EX-POW BULLETIN

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We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Inside...Election 2008!...Convention News and Forms... News, Outreach, Events...NSO Success Stories and more

The Texas State Department Convention



national commander



Warren G. King, Sr.

I hope all have been well for the last few months since I have been gone. I have been to Washington, D.C. three times this year on Prisoner of War business and they wanted me to come for the fourth time. I requested someone else to meet with the Committee, since I had a prior commitment.

I am proud to say that I visited the White House on Memorial Day. I had breakfast with President George W. Bush, and Mary and I had our picture made with him. Later in the day we placed a wreath at the Unknown Soldier's marker in Arlington Cemetery.

We returned home and then left for California the next day. We attended the California State POW Convention, where they had good attendance and all seemed to enjoy the camaraderie. Mary and I were escorted around San Diego by Ralph Kling and his wife, Irene. They took us out to see where their house (and many others) burned. Wow! What a scene! They are preparing to begin rebuilding and we wish them well.

Back home again, take care of a few chores at home, and then we were off to Tucson, Arizona for their state convention. They had very good attendance and a great convention. Our hosts in Arizona were Lou and Jane Sleeper and they showed us a lovely time. We attended a stage show there that was one of the best I have seen in a long time — fun and clean and a lot of effort was put into

it. Thanks to California and Arizona for an enjoyable convention at both places. Hopefully, we can visit again sometime soon.

Mary and I are off to West Virginia for their state convention as we meet the publication deadline. We have been there several times and we always have a good reception and lots of fun at the horse races. The following week we are planning to go to North Carolina. It has been awhile since we have been there. We look forward to a good convention and shared friendship at Charlotte.

We are making plans for our National Convention. We may be walking by that time if the cost of transportation keeps going up.

Speaking of "going up," listen to this. When Mary and I were coming home from D.C., we were flying above the thunderclouds. Would you believe that we saw a rainbow upside down! Full curve — points up. I had never heard of such, but I tried to photograph it. When we were returning from California, the pilot had just told us what altitude we were flying. A few minutes later, he said for the passengers who were sitting on the left side of the plane, "Look up as high as you can and you will see a weather balloon." He told us what its height was in feet. I jotted down the total height and with a

little arithmetic, I figured out what that was in miles — it was 22.3 miles up. I didn't get to see it since I was seated on the opposite side. I gave my figures to a flight attendant and she read it over the loudspeaker mike to all of the passengers. "What a sight."

I suggest that all read an article in the AARP January-February 2008 issue about funeral arrangement scams. The article is called "R.I.P. Off" on page 53 or you can find the article on-line at the AARP.org website, http://www.aarp.org/money/personal/articles/r i p off.html. Be sure to check with your funeral home if you have a "pre-paid" plan.

We wish all a safe trip to your conventions and hope to see lots of you at the National Convention in Sep-

tember. Stay well and go ahead and make your reservations for National.

Warren G. King, Sr.
National Commander

The Flag



I raised a flag today A flag with fifty stars I raised a flag today A flag with thirteen bars.

I raised a flag today
To honor those who died
I raised a flag today
And then I stood and cried.

I wept and cursed and prayed And had to wonder "why?" Angst and anger welled inside me And then I saw it fly.

The flag snapped briskly in the wind It unfurled in the sky Its glory rose above my fears Its freedom was not denied.

The symbol of our country
The banner of our pride
The flag of these United States
Flew boldly at my side.

I raised a flag today
But the flag, it lifted me.
I raised a flag today
For all the world to see.

I raised a flag today
And upon seeing it, I knew:
Above the dusty, ashen
gray would rise
The red, the white, and the blue.

~Author Unknown



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Deadline for the September issue is July 25,2008

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

July/August 2008

Get your ads in!

Ed Slater, the go-to guy in Kansas City, needs all chapters, departments and members who are planning to run an ad in this year's convention booklet to get moving! The deadline is August 1st!

On June 30, 2008, President Bush signed legislation ushering in a new era in GI Bill benefits. The legislation, which the Senate last week passed overwhelmingly, is part of a \$162 billion war spending bill.

"We are very excited that after 18 months of working on the GI Bill that it's been passed into law," said Patrick Campbell, legislative director for IAVA. "Now veterans everywhere will see their opportunities greatly expanded."

The new GI Bill was framed by Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., who has long argued that veterans deserve benefits that match those given to World War II vets. Then, returning GIs were covered for the full cost of tuition and books for whatever college they entered; in addition they were paid a monthly stipend.

Under the new GI Bill, payment rates will go up, but will be based on the college or university costs in the service member's state of residence. Eligible students also will receive a monthly stipend for books of up to \$1,000 per year and a monthly housing allowance of about \$1,000. The housing stipend will be tied to the Pentagon's basic allowance for housing rates.

The new education benefits are forecasted to go into effect in mid-2009 and will be available to all servicemembers and veterans — including members of the Guard and Reserve — who have served on active duty for at least 90 consecutive days since Sept. 11, 2001. The benefits are paid in increments which are determined by the amount of time served on active duty.

The bill passed by Congress also provides a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits and \$2.7 billion in emergency flood relief for the Midwest.

Summer is in full swing! Attend your State Department conventions and picnics! Fly your flag proudly! Make plans for Kansas City, Missouri in September!

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on capitol hill

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This column will begin with what has happened since the June Bulletin. Following the passing of S1315 by the Senate, it was time then for the House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner to begin doing the same in the House. Then on May 21st, he called another informal meeting of the VSOs and I attended. The big VSOs led the meeting with much discussion back and forth, with a good ending. On May 23rd (weekend), a letter from Rep. John Hall, Chairman of the Subcommittee for Disabilities Assistance and Memorial Affairs was received, inviting three VSOs - AXPOW, American Legion and Vietnam Veterans of America to testify on 12 bills on June 12th. Our bill, HR1197, was among the

Commander and Mrs. Warren King arrived on May 25th for the Memorial Day Service on the 26th - breakfast at the White House and the Arlington Cemetery Amphitheatre service, followed by the VSOs who wished to place their organizations' wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown after the President had spoken. Commander King did place a wreath for our organization. Enormous crowd that day and the Superintendent of the Cemetery had to restrict many others from attending. I do not believe I had seen that many in attendance in a long, long time. What a lovely, hot day it was!

As Commander King informed us that he had a previous commitment, our Executive Director Les Jackson will do the honors before the Committee on June 12th. Everything is in order for the Hearing and we remain optimistic about our Osteoporosis

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 passing as it did in the Senate. However, our Diabetes request is not. The Committees still say that more research is needed. We continue to push for this with the Committee Members and also our HR156. Still working hard on this and hope we will be successful!

Also on May 22nd, the Gold Star Wives hosted a huge reception honoring a number of members – plus others, who had been helpful and successful for their organization. I attended this and remembered the days when AXPOW had *thank-you* receptions like this. This pays off with thank yous for things we are trying to accomplish!

Many times I have been asked why I write only about Legislation and never about the National Capitol Office. Well, here goes! The National Capitol Office is FIRST an NSO Office. We have Dr. Charles Stenger, Les Tackson and me who are all VSOs. Another person is our dear and lovely Johnnie Robinson, also an NSO with many years with the VARO before retiring and then joining our office. She is extremely capable with veterans and people, and we are lucky to have her. Her knowledge of numerous situations that occur in an office such as ours. We must remember the space and phones are free and we all do claims out of that office for you, the membership! Any questions, please call me and I can tell you of her many qualities.

By the time you see this Bulletin, I do hope we have our legislation passed and we can move on with other issues.

Our convention plans are moving along and our program for the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 18th. Also, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr.

Peake, has been invited for the banquet speaker and we hope he can make it. See you there. God bless you all.

Mary

House Veterans Affairs Committee Daniel K Akaka, D-HI Chairman John D Rockefeller IV, D-WV Patty Murray, D-WA Barack Obama, D-IL Sherrod Brown, D-OH Ion Tester. D-MT Jim Webb, D-VA Bernard Sanders, I-VT Richard Burr, R-NC Ranking Arlen Specter, R-PA Larry Craig, R-ID Johnny Isakson, R-GA Lindsey Graham, R-SC Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-TX Roger Wicker, R-MS Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Bob Filner, D-CA Chairman Corrine Brown, D-FL Vic Snyder, D-AR Michael Michaud, D-ME Stephanie Sandlin, D-SD Harry Mitchell, D-AZ John Hall, D-NY Phil Hare, D-IL Shelley Berkley, D-NV John T Salazar, D-CO Ciro Rodriguez, D-TX Joe Donnelly, D-IN Jerry McNerney, D-CA Zachary Space, D-OH Timothy Walz, D-MN Don Cazayoux, D-LA Steve Buyer, R-IN Ranking Jerry Moran, R-KS Henry Brown Jr., R-SC John Boozman, R-AR Michael Turner R-OH Doug Lamborn, R-CO Steve Scalise, R-LA Cliff Stearns, R-FL Jeff Miller, R-FL Ginny Brown-Waite, R-FL Brian Bilbray, R-CA

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VA Outreach S*O*O*N Before it's too late



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When Helen Hewitt of Norwich, KS went to the 2007 reunion of former Korean POWs and dependents, she didn't just socialize. She was on alert for widows who might not have their DIC (widow's benefit) from the VA. Thus, she sent to Doris Jenks, Director of NSOs, a list of 12 widows she thought should be contacted. Doris assigned those twelve to NSOs in their various states: Stella Webb, LA; Bob Derrington, CO: Charles Heffron, TN; Frank Kravetz, PA; Doc Unger, OH; Fred Campbell, TX; Doris Jenks, FL/GA.

Thanks! To Helen Hewitt who cared enough to reach out like this. So! When you go to a Bomb Group or Battalion or any military reunion, ask questions and make sure. You may find someone who does not have the VA benefits due them. You can do person to person Outreach, and help a widow or former POW get connected, by sending their name and address/phone/etc. to me or Doris Jenks. We'll follow up.

Betty Harlan, our NSO in Sudan, TX, watches internet news; when she finds POW items she sends them to me. Recently came one about the death of a former POW, Jacob D. in Oregon. He had survived $3\frac{1}{2}$ years

as a prisoner of the Japanese, after going down on the April 1942 Jimmy Doolittle surprise bomber raid on Tokyo, flying B-25s off an aircraft carrier, almost a suicide mission. After his harsh treatment as a POW of the Japanese, Jacob and his wife spent 30 years as Christian missionaries to the Japanese people. Question: Did his widow have her VA benefits?

I call. Mrs. D. did not know of the DIC she was eligible for since her husband had 100% DC rating for over one year. A call to Richard Crow, our Oregon NSO, to help her with her VA claim. And the Outreach networking team proceeds again.

TAPS column, May EX-POW Bulletin: New widows listed are being contacted by these NSOs: Paul Dallas, AL/NC; Doc Unger, OH; Rudy Collins, MT/WA; Melanie Bussel, NY; Kay Arnold, MA; Karnig Thomasian, NJ; Doris Jenks, FL/GA; Louise Dunham, AZ; Guy Stephens, IN; Marianne Roenna, IL; Beth Brooks, VA; Lawrence King, SC; Richard Carroll, MN; Fred Campbell, TX/KS; Harry Corre, Patricia Benker and Errol Samuelson, CA.

Call to POW widow in Alaska. Yes, she had her DIC and ChampVA from the VA. Did her husband's death certificate show he died of service-connected heart, stroke or hypertension, all POW presumptives after Oct. 7, 2004? Yes, it showed heart trouble. Call to POW Coordinator to please make sure she got proper burial allowance for service connection. A thank you for such call comes from widow, weeks later; a surprise benefit of \$1,700, revised burial allowance has appeared in bank account.

Success

Kay Arnold, AXPOW NSO at Bedford, MA VAMC, received this nice letter recently: "Dear Katherine. We are so appreciative

of the kindness, help and support you gave to us as we prepared the DIC application after the death of Harold. We are pleased to say Dorothy, Harold's wife, got a fine and timely response from the Veterans Administration and will receive a monthly check that makes her senior years more comfortable. Harold would be both pleased and grateful. As a family, we are pleased Harold's service to his country and his months as a POW are being honored in this way. The EX-POW Bulletin and the POW meetings attended, along with your help and expertise, were invaluable to us. Thank you for the work you do. We hope you realize how important your gifts of time and knowledge are to those who need a helping hand. Most sincerely, Dot F. & Mary & Ken H."

Letters like these make NSO work so rewarding. But along with the cheers, there can be tears at times.

During the past year, I have helped many POW widows in Kansas get their widow's benefits. Dr. Carl Fyler has been instrumental in caring for those in the Topeka area. One of those, Mrs. V, was so happy to have a chance, though not a sure one, of being eligible for the VA's DIC. Since in years past, Mrs. V's POW husband had suffered heart trouble, well-recorded in VA records, we put in her claim for DIC. Wichita VARO has been reviewing those records.

This month comes Dr. Fyler's letter. Mrs. V passed away April 25. I called Ruthanne Grove-Alford, Wichita VARO POW Coordinator and told her the news. Her frustrated groan was palpable. A widow's claim too late for her enjoyment!

We exist to help those who cannot help themselves!

nso



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In answer to many questions our office has received after a widow files Form 21-534 to claim her DIC - Dependents' Indemnity Compensation, this is what to expect:

Within a few weeks after the application is received at the V.A. Regional office, a Dept. of Veterans Affairs letter will be sent to you. This will be rather confusing letter of up to 10 pages.

The letter is simply an acknowledgement of receipt of your claim. If you checked "Yes" to the question "Are you claiming service-connection for cause of death?"(Question #7), the letter from the V.A. will ask you to "provide medical evidence that will show a reasonable probability that the condition that contributed to the veteran's death was caused by injury or disease that began during service".

If the long-form death certificate you submitted with your application showed heart, liver, stroke, hypertension or any other Former Prisoner of War presumptive and/or any disability your husband was service-connected for from the VA, no additional medical evidence is required.

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 8 If you checked "Yes" to the service connected death, and he did not die of any of the above, you will need to submit the evidence requested.

This can be submitted on the page titled "VCAA NOTICE RESPONSE". Just check the block "I have more information or evidence to give to VA to substantiate my claim. VA will wait at least 60 days before deciding my claim to give me a chance to submit this information or evidence". If you have no additional evidence to submit, it is still a good idea to return the VCAA NOTICE RESPONSE and check "I have no other information to give VA to substantiate my claim. Please decide my claim as soon as possible". This should speed up the decision on your widow's benefit.

Of course, if your husband was a Former Prisoner of War and was in receipt of 100% disability for at least one year immediately preceding death, you will be granted your widow's benefits regardless of cause of death, but you may not be granted the service-connected death allowance, which amounts to a loss of a one-time check for burial expense of approximately \$1,400.

Fortunately, this will NOT change the amount you will be granted for your monthly award. You will still receive the current amount of a minimum of \$1,091 a month. If you husband had his 100% for at least 8 years preceding death and you were married those same 8 years, the monthly allowance increases to \$1,324.

If you check "Yes" to the question "Are you claiming aid and attendance allowance and/or housebound benefits because you need the regular assistance of another person, are having visual problems, or are housebound?" (Question #31), and you did not submit a medical statement from your doctor, you will also be sent a

form for "Medical Statement for Consideration of Aid and Attendance", indicating the form must be completed by an ARNP, MD, PA or DO and returned to the $V\Delta$

Of course the VA will give priority to DIC applications for widows of Former POWs, but in some states, such as Florida, many of the veteran's files were shipped back to St. Louis due to lack of storage space and it will take a little longer to retrieve the file from St. Louis to process the application.

Another question, we have been answering is in response to the article in the May Bulletin on Page 20.

A Former POW writes he applied for an increase in compensation because he moved to an Assisted Living Facility. In speaking to the Former POW Co-ordinator who granted the award for this Former POW, he did not receive the additional award because he moved. To be eligible for this additional money, regardless of where you reside, you need to be in need of Aid and Attendance for Single service-connected disability rated 100%. Depending on your individual needs, the of the additional amount compensation will vary.

Doris Jenks



pow medsearch

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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.

What Is COPD?

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a lung disease in which the lungs are damaged, making it hard to breathe. In COPD, the airways—the tubes that carry air in and out of your lungs—are partly obstructed, making it difficult to get air in and out.

Cigarette smoking is the most common cause of COPD. Most people with COPD are smokers or former smokers. Breathing in other kinds of lung irritants, like pollution, dust, or chemicals, over a long period of time may also cause or contribute to COPD.

The airways branch out like an upside-down tree, and at the end of each branch are many small, balloon-like air sacs called alveoli (al-VEE-uhl-

EYE). In healthy people, each airway is clear and open. The air sacs are small and dainty, and both the airways and air sacs are elastic and springy. When you breathe in, each air sac fills up with air like a small balloon; when you breathe out, the balloon deflates and the air goes out.

In COPD, the airways and air sacs lose their shape and become floppy. Less air gets in and less air goes out because:

The airways and air sacs lose their elasticity (like an old rubber band). The walls between many of the air sacs are destroyed.

The walls of the airways become thick and inflamed (swollen). Cells in the airways make more mucus (sputum) than usual, which

tends to clog the airways.

COPD.

The illustration show the respiratory system and cross-sections of healthy alveoli and alveoli with

HEALTHY

COPD

COPD develops slowly, and it may be many years before you notice symptoms like feeling short of breath. Most of the time, COPD is diagnosed in middle-aged or older people.

COPD is a major cause of death and illness, and it is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and throughout the world.

There is no cure for COPD. But there are things you can do to feel better and slow the damage. COPD is not contagious—you cannot catch it from someone else.

How the Lungs Work

The lungs provide a very large surface area (the size of a football field) for the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the body and the environment.

A slice of normal lung looks like a pink sponge filled with tiny bubbles or holes. These bubbles, surrounded by a fine network of tiny blood vessels, give the lungs a large surface to exchange oxygen (into the blood where it is carried throughout the body) and carbon dioxide (out of the blood). This process is called gas exchange. Healthy lungs do this very well.

Here is how normal breathing works:

You breathe in air through your nose and mouth. The air travels down through your windpipe (trachea) then through large and small tubes in your lungs called bronchial (BRON-kee-ul) tubes. The larger tubes are bronchi (BRONK-eye), and the smaller tubes are bronchioles (BRON-kee-oles). Sometimes the word "airways" is used to refer to the various tubes or passages that air must travel through from the nose and mouth into the lungs. The airways in your lungs look some-

medsearch continued...

thing like an upside-down tree with many branches.

At the ends of the small bronchial tubes, there are groups of tiny air sacs called alveoli. The air sacs have very thin walls, and small blood vessels called capillaries run in the walls. Oxygen passes from the air sacs into the blood in these small blood vessels. At the same time, carbon dioxide passes from the blood into the air sacs. Carbon dioxide, a normal byproduct of the body's metabolism, must be removed.

The airways and air sacs in the lung are normally elastic—that is, they try to spring back to their original shape after being stretched or filled with air, just the way a new rubber band or balloon would. This elastic quality helps retain the normal structure of the lung and helps to move the air quickly in and out. In COPD, much of the elastic quality is gone, and the airways and air sacs no longer bounce back to their original shape. This means that the airways collapse, like a floppy hose, and the air sacs tend to stay inflated. The floppy airways obstruct the airflow out of the lungs, leading to an abnormal increase in the lungs' size. In addition, the airways may become inflamed and thickened, and mucus-producing cells produce more mucus, further contributing to the difficulty of getting air out of the lungs.

What Causes COPD?

Smoking Is the Most Common Cause of COPD.

Most cases of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) develop after repeatedly breathing in fumes and other things that irritate and damage the lungs and airways. Cigarette smoking is the most com-

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 10 mon irritant that causes COPD. Pipe, cigar, and other types of to-bacco smoke can also cause COPD, especially if the smoke is inhaled. Breathing in other fumes and dusts over a long period of time may also cause COPD. The lungs and airways are highly sensitive to these irritants. They cause the airways to become inflamed and narrowed, and they destroy the elastic fibers that allow the lung to stretch and then return to its resting shape. This makes breathing air in and out of the lungs more difficult.

Other things that may irritate the lungs and contribute to COPD include:

Working around certain kinds of chemicals and breathing in the fumes for many years.

Working in a dusty area over many years.

Heavy exposure to air pollution. Being around secondhand smoke (smoke in the air from other people smoking cigarettes) also plays a role in an individual developing COPD.

Genes—tiny bits of information in your body cells passed on by your parents-may play a role in developing COPD. In rare cases, COPD is caused by a gene-related disorder called alpha 1 antitrypsin deficiency. Alpha 1 antitrypsin (an-te-TRIP-sin) is a protein in your blood that inactivates destructive proteins. People with antitrypsin deficiency have low levels of alpha 1 antitrypsin; the imbalance of proteins leads to the destruction of the lungs and COPD. If people with this condition smoke, the disease progresses more rapidly.

Who Is At Risk for COPD?

Most people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are smokers or were smokers in the past. People with a family history of COPD are more likely to get the disease if they smoke. The chance of developing COPD is also greater

in people who have spent many years in contact with lung irritants, such as:

Air pollution

Chemical fumes, vapors, and dusts usually linked to certain jobs A person who has had frequent and severe lung infections, especially during childhood, may have a greater chance of developing lung damage that can lead to COPD. Fortunately, this is much less common today with antibiotic treatments. Most people with COPD are at least 40 years old or around middle age when symptoms start.

What Are the Signs and Symptoms of COPD?

The signs and symptoms of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) include:

Cough

Sputum (mucus) production Shortness of breath, especially with exercise

Wheezing (a whistling or squeaky sound when you breathe)

Chest tightness

A cough that doesn't go away and coughing up lots of mucus are common signs of COPD. These often occur years before the flow of air in and out of the lungs is reduced.

How Is COPD Diagnosed?

Doctors consider a diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) if you have the typical symptoms and a history of exposure to lung irritants, especially cigarette smoking. A medical history, physical exam, and breathing tests are the most important tests to determine if you have COPD.

Your doctor will examine you and listen to your lungs. Your doctor will also ask you questions about your family and medical history and what lung irritants you may have been around for long periods of time. He will also conduct breathing and other tests to con-

medsearch continued...

firm a diagnosis of COPD. Chest X-rays are also usually performed.

How Is COPD Treated?

Quitting smoking is the single most important thing you can do to reduce your risk of developing COPD.

Sometimes the signs and symptoms are caused by a lung infection. Your doctor may want you to take an antibiotic medicine that helps fight off the infection.

Your doctor may also recommend additional medicines to help with your breathing. These medicines include bronchodilators and glucocorticosteroids.

Your doctor may recommend that you spend time in the hospital if: You have a lot of difficulty catching your breath.

You have a hard time talking. Your lips or fingernails turn blue or gray.

You are not mentally alert. Your heartbeat is very fast. Home treatment of worsening symptoms doesn't help.

Living With COPD

Although there is no cure for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), your symptoms can be managed, and damage to your lungs can be slowed. If you smoke, quitting is the most important thing you can do to help your lungs.

You also need to try to stay away from people who are smoking or places where there is smoking.

It is important to keep the air in your home clean. Here are some things that may help you in your home:

Keep smoke, fumes, and strong smells out of your home.

If your home is painted or sprayed for insects, have it done when you can stay away from your home. Cook near an open door or window. If you heat with wood or kerosene, keep a door or window open.
Keep your windows closed and stay at home when there is a lot of pollution or dust outside.

If you are taking medicines, take them as ordered and make sure you refill them so you do not run out.

See your doctor at least two times a year, even if you are feeling fine. Make sure you bring a list of medicines you are taking to your doctor visit.

Ask your doctor or nurse about getting a flu shot and pneumonia vaccination.

Keep your body strong by learning breathing exercises and walking and exercising regularly.

Eat healthy foods. Ask your family to help you buy and fix healthy foods. Eat lots of fruits and vegetables. Eat protein food like meat, fish, eggs, milk, and soy.

If your doctor has told you that you have severe COPD, there are some things that you can do to get the most out of each breath. Make your life as easy as possible at home by:

Asking your friends and family for help.

Doing things slowly.

Doing things sitting down.

Putting things you need in one place that is easy to reach.

Finding very simple ways to cook, clean, and do other chores. Some people use a small table or cart with wheels to move things around.

Using a pole or tongs with long handles can help you reach things. Keeping your clothes loose.

Wearing clothes and shoes that are easy to put on and take off.

Asking for help moving your things around in your house so that you do not need to climb stairs as often. Picking a place to sit that you can enjoy and visit with others.

If you are finding that it is becoming more difficult to catch your breath, your coughing has gotten worse, you are coughing up more mucus, or you have signs of infection (such as a fever and feeling poorly), you need to call your doctor right away. Your doctor may do a spirometry test, blood work, and a chest x ray. Your doctor may also: Order antibiotics.

Change the type and dosage of the medicines you have been taking Order oxygen or increase the amount of oxygen you are currently using

It is helpful to have certain information on hand in case you need to go to the hospital or doctor right away. You should plan now to make sure you have:

The phone numbers for the doctor, hospital, and people who can take you to the hospital or doctor Directions to the hospital and doctor's office

A list of the medicines you are taking

When To Get Emergency Help

You should get emergency help if:

You find that is hard to talk or walk.

Your heart is beating very fast or irregularly.

Your lips or fingernails are gray or blue.

Your breathing is fast and hard, even when you are using your medicines.

National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Building 31, Room 5A48 31 Center Drive MSC 2486 Bethesda, MD 20892

andersonville



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

ANDERSONVILLE REMEMBERS MEMORIAL DAY



Andersonville National Historic Site held Memorial Day events throughout the long holiday weekend in May. The holiday was first called Decoration Day when the graves of fallen Union soldiers were decorated to remember their sacrifices. Today the federal holiday honors all those who have died in service to our country.

The weekend's activities began early Saturday morning when over 600 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, church groups and Junior ROTC cadets

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 12 from all over Georgia gathered at Andersonville National Cemetery to place over 18,500 flags on the graves. This tradition of placing small American flags at each of the graves is observed in nearly all of the 125 National Cemeteries and overseas US cemeteries to honor the fallen. This act is not only a beautiful tribute to the fallen; it also is a learning lesson for the youth who volunteer to place the flags.

Late on Saturday, a group called the Jugheads came to the Historic Site for a group ride and to hold a ceremony honoring those who have served. The Jugheads are a group of motorcycle enthusiasts who champion several causes including honoring veterans. They arrived in a procession of 350 motorcycles.

On Sunday the park's traditional Memorial Day ceremony was held in the afternoon. The theme of this year's event was the tenth anniversary of the opening of the National Prisoner of War Museum. All veterans and former POWs were recognized by Edward DeMent, National Director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Mark Stibitz, President of the Friends of Andersonville, told the group about a recent donation to the Andersonville Trust. Mrs. Ruby Lanich donated \$500,000 in memory of her husband Edward - who had been a POW in World War II. The Andersonville Trust is an endowment fund that supports park programs and this donation took the corpus of the fund up to \$1.6 million. Congressman Sanford Bishop thanked the Friends of Andersonville for their support of the park in light of the 10 years of operation of the National POW Museum. The Congressman also introduced the speaker, Rear Admiral Patricia E. Wolfe. Rear Admiral Wolfe had recently returned from Commanding Naval forces performing logistics work in various different locations in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. She spoke about the increasing role of reserve forces in the Global War on Terrorism. She asked all those in attendance to send a message of appreciation to troops serving in the Middle East by signing a banner that will be sent to the unit that followed her and currently serves in Southwest Asia.



The Supply Corps Admiral also asked the gathering to remember Army Specialist Durrell Bennett who was killed in Iraq and buried in the National Cemetery in April. The program concluded with the traditional laying of the wreaths by various Veterans Service Organizations. A rifle salute, presented by an Honor Guard from Robins Air Force Base, and Taps was played, the program was concluded. There were over 600 in attendance at the program.

On Monday morning, a Catholic Mass was held in the National Cemetery. Later in the day at 3:00 PM the park participated in the National Moment of Remembrance. A moment of silence was observed in the Cemetery and Museum. Throughout the day, Taps was played on the hour in the National Cemetery by Park Ranger, John Gray.

Photo Caption 1: Members of the Dooly County Jr ROTC escorted members of various veterans' organizations for the laying of the wreaths during the ceremony. Caption 2: Admiral Patricia Wolf, principal speaker at the park's Memorial Day service, signed the banner that nearly 600 attendees signed wishing the troops well.

namPOW news



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

35th Nam-POW Reunion held jointly with the Son Tay Raid Association Gaylord Texan Resort in Grapevine, Texas provides the venue.

(see pictures on insideback cover)

One of the first gatherings of the Vietnam POWs after our 1973 release from the Hanoi prisons occurred at a private event hosted by H. Ross Perot at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. Patriot Perot had agonized over the media's contemptuous coverage of one of the most valiant military efforts ever undertaken, anywhere. He thought:

Nobody ever really said, "Thank you," to the Special Forces and Air Force crews for their very daring, apparently futile, effort to release American POWs being held at the Son Tay prison.

Perot recalled that these men had volunteered despite having been advised that they had a 50% chance of being killed on this Top Secret mission.

"I'll bet the men who'd lived in those camps would like to say, 'Thanks,'" Perot mused.

Perot's salute to the Son Tay Raiders included a parade down Market Street in San Francisco circa flower children times. The group

was welcomed by many celebrities at the Civic Center than participated in a gala hosted by John Wayne that included most of the name entertainers in Hollywood at the time. John Wayne, star of the movie, "The Green Berets," led all the real Green Berets to the waterfront of San Fran, commandeered a cruise boat and sailed around San Francisco Bay all night. It was a monumental event, re-created many times in the past 35 years!

May 22-26th saw the 38th gathering of the eagles appropriately at Ross Perot's Circle-T Ranch near Ft. Worth. The entire group took buses to the Perot spread and were wined, dined and entertained for hours in the finest Texas tradition. An airshow with flyovers of the Perot Systems T-38 – painted like the T-38s flown by the famed USAF Thunderbirds – thrilled the crowd. Both fliers of airplanes and those who jump out of them for fun.

The Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders performed their skilled dance routines reminding many of the USO shows of yore. A highlight was Tony Orlando – a very thin Tony Orlando! – who sang "Tie a Yellow Ribbon," his hit song that came out as we were returning from Southeast Asia. Tony, who has enjoyed a special relationship with the Nam-POWs ever since, called the entire group who'd been part of an earlier Dallas celebration to come to the stage and join him for a few choruses.

The Son Tay Raiders were there in all their glory. The most respected individuals in Army history for their execution of the Son Tay Raid, they remain the most inspiring heroes to many of us. If one wants to define the word, "tough," he needs only meet a Son Tay Raider. These gents are literally the real McCoy.

Royal Thai Special Forces Col. Chai Charn Harnavee our long-term ally in the Hoa Lo prison attended as did now-American citizen with two children who are grads of the Air Force Academy and West Point, our personal intelligence source in Hanoi, Capt. Nguyen Q. "Max" Dat – another of my personal heroes!

We did a lot of stuff. We played golf. We visited the Lockheed-Martin plant in Ft. Worth and were treated to presentations and viewing the new F-35 stealth fighter. We renewed old acquaintances – nearly all the men from my Camp Unity Cell #3 were there. Most of us remarked about how old everybody (except us, of course, was beginning to appear. And we had a marvelous time.

At our traditional black-tie banquet, we presented Dr. Bob Mitchell, founder of the Mitchell Center for POW Studies, with a large plaque honoring him for the dedicated work he has pursued on our behalf since 1969 as a Navy flight surgeon. That "Doc" Mitchell turned 90 shortly before our reunion on May 19 (His and Ho Chi Minh's birthday) seemed irrelevant as the crowd roared to its feet in thanks for all he's done for us.

Outgoing Nam-POW President Mo Baker raised the bar several feet in putting together another all-timer of a reunion. Mo passed the baton to Al Agnew, former Navy Attack and Vigilante pilot, who knows the intricacies of masterminding Nam-POW reunions. Tom Hanton stepped up to assume the Secretary-Treasurer's role.

Maintaining the organization's viability with little apparent internal conflict is amazing. This reunion and our officers continue our tradition and pride in having returned with honor 35years ago.

The organization remains in good hands.

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.

AMERICANS ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR: There are 1,761 US personnel listed by the Defense POW/MIA Office as still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

Vietnamese officials have admitted storage of remains

In 1985, following up an initiative through a regional government, a U.S. National Security Council (NSC) official met privately with a Vietnamese Politburo member during an NSC-led U.S. delegation to Hanoi. The carefully drawn plan was for negotiations on live prisoners and remains, but the minister indicated live prisoners were not on the table for discussion. Rather, as discussed through the third party, the subject was hundreds of remains.

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 14 In order to test the scope of Vietnam's knowledge, two specific cases were officially presented to officials in Hanoi in 1985/86 with a request for their unilateral assistance; both losses were judged by the U.S. Government to have occurred inside Laos, in areas under Vietnamese control during the war. One was returned unilaterally in 1988, 98% complete and stored above ground since his 1972 incident along the Lao/Vietnamese border.

Vietnam has unilaterally repatriated stored remains from Cambodia and very remote locations spanning the entire war, not just highly populated areas.

There is continuity. In 1991 and 1993, the Vietnamese provided graves registration lists with names of unaccounted for Americans. Inclusion of these names was likely purposeful, as was filtering through private channels photographs of dead, unaccounted for Americans whose remains have not yet been returned. The Government of Vietnam directed combat photography; their soldiers did not own personal cameras, much less carry them. Regardless of mixed or conflicting signals, these and other actions by Vietnamese officials were apparently intended to signal the U.S. Government of remains availability.

Information obtained from US field operations after the war reveals that central Vietnamese authorities systematically recovered U.S. remains. Eyewitnesses reported central-level supervision of remains recoveries of Americans who still have not been accounted for. Vietnam's leaders have repeatedly pledged to renew and increase their own efforts to locate and return remains and provide relevant documents, but they invariably move incrementally, or obfuscate in other ways.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY - SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

This year's official date will again be on the third Friday in September, and the national ceremony will be held on that date. The posters for 2008 will be available in July, by calling

703-699-1131 National League of Families.

U.S. - JAPAN SEARCH FOR WWII JAPANESE MIAs IN ALASKA

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that a small team of Japanese and U.S. specialists is visiting Attu Island, Alaska, in search of burial locations of the Japanese soldiers who are still missing from a 1943 World War II battle there.

The Department of Defense, the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are supporting a team of three Japanese and 11 Americans. Some engineering equipment will be flown to Eareckson AFS on a U.S. Air Force C-17 and from there, the Coast Guard will move the equipment via C-130 to Attu Island

The team's work on Attu Island will be supported by Army engineers from Ft. Richardson, Alaska, who will also employ ground-penetrating radar to help locate remains and guard against unexploded ordnance.

In June 1942, a unit of the Japanese Army occupied Attu, capturing and imprisoning many of its inhabitants. U.S. forces began action to recapture the small island in May 1943, where fierce hand-to-hand battles led to about 540 American and 2,300 Japanese deaths. It was the site of the only land battle in WWII in North America.

In 1953, 235 sets of Japanese remains were recovered on Attu and reburied at Ft. Richardson, near Anchorage, Alaska. The Japanese later disinterred those remains, cremated them as part of a religious ceremony and reburied them at the same location.

The Japanese government assisted U.S. investigators in June 2007 in a visit to Iwo Jima in search of information related to American WWII MIAs. This 14-day deployment to Attu Island follows a similar four-day investigation there in July 2007.

civilians

Ted Cadwallader - Chairman 9501 Nut Tree Ct. Elk Grove, CA 95624 (916) 685-5369 dcadwall@aol.com

by Betsy Harold Heimke [k.heimke@sbcglobal.net

On Monday morning, December 8, 1941, while wildly cheering at the V-shaped formation of bombers above our heads, we Brent School students shouted "Go bomb Tokyo off the face of the earth!" Several hours later, we heard loud explosions and saw thick gray and black smoke in the direction of Camp John Hay, the American military post in Baguio. It suddenly dawned on us that those planes were Japanese, not American, because we had heard early in the morning that Pearl Harbor had been bombed earlier by the Japanese.

Twenty days later and in the middle of the night, we were awak-

ened by a loud knock at our front door. The four of us got up and put on our bathrobes. My dad told my older brother, Billy, and me to stay in the hall at the back of our house. My mother was close behind him when he opened the front door. About thirty Japanese soldiers (looking like a bunch of evil, crouching cats) entered the house. The leader told Dad, "You are under guard. Do not escape. In morning at Brent School there be meeting that will last for three hour to three day. You bring some food, sweater because cold at night."

In the morning, December 28th, a Japanese guard drove the four of us to Brent School where we spent the day doing nothing. That night we slept on cold, hard floors. The next day, we were ordered to walk to Camp John Hay; that was to be our "home away from home" for the next four months. There were less than 500 civilians at the camp, occupying the military barracks. We soon realized that our captors had lied to us; we would not be going home anytime soon.

After several weeks, the adults decided some sort of organization must be established. Committees were formed: kitchen, wood-crew, garbage, garden, "fly-swatting", bathroom (hmmm. One square of toilet paper, or two?). We were told by our Japanese guards that "school not necessary because war will last 100 years and we will come out victorious. Teaching history and geography will be forbidden." School began anyway, in April, 1942. I was in the 6th grade.

Our parents and teachers attempted to maintain a normal and peace-time atmosphere for us kids, so they managed to have parties of all sorts: birthdays, anniversaries, get-well, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, etc. Not having enough utensils or silverware, the hand-made invitations read, "BRING CUP, PLATE AND SPOON" – hence the title of my book.

Our group was interned in Baguio for 3 years, moved to Bilibid in Manila and liberated 4 February 1945, a short day after STIC was liberated.

national headquarters

Early Bird Renewal Notice! Annual Members!

Take a minute and send your 2009 dues to National Headquarters.

National Headquarters.

Don't miss out on all the benefits membership in AXPOW offers!

There have been lots of changes around here over the past few years. I will update you on some. We now have three service officers here. We can take your claim or assist you with questions you may have. Please give us a call so we can help you. Marsha, Sally and

Clydie are accredited and happy to help.

Our computer system just seems to keep on growing. Aside from housing the databanks of National members, we also keep the entire mailing listing for the EX-POW BULLETIN and all the direct mail programs updated and current. Whenever you change your address, please send us a notice.

Our computers also keep track of the website, emails and tracking information important to you. From education to legislation, we can access the latest news on items and pass it on to you. We can print forms for you from the VA and DOD that help you with a claim or process. We have instant access to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees to help you with questions you may have. The Internet is at your service.

Our ex-POW membership ranges in age from 30-something to 107-something. You are a diverse group of people from all walks of life. You have interesting stories to tell. If you haven't, please tell your story now. Just get a tape recorder and start talking. Your grandchildren and others will appreciate it.

We still work closely with Andersonville National Historic Site and the National POW Museum. If you haven't been there, please try to visit. It is a beautiful place and a wonderful tribute to you.

We are here to help you. Please give us a call if you need us. We honor you and the spirit you have.

Clydie, Marsha, Sally and Donna

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events and information



July 27, 2008. 55th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice & 13th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Annual Day of Recognition will be held at the Korean War Veterans Memorial, Washington, DC. Ceremonies start at 10AM. For accommodations and banquet info, contact: Jack CLoman, The Gathering, 2702 Franklinville Rd., Joppa, MD 21085; 410-676-1388. Additional information, contact Norb Reiner, 703-893-6313 or Tony Dzierski, 703-451-5591.

July 27-Aug. 3, 2008. The Tiger Survivors Annual Reunion will be held at the Double Tree, 7801 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111. The TIGER CHOP CHOP will be at 5:30 PM on August 1, 2008 at the host hotel. Cost is \$38.00 per adult, \$19.00 under 12, payable in advance to Shorty ESTABROOK. DON'T FORGET AN ITEM FOR THE FREE RAFFLE. For more information, email Shorty at: marites@satx.rr.com.

Aug. 13-16, 2008. The 80th Infantry Blue Ridge Division Veterans Association 89th Annual Reunion will be held at the Hotel Carlisle, 1700 Harrisburg Pike, Carlisle, PA 17013; 717-243-1717. For more information contact Eugene O'Neil, SVC,301-627-1793; eo.1793@aol.com

eo1793@aol.com.

August 21-24, 2008. The Department of Ohio Convention will be held at the Drury Inn and Suites, Columbus, OH. Call (614) 875-7000 for reservations. Any and all are invited to attend. Contact person is "Doc" Unger (216) 521-1889.

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 18 August 22, 2008. The Department of Wisconsin will hold its annual convention at the Elizabeth Inn, Plover, WI. 800-280-0778. For more information contact Edward Wojahn, 1553 West Young Dr., Onalaska, WI 54650 or call 608-783-3670.

Aug. 24-26, 2008. The 45th and final Reunion of Survivors of Bataan-Corregidor and other Former Prisoners of War will be held in Pigeon Forge, TN. POWs, children, widows, guests are all welcome. For reservations call 1-800-282-2121. For more information, contact: Wayne Carringer 828-479-6205.

Sept. 3-7, 2008. 35th **Division Association Reunion** will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Convention Center, Springfield, IL. Details from Robert Dalton, 785-267-3295; www.35thInfDivAssoc.com.

Sept. 24-28, 2008. The Korean War Veterans Association will hold its annual reunion at the Embers Hotel, Carlisle, PA. All Korean War Veterans Welcome! Please contact: Charles Egresitz, 717-652-4088 or 717-497-6971; apebble@aol.com for more information.

Sept. 25-29, 2008. The 464th Bomb Group (WWll) Reunion will be held in Tucson, AZ at the Radisson Airport-Suites Hotel, 7051 S. Tuscon Blvd, Tucson, AZ 87506. For registration or more information call: Art Rawlings, (615)876-2132.

eliseandart@comcast.net.

looking for

I am looking for POW rosters for Stalag 9b to see if this is where my grandfather was held during WWII. I also can not figure out what unit he was with. His service serial # 373 63 625. His name was **Leo R. Hill** from Cortez CO. I would really appreciate any help you can give me. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Sincerely, Travis Burton; Snicklfritzz@aol.com.

I was recently in contact with Maurice Francis concerning a book I am just completing on American women in the Japanese internment camps in the Philippines. I would like to include a chapter on some of the men who were significant either in the camps or at the liberations. One of the men I would like to include is Manuel Colayco. I know only this, so far: He was a captain in the Philippine Scouts, he was on the lead tank (Battlin' Basic) into Santo Tomas, and he was killed at the rescue. I would like to be able to include more about him. If you can help me with some recommendations on where I can find additional information, I will be most interested and most appreciative. Sincerely, Audrey Maurer; amaurer@hccs.hunter.cuny.edu.

I'm looking for any information about my father, **Vincent Castiglione**. He was captured Aug. 5, 1944 while serving with the AAF, 384th BG (H) during WWII. He was held in Luft 4 Gross-Tychow (formerly Heydekrug) Pomerania, Prussia (moved to Wobbelin Bei Ludwigslust). Thank you. Katherine Castiglione, 517 North Point Rd., Baltimore, MD 21224; rkridge@comcast.net.

My father was a POW in Germany during WWII. He passed away in 1968, and with him any information, his name was **Caroll Peyton Whitelock**. From stories, we believe he was captured at the Battle of the Bulge. Thank you so much, Bill Whitelock, 1947 Warrior Ave, S.E., Palm Bay Florida 32909.

looking for continued...

I am asking for help in locating the remains of a Marine who is known to have been sent to Mukden from the Philippines when the Rock fell. His name was: Lynch, William Joseph, 256599, USMC. He enlisted from Dorchester, Maine. This is somewhat on a personal note as he would have known my Dad, Claude Beryl Hall, USMC, as they both served in Service Company, 4th Marines. I appreciate any help you or your members may be able to offer! Semper Fi. Keith D. Hall; ESM-Ltd@pacbell.net.

I have been looking for any information on: Manuel Wayne Woodrum. He was captured in N. Africa and was involved in Kasserine Pass/Tunsia. He was POW for 2 ½ years at Stalag 3 in Furstenberg, Germany. Any info, pictures, contact would be greatly appreciated. Pop is currently a spry 87 year old. My email address is: siwoodrum@peoplepc.com and mailing address is: S. Woodrum, 1174 Georgia Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45215-4020. Thank you so much.

I am looking for information on **Cpl. Walter Mims** who was a prisoner and held at Camp O'Donnell. He was listed as dead but was returned after the Japanese surrender. He is not among those returned when rescued by the 6th Ranger Bn. If anyone remembers him I would welcome any information. Millerdaleville@aol.com.

George Kay would be 88 years old and was a Special Air Service man who was taken prisoner at the Battle of Arnhem in 1944. He was incarcerated in a prisoner of war camp from which he escaped. Recaptured, he was imprisoned in Stalag 18C near the town of Market Pongau in the Austrian Tyrol. The nearest city was Innsbruck. George managed to escape from Stalag 18C round about March-April of 1945. He escaped in the company of a United States service-

man who was a paratrooper. Subsequent to the escape they got separated in the mountains and each made their own way back to allied lines. George and this unknown U.S. paratrooper were the only two allied POWs to escape from Stalag 18C.

George does not know the name of this U.S. paratrooper but does recall that he had a birds head symbol on his shoulder flash. 101st Airborne Division perhaps? Can we try and track down the identity of this unknown co-escapee and put a name to him? Can we discover if he made it safely back to his own lines? Better still, is he still alive? If anyone can offer any help in this matter, could they please contact me. My name is Lee and my e-mail address is: Win94uk@yahoo.co.uk; Thanks. L. Graham, flat 26, 56 Warwick Road, London SW5 9EH England.

Looking for former crew members of Albert R. Harris, who was shot down over Germany Nov. 30, 1944. Those believed to be still alive are: A.R. Harris, William W. Jordan, Wayne Wright, Richard G. Jones, Randell L. Powell. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Horace E. Feezell, 191 County Road 550, Athens, TN 37303-6453.

I am looking for information about **Charlie John Johnson**. He is from North Carolina and participated in D-Day in Normandy. He was injured during D-Day and carries a large scar on his chest. He was also in the military police in Couvron in France during the 1960s before retiring. I am looking for this man because he is my father. I would like to know him or to know if I have brothers or sisters. Thank you for any help you can give me. Denis Dambrine, 38, rue d'Ypres, 69004 LYON France;

denisdambrine@yahoo.fr.

News Briefs

Five World War II Veterans Awarded the Legion of Honor Medal in Chicago

On March 22, 2007, Mr. Jean Baptiste Main de Boissière, Consul General of France in Chicago, awarded the LEGION OF HONOR. to five Illinois veterans: Mr. William V. Howland (Lisle), Mr. James B. Nannini (Darien), Mr. Edward J. Smagala (Chicago), Mr. William Stefanu (Orland Park) and Mr. **Willis E. Young** (Hanna City, now of Green Valley, AZ), for their extraordinary bravery in liberating France during WWII. The Legion of Honor is the highest distinction that France can bestow upon those who have achieved remarkable deeds for France. The ceremony took place at the James R. Thompson Center and was followed by a reception with family, friends and local media.



Picture:

Mr. Willis E. Young: From Hanna City, IL, Mr. Young served with 3rd U.S. Army in three campaigns including Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe campaign. Captured and wounded in combat, Mr. Young was a POW.

Mr. William V. Howland: From Lisle, IL, Mr. Howland participated in the Southern and Northern France campaigns with the 36th Infantry Division. Captured in combat, he was a prisoner of war for several months.



Convention Registration American Ex-Prisoner of War 61st National Convention

September 16-21, 2008 Kansas City, Missouri "The City of Fountains"



Registrant's Name:		, Nickname:	
Spouse's Name:	, Phone:	, e-mail	
Address:	, City:	, State/	
Zip			
Special Needs (wheel chair,	etc):		
Unit When Captured: Camps:	, Theatre:		
REGISTRATION (per pers	on) until August 5 - \$80, after Aug 5 -	\$85, no refund after Aug 5 \$	
	ug 18 from 11:45 to 1:30. Come enjoy 'Gospel Lovin 4" for a mere \$30 per la		
Payable to: 2008 Conve	ention Fund, Delta Endecott, P.O. Box 362	e, Drexel, MO 64742 Total \$	
	Saturday Night I for your listening and dancing pleasure.	•	
Please select a banquet menu c	hoice: Oven Roasted Breast of Chicken _	of Kansas City Surproin	
	Sheraton Kansas City Sport 9103 East 39th Street, Kansas C oll Free 800-325-3535, or web site: shera	City, MO 64133 atonkcsportscomplex.com	
Name:	Address		
City/State/Zip:	Phone	»:	
Arrival Date:	Departure Date:		
Circle Room Desire: King E Special Needs (wheelchair, har Circle One: MasterCard Card Number:	ndicap room, etc) Visa American Express Dis	scover (one night deposit required)	
ROOM RATES: S	\$83 PER NIGHT SINGLE or DOUBLE, A Check-in time is 3:00 PM, Check-out Transportation to hotel from airpor Make Reservations Prior to A No Cancellation Refund After to 72 H Mail Form to Sheraton Kansas City	ASK FOR AXPOW CONVENTION RATE t time is 12:00 Noon ort is on your own aug 17, 2008 Hours Prior to Arrival y Sports Complex,	
Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008	9103 East 39th St., Kansas City This is a non-smoking There are smoking rooms ava	hotel	

18

Holiday Inn, 4011 Blue Ridge Cut-off 816-353-5300.

A Letter From The Convention Committee

Okay folks the time for our annual convention in Kansas City is drawing closer and its time to think about getting in your convention and hotel reservations.

And by the way those of you who are chapter and state depart commanders and officers should be thinking of getting in your ad for the convention program.

The printer has given us a cutoff date of Aug 1st and that's if everything goes well so don't delay and send your ad order form with your check or give Ed Slater a call (816-809-3670 and tell him to repeat the ad you had last year. We will need the money to pull this thing off.

Okay on another subject. The Convention Committee has taken the approach that people attending the convention are doing so for three reasons. First reason, to see your friends again and meet in reunion for fun and com-

radeship; second reason, to visit Missouri and Kansas City which is well worth the trip just for its wonderful food, music, art and tourist attractions; third reason, to conduct the business of the organization which seems to bring with it some controversy, conflict, and ill feelings. We have tried to keep in mind that attendees may come for all or just one or two of the three reasons.

We have tried to make tours available at several different times to visit some of Kansas City's great attractions. Guys, we are located close to a LARGE brand new Bass Pro Shop that you can get lost in for quite awhile. And ladies, The Plaza is a famous wonderful place to SHOP, eat and stroll around. And it goes on and on.

Now if you don't want to mess with all of that and you don't care what business is conducted then the hospitality room will be open a lot and there will be some great entertainment there and for the Commanders Reception and the banquet, dancing included.

Ladies, the luncheon will feature a light fair and some great toe tapping music from a group called the "Gospel-Lovin Four with Colleen." You don't want to miss this fun and lively group who have been entertaining and sharing the good news of the gospel in song for many years. Some of us guys would like to go but Delta, our Adjutant, says "butt out ladies only" and believe me you don't cross Delta.

If your health is of some concern we have a great VA hospital very close and they are going to set up a clinic in the hotel to care for health concerns such as forgotten prescriptions or not feeling up to par. Any emergencies are only a couple of minutes away from the VA hospital and EMTs will be on site.

So what do you think of that? Come join us and don't concern yourself with those who might want to fight and scrap; you know what, we aren't.

AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11

Ad Pricing

Color

Black & White

\$400
\$250
\$150
\$100

Checks Payable to: 2008 Convention Fund Mail Form with Ad materials and check to: Delta Endecott , P.O. Box 362, Drexel MO 64742

National Convention Tentative Agenda Sept. 16-21, 2008

Tuesday Sept. 16:

National Service Officer Training Registration Desk Open in PM

Wednesday Sept. 17:

National Board of Directors Meeting Registration Desk Open Hospitality Room Open Hospitality Room Evening Entertainment

Thursday Sept. 18

Opening Ceremonies
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Credentials Room Open
Ladies Luncheon
Legislative & MedSearch Seminars
Commanders Reception
with Entertainment

Friday Sept. 19:

Past National Commanders Breakfast General Business Session Camp Reunions Hospitality Room Evening Entertainment

Saturday Sept. 20:

General Business Session & Balloting Banquet and Installation of Officers

Sunday Sept. 21:

Devotional National Board of Directors Meeting

Note: If you are staying for the banquet, you will be checking out on Sunday, Sept. 21. If you are planning to attend the new Board of Directors meeting, please make plans to depart later in the day on Sunday.

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008

Decision 2008 Candidates

JIM CLARK National Commander

Jim has been a workhorse at both the local and national levels of AXPOW for the past 27 years. He organized the N.E. LA Chapter and was Commander for almost 12 years. He is also the Dept. of LA Commander – a post he's



held since 1987. Jim completed 12 years as National Director, two terms as JVC. He is currently Senior Vice Commander. He and his wife, Jerri, hosted the successful Baton Rouge Convention in 1998. He has also been chairman of three national committees.

Serving with the Air Force during WWII, Jim was captured at St. Lo and held in Stalag Luft III, XIIID and VIIA.

Jim and his wife, Jerri, live in Bastrop, LA.

"PEACE & HARMONY"

my goal for my year as commander~JClark

CHARLES SUSINO Jr. Vice Commander – East RE-ELECT

Charlie has served as Jr. Vice Commander for one term. He previously 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 9 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.

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

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 20 Charlie and his wife, Lillian live in Metuchen, New Jersey

KENNY HANSON 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 An-



nex before liberation at Panmunjom on Aug. 25, 1953.

Kenny has been a life member of AXPOW since 1988. He served as Dept. JVC, SVC and State Commander; and has served as State Treasurer for 8 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 one year.

He also serves as National Convention Chairman and has been a member of the Budget & Finance Committee in his role as Jr. Vice Commander.

Kenny and Jan live in Bloomington, Minnesota.

MORRIS BARKER Jr. Vice Commander -Central RE-ELECT

While serving with the 15th. Air Force, 451 BG, 726 Sqdn, Morris was shot down near Budapest Hungary and was held in Stalag Luft IV. He was also on the 86 day march through Germany.



After discharge from the military, he graduated from Texas A&M University, and later earned a MA from the University of Texas. He has been an active member of AXPOW, serving as Chapter Commander, Texas State Department Commander, National Director as well as Jr. Vice Commander. Morris developed an AXPOW Voluntary Funding Program that has proven very successful in providing operating funds for the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization during the past year. With Morris' help, we are financially solvent and should remain so as he continues to come up with ways to maximize our potential.

He is currently serving on the Budget and Ways & Means Committees.

Morris and his wife, Mary live in Waco, Texas.

Decision 2008 Candidates



FRANKLIN KOEHLER National Director -NE Region RE-ELECT

During WWII, Frank was serving with the 106th Inf. Division, Company D, 424th Inf. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He was held in Stalag XIIA, Limburg, Germany, then marched, and finally liberated from Wetzlar.

Frank has been serving as National Director for the Northeast Region since 2006. He sits of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committ. He has been Chapter Commander of the Ocean County Chapter since 2001. He is a member of the Board of Directors – Dept. of New Jersey. In 2005, he chaired the committee to host the NJ State Convention in Atlantic City.

Frank and his wife, Mae, live in Toms River, New Jersey



PAUL E GALANTI National Director -EC Region RE-ELECT

Paul Galanti was a POW for nearly 7

years in North Vietnam's infamous Hanoi Hilton complex. He was released in February, 1973 and immediately picked up his life.

In 2002, Paul was appointed as the Director of National Service Officers for AXPOW and currently is a service officer and sits on the strategic planning committee. In 2003, he was appointed by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony J. Principi to serve the Secretary's Advisorv Committee on Former POWs for the second time. Paul was named to serve on the Board of Virginia's Department of Veterans' Services. He was elected Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services in 2006. In 2006, he was honored with induction in the Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame.

Paul and Phyllis live in Richmond, VA.



LARRY DWYER National Director -NC Region RE-ELECT

Larry was serving with the 28th Divi-

sion during WWII. He was wounded in Sept. 1944; captured in Dec. 1944 and held in Stalag IV - Zittau, Poland.

Larry has been an active member of National since 1983 – holding the offices of State Dept. Commander and Chapter Commander of the Eastern Iowa Chapter. Both he and his wife worked hard as Convention Chairman to ensure a successful convention in Des Moines in 1995. He has completed his first term as National Director and is running for re-election.

"I would like to see this organization become stronger - reaching out to those in need. As we pass the gavel, we must leave a strong, viable base for those to come."

Larry and his wife, Mary, live in Muscatine, IA.



GROVER SWEARINGEN National Director -MC Region RE-ELECT

Grover is a member of the Scioto-Ohio River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He was chapter adjutant from the time it was organized until 1966 when hebecame commander – a position he still holds. He was elected Director Mid-Central Region in 2004. Grover has over 1,000 hours as a volunteer van driver taking veterans to VA hospitals in the region. He has talked to the 7th grade in West Union Elementary School for the past 11 years.

Grover served with the 8th AF during WWII. He was shot down over Germany and held in Stalag Luft IV.

Grover and his wife, Jean, live in West Union, OH.



PAM WARNER
ESLINGER
National
Director - SC
Region
Pam became in-

volved with AXPOW at the age of 3 at the National Convention in 1953. She is currently Sr. Vice Commander for the Dept. of Oklahoma.

She writes: "This organization is like my second family, and I love helping my family. AXPOW has always been so special to my dad (PNC Jack Warner), and he has installed that in me. I believe I am who and what I am today because of him and my mother June."

On a community level, Pam has raised money to erect the Veterans Memorial, she is one of three women who put together the local Veterans program at the school on Veterans Day.

Pam lives in Harmon, Oklahoma.



MILTON M
MOORE, JR
National
Director - SW
Region
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 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.

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.

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AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR 2008 NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATE VALIDATION FORM SEPTEMBER 17-21, 2008 KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Please validate the following members as delegates to the 2008 National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri September 17-21, 2008.

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



contributions



Please send donations to: National Headquarters, 3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010. You can also make a donation with a credit card (MasterCard or Visa). Just call 817-6492979. Thank you! Contributions are not tax deductible

GENERAL FUND

Wisconsin Indianhead Chapter In honor of Fred Campbell, by Ruth Natvig-Kilmer

In memory of Alice Thrasher, by Elise Bowman

In memory of Andrew Wallo, by Everdeen Yetman

In memory of Bob Hansell, by Dorothy Lalone

In memory of C L Cooper, by Sara Cooper

In memory of Homer L Reynolds, by George & Betty Reynolds

In memory of Homer L Reynolds,

by Keith & Lorraine Holmes

In memory of Homer L Reynolds,

by Jim & Lou Clennan

In memory of Homer L Reynolds, by Jim & Sandy Unruh

In memory of Homer L Reynolds,

by Gordon & Linda Polston

In memory of Homer L Reynolds,

by Roscoe Jackson

In memory of Homer L Reynolds,

by Jim & Sherilyn Maynard

In memory of Homer L Reynolds,

by L A Thompson

In memory of Homer L Reynolds,

by Mal & Janice Shaffer

In memory of Jack Bernstein, by Audrey & Roland Lampert

In memory of Joyce Crane, by Harry

In memory of Kay Wilson, by Elise Bowman

In memory of Lila Willaims, by Iowa Family and Friends

In memory of Lila Williams, by the Southwest Iowa Chapter

In memory of Lila Williams, by Adeline Robinson

In memory of PNC John "Jack" Krejci, by Bill & Nancy Fornes In memory of PNC John Krejci, by the Department of Iowa

In memory of Elizabeth Mitchell, by Shirley & Erwin Lange

In memory of Les Hardie, by Angelo Bellissimo

In memory of Veletta Poush, by the Mid-Iowa Chapter

LEGISLATIVE FUND

In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by Ruth & Lloyd Kilmer In memory of Clifton 'Clif' Elliott Streat, by the Department of Maryland

In memory of PNC John Krejci, by Lloyd & Ruth Kilmer

MEDSEARCH FUND

Wisconsin Indianhead Chapter Antoinette memory of Romanelli, by the Department of Maryland

In memory of David Godair, by the Greater St. Louis Chapter

In memory of Donald Armon Dreifke, by the Greater St. Louis Chapter

In memory of Dr. Glen Cordell Beck, by the Greater St. Louis Chapter

VOLUNTEER GIVING PROGRAM

David Winn, (USAF Ret), Colorado Springs CO

James Dobson, Upper Marlboro MD Lowell Williamson, Scottsdale AZ In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by Bill & Nancy Fornes

In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by the Magnolia Chapter

In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by Sally Morgan

In memory of Chaplain John Romine. by PNC Bill & ND Deanie Schmidt

In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by Sid & Belle Hecker

In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by Joyce Garivay

In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by PNC Bill & Deanie Schmidt In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by Chuck & Audie Hartney In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by the Department of Iowa In memory of Chaplain John Romine, by NSVC Iim & Jerri Clark In memory of Elinor LaFranchi Riv-

ers. by Robert Rivers In memory of Jack Bernstein, by Molli & Brian; Audrey & Vic; Seth &

Laura and Bret In memory of Jo B Allen, by Dale Allen

In memory of Lila Williams, by Elwin Diehl

In memory of PNC Charles "Charlie" Miller, by Catharine "Kay" Miller

In memory of John Miller, by the Fort Worth Chapter

In memory of PNC Leo 'Moose' Maselli, by Michael & Maureen Hinds

In memory of Robert Underwood, by David & Renee Underwood & family

In memory of Robert Underwood, by Richard & Suzanne Underwood In memory of Robert Underwood, by Stan & Kay Howard

In memory of Samuel 'Sam' Bier, by the Capitol City Chapter

In memory of William 'Bill' Dallas, by the Capitol City Chapter

David Orkin Neal A Murphy

Salvatore & Camille Crivelli

Kenneth Hanson

Larry & Ethelyn Berns George Schroski

John & Anne Gatens

Robert & Gloria Hammond

Marie Pavlovich **Edward Weiss**

M.E. & D.V. Buttolph

John & Paulette Bo

Emily Werle in honor of Frank Kravetz

contributions, cont'd

Gateway Middle School in honor of Frank Kravetz Harvey Savitz Jewell Cox Donald & Sallie Durant Dean & Dorothy Christensen

Bert & Charlotte Krashes Ann Krupinski Doro Andress George Graham Bruce Cram Joseph Timpanaro Salvatore & Camille Crivelli

William & Jane Clark M/M Charles McGhee Morgan Jones, Jr. Robert & Vivian Planck P.A. Young John Crummey Homer Guernsey M/M R.E. Pennington Ruth Wann

Ivan Hunter
M. Leota Strother in M/O Francis
Strother

Carlita Zummo in M/O Vincent

Zummo

The John Redl Family in M/O

John Redl

Charles Wilkinson Arthur Tillev

Violet Herrington Peterson

John McGrath

Violet Porter Bridges Robert & Thelma Mapes Arthur & Jane Kosino Bruce Longstreet Francis Stack

It's a universal law:
You have to give before you get.
You must plant your seeds before
you reap the harvest.
The more you sow, the more you'll
reap.
In giving to others, you'll find
yourself blessed.
The law works to give you back
more than you have sown.
The giver's harvest is always full.
Those that obtain have little.
Those who scatter have much.
Nature does not give to those who

will not spend.
~~ Author Unknown ~~

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTEER FUNDING PROGRAM

The AXPOW Volunteer Giving Program parallels that of other VSOs, whereby the entire membership, including life members, is given the opportunity to contribute to the operation of our organization, based on ability and willingness to contribute. All contributions are to be sent directly to the National Treasurer to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each month.

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

\$20.00 \$30.00

\$40.00

\$50.00

\$100.00

Other

Please circle one category:

Individual Chapter State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Signed

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Please make checks payable to American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 24 Mail contributions to: Sonnie Bill Mottern National Treasurer, American Ex-Prisoners of War 279 Huckleberry Road, Bluff City, TN 37618; 423-341-4213

new members

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



Annual Members "Welcome Home"

Alfred Keith Muntz Greenfield, IL Co F 377 Inf 95 Div 12A, 3B, 4C, Luckenwalde 11/9/44-5/6/45

Timothy M O'Connor Agawam, MA Son of John F O'Connor, **ETO**

Anne O'Connor Neuser Claremont, NH Daughter of John F O'Connor, ETO



Life Members "Welcome Home" *new members to **AXPOW**

Lester E Sanders June P 38688 39454 Texas City, TX 8 AF 447 BG H 710 BS Dulag Luft, Luft 4, Compound D

9/11/44-4/26/45

Gary John Guggenberger *39455 Bemidii, MN Army Several Camps in Jungle 1/ 14/69-2/12/73

Robert J Reese Vie T *39456 39457 Ld. FL **USAAF**

Dusseldorf, Dulag Luft 7 & 3

2/45-5/45

Maureen Hinds Michael *39458 39459

San Jose, CA Daughter of PNC Leo

Maselli

Harold Dean Patton Kathryn 15568 39460 Rainsville, AL 168 Combat

Mainz-Hospital

Marion D Jaycox 39461 Sanborn, IA

100 Inf Div 398 Bn Co E 12A, 5A 2/19/45-4/29/45

Charlene Greenlea 39462 Bakersfield, CA

Widow of Ruel E Greenlea

Nurnburg

Wilda M Streat 39463

Berlin, MD

Widow of Clifton E Streat

12/44-6/5/45

Levenia Patrick 39464

Orlando, FL

Widow of Darvin O Patrick PC #1 Luzon, Cabanatuan

Jerry Lee Primmer *39465

Sugar Grove, OH

Son of Wilbur Primmer, ETO

request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name:	 	
Address:		
City/State/7in:	 	

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

Do NOT send dues with this request for an application

Mail to:

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

Life Membership Rates

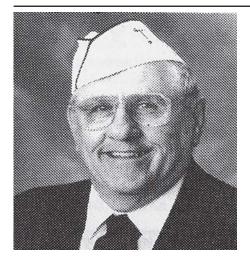
Under 35	\$360	
36-50	\$300	
51-60	\$180	
61 & over	\$120	
Spouse of life member	\$ 40	
Annual Membership Rates		
Single Membership	\$ 40	
Husband & wife	\$ 50	



taps



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



PNC John J. KREJCI, age 84, of Omaha, NE died May 30, 2008. Past National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War. Member of VFW DAV Chapter I. Founding member of Omaha Chapter 1 American Ex-Prisoners of War. Survived by wife of 63 years, Loretta (Kurtz); daughter, Carol Krejci; son, Mark (Nancy); daughter Lorrie (Lino) Stuto; grandchildren Matt, Nicki and Mindy Krejci, Natalie Stuto; many nieces and nephews and dear friends and relatives.

John Krejci enlisted in the USAAC in December, 1942. After basic training, he went through Radio Mechanics School at Traux Field in Madison, WI; Armament School at Buckley and Lowry Field in Denver; Aerial Gunners School at Tyndall Field; Combat Crew, Gowen Field; and served as gunnery instructor at Gowen Field in Boise, ID.

Jack flew to England, via Trinidad,Brazil, Africa and Wales, in February, 1944; he underwent advanced training at Crookstown, Ireland. He joined the 292nd Bomb Group, 576th Bomb Squadron in April 1944. He went down over Hanover, Germany later that month. He was a POW from April 1944 to May 1945.

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After returning home, he was discharged as Staff Sergeant in October.

In 1948, Jack enlisted in the National Guard and served for three years. He then enlisted in the Army Reserves, retiring in November 1983 with 41 years of service.

Jack became National Commander in September 1991. Highlights of his tenure included the first – and only – 50th Anniversary/POW Recognition Day ceremonies held in Statuary Hall, Washington, DC. He was also Commander during the 50th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Bataan Relief Organization in Albuquerque, NM.

In addition to serving as National Commander, Jack helped form Omaha Chapter #1 (he served as commander for seven years). He helped start three chapters in Iowa, one in Minnesota and was a founder of the Nebraska State Department.

National Chaplain John

ROMINE, 88, of Rogers, Arkansas died May 19, 2008, at the Circle of Life Hospice Center in Springdale, AR.



He was born July 13, 1919, in Oakwood, OK, to the late John Moses Romine and Nannie Williams.

He was an Army Air Corps Veteran of WWII, serving as a Tailgunner on a B-24. On June 9, 1944, he was shot down on a bombing run over Ploesti. He was held in Stalag Luft 3 Sagan-Silesia Bavaria (Moved to Nuremberg-Langwasser) and remained a POW until April 29, 1945. He was the National Chaplain for the American Ex-POWs for 32 years. He retired from Oklahoma Gas and Electric in 1982. A lay minister for many years he also served as a police chaplain in Muskogee, OK, was a CPR instruc-

tor for the American Red Cross and involved with the Boy Scouts. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rogers. John will always be remembered for taking time to serve others.

The membership of the American Ex-Prisoners of War drafted John as "Chaplain for Life" 32 years ago. He took his job seriously and considered each of us his extended family. for many years the Chaplain purchased the Special Prayer Cards (part of our merchandise) for National to sell. Sally was not allowed to tell anyone of his generosity. He only would say "I got some WW II money to spare."

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and three sisters.

He is survived by his wife, Vera Romine; one daughter, Barbara Center of Springdale, AR; one brother, Lawrence Romine of Moreland, OK; four grandchildren, Gregg Center, Krystal Center, Ginni Center, Leah Center and husband Jimmy. He is also survived by one great grandchild, Savannah Woods.

There was a graveside service and burial Thursday, May 22nd, at Union Cemetery, west of Powell in the Ozarks of southwest Missouri. The well kept, rural, open country cemetery is surrounded by the awesome beauty of the Ozark region. It was a beautiful day with sunshine, a little breeze, and fleecy white clouds. It was a perfect peaceful setting for the service. The pastor and a group of friends from First United Methodist Church of Rogers, Arkansas were there with the family and other friends. John was an active member of this church and was loved by all. The American Legion from Rogers, Arkansas (where John was a member) conducted full military honors. At the end of the service the family members and some friends released balloons that drifted heavenward in the breeze.

taps continued...

This is from his memorial service, it is titled "After Glow".

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an after glow of smiles when life is done.
Id like to leave and echo whispering softly down the ways.
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun Of happy memories that I leave

when life is done.

Perhaps it is because John Romine led such a radiant life that he leaves an enduring after glow.



We miss you, Rev.

ADAMS, Berdine, 88, Nacogdoches, TX passed away April 3, 2008. He served in the Army during WWII with the 31st Inf. Reg., Co. M, 75th Ord. He was in charge of the last convoy of food to Bataan and was captured when Bataan fell. Berdine was a POW for 3 ½ years in the Philippines and Japan. He was the last known living WWII POW in Nacogdoches County. He leaves his loving wife, Martha, 1 son, 1 daughter, 10 grandchildren and 9 greatgrandchildren.

AUDET, Charles W., of Sacramento, CA passed away May 6, 2008 at the age of 91. He was a life member of AXPOW and former commander of the 49ers Chapter. Charles was captured on Corregidor on May 7; he spent 3 ½ years in prison camps in the Philippines and Camp Omori in Japan. Survivors include his beloved wife, Annabel, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 stepsons, 8 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

AVJIAN, James R, 75, valued member of the San Diego Chapter, AX-POW died April 15, 2008. He served in the Army with the 2nd Div., 38th Reg., "C" Company; he was captured

at Changsong and forced to work in mines 1 and 3 for 27 months. Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Kim, and 4 children.

BEBEN, Rose D., 85, of Warren, OH passed away Feb. 1, 2008. She was a member of AXPOW and the Ohio Barbed Wire Buckeye Chapter. Rose is survived by her loving husband, Henry (POW in 17B), 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters, 1 brother and 1 sister.

BEHRENS, Neil Harris, of Coral Gables, FL passed away March 22, 2008. Neil served with the AAF during WWII; attached to the 96th BG in England. He was shot down over Madgeburg, captured and held in Luft III, then marched across Germany. He was liberated in Mooseburg. He is survived by his wife Marie, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 6 granddaughters, 1 great-granddaughter and 1 sister.

BERNSTEIN, Joseph J "Jack", 85, of Hermitage, MO (formerly of Ft. Myers, FL) passed away May 29, 2008. On June 6, 1942, Jack was aboard the tanker SS Stanvac Calcutta when the ship was sunk by the German raider, Stier. Survivors were transported to Japan; however the War Dept. mistakenly issued death certificates for all crewmembers. It wasn't until 1943 that 27 (including Jack) were discovered to be alive and at Camp Fukuoka. Jack was instrumental in forming the Medsearch Committee: he was a charter member of the Heart of America Chapter, AXPOW, and later became active in Ft. Myers. Jack leaves his wife of 63 years, Florence, 1 brother, 1 sister, 3 sons, 3 grandchildren and his beloved dog, Peanut.

BROOKS, Blackey Forrest, of the East Texas Chapter, AXPOW, died January, 2007.

BROUSSARD, Mary, 83, of Shorewood, WI died May 31, 2008. She was a well-known singer and actress and shared her songs with her veteran family. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, ex-POW Fred, 3 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

CANTOS, Manuel R, commander of the Big Apple Chapter, AXPOW, passed away May 7, 2008. Manny was captured in Anzio, Italy. He was sent to a work farm in Germany where he stayed until liberation. After retirement, he became a tireless volunteer at the VAMC – with more than 24,176 hours clocked. His son, Ray, daughter, Sarah, and aide, David survive him.

CHILCUTT, Landon "Chili", age 86, passed away Jan. 29, 2008 in St. Louis, MO. He was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne, 504th – B Company. He was a POW for seven months. "Chili" is survived by his wife of 60 years, Elizabeth, 1 son, 1 daughter and 5 grandchildren. He was a life member of the St. Louis Chapter, AXPOW.

CHILDERS, Marilou, of Sterling, VA died March 15, 2008 at the age of 89. She was a member of the Central Virginia Chapter, AXPOW. Marilou leaves her beloved husband, Leonard, 1 daughter, 1 foster sister and 1 niece.

COATS, Basil, 88, of Thibodaux, LA passed away April 2, 2008.He was a US Army veteran (390th BG, 571st BS), captured during a raid over Holland and held in Stalag Luft 3 and Buchenwald concentration camp. Gertrude, his wife of 57 years, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 10 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren survive him.

COBB, Alvie, 83, of Marietta, GA died April 7, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 57th BW, 321st BG. He was captured and held in Stalag 17B, Krems. Alvie help form and was the first commander of the North Central Georgia Chapter, AXPOW. He also helped form the Dept. of Georgia and was instrumental in the design of the Georgia Department pin. Alvie is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joan, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

taps continued...

COOPER, James T., 90, of Lancaster, SC died April 18, 2008. He was captured in the Colmar Pocket in France during WWII while serving with the 3rd Inf. Div. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Catawba Chapter. His wife, Kathleen, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 1 sister, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren survive him.

COSGROVE, Lynn, of Amarillo, TX died May 27, 2008. He was 88. During WWII, Lynn served in the Army in the Philippines. He survived the Bataan Death march and 3 ½ years of captivity. Lynn was an active member of the Texas Panhandle Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by one son, two daughters and one grandchild.

CUTLER, Earl R., age 86, of Norwood, NY died June 4· 2008. Earl served with 15th Army Air Force in WWII. He was captured and incarcerated at Luft IV in Germany. He was a member of the former Northern New York Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War and of the National Organization. He is survived by a son, 2 daughters, 10 grand children and 14 great grand children. His wife Wilda predeceased him.

DIEFENTHALER, Willard F "Lefty", 85, of Elkhart Lake, WI died May 14, 2008. He served with the 106th Inf. Div., HQ, 1st BN, 422nd. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and taken to Stalag 9B, then moved to 9A. He left his identical twin Wilbur, who died in 9B. He leaves his wife, Jean, 1 daughter, 3 sons, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

DUNCAN, Lee Winfred, 88, of Quitman, AR passed away May 5, 2008. He served with the 3rd Armored B Co., 45th Medics during WWII. He was captured near Belgium and held in Stalag 7A. Lee is survived by his loving wife of 61 years, Fern, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 18 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, 1 sister, many nieces, nephews and close friends.

Ex-POW Bulletin July/Aug 2008 28 ESHLEMAN, Donald B., of Salem, OR passed away recently. He was captured on Corregidor May 6, 1942 while serving with the Marines. He was a POW for nearly 3 ½ years in Bilibid and Cabanatuan (PI), Camp #10, Fukuoka, Japan. Survivors include his wife Muriel.

FERGUSON, Emma B of Milford, CT died May 5, 2008. Her husband, Richard, was captured while serving with the 590th FA Battalion, 106th Div. during the Battle of the Bulge. He was a POW in Stalags XIIA, IVB, IIIB and IIIA. Emma was a life member of AXPOW. In addition to her loving husband, she leaves 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

GLYDON, Joseph, 83, of Avenel, NJ passed away Dec. 28, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 379th BS, 310th BW out of Corsica. He was shot down over Italy and held for 8 months. Joe was a life member of AXPOW and the Garden State Chapter, where he served as Treasurer. Survivors include his loving wife of 61 years, Jo, 1 daughter, 1 grandson and 1 great-grandson.

GOURNAY, Bessie, of Eunice, LA passed away May 5, 2008. She was 87 years old and the wife of ex-POW Harold. Both were life members of AXPOW. Harold served in the 301st BG, 15th AF. He was a POW in Stalag Luft III and Stalags 13D and 7A. In addition to her beloved husband of 63 years, Bessie is survived by 2 daughters, 1 brother, 3 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

HAMILTON, Weldon C., of Las Cruces, NM died April 16, 2008. He was captured on Bataan, survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years captivity in the Philippines and Japan. He leaves his wife, Audrey, and five children. With his death, there are only 3 Bataan Death March survivors living in Las Cruces.

HAMM, Doyal, of Stigler, OK passed away May 1, 2008. During WWII, he was captured while serving in the Armored Division. He was a member of the Muskogee Chapter, AX-POW.

HARDIE, Leslie P, of Eugene, OR died April 6, 2008. He was 85. During WWII, he served with the AAF, 452nd BS. He was shot down over Germany and imprisoned in Stalag Luft VI, then marched across Germany. His son, daughter, 2 grandsons and 5 great-grandchildren survive Les. His wife, Carol, preceded him in death.

HART, Johnie, of Longview TX, died Nov. 28, 2007, at the age of 85. He served in the Army in WW II and was with the 101st Airborne Division. He was captured and held as a POW for one year in Germany. He served 6 1/2 years in the Army. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Buna Jean.

HASAY, Andrew G., 94, of Cambra, PA passed away May 9, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 7th Army, 36th Inf. Div., Co A. He was wounded in France and captured. He was held in Stalag 7A until liberation. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Helen, 1 daughter, 1 grandson and 2 great-grandsons.

HOLT, Frank W., 83, of Jamestown, NC died April 20, 2008. He served in the AAC, flying 23 missions before his plane was shot down and he was captured. He was liberated in May, 1945. Frank was a member of the Greater Greensboro Chapter, AX-POW. He leaves his wife of 61 years, Dora, 2 daughters, 1 son, 4 grand-children and 5 great-grandchildren.

KIRKBRIDE, E.R., of Okmulgee, OK died April 17, 2008. During WWII, he was captured while serving as a paratrooper. He was a member of the Muskogee Chapter, AXPOW.

MANCINELLI, Rose, 88, of Dunedin, FL died Dec. 19, 2007. She was the widow of the late Frank Mancinelli (9th Inf., Co. 47, Unit E, captured in Africa). Rose is survived by her four children and 5 grandchildren. Daughter Irene is a life member of AXPOW and will miss her always.

MARTIN, Matthew S "Jack", of Pleasureville, KY died April 11, 2008. He was 86. During WWII, he served with the 357th FG, 362nd FS. He was shot down, captured and held in Luft 1, Barth until liberation. Jack was a member of the Kentuckiana Chapter,

taps continued...

AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 62 years, Ruth, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

PALL, Eugene N. "Gene", 85, of Lorain, OH died May 20, 2008. Gene served in the US Army during WWII, with the 44th Div. He was held at Stalag 4A, then was transferred to Stalag 5A from which he later escaped. He was a member of the Collier Chapter and Barbed Wire Buckeye Chapter of the American Ex-Prisoner of War. Surviving are one son, one daughter, one grandson, two great grandchildren and two brothers.

PANASUK, Joseph "Wally", of Palm Coast, FL died May 29, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 385th BG. He was held in various camps, including Stalag Luft VI. His wife, Anna, survives him.

PATRICK, Darvin O, of Orlando, FL died April 27, 2006. Patrick was a POW in Cabanatuan for three years before being rescued by the Army Rangers. He is survived by his wife, Levenia, three daughters and six grandchildren.

PFAFFINGER, Richard C., of Blue Earth, MN died March 19, 2008 at the age of 87. He was captured while serving with the AAC during WWII. He was shot down over the Adriatic Sea and held for 13 months in Luft 1, Barth. Dick is survived by his wife, Agnes, 1 son, 3 daughters and 9 grandchildren.

ROGERS, Charles, member of East Central Florida Chapter, AXPOW passed away recently. During WWII, he was captured while serving with the Army Air Corps.

RUBNITZ, Douglas, of Beloit, WI, died February 14, 2008. An AX-POW member since 1989, 'Doug' served with the 106th Division, 422nd Regiment, H Company and was held in Stalag 4B and work camps. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Mary.

SAWYER, Francis E., 89, of La Crosse, WI passed away May 26, 2008. He was captured while serving in the AAF during WWII. He parachuted out of his bomber just seconds before it was blown up by a Japanese fighter pilot. He spent 1 ½ years in Yangon, Myanmar as a POW. Francis was well-known on the national level of AXPOW; he also served as chaplain and past state commander for the Dept. of Wisconsin. Survivors include 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and his wife, Beverly.

SCHMIED, William Charles, of Richmond, VA died May 26, 2008 at the age of 90. During WWII, he was captured while serving with the 70th Inf. Div., 275th Bn., Co. B during the Battle of the Bulge. He was imprisoned in Stalag 12. He leaves 4 sons, 4 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 8 greatgrandchildren.

SEIGLE, Loyce, of the East Texas Chapter, AXPOW, died during 2007.

SHARP, Elma C., life member of the Yellow Creek Chapter (WV), AXPOW died in April 2008.

SNYDER, Wilburn L., of Baytown, TX passed away May 13, 2008. He was 85. Wilburn served with the 3rd Bn., 31st Inf. in the Philippines. He survived the Bataan Death March; then he was shipped to Japan on a Hell Ship and used as slave labor in 3 prison camps. He served as Chaplain of the Fontana, NC and Pigeon Forge, TN Chapters as well as the Gulf Coast Chapter. He was also a life member of ADBC. He is survived by his wife, Lan'l, 3 sons, 2 daughters, 3 brothers, 3 sisters, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

THOMPSON, Harry A. Jr., of Pharr, TX died April 21, 2008. Harry was a fighter pilot with the 78th FG, 82nd FS. He spent one year in Luft III and Stalag 17B. He leaves his wife of 49 years, Rose, 2 sons, 2 brothers, 1 sister, 3 grandsons and 9 great-grand-children.

TROMBLEY, Raymond G., 84, died June 22, 2008. He served in WWII out of Foggia, Italy with the 48th FS, 14th

FG, 15th AF. Ray was shot down over Hungary; he was captured and held at Stalag XIII-D, Nurnberg and Stalag 7A, Moosburg, Germany and was liberated by Patton on April 29, 1945. He was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Western MA Chapter. Ray was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Julia. He leaves 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 2 sisters and several nieces and nephews.

UNDERWOOD, Robert W., of Ft. Worth, Texas died April 6, 2008. Bob was taken prisoner by the Japanese on Bataan while serving with the 27th BG (Light). He survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity in the Philippines and Japan. Survivors include his loving wife, Kay, 1 daughter, 1 son and 5 grand-children.

WHITE, James Howard, 87, of Vestavia Hills, AL (formerly of Water Valley, MS) passed away May 6, 2008. He as shot down over Tunisia during WWII; captured by German soldiers and held 27 months in Stalag Luft III. Although he escaped twice, he was re-captured each time. He as finally liberated when the war ended. He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Jean, 1 daughter and 2 grandsons.

WILLIAMS, Lila L., widow of Homer D., POW in Stalag IIIB (Germany) during WWII, passed away May 9, 2008 in Red Oak, Iowa. She was a member of the Southwest Iowa Chapter, AX-POW, serving as chapter commander from 1999-2004. She was currently serving as chapter chaplain. Lila is survived by 1 daughter, 2 sons, 11 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

WILLIAMS, William 'Bill', of Lake Placid, Florida, died November 22, 2007. A member of the Lake Highlands Chapter, Bill served with the 8th AF, 385th BG, 549th BS, and was a POW in Luft 3, Stalag 7A and Buckenwald. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Jane.



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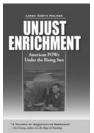
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