

EX-POW BULLETIN

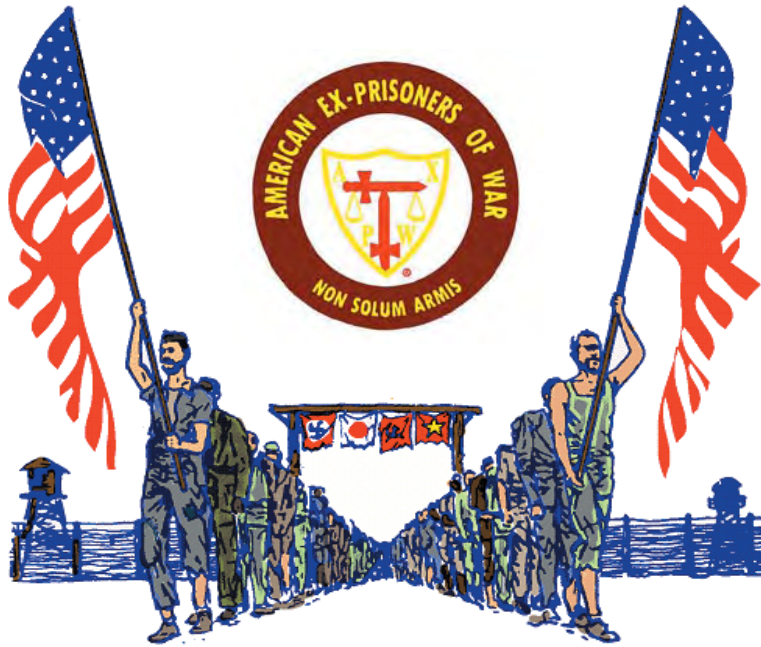
the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 70

www.axpow.org

Number 7/8

July/August 2013



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Congressional Charter

10th Reunion at Piestewa Peak 2013



For the Army's 507th Maintenance Company, March is a time for renewal and remembrance. On March 23, 2003, they were taken captive during a gunfight that led to the capture of some and death of others, and were finally rescued by U.S. Marine Corps units 22 days later. Every year, they get together with their families and at the site of a memorial mountain renamed for one of their own, Hopi Lori Ann Piestewa. At Piestewa Peak, Iraqi War POWs, friends, family and fellow veterans gathered for the 10th Anniversary. Thanks to Ernest Martinez of "Arizona for Piestewa" for his usual gracious cooperation and for these photos. Alice A. Booher



Left to right: Former POW Jessica Lynch (rear); the mother of former POW Lori Ann Piestewa, Percy Piestewa; Jessica Lynch's daughter Dakota Ann (behind), Lori's daughter Carla (Hopi); former POW Shoshana Johnson; Lori's father Terry Piestewa; former POW Joe Hudson; Lori's son (Navaho) Brandon; and Gourd Dance Staffer Mark Roanhorse, all participate in the Gourd Dance honoring Lori and other fallen heroes

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Deadline for the Sept/Oct 2013 issue is August 1, 2013.

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

July/August 2013



The Fourth of July 2013

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As always, this most American of holidays will be marked by parades, fireworks and backyard barbecues across the country.

2.5 million

In July 1776, the estimated number of people living in the newly independent nation.

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970

316.2 million

The nation's estimated population on this July Fourth.

Source: U.S. and World Population Clock

August 10, 1982

The American Ex-Prisoners of War received our congressional charter under Title 36 of the United States Code in 1982. This event followed closely on the heels of passage of Public Law 97-37, establishing the first presumptives for ex-POWs and mandating the establishment of the Advisory Committee.

UMB Credit Card

Every time a member - or member's family or friends - signs up for the new UMB credit card (which features our marching men on the face), AXPOW receives \$50.00. That's like making a \$50 donation to the organization when you sign up. We also get a percentage of every dollar spent if you use the card each month.

So won't you take a few minutes and apply for this card today?

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

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Ex- POW Bulletin
July/August 2013



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**National Commander
Charles Susino, Jr.**

At the June National Convention, my term as Commander ended. I have been proud representing our organization. This year has been the most rewarding among my 20+ years serving veterans. As I move from Commander to PNC my message is to keep our organization moving forward. Influence policies that are set in Washington, work effectively with the VA as they administer these policies, and most importantly on an individual basis, "helping those that can't help themselves".

As you all understand, the process of developing and passing Congressional Bills into law is complicated. The elected politicians and their staff originate Bills based on their own beliefs and the input they receive from others. As the Bills go through committees, policy makers in Washington receive input from many lobbies, some positive and some negative towards the veterans. It is important that we as an organization weigh in on the issues that are important to us and not rest until our voices are heard and reflected in the Bills. These Bills must be monitored and reviewed as they go through each step in the process ever alert for changes. The devil is in the details however a common theme is reducing spending within the Government and in

some cases on the backs of veterans. During 2012-3 while Commander, this happened many times where I had to send letters to Congressman calling for their involvement on our behalf. As individual veterans, we too have a voice and obligation to take action and as an organization our influence is great through letters and face to face meetings. Headquarters has been instrumental in monitoring these Bills and giving the Commander the heads-up when it is time to weigh in. This will forever be an important function of the Ex-POW organization.

By example, I attended the February 28, 2013 Senate Veterans Subcommittee Meeting in Washington headed by Senator Barry Sanders and Representative Miller who are supporters of veterans. Following the testimonies provided by the veteran's organizations, Mr. Sanders mentioned that due to the critical budget issues Washington was looking to change the cost of living adjustment for social security and veterans which would reduce increases in future years because the increases were "too much". I publicly responded by stating "I don't understand why they look at veterans getting too much. The sacrifices they gave maybe were too much. To think about reducing veterans benefits is unconscious able. Veterans gave their best to the country and Washington should give their best to the veterans." My response was greeted by audience applause, the only applause of the entire hearing. So while the EX-POW organization has its role, it is important that we all are engaged so politicians and other policy makers hear from us!

On May 27, 2013 our organization has been honored to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. I was joined with my son, Charles A. Susino. I have been to Washington many times often serving our organization



on official business and each time the surreal atmosphere over takes me. During the ceremonies, looking out to the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheater overflowing with members of the public, weighs heavy on my heart.

Their presence honoring the country's veterans as well as coverage by the national press and live media is very rewarding.



Looking forward, my intention is to continue to attend the National Conferences and play an active role with the organization and serving veterans. See you all! God Bless our troops God Bless America

-Remember-

Charles Susino, Jr.

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news from hq



nso



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The convention will be behind us by the time you read this. We are still in the thick of planning it here at HQ but it looks like we will have a good one. Our hotel, directly across from Six Flags, Hurricane Harbor and other great family hotspots, will be jumping with children and grandchildren!

We have been receiving bequest donations from the members and friends of AXPOW. Being remembered in the wills of our supporters helps secure the organization's future. It's very simple to make a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner and they can add the following to your will or living trust: "I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of \$_____ or _____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

We received a very large donation from a man in New Jersey. He was not a POW nor a member of AXPOW. He was a friend. His remembrance of former POWs is dearly appreciated and will be put to good use in our future.

We are working on what the organization will look like in years to come. We hope your children and grandchildren will help us do the work that is still there for us.

Have a safe summer!

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VA Mandates Overtime to Increase Production of Compensation Claims Decisions *Latest Initiative aimed at reducing the backlog*

As part of its ongoing effort to accelerate the elimination of the disability compensation claims backlog, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing today that it is mandating overtime for claims processors in its 56 regional benefits offices. This surge, which will be implemented through the end of fiscal year 2013, will be targeted to eliminating the backlogged status of claims. The additional overtime hours that will be worked during this period will be used to help eliminate the backlog with continued emphasis on high-priority claims for homeless Veterans and those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor recipients, and Veterans filing Fully Developed Claims.

"VA is dedicated to providing Veterans with the care and benefits they have earned and deserve," said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. "This increased overtime initiative will provide more Veterans with decisions on their claims and will help us achieve our goal of eliminating the claims backlog."

This is the latest effort in support of the Secretary's plan to reduce the backlog. Last month, the VA announced an initiative to expedite compensation claims

decisions for Veterans who have waited one year or longer. On April 19, VA began prioritizing claims decisions for Veterans who have been waiting the longest, by providing provisional decisions that allow eligible Veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits quickly. With a provisional decision, a Veteran has a year to submit additional information to support a claim before the decision becomes final.

"We're committed to getting Veterans decisions on their claims as quickly and accurately as possible," said Undersecretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. "We need to surge our resources now to help those who have waited the longest and end the backlog."

Claims for Wounded Warriors separating from the military for medical reasons will continue to be handled separately and on a priority basis with the Department of Defense through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). On average, Wounded Warriors separating through IDES currently receive VA compensation benefits in 2 months following their separation from service.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal eBenefits at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>.

More information about filing Fully Developed Claims is available at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/>.

The 2012 version of the Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents and Survivors is available from National Headquarters. If you would like a copy, please call: 817-649-2979 or email: axpow76010@yahoo.com.

Coronary Heart Disease

Coronary heart disease (CHD) is a disease in which a waxy substance called plaque builds up inside the coronary arteries. These arteries supply oxygen-rich blood to your heart muscle.

When plaque builds up in the arteries, the condition is called atherosclerosis. The buildup of plaque occurs over many years.

Over time, plaque can harden or rupture. Hardened plaque narrows the coronary arteries and reduces the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the heart.

If the plaque ruptures, a blood clot can form on its surface. A large blood clot can mostly or completely block blood flow through a coronary artery. Over time, ruptured plaque also hardens and narrows the coronary arteries.

Overview

If the flow of oxygen-rich blood to your heart muscle is reduced or blocked, angina (an-JI-nuh or AN-juh-nuh) or a heart attack can occur.

Angina is chest pain or discomfort. It may feel like pressure or squeezing in your chest. The pain also can occur in your shoulders, arms, neck,

jaw, or back. Angina pain may even feel like indigestion.

A heart attack occurs if the flow of oxygen-rich blood to a section of heart muscle is cut off. If blood flow isn't restored quickly, the section of heart muscle begins to die. Without quick treatment, a heart attack can lead to serious health problems or death.

Over time, CHD can weaken the heart muscle and lead to heart failure and arrhythmias (ah-RITH-me-ahs). Heart failure is a condition in which your heart can't pump enough blood to meet your body's needs. Arrhythmias are problems with the rate or rhythm of the heartbeat.

Outlook

CHD is the most common type of heart disease. In the United States, CHD is the #1 cause of death for both men and women. Lifestyle changes, medicines, and medical procedures can help prevent or treat CHD. These treatments may reduce the risk of related health problems.

What Causes Coronary Heart Disease?

Research suggests that coronary heart disease (CHD) starts when certain factors damage the inner layers of the coronary arteries. These factors include:

Smoking

High levels of certain fats and cholesterol in the blood
High blood pressure
High levels of sugar in the blood due to insulin resistance or diabetes
Blood vessel inflammation

Plaque might begin to build up where the arteries are damaged. The buildup of plaque in the coronary arteries may start in childhood.

Over time, plaque can harden or rupture. Hardened plaque narrows the coronary arteries and reduces the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the heart. This can cause angina.

If the plaque ruptures, blood cell fragments called platelets stick to the site of the injury. They may clump together to form blood clots.

Blood clots can further narrow the coronary arteries and worsen angina. If a clot becomes large enough, it can mostly or completely block a coronary artery and cause a heart attack.

Who Is at Risk for Coronary Heart Disease?

In the United States, coronary heart disease (CHD) is the #1 cause of death for both men and women. Each year, more than 400,000 Americans die from CHD.

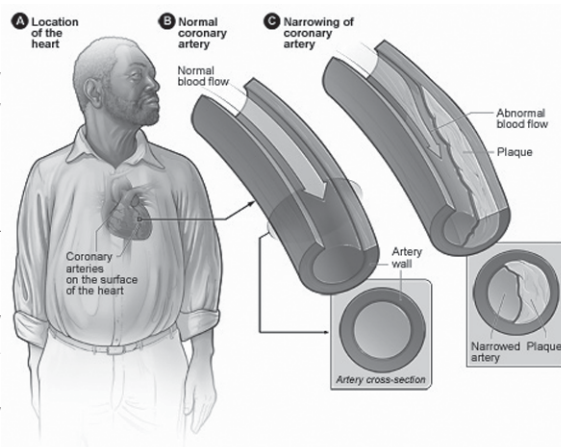
Certain traits, conditions, or habits may raise your risk for CHD. The more risk factors you have, the more likely you are to develop the disease.

You can control many risk factors, which may help prevent or delay CHD.

Major Risk Factors

Unhealthy blood cholesterol levels.
High blood pressure.

Figure A shows the location of the heart in the body. Figure B shows a normal coronary artery with normal blood flow. The inset image shows a cross-section of a normal coronary artery. Figure C shows a coronary artery narrowed by plaque. The buildup of plaque limits the flow of oxygen-rich blood through the artery. The inset image shows a cross-section of the plaque-narrowed artery.



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Smoking.
Insulin resistance.
Diabetes.
Overweight or obesity.
Metabolic syndrome.
Lack of physical activity.
Unhealthy diet.
Older age.
Family history of early heart disease.

Although older age and a family history of early heart disease are risk factors, it doesn't mean that you'll develop CHD if you have one or both. Controlling other risk factors often can lessen genetic influences and help prevent CHD, even in older adults.

Emerging Risk Factors

Researchers continue to study other possible risk factors for CHD.

High levels of a protein called C-reactive protein (CRP) in the blood may raise the risk of CHD and heart attack.

Inflammation is the body's response to injury or infection. Damage to the arteries' inner walls may trigger inflammation and help plaque grow.

Research is under way to find out whether reducing inflammation and lowering CRP levels also can reduce the risk of CHD and heart attack.

High levels of triglycerides in the blood also may raise the risk of CHD, especially in women. Triglycerides are a type of fat.

Other Risks Related to Coronary Heart Disease

Other conditions and factors also may contribute to CHD, including:
Sleep apnea.
Stress.
Alcohol.

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What Are the Signs and Symptoms of Coronary Heart Disease?

A common symptom of coronary heart disease (CHD) is angina.

Angina may feel like pressure or squeezing in your chest. You also may feel it in your shoulders, arms, neck, jaw, or back. Angina pain may even feel like indigestion. The pain tends to get worse with activity and go away with rest. Emotional stress also can trigger the pain.

Another common symptom of CHD is shortness of breath. This symptom occurs if CHD causes heart failure. When you have heart failure, your heart can't pump enough blood to meet your body's needs. Fluid builds up in your lungs, making it hard to breathe.

The severity of these symptoms varies. They may get more severe as the buildup of plaque continues to narrow the coronary arteries.

Signs and Symptoms of Heart Problems Related to Coronary Heart Disease

Some people who have CHD have no signs or symptoms—a condition called silent CHD. The disease might not be diagnosed until a person has signs or symptoms of a heart attack, heart failure, or an arrhythmia (an irregular heartbeat).

Heart Attack. The most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center or left side of the chest that often lasts for more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back. The discomfort can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. The feeling can be mild or severe. Heart attack pain sometimes feels like indigestion or heartburn. The symptoms of angina can be similar to the symptoms of a heart attack. Angina pain usually lasts for only a few minutes and goes away with rest. Chest pain or discomfort that doesn't go away or changes from its usual pattern (for example, occurs more often or while you're resting)

might be a sign of a heart attack. If you don't know whether your chest pain is angina or a heart attack, call 911.

All chest pain should be checked by a doctor.

Other common signs and symptoms of a heart attack include:
Upper body discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or upper part of the stomach
Shortness of breath, which may occur with or before chest discomfort
Nausea, vomiting, light-headedness or fainting, or breaking out in a cold sweat
Sleep problems, fatigue (tiredness), or lack of energy

Heart Failure. Heart failure is a condition in which your heart can't pump enough blood to meet your body's needs. Heart failure doesn't mean that your heart has stopped or is about to stop working.

The most common signs and symptoms of heart failure are shortness of breath or trouble breathing; fatigue; and swelling in the ankles, feet, legs, stomach, and veins in the neck.

All of these symptoms are the result of fluid buildup in your body. When symptoms start, you may feel tired and short of breath after routine physical effort, like climbing stairs.

Arrhythmia. An arrhythmia is a problem with the rate or rhythm of the heartbeat. When you have an arrhythmia, you may notice that your heart is skipping beats or beating too fast. Some people describe arrhythmias as a fluttering feeling in the chest. These feelings are called palpitations.

Some arrhythmias can cause your heart to suddenly stop beating. This condition is called sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). SCA usually causes death if it's not treated within minutes.

How Is Coronary Heart Disease Diagnosed?

Your doctor will diagnose coronary heart disease based on your medi-

medsearch, continued

cal and family histories, your risk factors for CHD, a physical exam, and the results from tests and procedures.

No single test can diagnose CHD. If your doctor thinks you have CHD, he or she may recommend one or more of the following tests.

- EKG (Electrocardiogram)
- Stress Testing
- Echocardiography
- Echocardiography
- Chest X Ray
- Blood Tests
- Electron-Beam Computed Tomography
- Coronary Angiography and Cardiac Catheterization

How Is Coronary Heart Disease Treated?

Treatments for coronary heart disease (CHD) include lifestyle changes, medicines, and medical procedures.

Treatment goals may include:

Relieving symptoms.

Reducing risk factors in an effort to slow, stop, or reverse the buildup of plaque.

Lowering the risk of blood clots forming. (Blood clots can cause a heart attack.)

Widening or bypassing clogged arteries.

Preventing complications of CHD.

Lifestyle Changes. Making lifestyle changes often can help prevent or treat CHD. Lifestyle changes might be the only treatment that some people need.

Follow a Healthy Diet

Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes (TLC).

Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH).

Be Physically Active

Maintain a Healthy Weight

Quit Smoking

Manage Stress

Medicines

Procedures and Surgery

Cardiac Rehabilitation

How Can Coronary Heart Disease Be Prevented or Delayed?

Taking action to control your risk factors can help prevent or delay coronary heart disease (CHD). Your risk for CHD increases with the number of risk factors you have.

Living With Coronary Heart Disease

Coronary heart disease (CHD) can cause serious complications. However, if you follow your doctor's advice and adopt healthy lifestyle habits, you can prevent or reduce the risk of:

Dying suddenly from heart problems

Having a heart attack and damaging your heart muscle

Damaging your heart because of reduced oxygen supply

Having arrhythmias (irregular heartbeats)

Ongoing Care

Lifestyle changes and medicines can help control CHD. Lifestyle changes include following a healthy diet, being physically active, maintaining a healthy weight, quitting smoking, and managing stress.

Work closely with your doctor to control your blood pressure and manage your blood cholesterol and blood sugar levels. Talk with your doctor about how often you should schedule office visits or blood tests. Between those visits, call your doctor if you have any new symptoms or if your symptoms worsen.

Heart Attack Warning Signs

CHD raises your risk for a heart attack. Learn the signs and symptoms of a heart attack, and call 9-1-1 if you have any of these symptoms:

Chest pain or discomfort.

Upper body discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or upper part of the stomach.

Shortness of breath, which may occur with or before chest discomfort.

Nausea, vomiting, light-headedness or fainting, or breaking out in a cold sweat.

Symptoms also may include sleep problems, fatigue (tiredness), and lack of energy.

The symptoms of angina can be similar to the symptoms of a heart at-

tack. Angina pain usually lasts for only a few minutes and goes away with rest.

Chest pain or discomfort that doesn't go away or changes from its usual pattern (for example, occurs more often or while you're resting) can be a sign of a heart attack. If you don't know whether your chest pain is angina or a heart attack, call 9-1-1.

Let the people you see regularly know you're at risk for a heart attack. They can seek emergency care for you if you suddenly faint, collapse, or have other severe symptoms.

Emotional Issues and Support

Living with CHD may cause fear, anxiety, depression, and stress. You may worry about heart problems or making lifestyle changes that are necessary for your health.

Talk about how you feel with your health care team. Talking to a professional counselor also can help. If you're very depressed, your doctor may recommend medicines or other treatments that can improve your quality of life.

Joining a patient support group may help you adjust to living with CHD. You can see how other people who have the same symptoms have coped with them. Talk with your doctor about local support groups or check with an area medical center.

Support from family and friends also can help relieve stress and anxiety. Let your loved ones know how you feel and what they can do to help you.

National Heart, Blood & Lung Institute

National Institutes of Health (NIH), 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20892



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:

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 2. _____ 6. _____ 10. _____
 3. _____ 7. _____ 11. _____
 4. _____ 8. _____ 12. _____

Set of 12 photos _____

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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 # _____

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

andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
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(229) 924-0343
Brad Bennett, Superintendent
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Memorial Day at Andersonville

by Stephanie Steinhorst, Park Ranger



It was a particularly beautiful Memorial Day weekend in Georgia, with warm temperatures and cool breezes making perfect conditions for the 300 volunteers - mostly scouting groups - who placed almost 20,000 United States flags on the graves in Andersonville National Cemetery. Many of these volunteers come back year after year to honor the fallen soldiers, sometimes returning with their children and grandchildren to help in the project.



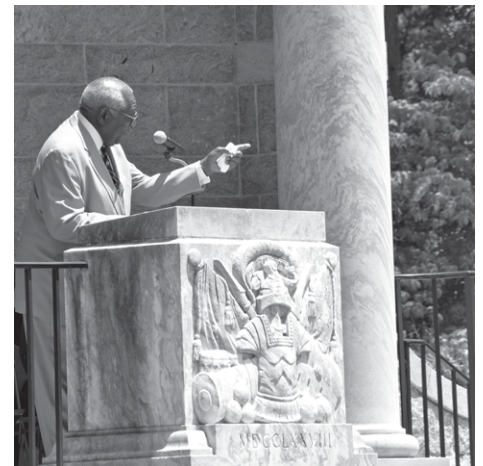
On the afternoon of Sunday, May 26th, Andersonville National Historic Site hosted its annual Memorial Day ceremony, drawing several hundred visitors. Superintendent Brad Bennett acted as Master of Ceremonies, and read a letter on behalf of AXPOW National Commander Charles Susino, Jr., which stated, in part, “There are many memorials honoring the veterans who were Prisoners of War, none more significant than here at Andersonville...truly one of our country’s treasures.” Jim Covington, president of the Friends of Andersonville provided greetings, followed by Congressman Doug Lamborn, U.S. House of Representatives, 5th District of Colorado, who shared a story about Vietnam POW Jeremiah Denton of Mobile, Alabama. Denton, who was held at the Hanoi Hilton and later served in the U.S. Senate from Alabama, was used by his captors for a propaganda film and was ordered to make derogatory remarks about the U.S. He used the Morse Code by blinking his eyes to spell out the word “torture.” Congressman Lamborn praised the heroic actions of U.S. servicemen and women like Denton and concluded by saying “We are the land of the free because we are the home of the brave. God Bless America.”

Kenneth Cutts, District Director for Congressman Sanford Bishop, 2nd District of Georgia, introduced keynote speaker Clarence “Tiger” Davis. A native of Wilkes County, Georgia, Davis’ family moved to Baltimore in 1948. After high school, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He is

a former Post Commander of the Otha Spriggs Memorial American Legion Post, a member of the Veterans of

Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America. In addition to his military service, and a decade as a history professor at Essex Community College, Mr. Davis served in the Maryland House of Delegates from 1982-2006. Davis’ remarks centered on the importance of each generation acknowledging the sacrifices of its veterans. He encouraged the audience to “teach our children

about the reality of what America means. The American ideal is something very special. That is why we have those graves over there. That is why my children and my great-grandchildren will willingly sign that document when called...America is exceptional, but more than that, the people of America are exceptional.”



Following Mr. Davis’ remarks, wreaths were presented by several veterans groups and other support organizations, including Daughters of the American Revolution, the Women’s Relief Corps, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 4th Allied POW Wing, the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, Gold Star Wives, and Gold Star Mothers. The ceremony concluded with a rifle salute and the playing of Taps and “Amazing Grace.”

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Paul E. Galanti
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p.galanti@verizon.net

Remember the high cost of freedom

This Memorial Day, thousands of my fellow Virginians, including our governor, Bob McDonnell, will gather at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond to honor and remember the brave men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of this great nation and the ideals on which it was founded. I will miss not being there to take part in this inspiring and meaningful ceremony.

Instead, my wife Phyllis and I will be thousands of miles away in Newport Beach, Cal. — but not on vacation. We will be attending the 40th reunion of the surviving members of the 600 of us who were finally released from the notorious North Vietnam prison we called the “Hanoi Hilton” on Feb. 12, 1973.

It is hard to realize that four decades have passed since we walked — no flew! — from that difficult situation and returned to wives and families back home. We

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were all cocky — mostly proud pilots and flight crews — before our capture and years of torture and deprivation. Today, there will be fewer of us to get together and renew the bonds and the experiences we shared. Those of us who are left are now gray-haired or balding and move a bit slower than we did the last time we were together.

We will have drinks and cocktails at our hotel along the Pacific. We will catch up on our lives, ask about our children and grandchildren, and swap stories. The years will peel away and we’ll be 26 years old again, “slipping the surly bonds of Earth”! There will be laughter and there will be tears. And despite the horrors we endured as POWs, we will realize that we are the lucky ones.

More than 58,000 of our comrades did not return from Vietnam. Their names are etched on the black stone walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, and those from the commonwealth are also engraved on the glass and stone walls in the Virginia War Memorial’s Shrine of Memory.

My fellow POWs and I returned to continue our military careers or to civilian life. Most of us came

back determined to make a difference and to pursue our dreams. Thirty became flag or general officers in the Navy or Air Force, a phenomenal number considering the large amount of time away from a “normal” military career!

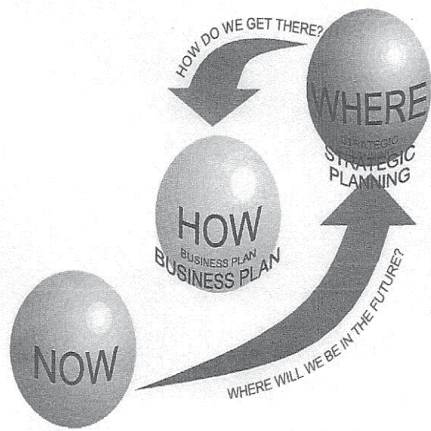
Our small group includes five who have served in Congress, including two U.S. senators, as well as doctors, business leaders, an F.C.C. commissioner, a vice-presidential candidate and a presidential candidate. Often I think of the thousands of those whose lives were ended before they had these same opportunities that we and our fellow Americans take for granted.

As has been said so many times before, “Freedom is never free.” From Valley Forge to Gettysburg ... from the muddy trenches of Verdun to the beaches of Normandy ... from the frozen ground of the Chosin Reservoir to the steamy jungles of the Mekong Delta ... to the sands of Iraq and Afghanistan, Americans have spilled their blood and given their lives to preserve the freedom we hold dear. Every one deserves our prayers and our gratitude.

It is too easy to forget that Memorial Day is not simply a three-day weekend to kick off summer. It is the day that Americans set aside to honor and remember those who fought and died for our country.

It is my hope that you and your family will take a few hours on Monday to attend a Memorial Day event such as the Commonwealth’s Memorial Day Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial. Our fallen heroes deserve nothing less.





Why is it Worthy for AXPOW to Survive?

Why is it not easier to think that AXPOW HAS SERVED ITS purpose, and let it die a financial death. With membership declining it could happen soon. You have heard from our Strategic Planning Committee disastrous forecasts for the future if we do not prepare for what is predicted to be our fiscal cliff. We once had over 30,000 members. We are now down to 14,000. Thirteen thousand of us are WWII age, and let us guess that our average is 92. Social Security Actuarial Publications show our life expectancy is

3.29 years. Since half will die before three years, and the other half for six years, our 13,000 WW II era members will drop to 6,500 in three years, and almost zero in six years. Baring another WW, we are left with about 1,000 Korean, Vietnam, and NOKs.

In three years, and particularly six years, could our reduced membership support our current budget of over \$300,000 per year? Now, this is all speculation, but this is what our planning committee is asking the Board of Directors and members to do. This is why we have been trying to keep our revenue above expenses. This is why we should try to preserve what is now our cash reserves of about \$250,000.

This is why we are recommending to our membership, changes in our by-laws to simplify our voting procedures, and reduce our Directors from 16 to 8 to fit a much smaller membership.

Why is it important to try to keep our organization alive?

With over twenty presumptive's, each of these conditions mean that they were caused by having

been a prisoner of war. One no longer has to prove it was the cause. Our organization needs to make sure these presumptive's are preserved. Many widows will need assistance with DIC.

We need to preserve congressionally approved National POW/MIA Day and POW RECOGNITION DAY. Our Commander meets with congress in March, and tells their members about our needs.

We need to keep the tradition of VA services such as the office they give me as a service officer with in the VA facility. We must try to request that the VA provide space for our chapter meetings, and psychological services such as PTSD clinics.

Above all, we must try to continue the publication of the Bulletin. Currently, we count on communications with Department Commanders to keep members posted on national affairs, but with many departments closing, it is becoming less effective. We need to transfer all happenings, including the budget to the Bulletin.

How can you help in this survival?

Give me ideas to either increase revenues or cut expenses. If you or your chapters or Departments have been angered by actions of our officers, and stopped making donations, review this article in you chapter meetings, and reconsider donations. Maybe you might ask that your donations go into reserves, and that only the income from those donations be used for expenses.

Lew



2012 National Convention ~ Arlington, Texas

va outreach



**Bill Jeffers
Chairman**

This article will start addressing the subject of Disability Compensation, a VA monetary benefit available to veterans who have been disabled as a result of an injury or illness incurred or aggravated during active military service. Such disabilities are termed service-connected. The amount of this compensation is a function of the extent of disability and the number of dependants the veteran has. Disability compensation is exempt from both state and federal income tax.

The payment of military retirement pay, disability severance pay and separation payments affects the amount of VA compensation paid to disabled veterans.

The monthly disability compensation rates start at \$127 for a 10% service-connected disability rating and increase for each additional 10% of disability until the 100% disability rating is reached at which point the monthly compensation is \$2769. Veterans with disability ratings of at least 30% are eligible for additional allowances for dependents.

Eligible military retirees can receive Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP). CRDP restores retired pay on a graduated 10 year schedule for those with a 50 to 90% VA rated disability. The concurrent

retirement payments increase 10% per year through 2013. Veterans rated 100% disabled by the VA are entitled to full CRDP without being phased in. Veterans receiving benefits at the 100% rate due to unemployment are entitled to full CRDP starting in 2005. Eligibility for CRDP requires meeting all of the following: (1) 20 or more years of active duty, or full-time National Guard duty, or satisfactory reserve service, (2) be in retired status, (3) receiving retired pay (off-set by VA payments). Retirees do not have to apply for this benefit. The payment is coordinated between the VA and DoD.

Combat-related Special Compensation (CRSC) provides monthly payments to eligible retired veterans with combat-related injuries. Under CRSC, veterans receive both full military retirement pay and VA disability compensation if the injury is combat related. Eligibility for retired veterans to apply for CRSC requires meeting all of the following: (1) 20 years of active or reserve creditable service or medically retired, (2) receiving retired military pay, (3) 10% or greater VA rated disability, and have documented evidence that the injury(s) resulted from one of the following: (a) training simulating war, (b) hazardous duty, (c) instrument of war, (d) armed conflict. Disabilities relating to in-service exposure to hazards (such as Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, radiation exposure) for which VA awards compensation are considered combat-related for CRSC purposes. A service-connected presumptive disability of a former POW is considered to be combat-related for CRSC eligibility purposes.

Certain chronic and tropical diseases may be considered service-connected presumptive conditions if the disease rises to a compensable degree (10% or greater) within an applicable time limit (1,3 or 7 years) depending on the disease. Veterans who develop Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) at any time after active service may also be eligible for service-connected disability compensation.

The next VA Outreach article will conclude the subject of Disability

Compensation. It will include the disability considerations which are uniquely applicable to former prisoners of war.

HUD & VA Team Up to Provide Permanent Homes to 9,000 Homeless Vets

Approximately 9,000 homeless Veterans living on the streets and in the nation's shelter system will soon find a permanent place to call home. U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric K. Shinseki announced that HUD will provide \$60 million to local public housing agencies across the country to offer permanent supportive housing to homeless Veterans, many of whom are living with chronic disabling conditions.

The supportive housing assistance is provided through the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program which combines rental assistance from HUD with case management and clinical services provided by VA. Since 2008, a total of 48,385 vouchers have been awarded and 42,557 formerly homeless Veterans are currently in homes because of HUD-VASH.

Donovan and Shinseki announced this additional support for homeless Veterans in an address to the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans conference today in Washington. Find out how much of this assistance will help homeless veterans in your area.

HUD-VASH is a critical part of the Obama Administration's commitment to end Veteran and long-term chronic homelessness in 2015. Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness serves as a roadmap for how the federal government will work with state and local communities to confront the root causes of homelessness, especially among former servicemen and women.

civilians



**Alice Gollin
Chairman**

An article published in The New York Times on November 26, 1945 reported that Lt. Gen. Shiyoku Kuo, who was in charge of POW and Internment camps on Luzon from October 1944 to January 1945, testified in the war crimes trials of General Yamashita that conditions were “good” in Cabanatuan and Santo Tomas camps. Unfortunately, internees in Santo Tomas were dying of malnutrition at a rate of 1 or 2 a day, an increasing rate that in December passed 1% of the population each month.

General Kuo testified that, “Sanitary conditions and hospital facilities appeared good and that the inmates appeared well fed and adequately clothed. He added that he did not believe camp staffs had advanced notice of his visits of inspection.” (Santo Tomas records show that on October 23 the commandant demanded special activities from the internees to prepare for the visit on October 24, and to show proper “respect”.) He also, “...denied receiving any reports of mistreatment of prisoners or internees either from the camp authorities or from the inmates themselves”.

And so began the great whitewash of Japan’s wartime record that continues today.

Aided by Japan-apologists in academia and the media, the Japanese have ramped up an enormous propaganda campaign to convince present day populations that Japan was largely innocent of wrongdoing and that America and its allies waged a merciless and immoral war against Japan. With the continual decline in the number of people with firsthand knowledge of Japan’s duplicity, this campaign is bearing fruit.

One example is a major campaign underway to cast the blame for the terrible destruction of Manila and the slaughter of a huge number of its residents directly on the U.S. forces invading the city.

A documentary now being made is intended to rehabilitate General Yamashita, who was executed as a war criminal in part for the Manila Massacre. It has been It has been optioned for showing in the U.S. by our own PBS network, a government and subscriber sponsored operation. The accompanying article by Peter Parsons describes the actual conditions with which General MacArthur was faced when recapturing the city, a far different story from the one now being told by the Japan apologists.

Exacerbating this situation is the



AME 4
The Japanese generously provide supplementary nutrition for their prisoners

recent election of Shinzo Abe as Prime Minister of Japan.

According to The New York Times editorial on January 2, 2013, he has signaled that he might seek to revise Japan’s 1993 apologies for its World War II aggression, including one for using Koreans and other women as sex slaves. A broader apology by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama in 1995 conceded that “through its colonial rule and invasion,” Japan had caused “tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations.”

Those of us who were there during that terrible war are all that remains of the collective memory of Japan’s cruelty. It is incumbent upon us to speak up and set the record straight at every opportunity, and in every case where Japan-apologists seek to distort the record.

Angus Lorenzen
Commander, BACEPOW

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Lorenzen**

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pow-mia



PNC John Edwards Chairman

**889 Randall Road
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Americans Accounted For

There are now 1,648 personnel listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO recently posted the accounting for Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Michael B. Judd, USN, from OH, listed KIA/BNR on June 30, 1967 in South Vietnam. His remains were recovered June 25, 2012, and identified February 27, 2013. Major Howard V. Andre, Jr., USAF, from TN, and Major James E. Sizemore, USAF, from CA, were both listed as KIA/BNR in Laos on July 8, 1969, while flying an A-26A on a night armed-reconnaissance mission over Xieng Khoang Province. Their remains were recovered June 1, 2010, and identified on March 25, 2013. The number of Americans announced by DPMO as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 935. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and ID'd before the end of the war, bring the official total of remains repatriated from the Vietnam

Captured/Missing:

US Service member captured while supporting combat operations:

Army Spc. Bowe R. Bergdahi, 27,
June 30, 2009, Afghanistan

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War to 998. Of the 1,648 missing and unaccounted-for personnel, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,277 (VN-469, VS-808); Laos-311; Cambodia-53; PRC territorial waters-7; 450+ over-water losses are among 630 DPMO lists as No Further Pursuit.

Soldier missing from WWII

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing since World War II, have been identified and are being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Pvt. William Yawney, 23, of Freemansburg, Pa., was buried on May 25, in Bethlehem, Pa. On June 15, 1944, as part of an Allied strategic goal to secure the Mariana Islands, U.S. forces were ordered to occupy Saipan. After a month of intense fighting, enemy forces conducted a final attack on the 105th Infantry Regiment (IR), 27th Infantry Division's (ID) position. During these attacks, elements of the 105th IR sustained heavy losses, killing and injuring more than 900 servicemen. As a result of these attacks Yawney was reported killed in action.

Soldiers missing from Korea

Since February 3, the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office has announced the identifications of 13 servicemen that were formerly missing from the Korean War. These remains were recovered either by US teams that operated in North Korea until 2005; or they were remains that were exhumed from the "Punch Bowl" cemetery in Hawaii; or they were remains that were turned over to the US Government by the North Koreans between 1991 and 1993.

68th Anniversary of Meeting on the Elbe

On April 25th, DPMO Principal Deputy Alisa Stack laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery marking the 68th anniversary of the Meeting on the Elbe of U.S. and Soviet soldiers at Torgau, Germany, in 1945. The ceremony was held at the Spirit

of the Elbe Marker, which was dedicated in 1995 in honor of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Each year the Russian Ambassador organizes a ceremony to recognize the U.S.-Russian Alliance in the War. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Russian Embassy hosted by Ambassador Kislyak honoring the veterans. Other DPMO representatives at the ceremony were Lt Col Michael Allison and Ms. Svetlana Shevchenko of DPMO's Joint Commission Support Division and Dr. James G. Connell Jr., Acting Executive Secretary of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIAs.

Research in the Balkans

From March 4-17, a DPMO research team traveled to Belgrade, Serbia, to conduct two weeks of archival research and interviews to gather information in an on-going effort to resolve 236 outstanding cases in the former Yugoslavia from the World War II. They met with archivists, interviewed historians, researchers, witnesses, and journalists, and visited four archival institutions, including the Serbian Ministry of Defense Military Archives. More than 1,000 files were reviewed from key archival collections. The team collected specific information on five cases as well as contextual and broad material for all 236 cases. Analysts will translate and analyze the collected information in the coming months and apply that knowledge in preparation for future investigations throughout the Balkans.

Research in Italy

From March 10-26, a small team of DPMO personnel conducted field research and investigations in southern Italy. The team researched specific incidents in Castelnuovo di Porto, Riano, Crispiano, Laviano, Canello ed Arnone, and Fondi. They also met with the staff of the Italian State Archives of Salerno, regarding historical documents that may be helpful in the resolution of both air and ground losses in the area. The team also met with museum officials in the areas surrounding Anzio regarding missing Americans lost during the campaign from Anzio to Rome during World War II.



Aug. 21- 25, 2013. The 106th Infantry Division Association Annual Reunion will be held in New Orleans, LA. All veterans and families are invited. For more information, contact: Herb Sheaner, President, PO Box 140535, Dallas, TX 75214; (214) 823-3003; herbsheaner@sbcglobal.net.

Oct. 1-6, 2013. The 30th Annual Mukden Survivors and Descendants reunion will be held in Hamburg, PA. Anyone interested in more information please contact the hosts, Terry and Dawne Clay (Wayne Miller's daughter). Dawne's Email address is dkclay1@comcast.net. Home address is: Dawne and Terry Clay, 751 Garfield Rd, Mohrsville, PA 19541. Home telephone # 610-926-0667.

October 3-6, 2013. The 6th Bomb Group (BG), Tinian Island, 1944- 45. 25th Reunion will be held in Milwaukee, WI. Contacts: Rob Ritter (414) 380-7888, drrob@tds.net or Loris Forsman, loriforsman@aol.com.

Sept. 21, 2013. Second Annual National POW- MIA Recognition Day, sponsored by Rolling Thunder Alabama Chapter #1 will be held at the State Capitol in Montgomery, AL, 11AM. For more information, contact: Don Westwood, Chapter President, 11963 Balsam Ct., Spanish Fort, AL 36527; danson50@gmail.com.

looking
for



My Father In-Law, **SSGT Kenneth T. Lockhart**, was a tailgunner on a B24 Liberator in WWII. His plane was shot down on a bombing mission over Germany September 11, 1944. He was injured while bailing out of the burning fuselage. He blacked out dur-

ing his parachute decent. When he awoke he noticed bullet holes in his parachute. When he landed he was handed over to the German Army. He spent nearly a year in captivity and was eventually freed by General Patton's 3rd Army. SSGT Kenneth T. Lockhart will be 90 this August. We are planning a special birthday for Ken. Family members will be coming from all over the country. The "Cake Boss" is going to make a cake shaped like a B-24. Ken is one of a fast declining group of survivors of WWII, and B-24 aircrew members. Do you happen to know other B24 Aircrew members that are still alive in the NY/NJ/PA area? Regards, Steve Surat, 106 Franklin Ave., Hawthorne, NJ 07506; 973-949-3104.

Seeking Information on Siegburg, Germany. Michaelsburg Abbey / Stalag 6 G - the Lazaret/ Hospital / Monastery / Benedictine Monks and Nuns / on a High Hill overlooking the City. WALDBROL , GERMANY - Liberated in April, 1945. I am looking for anyone who was a **prisoner or knows anything about Siegburg or Waldbrol , Germany** during WW2. The location of the POW Camp had many different names but it was NOT the Stalag 6G in Bonn , Germany . Part of the Monastery was a hospital for wounded German soldiers. Another part and barracks were used for the wounded Allied prisoners. In addition to wounded combat soldiers a lot of wounded Army Airmen were brought there when their planes were shot down. The Airmen that were well enough eventually went to Dulag-Luft. From there maybe they all went to Stalag Luft 3 or maybe to many different Stalags. If you have any information, I would really appreciate being able to talk with you. My email address is: jeanj@jjworld.com and my phone number is 786 768 2288. Thank you, Jean Dasburg.

My name is Nina Newton Pace. My father was **Frank M. "Tex" Newton who was in Stalag Luft III**. I am searching for an extraordinarily kind gentleman in The Netherlands. I've looked through mother's addresses and cannot find his phone number or address. His name is **Ben VanDrogenbeck**, although I may have not spelled it correctly. I have an original Stalag Luft book which was given to my dad and I'd like Ben to have it. Also, to tell Ben that my mother passed away on January 14, 2012. Anything you can do to connect me with Ben would be appreciated. My home phone is 512-524-2018. Sincerely, Nina Newton Pace; nn_pace00@yahoo.com.

I'm looking for information about my grandfather, **JC Garrett**. (Some records show him as JD Garrett). He was captured on Corregidor, May 7, 1942, serving with the 192nd Tank Battalion. He was first held in Bilibid, then transferred to Japan on the Hellship Clyde Maru in July, 1943. There he was held in Fukuoka #1 and #17. He returned to San Francisco on the Simon Bolivar Oct. 21, 1945. I appreciate any help you can give me. Aaron L. Dupuy 225-777-3410; aaronldupuy@yahoo.com.

I am writing a story about my stepfather **Willis Earl Bain who was a POW in Stalag III-C** (37 miles east of Berlin - now Gorzow), who was captured at the Battle of Mortain in August 1944. He was captured in August and escaped from the Stalag on New Year's Eve '44/'45 with two other men. They traveled from Gorzow to Naples, Italy and caught the S/S/ Mariposa (Matson Lines) on 8 April '45 to Boston. I am trying to locate the two men who escaped and traveled with him. Please contact me at: Caroline Kennedy cwkenned@aol.com - 843.705.5654.

Saint, Hero, POW:

Emil Joseph Kapaun

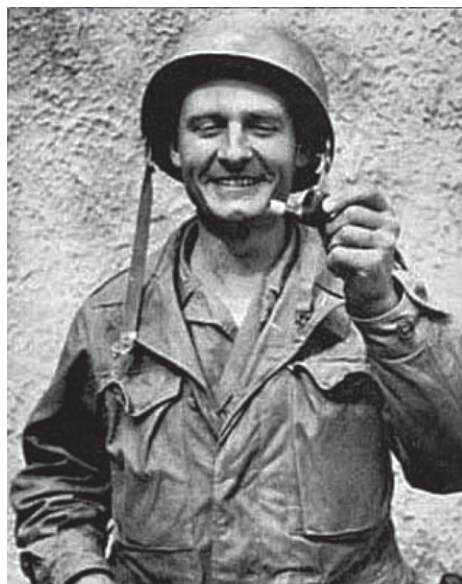
by Alice A. Booher

It has been an extraordinary journey by any standards and for all concerned. Emil Joseph Kapaun was born on Holy Thursday before Easter Sunday, April 20, 1916 in rural Pilsen, Kansas, of Czech immigrant parents Enos and Elizabeth Kapaun. He had one brother, Eugene, born in 1924, and they learned to fix farm implements, a skill that would help Emil as a POW. After high school, Emil graduated Conception Abbey seminary college in June 1936, attended Kenrick Theological Seminary where he was ordained in June 1940, and served as an auxiliary chaplain for the Herington Army Air Field and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wichita. Joining the Army in 1944, he was sent Camp Wheeler, GA and then to India and served in the Burma Theater (CBI). Returning CONUS in May 1946, he was discharged, earned a MA in education from Catholic University in 1948, and reenlisted as a chaplain in the Army in September 1948. He was assigned as chaplain to the 1st Cavalry Division (and 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment) in Japan and Korea and taken POW during the Battle of Unsan on November 2, 1950. Extraordinary commemoration and personal details of his life are described in *The Story of Chaplain Kapuan: Patriot Priest of the Korean Conflict*, written by Father Arthur Tonne at the request of Bishop Mark K. Carroll of Wichita



and including his own letters, recollections by family, POWs and others who had known him, his actions, devotion, and ethic.

According to the official U.S. Army, Chaplaincy and Cavalry biographies, Captain Kapaun did myriad extraordinary things for his fellow soldiers; was captured twice; refused to take a break from carrying stretchers during their forced march north; moved repeatedly under fire to rescue wounded from the no-man's land outside the battalion perimeter; negotiated with the enemy for the safety of wounded Americans; physically intervened to stop an execution; and rejected multiple opportunities to escape and instead volunteered to stay and care for wounded. Officially listed as MIA, he would remain a POW for 7 months in the Sambukol and Pyoktong POW camps during which time he tended for the sick and wounded, built fires against guards orders,



fashioned iron sheet and roofing tin into vessels to launder the wounded's clothing and purify drinking water, led prayers and spiritual services. He became so adept at stealing food for fellow POWs on "ration runs" that he was known as "The Good Thief, with great affection by the other POWs. His leadership while in



prison and sustaining their existence remains legendary. One of his final acts of defiance was conducting an Easter Sunrise service in 1951 (his shawl from that service would be held by President Obama in the Oval Office in 2013). He died in enforced isolation at age 35 on May 23, 1951 and was buried in a common, unmarked grave near the filthy prison death house "hospital" by the banks of the Yalu River. The first CONUS Memorial Mass was said for him on July 29, 1953 in Wichita at St. Mary Cathedral, and then another nearly a year later, attended by family and former POWs, at which time his fellow POWs presented small treasures: a small missal used by Kapaun in camp; the white cross from his helmet; and a check for \$8,300, from the Father Kapaun Memorial Fund launched in prison camp.

When three fellow POWs (Joseph O'Connor, Felix McCool and Ralph Nardella) had walked from North to South Korea as part of prisoner exchange ("Operation Big Switch"), they carried with them a crude hand-carved, nearly 4' tall wooden crucifix carved for POW camp services by fighter pilot Major Gerald (Gerry) Fink, a Jewish Marine in his memory, and subsequently used by POW Nardella in services. Immediately on repatriation briefing at Freedom Village in 1953, the POWs turned to the assembled correspondents and began the first of decades of presentations

Saint, cont'd...

they and other POWs made concerning the heroism of fellow POW Chaplain Kapaun. The cross eventually returned to Wichita, and myriad community memorials in Kapaun's name began [e.g., churches, schools, libraries, Army barracks (in 1955, now Kaiserslautern's Air Station in Germany)]. Efforts within the Church commenced immediately in 1953 to canonize Kapaun, resulting in 1993 with him being elevated to "Servant of God", the second of four stages to being named a Saint. The Vatican continues investigation into possible canonization.



CIC Obama with Nephew Kapaun



saved hundreds of fellow POWs by stealing food and boiling water to stave off dysentery. Many inside and outside the Pentagon [such as former POW Mike Dowe who wrote an eyewitness account of Kapaun's heroism for the *Saturday Evening Post*] continued the cause, even writing up medal recommendations which were unsuccessfully endorsed by many in the military hierarchy. Kapaun's MOH was denied by the Army on the basis it was against the rules to give a MOH to a POW, but the barriers began to fall, [e.g. in 2002, Vietnam War POW Rocky Versace, executed in 1968 for resisting his commu-

placed during the Battle of Unsan, to have that gun knocked aside by Kapaun who then lifted Miller out of the ditch. The Pentagon again denied the MOH due to "lack of substantiating evidence", but Latham knew how to gather data from National Archives, and did so and invited former POWs to record their stories. In 2009, Army Secretary Pete Geren named Kapaun for the MOH, and the tedious legislative process commenced to carve an exception to the rule that the act had to have occurred less than 5 years before. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, encouraged by many politicians on behalf of Kapaun's aging POW friends, signed off and sent it to the White House. President Obama made the decision and in December 2012, Emil's baby brother Gene's widow, Helen, the last living family member to have known the Chaplain, got the call from the White



Kapaun was also immediately awarded military recognition for specific acts of bravery, including a Bronze Star for heroism on November 1, 1950 near Kumchon where he rescued a wounded soldier despite intense enemy fire (the next day he was captured, escaped and recaptured). Proposed contemporaneously for the Medal of Honor (MOH), he was instead posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. But his fellow POWs and many others including a vast array of politicians, were not satisfied, and for the next 60 years, they would pursue recognition in the form of the MOH. Early on, camp physicians testified to his having

nist captors, was awarded the MOH].

In a Korean Conflict oral history project by English professor Bill Latham out of West Point, Kapaun's name surfaced and resurfaced in the stories of POWs Peterson, Esensten and Dowe. There was the story of a wounded POW Herbert Miller of Kapaun at whose head an enemy rifle barrel had been



Saint, cont'd...



Bill Richardson, KC POW



Bob Cavagnaro, KC POW



KC POW Herb Miller



KC POW Mike Dowe



GEN Ray Odierno & KC POW Bob McGreevey

House with the caveat that the spring ceremony would include fellow POWs.

Thus, it was on a lovely April 11, 2013, that they assembled in Washington. Those many POWs, friends and family in and out of the tiny Marion County, KS town, who had so long worked to carry on the memory of "Father Emil", were a bit incredulous, but it was a quietly joyous gathering. Washington is beautiful in the Spring and the White House is a heady place, no matter the politics or event; so is meeting the President and First Lady of the U.S. (Obama), or Army Chief of Staff (GEN Ray Odierno) or Secretary of Defense (Chuck Hagel). But when it is to fulfill a decades old personal dream, on so very many levels, it is beyond special.

Gene's eldest son, Ray, with his shock of white hair and open face, now the patriarch of the clan (now living in Atlanta and soon to move to Seattle), stood in for his

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frail mother in Washington, and with his siblings and all their scrubbed kids in Sunday dress on

low Chinese; the shooting stopped and they negotiated a safe surrender saving those American lives.

the front row, standing tall and very proud, accepted the MOH from the President. And right behind, spouses and widows of many of the POWs who served with Kapaun, with names like Marckmann, Nardella, Mayo, and POWs with names such as Miller, Dowe, Richardson, Cavagnaro, McGreevey, Wood and Gray, joined by a significant number of military brass and clergy. The President provided limited remarks, but noted the huge support packet that had accompanied the nomination, and refer-



enced several incidents including the actions that saved Herb Miller; and another when Kapaun spotted a wounded Chinese officer, with whom he pleaded and convinced to call out to his fel-

The following day, April 12, 2012, they regrouped at the hallowed white marble corridors of the commemorative exhibit area of the Pentagon, the Hall of Heroes, where POW and now MOH wearer, Chaplain Emil Kapaun, was inducted to join the ranks of many other POWs from various conflicts, in a fete witnessed by his remaining family and many of his fellow POWs. Fellow-Kansan, Secretary of Defense Hagel, with assorted other high ranking officials, noted that he had a prepared speech which he would not deliver in deference to the audience. But Hagel summed it up by noting that "courage and character" are the "two indispensable elements of a person's life", and that the week's events were not just praise for the acts of Father Kapaun but for the man he was. And perhaps because it was a terrific story in a high profile week, national media picked up on interviews with many of the attending Korean Conflict former POWs serving to spread the word in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Korean Conflict.

Of the roughly 25,000 military non-combatant chaplains who have served in 270 wars and combat engagements since 1775, Kapaun joins 6 others in having been awarded the Medal of Honor. And then of course there is that other golden road that may lead to canonization.



American Revolution (1775-1783)

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

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

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

Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)

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

Mexican War (1846-1848)

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

Civil War (1861-1865)

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

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

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

World War I (1917-1918)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002
Living Veterans	0

World War II (1941 -1945)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-mortal Woundings	670,846
Living Veterans ⁵	1,711,000

NOTES:

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

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Total Serving (In Theater)	1,789,000
Battle Deaths	33,739
Other Deaths (In Theater)	2,835
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	2,275,000

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide) ⁶	8,744,000
Deployed to Southeast Asia ⁷	3,403,000
Battle Deaths ⁸	47,434
Other Deaths (In Theater) ⁸	10,786
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater) ⁸	32,000
Non-mortal Woundings ⁹	153,303
Living Veterans ^{5,10}	7,391,000

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,322,000
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	148
Other Deaths (In Theater)	235
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,565
Non-mortal Woundings	467
Living Veterans ^{5,10}	2,244,583

America's Wars Total (1775 -1991)

U.S. Military Service during Wartime	41,892,128
Battle Deaths	651,031
Other Deaths (In Theater)	308,800
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	230,279
Non-mortal Woundings	1,431,290
Living War Veterans ¹¹	16,962,000
Living Veterans (Periods of War & Peace)	23,234,000

Global War on Terror (Oct 2001 -)

The Global War on Terror (GWOT), including Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), are ongoing conflicts. For the most current GWOT statistics visit the following Department of Defense Website:
http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot_component.pdf

6. Covers the period 8/5/64 - 1/27/73 (date of cease fire)

7. Department of Defense estimate

8. Covers period 11/1/55 – 5/15/75

9. Excludes 150,341 not requiring hospital care

10. Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) estimate, as of 4/09, does not include those still on active duty and may include veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

11. Total will be more than sum of conflicts due to no "end date" established for Persian Gulf War.

Source: Department of Defense (DOD), except living veterans, which are VA estimates as of Sep 2010.

American Revolution Last Veteran, Daniel F. Bakeman, died 4/5/1869, age 109 Last Widow, Catherine S. Damon, died 11/11/06, age 92 Last Dependent, Phoebe M. Palmeter, died 4/25/11, age 90	Mexican War Last Veteran, Owen Thomas Edgar, died 9/3/29, age 98 Last Widow, Lena James Theobald, died 6/20/63, age 89 Last Dependent, Jesse G. Bivens, died 11/1/62, age 94
War of 1812 Last Veteran, Hiram Cronk, died 5/13/05, age 105 Last Widow, Carolina King, died 6/28/36, age unknown Last Dependent, Esther A.H. Morgan, died 3/12/46, age 89	Civil War Last Union Veteran, Albert Woolson, died 8/2/56, age 109 Last Confederate Veteran, John Salling, died 3/16/58, age 112 Last Union Widow, Gertrude Janeway, died 1/17/2003, age 93
Indian Wars Last Veteran, Fredrak Fraske, died 6/18/73, age 101	Spanish-American War Last veteran, Nathan E. Cook, died 9/10/92, age 106
World War I Last Veteran, Frank Buckles, died 2/27/11, age 110	

VA's projection for living U.S. World War II veterans through the year 2029:*

9/30/14.....1,002,000	9/30/15.....843,000	9/30/16.....727,000	9/30/17.....614,000
9/30/18.....494,000	9/30/19.....374,000	9/30/20.....257,000	9/30/21.....210,000
9/30/22.....167,000	9/30/23.....127,000	9/30/24.....87,000	9/30/25.....49,000
9/30/26.....40,000	9/30/27.....32,000	9/30/28.....24,000	9/30/29.....15,000

* Estimates have changed based on new population projections.

U.S. Veterans and Dependents on Benefits Rolls as of January 2013

	VETERANS	CHILDREN	PARENTS	SURVIVING SPOUSES
Civil War	-	1	-	-
Indian Wars	-	-	-	-
Spanish-American War	-	58	-	46
Mexican Border	-	7	-	12
World War I	-	2,192	-	2,248
World War II	236,358	10,733	20	207,742
Philippines	2,018	160	9	3,526
Korean Conflict	202,360	2,324	71	68,396
Vietnam Era	1,390,078	4,157	2,025	208,789
Gulf War ¹	1,389,204	3,390	1,440	21,427
Peacetime	667,630	1,357	871	34,000
Non service-connected ²	313,310	12,021	0	195,091
Service-connected ²	3,510,015	13,083	4,451	348,241

¹ For compensation and pension purposes, the Persian Gulf War period has not yet been terminated and includes veterans of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. ² This total includes peacetime veterans receiving benefits

News Briefs

Psychological Professionalism and Veterans

by Alice A. Booher



The most glittery of the recent events was billed as being “In Honor of Veterans, Serving Those Who Serve Us”, but by any standards the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology (MSPP) has established an ongoing, growing and much broader program within and without their walls as a national model providing mental health support to veterans, their families and active duty personnel. Combining teacher and student constituencies, trainers and evaluators, MSPP is making some realistic progress in professionally and practically addressing psychological needs, and identifying both questions and answers, for the veteran and military communities. To assess the multiple psychological impacts on the individual and aggregate members of the services as well as help resolve the associated problems, requires a base of training and insight.

To address these concerns, MSPP, which opened shop in 1974, now offers a litany of 12 separate options for Masters and Doctoral degrees in applied psychology, and covers a wide variety of societal constituencies ranging from children to prisoners, but the school has opted to bring special focus to and specific regard to military.

The MSPP President, Dr. Nicolas Covino, whose own background includes 20 years at Boston’s Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and



Harvard faculty, notes that more than 1/3rd of the returning 1.5 million troops returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are diagnosed with anxiety, depression and substance abuse disorders and experience residuals of brain trauma.

In preparing professionals to meet those mental health needs, specifically, MSPP offers a fully accredited experimental education program, an integrated immersion graduate psychology program to students who include veterans and their spouses, who will in turn take their degrees to veterans and the military. For example, in the current class, half are of this constituency; and in 2012, MSPP students provided 2,345 hours of clinical services to veterans in VA hospitals and other veteran related settings. MSPP students do fieldwork in 250 hospitals, clinics, schools, businesses and non-profit organizations. In 2009, MSPP became an approved Institution of Higher learning under the Yellow Ribbon Program of the US Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) which is intended to attract former service personnel interested in mental health career careers [MSPP now has 5 doctoral candidates in that program]. Since 2011 MSPP created the Train Vet to Treat Vets program which has received funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the past two years, and a soon to be launched military curriculum. Says Eu Choo, a USMC veteran and current MSPP doctoral student: “As a veteran, I am able to reflect on my personal experience, incorporate it into my learning and bring a unique perspective to the classroom”. The Yellow Ribbon Scholarship Fund Program raises matching funds to supplement

those provide by the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

As part of the MSPP overall effort, the 2013 annual event enlisted two military figurative and literal stars, GEN George Casey, and BG Rhonda Cornum. GEN Casey, commander of multinational forces in Iraq from 2004-2007 and then 36th Army Chief of Staff, retired in 2011 after 41 years of active service, but remains committed to the troops. Says Casey:” We have a volunteer force and if we’re going to sustain it, soldiers and their families have to believe we care about them and are there for them”. At a two-day event including ongoing substantive discussions with the current class, Generals Casey and Cornum met with the students and addressed the gala. Cornum presented the compelling salient data about the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program started under their military watch which continues now within all services, with significant assistance in identifying and addressing problems from within and without the military, a significant practitioner group of which includes psychologists. It makes sense to specially train these to better know their constituencies by using some of their own. In turn, MSPP recognized Cornum’s experience in the military to include being shot down, injured and POW, enduring both physical and psychological assault, and rebounding thereafter to lead troops in a variety of forums including commander of the vast hospital at Landstuhl to developing and perfecting the CSF. At the May 2013 Boston gala, Cornum received the MSPP Mental Health Humanitarian Award presented by General Casey and Dr. Covino. The gala itself to include a silent auction served as a charitable fund raising tool for the ongoing veterans related projects, includ-



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ing scholarships and outreach such as their Janice Furtado Memorial Fund (named for one of the MSPP students who died at age 32 after 8 years in the USAF), which supports the Train Vets to Treat Vets program. Their 33rd Commencement in Boston featured Congresswoman combat veteran Ladda Tammy” Duckworth. The MSPP professional, practical psychological programs for and involving veterans continues with great class and deserves to be saluted smartly - and the most genuine and positive salute would be if other institutions of higher learning will emulate the example.

NAMPOWS Celebrate 40 Years of Freedom

by Bob Certain



On Wednesday, May 22 over 200 NAMPOWs, plus our wives and other family members and guests, reunited for a three-day celebration at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum to remember the 40th anniversary of the star-studded White House dinner



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hosted by President Nixon to honor our sacrifice.

“President Nixon was a hero to us. He will always be revered by us as a group because he got us home.” said retired U.S. Marine Capt. Orson Swindle, who spent six years and four months in Hanoi prison camps. The Richard Nixon Foundation pulled out all the stops to make us feel as welcome this year as the President did in 1973.

The reunion began Wednesday with arrivals, a gathering in a well-stocked and very popular Ready Room, and an opening dinner around the pool of the Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach (no one fell in!).

On Thursday noon we went by motor coach with a motorcycle, police and fire truck escort to the Nixon Library. During ceremonies there we were treated to a missing man flyover, a wreath-laying ceremony and tours of a special museum exhibit that focuses on Operation Homecoming. Dozens of American flags rose above our heads as a band played “Stars and Stripes” and “The Star Spangled Banner” as we processed into the museum. Tony Orlando was present to lead us in “Tie A Yellow Ribbon” and other pa-

triotic favorites. Afterwards, we were treated to a BBQ dinner on the grounds beside Marine One - the presidential helicopter.



Friday began with a business meeting at which we determined to continue our tradition of reunions - the next one in 2015. After a day of relaxation and tours, we returned to the Library in the evening for our black-tie dinner, this time in a replica of the East Room of the White House, with our friends and patrons, Ross and Margot Perot, in attendance.

Saturday was another day of touring with friends and ended with a farewell banquet at the hotel. As we left to return to our homes on Sunday, we went with renewed friendships with men who had lived together during the worst of times but who have made our lives into the best of times in the last four decades. May God continue to bless us with good health, and may God bless America.



Photos courtesy of Bob Certain and Jim Lollar

news, continued

Ex-POW Recognition

PNC Jack Warner and his daughter Jr. Vice Commander Pam Eslinger traveled to Muskogee, OK on April 13, 2013 to an Ex-POW Recognition Program and Luncheon. It was hosted by the VA Medical Center in Muskogee.

Then on April 19, 2013 they traveled to Barksdale Air Force Base, LA for an Ex-POW, MIA, Purple Heart, World War II Program and Luncheon. The program was awesome, and this was the 34th one they have hosted and the 2nd largest.

This was hosted by the 2nd Bomb Wing and Retiree Activities Office. We did get to see some of our fellow AXPOW members there. It was great to see them and I reminded them of the convention in Arlington. We sure hope they make it.

Missouri Medals

Available to all Missouri Veterans (Past & Present Residents)

The Missouri National Guard Veterans Recognition Program presents medallions, medals, and certificates to veterans who served in World War I (April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918); World War II (December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946); Jubilee of Liberty (participated in the Battle of Normandy (June 6, 1944 - September 30, 1944); Korea (June 27, 1950 - January 31, 1955), and VietNam (February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975).

The veteran can be a legal resident at the time of application or was a legal resident at the time he/she entered or was discharged from the military or at the time of his/her death. Spouse or Eldest Living Survivor of the eligible veteran can also apply. For more information contact Missouri Veterans Recognition Program, P.O. Box 1808, Jefferson City, MO 65102, 1-866-834-3431, www.moguard.com/moguard-veteran-awards.html.

American Heroes

COLA Act

Introduced by Rep. Jon Runyan of New Jersey, The American Heroes COLA Act would make the annual increase to veterans' disability compensation rates and other benefits permanent by tying the increase to the cost of living adjustment for Social Security benefits.

HVAC Chairman Jeff Miller introduced a manager's amendment to H.R. 570 that would sunset the bill's round-down authority after five years while reinvesting savings associated with the bill in programs aimed at improving benefits for disabled veterans. Miller's amendment enjoys widespread support among veterans service organizations.

"This bipartisan legislation would significantly increase the special monthly compensation payments made to our most severely disabled veterans. These are veterans who are missing limbs, totally blind, deaf, or who are so disabled that they require the need of special care in the home, all as a result of military service. Clearly, it is our duty to ensure that these most deserving service-disabled veterans are well-cared for, and my amendment to H.R. 570 will be a significant step in that direction." - *Chairman Jeff Miller*

"With the passage of the American Heroes COLA Act, veterans will never again have to depend on Congressional action to receive an increase to the cost of living adjustment they have more than earned through their service. Instead, these increases will become automatic from year to year." - *Rep. Jon Runyan*

Stolen Valor

On May 20, 2013, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted for the latest version of the Stolen Valor Act H.R.258, a law that will

make it a crime to don the medals and ribbons that soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen are awarded for combat actions. The legislation passed 309 to three. May 22nd, the Senate passed the companion bill S.210 by unanimous consent and sent it to the President for his signature.

The Supreme Court struck down the previous version of the law last June, when it ruled that lying about military heroics was constitutionally protected speech unless there was intent to gain some benefit or something of value by fraud. Congress followed the roadmap laid out by the U.S. Supreme Court when they overturned the original Stolen Valor Act last year. In their writings, the high court suggested any future legislation had to be narrower in focus than just to penalize people for simple lying, which they ruled as protected speech in a 6-3 decision.

Under the new bill, it's a federal crime to benefit from knowingly lying about receiving certain valorous military medals and awards. Maximum punishment would be a fine of up to \$100,000 and up to one year in prison for each offense.

It does not apply to every medal. Specifically covered are the Medal of Honor, service crosses, Silver Star, Purple Heart and combat badges such as Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Action Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Ribbon, or Combat Action Medal. Claiming to have received one of the awards becomes fraudulent if the liar obtains or tries to obtain money, property or some other tangible benefit. For example, claiming to be a combat veteran on a job application or to receive a government contract set aside for a veterans would be fraud, as would receiving unearned veterans' disability or health benefits if any of the combat-related awards used to qualify for those benefits were falsely claimed.

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The Military (and Veterans) Advantage

by Alice A. Booher

For decades, the question has been asked as to where you might depend on finding accurate, responsive, informative data on how to obtain your well-earned military service benefits, whether you are still in the military or now out. Some folks go to their Veterans Service Organization (VSO); others call or visit their local VA Regional Office, Medical Center or Out-patient Clinic or a nearby military facility. All of these are good resources, but there are now some additional written alternatives which may be helpful. Having read all of those major works currently available, we will look at some new options. First, the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs within the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) has long published a “Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors” booklet. It comes out each year, including acronyms and chapters on each important area of entitlement and lists other federal benefits and facilities.

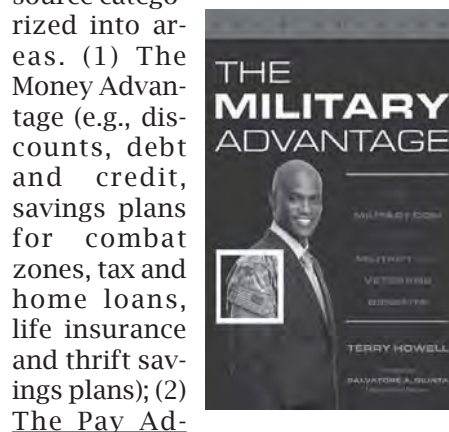
The most recent 188 page issue came out in August 2012 (for 2012). National Headquarters has a supply of these books available for free. Just call or email. The online edition is available at www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp. One advantage is that being online, you can pull up and even print the specific segment in which you require information.

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(for 2013), a 79 page handbook, 2013 Benefits for Veterans and Dependents. They have similar separate books available on other subjects such as 2013 Veterans Healthcare, which are available for about \$25 each, but are usually printed on demand only.

For my personal money, probably the best, most comprehensive and cost effective single volume now available is that which was written by Coast Guard CPO veteran and experienced counselor Terry Howell, Managing Editor for “Benefits for Military.com”, published as a cooperative effort between Military.com, the largest military membership organization with over 10 million members and its parent company, Monster.com, the largest career and job website; and printed by Naval Institute Press. The 387 page volume, out in May 2013, is endorsed by former DVA Secretary Tony Principi who states: “Every service member and veteran should read this book. It is the definitive guide to making the most of your benefits”. Entitled “The Military Advantage: The Military.com Guide to Military and Veterans Benefits”, it has virtually every nuance of every possible question, answer and appropriate data source categorized into areas. (1) The Money Advantage (e.g., discounts, debt and credit, savings plans for combat zones, tax and home loans, life insurance and thrift savings plans); (2) The Pay Ad-



There are some commercially produced books available from sources such as “Military Handbooks” for instance, which published in December 2012

vantage (e.g., including standard pay, allowances and special pay, allotments and retired and both combat related and veteran disability compensation). (3) The Health Care Advantage (e.g., TRICARE (in all its permutations) and veterans); (4) The Benefits Advantage (e.g., military travel and lodging rights, legal rights, entitlements and benefits, veterans benefits claims and appeals, burial and surviving family benefits); (5) The Education Advantage (e.g., money for school in and out of active duty and by branch of service); (6) The Career Advantage (e.g., professional development in service, deployment and mobilization, post-deployment, relocation); (7) The Transition Advantage (e.g., preparation, successful transition to a civilian career, employment resources, continuing to serve (Reserve, Guard), records and awards); (8) The Family Advantage (e.g., “on the move”, career development, education, training for spouses, the military child, family support during deployment, military support organizations and wounded warrior and post-traumatic stress resources).

It is the book that most comprehensively and intricately addresses the myriad questions of both active duty and veterans in all components, transitions and circumstances, and contains listings of resource after resource; comparative factors and detailed specific contact points for each. It has an excellent Index, and the chapters are so well developed and structured that the questions (both broad and very specific) are clearly stated and the numerous complex alternative resolutions are comprehensively and understandably laid out, often in chart form so the options are more visibly comparable.

Priced at \$27.95 for industrial paperback (eBook also available), with little extraneous verbiage, it fully covers the standard veterans benefits questions plus new sections geared to the record numbers of members transitioning to civilian life. It is a superior guide for active duty military, veterans, retirees, their family members, those who treasure, live with, care for and seek to help them.

Your Stories



The Cookie Caper

In Honor of Col Robert B. "Percy" Purcell, Prisoner of War: North Vietnam (July 1965 - February 1973)

Thanks to Dr. Hal Kushner for getting this to us.

Reprint courtesy of the Air Force Association



Col. Robert B. Purcell

The Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962 provided an opportunity for me to meet then Captain Bob "Percy" Purcell. At the time, almost every tactical fighter in CONUS was deployed to Florida. The crisis reached its crescendo in mid-October, after which pilots and aircraft returned to their respective home bases. For Purcell, an early member of the F-105 community, home base was the Fourth Tactical Fighter Wing at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina. For me, a member of the 429th Tactical Fighter Squadron (F-100), home base was Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. The pressure and excitement of

possibly attacking Cuba was tapering off. The day before we were scheduled to redeploy to Cannon however coincided with the early return of several members of the Fourth Wing and their F-105's. Pilots selected for the first operational wing of F-105's were not slouches. As I walked into the Seymour Officers Club that evening, I noted the tempo in the bar area had increased, substantially, to the point where things were beginning to unravel. The leader of the festivities was not only at the center of the action, but also wearing a raincoat. I inquired as to who he was. The immediate response, "Man, that is the one and only Bob Purcell." Little did I know that in the years to follow, I would come to know my first impression of a hard-drinking, loud, boisterous happy-go-lucky fighter pilot was only part of the story. There was another side to Percy, and the Bob Purcell I came to know in North Vietnam was indeed a "one and only" whose courage, dedication and example for his cellmates was a much more accurate measure of the man he was.

Three years after Cuba was resolved, Bob and I were both flying missions in South East Asia which consisted of almost daily air strikes against targets in North Vietnam and Laos. The F-105, which we were both flying, albeit in separate squadrons, was the primary US long range strike fighter at the time, and enemy air defenses were formidable. When Bob was shot down on the first SAM strike 27 July 1965, members of his squadron said there was no parachute. In all likelihood he was killed in action, and according to his flight leader Bill Hosmer, his squadron held a memorial service that evening at Korat Air Base in Thailand. Percy wasn't alone; six F-105's were lost on the initial SAM strike, and while there are questions as to the selection and validity of the target, that is a separate story. Percy's fate was unknown.

In late November of 1965 I too was shot down on a mission over North Vietnam, captured, and taken to the "Hanoi Hilton" for a rough series of

interrogation sessions. We were all living in solitary confinement during that period, and while we saw none of our fellow Americans, we communicated by tapping on the wall. It was a slow way to communicate, but there was really little else to do, and communication was absolutely mandatory for a successful resistance effort over the next several years. Imagine my surprise then when I learned that Bob Purcell was indeed alive. Although suffering multiple injuries, he was living alone in a cell not far from mine. I thought I would see him within weeks. Little did I realize we would not be face to face for more than seven years.

Our Vietnamese captors were committed not only to force military information from us by any method possible, but also to put us under prolonged periods of extended physical hardship, which could include beatings, at times on a near daily basis, to force us into submission. Clearly they were looking for weak individuals who they could turn against the war and provide anti-American and anti-war statements. Because of strong leaders and a very active communication system, we were able to resist this coercion. We came to understand that it was essential that every man resist as best he could. We learned that each man's mental and physical well-being depended largely on personal morale and spirit. For the leadership exhibited by such individuals as Jim Stockdale and Robbie Risner to succeed, communication was key to our resistance effort. Especially crucial, and increasingly dangerous, was to ensure that the communication net include every prisoner in the camp, especially those sick, injured, or in solitary confinement at remote locations.

As one example of life in Hanoi, in an effort to force me to write an anti-war letter during early 1966, our captors did not give me anything to eat. I did receive two cups of water each day, but no food. Bob had gone

**Ex- POW Bulletin
July/August 2013**

caper, cont'd...

through a similar drill some months earlier (as had several others of the early prisoners) and understood what it was all about. How did I know about Percy's experience? The small cell they put me in was dark during the day (no light, no windows) but the light was on at night. The first night I was laying on the floor, my eyes apparently focused on the wall some two feet away. I saw a small arrow one inch long etched in the wall. My eyes followed the direction of the arrow and encountered another arrow, and then another, and then the name, also etched inconspicuously in the wall, 'Purcell'. Clever, I thought. Here was proof for the next guy that Percy had indeed survived his low-level ejection. In any case, after eight days of no food, I was moved to a new cellblock in which Bob was living alone at the far end of the building. Several days later I received a message via the tap code to stand by for a piece of bread during the early afternoon when the guards were taking their siesta break. I didn't quite know what to expect. As the afternoon grew quiet, I heard scratching on the ceiling and dust and dirt were soon falling from around the single light bulb in the ceiling of my room. Soon the bulb and wire dropped down a couple of feet, which was then followed by a series of long slender pieces of stale bread. My first food in eight days! Through the hole where the light bulb had been, I saw the smiling face of Percy. He whispered a few words of encouragement, waved, and then he was gone, off to get back to his cell before his absence was discovered.

In considering this example, one should remember that the punishment for Bob in getting caught would have been an immediate and severe beating of substantial proportions, a move to a small and remote unlighted confinement cell too small in which to stand (which we called the "tank"), most likely additional beatings, and an extended period (poten-

tially months) in the tank. There is also the matter of giving food from one's already meagre portion. Far more important however is considering the impact his action had on the recipient—a massive rise in morale. Keeping one's spirits up over extended incarceration was the name of the game. Percy knew this and set the standard for others to follow. I have never forgotten his role in this and have always used it as an example in explaining to others what survival in North Vietnam was all about.

I only saw Percy one other time, mid-1966 when we were handcuffed together for the infamous "parade" of American POW's through downtown Hanoi. It was a memorable event marked by screaming masses of Vietnamese lining both sides of Main Street in downtown Hanoi. Before we took our first steps, he turned to me and said "... a parade, I love a parade." We survived, but I never saw Percy up close again until we were released some six and a half years later. His messages however, often disseminated throughout the Hanoi Prisoner of War communication net, always reflected an indomitable spirit and the ideas, "We are all in this together. Resist the best you can, communicate, keep your spirits up, and help those around you to do the same."

No matter the cell size, responsibility for leadership in North Vietnam rested with the senior ranking officer present. When senior, Percy led his cellmates the only way he knew how, by example. Always upbeat, he saw the bright side in everything—even a mob scene at a parade. After seventeen months in solitary confinement, he noted "One good point about being solo, no one ever saw me cry." A product of the 1950's, he represented the era, wild in a way pilots frown on today. But in Hanoi, his reputation as a professional was solid. Sometimes described as a bit stubborn, witty, and a tough resister, he was always recognized as a team player and loyal to the central theme "Unity over self." His credentials were that he could be counted on to lead at any level. As such, he was keenly



aware of his responsibility when senior, and he focused on the well-being and morale of those junior to him. In later years, when asked how he overcame the torture, humiliation, degradation, and loneliness, his simple response was "by taking it one minute, one day at a time." As a cellmate described him, "... he knew the system. Captured in mid 1965 he had been through the worst of the worst, he gave the Vietnamese fits. Everybody respected him."

Percy is gone now, buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. His life after release on February 12, 1973 began with checking out in the T-38 Freedom Flyers program at Randolph Air Force Base. As a combination of his age and a near eight year gap in experience he joined other former POW's in this special re-currency program, but he never flew fighters again. As a distant second choice, he attended the Air War College. As a best decision, he married Suzanne in 1977, and their son Matthew, who at this writing is twenty four years old and a Texas A&M graduate, is employed in Dallas. Percy retired from the Air Force in 1980 and restored VW bugs briefly before accepting employment with American Airlines as a Simulator Instructor, a position he enjoyed for fifteen years. His health began to decline and he suffered a serious stroke in 2004 followed by a crimp-

caper, cont'd...

pling fall the next year. According to his wife Suzanne, during this difficult period there was never a complaint, never a "Why me?" thing. A partial paralysis followed, and then his final flight on December 6, 2009.

His memory lives on not only with those who remember and loved him, but also at "Percy's House," a foster home designed to re-settle children orphaned in Southeast Asia. The home was financed and built by a successful Fort Worth builder who knew and wanted to honor Percy. He contacted Catholic Charities who studied the issue and worked out a

program from its International Foster Care Program with State Department. A unique feature of the program is that selected children may stay at Percy's House until they are twenty-two years old and ready to make their own way.

Percy's final departure wasn't easy. Scheduled to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on Feb 12, 2010, a record snow storm moved into Washington DC some days before. His official interment was delayed until April 29th, a clear and cool blue sky "one-of-a-kind" spring day. The Air Force he loved remembered this unique warrior and honored him with an F-15 Missing Man Formation provided by none other than the

Fourth Tactical Fighter Wing of Seymour Johnson. The formation was special, and the precision of such exactness as to make many of the old heads in attendance smile, not only in approval of F-15's at very low level and the site and the ceremony and circle of old friends and family, but also in the fond memory of the courageous fighter pilot Robert Baldwin Purcell, his record as a combatant and Prisoner of War, and his assorted pranks of a lifetime—to include one of his favorites, the cookie caper.


Jon Reynolds
Brig Gen, US Air Force (Ret)
5 April 2013

Bill Allen, a Korean Ex-POW and life member, as well as a member of Florida Gulf Coast, has worked almost two years setting up a memorial wall in the entrance of the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa.



Department of Missouri Convention
2013




GEORGE BUSH
February 27, 2013
for
April 20, 2013


Barbara and I send greetings to all who are gathered for a reunion of the American Ex-POWs, Department of Missouri.

Today it is said that we have no heroes. Not so! We do have heroes, and you – Americans of clear purpose who put service ahead of self – are heroes in the truest sense of the word.

In your hearts and in mine is a special pride in having worn the uniform of our Armed Forces. Also close to our hearts are memories of heroes who never came home, and I join you paying special tribute to your comrades who paid the ultimate price for freedom.

This Navy man and former Commander-in-Chief salutes each one of you and thanks you for your service and for the incredible sacrifices you made on behalf of our beloved country. Every American owes you a debt of gratitude.

Best wishes for a wonderful and memorable gathering.

Sincerely,


Top Left and then clockwise: Ralph Kalberloh, new Department Commander; EX-POWs Ralph Kalberloh, Robert Carter, Wilbur Rowden, John Clark, Jim Losey; presentation of commander patch to Ralph Kalberloh from Ray Ruetsch (outgoing Commander); Installation of Officers – Chaplain Ray Ruetsch, Adj/Treas John Clark, Vice-Commander Thomas Pritchard, Commander Ralph Kalberloh, and Past Commander Paul Dillon; missing man table; DJ Jim Logan

contributions



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

**Checks must be made payable to
AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners
of War You can also make a
donation with a credit card
(MasterCard or Visa). Just call 817-
649-2979. Thank you!**

Thank you!

**We received a very generous
bequest from the estate of Maryan
& Bruce Eldon Johns, life members
of AXPOW. Bruce was captured in
Manila and held 3 ½ years by the
Japanese. Both were very
supportive of the organization.**

GENERAL FUND

In honor of Fred Rosenkoff's 90th
birthday, by Esther Rosensweig
In memory of Bernard O'Conner, by
JoAnn Parker
In memory of Bruce & Maryan
Johns, by the family
In memory of deceased me of Co B,
423 Inf, by Joseph Salerno
In memory of Elmer W Gunnarson,
by the Rocky Mountain Chapter
In memory of Francis "Kelly"
Parkinson, by Joseph Salerno
In memory of Frank Plocha, my
foxhole buddy, who still remains in
North Korea, by Dallas Mossman
In memory of George Sulick Sr, by
the Sulick Trust
In memory of Ilava Griffin, by Edna
Ames
In memory of Ilava Griffin, by
Glenda Shine
In memory of Ilava Griffin, by Mary
McClain
In memory of Irene Scaglione, by
Joseph Scaglione
In memory of Jack Conboy, by
Laura Barth
In memory of Jack Conboy, by Lori
& Michael Rowling

In memory of Jack Conboy, by M/M
Carl Walrath
In memory of Jack Conboy, by
Renee & Dave Freilich
In memory of Leander Pflughaupt,
by Esther Heinsohn & Family
In memory of my husband, Clarence
Karnopp, by Deloris
In memory of my husband, Clifford
Fox, by Thelma
In memory of PNC Gerald Harvey, by
LuAnna Pritchard
In memory of PNC Jim Clark, by
Ruth Ward
In memory of Robert O Bowen, by
Naomi Bowe
In memory of Thomas Cima, by his
wife, Marilyn
In memory of W.R. Matheny, by Ruth
Ward
In memory of Walter Whitcomb, by
Ed Slater
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Bob Winkeljohn
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Brent & Colleen Chapman
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Dale & Dorothy Mixer
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Dan & Tanna Barry
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Dick & Debbie Lambeth & Family
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Don & Sharron Collins
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Donnie Barton
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Earl Boone
In memory of Wanda McNary, by Ed
& Carol Cramer
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Eudene Weise
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Gail, Stephanie & Jennifer Oitker
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Gaye Klitz
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Janet & Alvin Ohnemus
In memory of Wanda McNary, by JD
& Nancy Albsmeyer
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Jeff, Debby & Jessica Glas
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Jim, Carole, Nina, Brian & Brent
Bachmann
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
John & Juanita Eaton
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Judy Wright
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Katherine Klassing
In memory of Wanda McNary, by

Larry & Madeleine
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Lee & Barb Pryor
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Linda & Keith Wyatt
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Linn Dingerson
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Lyndle & Sandra Claus
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Marion & Mary Scranton
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Mark & Bernice Neisen
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Mark & Mary Ann Morrison & Family
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Mary & Charles Loos
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Mary Ann Doellman
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Richard & Diana Minnick
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Ruth Cole
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Sherry Miller Newcombe
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Steve & Lisa Bruenger
In memory of Wanda McNary, by the
House Family
In memory of Wanda McNary, by
Wanda Anthony
In memory of William Kirkbride, by
Aprill Brandt Andy Schmeltz
VOLUNTARY FUNDING
In memory of Fred Dewit, by Betty
Dewig
In memory of Vincent Sylvester, by
M/M Eugene Short
In memory of Vincent Sylvester, by
Ralph & Livia Toscano
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C Norman Gustafson, Scotch Plains
NJ
Colby A Davis, Canton ME
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Ila Coble, Salisbury NC
Kachadour Avedisian, Cranston RI
Kathryn Ogg, Dayton OH
Lorraine Corey, Redding CA
M/M Kenneth hook, Dayton OH
Marilyn Wilson, Port Ludlow WA
Maurice JA Markworth, Palmyra PA
Phyllis Hutchins, Centennial CO
Robert Smith, Tomahawk WI
Thomas Bugner, Phoenix AZ

**Ex- POW Bulletin
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The Legacy of your love can live on after...

An important way you can help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is always there for returning POWs, their families and their dependents is through your will or living trust.

It's very simple to make a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner and they can add the following to your will or living trust: "I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of \$_____ or _____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

new members

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



New Members "Welcome Home"



Billie D Gilstrap
Dorothy Ann
Tucson, AZ
15AF 98 BG
Austria, Wetzel Germany,
Nurenburg

Arthur Edward Schultz
Doris Ruth
Lakeland, FL
CO K 423 Inf Reg 106 Inf Div
9B Bad Orb, Prussia

Keith Clark
Dallas TX
Son of John
Clark, NAM



Certificate of Captivity

**Prisoner of War
Certificate of Captivity**

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

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American Ex-Prisoners of War
Arlington, Texas

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



taps



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

ABERNATHY, Jack, 88, of Oldsmar, FL died May 21, 2012. During WWII, he served with the 106th Inf. Div. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. Jack was a member of the Tampa Bay Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Nora, and their children.

ARNEY, Nona M., 87, of Sun City West, Arizona, born in Union County, South Dakota, passed away April 12, 2013. Nona, widow of Athel V. Arney, was a long time member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW.

BENNETT, Lee, 91 of St. Joseph, MO died April 25, 2013. Lee married Mary Edith Woods on February 20, 1948. She preceded him in death. Lee served in the United States Army, where he was a POW of the Japanese at Cabanatuan during World War II. He also served in the Korean War. He was a member of AXPOW and ADBC.

BYERLY, Ann, of Butler, MO passed away May 15, 2013. She was 86 and the widow of ex-POW Eldon (Cabanatuan, Bilibid, Tsuruga, Umeda, Bunsho). Ann leaves 4 sons, 1 stepdaughter, 8 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and their families.

CHOATE, JAMES A., 87, of Lee's Summit, MO, passed away April 20, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Margaret and other family members. He was an Army veteran and ex-POW of World War II, serving in the 103rd Division in France.

CIMA, Thomas W., 89, of O'Fallon, IL died April 8, 2013. While serving with the AAC during WWII, he was shot down over Yugoslavia, captured by Germany and held

until liberation by Gen. Patton. Thomas leaves his beloved wife of 66 years, Marilyn, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 1 granddaughter and 1 great-grandson and their families. Thomas was a life member of AXPOW and the OKAW Chapter.

CONBOY, John F "Jack", 90, of Charlotte Harbor, FL passed away April 24, 2013. He served with the 703rd BS, 445th BG, was shot down, captured and held in Gross Tychow, Nurnberg and Moosberg. Jack is survived by his wife of 65 years, Doris, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

COULSON, Don, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW, died in April 2013. He served with the AAC, flying out of England early in WWII; after being grounded while recovering from an ear injury, he transferred to a ground unit and was captured. He will be missed by all his POW buddies.

EDWARDS, Clifton, 90, member of the Brooklyn Key Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 5, 2013. During WWII, he served in the Infantry; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 9B.

FABRIZIO, Cosmo D., 94, of Plymouth, MA died March 25, 2013. He was captured while serving with Patton's 3rd Army and held at Stalag 12A and then IIC. Cosmo was a member of Southeast Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his loving family, including 1 son, 1 grandson and 1 great-grandson.

FELLMETH, Eugene M., of Canal Fulton, OH passed away March 18, 2013. He was shot down and cap-

tured while serving with the 100th BG, 351st BS during WWII, flying out of England. He was held in 7A and 13D until liberation by Gen. Patton and the 14th Armored Division.

GLENN, Charles, of Spartansburg, SC died recently. He served with the 3rd Div., 7th Reg., CO I in Europe. After capture he was held in Stalags 7A and 2B. Survivors include his wife, Julia.

GUNNARSON, Elmer William, member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 18, 2013. He served with the 28th Inf. Div., 110th Inf. Reg. and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Elmer will be greatly missed by his friends and family, including his wife, Jackie, 2 sons, 4 stepchildren, 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

HALL, Harry J., 89, of Tipton, IN (formerly of WV) died Feb. 7, 2013. He served with the 28th Div., 112th Inf., CO A during WWII; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in a labor camp until liberation. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Geraldine, 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters and 4 great-grandsons.

HEBERT, Lucille B., of Goffstown, NH died Jan. 4, 2013. She was 87. Lucille is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Gerard (Gunner 45th Div. 157th Inf. Captured on Anzio Beachhead, 2/23/43; held in Stalags VII-A, VII - B), 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandsons and their families.

taps continued...

HERMAN, Bandy A., 91, of Wilson, NC passed away Dec. 29, 2012. He was shot down on the Schweinfurt Mission, captured and held in Stalag 17B for 22 months. He leaves his wife, Sarah, 3 children and 5 grandchildren and their families.

HOLDEN, Wesley "Chuck", of Independence MO, formerly of Sacramento, CA, died April 3, 2013. Chuck was on the USS Canopus and was held at Corregidor, Ft Mills, Cabanatuan and Bilibid. He and his late wife, Daisy, were AX-POW life members since 1986 and former members of the Forty-Niners Chapter.

KLOSSNER, Herb, of San Diego, CA died March 3, 2013. During WWII, he was a navigator on a B-24 with the 15th AF. Was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft I, Barth. He was a great member of the San Diego Chapter, AX-POW.

KRAMER, Robert A., Canal Winchester, Ohio died May 3, 2013. He served in the 398th Reg. of the 100th Division in France as a combat Infantryman. He was a member of the 100th Infantry Division Association, Ohio Chapter 1 of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Motts Military Museum. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He was held in Stalags 12A, 3A, and 11A.. He is survived by his wife Mary Lou, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

LaBARBERA, Anthony, of Mundelein (formerly of Arlington Heights), IL passed away April 20, 2013. He was 94. Anthony served in the 1st Armored Div. USA, captured in North Africa. He was a

member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 67 years, Elsie, 2 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and their families.

LUSK, Harold, 89, of Osage City, KS, died February 5, 2013. Harold joined the Air Force in 1942 where he was a B-17 tailgunner. He was shot down over Germany on his 13th mission on May 8, 1943. Held in a concentration camp in North Poland near the Baltic Sea, he was then forced to march to Bavaria, and was liberated April 9, 1945. He leaves behind his wife, two children and four grandchildren.

MATHENY, Wilfred Roland, life member of AXPOW and the Northeast Chapter (LA), passed away April 25, 2012 at his home in El Dorado, AR. He was captured on Corregidor in May, 1942 while serving with the Marines. He spent 3 ½ years in Fukuoka slave labor camp. WR's wife, Clara, predeceased him; he is survived by 1 daughter, 2 sisters, 2 brothers and a large extended family.

McELRATH, Eldred L. "Mac", of Hughson, CA passed away April 16, 2013. He was 95. He was captured while serving in the AAC; he was held in Luft I, Barth. Mac was a member of AXPOW and active in the local chapter. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jane, 2 daughters, 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a large extended family.

McGARITY, Vernon, of Memphis, TN passed away May 21, 2013 at the age of 91. During WWII, he served in the Army; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. For his heroic actions in that battle, Sgt. McGarity received the Medal of Honor.

McKITTRICK, Helen, of Colorado Springs, CO died May 10, 2013. She

was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter. She leaves her husband Bob (Ex-POW, USA, held in 7A).

McMULLEN, Charles "Mac" of Fresno, CA passed away Jan. 3, 2012. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106th Inf. Div. Mac is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, June, 1 son, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

MECKLE, Donald J., of West Seneca, NY died Dec. 21, 2012. During WWII, he served in the AAC, flying out of England. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag VIIA. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, 2 daughters and 1 son.

MERCIER, Gerald R., of Chicopee, MA passed away Jan. 1, 2013. Gerald served with the 781st Tank Bn. He was captured and held in Heppenheim until liberation. He and his wife of 67 years, Gisele, were members of the Western MA Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by 6 children, 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. He is sadly missed.

MICKENS, Richard D., of Palm Springs, CA died May 12, 2013. He was 87. He served with the 15th AF, was shot down, captured and held at Frankfurt, Wetzlar, Nurnberg and Moosberg until liberation by Patton. His wife, Doreen, predeceased him; he leaves one daughter and her family.

MILLER, Catharine "Kay", of San Diego, CA passed away March 20, 2013. She was 89. During WWII, she served in the Marines. Kay was the widow of PNC Charlie (1982-1983, German POW). In the 1970s, the couple started the San Diego Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Kay was Chapter Treasurer and active

taps continued...

member of the Women's Marine Association.

MILLER, Marvin J., 87, of Layton, UT died Nov. 21, 2012. He was captured while serving with the 15th AF, 464th BG, 776th BS. He was held in Stalag Luft IV, then marched across Germany. Survivors include 10 children, 64 grandchildren and 103 great-grandchildren.

MOATS, Howard W., 87, of Pinellas Park, FL passed away March 1, 2013. He served in the Army during WWII; after capture he was held in 7A until liberation. Howard leaves his wife of 59 years, Rosemary, 2 sons and 2 daughters.

MORSE, Richard H., of Cheektowaga, NY passed away Jan. 14, 2013. He served with the 187th Inf.; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by long-time friend, Blanche Sorgi.

NIELSON, Bernice I., 87, of Aurora, NE passed away May 14, 2012. She was a member of the Cornhusker Chapter, AXPOW and the wife of ex-POW Robert. She is also survived by 1 sister, 1 brother, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 8 grandchildren, 5 great-grandsons and 2 great-great-granddaughters.

OLSON, Christine, of Benwood, WV died Jan. 17, 2013. She was 94. Christine is survived by her hus-

band of 67 years, Fred (ex-POW, 15th AF, member of the Wheeling Chapter, AXPOW), 1 son, 2 grandsons and 1 great-granddaughter.

PAPAS, Peter, member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW, passed away in May, 2013. He was captured while serving with the 8th AF during WWII; he was held in camps in Wetzlar, Frankfurt. Survivors include his loving wife, Patricia, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 1 sister and many nieces and nephews.

PETERSON, Robert J., of Houghton, MI passed away March 9, 2013. During World War II, Bob enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He served as a bombardier on a B-24 Liberator. He was shot down over Germany and spent 14 months as a POW. His wife, Rita, predeceased him; he leaves 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and 20 nieces and nephews.

STIPE, Rose A., 88, of Manheim, PA passed away May 23, 2013. She was the widow of the late John P. (ex-POW/WWII AAF). She was a member of the Conestoga Chapter AXPOW. Rose volunteered at the Lebanon VA Medical Center where she attended P.O.W. & spouse support groups. Survivors include 1 daughter-in-law, 1 grandson, and 1 brother.

STOCKMEIER, Frederick C., 89, of Elk Grove Village, IL and past commander of the Fox River Valley Chapter, died May 7, 2013. He served with the 100th Inf. Div., 375th Field Artillery Bn. He was captured and held in XIA, XIIB, and IIIA. He leaves his wife, Estella Ruth, 1 son, 3 daughter, and five grandchildren.

THOMAS, Thomas L., Sr., of Wheaton, IL and member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW passed away

April 23, 2013. He was captured while serving with the AAC and spent the next year in Stalag Luft III. Thomas is survived by his wife, Barbara, 1 sister, 1 nephew, 3 nieces and 1 daughter-in-law.

VELEY, Raymond S., 89, of Marysville, OH died April 6, 2013. He served in the ETO 88th Division. After capture, he was held in Stalag 7A. He leaves 2 daughters, 1 grandson and 1 sister. He was a long time member of Ohio Chapter 1, AXPOW.

WHALEY, Robert, of Johnson City, TN, died May 17, 68 years to the date after his liberation. He served with the 301 BS, 353 BG and was held in Stalags 7A, 13D and Luft 4. A member of the East Tennessee Chapter, he is survived by his wife of 43 years, Betty.

WOOD, Weldon, of Plano, TX, died May 25, 2013. He served in Co B, 110 Reg., 28 Div. and was held in Stalag 9B. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, both members of Dallas Metroplex Chapter.

WOODWARD, Chester M., of Denver, CO passed away April 20, 2013. He was 94. Chet was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. He was a POW in Stalag Luft III and 7A. He leaves his wife of 72 years, Joyce, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

YOUNG, Edward Eugene, of Mount Clare, WV died May 11, 2013 at the age of 92. He was captured while serving with the 106th Inf. Div. during the Battle of the Bulge. He was held in Stalag 9B until liberation by Patton's 44th Div. Eugene spent many years as the WV Chapter chaplain and attended meetings and conventions. He is survived by 2 children, 8 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and their families.

Ex- POW Bulletin
July/August 2013



chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

Happiness

One of the things that many people experience today is unhappiness. Our Prisoners of war were not different. They experienced unhappiness for a large number of reasons: Forced separation from families, hunger, illness, wounds, and mistreatment and for many more reasons. Many people in our country, amongst our friends and families are suf-

fering unhappiness for the same reasons.

We suffer, because loved ones have gone away, illness, mistreatment and yes, even in America, hunger.

I am happy to say that as a group I have found our Former Prisoners of war to be upbeat and grateful to our Creator for their freedom, their lives and their families. They seem to know the reality of Proverbs 23:7 which begins with "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he."

My father relates that during his entire imprisonment that he received only one letter from anyone "back home." This means that he and thousands more in the same situation had to turn to themselves and to rely on God and their prayers to be "upbeat" and for any joy or happiness that came their way. They carried this ability into the "free life" when they came home. Remember, as we think so we are. Our minds lit-

erally has the ability to make us become whatever we think we are. Want to be lonely? Think of yourself as lonely. To be happy begin to think of yourself as being happy.

In closing I would like to quote Proverbs 3:13, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." In modern English: You will be happier if you realize that you can control your thoughts and through your thoughts your happiness. God Bless you!

Benny



TAPS

As soon as Taps was sounded in July 1862, words were put with the music. The first were, "Go To Sleep, Go to Sleep." As the years went on many more versions were created. There are no official words to the music but here are some of the more popular verses:

Day is done, gone the sun,
From the hills, from the lake,
From the sky.
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.
Go to sleep, peaceful sleep,
May the soldier or sailor,
God keep.
On the land or the deep,
Safe in sleep.

Love, good night, Must thou go,
When the day, And the night
Need thee so?
All is well. Speedeth all
To their rest.
Fades the light; And afar
Goeth day, And the stars
Shineth bright,
Fare thee well; Day has gone,
Night is on.
Thanks and praise, For our days,
'Neath the sun, Neath the stars,
'Neath the sky,
As we go, This we know,
God is nigh.



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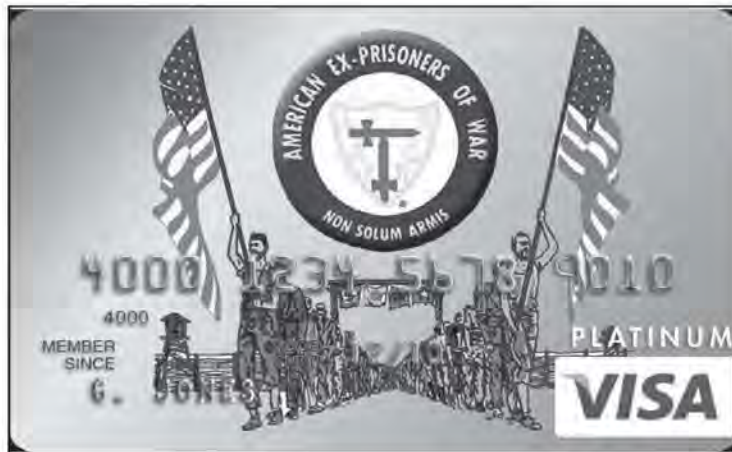
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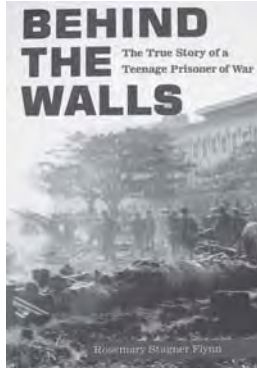
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AMAZING TRUE STORY!

Rosemary Stagner Flynn was born in Manila, Philippines. During WWII, Rosemary and her family hid in the mountains, but were eventually captured by the Japanese Army. They spent three long years in a prison camp, enduring starvation, torture. BEHIND THE WALLS tells Rosemary's incredible story including the heroic rescue by General MacArthur and US Army Troops.



"It was many years later that Rosemary Flynn was prompted to share her family's war years with her children. It is our good fortune that she chose to do so." Sascha Jansen. Review from BACEPOW: Beyond the Wire.

Please send \$20.00 (USD) for the 221 page book, which includes shipping in the United States. Send check or money order (no cash) to: FLYNN, PO BOX 1813, SANTA CLARITA, CA 91386 Make check/money orders payable to "Flynn." Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. International price is \$30.00 (includes shipping).

50/50 drawing

November, 2012
Arlington, TX

1st Place	Vera Meinhardt, WI	\$160.40
2nd Place	J.D. Griffin, NY	\$120.30
3rd Place	Abraham Corpuz, CA	\$80.20
4th Place	Robert Fortnam, NY	\$40.10

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes. The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, #40
Arlington, TX 76010-5396



request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

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

**Do NOT send dues with this request for an
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(817) 649-2979 voice
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**Ex- POW Bulletin
July/August 2013**

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Name: _____ Telephone: () _____

Address: _____

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Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

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Thank you for your support. (11/13)

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Ex- POW Bulletin
July/August 2013
40

(11/13)

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Thank you for your support.

(11/13)



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

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

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

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(If chapter or department, please give name)

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American Ex-Prisoners of War
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**Ex- POW Bulletin
July/August 2013**

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Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is
size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
Line 1 _____
Line 2 _____

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

(includes shipping and handling)

Ship to:

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Mail orders to:

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(For members only)

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Barbed Wire pin	3.00	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	3.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
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Total: \$

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