

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

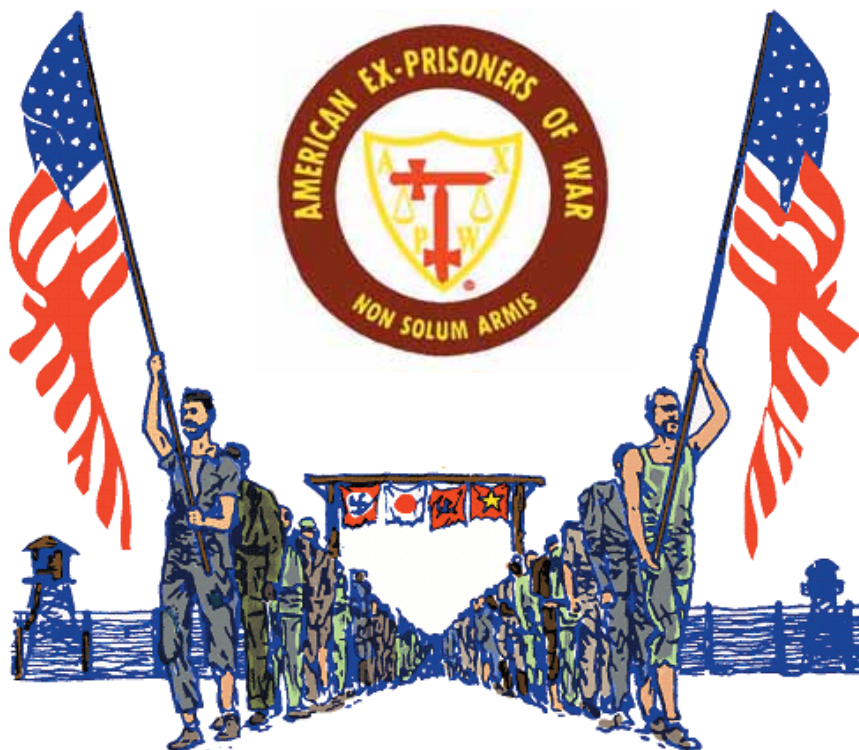
## American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 64

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Number 1

January 2007



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*USS Pueblo seized January 23, 1968*

*Happy New Year!*

*Inside...News...stories...events, NSO success stories...and more*



**Veterans Day 2006...Washington, DC**  
Clockwise, left to right: Commander Fletcher and Edward Kazmierczak waiting to lay wreath before Tomb of the Unknowns; Mary Rolen, John Sommer, Executive Director of the American Legion, and Commander Fletcher at the Purple Heart reception; Speaker-elect of the House, Nancy Pelosi and Commander Fletcher; Flag bearers Keenan Mayberry, grandson, and Andrew Fletcher, son of Commander Fletcher at Arlington Cemetery Amphitheatre; Commander Fletcher at the White House; Tom Poulter, National Commander of Purple Heart and Commander Fletcher at the Purple Heart Reception.



## national commander



**Robert W. Fletcher**

Greetings to my fellow former POWs, families, and friends.

I have both good and bad news to share with you this month. The bad news is that, as you will read elsewhere in the Bulletin, Leonard Rose died on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. As a long-time member of the AXPOW Board of Directors, Leonard was both my mentor and my friend. I will miss his sage advice, friendship, and dedication to former POW causes more than I can tell you. I am sure many of you share my feelings. It was my pleasure to know his family before his death and to visit with them again at the funeral home. Several people have sent me donations in Leonard's honor. If you care to make a donation, please make your check payable to AXPOW and send it to me.

The day before Leonard died, we held a meeting of the Board of Directors in Indianapolis. It has been traditional for the Board not to meet again after the national convention until the mid-winter meeting. However this leaves only a few months for the Board to take any actions that are deemed necessary. Because I believe that AXPOW needs to take some significant steps if the organization is to survive much longer, I felt that the Board needed to meet more quickly. Thus I called the meeting.

In addition to setting up committee assignments, we also took the

first steps towards evaluating all current contracts, both for employees and services, to help determine the best ways to get our budget back into balance. I anticipate that at the mid-winter meeting the Board will act on some of the recommendations.

The meeting in Indianapolis highlighted a problem for our organization that I anticipate will only get worse, and that is the growing numbers of health problems that are affecting our members' abilities to travel and to support AXPOW. At least 5 of the board members were unable to attend the meeting due to their own or their spouse's ill health. Director Wells from Tacoma had resigned before the meeting due to his wife's poor health. Several members did take part in a conference call at the beginning of the meeting, including Leonard, but it is difficult to carry out a long business meeting in that fashion.

I have quickly learned that finding persons who are able to replace Board members is a challenge. Many of us from World War II or Korea are no longer physically able to serve. Thus I repeat what I have said before, namely that AXPOW needs to encourage younger former POWs to join the organization. That is why I was particularly glad to welcome Paul Galanti (Viet Nam) and Larry Strickland (Pueblo) as new members on the current Board.

At the most recent Board meeting I nominated, and the Board approved, the appointment of Gwen Warren to fill the remaining year of Jim Wells' term. I greatly appreciate Gwen's willingness to step forward. I am now in the process of finding a replacement for Leonard.

Having the chance to represent AXPOW at the Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 11 was truly awe inspiring. It was a "picture perfect", warm and sunny day. My wife and I started the day as guests of the

President for a breakfast at the White House. Unlike in POW days, the food was delicious and plentiful. While there we had our picture taken with President and Mrs. Bush. We then went by bus to Arlington. The ceremonies started with the laying of a wreath by President Bush at the tomb of the unknowns followed by a program in the nearby amphitheater. After the program each individual service organization had the opportunity to lay its own wreath. Edward Kazmierczak, past Commander of Wolverine Chapter #1, presented the AXPOW wreath with me. The day was even more special for me because one of our sons and one of our grandsons acted as flag bearers and more than a dozen other family members were in the audience. I hope that many of you had the chance to share the day with me through watching the ceremonies on TV.

I will close by again saying that I want to hear your ideas and concerns. Please do not hesitate to call me, 734-663-8649. I will be glad to return your call to save you any long distance charges.

*Fletcher*

### 2007 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

All AXPOW Offices will be closed on the following dates:

New Years Day January 1  
MLK/Civil Rights Day January 15  
Presidents Day February 19  
Midyear Board Meeting TBA  
Memorial Day May 28  
Independence Day July 4  
Labor Day September 3  
Columbus Day October 8  
National Convention Oct. 15 - 19  
Veterans Day November 12  
Thanksgiving November 22 - 23  
Christmas December 24 - 31

**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**January 2007**



# axpow officers & directors 2006-2007

National Headquarters - Clydie J. Morgan, Adjutant

3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, #40, Arlington, TX 76010

(817) 649-2979 (817) 649-0109 fax HQ@axpow.org

## Officers

### National Commander

**Robert W. Fletcher**  
1331 S. Zeeb  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103  
734-663-8649; 734-663-4960 fax  
cefletch@umich.edu

### National Senior Vice Commander

**Charlie Hill**  
729 Olive Street  
Columbia, SC 29205  
(803) 799-0202  
mercha@bellsouth.net

### National Treasurer

**Sonnie Bill Mottern**  
706 1/2 North Lynn Avenue  
Elizabethton, TN 37643  
(423) 543-3135; (423) 543-6221 fax  
pwtreas@earthlink.net

### National Judge Advocate

**George Coker**  
1145 Wivenhoe Way  
Virginia Beach, VA  
(757) 481-9578  
gngbu@hotmail.com

### National Chaplain

**John Romine**  
1609 S. 23rd Street  
Rogers, AR 72756  
(479) 636-2287

### Jr. Vice Commanders

**Warren G. King, Sr. - Eastern Zone**  
1015 Mitchell Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37206-1113  
(615) 226-7811

### Kenny H. Hanson - Central Zone

9401 Lyndale Ave. S #228  
Bloomington, MN 55420  
(952) 888-2703  
RA17313465@peoplepc.com

### Frank Burger - Western Zone

9500 Harritt Road #197  
Lakeside, CA 92040  
(619) 390-0313  
amexpowsan@aol.com

Committee addresses appear  
with their columns

## North East Region

**Franklin R. Koehler**  
243 Torrey Pines Dr.  
Toms River, NJ 08757  
(732) 244-4629; (732) 505-8702 fax  
relheok1@aol.com

**Laura McIntyre**  
PO Box 475  
Hardwick, MA 01037  
(413) 477-8260 (413) 477-0172 fax  
axpow62a@msn.com

## East Central Region

**Paul E. Galanti**  
21 Maxwell Road  
Richmond, VA 23226  
(804) 389-1668  
pgalanti@comcast.net

**William J. Richardson**  
5125 Lake Valley Drive  
Fayetteville, NC 28303  
(910) 864-7318; (910) 487-5100 fax  
(910) 867-0359 office  
wrichardsonjr@nc.rr.com

## Southeast Region

**Edward L. DeMent**  
8735 Doral Oaks Dr., #1617  
Temple Terrace, FL 33617  
(813) 985-3783; (813) 989-8871 fax  
deme8805@aol.com

**Ray Van Duzer**  
14157 89th Ave. N  
Seminole, FL 33776  
(727) 593-1813  
(727) 319-5914 office  
jrvanduzer@hotmail.com

## North Central Region

**Carroll Bogard**  
726 N. Carolina Place  
Mason City, IA 50401  
(641) 424-4870

**Larry Dwyer**  
814 Woodlawn Ave.  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
(563) 263-5249

## Senior Director, Gerald Harvey

1504 West 5th St.  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
(660) 827-2178  
gereun@iland.net

## Directors

## Mid-Central Region

**Grover L. Swearingen**  
408 Fair Park Avenue  
West Union, OH 45693  
(937) 544-2459 phone & fax  
db6194@dragonbbs.com

## South Central Region

**Morris Barker**  
4010 E. Everglade  
Odessa, TX 79762  
(432) 366-2562  
national@grandecom.net

**Howard Ray**  
7507 Legend Rock  
San Antonio, TX 78244  
(210) 661-5911; (210) 661-8837 fax  
vetray1950@yahoo.com

## Northwest Region

**Herbert C. Kirchhoff**  
2910 Fernan Ct.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 667-6716  
herbertkirchhoff@hotmail.com

**Gwen Warren**  
3235 99th Ave NE  
Bellevue WA 98004  
425-454-9677  
jrgwarren@msn.com

## Southwest Region

**Ralph Kling**  
15895 Puesta Del Sol Lane  
Ramona, CA 92065-5600  
(760) 789-3339 phone & fax  
rfkling@aol.com

**Lawrence Strickland**  
35109 Hwy 79 South #63  
Warner Springs, CA 92086  
(760) 782-0538  
butchstrick@yahoo.com



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**On the cover...**

On January 23, 1968, DPRK forces seized the *Pueblo*. US Naval authorities and the crew of the *Pueblo* insist that before the capture, *Pueblo* was miles outside North Korean territorial waters, the Koreans on the other hand claim the vessel was well within the DPRK's territory. The mission statement allowed her to approach within a nautical mile (1.9 km) of that limit. The DPRK, however, claimed a 50-nautical-mile sea boundary even though international standards are 12 nautical miles.

*Pueblo* was taken into port at Wonsan and the crew was moved twice to POW camps, with some of the crew reporting on release they were starved and regularly tortured while in North Korean custody.

Eleven months after the seizure North Korea repatriated 82 *Pueblo* crewmen and one set of remains to the United States through Panmunjom. Upon signature of the US admitting to espionage in the coastal waters of the Sea of Japan, the 82 POWs were freed. Upon their return on December 28, 1968, the crew was treated poorly by the public and the military and only in 1990 did they receive the POW ribbons to which they were entitled.

*Pueblo* is still held by North Korea. In October 1999, it was towed from Wonsan on the east coast, around the Korean Peninsula, to Nampo on the west coast. This required moving the vessel through international waters. No attempt to recapture the *Pueblo* was made. This move was done just before the visit of US presidential envoy James Kelly to the capital Pyongyang. The present location of *Pueblo* is in Pyongyang.

*Editor*

**Cheryl Cerbone**  
 23 Cove View Drive  
 South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
 (508) 394-5250  
 (508) 760-2008 fax  
 editor@axpow.org

*Deadline for the March/April, 2007 issue is Feb. 1, 2007.*

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

**From the editor:**

- 2007 schedule of Bulletin deadlines  
 Jan. issue due Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 Feb. issue due Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>  
 March/April issue due Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>  
 May issue due March 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 June issue due April 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 July/Aug. issue due June 1<sup>st</sup>.  
 Sept. issue due July 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 Oct. issue due Aug 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 Nov/Dec issue due Oct 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Correction: 2007 Calendar**

The photograph "Surrender of Japan 1945" was incorrectly identified as Aomori prison camp. Aomori was located in the northern tip of Honshu. The picture was of camp Omori and was just south of Tokyo on Tokyo Bay. I was there and spent all my time in the guardhouse. William E. Price, 3215 Custer Lake Dr., Marietta, GA. 30064; e-mail pricew468@aol.com.

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# on capitol hill



**Les Jackson, Executive Director**  
National Capitol Office  
1722 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20421  
PO Box 30324, Bethesda, MD 20824  
(202) 530-9220; (202) 223-8818 fax  
(301) 951-0048 home; e-mail: lesjax@earthlink.net

**Charles Stenger, Ph.D, Legislative Co-Chairman**  
5709 Brewer House Circle, Rockville, MD 20852  
(301) 231-7555

**Mary Rolen, Legislative Co-Chairman**  
7450 Spring Village Dr. CC510  
Springfield, VA 22150  
(703) 923-9444

It is a strange atmosphere this time of year in your Nation's Capitol.

Everyone is busy finishing up last year's business, planning for next year. Christmas shopping, holiday parties and the city is full of visitors with a huge population of children of all ages enjoying the Christmas decorations all over town as they visit the usual attractions that make this city interesting, educational and beautiful. There is some serious business going on up on Capitol Hill. So many new Senators and Representatives have "opened the book" on the job market and "staff shoppers" are interviewing "job shoppers". This is the fine art of staff building just the right combination for success in this new and different world.

We do not, as yet, have our new "scorecard". We know who the "players" are by name, but we don't know what "slot" they are in. I was told, just yesterday, we will not know the members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee until late January. So while things are in a state of flux, it might be a good time to talk about something Congress struggles with every year - appropriations processes relating to discretionary funding of programs.

Adequate funding of VA Health Care has been an ongoing issue for many years. By the time Congress gets through the budget process, it comes up with something that leaves the VA short of funds. THE

INDEPENDENT BUDGET is a budget and policy document co-authored by AMVETS, DAV, Paralyzed Vets and VFW. It will be released for the 21<sup>st</sup> year in February. Copies will be sent to all members of Congress and the Administration.

This document is a collaborative of a united veteran advocacy commu-

nity that presents policy positions and budget recommendations on programs administered by the Veterans Administration. Your Washington office believes the VSOs should speak as one voice on issues that affect all veterans; we have, therefore, pledged our support of the Independent Budget along with more than sixty other VSOs.

Les

## American Former POWs Still Alive as of Dec. 31, 2006

(Preliminary unofficial estimates by Charles A. Stenger, PhD, AXPOW)

War	Originally Returned to US Control	Alive as of Dec. 31, 2004	Alive as of Dec. 31, 2006
WWII	116,129	29,850	23,110
Korea	4,418	2,100	1,850
VN	661	587	570
TOTALS	121,208	32,537	25,530

Note (1) Dr. Stenger estimated death rates as of Dec. 31, 2006 to be 12% annually for WWII and 6% for Korea. VN data is based through Dec. 31, 2004 on actual name count but estimated by Dr. Stenger for Dec. 31, 2006. A small number of post VN POWs has not been included in this data.

Note (2) Survival rates of WWII (South Pacific) POWs have remained of special interest since approximately 40% died in captivity compared to less than 2% for WWII (Europe) POWs. The former were held under the control of Japan, a non-signer of the Geneva Convention. They were held far longer under more adverse conditions. Specific data concerning survival of this group is not available. Applying the 12% death rate utilized for all WWII POWs, approximately 800 of the original 15,000 who survived captivity in the South Pacific would be estimated to be alive as of Dec. 31, 2006. The actual number, however, could be considerably lower.

Note (3) Official annual updates for all POWs is prepared by VA Office of Policy, Planning and Preparedness (OPP+P). The above estimates were prepared for the VA POW Advisory Committee at the suggestion of Linda Piquet, VBA liaison to the Committee.

# VA Outreach S\*O\*O\*N Before it's too late

**NSO Fred Campbell, Chairman**  
3312 Chatterton Dr.  
San Angelo, TX 76904  
325-944-4002; [fredrev@webtv.net](mailto:fredrev@webtv.net)  
**Committee members:**  
NSO Frank Kravetz (412) 824-2674;  
ND Bill Richardson (910) 864-7318

## Many Ways of Outreach And Happy Surprises Happen!

"We exist to help those who cannot help themselves."

Mrs. B. in Marion, NC, gets her VA widow's benefit with help of this AXPOW Service Officer. She knew nothing about AXPOW or VA benefits she might be eligible for since her husband had been a German POW in WWII. Now she is an AXPOW member.

But that's not all. She calls to tell me of another former POW widow in that town, whose husband in April, 1945, had been a German POW for FOUR HOURS, shot through a lung, bandaged and left roadside to be retrieved by advancing American troops. He had died in 2001 of "adult respiratory stress syndrome," not a POW presumptive, but cardiac-contributing.

Fantastic VA POW Coordinator in Winston-Salem VARO, Jeff Henderson, says it doesn't look promising, but he would research it. Two weeks later, Jeff calls. "That four-hour POW's medical records confirm he WAS a German POW, left behind when the Germans retreated. Let's start this widow's claim today!

I faxed AXPOW power of attorney form for widow's signature, form to be faxed on to Jeff that day.

Looking good. Word of mouth. And VA Outreach for POWs and widows.

And an Outreach project in Michigan: NSO Edward "Kaz" Kazmierczak, is contacting every POW or widow of the three Michigan AXPOW chapters to make sure they are receiving all the VA benefits due them.

If every state's AXPOW leaders would do likewise, they would help many POWs, and especially widows, many of whom are not aware of VA benefits available for them.

And so many do not understand the value of ChampVA for Life, the FREE Medicare Supplement available for spouses/widows of POWs with the 100% disability rating (including unemployability); some have never heard of it. Outreach!

From George Murray, Adjutant, 86<sup>th</sup> Chemical Bn. Association: "Received the Battalion History you found for us. Another bit of history to pass around at our reunion for everyone to read. Also, thanks for information on VA benefits for ex-POWs. I'll publish it as written in our next Battalion newsletter."

HOW ABOUT YOUR OUTFIT? Does it have a publication that our POW Benefit Alert should go in? Please let us know. Help!

Recent calls to other Nebraska POWs where AXPOW has just one NSO, Dennis Pavlik in Omaha: 2 applications for DIC; 1 for Aid & Attendance; 2 for unemployability, 70% & 90% to 100%; 14 for ChampVA info; plus one for POW Protocol Exam.

# SUCCESS

The rewards for us volunteer AXPOW National Service Officers come with messages like this:

To Irwin Stovroff in Boca Raton, FL: "Dear Irwin, I must document my feelings about your efforts for Rosemary and me. Until now our monthly budget was out of balance. We were going to run out of money except for Social Security.

Now, with your efforts and tenacity you have solved the problem. Thank you for your wise counsel, the kind way that you communicated with me, and our encouragement. You stayed with the problems until you secured the 100% disability that you wanted for me. I have written to Doris Jenks documenting my thanks to her and the X-POW organization. Most Sincerely, Henry W." (FL). Incidentally, Irwin has to pay for his invalid wife's care so he can go do claims at the VA.

TO NC Robert W. Fletcher in Ann Arbor, MI: "Dear Commander Fletcher, I want to thank you and Fred Campbell plus Jackson MS VA's Nancy Mullins and Dr. Jo Harbour for helping me get my DIC. After 10 years trying and being told by everyone I talked with I was not eligible, I had given up on ever receiving it. I still can't believe it; I think I'm dreaming and will wake up and find it all a mistake. Again, thank you, if you and Mr. Campbell had not taken an interest in me, I would never have received it. Thank you so much, Irma B." (SC)

"Dear Mr. C.: I am one of your success stories from last year. A year ago this month (Sept.), you called and in December my \$1,033 check started. Now I do not have to depend on my children to help me financially. Thanks to you. I want to commend you for all the good you are doing for so many widows who, like myself, did not know the VA had benefits for us. I cannot

## outreach cont...

thank you enough. Sincerely, Jewell C." (OK)

"Dear Mr. C.: Thank you so much for your concern and help to our Ex-POWs. The POW organization is truly the greatest. Thank you again. Sincerely, Reba C." (AR)

"Mr. C.: This letter has been way too long in getting to you. Thank you so much for having me on your list to contact for ChampVA. After getting my meds and other help, I sure have seen where my income stretches further.

I am on cancer medication; it was costing me about \$300 a month before ChampVA, so I am eternally grateful to you for your call and application follow-up. Sincerely, Shirley C." (TX)

It would be great to have a chance to read all the grateful letters, like the above, that we National Service Officers receive. They and those happy phone calls, "I got a letter today from the VA. I got my DIC, effective a year ago!"

Now that makes for a nice first check. And all us NSOs are grateful for the available AXPOW financial help for phone and postage expense, etc., especially as help to NSOs who are widows on more limited incomes than former POW NSOs with VA's 100% DC benefit.

It truly makes it possible for some to continue doing this volunteer work. Because "we do exist to help those who cannot help themselves."



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January 2007

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## nso



### Doris Jenks, National Service Director~ Training

1120 Daleside Lane  
New Port Richey, Fl. 34655  
(727) 372-7238 - Home  
(727) 319-5914 - Office  
dorisjenks@juno.com

### NEW DISABILITY COMPENSATION RATES EFFECTIVE 12/1/06 -

3.3% COLA This will be paid in your January, 2007 check.

	Veteran	Veteran w/ spouse
10%	\$115	-
20%	\$225	-
30%	\$348	\$389
40%	\$501	\$556
50%	\$712	\$781
60%	\$901	\$984
70%	\$1,135	\$1,232
80%	\$1,319	\$1,430
90%	\$1,483	\$1,608
100%	\$2,471	\$2,610

Add \$295 to 100% rate for those with Special Monthly Compensation.

Dependents and Indemnity Compensation: \$1,067.

Add \$228 if veteran was rated disabled 8 continuous years prior to death and surviving spouse was married to veteran those same 8 years.

If surviving spouse is entitled to Aid and Attendance, Add \$265.

If surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound, Add \$126.

At this time, I wish to thank all the AXPOW National Service Officers who have spent many hours "Helping those who cannot help themselves". Remember the mileage reimbursement is now \$.40 a mile. I hope this will encourage some additional widows and next-of-kin to become active as National Service Officers.

We are pleased to have the next-of-kin and widows in our organization who are working so hard to help Former POWs and/or their widows to file for their entitlements.

But I am disturbed by an article in the Nov./Dec. Bulletin stated by Eva Moore that she thought this was an all volunteer service. THIS IT CERTAINLY IS. Many of us work many hours at the VA, at meetings, at conventions and many hours at home. I learned at the convention, many of the NSOs travel to Former POW and/or widows homes to complete the necessary paperwork. The monetary payment we receive is only for expenses incurred doing our volunteer work.

The total expenses last year for all expenses by our National Service Officers, was less than \$10,000. This the retroactive monetary payment being reimbursed by the Foundation to the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization for the NSO expenses for the past year. The return from this reimbursement, which is now again being supported by the Foundation, has overwhelmingly helped thousands "who cannot help themselves".

It's the Former POW and/or widow who cannot afford to attend the convention who need the help.....Again, thanks to anyone who has helped someone file for their benefits.

Doris Jenks



# pow medsearch

ND Lawrence Strickland, Chairman  
e-mail: butchstrick@yahoo.com

35109 Hwy 79 South #63  
Warner Springs, CA 92086  
(760) 782-0538

*Packet #5 (What Every POW's Wife Should Know Before She is Your Widow) has been updated again, with much time and effort on the part of Marlene Agnes, to include the most recent laws and benefits published. The packet may be purchased from National Headquarters. Cost of the updated packet is \$15.00~includes S/H.*

## Memory Loss and Aging

*Compiled by Marsha Coke from the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging*

### What is memory?

At its simplest level, memory is a mental activity for recalling information that has been learned or experienced. It involves receiving, retaining and retrieving data—much like our computers. You might think of the process as “the 3Rs of memory”.

**Registration.** The brain's cerebral cortex registers nerve messages from our eyes, ears, and touch sensors. This stimulus is held for a fraction of a second in the “sensory memory.”

But unless you pay attention to the image for approximately eight uninterrupted seconds to encode it into short-term memory, it will be lost. The slightest interference at this stage will wipe the newly acquired information from our consciousness. This may be one reason teachers are always exhorting students to “Pay attention!”

**Retention.** Short-term memory (STM) is the brain's system for remembering information that is “in use.” It's similar to the “working memory” on a computer. STM allows you to perform activities such as calling a phone number you've just looked up.

But, as with computers, STM doesn't reliably hold on to information, and there is no mental “save” function we can click on

while working. It also has limited storage capacity—seven items, plus or minus two. If STM tries to acquire more items than it can handle, the middle items will often be displaced. This is why it's helpful to make a shopping list for the week's groceries.

When items that have been registered and retained in STM move into long-term memory (LTM), it's akin to putting the information on your computer's hard drive. LTM has unlimited capacity to retain information over an extended period of time.

**Retrieval.** Finding information now becomes the issue. Is the memory you want in an easily accessible “folder” on your brain's hard drive, or randomly scattered in files all over your mental “desktop?”

When something is on the tip of your tongue and you can't quite get it, that's a retrieval problem. It means you paid attention—you registered it, you retained it, you did something with it, but you can't quite get it out.

Retrieval difficulty can be frustrating. It is important to remember that you have a database full of information, and your brain may have to search through many decades of storage to find the relevant information.

### How does the brain store information?

Information is stored in different parts of your memory. Information stored in the short-term memory may include the name of a person you met moments ago. Information stored in the recent memory may include what you ate for breakfast.

Information stored in the remote memory includes things that you stored in your memory years ago, such as memories of childhood.

### How does aging change the brain?

Beginning when you're in your 20s, you begin to lose brain cells a few at a time. Your body also starts to make less of the chemicals your brain cells need to work. The older you are, the more these changes can affect your memory.

Aging may affect memory by changing the way your brain stores information and by making it harder to recall stored information.

Your short-term and remote memories aren't usually affected by aging. But your recent memory may be affected. You may forget names of people you've met recently. These are normal changes.

### Things to help you remember

Keep lists.  
Follow a routine.  
Make associations (connect things in your mind), such as using landmarks to help you find places.  
Keep a detailed calendar.  
Put important items, such as your keys, in the same place every time.  
Repeat names when you meet new people.  
Do things that keep your mind and body busy.

Run through the ABC's in your head to help you think of words you're having trouble remembering.

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## medsearch continued...

ing. "Hearing" the first letter of a word may jog your memory.

### What about when I know a word but can't recall it?

This is usually just a glitch in your memory. You'll almost always remember the word with time. This may become more common as you age. It can be very frustrating, but it's not usually serious.

### What are some other causes of memory problems?

Many things other than aging can cause memory problems. These include depression, other illnesses, dementia (severe problems with memory and thinking, such as Alzheimer's disease), side effects of drugs, strokes, a head injury and alcoholism.

### How can I tell if my memory problems are serious?

A memory problem is serious when it affects your daily living. If you sometimes forget names, you're probably okay. But you may have a more serious problem if you have trouble remembering how to do things you've done many times before, getting to a place you've been to often, or doing things that use steps, like following a recipe.

Another difference between normal memory problems and dementia is that normal memory loss doesn't get much worse over time. Dementia gets much worse over several months to several years.

It may be hard to figure out on your own if you have a serious problem. Talk to your family doctor about any concerns you have. Your doctor may be able to help you if your memory problems are caused by a

medicine you're taking or by depression.

### Memory problems that aren't part of normal aging

Forgetting things much more often than you used to  
Forgetting how to do things you've done many times before  
Trouble learning new things  
Repeating phrases or stories in the same conversation  
Trouble making choices or handling money  
Not being able to keep track of what happens each day

## Alzheimer's Disease (AD)

### Risk Factors We Can't Control

**Age** is the most important known risk factor for AD. The risk of developing the disease doubles every 5 years over age 65. Several studies estimate that up to half the people older than 85 have AD. These facts are significant because of the growing number of people 65 and older. More than 34 million Americans are now 65 or older. Even more significant, the group with the highest risk of AD—those older than 85—is the fastest growing population group in the country.

**Genetics** is the other known AD risk factor that a person can't control. Scientists have found genetic links to the two forms of AD. Early-onset AD is a very rare form of the disease that can occur in people between the ages of 30 and 65. In the 1980s and early 1990s, researchers found that mutations (or changes) in certain genes on three chromosomes cause early-onset AD. If a parent has any of these genetic mutations, his or her child has a 50-50 chance of inheriting the mutant gene and developing early-onset AD.

Late-onset AD, the more common form, develops after age 65. In 1992, researchers found that cer-

tain forms of the apolipoprotein E (APOE) gene can influence AD risk: Researchers are now intensively searching for other risk factor genes that may be linked to late-onset AD. Discovering these genes is essential for understanding the very early biological steps leading to AD and for pinpointing targets for drug development and other prevention or treatment strategies. It's also critical for developing better ways to identify people at risk and determining how AD risk factor genes may interact with other genes or with lifestyle or environmental factors to affect AD risk in any one individual.

In 2003, the NIA announced a major expansion of AD genetics research efforts. The AD Genetics Study is collecting genetic material from individuals in families with two or more living brothers or sisters who have late-onset AD. This valuable resource will allow geneticists to speed up the discovery of additional AD risk factor genes.

### How does Alzheimer's disease change memory?

Alzheimer's disease starts by changing the recent memory. At first, a person with Alzheimer's disease will remember even small details of his or her distant past but not be able to remember recent events or conversations. Over time, the disease affects all parts of the memory.

These days, it seems that newspapers, magazines, and TV are full of stories about ways to stay healthy, eat right, and keep fit. Lots of people are concerned about staying healthy as they get older. They wonder whether they can do anything to prevent diseases that happen more often with age, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD). AD has no known cure, and the secrets to preventing it are not yet known. But research supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and other public and private agencies offers

## medsearch continued...

tantalizing clues about the origins and development of AD. These findings are raising hopes that someday it might be possible to delay the onset of AD, slow its progress, or even prevent it altogether. Delaying by even 5 years the time when AD symptoms begin could greatly reduce the number of people who have the disease.

The National Institute on Aging, part of the Federal Government's National Institutes of Health, has primary responsibility for research on AD and age-related decline in cognitive abilities (such as thinking, decision-making, and language skills). This responsibility is part of a larger mission to understand the nature of aging and find ways to help people stay physically, emotionally, and cognitively healthy for as long as possible.

Several years ago, NIA, the National Institute of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke launched The Cognitive and Emotional Health Project, which has begun to identify and describe the diverse lifestyle factors that possibly affect the emotional health and cognitive abilities of older adults. Further research on the most promising factors will be necessary to determine whether any will result in strategies that can help people remain mentally and emotionally vibrant as they age. The hope is that successful strategies will also contribute to our knowledge of what goes wrong in the brain during the development of neurodegenerative diseases like AD.

### Organizations

Alzheimer's Association  
<http://www.alz.org>  
800-272-3900

National Institute on Aging  
Information Center  
<http://www.nia.nih.gov/>  
800-438-4380

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# Andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Alan\_Marsh@nps.gov  
Kandace\_Muller@nps.gov

## Andersonville Remembers Veterans Day

Over 300 volunteers worked all day on Saturday, November 11, 2006 to prepare 13,000 luminaries to display for visitors on the evening of the National Holiday to remember the sacrifice of all veterans. The volunteers came from metro Atlanta, Middle and South Georgia to assist park staff with the tribute.

A luminary was prepared for each of the union prisoners and confederate guards who died at Camp



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Sumter, also known as Andersonville. The luminaries were placed inside the 26 ½ acre prison site along with the hospital site. Outside the prison site 236 luminaries were placed to represent the confederate guards that also died at the infamous prison.

By approximately 5:00 PM all the luminaries were lit. A thunderstorm put all the candles out but that did not dampen the resolve of the volunteers. Over 100 people quickly went out and lit all the candles again. Visitors drove through the park after dark to see the candles representing those who died.

The park's first ever luminary was initiated and planned by the Friends of Andersonville President, Mark Stibitz. The Friends also paid for all the supplies needed for the project along with meals for the volunteers. Funding was provided by the Andersonville Trust, an endowment fund established by the Friends to support park projects.

Earlier in the day, a procession of 250+ motorcycles came to the park for a Veterans Day observance. Several speakers made presentations about war time experiences.

The program culminated in taps being played by seven different buglers from the north end of the park to the National Cemetery where the program was being held. This was a part of the Bugles Across America's Echo Taps program. Bugles Across America is an organization that plays taps for veterans funerals. This group is supporting a program to play taps in every National Cemetery in the na-

tion and those overseas administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Although this was done for Veterans Day, it is planned on a much larger scale for Armed Forces Day on May 19, 2007.



Also, on Veterans Day, Former POW Colonel Ben Purcell was at the National POW Museum to sign his book, *In Love and Duty*.

## Lead Park Ranger, Joan Stibitz, To Retire

After 30 years of government service, Joan Stibitz will be retiring in January 2007. Joan has been the Lead Park Ranger at Andersonville for over 10 years.

She was responsible for the interpretive program and the daily operation of the National Prisoner of War Museum. She served as the retail sales coordinator, arranged all tours and served as volunteer coordinator among many other duties. She was instrumental in the development of the National POW Museum making sure that it would meet the needs of thousands of visitors who have toured it since opening in 1998. Joan also coordinated the development of the orientation video *Voices of Andersonville* and new exhibit *Who is a POW* opened in September 2006.

Joan's professionalism and dedication will be missed but more so her friendship as she moves on to retirement.

# NamPOW news



Paul E. Galanti  
804.675.5213 (o)  
804.675.5218 (fax)  
804.389.1668 (cell)  
pgalanti@comcast.net

## Power, Power, POWER!!!

Power, Power, POWER!!! This radio call from the Navy landing signal officer - usually delivered in a very high-pitch - means that the offending pilot is making a very poor pass at the ship. It typically is preceded by several other corrective comments none of which was heeded or was over-controlled until Power, Power, POWER!!! is shrieked over the radio for all to hear. Throughout the ship, all eyes near one of the TV monitors viewing the carrier landings are glued to the screen.

It is typically followed by flashing wave-off lights telling the pilot to go around and try it again. Or a late, airborne engagement of the arresting cable resulting in the aircraft (and pilot) being slammed hard into the flight deck usually breaking the airplane and, often, the pilot's back. Worst case scenario, if the pilot fails to react quickly enough, is a large fireball on the stern of the ship as the airplane hits the ramp.

The landing signal officer's purpose is to bring order to what can be a very frightening experience particularly if compounded by inexperience on the pilot's part, bad weather with rough seas and a pitching deck or equipment problems with the airplane.

Worthy of note is that the pilot's approach was monitored over an

extended period of time with suggested corrections offered by the LSO. For whatever reason, the corrections were disregarded or overdone resulting in the *in extremis* condition precipitating the Power, Power, POWER!!! call from the LSO.

If the pass goes wrong, the late pilot is remembered fondly at his memorial service as the survivors reminisce over their lost friend while mentally congratulating themselves that they would *never* make the same mistakes as their friend did since they were each the best (in their own minds) and their late buddy just didn't quite have, you know, *The Right Stuff*.

There are analogies throughout life when deteriorating situations are signaled potential corrections in advance. Often, those signals are disregarded. Typically after the enterprise train wreck, the *post mortem* shows that everybody knew it was coming but the (by now) scapegoat is punished for something the rest now feel was solely his fault. It's just human nature. You know, he just didn't have *The Right Stuff* like the hot shot test pilots in Tom Wolfe's magnificent novel.

As the POWs in this organization know well, there were probably things that transpired over which they really had no control, but could - and should - have happened a little differently. Things which would have spared them much grief and discomfort. Most came from their POW experience - whether of very short duration such as our current crop from Iraq, or the Ev Alvarez's or Jimmy Thompson's and their nearly nine-year incarcerations. Things that had them vowing never to make these silly mistakes again.

Yet, being human, they do. Maybe they're given a little dispensation because of their experience but the fact remains that these former POWs, being human, disregarded the warning signals, disregarded

the Power, Power, POWER!!! calls from some of their comrades.

There are things in the AXPOW organization that are approaching the **hit the ramp** mode. Instead of enjoying each others' company there is active conflict among competing entities - none of which is significant (if, secret, back door agendas are disregarded). Such things as retaliation shown in an "us versus them" mindset, or back door "lobbyists" bending the ears of those in power can destroy an organization as swiftly as the out-of-control landing pass on an aircraft carrier whose warnings are disregarded.

In reality, while modern day aircraft use electronics to avoid the flight deck crashes, accidents are possible. In reality, although we ex-POWs ought to have much in common, there is still too much concern over truly insignificant issues. So let's watch the hidden agendas. Let's let those elected to make decisions make them - when necessary - and not simply try to re-invent flat tires as a show of ego.

By concentrating on the ball, by remaining true to our mission, by keeping our AXPOW airplane on the glide slope, lined up on the angled deck and on airspeed, we can achieve the perfect pass. That's written in the LSO logbook as an "OK 3" (Fine pass, snagged the "#3 wire).

And, instead of a frantic POWER! call, we'll get an OK-3.



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## pow-mia



### PNC John Edwards, Chairman

889 Randall Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309-4815  
(518) 393-3907 phone & fax

POW/MIA car-window decals are available at a cost of \$20 per 100 by sending a check to the League office at 1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 170, Arlington, VA 22201. POW/MIA lapel pins are also available at \$3 each or 2/\$5. For added information please contact the League's web site at [www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org) or call the national office at 703-465-7432. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message.

### US Personnel Missing From the Vietnam War

The number missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 1,795 - 1,372 in Vietnam, 362 in Laos, 54 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC territorial waters. A total of 785 US personnel have been accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of the 1,798 still missing, including 90+ US personnel last known alive (LKA), were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnamese war-time control.

### Marine & Two Air Force Officers from Vietnam War Identified

The Department of Defense POW/ Missing Personnel Office (DPMO)

announced that the remains of three U.S. servicemen, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Pfc. James E. Widener, U.S. Marine Corps, of Churchville, N.Y. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

On June 11, 1967, Widener was one of 11 passengers on board a CH-46A Sea Knight helicopter that was inserting ground forces into Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, when the aircraft crashed. Pilots from two nearby helicopters saw the crash and reported that none of the men on board could have survived.

Among dental records and other forensic tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA from two known maternal relatives to confirm the identification.

Col. Charles J. Scharf of San Diego was buried at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Col. Scharf and a fellow crew member took off in their F-4C Phantom IIs from Ubon Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand on October 1, 1965. After he completed two bombing runs, Scharf's aircraft was hit by enemy fire. His radio transmission of "Mayday, Mayday, Mayday" was heard by the other two aircraft. One radioed "Gator 3 (Scharf's call sign), you're on fire, you'd better get out! Bail out, Gator 3!" Scharf's plane began to disintegrate and a parachute was seen leaving the aircraft.

Excavations near the crash site yielded human remains, a dental prosthesis, numerous personal effects including pilot-related life-support artifacts, a metal captain's insignia (Scharf's rank at the time) and a plastic denture tooth.

Among dental records and other forensic tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) also attempted to use mitochondrial DNA from a known maternal relative to establish the identification. However, the tests were inconclusive. From Scharf's widow, they obtained a number of envelopes containing letters he had sent to her during the war. AFDIL specialists were able to extract mitochondrial DNA from the gummed adhesive on those envelopes, and JPAC was able to confirm the identification.

Maj. Charles L. Bifulchi, U.S. Air Force, of Quincy, Mass was buried Oct. 27 at Arlington National Cemetery.

On Jan. 8, 1968, Bifulchi and a fellow crewmember were flying an armed reconnaissance mission against enemy targets in Kon Tum Province, South Vietnam, when their RF-4C aircraft disappeared. A U.S. Army helicopter crew found their aircraft wreckage soon after first light the next day.

Between 1993 and 2000, U.S. and Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted two surveys of an area that was believed to be Bifulchi's crash site. Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA from a known maternal relative in the identification of the remains.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) or call (703) 699-1169.

## civilians

Ted Cadwallader - Chairman  
9501 Nut Tree Ct.  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
(916) 685-5369  
[dcadwall@aol.com](mailto:dcadwall@aol.com)

### Accepting Responsibility for Wartime Crimes

The recent underground test of a nuclear device in the rogue state of North Korea has focused world attention on the evolving balance of power in that part of the world. Japan-U.S. relations remain a key to stability and deterrence in the Far East. That these relations remain stable and strong seems a sine qua non in maintaining an effective support of this deterrence.

Unfortunately, the American government has apparently determined that an adverse view of Japan's past will undermine this stability and these good relations.

There seems to be some sort of program to induce a state of historical amnesia in regard to aspects of Japan's wartime actions, aspects about which many members of AXPOW feel acute concern.

Two recent incidents point this up.

First, according to an article in Harper's, an effort was made to pass a resolution in Congress condemning Japan's "comfort women" program during World War II and urging reparations to those who suffered or their families.

This resolution was on the point of passing when action on it was blocked by the Administration's pressure on Congressional leaders.

According to the article, the Japanese government employs a very high-priced lobbyist in Washington to block and smother Congress-

sional or other actions that might express US public concern over Japan's war record and atrocities.

A story in a recent edition of the Japanese daily, Yomiuri, told of a ceremony held at a Japanese temple in Osaka in commemoration of Allied military and civilian POWs who died in that city during captivity. The Consuls General from Great Britain, the Netherlands, Italy and India attended this commemoration.

Although by far the largest number of those who died was American, no American official, consular or otherwise, attended this opportunity to memorialize Americans who died while in Japanese captivity. A letter to the Secretary of State asking why this ceremony was officially snubbed remains unanswered.

It seems unconscionable that our own government should work to smother the memory of the tragic loss and suffering of its own citizens while in the service of the nation and to stifle efforts to gain recognition and compensation for that suffering.

In the final analysis, no true benefit will accrue from ignoring the crimes of WWII. No benefit will accrue to a government that ignores the wrongs done to its citizens through the arrogance of another, no matter how deep in the past these crimes occurred.

Spinelessness in the circumstance is unthinkable and unacceptable. A strong, principled and courageous stand by an organization such as AXPOW, speaking out firmly and clearly against any effort to whitewash what is history, what is the memory and the legacy of its members seems the proper, appropriate and courageous course of action.

We remember, and the rest of Asia remembers, particularly those countries such as China and Korea

who suffered brutal invasion and equally brutal occupation, Japan's military actions and crimes in WWII.

The growing military power factor in the balance of power equation in Asia will inevitably bring up the military role of Japan in this future situation. It seems to those of us who have suffered from Japan's military policies and adventures in the past, that no truly useful partnership can evolve unless and until Japan fully faces its responsibility for its wartime crimes. At present its policy seems to be the exact opposite.

There is official denial that these crimes occurred and indeed in some quarters almost a glorification of Japan's military aggression and brutality.

This is sobering and disheartening and surely it should not be the policy of our government to support such Japanese efforts to suppress the truth. Any significant increase in Japan's military posture will serve to awaken and revive the memories of its crimes of World War II.

Resolving the issue of the responsibility for wartime crimes will be the beginning of healing for us the past victims, and will no doubt be of benefit to Japan itself as it faces past and future generations. The American government should understand this and we are uniquely placed to bring this home to our leaders.

Curtis Brooks  
132 Pioneer Peak Place  
Las Vegas, NV 89138

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## events and information



**April 18-22, 2007. Anzio Beach-head Veterans of WWII 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion** will be held in Washington, DC. Contact John Boller, 1 Harbor North, Amityville, NY 11701; 631-691-5002.

**April 26-29, 2007. Stalag Luft III Ex-POW Reunion** will be held in Kansas City, KS. For more information, call Tom Thomas 630-668-0215 or Bob Weinberg 830-257-4643/ All are welcome.

**June 21-25, 2007. WWII PT Boats, Bases, Tenders 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion** will be held at the Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY. For more information, contact PT Tenders, Boats and Bases, PO Box 38070, Germantown, TN 38183; 901-755-8440; [www.ptboats.org](http://www.ptboats.org).

**August 15-18, 21007. 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion** will be held in Fairborn, OH at the Holiday Inn. For reservations, call 937-426-7800. Reunion Chairman, Elmer G. Dorsten, 208 N. Elm St., Coldwater, OH 45828; 419-678-2618.

**October 2007. The Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association, Inc. (SSMA)** will be celebrating the 64th Anniversary Reunion of "Black Thursday" (8th Air Force - Mission 115 over Schweinfurt, Germany on October 14, 1943) in Schweinfurt, Germany. (Tentative location for 2008 — Savannah, Georgia). For more information, please contact Julee and Bob MacDonald at 720-254-7418 or [juleemac@comcast.net](mailto:juleemac@comcast.net).

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HAPPY  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
to the  
Connecticut Chapter,  
AXPOW!  
Best Wishes to  
Commander Ed Giering  
and all chapter  
members!

looking  
for



My uncle **Daniel Kenny aka Kenney** was a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Corps during World War Two. He flew in B-17 and was shot down over the North Sea. He was captured by the Germans and spent twenty-two months in a POW camp. I believe he enlisted in late 1941 or early 1942. I believe his position was that of a waist gunner on the B-17. He lived in Cedar Knolls, NJ, which is outside of Morristown, NJ. After returning from the War he became a member of the Cedar Knolls Fire Department. He also worked as a bus driver for Public Service Coordinated Transport in Newark, NJ and DeCamp Bus Lines of Clifton, NJ. He has since passed on. Any information you may have on him would be appreciated. Daniel J. Daly 114 East Shore Road Denville, N.J. 07834.

I am trying to locate any ex-POW who might have known my uncle, **John Paul Phillips**. He was on the Bataan Death March and was interned in Camps #1, #3 and #5 in the Philippines and in Kyoto, Japan. He was listed as a 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt., SQ. A, 313 D, Army Air Force Base Unit. Please contact: Z. H. Hoover, 203

W. Dorchester Blvd., Greenville, SC 29605; 864-277-8990.

**Private Otto Colbert** 424<sup>th</sup> Infantry was killed in action. A Belgian is caring for his grave. From the KIA list I have: 424th Infantry Regiment Colbert, Otto W 33431206 Pvt KIA 01/01/44. Obviously an error on the date of death, but exactly as taken from the published list - I suspect 01/01/45 would be correct. That of course could be when he was discovered and not the actual date of death. My KIA List does not give the "Company" Private Colbert was in. If any of you know the Company of Private Colbert, please let me know. I can then check for Colbert's comrades and provide a means for the Belgian lad to make inquiries. Little enough to compensate a young Belgian who cares enough to adopt a grave of one of our comrades. If you recognize the name and can tie him to a unit - let me know.

Also...

I have a query and I cannot find any information to the subject WWII unit, the **277th Ordnance and Maintenance Company**. World War II Order of Battle doesn't list it. Apparently it was officially in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe under General Orders 33 WD45. Can anybody direct me to information on that unit.

Also...

I received a note from Life member Roy Sugimoto, Huntington Beach Ca asking what unit of the 106th they were attached to. He belonged to a group of **Japanese-Americans that were assigned to the 627th FAB** in occupation duties in May at Metterich (across from Koblenz) - they were sent to Heilbronn where they built and guarded POW's. He remarks - "I am sure someone would remember soldiering with a bunch of Orientals." John Kline, 11 Harold Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337-2786; 952-890-3155; Email: [jpk@mm.com](mailto:jpk@mm.com).

## looking for, continued...

My father **Robert R Hanna** served in Regimental HQ Company of the 422nd Regiment. I am currently **writing a screenplay and novel** about my father's and the men of the 106<sup>th</sup> and their experiences in the Bulge and as POWs. I am currently contacting former members of the 422nd/423rd/424th and conducting telephone interviews. If you would be willing to participate, please contact me by email at - [craigh1@comcast.net](mailto:craigh1@comcast.net) - by phone 856-217-0307 or by mail at - 14 Crawford Drive, Sicklerville, NJ 08081. I am also interested in anyone from any unit who was a POW at Stalag IXA or IXB. Also any surviving family members who may have information to provide are welcome. Thank you. Craig Elliott Hanna.

I am trying to locate **Lt Colonel John H. Van Vliet**, who commanded the 3rd Battalion of the 168th Infantry in WW II. He was captured on February 17, 1943 in North Africa. He was in several German prisoner of war camps, including Oflag 64, and was taken to see the Katyn massacre site as a German prisoner of war. He testified about his experience at Katyn during a House hearing in 1952. My mother, Nancy Heberden, was an army nurse and met him prior to his service in North Africa. She would like to locate him, if he is still alive. Thanks for any help that you can give me. I know that he gave an oral history of his experiences in the prisoner of war camps at one point. If anyone emails back, please put the name Van Vliet in the subject line, so I don't erase the message as spam. Sheila Avruch, 9122 Ashmeade Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032. [avruchs@aol.com](mailto:avruchs@aol.com).

I am seeking information about a small group of **Korean POW's** who were released on or about February 10, 1951. There were about thirty in the group. My late hus-

band, **Cpl. Thomas I. Gutierrez, Jr.**, from Denver, Colorado, was one of them. Also seeking information about members of his unit prior to his capture on November 30, 1950 near Kunu-ri. He served with the 2nd Infantry, 2nd Engineers Combat Battalion, Dog Company. If you have information to share, please contact me Gayle Gutierrez, 15756 Via Sonata, San Lorenzo, Ca 94580. [gayle@ceecom.net](mailto:gayle@ceecom.net).

I have information about some personal property belonging to **Richard Daramus** who was a POW at a Stalag during WWII. Mr. Daramus was from Pennsylvania and his wife from Shannon, North Carolina. Please send any information about Mr. Daramus' whereabouts or family members to me at [wfreccia@aol.com](mailto:wfreccia@aol.com) or Dr. William Freccia, 1312 Avon Street, Fayetteville, NC 28304. My phone number is (800) 763-5301. Thank you very much. William F. Freccia, DDS, LTC (Ret), US Army Dental Corps USMA '67.

I am always searching for anyone who may have known my great-uncle, **Pvt. John T. (JT) Stanton**. He trained at Ft. Knox and went on to Camp Polk, with the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tank Battalion HQ Company in the fall of 1941. They all subsequently shipped out to the Philippines via San Francisco. Like all the others, he was captured when the order to surrender came and eventually died at Cabanatuan on 30 August, 1941. Cara St.Louis-Farrelly, 165 Purcell Ave, Bardstown, KY 40004; [ctottenham@aol.com](mailto:ctottenham@aol.com).

Still looking to correspond with Stalag Luft III POWs who drew the **Donald Duck "I Wanted Wings"** design in their camp diary. I have located and interviewed the creator of the insignia and would like to have additional stories to add to my research. The information I collect will be published in a book I am writing. I'd also like to hear from you if you had any role in the so called "Great Escape," or if you

were on the forced march to Moosburg. If you'd like to participate, either email or snail mail me at either of the following addresses. David Lesjak Box 93016 Willowbrook P.O., Langley British Columbia, Canada V3A 8H2 [powresearch@yahoo.com](mailto:powresearch@yahoo.com).

My grandfather, **Ira Shelton**, now deceased, was a POW at Stalag IXB at Bad Orb. He was captured on December 17, 1944 during the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge in Hosingen, Lux. In some of the writings we have, he listed the following men that he shared a Red Cross box with: Elmer W. Gunnerson; Johnny Green; Chas. A Vosta; George Modrak; Audley D. Williams; Jack R. Meacham; L.D. Cowart; Andrew O'Shauhnessy; Philip K. Fried; James T. Callahan. I would, of course, be interested in talking with anyone who has information regarding Stalag IXB but particularly with anyone who knew my grandfather, who was a lovely human being. I'm so glad he survived so we could know him! Thanks! Teresa Pittman 2428 Jackson Parkway, Vienna, VA 22180 or [thepittmans@earthlink.net](mailto:thepittmans@earthlink.net).

I am looking for any information on my grandfather, **George V. Spraggins**. He was with the 398th Bomb Group, 603rd Squadron. He was shot down over Merseburg, Germany on Nov. 21, 1944. He was then a POW at Stalag Luft 1, at Barth. If anyone has any information about him or any other members of the Buzza/Hastings crew please contact me. Thank you! Beth Gaines, 2210 Plaen View Dr., Iowa City, IA 52246; (319) 339-1890.

Anyone who was on the **Work Detail in Plauen IV Germany** from January 1945 to April 1945 please contact me. Don Keysor, 267 Lariat Loop, Lincoln CA 95648 or 916-408-7445.

# Members'

## forum



### **An Open Letter to the AXPOW Membership Regarding Funding**

Unless drastic measures are taken, and we become innovative in our funding methods, it has been estimated that the American EX-Prisoners of war organization will only be able to function, and carry out our intended purpose for approximately three more years. Times have changed dramatically since the inception of our organization in 1949, with little or no adjustment on our part to face these changes financially, although costly services have been extended, and rightly so, to all members. If we are to continue to exist, and fulfill our purpose, American EX-Prisoners of War must change with them.

Operating funds to keep our organization going have increased over the years, however operating expenses have also increased. Currently the AXPOW organization has approximately 22,000 members of which only 2000 pay an annual fee. The other 20,000 members, or 90%, are life members which are not required to pay an annual fee, which does not generate income. Postage, and printing for educational purposes, such as the Bulletin have increased considerably, resulting in fewer mailings to keep under budget. NSO and outreach programs fulfill our purpose possibly more than any other program existing within our organization today.

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These are costly items and must be continued, and have seen increased costs. In only one area, our direct mail programs, have we seen consistent increases in donations. Our membership is to be applauded.

More recently, legal costs to defend our organization against a filed lawsuit to assure the retention of the AXPOW name which was in jeopardy, has been a costly. This resulted in an additional cost of approximately \$50,000.

All operating costs, mailing, traveling, printing, communications, maintaining an office and business technology have increased, where revenue has remained constant. All these functions are critical in meeting the needs of POWs, especially as we advance in age.

If we fail in this effort, the communication arm of the organization, the Bulletin, will cease to be published. The NSO program will no longer function properly.....to seek out POWs who need help, and to assist widows under the DIC program. We will lose the strength of our National Directors, who seek legislation through Congress for the benefit for current and future POWs, in the realm of presumptives. We will lose the comradeship that we enjoy today through our contact with other POWs.

Therefore, if we are sincere in seeing that aging POWs, dependents, and new members are adequately cared for, new areas of funding must be explored.

In talking directly with the Chief Financial Officers with such organizations such as VFW, America Legion, Purple Heart, and DAV it was found that some are experiencing similar problems as we, however not quite as severe, and some have introduced plans to alleviate the problem.

The VFW at their National Convention in Nevada, August 31, in-

creased their annual fees, and a new program was announced and approved by the membership, known as Legacy Life Membership. Their program will be publicized thoroughly throughout their 1.5 million members, through their own and other publications, and will include a formal program soliciting a volunteer annual fee from all members, based on age.

At the National Convention in Nashville, October 3-8, 2006, I presented a paper, patterned after the VFW approved program to our entire membership present, recommending that our membership approve a similar program as that of the VFW's Legacy Life Membership, knowing a positive vote taken and passed by the membership would lend credence to the program and announce that we are sincere in our efforts to carry out our intended purpose. I proposed and requested that Commander Harvey entertain a motion and a vote of the entire membership to provide a formal program whereby the entire membership would be assessed an annual fee based on ability to pay on a voluntary basis from \$10.00 up, on \$5.00 increments beginning June 2007. As of this writing, I would change the wording from "assessed" to given an opportunity to contribute.

I recommended that the program be coordinated by the National Office, within the confines of a committee through a formal well publicized mail out program and other means as felt necessary to be successful. Emphasis was to be placed on a formal well publicized program. The current program requesting donations on a volunteer basis from chapters, individuals, and state departments has been quite productive, but is now faltering due to the lack of a positive formal program.

I realize that the majority of our members are life members, and under the Bylaws are exempt from

# members forum continued...

annual fees. However, Bylaws can be changed when it means the continued success or destruction of an organization.

After the motion was presented, a question was raised by member George Coker, now Judge Advocate, as to whether the membership present at the convention could vote for the entire membership, including those not present, requiring a volunteer fee. It should be pointed out that the members present at a convention voting, which will affect the entire membership, is a common practice, when we vote on a location for the next convention for instance. I would call your attention to Article XIII, National Convention, section F. Number 4, which states...Voting on all business at the national convention shall be by the members present in assembly at the time a vote is called.

In his letter of September 18, 2006, chairman of the Budget Committee, then Sr. Vice Commander Robert Fletcher, now National Commander made this comment...."If we are to face financial reality, some very tough decisions need to be made by the Board of Directors regarding AXPOW funding. Commander Fletcher made nine suggestions on how to either increase revenue, or decrease expenses in order to meet the downfall we will be experiencing. I especially agree with his suggestion number 4, which states, "Raising more money from members and friends if they are willing and able to give, with emphasis on willing and able".

After having said all this, the purpose of this article is to determine how the entire membership feels about the continued success of our organization, and would agree with a formal, well publicized thought out program that would give all

members an opportunity to contribute an annual fee on a volunteer basis. Ten dollars (\$10.00) annually is a small amount to pay that will assist in our continued support of POWs and dependents.

IN ORDER TO DETERMINE IF WE SHOULD PURSUE THIS RECOMMENDATION FURTHER, TO ASSURE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF OUR ORGANIZATION, PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE BULLETIN, OR SEND TO ME DIRECTLY.

Morris Barker, National Director  
4010 E. Everglade  
Odessa, Texas 79762  
national@grandecom.net

## Mrs. Coke,

I am requesting permission to reprint the article on "Presumptive Service Connected Disabilities" from the Nov/Dec Edition of EXPOW Bulletin. I would like to forward this article to all of our accredited service officers in the field as a training aid and reference tool. All of our VSO's are accredited by AXPOW. This is a great article and one that I think will be helpful to all who serve our veterans.

Mark Sullivan, Training Manager  
Alabama Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
[mark.sullivan@va.alabama.gov](mailto:mark.sullivan@va.alabama.gov)

## Cheryl:

This is an update regarding a Purple Heart for those who have died while a Prisoner of War since December 7 1941. The bill is called, "Honor Our Fallen Prisoner of War Act."

This bill passed the House and the Senate and was attached to the Defense Authorization Bill. Senator John Warner who was the Chair for that committee decided that the issue should go to the President. The President by law has until 1 April 2007 to say yea or nay on this issue. If he says nay he will have to explain his action to the House and Senate committees.

There are now 36 Veterans organizations, including the AXPOW and

the MOPH. These Veterans organizations have a collective membership of over 8 million. With immediate family and extended family and friends this figure could easily expand by many more millions. In Peace and Freedom,  
Shorty Estabrook  
Founder of the Tiger Survivors  
President of the Tiger Survivors

## From the Adjutant:

I have been asked if I am retiring from my position as National Adjutant. Please be advised that I am not retiring or quitting. I have submitted my resume for the position I now hold.

Clydie J. Morgan

## From the ByLaws Committee:

All requested changes to the National Bylaws are to be submitted as follows:

Resolutions have two major parts: a preamble and a resolution. The preamble gives the reason for the resolution. The resolution gives the intent. Each can contain one or more paragraphs and the whole is read in its entirety, beginning with the preamble. Each preamble paragraph begins with "Whereas" and ends with "and" to connect it to the next paragraph. The final paragraph is joined to the resolution with a semicolon and followed by the phrase "Therefore, be it"

Whereas, (ETC); and  
Whereas (ETC); therefore, be it  
Resolved, that \_\_\_\_\_

One signature is required on resolutions and amendments. Members are reminded that resolutions must be submitted to the committee before **Feb. 28, 2007**. Those requesting changes should include a telephone number where they can be reached if more information is needed. Send requested changes to: George Coker, Judge Advocate, 1145 Wivenhoe Way, Virginia Beach, VA .

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National news, stories,  
articles, reprints

## Veterans and Their Stories

by Alice A. Booher



A unique and meaningful Veterans Day tribute conceived by VA New York Regional Office Director Pat Amberg-Blyskal, with encouragement from Past AXPOW Commander John S. Edwards, came to fruition on November 17, 2006 with the opening reception for an art exhibit which will remain hanging until mid-April 2007. Keynote speaker, up from Ft. McPherson, GA, was former Gulf War POW Col. Rhonda Cornum, who spoke of the loss of 5 of her fellow soldiers



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when their Blackhawk was shot down in 1991; and her subsequent deployments as a commander in Bosnia and Landstuhl RMC, Germany and now at FORSCOM.

Primary focus of the exhibit, however, is a series of extraordinary paintings by Vietnam Army medic veteran and Veterans Law Judge Rick Williams, a student of Walt Bartman of the Yellow Barn Group and Corcoran Gallery in Washington, whose works hang in the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum (Chicago) and other galleries. The exhibit has one large central painting of a group amalgam of the veteran constituency incorporating all service branches, various wars, ethnicities and disabilities (which



was featured on the DVA 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary website).

The 12 other individual flanking paintings on the long wall of the large VARO conference room are individual portraits of veterans whose biographies are framed next to each. Subjects include many New Yorkers (i.e., Dr. Cornum; Vietnam combat awardee veteran Rick Pringle who waged a valiant life-long battle with disabilities; Vietnam medic Williams Ramos now a physician's assistant (PA) in CT; Chuck Ross, whose Detroit Tigers baseball dream was ended by injuries at Quan Tri and now volunteers for sick kids; Stan Gasiorek, long-time, recently retired VA employee and Army vet; Paul Weiss, Vietnam vet whose career since 1977 has been with the New York VARO

where he is POW Coordinator; graphic artist Vernon Williams, a 1960's USAF corpsman in Europe, now a PA including through the VA health care system). Others include natural linguist Alvin Sabulsky, an intelligence officer in the ETO at Normandy who participated in liberation of Dachau; Charles Chavis, a Vietnam twice-wounded Marine, now a proud father working for VA in Washington; Operation Iraqi Freedom Blackhawk pilot double amputee Tammy Duckworth; Silver Star awardee James Francis Mulligan who died at Bougainville in 1944; and Jack Kasofsky who became a photographer and documentary film maker after myriad awards for service at and after Normandy.

The exhibit and reception were several years in the making and involved on-site logistical backup from Fernando Cortes and Bill Donnelly, and special added touches such as a softly playing eclectic background tape of favorite songs from Nelson Eddy to Frank Zappa selected for/by the pictured veterans.

Attendees on Nov. 17, 2006 included subjects or their families who told the always compelling story of the American veterans.



## news, stories, articles, reprints continued...

Local Ex-POWs were invited, joined by families of local soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq, VSOs and VA employees. Guests included VARO Chief, **Veterans Benefits and Services, Joe Collorafi**, whose dad had been an Italian POW in the US; Col. Edwards; and Sue McHugh, Dep. Asst. VA Secretary for Diversity Management and EEO. One of Alvin Sabulsky's 3 daughters was in attendance; Veterans Law Judge, Board of Veterans Appeals Deputy Vice Chair Mary Sabulsky voiced that the family is glad that her father, who did not realize his retirement dream for the Soldiers & Airmen's home, can now hang (out) in the company of his beloved comrades.

### PHOTOS:

1. COL Rhonda Cornum at podium.
2. Pat Amberg-Blyskal, Dir., VARO NY, PNC John Edwards; Rhonda Cornum in front of Cornum portrait by Rick Williams.
3. Rhonda Cornum, PNC John Edwards; Pat Amberg-Blyskal and Sue McHugh, Asst. Secy. of VA for Diversity Management and EEO.
4. Rick Williams & Rhonda Cornum in front of Cornum's painting.

## Veterans Day about real men and women

Back in the 1920s and 1930s when I was growing up, it was called Armistice Day, and we always thought it meant something about peace.

Actually, it was about "armistice" as defined in the dictionary: "A temporary cessation or suspension of hostilities by mutual consent, a truce." The operative word is "temporary," for our warring keeps going on — with World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq/Kuwait, Iraq again, and many others. Peace is elusive.

Veterans Day is about those who have been there, sent into harm's way, most often by those who have never been shot at. Veterans Day is not really filled with meaning, until it is personalized for us — when we think of those veterans we personally know. For instance, I know a veteran in our community who in the dark night before the World War II allied D-Day invasion of Normandy parachuted into France, behind enemy lines, to wreak havoc with German communications. Later, badly wounded, he spend many months recuperating from head wounds in British and American hospitals. The veterans I know make Veterans Day mean a lot to me.

I remember meeting the enemy face-to-face in Holland where we crash landed our B-17 bomber, when the German officer, backed up with a machine gun unit, said in English to our crew, "Hands up! I ran a tavern in Baltimore for 12 years."

The old German guard marched with us prisoners of war in an ice and blizzard storm as he bemoaned, "I couldn't get a job in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1935, so I came back to my native land where every German had a job," which was getting ready for Adolf Hitler's preemptive warring.

There always seem to be so-called leaders whose motivations call for more veterans to sacrifice their lives for questionable ambitions.

The Concho Valley's 10 former POWs have seen the enemy too close are fortunate to have survived and are bound by close-to-death experiences. We are thankful for freedom in America.

Veterans in real danger in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere are still not coming home yet, or are coming home damaged for life. Some will never embrace their loved ones again. Veterans are real and fami-

lies know that all too well. Know this: Veterans Day is about real men and women — veterans for us all.

Fred Campbell  
San Angelo, Texas

## Veterans in Congress

Only about one in ten of the new members of Congress is a military veteran, half as many as the members they replaced, according to a survey by the Military Officers Association of America. In all, only about one in four members of the new Congress will have served in the military — down from one in two in 1991 and more than three of every four a decade earlier.

## Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission News

The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission is conducting a special survey of disabled veterans and a separate survey of survivors during the months of Nov. 2006 through April 2007. The purpose of these surveys is to ensure that a nationally representative sample of both groups is given the opportunity to share their views and experiences with the Commission and Congress. The surveys are being carried out by telephone interviews by ORC Macro, an independent research company that conducts surveys for the government and the private sector. Participants are contacted first in writing, followed by a phone call to either conduct the survey or arrange a more convenient time to talk. In some instances, participants may simply receive a phone call. The surveys ask questions about the individual's health status, life sat-

## news, stories, articles, reprints continued...

isfaction, health care and employment. Participation in the survey is voluntary and extremely important because everyone selected to take part will help to give us a clearer picture of the effects of service-connected disability in the lives of veterans and survivors.

The Commission will use the survey results to develop its report and recommendations to Congress about benefits for service-disabled veterans and survivors. This final report will be available after OCT 07. If you are contacted and asked to participate: please do! You will be the voice for many other veterans or survivors like yourself. If you are not contacted, please note that our sample was drawn randomly to represent all disabled veterans and surviving spouses. Volunteers cannot be accepted for the survey because they must assure accurate representation of all disabled veterans and survivors. Adding volunteers would bias this representation. VDBC appreciates your time and values your input. If you have questions or concerns about these surveys you are requested to email the Commission at [veterans@vetscommission.com](mailto:veterans@vetscommission.com).

## Appropriations Bill Passed

In November, the Senate passed a \$77.65 billion Military Construction and Veterans appropriations bill, an increase of nearly \$8.88 billion from last year. The bill (HR 5385) increases VA's funding by \$6.45 billion over last year's enacted level of \$77.9 billion. Approximately half this increase in VA funding goes to medical services operations, including hospital staff personnel. The legislation includes

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an amendment Sen. Craig offered which will enable the Department of Veterans to spend up \$10 million on individual projects without having to seek specific Congressional authorization. The prior limit was \$7 million. Also under this bill, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims would receive nearly \$20 million for fiscal year 2007, a 6.4% increase over its 2006 appropriations. This level of funding would allow the Court to increase its staff, continue an electronic case-filing initiative, and continue studying the feasibility of constructing or obtaining a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center.

## VA Performance

Newly released data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs indicates the agency has dramatically improved its performance in seeing new veterans. In the first part of 2006, nearly 18,000 veterans had to wait thirty days or longer to see a VA doctor for the first time. By October, that number had dropped to less than 4,000. Some of the biggest improvements have come in what the VA calls "VISN 20," an area of the country which includes most of Idaho, as well as Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and one county each in Montana and California. In the second quarter of 2006, over 7,000 veterans in those western states had waited thirty days or more to see a doctor. By October, that number had dropped to less than 2,000. The data is part of a new quarterly report Congress required VA to send in the wake of last year's budget problems with the Department of Veterans Affairs. There are over 7 million veterans enrolled in VA health care, and VA officials report that 96% are able to see a primary care doctor within 30 days. The number slips only slightly for specialty care doctors. VA reports that 94% of enrolled veterans are able to see a specialty care physician within 30 days.

Outgoing Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Larry Craig (R-ID) said, "An 80% improvement in one year is nothing short of remarkable. The trend is in the right direction. When I discovered the budget shortfall last year, I worked with my colleagues to swiftly address the budget gap and provide the money VA needed. To prevent a shortfall from happening again, I requested that VA provide the Committee with quarterly budget reports. I believe the reports are working. They help us help keep our finger on the pulse regarding the needs of America's veterans."

## Applicants Requested

The American Ex-Prisoners of War is downsizing its' organization. We are searching for a person who can qualify for the operation of the National Office. This person must establish an office, outside their home, in the area in which they live. The summation of the duties and responsibilities will be that of an Executive Secretary with accounting experience, take minutes at meetings, provide many clerical responsibilities of the National Office, maintaining records, files, correspondence from chapters, members, directors and committees. Bill for and receive dues from the membership, receive and deposit funds and various monies for the organization. Maintain financial records for accounts receivable and payable; must be capable of providing the Board of Directors with financial reports, including balance sheet. This is a full time position and this person must be available during office hours Must also be free to travel to Annual Conventions, Midyear Board Meetings and occasionally Special Board Meetings. A more detailed description of this position will be available at the time the applicant is approved.

Questions concerning the position can be directed to Ray Van Duzer by calling 757-593-1813.



# contributions



Please send donations to:  
National Headquarters, 3201 East  
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,  
Arlington, TX 76010. You can also  
make a donation with a credit  
card (MasterCard or Visa). Just call  
817-6492979. Thank you!

Contributions are not tax deductible

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Carol Tatar, by the  
American Legion Post 770,  
Trumansburg NY

In memory of Gloria Mosher, by  
the Rocky Mountain Chapter

In memory of Robert Visscher, by  
the Rocky Mountain Chapter  
Edsel Flanders, Mt. Pleasant, SC  
In memory of Edward Johnson,  
by Dennis Adamscheck

In memory of George Abbott, by  
Pauline & Fred Glesener

In memory of George Abbott, by  
William Dodson

In memory of Hoyt Simmons, by  
Pauline & Fred Glesener

In memory of Paul Knight, by  
Allison Wittenberg

In memory of Paul Knight, by Bert  
& Betty Sherron

In memory of Paul Knight, by  
John & Kris Waters

In memory of Paul Knight, by M/  
M Russell Collier

In memory of Paul Knight, by  
State Door Chapter, Orange  
County Performing Arts

In memory of Paul Knight, by Sue  
Garland

In memory of Paul Knight, by  
Tom & Pam Fo

In memory of Steve Yarema, by  
Robert Derrington

In memory of William Wanhala,  
by Dennis Adamscheck

## LEGISLATIVE FUND

In memory of Reamer Sewell, by  
the Department of Maryland

## MEDSEARCH FUND

In memory of Frederick  
Pemberton, by the Cecilia McKie  
Chapter

In memory of Harold Fiscus, by  
Northwest Central Ohio Chapter

In memory of Henry 'Harry' Kirk,  
by the South Louisiana Chapter

## N.S.O. FUND

James Bowler, Rochester MN

Bob & Grace McAdam, Crowley  
TX

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## chaplain's corner



### National Chaplain

**John Romine**

1609 S. 23rd Street  
Rogers, AR 72758  
(479) 636-2287

I read a story recently about a nurse who was checking the heart of a four-year-old and placed the stethoscope so the boy could hear his heart beat. The nurse asked the boy what he heard. Back came the answer, "It is God knocking". As the door to 2007 is opened, please pause and think for just a moment about how often the true and living God knocks on the door of our hearts, trying to tell us something. Trying to tell us what we have left out of our lives. Perhaps left something undone. Or some good deed that might

help a loved one, a friend, or maybe a comrade through tough times. I am sure that 2007 will have many blessings that can be ours if we will but pause and remember who we are...what we are...and what we must do if we are to reap our share of those blessings God has in store for us this New Year.

Let us pray: Almighty and Eternal God, we do pause to reflect and to give thanks for all the good and blessed things that you have stored up for us if we will but turn to You with thanksgiving and praise. Forgive us when we fail to honor and glorify You in all things. Lord, as we move into the New Year, may it be with determination to do Your will and to live in Your way. So please, Lord, lead and guide us in ways that will exult Your holy and blessed name. Please remember those standing in harm's way and those still listed as POW/MIAs. And Lord, continue to bless our great nation and may praise and glory be unto Thee, our rock and our redeemer. AMEN.

Thought for the New Year. A healthy heart beats with the love of God.

January humor: An elderly pastor was searching for his collar before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and 100 \$1 bills. He called his wife to ask her about the box and its contents. She admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 30 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt, the pastor asked her, "WHY?"

The wife replied that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box.

The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 30 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for. She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbours for \$1."

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**Ex-POW Bulletin**

**January 2007**

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# taps



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

**BARSDITIS, Edward**, of Monroeville, PA died Aug. 4, 2006. He was a POW in Dulag Luft 1 during WWII. He was a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his beloved wife, Willa, and one sister.

**BELSINGER, Robert H.**, of Silver Spring, MD passed away Oct. 2, 2006. He served as an aerial gunner with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII; he was shot down over Frankfurt and held until liberation. Bob leaves his wife, Audrey, 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

**BROWN, Howard R.**, 82, of Sun City, AZ and Englewood CO died November 9, 2006. Howard served in WWII in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 486<sup>th</sup> BG stationed at Sudbury, England. He was shot down over Germany, was captured and interned in Stalag Luft 1. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, 2 daughters a son, a brother, 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW.

**BURMEISTER, Roy**, an Officer and member of the East Central Florida Chapter died Oct 22, 2006. He was a member of the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division; he was captured during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944. Roy was held in Stalag 9B and 4A.

**BURNEY, Harrison Lee, Jr.**, 86, of Whitehall, NY, died Oct. 28, 2006. He was a member of the Vermont Chapter, AXPOW. He was captured in the Battle of Bastogne while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, Troop B of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Horse Cavalry Reg. Over the course of his

imprisonment he was moved from camp to camp until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Charlotte, a son, three stepsons, two daughters, two stepdaughters, several step- and grandchildren, several step- and great-grandchildren and many other relatives.

**CARUSO, Anthony J., Sr.**, of Waltham, MA died Oct. 19, 2006. He served in the Army during WWII and was captured in the European Theatre. He is survived by one son, one daughter, one brother, two sisters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**CUTLER, Wilda F.**, age 81, of Norwood, NY passed away Aug. 18, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Earl, and four children. Earl served with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF (WWII) and was incarcerated at Luft IV.

**CYRANA, William J.**, of Union, NJ died Aug. 3, 2006. He was captured while serving with the 80<sup>th</sup> Div., Co. L, 317<sup>th</sup> Inf. during WWII. He leaves his wife, Mary Ann, one son and two grandchildren.

**DARLINGTON, Julian Trueheart** passed away Sept. 10, 2006. He was 89. Julian was a pilot on "The Witch", serving with the 98<sup>th</sup> BG. He was shot down Aug. 1, 1943 over Ploesti and was a POW in Bulgaria. Survivors include his loving daughter, Trish.

**DAUGHERTY, Vernon E.**, 82, of Tucson, AZ passed away Sept. 28, 2006. He served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Bn, captured at Pantano Ditch, Italy. He was held for 15 months in Stalag IIB. Vernon was a life member of AXPOW, past commander of Yuma Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Barbara, two sons, two daughters and five grandchildren.

**DAVIS, Edward**, of Lancaster, PA passed away Nov. 7, 2006 after a long illness. Ed was the 21<sup>st</sup> Navy pilot captured when he was shot down over North Vietnam, August 26, 1965. He was flying the A1H Skyraider, assigned to VA-152, flying from the deck of USS Orinskany. He was a POW for 7 ½ years. Mike McGrath, NamPOW Historian writes: "Eddie was the first of our class to actually fly without mechanical assistance. On the night he was shot down, he had unbuckled and opened the canopy. Suddenly, the aircraft pitched nose down into the ground. His wingman was right beside him and reported back to the ship that Ed was KIA...there was no way he got out. Ed was listed as KIA for two years before his family found out he was alive. Ed later told me how at one moment he was sitting in his aircraft, and at the next moment he was actually flying through space unassisted. Luckily, he found the D-ring just in time. Welcome to the Hanoi Hilton, Ed." Survivors include his loving wife, Karen.

**DOWNEY, Frances B.**, life member of AXPOW and the wife of ex-POW James, died Nov. 1, 2006. She was a member of the James L. Hale Memorial Chapter, Hampton, VA. In addition to her husband, she leaves 3 sons, 1 daughter, 10 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 1 sister.

**DUNBAR, Liselotte**, of Las Vegas, Nevada, passed away November 3, 2006. She was the wife of Alan Dunbar, POW in Germany.

**EDWARDS, Carl E.**, 80, of Jumping Branch, WV died September 12, 2006. He served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was held for 4 months in German POW

## taps continued

camps. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, three daughters, one son, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

**FIELDS, Bernard (Kenny)**, 84, of St. Louis, MO passed away Dec. 13, 2005. Bernard was captured by the Japanese on Bataan; he survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of slave labor. He was a member of ADBC and AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Delma, 1 daughter, 3 step-children and 5 grandchildren.

**FOX, James E., Jr.**, of Hamilton, OH passed away Feb. 17, 2006. He was 87. Jim served his country with honor in the AAF. He was shot down and captured; held in Poland, marched and finally liberated. He was a member of the OKI Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 57 years, Jane, 3 daughters, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**GIANNONI, Jeanne M.**, 79, passed away Dec. 28, 2005. She was the beloved wife for 59 ½ years of Rudy. Rudy was a POW in Luft IV. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**GOLDEN, Glynn H.**, of Crowley, TX passed away Oct. 29, 2006 at the age of 89. Glynn survived the Bataan Death March, Hell Ships and almost 4 years of captivity. He leaves his wife, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

**GORDON, Lee (Shorty)**, of Menlo Park, CA passed away recently. He was 84. During WWII, he served with the 305<sup>th</sup> BG. He is believed to be the first American POW to escape from a German camp during WWII - making two escape attempts from Stalag VIIA before finally succeeding on Oct. 13, 1943.

Survivors include one daughter, Cherie.

**GRUSH, John L.**, a member of South Louisiana Chapter, AXPOW, died Sept. 24, 2006. He was captured in Budapest, Hungary while serving in the Army Air Force. Camps included: Hospital Pecs., Hungary; Stalags Luft III, XIIID and 7A. Four sons and their families survive him.

**HACK, Elmer George**, of Tipton, IA died Oct. 12, 2006. He was 91. He was serving in the Army when he was captured at the battle of Anzio Beach during WWII. He spent one year as a POW. He is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Ina, 1 son, 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren.

**HARMAN, George F.**, of Cochranville, PA passed away Nov. 6, 2006 at the age of 83. During WWII, he served with the RCAF, the RAF and 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 379<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down in 1943 and spent 2 years in Luft 3. He leaves his wife of 61 years, Phyllis, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

**HOLINKA, Michael**, 90, of North Plainfield and West Chester, NJ passed away Oct. 13, 2006. Michael was a POW for nearly two years in Stalags 17B and 7A after being shot down over Germany. He was a life member of AXPOW; a charter member of the Garden State Chapter 1. His wife, Ardyth, predeceased him. He leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**IGNASZEWSKI, Louis** of Albert Lea, MN died Sept. 8, 2006. He was 89. Louie was the 1<sup>st</sup> person drafted from Fairbault County. He was a POW for 3 ½ years - surviving the Bataan Death March, Hell Ships and the atomic bomb. He was on the USS Missouri when General MacArthur signed the Japanese surrender papers. His wife, Eleanor, survives him.

**HUMPHRIES, Maxine**, formerly of Tulsa, OK, died Oct. 7, 2006 in Las Vegas, NV where she had made her home for two years. She was married for 62 years to her late husband, ex-POW Paul. Both were long-time members of the Tulsa Chapter, AXPOW. Maxine is survived by 3 children, 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**JOHNSON, Gerald**, age 86, died Nov. 9, 2006. He had lived in Viroqua, WI. While serving with the 485<sup>th</sup> BG, he was shot down and captured. He spent almost one year in Stalags 3 and 7A. He was a member of the Coulee Chapter, AXPOW. Jerry's wife, Ann, died in 1991. He leaves one daughter, one sister and many relatives and friends.

**KALK, Norman**, of Morgan, MN died Oct. 23, 2006 at the age of 87. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 314<sup>th</sup> Inf., 79<sup>th</sup> Div. Norman was a member of Prairieland Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Edna, one brother and two sisters.

**KIRK, Henry Carter**, a member of South Louisiana Chapter, AXPOW died in Pass Christian, MS Sept. 26, 2006. He was 88. He was in the first wave of the landing on Omaha Beach; he was captured six months later in the Battle of the Bulge. Karen Margrethe, his wife of 45 years, survives him; he also is survived by one son, one daughter and four grandsons.

**KNUTSON, Perwin S.**, 85, of Sioux Falls, SD passed away Oct. 28, 2006. Perwin served in the AAF. He was a German POW for eight months. He was a member of Sioux Falls Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Viola, four daughters, one son and nine grandchildren.

# taps continued

**LEDERMAN, Sol**, member of the El Paso Chapter, AXPOW, died Oct. 4, 2006. He leaves three daughters, one sister, six grandchildren and his cherished dog, Simon.

**MANCINELLI, Frank**, 88, of Dunedin, FL died October 8, 2006. During WWII, he served in Unit E, CO 47, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as a BAR machine gunner. He was captured in Africa and held in Camp 59, Moosburg, and Stalag IIB. Frank was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rose, 4 children, 5 grandchildren. He will be missed.

**MARKUNAS, Edward**, hard working member (and former commander) of the Collier Chapter, AXPOW, died Oct. 25, 2006. He was a resident of Naples, FL. Ed was captured while serving with the 35<sup>th</sup> Div, Combat Infantry. He was a POW for more than 8 months. He leaves his loving wife, Marie, 1 daughter, 4 step-children and 6 grandchildren.

**MASTERSON, Norman James (NJ)**, 89, of Paragould, AR died Oct. 20, 2006. NJ was captured on Corregidor and sent to Mukden, Manchuria, where he was held until liberation. He was a past state Commander of AXPOW and a member of ADBC. Survivors include one son, two daughters, two brothers, one sister, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**McCARROLL, Francis D. (Mack)**, of Karnes City, TX passed away Nov. 1, 2006. He was 89. Mack was shot down over Sicily in 1943 and spent 22 months at Stalag Luft III. He was liberated on his birthday, April 29. Mack leaves his wife of 61 years, Dorothy, 1 son, 1 sister and numerous nieces and nephews.

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**McMELLON, John Alton**, of Shreveport, LA passed away Sept. 5, 2006. During WWII, he was shot down over Germany and held 15 months. He leaves his loving wife, Sandra, two sons, three daughters, ten grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two brothers and two sisters.

**McQUILKIN, Esther Marie**, 87, of Susquehanna Township, PA died Oct. 24, 2006. She was a member of the Harrisburg Chapter, AXPOW. Esther Marie enjoyed family trips to the shore and bingo. She leaves her husband, Harold, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**MIELKE, Wallace**, 82, of Chippewa Falls, WI died Oct. 8, 2006. During WWII, he served in the Air Force and was captured in Europe. He was a member of the Indianhead Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by two sons, three daughters, one brother, one sister, 5 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

**PEMBERTON, Frederick (Fritz)** passed away Oct. 15, 2006. He was a member of the Cecilia McKie Chapter (CA), AXPOW. Fritz was captured by the Japanese; he survived almost four years as a POW in the Philippines and Japan. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Virginia, four children, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

**PETTEY, Clyde**, of Palmetto, MS died Nov. 5, 2006. He was 85. Clyde was in the AAF during WWII; he was shot down over Germany and captured. He leaves his loving wife, Jonell, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

**PIGOTT, David (Mitch)**, member of the East Central Florida Chapter, AXPOW, died Nov. 4, 2006. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 446<sup>th</sup> BG, 702<sup>nd</sup> BS; he was held in Stalag Luft 4 and 11B.

**R O S E , Leonard E. "Rosie"**, 82, of Indianapolis, IN died Nov. 18, 2006. Serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF,



459<sup>th</sup> BG, 758<sup>th</sup> BS, he was sent by troop ship to Oran, North Africa, then to Naples, and finally to their base in Cerignola. His B-24 was hit over Germany on his 28<sup>th</sup> mission on Aug. 29, 1944. Rosie bailed out over Yugoslavia and was taken prisoner by the Germans. He was held in Stalag Luft IV. Rosie had been a National Officer with AXPOW since the 1980s, serving as National Director and Jr. Vice Commander. He was the Indiana Dept. Commander, and Hoosier Chapter Adj/Treas. since 1979. He was also the heart and soul of the Luft 4 Association. His beloved wife, Ella, predeceased him; he is survived by one daughter, one son and two grandchildren.

**RUSH, Jack**, of Grove City, OH, died Nov. 16, 2006. He was captured during the Normandy Invasion while serving in the 101<sup>st</sup> Div. He is survived by 2 sons, a daughter, 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**SEWELL, Reamer E., Jr. (Buzz)**, of Severna park, MD passed away Oct. 20, 2006. He was 85. Buzz enlisted in the AAF, serving with the 387<sup>th</sup> BS, 558<sup>th</sup> BG.; he was captured while on a bombing run near Saarbrücken. He was held in Luft III, then evacuated to VII-A. Buzz leaves his wife, Ruth Marie, three children and two granddaughters.

**SIMS, Lewis Perry**, 87, of Fayetteville, NC died Aug. 8, 2006. During WWII, he served in the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 742<sup>nd</sup> BS, 455<sup>th</sup> BG. He was captured after he was shot down over Austria and held at Luft III for 11 months. Lew was a life member of

## taps continued

the Greater Fayetteville Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Ruth, two children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**SINGLETON, Arthur E. (Chick)** passed away October 16, 2006 in Ocala, Florida at the age of 82. Chick was a life member of AXPOW. He was serving on the USS Pope D-225; sunk on March 3, 1942. He was a Japanese POW 3 ½ years, held in Makasar, Celebes. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Doris, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren & 3 great-great-grandchildren.

**SINGLETON, Charles Elmer**, 86, of Candler, NC died Sept. 30, 2006. During WWII, Charles served in the Army; he was captured in Europe and held prisoner of war. He leaves his loving wife, Celia, three sons, one brother and five grandchildren.

**STEINHAUSER, Walter**, 85, died October 21, 2006. He had recently moved from Denver, CO to Tempe, AZ. He served as a platoon Sgt. in B Company, 513<sup>th</sup> PIR. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Hammelburg until he escaped just before liberation. He is survived by two daughters and three grand children. He was member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW.

**STILL, Homer E. Jr.**, 85, died December 1, 2006. During World War II he served as a B-24 pilot in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 44<sup>th</sup> BG, 506<sup>th</sup> BS. He was in Stalag Luft I. He is a past Commander of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Ann; 3 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He reminded us constantly that laughter is the best medicine.

**STROFF, Michael John Jr.**, of Manassas, VA died Oct. 19, 2006. He spent 33 years in service dur-

ing WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He was a member of the Bill Rolan Memorial Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Maryabelle, one son, two daughters, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**TAYLOR, George R.**, of New Milford, PA died Feb. 8, 2006. He was a life member of AXPOW. George was captured while serving in Korea with the Army. He was held in Camps 3 & 5. Upon his release, he spent 16 months in Valley Forge Army Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice, one daughter and one granddaughter.

**TREPTE, Donald A.**, of Whitefish Bay, WI, passed away Oct. 5, 2006. During WWII, he served with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 456<sup>th</sup> BG, 746<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down over Italy and held in Wetzlar. He leaves one son, one daughter, three grandchildren and one great-grandson. His beloved wife passed away 5 years earlier. He is greatly missed by family and friends.

**TRIPP, Harry P.**, 89, of Libby, MT died Oct. 30, 2006. While serving in the Navy, he was captured in the Philippines and held POW for 3 ½ years. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, two daughters, two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**WAGAMAN, Orvis**, age 87, of Villisca, IA passed away Nov. 21, 2006. He was a member of the Omaha Chapter #1, AXPOW. Orvis is survived by his wife, Carolyn, three daughters, one son, one brother, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**WALDEN, George**, member of the Tulsa (OK) Chapter, AXPOW died Sept. 29, 2006. He was 81. He served in WWII with the 596<sup>th</sup> Engineering Division and with the 7<sup>th</sup> Division in Korea. He was captured in Korea and held for nearly three years. George leaves his wife, Eva, one son, one stepson, several

grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**WHEELER, Edwin**, member of the Agua Fria Chapter, died November 14, 2006 at Sun City, Arizona. He was a pilot in the Army Air Corps; his P-38 went down and he was a prisoner for over a year. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, one daughter, two granddaughters and one great granddaughter.

**ZAVORKA, Charles F. (Bud)**, 90, of St. Louis, MO passed away Oct. 17, 2006. He was shot down over Schleswig-Holstein while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was a POW in Luft III until liberation. Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Catherine (Kay), two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Remember  
Remember me when  
I am gone away,  
Gone far away into the silent land;  
When you can no more  
hold me by the hand,  
Nor I half turn to go,  
yet turning stay.  
Remember me when no more,  
day by day,  
You tell me of our future  
that you planned:  
Only remember me; you understand  
It will be late to counsel  
then or pray.  
Yet if you should forget me  
for a while  
And afterwards remember,  
do not grieve:  
For if the darkness  
and corruption leave  
A vestige of the thoughts  
that I once had,  
Better by far you should  
forget and smile  
Than that you should  
remember and be sad.

by Christina Georgina Rossetti  
(1830-1894)

# new members

National Headquarters  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979  
Marsha.Coke@axpow.org



## New Members "Welcome Home"

Johnna Tomke  
Oceanside, CA  
Daughter of John Tomke,  
ETO

Norman R. Dahlstrom  
Audrey E  
Venice, FL  
8 AF 486 BG  
Luft 3, Nurnburg, 7A  
10/15/44-4/29/45

Joseph R. Dana  
Okeechobee, FL  
450 BG  
Luft 4  
5/8/44-5/2/45

Harry J. Hal  
Tipton, IN  
1 Army 112 Reg Co. A  
Bad Orb, Berga  
12/20/44-4/23/45

Jacob George Roth, Jr.  
Fayetteville, NC  
Co L 34 Inf Reg 21 Div  
Camp 3  
7/50-8/53

Bernard Artz  
Helen  
Roslyn, NY  
Flying Fortress  
Romania  
5/44-10/44

Leonhard Keck  
Florence  
Lancaster, PA  
A Co 3 Pltn 504 Reg 82  
AB Div  
Ruhr Pocked, moved  
every night

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Alan F Tobie  
Willow Street, PA  
42 Inf Div  
4B  
12/44-4/29/45

## New Life Members "Welcome Home"

\*new member to AXPOW

Clarence M Graham  
Doris L 12553 39227  
Oregon City, OR  
Army  
Omuta Cabanatuan

John Glen Beville  
Etta S 33480 39228  
Fruitland Park, FL  
Army  
3A Luckenwalde Work  
Camp at Wundorf  
12/16/44

Elizabeth B Luce 39229  
Indian Wells, CA  
Widow of Richard L. Luce  
Dulag Luft 3,  
Northern Italy  
7/7/44-8/16/44

Christine Gibson 39230  
Chandler, IN  
Widow of Carter Gibson

John Knight 39231  
Tustin, CA  
Widow of Paul D. Knight  
17B

Eugene A Burlingame  
\*39232  
Sacramento, CA  
390 BG  
Luft 1, Barth  
3/18/45-5/13/45

Jan Williams \*39233  
Hammon, OK  
Granddaughter of PNC  
Jack Warner, PAC

Mary Margaret Arnold  
\*39234  
Zanesville, OH  
Daughter of Maynard  
Unger, ETO

George A Thomas  
Frances L 39235 39236  
Hicksville, NY  
101 A/B Div 327 Glider  
Inf  
12A Limburg Prussia  
1/4/45-4/1/45

Oral C Nichols, Jr  
Phyllis 39237 39238  
Carlsbad, NM  
CPNAB, Wake Island  
Woosung Kiangwan  
Sendai  
12/23/41-9/12/45

Jack A Anderson  
Patsy 39239 39240  
Mustang, OK  
91 Div Inf  
7A, Munich 10/44-5/45

Kenneth Henkemeyer  
May 39241 39242  
Tucson, AZ  
Co B 8 Cav Reg  
Unsan, Korea

Walter Zaluzny 39243  
Vernon, VT  
143 Inf 36 Div Co K  
School building, marched,  
liberated on a dairy farm

Dale E Albright 39244  
Bluffton, OH  
775 BS 463 BG  
Forced March  
3/24/45-5/4/45

Edward Francis Martel  
\*39245

Kenosha, WI  
Co C 192 Tank Bn  
O'Donnell, Bilibid, Ca-  
banatuan, Omuta  
Fukuoka, Kyushi

Cordine McMurray  
\*39246

Detroit, MI  
B Co 1 Bn 12 Inf 4 Inf Div  
Plantation, Garden, Hanoi  
Hilton, Cambodia

Eldridge L Ritter  
Alvene \*39247 39248  
Lavernia, TX  
1 Cav Div,  
8 Reg 3 Bn L Co  
Death Valley, Camps  
5 & 3  
11/2/50-8/25/53

John D Knappenberger  
Shirley 39249 39250  
Orlando, FL  
Co D 110 Inf 28 Div  
4B  
12/17/44-4/24/45

Bernard J Ellis  
Eileen 39251 39252  
Ridgewood, NJ  
Co C 414 inf 104 Inf Div  
12A 3D 2A  
12/10/44-5/16/45



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October, 2006

1<sup>st</sup> Place \$1128.00 Florence Sexton, E. Bridgewater, MA

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$846.00 Roy Floyd, Manchester, TN

3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$564.00 Don Glisson, Colonial Heights, VA

4<sup>th</sup> Place \$282.00 Dennis Adamschek, Sr., Carlton, MN

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes.

The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

**National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing**

**3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40**

**Arlington, TX 76010-5396.**

Thank you for your support of this very worthwhile project



## The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active  
since 1946

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

Annual Dues **\$10.00** < > LIFE Membership **\$75.00**

**The CUB Magazine has been published every quarter since August 1946.**

**Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk/membership.htm>

Or contact John Kline, Membership Chairman

Past President '97-'98; Editor, The CUB since 1987

M Co., 423rd Inf Regiment

11 Harold Drive

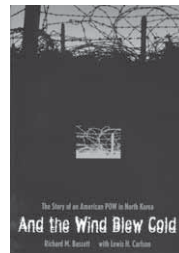
Burnsville, MN 55337-2786

Phone: 952-890-3155

Email: [jpk@mm.com](mailto:jpk@mm.com)

106th Home Page: <http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

## and the wind blew cold



The Story of An American  
POW in North Korea

Richard M. Bassett  
with Lewis H. Carlson

ISBN 0-87338-750-3

\$21.00 cl

"Bassett recalls almost every day of his captivity. . . He describes the shock of being captured and the lengthy march during which many soldiers died of hunger, cold, wounds, and cruel treatment. . . More than 3,700 POWs died in what has been called the Forgotten War. This vivid, clear-sighted account will help keep it from being forgotten altogether."

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**Ex-POW Bulletin  
January 2007**

**31**

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

PLEASE PRINT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.  
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

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

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.  
Thank you for your support.

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Thank you for your support.



# 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.

**Do NOT send dues with this request for an application**

**Mail to:**  
 American Ex-Prisoners of War  
 3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40  
 Arlington, TX 76010-5936

(817) 649-2979 voice  
 (817)649-0109 fax  
 e-mail: hq@axpow.org

Life Membership Rates	
Under 35	\$360
36-50	\$300
51-60	\$180
61 & over	\$120
Spouse of life member	\$ 40
Annual Membership Rates	
Single Membership	\$ 30
Husband & wife	\$ 40

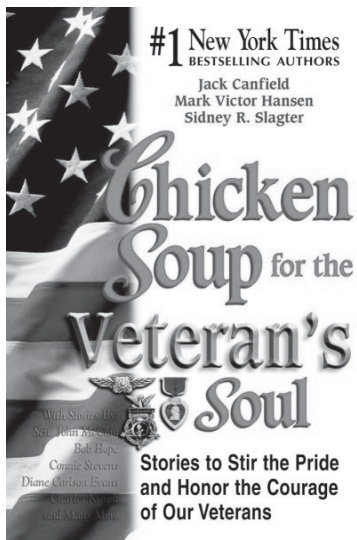
### Order Your Personalized Autographed Copies of *Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul!*

**For every book you purchase 20% will be donated to the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization**

For more info call: 888-387-6373, fax: 888-387-6373, e-mail: remember@vetstories.com  
 Write: Veterans Stories, Inc., 95 Uno Lago Dr., Juno Beach, FL 33408

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

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of Person(s) to Autograph book to: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this Person a Veteran? Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_

# of books \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.50 + \$2.50 shipping/handling per book = \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Veterans Stories, Inc.  
 95 Uno Lago Dr., Juno Beach, FL 33408**

**EX-POW Bulletin  
 January 2007**



## Magnetic Ribbons \$5.00

### AXPOW Vest Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) \_\_\_\_\_

Long, Regular or Short \_\_\_\_\_

Name on front of vest \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name (back of vest) \_\_\_\_\_

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling  
Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:  
**AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	7.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	6.00
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	Travel Alarm Clock with case	10.00	Aluminum License Plate	4.00
Eagle Sport Cap	9.00			3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	3" Blazer Patch	3.50	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Barbed Wire pin	2.50	4" Blazer Patch	3.50	8" Vinyl Decal	5.00
Life Member pin	4.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	4.00	<b>CLOTH STRIPES</b> (specify which title)	2.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom Is Happiness"	2.00
Brooch pin	4.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	4.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Logo pin	4.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		Memorial Seals	
POW Stamp pin	2.50	State Department Commander		3 sheets, \$1.00; 10 sheets, \$3.00; 20 sheets, 5.00	
Past Chapter Commander pin	4.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		AXPOW Daisies (dozen)	1.50
Past Department Commander pin	4.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		In lots of 12, (ie , 24, 36, 48, etc.-per dozen)	1.25
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	7.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		Wall Clock (battery included)	20.00
(specify gold, silver or antique gold)		Service Officer · Legislative Officer		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	5.00
Necktie w/logo woven in fabric	20.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	5.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)				AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	15.00	12x18 inch American Flag	5.00	Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	18.50	12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00	POW Medal Poster Print	5.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	20.00	3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo		AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Goldtone Bolo Bezel w/cord	9.00	with fringe, indoor use	60.00	POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific	11.00
Logo Necklace & Pierced Earrings	10.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00	"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	4.00			Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00

### We accept Master Card/Visa

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 7.99, add \$3.00; For orders 8.00 to 24.99, add \$7.00  
For orders 25.00 to 49.99, add \$10.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$13.00  
For orders over 100.00, add \$18.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

### Shipping/Handling/Insurance:

**Total: \$**

**For credit card orders:** Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check one) Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**  
**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR**  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396  
817-649-2979  
axpowqm@aol.com



Top row: Concho Valley Chapter POWs and wives board a special city of San Angelo, TX trolley for the Veterans Day Parade. They were sponsored by the GoodfellowAFB NCO Academy; Brooklyn "Key" Chapter news: PCCs Ralph Mottola, Wm. Lee Birch and Sal Grasso join Commander Jack Tagliavia in the presentation of a newly-published psychology text to Brooklyn VA Medical Center librarian Ms. Francine Tinoda; The 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association made its last trip to Snetterton Health AFB, England in May. The large silver monument stands tribute to the 96<sup>th</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: "Dunston Hall", where the 96<sup>th</sup> BG spent 6 days and nights; Association members Joe and Joan Garber; 3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Massing of the Colors celebrates flags flown in honor of each state and many countries. Ex-POWs from Louisiana were participants in the Bossier City event; PNCs Zack Roberts, Gerald Harvey and PND Charlie Susino relax during New Jersey's recent convention; PNC Harvey is presented with a flag which flew over Baghdad, Iraq in a Blackhawk helicopter; Brooklyn "Key" officers' installation took place on May 9; MOPH monument dedication by the San Antonio Chapter featured our own National Director Howard Ray.

# AXPOW Vests!

The uniform of the American Ex-POWs consists of the military cap and the vest. These vests are custom-made with your name on the front, and your chapter and logo shield on the back. Orders take approximately six weeks to complete.

**\$50.00 each**, includes shipping/handling

For pins, vest guards and other items to “dress up” your vest, order from the merchandise page inside.



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

## change of address form

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

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: [Marsha.coke@axpow.org](mailto:Marsha.coke@axpow.org)

Subscription Rates -- non members  
\$20.00 per year

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National Headquarters  
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Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax  
e-mail: [HQ@axpow.org](mailto:HQ@axpow.org)  
No collect calls, please

