arickx were buried on a brilliant summer day at a small cemetery amid the cornfields of northern Iowa.

Hundreds gathered in July for Arickx's graveside service at Sacred Heart Cemetery outside Osage, Iowa, in a sparsely populated farming region just south of Minnesota, where Arickx grew up. Among them was his niece, Janice Schonrock, who was a baby when Arickx died.

"My family talked about him all that time," said Schonrock, 77. "I felt I knew him because everyone talked about him."

Although they didn't have Arickx's remains, his family held a memorial service and placed a grave marker at Sacred Heart Cemetery in 1942. When his remains were finally returned, they were buried at a site not far away.

Schonrock said her family appreciates the work it took to identify her uncle, but she believes it's essential to identify as many service members as possible.

"I think we need to honor these people who give their lives to our country and bring them back to their home country where they can be close to family who can honor them," she said. "No one should be left behind."

# civilians

## Japanese Defense Strategy

by Angus Lorenzen  
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In August of 1942, American forces started the island-hopping campaign in the Pacific, designed to advance on the Japanese home islands, with the landings on Guadalcanal. The brutal 6-month battle disabused the Japanese generals, many of whom had attended universities in the U.S., of the idea that American youth were dilletante and unequal to the dedicated Japanese soldiers trained through the art of Bushido to have complete loyalty to their death to the Emperor. In the early battles with American troops, they thought that they could throw them off the islands by concentrated attacks that would confuse and dishearten citizen soldiers who had been raised in a soft environment and never before faced serious threats. Consequently, during the early amphibious landings, the Japanese defenses were concentrated on the landing beaches in an effort to throw the Americans back into the sea. But particularly the Marines absorbed horrendous losses and clung to their beachheads until they could move inland to less defended territory.

But had the enemy generals studied the response of American forces in France during WW I, they would have been disabused of the idea that American citizen soldiers were not tough enough to hold on. In May of 1918, the German Army launched a huge offensive to capture Paris and end the war before the American forces that had been trickling into France since late 1917 could organize and become

a significant factor on the battlefield. General Pershing was planning to use 1918 to train the American Expeditionary Force, then counter-attack against the Germans in 1919. Because of the emergency, he was forced to commit the American 1<sup>st</sup> Division to bolster the French defense in May of 1918, then in June, the second Division to stop the German advance at the Marne River and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division to the west of Chateau Thierry to stop the German advance just 40 miles from Paris. In June, with the German advance broken, the French General, under whom the American forces were serving, ordered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division to counter attack. The 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Brigade attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division relieved the French in trenches in farmland facing a wooded mount near the village of Belleau. In 4 years of fighting, the French had never been able to capture a fortified German position in woods, but they ordered the Americans to do so. The Belleau Wood, with an elevation advantage, was heavily fortified with trenches and machine gun positions supported by artillery. Over three weeks, the Marines left the trenches and advanced across the flat country and into the trees, and with huge casualties, captured their objective. The opposing German general, with great respect, called the Marines the finest shock troops in the World. This was the start of the series of offensives that caused the Germans to capitulate and end the war just 6 months later.

The grit that the American troops showed in landing on beaches and capturing the island in the Pacific finally made the Japanese realize that committing all of their forces to preventing the landings was not working, and they revised their strategy to fortifying positions in-

land, brutalizing their enemy after they were ashore.

When the Americans landed on Leyte in October of 1944, they were not met by massive defenses on the beaches. The Japanese fought in the jungles and mountains, landing reserve troops to bolster their defenses, and drew the battle out for more than two months. They did commit most of their fleet and through a series of naval battles lost most of their capital ships, taking their navy out of contention for stopping the American offensive. In desperation, they introduce the Kamikaze attacks that were to threaten and do huge damage to the American Navy for the remainder of the war.

The American landing on Luzon at Lingayen Gulf in January of 1945 proceeded with little resistance, while General Yamashita observed from the Central Cordillera and planned a strategy that would draw the war on Luzon out for many months, ending only with the surrender of Japan. At the start of the war, Japan was convinced that America would quickly sue for peace. But they overlooked several characteristics of their enemy – the anger of America's citizens who rushed to enlist, the speed with which America could industrialize and produce war materiel, and the enormous wealth and effort that America could dedicate to the development of the atomic bomb.

BACEPOW  
Bay Area Civilian Ex-  
Prisoners of War.  
Membership is open to all  
former prisoners  
of the Japanese, their  
families, and friends.  
There is an active  
descendents group.  
[www.bacepow.net](http://www.bacepow.net)  
Commander, Angus  
Lorenzen

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan-Mar 2019

civilians, cont'd...

## A Reminiscence of War

by Ted Cadwallader

The young boy bounced along in the back of a U.S. Army truck driving him out of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila early in 1945. He had spent 37 months, almost 50 per cent of his young life, with his family in the civilian concentration camp established by the Japanese in January 1942 in the walled campus of the University of Santo Tomas. As the truck passed the partially filled swimming pool of the university campus he looked into the dirty water to see a thin, dead cat floating. The boy felt a pang of sorrow for the dead cat. Here was a poor animal, lucky to survive being eaten by the starving internees, only to be drowned in a swimming pool cluttered with the debris of war.

The innocence and heart-felt sorrow of the boy for the dead cat contrasted with the death and devastation of the scene surrounding him. As a youngster he had seen first hand the mechanics of death, the madness and savagery of war about and above him in his prison compound, including malnutrition. Deprived of food, his worried parents had saved a small amount of Quaker Oats for his First Communion breakfast. He had quickly devoured and relished the small amount of real food they preserved for him. But in his youthful naivety, as the truck drove him away into the ruins of a once beautiful city, he still sorrowed for the dead cat.

# News Briefs

## ALS Claims

Almost half of veterans submitting healthcare claims for ALS through the Department of Veterans Affairs received the wrong benefits during part of 2017, an investigation found. VA Inspector General Michael Missal released the findings of his investigation and they point to several problems for the agency that has been bogged down with controversies in recent years:

"The OIG found that the VBAs (the Veterans Benefits Administration's) claims processing involving service-connected ALS needs improvement," the report's summary reads. "About 45 percent of ALS claims completed from April through September 2017 had erroneous decisions.

"These errors resulted in estimated underpayments of about \$750,000 and overpayments of about \$649,000 to a total of 230 veterans. These errors were due to the complexity of these claims. . . . Also, the OIG determined that VBA staff generally did not tell veterans about additional SMC benefits that may be available.

"Without information about SMC benefits, veterans with ALS may not know about benefits available to them, or they may not be sure they are receiving the correct SMC benefits."

Looking at the numbers more closely, 430 of the 960 claims that were investigated had problems of some sort. The issues involved

the VA either paying not enough money to veterans suffering from the disease, which was mostly the case, or doling out too much. According to The Washington Post, veterans with ALS can receive financial benefits of anywhere from \$36,000 to \$100,000 per year.

## Blue Water Claims

On December 7, 2018, the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit heard oral arguments in a case called Procopio v. Wilke. Although this case has quietly made its way through the courts, it has the potential to dramatically change the manner in which the US Department of Veterans Affairs addresses service-connected disability benefits claims associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

Shortly before the Federal Circuit decided the Haas case which dealt with the "boots on the ground" issue, a veteran named Alfred Procopio, Jr., filed a claim seeking service-connected disability benefits for prostate cancer and diabetes mellitus type II with edema arising from herbicide exposure during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Procopio focused much of his argument on technical and historical evidence in an attempt to convince VA that he had — in fact — been exposed to Agent Orange by drinking water on the ship while in coastal waters. He also argued that the Federal Circuit's decision in Haas failed to account for rules that require courts to interpret statutes in a manner that is most favorable to veterans, which is sometimes called the Pro-Veteran Cannon. In particular, Mr. Procopio argued that when deciding whether the phrase "service in the Republic of Vietnam" was ambiguous, the analysis must be conducted in a manner that is favorable toward the veteran. VA was not convinced by either argument, and denied the claim.



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Clovis Roundup Community Newspaper - 23

# POW/MIA remembrance ceremony hits home for local veterans

BY KELSEY LESTER-PERRY  
@ClovisRoundup

Veterans, their families and members of the community filled the Clovis Veterans Memorial District on Saturday, Sept. 22 to honor prisoners of war and remember those missing in action.

The ceremony was part of the 2018 POW/MIA Remembrance Day event, hosted by Jim Anderson and the Clovis VFW Post 3225.

To start things off, master of ceremonies David McFerrin – a 40-year retired Air Force veteran – called on a decorated Vietnam veteran to begin the posting of flags procession by walking an American flag across the stage dressed as none other than Abraham Lincoln.

"Thank you Mr. President," McFerrin said jokingly as Mr. Lincoln planted the flag in the ground and took his seat on stage.

The atmosphere of the whole event was somber, but light, happy and grateful. The auditorium was full of veterans, family of veterans, boy scouts and a humbling amount of our young future marines, sailors and soldiers.

After the posting of flags, Paul Loeffler – who locals may know as the play-by-play voice of the Fresno State Bulldogs and the radio host of "Hometown Heroes," a weekly show that honors and tells the stories of vets from all over – had the honor of introducing Vern Schmidt, a veteran of the 90th Infantry Division in Europe during WWII and commander of the local American Ex-Prisoners of War organization.

Schmidt kept the event lighthearted and fun, cracking jokes with his knowing audience about the "Hanoi Hilton" while more seriously recognizing prisoners of war (POW)

such as, but not limited to: Jack Schwartz, Joe Soldo, Robert Uyesaka, Robert McCracken, and their families.

Schwartz was captured by Japanese forces three days after the attack on Pearl Harbor and is the oldest living World War II prisoner of war at the age of 103. He was held captive for three years and nine months and after his liberation, re-enlisted in the armed forces.

Soldo was recognized as a WWII POW survivor who was held captive from December 1944 to April 1945. He marched all across Germany and Poland and eventually escaped by hiding in a giant soup pot until liberation forces were present. Soldo's son, Andy Soldo, who works for the City of Clovis, was in attendance with his wife Penny.

Pfc. Robert Uyesaka of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, medical detachment was in attendance with his Congressional Gold Medal. Uyesaka was incarcerated at Poston Camp 1 during WWII.

Robert McCracken and his wife Betty, who is the district president for Madera Auxiliary Post 1981, were in the audience. McCracken is a Vietnam veteran who started as a Navy Corpsman Medic when he joined the service in 1962 in San Diego. He is originally from Campbell, California.

Throughout the event, everybody hugged and gave knowing pats on the back to the men who have served for our country, and the women who stood by their sides, or are now widows because of war.

Schmidt put quite a bit of emphasis on the widows and wives of those brave men, naming those brave women as the second part of what he calls the "Three S's – service, sacrifice and survival."

One great example of a woman who has endured all three of the S's is Marlene Raff-



Vern Schmidt of the local American Ex-Prisoners of War organization speaks to the audience during the POW/MIA Remembrance Day event held at Clovis Veterans Memorial District, Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018. PHOTO BY RON SUNDOUSET

ty – a German-born member of the Clovis VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and an avid volunteer at the Fresno VA hospital. When she crossed the stage to shake the hands of the POW survivors she turned to the audience earnestly and just said, "Thank you." She wanted to show her gratitude to the veterans for liberating her country, and thus liberating her and her family.

After Schmidt was done recognizing the POWs and the audience had dried their tears and wiped their noses, it was time for Capt. Aaron Raidt of the Army Recruiting Company to honor those who are still considered MIA (Missing in Action).

"Remember this number: 82,224" Raidt

said. "I'll say that number again," he said, after a pause. "82,224 – this is the estimated number of service members missing from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, etc."

He explained that in WWII alone, there are an estimated 79,000 MIA service members. "This is why we are here today," Raidt said seriously. "This principle of 'leave no man behind' is as real to us [service members] as the air we breathe."

After Raidt spoke, audience members, mostly the future service men and women of the crowd, lined up to shake hands with Raidt and the POW survivors on the stage.

"POW/MIA events are near and dear to every service member," said Raidt.

After a series of appeals, Mr. Procopio's case is now pending in front of the Federal Circuit, which is the same court that issued the decision in Mr. Haas's case.

After VA and Mr. Procopio filed their written arguments, a three judge panel heard the parties' oral arguments on May 4, 2018. The panel took great interest in both arguments raised by Mr. Procopio, and on the suggestion of the VA's attorney, the court asked the parties to submit additional written arguments focused on the applicability of the Pro-Veteran Canon.

After receiving the supplemental written arguments, the court decided to refer the case to an en-

banc panel. Since then, additional written arguments in favor of Mr. Procopio's position have been submitted by almost a dozen veterans advocacy organizations, including the Big Six — DAV, VVA, VFW, PVA, American Legion, AMVETS, NOVA, National Veterans Legal Services Program and MOAA. The full panel will hear oral arguments in just a few weeks.

The Federal Circuit's order for supplemental written arguments, as well as referral of the case to the full court, indicate an interest by at least some of the judges

to revisit the court's decision in the Haas case. If Mr. Procopio prevails, it could mean that Blue Water Navy veterans may become entitled to the same presumptions that benefit other veterans of the Vietnam War. It may also cause veterans and advocates to examine and challenge other policies and regulations that VA has implemented when it determined statutory language to be ambiguous.

On the other hand, if VA prevails it may not only adversely affect Blue Water Navy veterans, but could also strengthen the agency's argument that courts must show it deference when interpreting statutes and implementing policy and regulations.

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# MEMBERSHIP COUNT 11/6/2018

|                      |     |                |       |
|----------------------|-----|----------------|-------|
| Alabama              | 151 | Oklahoma       | 195   |
| Alaska               | 5   | Oregon         | 109   |
| AP/AE                | 0   | Pennsylvania   | 383   |
| Arizona              | 209 | Puerto Rico    | 7     |
| Arkansas             | 92  | Rhode Island   | 34    |
| California           | 726 | South Carolina | 181   |
| Colorado             | 114 | South Dakota   | 26    |
| Connecticut          | 87  | Tennessee      | 207   |
| Delaware             | 29  | Texas          | 704   |
| District of Columbia | 5   | Utah           | 34    |
| Florida              | 729 | Vermont        | 32    |
| Georgia              | 196 | Virgin Islands | 1     |
| Guam                 | 2   | Virginia       | 221   |
| Hawaii               | 24  | Washington     | 253   |
| Idaho                | 39  | West Virginia  | 58    |
| Illinois             | 263 | Wisconsin      | 292   |
| Indiana              | 180 | Wyoming        | 6     |
| Iowa                 | 122 | Foreign        | 28    |
| Kansas               | 149 |                |       |
| Kentucky             | 91  | TOTAL:         | 9,013 |
| Louisiana            | 113 |                |       |
| Maine                | 55  |                |       |
| Maryland             | 146 |                |       |
| Massachusetts        | 270 |                |       |
| Michigan             | 206 |                |       |
| Minnesota            | 156 |                |       |
| Mississippi          | 159 |                |       |
| Missouri             | 210 |                |       |
| Montana              | 27  |                |       |
| Nebraska             | 61  |                |       |
| Nevada               | 50  |                |       |
| New Hampshire        | 53  |                |       |
| New Jersey           | 268 |                |       |
| New Mexico           | 101 |                |       |
| New York             | 398 |                |       |
| North Carolina       | 226 |                |       |
| North Dakota         | 31  |                |       |
| Ohio                 | 499 |                |       |

## Theatres of Operation

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| ETO             | 2,993 |
| PAC             | 419   |
| KOREA           | 348   |
| USS PUEBLO      | 17    |
| VIETNAM         | 82    |
| IRAN            | 2     |
| IRAQ            | 5     |
| SOMALIA         | 1     |
| FARS/CHINA/2001 | 2     |
| CIVILIAN        | 120   |



# Your Stories



## I MISSION 12

12 August, 1943 .....Time to Jump!

*"With two engines on fire and the intercom shot away, I\* bailed out as the ship went into a steep dive."* The pilot, Lt. Eugene Wiley, also knew that they were already in serious trouble by the time they reached the German border en route to "Happy Valley" – the dreaded Ruhr Valley. Destination: bomb drop on the synthetic oil refineries of Gelsenkirchen. At the IP (Initial Point) they were already taking heavy flak bursts and enemy fighters were honing in on the formation. Immediately following bomb drop they lost #3 engine and soon after #4.

In those critical minutes every crewman on the Kansas City Killer was thinking just as they should – as a synchronized combat crew. Yet at the same time each man undoubtedly checked in with his own reflections and anxieties...second by second. Colonel Delmar Spivey (the onboard observer) would, eventually, give his rendering of the situation at hand: "I was monitoring the bomb release when a burst of flak slammed into the ship. Things began to happen very quickly; we were near 30,000 ft., shot up and feeling naked." Colonel Spivey thought that Lt. Wiley had shouted for Sgt. Grey to jump, since there was little chance of getting back, and that Grey had gone out at about 20,000 ft. Reality of combat in those moments dictated a state of chaos throughout the ship even in the presence of a trained crew.

No matter how things played out Sgt. Frank Grey had a distinct but uncertain view of what was hap-

pening. Wounded by flak and bleeding profusely he raced through the events he was observing: one or more engines hit and pouring out black smoke; ship in a very steep dive; loss of comms; for him, it was decision time. He jumped. It was Frank Grey's 12th Mission, the 16th for Lt. Wiley as pilot of the Kansas City Killer, and the 41st mission for the 92nd Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. And, for the entire crew, there was a long road ahead.

They would all survive the crash landing of their ship on that fated mission. Each of them, to a man, would plow through almost 2 years of physical and emotional survival endured through the capture and imprisonment by the Third Reich; and each would have his story to carry home. This is the story of Sgt. Frank Grey, tail gunner for the Kansas City Killer.

Frank Grey's preparation for that journey of capture and survival on the European continent from August, 1943 to June, 1945 would have significant beginnings in his own homeland – 1915 Appalachia.

### Reflections

*"There have been many places that I\* have traveled through, and have been to, in the years before, during and following my military career in the service of my country. But the places, people, and events that I believe most indelible in my memory are those I experienced while a soldier in the United States 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force during World War II. Unfortunately, as a matter of circumstance, I was not actively serving in the direct duties that I was trained for – aerial combat missions – over a period of about 2 years. You see, my fellow crew members and I were captured, to become Prisoners of War of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich, when our ship was shot down and crash-*

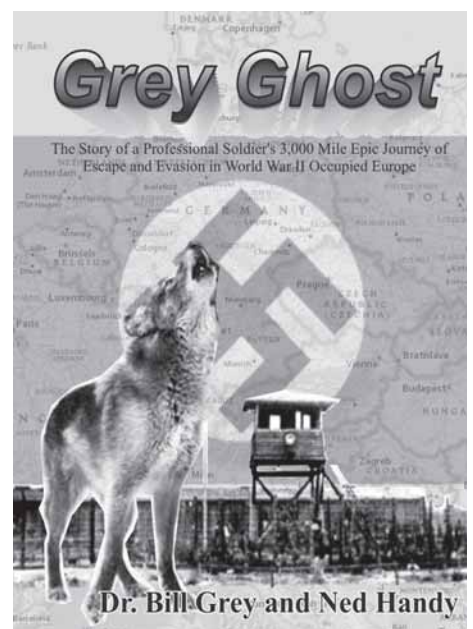
*landed in the immediate vicinity of the German-Holland border, near Ahaus/Alstätte. Decades later we would hear from a Dutch resident of the area that the ship had actually landed close to Hengselvelde, causing some damage to the Hengselvelde cemetery."*

*"Little did I know at that moment in time that my life and my journey to freedom would take a long, tortuous and convoluted path that would separate me from almost all of my crewmates. The difficult times I encountered were often so much "hard luck". I felt that it was my duty to persevere the best I knew how, whether alone or with the help of others – despite the risks and dangers I would endure. So I suffered through many difficult conditions of unknown terrain, terrible weather, and frequent lack of food; often with stamina and something resembling hope as my only companions. But what I always remembered was that my fellow crewmates and countless other Allied soldiers were also suffering, and hoping, under miserable conditions that would seemingly never end. And so I knew, somehow, that it was because of my dedication in the service of my country as much as my will to survive and regain my freedom that I also needed to make things as difficult as I could for the enemy."*

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## mission 12, cont'd...

*"The following story and journey that is before you is the recounting of those times in my life. There may not be perfect details for some of the events, trials and periods that I spent in Occupied Europe.....the years hence have taken a toll on some of my memory. However, there is much that I remember, only too well. And I am ready, now, to share most of it because I feel it is an important part of history that I was a part of. It is important for future generations to know – to at least have an opportunity to understand – the significance of comradeship, of being strong and not giving up in the face of the darkness of oppression such as it was on the battlefields of World War II. And, as well, the courage necessary for my crewmates and I to fly into the enemy-laden skies and terrain of North Korea in the defense of freedom, only a few years later."*

[FOOTNOTE: \*] the First Person (I) text is referenced in italics as representation of Frank Grey's direct words or a translation of comments by him; otherwise, Third Person (he) script represents actions or thoughts by F. Grey as interpreted from one or more sources: this manuscript is thus a composite, by the authors, of a prolonged period of discussions with Frank Grey about his experiences, and is thus believed to be a valid representation of his feelings & thoughts.

### About the Book

*Grey Ghost* is the story of a professional soldier's struggle for survival and freedom during the cataclysm of war in the World War II European Theatre of Operations between mid-1943 and mid-1945; and as well, his continued exposure to combat in the Korean Conflict. This story carries the reader through the beginnings of war for America, and onto the frontlines of aerial combat in a B-17 Flying Fortress with Sergeant Frank Grey and his crew. It delivers the

reader into the hands of the enemy – Nazi Germany – and the long, painful journey of captivity as Prisoners of War. For Sergeant Grey, the path from captivity to freedom would take numerous, unpredictable twists over a period of almost 2 years, eventually leading him into Yugoslavia to fight with guerilla units fighting under the leadership of General Draja Mihailovich; and, finally, to freedom in late May of 1945. Those details of escape and recapture, beatings by the Gestapo, and solitary confinement for Sergeant Grey have never been fully disclosed to the American public....save one episode of brilliant thinking, comradeship and courage by a small group of POWs within the wires of Stalag 17B who hid Sergeant Grey for 4 months. Sergeant Grey was initially hidden in an escape tunnel, while Gestapo, SS troops and attack dogs searched for him. Frank Grey became known as the "Grey Ghost" by the Germans. Co-author Ned Handy chronicled this event brilliantly within the story of his Prisoner of War experience, a published work titled "The Flame Keepers" (2004). That episode reveals the tremendous depth and significance of the human condition; conveying the face of war, both during wartime events and the aftermath experienced by combat veterans to reclaim themselves back into their personal lives.

The experience of war does not end for Frank Grey on the European Continent. Within a few years following the end of World War II, having continued his commitment to the service of his country, he entered into yet another perilous fight: the Korean Conflict. He flew 57 missions over North Korea as a B-29 Tailgunner; a commitment that was constantly filled with risk and uncertainty. This true story has a deep, significant message for all

readers...but especially for any American veteran and their families. The strong messages of commitment, courage and sacrifice can be reflected upon, considering the increased uncertainties of international events on our present horizon.

### About the Authors

Bill Grey is a retired biologist and Vietnam veteran, living near Orlando, Florida. His fields of interest and expertise during a 40-year career ranged from marine biology to plant ecology. He has written and published or co-published a number of papers in marine biology, botany and plant ecology. Dr. Grey taught courses in the Rollins College Environmental Studies Department (Winter Park, FL) for a period of 18 years. He enjoys his retirement, spending much of his time outdoors, climbing mountains in the Colorado Rockies, the Appalachians, and also with his two wonderful grandchildren Landen and Victoria.

Ned Handy is a National Treasure. A World War II veteran, he is truly one of our precious members of "The Greatest Generation". He survived the onslaught of the Nazi War Machine, suffered through a grueling Prisoner of War experience in Stalag XVII-B, and came home to put his life together again. He gained an education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and worked as a City Planner for many years, settling down in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Being a lifelong writer, Ned embraced the difficult task, with co-author Kemp Battle, of writing and publishing the story of his Prisoner of War experience in 2004, entitled *The Flame Keepers: The True Story of an American Soldier's Survival Inside Stalag 17*. Ned and his wonderful wife Margaret enjoy retirement in Cambridge, Massachusetts, spending time with children, relatives and friends as well as frequenting their cottage on the Cape Cod Shore.

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Contact Bill:  
(239)273-2607; 660 Bonnie  
Lane, Orange City, FL 32763

# National POW/MIA Recognition Day

## The RIDE HOME 2019

Did you know that there are only two (2) days on our Julian Calendar that we set aside to recognize all Americans, civilian and military, who have been held against their will by enemies of the United States?

The first date is 9 April, Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. Why 9 April you ask, because that is the day the largest number of American Military were taken captive by an enemy during combat operations. After a three-month heroic battle in the Philippines, Major General King, Jr. surrendered all troops under his command to Colonel Mootoo Nakayama of the 14<sup>th</sup> Imperial Japanese Army. The total number varies by reporting source but it is safe to say the total exceeded sixty thousand (60,000) combat troops were taken as Prisoners of War. The second date, The Third Friday of September, came about more as a compromise than any historical significance to the date. It was Commander in Chief Jimmy Carter who initially requested a Joint Resolution from Congress annually to which he provided a Presidential Proclamation. The Recognition Day was held in April, to the liking of the American Ex-POW organization, or in July from 1978 through 1985. The debating parties, American Ex-POW and the Vietnam POW/MIA Families reached a compromise and starting in 1986 the day has been the Third Friday of September in which we recognize all former Prisoners of War (POW) as well as those who are still classified as Missing in Action (MIA).

For well over a decade a small group of POW/MIA advocates from across the country have been extending an invitation to Former Prisoners of War, civilian & military, and to the Families of those who are still classified as Missing in Action with the goal of fulfilling the Commander in Chief's proclamation, which notes:

***"I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."***

In their effort to meet the President's request this group, appropriately named "**The RIDE HOME**" will be working in conjunction with; The National Prisoner of War Museum, located on the grounds of Andersonville Historical Site, Andersonville Georgia, Central Georgia Technical College, Warner Robins Campus, corporations, private organizations as well as individual patriots from the communities of Warner Robins, Perry, Georgia, and Andersonville Georgia.

The Itinerary for this national event begins on Thursday, 19 September 2019, with honored guests checking in early afternoon followed by a Recognition Day Service, open to the public, commencing at 1500 hrs. at the Museum of Aviation located at Warner Robins Air Force Base. Friday morning, 20 September,

following a Law Enforcement escorted ride, service at the National Prisoner of War Museum, open to the public. Friday evening the Hero's Banquet will occur on the Central Georgia Technical College campus. (Dinner requires pre-paid reservation for everyone except the Honored guest.) KEEPING the PROMISE and Candlelight Services follow the dinner and are open to the public. Saturday, 21 September, Recognition Service followed by the FLY-BOY – GROUND-POUNDER Lunch, open to the public, followed by open socials at participating hotels/motels in the Perry/Warner Robins market.

For all the former Prisoner of War Honoree's, the Next of Kin of our Missing in Action Honorees who wish to attend the RIDE HOME 2019, we have included an invitation letter as well as the registration form for this year's event on the following pages. Due to the fact this is a National event all registration applications will be vetted prior to acceptance. If you mail your application to the RIDE HOME Corporate address, noted at the top of the form, we will start the process and you'll be contacted acknowledging your participation at this year's event. Due to popularity of the event all applications will be addressed on a first come first served basis. If you wish to have some of your family or friends join you at the event the RIDE HOME Team will be happy to help you obtain/arrange room accommodations as well as reservations for the two meals for your guest/friends.

We look forward to saying 'Thank YOU!' face to face, for not just your service to this great Republic, but for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make on our behalf.

For Questions or Concerns feel free to contact: Moe – 407 448 1181 or [moehog@verizon.net](mailto:moehog@verizon.net)

Until they all come home.....



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# The RIDE HOME

3818 Litchfield Loop  
Lake Wales, Florida 33859  
[www.theridehome.com](http://www.theridehome.com)



Dear Former Prisoners of War and Families of our Missing in Action,

We respectfully request that you join us as our guest at the National POW/MIA Recognition Day event, The RIDE HOME, to be held 19- 21 September 2019 in Warner Robins, Georgia. Our goal is to answer the call of every sitting President since 1978;

*"I call upon the people of The United States to join me in Honoring and Remembering all former Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action who valiantly served our great nation."*

It will be our privilege to provide your room accommodations, seating for two at both the Heroes Dinner and Ground-Pounder & Fly-Boy luncheon, Military styled recognition for your service, transportation for you and a guest/spouse while you are in Warner Robins as well as fellowship and camaraderie you can only find with those who served this great nation with you.

Take a moment, please, and complete the information sheet on the following page, drop it in an envelope (add a stamp) to the address at the top of the page and we'll handle the arrangements. If you have a question or concern or perhaps would like to confirm your participation this year verbally, call us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in September.

Until they all come home.....

Warm regards,

On behalf of the Board of Directors for The RIDE HOME, INC.,

Jim 'Moe' Moyer

407 448 1181

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# The Ride Home 2019

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
September 19-20-21, 2019  
www.theridehome.com

The RIDE HOME Inc.  
3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, Florida 33859



YES, I will attend

NO, I will not attend

Please return this form by June 30 2019, to the RIDE HOME address above.

POW or MIA Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MIA Rep Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NOK Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Capture: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Capture: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Release: \_\_\_\_\_

Area at time MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Remains returned: \_\_\_\_\_

## Room Accommodations

We will try our best to accommodate your room preferences; however, we cannot guarantee them. Room accommodations will depend on availability at the time your information is received.

Your lodging is offered Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights courtesy of The Ride Home.

Please reserve a room for the following dates (check all that apply):

Thursday, September 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, September 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, September 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Smoking: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Smoking? \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Size: Queen/King: \_\_\_\_\_ Two Doubles: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requirements

Handicap accessible, handicap shower, etc.

Are you interested in being a passenger on a motorcycle at either of the Escort Rides? (Circle one).....

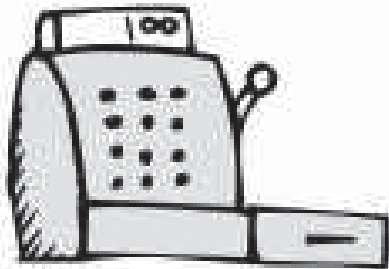
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Concerns or Questions – Contact Ginny or Moe at 863 324 7268 or [moehog@verizon.net](mailto:moehog@verizon.net)

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# contributions GENERAL FUND



Please send donations to:  
National Headquarters, PO Box  
3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445

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

Tom Gibbons, Palm Desert, CA  
In memory of Anthony Capone,  
by Theresa & Gene Francolini  
In memory of Donald McCormick,  
Past Commander of Fox River  
Valley Chapter, by Marylou  
Andersen  
In memory of Houston E Lowe, by  
the Langhams, Gordons, Towns  
and A Serene  
In memory of Isabel Hufnagel, by  
Marylou Anderson  
In memory of Martha Twaddle, by  
First Church of the Brethren  
In memory of PNC Charlies  
Susino, by David Drummond  
In memory of PNC Charlies  
Susino, by Jimmy Lee

In memory of PNC Charlies  
Susino, by Irving Lautman  
In memory of PNC Charlies  
Susino, by Elizabeth Gatti  
In memory of PNC Charlies  
Susino, by Agnes & John  
DeNunzio  
In memory of PNC Charlies  
Susino, by Maryann Dorin

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Edward A Handy, Cambridge MA  
Lucretia Leen, The Villages, FL

# Thank You!

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When you or your family make a donation to AXPOW, or list us in your will, please make sure to update your instructions by using our Post Office Box listed above.  
The PO does not have to forward our mail after one year.

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## 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. Most recently, Garden State Chapter #1 in New Jersey made a most generous donation in honor of the chapter members and commander Bob Levine. A one-time scholarship to Andersonville and support for the Bulletin became the beneficiaries of that generosity.

You, too can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is there for returning 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, PO Box 3445, Arlington, TX 76007-3445, 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.

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!

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# new members



National Headquarters  
PO Box 3445  
Arlington, TX 76007-3445  
(817) 649-2979

request for  
membership application  
American Ex-Prisoners  
of War

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Do NOT send dues with this  
request for an application

Mail to:  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
PO Box 3445  
Arlington, TX 76007-3445  
(817) 649-2979  
e-mail: [HQ@axpow.org](mailto:HQ@axpow.org)



WELCOME!

Thomas Gibbons  
Palm Desert, CA  
Associate  
Member



## Prisoner of War Certificate of Captivity

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

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Arlington, Texas

## Certificate of Captivity

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

You may include a picture  
with your order.





# taps



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

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BLUE, William G., age 97, of Lynn, MA, died May 12, 2018. After the start of WWII, he enlisted in the AAC. After completion of flight training, he joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force at the Castelluccio Airfield in Italy. He was captured on his 27<sup>th</sup> mission and sent to Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany, where he spent the duration of the war. His first wife, Magdelaine, and his second wife, Anna, predeceased him; he is survived by 1 sister, 2 stepsons, 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

BROWN, Betty, 90, of Kingwood, WV passed away July 24, 2018. She was a member of the Kingwood Red Hat Mammias and the West Virginia Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include her loving husband of 70 years, ex-POW Charles, 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren and their families.

FERNANDEZ, Juanita "Nita", of San Francisco, CA passed away Nov. 9, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years, Florentino. She was born in Corregidor, PI, evacuated to Rizal province during WWII. She and her family emigrated to the United States in 1953. Survivors include her 3 children and their families, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-granddaughters.

GALING, Florence Maude Mary Clyde Hawkins died Aug. 28, 2018 in Largo, FL at the age of 92. She was born aboard the USS MOHAWK en route to NYC. Florence joined the Army Nurse Corps in 1948. She

met and married Ex-POW Bernard who predeceased her. They had five children. She also leaves 1 sister, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

GOSS, Arthur L., long-time member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW, died May 7, 2018. While serving with the 303<sup>rd</sup> BG out of England, Art was shot down and captured. He was held in Lufts 3 and 7A until liberation. When Germany surrendered, he said in an interview "you should have seen this skinny 2<sup>nd</sup> LT crawl up that flagpole, thrown down the German flag and put up his home made American flag. He was a good friend and is missed by everyone.

GRESHAM, Joseph W., of Tyler, TX died Aug 11, 2018. He was 98. Joe served in WWII and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. He was held in Neudorf in East Germany and a work camp near the Polish border until the war ended. He is survived by 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

HECKER, Isabelle Amadee "Belle", passed away Nov. 22, 2018 in Ivanhoe, MN. She was born in 1928 in Lutcher, LA. At 18 she met and married the handsome young POW she had met on a blind date. Belle and Sid were active members of the Magnolia Chapter, MS and frequent attendees at AXPOW National Conventions and meet-

ings. Sid passed away in 2010. Belle leaves 1 daughter, grandchildren and their families and great-grandchildren. She also had a host of extended family and good friends who will miss her.

KNAPPENBERGER, John D., 95, of Orlando, FL passed away Apr. 3, 2018. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 28<sup>th</sup> Div., 110<sup>th</sup> Inf., Co D, and held in Stalag IV-B, working at a paper factory in Ammendorf. John is survived by his wife of 50 years, Shirley, 1 daughter and 1 grandson.

LOWE, Houston E., of San Antonio, TX died Nov. 1, 2018 at the age of 99. After serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC's), he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps at Fort Sam Houston. He departed San Antonio and was soon sent to Corregidor Island in the Philippines, in 1941, where he became a POW in May 1942. He was in several internment camps in the Philippines, then sent by "Hell Ship" to Japan. He ended up at Zentsu, viewed the atomic blast over nearby Hiroshima and was finally rescued after VJ Day. Houston is survived by 3 daughters, 3 granddaughters, 11 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandson.

McCORMICK, Donald, past commander of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW, passed away Oct. 7, 2018. He was the loving husband of Shirley; survivors also include 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 3 brothers and their families.

## taps, cont'd...

SCHWARTZ, Jack William, 103, passed away Nov. 7, 2018 in Hanford, CA. He joined the Navy in 1940 and was sent to Pearl Harbor. He was transferred to Guam in 1941 and captured on Dec. 10, 1941. He was held in several camps in Japan until liberation. In 1954, he met and married the love of his life, Jeannette, who predeceased him. When Jack retired from the Navy, the Schwartz family, moved to Hanford. He was honored in 2017 with the Hanford Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award. Jack was an active member of the Fresno Chapter, AXPOW, ADBC and VFW. He is survived by 1 son, 2 grandsons, 1 granddaughter, 1 great-grandson and their families.

SKINNER, William, 88, of Clarksburg, WV died Oct. 31, 2018.

Bill served in Korea, captured at the Chosin Reservoir in 1950 and held in Camps 3 and 5. He was a member of the "Tiger Survivors", named after the infamous camp commandant. Bill leaves his wife Jo, 3 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter; 1 brother, 5 sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews.

VIDMAR, Rudolph, of Apache Junction, AZ passed away Sept. 10, 2018. He was captured while serving with 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 446<sup>th</sup> BG, 704<sup>th</sup> BS and held in Stalag Lufts IV and VI until liberation. Rudy was an active member of AXPOW, serving as commander in Arizona for years. He was also an accomplished accordion player; many remember his concerts at events. He leaves his wife of 51 years, Connie, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 7

great-grandchildren, and 1 sister and their families.

WALDMAN, Norman William, died Aug. 26, 2018 at the age of 93. He served in the Army during WWII; 507<sup>th</sup> Parachute Inf. Reg., 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div. He was captured after D-Day and held in 4B and 12A. Norman and his late wife, Marie, became active after retirement as founders of the "Koal Krackin' Klowns" and Greene County Hillbilly Band, performing at various events. He leaves 1 daughter, and 3 grandchildren and their families.

WASOWICZ, Delores 93, of Sun City West, AZ passed away October 30, 2018. Laurie was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by her EXPOW husband of 71 years, Barney, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

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## chaplain



Benny Rayborn

My late mother-in-law used to say, "Company and fish smell after 5 days". My response is "that depends", we do have refrigeration these days and if family gets on my nerves I can always go to my office or my work shop....I can get relief from the minor irritation. Annoying habits of others are soon forgotten.

Yes, I love my family. You love your family. And we are glad when they visit. Even to spending several days, or weeks with us. I, for one am glad when they arrive, enjoy their companionship while visiting and I am mildly sad when they leave.

On the other hand, I have seen families that could not "get along". Arguments occur. Grudges are held. I do not know the circumstances, but one man I know did not speak to his Father or Mother for five years! They were definitely "tired" of each. They had grown "tired of each other."

As Believers. we rely on God for our salvation and for our ultimate trip to Heaven.

God will always to be glad to see you (here on earth and later in Heaven). God will never grow tired of us...God will never grow tired of you! God will never wish that His time with you will end. And neither will you when you are in Heaven. In Heaven we will experience God's Mercy (kindness) first hand. No wondering if God had "a hand in that". Another piece of good news: God's kindness lasts forever.

Psalms 136:26 "O give thanks unto the God of Heaven: for His mercy endureth for ever."

My prayer for you is: O Lord God in Heaven. I pray for my readers, that they may learn patience to be able to deal with the ups and downs of life. May they love their families and enjoy their companionship as we should enjoy your Presence in our lives. Amen.

# What is the origin of the 21-gun salute?



The use of gun salutes for military occasions is traced to early warriors who demonstrated their peaceful intentions by placing their weapons in a position that rendered them ineffective. Apparently this custom was universal, with the specific act varying with time and place, depending on the weapons being used. A North African tribe, for example, trailed the points of their spears on the ground to indicate that they did not mean to be hostile.

The tradition of rendering a salute by cannon originated in the 14th century as firearms and cannons came into use. Since these early devices contained only one projectile, discharging them once rendered them ineffective. Originally warships fired seven-gun salutes—the number seven probably selected because of its astrological and Biblical significance. Seven planets had been identified and the phases of the moon changed every seven days. The Bible states that God rested on the seventh day after Creation, that every seventh year was sabbatical and that the seven times seventh year ushered in the Jubilee year.

Land batteries, having a greater supply of gunpowder, were able to fire three guns for every shot fired afloat, hence the salute by shore batteries was 21 guns. The multiple of three probably was chosen because of the mystical significance of the number three in many ancient civilizations. Early gunpowder, composed mainly of sodium nitrate, spoiled easily at sea, but could be kept cooler and drier in land magazines. When potassium nitrate improved the quality of gunpowder, ships at sea adopted the salute of 21 guns.

The 21-gun salute became the highest honor a nation rendered. Varying customs among the maritime powers led to confusion in saluting and return of salutes. Great Britain, the world's preeminent seapower in the 18th and 19th centuries, compelled weaker nations to salute first, and for a time monarchies received more guns than did republics. Eventually, by agreement, the international salute was established at 21 guns, although the United States did not agree on this procedure until August 1875.

The gun salute system of the United States has changed considerably over the years. In 1810, the "national salute" was defined by the War Department as equal to the number of states in the Union—at that time 17. This salute was fired by all U.S. military installations at 1:00 p.m. (later at noon) on Independence Day. The President also received a salute equal to the number of states whenever he visited a military installation.

In 1842, the Presidential salute was formally established at 21 guns. In 1890, regulations designated the "national salute" as 21 guns and redesignated the traditional Independence Day salute, the "Salute to the Union," equal to the number of states. Fifty guns are also fired on all military installations equipped to do so at the close of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Today the national salute of 21 guns is fired in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family, and the President, ex-President and President-elect of the United States. It is also fired at noon of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Gun salutes are also rendered to other military and civilian leaders of this and other nations. The number of guns is based on their protocol rank. These salutes are always in odd numbers.

Source: Headquarters,  
Military District of Washington,  
*FACT SHEET:*  
*GUN SALUTES*, May 1969.

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
Jan-Mar 2019





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# AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM



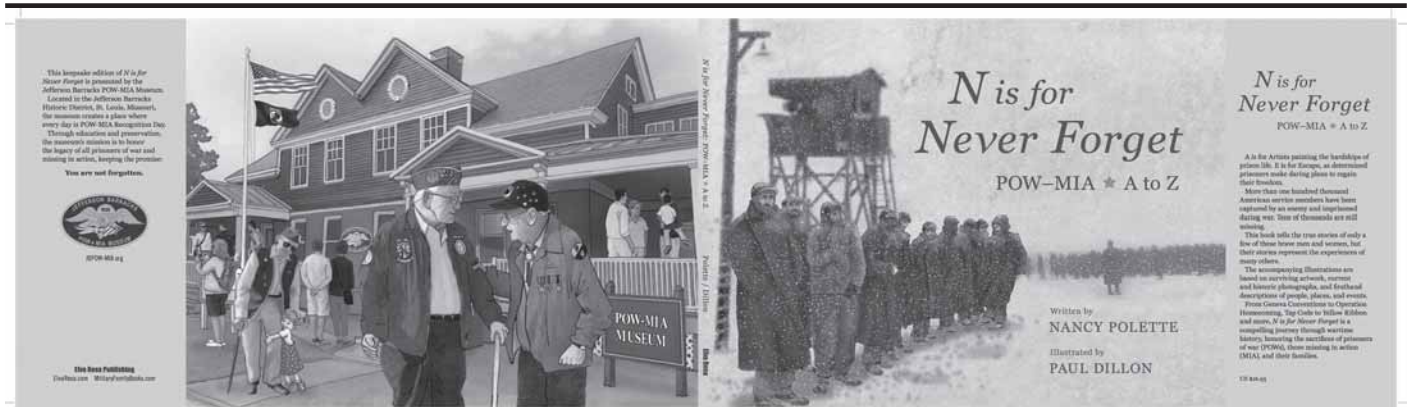
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