

# EX-POW BULLETIN

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

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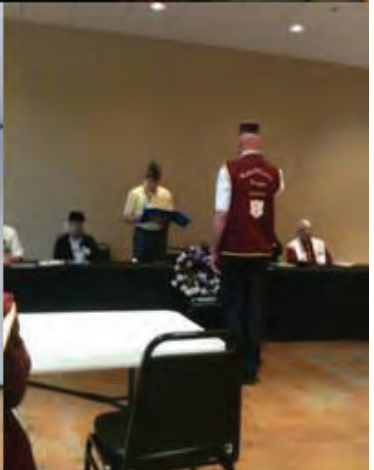


*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*National Comander Charles Susino + his wife, Lillian*

Missouri State Convention  
April 2012



Dept. of Missouri Annual Convention. Clockwise from upper right: Gerald Harvey; Doris Duckworth and Susan McQuilkin; Robert and Mary Louise Carter; Stephen Gaither, John and Ann Clark; Bunny and Paul Dillon; Memorial Service; Installation of Officers; National Commander Carroll Bogard and wife Barbara; Boogie Woogie Babes; Ed Slater CENTER: Don Rickle tribute to Missouri Ex-POWs

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**National Convention:**

We just returned from our National Convention in Arlington, Texas and it was great! More information in the Sept/Oct issue. There were four generations of two families represented -- all the kids had a ball at the parks and our members had time for meeting old friends and new as well as attending to the business of the organization. Next year, we're going back to Arlington -- June 26-29, 2013. We'll start giving details starting in the January issue. Come on down and join the fun!

**AMAZING!**

In the last issue, we spoke about the American Ex-Prisoners of War credit card and our concern that only 100 members had taken advantage of it. As soon as the article appeared, the phone at National Headquarters started ringing -- with comments such as: "I didn't know we had a new credit card" and "How do I sign up?" Headquarters took a bunch of your applications over the phone and submitted them on line. Within four weeks, we had 13 new approvals! Now if we can double this each month and then double again, within a short time, we will have 1,000 members carrying the AXPOW credit card. And your organization will have an additional \$50,000 (that's right - \$50,000) in the General Fund. It's painless on your part. Just sign up for the card, make a single purchase within one month and we make money! Thank you to those who responded last month -- let's keep it going!

**Legacy Task Force:**

At National Convention, the Board combined members from two committees to form a Legacy Task Force. If you have ideas for the future of our organization, plans to take us into the future, you can email them to [Legacy@axpow.org](mailto:Legacy@axpow.org).

**Bracelets:**

In the 1970's, we wore Prisoner of War (P.O.W.) and Missing in Action (M.I.A.) bracelets bearing the name of a captured or lost soldier. We did this to keep this person in our hearts and minds, even if we did not know them personally. We proudly wore these bracelets, and some still do, as a symbol of hope that the POW's and MIA's would return home to their families. Today, we also keep others in our memories... Victims and Heroes of Terrorism. To keep the memory alive of those who have died innocently at the hands of terrorists or fighting terrorism, we now also wear Memorial Bracelets. You can order a Bowe Bergdahl bracelet at: [www.memorialbracelets.com](http://www.memorialbracelets.com). \$2.00 from the sale of each bracelet is donated to charities that support the families of the heroes and victims of terrorism.

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*Deadline for the Sept/Oct 2012 issue is August 1, 2012.*

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

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**Past National Commander  
Carroll Bogard**

Dear Ex-POWs, Next-of-Kin, Families and Friends,

I want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your National Commander. This is the most important organization in a POW's life. This has been a very enjoyable and a productive year. I am very proud of the progress we have made and the steps we have made to ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War continues to thrive in the future.

Your Board of Directors has been of immeasurable help to me as we have tackled tough problems and made good decisions for AXPOW. I thank them for all their hard work. I also thank Headquarters for their help and assistance this year.

You have responded well to our reminders about voluntary funding that appear in each issue of the EX-POW Bulletin. You have also responded to our direct mail labels, calendar and letters. Because of your generosity, I can state that for the first year in decades, YOUR organization is enjoying a balanced budget. We have the money in our coffers to pay for the programs that help us live up to our slogan "We exist to help those who cannot help

themselves". I thank you for your effort on behalf of your fellow ex-POWs and their families.

We have some important work ahead of us to continue serving ex-POWs, their spouses and widows, and next-of-kin. Through cooperation and thoughtful deliberation, we can continue to exist and keep a place in history for all of our experiences.

I will continue to do what I can do help those leaders who follow.

Thank you again for electing me to be your National Commander. Serving you has been an honor and a privilege which I shall cherish always. I look forward to continuing the many warm friendships I have made this year.

**Carroll**

## news from hq



Convention is over and it was wonderful! From the Rangers game - thank you Nolan Ryan! - to the bagpipes, everything was geared to your pleasure. The Next-of-Kin Chorus pulled off a flawless rendition of 1960s songs ©...the hot dog machine in Hospitality was a terrific hit...the temperature outside may have been hot, but our members stayed cool indoors making new friends and greeting old ones.

A huge thank you to the Arlington Hilton's management and staff. They all worked tirelessly with the organization to ensure all our attendees had a wonderful and enjoyable time. From check-in until the time you left, they were looking out for you. The staff, from housekeeping to the front desk, was dedicated to you. We could not have pulled this off without them.

There were more volunteers and helpers than I can recite here. Thank you for your service and dedication. You did good!

We'll be calling on you for next June - same time, same place!

Clydie, Marsha & Donna

PS. Thank you to everyone who found my coffee cup that week...it finally made it home safely!

## bylaws

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 Oct. 1, 2012. Those requesting changes should include a telephone number where they can be reached if more information is needed. Send requested changes to:

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## Anxiety Disorders

(POW PRESUMPTIVE)

If you have an anxiety disorder, worry or fear becomes long-term and may get worse instead of better as time goes on. Doctors and older adults tend to view anxiety and fear as normal given the circumstances of aging. But developing an anxiety disorder late in life is not a normal part of aging.

Studies estimate that anxiety disorders affect between 3 and 14 percent of older adults in a given year. More women than men experience anxiety disorders. They tend to be less common among older adults than younger adults.

Anxiety caused by stressful events like moving or losing a job is a normal part of life. But anxiety disorders are different. An anxiety disorder lasts a long time and can get worse if it is not treated.

Anxiety disorders commonly occur at the same time as other illnesses. In older adults, anxiety disorders often occur at the same time as

depression, heart disease, diabetes, and other medical problems. In some cases, these other illnesses need to be treated before a person will respond to treatment for the anxiety disorder.

## Types of Anxiety Disorders

There are several basic types of anxiety disorders. Although they share some characteristics, each is slightly different and may respond to different treatments.

Here we discuss six different anxiety disorders:

- generalized anxiety disorder
- social phobia
- panic disorder
- post-traumatic stress disorder
- obsessive-compulsive disorder
- specific phobias.

## Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)

In generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), a person becomes very worried about things like health, money, and family problems, even if everything is OK. A person may be very anxious about just getting through the day.

## Social Phobia

In social phobia, a person fears being judged by others or of being embarrassed. This fear can get in the way of doing everyday things such as going to work, running errands, or meeting with friends. People who have social phobia often know that they shouldn't be so afraid, but they can't control their fear.

## Panic Disorder

In panic disorder, a person has sudden, unexplained attacks of terror, and often feels his or her heart pounding. During a panic attack, a person feels a sense of unreality, a fear of impending doom, or a fear of losing control.

Panic attacks can occur at any time.

## Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) develops after undergoing a terrifying ordeal like an accident or an act of violence. A person who develops PTSD may have been the one who was harmed, or have a loved one who was harmed, or have witnessed a harmful event.

## Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

People with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) feel the uncontrollable need to check things over and over, or they may have certain thoughts or perform certain routines over and over. The thoughts and rituals of OCD cause distress and get in the way of daily life.

The repeated, upsetting thoughts of OCD are called obsessions. To try to control them, people with OCD repeat rituals or behaviors, which are called compulsions. People with OCD can't control these thoughts and rituals.

## Specific Phobia

A specific phobia is an intense, extreme fear of something that poses little or no actual danger. Some of the more common specific phobias involve closed-in places, heights, escalators, tunnels, highway driving, water, flying, dogs, and the sight of blood.

**Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs)** give Veterans more control over the disability claims process.

Veterans have the option of visiting a private health care provider instead of a VA facility to complete their disability evaluation form. Watch for more information next issue.

# pow medsearch

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**Thanks to NSO Director Ruth Powell for this information**

## Irritable Bowel Syndrome

### What is irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)?

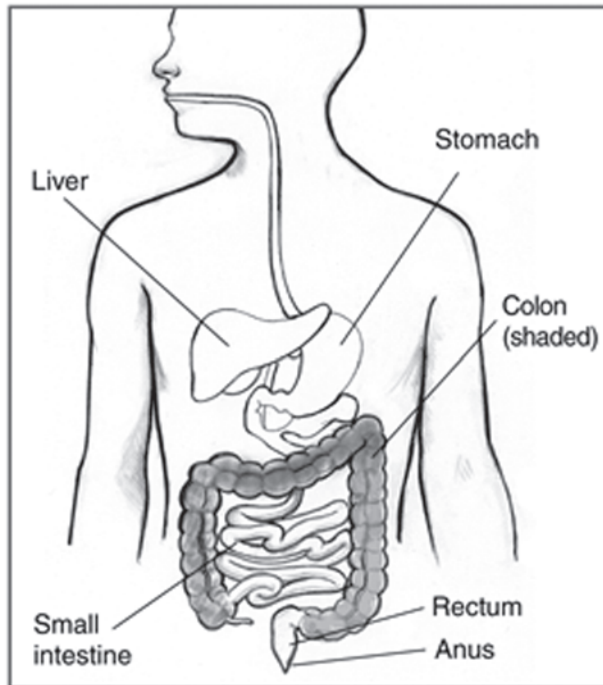
Irritable bowel syndrome is a disorder characterized most commonly by cramping, abdominal pain, bloating, constipation, and diarrhea. IBS causes a great deal of discomfort and distress, but it does not permanently harm the intestines and does not lead to a serious disease, such as cancer. Most people can control their symptoms with diet, stress management, and prescribed medications. For some people, however, IBS can be disabling. They may be unable to work, attend social events, or even travel short distances.

As many as 20 percent of the adult population, or one in five Americans, have symptoms of IBS, making it one of the most common disorders diagnosed by doctors. It occurs more often in women than in men, and it begins before the age of 35 in about 50 percent of people.

### What are the symptoms of IBS?

Abdominal pain, bloating, and discomfort are the main symptoms of IBS. However, symptoms can vary from person to person. Some people have constipation, which means hard, difficult-to-pass, or infrequent bowel movements. Often these people report straining and cramping when trying to have

a bowel movement but cannot eliminate any stool, or they are able to eliminate only a small amount. If they are able to have a bowel movement, it may have mucus in it, which is a fluid that moistens and protect passages in the digestive system. Some people with IBS experience diarrhea, which is frequent, loose, watery, stools. People with diarrhea frequently feel an urgent and uncontrollable need to have a bowel movement. Other people with IBS alternate between constipation and diarrhea. Sometimes people find that their symptoms subside for a few months and then return, while others report a constant worsening of symptoms over time.



The colon and rectum are the two main parts of the large intestine.

### What causes IBS?

Researchers have yet to discover any specific cause for IBS. One theory is that people who suffer

from IBS have a colon that is particularly sensitive and reactive to certain foods and stress. The immune system, which fights infection, may also be involved.

- Normal motility, or movement, may not be present in the colon of a person who has IBS. It can be spasmodic or can even stop working temporarily. Spasms are sudden strong muscle contractions that come and go.

- The lining of the colon called the epithelium, which is affected by the immune and nervous systems, regulates the flow of fluids in and out of the colon. In IBS, the epithelium appears to work properly. However, when the contents inside the colon move too quickly, the colon loses its ability to absorb fluids. The result is too much fluid in the stool. In other people, the movement inside the colon is too slow, which causes extra fluid to be absorbed. As a result, a person develops constipation.

- A person's colon may respond strongly to stimuli such as certain foods or stress that would not bother most people.

- Recent research has reported that serotonin is linked with normal gastrointestinal (GI) functioning. Serotonin is a neurotransmitter, or chemical, that delivers messages from one part of the body to another. Ninety-five percent of the serotonin in the body is located in the GI tract, and the other 5 percent is found in the brain. Cells that line

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## medsearch continued...

the inside of the bowel work as transporters and carry the serotonin out of the GI tract. People with IBS, however, have diminished receptor activity, causing abnormal levels of serotonin to exist in the GI tract. As a result, they experience problems with bowel movement, motility, and sensation—having more sensitive pain receptors in their GI tract.

- Researchers have reported that IBS may be caused by a bacterial infection in the gastrointestinal tract. Studies show that people who have had gastroenteritis sometimes develop IBS, otherwise called post-infectious IBS.

- Researchers have also found very mild celiac disease in some people with symptoms similar to IBS. People with celiac disease cannot digest gluten, a substance found in wheat, rye, and barley. People with celiac disease cannot eat these foods without becoming very sick because their immune system responds by damaging the small intestine. A blood test can determine whether celiac disease may be present.

### How is IBS diagnosed?

IBS is generally diagnosed on the basis of a complete medical history that includes a careful description of symptoms and a physical examination.

No specific test for IBS exists, although diagnostic tests may be performed to rule out other problems. These tests may include stool sample testing, blood tests, and x rays. Typically, a doctor will perform a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, which allows the doc-

tor to look inside the colon by inserting a small, flexible tube with a camera on the end of it through the anus. The camera then transfers the images of the colon onto a large screen for the doctor to see better.

If test results are negative, the doctor may diagnose IBS based on symptoms, including how often a person has had abdominal pain or discomfort during the past year, when the pain starts and stops in relation to bowel function, and how bowel frequency and stool consistency have changed. Many doctors refer to a list of specific symptoms that must be present to make a diagnosis of IBS.

### Symptoms include

- Abdominal pain or discomfort for at least 12 weeks out of the previous 12 months. These 12 weeks do not have to be consecutive.

- The abdominal pain or discomfort has two of the following three features:

- It is relieved by having a bowel movement.
- When it starts, a change occurs in how often a person has a bowel movement.
- When it starts, a change occurs in the form of the stool or the way it looks.

- Certain symptoms must also be present, such as

- a change in frequency of bowel movements
- a change in appearance of bowel movements
- feelings of uncontrollable urgency to have a bowel movement
- difficulty or inability to pass stool
- mucus in the stool
- bloating

- Bleeding, fever, weight loss, and persistent severe pain are not symptoms of IBS and may indicate

other problems such as inflammation or, rarely, cancer.

The following have been associated with a worsening of IBS symptoms

- large meals
- bloating from gas in the colon
- medicines
- wheat, rye, barley, chocolate, milk products, or alcohol
- drinks with caffeine, such as coffee, tea, or colas
- stress, conflict, or emotional upsets

Researchers have found that women with IBS may have more symptoms during their menstrual periods, suggesting that reproductive hormones can worsen IBS problems.

In addition, people with IBS frequently suffer from depression and anxiety, which can worsen symptoms. Similarly, the symptoms associated with IBS can cause a person to feel depressed and anxious.

### What is the treatment for IBS?

Unfortunately, many people suffer from IBS for a long time before seeking medical treatment. Up to 70 percent of people suffering from IBS are not receiving medical care for their symptoms. No cure has been found for IBS, but many options are available to treat the symptoms. The doctor will prescribe the best treatments for a person's particular symptoms and encourage the person to manage stress and make dietary changes.

Medications are an important part of relieving symptoms. The doctor may suggest fiber supplements or laxatives for constipation or medicines to decrease diarrhea, such as diphenoxylate and atropine (Lomotil) or loperamide (Imodium). An antispasmodic is commonly prescribed, which helps control colon muscle spasms and reduce abdominal pain. Antidepressants may re-



## medsearch, continued

lieve some symptoms. However, both antispasmodics and antidepressants can worsen constipation, so some doctors will also prescribe medications that relax muscles in the bladder and intestines, such as belladonna alkaloid combinations and phenobarbital (Donnatal) and chlordiazepoxide and clidinium bromide (Librax). These medications contain a mild sedative, which can be habit forming, so they need to be used under the guidance of a physician.

A medication available specifically to treat IBS is alosetron hydrochloride (Lotronex). Lotronex has been reapproved with significant restrictions by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for women with severe IBS who have not responded to conventional therapy and whose primary symptom is diarrhea. However, even in these patients, Lotronex should be used with great caution because it can have serious side effects such as severe constipation or decreased blood flow to the colon.

With any medication, even over-the-counter medications such as laxatives and fiber supplements, it is important to follow the doctor's instructions. Some people report a worsening in abdominal bloating and gas from increased fiber intake, and laxatives can be habit forming if they are used too frequently.

Medications affect people differently, and no one medication or combination of medications will work for everyone with IBS. Working with the doctor to find the best combination of medicine, diet, counseling, and support to control symptoms may be helpful.

### How does stress affect IBS?

Stress—feeling mentally or emotionally tense, troubled, angry, or overwhelmed—can stimulate colon

spasms in people with IBS. The colon has many nerves that connect it to the brain. Like the heart and the lungs, the colon is partly controlled by the autonomic nervous system, which responds to stress. These nerves control the normal contractions of the colon and cause abdominal discomfort at stressful times. People often experience cramps or “butterflies” when they are nervous or upset. In people with IBS, the colon can be overly responsive to even slight conflict or stress. Stress makes the mind more aware of the sensations that arise in the colon, making the person perceive these sensations as unpleasant.

Some evidence suggests that IBS is affected by the immune system, which fights infection in the body. The immune system is affected by stress. For all these reasons, stress management is an important part of treatment for IBS. Stress management options include:

- stress reduction training and relaxation therapies such as meditation
- counseling and support
- regular exercise such as walking or yoga
- changes to the stressful situations in a person's life
- adequate sleep

### What does the colon do?

The colon, which is about 5 feet long, connects the small intestine to the rectum and anus. The major function of the colon is to absorb water, nutrients, and salts from the partially digested food that enters from the small intestine. Two pints of liquid matter enter the colon from the small intestine each day. Stool volume is a third of a pint. The difference between the amount of fluid entering the colon from the small intestine and the amount of stool in the colon is what the colon absorbs each day.

Colon motility—the contraction of the colon muscles and the

movement of its contents—is controlled by nerves, hormones, and impulses in the colon muscles. These contractions move the contents inside the colon toward the rectum. During this passage, water and nutrients are absorbed into the body, and what is left over is stool. A few times each day contractions push the stool down the colon, resulting in a bowel movement. However, if the muscles of the colon, sphincters, and pelvis do not contract in the right way, the contents inside the colon do not move correctly, resulting in abdominal pain, cramps, constipation, a sense of incomplete stool movement, or diarrhea.

### Can changes in diet help IBS?

For many people, careful eating reduces IBS symptoms. Before changing the diet, keep a journal noting the foods that seem to cause distress. Then discuss these findings with the doctor. A registered dietitian can help a person make changes to the diet. For instance, if dairy products cause symptoms to flare up, try eating less of those foods. A person might be able to tolerate yogurt better than other dairy products because it contains bacteria that supply the enzyme needed to digest lactose, the sugar found in milk products. Dairy products are an important source of calcium and other nutrients. If a person needs to avoid dairy products, adequate nutrients should be added in foods or supplements should be taken.

In many cases, dietary fiber may lessen IBS symptoms, particularly constipation. However, it may not help with lowering pain or decreasing diarrhea. Whole grain breads and cereals, fruits, and vegetables are good sources of fiber. High-fiber diets keep the

## medsearch, continued

colon mildly distended, which may help prevent spasms. Some forms of fiber keep water in the stool, thereby preventing hard stools that are difficult to pass. Doctors usually recommend a diet with enough fiber to produce soft, painless bowel movements. High-fiber diets may cause gas and bloating, although some people report that these symptoms go away within a few weeks. Increasing fiber intake by 2 to 3 grams per day will help reduce the risk of increased gas and bloating.

Drinking six to eight glasses of plain water a day is important, especially if a person has diarrhea. Drinking carbonated beverages, such as sodas, may result in gas and cause discomfort. Chewing gum and eating too quickly can lead to swallowing air, which also leads to gas.

Large meals can cause cramping and diarrhea, so eating smaller meals more often, or eating smaller portions, may help IBS symptoms. Eating meals that are low in fat and high in carbohydrates such as pasta; rice; whole-grain breads and cereals, unless a person has celiac disease; fruits; and vegetables may help.

### Is IBS linked to other health problems?

As its name indicates, IBS is a syndrome—a combination of signs and symptoms. IBS has not been shown to lead to a serious disease, including cancer. Through the years, IBS has been called by many names, among them colitis, mucous colitis, spastic colon, or spastic bowel. However, no link has been established between IBS and in-

flammatory bowel diseases such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

### Points to Remember

- IBS is a disorder that interferes with the normal functions of the colon. The symptoms are crampy abdominal pain, bloating, constipation, and diarrhea.
- IBS is a common disorder found more often in women than men.
- People with IBS have colons that are more sensitive and reactive to things that might not bother other people, such as stress, large meals, gas, medicines, certain foods, caffeine, or alcohol.
- IBS is diagnosed by its signs and symptoms and by the absence of other diseases.
- Most people can control their symptoms by taking medicines such as laxatives, antidiarrhea medicines, antispasmodics, or antidepressants; reducing stress; and changing their diet.
- IBS does not harm the intestines and does not lead to cancer. It is not related to Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

### Hope through Research

The NIDDK conducts and supports research into many kinds of digestive disorders including IBS. Researchers are studying gastrointestinal motility and sensitivity to find possible treatments for IBS. These studies include the structure and contraction of gastrointestinal muscles, as well as the mechanics of fluid movement through the intestines. Understanding the influence of the nerves, hormones, and inflammation in IBS may lead to new treatments to better control the symptoms.

Participants in clinical trials can play a more active role in their own health care, gain access to new research treatments before

they are widely available, and help others by contributing to medical research.

The U.S. Government does not endorse or favor any specific commercial product or company. Trade, proprietary, or company names appearing in this document are used only because they are considered necessary in the context of the information provided. If a product is not mentioned, the omission does not mean or imply that the product is unsatisfactory.

### For More Information

#### International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders

P.O. Box 170864  
Milwaukee, WI 53217-8076  
Phone: 1-888-964-2001  
Fax: 414-964-7176  
Email: [iffgd@iffgd.org](mailto:iffgd@iffgd.org)  
Internet: [www.iffgd.org](http://www.iffgd.org) 

#### National Institute of Health National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse

2 Information Way  
Bethesda, MD 20892-3570  
Phone: 1-800-891-5389  
TTY: 1-866-569-1162  
Fax: 703-738-4929  
Email: [nddic@info.niddk.nih.gov](mailto:nddic@info.niddk.nih.gov)  
Internet: [www.digestive.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.digestive.niddk.nih.gov)

#### NIH Organization

The National Institutes of Health is made up of 27 different components called Institutes and Centers. Each has its own specific research agenda. All but three of these components receive their funding directly from Congress, and administrate their own budgets.

The Office of the Director is the central office, responsible for setting policy for NIH and for planning, managing, and coordinating the programs and activities of all the NIH components.



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



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



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



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



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



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



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



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



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



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

## POW Photos Order Form

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

Fill in the number of copies of each picture desired in the blank beside the picture's identification number:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_ 11. \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Checks payable to AXPOW

Mail to: AXPOW National Headquarters  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010. PH: 817-649-2979; fax 817-649-0109

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Credit Card: MasterCard \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed or Charged  
(\$5.00 per picture/\$50.00 for set of 12) \_\_\_\_\_

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# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Brad Bennett, Superintendent  
Brad\_Bennett@nps.gov

## Andersonville observes Memorial Day

By Chief of Interpretation and Education Eric Leonard

Memorial Day has long been the most significant annual event in Andersonville National Cemetery, with preparations beginning months in advance, leading up to a week's worth of activity involving staff, partners, volunteers, and the American public.

On Friday, May 25, the Robins Riders motorcycle club, based in Warner Robins, Georgia, coordinated 50 volunteers to raise the Avenue of Flags along the roadways within the cemetery. The following morning, on Saturday, May 26, around 400 boy and girl scouts and other volunteers decorated the nearly 20,000 gravesites within the cemetery with American flags. New for this year, the flag program was reorganized to extend beyond the placement of flags to include "Flag

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Wardens" to sweep the cemetery at least once per day and straighten flags as needed. On Tuesday, May 29, over fifty volunteers braved steady rains to pick up the gravesite flags.

On Sunday, May 27, the traditional program began at 2:00 p.m. with a Color Guard from Robins Air Force Base. Music was provided by members of the Band of the Air Force Reserve for a second year, ending with a moving rendition of Amazing Grace played on bagpipes.



Twenty-six wreaths were presented, representing numerous veterans, civic, and patriotic organizations, including the Friends of Andersonville. Mr. Edward L. DeMent, the National Director, Southeast Region, of the American Ex-Prisoners of War recognized all veterans in attendance, and presented the wreath for the American Ex-Prisoners of War with Esther Carboni. Al Agnew, President of NAM-POWs, presented a wreath on behalf of Vietnam era prisoners of war. U.S. Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. introduced featured speaker Master Sergeant Nesbitt.

MSgt Jennifer L. Nesbitt is the Honor Guard Program Manager for the 78th Air Base Wing, Robins AFB Georgia. She directs the installation Honor Guard program and provides funeral and color guard support in three states over a 70,000 square mile radius. She manages three flights of 25 active duty and



23 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members while designing local policies and directives for the administration of the base Honor Guard. MSgt Nesbitt also oversees Honor Guard awards and decorations program, as well as executes 448 hours of annual funeral honors drill instruction.

MSgt Nesbitt told the crowd about what it means for a soldier to serve in the honor guard and relayed a story about when she served in Afghanistan in 2009 at a base used by four branches of the service. While she and her team unloaded cargo, they saw two helicopters land at the base with wounded soldiers. "My heart sunk into my chest," she said, recalling her thoughts at the time. "What horrible atrocities did they see? Will they survive? Does anyone back home know about their sacrifices?"

One of those injured, a Marine, died from his wounds, and Nesbitt told the crowd about how Army, Navy and Air Force members lined up as the Marines carried his casket to the plane. Nesbitt said she felt privileged to be a part of that and other memorial services. "It's a true honor to be able to speak to these individuals and bring them the message about what the family endures when they lose a loved one."

*Photos: Ed Dement & Esther Carbone;  
NamPOW President Al Agnew*



Paul E. Galanti  
National Director, East Central  
804.389.1668 (cell)  
p.galanti@verizon.net

Story with additional comment:

## Who packs YOUR parachute?

by Charles Plumb

Charles Plumb was a US Navy jet pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform: a white hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wonder how many times I might have seen him and not even said Good morning, how are you?" or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the man hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.



Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?" Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. Plumb also points out that he needed many kinds of parachutes when his plane was shot down over enemy territory—he needed his physical parachute, his mental parachute, his emotional

parachute, and his spiritual parachute. He called on all these supports before reaching safety.

Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please, or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or just do something nice for no reason.

As you go through this week, this month, this year, recognize people who pack your parachute.

And now for the rest of the story...  
by Paul Galanti

Charlie Plumb was one of my plebes at Annapolis during the summer of 1960. Later I flew a couple of check flights with him in Pensacola when I was a primary flight instructor. In June 1967, the "V" had some East German visitors filming "Pilots in Pajamas" in our camp. It was in the October 1967 Life Magazine cover "Clean & Neat" cell plotting how to foil any attempts to use us for propaganda when I heard a clatter outside the room.

I ran to the window (it had fixed slats and was the only cell I lived in from which I could look out) and saw a guard followed by a POW going under the window. As they passed out of sight, another POW appeared moving more slowly. As he passed under the window, I whispered, "I'm Paul Galanti. Who are you?" The POW looked startled and pressed on to get his food.

When they returned he fell very far behind his cellmate and the guard, glanced up at the window and whispered back, "I'm Charlie Plumb. Thanks for not washing me out of the check ride, you S.O.B."

# va outreach



**JVC Bill Jeffers  
Chairman**

Starting with this issue of the Bulletin, I'll begin offering some suggestions and guidance to enable our members to function as Outreach Ambassadors. As described in a previous issue, our members can serve a very useful role by assisting other veterans and their spouses to obtain the benefits to which they are entitled.

There are many VA benefit topics and situations. It is beyond the scope of these articles to fully address each in great detail. However, these articles will attempt to discuss situations which are commonly encountered and will direct the reader in a direction likely to be useful in dealing with them. Also, I welcome any suggestions for improving the content or clarity of these articles, as well as pointing out any errors.

I would be remiss if I didn't state right off the top that the best and most knowledgeable sources of help are our National Service Officers. Those affiliated with AXPOW are particularly versed in matters dealing with ex-POWs and their kin. Other service organizations also have NSOs who serve veterans and their kin. All VA Medical Centers have offices for NSOs. All state governments have a Veterans Service Officer.

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One of the most frequently encountered situations where Outreach Ambassadors can lend a helping hand is where a newly widowed spouse, or other next-of-kin, is faced with a seemingly endless number of notifications, terminations, applications and necessary supporting documents.

Attending to all of this takes a lot of time and effort, some of which can extend weeks and even months after the funeral. Family members and close friends are of great help, but their availability usually lasts a relatively short time.

The funeral director can play a key role in attending to many details and provides valuable services to the bereaved. One of these is obtaining certified copies of the death certificate. This document is required when seeking insurance benefits, VA benefits, etc.

Among the first actions needed to be taken following death is stopping further payments of Social Security (800-772-1213) and VA benefit (800-827-1000) checks. It is extremely important that both of these agencies are notified promptly following the death to avoid having to return payments issued prematurely. SS and VA benefit checks are not prorated, they are for the previous full month of life. However, the VA benefit that the veteran had been receiving will be issued for the month

of death and is referred to as the "death check".

Here are a few words concerning necessary documents. Some or all of the following may be needed, depending on the benefits being sought: death certificate, birth certificate, marriage certificate, honorary discharge or separation certificate, divorce decree, social security number, VA claim number. If the deceased veteran was VA rated at 100% disabled for a period of at least one year, the widow only needs to complete VA Form 21-534 and provide a long form death certificate for VA benefits. If the decedent was a civil service retiree, the survivor will need to provide the retiree's civil service retirement (CSA) number to claim any annuity if the deceased retiree elected this option. Similarly, if the decedent also carried FEGLI (202-632-7700). Many veterans continued some version of their GI insurance, for which there is a policy number. (800-669-8477)

A burial allowance not exceeding \$700 is paid by the VA. This increases up to \$2000 if death was service connected. An additional amount may be paid if death occurs in a VA hospital, or in a VA contracted nursing home. A plot allowance of \$700 is paid by the VA, except for disposition in a national cemetery (800-827-1000). A one-time death payment of \$255 is made by the Social Security Administration (800-772-1213).

## from the va...

At VA, our mission is to get the right information to the right Veteran at the right time.

Millions of Veterans and their family members use social media each day, so we're continuously expanding our online effort. In the directory at the website listed below, you'll find links to all VA organizations currently using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, and blogs. We're updating the list each week, so be sure to check back frequently!

<http://www.va.gov/opa/SocialMedia.asp>

## pow-mia



### **PNC John Edwards Chairman**

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

### **New Era in Potential Vietnam Resolutions**

By Alice A. Booher

It has been 17 years since the U.S. and Vietnam formally “normalized” post-war relationships, but more concrete mending has not come easily. Now, common needs such as the increased economic and other influence, and military presence of China, have stimulated good faith on both sides for moving forward on improving U.S. and Vietnam relations. In early June 2012, for the first time since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, MG Nguyen Cong Son, deputy Chief of the Office of the Minister of Defense, welcomed a US Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta at Vinh Cam Ranh (Bay). Military cooperation and maritime concerns were at the top of the agenda in Panetta’s meetings in Hanoi with Vietnam Defense Minister Phuong Quang Thanh.

Cam Ranh Bay, a massive joint-service site during the War, fewer than 200 miles from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), is now a “restricted military area” and is empty save local fishing vessels. Since 2003, 20 U.S ships have visited the country. But the U.S. Navy,

which uses it on occasion for repairs (e.g., the USS Robert E. Byrd being repaired by a Vietnamese business in the area was visited by Panetta), would love to better access the huge deep water port in sheltered anchorage off the South China Sea. All of this is subject to further discussion per a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2011 that covers high-ranking dialogues, search and rescue, peacekeeping UN operations, military management and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

However, more immediately, both countries have committed to improved resolution of unclosed chapters in that war including cooperating on clearings of bomb and mine fields and mitigation of residuals of Agent Orange.

Perhaps most viscerally tangible is the bilateral commitment to the resolution of the fates of American MIAs. On the part of the Vietnamese, they will permit the opening of three previously restricted sites which the Pentagon has stated are critical to locating specific MIA’s, e.g., Central sites in Quang Binh province where a USAF F-4C Phantom II jet crashed in 1967; in Kon Tum province near the Cambodian border, involving an Army loss in January 1968 during the Tet Offensive; and in Quang Tri province involving the loss of a Marine F-4J Wild Weasel aircraft, a site located in 2008 but until now, unavailable for a search. Eight sites are purportedly still restricted.

Since the end of the Vietnam War, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command’s Detachment 2 based in Hanoi has conducted 107 field searches for American MIA’s with Vietnamese support. From the Vietnam War, there are now 1,666 American personnel still missing; 1,284 are

thought to be in Vietnam. Of these, 586 cases are categorized as “no further pursuit” meaning that there is conclusive evidence that the individual perished but it is not possible to recover remains – Thus, there are 698 MIAs that need to be located in-country and repatriated.

As visible articles of good faith, during the recent meetings, the Defense chiefs exchanged war artifacts, both sides agreeing to return the respective items to the families of the deceased soldiers. From the US came a small maroon red diary owned by Vu Dinh Doan, a Vietnamese soldier found killed in a machine gun field. A US Marine, Robert “Ira” Frazure of Washington State saw the diary, along with a photo and a some money on the chest of the dead soldier and took it back CONUS. Recently, Frazure asked for help in its return. From Vietnam came letters written but not posted by US Army Sergeant Steve Flaherty, from Columbia, SC, with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, killed in northern South Vietnam in March 1969. Vietnamese Col Nguyen Phu Dat had kept the letters, which were briefly used for propaganda purposes, and made them available for return.

It is not perfect and all-inclusive, but it is certainly a welcome start to bringing some measure of resolution on many levels.

## **Missing/Captured**

US Service member reported missing or captured while supporting combat operations:

Army Spc. Bowe R. Bergdahi, 25,  
June 30,2009, Afghanistan

# civilians



**ND Alice Gollin  
Chairman**

## Heroes Unseen

*This is a first person account by  
Sascha Jansen.*

Maria Martinez was a good friend of my family, and our friendship flourished before the war in the Philippines. She was a young, dynamic Filipino businesswoman who had her fingers in a lot of enterprises in and around Manila. Her greatest pre-war accomplishment was not because she was an astute member of the business community, but because she had achieved the title of the first woman stockbroker in the Philippines. She was on the rise and reached for the stars - but destiny had other plans for Maria.

When the war started she came to our home, her dark eyes flashing - her mind going a mile a minute. "I do not know my plans," she said in great anticipation, "but you will hear from me from time to time. Take care of yourselves. God Bless You!"

We did hear from her in the beginning of the war. I received, by messenger, a birthday present for my 9th birthday from Maria before we were put into prison camp. It was a religious icon of the Virgin Mary in a shadow box, which I cherished. The card was simply signed - Maria. From that point on all communications stopped.

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Three years later we were liberated, but had to stay put in Santo Tomas for several weeks while the battle raged in Manila for a month. A medical unit was set up by the US Army to care for wounded military and civilians.

One day a young medic came to our shanty looking for us. "I have a message from Maria Martinez," he said. "She would like to see you." He took us to the well-staffed medical unit and led us to a sick bay. The person we saw was not the vibrant woman we had known. Maria's body had been broken in many places, but she was healing well. She smiled, reached into a bag, and handed us a dusty and stained bottle of Johnny Walker. "For celebration when I get released." We spoke to her, reassuring her that we would visit each day. Her story unfolded as the medic began telling it.

Maria had been in Fort Santiago for months, worked over by the Kempetai in their inimitable barbaric fashion until her spirits and body were broken. Repeated beatings and interrogations did not deter this woman who refused to break. She had spent most of the war arranging for medicines, supplies, and food to be sent to military and civilian camps. She was part of an organization that smuggled ammunition, transported guerillas, and provided communication to key leaders in the hills and the outer islands, and sent messages to the US and Australian intelligence, working under great adversity and secrecy. Special mission submarines and leaky bancas were pressed into service delivering precious information and resupplying Filipino and American guerilla forces. They manned special observation stations and reported location, movements, speed and direction of enemy shipping.

The work took its toll and many of her compadres were caught, then tortured and killed. Whole Filipino families, all working for the good of both countries, were massacred in their homes. Most of the members of the Manila German Club, who were suppose to be allies of the Japanese

while some worked for the underground, were also massacred. We will forever be in debt to people such as Maria Martinez and the thousands of unknown Filipino heroes. They all fought and sacrificed their lives for their compadres and our two countries.

Maria's mind and body eventually healed. President Roxas and the Philippine Government presented some of these heroes with top awards - both those still alive and posthumously. President Truman, on behalf of the US Government, was moved to tears as he read out the names of these underground movers and shakers when he presented their stories. Medals and awards were given for bravery to some, above and beyond the call of duty. Maria had moved to the states shortly after the war - and we continued to be good friends. She died in her nineties.

I only tell you about Maria's story because we, unknowingly, were the beneficiaries of her many daring deeds. She and all of those like her should be hailed for their bravery, guts and fortitude because they did the right thing to overcome adversity. We can thank them aloud and in silence. I do - when I touch the Virgin Mary icon sitting on my nightstand as I climb into bed each night.

On behalf of civilian prisoners and military POWs, we thank you - Maria - and all of those who lay beside you.

*During WWII, Filipino soldiers, guerillas, and underground heroes were extraordinary fighters. Their loyalty and passion for their two countries were deliberate and true. They fought alongside their American counterparts in a war for which their adopted country had failed to prepare, or to arm and back them. Sadly, America forgot them altogether post war, their loyalty and bravery left by the wayside. We need to resurrect the meaning of loyalty - the meaning of integrity, and the meaning of accountability.*

*It isn't too late, America. Are you listening?*





**July 29-Aug 5, 2012. The Korean War Ex-POW Association annual reunion** will be held at the Marriott Regency Hotel, 10220 Regency Circle, Omaha, NE 68114; 402-399-9000. For more information, contact Bill Norwood, President at: [info@koreanwarexpow.org](mailto:info@koreanwarexpow.org).

**Sept. 6-9, 2012. The 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association Annual Reunion** will be held at the Kansas City Hilton Airport Hotel, 8801 NW 112<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64153; 816-893-8900. For details, call Col. Robert Dalton, 785-267-3295.

**Oct. 2-6, 2012. The annual Mukden reunion** will be held at the Hotel St. Marie, in New Orleans. Room reservations must be made thru the Hotel St. Marie, at 800 - 366- 2748, before July 30. Be sure to say you're with the Mukden Survivors Group. Contact: Ann Johnson, 52 Streamview Lane, Wynantskill, NY 12198; 518- 283 - 8062(land line) before August 15<sup>th</sup>. After that, call 518 -283 - 6280 (cell phone.)

**March 14-16, 2013. USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations Annual Reunion** will be held at: Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown. Contact: John Keith Schwarz Executive Director- USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations; [contact@usshouston.org](mailto:contact@usshouston.org); 202-268-2261/703-867-0142.

looking  
for



An informal **history of the individual Chapter Commanders of Texas** is being compiled and organized. Your assistance is re-

quested in locating and compiling the names of the various chapter commanders of Texas. Please contact: Alfred Evans, 527 Cicero, San Antonio, TX 78218.

I am trying to find information regarding an incident which occurred when we were on a **bombing mission Jan. 27, 1944** to Salon de Provence, France. 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 2<sup>nd</sup> BG, 49<sup>th</sup> BS, flying out of Foggia, Italy. When the pilot Lt. Frank Glass did not receive a response from the Radio Operator/Gunner, Vincent Pesature, he asked that one of the Waist Gunners check on him and I volunteered. I removed my parachute, disconnected my oxygen, ran into the radio room and reconnected my oxygen. He was slumped over his radio table and his oxygen indicator was not moving. I turned his oxygen to 100% and he came up. I turned it off and he slumped down again. I tried this three times with the same result. I notified Pilot Glass and he said we should abort the mission. In the meantime, Top Turret Gunner George Hawk came through the bomb bays and gave me an oxygen mask he found in the cockpit. Immediately I took off the defective mask and replaced it with the other one. Sgt. Pesature was revived and we did not have to abort the mission - which would have put the plane in extreme danger. The overhead panel had been removed so that he could point the machine gun outside. The air was extremely cold. I had to remove my gloves to help Sgt. Pesature, and after a few minutes, my hands began to feel stiff, and turned white and wrinkled. As I was in the slipstream under the overhead panel, frostbite was setting in. This information needs to be corroborated by someone. If you can give me any help it would be greatly appreciated. Perhaps some friend or relative of one of our crew members remembers this story. Lawrence Carastro, 2948 Eastwind Drive,

Fernandina Beach, FL 32034; [jcarastro@yahoo.com](mailto:jcarastro@yahoo.com); 786-200-0023.

My name is Mary Forester, and I am writing you from Florida. I am a member of Rolling Thunder. I am working on a project to help raise funds for "The Ride Home" which is a Weekend of Remembrance for former POWs and MIA Families. This happens the third weekend in September, or the weekend of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. In Florida, I am working with Bill Arcuri, and Bill Allen to contact the former POWs in our area.

I am collecting **recipes from Former POWs and MIA Families** to include in a cookbook titled, "Dining with America's Heroes". All monies raised from the cookbook will be used for lodging, meals and transportation costs for the POW and MIA families that attend the event in Andersonville, GA. I am trying to find a way to contact as many former POWs, and/or their spouses/family members as possible, so that we can include their favorite recipe in the cookbook. I have several submitted so far, including a recipe for an item that was served at the Nixon White House in 1973.

If you wish to reach me by telephone, my home number is 386-427-6747 and my cell number is 386-689-2285. Thank you.

[maryforester1@bellsouth.net](mailto:maryforester1@bellsouth.net).

We live in **Memmingerberg near Memmingen** where there was a prison camp during WWII. Now we want to write down the history of our village and cannot find any information about the camp. Does anyone have information about it? With regards from Germany. Ursula Stetter; [familystetter@t-online.de](mailto:familystetter@t-online.de)

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# News Briefs

## Andersonville POW Veteran Finally Rests in Peace

by Alice A. Booher



Peter Jones Knapp was, by all accounts, a rather remarkable and occasionally lucky fellow before, during and after the American Civil War. The 19-year old Union soldier enlisted with Company H, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Iowa Volunteers in July 1861 and followed General Ulysses Grant down the Mississippi to Vicksburg. After months of battle, he came down with typhoid, was too ill to travel 10 miles by wagon, and he and other men were left in an abandoned building without medical attention for 3 weeks. Knapp would see the Surrender of Memphis (June 1862), watching it along with much of the city's population. He would

survive the Battle of Iuka (MS), where war records show his regiment lost more in the 80 minute engagement than any other regiment lost in any other engagement of the entire war (half of his regiment of 440 was lost). He lived through Shiloh (April 1862) and Vicksburg (May-July 1863), some details of which would surface decades later. Then came the Battle of Missionary Ridge in late November 1863, part of the Chattanooga Campaign (Orchard Knob, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge). Military historians said Missionary Ridge was "the war's most notable example of a frontal assault succeeding against entrenched defenders holding high ground", but for the North, of the 56,000 soldiers engaged, 5,824 were dead, 2,160 wounded and 4,146 were missing, mostly prisoners. Knapp was one of those captured, a Confederate prisoner of war (POW), eventually landing in Georgia at Camp Sumter known as Andersonville.

Of the myriad major prisoner camps, [37 in the North, 38 in the South), Andersonville was one of the largest and worst, built in late 1863-early 1864 after Confederate officials decided to move the large number of Federal prisoners held in the many camps (including around Richmond, VA) to greater security and more abundant food supply (certainly a relative measure). The open-air stockade-fenced "pen" at Andersonville existed as a POW camp for 14 months during which time more than 45,000 Union troops were confined there, of whom almost 13,000 died of disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding or exposure to the elements. Knapp would be a prisoner there for 15 months; starved and virtually unable to see, he was moved to another POW camp where he escaped with others.

After the Civil War, Knapp reenlisted in the U.S. Army and served 15 months in the Indian War. He then returned to Muskegon, Michigan, married Georgianna Eliza

Pearson (Pierson) in 1870 and moved to Kelso in Washington State in 1887. He ran a sawmill, developed a coal mine in Cowlitz County with one of his brothers, was a police judge and elected justice of the peace after his mill retirement, and was commandant of three different posts of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) where he was in charge of indigent veterans' benefits for years. The family faced some publicity when another brother, Cornelius and his wife were murdered in November 1900 as they sat eating dinner at their home in Castle Rock, OR, robbery being the apparent motive. Their killer, Martin Stickle, was captured a few days later, charged with their and another death and eventually hanged in January 1901.

In the interim, Americans had anecdotally gotten to know Knapp in a curious addendum to another Civil War related story involving a Confederate soldier named Willis Meadows and their respective military service at Vicksburg.

Pieced together by the parties and historians, it seems that on July 1, 1863, Knapp and three other soldiers were approaching Vicksburg from the east with orders to kill all Confederate snipers. Just outside the town, through a peephole in an iron boilerplate, a Rebel sharpshooter, Pvt. Willis Meadows was firing his rifle at the Yankees. Knapp spotted Meadows and fired at the peephole. Meadows fell to his side, blood pouring out of his right eye socket; thinking he was dead, the soldiers moved on. Meadows would receive medical care from Union doctors and recovered, but the bullet was never removed from near his brain. Years later, living in Lanett, AL, at age 78 years old, Meadows would be struggling to breathe, had a violent coughing spell and the bullet came spewing out of his mouth, rolled around on a wooden kitchen table and came to rest. According to a 1927 newspaper account, as resurrected in 2009 by a *Medford Mail-Tribune*

## news, continued

stringer Bill Miller, the tale was a newspaper sensation, and when it reached Knapp in Kelso, WA, he recognized the cited circumstances of the injury and contacted Meadows by letter via general delivery. Comparing notes, they confirmed that it had been Knapp's bullet that hit Meadows. They would live their last few years as buddies, exchanging photographs and writing letters, wishing each other good health as former enemies now friends. On April 13, 1924, Knapp died after being bedfast for two months.

In the early 1990's, the childless couple, Peter and Georgianna, had adopted the daughter of an Oregon woman who had been abandoned by her husband and could not care for her children. After the Knapp's adopted daughter grew up and married, she visited her biological brother, Henry Kilburn and they discussed the above-cited saga. Henry told the story to the local newspaper, which put it on the front page and where it remained dormant for 59 years until unearthed by a relative who ferreted out the story and decided to pursue it. Wanting to know where her great, great, great grand uncle was buried, Alice Knapp discovered that only a service had been held for Knapp at a Portland, OR crematorium, a site that still exists but under new management. On calling the place, she was flabbergasted to learn that his ashes had remained unclaimed and unburied, sitting there still on a shelf, along with those of his wife who had died in 1930.

Alice Knapp put all of this information together and contacted veterans'



advocate, Debbie Peevyhouse of the California Medal of Honor Project, the Oregon Military Department and others to secure a proper resting place for the ashes.

On April 13, 2012, the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his 1924 death, and the 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Confederate victory at Fort Sumter, SC, which ignited the Civil War, Knapp was buried with full military honors at the Willamette National Cemetery, near Portland, OR. He thus became the first Civil War veteran to be buried in the largest Department of Veterans Affairs cemetery in Oregon, one of a network of national cemeteries that became a necessity during the Civil War so that America might respectfully bury their military dead. The Willamette location also houses the state's Korean Conflict Memorial and the graves of notables from GOV Mark Hatfield to Four Medal of Honor Winners.

Knapp's was an extraordinary burial service, complete with Civil War reenactors, historians, press, civilian and military brass and 300 relatives and friends he never met but who were determined to help his ashes (and those of his wife) find a final resting place of honor. Given full military honors by the Oregon National Guard, the hearse carrying the two gold boxes containing the ashes drove down a road flanked by 100 motorcycle riders representing Patriot Riders, Combat Vets, and In Country Vietnam Vets who walked and rode, all carrying American flags. A contingent of the First Marine Division Association, dressed in bright red jackets, lined the entry to the funeral shelter. The Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War performed a ritual for the dead based on a GAR ceremony from 1873, a bagpiper played "Amazing Grace", a bugler sounded taps, wreaths were laid, and a musket fired the final salute. Said the presiding cleric D.H. Shearer, a Union chaplain for the day: "May we all be inspired by his example of loyalty and fidelity". Echoed one of the bikers, "You've got to honor them, you've just got to".



## Memorial Day, 2012

AXPOW's Bob Noble of Quincy, MA was the speaker at the "Field of Honor Flag Display" honoring all veterans. There were over 550 flags displayed. The event was sponsored by the Sons of the Legion Squadron of the Cohasset American Legion Post.

## Steve and Marcia visit the Davao Penal Colony

Steve Kwiecinski  
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Our nine-day Valor Tours Bataan Death March tour ended on Friday. Truly, it was one of our most memorable, being privileged to accompany seven WWII veterans, including three who served and were taken prisoner on Corregidor. Having the students from the College of the Ozarks added something extra-special; they were delightful, both as individuals and as a group. Our highest level of praise goes to them and Dr. Fred Mullinex, vice president and tour host for the college. Check out their blog at <http://patriotctravel2012.blogspot.com/> and be sure to watch the videos about

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## news, continued

the trip. We decided to take a break from writing and let the students tell the stories.

We finished the main portion of the tour on Corregidor, and had the privilege of escorting Marine Warren Jorgenson to the place where he was wounded. During a banca ride we were able to show Marine Bob Erhart the south side of Caballo Island - not visible from Corregidor - where he manned a machine gun prior to the surrender. And we were able to take Army veteran Jim Collier to Battery Cheney, where he worked in the plotting room, and also to C1 ("Bunker's") Bunker, where he was, as he says, "schlepping ammunition" when word came of the surrender on May 6.

We then returned to Manila for one last day of touring. On our way to lunch, which was planned to occur immediately before our appointment at the U.S. Embassy, we passed a small protest taking place in front of the embassy. By the time we ate and returned it had been dispersed. They were young Filipinos calling for all U.S. forces on training assignments to leave the Philippines, not something we would expect to happen any time soon. In the embassy's ballroom, U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas addressed the group, and Steve introduced the seven veterans and John Hogue, a civilian WW II POW, to the ambassador.

Four of our guests, including Ray Heimbuch (HIME-buck) had signed on for an additional three nights and two days in Davao, one of the largest and southernmost cities in the Philippines. Davao (DAH-vow, not duh-VOW) is in Mindanao (MEAN-duh-now). A few areas of the second-largest island in the Philippines are best avoided, but the Davao area is considered safe for western visitors.

Our purpose was to visit the Davao Prison Main Camp, which was known as Davao Penal Colony under the



Japanese during WWII. Ray was held prisoner there for the first two years of captivity. The six of us reached the Manila airport two hours ahead of our scheduled takeoff for our 90-minute flight, as recommended for inter-island flights. Unfortunately - and for reasons we never learned - many of the flights arriving at the Philippine Airlines terminal were late, including our plane which was coming from Bacolod. Our takeoff was delayed by more than two hours, getting us into Davao at midnight. We were met by local representatives of Rajah Tours and driven straight to the very nice Marco Polo Hotel, where we got into bed as quickly as possible.

In the morning we reconnected with our Filipino guide, Tommy Soria, and local driver Alfredo. We headed out to Davao Prison. The drive took about an hour, going first through much of Davao City, and then into the country, which looked somewhat like the provinces of Luzon. The countryside is dominated by tall coconut palms and much shorter banana trees. (The banana bunches, seemingly millions of them, are bagged on the trees to protect them from pests.) Although we did not see pineapple plants, the pineapple slices served at the breakfast buffet were the best we have ever tasted! This area is the home of durian, a fruit that "tastes like heaven and smells like hell." We received durian candies to taste after lunch at a Chinese restaurant, with mixed reviews amongst the six of us. Another fruit grown here is pomelo, a very sweet relative of grapefruit. Tommy said he bought a bag-full to take back to Manila for family and friends. It can be purchased in Manila, but at about double the price.

Since the site of the penal colony is still an active prison, we needed special permission to enter. Tommy knew the right things to say, and into the prison we rode. It is a large area, and resembles a small village, except for the barbed wire fences surrounding the medium and high security areas. There are three classes of prisoners, each wearing a specific t-shirt color for identification. An officer told us about the prison and answered our questions, and Ray shared some of his memories. One interesting fact is that the vast majority of the prisoners were convicted of crimes-against-property (rather than crimes-against-persons), often due to desperation secondary to unemployment. Although the prison today is very different from 70 years ago, Ray was quite certain that he recognized at least one area.

Steve asked the guard if the prisoners were expected to work, and if so, how much they were paid. The answer was surprising: the inmates have assigned jobs, and are paid local minimum wage, which is 258 pesos a day, or about six American dollars. This may sound low to you, but we learned that many of the prisoners are not eager to be released, since the tight economy means probable unemployment. Their wages help support their families, even enabling them to send their children to college, something impossible for them on the outside if they cannot find work. The prison officer then led us on a drive-through of part of the grounds where we saw some of the housing, and vegetable gardens planted and maintained by the prisoners.

This area of the Philippines does not have defined dry and rainy seasons, and it was predominantly cloudy and therefore noticeably cooler than in Manila and Corregidor this time of year, where it typically reaches nearly 100 degrees in April and May. We spent some time at the hotel swimming pool but it would have been even more inviting if the sun had been beating down on us. Not that we are complaining about a break from the heat, which has definitely set in at home!

## news, continued

If you want to know more about the Davao Penal Colony, we recommend Ray's book, "5 Brothers in Arms," available at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). We also highly recommend the recently published "Escape from Davao" by author and friend John Lukacs, available at major bookstores and online.

## POW, Marine, Scholar, Agent: Charlotte Day Gower Chapman

By Alice A. Booher



Some people's lives read like fantastic movie scripts; Charlotte Day Gower Chapman's is a case in point. Except for relatively obscure references (e.g., a chapter by Maria Lepowsky in The History of Anthropology Volume 9, 2000), Chapman usually shows up on those "How much do you know about the USMC" and Women History Month trivia quizzes as being the only woman Marine to serve in the OSS. Reality was that but far more.

Born into a prominent Kankakee, IL family on May 5, 1902, her father Eben Judge, Charlotte was pre-med,

majoring in psychology at Smith College, receiving her BA at age 20. While at Smith, a course in anthropology redirected her focus. She taught at Smith (1922-23) and at University of Texas (1923-24), starting graduate work at Chicago in 1924, spending a year interviewing individual segments of the local Sicilian community while juggling an active esteemed faculty spot and completing a Masters.

On completion of her PhD dissertation, "The Supernatural Patron in Sicilian Life", [her 1928 degree was the first awarded to a woman in anthropology at Chicago], she took her CONUS data for Continental validation, spending 18 months of field work in a small isolated fishing village near Palermo, Sicily, sponsored by Social Service Research Council (SSRC). [Two of only three prestigious SSRC Fellows that year were Chapman and Margaret Mead]. Charlotte completed her final draft in 1935, but the original was mysteriously and irrevocably "lost in the mail" and a yellowed carbon copy did not surface for nearly 40 years. [Published in 1971, Milocca: A Sicilian Village was a remarkable study but the inordinate delay in publishing influenced her being in the vanguard academically for the renown as many of her contemporaries]. Again CONUS, she taught prehistory and archaeology at University of Wisconsin for almost 8 years amidst an increasingly stormy faculty environment and challenging personal relationships.

Absent suitable anthropological opportunities, she applied in 1938 for a teaching position in sociology at Lingnan (Ling-nan) University in Canton. As she described it, "The Chinese opening rather terrifies me...They are entirely frank about bombs, the uncertainty of the situation, and so on. But after all, why not?" Further noting that she was no more (typhus or) bombproof than anyone else, and acknowledging the "missionary" aspects of the position were bothersome, she observed that the horrors of the spot might give her a unique professional perspective. On retrospect, her analysis predated by 60 years a new wave of an-

thropologists as to the impact of warfare, disaster and terror. Since applicants were slim in a place where the Japanese had already invaded Manchuria and were advancing down the coast, Charlotte was accepted by the liberal arts school.

As she reported in a speech in 1943, Ling-nan was "shot from under" her almost as soon as she arrived when the Japanese conquered the city. For nearly a year, Charlotte served as a pharmacist in a refugee/casualty hospital set up on the campus. In 1939, she rushed to Ling-nan's new campus in Hong Kong to resume teaching. The British evacuated everyone in 1940, but until December 7, 1941, the Americans remained optimistic, so there was no panic and she stayed and set up a new infirmary. When that locale came under shrapnel and was evacuated she moved to another city hospital to act as a nurse. She described Christmas day when the island surrendered: "Ours was a terribly hopeless situation when the news came...We sat all night waiting for the (Japanese) to come, no knowing what to do or what would happen." On January 5, all "enemy aliens" in Hong Kong were rounded up and for several weeks, they were crowded into various Chinese brothels until taken to internment in the prison community on the other side of the island. Said Chapman: "We had a fairly decent camp, but it was terribly crowded. The crowding was next worst to the constant, gnawing hunger. From January to March we were almost always hungry...At first our diet was fixed at 1,000 calories per day, and if most of us had not brought extra supplies, we would have died."

Charlotte tutored other internees in Chinese (Cantonese) until she was released in a prisoner exchange during which time she smuggled out her diary in luggage. She arrived in New York City on August 20 on the SS Gripsholm. While family and associates were busily endeavoring to find her academic work, the U.S. Marines

## news, continued

eyed her first. Dr. Robert Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago, writing a requested recommendation to the Headquarters Marine Corps, stated the obvious, that she was “an exceptionally capable and brilliant woman”.

Less than six months out of captivity, when she arrived at the Marine recruiting station, she was nearly 40 years of age and described as sturdy with glasses and graying hair, personal details which were clearly superfluous to the Marine Corps. [Accordinging to Chapter IV , USMC MAJ Robert E. Mattingly’s Command and Staff College work, Herringbone Cloak-GI Dagger: Marines of the OSS], in January 29, 1943, she was commissioned a Captain in the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve and reported directly to USMC HQ for duty. Without special military training, Captain Gower, soon Major, was assigned a series of recruiting trips to secure and supervise training for all Women Marine Reserve officer applicants. Within the year, she also became Officer in Charge of the Women’s Reserve Section wherein she supervised all such activities and headed the Board which selected all women candidates for officer training. She was credited with the smooth overhaul of the program that had some inherent difficulties as run by the Navy; by March 1944, a facilitated system was turned over to the M-5 Section of USMC HQ Plans and Policies Division.

Because her other unique qualities were also badly needed elsewhere, on April 17, 1944, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) asked for, and with reluctance on the part of the USMC, received her services. She was organized, articulate (in English, French, Chinese and Italian), had spent a great deal of intimate time overseas in both East and West, and had worked with, knew well, and had been imprisoned by the Japanese.

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She reported to OSS duty from June 1, 1944 to war’s end as an analyst with R&A when it was demolished at war’s end. She described her own OSS service primarily with the Far East. She brought extraordinary long-term field experience, contacts, analytical experience and vernacular language skills in two countries, China and Italy, where there was imminent risk. Lepowsy observes that it seems fair to assume that her return to Ling-nan in 1946, a year after officially leaving the OSS, and only three years after Mao’s entry into Beijing, she did so in a dual capacity associate professor of sociology/Dean of Women and as a field intelligence operative. In this, she was anticipating the choice of many other anthropologists for whom academia did not have adequate lure or positions. Chapman joined the CIA in 1947-8 and remained there until retirement in 1964, and as Lepowsky points out, having become one of the earliest field researchers on the anthropology of warfare and terror as forms of social change as well as what came to be known as applied anthropology. It is noted that even while operating these academic and intelligence dualities, she retained her love for the Marine Corps. She retired as a Lt Col without pay in the Reserves in the early 1960’s.

In 1947, Charlotte married Savilion H. Chapman, former merchant marine captain on the Isthmian Line. Born in 1904 in Hartford, CT, a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, he served at sea during WWII. In 1946, he had moved to Washington to serve with the OSS as an operations officer in the field of maritime affairs, work he continued with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) until his retirement in 1966. Charlotte Chapman died in Washington, D.C. in on September 21, 1982 of a myocardial infarction. Her husband died ten years later.

## PNC Barker Speaks

On May 17, I was invited to speak at the Hella Shrine Temple in Garland, TX, representing WWII veterans.



Other speakers were from the local police and fire departments. The gentleman on my right in Picture No.0906 is Ray McNeil, a friend of mine who was a pilot in the 15th Air Force, 446 Bomb Group, WWII. He flew 65 missions with the 15th. AF. Ray has been a wanted man since WWII (68 years ago), for flying, not once, but two times under the Golden Gate Bridge in a B-24. Ray was 22 at the time. I should turn Ray in, but the pay-off has been great. I get to visit with Ray occasionally, when I’m in the Dallas area, and our stories get longer each time we tell them. Ray says, “When a group gets together and begins to tell stories, the older you get, the further you could throw a baseball when you were young”.

## VA Telehealth

The Department of Veterans Affairs no longer charges Veterans a copayment when they receive care in their homes from VA health professionals using video conferencing. “Eliminating the copayment for this service will remove an unnecessary financial burden for Veterans,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “We will continue to do everything we can to ensure that Veterans have access to the first-class care they have earned with their service to our Nation.” This change will primarily benefit Veterans with limited mobility, such as spinal cord injury patients. Whenever medically appropriate, VA will make the home the preferred place of care for Veterans to ensure timely and convenient access to VA services. For more information about telehealth, refer to : <http://www.telehealth.va.gov>. Data have shown that expanded use of technology in the home enables patients with chronic health conditions,

## news, continued

such as diabetes, chronic heart failure and hypertension, to live independently, actively engage in managing their health, and prevents avoidable hospitalization of patients who otherwise may need long-term institutional care. Home telehealth does not replace the need for nursing home care or for traditional noninstitutional care programs. However, it enhances the ability for many veterans to better understand and manage chronic diseases. This partnership with their care team helps delay the need for institutionalization and enables them to maintain independence for an extended period of time, thus improving their overall quality of life.

### Statement on Remains Recovery Activities in India

The Department of Defense announces that the United States and India have agreed to resume remains recovery activities in parts of Northeastern India.

The Department assesses that there are approximately 400 unaccounted-for service members from some 90 aircraft crashes in the area during World War II.

Secretary Panetta said, "This is a critical step toward bringing home our service members lost during World War II. The United States and India, working together, can help provide comfort to the families of Americans who were lost during the war."

The Department deeply appreciates the close cooperation of the Government of India in helping our teams resume their critical work. Returning our fallen heroes is a top priority of the Department of Defense.

Background:

- There are about 400 unaccounted-for servicemen in India as a result of approximately 90 aircraft crashes. Virtually all of those sites are located in Northeast India.

- The United States possesses information on sixteen known crash sites and continues to develop information on others.

- Some of the information was reported to the Department of Defense by private parties or through Indian press.

- In April 2012, Department of Defense representatives participated in State Department-led bilateral discussions with the Government of India where restarting remains recovery operations was addressed.

### Bring Bowe Home

By Alice A. Booher



They are not fancy folks, Jani and Robert Bergdahl, but a bright, hardworking, solid, unflinching couple, she with piercing brown eyes and straight cut shoulder length brown hair; he with a strong, straight forward look, directed fierce eyes in a ruddy face surrounded by a batch of slightly unruly reddish beard. Someone hands him a bandana emblazoned with POW on the front. He explains that the beard is but a chronology of his son's captivity since June 30, 2009. They look a bit out of place, not uncomfortable but somber and eager. They certainly never expected to be banked on all sides by the strong-hewn, solid look of the black motorcycle leathers of Rolling Thunder, their escort and guard, an impermeable human backdrop to support them as he spoke what he had come all the way to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington to say.

The Bergdahls journeyed from a tiny town in Idaho, Hailey, population 6,000, from whom one precious citizen is currently absent, their now 26-year-old son, Bowe. They have not and are not now trying to buck the establishment, one with which they certainly never intended to become buddies, but such intimacy has been thrust upon them by circumstances that everyone would wish to be different. Robert's words are spoken in a strong, convincing manner, and clearly straight from his depths:

"Bowe, your family has not forgotten you; your hometown has not forgotten you. Your state of Idaho has not forgotten you, and thanks to all of you here today, Washington, D.C. has not forgotten you."

"Bowe" is Bowe Robert Bergdahl, born March 28, 1986 in Sun Valley, ID, and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Combat Team, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division out of Ft. Richardson, AK. The exact details of the circumstances of his capture in Afghanistan's Paktika Province vary but it appears that his captors were a Taliban-affiliated Haqqani group led by senior leader Maulvi (Mullah) Sangin Zadrain (who is shown on one of the videos with him) who then moved him to Ghazni Province. It is publically unclear whether he is now in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

The senior Bergdahls are a couple following the spirits and actions of hundreds of families before them, in a handful of wars, simply trying to get their precious family member returned from captivity. Since he was last home, they have seen him on five videos made by his captors, the last one in May 2011 his face showing considerable bruising. Sometime in late August or early September 2011, Bowe purportedly jumped from a first floor window of a mud-brick house in Pakistan where he was then imprisoned and headed for the underbrush and mountains; according to three seemingly reliable militants

## news, continued



present at the time, he was recaptured three days later. A PFC when seized he has since been promoted twice. The Taliban has publicly demanded \$1 million and the release of 21 Afghan prisoners and Aafia Siddiqui in exchange for his release.

The U.S. Government has readily acknowledged that military and diplomatic efforts including negotiations with Bowe Bergdahl's captors have gone on at a feverish pace for nearly three years, but recently stalled for reasons not entirely clear, partly relating to prisoner exchanges and when the Taliban diplomatic negotiating office in Qatar was suspended in March. To make his situation public was earlier thought by some to enhance the Taliban's negotiating position. However, senior Government officials have always strongly expressed their support of his release. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has met with the Bergdahls several times, as have others. Said one high DoD official, "We want our guy back. Period." Moreover, many other former POWs have joined the chorus on Bowe's behalf, including

NamPows CAPT Jerry Coffey and CMDR Render Crayton who collectively spent 5,000 days in captivity. During Bowe's nearly 1,000 days in captivity, the family has been in touch with Washington movers and shakers and their support has been mutual. Former POW SEN John McCain confirms that he has been in constant touch with the officials and that Bowe Bergdahl's return is of the highest priority.

More recently, the Bergdahls have availed themselves of something not available to those parents who wrote to Berlin in World War II or even the spouses who petitioned the Paris Peace Talks in the 1970's, the internet. They have even e-mailed someone they think has connections with the Taliban to let them know of the continued interest. In addition, for nearly 2 years, they kept utterly silent while the U.S. government worked to free their son. They broke their silence only to bring focus on the situation, not to lash out at anyone or violate any laws or trust.

Rolling Thunder chapters countrywide have done what they could. One chapter, IL/1, in the Chicago area placed three huge billboards in Bowe's behalf. On

this Memorial Day 2012, for the last few miles to the Wall, they were driven in the lead honor car before the hundreds of thousands of Rolling Thunder bikes by Army veteran Wayne Daniels, in his Model T car outfitted in honor of soldiers lost in action and missing. Daniels' girlfriend and three kids had scrambled to give up their traditional spots in the vintage vehicle for their new honored friends. Others in that first phalanx included retired Army Sergeant Kevin Coffey who made the drive from North Carolina on his own Ultra Classic copper pearl Harley Davidson with others of NC/7, the Rolling Thunder chapter which had invited the Bergdahls to join them. Many of the estimated 400,000 bikers in town for the Memorial Day ride in Washington wore his name on yellow rubber wrist bands or the more traditional white, red, blue or black aluminum bands that started five decades ago to place focus on the then POW/MIAs in Vietnam.

By all accounts, Bowe Bergdahl himself is a remarkable and very interesting young man. But that is a story for another day. For anyone who has dealt with and appreciated the sustained passion of Rolling Thunder and others who work and care on a daily basis for POW/MIA's, the Memorial Day tribute and special focus was all about grassroots awareness, a very real, raw love and a visceral, positive moving representation of American patriotism. We can just hope that it may achieve the ongoing general purpose of placing renewed focus on all POW/MIAs, but specifically, the goal of bringing Bowe home.





# Your Stories



This is the story of Sergeant Ray Hamman's March 13, 1945 crash landing in B-17 bomber #44-6317 and subsequent capture and imprisonment by Wehrmacht soldiers until his liberation on April 29, 1945 by U.S. Forces. This narrative is based on interviews with Mr. Hamman on April 5, 2011 and May 3, 2011 and other references as listed below.

## The Flight

The morning of March 13, 1945 was cool and clear with good visibility; the sort of day on which a mission was almost a given. Ray had flown the day before, a mission to Vienna, which was generally uneventful except for anti-aircraft fire over the target. The previous day's mission had been his 15<sup>th</sup> and his fourth in 12 days, so they were piling up quickly. So far, Ray had been unsuccessful joining up with Donald Chapman's crew, a crew that he occasionally played poker with and a crew of which two of the enlisted men were from his hometown of St. Louis. He had actually flown with that crew for his 2<sup>nd</sup> mission on November 19<sup>th</sup>, but the word was that he had not impressed the captain, although he couldn't understand why. He had paid attention for the entire flight and had responded quickly and professionally when a roster call of the positions had been requested. Whatever had happened with Chapman's crew, he was currently still a replacement gunner, a reluctant outcast from his original crew that had trained in B-24 bombers, which had had their ball turrets removed for faster air speed and more bomb weight when the Luftwaffe had lost control of the skies over Europe. Now, some months later, he had been assigned to the 483<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group in Italy and he flew with whatever B-17 crew needed a ball turret gunner on any given day. This meant that he usually flew with a new crew for most

missions and today was no different.

There had been some confusion in Tom Parrish's crew that morning and three of his enlisted personnel had mistakenly gone into town, one of whom was the crew's ball turret gunner. As a replacement gunner, Ray was assigned to Parrish's crew on a mission to bomb the marshalling yards at Regensburg. It was his 16<sup>th</sup> mission and he did not realize it at the time, but it would be the last time that he would fly in a B-17 bomber until the year 2008.

Once he learned that he would be flying that March morning in 1945, he and his assigned crew started their standard morning preparations. The pilots, navigator, and engineer went to a briefing to learn the day's mission and the enlisted men ate their breakfast in the mess hall and gathered the large box that contained their lunch for the day. Then they all milled around their bomber until it was time for them to leave. Ray hadn't told anyone and the censors would be incensed, but he and his mother had devised a way for him to let her know how many missions he had completed by way of his correspondence. Before he had left for overseas, his mother had given him a list of 35 girls names in order from 1 to 35. In his correspondence, Ray was to use the name of whichever girl corresponded to the number of missions he had completed as of the date of his correspondence. For instance, if "Irene" was the 10<sup>th</sup> name on the list and Ray had completed his 10<sup>th</sup> mission, he would write to his mother, "I finally heard from Irene in a recent letter. She sends her regards". In this manner, he could keep his mother informed as to when he might complete the all-important Mission #35. Little did Ray know that he would not need names 16 through 35 on his list.

The mission to Regensburg started out like most other missions. The bomber formation took off from the airfield outside of Foggia and slowly started across the Adriatic Sea. There wasn't much for the crew to do. Ger-

man fighters were scarce this late in the war and some days Ray could see the contrails of Allied escort fighters lazily tracking back and forth high above the formation. In fact, Ray had only seen one German fighter in his previous 15 missions and this one was obviously more interested in gauging their speed, direction, altitude, and strength of numbers than in engaging a large formation of flying fortresses and their fighter escorts. The Luftwaffe pilot had tracked them for a while and then flew away once he had gathered the information he was seeking.

But this particular day was to bring more excitement than the occasional German fighter or even anti-aircraft fire. Approximately 80 miles from the target and with no warning from the cockpit crew, B-17 #44-6317 abruptly left the formation. From his vantage point in the ball, Ray could see that some sort of mechanical problem had caused one of the bombers' four engines to feather and another was actively windmilling, stealing away valuable propulsion from the last two operational engines. Shortly after he realized that his aircraft was in trouble, the bomber suddenly jumped up as the toggler released the bombs into the side of a mountain. And if that weren't enough to let Ray know that they were in trouble, a voice came over the intercom with the ominous direction, "We'll get over (unintelligible), and then we'll bail out!" Approximately 8 to 10 minutes after aborting the mission at an altitude of 14,000 feet, the crew left their positions and began throwing everything that could be unbolted out of the plane. Ray distinctly remembered the crew ejecting the waist guns, flak suits, their large box of lunch (which they lived to regret), and, after some work between Ray and another gunner, Ray's ball turret as well.

But they continued to lose altitude. And as their injured bomber limped over the German-held city of Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, anti-aircraft fire

## your stories, cont'd...

knocked out one of their remaining two operating engines. Ray distinctly remembers a moment of dark humor from the crew's engineer when he was asked by the pilot if they had sustained any additional damage from the anti-aircraft shell. "We struck oil on engine #3", was the nervous reply. Moments later the captain told his men, "If anyone wants to bail, now is the time", but then added, "I have a field in view", suggesting that he felt he could crash land their bomber with a good chance of success. The pilot oriented their bomber into the prevailing wind to slow them as much as was practical and the non-pilot crewmembers crammed themselves into the radio room, which was the safest location on the bomber for a crash landing. Moments later, the bomber struck the ground and slid sideways. Ray could hear the hissing from ruptured oxygen lines and, to avoid the possibility of being trapped by a fire in the aircraft, the crew disembarked from their shattered aircraft to the "safety" of a Yugoslav plowed countryside.

### Capture

To Ray's recollection the crew had not been out of the aircraft for more than a minute before two German soldiers arrived on a motorcycle with a sidecar mounted with a machine gun. The machine gun was pointed menacingly at the crewmembers and the German sergeant in charge hollered at the U.S. airmen, "Hans up!" Following his instruction, each crewmember relinquished their standard issue .45 caliber pistol and became a prisoner of war.

The German soldiers marched them along a road for about a mile and locked them in a farmer's barn at around 1:30 PM in the afternoon. The crewmen were left to stew in their uncertainty and confinement until nightfall when a truck arrived to transport them to the city of Ljubljana. It was at this point that the only instance of violence that ever befell Parrish's crew

during their status as prisoners of war finally occurred. For reasons that are still unclear to Ray today, one of the German soldiers began to holler at the U.S. airmen and went as far as to hit Ray and the crew's navigator, Felix Bessolo, about the head with a large rock. When they arrived at their destination in Ljubljana after about an hour, the Luftwaffe Major that was in charge of their capture felt it necessary to apologize for the abuse that Ray and Felix had endured, but stated that he had no control over German Army personnel (the Wehrmacht).

After 6 to 7 days of imprisonment in Ljubljana, the Parrish crew was loaded on a train that took them through the Alps to the German city of Munich. During a portion of the journey, they occupied a flat bed railcar that was also loaded with heavy equipment. They were unloaded from the train in downtown Munich, and amazingly, were transported to an airfield outside of town on streetcars full of German commuters. Upon their arrival at the airfield, they were each assigned an individual cell and eventually interrogated by German interrogators. Ray remembers telling his interrogator that they probably knew more about his flight and destination than he did, as he was merely an enlisted ball turret gunner. On the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, Ray's crew was moved from Munich to Nuremberg, where they arrived the next day, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The conditions for the prisoners of war at Nuremberg were crowded, with as many as 500 enlisted men per tent barracks so that each soldier only had a 2'x6' foot area of dirt floor on which to lie down. Regardless, Ray remembers that he would play cards with the other enlisted men using Red Cross cigarettes for chips. Ray would trade away any cigarettes that he won since he was one of the few soldiers that did not smoke. Nuremberg was also the only time during his tenure as a prisoner that he got to take a shower, albeit an ice-cold one. He dried himself with his t-shirt since there were no towels to be had.

On April 4, 1945, Ray, along with his fellow prisoners, began a long march from Nuremberg to an unknown destination which later became Stalag VII-A at Moosberg, which would be the last prisoner of war camp to which he was moved. They had to walk the entire distance and each soldier was given a blanket to keep warm. It rained once

or twice during their trip and it took 16 days to reach the prisoner of war camp. During their two weeks of marching, the Red Cross would distribute food packages to the soldiers by driving trucks up and down the line of marching men. They eventually got to the Moosberg camp on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The conditions at Moosberg were even worse than those at Nuremberg in terms of overcrowding, with over 70,000 prisoners of war in the camp. Some prisoners were housed in barracks and tents, but newer arrivals had to sleep outside.

However, the prisoners that arrived at the POW camp on April 20<sup>th</sup>, did not have long to wait. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Ray could hear small arms fire, explosions, and machine gun fire in the near distance. All of the POWs lay on the ground to avoid being hit, but soon there was silence. About an hour later, tanks of the 14<sup>th</sup> Armored Division liberated the camp at Moosberg and Ray was no longer a prisoner of war.

### 63 Years Later

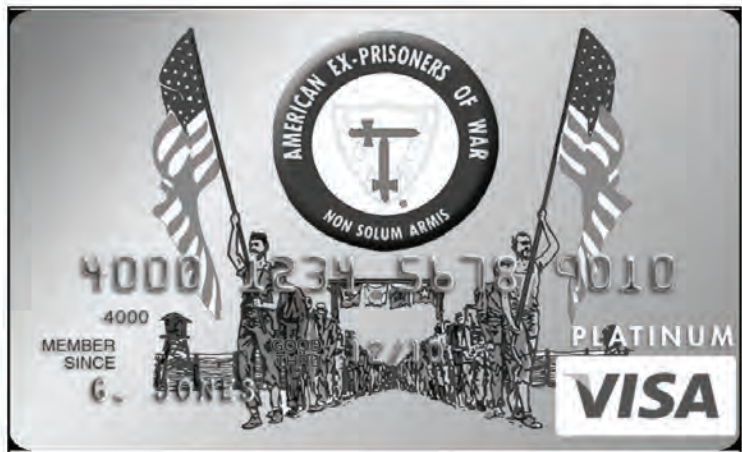
Sixty-three years after Ray's B-17 bomber crashed in a Yugoslav countryside, Ray got another chance to fly in one. In March of 2008, a B-17 bomber named "Aluminum Overcast" came into North Las Vegas, Nevada offering rides that lasted around 35 minutes. Ray took the flight with about 10 other people, but he was the only participant that had previously flown on missions during the war. The plane flew over the Red Rock area west of Las Vegas and only got a few thousand feet above the ground. This altitude was new to Ray, as most of his missions were generally 5 to 6 miles high over the target area. Two other things that stood out to Ray and impressed him were that the plane seemed much smaller than when he flew and he couldn't believe that he actually fit into the ball turret when he was 19 years old. He was also impressed that the pilots seemed very good because the takeoff and landing were very smooth.

### References

Grimm, Jacob L., *Heroes of the 483<sup>rd</sup>, Crew Histories of a Much-Decorated B-17 Bomber Group During World War II*, Edited by Verne H. Cole. Self-Published by the 483<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (H) Association, 1997.

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# Members' forum



Reference p 15, EX-POW Bulletin Mar/Apr 2012.

I am older than Lawrence Russell, age 89, listed as oldest WW II POW, who also served in Korea & Vietnam. Official German POW Record lists my birthdate as 30 Oct 1920, when I will be 92. Here is my story:

In 1944 he was a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant pilot of a B-17 bomber based in Italy with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He was assigned to the 483<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Group (www.483rd.com) and flew 27 missions to strike targets in Germany, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, Austria, and Italy.

On July 18, 1944 the target was Memmingen Airfield in southern Germany, which was a Research and Development base engaged in fabrication of the Messerschmitt 262, the world's first jet fighter. 167 B-17s were launched against the target, but encountered severe weather over the Adriatic Sea and Alps. Most of the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force were recalled and returned to base. However, the 483<sup>rd</sup> Group continued to the target. 26 B-17 bombers without fighter protection were met by 200 German fighters. In the ensuing air battle the US lost 14 B-17s and the Germans lost over 100 fighter planes destroyed in the air or on the ground. A Presidential Unit Citation was awarded the Group for that action

Of RICKEY'S 10 man aircrew 5 were killed in action and 2 wounded. RICKEY bailed out of his burning plane and landed on a tree top in the Bavarian forest. He evaded capture for 7 days and made his way to Konstanz on the border of Switzerland, where he was picked up and

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questioned by police. He was turned over to the Luftwaffe and sent to their Central Interrogation Center near Frankfurt, and eventually sent to Stalag Luft One, a prison camp near Barth, Pommerania in NE Germany on the Baltic Sea. This Stalag, which contained over 9000 US and British airmen, was liberated on May 1, 1945 by advancing Soviet troops.

STANTON M. RICKEY  
Lt Col, USAF (Retired)  
5518 E Lindstrom Ln #46  
Mesa, AZ 85215-1946  
Phone: 480-832-3567

I can ill afford the few hours I have left this week to sit down and write this letter before I begin a three day Philippine - Ex-Pat - Ex-POW reunion to be held in Sacramento, California of which I am in charge. However, the very idea of the unimaginable destruction and honky tonk desecration of one of our most amazing and historical WWII sights has me bleeding and crying within. ATVs ON CORREGIDOR? ZIP LINES ON CORREGIDOR? REALLY?

As an American born in the Philippines of a long time sugar family from 1918, an ex-Civilian POW of the Japanese in Manila, as a proud Ex-Pat of my beloved second country, and an eighteen year Tour Director to the Philippines, I find this Mickey Mouse desecration of one of our most valuable historical sights an abomination. Of all the spots in the Philippines to choose from - WHY CORREGIDOR? SHAME!

Not only are these unimaginable atrocities committed, in the name of sports and fun, trample on hallowed grounds, but also has those memories of the fallen and dear men who lost their lives for the Philippines been snuffed out. SHAME! SHAME! SHAME!

Money Speaks! In this case - Grubby Money! CUMSHAW? You can bet on it!

(The Ninoy Aquino International Airport collects government taxes from every exiting passenger leaving the country. Perhaps adding another

dollar to the amount for the sake of up keep and preservation of historical sights would be something to look into. It is worth a try to go after an idea such as this, than to demolish what holds dear. Check out the total planes flying out of Manila each 24 hours. Your revenue would be staggering, provided it went into the right hands.) There are answers out there - you just have to look for it!!!! Maybe this situation comes at a good time. I will use the audience of a few hundred people at this weekend's BACEPOW-Philippine Reunion to instigate awareness of these latest shameful antics and destructive thinking coming out of the minds of those responsible.

We all have a responsibility in this life, as temporary guardians, for the care and protection of this earth and the hallowed grounds we hold so dear. We need to preserve these principles and ideals, not only for those who came before us, but for our future generations. Stop and think about this a minute. It makes sense to me. MABUHAY!

Sascha Jean Weinzheimer Jansen  
Ex Santo Tomas Prisoner of the Japanese, Sr. Vice Commander - BACEPOW, Member - AXPOW

Filipino and American blood was shed on and absorbed in the soils and the reinforced concrete of Corregidor in World War II, a permanent battle memorial. Would we make Yorktown, the Alamo, Gettysburg, Belleau Wood, Bataan, the Battle of the Bulge, Inchon, Ia Drang Valley, or Fallujah amusement destinations? Corregidor must remain a singular monument forever dedicated to all those who served and those who died alone and forsaken in the face of a vicious foe.

Abolish the idea of amusements on Corregidor.

Ted Cadwallader  
Civilian Internee, Santo Tomas Internment Camp, Manila, Philippines, 1942-1945



## AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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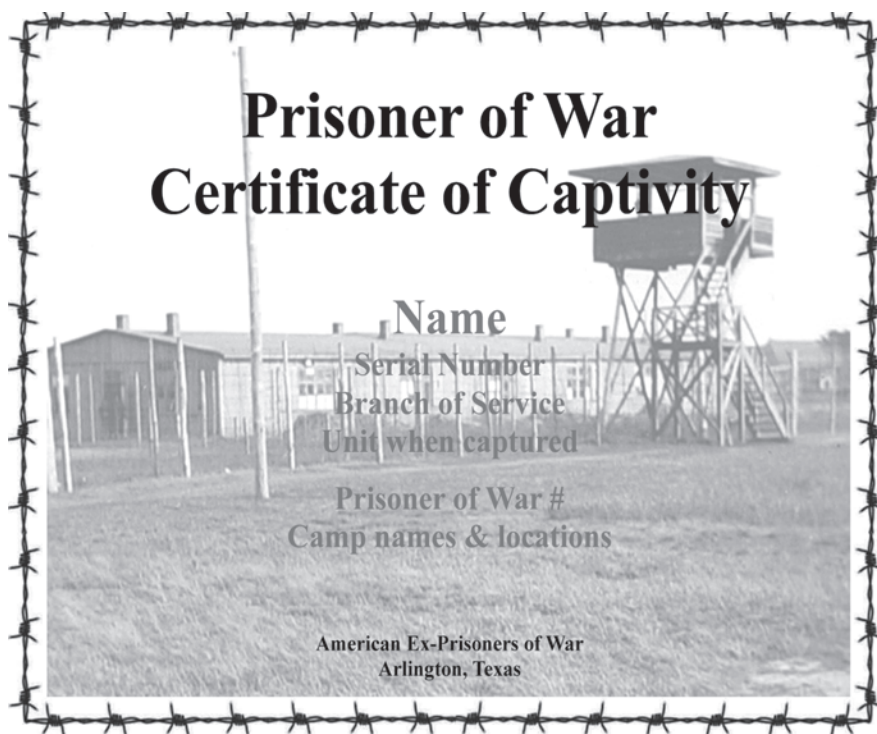
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Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

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## new members

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Marsha.Coke@axpow.org



### New Members "Welcome Home"



DAVID TIMMERMAN  
N HOLLYWOOD CA  
SON OF JAMES TIMMERMAN, ETO

ROBERT WALL 'BOB' TRASK  
DONNA  
LINCOLN CA  
3 ARMRD DIV  
11A 12/26/44 TO 5/31/45

VERNON LEE 'DEX' DEXTER  
JEANNETTE C  
BELLE GLADE FL  
15 AF 483 BG H ITALY  
7A

JAMES H PRESSEL  
JUDY  
RED LION PA  
SON OF H D PRESSEL, ETO

ARTURO CAMACHO JR  
ROBBIE  
HALTOM CITY TX  
SON OF ARTHURO CAMACHO, SR,  
PAC

GARY PRESSEL  
SARA  
HOUSTON TX  
SON OF H D PRESSEL, ETO

JAMES T "JIM" JOHNSON  
JENNIFER L  
SAYRE OK  
GRANDSON OF PNC JACK  
WARNER







# taps



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

**ADAMS, Walter III**, 88, of Chattanooga, TN passed away June 6, 2012. He served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. during WWII; was captured and held until liberation. Walter and his beloved wife, Joy were very active members of the Chattanooga Chapter, AXPOW. He also leaves 3 sons and 1 daughter.

**ALVARO, Anthony D**, of Fairmont, WV died April 6, 2012 at the age of 88. Tony was a passionate advocate for ex-POWs and their families in W. Virginia. He retired after 45 years as Administrator of the Louis A Johnson VAMC, and at the time of his death was POW Coordinator there. He leaves his wife, Rose, 2 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, 1 sister and 1 brother.

**BAGOT, Marian Winstead**, 84, of Sun City West, AZ and member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW passed away April 3, 2012. Marian was the widow of ex-POW Walter. She is survived by 4 children, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**BARENKAMP, Walter J.**, passed away May 15, 2012. He served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (also known as "the sacrificed battalion"), 157<sup>th</sup> Reg., 95<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. and was captured in heavy fighting near Metz. He was held in Stalag 12-A. Walter leaves 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and Mary, his beloved wife of 62 years.

**BARNES, Mildred**, of Chattanooga, TN died Jan. 8, 2012. She was 87. Working at the Oak Ridge Y-12 nuclear plant, she made history by making the phone calls to subdirectors telling them that the first experimental atomic bomb had just been exploded in New Mexico. Mildred leaves her husband, ex-

POW Erhardt, 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren.

**BERNS, Lawrence**, of Elkader IA, died April 20, 2012. Larry served with the AAC, 451<sup>st</sup> BG, 725<sup>th</sup> BS, as a B-24 Liberator tailgunner. A member of the Northeast Iowa Chapter, he served as the commander for the Department of Iowa. Preceded in death by his first wife, Marguerite, he is survived by his second wife, Ethelyn.

**BOND, Audrey**, Clarinda, IA passed away March 30, 2012. She was the widow of Ralph Bond who passed away in 1974. She is survived by 2 sons, 12 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. She was a member of the Iowa Department of AXPOW.

**BRUMFIELD, Vernon Eugene**, of Jayess, MS died Feb. 3, 2012. He was 85. Vern was wounded and captured while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. during the Battle of the Bulge. He was sent to a slave labor camp and held until liberation. Both Vernon and his wife were life members of AXPOW; he was commander of several chapters, the latest in Hattiesburg, MS. His beloved wife, Eleanor, survives him; he also leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He is missed by all.

**CAMPTON, Laurence R**, of Salida, CO passed away Apr. 13, 2012 at the age of 95. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 12A. Laurence was a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Daisy, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 12 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

**CASSIE, Alex**, 95, of Surrey, England, passed away April 5, 2012. Alex was one of a half-dozen art-

ists who forged the documents used in the "Great Escape" in March, 1944. They referred to themselves as Dean & Dawson, a well-known London travel agency. The night of the escape, Alex stayed behind, knowing that he was claustrophobic and not wanting to jeopardize the mission. He spent the rest of the war in Stalag Luft III until he was on forced march in advance of the Russian army. Survivors include his son, Adrian.

**CHILDERS, Leonard, Jr.**, 93, died April 16, 2011 in Arlington, VA. During WWII, he was assigned to the 36<sup>th</sup> FG, 9<sup>th</sup> AF, participating in the D-Day invasion of France and spearheading General Patton's thrust across France. He was shot down on August 13, 1944, captured and held as a prisoner of war until liberated by Russian forces in May, 1945. He is survived by 1 daughter, 2 brothers, 1 sister and their families.

**DAVIDSON, Roy G, Jr.**, 90, of Vestavia Hills, AL passed away May 16, 2012. He was captured while serving with the 94<sup>th</sup> BG, 333<sup>rd</sup> BS, 8<sup>th</sup> AF and sent first to Stalag Luft III, then Moosberg until liberation. Roy was a member of the AL Chapter #1. He leaves his wife of 66 years, Betty, 3 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren and 2 sisters.

**DeBENEDICTUS, Anthony**, of Old Bridge, NJ, died April 13, 2012. He served in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 389<sup>th</sup> BG, 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Div. He was captured and held in Luft 4. An AXPOW life member since 1980, he was also a member of the Garden State Chapter #1. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Antoinette, and two children.

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## taps continued...

**DILLON, Richmond P. "Red"**, loving father of Paul, passed away April 6, 2012. Red was captured while serving with the 335<sup>th</sup> BS, 95<sup>th</sup> BG as a B-17 ball turret gunner. He was held in Stalag 17B until liberation. He was active in both the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter and the Greater St. Louis Chapter, AXPOW. Red leaves his wife and sweetheart of 63 years, Frances, and a host of friends and family.

**FEGELY, Carl R.**, of Mertztown, PA died Jan. 16, 2012. He was 89. Carl served with the 493<sup>rd</sup> BG, 863<sup>rd</sup> BS, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was captured and held in Stalag Luft IV. Carl was a life member of AXPOW. His loving wife of 63 years, Beatrice survives him; 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren also miss him very much.

**FLETCHER, Benjamin Payne**, of Lynchburg, TN passed away March 24, 2012. He was captured while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. and held until liberation on May 6, 1945. Ben is survived by his wife of 64 years, May Jo, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Alvin C York Chapter, AXPOW.

**FOSSETT, William T.**, 98, died May 6, 2012. He served in WWII and was captured in France in 1942, then held prisoner in Stalag 3C. Survivors include his wife, Alice, 2 sons and 1 daughter.

**GENTRY, Walter T.**, 87, of Temple, TX died May 30, 2012.. He was a prisoner of war during WWII after his plane was shot down over Poland in 1944. Survivors include two daughters, a brother, eight grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and 1 great-great-grandchild.

**HARRELL, James D.** passed away April 23, 2012 in Durham, NC. J. D. was Chaplain for the Department of North Carolina, AXPOW for several years. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in February 1939 and was soon sent to North Africa and assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> field Observation Battalion. He was captured in April, 1943 and spent the next 28 months in German prisoner of war camps in Sicily, Italy and Germany. He was liberated April 16, 1945. He was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years and a son. He is survived by 2 daughters, 3 sons and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**HORNSBY, Darrel Deene Sr.** of Tucumcari, NM passed away Jan. 28, 2012. He was shot down over Germany while serving in the AAC during WWII. He was held in Stalag Luft 1, Barth, until liberation. After his release, he then served in the Korean conflict. His son, Darrel, survives him; he also leaves other family members.

**JAMAGIN, Floyd** passed away May 30, 2012 at age 92. During WWII, he served in the Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 410<sup>th</sup> Reg., 103<sup>rd</sup> Infantry. Floyd lived in Midland Texas. There was no longer a local ex-POW group but before the group dissipated, he was an active member.

**JEMIOLA, John**, of Warsaw, Indiana, died May 21, 2010. He served with the 87<sup>th</sup> Division, 346<sup>th</sup> Regiment, C Company and was held in Stalags 12A and 9B. He was survived by his wife of 56 years, Maltilda, who died May 19, 2012. Both were members of the Keystone Chapter and were life members of AXPOW since 1986.

**KAHN, Bernard "Barney"**, of Brandon, MS passed away May 8, 2012 just one month short of his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. During WWII, he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 492<sup>nd</sup> BG. He was shot down over Germany, but managed to land in Sweden where he was interned until liberation. He

leaves 2 sons, 3 daughters, 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 2 sisters and their families.

**KATUZNEY, John J.**, 91, of Camarillo, CA (formerly of CT) died Mar. 29, 2012. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 384<sup>th</sup> BG; shot down in 1943, then held in Stalag VIIA, then 17B. John is survived by his wife, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**LITTLE, Benjamin Franklin**, of Snake Creek, Oklahoma passed away May 9, 2012. During WWII, he was captured after his B17 was shot down over Osnabruck, Germany. He was held in Luft 4, then marched ahead of the Russian Army. Ben and his late wife Dorothy were active members of AXPOW. He served as National Director, SC Region. Survivors include 1 brother, 3 daughters, 1 son, 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandson.

**MANDA, William James**, of Tucson, Arizona died June 5, 2012. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in WWII and was a flight engineer. Bill was a German Prisoner of War. He was a former Commander for the Department of Arizona, AXPOW, National Director, Southwest Region, and a POW service officer for the Veterans Administration. **MANDA, Patricia Anne Devine** died June 14, 2012. Pat was active in many organizations like her husband. Bill and Pat were married 62 years. They are survived by three children and spouses, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**McKENZIE, Edward Davis**, of Albany, NH passed away April 24, 2012. He joined the Army Air Corp and served as a ball turret gunner in a B-17 until he was captured and held in Stalag 17B, Krems. 50 years after his WWII experience, he was asked to return to the village in which his plane had crash landed. Ed returned accompanied by his

## taps continued...

brother Dan and with another surviving crew member, met by great fanfare and festivities, but most importantly, meeting the German pilot (Hans Berger) who had shot down his plane. This developing friendship of a previous enemy led to Ed writing the book, "Boys at War, Men at Peace," in which he describes his experiences through the war from the perspectives of both his B-17 pilot, the pilot that shot them down, as well as his own. Ed is survived by his wife Maxine, 1 son, 1 grandson, 1 brother and 1 sister as well as a large, loving extended family.

**McVAY, Birch G.**, 88, of Gainesville, GA died April 3, 2012. He was captured while serving in Europe during WWII and held until liberation. Birch served as commander of the Middle Georgia Chapter, AXPOW and was later a member of the Mountaineer Chapter. He served on the Georgia National Cemetery Advisory Council. He leaves his wife Kathryne, 1 son and 1 daughter.

**MEDZIE, Patricia**, of Burbank, OH died April 19, 2012. She was 80. A life member of AXPOW, Patricia was also a member of the Mahoning Valley Chapter. Survivors include her husband Edward J (ex-POW), 4 children, 4 stepchildren, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

**MIDDLETON, Walter**, of North Carolina, died April 15, 2012. He served in the 803<sup>rd</sup> AV Eng. A survivor of the Bataan Death March, he was held as a POW for 3 ½ years in Cabanatuan, O'Donnell, and Manchuria as slave labor.

**MULLANY, James J**, 91, of Eustis, FL passed away Feb. 17, 2012. He was captured while serving with the 452<sup>nd</sup> BG during WWII; he was held in Germany and East Prussia. James was a member of AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Dorothy, 2

daughters, 3 sons and 2 grandchildren.

**OAKLEY, Jerry**, member of the Columbia River Chapter, AXPOW, died May 1, 2012. He served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Div. Med. Detachment during the Korean War and was a POW for 2 ½ years in Camp 5. His wife, Shirley, survives him; he also leaves 2 daughters and their families.

**PORTER, Wayne Charles**, 88, of Hampton, VA died Feb. 13, 2012. He served with the AAC during WWII; he was shot down and held as a POW in Germany for 7 months. Wayne served as Commander, Dept. of Virginia, and was an active member of the James L Hale Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by Peggy, his wife of 66 years. He is also leaves 3 daughters, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**QUISENBERRY, J.E. Jr.**, of Robert Lee, TX passed away April 24, 2012. He was captured while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF in Germany and held in Luft IV until liberation. J.E. was a member of the Concho Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 1 son, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and their families.

**RANSIER, James H.**, of Sun City/Hilton Head SC died May 10, 2012. He was 82. On March 2, 1951, Jim was captured by the North Koreans, wounded and held until rescued by American forces. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 brother, 2 granddaughters and 2 great-granddaughters.

**RUFF, Patricia A.**, of Pell Lake, WI passed away May 29, 2012. She was 82 and the widow of Korean War ex-POW Wilfred who died in 2005. Pat was an active member of the Fox River Chapter, AXPOW. She and her husband were also active in the Korean War Ex-POW Association. She is survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**SCHENEMAN, Walter**, of Ft. Morgan, CO passed away April 3, 2012 at the age of 91. During WWII, he served with the 80<sup>th</sup> Inv. Div., 317<sup>th</sup> Reg., Bn L CO, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon. He was captured and held in 7A and 12A. He leaves his wife, Alma, 3 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**SEAY, Mary "Tee"**, of Chattanooga, TN passed away May 9, 2012. She was the loving wife of ex-POW Tom (B-17 pilot in WWII). Survivors include her husband, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**SHEPHERD, Randine**, 85, of Boone, IA died May 22, 2012. She was preceded in death by her husband, ex-POW Keith. Both Randine and Keith were active members of the Mid-Iowa Chapter, AXPOW. One daughter and one son survive her; she also leaves 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**STEIN, Barbara**, of Delray Beach, FL passed away April 7, 2012. She leaves behind her husband of 65 years, Murray, 2 sons and 2 grandchildren. Murray was a POW in WWII, captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He is a member of the Suncoast Chapter, AXPOW.

**STERTZBACH, Roger Dale**, of Massillion, OH died Oct. 16, 2010. He was 90. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 395<sup>th</sup> Inf. 99<sup>th</sup> Div. during WWII. He was sent to Stalag 4B and held until liberated by the Russians. He leaves his loving wife of 65 years, Florence, 2 sons, 2 granddaughters and 10 great-grandchildren.

**WALSH, Frances K**, of Jackson MS, died April 2, 2012. He served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps, was captured after a mid-air collision and was held as a POW in Italy and

## taps continued...

Germany for 27 months. An AXPOW member since 1979, he was a member of the Mississippi Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Doris.

**WEBB, George**, of Irvington IL, passed away May 26, 2012. He was 87. He was captured by Germans while defending France at end of

WWII. His wife Annabel, predeceased him. He leaves 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

**WITHERINGTON, James**, of Monroeville, AL died April 22, 2012 at the age of 91. He served in the Army during WWII with the 168<sup>th</sup> Inf., 34<sup>th</sup> Div., Co I. He was captured and held in Stalag 7A, 7B, 12F. He is survived by his wife, Louisa, 2

sons, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

**ZUVICH, Margaret A.**, 90, of Swatara Twp, PA died May 16, 2012. She was the widow of ex-POW John F. Zuvich.

Marge was a member of the Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 4 sons, 1 sister, 11 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter.

## national chaplain



**PNC Gerald Harvey**

I want to share with you a small booklet that the American Bible Society has prepared for men and women of the service. As I have read through the booklet, I believe it is just as appropriate for us today as it is for our service men.

Here are quotes from the pamphlet.

Although you may be serving your nation in a faraway place and in the midst of turmoil, you are not forgotten - not by Americans ... and especially not by God. He knows your situation, the dangers and uncertainties you face, and has provided promises of hope and encouragement that you can stand on - peace, strength, security and more. **They are His gifts to you.**

**JOY** "... weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" Psalm 30:5b.

"... The joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong." Nehemiah 8:10c.

**PEACE** "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6.

**SECURITY** "When I am surrounded by troubles, You keep me safe. You oppose my angry enemies and save me by Your power." Psalm 138.7. "I look to the mountains; where will my help come from? My help will come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let you fall; your protector is always awake ... The Lord will guard you; He is by your side to protect you ... The Lord will protect you from all danger; He will keep you safe. He will protect you as you come and go now and forever." Psalm 121.

**HOPE** "We put our hope in the Lord; He is our protector and our help." Psalm 33:20.

**STRENGTH** "He strengthens those who are weak and tired." Isaiah 40:29. "He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers and from all deadly diseases. He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in His care; His faithfulness will protect and defend you. You need not fear any dangers at night or sudden attacks during the day or the plagues that strike in the dark or the evils that kill in daylight. A thousand may fall dead beside you, ten thousand all around you, but you will not be harmed. You will look and see how the wicked are punished. You have made the Lord your defender, the Most High your protector, and so no disaster will strike you, no violence will come near

your home. God will put his angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go. God says, 'I will save those who love me and will protect those who acknowledge me as Lord. When they call to me, I will answer them; when they are in trouble, I will be with them. I will rescue them and honor them. I will reward them with long life; I will save them.' " Psalm 91:3-11, 14-16.

**FAITH** "But the just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4

**COMFORT** "The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need. He lets me rest in fields of green grass and leads me to quiet pools of fresh water. He gives me new strength. He guides me in the right paths, as He has promised. Even if I go through the deepest darkness, I will not be afraid, Lord, for you are with me. Your shepherd's rod and staff protect me. You prepare a banquet for me, where all my enemies can see me; you welcome me as an honored guest and fill my cup to the brim. I know that your goodness and love will be with me all my life; and your house will be my home as long as I live." Psalm 23.

**GUIDANCE** "And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and Thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not and Thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in" Isaiah 58:11, 12b.

Read these carefully over and over again. God bless you in the days to come.



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to honor a loved one or a former colleague  
Donations are not tax-deductible.

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AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR



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White, gold nugget, and maize recommended for the logo

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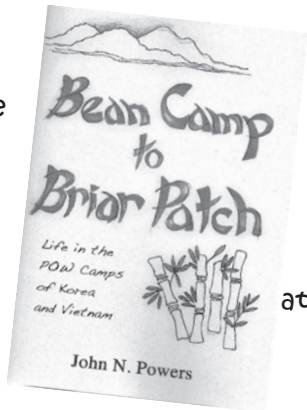
Or E-mail to Roger@lonepineridge.com

Or call us at 660-627-0753



**Bean Camp to Briar Patch**  
**Life in the POW Camps of Korea and Vietnam**  
 by John N. Powers

The majority of books about POWs concentrate on the experience of one individual. However, there were thousands of prisoners during the Korean and Vietnam Wars and over thirty major sites which they were held. Conditions varied from camp to camp and even within sections of a single camp. *Bean Camp to Briar Patch* is unique in that it describes all the major POW camps from both the Korean and Vietnam wars. In one single source, EX-POWs and family members now have information on the location of the camps and the conditions in those camps. The book has 214 pages with over thirty maps, photos, and diagrams.



**\$17.20** including shipping. Can be ordered at [www.croninbooks.org](http://www.croninbooks.org) or by sending a check to Cronin Publications, Box 151, Wittenberg, WI 54499

# 50/50 drawing

**September 2011**  
**Dayton, Ohio**

<b>1st Place</b>	Skip Moore, AZ Donated back to AXPOW	<b>\$308.20</b>
<b>2nd Place</b>	Gloria Hicker, WA	<b>\$231.15</b>
<b>3rd Place</b>	Jay Johnson, OK Donated back to AXPOW	<b>\$154.10</b>
<b>4th Place</b>	Bonnie Weatherford, TN	<b>\$77.05</b>

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:

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**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**July/Aug 2012**





# The Quartermaster's Shop

order on page 42



## AXPOW Pocket Knife

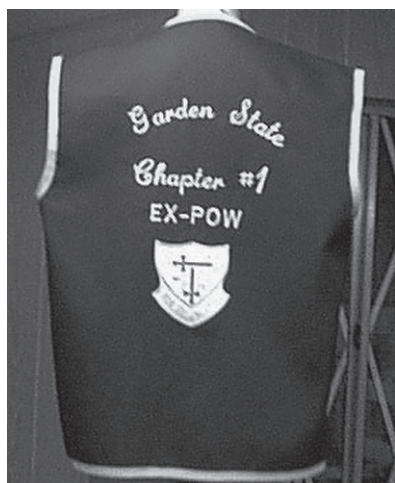
11 function pocket knife includes a stainless steel knife, screwdrivers and much more! AXPOW imprint is protected by an epoxy dome, lasting a lifetime. Rubber grip ensures easy handling...individually gift boxed...folded knife measures 3 3/4"x1"

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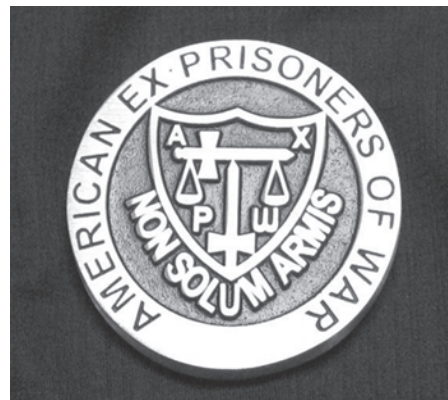


*For pins, vest guards and other items to "dress up" your vest, order from the merchandise page.*

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## Bronze Grave Medallion

### with AXPOW LOGO

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*check with your local cemetery before ordering to see if medallions are permitted.*

**\$75.00 plus s/h/i**

(\$15.00 for one; \$20.00 for two or more)



**Ex-POW Bulletin  
July/Aug 2012**

### Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



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Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**

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

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<del>Canvas Sport Cap (off white or tan)</del>	<del>10.00</del>	Logo Necklace	5.00	3x5ft. blackPOW/MIA flag, outdoor use	25.00
AXPOW Pocket Knife	13.00	<del>Logo Earrings (pierced or clip)</del>	<del>5.00</del>	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	10.00
Necktie w/logo	30.00	2" Medallion (for plaque)	5.00	Aluminum License Plate	5.00
(regular only)		Vest Chainguard w/eagles	8.00	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
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Life Member pin	5.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		AXPOW Wall Clock (includes battery)	20.00
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**817-649-2979**  
**axpowqm@aol.com**

*Piestewa Peak...9th annual memorial/candlelight services in memory of Spc. Lori Ann Piestewa, the first Iraq War female and first American Native American Indian woman to die in combat for the United States.*





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AXPOW imprint is protected by an epoxy dome, lasting a lifetime  
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American Ex-Prisoners of War  
National Headquarters

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