

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 64

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Number 7/8

July/August 2007



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*Inside....Election Issue...Candidates...Resolutions...
Convention info...News, Outreach, Events...NSO success
stories...and more*



Memorial Day Weekend in Washington, DC. Ex-POW Ray Avila and his son, Steve, carry the flags for AX-POW. Inside the amphetheatre: leading the national anthem and playing taps. Mid-Iowa Adjutant Jackye Ray and daughter Gretta Geneser. National Commander Bob Fletcher presents Ray Avila with the flag and declaration.



national commander



Robert W. Fletcher

Fellow Former POWs, Family Members, and Friends,

As I stated in my last column, I have been able to continue my travels on AXPOW related business. Towards the end of April my wife and I were the guests of the Department of California for their state convention, which was held in San Diego. The convention was ably led by National Director Ralph Kling, who is also the California State Commander, and his wife Irene. Junior Vice Commander Frank Burger and National Director Larry Strickland were co-hosts.

Like other departments and chapters, the California members in attendance were concerned about the finances of the organization as well as our declining numbers due to death and disability. In the past year, several California chapters have had to cease functioning.

There was also a lively discussion over whether AXPOW should protest the treatment of prisoners being held at Guantanamo Bay. The group decided against any formal action due to the politics involved. However, any individual member is, of course, free to protest if they so choose.

A couple of weeks later we were off to the Department of

Washington convention in Everett, Washington. State Commander Jim and National Director Gwen Warner were our hosts there. National Director Bud Kirchoff was also there, and was elected as the incoming State Commander. We heard some very interesting and helpful presentations from various VA staff members including Dr. Mack Orsborne, who has continuously been a strong advocate for former POWs. We also had a chance to tour the Boeing plant and see some of the newest planes being built. It is amazing to think that the first flight of Orville and Wilbur Wright could have taken place inside one of these new giant planes.

The next week we were off to the Department of Florida convention hosted by State Commander Vernon and Mrs. Dolores Ray and planned by Bruce and Sami Hall. Junior Vice Commander Warren King and his wife Mary were also there. The questions and concerns I heard were again related to the future of AXPOW.

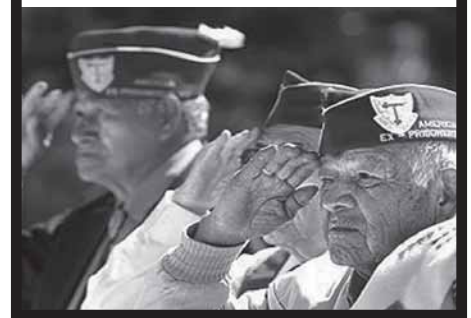
Next we returned to Washington, DC for the Memorial Day services at Arlington National Cemetery. We were joined by Ray Avila, Commander of the Air Capital Chapter, and his family, and Jackye Ray, widow of Dale F. Ray and her daughter. Mr. Ray is buried in Arlington. Mr. Avila and his son Steve represented AXPOW by carrying the AXPOW and American flags for the ceremonies. I also had the honor the evening before of presenting Mr. Avila with an American flag that was flown over the US capitol. It was a very moving week-end for all of us.

As you can see, my schedule is busy. I intend to continue visiting as many states as possible, and fortunately Senior Vice Commander Charlie Hill has been able to visit some of the conventions that I have not been able to attend.

Mary Rolen tells me that HR 1197 and S 848 still have almost no sponsors. If we are to obtain these last two presumptives, your senators and representative need to hear from you.

In closing, I want to tell you that the contracts for National Adjutant Clydie Morgan and National Treasurer Sonnie Bill Mottern expire on Oct. 1, 2007. It is my intent to encourage open bidding before any contract is renewed. If you or anyone you know is interested in applying for either of these positions, please send a resume to me with a copy to SVC Hill no later than Sept 1, 2007. This will give the Board of Directors time to review any submissions before our National meeting in October.

**Reconnect
with Long-
Lost Friends
In Our
Upcoming
Membership
Directory.
Make sure you
are in the book.**



**Ex-POW Bulletin
July/Aug 2007**



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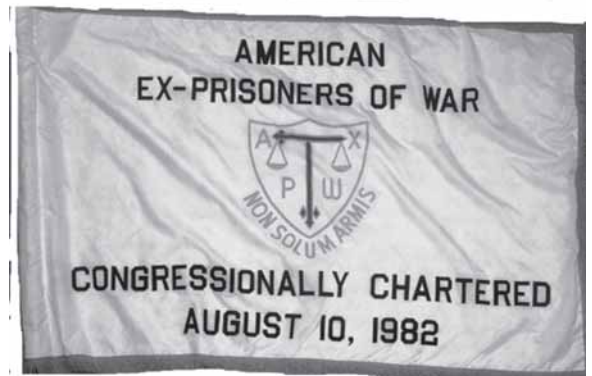
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About 1 million Chinese died in this battle and American casualties numbered 54,246 people.

Operation Big Switch began on August 5, 1953. It was the final exchange of prisoners of war by both sides. By December, 1953 the figures for repatriated POWs stood at 77,000 Communists for 12,700 UN men, of whom 3,597 were Americans.

On August 10, 1982, The American Ex-Prisoners of War received its Federal Charter.



Other dates:

July, 4...Independence day
 July 4, 1802...US Military Academy at West Point opened
 July 9, 1950...MacArthur was named Supreme Commander in Korea

July 12, 1955...US Air Force Academy was dedicated
 July 31, 1876...US Coast Guard Academy was founded
 Aug 1, 1943...US air raid over Ploesti, Rumania; 110 POWs taken
 Aug 5, 1953...Operation Big Switch began
 Aug 6, 1945...1st atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima
 Aug 14, 1945...Japan unconditionally surrendered
 Aug 20, 1866...Civil War officially ended

“Early Bird” Notice” for annual members. Annual dues are \$40.00 for single/\$50.00 for couple. Please get your dues in early. If you don’t, the January issue, 2008 will be the last Bulletin you receive.

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

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on capitol hill



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It's now shortly after Memorial Day weekend...we were busy, but had an enjoyable time with several of our organization members in town. First, Commander and Mrs. Fletcher. They arrived three hours late due to the weather, which necessitated changes in the planned activities. Rep. Todd Tihart (KS) had arranged for an American Flag to be flown over the Capitol and presented to Former POW Ray J. Avila while he was in DC. Ray is Commander of the Wichita, Kansas Chapter. The Congressman could not be present; however Commander Fletcher presented Mr. Avila with a Certificate of Appreciation as well as the Flag at a ceremony at the hotel that first evening. Mr. Avila was very surprised and grateful for the honor. Joining us for this occasion was Mrs. Jackye Ray, widow of Dale Ray of Boone, IA. She was in town with daughter Gretta and husband Dan Deneser to visit her late husband's grave at Arlington National Cemetery. (See the pictures on the inside front cover.)

The next morning we attended the White House Breakfast with Commander and Mrs. Fletcher before going to the ceremonies at Arlington. Ray Avila carried the POW Flag and his son, Stephan, carried the American Flag in the Parade of Flags at the Amphitheatre - grandson Michael was in charge of pictures. After the ceremony, Ray and Stephan (a Vietnam Veteran) participated in the parade down the

Mall. All in all it was a wonderful day!

Another event in which I was asked to get our members to participate was the White House Commission on Remembrance Ceremony. This was held on the grounds of the Washington Monument on May 20th to honor the fallen Iraq and Afghanistan soldiers and their families. Former POW Frank Lewis (Vietnam) and Steve Czecka (WWII) represented AXPOW for this occasion. Bands played all afternoon while hundreds of children walked across the stage to receive their commemorative coins. I doubt if there was a dry eye in the entire crowd! We appreciate Frank and Steve for doing the honors that day!

Now...the legislative update: HR1197 has four cosponsors and S848 has just TWO...I am embarrassed for all of us! Representatives Jeff Miller (FL), Bart Gordon (TN), Chris Carney (PA), and Tim Walz (MN) are the only ones who have signed on at this time on the House side. Bernard Sanders (VT) and Sherrod Brown (OH) are the only two Senators. WHY ARE WE NOT GETTING COSPONSORS? I am pledging to finish contacting all members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees, but THEY NEED THEIR CONSTITUENTS to contact them and convince them to cosponsor! Let's do this NOW!

Bye for now.

Hope you had a wonderful Memorial event to remember in your home towns.

God Bless You.

Mary

Remember Pearl Mesta? She was "The Hostess with the Mostest" back when the Democrats were in power in Washington for so many years. Her social affairs made headlines.

There are people like her today who enjoy entertaining and doing the things (big and little) to make people happy. Mary loves a parade and all the excitement that goes with similar functions and ceremonies. She wants you to be there and enjoy it as much as she does. When Mary hears that any of our people are coming to town, she swings into action. Her account of Memorial Day (above) is her story. I want to add something. To tell you of the "blood, sweat and tears" she put into it does not add to the story, but you should know "stuff" happens and Mary handled it like a trooper. Mary gets all the credit for a job well done. If anything had gone wrong, you can blame the Executive Director.

Les

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Outreach on and on It's Repetitive!

Outreach is repetitive. And also, Outreach is repetitive.

It seems to be more difficult to find former Prisoners of War who have never come forward to take advantage of the VA benefits to which they are entitled. It's frustrating, as we know there are still so many who just don't know. It's almost as though they are hiding from help.

But there is still much to do, if we intend to live out our AXPOW slogan, "We exist to help those who cannot help themselves".

In our AXPOW chapters nationwide, there must be many members who have been out of contact for some time. How about your AXPOW chapter? Do you know if all your members have the VA benefits they should have? Do you know of your POW members who have at least a VA disability rating of 60% or more, yet no one has helped them apply for 100% due to unemployability? Do you know of a POW widow whom no one has helped get her VA widow's benefit - over \$1,000 a month? Do you know of any of your chapter's POW spouses or widows who need to know about ChampVA, the free Medicare supplement? Do you know and have contact with the members of your chapter - enough to know their needs?

Many questions about the functions of our AXPOW chapters. They are the lifeblood of our organization. It will take work to answer these questions. The Texas Gulf Coast Chapter in the Houston area is doing something about it. The chapter commander, Leander Pflughaupt and members Edna Ames and Shirley Fontes are making a determined effort to contact/call every chapter member to learn their status and needs. With a membership of more than 250, that's a lot of work. But if even one widow gets her VA benefits out of this effort, it will be worth it.

Find members in your AXPOW chapter who are willing to do this Outreach in your own group, to make the necessary calls. Your newsletter won't get this done. It will take personal contact. If you have a caring chapter, it can be done and you will do it. KEEP CONTACT, KEEP CARING, KNOW YOUR MEMBERS!

Community Outreach: AXPOW's Concho Valley Chapter in West Texas has only 22 members, but with the encouragement of a \$500.00 grant from the Former Military POW Foundation, it is providing a \$500.00 scholarship to an outstanding graduating senior in the ROTC unit at each of the two high schools in San Angelo. They will be helping these deserving young people, as well as, with media help, making AXPOW more visible in their community.

Success

JW Taylor sends this timely success story, from Booneville AR: The daughter of a deceased veteran in California wrote the Editor of the 106th Inf. Div. newsletter, to ask if any in Co. F., 422nd Inf. might have known her father. The Editor gave her Taylor's name and others. JW got a letter from the daughter, Jo. She had lots of questions about the

106th activities, including, "Were you captured in the Battle of the Bulge with my father?"

Taylor's answer was Yes...then he asked, "Did your father ever initiate a claim with the VA?" He never had. Next Taylor asked, "What did his death certificate show as cause of death?" The answer was cancer, BUT he had had some heart problems. Jo's blind, diabetic, widowed mother who had raised nine children was definitely in financial need.

Taylor urged the daughter to file a VA claim for her mother's surviving spouse benefits, AND to get copies of all the medical records from all doctors and hospitals where her father had been treated, to strengthen the basis for her claim. And he gave her the name of an NSO near them.

In late fall 2006 she filed claim and was denied. JW didn't stop there. He called a "Pro" who has helped more than 500 POWs and widows gets their VA benefits, NSO Marion Rippee in Springfield, MO. Marion found several potential issues, including heart problems, to explore for a valid claim, and in early 2007 she told daughter Jo to resubmit the VA claim. It was an exciting May day when Jo's widowed mother received word that her claim was approved, with a retro check for over \$10,000 coming soon, plus \$1067 monthly compensation, not to mention ChampVA eligibility. A Happy Family, with much thanks to alert JW Taylor. BUT JW says, "No, this is really another score for NSO Marion Rippee!" All of this is what makes AXPOW mean something.

NSO Eugene Inman of Ohio with two unusual cases: John calls, getting only 40% disability, a former POW of the Russians. That wasn't

outreach cont...

supposed to happen! Allies? B-17 flying out of Foggia, Italy, bombing Vienna marshaling yards, flak hit #4 engine, burning, wing falls off. Four Me-109s strafe crewmen in their chutes. John wounded in right thigh by Me-109, hard landing in tree, fell 40 feet to ground, injured feet and left leg. "Medically John was a plumber's nightmare."

The crew landed between German and Russian lines, part captured by German home guard. But the officers were taken by the Russians who refused to believe they were Americans, and almost shot them, which they did to their German POWs. After two interrogations, a Russian general put them in solitary. Crammed in a truck, always on the move, strafed by planes, all the time teated as POWs, but also as suspicious people, until being turned over to Allied missions in Debrecen, Hungary. With practically no food and water, John had lost 30% of his body weight. Their release came through Diplomatic Corps between the Americans and Russians.

NSO Inman got John his 100% in 2003 and now is presenting his widow's claim to the VA for her DIC.

Another: NSO Inman gets call about POW Walter getting just 10% DC. He searches records and finds Walter was a POW of the Spanish Moroccans 11/42-2/43. After a thorough review of Walter's 1942-1991 records, issues were evident that gave him entitlement as a former POW, interned by then-enemy Spanish Morocco, and presumptives brought Walter his VA 100% DC rating.

Thanks, Gene, for these two unusual SUCCESS reports!

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July/Aug 2007

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It was a pleasure being invited to the Stalag 17B reunion in Tucson, Arizona this May. I was able to speak to many of the Former POWs who were interned in 17B. Everyone except one had their 100% and hopefully he too will be successful in getting his 100% shortly.

I held a seminar to advise wives to get their forms completed to apply for DIC and keep it with their estate planning. I also advised them to be aware of all the service-connected disabilities their husbands are rated for from the VA. Many were not aware how important this information is to them.

It was great to see the next of kin completely running the hospitality room. They did an excellent job. Most of them arrived with their parents and welcomed the opportunity to help at the reunion in any way they could. They all seemed to have bonded together and sure seemed to have a good time at the reunion.

Some of the next of kin had questions regarding CHAMPVA for their mothers and questions regarding additional benefits for their fathers. It was good seeing them being there for their parents and helping make it a memorable reunion.

At the reunion they voted that as long as 20 members acknowledged

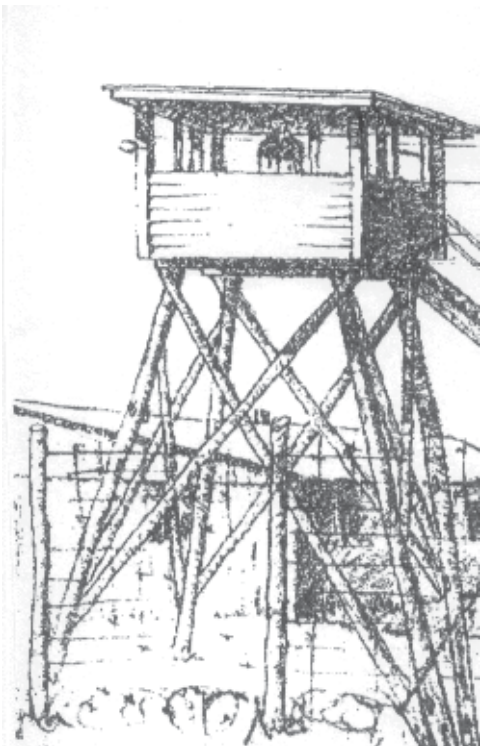
they would be attending the reunions, they will continue holding them.

I asked the Former POWs if they knew of any widows of airmen they flew with, to contact them and see if they are receiving their DIC benefits as they now be eligible to receive them.

The 17B members will again be holding their reunion in Tucson, Arizona next year. They always strive to be together on May 3rd, the day they were liberated. Congratulations to their new Commander, Ed Dostie.

Doris Jenks

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Medical Advisor



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

Aneurysms

What is an aneurysm?

An aneurysm is an area of a localized widening (dilation) of a blood vessel. (The word "aneurysm" is borrowed from the Greek "aneurysma" meaning "a widening").

What is an aortic aneurysm?

An aortic aneurysm involves the aorta, one of the large arteries that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body. The aorta bulges at the site of the aneurysm like a weak spot on an old worn tire.

What are the thoracic and abdominal aorta?

The aorta is first called the thoracic aorta as it leaves the heart, ascends, arches, and descends through the chest until it reaches the diaphragm (the partition between the thorax and abdomen). The aorta is then called the abdominal aorta after it has passed the diaphragm and continues down the abdomen. The abdominal aorta ends where it splits to form the two iliac arteries that go to the legs.

Where do aortic aneurysms tend to develop?

Aortic aneurysms can develop anywhere along the length of the aorta. The majority, however, are located along the abdominal aorta. Most (about 90%) of abdominal aneurysms are located below the level of the renal arteries, the vessels that leave the aorta to go to the kidneys. About two-thirds of abdominal aneurysms are not limited to just the aorta but extend from the aorta into one or both of the iliac arteries.

What shape are most aortic aneurysms?

Most aortic aneurysms are fusiform. They are shaped like a spindle ("fusus" means spindle in Latin) with widening all around the circumference of the aorta. (Saccular aneurysms just involve a portion of the aortic wall with a localized out pocketing).

What's inside an aortic aneurysm?

The inside walls of aneurysms are often lined with a laminated blood clot that is layered like a piece of plywood.

Who is most likely to have an abdominal aortic aneurysm?

Abdominal aortic aneurysms are most common after age 60. Males are 5 times more likely than females to be affected. This means men over 60 are at highest risk to develop an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Approximately 5% of men over age 60 develop an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

What is the most common cause of aortic aneurysms?

The most common cause of aortic aneurysms is "hardening of the arteries" called arteriosclerosis. At least 80% of aortic aneurysms are from arteriosclerosis. The arteriosclerosis can weaken the aortic wall and the pressure of the blood being pumped through the aorta causes expansion at the site of weakness.

What are other causes of aortic aneurysms?

Other causes of aortic aneurysms include:
Cigarette smoking - cigarette smoking not only increases the risk of developing an abdominal aortic an-

eurysm, the chance of aneurysm rupture (a life threatening complication of abdominal aneurysm) is also more common among active smokers.

High blood pressure

High serum cholesterol

Diabetes mellitus

Post-traumatic: After physical trauma to the aorta.

Genetic - There is a familial tendency to developing abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Arteritis (inflammation of blood vessels)

Mycotic (fungal) infection that may be associated with immunodeficiency, IV drug abuse, heart valve surgery.

What are the symptoms of an abdominal aortic aneurysm?

Most abdominal aortic aneurysms produce no symptoms (they are asymptomatic). They are often incidentally discovered when abdominal ultrasounds and/or CAT scan studies are ordered for other conditions. When they produce symptoms, the most common symptom is pain. The pain typically has a deep quality as if it is boring into the person. It is felt most prominently in the lower back region and lower abdomen. The pain is usually steady but may be relieved by changing position. The person may also become aware of an abnormally prominent abdominal pulsation.

Abdominal aortic aneurysm can remain asymptomatic or produce mild to moderate symptoms for years. However, a rapidly expanding abdominal aneurysm can cause sudden onset of severe, steady, and worsening lower back and lower abdominal

medsearch continued...

pain. A rapidly expanding aneurysm is also at imminent risk of rupture. Actual rupture of an abdominal aneurysm can cause sudden onset of back and abdominal pain, sometimes associated with abdominal distension, a pulsating abdominal mass, and even shock (severe low blood pressure due to massive blood loss).

How is an abdominal aortic aneurysm diagnosed clinically?

Careful feeling of the abdomen by the doctor may reveal the abnormally wide pulsation of the abdominal aorta. This is characteristically felt on both sides of the aorta which is in the midline of the abdomen. Note that even large aneurysms can be very difficult to detect on physical examination in overweight people. Aneurysms on the verge of rupture and that are rapidly enlarging, are often tender.

What tests help in the diagnosis of an abdominal aortic aneurysm?

In about 90% of the cases, X-rays of the abdomen show calcium deposits in the aneurysm wall. But plain x-rays of the abdomen cannot determine the size and the extent of the aneurysm. Ultrasonography usually gives a clear picture of the size of an aneurysm. Ultrasound has about 98% accuracy in measuring the size of the aneurysm, and is safe and noninvasive. But ultrasound cannot accurately define the extent of the aneurysm and is inadequate for surgical repair planning. CT scanning of the abdomen, particularly with intravenous contrast dye, can be highly accurate in determining the size and extent of the aneurysm, and its relation to the renal arteries. But CAT scan requires the use of radiation and carries a risk of dye reaction (such as worsening of kidney function) when intravenous dye is used with CAT scanning. In patients with kidney diseases, the doctor may order a MRA (magnetic resonance an-

giography), which is a study of the aorta and the other arteries using MRI scanning. Both CAT scan and MRA are highly accurate in determining aneurysm size and extent, and are often sufficient in providing enough information in surgery planning. Only in selected special situations where abdominal aortography has to be performed before surgery. Aortography shows the origin of the major blood vessels arising from the aorta and reveals the size and extent of any aneurysm. But aortography is invasive and requires the insertion of a catheter through the groin into the aorta and use of contrast dye administered into the aorta.

What is the natural history of abdominal aortic aneurysms?

The natural history of abdominal aortic aneurysms depends on their size and the speed of expansion. Rupture of aneurysms is uncommon when they are less than 5.5 cm wide and are expanding slowly. Rupture is far more common in aneurysms that are over 5.5 cm wide and are expanding rapidly (>0.5 cm/year). Surgical repair is therefore usually recommended for aneurysms over 5.5 cm wide.

What are the complications with an abdominal aortic aneurysm?

Rupture is a feared problem. Rupture of an abdominal aneurysm is a catastrophe. It is highly lethal and is usually preceded by excruciating pain in the lower abdomen and back, with tenderness of the aneurysm. Rupture of an abdominal aneurysm causes profuse bleeding and leads to shock. Death may rapidly follow. Half of all persons with untreated abdominal aortic aneurysms die of rupture within 5 years. Abdominal aortic aneurysms are the 13th leading cause of death in the U.S. Peripheral embolization of clot within the aneurysm can occur when a piece of clot comes loose and travels further out in the arterial system. This clot fragment can lodge in a smaller artery and block the flow of blood. Infection of aneurysms can occur from turbulent blood flow from the

rough inner surface of the affected aorta.

How are abdominal aortic aneurysms repaired?

The goal of surgical treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysm is to prevent aneurysm rupture. Traditionally, repair of aortic aneurysms has been surgical. The surgery has usually consisted of opening the abdomen, removing (excising) the aneurysm, and sewing a synthetic (Dacron) tube in its place.

More recently, "minimally invasive" procedures have been devised using stent grafts that can be guided to the site of the aneurysm without the need to cut open the abdomen. The first stent graft was installed in 1991 by Dr. Juan Parodi in Argentina.

A stent graft developed by Dr. Thomas Fogarty at Stanford is a Dacron tube inside a collapsed metal-mesh cylinder. To install the stent, a small incision is made in the thigh to gain access to the femoral artery. The stent, about 6 inches (15 cm) long, is guided inside a long plastic capsule through the arteries to the lower aorta. Once the stent is in place, the holding capsule is removed. Activated by heat, the stent expands like a spring and becomes anchored to the artery wall. The by-passed aneurysm then is shielded from the blood flow and typically shrinks over time. According to a U.S. national multi-center study reported by Dr. Christopher Zari from Stanford in 1998, the "minimally invasive" installation of the stent graft carries a lower rate of complications and permits people to get back on their feet faster than traditional open surgery.

What is done if an abdominal aortic aneurysm threatens to rupture?

Threatened rupture of abdominal aneurysms is a surgical emergency. The operative risk for a ruptured aneurysm is about 50%. If kidney failure occurs after surgery, the prognosis (outlook) is particularly poor.

medsearch continued...

What is the medical management (non-surgical management) of abdominal aortic aneurysm?

For patients who are not surgical candidates (for example for patients with aneurysm smaller than 5 cm); medical treatment to prevent aneurysm expansion and rupture include:
Stopping cigarette smoking
Controlling high blood pressure
Lowering high blood cholesterol
Some doctors may consider medications called beta blockers, such as propranolol (Inderal), which has been shown in animal and some human studies to slow the rate of aneurysm expansion
Close monitoring of the aneurysm size with ultrasound or CAT scan every 6 to 12 months (sooner in high risk patients)

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm At A Glance

An aneurysm is an abnormal area of localized widening of a blood vessel. The aorta bulges at the site of an aneurysm like a weak spot on a worn tire.

Aortic aneurysms are typically spindle-shaped and involve the aorta below the arteries to the kidneys.

Five percent of men over 60 develop abdominal aortic aneurysms.

The most common cause of an aneurysm is arteriosclerosis.

Abdominal aortic aneurysms often do not cause symptoms. If they do, they may cause deep boring pain in the lower back or abnormally prominent abdominal pulsation.

X-rays of the abdomen and other radiologic tests can be used in diagnosing an aneurysm.

Rupture of an aortic aneurysm is a catastrophe.

Repair of the aneurysm can be done by surgery or by installation of a stent graft.

US National Library of Medicine
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Andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Fred Boyles, Superintendent
fred_boyles@nps.gov

ANDERSONVILLE NEWS

By: Fred Boyles

Rather than a long article, here are some short news items about recent developments at the park.

Jay Womack has been hired for the position of Cultural Resource Management Specialist. This is the job that Alan Marsh held before he left for a Historian position with the Air Force. Jay has worked at the Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta for eleven years in the Cultural Resource Division as a Historian. Jay holds a degree in History from Wake Forest University. He has also completed graduate work in Historic Preservation at the University of Georgia. Jay will begin his work at the park on October 1, 2007.

Andersonville participated in Echo Taps Worldwide in late May. This program, sponsored by the organization Bugles Across America and the Veterans Administration, established a goal to have Taps played

at every National Cemetery, State Veterans Cemetery and overseas Veterans Cemetery at 11:00 AM, every Armed Forces Day. On May 19, 2007, four buglers played Taps in sequence from the National POW Museum to the Cemetery.

When you call the park, you'll be greeted by a new voice. Kerri DeVane has been hired as the park's Administrative Technician and assumed her duties in late April. Kerri is enrolled at Georgia Southwestern State University and will graduate in December with a degree in Business Administration. Kerri was a Student Assistant with the Department of Homeland Security before coming to the National Park Service.

On May 27th, the Annual Memorial Day service was held. General Johnnie Wilson was this year's speaker. General Wilson retired from the Army as Commander of the US Army Material Command and is now the Chief Operating Officer of Dimensions International Inc. He was introduced by 2nd District Congressman Sanford Bishop. Edward DeMent represented AX-POW in recognizing veterans and the former POWs in attendance. There were approximately 600 people in attendance. There was a

record number turnout on Saturday, May 26th when over 450 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts placed flags at each of the 18,500+ graves in the Cemetery.

On April 28th the park sponsored a work day with the Georgia Arborists Association. This event brought 30 certified arborists to the National Cemetery to prune trees. It was a sight to see these tree experts dangling from ropes as they worked high in the trees to trim dead and diseased limbs. Their donated service was estimated in excess of \$30,000. Plans are being made to hold the event again in 2008 with even more tree surgeons.

The park is saddened to be losing Kandace Muller. She is leaving on July 1st to be the Curator at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Kandace will be missed for her curatorial skills and her excellent work in producing temporary exhibits at the National POW Museum. She also has recruited a number of excellent student interns for the park that have accomplished a great deal of work in caring for the park's artifact collection. The park plans to hire a new curator as soon as the position can be announced.



NamPOW news



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

Wall of Honor Ceremony State Capitol Richmond, Virginia 24 May 2007

Remarks of
Commander
Paul Galanti

Governor, other Honorables, Generals and other guardians of our Public Safety...

January 1969 was cold in Hanoi, the capitol of North Vietnam. I'd just been released from a particularly nasty, sleepless 10-day stint chained to a stool in a miserable interrogation room. My penalty had been the dastardly "crime" of trying to communicate with another American.

The worst guard in the camp threw me into a solitary cell that was four feet wide and seven feet long. Like the other cells it was filthy, dark, and chilling. The Stardust wing of the camp we called Little Vegas was silent.

And then I heard the faint tapping on the wall.

Navy pilot Jerry Coffee was hanging it out to try to contact me. That's what I'd just received 10

days of brutality for doing... I tapped back acknowledging his contact.

Jerry tapped, "We've been thinking of you while you were in the interrogation room. Hang in there, pal." My spirits immediately lifted.

Jerry then asked my opinion of a toast he'd written in his mind while feeling sorry for himself after an extended period of time in solitary. His toast epitomized to me what we're about here today and what our valiant military forces have always been about.

Fast forward 38 years. It's now 2007 and I'm entering a room at McGuire VA Medical Center where a young Marine sergeant is lying in bed talking to his mother. Our local group of combat veterans, the Families of the Wounded Fund, was there to present his mother with a substantial donation to enable her to be with her son during his recovery. He'd lost both legs to an IED in Iraq and had some collateral concussion damage from the blast.

His mother was happy to receive the stipend but I was the one who truly got an old lesson reinforced. The sergeant looked up at me with a big smile and said, "No problem, Sir. When I get my new legs, I'm going to be two inches taller! And I'll never have to worry about athlete's foot again. Even better, all I have to do is pass the PFT and the Marines are going to allow me to stay in."

My mind flashed to my favorite movie, "Bridges at Toko-Ri" when, at the end, LT Brubaker had been shot down and he and rescue pilot Mickey Rooney were killed fighting the Chinese soldiers who were trying to capture them. Admiral George Tarrant, played by Frederic March, looked across the

flight deck, shook his head, and slowly uttered, "Where do we get such men?"

My eyes misted over as I digested what the Marine sergeant had said..."No problem, Sir. They're going to let me stay in the Corps." Where, indeed, do we get such fine soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors? I was transported back to my solitary cell and I realized I was experiencing the same feelings as I'd felt when Jerry Coffee tapped his poetic toast to his fallen comrades:

*We toast our hearty comrades,
now fallen from the sky;
Were gently caught by
God's own hand
to reign with him on high.
To dwell among the soaring
clouds they knew so well before;
From Victory Roll to Tailchase
at heaven's very door.
Now, as we fly among them
there, we sadly hear their plea;
Take care, my friend,
Watch your Six...
And do one more roll for me.*



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pow-mia



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

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

There are now 1,783 US personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for by the Department of Defense. The identification of the remains of one American from the Vietnam War was released. The accounting brings to 798 the number of US personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of the 1,786 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

CIA Pilot Missing in action from Vietnam is Identified:

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of an American civilian pilot, missing in action from Vietnam while flying for Civil Air Transport, a propri-

etary of the CIA, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is James B. McGovern, Jr., also known as "Earthquake McGoon," of Elizabeth, N.J.

On May 6, 1954, McGovern, along with his co-pilot, First Officer Wallace A. Buford, and four French servicemen, departed Haiphong, Vietnam, in their Civil Air Transport C-119 on what was to be the last supply drop to the besieged French forces at Camp Isabelle—the remaining French holdout in the battle of Dien Bien Phu. As the aircraft approached the drop zone, it was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The pilots attempted to fly southwest to the relative safety of Laos, but crashed along the Song [River] Ma in Houaphan Province. Only two of the Frenchmen survived and were taken prisoner by Lao forces. One of them died within a few days, and the other was released and returned to France a few months later. McGovern, Wallace and two of the French servicemen were not recovered.

During WWII, McGovern flew in China with the Flying Tigers and is credited with destroying two enemy aircraft in the air and five on the ground. He was captured by the North Koreans and held as a prisoner of war for several months during the Korean War,

Between 1997 and 1998, joint U.S.-Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), traveled to Houaphan Province two times to investigate the incident. They interviewed several Laotian citizens who recalled the crash. The citizens said that three of the crewmen who died in the impact had been buried near the crash site. When the team surveyed the site, they found small fragments of aircraft wreckage, but did not locate any grave sites.

In 2002, another joint U.S.-L.P.D.R. team excavated the site. They

found crew-related equipment and aircraft wreckage, including an aircraft data plate dated 8-21-52, but found no human remains. A few months later, another team revisited the site and recovered human remains from an isolated burial.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used dental comparisons and mitochondrial DNA in the identification of McGovern's remains.

Update on Operations:

The 99th period of Joint Field Activities (JFA) in Laos, the third 30-day JFA this year, began in April when a team of approximately 50 US personnel departed Hickam AFB en route to Laos. One of the four teams plans to pursue information on ten cases, and the three other teams will focus on excavating incident sites related to a burial site, a ground loss and three aircraft losses. The 98th JFA took place March 6th to April 8th.

Navy Pilot Missing From Vietnam War Is Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. He is Lt. Michael T. Newell, U.S. Navy, of Ellenville, N.Y. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

On Dec. 14, 1966, Newell was flying an F-8E Crusader aircraft as wingman in a flight of two on a combat air patrol over North Vietnam. During the mission, the flight leader saw a surface-to-air missile explode between the two aircraft. Although Newell initially reported that he had survived the blast, his aircraft gradually lost power and crashed near the border between Nghe An and Thanh Hoa provinces in south central North Vietnam.

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civilians

Ted Cadwallader - Chairman
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Striving for Normalcy: Considering the Children

by Jennifer Aerts Terry

American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841

The Santo Tomas Internment Camp (STIC), located on the Santo Tomás University campus in Manila, was the largest civilian internment facility in the Philippines, with as many as 4,000 internees in camp at any one time (upwards of 7,000 or more passed through between January 1942 and February 1945). Of those interned, at least 700 internees were children. Their presence in camp created dynamics different from those camps without children, as the adults struggled to provide adequate food, shelter, and a semblance of normalcy through education and organized activities.

Countless adults volunteered their time to that end. An education committee established a school and staffed it with a number of interned teachers. Using books found in the university library, they offered a wide range of subjects including higher math, sciences, and languages. However, the Japanese camp administrators strictly forbid the study of modern history, politics, and geography, and warned teachers to refrain from discussions that led to criticism of the Japanese and their war aims. Though many children lamented the imposition of rigor and set schedules associated with school, the benefits were immense; a majority of those who graduated high school while interned passed the College Board Examinations after liberation. Likewise, the younger children placed well in their classes upon return to the U.S.

Adults also volunteered their time to teach the children a number of en-

richment activities including foreign languages, poetry reading, ballroom dancing, singing, juggling, and sewing. The children learned to play bridge, mah jong, chess, cribbage, and pinochle, and participated in a number of organized sports and scouting.

Yet, in spite of the enrichment activities offered by concerned adults, there is no denying that internment was difficult. Even children too young to understand the nature of their circumstances felt the gravity of the situation through the disruption of routine, the mood of their parents, and the ever-present, uniformed, Japanese guards. As the tide of war turned against the Japanese, food and supplies grew scarcer, the Japanese grew increasingly agitated, and in turn, placed more and more limits on internee activity. Further, by February 1944, the beginning of what came to be known as the *starving time*, most extra curricular activities had ceased. Malnutrition and generally poor health limited the children's ability to concentrate on their studies and rising anxiety levels taxed the adults' ability (and desire) to deal with children's antics.

The effect internment had on the children's physical and emotional development is noteworthy. For many young children, the foundation for their understanding of social norms was laid there in the camp, under conditions that were anything but normal. The children's play reflected this altered understanding. Young children played games such as *room inspection*, *garbage collection*, *chow line*, and *roll call*. Children's long-term ambitions also reflected their internment experience. Rather than aspire to be a businessman, doctor, or engineer, children declared they wanted to be a mush cook or a room monitor.

The internment experience also manifested long-term effects in the children's post-captivity lives as most dealt with the consequences of poor health, the loss of loved ones, and the process of reintegrating into a U.S. society that held little understanding for, or recognition of, their wartime ordeal.

Day of Valor...

Ted Cadwallader

April 9, 2007 was the 65th anniversary of the surrender of the Luzon Force on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines by Major General Edward P. King. The Luzon Force surrender consisted of approximately 70,000 Filipinos and Americans, primarily, and by a large margin, Filipinos. The infamous Bataan Death March commenced shortly after the surrender on the unforgiving, hot, dusty roads of Bataan. Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright surrendered the Corregidor Garrison and other commands in the Philippines on May 6, 1942.

On April 7, 2007 the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco and the Veterans War Memorial Commission hosted an event entitled "The Day of Valor" at the San Francisco War Memorial Veterans Building. The activity was held to mark and honor the heroic sacrifices of Filipinos and Americans in the early days of World War II on Bataan and Corregidor as well as in the latter stages of the war in the Philippines.

Present at the ceremony and the keynote speaker was the Honorable H.E. Willy C. Gaa, Philippine Ambassador to the United States. The honored guest speaker was Rear Admiral Tom Andrews, USN. Other featured speakers included David Tejada, Former Philippine Scout and Commander, LUZVIMINDA Chapter, Sascha Jean Jansen, BACEPOW Chapter, and Ted Cadwallader, SVC, 49ers Chapter. Also present was Mary Jane Laznibat, BACEPOW Chapter, her husband Steven, and Frank Stagner, BACEPOW Chapter. Jansen, Cadwallader, M.J. Laznibat, and Stagner are former civilian internees of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila.

After the ceremonies everyone was feted for a lunch consisting of various and delicious Filipino food.

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events and information



July 26-29, 2007. Co. "B", 9thAIB 6th Arm'd Div. will hold its 62nd Annual Reunion in Reading, PA. Contact Lester Hartman, 610-375-4984.

July 27, 2007. Ceremonies marking the 54th Anniversary of the armistice ending the Korean War will be held at 10AM on the mall in Washington, DC. Presentations by government and military personnel will highlight the program, organized by the Korean War Armistice Day Committee. For detailed information, contact J. Norbert Reiner, 6632 Kirkley Ave., McLean, VA 22101; 703-893-6313. Information about accommodations and tours is available from Jack Cloman, 2702 Franklinville Road, Joppa, MD 21085; 410-676-1388.

July 29-Aug. 5, 2007. The Korean War Ex-POW Association will hold their 32nd Annual Reunion (for all Services) at the Charleston Marriott Town Center Hotel in Charleston, WV. CONTACT: F. Jack Chapman at (505) 523-2298 or by email : fjchap@aol.com.

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

August 22-23, 2007. The Dept. of Wisconsin will hold its annual convention at the Elizabeth Inn & Convention Center, 5246 Harding Ave., Plover, WI 54467; 800-280-0778. For more information, contact Cmdr. Al Kath, 608-754-3340.

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Aug. 24-27, 2007. The Department of Ohio 2007 Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn, Zanesville. 740-588-6617. Contact person is "Doc" Unger, (216) 521-1889.

Aug 26-28, 2007. The 44th Annual Gathering of Former Prisoners of War of the Far East will be held at Smoky Shadows, Pigeon Forge, TN. For reservations, 800-282-2121. For information, contact: Wayne Carringer, 828-479-6263 or Dan'l Snyder, 281-422-2852.

Sept. 4-8, 2007. The 106th Div. Assoc. 61st Annual Reunion will be held at the Crown Center, Kansas City, MO. For more info, contact John Kline - 952-890-3155.

Sept. 5-9, 2007. 106th Inf. Division Association annual meeting will be held at the Westin Crown Center Hotel, 1 Pershing Road, Kansas City, MO 64108; 816-474-4400. Registration forms can be obtained from Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. PO Box 11327, Norfolk, VA 23517.

Sept. 12-16, 2007. The Third Infantry Division's 88th Reunion will be held at the Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel. For reservations, call 719-576-5900. For reunion info, contact: Linda Irvine, 360-663-2521; info@theReunionBrat.com.

Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2007. The 45th Infantry Division (Thunderbirds) will be holding their annual reunion. For further information, please contact: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; 210-681-9134.

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

Feb. 1-4, 2008. The next Civilian Philippine Liberation Reunion weekend will be held at the Fremont Marriott, Fremont, CA. Plans are in progress for this activity and additional information will be forthcoming. Please join us next year. We look forward to your attendance at this informative and fun gathering celebrating liberations in the Philippines in early 1945. For more information, contact: Sascha Jansen, email: Mabuhayma@aol.com.

April 29-30, 2008. The First Researching FEPOW (Far Eastern POW) History Conference will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, UK. For more information, contact: Meg Parkes, Tel: (+44) (0) 151 632 2017; www.kranji.co.uk; mm.parkes@btinternet.com.

looking
for



I would like to contact **Edward Dunn**. He was a forward observer, Cannon Co. 157th Inf. Reg. 45th Div. I met Ed in May 1945 when he was liberated at Moosburg. Earlier in the year, Ed had been held in a camp near Berlin. General Patton organized a surprise attack on this camp (possibly Feb. 1945). Ed escaped but was soon captured and sent to a different camp. Eventually a sizable number of our captured troops were marched to Moosburg. Ed was among those prisoners. When Moosburg was opened, Ed noticed 45th Div. vehicles. In short order, he found his friends in Cannon Co. He spent a few days with us. Inasmuch as I was Ed's replacement, he shared a number of interesting accounts of his Army experience. Thank you. Merle R. Teel, 1700 Lindberg Rd., Apt. 209, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

events, continued

I am trying to get in touch with anyone who remembers my father, **Donald Dean Dorfmeier**. He was barracks leader in Stalag Luft 4. I am also trying to locate a copy of the video "Behind Barbed Wire" or "Behind The Wire". It is about allied POWs in German POW camps. If you can help me with this, please contact me. Thank you. David Dorfmeier, 2360 Blue Heron Lane, Paso Robles CA 93446 (805) 835-3254
david.dorfmeier@us.army.mil.

My father, **Oscar Thomas Gibbs, Jr.**, was a prisoner of war in Germany during World War II. I wanted to get some information on his comrades who endured the POW camps in Germany. If you could send me information on his camp and any information on surviving veterans for the sake of a possible reunion for my father, it would be greatly appreciated. He is now 82 years old and is not in the best of health, but this would be my tribute to him. Please, any information on his outfit, his POW camp, or any information, would be most helpful. Darrell Gibbs, (864) 855-3929 / (864) 421-3378 cell.

I am hoping to get in touch with anyone who might have know my father **Corporal George (Stubby) Bostic**, Hq Battery, 59th CAC, Heavy Machine Gunner. He was stationed in Corregidor. Was in the Bataan Death March, was also at Ft Drum, and worked at Honami #3, also worked in the steel mills and in the coal mines, and was on the death ship #3, #8. His last camp was Yodagawa #3-D. I would like to talk to you. I am writing as he wished, what I can, and need help remembering. I can't find any of his friends. Anyone who knows anything feel free to contact me at 262-787-0082 or 262-751-8343. Or write Cindy Howard, 17874 W. Jacobs Drive, New Berlin, WI 53146.

I was with **Cannon Co., 394th Inf. 99th Div., captured at the Battle**

of the Bulge. After walking and riding in boxcars we arrived at Stalag IVB on Jan. 1, 1945. In about two weeks, 50 American POWs were put in a boxcar and were sent to a work camp in Heidenau, Germany. The town is on the Elbe River about 25 miles from Dresden. We were assigned to the City Mayor as a work group. About the 1st of May, the POW guards could hear Russian artillery in the East. One morning the guards said we are going West. Once again we started hiking. After a couple of days, we met US troops and the war was over. If you were in this group, please get in contact with me. Jack McElroy, 418 Amberwood, Tyler, TX 75701-7016.

My name is Amy Dunn and I am the niece-in-law of a World War II veteran named **Norman Nissen**. I was doing research for him regarding his forced march through Germany as a POW in the waning days of WWII when I came across the account of Albert Sidlovsky in the biographies posted on your website. Their accounts were remarkably similar. Uncle Norman believes he was acquainted with Mr. Sidlovsky and would like to contact his family, since I understand that he is deceased. Thanks so much in advance, Amy Dunn, 312 Chantclair Dr., Apex, NC 27502; amygdunn@gmail.com; 919-362-7143.

I am looking for any information on my uncle, **Edwin J. Butler**. He enlisted in NC in 1939 and was serving in the Army Medical Department in the Philippines when the Japanese attacked. He was taken prisoner and was later transported to Japan (Fukuoka #17) aboard the Oryoku Maru, Brazil Maru, and Enoura Maru. He died February 7, 1945. I cannot find any information about where he was prior to boarding the Oryoku Maru. If anyone has any information, I would appreciate hearing from you. Thank you, Sharon Waldron, 1021 Kerry Street, Asheboro, NC 27203; sbwaldron@triad.rr.com.

Does anyone know **A. Edward Payne PFC** from Ohio? He was ambulance driver 345 for the 559th Ambulance Co. Campaigns included: Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland Central Europe. Any info will be greatly appreciated. Sheron Payne, 59 Twp Rd 1024 South

Point, Ohio 45680; Phone (740)894-3415; Slowe103@aol.com.

I am British, and my grandfather died in Rangoon as a POW in 1944. He had been serving with the Somerset Light Infantry. I have just returned from paying my respects at his grave there. As my own late father was only 3 when my grandfather left for the war we know little of what happened and, if by chance, he was imprisoned with any Americans who survived (and still survive) I would love to hear from them. My grandfather's name was **Private David T Bull**. With sincerest regards, Janet Huntington, 38 Hawkesbury Drive, Calcot, Berkshire, RG31 7ZR ENGLAND; kukur64@gmail.com.

Looking for information about **Carl Shapley, Jr.** I know he was in or attached to the 106th, as he was captured on Dec 16, 1944 and imprisoned in Stalag 9B, Bad Orb. On his honorable discharge from the Army certificate, it lists him as a corporal, 11th Company, Third Student Training Regiment, specialty Anti Aircraft Fire Director operator. This is my father. Never spoke of his war time. Looking for any information about his company, his imprisonment or anyone who served with him. Thanks. Nancy Shapley, Houston, Texas steelhand@sbcglobal.net.

Dionicio R. Pena was a soldier in the New Mexico 200th-515th Coast Artillery Regiment who defended Clark Air Base in Manila on 12/8/1941 during the Japanese air attack. On May 7, 1942, documents indicate that he was a prisoner of the Japanese & sent to Camp O'Donnell. In early September 1944, he along with 749 other U.S. prisoners, was loaded on the Japanese "Hellship" - the Shinyo-Maru off Mindanao (this ship was torpedoed by the U.S. War records indicate that his body was never recovered. Any information will be most appreciated!! Eleanor Jaques Aguilar, 3741 West Phelps Road, Phoenix, AZ 85053;(602) 938-6712; vallen@cox.net.

60th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
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Springfield, IL
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Convention Registration

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Spouse's Name (if attending) _____ **Phone** _____
Address _____ **E-mail** _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Special Needs (Wheel chair, oxygen, etc.) _____

Unit When Captured _____ **Theatre** _____ **Camps** _____

REGISTRATION (per person) until September 3 ~ \$65.00 after Sept. 3 - \$70 no refund after Sept. 7

Payable to: 2007 Convention Fund

Mail to: Marylou Andersen
 1244 Red Oak Ct
 Elgin, Illinois 60120
 847-717-0343

Saturday Night Banquet

The "Airmen of Swing" will be our entertainment for the Banquet. They are a full swing orchestra who perform for veterans' groups. They come from Milwaukee, WI. Diane Ayers, our very helpful NOK fundraiser suggested them and they accepted. Danceable music, etc.

Choice:

Boneless Breast of Chicken _____

Traditional London Broil _____

(Choose One)

Registration Total: \$ _____

Ladies Luncheon, Friday Oct. 19th

"Hats off to the Ladies"

40s and 50s fashion show

Bring your vintage chapeau!

\$25.00pp \$ _____

Grand Total: \$ _____

American Ex-Prisoners of War

60th National Convention

October 17-21, 2007

AGENDA

Tues. Oct. 16

National Service Officer Training
 Tours

Wed. Oct. 17

National Board of Directors Meeting

Thurs. Oct. 18

Opening Ceremonies
 National Legislation Program
 Medsearch Seminar
 Commander's Reception

Fri. Oct. 19

Men and Women's Workshops
 Education Seminar
 Ladies/PNCs Luncheons
 National Convention Call to Order
 Reunion Night

Sat. Oct. 20

Continuation of General Assembly
 Banquet & Installation of Officers

Sun. Oct. 21

National Board of Directors Meeting

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AD ORDER FORM

Overall page size is 8 1/2" x 11"

AD PRICING

Full page.....\$200

Half page.....\$125

Quarter page.....\$75

Business card..... \$35

Deadline for submissions: Sept. 1, 2006

Name _____

Organization _____

(if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Ad Size _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make Checks or Money Orders

payable to:

2007 CONVENTION FUND

**Mail order form with
 ad materials and check to:
 AXPOW Convention-Program Ad**

Bob Foster

**14 Conestoga Drive
 Auburn, Illinois 62615**

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

There will be entertainment each night of the convention, including the Springfield Capitol Area Band, The Springfield Municipal Band and the St. Andrews society Pipes and Drums.

The PNC Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 19th.

Reunion Night will be Friday, Oct. 19th.

60th National Convention
October 17-21, 2007
HOST HOTEL ~ Springfield Hilton
700 East Adams, Springfield, IL 62701
217-789-1530

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Number of Beds in Room 1 2 Smoking Non-Smoking
Circle One: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Diners Club
Credit Card # _____ Exp Date _____
Special Needs _____

ROOM RATES: \$79 PER NIGHT~Ask for AXPOW Convention Rate
Please make your reservations prior to Sept. 3, 2007.
Check in time is 3:00PM ~ Check-out time is 12:00 Noon
complimentary breakfast, airport shuttle.
Valet parking \$10.00 per day



**American Ex-Prisoners of War
Candidate for National Office
2007**



Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

Military Service Organization (Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines or civilian):

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

To be eligible to run for a national office, a candidate must have been a member for the 3 previous years.

Submit To:

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

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Decision 2007 Delegate Form

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION
DELEGATE VALIDATION FORM
OCTOBER 17 - 21, 2007
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Please validate the following members as delegates to the 2007 National Convention in Springfield, Illinois, October 17 - 21, 2007.

Chapter/Department Name (Please print)

Head Delegate: (Please print name and address.)

Other Delegates and Alternates: (Please print names and addresses.)

Validated lists will be returned to the Head Delegates.

If you are a chapter voting with your state department, **do not** return this form.

MAIL THIS FORM TO: AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
 CREDENTIALS
 3201 EAST PIONEER PARKWAY #40
 ARLINGTON, TEXAS 76010-5396



Guidelines for delegate credentials and voting

1. According to the bylaws, a member living outside the US or its territories and unable to join any chapter, can be registered as a member at large and be assigned to the national office. Such a person can be credentialed to vote if they attend the convention. Other than this exception, there is no such thing as membership at large or national membership for the purpose of voting.
2. There is no proxy voting. The voting system used by our organization is based on delegates and a delegation system. Proxy voting is simply not a part of our system and is not allowed.
3. Any member living in a state that has a State Department falls under the state delegation. An individual cannot decide to vote on their own. The votes for all members living in a state accrue to the state delegation. The bylaws provide for one exception when a chapter wishes to be credentialed separate from the state. This is allowed but the chapter must provide proper credentials. In this case, the votes for all members in that chapter accrue to the chapter delegation.
4. In a state without a state department, each chapter must provide proper credentials and have a delegate(s) to represent the chapter at the convention. In this situation, the votes for members living in the state but not a member of a chapter will be divided among the chapters. A member can ask to be assigned to a particular chapter, but this should be done in advance of the convention. Otherwise, the non-chapter members will be equally divided among the chapters which are credentialed and represented by a delegate at the convention.
5. All members living in a state with at least one chapter will be represented by either their state delegation or a chapter delegation.
6. The bylaws did not take into account, nor provide for, a state with no department or chapter. Members living in such states have no process or structure to be represented by a delegate. (A proposed bylaw change will correct this situation.) In this case, members with no chapter or department may be credentialed individually. Each member must provide proper credentials and be present at the convention to vote.
7. A chapter desiring to vote separate from their state department should make this option known well before the convention. Both the state department and the national office need to know this in advance so as to prepare proper credentials. A chapter should not be allowed to exercise this option at the convention site during the week preceding the convention.

Judy Lee
Credentials Chairperson
PO Box 248
Madisonville, TN 37354
(423) 442-3223
(423) 442-4702 fax
leejudith5@bellsouth.net

George Coker
Judge Advocate
1145 Wivenhoe Way
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-3047
(757) 481-9578
gngbu@hotmail.com

The following three resolutions for proposed bylaw changes were approved by the Board of Directors for presentation to the membership at the National Convention. Proposed bylaw changes must be printed in the Bulletin at least 45 days prior to the Convention. One of the proposals is rather lengthy, so our apologies for the small print which is used to save space and cost.

Resolution for Bylaws change 2007 Number 1

Under current bylaws, the National Commander cannot succeed himself. This change would allow the membership the option to re-elect the National Commander for a second term. By a slight majority, the Board of Directors recommends that this resolution be adopted. The change is to amend Article IX Officers; F. Eligibility for Office; Election Procedures; paragraph 6:

Whereas, the current rules state that "National Commander shall not be eligible to succeed himself in office;" and

Whereas, the new National Commander, with only one year in this position, does not have the time to introduce new changes and still carry on the administration of his duties; and

Whereas, a second term in office could give the organization a better opportunity to evaluate any new ideas or programs that the Commander proposes; therefore, be it Resolved, that Article IX; F; 6 shall be amended to read that "The National Commander shall be eligible to succeed himself in office for one additional year, but if he chooses to do so, he must declare his intentions to run for a second term as National Commander at the Mid-Year National Board meeting. If a Senior"

Resolution for Bylaws change 2007 Number 2

The Judge Advocate was asked to review the Uniform Code of Procedures. As indicated below, the Uniform Code is extremely confusing and a major overhaul is needed. Voting procedures have been confusing and misunderstood, so a clarification was added to the Code. The problems are indicated in the resolution and a complete re-write is proposed. By a unanimous vote, the Board of Directors recommends that this resolution be adopted.

Whereas, there are many mistakes and inconsistencies in the Uniform Codes of Procedures; and

Whereas, there are frequent questions and confusion concerning quorum and vote count requirements; and

Whereas, Section I, paragraph C does not specify the inclusion or exclusion of National officers; and
Whereas, Section I, paragraph D, sentence 3 includes the word "not" which is inconsistent and precludes anyone from bringing charges; and
Whereas, Section I, paragraph E is in contradiction to the By-Laws relative to the removal of National Officers, which makes the paragraph invalid; and

Whereas, Section II and Section III authorizes the National organization to take action with no means specified for said action to be taken; and

Whereas, Section VI limits any required action to be taken to only once a year at the National Convention; therefore, be it Resolved, that the Uniform Codes of Procedures be replaced in its entirety with the following American Ex-Prisoners of War Special Policies and Procedures.

Section I - Clarifications

A. There are 24 members on the National Board of Directors. Of these, 22 are elected members of the National Board and 2 are employee positions, the Adjutant and the Treasurer. The 22 elected members are voting members. The Adjutant and the Treasurer are non-voting members (By-Laws, Article IX, paragraph N) on the National Board of Directors or on the Executive Committee which is a subset of the National Board.

B. A quorum of the Nation Board requires 50% of the voting members which is ½ of 22 or 11 voting members present in person, by telephone, or by electronic communication.

C. A majority (or 2/3) vote by the Board of Directors is different from a vote of a majority (or 2/3) vote of all members on the Board of Directors. Once a quorum is established, a majority (or 2/3) vote by the Board of Directors means a majority (or 2/3) of those present. When the term "majority (or 2/3) vote of all members on the Board of Directors" is used, it means that the percentage applies to the number of all members, whether present or not. To point out this difference, let us presume that the Board of Directors is meeting with a minimum quorum of 11 members. A majority vote would require 6 votes and a 2/3 vote would require 8 votes. In the case of a vote of all members, a majority vote would require 12 votes and a 2/3 vote would require 15 votes. So when we use the terms of super-majority or absolute majority or more specifically an absolute 2/3 majority, the difference is the requirement for 15 votes vice 8 votes. Use of these voting procedures is designed to prevent abuse and the rule by a minority of Board members concerning critical matters.



Decision 2007 Resolutions for the National Convention

D. According to the By-Laws (Article IX, paragraph A) the term "Officer" applies only to the 8 members of the Executive Committee. The National offices include the 8 members of the Executive Committee, the 16 National Directors, and members appointed to National offices as listed in the By-Laws (Article XII, paragraph A). Unless specifically stated otherwise, the term "National Officers" shall mean all Executive Board members, all National Directors, and all appointees to National offices.

Section II - Disciplinary Actions

A. In addition to any other grounds, a member may be suspended should he resort to or join in civil court action against a chapter, state department or the National organization or officers thereof, before exhausting all remedies available within the organization.

B. Cases of conduct subject to disciplinary action divide themselves into 3 categories: offenses occurring in a meeting, offenses by members outside a meeting, and offenses by National Officers.

C. Offenses occurring in a meeting: In cases where an offense occurs in a meeting, there is no need for a formal hearing with witnesses, since the witnesses are all present and make up the body that is to determine the penalty. Punishment that the organization can impose on a member shall be limited to reprimand, suspension or expulsion from the same organization. No offenses occurring in a meeting may be referred to a higher authority, except that a member who has been suspended or expelled may appeal to the next highest authority.

D. Offenses other than in a meeting: If improper conduct by a member of the organization takes place outside a meeting, the members generally have no first-hand knowledge of the case. Therefore, if disciplinary action is to be taken, charges must be preferred by an individual member and a formal hearing must be held before the assembly of the organization or before a special committee. If the hearing is held by a committee, it shall report its findings to the assembly for final action. Punishment that the organization can impose on a member shall be limited to reprimand, suspension or expulsion from the same organization. No charges preferred against a member for offenses occurring other than in a meeting shall be referred to a higher authority, except that a member who has been suspended or expelled may appeal to the next highest authority.

E. Charges of improper conduct against a National Officer:

1. Charges must be filed in writing with the National Adjutant with a copy to the Grievance and Investigation Chairman. Since a member has the right that allegations against his good name shall be based on factual and reasonable charges, specific and detailed charges must be furnished to the Grievance and Investigation committee in writing.

2. The Grievance and Investigation committee will conduct a thorough and confidential investigation to determine if there is sufficient evidence and just cause to recommend disciplinary action.

3. If disciplinary action is to be recommended against a National Officer, he has the right to due process as follows:

- a. To be fully informed of the charges
- b. Given time to prepare his defense

- c. To appear before the committee to defend himself
- d. To be represented by counsel, if he chooses
- e. To present witnesses
- f. To cross-examine witnesses.

4. The findings of the Grievance and Investigation committee shall be reported to the National Board of Directors. All hearings or committee investigations of a member charged with misconduct other than in a meeting shall be conducted in executive session.

Section III - Rights and Restrictions and Trademark

A. According to the organization's federal charter, Public Law 97-234, the National organization has the sole and exclusive right to use and to allow or refuse to others the use of the terms "American Ex-Prisoners of War," and the official American Ex-Prisoners of War emblem or any colorable simulation thereof.

B. The emblem, trademark or logo of the organization shall not be used without written permission of the National organization. Permission may be granted to state and local subordinates of the organization only. This permission may be withdrawn by the organization if it is deemed necessary.

C. Any action taken within the bounds of this Article requires the approval of a 2/3 vote of all members on the Board of Directors

Section IV - National Meetings

A. The National Adjutant shall notify all National members of the National Convention with said notice

Resolutions for the National Convention

to be printed in the official publication to include the purpose or purposes for the meeting, place, date and hour.

B. The National convention shall be held in the zone that has not hosted the convention most recently.

C. The National Commander, National Adjutant and National Treasurer shall attend the National Convention. No reimbursement will be made for meals, refreshments or entertainment. The National Treasurer will pay their travel expenses at the least expensive air coach rate. The convention staff is required to make reservations for the National Commander in a suite, to be shared with the National Senior Vice Commander, at least as good as the convention staff's suite and to reserve suites for the National Adjutant and the National Treasurer.

D. The National Commander, National Adjutant and National Treasurer will attend called or special meetings of the Board of Directors and only their travel and lodging expenses will be born by the National organization. No reimbursement will be made for meals, refreshments or entertainment. The National Treasurer will pay their travel expenses at the least expensive air coach rate.

Section V - Miscellaneous

A. April 9 of each year is designated as "Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day" and the National, state and local organizations shall observe it with appropriate ceremonies.

B. The official uniform for all members of the organization is the maroon service cap with the logo and name on it and the maroon vest with the logo and any local affiliation on the back, with the exception of the National Commander and past National Commanders, whose caps and vests are white. A maroon jacket may be substituted for the vest on formal occasions.

C. The organization's official flag shall be white, displaying the name and logo.

Section VI - Amendments

These policies may be amended by a 2/3 vote of all members on the Board of Directors or by a majority vote by the delegation at the National Convention.

Resolution for Bylaws change 2007 Number 3

Our bylaws do not provide representation in our current situation of declining membership, where there are numerous members living in states that do not have a state department or an active chapter. These members need to have a delegate to represent them. This is an awkward change to follow unless you have a copy of the Bylaws and go through Article XIII line by line with a pencil. The purpose of this change is to provide the structure and procedures to give everyone delegate representation. There are also some word changes to clarify that voting at the National Convention is by delegate vote, which conforms with the rest of the Bylaws voting procedures. By a unanimous vote, the Board of Directors recommends that this resolution be adopted

Whereas, our membership has aged and the number of members has greatly decreased; and
Whereas, there are states without State Departments; and

Whereas, there are states without any Chapters; and

Whereas, this breakdown of the organization's structure also causes breakdowns in the delegation voting procedures and representation; and
Whereas, the organization needs a clear procedure to insure that all members are represented by a delegate at the National Convention; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the following changes be made to Article XIII National Convention of our By-laws:

1. Add item 6 to the paragraph E. Selection of delegates as follows;

6. Where a state does not have a State Department, non-Chapter members shall be assigned on a geographic basis to a local Chapter so as to be represented by that Chapter's delegation. Where there is only one Chapter in a state, that Chapter's delegation may represent all members residing in that state.

2. Add item 7 to the paragraph E. Selection of delegates as follows;

7. Where a state does not have a chapter, or the Chapter(s) does not have a credentialed delegate, the junior Director of that Region shall act as the delegate for all members of that state not represented. The senior Director of that Region shall act as the alternate delegate for the junior Director.

3. Add item 8 to the paragraph E. Selection of delegates as follows;

8. The Senior Vice-Commander shall act as the delegate for all national members or members-at-large. The Senior Vice-Commander shall designate a Junior Vice-Commander to act as his alternate.

4. Delete items 2 and 3 of the paragraph F. Voting.

5. In item 4 of paragraph F. Voting, change the term "members" to "delegates."

6. In item 5 of paragraph F. Voting, add a phrase to the first sentence such that it reads "The election of officers and directors and voting on Bylaw resolutions shall be by pre-printed paper ballot."

Decision 2007 Candidates

KENNY HANSON National Sr. Vice Commander



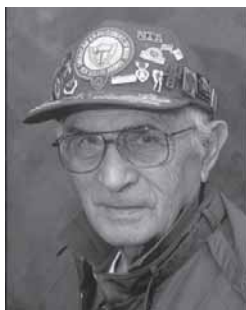
Serving with the Army, 14th Inf. Reg., 25th Inf. Div. Co. "I", Kenny was captured on the east slope of Heartbreak Ridge, Korea on March 1, 1952. He spent the next year and a half at Camp #2 Annex before liberation at Panmunjom on Aug. 25, 1953.

Kenny has been a life member of AX-POW since 1988. He served as Dept. JVC, SVC and State Commander; and has served as State Treasurer for 7 years. He is an AXPOW VAVS Representative at the Minneapolis, MN VAMC and has been an active National Director, North Central Region for eight years; JVC for the past year. He also serves as Convention Chairman.

Kenny and Jan live in Bloomington, Minnesota.

CHARLES SUSINO Jr. Vice Commander - East

Charlie served the membership as National Director for the Northeast Region. Working tirelessly for his fellow POWs, Charlie has been commander of his local chapter. He has been State Dept. Commander for 8



years. He has served on the Lyons VAMC as a stakeholder since 1999 and received the "Golden Eagles" award for service to them. He is an active volunteer at the VAMC. He speaks to schoolchildren - educating them on the POW experience. Charlie is also a National Service Officer - working to ensure his fellow POWs and their Widows receive the benefits they so richly deserve. As he puts it, "I won't be bested".

On Veterans Day, you can usually see Charlie carrying the colors for AX-POW at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, DC - a job he's performed admirably whenever asked since 1997.

In addition to AXPOW, Charlie is a strong advocate and member of MOPH.

Charlie and his wife, Lillian live in Metuchen.

MORRIS BARKER Jr. Vice Commander - Central



While serving with the 15th Air Force - 451st BG, 726th BS - Morris was shot down over Hungary and held in Stalag Luft IV.

After returning to the US, he attended Texas A&M; his MA is from the University of Texas. He has been an active member of AXPOW, serving as Commander of the Permian Basin Chapter and Texas State Department Commander.

For the past two years, Morris has worked hard trying to keep AXPOW financially solvent. He developed a plan, which he presented to the membership at Nashville in 2006, and again in the Bulletin in Jan. 2007. He is looking forward to implement-

ing it as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee.

Morris and Mary just moved from Odessa to Waco, TX to be closer to their family.

LAURA MCINTYRE National Director, Northeast

Laura is a life member of AXPOW and current National Director - since 1999. She served two terms as Chapter Commander of the Western MA Chapter, and is past State Dept. Commander for Massachusetts, past Adjutant and Treasurer.



Laura is also a life member of DAVA, and served as Chapter Commander DAVA 75 for 19 years. State Dept. offices include Ways and Means, Membership, Finance Committee, Patriotic Instructor. She is a life member of the VFW Auxiliary; served 3 terms as President of the local unit, serving as Jr. Vice and Chaplain. She has spent 26 years VAVS Northampton VAMC; 16 years Council on Aging, Hardwick, MA, Chairman COA for 10 years. On the AX-POW National level, she serves as Chairman, Awards and member, By-laws committees.

Laura and her adorable husband Philip live in Hardwick, MA.

Decision 2007 Candidates

LLOYD W. PATE National Director, Southeast

"Pate" enlisted in the US Army on Dec. 6 1949 in Jacksonville FL at the age of 15. After Basic Training, he was assigned to Yokohama Japan on occupation duty when the war broke out in Korea on June 25, 1950. In August of '50 he was assigned to the 24th ID, then Co. K, 19th Regt. Due to casualties he soon became the Squad Leader. He was captured on Jan. 1st, 1951 and remained a POW for 31 months and 19 days. He retired from the Army after 23 years service at the rank of First Sergeant.



Pate was very instrumental in forming the Department of Georgia and chartering another 8 Chapters. He has served in numerous positions within the Department including three terms as Commander. He has been Editor of the Department Newsletter for 18 years.

He is a life member of the VFW, AL, MOPH, VUMS and the KWVA plus several Division Associations.

Pate lives in Grovetown, GA.

CARROLL BOGARD National Director, North Central



Carroll enlisted in the Air Force in 1942, serving with the 8th AF, 466th BG, 785th BS. He was captured

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in August, 1944, then held in Stalag Luft VI and Luft IV. He participated in the 87 day march across northern Europe before being liberated by the British 7th Army at Lauenburg, Germany on the Elbe River.

He joined AXPOW in 1986 and quickly became an active member. He has been NE Iowa Chapter Adjutant, Vice Commander and Commander; at the Dept. level, he worked the chairs, culminating with a three-year stint as Commander when the Dept. hosted the 1995 National Convention in Des Moines.

He has been a National Director, serving the North Central Region, for the past three years.

Carroll and his wife, Barbara, live in Mason City, IA.

JAMES L. LOLLAR National Director, South Central

Jim, a B-52 Tail-Gunner, became a member of the 4th Allied POW Wing at the infamous Hoa Lo Prison (the Hanoi Hilton) after his aircraft was shot down over North Vietnam during Operation Linebacker II.



Achieving the rank of M/Sgt (E-7) after returning, he finished his BS degree in Accounting from Arkansas, was commissioned after OTS, & then completed an MBA in Financial Management at the University of Utah. After becoming an officer, Jim served as an Internal Auditor with the USAF Audit Agency & as Team Leader with HQ-Aeronautical Systems Division investigating government contractors on procurement programs.

Life Memberships include AX-POW's, 4th Allied POW Wing, Red River Val-

ley Fighter Pilots Association, B52 Strata-fortress Association, Son Tay Raiders Association, AF Gunners Association, NCO Association, VFW, AMVETS, Viet-Now, DFC Society, MOPH Association, Weber Booster Club, & NRA.

Jim is currently serving his 3rd term as AXPOW's National Sergeant at Arms, is JVC for the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, & lives in Wills Point, Texas.

BONNIE SHARP National Director, Northwest

Bonnie is a candidate for the position of National Director, Northwest Region. She has served 5 years as a National Director and was appointed to a term as National Jr. Vice Commander, Western Zone. She has been active member on the National Board of Directors *Outreach, Membership, and Ways & Means* Committees. In Washington State, she was Chapter Commander for 3 years and is presently serving her third year as Chapter Adjutant.



Bonnie says: "Working with former prisoners of war is a very rewarding experience to me. Knowing that I have been fortunate enough to play even a small part in helping an Ex-POW or his widow, is very gratifying to me. It is indeed an honor to work for such a special group of people.

I appreciate the confidence our membership has shown me in the past. If elected, I will, to the very best of my ability, respect and honor the office of Northwest National Director, and will continue to support and serve our organization well."

Bonnie lives in University Place, WA with her husband PNC Maurice



Decision 2007 Candidates and Convention Info

Sharp, near their four children and their spouses, eleven grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

MILTON MOORE, JR
National Director, Southwest

Skip was born in Ft. Clayton, Panama Canal Zone in Oct. 1947. His father, Milton M. Moore Sr. spent 27



years in the United States Army and was elected as the National Commander of the AXPOW in 1989. Skip served as National Sgt at Arms for 6 years. He spent 22 years in the Army and had two tours of duty in Viet Nam, retiring as a SSG (E6) in August of 1989. Awards include: Air Medal, two Army Commendation Medals and numerous other citations.

Currently, Skip is the Commander of the Cochise Chapter AXPOW and the Senior Vice Commander for the Department of Arizona, AXPOW.

Skip and his wife, Margie, live in Sierra Vista, Arizona.



From the Convention Committee

The Department of Illinois is honored to host our National Convention in Springfield, Illinois this October. We have been very busy in Illinois organizing events for the convention and we hope to make your visit to Illinois a worthwhile productive and enjoyable experience.

We did not organize any side trips this year because most of the historic sites in and around Springfield are easy to access. Many of these sights are within one or two blocks of the Hilton Hotel. A trolley, located across the street from the Hotel lobby, runs every ½ hour to seven of these sights. You can get off and on the trolley tour as much as you like and the cost is \$3.00.

There are also many restaurants located within easy walking of the Hotel. Check your Convention Ad Program Book for discount coupons.

We will be running a hospitality room throughout the convention and have lined a variety of entertainment including The St. Andrews Society Pipes and Drums, The Capital City Brass Band and WWII reenactments Groups. A premier WWII history is also planned.

About Springfield

Springfield became the Illinois state capital in 1837 with the help of a young lawyer and politician named Abraham Lincoln. He lived in the city until he left to become the 16th President of the United States, in 1861. From that moment on, the city's history and future have been inexorably tied to this most famous and beloved American citizen.

Springfield, the capital of Illinois and the seat of Sangamon County government, is located at the intersection of Interstates 55 and 72. Chicago lies 200 miles northeast of Springfield, St. Louis and Indianapolis lie 100 miles southwest and 195 miles due east, respectively.

Climate

Moderate year-round temperatures. Average temperatures range from 70-80° in the summer months to 30-40° in the winter months.

Transportation - To Springfield

Getting here is easy. By car, you'll find us on Interstate 55 (a.k.a. Route 66 for nostalgia lovers), just 200 miles from Chicago, and 100 miles from St. Louis. By plane, Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport www.flyspi.com is linked with the international gateway airports of St. Louis Lambert and Chicago O'Hare for daily flights, as well as Midway Airport in Chicago. And, by train, Amtrak.com offers daily stops in Springfield between both Chicago and St. Louis.

Transportation - In Town

Springfield Trolley — An old-fashioned, open-air trolley (closed and heated in the winter) with regular stops at the major historic attractions. Tickets sold at several downtown locations. For a list of stops, ticketing locations and days of operation, call (800) 545-7300 or (217) 789-2360.

Historic Sites Buses - A Springfield Mass Transit Bus that run specifi-



Decision 2007 Convention Info

cally to Springfield Historic Sites. Passes can be purchased at many banks, stores, and employment centers. For a list of stops, ticketing locations and days of operation, call (217) 522-5531.

Capital City Cycle Tours - A pedi-cab that will take you on a tour of downtown or drop you off at the downtown sites. For a list of stops, ticketing locations and days of operation, please call (217) 971-5752.

Mass Transit Buses — Public buses are available to most areas of the city. The buses run from 6am - 6pm, Monday through Saturday, except for holidays. For bus schedules and maps, stop by the Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau at 109 N. 7th St., or call the mass transit office at (217) 522-5531.

Taxis — Several taxi companies offer service to and from the airport and train station, as well as to all areas of the city. Check the local yellow page listings for phone numbers.

Sightseeing

Over one million visitors a year come to see Springfield's historic Lincoln sites, which include the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Library, the Lincoln Home and Neighborhood, Lincoln-Herndon Law Offices, Lincoln Tomb, Lincoln's New Salem, and more.

Other attractions include the Dana-Thomas House, the Old State Capitol, the Illinois State Capitol and the Executive Mansion.

Year-Round Festivals

Springfield offers hundreds of exciting events throughout the year, including: the Old Capitol Art Fair in May, the International Carillon Festival in June, the Illinois State Fair in August and First Night Springfield on New Year's Eve, just to name a few.

Shopping

Shopping

From charming, one-of-kind boutiques to nationally recognized, big city department stores, Springfield offers something for everyone.

The city's westside offers White Oaks Mall, (the largest central Illinois indoor shopping facility), national discount shopping centers, home improvement stores, state-of-the-art computer and home entertainment stores, fashion boutiques and more.

The historical downtown area is brimming with specialty shops, antique stores, bakeries, art galleries and much more.

The legacy of America's greatest statesman, Abraham Lincoln, can be traced to Springfield, Illinois...the city he loved and proudly called his home. As you walk through the streets of historic Springfield, you'll feel as though you've stepped back in time...and are experiencing Springfield as Lincoln knew it.

Other Lincoln Historic Sites

Springfield is a rich tapestry of Lincoln's life...from the young pioneer boy who settled in New Salem village...to the only home he ever owned...and his final resting place at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Walk where he walked and experience nearly 30 years of Lincoln's life in Springfield, Illinois. Springfield's Lincoln historic sites include:

New Salem - Timber houses, shops and stores now comprise this reconstructed historic village where costumed interpreters bring to life the people who lived and worked here during Lincoln's six-year stay.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

- Explore this national treasure. Amidst the four-block historic neigh-

borhood rests the place Lincoln and his family called home for seventeen years.

Lincoln-Herndon Law Office - From 1843 to 1852, Lincoln practiced law here with his two partners in the offices above Seth Tinsley's dry goods store. This is the only surviving structure in which Lincoln maintained working law offices.

Old State Capitol - "A house divided against itself cannot stand..." These immortal words were spoken by Abraham Lincoln in the historic Old State Capitol Hall of Representatives in the turbulent days preceding the Civil War.

Lincoln Tomb - This exquisite monument, designed by famed sculptor Larkin Mead, marks the final resting place of Abraham, Mary Todd, Tad, Eddie and Willie Lincoln.

Lincoln Depot - "To this place...and these people...I owe everything." Lincoln spoke these heartfelt words as he departed his beloved Springfield for an uncertain future in Washington, D.C. as the 16th president of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum - With a unique combination of showmanship and scholarship...the Presidential Library and Museum uses 21st century technology to immerse visitors in the world of Abraham Lincoln.

"Here I Have Lived" - View over 30 outdoor interpretive exhibits placed throughout the historic downtown area to experience Springfield, Illinois as Abraham Lincoln knew it.



News Briefs

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sponsored by Andersonville National Historic Site
The National Prisoner of War Museum
And Georgia Southwestern State University

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

7:00 PM POW Symposium - Rylander Theater
Moderator: Dr. Glenn Robins, Associate Professor of History, GSW
Participants: COL. Fred Cherry, USAF (Retired) - POW Vietnam
CDR. Porter Halyburton. USN (Retired) - POW Vietnam

Friday, September 21, 2007

10:15 AM POWs arrive on campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. Escort provided by Rolling Thunder, Inc.
11:00 AM POW Symposium - Student Success Center at GSW
Moderator: Dr. Thomas Ward, Jr., Professor of History, Spring Hill College
Participant: MAJ. Carrol S. Woods, USAF (Retired) - Tuskegee Airman POW World War 2

Saturday, September 22, 2007

10:00 AM Rolling Thunder POW/MIA Memorial Service
Andersonville National Cemetery
Speaker: CWO Guy Hunter, USMC (Retired) - POW Operation Desert Storm

INFORMATION: Ranger Kim Humber 229-924-0343 - Kim_Humber@nps.gov

The Ride Home Rolling Thunder®, Inc. 21-22 September 2007 National Prisoner of War Museum Andersonville, GA

September 21, 2007 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Traditionally, the President issues a proclamation announcing our Nation's gratitude. Rolling Thunder®, in conjunction with National Parks Service, Andersonville, Georgia and Georgia SouthWestern State University, Americus, Georgia, are preparing a series of activities to honor our American Heroes. "The Ride Home," a Rolling Thunder® annual event, is held to honor these brave warriors that have returned and to remember those still waiting to come home.

The program begins Wednesday evening, September 19 with a Symposium hosted by National Parks Service. Vietnam POWs, Cdr Porter Halyburton, USN (Ret) and Col Fred Cherry, USAF (Ret) will speak at the historic Rylander Theatre, Americus, Georgia.

The schedule for "The Ride Home" weekend is:

Friday, September 21

Motorcycles, military vehicles and automobiles take formation for Rolling Thunder's Heroes Escort Ride through the city of Americus to the University.

POW/MIA Convocation at the University Student Success Center, guest speaker WWII POW and Tuskegee Airman, Major Carrol S. Woods, Army Air Corp (Ret).

Heroes' Dinner at the historic Windsor Hotel, Americus, GA, hosted by Rolling Thunder

Candlelight Ceremony at the National Historic Site, Andersonville, GA -host Rolling Thunder
Saturday, September 22

Kickstands up at 9 a.m. Saturday morning for Rolling Thunder's The Ride Home to the National POW/MIA Museum, at the NHS.

Keynote address given by Operation Desert Storm POW, CWO Guy Hunter, USMC (Ret). Attending POWs will receive a Rolling Thunder "Welcome Home" with a rose for remembrance and a POW/MIA flag with our credo, "You are not forgotten."

All former POWs are encouraged to join us. For further information, contact:

Jim Moyer, Chairman
Home: 352-466-0301
Cell: 407-448-1181
<http://www.POWRideHome.org>
info@POWRideHome.org

About Rolling Thunder:
Incorporated in 1995, Rolling Thunder®, Inc. is a class 501 c(4) non-profit organization with over 80 chartered chapters throughout the United States and members abroad. We are a veteran's oriented organization, dedicated to working on issues for current and future veterans and for POWs and MIAs.

Veterans Disability Benefits Commission News

On June 7, 2007, The Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommended that the Department of Veterans Affairs should overhaul its outdated system of compensating former military personnel for disabling injuries they suffered during their service. The institute said in a report

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news continued...

requested by the federal Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission that the current system dates, in part, to the World War II era and is out of step with modern medical advances in diagnosing, understanding and treating conditions such as traumatic brain injury. The institute is a branch of the National Academies, an organization chartered by Congress to advise the government on scientific and technical issues.

The disability benefits commission, created by Congress in 2003 to study the VA compensation system, is expected to issue a report this year. For years, the VA rating system has been criticized for bureaucratic delays and disability ratings that many veterans say are lower than they should be, which means they get less compensation. The subject is getting renewed attention as veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan return home with post-traumatic stress disorder, brain damage, amputations and other serious injuries and conditions.

The IOM panel also recommended that:

The VA and DoD consider comprehensive medical and vocational evaluations of newly separated members.

VA rating boards have access to medical experts who can help interpret new medical evidence.

VA takes into account the effect an injury has on the quality of life and ability to engage in usual life activities, not just earning capacity. The VA establishes a regular process for updating the rating schedule.

Better vocational determinations be used for the award of individual unemployability (IU).

Eligibility for IU be based on an individual's disabilities along with education, employment history, and the effects of age on potential employability.

The VA implement a gradual reduction in IU compensation for those able to return to gainful employment, rather than abruptly terminating disability payments at an arbitrary level of earnings

VA officials said in a statement that they are reviewing the study, and that they are considering creating a joint process for disability determinations with the Defense Department. Veterans are eligible for monthly payments of \$115 to \$2,471 depending on the severity of the disability. Last year, about 2.7 million veterans received \$26.5 billion in compensation, an average of more than \$9,800 per veteran.

Senator proposes trading flag for ship

Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., reintroduced a resolution April 18th demanding that North Korea return the Pueblo, and he sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice suggesting she look into his proposed exchange.

"Since the USS Pueblo bears the name of the town of Pueblo, Colorado, many in our state want to see the vessel returned to its proper home," Allard wrote. "North Korea continues to hint at the possible return of the captured U.S. Navy ship, and I ask that you take action at this opportune time."

The Pueblo is the only active-duty U.S. warship in the hands of a foreign power. It was taken Jan. 23, 1968, after being sent defenseless on an intelligence-gathering mission off the North Korean coast.

Allard said Colorado veterans of the Korean and Vietnam wars suggested exchanging the flag. It was captured from Korean Gen. Uh Je-

yeon in an 1871 battle after American ships attempting to open Korea to trade invaded Kanghwa Island, outside Seoul. The flag is on display at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Navy records show the Pueblo was in international waters when it was captured, though the North Koreans insist it was inside the Korean coastal zone. One person was killed in an explosion during the attack, and 10 of the 82 surviving crewmen were wounded. All 82 were held 11 months before being sent to South Korea on Christmas Eve.

The North Koreans display the ship as a trophy and a monument to the rocky relationship between the two nations.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a Democratic presidential candidate, and other U.S. officials were given a tour of the Pueblo during a visit earlier in April to collect the remains of American servicemen killed in the Korean War.

They were told that North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Il, had decreed that the ship should be used for "an anti-American education."

Database Available

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) now has an electronic database listing the names of servicemembers still unaccounted for from World War II that is available for family members and researchers. The database lists nearly 78,000 names and was compiled by researchers from DPMO and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. This WWII database, along with databases listing the missing from the Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War and Gulf War, are available on [DPMO's website](#). For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website or call (703) 699-1169.

The Members of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW
believe in our slogan:
"We Exist to Help Those Who Cannot Help Themselves"



In the last 12 years we have raised – and spent \$500,000.00 to help ALL VETERANS

Several years ago, we purchased two new DELL computers for the National Service Office
We have donated \$4,000 to help the EX-POW Bulletin
We furnished two rooms for families of veteran-patients staying overnight
We purchased rehabilitation equipment, televisions and more

We now ask every chapter with money to buy space in our Bulletin. We need this wonderful publication – MedSearch, TAPS, Stories of the past and other news and articles. The Brooklyn "Key" Chapter is the busiest, most productive chapter in the country. We know most can't do what we have done, but we ask your help in keeping our EX-POW Bulletin alive.
If you want to help, call Lee at 718-642-7647.

THANK YOU!



American Ex-Prisoners of War Website Biography

www.axpow.org

**If you are not a current member of AXPOW,
you must submit documentation of your POW status.**



Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Email

Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Where were you captured?

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

Medals received

Job in the military

After the war

Biography (please type or print one or two paragraphs.)

Submit 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white).

Telephone

Unit

Date captured

Date liberated

SEND TO: American Ex-Prisoners of War
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Please include your check for \$65.

If you have any questions, please contact Clydie Morgan, National Adjutant,
at 817-649-2979; HQ@axpow.org

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The American Ex-Prisoners of War Platinum Plus[®] MasterCard[®] Credit Card



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In memory of Al Gertel, by the
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In memory of Alvin Ryan, by his
loving family, wife, Ann; daughters;
Kathie and Judie; and grandsons
Richard, Scott and Dwayne

In memory of Edwin Hayes, by Jo-
seph & Helen Jacobson
In memory of Edwin Huson, by Jack
& Mary Browder
In memory of John 'Jack' Johnson,
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Rita Monteith
In memory of Leonard Rose, by
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In memory of Michael Medzie, our
first chapter commander, by the
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MEDSEARCH FUND

Mahoning Valley Chapter
In memory of Michael Medzie, our
chapter's first commander, by the
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N.S.O. FUND

In memory of Monroe Hite, by the
Department of Georgia

Thank you Mahoning Valley Chapter!

Dear Ms. Morgan,

It's that time of year again! Time for
MVC to make our annual donations
from our Daisy Fund, which our mem-
bers worked at so diligently.

First on our list is our National Orga-
nization to which we donate the fol-
lowing amounts: MedSearch - \$500;
General Fund - \$500; \$200 to each in
memory of Michael Medzie, our first
commander

We are pleased that we are able to
make these donations in confidence
that they will be used to further the
purposes of our organization.

Sincerely, MAHONING VALLEY
CHAPTER / AXPOWS Norma Louise
Medzie Treasurer.

chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine

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

Years ago, long before the illegal
immigration mess that we have
now, a man from Russia was asked,
"What is the thing in America that
impressed you most when you first
came here?" "That's easy. In
America, the people smile". Even
now we have so much to smile
about. We still live in a free coun-
try. We can worship the true and
living God according to our beliefs.
As citizens, we can choose who is
to fill our government offices. It
thrills me to see children walking

by our house coming and going to
school, laughing and having fun.
We have our families. Our homes,
dreams and, yes, we have hope that
we can make those dreams and
hopes come true. Here in America,
we have a government that is "of
the people, by the people, and for
the people". That's why we smile.
In the sight of God may we always
keep America a land of smiling
people. Let us pause this Fourth of
July and praise His holy name and
ask that our great nation will con-
tinue to be blessed. God Bless
America.

Let us pray: Almighty God, who
has given us a good land and heri-
tage, we do ask that we always be
reminded of Your great and good
blessings that come our way as
Americans. We ask that we be
thankful for the unearned bless-
ings of love and loyalty. We are so
thankful for those who are willing
to stand in harm's way to preserve
and defend our liberties. In Your
name may there be justice and
peace on earth and good will to-
ward all people and nations. Please

Lord, fill our hearts with thankful-
ness, love and concern for others.
We pray in Your holy and precious
name. AMEN.

Thought for the month: A smile
creates happiness in the
home...brings about good will in all
of our activities...and is a true sign
of friendship. A smile cannot be
bought, begged or stolen. Smiles
are free, so keep 'em coming.

This month's giggle: A minister
waited in line to have his car filled
with gas just before a long holiday
weekend. Finally, the attendant
motioned him toward a vacant
pump.

"Preacher," said the young man,
"I'm sorry about the delay. It seems
as if everyone waits until the last
minute."

The minister chuckled, "I know
what you mean. It's the same in my
business."

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taps



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

ANDERSEN, Carl Clifford, "Red or Cliff" passed away May 3, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 100th BG. His plane was shot down twice, the first time on Christmas Day, 1944 and again on New Years Eve 1944. The crew was captured and he remained a prisoner of war until they were liberated in 1945. Cliff was a life member of the Prairieland Chapter of the American Ex- Prisoners of War. He is survived by one sister and one brother. He leaves three sons, 11 grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

BANAKOS, Nicolaos G., of Cocoa Beach, FL (formerly of Lowell, MA) passed away Apr. 10, 2007. He was 88. He was captured while attached to the 459th BG, 759th BS, flying a B-24. He was held at Stalag 17B. He was a life member of AXPOW. In addition to his beloved wife, Joanne, he is survived by 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 1 sister.

BARNES (Berendse), Frank passed away May 23, 2007. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona. He served in the 507th Infantry and the 82nd Division. Frank served time in Stalag 12A, 12D, and 7A in Moosburg, Germany. He is survived by his wife, Georgann.

BOEHMER, Herman A., 84, of Dayton, OH died April 19, 2007. Herman served in the Army during WWII; he was a POW in Europe. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Alice, 4 daughters, 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 5 sisters. Herman was a charter member of the Dayton Area Chapter, AXPOW.

BOONE, Daniel (Dan), of Portsmouth, VA passed away May 1, 2007 at age 86. He was captured and held POW while serving with the Army

during WWII. He was a member of the Hampton Roads Chapter, AX-POW. Dan leaves his wife of 49 years, Geneva Mae, 4 sisters, and numerous nieces and nephews.

CANION, Bill E. of Phoenix, Arizona passed away May 30th, 2007. He was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona, and a life member of AX-POW. He joined the Air Force in 1940, serving with the 384th BG, 544th BS, 1st Div. He was shot down and spent time in Luft I. He is survived by his wife, Shirley, one daughter, one grandson, great grandchildren and stepchildren and their families.

CUNNINGHAM, Donald B., of Stratton, OH died April 24, 2007. Don served in Germany during WWII and then in Korea where he was captured and held for 2 ½ years. He was a member of Yellow Creek Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Mary, 3 sons, 9 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DECKER, Anne L. of Lakewood, CO passed away April 25, 2007. She was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. Her late husband, Clayton, was a POW during WWII - held at Ofuna Omori after his submarine was sunk. Anne leaves two sons, one daughter and four grandchildren.

DILLOW, Elmer L., of Leetonia, OH passed away March 19, 2007. Elmer was in the Army - 381st Inf. during WWII. He was a prisoner in Germany for 10 months. He was a member of the Steel Valley Chapter #13, AX-POW. Survivors include his loving wife, Frances.

DRAKE, Ann Rogers of Aptos, CA died April 9, 2007. At the age of four, Ann, her mother and siblings were interned; they spent more than three years in Santo Tomas Internment Camp. Her father, Paul was captured on Corregidor. He died on a "hell ship". Ann was a member of BACEPOW Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by her beloved husband,

Eugene, 7 children, 15 grandchildren, sister Dorothy, and many relatives and friends.

DUNHAM, Kenneth A. of Peoria, AZ passed away May 25, 2007. He served in the Army with the 34th Div., 135th Reg. Co. G. He was captured in Italy and held in 7A. While there he was on a work party in Munich, Germany. He was a member of the American Ex Prisoners of War, and had membership in the POW-WOW Chapter and the Agua Fria Chapter. His wife, Louise, of 64 years, was an AXPOW Service Officer. Surviving are his wife, sisters and brothers, two sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

EARL, Harold G., of Indiana passed away April 28 at the age of 81. He was a civilian internee in Santo Tomas for more than 3 years. He contracted polio in camp and was on crutches the rest of his life.

FETTEROLF, Elwood, of Ashland died Jan. 8, 2007. He was an Army veteran of WWII, serving with the 191st Tank Bn. He was a POW in Germany. Surviving are his wife, Rosalie, 4 daughters, 1 son, 2 sisters, 18 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

FORSBLAD, Leland, member of the Fresno Chapter, AXPOW passed away Aug. 4, 2006. He is survived by his loving wife.

GRABER, Marie M., 93, of West Bend, WI died May 2, 2007. Her husband, "Blackie" Graber died in Sept. 2006. Marie and Blackie were members of the Beltmann Chapter and the Barbed Wire Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include their daughter, Anne of Florida.

GROW, Annabelle, 87, formerly of Dawson, IA died May 25, 2007. She was the widow of Dale, who was captured with the 33rd Armored Div. in Germany. Annabelle was a life member of AXPOW and the Mid-Iowa

taps continued

Chapter. She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 grandson, 2 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

HALL, Walter M., of Newton Falls, OH passed away Feb. 9, 2007. Walter was captured while serving with the 101st Airborne during WWII. He was captured after the Battle of Normandy and spent nearly 1 year in camp. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Helen, 1 daughter, 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. He was a member of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW.

HANTHORN, Doyt Jacob, 84, of Columbus Grove, OH died June 3, 2007. He was an Army veteran of WWII; he was a POW. He leaves his wife, Wilda, 3 daughters, 3 brothers, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HICKMAN, Marvin Herman of Bowie, TX passed away May 20, 2007 at the age of 91. Marvin was a USAF veteran of WWII; he was captured when his B-24 Liberator was shot down over Germany. He was held in Luft IV for 11 months. He leaves many friends and extended family.

HIGGINS, Samuel Griffith Sr., 83, passed away May 26, 2007, in Orange Park, Florida. During WWII, he served in the Army. He was captured with his unit during the Battle of the Bulge and was held in Stalag 9B. Sam is survived by his wife Bernice Turner, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 8 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

HIZER, George Fredrick, 82, of Panama City, FL passed away May 1, 2007. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held as a POW in Germany. George was Commander of the Hutchison-Poplowski Chapter, AXPOW in 2000, 2001 and 2005. He was predeceased by his wife, Alline; survivors include 1 son, 1 grandson and 1 great-granddaughter.

HOCKENSMITH, Robert A., 82, of Newville, PA died May 3, 2007. Bob was a paratrooper with the 17th Airborne Div. during WWII; he fought

in the Battle of the Bulge and was captured there. He leaves his wife of 62 years, Isabel, 2 daughters, 1 son, 3 brothers, 1 sister, 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. He was a member of Capital City Chapter, AX-POW.

HOLBERT, Edward F., member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter #1 and resident of Belington, WV died May 20, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 110th Inf., 28th Div. He was a POW in Germany. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Ina Jean, 2 sons, 1 sister, 4 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren.

JACKSON, Cleo, of Loveland, CO passed away May 21, 2007. He was 85. He was captured while serving with the 15th AF, 465th BG, 783rd BS, flying out of Italy. He bailed out over Austria, was captured and held at Luft IV. He was an active member of the Northeast Colorado Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Susanne, 1 son and grandchildren.

JOHNSON, John O. (Jack), of Centuria, WI died March 6, 2007 at the age of 85. Jack was a navigator on a B-17 during WWII. He was a POW for 13 months. He is survived by his loving wife, Birdie Mae, 1 sister, 3 daughters, 2 step-children, 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and a host of special friends and members of the Wisconsin Indianhead Chapter, AXPOW.

KENNEDY, Walter (Tom), member of the Fresno Chapter, AXPOW died April 12, 2007. He is survived by his loving wife.

KILMER, Bruce, of Dallas, Texas, died May 28, 2007. Kilmer, a bomber pilot during WW II, was shot down over France on October 14, 1943, which came to be called Black Thursday. He lived with the French underground until spring 1944, when he was taken prisoner of the Germans. He was held in Stalags Luft 3, 13D and 7A; he was liberated by Patton's 3rd Army and his brother, Tommy. Kilmer recalled it this way, "I glanced up and here was this Army sergeant coming back that way. I asked, 'What can I do for you, sergeant?' He looked at me and said, 'Bruce?' I

looked at him again and it was my youngest brother. He was just a high school kid when I left home. Here he was, a typical, tough-looking Army sergeant. That was quite a deal." Kilmer is survived by his wife, Flo.

KING, Jeanette, of Lowden, Iowa, died Nov. 20, 2005. A member of the Eastern Iowa Chapter, she is survived by her husband of 58 years, Ralph.

LAKE, Ralph Willard (Bill), 82, of Farmington, Maine passed away May 23, 2007. He served his country in honor during WWII. He served with the 106th Inf. Div., 422nd Reg., Co. C. He was taken prisoner during the Battle of the Bulge and was held prisoner at 9B and 9A for three months, 11 days, 4 hours, 15 minutes, being released on Good Friday, March 30, 1944. He is survived by his wife Nancy, four daughters, 11 grandchildren, 7 great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

LARSEN, Norman, of Scarsdale, NY passed away May 9, 2007 at the age of 88. He was shot down over Rangoon, Burma and was a Japanese POW for the first 6 months of the war, until liberation by the British Army. Norman is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

LITHOGOW, James, of Trenton, NJ died Apr. 5, 2007. He served in the AAF during WWII; he was captured when his plane was shot down over Germany and held in Luft IV. James was past commander of the Big Apple Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his brother Henry.

LOCKE, Arthur "Bud", 91, a lifelong Hooksett resident, died Friday, May 4, 2007, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Manchester, NH. Born in Hooksett on August 3, 1915, Mr. Locke was the son of Alpheus and Lena (Carbee) Locke and a descendant of Ebenezer Lock of Deering, who is reputed to have fired the "shot heard 'round the world" at the Battle of Lexington. Before WWII, he served with the 15th Infantry

taps continued...

Regiment, the "Can Do" Regiment, in the China Expeditions. In October 1941 he was transferred to Clark Air Field in Manila in the Philippines. After the surrender of Bataan, he was taken prisoner, survived the infamous Bataan Death March and was transported to Japan, where he worked as a stevedore and laborer in Kobe until August 9, 1945. He was a member of ADBC and a Director of NH Chapter #1. AXPOW. He is survived by 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

MAGINITY, Annabelle P., 103, passed away April 10, 2007. She was the widow of former POW Carl. She was a life member of AXPOW and the James L. Hale Memorial Chapter, Hampton, VA. She is survived by a brother, two nephews and two nieces. She will be missed by family, friends and POW members.

MATHEWS, John W., 82, passed away Feb. 22, 2007. He served with the 385th BG, 549th BS, stationed at Great Ashford. John was captured when his plane was shot down; he and the other crew members were held in Moosburg until liberation. He is survived by his wife, Betty, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

McDARBY, Dennis J., 83, of Morristown, IN. Dennis served during WWII with the 305th BG. He was a former POW in Germany. He leaves his wife, Julia, 2 sons, 5 daughters, 1 brother, 1 sister, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

McKENZIE, Franklin Cooper, 85, of Laurel, MS died May 27, 2007. Cooper served with the 101st Airborne Div. during WWII. He participated in the D-Day Invasion as a paratrooper and was a POW for 10 months. Survivors include one son, one daughter, one brother, one sister, six grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

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He was a member of the W. Jack Cleere Memorial Chapter, AXPOW.

MILLS, Garould, age 85, from Osceola, IA passed away on Nov. 17, 2004. He was a German POW for two years. Survivors include his wife Christina, one daughter, 2 stepsons, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren

MONTOYA, Ben, of Albuquerque, NM passed away March 16, 2007, one day before his 87th birthday. Ben and his brother, Horacio were captured on Bataan, April 9, 1942. They endured the Bataan Death March, internment in the Philippines, then two years of slave labor at Camp 17, Fukuoka, Japan. Ben and his wife, Mary, devoted much of their time to the Albuquerque Chapter #1 AXPOW. Ben was a National Director and Mary was National Treasurer of the National organization. Ben had earlier been involved with AXPOW's parent, The Bataan Veterans Organization. In addition to Mary and Horacio, Ben leaves 3 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He will be missed by his many friends.

MORRIS, Henry L., 91, of Sun City Center, FL passed away March 2, 2007. Henry was captured while serving with the Army during WWII during the Battle of the Bulge. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Lakeland, FL Chapter. He leaves his loving wife, Louise, 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

MOTTOLA, Paula J., 80, of Brooklyn, NY died March 31, 2007. Paula was the beloved wife of Ralph - former Commander and present Adjutant of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter and 2 granddaughters.

PALENICA, Dorothy, of Phoenix, AZ passed away April 26, 2007. She was the widow of Max Palenica who was a life member of the American Ex Prisoners of War. They were both active members of the Agua Fria Chapter. She is survived by one son, one daughter and grandchildren.

PARENTE, Leonard, 86, of Staten Island, NY died March 19, 2007. Leonard was captured while serving with the 106th Inf. Div. at the Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, 2 daughters, 1 son and 2 grandchildren. He was a member of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW.

PENNY, Harold, of Sacramento, CA passed away April 23, 2007 at an amazingly youthful 92 years of age. He was captured while pioneering trans oceanic flight on the Pan Am Clipper Ships and held at an internment camp until liberation on Feb. 23, 1945. He leaves his loving wife, Faye and two children. Harold was a member of BACEPOW Chapter, AXPOW.

PETERS, Hazel, age 82, of Rural Valley, PA died June 6, 2006. Her husband of 60 years, Thomas M. Peters, Jr., age 82, died Oct. 19, 2006. Thomas served in WWII with the 44th Eng. Combat Bn. He was a POW of the Germans. Both Hazel and Thomas were life members of AXPOW. They are survived by 7 children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

POWELL, Eileen, 86, of Grand Rapids, OH died March 24, 2007. She was a member of the Maumee Valley Chapter (OH) and the widow of Carl Powell. Carl served with the 34th Div. He was captured in North Africa and a POW for 26 months. Eileen is survived by 2 daughters and 1 son.

REDMON, Bert, 92, of Delphos, OH died March 13, 2007. He was a veteran of WWII, serving with the 99th Inf. Div. He became a POW on Dec. 16, 1944. He is survived by his wife, Nina, 1 son, 6 grandsons, 4 great-grandsons and 2 great-granddaughters. Bert and Nina were faithful members of NW Central Ohio Chapter #7, AXPOW.

RHODES, William C., member of the Fresno Chapter, AXPOW passed away Jan. 20, 2007.

ROBERTS, Charles, member of the Fresno Chapter, AXPOW passed away Dec. 5, 2006.

taps continued...

RYAN, Alvin D., of Hollywood, FL passed away June 13, 2002. He served with the AAF during WWII; he was captured and held for 15 months in Frankfort, Barth, Heydekrug and Keifheyde. "Al" is survived by his beloved wife, Anna Rose, 2 daughters and 3 grandsons. All are so very proud of his service to his country.

RYAN, Robert E., age 88, of Medina, NY died March 28, 2007. He was assigned to the 36th Div., 141st Inf., Co. G during WWII. He was captured at the Rapido River and held at a farm camp in Germany. Bob was a member of the Western New York Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Julia, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild, 1 sister and many other relatives and friends.

SACCONI, Ero (Ben), member of the Fresno Chapter, AXPOW died Feb. 16, 2007.

SANCHEZ, Frank, member of the Fresno Chapter, AXPOW died Oct. 15, 2006. He is survived by his loving wife.

SELLERS, Father Benedict (Joseph), of Cleveland, OH passed away Apr. 2, 2007. He was 85. During WWII, Joseph served with the 97th BG in Tunisia. Later he was shot down over Vienna. He was placed in a number of POW camps in Germany. He became a priest after the death of his wife and son; he is survived by one daughter and two sisters.

SMITH, Hellon L., of Lexington, SC, passed away May 18, 2007. She was the widow of George O. Smith, Jr. who was captured in Austria during a mission with the 15th Air Corp, 376th Bomb Group. He was held prisoner in Stalag Luft 1 in Barth, Germany. She and George had been active members in the Palmetto Chapter of Ex-POW. She is survived by 2 daughters, 1 grandson and 2 granddaughters, and 2 great-granddaughters.

STEARMAN, Guy J., 86, of Coldwater, KS died March 19, 2007. He was captured on Corregidor in May and held for 3 ½ years until liberation at 92nd Garage, Bilibid Prison, Cabanatuan, Taiwan Prison Camp, Yokohama and Camp 1. He leaves 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

STEWART, Billie Dorothy, of Coal Run, OH passed away Apr. 8, 2007. She and her husband, Donald were founding members of the Manasota Chapter, AXPOW. They are also founding members of the Ohio Valley Chapter. Donald was a POW for 17 months in Germany. In addition to her husband, she is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 13 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

TROST, Paul, 83, of Churdan, IA died Apr. 30, 2007. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge and spent 106 days as a POW before being liberated by Patton's Tank Corps on Apr. 2, 1945. Paul was a member of the Mid-Iowa Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Joann, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 10 grandchildren, 2 brothers and 1 sister.

VERMONT, Ernest Blackburn, 82, of Quarryville, PA passed away Dec. 12, 2006. He served in the 106th Inf., Co E, 2nd Bn, captured at Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Margaret.

VLAHON, Sam, 84, member of the Omaha Chapter, AXPOW died recently. Sam was captured in the Pacific during WWII; he spent 3 ½ years as a POW of the Japanese. He is survived by 3 sons, 3 daughters, 2 sisters and many grandchildren.

VORSTER, Helen Marie Ivory died recently with her children at her side. She was captured during WWII and held at an internment camp in Manila until liberation. She leaves her 5 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 1 sister and their families.

WAKEFIELD, Gerald L. of Litchfield, MN passed away April 1, 2007. Gerald was stationed on Corregidor in

1942; he was a Japanese POW for 3 ½ years. He was a member of AX-POW. Survivors include his wife, Donna, 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson, and numerous nephews and nieces.

WALLACE, Neal V., 84, of Hendersonville, NC died March 9, 2007. During WWII, he served with the AAF. He was a POW in Germany. Neal leaves his loving wife of 62 years, Rida. He was a member of the WNC Chapter, AXPOW.

WEBB, Kate, 64, a reporter who spent 23 days in captivity during the Vietnam War died May 13, 2007 in Sydney. She was UPI Bureau Chief in Cambodia when she was captured on Apr. 7, 1971, along with five Asian reporters. They fled to the woods, where they were taken by the Viet Cong who stripped them of their shoes and marched them to a camp. They were released 23 days later. Kate is survived by one brother and one sister.

WEBER, Wilmer S. of Philadelphia, PA passed away March 31, 2007 at the age of 85. During WWII, he served with the 95th BS, 440th Troop Carrier Group. He was shot down in the Battle of the Bulge and held at Nuremberg and Moosburg. Survivors include 3 sons, 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WESTERHOLM, Kurt, beloved son of Leo and June, died Apr. 12, 2007. Kurt served in the Marines. He was 42 years old and a father when he died. Leo and June are grateful that he came with his children for Easter this year. They want to thank their POW friends for their expressions of support during this very difficult time. He will be greatly missed.

new members

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



New Annual Members "Welcome Home"

Charles C Walker
Mary Ines
Hughson, CA
USAAC
Budapest Hungary Prison, Luft 3, 7A
7/7/44-5/45

Donald A Sharer
Judith K
Bedford, IN
Cmdr, Naval Air Attache
Tehran, Iran 11/4/79-1/21/81
Thomas E Houdek
Wanda
Canton, MI
Army 5A

New Life Members "Welcome Home"

***indicates new member to AXPOW**

Eloise Renfro 39305
Ft. Worth, TX
Widow of Robert Leon Renfro
Malaybalay Bilibid Camp 5 Kawasaki

Jeanne Marie Hulcher *39306
Richmond, VA
Daughter of Lawrence "Bill" Hulcher,
ETO

James G Hammond *39307
Yona, Guam
Son of Gordon Lee Hammond, ETO

Dorothy Piligian *39308
Needham, MA
Widow of Murad S Piligian
7A
4/10/45-4/29/45

James V Roberts *39309
New Ulm, MN
CO E 175 Inf
12A, 13A
6/12/44-7/20/45

Edward T Smith *39310
Reno, NV
2 Inf Div 2 EngBn
KOREA Camp 5
11/50-8/53

Robert E Paine
Betty J *39311 39312
Bakersfield, CA
Army
11B
12/20/44-5/2/45
Sheila J Benson
Richard E *39313 39314
Buffalo, MN
Daughter of Raymond Winter, ETO

Fred J Kennie
Beulah R *39315 39316
San Diego, CA
8 AF 95 BG
Dulag Luft, Luft 1
10/10/43-5/13/45



Past National Commanders

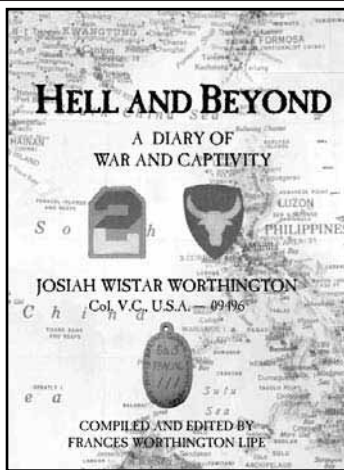
Virgil McCollum 1948-1949
Kenneth Day 1949-1950
John Walker 1950-1951
Ray O'Day 1951-1952
Robert Geis 1952-1953
William A. Berry 1953-1954
James S. Browning 1954-1955
Roger Bamford 1955-1956
Walter Yosko 1956-1958
Leo J. "Moose" Maselli 1958-1959
Paul Richter 1959-1960
George Coates 1960-1961

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Jack Warner 1961-1962
Alex Salinas 1962-1963
Pat Wheat 1963-1964
Ralph Rodriguez 1964-1965
Rufus W. Smith 1965-1966
Calvin Graef 1966-1967
DC "Bull" Massey 1967-1968
Chuck Towne 1968-1969
John Lay 1969-1970
Grady Inzer 1970-1971
Juan Baldanado 1971-1972
Harold Page 1972-1973
Walter Pawlesh 1973-1974
DC Wimberly 1974-1975
Joseph Perry 1975-1976
Melvin Madero 1976-1977
Joe Schisser 1977-1978
Joe Upton 1978-1979
Herman Molen 1979-1980
Stanley Sommers 1980-1981
Charles Morgan 1981-1982
Charles Miller 1982-1983
C. Earl Derrington, Jr. 1983-1984

Alfred "Joe" Galloway 1984-1985
Orlo Natvig 1985-1986
William Curtis Musten 1986-1987
Albert Bland 1987-1988
Milton Moore, Sr. 1988-1989
John Edwards 1989-1990
Francis W. Agnes 1990-1991
John Krejci 1991-1992
Charles Minietta 1992-1993
William E. Bearisto 1993-1994
Charles Prigmore 1994-1995
Lawrence S. Moses 1995-1996
Wm. "Sonny" Mottern 1996-1997
Wayne Hitchcock 1997-1998
Richard Throckmorton
1998-1999
Zack Roberts 1999-2000
William "Bill" Schmidt 2000-2001
John W. Klumpp 2001-2002
Maurice Sharp 2002-2003
F. Paul Dallas 2003-2004
James Cooper 2004-2005
Gerald Harvey 2005-2006



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- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st Place \$922.72 | Russell Kaufman
Mentone CA |
| 2nd Place \$692.04 | Dorothy Farrell
Killeen TX |
| 3rd Place \$461.36 | Gerald & Marylou Andersen
Elgin IL |
| 4th Place \$230.68 | Alland Grossman (Mrs.) |

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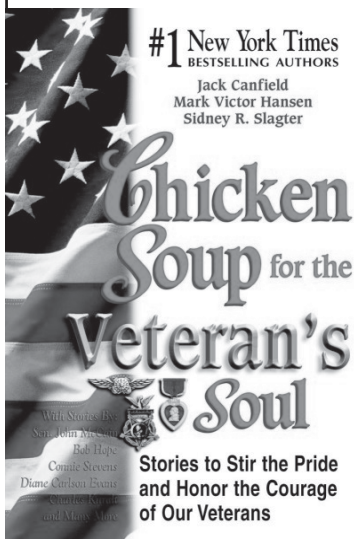
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