

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the  
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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**July/August/September 2017**

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*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*





## table of contents

officers/directors	4
commander/coo	5
ceo	6
medsearch	7
legislative	11
andersonville	12
advisory committee	14
pow/mia	15
civilian	16
events/news	17
old glory	19
president/janitor	21
congressional charter	25
pow-mia flag	26
contributions	27
new members	28
taps/chaplain	29
voluntary funding	32
book sale	33
quartermaster	35

## Publisher

PNC Milton M Moore Jr  
2965 Sierra Bermeja  
Sierra Vista, AZ 85650  
(520) 459-7295  
tombstone490@gmail.com

## Editor

Cheryl Cerbone  
23 Cove View Drive  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
(508) 394-5250  
axpoweditor@comcast.net

Deadline for the Oct-Dec  
issue is Sept. 1, 2017

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

## July/Aug/Sept 2017

### National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Congress has set aside the third Friday of September in each year as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. It is a time to remember those who never came home. Congress has further recognized the POW/MIA flag of the National League of Families as the official flag to represent our missing soldiers.

A Pentagon ceremony for National POW/MIA Recognition Day will be held on Friday, Sept. 15, 2017. This ceremony will feature troops from each of the military services. The president will issue a proclamation commemorating the observances and reminding the nation of those Americans who have sacrificed so much for their country.

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. This observance is one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.

### Notice:

Many members have been sending in newspaper articles about themselves or other POWs. These articles can not be reprinted without written permission of the local newspapers. These articles are wonderful and as room allows, would make nice additions to the magazine. Most newspapers want to charge for reprint rights, especially if anyone other than the subject were to ask for them. Thank you.  
~Editor.

### Inside front cover:

Ordered to destroy their American flag by their Japanese captors, Paul Spain and his comrades saved and hid the stars. When airdrops brought food at war's end, they used cloth from parachutes and an old sewing machine to make this flag. George Bush Gallery, Museum of the Pacific War, Nimitz State Historical Park, Fredericksburg, TX.

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# axpow officers & directors 2017-2018

National Headquarters  
3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, #40, Arlington, TX 76010  
(817) 649-2979 HQ@axpow.org

## National Commander

**Charles Susino, Jr.**  
136 Jefferson Street  
Metuchen, NJ 08840  
(732) 549-5775 phone & fax  
(732) 713-8811 - Cell



## Senior Vice Commander

**Edward "Ted" Cadwallader**  
9501 Nut Tree Court  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
(916) 685-5369  
DCadwall@aol.com

## Chief Executive Officer

David Eberly  
205 Roger Webster  
Williamsburg VA 23185  
(757) 253-9553 - Home  
(757) 508-8453 - Cell  
eberlydsl@verizon.net

## Chief Operations Officer

Clydie J Morgan  
3201 E Pioneer Pkwy #40  
Arlington TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979 - Office  
(817) 300-2840 - Cell  
hq@axpow.org

## Chief Financial Officer

Marsha M Coke  
3201 E Pioneer Pkwy #40  
Arlington TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979 - Office  
(817) 723-3996 - Cell  
axpow76010@yahoo.com

## **Jr. Vice Commanders**

**Cheryl Cerbone -  
Eastern Zone**  
23 Cove View Drive  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
(508)394-5250 - Home  
(508) 360-4090 - Cell  
axpoweditor@comcast.net

**Pam Warner Eslinger -  
Central Zone**  
PO Box 117  
Hammon, OK 73650  
(580) 821-1526  
eslingerpam@gmail.com

**Alice Golin -  
Western Zone**  
1704 Frederica Road  
Apt. 502  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522  
(912) 771-8041

## **Directors**

**Charles A. Susino**  
951 Gates Ave.  
Piscataway, NJ 08854  
(732)463-8355  
(732)221-0073-Cell  
charles.susino@gmail.com

**David Eberly**  
205 Roger Webster  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 253-9553  
(757) 508-8453 - Cell  
eberlydsl@verizon.net

**Jan Williams**  
4353 Bending Point  
Guthrie, Ok 73040  
(580) 821-2376  
williamsjj72@ymail.com

**Milton 'Skip' Moore**  
2965 Sierra Bermeja  
Sierra Vista AZ 85650  
(520) 459-7295 - Home  
(520) 249-7122 - Cell  
tombstone490@gmail.com

**Ben Garrido**  
6813 W 60th Street  
Tulsa OK 74107  
(951) 313-9838  
bgarrido24@aol.com



National Commander  
Charles Susino, Jr.

I hope this Bulletin finds good health and happiness for you and your family. Those of us that served our country in the name of freedom have those memories etched in our minds. The memories of battle...those memories of imprisonment...the memories of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Our country recently celebrated another Memorial Day. For all, it involves getting together and enjoying friends

and family with food and drinks. For many, it is a reminder to give honor to those that have served our country. I applaud all forms of public awareness around Memorial Day. The parades are often televised so the crowds and the TV viewers are giving of their time.

Memorial Day was first established in 1868 and called Decoration Day. In 1971, the last Day in May was declared a national Holiday. We remember the period of time was during the Vietnam War, a very "unpopular" war that lasted over a decade.

Our country has other designated days to draw attention, reflection, and learning about our military. Many of the schools take this opportunity to conduct special history classes. One local school has positioned on its front lawn an American flag for each serviceman that lost their lives in the current middle east conflict.

It is our honor and obligation to foster this public awareness each and every day. We each do it in our own way. For me, I never leave the house without one or more articles displaying AXPOW. It includes hats, shirts, jackets, my car etc. Rarely does a day go by without me being approached and asked a question or thanks for my service. Others read and nod or smile. The value of all of us "carrying the flag" is immeasurable. Please never stop.

As of this writing, it is June 1<sup>st</sup>, so I and many others are looking forward to the National Convention in Arlington, Texas. For me, it is a wonderful time to reconnect with many of you and conduct the necessary business of AXPOW.

—Remember—

## news from hq



Clydie Morgan  
Chief Operating Officer

Happy Independence Day! Hope everyone has a safe and fun holiday.

We are still transitioning to a smaller office situation. It is an exciting change and will be efficient and cost-effective to AXPOW.

We still have some merchandise left. Most of it is now for sale at half-price. The exceptions are the Challenge Coins and Graveside Markers.

Thank you for the great response to the book sale. We have sold over 60 books. Check out the book pages to see what we have left. We also added some additional books that we found later.

In August, you will be receiving your 2018 AXPOW calendar. 2018 is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the National POW Museum at Andersonville National Historic Site. The calendar is a beautiful representation of what the museum looks like. Extra copies are sent to Andersonville for distribution to schoolchildren who

visit the museum. We hope you will give generously to support AXPOW and this effort.

And in September, we honor POWs and MIAs with ceremonies across the country. National POW-MIA Recognition Day is Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> this year. If you get an opportunity, attend an event in your town, at your local VA or other locations.

Clydie



Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

# from the CEO



David Eberly

205 Roger Webster  
Williamsburg VA 23185  
(757) 253-9553 - Home  
(757) 508-8453 - Cell  
eberlydsl@verizon.net

Happy Birthday

For two minutes we stood reverently as the siren wailed across the city. Everyone within sight stood at near attention. At the first note cars along the busy street where we stood in front of Independence Hall stopped and the driver and any passengers got out of the vehicle and joined the standing crowds. This was not an air raid siren nor was it a test of our local Surry nuclear plant

warning—Barbara and I were in Tel Aviv (last month) and this was a siren of remembrance of their Independence Day. What a terrific tribute!

This month we mark our 241<sup>st</sup> year since the signing of our Independence July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. That day Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, and the “alarm for freedom was sounded at Independence hall with the Liberty Bell”.

I encourage you to consider pausing for a minute or two in silence to remember the courageous action that day in Philadelphia.

AXPOW just concluded the 2017 convention in Arlington, and I can assuredly report that it was attended by loyal Past National Commanders and returnees and their next-of-kin who have vowed never to forget the price that was paid for our freedom by those who suffered in camps and prisons around the globe.

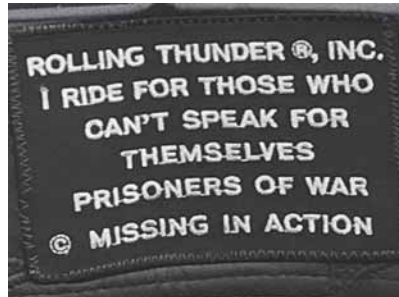


As we move forward in our transition to annual remembrances at Andersonville and The National POW Museum, and in association with The Ride Home and Rolling Thunder, I encourage you join us as we salute the men and women who put Nation above self and through heroic perseverance guaranteed our freedom. This year, if able, stand and encourage others around you, to pause in recognition of our Independence.

David

*PHOTO CREDIT: Charles M. Williams, Ex-POW, Luft I- photo taken July 4, 1947*

## 2017 Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom-May 28~Washington, DC



Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

## Squamous cell carcinoma of the lung

### What Is It?

Squamous cell carcinoma of the lung is a type of lung cancer. It occurs when abnormal lung cells multiply out of control and form a tumor. Eventually, tumor cells can spread (metastasize) to other parts of the body including the

- lymph nodes around and between the lungs
- liver
- bones
- adrenal glands
- brain

In general, there are two categories of lung cancer: small cell lung cancer and non-small cell lung cancer. The cancer cells in each type look different under the microscope. They are also treated differently. The prognosis for non-small cell lung cancer tends to be better than for small cell lung cancer; non-small cell lung cancers are more likely to be contained in one area, making treatment more likely to be successful.

Squamous cell carcinoma is one type of non-small cell lung cancer. It is the second-most common type, accounting for about 30% of all cases of non-small cell lung cancer.

Your risk of all types of lung cancer, including squamous cell carcinoma, increase if you

- **smoke.** Smoking cigarettes is by far the leading risk factor for lung cancer. In fact, cigarette smokers are 13 times more likely to develop lung cancer than nonsmokers. Cigar and pipe smoking are almost as likely to cause lung cancer as cigarette smoking.

- **breathe tobacco smoke.** Nonsmokers who inhale fumes from cigarette, cigar, and pipe smoking have an increased risk of lung cancer.

- **are exposed to radon gas.** Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas formed in the ground. It seeps into the lower floors of homes and other buildings and can contaminate drinking water. Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer. It's not clear whether elevated radon levels contribute to lung cancer in nonsmokers. But radon exposure does contribute to lung cancer in smokers and in people who regularly breathe high amounts of the gas at work (miners, for example). You can test radon levels in your home with a radon testing kit.

- **are exposed to asbestos.** Asbestos is a mineral used in insulation, fireproofing materials, floor and ceiling tiles, automobile brake linings, and other products. People exposed to asbestos on the job (miners, construction workers, shipyard workers, and some auto mechanics) have a higher-than-normal risk of lung cancer. People who live or work in buildings with asbestos-containing materials that are deteriorating also have an increased risk of lung cancer. The risk is even higher in people who also smoke. Asbestos exposure also increases the risk of developing mesothelioma, a relatively rare and usually fatal cancer. It usually starts in the chest and resembles lung cancer.

- **are exposed to other cancer-causing agents at work.** These include uranium, arsenic, vinyl chloride, nickel chromates, coal products, mustard gas, chloromethyl ethers, gasoline, and diesel exhaust. Most cases of squamous cell carcinoma start in the center of the lungs. These tumors may cause some symptoms, such as coughing

up blood, at an earlier stage than tumors on the edges of the lungs, such as adenocarcinomas.

Squamous cell carcinoma often spreads (metastasizes) to other parts of the body because of the constant flow of fluids (blood and lymph) through the lungs. The fluids can carry cancer cells to nearby areas, such as the chest wall, neck, esophagus, and the protective sac around the heart. Unless it is diagnosed and treated early, it often spreads throughout the body.

Many lung cancers have the ability to secrete chemicals that circulate in the bloodstream. These chemicals can change the way the body functions. Squamous cell lung cancer may secrete a substance that leads to abnormal calcium levels. This can cause kidney problems.

### Symptoms

Early on, squamous cell lung cancer may have no symptoms. If symptoms occur, they may include

- a cough that doesn't go away
- coughing up blood or mucus
- shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- wheezing
- fatigue
- discomfort swallowing
- chest pain
- fever
- hoarseness
- unexplained weight loss
- poor appetite
- high levels of calcium in the blood.

If the cancer has spread beyond the lungs, it can cause other symptoms.

Ex-POW Bulletin

July-Sept 2017

## medsearch, cont'd...

For example, you may have bone pain if it has spread to your bones, or headaches and seizures if it has spread to your brain.

Many of these symptoms can be caused by other conditions. See your doctor if you have symptoms so that the problem can be diagnosed and properly treated.

### Diagnosis

Your doctor may suspect lung cancer based on

- your symptoms
- your smoking history
- whether you live with a smoker
- your exposure to asbestos and other cancer-causing agents.

To look for evidence of cancer, your doctor will examine you, paying special attention to your lungs and chest. He or she will order imaging tests to check your lungs for masses. In most cases, a chest x-ray will be done first. If the x-ray shows anything suspicious, a CT scan will be done. As the scanner moves around you, it takes many pictures. A computer then combines the images. This creates a more detailed image of the lungs, allowing doctors to confirm the size and location of a mass or tumor.

You may also have a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan or a positron emission tomography (PET) scan. MRI scans provide detailed pictures of the body's organs, but they use radio waves and magnets to create the images, not x-rays. PET scans look at the function of tissue rather than anatomy. Lung cancer tends to show intense metabolic activity on a PET scan. Some medical centers offer combined PET-CT scanning.

If cancer is suspected based on [these images](#), more tests will be

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

done to make the diagnosis, determine the type of cancer, and see if it has spread. These tests may include the following:

· **Sputum sample.** Coughed up mucus is checked for cancer cells.

· **Biopsy.** A sample of abnormal lung tissue is removed and examined under a microscope in a laboratory. If the tissue contains cancer cells, the type of cancer can be determined by the way the cells look under the microscope. The tissue is often obtained during a bronchoscopy. However, surgery may be necessary to expose the suspicious area.

· **Bronchoscopy.** During this procedure, a tube-like instrument is passed down the throat and into the lungs. A camera on the end of the tube allows doctors to look for cancer. Doctors can remove a small piece of tissue for a biopsy.

· **Mediastinoscopy.** In this procedure, a tube-like instrument is used to biopsy lymph nodes or masses between the lungs. (This area is called the mediastinum.) A biopsy obtained this way can diagnose the type of lung cancer and determine whether the cancer has spread to lymph nodes.

· **Fine-needle aspiration.** With a CT scan, a suspicious area can be identified. A tiny needle is then inserted into that part of the lung or pleura. The needle removes a bit of tissue for examination in a laboratory. The type of cancer can then be diagnosed.

· **Thoracentesis.** If there is fluid build-up in the chest, it can be drained with a sterile needle. The fluid is then checked for cancer cells.

· **Video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS).** In this procedure, a surgeon inserts a flexible tube with a video camera on the end into the chest through an incision. He or she can then look for

cancer in the space between the lungs and the chest wall and on the edge of the lung. Abnormal lung tissue can also be removed for a biopsy.

· **Bone scans and CT scans.** These imaging tests can detect lung cancer that has spread to the bones, brain, or other parts of the body.

Occasionally, surgery is done to remove the tumor first; the diagnosis is made after the tumor has been examined in a laboratory.

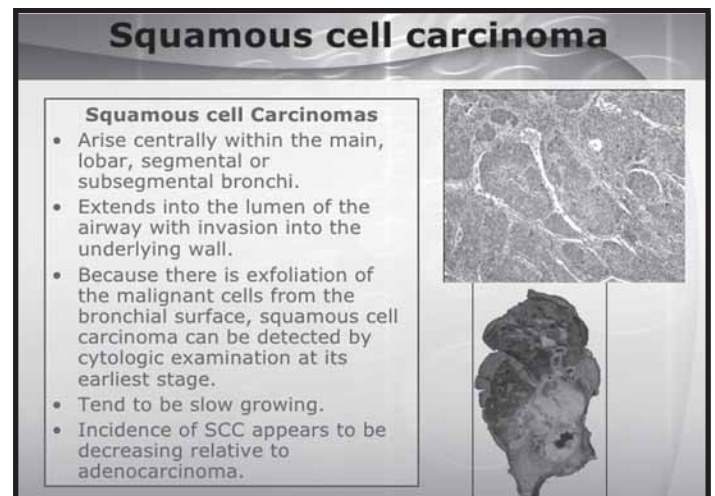
Some studies have examined the use of CT scanning to try to diagnose lung cancers earlier. Although CT can detect abnormalities in the lungs before they cause symptoms, the abnormalities are not always cancer. In addition, studies have not shown that this type lung cancer screening improves patients' prognosis or survival.

After the cancer has been diagnosed, it is assigned a "stage." The stages of squamous cell carcinoma reflect the tumor's size and how far the cancer has spread. Stages I through III are further divided into A and B categories.

· Stage I tumors are small and have not invaded the surrounding tissue or organs.

· Stage II and III tumors have invaded surrounding tissue and/or organs and have spread to lymph nodes.

· Stage IV tumors have spread beyond the chest.





## medsearch, cont'd...

### Expected Duration

Squamous cell lung cancer will continue to grow until it is treated. As with any cancer, even if it seems to be cured after treatment, this lung cancer can return.

### Prevention

To reduce your risk of squamous cell lung cancer,

- **don't smoke.** If you already smoke, talk to your doctor about getting the help you need to quit.

- **avoid secondhand smoke.** Choose smoke-free restaurants and hotels. Ask guests to smoke outdoors, especially if there are children in your home.

- **reduce exposure to radon.** Have your home checked for radon gas. A radon level above 4 picocuries/liter is unsafe. If you have a private well, have your drinking water checked, too. Kits to test for radon are widely available.

- **reduce exposure to asbestos.** Because there is no safe level of asbestos exposure, any exposure is too much. If you have an older home, check to see if any insulation or other asbestos-containing material is exposed or deteriorating. The asbestos in these areas must be professionally removed or sealed up. If the removal isn't done properly, you may be exposed to more asbestos than you would have been if it had been left alone. People who work with asbestos-containing materials should use approved measures to limit their exposure and to prevent bringing asbestos dust home on their clothing.

### Treatment

Treatment depends on the cancer's stage as well as the patient's condition, lung function, and other factors. (Some patients may have other lung conditions, such as emphysema or COPD—chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.) If the cancer has not spread, surgery is usually the treatment of choice. There are three types of surgery:

- **Wedge resection** removes only a small part of the lung.

- **Lobectomy** removes one lobe of the lung.

- **Pneumonectomy** removes an entire lung.

Lymph nodes are also removed and examined to see if the cancer has spread.

Some surgeons use video-assisted thoracoscopy (VATS) to remove small, early-stage tumors, especially if the tumors are near the outer edge of the lung. (VATS can also be used to diagnose lung cancer.) Because the incisions for VATS are small, this technique is less invasive than a traditional "open" procedure. Because surgery will remove part or all of a lung, breathing may be more difficult afterwards, especially in patients with other lung conditions (emphysema, for example). Doctors can test lung function prior to surgery and predict how it might be affected by surgery.

Depending on how far the cancer has spread, treatment may include chemotherapy (the use of anticancer drugs) and radiation therapy. These may be given before and/or after surgery. Unfortunately, squamous cell carcinoma does not respond to chemotherapy and radiation therapy as well as other types of tumors.

When the tumor has spread significantly, chemotherapy may be recommended to slow its growth, even if it cannot cure the disease. Chemotherapy has been shown to ease symptoms and prolong life in cases of advanced lung cancer. Radiation therapy can relieve symptoms, too. It is often used to treat lung cancer that has spread to the brain or bones and is causing pain. It can also be used alone or with chemotherapy to treat the lung cancer that is confined to the chest.

People who may not withstand surgery due to other serious medical problems may receive radiation therapy, with or without chemotherapy, to shrink the tumor.

In specialized cancer centers, cancerous tissue may be tested for specific genetic abnormalities (mu-

tations). Doctors may then be able to treat the cancer with a "targeted therapy." These therapies can derail the cancer's growth by preventing or changing chemical reactions linked to particular mutations. For example, some target therapies prevent cancer cells from receiving chemical "messages" telling them to grow.

Knowing about specific genetic mutations can help predict which therapy will be best. This strategy can be especially helpful in certain patients, such as women with adenocarcinoma of the lung who have never smoked.

Even after treatment has been completed, lung cancer patients must return for regular follow-up appointments. Even if the cancer was initially "cured," it can return months or even years later.

### When To Call a Professional

If you have any of symptoms of squamous cell lung cancer, see your doctor as soon as possible.

### Prognosis

Squamous cell lung cancer usually is diagnosed after the disease has spread. The overall prognosis for squamous cell lung cancer is poor; only about 16% of patients survive five years or longer. The survival rate is higher if the disease is detected and treated early.

Even when surgery and other therapies are initially successful, squamous cell lung cancer can return. This is because cancer cells can start to spread without being detected right away.

### Additional Information

#### National Cancer Institute (NCI)

U.S. National Institutes of Health

31 Center Drive, MSC 8322

Bethesda, MD 20892-2580

Phone: 301-435-3848

<http://www.nci.nih.gov/>

# medsearch packets

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___ <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	<b>\$11.00</b>
___ <b>Packet 6~Micro-Film Index: Asiatic Theater - Japanese</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
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___ <b>Map of German POW Camps~shows location of 76 camps</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
___ <b>Map of Japanese POW Camps~21" x 32" with camps featured in red</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>

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# legislative



## PNC Charles Susino Jr Chairman

136 Jefferson Street  
Metuchen, NJ 08840  
(732) 549-5775 phone & fax

### Care and Benefits for Veterans Strengthened by \$186.5 Billion VA Budget

#### Highlights From the President's 2018 Budget Request for VA

The FY 2018 budget includes \$82.1 billion in discretionary funding, largely for health care, and \$104.3 billion in mandatory funding for benefit programs, such as disability compensation and pensions, and for continuation of the Veterans Choice Program (Choice Program). The discretionary budget request is \$4.3 billion (5.5 percent) above the 2017 enacted level, including nearly \$3.3 billion in medical care collections from health insurers and Veteran copayments. The budget also requests \$74 billion, including collections, for the 2019 advance appropriations for medical care. The request includes \$107.7 billion in 2019 mandatory advance appropriations for Compensation and Pensions; Readjustment Benefits; and Veterans Insurance and Indemnities benefits programs in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

#### Health Care

With a total medical care budget of \$75.2 billion, including collections and new mandatory funding for the Choice Program, VA is positioned to continue expanding health-care services to over 7 million patients. Health care is being provided to more than 858,000 Veterans who served in Operation Enduring Free-

## 2016-2017 Legislative Committee

PNC Charles Susino, Jr.  
ND Charles Anthony Susino  
charles.susino@gmail.com

dom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn/Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

#### Expanding Access

The president's budget ensures that care and other benefits are available to Veterans when and where they need them, including:

- \$13.2 billion for community care.
- \$505 million for gender-specific health-care services for women.
- \$862 million for the activation of new and enhanced health-care facilities;
- \$855 million for major and minor construction projects.

#### Disability Compensation Claims Backlog and Appeals Reform

VBA has continued aggressive efforts aimed at bringing down the disability compensation claims backlog, completing a record-breaking 1.3 million claims in 2016 and reducing the claims backlog by 88 percent, cumulatively, from a peak of 611,000 claims in March 2013 to 71,690 on Sept. 30, 2016.

VA has worked with Congress, Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) and other stakeholders to develop a legislative proposal to reform the appeals process. The appeals process under current law is ineffective and confusing, and Veterans wait much too long for a decision on appeal. The new process will: 1) establish options for Veterans, 2) provide early resolution and improved notifications as to best options, 3) eliminate the perpetual churn of appeals inherent to the existing process, 4) provide Veterans feedback loops to VBA, and 5) improve transparency of the process by clearly defining the roles of VBA and the board throughout the appeals process.

#### Veterans Homelessness

The budget requests \$1.7 billion for programs to prevent or reduce Veteran homelessness, including:

- \$320 million for Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) to promote housing stability;
- \$543 million for the HUD-VASH program; and
- \$257 million in grant and per diem payments that support transitional housing provided by community-based organizations.

#### Veterans Choice Program— Community Care

VA is requesting a total of \$13.2 billion in 2018 for Veterans Community Care. This consists of a request for \$9.7 billion in discretionary funding for the Medical Community Care account, plus an additional \$2.9 billion in new mandatory budget authority for the Choice Program. The budget also requests \$3.5 billion in mandatory budget authority in 2019 for the Choice Program. This additional funding will allow VA to continue increasing Veterans' access to health-care services by allowing them to choose VA direct care or community care.

#### Other Key Services for Veterans

- \$306 million to administer VA's system of 136 national cemeteries..
- \$4.1 billion for information technology (IT), including investments to strengthen cybersecurity, modernize Veterans' electronic health records, improve Veterans' access to benefits, and enhance the IT infrastructure; and
- \$135 million for state cemetery grants and state extended-care grants.

#### Enhanced Oversight of VA's Programs

The 2018 budget requests \$159.6 million for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to enhance oversight and assist the OIG in fulfilling its statutory mission of making recommendations that will help VA improve the care and services it provides.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Supt. Charles Sellars  
charles\_sellars@nps.gov

## Memorial Day 2017

Memorial Day activities at Andersonville National Historic Site began with the raising of the Avenue of Flags. More than 40 volunteers from Robins Riders arrived to help raise over 200 full-sized American and state flags in the park. Many park visitors enjoyed seeing this visually dramatic display in the days before Memorial Day Weekend.

On Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, about 270 volunteers braved the South Georgia heat and clouds of gnats to place nearly 21,000 American flags in Andersonville National Cemetery. Families, scouts, Jeep hobby groups, military groups, the Dixie Crows, and others joined together to place a flag on each grave and honor the military men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country. The field of flags created by tens of thousands of small and large flags was made even more visually stunning by the breezy conditions of the weekend's events.

On Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, the park was honored to have Brigadier General David A. Lesperance present the keynote address for the Memorial

Day Observance Ceremony. Currently the Armor School Commandant at the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Brigadier General Lesperance has an outstanding military record that includes five deployments, 3 Legion of Merit Awards, 3 Bronze Stars, 1 Defense Meritorious Service Medal, 5 Meritorious Service Medals, and other commendations. He offered stirring remarks and insight from his experiences in Iraq, reminding us of the true meaning of Memorial Day and quoting President Calvin Coolidge, who said "A country which forgets its defenders, will itself be forgotten."

Superintendent Charles Sellars served as Master of Ceremonies for the Observance. The U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence provided music for the ceremony and also presented the colors. Rabbi Beth L. Schwartz offered the Invocation and Benediction. Ms. Kathy Burns read a heartfelt message from Senator David Perdue written for the occasion. Mr. Jim Covington, President of the Friends of Andersonville, followed by paying homage to the fallen military who died in service to their country as prisoners of war or on the battlefield. The band then played the Service song medley to honor those in the audience who served in each of the branches of the military.

U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop graciously introduced keynote speaker Brigadier General Lesperance. After their moving remarks, numerous civic and patriotic organizations placed wreaths along the rostrum to remember and honor all the military men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. The ceremony ended with a moving rendition of Taps and a song entitled "Mansions of the Lord" that begins "To fallen soldiers let us sing,



where no rockets fly nor bullets wing; our broken brothers let us bring to the Mansions of the Lord."

On Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, hundreds of visitors attended the Knights of Columbus Mass. As in years past, Dan Gillan strolled the national cemetery to pay tribute to each of the honored dead through the haunting sounds of bagpipes.

Media coverage of our Memorial Day activities included features done by Fox 31 and WALB. Video footage of various event activities taken by park staff and posted on Facebook was viewed over 75,000 times and reached over 250,000 people. The event was a great success and a fitting tribute to our fallen American military.

Park staff are working with The Ride Home in planning our next major event, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, in September. This year the majority of The Ride Home activities will take place in Warner Robins, Georgia. The procession to the National Prisoner of War Museum and associated ceremony will take place on Friday, September 15.

*"There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us." -Franklin D. Roosevelt (1936)*

## andersonville, cont'd..

The "Victory From Within" traveling POW exhibit, which has been on display at the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia, has been inspected and repaired by park staff. After over 3 years of travel, the exhibit was in need of some attention but is now ready to continue its mission of raising awareness of American POWs and their experiences. The exhibit will next be on display at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. We invite those in the area to make a trip to the Pensacola to see the exhibit.

## Donations to the National Prisoner of War Museum Collection

*By Bridget Beers, Museum Curator, Andersonville National Historic Site*



Park museum curator Bridget Beers, Ron Currens, and his daughter holding the Pool document.

During 2017 Memorial Day weekend events Ron Currens donated World War II memorabilia items collected by his father, Ronald Currens, who was a prisoner of the Japanese during World War II. Items donated included the "Fall of Germany Pool" document in which 31 prison camp roommates signed by the date they picked for the fall of Germany or for Japan's surrender. Mr. Currens had selected the 8<sup>th</sup> and won the pool with Germany's surrender on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945. Other items included his wooden Japanese dog tag, diaries he kept, and his lucky deck of cards.

Other recent additions to the collection of artifacts preserved at Andersonville National Historic Site span the time frame from the Civil War up through Vietnam. In the past two years the park has received over 15 donations of prisoner of war (POW) related items.

The park received an original manuscript by Andersonville POW Lewis E. Benware and a bone ring carved in the shape of a heart by Francis Marion Shaw, another POW at Andersonville.

We have received POW clothing issued to Eugene Evers at Mukden during the Korean War and World War II POW clothing worn by Allen LaPrade. Additional World War II POW material donated comes in the form of wooden dog tags belonging to James Oscar Bennett and a bread ration card belonging to Marion E. Hillard. Civilian internee Elizabeth Richardson, who was born a prisoner of war while her parents were held captive by the Japanese, donated a cradle and doll, photographs, and a memoir about her parents' internment.

The owner for the former residence of James Averill in Atlanta found old pamphlets entitled "Andersonville How to reach it Compliments of Central of Georgia RY. CO." Mr. Averill was a member of the advisory board for Andersonville Prison Park and a commander in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The pamphlets and a couple of Mr. Averill's GAR medals were donated to the park. Additional Post Civil War material was donated in the form of early postcards from the site and other publications including a booklet entitled: "The Dragon's Tooth at Andersonville" by W. M. Hatch.

Archival collections were also donated that relate to the Vietnam era letter writing campaign to keep pressure on the government to help free POWs and Operation Home-

coming from a pilot that flew POWs to their hometown.

In addition to donations the park adds artifacts and archives generated by archeological projects conducted in the park. This past year the park has been working on rehabilitation of the Providence Springs area by removing deteriorated terracotta piping that ran from the lower fountain to the creek. The preparation work involved remote sensing the area to find the pipes, then digging up the pipes with an archeologist present to monitor the excavation. One piece of the historic terracotta piping was added to the park's collections.

Park staff wish to express their deep gratitude to all those who have donated artifacts, pamphlets, or other materials related to POWs or to the history of Andersonville National Historic Site to our collections. We are honored to preserve and protect these irreplaceable pieces of history. While we unfortunately do not have the space or capacity to safely exhibit every item donated, we preserve them in perpetuity for all Americans as part of our shared national history. Our collections also serve as a source for important research and study about prisoners of war, Andersonville, and related topics for academic institutions and researchers around the world. In addition, our goal is to create an online exhibit of items in our collection so people around the world can see and learn about the artifacts, photographs, and other items protected in our collection and learn more about the stories of America's prisoners of war through these items.

If you are interested in preserving an artifact, photograph, letter, or other item related to American prisoners of war or to Andersonville by donating it to the National Prisoner of War Museum collections, please contact Museum Curator, Bridget Beers [bridget\\_beers@nps.gov](mailto:bridget_beers@nps.gov).

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

# advisory committee



**Robert Certain**  
FPOW Committee Chairman  
eagle@unchainedeagle.com

## VA Advisory Committee on Former POWs

Since the Advisory Committee was established over two decades ago, the members have been the Secretary's (and Congress') ears to the ground to identify concerns related to the relationship between former POWs and the Department of Veterans Affairs and to recommend ways the Secretary can enhance the care of former POWs and their surviving spouses. Under Dr. Tom McNish's leadership we racked up a lot of successes and missed our target very few times.

Two years ago, we ran into a bit of a glitch ... term limits were instituted with no more than two appointments of three years each per member. While such limits had been part of the Federal Advisory Committee Act for many years, they had not been enforced for this particular committee; and our terms were limited only by our desire to serve, our ability to attend meetings, and our deaths. As a result, we experienced a couple of years of suspended animation while the process for

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017  
**14**

nomination, solicitation, and appointment of members worked its way through a very slow bureaucracy.

At this point the Committee has two WWII members, one Korea member, four Vietnam members, one Desert Storm member, two Mitchell Center doctors, and two other citizens with a deep interest in this population of veterans. Working closely with the Director of the Federal Advisory Committee Office, I have established a regular rotation schedule that provides for four members to be reappointed or rotate off every October 1. **This year, we need three new members to replace those who are not eligible for reappointment (2 Vietnam, 1 Desert Storm). Contact me if you are interested or wish to nominate someone.** The Committee normally meets for three days twice in each fiscal year.

The big issues facing our population have shifted from determining presumptive conditions to "elder care" and surviving spouses. We are encouraging the VA to make a concerted outreach to all known former POWs to get rated and to sign up for medical care. Our goal is to have all FPWs rated at 100% — not so much for ourselves, but for our surviving spouses. The VA cannot force you to be part of the system; each FPW has to voluntarily seek a protocol physical from a certified FPW Care Team.

With Secretary Shulkin's announcement that Individual Unemployability (IU) payments will be curtailed for veterans eligible for Social Security, it is important for our members on IU to seek a disability upgrade to a 100% rating as soon as possible. You served this nation well, and our spouses have stood with us through that journey. Your decision to get rated is one way to serve your spouse after your demise.

In order to justify an increase in your disability rating, your disability must have worsened.

The VA will not just take your word that you are feeling worse; you will need to compile medical evidence supporting your claims.

If you have been treated by private doctors, you will need to include Form 21-4142 with your request for an increase. This form will authorize your private doctors to speak with the VA and release your medical records.

If you have only been treated by VA doctors, you will need to submit the name and address of the VA Medical Center or other military facility which has your relevant treatment records. Step Four: Fill Out Form 21-526b.

If it has been over a year since your disability benefits were awarded, the procedure for requesting an increase is relatively simple. You will need to fill out Form 21-526b, and provide the VA with any additional medical records which support your claim. Form 21-526b allows veterans to request increased compensation because of an increased disability, a new service-connected disability, a secondary disability to your original disability claim, or allows you to request the reopening of a previously denied claim. You may also choose to write a letter to include with this form, explaining why you believe your rating should be increased.

If your request for an increase has been denied, or if your benefits were decreased after a reevaluation, you have the right to appeal the VA's decision.

If you are considering filing an appeal, make sure you have the assistance you need to make a successful claim. Contact a National Service Officer with your state/county/veterans service organization for help. There is no charge and they are there to represent you.

# pow/mia



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

## Not a Bedtime Fairy Tale

For two decades I have been watching history change. While our veterans relate their stories of mission successes, lost friends or battles in their mind daily, many have failed to write it down or record it. They haven't told their loved ones where to find their war diary, haven't recorded their experiences with local veterans organization, or even just in the privacy of their bedroom.

Many feel they cannot put into words the horror of war or captivity.

The result is the recording, for posterity, of what we call "fairy tales." The formal name is Stolen Valor, and the fake warriors are making quite a statement. The problem is that there is no historical accuracy in the tales they tell.

The stories include falsified documents, fake DD214's, actual VA POW ID cards, real POW license plates, headstones that record the lies, broken families, and lost friends.

The Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress is full of fake claims of heroism and captivity. An exposé in 2007 did little to correct the situation. Stories of fake "Navy SEALs" were discovered there this past March. No vetting done - history is recorded based on one's "recol-

lection." A DD214 is not even required to add a story.

These are a small number of reports I have received and worked to get to the truth:

- Claimed he was a Navy Seal and was captured during a rescue mission, held as a POW for 34 days and rescued during a massive raid on the camp. He is the director of career services at [x] College ...

- Claimed he spent first tour in "Coochiee," Vietnam. 1966-1967 went back to "Quinon," Vietnam with the 117th Aviation, 52nd Aviation Battalion as a Door Gunner and was shot down and an MIA for 30 days. From 1968-1970 ... went back to Dong Tam, Vietnam. POW at this time for 3 years at a place called the Plantation in North Vietnam.

- Claimed POW - not listed because he was with the CIA with Special Forces credentials. Frequents VFW and AmVet in area and was scheduled as a speaker for POW Recognition Day 2003.

- Claimed he killed Ho Chi Minh and got caught. Became a POW in Laos in a hole in the ground. He and another guy escaped but the other POW died. He claims he got the Navy Cross and Medal of Honor.

- Claims he was a POW during the Vietnam War... He says he escaped so many times from the POW camp that the guards broke his feet so he couldn't escape anymore. He was also exposed to "Asian Orange" and he has to run around in his sock feet because he caught "jungle rot" while serving.

- Claimed "Its a shame I can't prove that I was a POW because according to our great government I was only being held for transport + its not even on my DD214. Have you ever heard of slander or determination of character which I do believe they call it. I

was even accused of being AWOL the time I was MIA + being held prisoner. Yea Right!!!!!! The reporter was wrong also. It was 18 days not 8. I guess the only one that knows the real truth is GOD + thanks to him I guess I got lucky because a little boy + girl I use to give candy to told my unit where I was + I was rescued by Force Recon Marines." (Spelling/grammar problem is his.)

- Claimed Purple Heart, Air Force Cross, POW/SOG/Special Ops. Claims USAF pararescue. Jumped into area in order to be captured INTENTIONALLY so he could rescue another POW. Escaped and walked 30 miles on broken leg. VFW member, VFW Honor Guard Member.

My dear friend and former POW in Vietnam, Captain John Michael McGrath, Navy retired, uses interesting historical facts to help uncover the falsehoods. He says no American POW escaped from North Vietnam to successfully reach friendly forces.

Some that did escape, were recaptured within days. One died from torture - the retribution for his escape.

He says that history even shows that during World War II, in the European Theater, less than 2% of American POWs were able to escape and reach US forces. Outside of North Vietnam, the number was under 5%. Those men were indeed a rare breed, became very well known, and no history should dilute the fact of what they accomplished.

Do these fairy tales sound like your story? Of course not.

I urge you to take the time to make sure your story is told. It is the only way we can stop some of the false tales from altering military history. If you are waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today.

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

# civilians



Alice Golin,  
JVC

## Incredible Encounter

*Liberation was a joy to those who were prisoners, but on occasion there was an added bonus. Mary Franz tells the story about how her father, who was attached to the 11th Airborne force that liberated Los Baños, encountered his brother in the camp after the family had lost contact with him more than 3 years earlier.*

The Keilen family was concerned. In 1940, Fr. Ernie, a missionary with the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) had been assigned to study theology at Christ the King Seminary in Manila, Philippines. He wrote home regularly. Then, in December 1941, his letters stopped abruptly. They didn't know where he was, or if he was even still alive.

Meanwhile, my father, Robert, had been drafted into the Army and served as a medic in the 136th division which served in the South Pacific. While there, he did what he could to locate his brother. On November 5, 1944, Dad heard from another missionary that Ernie was alive in a POW camp. There were three civilian prisoner-of-war camps in the Philippines. In early February, 1945, two of them, Bilibid and Santa Tomas, had already been liberated. Ernie was not among those who had been released. My Dad surmised that if he was still alive, Ernie would be at Los Baños. His unit was among the troops assigned to raid the camp.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

16

My Dad said that he was pumped full of adrenaline and was ready to charge on the morning of Feb. 23rd. At the last moment, his commanding officer ordered him to remain outside the gate. Dad said he was absolutely furious! Didn't the officer know that his own brother was probably in there? When the others entered, Dad waited outside, as ordered. After a few moments, the officer came out and gave Dad permission to enter. When Ernie saw his brother, he exclaimed, "Why, it's Bob! My God, what a birthday present!" Ernie's birthday is February 24th.

Only later did my father come to realize and appreciate the wisdom and compassion of his officer, who went in first to personally check on Ernie's condition before allowing my Dad to enter. Ernie weighed only 97 pounds, but he was OK.

All those released commented on how healthy the soldiers were. Dad watched as Ernie ate with relish a small bowl of rice which was covered with flies. Ernie offered some to Dad, who declined. "Aren't you hungry, Bob?" he asked, "Everyone is hungry."

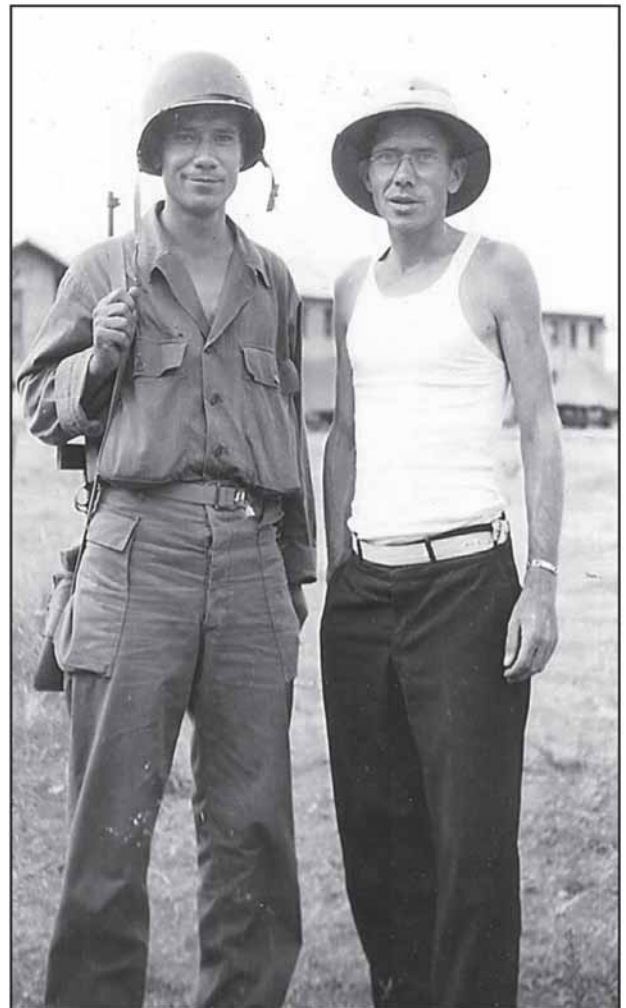
The brothers saw each other only briefly. The released prisoners were quickly whisked away. The raided camp was still deep behind enemy lines. And later, dad's regiment was sent on to Japan. The next day, February 24, 1945. Ernie's 30th birthday, he wrote this letter home.

"What a meeting the two of us had! Our hearts were too full for words. The liberation

came at the 11th hour. Our condition was desperate. We were down to rock bottom. Starvation, disease and death stared all of us in the face."

Ernie returned to the States to recuperate. At his own request, he returned to serve in the Philippines. For over 50 years he worked at Christ the King Seminary, and served local parishes on weekends. Rev. Ernest Keilen died peacefully in Manila and was buried there in July, 1996.

Dad served in the army without leave for over three years. After his discharge, he returned home to his wife in Michigan, and eventually bought a small orthopedic shoe store in Flint, Michigan. This was a reunion that neither of them would ever forget.



Robert Keilen with his brother Ernie after the liberation of Los Baños.





**July 18, 2017. The Dept. of Iowa 35th annual convention** will begin at the Saints Avenue Cafe, 1312 S Story Street, Boone, Iowa 50036. Guest speaker will be Bob Steben, Executive Officer, Iowa Dept of Veterans Affairs. Registration and/or any questions can be addressed to Pat Ludwig, PO Box 246, West Bend, Iowa 50597, or pat6547@yahoo.com or 515 570-8049. There will be no registration fee.

**July 26-30, 2017. Society of the First Infantry Division, "Big Red One"** celebrates 100 years of service to our country in Kansas City, MO. Contact: 215-654-1969; SFIDPA@gmail.com; www.1stID.org.

**August 11-12, 2017. The Department of Ohio Annual Convention** will be held at the Drury Inn and Suites, Grove City, OH. Please use your personal credit card to reserve your room, you will be reimbursed at the convention. Call 800-325-0720 and use confirmation number 2306130 when making your reservation. All meals are included. Please send your registration to Patty Myers, 1138 Hawthorne Ave, SE, Canton, OH 44710.

**August 23, 2017. The 1st Infantry Division honors Vietnam-era veterans with a Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony** at 3 p.m. In building 837 at Fort Riley, KS. Contact: 785-240-3866; RSVP at: rileywelcomehome@gmail.com; Links for more information: <http://www.riley.army.mil/100thAnniversary.aspx>.

**Sept. 13-17, 2017. The 71st reunion of the 106th Infantry Division Association** will be held in Kissimmee, Florida. For more infor-

mation, please go to <http://106thinfdivassn.org/reunion2017.html> or contact Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 or WayneDunn@comcast.net

**Sept. 2017. USS Bradley (DE/FF-1041)**, New Orleans, LA. The association is eagerly searching for former crewmembers. If you served aboard the Bradley, please contact Bruce Gottsch, PO Box 1256, New City, NY 10956-4702. 845-634-3993; [bgottsch@verizon.net](mailto:bgottsch@verizon.net); [www.ussbradley.com](http://www.ussbradley.com); [www.mlrsinc.com/bradley](http://www.mlrsinc.com/bradley)

**Sept. 14-16, 2017. The Ride Home 2017** in honor of Former POWs/MIAs. This year's Ride begins at Warner-Robins AFB on Thursday, services at Andersonville National Historic Site on Friday, Recognition Services on Saturday. For more information, please see the March-April 2017 EX-POW Bulletin Contact: Moe Moyers, The Ride Home, Inc., 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859; moehoe@verizon.net; 863-324-7268.

**Jan. 6-14, 2018. USS Pueblo 50th Anniversary Cruise** will be taken aboard the popular Carnival Conquest. For information/reservations: VIP World Travel, 4971 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota, FL 34235; 941-377-0017 or 800-323-7448; mail@vipworldtravel.travel. Website: [www.vipworldtravel.travel](http://www.vipworldtravel.travel).

**March 3, 2018. USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations** will host a 'Day of Remembrance' at USS Houston CA-30 monument, Sam Houston Park at the Heritage Society, 1100 Bagby Street, Houston, TX at 2:30PM. [usshouston.org](http://usshouston.org); contact@usshouston.org.

To have your event listed,  
please email the editor at  
axpoweditor@comcast.net at  
least 90 days in advance.  
Thank you.

# News Briefs

## The National WWII Museum Announces 10th International Conference on World War II

*2017 Conference to address  
Museum's mission statement: why  
the war was fought, how it was won  
and what it means today  
Nov. 16-18, 2017*

The National WWII Museum is proud to announce the 10th International Conference on World War II. Presented by the Pritzker Military Museum & Library and the Pritzker Military Foundation, the Conference takes place annually in New Orleans and features the world's foremost WWII historians in discussions concerning battles, leaders and pivotal moments that shaped World War II. This year's topics include: The Anglo-American Alliance, The Wehrmacht's Last Stand, Dunkirk, MacArthur and Blitzed: Drugs in the Third Reich.

The leading gathering of WWII educators, authors, students and enthusiasts, the 2017 International Conference will feature presentations and discussions from crowd-favorites Rick Atkinson, Robert Citino, Conrad Crane, Richard Frank, Donald L. Miller, Alexandra Richie and Gerhard Weinberg. These renowned historians will be joined by prestigious scholars making their first Conference appearance, including Sir Richard Evans, Richard Overy and James Holland.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

## news, cont'd...

As in recent years, a daylong single-topic symposium exclusive to Conference attendees will precede the main event. This year's symposium theme "Hitler in History" is focused on Adolf Hitler – how he came to power and the hell he unleashed on the world. Other symposium presentations will explore satirical depictions of Hitler and assassination plots against him. The day will conclude with the Conference's opening keynote, for which the Museum's Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian, Robert M. Citino, PhD, will present on the themes explored in his new book, "The Wehrmacht's Last Stand: The German Campaigns of 1944–1945."

A great new feature of this year's Conference will be an evening open house and reception at the Museum, during which the entire campus will be available for after-hours touring. Conference attendees will get the exclusive-access opportunity to explore the Museum's exhibits, including a new permanent addition to the Museum's WWII narrative, *The Arsenal of Democracy: The Herman and George Brown Salute to the Home Front*.

For more information, or to register for the Conference and/or Symposium, call 504-528-1944 ext 511.

## State of the VA Address

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin delivered his first "State of the VA" address 31 MAY, highlighting the activity and direction of the agency since his appointment in February. In his address, Secretary Shulkin stated that he wanted to update Veterans on the progress the agency is making while also acknowledging the shortcomings that the VA has identified and will address in the upcoming

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

18

months. "As a physician, I tend to look at things in terms of the way I was trained — assess, diagnose and then aggressively treat the patient," Secretary Shulkin said. "Though we are taking immediate and decisive steps, we are still in critical condition and require intensive care."

The address covered a wide spectrum of issues within the VA, including Access to Care; Community Care and Choice; Accountability; and the quality of care provided to Veterans. Secretary Shulkin identified multiple priorities, such as reducing backlogs and getting more Veterans access to mental health care and suicide prevention programs. Addressing improvements in accountability and VA administration, Secretary Shulkin stated that while he was able to initiate the Executive Order establishing the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection signed by President Trump, "further legislation is needed and needed now." The goal, the Secretary said, is to "turn the VA into the organization Veterans and their families deserve, and one that America can take pride in." A fact sheet highlighting some of the elements of Secretary Shulkin's address as well as the text of his address can be found at: [http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/StateofVA\\_FactSheet\\_5-31-2017.pdf](http://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/StateofVA_FactSheet_5-31-2017.pdf).

## Arthritis Care

The burden of arthritis is even greater among U.S. military Veterans. About 1 in 3 Veterans has arthritis. About half of all Veterans with arthritis report limitations in their daily activities because of joint symptoms. May is Arthritis Awareness Month. It's a time for us to pay attention to the tremendous impact arthritis has among Veterans, and to the ongoing need for new, better treatments. It's also a time to focus on what Veterans, their health care providers and their communities can do now to face arthritis as a team.

Researchers are working hard to understand the causes of arthritis and to develop better treatments, and ultimately a cure. In the meantime, arthritis is best managed with a combination of clinical therapies (like medicines) and healthy behaviors. Years of research have shown that physical activity and weight management help to improve pain and function for people with arthritis. But it can be hard to exercise when your joints hurt!

VA has a very active and diverse portfolio of arthritis research, ranging from laboratory studies of potential new medications for rheumatoid arthritis to studies on complementary and rehabilitative therapies. During Arthritis Awareness Month, take some time at <https://www.research.va.gov/topics/arthritis.cfm> to read some highlights of VA arthritis research.

## POW-MIA Freedom Car Drivers Post Dual Wins Over Memorial Day Week- end

The Memorial Day Weekend brought two wins to Team Johnson Motorsports and the famed POW-MIA Freedom Cars, sponsored by MyComputerCareer headquartered in the Raleigh Metro. Racing in Tennessee and North Carolina, drivers, Jerick Johnson and Ryan Millington both posted the fastest time on the track during their respective qualifying rounds and each nabbed the checkered flag in their featured races.

The #76 Freedom Cars are numbered for America's birth date of 1776 and as a tribute to all those that have suffered the pain and losses of war; particularly those interned during times of conflict and the 87,000 plus Americans still listed as Missing in Action (MIA).

With two poles and two wins, in two states the POW MIA Freedom Car message rang loud and clear to racing fans this Memorial Day.

# The History of the American Flag

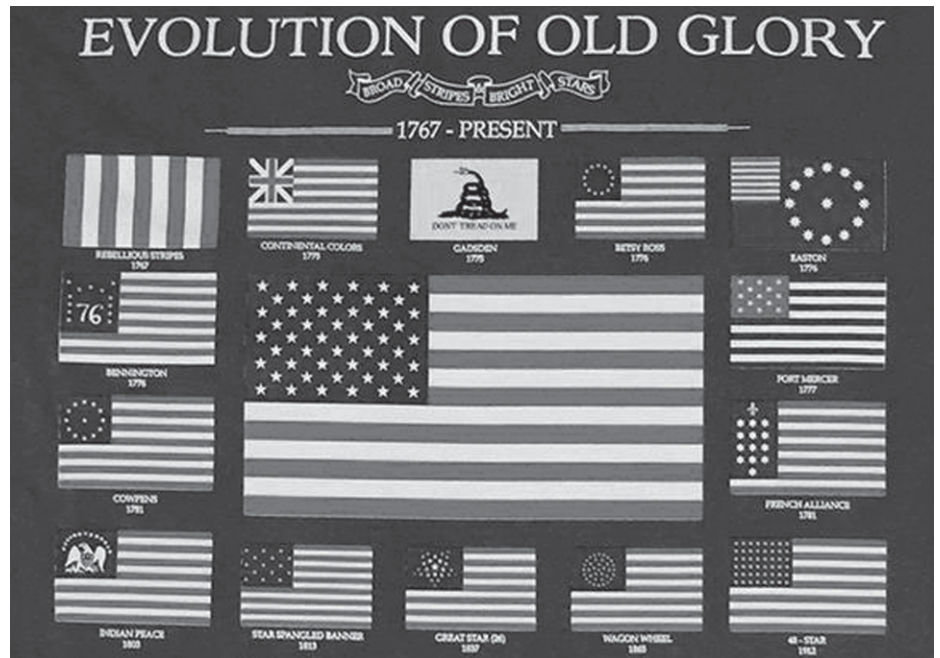
On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed an act establishing an official flag for the new nation. The resolution stated: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." On Aug. 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman officially declared June 14 as Flag Day.

The history of our flag is as fascinating as that of the American Republic itself. It has survived battles, inspired songs and evolved in response to the growth of the country it represents. The following is a collection of interesting facts and customs about the American flag and how it is to be displayed:

## Origins

The origin of the first American flag is unknown. Some historians believe it was designed by New Jersey Congressman Francis Hopkinson and sewn by Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross.

The name *Old Glory* was given to a large, 10-by-17-foot flag by its owner, William Driver, a sea captain from Massachusetts. Inspiring the common nickname for all American flags, Driver's flag is said to have survived multiple attempts to de-



face it during the Civil War. Driver was able to fly the flag over the Tennessee Statehouse once the war ended. The flag is a primary artifact at the National Museum of American History and was last displayed in Tennessee by permission of the Smithsonian at an exhibition in 2006.

Between 1777 and 1960 Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

Today the flag consists of 13 horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with six white. The stripes represent the original 13 Colonies and the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well; red symbolizes hardiness and valor, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice.

The National Museum of American History has undertaken a long-term preservation project of the

enormous 1814 garrison flag that survived the 25-hour shelling of Fort McHenry in Baltimore by British troops and inspired Francis Scott Key to compose "The Star-Spangled Banner." Often referred to by that name, the flag had become soiled and weakened over time and was removed from the museum in December 1998. This preservation effort began in earnest in June 1999, and continues to this day. The flag is now stored at a 10-degree angle in a special low-oxygen, filtered light chamber and is periodically examined at a microscopic level to detect signs of decay or damage within its individual fibers.

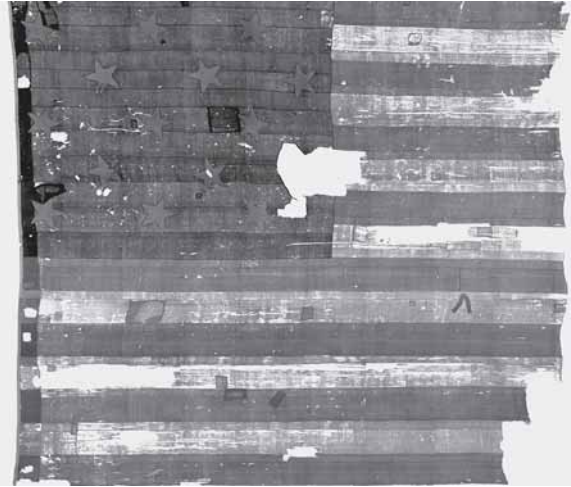
There are a few locations where the U.S. flag is flown 24 hours a day, by either presidential proclamation or by law:

- Fort McHenry, National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, Maryland
- Flag House Square, Baltimore, Maryland
- United States Marine Corps Memorial (Iwo Jima), Arlington, Virginia
- On the Green of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

## Old Glory, cont'd...

- The White House, Washington, D.C.
- United States customs ports of entry
- Grounds of the National Memorial Arch in Valley Forge State Park, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania



*Star Spangled Banner*

### Inspiration

After a British bombardment, amateur poet Francis Scott Key was so inspired by the sight of the American flag still flying over Baltimore's Fort McHenry that he wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" on Sept. 14, 1814. It officially became our national anthem in 1931.

In 1892, the flag inspired James B. Upham and Francis Bellamy to write The Pledge of Allegiance. It was first published in a magazine called *The Youth's Companion*.

### On Distant Shores

In 1909, Robert Peary placed an American flag, sewn by his wife, at the North Pole. He also left pieces of another flag along the way. It is the only time a person has been honored for cutting the flag.

In 1963, Barry Bishop placed the American flag on top of Mount Everest.

In July 1969, the American flag was "flown" in space when Neil Armstrong placed it on the moon. Flags were placed on the lunar surface on each of six manned landings during the Apollo program.

The first time the American flag was flown overseas on a foreign fort was in Libya, over Fort Derne, on the shores of Tripoli in 1805.

### Displaying the Stars and Stripes

The flag is usually displayed from sunrise to sunset. It should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously. In inclement

weather, the flag should not be flown.

The flag should be displayed daily and on all holidays, weather permitting, on or near the main administration buildings of all public institutions. It should also be displayed in or near every polling place on election days and in or near every schoolhouse during school days.

When displayed flat against a wall or a window, or in a vertical orientation, the "union" field of stars should be uppermost and to the left of the observer.

When the flag is raised or lowered as part of a ceremony, and as it passes by in parade or review, everyone, except those in uniform, should face the flag with the right hand over the heart.

The U.S. flag should never be dipped toward any person or object, nor should the flag ever touch anything beneath it.



## Folding the Flag

The national flag of the United States of America is folded as part of a formalized and time-honored ritual, resulting in a neatly-folded triangular flag that you can display in between flying ceremonies.

**Hold the flag with a partner.** Folding the flag properly requires two sets of hands.<sup>[1]</sup> Hold the flag waist-high so that its surface is parallel to the ground.

**Fold the flag in half lengthwise.** Fold the lower half of the stripe section over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely. Make a gutter when folding, by folding it just below the grommet. This offset is to ensure the thickness of the flag and to ensure that there is no red showing.

**Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside.** Keep the crease tight and make sure the corners are aligned with the first fold's offset.

**Make a triangular fold.** Bring the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the offset edge of the flag. It's important to start with the folded edge, to make sure the folds align correctly in the end.

**Turn the outer end point inward.** Fold the triangle you've just created, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.

**Continue the triangular folding for the entire flag.** The entire sequence of folds should involve 13 folds, which represent the thirteen original colonies.

**Ensure the flag is folded properly.** When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible. Tuck the end into the fold to secure the flag in place. Make a 45 degree fold and then tuck the fabrics in. The finished flag must have no red showing, has four stars pointing upward, and square corners.

# The President and the Janitor

The grizzled, old blacksmith from Pueblo, Colorado shifted his feet uncomfortably. He felt out of place enough as it was, standing before a crowd of soldiers to face no less than a two-star general. The date was May 11, 1944, and Mr. Crawford had been summoned to Camp Carson, Colorado for a special occasion. It was not a happy occasion, but it was a ceremony the man, who had already tasted grief far too often, could not avoid.

“Your son was a hero,” Major General Terry Allen said to the father who struggled to keep tears that formed in his eyes from falling across his cheeks. Then, slowly, the general began to read the official citation that detailed the heroism of George Crawford’s son, Bill.

On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, just nine months earlier, Private Bill Crawford had been serving his Nation as a member of the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Italy. He had landed with the unit at Salerno and moved inland as Allied Forces began the drive to liberate the European continent from the evil and deadly grip of the Nazi regime. “On that September day,” Major General Allen read, “Private Bill Crawford demonstrated the highest degree of valor...and sacrifice.”

As his platoon had moved up a hillside, an enemy machine-gun nest began to rain death around Crawford’s fellow soldiers. It was a desperate situation, a crisis that demanded a man of character, and Private Bill Crawford was that man. Without orders, he jumped to his feet and charged forward, ignoring the bullets that flew around him. Moving up the hill, Private Crawford advanced to within a few yards of the enemy, threw a grenade into the pit from which they were firing at the American soldiers and in so do-

ing had saved his platoon. Again the American forces could advance.

The advance was short-lived. This time it was not one, but two separate machine gun nests firing at them from both the left and the right. And again, it was Private Crawford who stepped forward to save the platoon. First he attacked to the left, destroying the gun that threatened his comrades. Without pause, he shifted his attack to the right, knocking out the second enemy emplacement, then turned the captured machine gun on the now routed and fleeing German soldiers. Again the platoon advanced, and fought throughout the day.

Then, as darkness fell, the men of Crawford’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Company I, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, pulled into a defensive position for the night. Those who were alive, marveled at the fact that they had survived the vicious fighting of the day. All knew they were alive because of the heroism of Private Bill Crawford. None would find the fearless soldier to thank him...Private Crawford was no longer among them...his body lying somewhere in the darkness on the field of battle. Unable to otherwise express their thanks and admiration for the hero of the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, the soldiers did the only action left to them; submitting their fallen hero for the Medal of Honor.

The posthumous award of the Medal of Honor to Private William John Crawford had been quickly approved, and Major General Allen presented the small star-shaped symbol of the highest degree of valor to a grieving father at the military post just 30 miles from young Bill’s hometown of Pueblo, Colorado. Slowly the elder Crawford stretched his work-hardened hands forward to graciously accept the award that, though prestigious, would never replace the son he had lost. “Perhaps,” George Crawford thought to himself, “I should have spent more time with Bill while I had

the chance. Now, that opportunity is lost forever.” As he turned away, no longer could the tears be restrained. So he slowly walked away alone, hiding them in his solitude.

Half a world away, Private Bill Crawford tossed about on his straw-filled, burlap mattress in a futile attempt to find some comfort. He was tired, he was sore, and he was embarrassed. How had he let himself be captured? How had he even survived that horrible battle at Altavilla, Italy nine months earlier? Did his family even know he was alive? Would he survive life in the German prisoner of war camp to ever return home?

Unable to rest, he pulled from his pocket the small New Testament that his German guards had passed on to him from the Red Cross, and he opened it. He looked down and read the first verse to meet his gaze – Romans 8:31: “If God be for us, who can be against us.” Reading the Bible was a new practice for the young boxer from Pueblo, Colorado, but that particular verse was his favorite and he had read it so many times, the worn little Testament seemed to open to that verse on its own accord. In the words of that verse, he found strength to face each new day. He had fought his battles. Now, as a prisoner, he needed someone stronger than himself to insure his future. In a prisoner of war camp named Stalag 2B, Bill Crawford made his peace with God. It was a step that became the focal point that guided the rest of his life.

Life in the camp was difficult, but not unbearable. There were moments, like that day in the early spring of 1944 when a German guard had clubbed Private Crawford in the head with the butt of his rifle. The former Gloves Boxer refused to take such unwarranted punish-

## president-janitor, cont'd...

ment. In the middle of the compound, he ripped the rifle from the hands of his tormentor and rained a series of blows on him that rendered the German unconscious. Crawford thought he would be severely punished, but the camp's German doctor noted the bruising from the unwarranted attack of the guard and testified in the young American's defense. Amazingly, the German guard was punished, and Crawford exonerated. Even as the young man had twice garnered the respect of his fellow soldiers, as a prisoner he also garnered the respect of his captors.

Two months after Private Crawford's Medal of Honor was presented to his father as a posthumous award, the family received news that the young hero was alive. At about the same time, a telegram arrived at the prison camp informing Private Crawford of his unique and high award. His treatment improved even more, the Germans themselves respecting his Medal of Honor and recognizing him for the man of character he was. But even this could not spare him the perils of the last months of the war.

In the winter of 1944, the Russian Army was swiftly advancing into Germany on the eastern front, and the prisoners of Stalag 2B were assembled as the Germans attempted to move the camp. For 52 days, the prisoners were marched through the frozen mountains, one step ahead of the advancing Russian Army. In those 52 days, Bill and his fellow prisoners were marched 500 miles, subsisting on a meal of one potato a day. Resting firmly in his belief that "If God be for me, who can be against me", Private Crawford determined to survive and return

home. In the spring of 1945, an advancing tank column finally brought him liberty. He took his first hot shower in nearly eighteen months on VE-Day, 11 days before his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In a 1995 interview, Bill Crawford recalled the joy of his release and the long ocean voyage home. As the ship entered New York harbor, "I saw the Statue of Liberty there, and boy it looked good. It was the most beautiful sight I've ever seen." Private Crawford's joy in his release far overshadowed any prestige he felt at the award of the Medal of Honor.

Forty-one years later, during the 1984 US Air Force Academy Commencement ceremony, President Ronald Reagan formally re-presented the Medal of Honor to William Crawford for his unflinching heroism, far above & beyond the call of duty.

While working at the Air Force Academy, working as a janitor, he was an inspiration to many, many cadets. This inspiration was the subject of an article, which follows -- **Ten things a janitor can teach you about leadership.**

### CRAWFORD, WILLIAM J.

Rank: Private  
Organization: U.S. Army  
Company:  
Division: 36th Infantry Division  
Born: Pueblo, Colo.  
Departed: Yes  
Entered Service At: Pueblo, Colo.  
G.O. Number: 57  
Date of Issue: 07/20/1944  
Accredited To:  
Place / Date: Near Altavilla, Italy,  
13 September 1943



#### Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action with the enemy near Altavilla, Italy, 13 September 1943. When Company I attacked an enemy-held position on Hill 424, the 3d Platoon, in which Pvt. Crawford was a squad scout, attacked as base platoon for the company. After reaching the crest of the hill, the platoon was pinned down by intense enemy machinegun and small-arms fire. Locating 1 of these guns, which was dug in on a terrace on his immediate front, Pvt. Crawford, without orders and on his own initiative, moved over the hill under enemy fire to a point within a few yards of the gun emplacement and single-handedly destroyed the machinegun and killed 3 of the crew with a hand grenade, thus enabling his platoon to continue its advance. When the platoon, after reaching the crest, was once more delayed by enemy fire, Pvt. Crawford again, in the face of intense fire, advanced directly to the front midway between 2 hostile machinegun nests located on a higher terrace and emplaced in a small ravine. Moving first to the left, with a hand grenade he destroyed 1 gun emplacement and killed the crew; he then worked his way, under continuous fire, to the other and with 1 grenade and the use of his rifle, killed 1 enemy and forced the remainder to flee. Seizing the enemy machinegun, he fired on the withdrawing Germans and facilitated his company's advance.

# 10 Things a Janitor Can Teach You about Leadership

*By Col. James Moschgat, 12th Operations Group Commander Graduate United States Air Force Academy - Class of 1977*

William Bill Crawford certainly was an unimpressive figure, one you could easily overlook during a hectic day at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Mr. Crawford, as most of us referred to him back in the late 1970s, was our squadron janitor.

While we cadets busied ourselves preparing for academic exams, athletic events, Saturday morning parades and room inspections, or never-ending leadership classes, Bill quietly moved about the squadron mopping and buffing floors, emptying trash cans, cleaning toilets, or just tidying up the mess 100 college kids can leave in a dormitory.

Sadly, and for many years, few of us gave him much notice, rendering little more than a passing nod or throwing a curt, Gmorning! in his direction as we hurried off to our daily duties. Why?

Perhaps it was because of the way he did his job—he always kept the squadron area spotlessly clean, even the toilets and showers gleamed. Frankly, he did his job so well, none of us had to notice or get involved. After all, cleaning toilets was his job, not ours.

Maybe it was his physical appearance that made him disappear into the background. Bill didn't move very quickly and, in fact, you could say he even shuffled a bit, as if he suffered from some sort of injury. His gray hair and wrinkled face made him appear ancient to a group of young cadets.

And his crooked smile, well, it looked a little funny. Face it, Bill was an old man working in a young

person's world. What did he have to offer us on a personal level?

Finally, maybe it was Mr. Crawford's personality that rendered him almost invisible to the young people around him. Bill was shy, almost painfully so. He seldom spoke to a cadet unless they addressed him first, and that didn't happen very often. Our janitor always buried himself in his work, moving about with stooped shoulders, a quiet gait, and an averted gaze. If he noticed the hustle and bustle of cadet life around him, it was hard to tell. So, for whatever reason, Bill blended into the woodwork and became just another fixture around the squadron. The Academy, one of our nation's premier leadership laboratories, kept us busy from dawn till dusk.

And Mr. Crawford...well, he was just a janitor.

That changed one fall Saturday afternoon in 1976. I was reading a book about World War II and the tough Allied ground campaign in Italy, when I stumbled across an incredible story. On Sept. 13, 1943, a Private William Crawford from Colorado, assigned to the 36th Infantry Division, had been involved in some bloody fighting on Hill 424 near Altavilla, Italy. The words on the page leapt out at me: in the face of intense and overwhelming hostile fire ... with no regard for personal safety on his own initiative, Private Crawford single-handedly attacked fortified enemy positions. It continued, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, the President of the United States ... "Holy cow," I said to my roommate, "you're not going to believe this, but I think our janitor is a Medal of Honor winner."

We all knew Mr. Crawford was a WWII Army vet, but that didn't keep my friend from looking at me as if I was some sort of alien being. Nonetheless, we couldn't wait to ask Bill

about the story on Monday. We met Mr. Crawford bright and early Monday and showed him the page in question from the book, anticipation and doubt on our faces.

He stared at it for a few silent moments and then quietly uttered something like, Yep, that's me.

Mouths agape, my roommate and I looked at one another, then at the book, and quickly back at our janitor. Almost at once we both stuttered, Why didn't you ever tell us about it? He slowly replied after some thought, "That was one day in my life and it happened a long time ago." I guess we were all at a loss for words after that. We had to hurry off to class and Bill, well, he had chores to attend to.

However, after that brief exchange, things were never again the same around our squadron. Word spread like wildfire among the cadets that we had a hero in our midst – Mr. Crawford, our janitor, had won the Medal! Cadets who had once passed by Bill with hardly a glance, now greeted him with a smile and a respectful, Good morning, Mr. Crawford.

Those who had before left a mess for the janitor to clean up started taking it upon themselves to put things in order. Most cadets routinely stopped to talk to Bill throughout the day and we even began inviting him to our formal squadron functions. He'd show up dressed in a conservative dark suit and quietly talk to those who approached him, the only sign of his heroics being a simple blue, star-spangled lapel pin.

Almost overnight, Bill went from being a simple fixture in our squadron to one of our teammates. Mr. Crawford changed too, but you had to look closely to

## 10 things, cont'd...

notice the difference. After that fall day in 1976, he seemed to move with more purpose, his shoulders didn't seem to be as stooped, he met our greetings with a direct gaze and a stronger good morning in return, and he flashed his crooked smile more often. The squadron gleamed as always, but everyone now seemed to notice it more. Bill even got to know most of us by our first names, something that didn't happen often at the Academy.

While no one ever formally acknowledged the change, I think we became Bill's cadets and his squadron. As often happens in life, events sweep us away from those in our past. The last time I saw Bill was on graduation day in June 1977. As I walked out of the squadron for the last time, he shook my hand and simply said, Good luck, young man.

With that, I embarked on a career that has been truly lucky and blessed. Mr. Crawford continued to work at the Academy and eventually retired in his native Colorado where he resides today, one of four Medal of Honor winners living in a small town.

A wise person once said, "It's not life that's important, but those you meet along the way that make the difference." Bill was one who made a difference for me. While I haven't seen Mr. Crawford in over twenty years, he'd probably be surprised to know I think of him often. Bill Crawford, our janitor, taught me many valuable, unforgettable leadership lessons. Here are ten I'd like to share with you.

**1. Be Cautious of Labels.** Labels you place on people may define your relationship to them and bound their potential. Sadly, and for a long

time, we labeled Bill as just a janitor, but he was so much more. Therefore, be cautious of a leader who callously says, Hey, he's just an Airman. Likewise, don't tolerate the O-1, who says, I can't do that, I'm just a lieutenant.

**2. Everyone Deserves Respect.** Because we hung the janitor label on Mr. Crawford, we often wrongly treated him with less respect than others around us. He deserved much more, and not just because he was a Medal of Honor winner. Bill deserved respect because he was a janitor, walked among us, and was a part of our team.

**3. Courtesy Makes a Difference.** Be courteous to all around you, regardless of rank or position. Military customs, as well as common courtesies, help bond a team. When our daily words to Mr. Crawford turned from perfunctory hellos to heartfelt greetings, his demeanor and personality outwardly changed. It made a difference for all of us.

**4. Take Time to Know Your People.** Life in the military is hectic, but that's no excuse for not knowing the people you work for and with. For years a hero walked among us at the Academy and we never knew it. Who are the heroes that walk in your midst?

**5. Anyone Can Be a Hero.** Mr. Crawford certainly didn't fit anyone's standard definition of a hero. Moreover, he was just a private on the day he won his Medal. Don't sell your people short, for any one of them may be the hero who rises to the occasion when duty calls. On the other hand, it's easy to turn to your proven performers when the chips are down, but don't ignore the rest of the team. Today's rookie could and should be tomorrow's superstar.

**6. Leaders Should Be Humble.** Most modern day heroes and some leaders are anything but humble, espe-

cially if you calibrate your hero meter on today's athletic fields. End zone celebrations and self-aggrandizement are what we've come to expect from sports greats. Not Mr. Crawford — he was too busy working to celebrate his past heroics. Leaders would be well served to do the same.

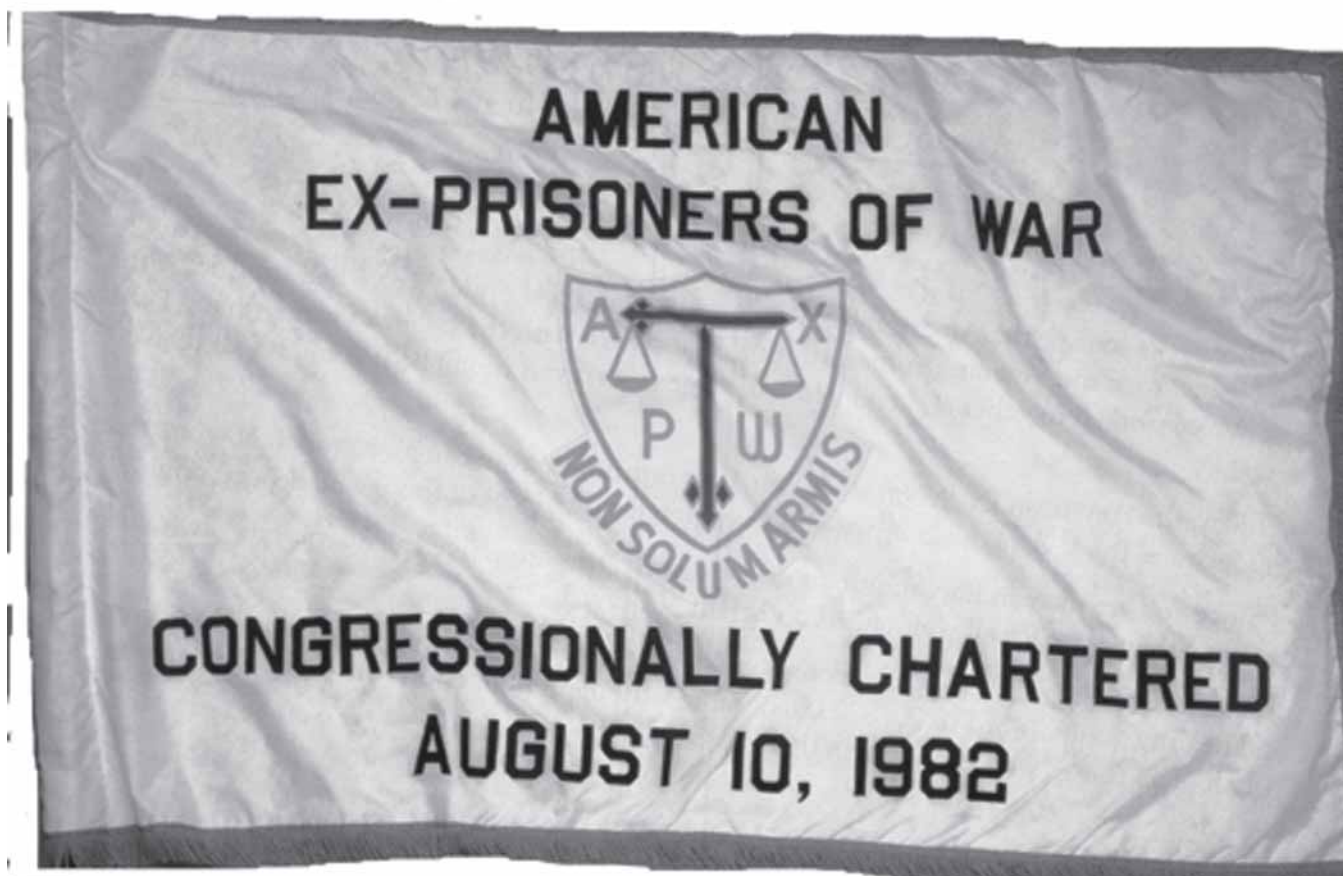
**7. Life Won't Always Hand You What You Think You Deserve.** We in the military work hard and, dang it, we deserve recognition, right? However, sometimes you just have to persevere, even when accolades don't come your way. Perhaps you weren't nominated for junior officer or airman of the quarter as you thought you should — don't let that stop you.

**8. Don't Pursue Glory; Pursue Excellence.** Private Bill Crawford didn't pursue glory; he did his duty and then swept floors for a living. No matter what task life hands you, do it well. Mr. Crawford modeled that philosophy and helped make our dormitory area a home.

**9. No Job is Beneath a Leader.** If Bill Crawford, a Medal of Honor winner, could clean latrines and smile, is there a job beneath your dignity? Think about it.

**10. Life is a Leadership Laboratory.** All too often we look to some school or PME class to teach us about leadership when, in fact, life is a leadership laboratory. Those you meet everyday will teach you enduring lessons if you just take time to stop, look and listen. I spent four years at the Air Force Academy, took dozens of classes, read hundreds of books, and met thousands of great people. I gleaned leadership skills from all of them, but one of the people I remember most is Mr. Bill Crawford and the lessons he unknowingly taught. Don't miss your opportunity to learn. Bill Crawford was a janitor. However, he was also a teacher, friend, role model and one great American hero.





The Bataan Relief Organization (BRO), originally conceived of by two mothers from New Mexico, became a reality in 1942. The mothers were Mrs. Charles W. Bickford and Mrs. Fred E. Landon, whose sons, members of the 200th Coast Artillery (CA) were captured by the Japanese. On April 10th, these women spoke with the father of another 200th CA prisoner and asked him to preside over a meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to form an organization to send aid to the captured men on Bataan.

That historic meeting was held on April 14, 1942 and the Bataan Relief Organization was created with headquarters in Albuquerque, NM. The name Bataan Relief Organization was suggested by Dr. V. H. Spensley, the first chairman of the organization. Spensley pointed out that the initials BRO are a shortened form of the word "brother" and that all the imprisoned men were their brothers. The group adopted as its motto: "We will not let them down."

In 1945, the control of the Bataan Relief Organization was turned over to the liberated members of the New Mexico's 200th Coast Artillery Regiment at an annual meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1946, the name was changed to Bataan Veteran's Organization.

The first National convention of the BVO was held May 14, 1948, in Albuquerque. The second National convention was held in Hollywood, California, in April 1949. At this convention, it was voted to change the name to American Ex-Prisoners of War. The reason for the change was so veterans from the European Theater would realize that they were eligible for membership. By changing the name to American Ex-Prisoners of War, it would welcome all former POWs, Civilian Internees and their families and descendants from any war.

On Aug. 10, 1982, more than 40 years after we were organized, AXPOW received its Congressional Charter.

# History of the POW/MIA Flag

In 1971, Mrs. Michael Hoff, the wife of a U.S. military officer listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs...a symbol to remind every American of the U.S. servicemembers whose fates were never accounted for during the war.

Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida, *Times Union*, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, vice president of Annin & Company, which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China, as a part of their policy to provide flags to all UN member nations. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue, and he, along

with Annin's advertising agency, designed a flag to represent our missing men and women. Following League approval, the flags were manufactured for distribution.

The black and white image of a gaunt silhouette, a strand of barbed wire and an ominous watchtower was designed by Newt Heisley, a former World War II pilot. Some claim the silhouette is a profile of Heisley's son, who contracted hepatitis while training to go to Vietnam. The virus ravaged his body, leaving his features hallow and emaciated. They suggest that while staring at his son's sunken features, Heisley saw the stark im-

age of American servicemembers held captive under harsh conditions. Using a pencil, he sketched his son's profile, creating the basis for a symbol that would come to have a powerful impact on the national conscience.

By the end of the Vietnam War, more than 2,500 servicemembers were

## Displaying the POW/MIA Flag

Congress designated the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day and ordered prominent display of the POW/MIA flag on this day and several other national observances, including Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.



The 1998 Defense Authorization Act (P.L. 105-85) mandates that on these national observances, the POW/MIA flag is to be flown over the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Korean and Vietnam Veterans War Memorials, the offices of the Secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, offices of the Director of the Selective Service System, every major military instal-

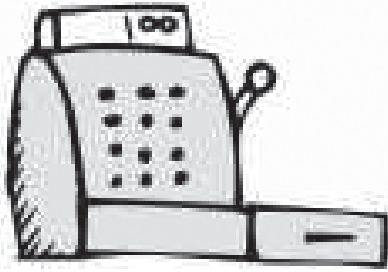
listed by the Department of Defense as Prisoner of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). In 1979, as families of the missing pressed for full accountability, Congress and the president proclaimed the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day to acknowledge the families' concerns and symbolize the steadfast resolve of the American people to never forget the men and women who gave up their freedom protecting ours. Three years later, in 1982, the POW/MIA flag became the only flag other than the Stars and Stripes to fly over the White House in Washington, D.C.

On August 10, 1990, Congress passed Public Law 101-355 designating Sept. 21, 1990 as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day and authorizing the display of the POW/MIA flag,

lating (as directed by the Secretary of Defense), every post office and all Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and national cemeteries. The act also directs VA medical centers to fly the POW/MIA flag on any day on which the flag of the United States is displayed.

When displayed from a single flag pole, the POW/MIA flag should fly directly below, and be no larger than, the United States flag. If on separate poles, the U.S. flag should always be placed to the right of other flags. On the six national observances for which Congress has ordered display of the POW/MIA flag, it is generally flown immediately below or adjacent to the United States flag as second in order of precedence.

# contributions



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

Checks must be made payable to  
AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners of  
War.

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Bennie Wynn, by  
Annis Dominey  
In memory of Charles W Blaney Jr,  
by Rocky Mountain Chapter

In memory of Douglas Arthur  
Harrow, by Virginia Harrow  
In memory of Evelyn o'Brien, by  
Tom O'Brien  
In memory of Francis  
Fuerstenberg, by Douglas & Sandy  
Mann  
In memory of Francis  
Fuerstenberg, by Naval Sea Sys-  
tems Command, Naval Special  
Warfare Program Office  
In memory of Francis  
Fuerstenberg, by NEXCOM, Loss  
Prevention/Safety  
In memory of Francis  
Fuerstenberg, by Joel & Krissy  
Mathis  
In memory of Francis  
Fuerstenberg, by Judy Lopata  
In memory of Francis  
Fuerstenberg, by Scott Buchanan  
In memory of Hank Wilayto, by  
Helen Wilayto  
In memory of Irma Burke, by  
Patrick Burke  
In memory of Irv Bailey, my hus-  
band, by Dorothy  
In memory of Harold B White, by  
Dodi & Paul Schultz  
In memory of Harold B White, by  
Barbara Douglas

In memory of Harold B White, by  
Riverview Medical Associates  
In memory of Jack Bernstein, by  
Florence Bernstein  
In memory of Jack Gutting, by  
Inland Empire Chapter  
In memory of John Frank Ryals, by  
Annis Dominey  
In memory of Louise Lammey, by  
Rosalie Valocchi & Family  
In memory of Louise Lammey, by  
Kathi Kelley  
In memory of Louise Lammey, by  
Robert & Melissa Cislak  
In memory of Melvin Steffes, by  
Harriet Steffes  
In memory of Nell Ryals, by Annis  
Dominey  
In memory of Russell Ray, by Mary  
Ray  
In memory of Sam Palter, and  
honor of his widow, Barbara, by  
Robert Noble  
In memory of Truett Ford, by  
Gretchen Ford Smith

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Allan M Johnson, Redding CA  
Irving Lautman, Monroe Twp, NJ  
Ohio Chapter #1

## Thank you!

AXPOW member John A. Cavett left  
a certificate of deposit with AXPOW  
listed as the beneficiary. We are very  
grateful for his generosity. In his  
memory, we gave a scholarship in  
his name for a summer intern at  
Andersonville.

A number of years ago, one of our  
members made the decision to es-  
tablish a bequest to the American  
Ex-Prisoners of War. He felt strongly  
that he truly cared about the future  
of AXPOW and wanted to leave a  
legacy to us.

You, too can take action today to  
help ensure that the American Ex-  
Prisoners of War is there for return-  
ing POWs, their families and their  
dependents.

An easy option is to visit a bank and  
buy a CD naming the American Ex-  
Prisoners of War as the beneficiary,  
payable-on-death like Mr. Cavett did.  
The CD can remain on deposit earn-  
ing interest until the donor dies,  
upon which AXPOW receives its  
value. Make sure the CD is the  
type that automatically rolls over and  
maintains the beneficiary designa-  
tion.

There are a number of other ways  
to let the legacy of your commit-  
ment to the American Ex-Prisoners  
of War continue on.

If you have a life insurance policy  
that is no longer needed to provide  
for dependants consider making  
AXPOW the beneficiary.

Some assets such as IRAs, Keogh  
Plans and other qualified retirement  
plans do not pass directly through  
your will and also require you to  
name a beneficiary.

Perhaps you're receiving payments  
from the sale of a business, real  
estate or are receiving royalties? You  
may be able to designate AXPOW as  
the successor interest to receive  
any payments that continue after  
your death.

Your generous support of our pro-  
grams over the years has made a  
tremendous difference to ex-POWs  
and their families. I hope you will  
seriously consider whether a final  
gift to AXPOW will be the right op-  
tion for you and your family.

Please take a few minutes of your  
time to help. And feel free to con-  
tact CFO Marsha Coke at 817-649-  
2979/axpow76010@yahoo.com or  
CEO David Eberly at (757) 508-8453  
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# new members



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

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families.

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Middleport NY  
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Simmons, ETO

Michael D "Mike" Bengé  
Falls Church VA  
Civilian Vietnam  
Chu Prong, 102, D-t Plantation,  
Hanoi Hilton  
01/30/68 to 03/05/73



# 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  
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# taps



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



**CHANDLER, Paul Wayne,** 59, of Woodville, Texas passed away April 12, 2017. Born May 22, 1957 in San

Francisco, California to Lewell and Sina Jordan Chandler, he lived in Bastrop before moving to Woodville. He worked for Tandem Computers and volunteered long hours as adjutant for the Dept. of Texas and the Capitol City Chapter, AXPOW. Paul was preceded in death by his father, 1 brother, and 1 sister. He is survived by his mother, Sina, 2 sisters and their families, including 5 nieces, 18 great-nieces and nephews, 3 great-great-nieces and nephew and a host of other family members and friends. Paul was made people laugh, cared for people and was the favorite uncle to his nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by his friends and all the "kids" in AXPOW.

**CLAYCOMB, William Conrad Sr.,** of Campbellsville, KY died March 27, 2017. He was 92. During WWII, he served with the 45<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. and was captured near the French border after participating in invasions of Sicily and Italy. He was held in work camps and Stalag 7A. Conrad is survived by 3 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandsons, 5 great-grandchildren and their families.

**CORBIN, Alfred Wayne,** Sr. 91, of Fairmont, W. Virginia passed away March 29, 2017. Alfred proudly served in the US Army during WWII; he was captured and held in 2A and 12A until liberation. He leaves 1 son, 2 granddaughters, 1 brother, 5 sisters and their families and a host of good friends.

**FORD, Donald S.,** of Preston, MD died Feb. 4, 2015. He was a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 351<sup>st</sup> BG. He was shot down after bombing Frankfurt, Germany in 1943, held for 19 months and liberated on May 2, 1945. His wife, Marjorie died March 9, 2016. He is survived by 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**FUERSTENBERG, Francis Bernard** of Reseda, California passed away March 19, 2017 at the age of 92. He served in the 26<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. and was captured outside of Rodalbe, France. He was held at Stalag 2A in Neubrandenburg, Germany and Kommando in Rostock, Germany. Preceded in death by his loving wife of 43 years, Marge, he is survived by two sons, one daughter and four grandchildren.

**HARROW, Douglas Arthur,** of Stone Mountain, GA, died Feb. 25, 2017. Doug was interned at Santo Tomas University as a civilian internee by the Japanese. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Virginia. Both are AXPOW life members since 1991.

**HESLOP, Donald B.,** of Akron, OH passed away April 5, 2017. While in service, he was assigned to Co. C, 607<sup>th</sup> tank Destroyers Bn. He was captured at Le Bourge St. Leonard, France., held at Stalag XIII A and VIA. Donald was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Ann. He leaves 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**LaFORCE, Philip Walter,** of Okeechobee, Florida died May 15, 2017. He served with the Army 28<sup>th</sup> Division and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Philip was held in Stalag 9A & 9B for 106 days. He was married to his wife Adelaide for 72 years. He had 6 children, 9 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

**LAMMEY, Louise M.,** 95, formerly of Coatesville, PA, passed away April 5, 2017 at the age of 95. She was the widow of ex-POW Robert and devoted herself to AXPOW, on a local and state level. She spent her time volunteering at VA medical centers, organizing state conventions in order to help POWs get their benefits. She leaves 2 sons, 2 daughters, 13 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a large extended family.

**McFADDEN, Emma M.** of Fresno, CA died Feb. 20, 2017. She was 95. Emma and her late husband, Harlan, were active members of Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW and American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. Harlan was captured by the Japanese and sent to Hotel Camp near Manchuria for 3 1/2 years. Survivors include 2 sons and 6 grandsons and their families.

**NELSON, Louis I.,** 96, of Auburn, IN passed away Sept. 8, 2016. He was a combat veteran of WWII serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. Combat engineers. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalags XIII C, Wurzburg and Zell, Germany. He leaves his wife of more than 71 years, Waneta, 1 daughter and 1 son.

**ROENNA, Robert F.,** of Medinah, IL died April 13, 2017. During WWII, he served with the US Army, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Bn, HQ Co (Darby's Rangers). He was captured and held in Stalag 2B and work details. Bob was a National Service Officer with AXPOW, working with veterans to ensure they received their benefits. He was an active member of the Fox River Valley Chapter. His wife, Marianne, survives him; he also leaves 1 daughter. He will be missed by his family and friends.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
July-Sept 2017

# taps cont'd...

**STEFFES, Melvin W.**, 98, of San Diego County Chapter #1, passed away Nov. 21, 2016. During WWII, he served in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 351<sup>st</sup> BG, 511<sup>th</sup> BS as a bombardier-navigator on a B-17. His plane was shot down and he was held in Stalag Luft I until liberation. He is survived by his wife, Harriet, and several children and grandchildren.

**SIMONITSCH, Jake M.**, of Independence, MO, passed away April 5, 2017. He was 98. Jake was a B-17 navigator, 568<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron, 390<sup>th</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, Framlingham, England. On his 18<sup>th</sup> mission on March 8, 1944, he was shot down as his bomb group headed for Berlin and spent the remainder of the war in Stalag Luft I, Barth, Germany. Always an active member of the Heart of America

AXPOW chapter, Jake is survived by his wife of 65 years, Donna, a son, 5 daughters, 12 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren..

**THORSNESS, Leo K.**, of St. Augustine, FL, one of the most highly decorated American airmen of the Vietnam War and a belated recipient of the Medal of Honor for his heroism on a mission that took place 11 days before he was shot down and taken prisoner, died May 2, 2017. He was 85. On April 30, 1967, on his 93<sup>rd</sup> mission, Thorsness was shot down by a Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 over North Vietnam. He had flown the morning mission to the Hanoi area



as Wild Weasel leader, then assigned himself as a spare aircraft for the afternoon mission because of a shortage of crews. He was captured and spent 6 years in the Hanoi Hilton. In addition to his wife, Gaylee, he is survived by 1 daughter, 1 sister, and 2 grandchildren.

**YOUNG, Denny B.** 77, of Eustis, FL, husband, father, "papaw", brother, proud Veteran and Korean War POW, passed away April 28, 2010. At 14 years old, he joined the Marine Corps and then enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was captured in Korea in 1951 and held for 28 months. Denny was married to the love of his life Nelda Mae Taylor-Young for 50 years. He is also survived by 2 sisters, 1 brother, 1 daughter, 1 step-daughter, 2 granddaughters, 1 grandson, 2 great-grandsons and many nieces and nephews. He was Commander of Lake Monroe Chapter, AXPOW.

## chaplain



Benny Rayborn

I am sure that every reader of this magazine has had the privilege of attending a funeral of a family member, a friend, or at least an acquaintance.

Sometimes we attend a wake or funeral and we hear comments similar to this: "He had a hard life." Or "She lived Life to the fullest" or, "It's sad that his life ended so young" or, "He was a good man". Yes, funerals are sad times but they are also times when we are able to re-

acquaint ourselves with old friends and family members. Funerals give the living opportunities to change or as we say in this age "update" our lives because we lack one person that previously made an impact upon us.

However, this is not a funeral service: the verse I've chosen for this devotion is for the living: "Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee." Psalm 63:3. The Psalmist (King David) has discovered that he is influenced by God's Divine grace and favor, What is grace and favor? It's the fact that God has concern for each of us and further that He exercised care for each of us. In short, God loves us. His love for us has caused Him to be kind to us. Further, our trust in Him provides such a sense of joy, completeness and peace that the natural response is to praise God.

David recognized a poetic truth, Love is a fountain of goodness. This sense that David experienced was better than life itself. David was so grateful to God for this sense of well-being that he literally "burst"

into praising God for the good things that God provided him. The question should be asked of each of us, "Am I aware of the many blessings that should cause me to feel grateful?" If we change anything in our lives, it should be an "update" of more praise for God.

It is a wonderful and acceptable thing to God for us to praise Him often, daily, even several times a day. Our praise is evidence that we acknowledge Him as God and give thanks for the life that we have. Life itself is reason to praise God, after all, where would you be if you had never been born? I close with this verse:

"...therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15

## Benny





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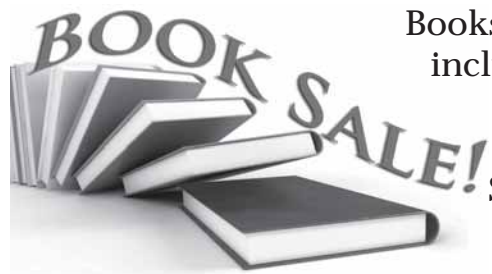
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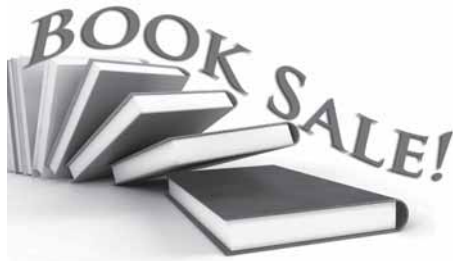
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Courage After Fire - Coping  
 Strategies for Troops Returning  
 Armstrong, Keith; Best,  
 Suzanne; Domenici, Paula  
 2006

POWERful Memories (publisher's  
 proof)  
 Fernandez, Augustine  
 2005

An Angel's Illustrated Journal - The  
 Story of Floramund Fellmeth  
 Difford (autographed)  
 Difford, Floramund F 2005

World War II Scrapbook (European  
 Theater of Operations)  
 Thompson, Robert L 2013

Beyond Fantasy - Story of War  
 and Sex (autographed)  
 King, Ernest 1985

Tell MacArthur to Wait  
 (autographed)  
 Hibbs, Ralph Emerson 1988

Prisoners of War  
 Barker, AJ 1975

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 (autographed)  
 Coy, Jimmie Dean 1999

"We Regret To Inform You"  
 Maryland North Chapter, American  
 Ex-Prisoners of War (2 copies 1  
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Rutkowski, William  
 She Went to War - The Rhonda  
 Cornum Story (autographed)  
 Cornum, Rhonda;  
 Copeland, Peter 1992

A Measure of Life -  
 War~Captivity~Freedom  
 (autographed)

Cranman, Herman L 2002  
 The Great Wounded Bird and  
 Other Poems

Westheimer, David 2000  
 The Health of Former Prisoners of  
 War

Institute of Medicine 1992  
 Page, William F

The 13<sup>th</sup> Mission - Prisoner of the  
 Notorious Omori Prison in Tokyo  
 Martindale, Robert R 1998

For A Bag of Rice - My Father's  
 War (autographed)  
 Quinn, Shelly; Quinn,  
 William A

Unconditional Surrender - The  
 Defeat of Germany  
 Holles, Everett 1945

Zemke's Stalag - The Final Days of  
 World War II

Zemke, Hubert; Freeman,  
 Roger A 1991



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Ex-POW Bulletin

May/June 2017

**34**



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