

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

501(c)3 Veterans Service Organization

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January~February~March 2023



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*Welcome Home Vietnam POWS!
50 Years Ago*

The return of U.S. POWs began when North Vietnam released 142 of 591 U.S. prisoners at Hanoi's Gia Lam Airport. Part of what was called Operation Homecoming, the first 20 POWs arrived to a hero's welcome at Travis Air Force Base in California on February 14, 1973.



January-March 2023

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Deadline for the Apr-June
Bulletin is February 28, 2023.
Please send all materials to the
editor at the above address.

Exciting times!

At our board meeting in Andersonville, GA last September, we elected a new Chief Executive Officer – Charles Anthony Susino. He will be writing more in the Bulletins on the business of AXPOW. My title going forward is President. Between us, we will faithfully care for the organization we love and the memories of our parents.

We also reached an agreement with the Friends of Andersonville to ensure our future legacy – the National Prisoner of War Museum. Our Bylaws require that our funds be turned over to a like organization when we make the hard decision on closing operations. The Friends are closely aligned with AXPOW on their goals – preservation of Andersonville National Historic Site and the National POW Museum. Our focus, as determined by the membership some years ago, is the Museum. When we ceased operations, our funds will be placed in the American Ex-Prisoners of War Museum Legacy Fund to provide for the Museum in perpetuity. It was a very productive three days and we are grateful to the Friends for giving us the opportunity to keep our name and our mission, long after we are gone.

There will be a special event commemorating the 25th anniversary of the National POW Museum on April 22nd. You can read more about it in our regular Andersonville column between now and then.

2023 is the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam POW Homecoming, beginning in February. It is the 70th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice bringing home Korean War POWs. We'll be covering both in this year's EX-POW Bulletins.

Fondly, Cheryl

INSIDE COVER PICS: Thanks to Lee Humiston, Maine Military Museum

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Linebacker II – Night One

As the navigator on Blytheville AFB crew S-18, we were scheduled to fly on the first night of Linebacker II, 18 December 1972, with a railyard in northeast Hanoi as our target. A sign of a professional combat crew is the ability to take things in stride. We had been scheduled to return to the States that very day. After boarding the Stratofortress, we had to overcome earth tremor, mechanical problems, flight planning errors, rendezvous mistakes, and disappointment at being delayed in our return. I knew we had what it took.

As we turned eastbound out of Laos to enter North Vietnam for the bomb run, we were all focused on making this the best,

most accurate mission we had ever flown. We would be within lethal range of SAMs for about twenty minutes, and we couldn't be distracted by the threats. The bombardier and I turned off our exterior radios so we could concentrate only on our checklists and crew coordination. I became all business, super-organized and aware of where we were and what we needed to do in the next several minutes. We were headed downtown to break the back of enemy transportation and warehousing and there was no doubt in my mind that we could do that.

For a variety of reasons, we had been ordered to take no evasive action from the initial aiming point to the bomb release point, and to restrict any post-target evasive maneuvers to no more than thirty degrees of bank. As we made our turn at the initial aiming point, about seventy-five nautical miles from the target, the Radar easily found the target and all four offset aiming points. The crosshairs were steady, with no drift. Our initial heading was 147 degrees, with a dogleg turn to 152 for the final run. I calculated the time to target, and confirmed that our bombs would reach the ground at exactly 2014:00 local time, or 1314:00 Greenwich Mean Time. We were on time, on target, and with the best bombing system possible.

At 1313 GMT, the radar screens went blank and other instruments lost power and the aircraft shuddered and yawed slightly left. Before I could speak, the copilot was shouting over the intercom, "They've got the Pilot! They've got the Pilot!" The EW was also shouting, "Is anybody there? Gunner, gunner!" His

cockpit had gone black, his equipment had major electrical shorts and explosions, and the gunner was covered in blood and slumped in his seat. Tom had also lost his earphones but not his microphone. We could hear him, but he couldn't hear us.

The first SAM had exploded to the left front of the aircraft, scattering hot shrapnel like a shotgun blast at a velocity of 8000 feet per second. The plane flew at 490 knots true airspeed through the burst, and thousands of pieces of hot metal shards ripped through the plane, wounding the pilot and killing the gunner. Some of it was sucked into jet engines and others cut hydraulic lines and set the oil on fire. We probably had ruptured fuel tanks on fire, but there would be no major explosion unless the JP-4 lit off in an intact tank. That might come in a few seconds.

About five seconds after the first of two SAMs hit the plane, each of us began our ejection procedure. The next thing I knew, I was in the cold air of the troposphere. At 31,000 feet, the temperature was -55° centigrade. I could feel the effects of the wind, but I had no sensation of falling. I slipped two fingers of my right hand into the T-handle to manually activate the chute should I enter any clouds (briefed to be solid at 2,000 feet). I felt the parachute opening as I passed through 15,000 feet and fully deploy a few hundred feet below. With the opening shock I was swinging like a pendulum in a wide arc below the canopy.

It was time to concentrate on the landing. I opened the 60-pound seat kit to string out all of the

commander, cont'd...

survival equipment it contained on a tether below, and to decrease my chance of injury on landing. Then I faced forward keeping my eyes on the horizon, grabbed my risers, put my legs together with my knees slightly bent, and waited. When my toes began to touch the earth, I executed a parachute-landing fall (PLF), rolling to the right into a dry ditch.

Hearing the voices of locals approaching me, I knew I had to get away from my equipment. As I rapidly opened buckles and removed excess items, I found that my dog tag chain (with my dog tags and wedding band) had wrapped around the oxygen hose. I yanked the hose away from me, breaking the chain and scattering the items on it. All could be replaced when I went home. I rolled over, broke the antenna off the emergency beacon and turned the switch off. Because of their ease of locating me (and others after me), I suspected the Vietnamese had direction finders to home in on our beacons. Tom Simpson would report later that, as he crawled out from under his canopy, he was already surrounded. Dick Johnson had turned his off in the air, and managed to evade for about twelve hours.

I pulled off the white helmet, tucked it under my arm and crawl-ran about fifty yards down the ditch toward a culvert under a bridge. As voices grew louder, I hit the deck, tucked the helmet below me, and pulled my two-way radio out of my survival vest. I made a quick call in a muted voice, "All B-52 aircraft, this is Charcoal One-Delta. I'm on the ground, uninjured, surrounded. Will be captured shortly."

I was quickly surrounded by over fifty civilians wielding rocks, farm implements, and sticks and by several militiamen with automatic weapons. I had no means to effectively resist capture and no hope of rescue, so I surrendered. Within a few hours I was transported to the Hanoi Hilton and spent the final 100 days of the war in the prisons of North Vietnam. Linebacker II had been a success, ending the war in Vietnam and securing the release of all POWs on both sides of the conflict.

Commander Certain

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from the CEO



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I hope this email finds all of you and your families doing well and hope you had a safe and happy Holiday season. It's a great time to reflect and equally great to look forward. This is my first Bulletin Article as the Chief Executive Officer of AXPOW.

First, thank you for expressing your confidence in me to take on the role of CEO of AXPOW. AXPOW represents all of those special men and women who sacrificed so much for our country in protecting its freedoms. It is very humbling. Looking back, we have a lot to be proud of, the many accomplishments in helping veterans and their families, both past and future.

We can reflect on the past but our actions need to be guided by the future. Decades ago, our mission and focus were driven by the basic needs of our EX-POWs returning from wartime. With membership and needs growing our focus was well defined. Decades have passed and the

need to refocus our attention on the future of the organization is the priority. With the number of EXPOWs declining rapidly and the next of kin (NOK) fewer and aging, we are at a crossroads. How best to show respect and honor to the EXPOWS and establish a lasting legacy for generations to come. To that end, we have taken major steps in September.

The AXPOW Board of Directors met on Friday, September 16, in Andersonville Georgia. We had two very productive meetings with the Friends of Andersonville. The Friends of Andersonville are a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support to the AXPOW National Museum. That support comes in many forms including financing projects identified as high need but not funded through Federal budgets. Projects are presented and justified to the Friends Board of Directors for consideration. Once approved they are funded, and monitored. The meetings with the AXPOW and Friends of Andersonville Boards provided opportunities for members to know each other individually as well as better understanding each organization. The conclusion from the AXPOW Board is the Friends of Andersonville are well established, local to the museum, share a common mission, and are positioned for the longer term. Their longevity far exceeds ours. To achieve our goals of a lasting legacy, a common understanding with the Friends of Andersonville was reached through extensive dialogue. After the meeting an agreement was formalized between the two organizations establishing the framework for

Friends to accept the responsibility of managing the AXPOW legacy activities including the fund for the overall good of honoring American Prisoners of War. The AXPOW Board has established a time horizon of 2-3 years whereby the Board members will stay on and continue to provide direction setting governance, communications and public visibility, and manage the transition to a legacy organization.

Also, as part of our September joint meetings, we met with the fund manager for the Friends of Andersonville. Since that time our finance committee consisting of Marsha Coke, Cheryl Cerbone, and myself have conducted many conversations with the principles from the fund manager, DRG Group located in Americus, Georgia. After a lengthy process, we agreed to transfer our fund to this group. It is in an AXPOW account managed by the AXPOW finance committee until deemed appropriate to be transferred. As we all remember the AXPOW members have given and sacrificed in so many ways. Of course, through their military service but also in their estate planning. Many ex-prisoners of war have included AXPOW in their estate planning. As a direct result of their generosity, we have been able to establish this legacy fund for the sole purpose of preserving their stories and memories through the Andersonville Museum. As you know this site is a National Park, cemetery, and The National Museum for all prisoners of war and since it was established by the Federal Government, it will remain there for generations to come. At this time, I ask you to

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consider adding any portion of your estate to this fund to enhance our abilities to continue this legacy.

The transition of the AXPOW organization to its future state will be the focus of our efforts. As the process evolves specific initiatives will develop. First, as stated earlier, there are fewer human resources to do the work of running AXPOW. In an effort to preserve the limited funds that we have, you will continue to notice further reductions in activity/services. This needs to take place to preserve the precious funds we have and positions us closer to the end state of a legacy only organization. You will read more about this in other articles in this and future bulletins.

A joint initiative between AXPOW, Friends of Andersonville, and the Museum is to enhance the visibility of the Museum. This may take the form of signage, the traveling museum, and other communication. The Museum is our long-term legacy and will remain the center of our focus going forward. Progress on this initiative will be reported as appropriate through the Bulletins.

I have served in a role on AXPOW legislative issues with informing our members of passed and proposed Bills in the Bulletin and providing a voice to Washington. Although

our formal status as a service organization in Washington has been reduced, I will continue to provide a brief summary as part of my Bulletin article. In that regard, President Biden has signed into law the COLA increases for the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022. It provides an 8.7% increase which is desperately needed in this time of record inflation which is applied to VA benefits including disability compensation, clothing allowances, and DIC which is the same adjustment as Social Security benefits. The adjustment has gone into effect on Dec. 1, 2022, and the first checks to reflect the new rate will be on Dec. 31, 2022.

President Biden signed the Solid Start Act requiring the VA to reach out to newly separated veterans three times within their first year of separation to check in and help connect them to VA programs and benefits. We support this Bill because while serving our veterans participate in life altering experiences so adjustments to civilian life can be challenging. The second Bill signed was the Supporting Families of the Fallen Act which will increase the automatic maximum coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance from \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00.

On November 11, 2022, I had the honor to represent AXPOW at Arlington National Cemetery for Veterans Day. I have been there several times in the past

with my dad, Charles Susino, Jr. It is a very patriotic experience and very moving. For me, this year is fundamentally different as I am the individual who represented AXPOW rather than supporting my dad. It was truly an honor. Fortunately, the bad weather did not dampen the spirit although the crowd in the Amphitheater was somewhat underwhelming. A high point was my godson Derek Harrington, who is 16, accompanied me laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a proud moment. He is a special young man of a younger generation who enhanced our presence for the ceremony.



Two of our Board of Directors are stepping down, Sally Morgan and Mary Schantag. We are an organization of dedicated people, and there are no more dedicated people than Sally and Mary. I extend my special thanks to them for their long years of service to AXPOW. It is a pleasure to work with each of you.

Charles A Susino

pow medsearch

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What is shingles?

Shingles, also called herpes zoster, is a disease that triggers a painful skin rash. It is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, the varicella-zoster virus. After you recover from chickenpox (usually as a child), the virus continues to live in some of your nerve cells.

For most adults, the virus is inactive and it never leads to shingles. But, for about one in three adults, the virus will become active again and cause shingles.

What are the symptoms of shingles?

Usually, shingles develops on just one side of the body or face, and in a small area. The most common place for shingles to occur is in a band around one side of the waistline.

Most people with shingles have one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fluid-filled blisters
- Burning, shooting pain
- Tingling, itching, or numbness of the skin
- Chills, fever, headache, or upset stomach

For some people, the symptoms of shingles are mild. They might just have some itching. For others, shingles can cause intense pain that can be felt from the gentlest touch or breeze. It's important to talk with your doctor if you notice any shingles symptoms.

If you notice blisters on your face, see your doctor right away because

this is an urgent problem. Blisters near or in the eye can cause lasting eye damage and blindness. Hearing loss, a brief paralysis of the face, or, very rarely, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) can also occur.

How is shingles diagnosed and treated?

If you think you might have shingles, talk to your doctor as soon as possible. It's important to see your doctor no later than three days after the rash starts. The doctor will confirm whether you have shingles and can make a treatment plan. Most cases can be diagnosed from a visual examination. If you have a condition that weakens the immune system, your doctor may order a shingles test. Although there is no cure for shingles, early treatment with antiviral medications can help the blisters clear up faster and limit severe pain. Shingles can often be treated at home.

How long does shingles last?

Most cases of shingles last three to five weeks.

- The first sign is often burning or tingling pain; sometimes it includes numbness or itching on one side of the body.
- Somewhere between one and five days after the tingling or burning feeling on the skin, a red rash will appear.
- A few days later, the rash will turn into fluid-filled blisters.



- About one week to 10 days after that, the blisters dry up and crust over.
- A couple of weeks later, the scabs clear up.

Long-term pain

After the shingles rash goes away, some people may be left with ongoing pain called postherpetic neuralgia, or PHN. The pain is felt in the area where the rash occurred. The older you are when you get shingles, the greater your chances of developing PHN.

The pain can cause depression, anxiety, sleeplessness, and weight loss. Some people with PHN find it hard to go about their daily activities, such as dressing, cooking, and eating. Talk with your doctor if you are experiencing PHN or have any of these symptoms. Usually, PHN will lessen over time.

Is shingles contagious?

If you are in contact with someone who has shingles, you will not get the symptoms of shingles yourself. However, direct contact with fluid

medsearch, cont'd...

from a shingles rash can still spread the varicella-zoster virus, which can cause chickenpox in people who have not had chickenpox before or the chickenpox vaccine. The risk of spreading the virus is low if the shingles rash is kept covered.

Am I at risk for shingles?

Everyone who has had chickenpox is at risk for developing shingles. Researchers do not fully understand what makes the virus become active and cause shingles. But some things make it more likely:

- Older age. The risk of developing shingles increases as you age. About half of all shingles cases are in adults age 60 or older. The chance of getting shingles becomes much greater by age 70.
- Trouble fighting infections. Your immune system is the part of your body that responds to infections.

Age can affect your immune system. So can HIV, cancer, cancer treatments, too much sun, and organ transplant drugs. Even stress or a cold can weaken your immune system for a short time. These all can put you at risk for shingles.

Most people only have shingles one time. However, it is possible to have it more than once.

When should I get the shingles vaccine?

The current shingles vaccine (brand name Shingrix) is a safe, easy, and more effective way to prevent shingles than the previous vaccine. In fact, it is over 90% effective at preventing shingles. Most adults age 50 and older should get vaccinated with the shingles vaccine, which is given in two doses. You can get the shingles vaccine at your doctor's office and at some pharmacies.

You should get the shingles vaccine if you:

- Have already had chickenpox, the chickenpox vaccine, or shingles
- Received the prior shingles vaccine called Zostavax
- Don't remember having had chickenpox

Medicare Part D and private health insurance plans may cover some or all of the cost. Check with Medicare or your health plan to find out if it is covered.

You should *not* get vaccinated if you:

- Currently have shingles
- Are sick or have a fever
- Had an allergic reaction to a previous dose of the shingles vaccine

If you are unsure about the above criteria or have other health concerns, talk with your doctor before getting the vaccine.

Tips for coping with shingles

If you have shingles, here are some tips that might help you feel better:

- Wear loose-fitting, natural-fiber clothing.
- Take an oatmeal bath or use calamine lotion to soothe your skin.
- Apply a cool washcloth to your blisters to ease the pain and help dry the blisters.
- Keep the area clean and try not to scratch the blisters so they don't become infected or leave a scar.
- Do things that take your mind off your pain. For example, watch TV, read, talk with friends, listen to relaxing music, or work on a hobby such as crafts or gardening.
- Get plenty of rest and eat well-balanced meals.
- Try simple exercises like stretching or walking. Check with your doctor before starting a new exercise routine.
- Avoid stress. It can make the pain worse.
- Share your feelings about your pain with family and friends. Ask for their understanding.

Also, you can limit spreading the virus to other people by:

- Staying away from anyone who has not had chickenpox or the chickenpox vaccine, or who might have a weakened immune system
- Keeping the rash covered
- Not touching or scratching the rash
- Washing your hands often

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PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Public Law 97-37

by William Paul Skelton, III, MD F.A.C.P.

All ex-POWs should keep these. Whenever you open your claim, take them with you and make sure the adjudication officer sees them and have him read them! Make sure he knows all about them. Tell him your own story as it relates to your problem.....

1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

Also known as articular trauma.

2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet.

3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet.

4. DYSENTERY, CHRONIC

A disease characterized by frequent and watery stools, usually with blood and mucus, and accompanied by rectal and abdominal pain, fever, and dehydration.

5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue.

6. HELMINTHIASIS

Infection with any type of worms that parasitize the human.

7. MALNUTRITION

Merely means bad nutrition.

8. PELLAGRA

It is caused by a virtual lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) in the diet.

9. ANY OTHER NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects.

10. PSYCHOSIS

A generic term for any of the insanities.

11. PANIC DISORDER

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear.

12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER

13. OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER

This may be either obsessions or compulsions.

14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

The re-experiencing of a trauma of a past recognized stress or that can produce symptoms of distress.

15. ATYPICAL ANXIETY DISORDER

This is a category that is used for diagnosis when the affected individual appears to have an anxiety disorder that does not meet the criteria for entry into any of the other known anxiety disorders.

16. DEPRESSIVE NEUROSIS /DYSTHYMIC DISORDER

Characterized by depressive periods in which the patient feels sad and/or down and has a loss of interest in the usual activities that cause pleasure or involvement in usual pastimes.

17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

Literally Greek for the suffering of nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord.

18. IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder of the intestines that leads to crampy pain, gas, bloating, and changes in bowel habits.

19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

A peptic ulcer is a sore or hole in the lining of the stomach or

duodenum (the first part of the small intestine).

20. CIRRHOSIS

Scar tissue replaces normal, healthy tissue, blocking the flow of blood through the organ and preventing it from working as it should.

21. STROKE & COMPLICATIONS

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells.

22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension).

23. OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break.

Disability compensation is a monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are determined by VA to be disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service connected.

To be eligible for compensation, the Veteran must have been separated or discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Monthly disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of eligible dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation (SMC). Disability compensation benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

andersonville



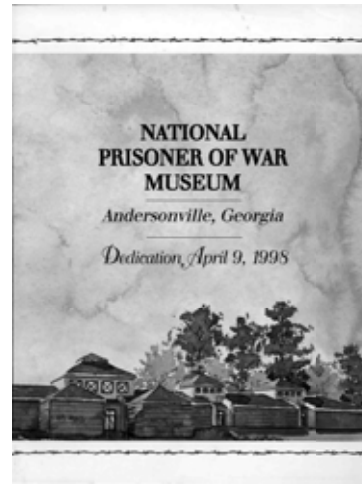
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Greetings from Andersonville National Historic Site. It's been a busy Fall season and we are looking forward to a year full of events. We just completed our Civil War weekend complete with black powder and cooking demonstrations as well as costumed interpreters and history programs.

We are looking forward to Wreaths Across America on December 17, 2022. With generous donations, both financial and fundraising, from AXPOW, Friends of Andersonville, Bennett Trucking, Truist Bank, and others, we have enough wreaths for every single one of the 22,300 headstones in the national cemetery again this year. The event brings about 1,000 visitors to participate in a ceremony and lay wreaths to honor our interred veterans. We have been working to clean every headstone ahead of the event though volunteers. In January, we are planning for a day of service for Martin Luther King Day, please follow our social media for more details on the work we plan to accomplish.

April 2023 is the 25th anniversary of the opening of the National Prisoner of War Museum. National POW Recognition Day is April 9, which is also Easter, so we are planning our major event for April 22,

2023. Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us. Plans include programs on POW stories from each war/conflict through our nation's history as well as speakers and a ceremony. April 2023 is also the 50th anniversary of Operation Homecoming. We plan to offer additional programs specifically on Vietnam POWs and Operation Homecoming throughout the month of April.



AXPOW drove the authorization and building of the National POW Museum, and we are forever grateful. The museum is such an impactful experience for visitors and continues to be relevant to all who visit. Without the efforts of Representative and former POW, Pete Douglas (FL), AXPOW Commander Wayne Hitchcock, AXPOWs Chuck Williams along with many others, to pass the coin bill, the museum may not have been built. Surcharges from the sale of this coin funded the Department of the Interior's construction of the National Prisoner-of-War Museum. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with our partners and the public.

We are working on plans for renovation of the museum restrooms, HVAC system, and the water feature. We hope to see the renovations take place by Fall. The national cemetery is also going to see some renovation work to include repairs to several monuments, turf and tree replacement, and new plantings of trees and shrubs. Plans for the re-contouring of the southeast corner of the cemetery are nearing completion; we hope to have that section open by 2024.

We wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season! Remember to mark you calendars for the 25th anniversary celebration on April 22!



Civil War Living History Weekend 2022

Nov 5-6...From infantry and artillery demonstrations to learning about Civil War prison life and Junior Ranger activities, there was something for everyone at our 2022 Living History Weekend! Credits: NPS



namPOW news



Paul E Galanti
Westminster Canterbury
Richmond, Virginia
804.389.1668

Homecoming plus 50 – keeping things in perspective

I suppose it's not a milestone as such things go. 50 is just a number. Its anniversary stone is the Amethyst which doesn't slide as easily off the tongue as its more famous anniversary-markers, gold or silver.

But there are 591 former Vietnam War POWs who were released 50 years ago during Operation Home-coming in the winter of 1973 – more than half held for longer than five years. Many were held under truly brutal conditions - among the worst ever suffered in American history. And like the POWs of earlier wars, they were ecstatic about their re-discovered freedom and much more appreciative of things they'd previously taken for granted. A simple hamburger engendered much more pleasure than it did before six, seven or eight years of 700 calories/day's worth of pumpkin soup and rice.

Just walking outside – just being able to walk outside - and seeing vistas unimagined in 7' x 7' black cells, enjoying fresh air and the freedom to go anywhere and do anything made repatriation a heady, almost giddy experience. Everything – *everything* – seemed to live up to the eagerly anticipated perception we'd created in our minds. Everything seemed possible.

And then reality hit.

Despite a disproportionate number of our band becoming general and flag officers, Senators and Representatives, Mayors and Presidential Candidates, everything wasn't perfect, after all. Having already learned that we weren't invincible – as many 20-somethings think - it still came as a shock to see the changes that had ensued. I'm not going into all the major changes but suffice it to say that our entire country had changed mightily. We were welcomed home but...

Our military profession was no longer the most respected profession in the country. The federal government which had consisted of, basically, the State Department, the Defense Department and the U.S. Post Office and a handful of bureaucracies had been transformed into an intractable monolith. When LTJG Everett Alvarez, the first aviator captured in North Vietnam, was shot down during the Gulf of Tonkin crisis in August 1964, the Defense Department's budget was nearly half of the government's total!

I suppose it was television that made it happen. Television helped

namPOW cont'd...

to dumb down our entire nation creating a flock of useful idiots whose minuscule knowledge about any particular problem was no barrier to their discoursing at length on a solution. Or even campaigning on that issue without fear of informed opposition.

Television was such a great generator of emotion that it helped take our entire system of legislation and laws into an emotional rollercoaster such that a cool, dispassionate, objective look at a controversial issue always came in dead last behind inflamed passions.

Raw emotion, not fact, divided the country about the war in Vietnam so that it was still being fought decades later. Divisive emotions convinced enough people that they're owed something by the rest of us (for basically doing nothing) that the "Gimme" generation rules in politics.

It turns out that until people are faced with horrible alternatives, they have nothing from which to draw a meaningful comparison. The term "hunger" connotes something different to, say, a New Yorker who missed a meal than it does to a recently released 6' tall, 100 lb. former POW! Similarly, those who fought and sacrificed for this nation see red (as in rage) when

those who have done nothing, who haven't served, who haven't actually done anything complain about the terrible state of affairs in this country.

Put in perspective, the 33 years have gone by too quickly. Many who came home with us are no longer here. But the ones I know best still get along well with each other. And we won't be distracted by those who badmouth our way of doing things without offering a positive course of change.

And, when we see old cellmates, we will return to those great post-release days, 50 years ago, when there truly is not a bad day when there's a doorknob on the inside of the door.



pow/mia

Mary Schantag, Chairman
P.O.W. Network
info@pownetwork.org



Branson pays tribute to veterans

Once again, Branson, MO hosted veterans with the 27th year of an expanded Veterans Day. The Branson Veterans Homecoming, instituted by Tony Orlando, made Veterans Day into a week-long celebration annually every November. Thousands of veterans and their families came into Branson to enjoy the tributes, hospitality, and targeted shows amid the Christmas kick-off season.

As always, God, country and family took front and center at many of the events. The POW Network hosted/supported ten events during the week ranging from tribute reunions, to a POW/MIA Service of Remembrance, and a formal for 400 that included a POW/MIA candlelight service that honored MIA David Hrdlicka, and paid tribute to military pilots.

The POW/MIA Service of Remembrance featured guest speaker, Navy veteran David Arzani. David spoke about a long kept family secret, using his mother's journal. He told of his shock as his father

As of Sept. 1, 2022, the number of Americans Missing and Unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War remains at 1,582.

There are 81,614 still unaccounted for US Military personnel since 1941.

related the story, after he had enlisted, and was about to ship out.

His mother, Helen Barbara Histed, lived in Hong Kong, when during WWII, the Governor surrendered to the Empire of Japan. At the age of 14, and her mother became prisoners of war in the concentration camps. She was 19 when they were liberated.

David started by reading a letter, that according to the Branson Tri-Lakes News ¹ read: "The letterhead is from Buckingham Palace. 'The Queen and I bid you a very warm welcome home. Through all the great trials and sufferings which you have undergone at the hands of the Japanese, you and your comrades have been constantly in our thoughts. We know from the accounts we already received, how heavy those sufferings have been. We also know that these have been endured by you with the highest courage. We mourn with you the deaths of so many of our gallant comrades. With all hearts, we hope that you're returned from captivity will bring you and your family a full measure of happiness. Which you may long enjoy together. Sign King George September 1945.'"

He continued: "I heard the planes overhead. It was Sunday Dec. 8, 1941, I was 13. I was coming out of church and I remember it was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception....The reason for the surrender is more or less because the Japanese poisoned the water supply to the city of Hong Kong. You can't live without water..."

"Arzani said his mother wrote about being taken to a Japanese concentration camp, in a prison facility which had housed criminals.... "In fact, I didn't even know where my dad was. He was called away on Dec. 7. There was a telegram and later he received sealed orders, so he couldn't tell my mother where he was going."

He went into great detail, reading passages from Helen's pages until many in the audience were in tears after he read: "Arzani said his mother said the food was not good and the prisoners would not eat any meat out of fear they were being served human meat...."They had rice, maybe some fish. They refuse to eat any meat. Because the Japanese were killing babies and serving the meat to prisoners," Arzani said."

Arzani closed with another story, "...The lady said, 'I don't want to buy anything that was made in Germany. I am Jewish.' And my mother said, 'Were you in the concentration camps over in Europe?' 'No. I was in the United States. I'm a US citizen. But we will never forgive. And we'll never forget.' the lady responded. My mother said, 'I was in a concentration camp. And the woman says, 'Well, then you understand.' And my mother said, 'I was in a Japanese camp. And I drive a Honda. Get over it.'

pow/mia cont'd...

...And that was a lesson that I learned from her when she told that story. Hate will kill you. Hate will eat you alive. " It was the first time he had told the family story in public. The service concluded with a wreath laying and bell ringing to honor those who were killed in combat, or still missing, including many in non-combat losses.

During the week, a WWII/Korea War reunion was held with four WWII veterans, and nine Korean War in attendance. At each of the reunions, a 10 year old young man, named Skyler, approached the veterans with a small gift.

His Facebook page² said: "...My journey with veterans started 3 years ago. I started learning veterans go unappreciated for some of the things they went through for our country...."

...Skyler got a plaque presented to him this morning from the Submarines Division and got to ride on their float in the Veterans Day Parade and he is now an honorary Submariner and he earned his baby dolphin wings. It was

so special he met over 5,000 Veterans from around the world this past week..."

Skyler helped close the week at the Walmart Tribute Luncheon, where veterans were treated to a 3 hour show, a gift from the Rush Limbaugh family, and the a BBQ lunch that fed almost 2000 veterans. Walmart area managers, supervisors, staff and volunteers greeted each veteran, and served the lunch and desert.

https://www.bransontrilakesnews.com/news_free/article_b48ecbe8-6428-11ed-849a-27ea05b39d55.html<https://www.facebook.com/skylersfishingadventures/posts/pfbid0xxztODmCKE3jGp2wHPoSsYsXX386sbjm76wneYdmHhfYigxSeVB8dUwgruL6i2B3>



*Skyler Clark and
Army retired veteran
Margie Jo Williamson*

Civilian

A Little-Known STIC Episode

By Prof. Martin Meadows

Accounts of the travails of WWII prisoners of the Nipponese always (and understandably) emphasize the obvious subject of food shortages. Such accounts rarely devote much attention to shortages of other kinds of things, and this is a brief attempt to rectify that deficiency. Toward the end of 1944, after nearly three years as Nipponese guests, STIC internees were (needless to say) running short of all kinds of supplies besides food. The focus here is on one of the problems that confronted the STIC central kitchen: it was running out of firewood for cooking the internees' meager rations. As a result, camp leaders decided to seek unexpected and unusual sources of wood within the camp. And it so happened that room 43 in the Main Building, where I lived along with ca. 60-70 other male inmates, contained a (relatively) bountiful supply of wood.

Room 43 in fact contained perhaps a week's supply of kitchen firewood; that is because it had been constructed to serve as a U. of Santo Tomás science classroom — likely a chemistry classroom, judging from the following facts. First, at the side of the room adjoining the third-floor hallway, there was an

elevated wooden platform, from which professors were able to profess. Second, at one side of the elevated structure was a sink (which, it is worth noting, was extremely convenient for the room's residents, since we could wash, brush our teeth, etc., without having to trudge to the normally crowded lone third-floor men's bathroom, which was located at the other end of the building). Third, the room's concrete floor was visible only around the raised platform, because the rest of the floor was covered by rows of wood flooring, each successive row higher than the one ahead of it (as in a theater, for example), so that all students would have a clear view of the platform (where experiments and demonstrations were performed).

Here it might be of interest to point out the main consequence of living in a room with such flooring. Because of the many raised rows (there must have been around ten of them), for most of the residents' cots the legs at one end of each cot had to be placed on blocks, so that the cot would be level rather than inclined downward toward the platform. The only exceptions to that were the relatively few cots placed on the very last (highest) row, which was wide enough that cots placed upon it were level without the need for blocks. I was fortunate to have a cot on that top row, thus I did not need to always check to make sure that the cot was not about to slip off a block. (My cot, incidentally, was located by the wall on the left side of the room as one entered from the hallway; the room itself was a large one that had two entrances.)

Sidebar: As best as I can recall, there were three other teen-agers in room 43. Two of them, Harry and Tommy Robinson, were located on the other side of the room; the third, my good friend Eric Sollee, was on my side of the room. Parenthetically, Eric and I played a long-running game of Casino, so long-running that eventually we each had run up a cumulative total score of thousands of points. (Note: Eric, who died in 2008, later became an All-American fencer at Harvard, and a famed fencing coach at MIT.) But I digress. Around the time of the episode at issue, Eric and I were considering the feasibility of victimizing a most annoying person, a noisy chap who constantly coughed and sneezed. We thought about placing his cot on the very edge of one of its blocks, assuming that, at night, his heavy coughing and loud sneezing would shake his rickety cot enough to cause it to slip off its blocks and topple over. (First we made sure that his mosquito netting was not attached to the lines holding up our own netting, otherwise his cot's fall would also pull down the netting on our end of the room.) But, no doubt fortunately for us, before we could get up the nerve to carry out our plot, the developments described next prevented us from doing so. By the way, I would have preferred to victimize the obnoxious and bedbug-ridden "Skipper" Wilson, about whom I have written before, but his cot was on the top row next to mine and thus did not rest on blocks. And now, boys and girls, as the radio serial announcers used to say, back to our story.

civilian, cont'd...

Because of the aforementioned need for firewood, the decision was made to tear out all the wood in room 43 for kitchen use. Our room monitor, Henry Pyle, informed us that, on the scheduled date, we were to arise early and move all of our belongings into the hallway (not a difficult task, involving just a cot and whatever few items were stored underneath it; mosquito nets hung out of the way and thus did not have to be removed). On the appointed day we dutifully did as we had been instructed, causing quite a mess in the hallway and making it nearly impassable, as well as greatly annoying residents of the adjacent rooms. The squad of internees assigned to the job, unshirted and sweating profusely, then spent much of the day

ripping up the wood floors and the platform, then hauling off the wood to the kitchen storeroom.

The resulting shambles in room 43 was a sight NOT to behold: clouds of dust filled the air as decades worth of dirt, dead bugs and live insects, spiders, etc. were exposed to the bright light of a sunny day. Most notable of the lot were myriads of cockroaches scurrying and fluttering around; they might have made a nourishing meal had they not been squashed during the proceedings. It is no wonder that, often at night, I had heard cockroaches flying around the room and crashing into my mosquito net. (I am referring to economy-sized Asian roaches, of course, not to the small(er) ones familiar to Americans.)

Another sidebar: I am reminded of the time that my family and I moved into our assigned house

upon arriving at the U. of Sierra Leone in 1968; the house had been vacant over the summer, and when I opened a closet door I was met by an incredible torrent of king-size cockroaches. As they sought to flee the closet, I had my hands, or rather feet, full stomping on them.

Back to STIC: Eventually room 43 was cleared of all debris, and by the time it was dark we had managed to move back into our assigned places. At first it seemed a bit strange to be on a level and all-concrete floor, but we quickly got used to the change and greatly enjoyed the room's improved "quality of life," although it no longer afforded the opportunity to attempt pranks such as the aborted one described above.

CPOW Reunion - 2023

April 14 to April 16, 2023

Embassy Suites by Hilton Sacramento Riverfront Promenade

Because of Covid, we missed out on having our reunion this year, so we are making up for it in 2023 with a reunion at our familiar hotel in Sacramento. The hotel is newly renovated for guest rooms and the atrium lobby, and features a managers cocktail social period in the late afternoon plus a cooked-to-order breakfast.

Details of the presentations and activities are still being developed, but it will be a good time for all. Now is the time to make your hotel reservation to be sure you have a room at the discount rate in our reservation block. There are three different ways to make a reservation.

1. At our reservation website: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=SACESES&arrivalDate=2023-04-13&departureDate=2023-04-16&groupCode=CESPOW&room1NumAdults=1&cid=OM%2CWW%2CHILTONLINK%2CEN%2CDirectLink>
2. Visit www.sacramento.embassysuites.com and make a reservation using the group/convention code: POW
3. Call (916) 326-5000 and let the Front Desk Agent know you would like to make a reservation under the CPOW Civilian Prisoners of War discount rate.

Please note that **all reservations must be made before March 23, 2023**, and will only be available until the CPOW block of reserved rooms is sold out.

Registration for the reunion is **\$45 for members** and **\$55 for non-members**. Not sure of your current membership status? Contact Cindie Leonard at cindieleonard@gmail.com or 208-890-5694.

Banquet reservations for Sunday are **\$46 for all attendees**.

For each attendee you are registering, please include: 1) Name, 2) Member or non-Member, and 3) attending Reunion only, Banquet only, or both Reunion and Banquet.

A check for reservations made out to 'Civilian ex-POWs' should be sent to CPOW Treasurer:
Cindie Leonard, 1675 S. Lake Crest Way, Eagle, ID 83616.

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR MEMBERSHIP TOTALS 09/11/2022

AK	5		
AL	103		
AR	57	<u>THEATER OF OPERATION</u>	
AZ	145	ETO	1480
CA	467	PACIFIC	205
CO	73	KOREA	227
CT	42	VIETNAM	68
DC	5	USS PUEBLO	16
DE	14	FARS	1
FL	460	IRAN	2
GA	104	IRAQ	6
GU	2	SOMALIA	1
HI	17	CIVILIAN	76
IA	88	Total former POWs	2082
ID	28		
IL	137	SURVIVING SPOUSE	2359
IN	108	NEXT OF KIN	459
KS	93	SPOUSE	859
KY	55	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	9
LA	74		3686
MA	205		
MD	100	Total members	5768
ME	33		
MI	145		
MN	114		
MO	124		
MS	118		
MT	21		
NC	130		
ND	20		
NE	29		
NH	33		
NJ	168		
NM	77		
NV	40		
NY	255		
OH	299		
OK	111		
OR	62		
PA	258		
PR	6		
RI	18		
SC	131		
SD	21		
TN	133		
TX	500		
UT	27		
VA	103	LIFE MEMBERS	5282
VI	1	ANNUAL MEMBERS	486
VT	29	Total members	5768
WA	174		
WI	167		
WV	37		
WY	2		
	Total members	5768	
		PREPARED BY	
		CLYDIE MORGAN, COO	

From Vernon Schmidt, Commander, Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW...

Sam Banuelos, a Korean era POW, was captured by the Chinese in Korea Aug. 1951, released Aug. 1953. He was recently honored on Nov. 5th at "Half Time" of a Fresno State University foot ball game at their half time event by Fresno State University President & their Athletic Director for his service in the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He received a standing ovation (see attached web-site) from a crowd of over 20,000 clapping & honoring Sam. On Veterans Day 11-11-2022 he was honored again in the Annual Fresno Veterans Day Parade which is featured on national TV as he rode in a special convertible with our Fresno Chapter #1 Parade Banner carried by 2 Marine veterans, riding in the 2nd car were widows of AXPOWs and two sons of deceased Chapter AXPOWs.



Maine Military Museum

The mission of the museum is to teach today's and future generations the true meaning of "SERVICE ABOVE SELF."

Through authentic artifacts displayed in a variety of formats throughout the museum, viewers can bear witness to the experiences and sacrifices of past members of our Armed Forces.

Museum exhibits cover every aspect of military service from the Revolutionary War to Afghanistan and Iraq. The primary focus is on American Prisoners of War (POWs) from our own Civil War up to the Vietnam Conflict.

It is not a glorification of war but a tribute to those who have served in the military, during peacetime, and in war. It is also a place to honor those who have paid the ultimate price while serving the state of Maine and our Nation over the years



**"PARVUS SED
POTENS"
SMALL BUT MIGHTY**



Maine Military Museum has items and artifacts from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts. From 18th Century playing cards to an F14 ejection seat, we have every conflict represented. Best of all, it is all authentic. The items in the museum must have historic proof before being displayed.

Ready your emotions before wandering alone or having a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable volunteers; either way, your journey will start at the Revolution. From there, you will travel through the different conflicts of our Nation, viewing the tragedy and hope that every war brings. You can look at the evolution of firearms, from the musket through the M16 and everything in between. View a newspaper with a headline about Lincoln's assassination. Learn about the indoctrination of a country's youth with Germany in the late 1930s. See the sad story of one of Maine's sons paying the ultimate price of World War II.

We also have some living artifacts... that's what we call them! Lee, the curator, an Air Force Veteran, is onsite nearly every hour the museum is open. Then, if you are there at the right time, you can meet Jim, a 100-year-old World War II veteran. He'll tell you about being in Normandy six days after D-Day or being there for the Battle of the Bulge. Real stories from a real hero. You may meet Pete, a Vietnam Veteran, and you can converse with him about any war. Careful though, he'll tell you how he was in the army at the same time as the last cavalry horse. Others visit daily and help keep the exhibits accurate.

The museum does not glorify war but provides a tribute to those who have served in the military during peacetime and war. The facility is available for groups and individuals at no charge. We keep the museum open through the generosity of donations. Come on in and look!



Come in and see the replica of a Vietnam Prisoner of War cell. An exacting, full-scale reproduction of the now notorious 'Hanoi Hilton.'



museum, contin'd...

The Maine Military Museum is a little-known gem in South Portland, which houses a vast collection of military memorabilia and personal effects carried or worn by American soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women from as far back as the American Revolution, often with Maine connections.

Lee Humiston started his museum dream in 2007 in a small space lent to him by the city in the old electrical engineering building in Mill Creek Park. He began to display all his donated or rescued military materials there. Veterans, school children, families, the curious . . . all were impressed by what he was doing. Wives and relatives began coming forward with more and more memorabilia from their loved ones. The place started to bulge at the seams. Suddenly Humiston got an out-of-the-blue call from a city employee, saying the city was about to charge him rent. Lots of it. Since donations fund the museum, this was not a good thing. While Humiston was mulling over what to do, a museum visitor drove up in his pickup truck and told Lee, "how would I like my building? He took me over to what was then the VFW building and said, "it's all yours if you want it!" Lucky for Humiston, the guy was a well-connected contractor who bought the whole building practically on the spot and eventually deeded it to the museum. What a deal. He couldn't refuse. So in 2009, the larger and grander Maine Military Museum opened its doors; the rest is history.

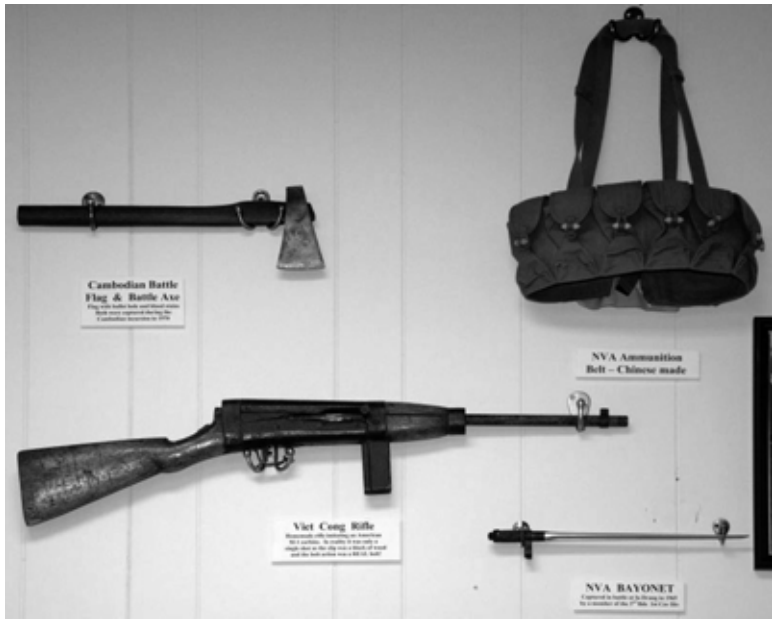
The Museum houses over 50 uniformed life-like mannequins, many more framed insignia, 100 mannequin heads with hats and helmets, and thousands of artifacts. The artifacts range from letters written home directly from the front lines of a battle to a tiny cross painstakingly carved from a spoon by a lone POW in a Chinese prison camp. Every piece holds a story, captioned as accurately as possible. If this extensive display were not enough, more than 1,000 uniforms and thousands of other items are waiting in the wings for their time in the museum spotlight.

The collection of actual artifacts, displayed in various formats throughout the museum, enables viewers to bear witness, in a very personal way, to the experiences and sacrifices of past members of our Armed Forces. Because of this authenticity, the displays seem to take you directly into the lives of these American warriors. You can feel their silent presence, and it is heartening.

Exhibits cover every era of military service, from the Revolutionary War to Afghanistan and Iraq. One main focus

is American Prisoners of War (POWs) from our Civil War up to the Vietnam conflict. To experience the complete retrospective of exhibits takes a good hour or two. With a personal tour offered freely by Humiston or one of his veteran volunteers/docents, it could take even more time. However long you can spend, it's well worth it. A great collection. Spend time here, and you will learn something. Walk through a large display about Normandy (D-Day). See the walls of pictures. Examine the real uniforms-many of them once worn by Mainers and donated by their families, as well as hats and helmets, insignias, and actual armaments used in various conflicts. You can almost touch a United States Army Springfield 1884 "Trap Door" Rifle, a civil war cutlass, saber, and scabbards (the same carried by Col. Joshua Chamberlain), or an 1809 Bartlett Flintlock Rifle used in the War of 1812. There are just too many artifacts even to begin to describe. Life-like mannequins proudly display the uniforms. There is also a strong emphasis on the story of POWs, including the Civil War, WW II, and Vietnam. The most shocking exhibit is a replication of an actual Viet Cong POW prison cell with mannequins of three clearly abused American inmates. When Senator John McCain was visiting the museum on a campaign stop in Maine during his presidential run, he could not go anywhere near that cell.

This massive undertaking is the brainchild of one man, Lee Humiston, a retired Air Force



museum, cont'd...

officer born and raised in the Willard Beach section of South Portland. Humiston is the founder, curator, collector, chief spokesman, and just about everything else around here".

Humiston's passion for collecting military items goes back to the age of 4 when he pulled one of the insignias off his father's WWII Navy uniform. It is a moment Humiston still remembers vividly. Humiston himself enlisted in the Air Force in 1956 and left Maine for what would turn out to be fifty years. Returning home for a visit several years ago, he met Maureen, the woman who would become his wife, and he never left again.

Through his life-long love for the United States military and his interest in history, Humiston has become a serious collector of all things military and, when possible, Maine. In fact, he has assembled one of the world's largest collections of (POW) artifacts and related items.

Humiston served 26 years in the military, in the orientation and recruitment area, and then retired and entered the banking and finance industry, mainly in California. In the service, his specialty was graphics and displays. As something of an artist, he admits, with a twinkle in his blue eyes, to painting many a sign in addition to other more artistic efforts. He also has high-level experience in exhibition work, including mounting a prominent display at the Nixon Museum in San Clemente, two exhibits at the Smithsonian, and one at the Lakehurst, New Jersey, old Naval air station. He has an eye for design, and that skill has stood him well in his Maine museum.

The United States has hundreds of "military" designated museums. Most have direct military connections, such as the Naval and Air Force Academy museums or the National Infantry Museum in Fort Benning, Georgia. Not nearly so glitzy, but as an unaffiliated, independent operation with a mission to help museum-goers understand and learn, the Maine Military Museum is far different from them. Humiston seems to generate such incredible generosity out of people. His passion for what he is doing rubs off in many positive ways. "It's all about trust,"; he says modestly. Of course, donations of money and

artifacts keep coming, mostly inspired by a personal visit. "Lee is amazing. He gives you an understanding of what everyone went through. He doesn't worship war but honors those who served and fought." It's all about the stories". Says Humiston. And he can rattle backstories on almost every person or thing in his museum. "That's what brings war alive. This place does not glorify war but serves as a tribute to those who have served in the military, during peacetime, and in war. It is also a place to honor those who have paid the ultimate price serving the State of Maine and our Nation over the years. He calls himself, with some pride, the "Keeper of the Flame". and that flame burns brightly in the Maine Military Museum and Learning Center.

nnn



National News

All Veterans enrolled in VA health care are now eligible for new toxic exposure screenings

Screenings mark key step in implementing the PACT Act, which President Biden signed into law on August 10

In November, Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and clinics across the country began offering enrolled Veterans a new toxic exposure screening. These screenings are a key part of the PACT Act, a new law that empowers VA to deliver care and benefits to millions of toxic exposed Veterans and their survivors.

The screening takes five to 10 minutes and begins by asking Veterans if they believe they experienced any toxic exposures while serving in the armed forces. Veterans who answer "yes" are then asked about specific exposures, including: open burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, contaminated water, and other exposures.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be offered an initial toxic exposure screening then follow-up screenings at least once every five years.

Veterans who report concerns about toxic exposures will be connected to information about clinical resources and benefits. These screenings are a part of VA's broader efforts to provide world-class health care for toxic exposed Veterans.

Veterans can ask about receiving the screening at their next VA primary care provider appointment. If Veterans are not assigned to a Primary Care team or wish to be screened sooner than their next appointment, we invite them to contact their local facility and ask to be screened by the Toxic Exposure Screening Navigator.

VA began a pilot of this program on September 6. Since then, VA has screened more than 19,000 Veterans and found a 37% concern of exposure among those Veterans.

National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces asks to Waive Requirement Blocking Updates to Chaplains Hill Monument at Arlington National Cemetery

NCMAF Also Calls on U.S. Senate to Approve Updates for 2nd Straight Year

On November 10, 2022, The National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) urged the Secretary of the Army and the U.S. Senate to take action that will enable the Chaplains Hill Monument at Arlington National Cemetery to be updated to honor the memory of chaplains who lost their lives while serving their country.

The NCMAF encourages the U.S. Senate to follow the House of Representatives to recognize the additions to Chaplains Hill in the 2023 version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The project to update the memorials was previously recognized in the 2022 version of the NDAA Act which was signed

into law by President Biden after passage by both the House and Senate.

The NCMAF has, for eight years, proposed that the names of chaplains who died in service in the Korean War, Vietnam, the Cold War, Iraq and Afghanistan be added to the Chaplains Hill monuments and also to replace the aging Protestant Chaplains monument stone with a new granite piece. The changes would all come at no cost to the federal government.

The NCMAF is simultaneously appealing to the Army Secretary to waive the requirement that such honorees be deceased for at least 25 years. The NCMAF and its legal team believe that the Secretary has the power to waive the requirement.

The project, which does not need government funding, would update the existing Protestant Chaplains Monument at Arlington National Cemetery with a new plaque to honor the service of 25 chaplains affiliated with Protestant denominations, who died in service during the Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War Period, and in post 9-11 Conflicts. The request also seeks to add to the Catholic Chaplains Monument the names of (Col.) Sidney J. Marceaux and (Maj.) Henry Timothy Vacoc, both killed during post 9-11 service.

The Chaplains Hill Monument is multi-denominational. The Jewish monument at Arlington was donated in 2011 after receiving unanimous approval by both the House and Senate. More than 1000 people attended the dedication to honor the 14 Jewish chaplains who died on active military service.

new members



National Headquarters
PO Box 3445
Arlington, TX 76007-3445
(817)-649-2979
axpow76010@yahoo.com

Welcome!

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Newbern TN
NOK Son of William
Thomas Barkley, ETO

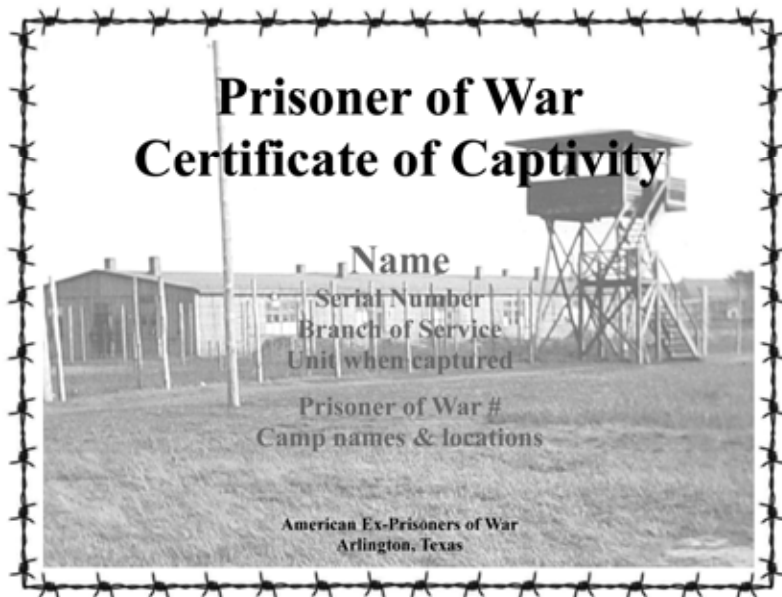
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service number, branch of service,
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(if known), camp names and
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The Meaningful Gift

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 our future 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 AXPOW.

You, too can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War remains 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 continue our transition to a true 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 ensure our future. And feel free to contact CFO Marsha Coke at axpow76010@yahoo.com, or CEO Cheryl Cerbone at axpowceo@comcast.net. Phone #817-649-2979.

Thank You!

Contributions



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.

DONATIONS GENERAL FUND

In honor of Ken Collins' 99th birthday, by Anita Adelson & Jeanne Burd

In honor of Phyllis Hutchins' 99th birthday, by Jill & Scott Scheer

In memory of Aunt Virginia Walters, by the Rick Rule-Hoffman Family

In memory of Virginia M Walters, by M/M Jeff London & Family

In memory of Kathleen Riccio, by bill & Debra Lyth

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Mary Kwiecinski, Virginia MN

Sybil Garver, Evergreen Park IL



taps



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

Edward L. Dement National Commander 2015-2016 Feb. 17, 1924-Sept. 13, 2022

Ed's POW story began when he enlisted in the AAC in 1942. He served with the 15th AF, 456th BG, 745th BS, flying out of Italy, was shot down over Yugoslavia and captured. When he was captured, he was held in two main camps – Stalag Luft III and Stalag 7a, along with various work camps - 3324-46 Krumbachstrasse 48011, Work Camp 3368 Munich 48-11.



After service and once he retired from corporate life, Ed devoted his life to POWs and veterans. He spent 27 years as VAVS representative at James Haley Hospital in Tampa. When he moved to Florida, he became active in AXPOW, serving as Florida Dept. Treasurer, JVC, SVC and Commander. He worked the chairs at the National level as well, as National Director, JVC, SVC and National Commander.

During this time, Andersonville National Historic Site and the National Prisoner of War Museum became his passion. He was tireless in his efforts. Starting with his position as Chairman of the Andersonville Committee, he was instrumental in the success of the Museum's "Victory from Within" – a traveling museum under the Andersonville umbrella. We all remember Ed passing the hat at National Conventions to raise money for the creation of this exhibit. After his tenure as National Commander was over, Ed began working with the Friends of Andersonville, serving as Director and Director Emeritus of that non-profit and became AXPOW's liaison with the Park and the Friends.

His wife, Lois, predeceased him; Until her death, Ester Carbone was his constant companion and helpmate.

DeRAIMO, OKEY, 101, of Fernandina Beach, FL died Sept. 16, 2022. From our greatest generation, Okey dropped out of college to enlist and train to become a B-17 Bombardier with the Army Air Corps. One of the first crews to fly from England with the 401st BG, he and his crew were shot down. He was held at Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany for 16 months. Okey and his wife of 80 years, Priscilla became active members of the Barbed Wire Chapter, WV, and the whole family became part of the 401st BG Association chapter as well. Priscilla predeceased him. He is survived by one daughter, two sons, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

ETTER, HAL G., of Helotes, Texas, passed away at the age of 100 October 13, 2022. A native of Rural Retreat, Virginia, he joined the US Army 99th Infantry Division at Camp Van Dorn, Mississippi in 1941. He served in the European Theatre where he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He was a POW until liberation. He also served in the Korean War. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Joyce Meek, one nephew, one niece, and several great nieces and nephews. Hal enjoyed a good long life. He was a kind and caring man who had many friends.

Chaplain



Keith Lewis
 2205 Overbrook Drive
 Jasper, AL 35504
 (205)275-9035
 zpadre@icloud.com

As I write this, we are in the Holiday Season of 2022. Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the second century B.C. The season begins on sundown, December 18, 2022, and ends

the evening of Monday, December 26, 2022. A candle is lit each evening, on a Menorah, commemorating the dedication. The Eight days of Hanukkah.

Christmas commemorates the birth of Jesus as savior of the world. Christmas begins on the evening of 24 December and goes to the evening of Epiphany, January 6. Thus, the Twelve days of Christmas.


I remember all too well the day I was shot down and the days of the bombing of Hanoi around the week Christmas of 1972. Both were very traumatic, and I am happy to have lived through both. I know that have that you have survived, several times, when you were close to death. I am thankful that you have lived through several life and death situations. We also know that when we signed up, we gave our government a

blank check up to and including our life.

This is a Holy season, a time to give thanks to God for our creation and helping us through life with all the uncertainties. All of us can give thanks to God for being who we are and the times His presence helped us to survive, and thanks for being able to live in a great country, for family, friends, neighbor and each other!!!

G. B. U. (God Bless You)
 Prayerfully,
 Keith H. Lewis+

In loving memory
 Your presence we miss...
 Your memory we treasure
 Loving you always...
 Forgetting you never

 <p>The National 4th (IVY) Division Association</p> <p>Formed at Camp Greene, NC, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.</p> <p>Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units.</p> <p>Check our website at www.4thinfantry.org for membership and reunion information.</p> <p>"Steadfast and Loyal"</p>	 <p>The 106th Infantry Division Association</p> <p>Organized at Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active since 1946</p> <p>If you are a former 106th Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106th, a relative of a 106th veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.</p> <p>The CUB Magazine is published three times per year. Published since 1946. Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.</p> <p>Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman 121 McGregor Ave. Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856 973-663-2410 E-mail: jsc164@aol.com</p>
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American Revolution (1775-1783)

Total U.S. Servicemembers ¹	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	286,730
Battle Deaths	2,260
Non-mortal Woundings	4,505

Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (VA estimate)	106,000
Battle Deaths (VA estimate)	1,000

Mexican War (1846-1848)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	78,718
Battle Deaths	1,733
Other Deaths (In Theater)	11,550
Non-mortal Woundings	4,152

Civil War (1861-1865)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union)	140,414
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Union)	224,097
Non-mortal Woundings (Union)	281,881
Total Servicemembers (Conf.) ²	1,050,000
Battle Deaths (Confederate) ³	74,524
Other Deaths (In Theater) (Confederate) ^{3,4}	59,297
Non-mortal Woundings (Confederate)	Unknown

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	306,760
Battle Deaths	385
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	2,061
Non-mortal Woundings	1,662

World War I (1917-1918)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002

World War II (1941 -1945)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-mortal woundings	670,846
Living Veterans ⁵	389,000

NOTES:

- Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is the median of estimated range from 184,000 – 250,000.
- Exact number is unknown. Posted figure is median of estimated range from 600,000 – 1,500,000.
- Death figures are based on incomplete returns.
- Does not include 26,000 to 31,000 who died in Union prisons.
- Estimate based upon new population projection methodology.

Source: Department of Defense (DOD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates as of Sept. 2019

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Total Serving (In Theater)	1,789,000
Battle Deaths	33,739
Other Deaths (In Theater)	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	1,165,000

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) ⁶	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia ⁷	3,403,000
Battle Deaths ⁸	47,434
Other Deaths (In Theater) ⁸	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) ⁸	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings ⁹	153,303
Living Veterans ^{5,10}	6,262,000

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,225,000
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	148
Other Deaths (In Theater)	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,565
Non-mortal Woundings	467
Living Veterans ^{5,10}	1,680,000

America's Wars Total (1775 -1991)

U.S. Military Service during Wartime	41,892,128
Battle Deaths	651,031
Other Deaths (In Theater)	308,800
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	230,254
Non-mortal woundings	1,430,290
Living War Veterans ¹¹	14,918,000
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace)	19,210,000

Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 -)

The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts. For the most current GWOT statistics visit the following Department of Defense Website:
<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>

- Covers the period 8/5/64 - 1/27/73 (date of cease fire)
 - Department of Defense estimate
 - Covers period 11/1/55 – 5/15/75
 - Excludes 150,341 not requiring hospital care
 - Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) estimate, as of 4/09, does not include those still on active duty and may include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.
 - Living War Veterans include Gulf War Era Veterans in addition to Desert Shield/Storm Veterans, Peacetime Veterans are 4,292,000 as of 9/30/2019
- America's Wars Fact Sheet, Nov. 2019

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

The AXPOW Voluntary Giving Program parallels that of other VSOs, whereby the entire membership, including life members, is given the opportunity to contribute to the operation of our organization, based on ability and willingness to contribute. All contributions are to be sent directly to National Headquarters to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each issue.

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

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

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JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM
JEFFERSON BARRACKS POW-MIA MUSEUM

N is for Never Forget is a child-friendly book that takes readers on a compelling journey through wartime history. Poignant illustrations and stories capture key people, concepts, and memorials to help readers understand and honor the sacrifices endured by men and women prisoners of war and missing in action on behalf of freedom.

Proceeds from books purchased through JBPM, Inc. (501c3) go directly to restoring \ renovating the former 1896 Officers Quarters Building into the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum. \$21.95 including S/H. Contact Paul Dillon at rpdcw@sbcglobal.net; 314-609-9037.

Vietnam Homecoming 1973





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