

# EX-POW BULLETIN

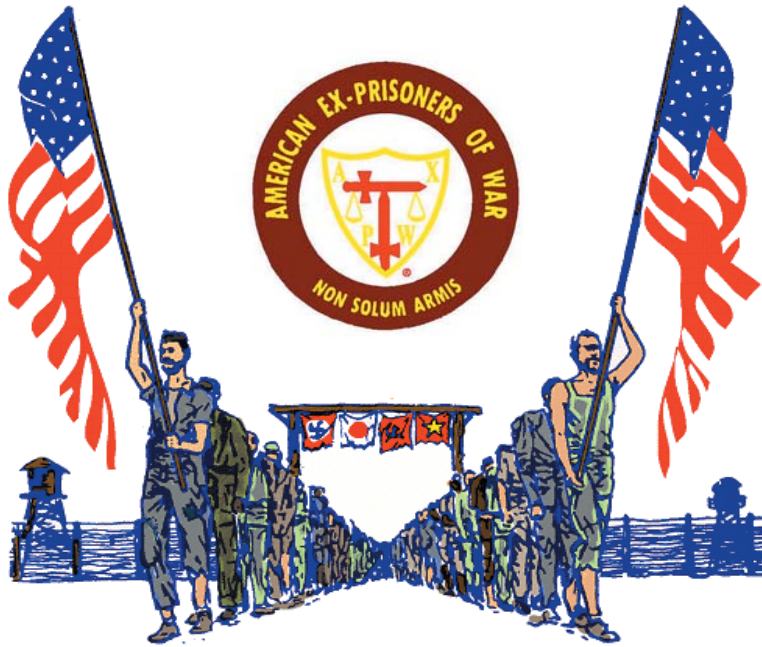
the official voice of the  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

Volume 72

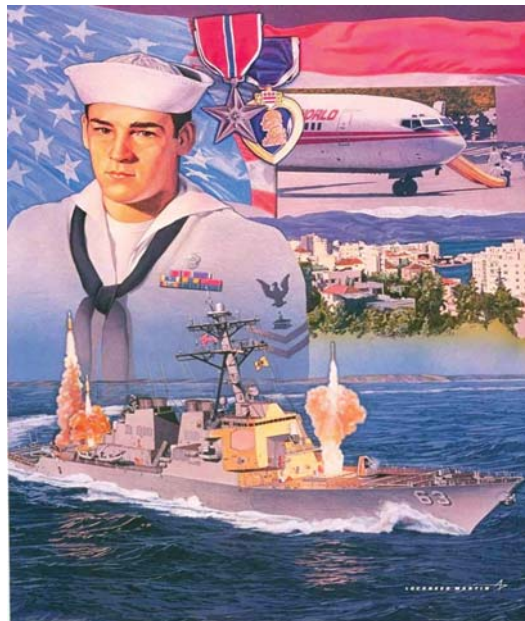
[www.axpow.org](http://www.axpow.org)

Number 7/8

July/August 2015



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*DDG63 Robert Dean Stethem Poster*



AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

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## Happy Independence Day!

Various known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776,

representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

Summer is also the traditional time for State Department Conventions. If you have one in your area, make an effort to attend. You'll get the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

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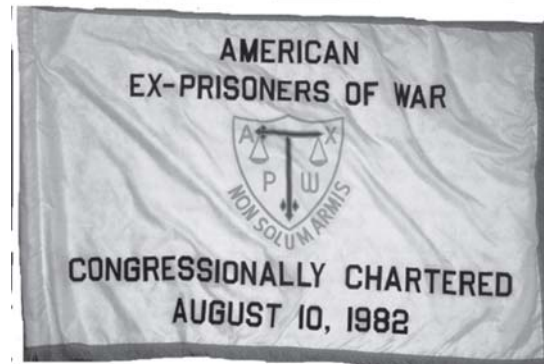
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Deadline for the Sept/Oct 2015 issue is August 1, 2015

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

## Congressional Charter

On August 10, 1982, The American Ex-Prisoners of War received their Congressional Charter. Public Law 97-234 provided public recognition of our roots and long history as a "family organization".



Congress and the world recognized AXPOW as a veterans service organization — the only one in the country made up of veterans AND their families.

**Cover:** See article Long Delayed Medals on page 20.

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National Commander  
Milton M Moore, Jr.

They say that time flies when you are having fun. This past year has really gone by very quickly. I don't know where the time has gone. I feel like I just started and now realize that my tenure as National Commander is coming to a close. I do feel very sad about that. This has been a most rewarding year. I have done things that not all Americans get to do. Veterans Day was fantastic. Getting to eat breakfast at the White House was a very big honor. Meeting the people I did in Washington DC was wonderful. Attending the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery was very humbling to me. Laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was very emotional.

There wasn't enough time or money to do all the things that, as your National Commander, I would liked to have done. I did get the opportunity to go to the BACEPOW reunion in California. They are a wonderful group of people. I hope I have proven to them that the National Organi-

zation will treat them the same way we treat all of our ex-POWs. With honor and respect. A person that was held captive by the enemy is a POW, whether they were military or civilian. Let us welcome all POWs into our Organization with open arms and respect. All POWs deserve that from everyone. Not only do we need to welcome back all POWs, we also have to welcome back the NOKs. As a NOK, I know that we were left in the dark a lot because our parents did not like to talk about their capture. So, I say to all AXPOWs and NOKs, please come back to the Organization and help us make it stronger and better.

Around the Sierra Vista area, we had two Memorial Day ceremonies. Most cities around the country held ceremonies on that day. It was a day of Remembrance. Yes, we as a nation, have gotten away from the true meaning of Memorial Day. It is actually a day to remember those who gave their all so we could be a free nation. Our ceremonies were very solemn and beautifully done. A lot of tears are shed on Memorial Day. I hope everyone paused for a minute or two to say a prayer for our men and women who didn't make it out of the wars we have fought over the years.

I believe that this is my last column. My term will be up as of 28 June 2015. I just want to say that it has been an honor serving as your Commander. I salute you all. Thank you all so very much.

*Milton M. Moore*

# news from hq



Hope you're planning a great summer!

Things have slowed down after the convention. There will be more information in future magazines. If you would like to have a copy of the minutes emailed to you, please email us at [hq@axpow.org](mailto:hq@axpow.org) and we will send it out to you. Or, send us a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope and we will mail them to you.

In August you'll be getting our newest calendar...this year we're featuring memorials and monuments. For those who came to our National Convention in June, you'll recognize some of them on the beautiful blanket raffled off in the hospitality room. We depend on your donations for each of our direct mail programs. We are greatly appreciative of your generosity.

Also in August, we celebrate the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of our Congressional Charter. It took a lot of years and a lot of work, but our recognition as a "family" veterans service organization was worth it! Our Charter was the first step toward establishment of the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War and the 23 presumptive service-connected conditions that have made such a difference in many of your lives.

Happy Birthday, America! Celebrate safely.

**Coming Next Issue:  
Convention Highlights,  
2015-2016 Directors and Officers,  
Committees**

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July/Aug 2015



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## Top 15 Things the Veterans Benefits Administration is doing to Improve Service to Veterans, their Families and Survivors

### 1.

Reduced backlog from peak of 611,000 in March '13 to 171,000 , a 72% reduction in 25 months; reduced inventory from peak of 884,000 in July '12 to 440,000, a 50% reduction; and increased claim-level accuracy from 83% in 2011 to 91% - at the issue-level accuracy is 96%

### 2.

Met goal of completing a record-breaking 1.32M claims in FY14 - over 150K more than FY13, which was also a record-breaking 1.17M-claim year; today, Veterans with a pending claim are waiting, on average, 152 days less for a claim decision compared to March '13 peak

### 3.

Productivity rose 25% per FTE since 2011, the start of transformation; helped mitigate effects of a 154% increase in

workload since 2007 (820K claims, 2.1M medical issues in 2007 vs. 1.32M claims, 5.5M medical issues in 2014)

### 4.

Added 1.7M+ Veterans to compensation rolls since 2008 (1.1M net), and added 26% more Veterans and Survivors to compensation and pension caseload (from 3.8M to 4.8M)

### 5.

Went from touching 5,000 tons of paper annually to processing 95% of disability claims electronically, with 442K claims in electronic inventory - only 24K in paper, completed 3M rating decisions and over 1.5 million claims in VBMS

### 6.

Enabling Veterans to file claims online through eBenefits - over 4.6M registered users, 68M contacts with Veterans in FY14 (86% online) vs. 9M contacts (majority by phone) in 2009

### 7.

Expediting Veterans claims: 41% of receipts from VSOs FY2015 to date are Fully Developed, up from 3% in 2012; received nearly 2.5M Disability Benefits Questionnaires in FY14 from VHA

### 8.

Dedicated non-rating workforce completed 2.7M non-rating end products in FY14 - highest production of non-rating work in 20 years - 50 percent more than in FY 2011

### 9.

More automation: 1 in 5 Veterans submit online dependency requests - more than half receive payments in under 1 day; automatic burial allowance payments to surviving spouses within 6 days (down from 190)

### 10.

Held appeal rates steady amidst increased production - 1.32M completed claims in FY 2014, 11-12% (historical rate) appealed, 4-5% reached Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1.2% decided in Veteran's favor, often based on additional evidence

### 11.

Reduced Veterans Pension inventory by 68% from peak of 36.1K to 11.4, backlog by 96% from peak of 14.5K to 600; reduced Survivors' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation inventory by 55% from peak of 19.1K to 8.6K, backlog by 87% from peak of 8.8K to 1K; improved DIC timeliness by 100 days from peak of 168 to 68 days while maintaining 99% accuracy

### 12.

Provided \$51.5B to send over 1.38 million Veterans and dependents to school under the Post-9/11 GI Bill; now processing majority of these claims in average of 3 days at 99.8% accuracy

### 13.

Almost 2.2M total loans on the books; guaranteed almost 440K loans in FY14 totaling \$100B and helped 80K Veterans avoid foreclosure, while maintaining the lowest foreclosure rate (1.39%) in the industry for 25 of the last 27 consecutive quarters

### 14.

Paying insurance death claims in an average of 3 days at 99.8% accuracy

### 15.

More than 99K Veterans received nearly \$1.1B in VR&E benefits in FY14

**...and there's more work to be done!**

## High Blood Pressure

The first step in preventing and controlling high blood pressure is to learn the answers to a few questions, such as:

**What is high blood pressure, and what happens in a person's body that makes it dangerous?** Over time, if the force of the blood flow is often high, the tissue that makes up the walls of arteries gets stretched beyond its healthy limit and damage occurs. This creates problems in several ways.

**What do the numbers in a blood pressure reading mean?** The two numbers tell you the amount of force pushing against your artery walls when the heart is contracting and when the heart is at rest.

Find out why these numbers are so important to your health.

**When does HBP require emergency medical treatment?** High blood pressure often does its damage without creating symptoms, but when blood pressure numbers rise above 180 for the systolic pressure or 110 for the diastolic pressure, you need emergency treatment.

**When is blood pressure too low?** Although it is possible that low blood pressure can alert you to a problem, it is usually only dangerous if it causes notable signs and symptoms.

**What is pulmonary hypertension?** Pulmonary hypertension is high blood pressure in the heart-to-lungs system. Your blood has two loops in the circulation sys-

tem. One goes to the body. The other goes to your lungs.

**What is metabolic syndrome?** Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of health factors that indicate a higher risk for heart disease. Blood pressure is one measurement on the list.

**What is the difference between blood pressure and heart rate?** Blood pressure is the amount of force exerted on your arteries when your heart beats, and your heart rate is the number of times per minute your heart beats. Find out more about the impact of these numbers on your health.

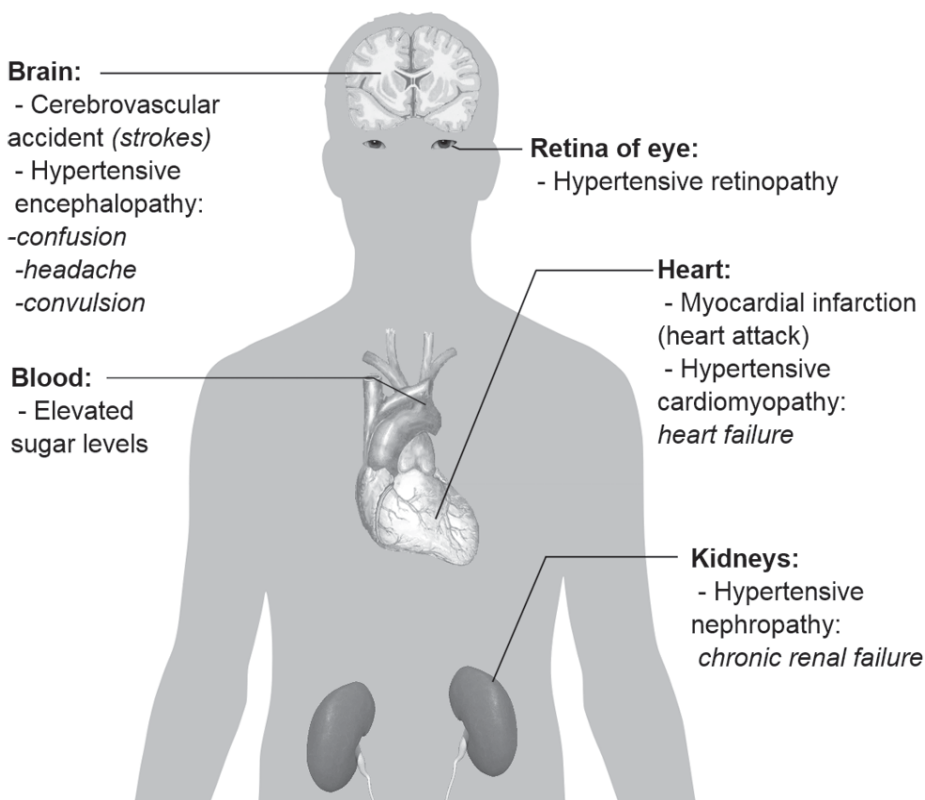
## Why Blood Pressure Matters

Uncontrolled high blood pressure (HBP) can injure or kill you. It's sometimes called "the silent killer" because HBP has no symptoms, so you may not be aware that it's damaging your arteries, heart and other organs.

Possible health consequences that can happen over time when high blood pressure is left untreated include:

- Damage to the heart and coronary arteries, including heart attack, heart disease, congestive heart failure, aortic dissection and atherosclerosis (fatty buildups in the arteries that cause them to harden)
- Stroke
- Kidney damage
- Vision loss
- Erectile dysfunction

### Main complications of persistent High blood pressure



## medsearch cont'd...

Memory loss  
 Fluid in the lungs  
 Angina  
 Peripheral artery disease

But remember, these are not symptoms of HBP. High blood pressure is a symptomless disease except in its most extreme cases known as hypertensive crisis. When BP readings rise to 180 or above for the systolic — top — number OR 110 or above for the diastolic — bottom — number, call 9-1-1 for emergency medical treatment immediately.

Individuals whose blood pressure is higher than 140/90 mm Hg (140 systolic or above OR 90 diastolic or above) often become patients treated for serious cardiovascular problems. It can increase your risks for serious medical problems such as heart attack, stroke, heart failure and kidney disease.

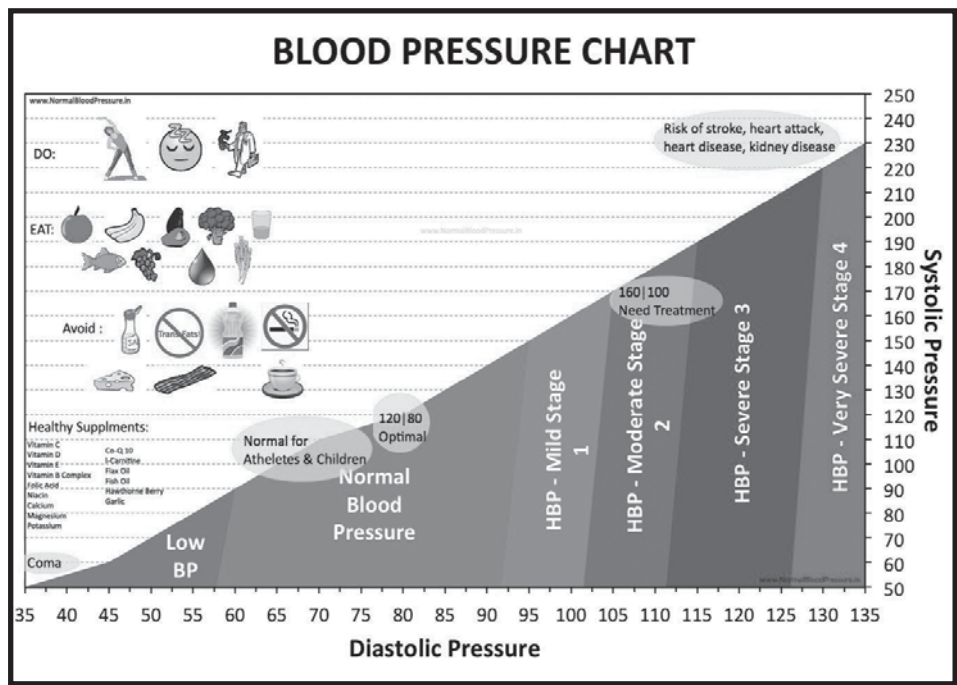
Your risk increases even more if you have high blood pressure along with other risk factors:

- Age
- Heredity (including race)
- Gender (male)
- Overweight or obesity
- Smoking
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Physical inactivity

Through risk reduction and treatment of HBP, you can lower your risk for many of these diseases.

### Your Risk for HBP

Are you a likely candidate for high blood pressure? If so, it will be even more important for you to manage your lifestyle with heart-healthier habits. Science has identified several factors that



can increase your risk of developing high blood pressure (HBP) and thus your risk for heart attack, heart disease and stroke.

### Risks among certain groups

**African-Americans** - If you're African American, there's a good chance that you or a relative has HBP.

**Women** - Starting at age 65, women are more likely to have high blood pressure than men.

**Children** - While HBP is most common in adults, children can develop it, too.

Risk factors for developing high blood pressure, also called hypertension: Family history; Advanced age; Gender-related risk patterns; Lack of physical activity; Poor diet, especially one that includes too much salt; Overweight and obesity; Drinking too much alcohol

### Symptoms, Diagnosis and Monitoring

Do you know the state of your blood pressure? Many people have high blood pressure, also called HBP or hypertension, for

years without knowing it. Most of the time, there are no symptoms, but when high blood pressure goes untreated, it damages arteries and vital organs throughout the body. That's why high blood pressure is often called the "silent killer."

There is good news! High blood pressure is treatable.

### Symptoms

Don't make the mistake of assuming symptoms will alert you to the problem of high blood pressure. Find out about the symptoms myths and understand why HBP is called the "silent killer."

### How HBP is Diagnosed

Although the only way to tell if you have HBP is to have it checked, the test can be done easily, quickly and painlessly. Upon diagnosis by a healthcare professional, HBP can usually be managed through lifestyle changes and, when prescribed, medication.

### Home Monitoring & Recording



## medsearch cont'd...

Because blood pressure can fluctuate, home monitoring and recording of blood pressure readings can provide your healthcare provider with valuable information to determine whether you really have high blood pressure and, if you do, whether your treatment plan is working.

### Choosing a Monitor

The American Heart Association recommends an automatic, cuff-style, bicep (upper-arm) monitor.

### How to Measure

Accurate home recording can help you in your partnership with your healthcare providers.

### Prevention & Treatment

If I have HBP, what can I do to take care of myself?

There are eight main ways you can control your blood pressure.

They are:

- \* Eat a better diet, which may include reducing salt
- \* Enjoy regular physical activity
- \* Maintain a healthy weight
- \* Manage stress
- \* Avoid tobacco smoke
- \* Comply with medication prescriptions
- \* If you drink, limit alcohol
- \* Understand hot tub safety

Lifestyle modifications are essential. These changes may reduce your blood pressure without the use of prescription medications. Adopting a healthy lifestyle is critical for the prevention of HBP and an indispensable part of managing it. Think of these changes as a "lifestyle prescription" and make every effort to comply with them.

Whether you have been diagnosed with high blood pressure, also called hypertension, or are

concerned because you have some of the risk factors for the disease, understand this: while there is no cure, high blood pressure is manageable.

By adopting a heart-healthy lifestyle, you can:

- Reduce high blood pressure
- Prevent or delay the development of HBP
- Enhance the effectiveness of blood pressure medications
- Lower your risk of heart attack, heart disease, stroke and kidney disease

### Here's how to do your part

#### Be informed

Of all people with high blood pressure, over 20 percent are unaware of their condition. This symptomless disease could leave them with substantial health consequences. Are you one of them? If you don't know, see a healthcare professional to be tested.

#### Do your part to reach your treatment goals

There is no healthy level of high blood pressure. Don't take life-or-death chances with this disease. Instead, take responsibility! Work with your healthcare professional to determine your treatment goals and map out your best action plan for HBP prevention and management.

#### Change your life and reduce your risks

Even if your blood pressure is normal (less than 120 mm Hg systolic AND less than 80 mm Hg diastolic) and your goal is prevention only, the lifestyle modifications provide a prescription for healthy living. If your resting blood pressure falls in the prehypertension range (systolic - top-number between 120 and 139 mm Hg OR diastolic - bottom - number between 80 and 89 mm Hg),

your doctor will recommend lifestyle modifications.

#### Take medication if it is prescribed for you

If your blood pressure is 140/90 or higher, your doctor will likely prescribe medication in addition to lifestyle modifications. Follow your healthcare professional's recommendations carefully, even if it means taking medication every day for the rest of your life. High blood pressure is a lifelong disease, and by partnering with your healthcare team, you can successfully reach your treatment goals and enjoy the benefits of better health.

Once your treatment program becomes routine, maintaining a lower blood pressure is easier. Remind yourself that by managing your blood pressure, you are lowering your risk of heart attack, heart failure, stroke, peripheral artery disease and kidney disease. Death rates from these diseases have decreased significantly, thanks in part to earlier and better treatment of HBP.

Managing blood pressure is a lifelong commitment; make a pledge to do so starting today for yourself and for those you love. Listen to your doctor, read the sound medical information on this site, and act on the information to live a heart-healthier life.

American Heart Association  
7272 Greenville Ave.  
Dallas, TX 75231



Ex-POW Bulletin  
July/Aug 2015

## POW MEDSEARCH PACKETS

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Packet 1~VA Claim Information</b>  | <b>\$8.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 2~Stresses of Incarceration &amp; After Effects Extreme Stress-</b><br>Covers the after effects on the nerves and body organs   | <b>\$8.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 3~After Effects of Imprisonment-</b> Covers arthritis, alcoholism, visual, ulcers, varicose veins, impotency, brain damage, etc   | <b>\$8.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 4~After Effects of Imprisonment Part 1 -</b> covers the heart, arteries and veins; Part 2 covers cancer   | <b>\$8.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 5~What Every Wife Should Know Before She Is Your Widow -</b> Social Security, insurance, burial procedures, allowances, etc. including what pathologist should look for in an autopsy (includes shipping and handling charge) | <b>\$15.00</b> |
| <b>Packet 6~Micro-Film Index: Asiatic Theater - Japanese</b> Possible help in locating POW records  | <b>\$3.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 7~Micro-Film Index: European Theater - Germany</b>  | <b>\$3.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 8~The European Story, History of POWs in Germany, and after-effects</b>   | <b>\$8.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 9~The Korea Story, History of POWs in Korea, and after-effects</b>  | <b>\$8.00</b>  |
| <b>Packet 10~The Japanese Story History of POWs in Japan, and after-effects</b>   | <b>\$10.00</b> |
| <b>Packet 11~NSO Director Answers Your Questions</b>  | <b>\$11.00</b> |
| <b>Presentation Set~</b> (Packets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)  | <b>\$60.00</b> |
| <b>The Modern Day Tragedy~</b> medical & claims evidence in support of PL 97-37   | <b>\$4.00</b>  |
| <b>POW: The American Experience~</b> overview on POW experience; reviews vitamin deficiencies, infectious diseases and service-connected statistics   | <b>\$6.00</b>  |
| <b>Map of German POW Camps~</b> shows location of 76 camps  | <b>\$3.00</b>  |
| <b>Map of Japanese POW Camps~</b> 21" x 32" with camps featured in red  | <b>\$4.00</b>  |

**Check packets you wish to order and send, with payment, to: AXPOW  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40, Arlington, TX 76010**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (includes shipping/handling\*) **MasterCard and Visa accepted (circle one)** (\$5.00 minimum charge)  
Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr  
Chairman

Washington continues to be a busy place for Congress considering future Laws addressing the needs of our nation's veterans. Proposed Bills approved by the House of Representatives and passed onto the Senate for consideration include:

- H.R. 474, the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2015,
- H.R. 1038, the Ensuring VA Employee Accountability Act,
- H.R. 1313, the Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief Act,
- H.R. 1382, the Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment Act.
- H.R. 91, the Veteran's I.D. Card Act,
- H.R. 1816, the Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2015.

Due to a Commission Study started in 2013, Congress will be debating changes to the compensation for military retirements. Under consideration is to modernize the retirement system with a government-matching retirement savings plan, similar to a 401(k) in the private sector.

Both the Senate and the House introduced the Military and Veterans Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2015 primarily

2015-2016 Legislative  
Committee  
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ND Charles Anthony Susino  
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designed to enhance the support provided to family caregivers of veterans who were severely disabled in service.

Purple Heart Benefits: Congress changed the law to expand Purple Heart eligibility to those wounded or killed in attacks motivated by foreign terrorist organizations. The Army announced it will extend all possible benefits to the military victims of the 2009 shooting at Fort Hood, Texas and outside a recruiting station in Little Rock, Ark.

A bipartisan Bill, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015 introduced simultaneously in both the House and the Senate, which would require the VA to establish a research center dedicated to the study of how service-related toxic exposures may affect veterans' descendants. VA already grants health care benefits to children with spina bifida born to Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange.

Please contact your members of Congress for all Bills that you are willing to support.

VA Expands Choice Program change: VA announced it has changed immediately the way distance is calculated for the Veterans Choice Program from straight-line "as the crow flies" distance to driving distance for the 40 mile rule.

The World War I Centennial Commission is opening a design competition for the new national memorial that will be built a block away from the White House in Pershing Park, which is along

Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets. The commission expects to announce its selected design in January 2016.

A lawsuit has been filed to force the Department of Veterans Affairs to change a new claims submission procedure that eliminated the informal claims process which served as notice providing "backdating" the claim to the initial notification.

Happy V-E Day! On May 8<sup>th</sup>, thousands of veterans, family members and spectators celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in Washington. Along with high ranking officials making speeches, there was a massive, multi-ship aircraft flyover by vintage Army Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps trainers, transports, fighters and bombers from both theaters of war.

End of WWII Commemoration: Over in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Battleship Missouri Memorial will host a public ceremony commemorating the war's end on Sept. 2 at 9:02 a.m., the exact time Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, began the broadcasted proceedings.

Ex-POW news: The Army has charged Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl with one count each of Article 85 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, "Desertion with Intent to Shirk Important or Hazardous Duty," and Article 99, "Misbehavior Before The Enemy by Endangering the Safety of a Command, Unit or Place".

-----Remember-----

# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
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Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Superintendent  
Charles Sellars  
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Memorial Day has always been the traditional heart of the year at Andersonville National Historic Site. This year, I had the privilege of participating with my staff and hundreds of volunteers to ensure that the weekend continued as a beautiful, solemn memorial to soldiers who have laid down their lives in service to their country.

The park received a real boost from local and national media attention with all four major stations in the local area doing featured pieces on the Memorial Day weekend events. People from across the country turned their eyes to our little corner of Georgia and reflected on the true meaning of the holiday.

The highlight of Friday morning was almost 100 motorcycle riders from Robins Riders, arriving to put up the Avenue of Flags. With so many hands they made easy work of the 200 flags

and enjoyed the cooler than usual weather.

Saturday witnessed our biggest volunteer endeavor as 250 youth volunteers and their leaders arrived on site to place the over 19,000 flags on individual graves across the cemetery. The kids and teens involved this year were excellent, and showed great respect for the graves as they helped to place the flags. A hotdog lunch was provided by the Dixie Crows organization out of Warner Robins, Georgia with assistance from Frito-Lay. The 50 adult volunteers from the Dixie Crows continue to



donate their time and resources to make a wonderful meal for the kids and help with flags when possible. After all the activities of Friday and Saturday, Sunday seems to take a more reflective turn. I had the opportunity on Saturday and Sunday to walk a good portion of the national cemetery, fixing and straightening flags. This is an ongoing task that my staff and I all participated in, and is a necessary part of tending the flags throughout the weekend to ensure that they remain in their best condition. We are constantly grateful for volunteers and visitors who help with our flag vigil, a true expression of their gratefulness to these honored dead.



The Memorial Day observance this year was blessed with good weather and a light breeze. Music was provided by the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band. Remarks and greetings were given by community leaders, including Congressman Sanford Bishop. The keynote address was given by Col. Thomas Carden of the Georgia National Guard, where he shared his reminiscences on the life and sacrifices of Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Victor Anderson of Ellaville, GA and expressed his gratitude to the families who keep the memories of these soldiers alive. Over a dozen wreaths were placed during the service from community, veteran, and historical groups.

The biggest surprise this year was the overwhelming visitation to the park on Monday. Almost 1,200 people came to pay their respects and visit the site. Some families came for the very first time and others had been here hundreds of times before. The park was delighted by the response.

In other news, "Victory from Within" is currently being prepared to travel from its current location at the Frontiers of Flight Museum in Dallas, Texas. The traveling exhibit is currently slated to head to the Reece Museum located on the campus of East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. In the late fall, it is planned to go to the Fort Douglas Military Museum in Salt Lake City, UT. We hope that folks who live in those areas will have the opportunity to visit the exhibit in person.

# namPOWs



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## Behind the Code - Bravo Zulu

More Navy signal code than those who served in Marine, Army or Air Force uniforms really need to know but bear with me!

From the Navy.mil website: The term originates from the Allied Signals Book (ATP 1), which in the aggregate is for official use only.

Signals are sent as letters and/or numbers, which have meanings by themselves sometimes or in certain combinations. A single table in ATP 1 is called "governing groups," that is, the entire signal that follows the governing group is to be performed according to the "governor." The letter "B" indicates this table, and the second letter (A through Z) gives more specific information.

For example, "BA" might mean "You have permission to . . . (do whatever the rest of the flashing light, flag hoist or radio transmission says) "BZ" happens to be the last item in the governing groups table. It means "Well Done."

Well Done, indeed and not in the sense that meat is overcooked.

BZ, Bravo Zulu, means your performance was outstanding. So I'm announcing in this column the Bravo Zulu Award to go to someone who does incredibly good

work for no other reason that is something that needs to be done and nobody else is doing it. That's it. No pecuniary award. No banner headline in the local fish wrapper.

Nothing except get a Bravo Zulu, Well Done from an admiring former POW. This first award goes to our vigilantes - those who track down and expose those who would ride the glory of the service of others. They're called "phonies."

A phony is somebody who claims to be something he isn't - usually claiming military bravado or accomplishments they haven't actually achieved. There are, of course, laws against so doing but in an era of permissive moral relativism, many are reluctant to get involved in debunking the phonies.

Phonies claim to be Navy SEALs, Fighter pilots, Special Forces, Marine Force Recon or any similar difficult to achieve designation. Phonies have myriads of medals - Purple Hearts, for sure, and up to the Medal of Honor.

Re: Bravo Zulu Awards, There are several who deserve them but the first Bravo Zulu Awards go to Vietnam POW and past president of Nam-POWs, Navy Capt. (Ret) Mike McGrath and Administrators of the POW Network for exposing phonies. Their efforts have been spectacular and often result in a public humiliation of the "perp."

Additionally, in 2013, the Congress has passed a bill making it a felony to falsify one's military record. Much of the effort behind the legislation came from frustration in priorities of law enforcement and the VA wherein those agencies assigned too low a priority to these cases. This bill takes the place of the one struck down by the Supreme Court in the case case *United States v.*

*Alvarez* for being an infringement of the constitutional right to freedom of speech.

Why is it important? With bona fide POWs having trouble getting benefits they are owed, it is criminal that frauds could achieve those benefits without doing anything to earn them. Our seriously wounded veterans sometimes have trouble getting credit for their injuries if certain documents cannot be found where occasionally phonies will forge documents to get the benefits the bona fide wounded veteran is denied.

Mike McGrath has personally exposed a phony Air Force Colonel who was a regular "duty hero" at the Air Force Academy - appearing in uniform with medals, wings and other accoutrements that were never earned. Mike showed up on his doorstep with a local TV reporter to ask a few questions. The "colonel" was outed and has been banned from the Academy grounds.

The Schantag's have exposed thousands of phonies including many phony POWs. Their website, <http://pownetwork.org> remains the definitive site on the internet for uncovering phonies. Their uncovered phonies are posted for all to see - some with several entries. The whole sordid story is on their website.

Also is an annotated version of the DPMO PMSEA (Personnel missing in Southeast Asia) list which includes additional information on each of those who'd been listed as missing during the Vietnam conflict. Take a peek.

And Bravo Zulu to Capt. McGrath and to the Schantags for a job very "Well done."

# civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair  
by Sascha Jansen  
Mabuhayma@aol.com

When the Philippine Air Lines Boeing 777, landed at Ninoy Aquino International Airport on February 1st, 2015, she carried some pretty important people coming to Manila. Exactly seventy years earlier, during WWII, the US Armed Forces liberated seventeen of these passengers from their prison camps. After being held by the Japanese military for over three years, they were given another chance at life.

Today, they were accompanied by family members of several Generations totaling 78 travelers. Staying at the famed Manila Hotel, over night at Tagaytay and at the French, Sofitel Hotel on Manila Bay was a welcoming and nostalgic experience. Many days of touring Corregidor, Manila City, Intramurus, U.S. Battle Monuments American Cemetery, Ayala Museum, Filipino Heritage Library, Villa Escudero and Los Banos were some of the tour highlights.

On February 3rd the travelers were invited to spend the day At the University of Santo Tomas where the Museum's exhibit of the campus war time days were beautifully displayed, bringing up old



*Ex-internees with University of Santo Tomas students on the stairs in the lobby of the Main Building*

memories and a few tears. Ribbon cutting, Filipino food and welcoming speeches preceded a few hours of storytelling and communicating about the war years on campus with the students. Our time with our families, showing them around the camp where we lived, provided special moments of learning and reflection. We so appreciated the hospitality and the generosity of the priests and faculty on this, our very important day of freedom 70 years ago.

Our memorable journey ended with an amazing Farewell Dinner at the Sofitel Hotel. Cocktail hour, viewing a famous Manila sunset, and a wonderful buffet was held out -doors pool side. Native dancers in Filipino attire entertained and enticed our group to join

them in dance; and, they joyfully did.

We shopped, ate and drank well, and rekindled old friendships. Our visits to special places from our youth were both rewarding and sad, and we enjoyed sharing them with our families. How wonderful they could be with us.

Thank you to all who came on this 70th Anniversary Liberation trip of a lifetime. I hope your journey was enjoyable and fulfilling for you.

Aloha - Sascha Jansen



*Tom (Blacknbles) Crosby demonstrates his skill at dancing the Tinikling at the Farewell Dinner - Sofitel Hotel*

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

# pow-mia



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## Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy (USD(P)), and per the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) passed by Congress, the Department of Defense (DoD) formally created one agency responsible for the recovery and accounting of missing service members from past conflicts. Overseen by the USDP and led by Interim Director Rear Admiral Michael T. Franken, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was established on January 30, 2015 to more effectively increase the number of missing service personnel accounted for from past conflicts and ensure timely and accurate information is communicated to their families.

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“Keeping the Promise”, “Fulfill their Trust” and “No one left behind” are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,000+), Korean War (7,852) Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,627), 1991 Gulf War (5), and Libya (1).

This agency brings together the former Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office (DPMO), the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command (JPAC), and the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL). Consolidating the Department’s personnel accounting assets will lead to better oversight of family resources and services, research, and operations. The agency will enable the workforce to achieve the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel, better anticipate family needs, and adapt to changes in the DoD and the United States Government. The agency will also honor our veterans’ sacrifices and confirm an obligation made to those serving our country.

## Marine Missing From Korean War Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and was returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Marine Corps Sgt. John McLaughlin, 19, of Pittsburgh, was buried June 6, in his hometown. In early December 1950, McLaughlin and elements of Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, occupied positions in Hagaru-ri, North Korea, on the southern end of the Chosin Reservoir. As elements of the 1st Marine Division began to withdraw from Hagaru-ri, Company D engaged a large Chinese force east of Hagaru-ri, that hindered the company’s withdrawal south to a more defensible position. During this battle, McLaughlin was reported killed in action.

In 1954, United Nations and Communist Forces exchanged the remains of war dead in what came to be called “Operation Glory.” All remains recovered in Operation Glory were turned over to the Army’s Central Identification Unit for analysis. The remains they were unable to identify were interred as unknowns at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, known as the “Punchbowl.”

In 2012, with advances in technology, the Department of Defense

(DoD) re-examined records and concluded that the possibility of identification of some of these unknowns now existed.

In the identification of McLaughlin’s remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence, dental analysis, and chest radiographs, which matched his records.

## Korean War Soldier Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of a U.S. soldier, unaccounted for from the Korean War, have been identified and were returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Army Pfc. Charlie Wilcher Jr., 21, of Sanderville, Ga., was buried June 1, in Jacksonville, Fla. In late November 1950, Wilcher was assigned to Company A, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division (ID), which was deployed near the town of Kujang, North Korea, when their defensive line was attacked by Chinese forces. This attack forced the unit to withdraw south to a more defensible position. Before they could disengage, the 2nd ID suffered extensive casualties, with numerous men being taken captive. Wilcher was reported missing in action Nov. 30, 1950.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea turned over to the U.S. 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain more than 400 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the vicinity where Wilcher was believed to have died.

From July 3 to July 5, 2001, a joint U.S./Democratic Republic of North Korea (D.P.R.K.) team excavated a purported burial site near Kujang, recovering human remains. Those remains, and some of the remains turned over between 1990 and 1994, were identified as Wilcher.

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**Aug. 9-16, 2015. First Battalion/Third Marines** annual reunion will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Doubletree Hotel. For more information, contact President Dick Cleary, [clearyrp@msn.com](mailto:clearyrp@msn.com)

**Oct. 12-16, 2015. Attention USAF, USAFR and ANG RED HORSE and Prime BEEF Members Past and Present.** You are invited to the REDHORSE Association 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the founding of RED HORSE (RH) and Prime BEEF (PB) AF Civil Engineering Construction Units. At the Ramada Inn in Ft Walton Beach, Fl. This is a once in a lifetime experience for all PB & RH members. Highlights planned including recognizing members of the first units deployed to Vietnam and Thailand including 554, 555, 556, 819, 820 and 823 RED HORSE Squadrons plus initial Prime BEEF Teams deployed during 1965-66. Interaction and Presentations by members of current Active Duty 823<sup>rd</sup> RED HORSE and Reserve 556 RED HORSE Squadrons stationed at Hurlburt Field. Review of the major accomplishments of PB & RH since their inception. Active Duty Update, Golf Tournament and Banquet are part of the activities. Reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Two commemorative coins designed especially for this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be available. For more information contact Greg MacDougal at (912) 884-7273; or email at: [greg.macdougale@rhamail.org](mailto:greg.macdougale@rhamail.org) or Dick Aldinger at (407) 859-7436, e-mail [famdinge@aol.com](mailto:famdinge@aol.com). Visit our website at [www.rhassn.us](http://www.rhassn.us)

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# looking for



## Do you Remember Ohashi?

I am currently writing a book about my father's wartime experience in the RAF. His name is Emrys Withey. He was a wireless operator and was stationed at Alor Star aerodrome in North Malaya, close to the border with Thailand where the Japanese made their amphibious assault. The Japanese had a spy in the aerodrome named Captain Patrick Heenan, a liaison officer with the army, with the result that nearly all the planes at Alor Star and other bases near-by were taken out on the ground, either just before take-off or shortly after landing. Following their landing the Japs pushed the British troops all the way down the Malay Peninsula.

After leaving the aerodrome he became part of a mobile signal unit liaising between the retreating forces and headquarters in Singapore and was always one step ahead of the battle line, albeit at a safe distance, most of the time! After being bombed and strafed all the way down the Malay Peninsula, the mobile signal unit ended up in Singapore. For two weeks during the bombardment of the 'Fortress Island', they continued operations at Air Headquarters, before boarding the Empire Star, just a couple of days before capitulation. The Empire Star was one of the few ships to make it out of Singapore Harbour. With passenger room for only nine, she was crammed with well in excess of two and half thousand evacuees, most of whom were members of the RAF and Australian military nurses. On board as well were scores of Australian deserters who had clubbed the way to get on board. Most other ship, many of which had been carrying women and children, were simply sunk by the Japs. In spite of being bombed and strafed and taking three direct hits, by a miracle they made to Batavia in Java three days later. Armed with just rifles and a couple of Ben guns they succeeded in bringing down two of the Jap planes. Emrys was one of those on deck armed with a rifle.

In Java he was eventually captured and became incarcerated at Gedung Badak camp in Buitenzorg, and then six months later was transported in the Dai Nichi Maru back to Singapore, before being transported on the Tofuku Maru to Japan, via Siagon and Formosa. By train he travelled to Ohashi, Northern Japan and after arriving at the prison camp there at the end of November 1942, remained at until the end of the war. Working in the iron ore mines with ordinary Japanese people, he mastered the language and became fluent in Japanese and became an 'interpreter' for the prisoners and the guards in the everyday running of the camp. Like the Japs, Emrys wasn't very tall and his Welsh accent helped him to be easily understood by them. On one occasion he saved the life of an American prisoner who was just too ill to work. My father stepped in and the Japs laid off him. After the war my father received a letter from the prisoner thanking him for saving his life.

On another occasion another American he helped wasn't so lucky. He had badly hurt his leg and Emrys had struggled to help him back to the camp. He and Emrys were friends. It was a couple of miles walk from the mines to the camp. The American was a very tall guy, 6' 4". When they got back, the guards who had been drinking picked on the American. Emrys once again intervened, but this time to no avail. Out of spite for what Emrys was trying to do to help him, they shot the American. They then made Emrys carry him up the mountainside and made him dig a grave for him. When they got back to the camp they shot Emrys across his mouth shattering his front teeth.

I am writing this in the hope that you may help me with any stories you may have about the camp in Ohashi, named Sendai 4B. Maybe you were a prisoner there at some point and can tell me about day today life there, or in fact anything to do with Emrys' wartime experience.

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Mt home address is: 20 Mattersey Close, West Bessacarr, Doncaster DN4 7PZ, South Yorkshire, UK



# Your Stories



## Captured at Grosslangenfeld

By Paul Thompson  
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In early December our reconnaissance troop received orders to move to France. At the time we were stationed in England at Stow-On-The-Wold in the Cotswolds. We embarked at Weymouth and landed at Le Havre on December 11. We drove north through France, Belgium, and The Ardennes and set up at Grosslangenfeld, a small hilltop town in the German Schnee Eifel.

At Grosslangenfeld we replaced an infantry company of the 2nd Division. My job was radio repairman assigned to the HQR platoon. Since I had been trained as an infantryman at Fort Benning and could handle most of the standard infantry weapons, my secondary assignment was to man the light machine gun in bunker "Lenny 7 Able". This bunker overlooked the A-20, the major road between neighboring towns. (Our platoon commander was Lt. Leonard Prosnick, hence the moniker "Lenny 7 Able"). My orders were to see that no Germans moved on that road.

My buddy and I set up housekeeping in the second floor bedroom of the farmhouse just above our bunker. He was an expert "scrounger" and brought a footlocker from England loaded with cans of chicken, peaches, extra "C" rations and other "goodies". For my part I had "liberated" two folding cots plus a good supply of blankets. Between us we set up very comfortable living quar-

ters and settled down to wait out the war in our "fur-lined foxhole".

Many years later I met Joseph Rausch, the German soldier who owned this house and grew up in it. He attended some of our recon troop reunions and we spent several pleasant hours together.

About 5:30 on Saturday morning, December 16th, all hell broke loose. "Screaming Meemies" were whistling overhead, shells exploding all around. The house shook, the windows rattled. I was certain the very next shell would come through the wall and explode in our bedroom. I snatched my trousers and tried to put them on but for the life of me I could not get my legs into the openings. I threw them aside, jumped into my boots, grabbed my overcoat, helmet and rifle and raced for the bunker. I fought the first battle without trousers. If I had been captured then the Germans would have caught me not only with my pants down but with no pants on at all. Later on during a lull in the fighting I had a chance to go back and recover my trousers.

Come daylight the Germans attacked. Our officers deployed our armored cars and with their 37mm cannon fire and the machine gun fire from our several bunkers they were driven back. They regrouped and came at us again and again we drove them back. The Germans, apparently deciding we were too strong for them, then redirected their attack against our flanks. The 424th Cannon Company was to our right and a troop of the 14th Cavalry to our left. By Sunday morning these units were virtually destroyed and we were surrounded.

On our front there had been sporadic gunfire throughout the night. Some time after midnight a lucky mortar shell struck our ammunition store. We enjoyed a regular Fourth of July celebration with whizzing rockets, fireballs and explosions. It was a great show but the result was we had very little to fight with when the Germans attacked a third time. They came at us the next morning, this time with two reinforced infantry companies

(about 600 men). We had about 120. Our ammunition mostly gone, we were ordered to evacuate and try to escape to the American lines. I carried several grenades and I threw them in the direction of a burpunner who had been harassing me most of the night but I failed to hit him. As I ran from the bunker he bounced up and began spraying bullets. Bullets snapped all around me, but I managed to reach an armored car unscathed. I jumped in, slammed the turret hatch shut and we started down the road. We got only a few yards — the road was blocked and the German troops were everywhere. Our fight was over. We were all captured.

It is worth mentioning here that some dozens of years later I happened upon a description of this battle written by Lt Gerhard Wurm, one of the German officers who led the attack. He wrote that the German command concluded that they were facing an armored battalion and not the expected infantry company, hence Sunday's attack with so large a force. He further wrote that his command lost more than 90% of their men at Grosslangenfeld and that it was the bitterest fighting that his division — the 62nd Volksgrenadiers — encountered during their entire Ardennes offensive.

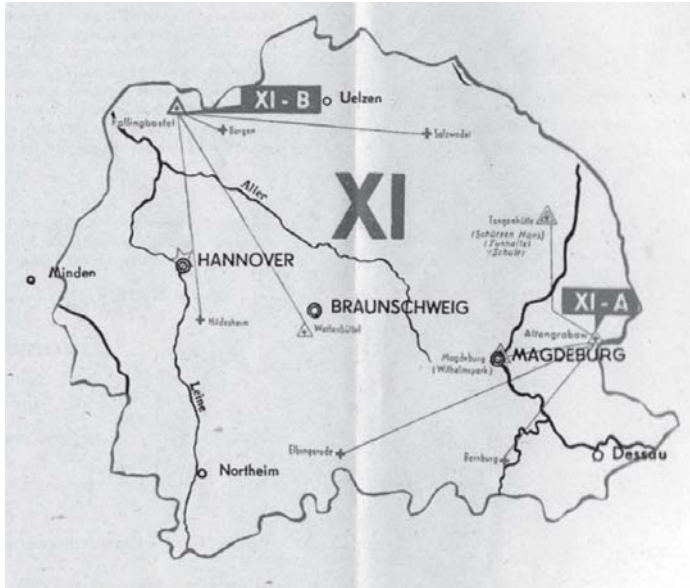
The Germans forced us out of our vehicles and penned us up in some kind of animal enclosure, perhaps a pigsty, while they decided what to do with us. While waiting there one of my buddies pointed to some holes in my trousers. They were bullet holes. That burpunner had sprayed bullets all about me, but missed me completely except for shooting holes in my trousers.

Later in the day the Germans herded us out on to the road and marched us to Prum, from there to Gerolstein and into boxcars to Limberg. So began our months as prisoners of the Germans

stories, cont'd...

## Part II,

### My Escape from Altengrabow (Stalag 11A)



One morning in early April we Americans were ordered out of our barracks, separated into groups of 30 or so and marched west toward the American front.

We were to be "arbeit commandos:" (work details) sent to repair the railroads damaged by the Americans. We were all in bad shape, weak and sick from a winter of sawdust bread and turnip "soup". Marching was hard but few of us were unhappy about being on the road. Any way of getting outside the barbed wire was welcome. Those of you who have been prisoners will fully appreciate how wonderful it felt. Besides, the German countryside in early spring was pretty nice.

Also outside the barbed wire escape became a possibility.

After two or three days of marching we neared Halberstad, a

manufacturing town apparently still making armaments for the Germans. The town was under attack by American bombers. The next morning we marched in. There was almost nothing left of the town, at least of that part we marched through.

Here we experienced one of the most painful and poignant experiences of our time in prison. Our commando was under the command of a feldwebel, an old man in our eyes and a veteran of the German Army. He was about 40 and as guards go he was more than decent. He allowed rests

from time to time and permitted us to help those who had become too weak to keep up. On previous marches guards forced us to abandon the weak. They were then shot or bayoneted.

From time to time he even distributed apples from his knapsack. This feldwebel was from Halberstad and we marched past where his house had stood. A bomb had destroyed his house utterly, killing his wife, two children and both of his parents—his entire family. He absolutely fell apart.

Our hearts went out to him. He was a decent man, but we were the enemy and we had destroyed his life. I know that there were thousands on both sides who have suffered similar tragedies but this one was up close and personal. It hurt. War is indeed Hell.

The next day we continued our march under the command of another feldwebel. As we marched west, the front became

more and more evident, especially at night when the horizon was lit up by the flames and explosions of the American advance.

On the night of April 10th our commando, along with several others, was camped among the trees beside a country dirt road. Behind us were thick woods, in front open country without a tree in sight. During the night my buddy and I heard shots coming from the areas of the other commandos. (My buddy was Carlton Schilcher, a fellow Recon trouper. We teamed up early on and remained together for the rest of the war.) The shots sounded like executions to us.

The Americans were no more than a day or two in front of us and we reasoned that perhaps their guards had received orders to execute their prisoners. Nothing like this was happening in our area but we decided not to wait and see what developed. Behind us were thick woods and in front open meadows. We reasoned that the guards would expect escape attempts to be made through the woods but wouldn't expect anybody to try the open country. So we took off across the open country. As it turned out we were right. Several men were shot trying to escape through the woods but we got away unharmed. We hid out during the rest of the night and emerged about midmorning when the mobile artillery of an American division roared by travelling fast. (I don't remember their number but their patch was a black buffalo on a gold background.)

Now came the scary time. I was wearing a German field jacket and a Serbian barracks cap. Carlton wore a French overcoat. As we approached a jeep full of soldiers we worried whether they would welcome us or shoot and ask later. We needn't have wor-

## stories, cont'd...

ried. They thought we were the sorriest looking soldiers they'd ever seen and drove us to the company mess. They were certainly wrong about being sorry. At that moment we were the happiest men on earth. Being free is a day none of us will ever forget. At mess they were serving ham with raisin sauce and sweet potatoes.

We devoured it! The mess sergeant hovered about soaking up our praises and obvious delight in his cooking. Perhaps that's the first (and maybe the only time) any G.I. ever said anything good about Army cooking, but on that day it was the finest in the world. ("Devoured" is perhaps too strong a word. We actually ate very carefully fully aware that too much rich food after months of starvation is dangerous.)

The Americans moved on and we were left on our own for several days. Carlton and I hooked up with some British troops who had been captured in the Dodecanese Islands. Our experience with them is another story in itself. After a few days we managed to get a ride on a 4x4 back to Hildesheim. From there we were sent to Camp Lucky Strike and back to the U.S. on a Navy transport.

I was home in Chicago by May 16th, my 20th birthday.

## One, Three, Thirteen

By Dan Carter  
Son of Harold Carter

Once it was apparent to just about everyone that nothing could kill him, he simply died.

They sunk two ships under him in the Pacific in the early days of World War II. First his Tanager,

the mine sweeper he served on since breaking his mother's heart by enlisting at seventeen and shipping off from Arkansas to San Diego then Hawaii and then the Philippines. When the rescue ship went down, he was a sailor without a ship in Air Force coveralls fighting beach defense with the Marines. The Army awarded him a Bronze Star.

Shelled and shot at like so many others, he never took it personally. He knew there were only two ways off the island: killed or captured, one or the other inevitable. A signalman took the final messages from FDR ("May God be with you") and MacArthur ("You're on your own"). Then Bataan fell. And the offensive moved in his direction with the former "Battling Bastards" serving as mobile cover for the Japanese onslaught, tactically brilliant in its own way, and Japan was not a signatory to the Geneva Convention.

On the eve of his twenty-first birthday, he knew he'd never see twenty-one. Then Corregidor fell, and he slept, the suspense now over with his capture.

The line grew shorter as naked soldiers were marched off a cliff at bayonet point. Not sure what he would do—just that he wouldn't jump—he spotted an unmanned machine gun, knowing he wouldn't make it but knowing he would try. Then a Japanese Lieutenant with better sense and some humanity showed up and put a stop to that particular carnage, and the prisoners walked away in Death March to Cabanatuan.

And those who survived that horror were shipped to Japan. And those still healthy were transported to Japanese-held China, crammed in the hold of a Hell Ship like African slaves transported from Senegal to Charles-

ton. For four weeks. Dodging mines; strafed by American planes; dead men thrown overboard every day or so.

And he marched into Hoten Camp in Mukden, the old Imperial Capital a hundred and eighty miles south of Vladivostok, Russia. And he laughed at them for thinking he was defeated, freed by the comfort of living on borrowed time and the surety of seeing the enemy clearly in front of him every day.

Christmas '43, he caught pneumonia—in the middle of a Manchurian winter—and they threw him lifeless into the charnel house on top of frozen bodies stacked like cord wood awaiting burial with the spring thaw... but he rose again to laugh that huge, hard laugh.

And to dance.

And he married, and he raised a family.

And he laughed and told his stories. Undiminished by all he'd seen; all he'd endured. Strengthened by it, truth be told.

And his punch line was often: "And then, they worked us over." And he didn't give a shit for all that.

He didn't just survive; he thrived. Unconquered no matter what was thrown at him.

And in his last chapter he mellowed... A little.

And he became an old man. (What were the odds of that?) And almost made ninety-two.

And finally... once again... he was liberated.

# Long Delayed

## POW Medals

by Alice A. Booher

Anyone with a television in 1985 watched with horror as the incident played out in graphic color involving the half-dozen young active duty sailors. One man was praised at the time of his very public murder, but for the rest, appropriate public recognition took an inordinately long time. Now, 30 years later, all 6 men have been awarded the POW medal, fittingly during 2015 which is designated The Year of the Navy Diver.

The POW's names are: Lt. Stuart Dahl; CWO3 Tony Watson; Master Chief Equipment Operator (DV/SWC) Jeffrey Ingalls; Master Chief Constructionman (DV/SWC) Kenneth Bowen; Construction Electrician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (DV/SWC) Clinton Suggs; and Robert Stethem, the one name that might seem familiar. All had been 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Class CPOs at the time of capture on June 14, 1985.



Robert Dean Stethem was born in November 1961. His father had

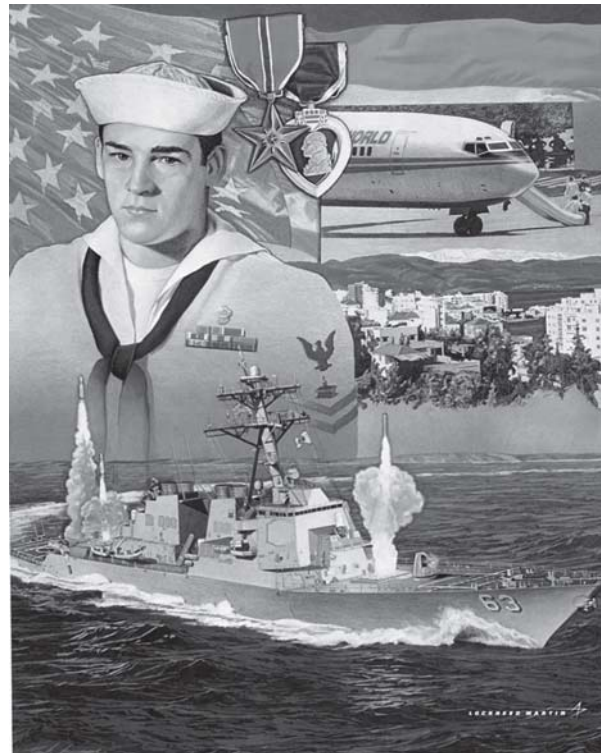


a 20-year career as a Navy Senior Chief and then as a civilian; his mother served in the Navy before having a family and then continued to serve at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. He had one brother who was a Navy Seal and another a Navy Diver. Robert Stethem joined the U.S. Navy on May 4, 1981 as a Seabee Steelworker assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 62 in Gulfport, MS. He had tours on Diego Garcia and Guam, and became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Navy Diver assigned to the Navy's Underwater Construction Team One in Little Creek, VA.

In June 1985, Stethem and 5 of his team boarded commercial TWA Flight 847 in Athens (bound from Cairo to San Diego) as they returned from an assignment in Nen Makrik, Greece. The flight was hijacked by Hezbollah and Islamic-Jihad affiliated members (Amal militia), who held 39 people hostage for 17 days, demanding release of 766 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. While public media was glued to their every move, the hijackers diverted the plane several times between Beirut and Algiers, eventually landing in Beirut on June 16, 1985. The POWs remained captive in the plane. When hijacker's demands were rejected, Stethem, who had

been identified as a military man, was beaten, tortured and shot at point blank range and to the horror of the world watching, his body was dumped on the Beirut tarmac. He was buried with full military honors in Section 59, along with other casualties of terrorism, at Arlington National Cemetery. His burial took place while his team members remained in captivity.

At the time of his death, Stethem was a Steelworker Second Class; awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, he was promoted posthumously to Master Chief Constructionman (CUCM). An Aegis Arleigh-Burke-class destroyer bearing Stethem's name was commissioned in 1995 and



christened by his mother Patricia. His brother Kenneth later accepted awards on his behalf onboard the *USS STETHEM* (DDG-63) (now based in Yokosuka). Since his death, numerous schools, sport complexes, a Navy Lodge and streets have been named for Stethem, and the movie *The Delta Force* was based on the story.

## Medals, cont'd...



However, in a quirk of ironic timing, these 6 men did not receive one medal they had earned by their actions. The POW Medal was not officially authorized [under Public Law 99-145, 99 Stat. 665, 10 USC 1028] until November 1985, several months after their capture. Many POW Medals have since been awarded posthumously and retroactively; however, none of these 6 men received it simply because their names were inadvertently never submitted for consideration.

All 5 of the remaining POWs returned to active service in the Navy, but did not serve again together as a diving team; all retired honorably many years later, telling their story to a few comrades but not seeking special notice. A friend of one of the men thought this should be rectified, and went to the Navy Diver Foundation which took up the cause of their receiving appropriate rec-



ognition. A letter writing campaign ensued. Once the official decision was made to award the POW Medal and announced on December 3, 2014, the men themselves agreed that they would accept it only if they could receive it as a team, so that is what was arranged.

On a beautiful day in Washington, April 24, 2015, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus presented the POW medals to the 5 men who were present with close family members, and to Stethem's parents and two brothers. At the understated intimate ceremony held on the Potomac waterfront, framed by cherry trees in full bloom, in front of the Inter-American Defense College of Joint Base Myer-

Henderson Hall, located at Fort Lesley J. McNair, RADM Kate Gregory, chief of civil engineers at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, stated: "These men were not prepared for who the enemy was, or what that battlefield was going to be. Those brave men instead displayed the honor, courage and commitment then that all of our sailors and officers aspire to demonstrate today".

Said Navy Secretary Mabus: "I'm privileged to be able to present this medal to each of you so that you know the Navy recognizes your courageous action you took nearly 30 years ago, but also, Americans everywhere are reminded of who the brave men and women of the Navy are". Inter-American Defense College Director RADM Martha E.G. Herb said: "To the Stethems, we can never fill the space left in your heart from the parting of your son. But we can show you that he is not forgotten". Well earned, and long overdue indeed.



# News Briefs

## VA Extends Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

*Contracts Awarded to Assisted Living Providers*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the award of 20 contracts for the Assisted Living Pilot Program for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (AL-TBI). Originally slated to end in 2014, the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (“VACAA”) extended this program through October 2017.

“We are pleased to extend this valuable program and provide specialized assisted living services to eligible Veterans with traumatic brain injury that will enhance their rehabilitation, quality of life and community integration,” said Dr. Carolyn Clancy, VA’s Interim Under Secretary for Health, “TBI is one of the prevalent wounds of the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and VA remains committed to taking care of those Veterans suffering from TBI.”

Under the AL-TBI program, Veterans meeting the eligibility criteria are placed in private sector TBI residential care facilities specializing in neurobehavioral rehabilitation. The program offers team-based care and assistance in areas such as speech, memory and mobility. Approximately 202

Veterans participated in the AL-TBI Pilot Program in 47 facilities located in 22 states. Currently, 101 Veterans participate in the pilot as VA continues to accept new eligible patients into the program.

In October, VA issued a request for proposal (RFP) for vendors wishing to participate in the program. In accordance with the RFP, VA has awarded 20 contracts to facilities located in 27 states. The contracts went into effect on April 1, 2015. The program is currently effective through October 2017, in accordance with VACAA.

## Blessing of the Fleets

The United States Navy Memorial’s **24th Blessing of the Fleets** took place on April 11, and is annual ritual intended to safeguard crews and ships from the danger of the seas through a blessing given by a clergyman at the water’s edge. During the Navy Memorial’s ceremony, sailors from the U.S. Navy’s Ceremonial Guard proceed across the outdoor plaza’s “Granite Sea” to pour water from the Seven Seas and Great Lakes into the surrounding fountains, “charging” them to life and welcoming the spring season. Navy Memorial was honored to have VADM Robin Braun, Chief of Navy Reserve as guest speaker.

This year’s Blessing of the Fleets also marked the launch of the U.S. Navy Memorial’s “The Year of the Navy Reserve Centennial” exhibit and special programming. The new exhibit honors the Navy Reserve’s proud tradition of service and will run through April 2016. The exhibit showcases the history of the Reserves as well as its current mission and goals for their next century of service. The exhibit features ship models and rare historical artifacts including a World War I Naval Reserve Aviator’s uniform, as well as a uniform worn by a Yeoman (F),

the first enlisted women to serve our country. Special presentations will be held throughout the year highlighting the various roles Reserve Sailors have played throughout history, including lectures, book events, and panel discussions.

## American Freed

A freelance journalist who was among several Americans held by Iranian-backed Shiite rebels in Yemen was set free June 1<sup>st</sup> as a French hostage abducted in Yemen by an unknown party appeared in a video pleading for help. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said that freelance journalist Casey Coombs, who was injured, has been released and is in Oman.

The rebels, known as Houthis, seized Yemen’s capital last year and have been the target of a U.S.-backed and Saudi-led air campaign since March 26. Neighboring Oman mediated the deal to release Coombs, a freelance reporter working for The Intercept online news website and other publications.

## Groundbreaking Device Being Tested By VA May Put End to Pressure Ulcers

*Helps detect the earliest signs of ulcer formation*

Pressure ulcers (commonly known as bed sores) are one of the most troublesome and painful complications for patients during a long hospital stay, but a joint project between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Innovation and General Electric (GE) Global Research may one day make pressure ulcers a thing of the past.

## news, cont'd...

A multi-disciplinary team of scientists have combined an array of sensing and analytical tools, including motion analysis, thermal profiling, image classification/segmentation, 3-D object reconstruction and vapor detection into a single medical sensing handheld probe to assess and monitor the progression of bed sores or pressure ulcers.

The device is currently in pilot testing at the Augusta, Georgia, VA Medical Center Spinal Cord Injury Unit. The probe integrates multiple sensing capabilities with analytics and user support features to more acutely measure pressure ulcer formation and/or to determine if an ulcer is healing.

"The collaboration with GE is another example of the innovative work VA is doing with our private sector colleagues to advance the science of health care for our Veterans," said Dr. Carolyn Clancy, VA's Interim Under Secretary for Health. "We are pleased to work with GE to pilot a technology that holds the promise of revolutionizing the protocol for preventing and treating painful bed sores. We know that if patients are not turned on a regular basis, they can develop bed sores during their hospital stay as pressure builds up on their skin. By combining physical inspection with the technology capable of allowing real-time monitoring, we may be able to prevent ulcers from forming or advancing. This innovation is about providing the best care to our Veterans and collaborations like this one with GE helps us do just that."

Individuals with spinal cord injuries with loss of sensation and mobility are particularly at risk for developing pressure ulcers. In U.S. hospitals alone, an estimated

2.5 million patients per year develop pressure ulcers, which require treatment.

"Pressure ulcers are a very pervasive, but also very preventable condition for hospital patients," said Ting Yu, GE's Principal Investigator on the pressure ulcer prevention and care program. "The device can help detect the earliest signs of ulcer formation. It also provides a more objective and comprehensive assessment of the wound to understand its progression. We're now testing this device with VA in a clinical setting to see if it provides the kind of information that will help hospitals reduce and one day eliminate pressure ulcers from developing with patients."

## WWI Medal of Honor Recipients

"It's never too late to say thank you," President Obama said June 2<sup>nd</sup> in a White House ceremony for the posthumous award of Medals of Honor to two "doughboys" of the Great War.

Ninety-seven years after they fought in the World War I "No Man's Land" of France, Pvt. Henry Johnson and Sgt. William Shemin were accorded the nation's highest award for valor.

Speaking in the East Room of the White House, Obama said that the nation's sad legacy of discrimination was a factor in denying the honor for so long to both Johnson and Shemin.

Johnson, who fought the Germans with a rifle butt and his "Bolo" knife, served with the all-black 369th Regiment, known as the "Harlem Hellfighters." Because blacks were not deemed fit to serve in combat by the U.S., Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expedi-

tionary Forces, detached the 369th to serve with the French army on the front lines, Obama said.

Shemin, who lied about his age to join the Army, was a Jewish-American from Bayonne, N.J., whose Russian immigrant parents had survived the anti-Semitic pogroms in Europe to come to America. Shemin braved machine gun fire repeatedly to race into "No Man's Land" to rescue wounded comrades while serving with the 47th Infantry Regiment, 4th Division.

In saying "thanks" to Shemin and Johnson, Obama noted that "it takes our nation too long, sometimes, to say so. We have work to do as a nation to make sure that all of our heroes' stories are told."

"The least we can do is to say, 'We know who you are, we know what you did for us. We are forever grateful,'" Obama said.

## VA Caregiver Program

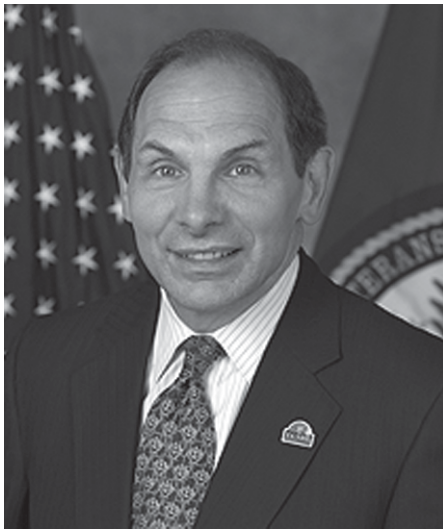
On April 23, 2015, Senator Murray introduced S.1085, the Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2015, and Representative Langevin introduced a similar bill in the House, H.R. 1969. This important measure would extend to all veterans with a serious service-connected injury or illness eligibility to participate in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program of comprehensive assistance to family caregivers of such veterans. Under current law, such eligibility is limited to those veterans who incurred a serious injury, but not an illness, on or after September 11, 2001.

## news, cont'd...

### Flash: Advisory Update

by Alice A. Booher

Arthur Goldberg, who gained insider knowledge of Washington as Labor Secretary, Supreme Court Justice and Ambassador to the UN, has been quoted as saying that: "If Columbus had an advisory committee he would probably still be at the dock". That assessment may well be true in some circumstances, but the current Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Robert McDonald is determined to make sure that this is not the case within his organization, and is undertaking a number of efforts to ensure that goal. In fact, within the VA, the Secretary has 24 federal advisory committees (out of the some 1,000 in Washington as a whole [established under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, P.L. 92-463]. The respective constituencies within the VA range from environmental hazards to minority veterans, women, prosthetics, rehabilitation, readjustment, rural health, Gulf War Illnesses, geriatrics and gerontology, homeless, etc.



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Some of these at the VA are of long duration (like FPOWs); others are recent; some (like FPOWs) have been mandated by Congress; others have been created by the Secretary to assess special VA policies or programs. In the last few months, Secretary McDonald has appointed numerous new members to several committees; established a new Committee within VA to guide its programs ("MyVA"); and has reconstituted the Special Medical Advisory Group, to be chaired by Dr. Jonathan Perlin, to assist the VA in delivering health care to the 9-million enrolled in the Veterans Health Administration.

It is fair to say that the VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War (FPOWS), is well-recognized as having had significant impact on legislation and policy over the years, and its deliberations and recommendations carry exceptional credibility. The Secretary's FPOW Advisory Committee previously has been discussed herein, but it is the right time to discuss it a bit more thoroughly in the current context.

The FPOW Committee, as summarized in a memorandum signed March 20, 2012 by then Secretary Eric Shinseki, is authorized by statute, 38 U.S. Code § 541, and operates under the Federal Advisory Committee Act as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2). The Committee's purpose is to advise the Secretary on administration of benefits under 38 U.S.C. for veterans who are former POWs, and the needs of those veterans in areas of service-connected compensation, health care and rehabilitation; duties include reviewing VA programs and activities and developing recommendations for both administrative and legislative action. Support to the Committee is through the Veterans Benefits Administration (the cur-

rent designated federal liaison officer is Eric Robinson); the committee meets twice a year; and members may include a variety of areas including FPOWs of course as well as specialists in epidemiology, mental health, nutrition, geriatrics and internal medicine; VA employees may be members, but for the most part, members are Special Government Employees.

In January 2014, under the direction of Jeff "Boomer" Moragne, the VA Advisory Committee Management Office (ACMO) was reorganized and expanded to provide administrative oversight and support for all of the VA's advisory committees. The ACMO has since held training sessions, and in September 2014, it updated the management guideline for the first time in 11 years. At the November 2014 meeting of the FPOW Committee in Seattle, Moragne briefed the committee on the Secretary's mandate for a subcommittee charged with providing guidance on several matters within the FPOW committee. The subcommittee, consisting of NamPows Bob Certain and Chair Hal Kushner, and Persian Gulf POW Rhonda Cornum reported back at the Spring 2014 FPOW meeting in Washington with recommendations to include more finite terms, successive term limitations, membership numbers, representation to include having the Director of the Mitchell Center for POW Studies as an ex-officio member, and requiring that a member attend no fewer than 50% of the meetings for reappointment. Among other business to be described below, the report was discussed by the assembled FPOW Committee and forwarded along with the other written recommendations of the meeting to the Secretary for consideration.

The agenda for the April 27-29, 2015 meeting was full, chaired by



## news, cont'd...



NamPow Dr. Tom McNish, and attended by former POWs/FPOW Committee Members: Bob Fletcher (Korean Conflict), Hal Kushner and Bob Certain, Norm Bussel (WWII), Mike Ambrose, Tom Hanton and Paul Galanti (Vietnam), and Rhonda Cornum, accompanied by several spouses and other VA and public observers. The first day included a briefing by Anna Crenshaw, Asst. Dir., Policy, Procedures and Outreach for the Benefits Assistance Service, who noted their focus on backlogs, targeting POW outreach with 400 hours, and a 700,000 total outreach in 2014; a Twitter Town Hall to try to reach families, grandkids and expanded outreach to FPOW themselves, is scheduled for September. Office of General Counsel's Purnima Boominathan provided an unusually palatable ethics briefing, as were others given by Danny Pummill, Principal Deputy under Secretary for Benefits (with his boss Tom Murphy in the audience); Madhulika Agarwal, M.D., Deputy Secretary for Health for Policy and Services, VHA; and by Marion Sherman, M.D., Chief, Mental Health VA Loma Linda, on a proposal she raised to Secretary McDonald at a Town Hall at her location relating to an automatic grants of benefits to FPOWs. The second day included a comprehensive tandem briefing by Stacy Pollock, M.D., Associate Chief Consultant for Mental Health Di-



saster Response and Post Deployment Activities; and learning consultant Dr. Robert Kroft of the Cleveland Center, EES, placing focus on expanding faculty for training programs, appropriate and ongoing certifications, securing funding, changing format including for the scheduled session in Atlanta in August 2015 to include both face to face and electronic-based learning capabilities. This was followed by housekeeping chores; a brief discussion by Alice Booher of the expected activities at the National POW Museum in Andersonville for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War in September. An open telephone forum [adeptly orchestrated by VA's Leslie Williams, who served as an extraordinary resource during the meeting], was held between all FPOW committee members and call-in FPOW Field Coordinators. The Kushner Subcommittee report was discussed in closed session. Additional specific support during the meeting was provided by several VA staffers including a returned Marine

M i k e G i b b s , w h o served in Afghanistan and is now a management analyst in the Office of Policy and Planning. The third day included finalizing the reports. A decision was made to have the October 5-7, 2015 meeting in San Antonio, TX to see, among other things, their extraordinary POW Clinic, part of the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center. Information on the facility and copies of the detailed operational manual established by the Clinic were provided by Dr. McNish and endorsed by others



familiar with the program, citing their highly motivated people including nursing staff, social worker Holly Darling (at the Frank Tejada VA Outpatient Clinic) and Dr. Dean Kellogg; conducting 2 POW evaluations a week and scheduling several months in advance; asking FPOWs to tell their stories; practical help such as a pop-up for FPOWs on the menu bar for medical records; and something mentioned in other contexts, prompt notification of the designated POW Advocate on any POW admission.

All in all, it can be noted that it was a very positive meeting and VA was seen to making some real demonstrated, documented progress in several areas. The Fall 2015 meeting promises to be special, and by then, it is anticipated that the Secretary may have responded to the many proposals submitted by the FPOW group. Two further observations: (1) As Secretary McDonald has noted at his Confirmation hearings on The Hill, and since in public forums, his father-in-law was a WWII POW who participated in the VA system, so he has a special understanding; and (2) Soon after the FPOW meeting in April 2015, a special and unusual meeting was held in Washington of all the VA Advisory Committee Chairs on May 11, 2015, at which time the Secretary made it clear that he expects concerted, positive collaborative help to tell good veteran and VA stories. That should be doable.

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## Blue Water Claims

The Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims has made a landmark ruling that will help many Navy and Coast Guard vets who have been classified as Blue Water Sailors. The case was Gray vs McDonald and was decided on April 24, 2015. This will greatly benefit many Viet Nam Navy veterans effected by Agent Orange. In it they declared that the Harbors of Danang, Cam Ranh Bay, and Vung Tau must now be classified Brown water instead of Blue water. Basically the court said these ports were classified as deep-water but should have been classified as being in the spray area and not by the fact that large vessels could enter them.

The VA must now declare all vessels that entered these harbors as dioxin (AO) exposed and compensate the sailors on them that have presumptive diseases that are recognized as having their genesis in AO exposure.

In regard to service in mouth of rivers, such as minesweepers, the court said that even the VA Secretary declared that there is no definite boundaries of a river mouths, therefore they cannot just make a decision by "flipping a coin" as to what vessels were exposed and which were not. The court further stated that inland water service cannot be limited to the ships that are on their "official" ships list. The emphasis should be on the likelihood of exposure to herbicide and that the fact that a large river's brown water plume can extend far out to sea. It stated that the use of "mouth" and "borders" around

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## San Antonio Veterans Day Parade

Korean War Ex-POW Oscar Cortez was among  
the veterans honored



Mrs. Delia Guajardo, San Antonio  
Veterans Association  
President and Oscar Cortez



Howard Ray, 1st Sgt. Color  
Bearer, Bexar County Buffalo  
Soldier Color Guard



*Photos courtesy of Howard Ray*

## news, cont'd...

Viet Nam may extend well beyond the physical land mass of a river and the VA's current interpretation of the code of Federal Regulations that cover this area are "arbitrary and capricious".

To put the icing on the cake, the court ruled that the VA's reliance on the IOM's (Institute of Medicine) 2011 report on dioxin exposure is unacceptable because the IOM was "to general and inconclusive in nature".

This means that the VA's rating system cannot conclusively contend that that some offshore vessels were NOT contaminated by AO. Finally, the court ordered the VA to redraw its lines and rules as to what are the proper boundaries and "exercise its fair and considered judgment to define inland waterways in a manner consistent with the regulations with emphasis on the probability of exposure". In essence they said the present methods are patently unfair.

This ruling should bode well for sailors and Coast Guardsmen who sailed and flew into areas that should have been considered contaminated long ago. However, for all vets who may have a claim in the works, the regulations are going to have to be promulgated by the VA and they must decide if they wish to honor past claims as they may look at this as new rules that did not apply when the original case was denied. The VA can be very obtuse about how they honor a change of the code of Federal Regulations. They also have a right to appeal this to the U.S. district Court but that is very doubtful.

*Synopsis prepared by: Mike Day, Veteran Service Officer. Catholic War Veterans USA*

## Marine Corps Memorial

The famous bronze U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial overlooking Washington that depicts Marines raising the American flag at Iwo Jima during World War II has begun turning green with age but now will be restored with a \$5.37 million gift. Philanthropist David Rubenstein announced 29 APR that he will give the National Park Foundation the funds needed to wash, wax and restore the memorial and its plaza and landscaping. Improvements are also planned for the memorial's signage and access for handicapped visitors. The project will also restore the memorial's engravings to be much brighter. The 61-year-old memorial honors all who have given their lives in the U.S. Marine Corps. It depicts a famous incident of World War II after a bloody battle when the Americans moved to capture the island of Iwo Jima to help bring the war to an end. This new restoration effort will be the first comprehensive refurbishment of the memorial since President Dwight D. Eisenhower dedicated it in 1954, though it has had routine maintenance over the years, said National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis.

## VA Website

Veterans will soon be able to log in to just one website to manage their benefits, apply for doctors' appointments, and determine their eligibility for programs. Tom Allin, the first chief veterans experience officer at the Veterans Affairs Department, said in an interview with Federal Times the website will go live around May 20, 2015, but will first be open to around 50 veterans to help beta test the navigation, fonts and organization of the new portal. By the end of the year, all veterans will be able to use Veterans.gov to manage more than 350 benefit programs with-

out having to switch websites, call multiple numbers or file large amounts of redundant paperwork. The goal? A single unified digital experience that makes it easier for veterans to get the benefits they deserve, according to Allin.

The Veterans Affairs Department has been pushing to improve customer service under the current VA secretary Bob McDonald. Allin is spearheading many of the customer service issues that veterans deal with every day. "The two biggest initiatives that I am focused on right now is to try to make everything we do more consistent and number two, make it easier," Allin said. Once veterans register, the website will automatically know their eligibility levels for different programs and will tailor their experience using that information, according to Allin. The website will also notify the veteran of various programs they are eligible for but are not using. "The goal will be that veterans will eventually be able to get everything taken care of online with a single sign on. They will be able to add a dependent, change their address, schedule an appointment or check on their claim status and get everything done online in a seamless way versus what they are doing today across multiple websites"

While the website will begin as a "wireframe" the VA will add new functions to it monthly, until they have a working model that serves veterans in an easy-to-understand and streamlined way, Allin said. The VA is integrating more than 200 different databases across the agency in order to gather information related to military service, contract information, demographics and how they are currently using VA services in order to make sure the

## news, cont'd...

agency at every level has the information they need to provide good customer service, Allin said. The VA is also working on consolidating what Allin said were more than 1,000 hotlines available to veterans across the agency. Instead, veterans will just call one phone number, and the person answering will have access to all the information they need to help. If a veteran requires special assistance, they will simply be transferred to someone who can help them, instead of requiring veterans to call a different number, Allin said. "My goal is that we have some visible changes in the next three months. And I am sure that some of the initiatives that we have will have a significant impact on the veterans," Allin said.

## Camp Lejeune

From the 1950s through the 1980s, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene and other chemicals. This chemical exposure may have led to health conditions. These 15 health conditions qualify regarding the contaminates: esophageal cancer, breast cancer, kidney cancer, multiple myeloma, renal toxicity, female infertility, scleroderma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, lung cancer, bladder cancer, leukemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, hepatic steatosis, miscarriage or neurobehavioral effects. You may be eligible for VA health benefits if you served on active duty or resided (family members) at Camp Lejeune for 30 days

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or more between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987.

## 2016 VA Budget

Senate appropriators approved plans for nearly a 3 percent increase in the Veterans Affairs Department's budget next year, slightly above what House lawmakers approved earlier this month and slightly below what White House officials had asked for. The move all but guarantees the department will see yet another money boost next year, despite tightening budget and spending caps on most other federal agencies. Since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, VA's budget has risen by almost \$100 billion, nearly triple the department's total spending in the late 1990s. But the Senate plan also sets up a potentially contentious summer conference fight over next year's VA budget. Hill conservatives want to curb some of that growth and have pushed for reductions in VA construction funding until high-profile problems with the program are resolved. VA officials insist the White House's full budget request is critical to keep outreach and reform efforts on track. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved a total VA budget of \$163.7 billion for fiscal 2016 operations, about \$500 million above the House plan and \$850 million below the Obama administration's request. The differences in the plans all come in discretionary spending, which totals \$69.2 billion in the Senate version. The House plan would trim hundreds of millions in requested spending from major and minor construction accounts, while the Senate's would trim about \$100 million in requests for nonrecurring maintenance at medical facilities. Both plans call for \$255 million less than the White House wants for Veterans Health Administration budget accounts, cuts that VA

leaders have decried as potentially taking away medical care from tens of thousands of veterans.

## VAVS "Summer of Service"

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced a new nationwide initiative designed to build upon its existing partnerships to grow the number of individuals and organizations serving Veterans in their communities. The Department is renewing its commitment to Veterans and embarking upon a "Summer of Service" that seeks the help of citizens across the country to honor that commitment.

"We have made progress over the past year addressing the challenges we face in delivering care and benefits to millions of Veterans and their families," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "While there is more work to do to honor our sacred commitment to Veterans, we also recognize that VA cannot do it alone. We are asking Americans everywhere to join the Summer of Service and help us give back to those who have given so much to our nation."

In the coming weeks, VA will be working closely with Congressional partners, Veterans Service Organizations, Mayors and local communities, private sector and non-profit organizations, and VA employees to identify new and innovative ways to support VA's commitment to care for those who "have borne the battle" and their families. As part of VA's Summer of Service, the Department has committed to holding an open house in VA facilities the week of 28 JUN to spur increased local engagement and welcome members of the community interested in supporting the needs of Veterans.

# USAF 50th Anniversary Wreath-Laying Ceremony Arlington, Virginia

Dr. James & Diane Tuorila  
1570 13th Ave SE  
St. Cloud, MN 56304

General Mark a Welsh III, Chief of Staff of the USAF presided over the ceremony which honored Major Hayden J. Lockhart the first USAF pilot shot down and captured during the Vietnam War on 3-2-1965 and other later POWs and those still MIA. In attendance were family members and several former VN POWs including Everett Alvarez and Leon Ellis. The ceremony included a flyover by a B-52 bomber and presentation of a wreath. It was an emotional time remembering and honoring the brave Airmen who sacrificed so much in service to their country.



## POW DIARIES ARE VERY IMPORTANT

Patrick Hinchy  
Milspec Tours  
[patrickh1913@zoho.com](mailto:patrickh1913@zoho.com)

POW war diaries are of great historical worth especially to someone professionally concerned with World War II history, as I am. Usually written on scrap paper or cigarette packs, they tell us only what was essential, important and real to the POW at that moment. He had no time, energy or space to write anything else. So what we get is the simple, sparse, unvarnished truth as he saw it.

There are valuable historical clues and insights in POW diaries. To give you a brief example from the EX-POW BULLETIN May/June 2015 (pages 20-22), I am pleased to be able to provide extra information to Rick Staino who transcribed his father Carmen Staino's Dec '44/May '45 diary. Rick does not give his father's unit, but since he was captured near Schoenberg (by St Vith) on December 19 1944, he was undoubtedly in 422nd or 423rd Regt, 106th ID.

He then had to walk 30 miles east to Gerolstein (not Galistein), the main German railhead for collecting Bulge POWs to

take them via Koblenz to Stalag XII-A, a huge transit camp at Diez 30 miles east of Koblenz, for allocation to other Stalags. But because Koblenz was an important Rhine-Mosel rail junction for German Bulge troops and supplies and therefore heavily bombed, he had to walk a further 20 miles NE of Koblenz to Wirges (not Wedges) on a small presumably unbombed branch line of the Frankfurt-Cologne main line. He was then transported about 200 miles by rail up to Stalag IV-B near Versen in North Germany close to the Dutch border. The majority of POWs there would have been Limey (British) POWs from Montgomery's 21st Army Group, many of whom just like their officers resented and disliked the Americans, as Carmen Staino unfortunately experienced.

However my article here concerns the strong wish of Bob Thompson (Company A, 1st Battalion, 23rd Regiment, 2nd "Indianhead" Infantry Division) to retrace his POW experience. Born 1924 in Philadelphia, Bob shipped to Normandy in mid-June 1944. The "Indianheads" fought the Germans in the Normandy hedgerows, Brittany, across France and in the Belgian Ardennes during the massive Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's final December 1944 counter-offensive and the greatest ever American land battle. Bob fought right

through the Bulge but was captured and became a POW during following the 1945 campaign in the Rhineland. Luckily for us, he has turned his World War II scrapbook and POW diaries into a fascinating, historically valuable little book.

Bob's POW diaries include an interesting account of how the advance of General Patton's Third Army eastwards in April 1945 forced the evacuation of Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg where Bob was a POW. He and the other POWs then had to "hike" (Bob's word) 100 miles on foot to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg, a huge POW camp and reputedly the largest, about 35 miles NE of Munich. This "hike" took two weeks. Next year Bob very much wants to retrace the route of his "hike", and that is how I became involved.

I first met Bob and his family during the VBOB (Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge Association) 70th Anniversary Tour to Belgium and Luxembourg in December 2014. VBOB President Doug Dillard asked me as an experienced veterans tour guide to plan and guide the tour, and veterans tour specialists Milspec Tours to operate it with the Belgian Army and Luxembourg Government. The appreciation, support and cooperation of the Belgians and Luxembourgers were exceptional. Bob and his fellow US

veterans were greeted by the Belgian King and Queen, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, the US Ambassadors to Belgium and Luxembourg, their Prime Ministers, NATO Commander of Land Forces and many other dignitaries.

Bob subsequently asked MilSpec Tours whether it would be possible for him, his family, friends and other interested ex POWs to retrace the great April 1945 POW "hike" from Stalag XIII-D in Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A in Moosburg. MilSpec Tours then asked me. By good fortune while on a recent trip to Munich, I had just enough spare time for a fascinating reconnaissance of Bob's POW "hike" route. Among many other interesting things, I found out that Stalag XIII-D was originally accommodation for the thousands of Nazi stormtroopers who paraded in the pre-war Nuremberg rallies.

And I met a former mayor of Moosburg who was a young boy in Moosburg in the war and now a fantastic source of expert information not only on Stalag VII-A but also about the Stalag POW camp system (about which I can write further in the EX-POW BULLETIN, if requested.) We became very friendly (I speak fluent German) and he kindly promised me all the help, support and information that I needed.

So based on my recon trip, I have now created

## Diaries, cont'd...

a seven day tour for Bob, his family and friends and whoever else wants to come (exact dates in 2016 to be confirmed). You can see Bob's sketch map of the April 1945 "hike" in the MilSpec Tour's preliminary tour announcement elsewhere in this magazine. If interested, ask MilSpec Tours to send you full details of the tour when ready. Here is my short outline of the tour itinerary with numbered days.

1: ARR MUNICH AIRPORT. WeNUREMBERG. Full Nuremberg sightseeing including War Crimes Trials Courthouse and Nazi Rally stadium ruins. 3: NUREMBERG / BEILNGRIES - From the site of Stalag

XIII-D POW camp, we follow Bob's exact April 1945 POW "hike" route through the beautiful Bavarian countryside to picturesque Beilngries. 4: BEILNGRIES / MOOSBURG - Continuing Bob's POW "hike" route, we cross the Danube and arrive at Stalag VII-A in Moosburg near Munich. Third Army liberated it while Bob was there, and General Patton visited it. Today Moosburg will welcome us with great celebrations, commemorations and friendship. Full sightseeing of the former POW camp, cemetery and memorials. 5: S A L Z B U R G , BERCHTESGADEN AND THE EAGLE'S NEST. Historic full day trip into the Alps. 6: MUNICH. Full city sightseeing including Dachau. Farewell Dinner. 7: DEPT MUNICH AIRPORT.

## Retrace Historic POW March

From Stalag XIII-D Nuremberg to Stalag VII-A Moosburg and also see Munich, Dachau, Salzburg, Berchtesgaden and the Eagle's Nest

April 2016

For Veterans, Family, Friends,

Historians and History Enthusiasts.

A rare opportunity to follow in the 70+ year old footsteps of POWs marched from Stalag XIII-D to Stalag VII-A. A seven day adventure rich in history, beauty and hospitality unimagined in 1945. Inspired by Robert L. Thompson and his book, well-known Tour Manager Patrick Hinchey will guide this tour along the same route followed by POWs in 1945. This time we ride in a comfortable motorcoach, stay at fine hotels, enjoy excellent cuisine and the hospitality of former enemies turned allies. The **2016 POW March Commemorative Tour** brochure is available on request by mail or phone or download it from our website.



**MilSpec Tours**

Post Office Box 340 • Flourtown, PA 19031  
215-248-2572 • Email [MilSpecTours@aol.com](mailto:MilSpecTours@aol.com)  
Web: [www.gomilspec.com](http://www.gomilspec.com)



## May Freedom Embrace

Within the shadows and beyond the wire  
 Hope is caged from view,  
 Bruised and battered, fed with fear  
 Freedom longs for these few.  
 While upon the tower and filled with hate  
 A guard creates the pain,  
 A soldier's prayer of family and home  
 Are the thoughts that keep him sane?  
 Days to weeks, and weeks to years  
 Locked into this cage,  
 His soul succumbs to loneliness  
 His heart fills with rage.  
 A growing hope and guiding light  
 Awaits the MIA,

The Prisoner of War will lead the fight  
 And will bring them all home some day.  
 We will not leave our Brothers in Arms  
 In lands that are distant and rotten,  
 May Freedom embrace the ones we love  
 YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

James A. Locke

James was in the AF and now is a flight nurse  
 in civilian life.

His Dad was in Viet Nam.

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# contributions



## GENERAL FUND

Blaine & LaVerne Briggs, Carlsbad CA  
 In memory of Albert Wertman, by Gwendolyn Benton  
 In memory of Betty Wells, by PNC Maurice & Bonnie Sharp  
 In memory of Bill Tiller, by Linda Tiller  
 In memory of Clarence I Benton, by Gwendolyn Benton  
 In memory of David Farquhar, Jr, by the Farquhar Family  
 In memory of Fred Hicks, by John Pederson  
 In memory of Frederic Hicks, by Clayton Nattier

In memory of George Sheldon Anding, by Willie Anding  
 In memory of Glenferd Fink, by Clayton Nattier  
 In memory of Gloria Noble, by Robert Noble  
 In memory of James & Helena Rockafellow, by family  
 In memory of Joseph Glydon, by Robert Wiegors  
 In memory of Laura McIntyre, by Loraine Kotelnicki  
 In memory of Laura McIntyre, by Salem Five  
 In memory of Lola Hollen, by M/ M Ferdinand Gregorie III  
 In memory of Mary Rolan, by Helen Powell and Family  
 In memory of my wife, Dona, by Vern Schmidt  
 In memory of Patricia Chittick Remley, by Mary Chittick Gardner  
 In memory of Patricia Remley, by Lorrie Urmanita  
 In memory of Phillip W Carroll, by Carroll Family Trust  
 In memory of Robert Christian Franklin, by William Elkins & Family

In memory of Walter Greve, by Clayton Nattier

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

In memory of PNC Orlo Natvig, by Connie Natvig Minnes  
 Adeline Robinson, Lawton IA  
 Donald Staight, Pacifica CA  
 Elaine Larkin, Swampscott MA  
 Eleanor Church, Westfield PA  
 George Korb, Kingsville MD  
 Jane O'Brien, E Greenbush NY  
 Maurice J A Markworth, Palmyra PA  
 Phyllis Monteleone, Holt MO  
 Robert Vogler, San Diego CA  
 Selma Carlson, Bismarck ND

## 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.

Thank you!

## See what you missed!

If you weren't at National Convention this year, you missed out on the opportunity to buy a raffle ticket for this great blanket! POW/Veteran Memorials are highlighted in full color.

Sally Morgan shows off her great idea.



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# new members

National Headquarters  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010  
(817) 649-2979



Edward I Carroll  
Mesa AZ  
Son of Phillip W Carroll, ETO

Paul R Darrow  
Colorado Springs CO  
Brother of Kenneth Darrow, Korea

Allan Berg  
Brooksville FL  
Son of Harold J Berg, ETO  
Robert H Navarette  
N Plains OR  
Army  
Stalag 12A 3/2/45 to 3/27/45

## New Members "Welcome Home"

John M Peluso  
Easton PA  
Son of John Peluso, ETO

Randall D Smith  
Nicola A  
Midlothian TX  
NOK to Hobart L Smith, died on  
sinking  
of Arisan Maru

JoAnn Roslansky-Rockwell  
Mount Pleasant WI  
Daughter of Marvin Roslansky, PAC



# Certificate of Captivity

**Prisoner of War  
Certificate of Captivity**

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

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Arlington, Texas

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

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# taps



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

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**BENTON, Clarence "Charley"**, of Grafton, OH, died April 16, 2015. Charley served with the 16<sup>th</sup> Inf, Co A of the Big Red one 1941-1945. He was held in Tunisia. An AXPOW life member, he was a member of the Barbed Wire Buckeye Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Gwendolyn, two sons and a daughter.

**BROE, Marie**, 87 of Richford, VT, passed away April 7, 2015. She was a lifelong resident of Richford and was a life member of Vermont Chapter #1, AXPOW. She was the widow of Charles H. Broe who served in the Army's 28<sup>th</sup> Division at the Battle of the Bulge where he was captured and sent to Stalag IX B Bad Orb. She is survived by children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**BUSH, William S.**, 95, of Plano, TX died April 29, 2015. He served with the 467<sup>th</sup> BG, 789<sup>th</sup> BS, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was shot down over Germany and held in Luft III, Stalag 13D and 7A. He was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy; survivors include 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**CRAM, Bruce**, 93 of South Burlington, VT, passed away on April 1, 2015. He was a member of Vermont Chapter #1, AXPOW. He spent 20 months in captivity in North Korea after his P-51 fighter plane, on its' 54<sup>th</sup> combat mission, was shot down and he was taken prisoner. He had previously flown 65 missions in a P-47 fighter plane over Germany at the close of World War II providing close ground support for the Allied troops. He leaves three

sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**DAHL, Eldon "Swede"**, of Minneapolis, MN died Jan. 9, 2015. He was 92. Eldon fought in the ETO during WWII; he was captured and held until liberation. Surviving family include 1 son, 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren.

**DeGRAVE, Clarence Anthony**, 97, of Haverhill, MA passed away April 15, 2015. Serving in the Army during WWII, he took part in battles in Italy and France; he was captured in Leon and held until liberation. Both Clarence and his wife of 69 years, Alice, were very active in AXPOW. In addition to his wife, he is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

**DeMONT, Lawrence Jackson**, of Howell Township, NJ died Jan. 19, 2015 at the age of 93. Larry was captured during "Operation Market Garden" while serving with the 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Reg., 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div. He was held until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Dolores and one son.

**DILLARD, George "Toby"** passed away March 27, 2015. He was 92 years old & a member of Fresno Chapter #1 for many years. He was a Gunner on a B-17 Bomber in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF; he was shot down on Dec. 12, 1942 and held in Stalag 8-B in Northern Poland. He was released after 2 1/2 years of captivity. Toby always had a big smile & was a very optimistic person. We shall miss him.

**DYER, Robert Monroe**, 85, of Sanger CA, passed away on May

10, 2015. Robert was a Korean War veteran, Co. L, 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. He was captured on Feb. 12, 1951 & released on Sept. 21, 1952. Robert was a member of the Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW.

**ELIAS, Paul**, 90, of Avondale, AZ passed on March 14, 2015. He was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Sun City, AZ. Paul was in the Army European Theater Operations, 2nd Battalion. He was captured and held until liberation.

**FARNSWORTH, Barbara**, 89, of Chester, VT, died on March 27, 2015. She was the widow of Kenneth Farnsworth who predeceased her in 2003. They both enjoyed the activities and lifetime memberships with Vermont Chapter #1, AXPOW. In her earlier life she was a cartographer with the National Survey in Chester, VT. She leaves two siblings, four children, several grand-children and great grand-children, nieces, nephews and cousins.

**FRANKS, Clarence J.**, of Colorado Springs, CO died April 21, 2015 at the age of 96. He served with the 600<sup>th</sup> BS, 398<sup>th</sup> BG flying out of England. After being shot down, he was captured and held in Stalag Luft III, then marched to Moosburg where he was liberated. Clarence leaves 2 children, 6 grandchildren and many great-and great-great-grandchildren.

**FREDERICKSON, Robert A.** of Greensboro, NC and life member of AXPOW since 1981, passed away March 13, 2015. During WWII, Bob served in the Army's 6811th Signal Security Detachment ETOUSA. Bob is survived by his wife Jane who was a civilian

## taps cont'd...

POW in Cebu and Manila, Philippines, and by his daughter, son and four grandchildren.

**FRUMKIN, Albert**, of Silver Spring, MD, died May 3, 2015. He served in Battery C, 590<sup>th</sup> FABN, and was held in Stalags 7A and 4B. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Helen.

**GORMAN, Jay**, of Lexington, KY, 98, died Dec. 21, 2014. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII; he was held until liberated by Patton's Army. He was a life member of AXPOW. Survivors include 1 daughter, 2 step-daughters, 1 grandson, 10 great-grandchildren and a loving extended family.

**HEIDEMAN, George E.**, of Chippewa Falls, WI passed away April 25, 2015. He served with the 93<sup>rd</sup> Signal Bn., Co A. George was a life member of AXPOW. His wife Augusta survives him.

**HERR, Bennie**, of Columbia City, IN died Dec. 6, 2014. He was 97. He proudly served in the US Army during WWII; after being injured and sent to the first aid station, he was captured and held until V-E Day. Bennie was a life member of AXPOW and the Old Fort Chapter. He leaves 2 daughters, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, 1 sister and a large extended family.

**HILDEBRAND, Catherine "Kay"** of Orangevale, CA, passed away April 15, 2015 just shy of her 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. Kay, a life member of AXPOW and a member of the AXPOW 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, is survived by her husband of 67 years, ex-POW and Bataan Death March survivor, James M. Hildebrand. In addition to her husband, she leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 8 grand-

children and 8 great-grandchildren.

**HICKS, Frederic A.**, of Denver, CO died May 13, 2015. He was 92. During WWII, he served in the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 483<sup>rd</sup> BG, 817<sup>th</sup> BS; after capture, he was held in Luft 1, Barth. Frederic was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Faye, 1 daughter, 3 sons, 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**HITE, Robert L.**, of Nashville, TN died March 29, 2015. He was captured on the famous Doolittle Raid over Tokyo when his plane, "Bat out of Hell" was forced down over China and he and his crew bailed out. He spent 3 ½ years in POW camps in China. Survivors include 2 children, 1 brother, 1 sister, 5 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. There are now only two survivors from the Doolittle Raid.

**HOUSTON, Harvey R.**, member of the Rocky Mt. Chapter, AXPOW, died May 20, 2015. He served with the 450<sup>th</sup> BG, 722<sup>nd</sup> BS, flying B-24s out of England. After capture, he was sent to Stalag 17B where he was held until liberated by Patton's Army. Harvey leaves his loving wife of 67 years, Jean, 3 children and many grand-and great-grandchildren. He will be missed by all who knew him.

**JACKSON, Leslie H. "Les"** of Washington, DC, formerly Bethesda, MD, passed away May 4, 2015. During WWII, he served in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 384<sup>th</sup> BG. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag 17B. He spent time as Executive Director of the Washington Office helping veterans get the benefits they were due. Les was predeceased by his beloved wife June; survivors include 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 7 great-granddaughters.

**JOHNSON, Donald Oscar**, 90, of Minnetonka, MN died Oct. 22, 2014. He was captured when his gun position outside Hatten, France was overrun. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Betty, 1 son, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters. His ebullient personality and deep love for the people in his life have been a blessing for all who knew him.

**KERNS, Joseph P.**, of Tucson AZ, died December 19, 2014. Joe served in the Army Air Corps, and was held in Siberia Petro Pavlovsk, Okha Khabarousk, from 9/12/43 to 2/14/44. He was a member of the Southern Arizona Chapter. Survivors include one son.

**LEONARD, Edward W.**, 76, of Ilwaco, WA passed away Nov. 11, 2014. During a search and rescue mission in Laos, he was shot down on Memorial Day 1978. He was captured after three days of evasion and held in various POW camps until he was released. Edward leaves his loving wife, Suzanne, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 nieces and many wonderful cousins.

**MACIK, Andrew**, 92, of Tierra Verde, FL, died March 5, 2015. He was in the ETO, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and was held in Stalag VIIA. Andy is survived by his wife of 44 years, Carol, 2 children and 1 sister. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW, where he served as JVC. He will be missed.

**McINTYRE, Laura Mae**, 90, of Hardwick, MA, died April 26, 2015, nearly four years to the day after her beloved husband of 44 years, Philip D. McIntyre. Phil served courageously in World War II, spending eight months as a Ger-

## taps cont'd...

man prisoner of war. Phil's experience in the war defined much of the couple's life together. Heavily involved in the American Ex-Prisoners of War, they traveled across the country for meetings, with Laura serving as National Director for the Northeast Region, commander of the Western Massachusetts chapter, State Dept. Commander and Adjutant on more than one occasion. Laura was a dedicated volunteer with the Northampton VA, where she and Phil ran a weekly bingo night for the blind for years. The VA in 2011 recognized her for volunteering 3,210 hours of her time over 30 years. Laura and Phil displayed their abundant patriotism on not only the flagpost outside their home, but the jackets, hats and bumper stickers they affixed to their various appendages and vehicles. When it became time for Laura to begrudgingly acquire a cane, it surprised no one that she had it covered with stars and stripes. Laura is survived by two sons, two stepsons, one stepdaughter and their families who will miss her very much.

**McKITTRICK, Robert R.**, member of the Rocky Mt. Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 14, 2015. He was captured while serving with Co G., 385<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg., 85<sup>th</sup> Div., 7<sup>th</sup> Army in Italy. Survivors include one sister and a large, loving extended family.

**MEAD, Robert W.**, 90, of Friend, NE died Jan. 17, 2015. He served in the Army during WWII; he was captured and held in 6A until the end of the war in Europe. Robert was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Lincoln NE Chapter where he served as commander several times. He is survived by his wife of almost 65

years, Darlene, 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**MURPHY, Robert L.**, of Clarksburg, WV passed away March 24, 2015. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF; he was held in Stalag 17B until liberation. Bob was a life member of AXPOW and a charter member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter. Surviving are 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 5 great-great-grandchildren and his special lady friend, Martha Vita.

**PEPER, Elizabeth Rose**, 94, of Randolph VT, died February 11, 2015. She was the widow of Arthur Peper and they both enjoyed their lifetime memberships with Vermont Chapter #1, AXPOW, contributing in many ways over the years. Her early career was in nursing. She leaves one daughter and one son.

**REDDING, DON C.**, 91, of Independence, MO, passed away March 20, 2015. He entered the United States Army Air Corps in January 1943. In WWII, Don served as Flight Engineer and Waist Gunner on a B-24 out of the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force. On his 17<sup>th</sup> mission, he was shot down over Vienna, Austria. He was captured and detained as a Prisoner of War for five months. After the war, Don returned and married Patricia Anne Crenshaw on May 23, 1948. They had one daughter, Jana. Patricia passed away 2 months short of 59 years of marriage. He was a member of the Heart of America Chapter AXPOW. He greatly enjoyed the Heartland Honor Flight to Washington DC with Jana. Don had a great sense of humor and loved to laugh.

**REMLEY, (Chittick), Patricia M.**, 90, of Citrus Heights, CA, passed away on April 19, 2015. Born in 1924 in Manila, Philippines Pat spent 37 months as a civilian

prisoner of the Japanese in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, Manila, during WW II. After the war, and coming to the United States in 1945, she served an 18 month enlistment in the U.S. Navy. She was a life member of AXPOW and a charter member of the 49ers Chapter, AXPOW, Sacramento and served in officer positions in the chapter over the years. She is survived by one daughter, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one sister. Pat's enduring legacy remains with her family and those who knew her.

**REYNOLDS, Roy**, of Dallas, Texas, died April 10, 2015. Roy was with the 465<sup>th</sup> BG 780<sup>th</sup> BS and was held in Stalag Luft 4. He is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Gloria. He was a member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter.

**ROCKAFELLOW, James Arthur and ROCKAFELLOW, Helena Maxine** of Lansing, MI passed away March 17, 2015 (James) and Dec. 7, 2014 (Helena). James served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 305<sup>th</sup> BG, 365<sup>th</sup> BS. After being shot down, he was captured and held in Luft IV, then marched across Germany to Moosburg. Both James and Helena were life members of AXPOW. They leave 3 sisters, 2 brothers and a loving family.

**RUZICKA, John J.** of Springfield, MO died May 8, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Mary Frances, one son, and four daughters, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Daughter Cynthia is Commander of the Greater Ozarks Chapter. He was drafted into the Army on January 16, 1943. On the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the D-Day Invasion he was seriously wounded. After recuperating, he was sent back to Belgium to regroup with his outfit. He was captured by the SS Troops in the Belgium Bulge and was held captive for 92 days. He was liberated on April 2, 1945 by American troops. The Mayor of Springfield

# taps cont'd...

declared September 20, 2012, John Ruzicka Day.

**SHOGREN, Rodney C.** of Lindstrom, MN died April 12, 2015 at the age of 93. Rodney was a veteran of WW II and an Ex POW; serving in the Army-Air Corps. He was shot down on his 16<sup>th</sup> mission and survived 14 months in German captivity. His war experience & captivity made him appreciate life and was formative of his determination to help others. When he returned home he married Eleanor, who predeceased him. Survivors include 2 sons, 4 daughters, 16 grandchildren, 17 ½ great-grandchildren and 1 brother and their families.

**TOVAR, Alex E.**, of San Antonio, TX passed away April 22, 2015. He

was 97. During WWII, he served with the 200<sup>th</sup> CA, C Btry on Bataan. He was captured on Corregidor in May, 1942 and he spent the next 3 ½ years in Japanese POW camps, including Cabanatuan and Mukden, Manchuria. Alex was a life member of AXPOW and member of the San Antonio Chapter. He leaves 1 daughter, 4 sons, 2 sisters, 12 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

**WALLER, Richard**, of Garland, TX, died in May, 2015. An AXPOW life member since 1980, he was a member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter. He served in 47 Reg Med Det and was held in Stalags 7A, 2B, and 3B.

**WIEDERRICH, Grace "Eloise"**, of Gresham, OR died March 2, 2015.

She was the widow of ex-POW Ed, captured in France during WWII. Eloise was a member of the Columbia River Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves one son and one daughter.

**WILLIAMS, Otis L., 90**, of Louisville, passed away Jan. 5, 2015. He was a WWII Army Air Corps veteran and POW. He is preceded in death by his wife, Lorene. Survivors include 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

**WILLNER, Stanley**, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL died March 31, 2015 at the age of 94. He was captured while serving with the Navy in the Pacific; he was held for 3 ½ years until the Japanese surrender. Stanley was the beloved husband of Carol; he is missed by his family and friends.

# chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

We all are members of at least one group and sometimes several groups. In these gatherings I hear more and more often concerns that we, as a nation have left God behind. These comments are met with varying responses from "that's absurd" to "yeah, you're right" to (believe it or not) "religion has no place in public".

Why is there such a vast array of answers? One can only guess and my guess is that many of our National leaders, citizens, and

judges tend to forget God, and certainly do not seem to live by Godly standards. A strange situation since our country was founded on religious standards and many of our national monuments in Washington, D. C. have easily readable scripture engravings.

Yes, life is, to say the least, troubling: we have terrorist crimes, disease, storms, wars, road rage and violence at all levels of life, as well as books, videos and even e-mail jokes that show a lack of respect for God and a very immoral standard for living our lives. I have noted that some movies seem to glorify or uphold the criminal rather than the law abiding.

This is sad and tragic. Ask any Ex-POW and you will learn that they knew they were "good people" and that God is (to coin a word) "trustable". He can be trusted to go with us through all of the problems of life. This means in private as well as in public. There-

fore it logically follows that people who trust God know that religion has a place in public. To leave God at home is to be a hypocrite. But yet, many people think God has no place in government nor in public.

I cannot, nor, do I wish to force you into trusting God so I leave you to form and hold your own opinions after you read these two verses of Scripture: Psalms 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." and Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

My prayer is that you will trust God for all of life and beyond. Amen.



*Benny*



## AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

Please circle one category:

Individual

Chapter

State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Please make checks payable to  
American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding  
Mail contributions to:  
National Headquarters  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010



**The National 4th (IVY) Division Association**

Formed at Camp Greene, NC, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units. The 96th Annual Reunion will be September 9-14, 2014, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Check our website at [www.4thinfantry.org](http://www.4thinfantry.org) for membership and reunion information.

**"Steadfast and Loyal"**

# 50/50 drawing

June 28, 2014 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place JEANNE BREESE, AZ \$202.20
- 2nd Place MARIE CARLSSON, TX \$151.65  
*donated back to organization*
- 3rd Place MARIE CARLSSON, TX \$101.10  
*donated back to organization*
- 4th Place ELLEN BLOCKER, MS \$50.55

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

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

## request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Mail to:**  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5936  
(817) 649-2979 voice  
(817)649-0109 fax  
e-mail:HQ@axpow.org



## The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active  
since 1946

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

**The CUB Magazine is published three times per year. Published since 1946.  
Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman  
121 McGregor Ave.  
Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856  
973-663-2410  
E-mail: jsc164@aol.com

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July/Aug 2015

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

PLEASE PRINT  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.  
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

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

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.  
Thank you for your support. (6/16)

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

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**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**July/Aug 2015**  
**40**

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

PLEASE PRINT  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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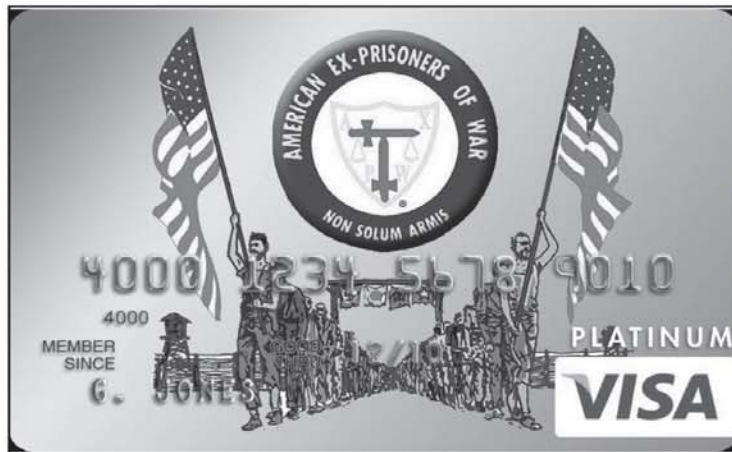
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Thank you for your support. (6/16)



**Every credit card sends you a statement.  
This card lets you make one.**

## **American Ex-Prisoners of War Custom Visa® Platinum Rewards Card.**



- No annual fee.
- \$50 donation by the bank when you first use the card.\*
- Ongoing contributions made when you continue using your card.
- Low Introductory APR on purchases and no balance transfer fees for 6 months.†
- Enhanced Visa Platinum benefits, including 24/7 Emergency Customer Service, 100% Fraud Protection, Auto Rental and Travel Accident Insurance and much more.
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**Apply today at:**

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The AXPOW Visa card program is operated by UMB Bank, N.A. All applications for AXPOW Visa credit card accounts will be subject to UMB Bank N.A.'s approval, at its absolute discretion. Please visit [www.cardpartner.com](http://www.cardpartner.com) for further details of terms and conditions which apply to the AXPOW Visa card program. \* Donation made when card is used once within 90 days of issuance. † After this period a low variable APR will apply.

**CardPartner.com** Powered by CardPartner. The #1 provider of custom affinity credit card programs.  
From UMB

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July/Aug 2015

**AXPOW Gravesite Medallion**



The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer. Hardware for mounting is included. Weight - approximately 1.25 lb.

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

**\$75.00**

**plus \$15.00 S/H/I  
Shipping costs on two or more is \$20.00.**

**AXPOW Vest Order Form**

**(For members only)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**Price: \$55.00, includes S/H**

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

**AXPOW Challenge Coin**



great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization  
AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

**\$10.00**ea

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Official AXPOW Cap (specify size) | 40.00 |
| Vinyl Cap Bag                     | 3.00  |
| Necktie w/logo (regular only)     | 30.00 |
| U.S. Flag Bolo Tie                | 20.00 |
| Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie           | 30.00 |
| Brooch pin                        | 5.00  |
| EX-POW pin (goldtone)             | 5.00  |
| Logo pin                          | 5.00  |
| POW Stamp pin                     | 3.00  |
| Past Chapter Commander pin        | 5.00  |
| Past Department Commander pin     | 5.00  |
| Magnetic Ribbons                  | 5.00  |
| Challenge Coins                   | 10.00 |
| Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire (silver)  | 8.00  |
| Vest Chainguard                   | 8.00  |
| 4" Blazer Patch                   | 4.00  |
| 2" Medallion (for plaque)         | 6.00  |
| Canvas Totebag w/4" logo          | 15.00 |
| AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)       | 6.00  |
| Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)  | 6.00  |
| AXPOW By-Laws                     | 5.00  |

**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 S/H)

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

**We accept Master Card/Visa**

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| 12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag   | 10.00 |
| Aluminum License Plate       | 5.00  |
| 3" Vinyl Decal               | 1.00  |
| 3" Inside Decal              | 1.00  |
| 8" Vinyl Decal               | 6.00  |
| 12" Vinyl Decal              | 10.00 |
| AXPOW Prayer Book            | 2.00  |
| Ladies Prayer Book           | 1.00  |
| POW DVD - ETO or Pacific     | 11.00 |
| "Speak Out" Education Packet | 6.00  |

**CLOTHSTRIPES** (specify which title) 3.00

Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas · Chapter Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer  
Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander  
Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · Sr. Vice Commander · Jr. Vice Commander  
Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer

| QUANTITY | ITEM | SIZE / COLOR | PRICE |
|----------|------|--------------|-------|
|          |      |              |       |
|          |      |              |       |
|          |      |              |       |
|          |      |              |       |

For orders up to 4.00, add \$3.00; For orders 4.01 to 7.99, add \$4.00; For orders 8.00 to 25.00, add \$8.00, For orders 25.01 to 49.99, add \$13.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$15.00  
For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

**Shipping/Handling/Insurance:**

**Total: \$**

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

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

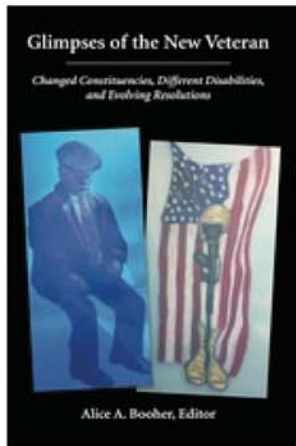
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR ALL ORDERS, MAIL TO:  
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396  
817-649-2979  
axpow76010@yahoo.com**



## **Glimpses of the New Veteran: Changed Constituencies, Different Disabilities, and Evolving Resolutions**, Edited by: Alice A.

Booher 2015 • \$33.00 • 278 pp • paper • ISBN: 978-1-61163-708-3 • LCCN 2014044846. Carolina Academic Press (CAP). Available at amazon.com and online at the CAP website: [www.cap-press.com/books/isbn9781611637083/Glimpses-of-the-New-Veteran](http://www.cap-press.com/books/isbn9781611637083/Glimpses-of-the-New-Veteran).

*Glimpses of the New Veteran* addresses three premises: (1) the veteran constituency has changed with use of an all-volunteer force, Guard, Reserves, women, aging veterans, etc.; (2) veterans' disabilities and treatments for disease and injuries have changed; and, (3) while traditional veterans-oriented programs may be strained, for whatever reasons, all of us in the community, in and out of government, whether veterans, service officers, caregivers, family, lawyers, physicians, social workers, etc., can uniquely and substantively assist in resolving these shared concerns. The book's intent is not to criticize time-honored resources, and it does not try to be either a handbook or manual, but, rather, it provides increased understanding and food for thought. The authors, all experts in veteran's law and/or medicine, policymakers, judges, lawyers, physicians, soldiers ranging from generals to enlisted personnel, Reserves, National Guard, and wounded warriors, explore these changes from their own wide spectrum of experiences; and they present viable alternatives for the twenty-first century, from official benefits processes at state and national levels and employment, training opportunities, and veterans treatment courts to blue-ribbon examples of efforts from nonprofits and corporations and pro bono work from law firms, that are now operational and effective and may be increasingly viable and adaptable for the future.

Contributing authors include: Judie Armington, Lee Becker, Alice Booher, David Coker, Rhonda Cornum, Kory Cornum, Paul Galanti, William Gunnar, Carolyn Haug, Terry Howell, Marti Nell Hyland, Anthony Mainelli, Lory Manning, Lawrence Miller, James Ridgway, Ron Smith, Roy Spicer, James Terry, Irene Trowell-Harris, James Weiskopf, Richard Williams and Aragorn Thor Wold.

### Reviews:

"(The editor) has compiled a formidable array of essays in this compendium, covering issues ranging from political/cultural shifts[...], to the advent of new disabilities[...], to various programs aimed at the myriad challenges faced by veterans. [...]The book is also a fine resource for those who seek to assist veterans in various ways and contexts, as it discloses efforts and programs that those providing assistance may be unaware of, and supplies something of interest to anyone involved with veterans. — **David E. Boelzner, *Veterans Law Journal***

"An important work that goes a long way to stimulate further discussion on how to best support our veterans and their families, who have sacrificed much for the freedoms we all enjoy." — **Lt. Gen Carol A. Mutter, USMC (Ret.)**

"It's a new day in veteran's affairs in America. A new generation of veterans from 21st century wars is upon us. They demand new techniques and new approaches to their care. This book tells us why and how we must all adjust to this reality. It is a must-read for anyone interested in caring for today's veteran and his/her family." — **The Hon. Max Cleland, former VA Administrator, U.S. Senator, and Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission**

"Alice Booher has done a masterful job of assembling a group of nationally recognized experts in the field of Veterans issues and compiling their writing into a book that focuses on current matters that are vital for veterans and their families." — **Dick Camp (USMC, Col., Ret.), military historian and author**

"Entering the Air Force in 1957, I had the opportunity to know so many people who had served in World War II and the Korean War—some who were still serving. I also witnessed their struggles for help. Over the decades, I've observed a variety of changes to benefits, access to VA facilities, job opportunities for veterans and most importantly, the changes in the types as well as treatment of disabilities. To advance, we need to know where we've been. This book brings together experts to speak about this important history and to address the evolution of service and care of our nation's veterans—all critical information for veterans, family members, caregivers and advocates." — **Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught, USAF (Ret.), Pres., Board of Directors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Inc. (WIMSA)**



All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
National Headquarters  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979  
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org  
No collect calls, please

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

## Bronze Grave Medallions



**\$75.00** plus \$15.00 S/H/I

Shipping cost on two or more is \$20.00.

## change of address form

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

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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Or fax: (817) 649-0109  
Or e-mail: axpow76010@yahoo.com