

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 66

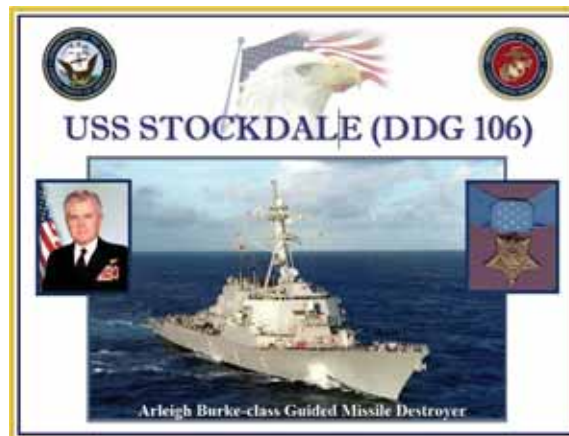
www.axpow.org

Number 6

June 2009



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*Piewstewa Pictures...A Petition for Veterans Day...
News, Events, Convention Information...
Stories...Outreach, Success and more*



Ex-POWS, the Piestewa Memorial Committee and the Piewstewa family were honored at the Mul-Cha-Tha Powwow on the Gila River Indian Reservation. They were also honored at the March 23 evening reception/dinner for mothers and family members that had lost children in the Iraq/Afghanistan conflicts, and memorial for all fallen heroes. This event was held in Phoenix, Arizona. Lee Hyeoma was the photographer for some of the great pictures. Former POWs Patrick Miller, Joseph Hudson (who gave his Purple Heart to Mrs. Piewstewa), Shoshana Johnson, Jessica Lynch (wearing a tee-shirt with Lori Ann Piewstewa's picture) and their children are pictured as well as Lori Ann's family. The Piestewa Memorial Committee reflects the diversity in Lori Ann Piewstewa's unit. The committee is comprised of American Indian, Anglo, Hispanic, Navajo, Hopi, and African American supporters from all walks of life who work very hard to sponsor the memorial events every year. The committee also includes some Hopi and Hispanic family members.



June, 2009

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A huge

THANK You!

Thank you!

Thank YOU!

Thanks!

to the Brooklyn “Key” Chapter of New York.

The chapter sent in yet another \$1,000 check for the EX-POW Bulletin.

Summer and the State Conventions are in full swing. If you have a Dept. convention, or there is one nearby, take some time and attend. You’ll meet new friends and old and get some valuable information about claims and benefits.

From the Editor:

Park Superintendent Fred Boyles is leaving Andersonville to take a new position at Cumberland Island National Park, Georgia. He and his wife, Debbie, will live on the mainland in St. Mary’s.

That’s good news for Fred. Sad for AXPOW.

Fred has been an integral part of the National POW Museum at Andersonville National Historic Site for many, many years. He guided us through the long process from design to implementation to the grand (very grand!) opening on April 9, 1998. His steady stewardship has made the museum a must-see destination for schoolchildren, families, veterans and ex-POWs. It truly feels like “our” museum, and I am amazed every time I visit that we were a part of this grand plan come to fruition. Fred is responsible for much of this success.

Bon Voyage...Good luck. We’ll miss you.

Convention Program Ads! It’s time to get your ad in for the 2009 convention! Don’t miss out! The deadline is August 1, 2009.

Cover: from the dedication ceremony of the USS Stockdale

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Deadline for the July/August 2009 issue is June 1, 2009

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

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Committee addresses appear
with their columns



**National Commander
Jim Clark**

It's June and my year in office is beginning to wind down. Many times I wonder how the time went so quickly and how much we were able to do in this short period. After meeting so many of you at the Department conventions, I sometimes wish I had another year...other times I am thankful to be turning the reins over to the very capable SVC, Kenny Hanson for his stewardship.

The Missouri convention was an especially good opportunity to talk with our members and I am making every effort to address any concerns and pass on your ideas for our future.

For Memorial Day, I am attending the ceremonies at Andersonville - taking time to visit Jeri's family nearby and revisiting our museum. As the summer progresses, I hope to meet with many of you at the different Department reunions around the country.

I have to mention that since becoming your commander, I have been struck by the cooperation and camaraderie felt wherever we have gone and touched by your good wishes for myself and my family.

Since our Midyear meeting in Arlington, Texas, much has happened to keep our enthusiasm levels high. The Strategic Planning Committee offered a great many ideas to the

Board and the Board is working together to ensure the future of our great organization. Our budget is balanced and we are operating in the black. Our children and grandchildren are joining AXPOW in greater numbers than in recent years.

One idea the Strategic Planning Committee had was to change the convention dates from fall to summertime in order to take advantage of school vacations. I've heard that some of our long-time next-of-kin were brought by their parents to the National Conventions and the "kids" got together. Now in their middle age, many of the "kids" are still close. Two of them are now National Directors and they are doing a bang-up job working to keep AXPOW strong. Adjutant Clydie Morgan and Treasurer Sonnie Bill Mottern also sit on our Board, working for the AXPOW membership.

Another idea that has been floated about is our picking up or discounting the life membership for POWs from Korea forward as a way to recruit younger members. PNC Bill Schmidt has many times proposed memberships for more recent war POWs. It's an excellent idea. However, a more personal way to reach out to our younger generation of POWs might be to have the chapter or State Department sponsor their membership. It would involve the new member at a local level, where lasting friendship would occur. Some of the chapters and departments are already doing this for the widows who want to keep close. We need to reach out to everyone in our extended "family".

Our future is looking good. Let's keep the momentum going and we will leave a lasting legacy to our families and future generations.

Yours in fellowship,

Jim

news from hq



I belong to the Fort Worth Chapter here in Texas. We have worked at the Dallas VAMC as volunteers for 25 years doing picnics and Christmas parties for the patients on the 5th floor. We cooked and decorated and visited with the patients and their families. It has always been our pleasure. We have always cooked hamburgers and hot dogs (on their grills) and brought in all the dishes for the picnic. We are fortunate that a local barbecue restaurant donates the food for the Christmas parties but the Chapter members baked cookies, pies and other desserts.

This year we were notified that all food items that were brought in to the wards had to be store bought or come from a commercial kitchen. One of the joys of serving our veterans was the thought of giving them some home cooking during their stay in the hospital. Shoot, they can get a frozen lasagna in the cafeteria.

We are asking if any of our fellow chapters are running into this problem. If you are, please contact me and we will start a movement to restore the rights of a patient in a VA medical facility to some good home cooking. We are asking other service organizations to help us.

We will be sending our the annual chapter membership lists soon. Since the National Convention is so early this year our deadlines have been moved up. Please follow the directions in the cover letter carefully if you are sending a delegation to Boise.

Clydie, Marsha, Sally & Donna



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Below are four pieces of legislation in the new Congress that need your help to pass. Contact your congressman or a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee.

HR944

Title: Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2009 - Amends federal veterans' benefits provisions with respect to former prisoners of war (POWs) to repeal the currently required 30-day minimum period of internment prior to the presumption of service connection for certain listed diseases, for purposes of the payment of veterans' disability compensation. Adds diabetes (type 2) to the above listed diseases. Removes the requirement that, in order for osteoporosis to be included among the listed diseases, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must determine that the veteran has post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Requires: (1) such presumption also with respect to any disease that the Secretary determines warrants such presumption by reason of having a positive association with the experience of being a prisoner of war; and (2) the Secretary to make such a determination within 60 days after a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War that such presumption be established for a non-listed disease. Introduced by Rep. Gus Bilirakis. There are no cosponsors at this time.

H.R.819

Title: To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity

compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who died on or before September 30, 1999, under the same eligibility conditions as apply to payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who die after that date. Introduced by Rep. Tim Holden of PA. There are 15 cosponsors at this time.

H.R.423

Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act
Title: To provide compensation for certain World War II veterans who survived the Bataan Death March and were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese. Introduced by Rep. John Mica of FL. There are no cosponsors at this time.

S.768

Title: A bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers from the United States who were prisoners of war at Bataan during World War II. Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall, NM. There are 7 cosponsors at this time.

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Republicans
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Roger Wicker, MS
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John Boozman, AR
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Doug Lamborn, CO
Gus Bilirakis, FL
Vern Buchanan, FL
David P Roe, TN

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



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Outreach Reporting Disappointments & Successes

First the bad news: "Mrs. D., what does the death certificate show as the cause of death?" "It showed my husband died of cancer." "Did it show as contributing cause heart trouble, stroke or hypertension?" "No. But he had had heart problems for many years." "Did he ever go to the VA for treatment?" "No, he never went to the VA...he stayed away from the government." **LESSON FROM BAD NEWS:** Each case is different, but apathy toward seeking VA medical care can result in penalizing your loved ones left behind.

BUT THERE IS GOOD NEWS! NSO Robert McClure, Indianapolis, IN sends this word: On January 29, 2009, I placed a call to LH, a recent widow of a central Indiana POW. She had mailed a DIC claim to VA. The VA, following a new procedure, forwarded the claim to the Milwaukee office for processing. Claim denied. Feb. 10, information regarding claim was faxed to Jerry Shutt, VARO POW Coordinator. Four days later, on March 20, Jerry Shutt confirmed that DIC had been granted. Great work, Jerry! A happy and relieved widow. Thank you, Bob McClure for this good news. We need more success accounts of

what NSOs are accomplishing all over the country, as well as the diligent work of the VA's POW Coordinators like Jerry Shutt are doing for veterans.

Another SUCCESS! Ex-POW's daughter Margaret calls from Alabama. "My father died 4/16/1992; would Mother be eligible for VA widow's benefit?" "What does your Dad's death certificate show as cause of death?" "Apparent heart attack, died at residence." "Yes, your Mother should be eligible." Claim sent to Montgomery, AL VARO 12/11/08. On 3/17/09, claim approved effective Jan. 1, 2008, which means a significant first check for a happy widow in Alabama, finally after almost 17 years. Sent ChampVA information to her.

And SUCCESS leads to more SUCCESS: Several years ago, Jewel in Oklahoma, widow of former POW, is blessed with her DIC, VA widow's benefit, and her testimony is that it changed her life in retirement. Recently her daughter calls about her husband's aunt, Mrs. P, also in Oklahoma. Her husband had been in the US Navy and was captured by the Japanese when his ship was sunk near the end of WWII. He was a POW for only two weeks, but since he died of heart problems, his death was service-connected; even just one day would have qualified a heart-connected death. The VA claim is now in process, with help

from Kathy Mosteller, POW Coordinator in Muskogee VARO.

An ACCOLADE for an old pro NSO: "Dear Mr. C., I would like to express my sincere thanks for the help of NSO Frank Kravetz. It was through his determined efforts that I am now receiving increased monthly compensation from the VA. I am 91 years old and my wife is 83. This increase helps us meet our monthly bills and remain independent. Also we frequently receive phone calls and appeals from various organizations for information or money. Frank helps us determine whether they are legitimate or bogus. Frank's attitude is always warm and friendly, and we know we can count on him. (signed) Jack Ries, Jamestown, PA" (Frank has been helping former POWs and their families in western Pennsylvania for many years, truly exemplifying our AXPOW slogan.

Outreach still works in many ways, With responses from VA Benefits Alert in Letter to the Editor in March 2009 8th AF NEWS. And from VA Benefits note in Texas Land Board publication that goes to all Texas veterans. But more than any other resource for alerting former POWs and their widows is WORD of MOUTH. People thinking about others that they know and telling them of possibilities and that they need to talk with an American Ex-Prisoners of War National Service Officer.

Join the Outreach Committee!

Positions are open to all who are willing to reach out to help former POWs and their dependents receive the VA benefits due them. No salary. Volunteers are paid in gratitude, thanks and smiles from those they help. Contact Chairman Fred Campbell for details. 3312 Chatterton Dr., San Angelo, TX 76904; 325-944-4002.



Amythropic Lateral Sclerosis...Lou Gehrig's Disease. It was approved as a service-connected presumptive Sept. 23, 2008, for any veteran, not just former POWs, who died of ALS. Such claims for veterans' widows are coming in, like:

Oregon, POW died in 1993 - widow finally gets DIC after denials galore;

South Carolina, POW died in 1963 - widow gets DIC finally after applying 45 years ago;

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outreach continued...

Kansas, veteran died in 1980 - POWs widow tells non-POW widow of ALS new presumptive for all veterans, special claim expedited by POW Coordinator, Ruthanne Grove-Alford in Wichita VARO;

Texas, veteran died in 1978 - widow in Dallas heard about it when Robby Robertson told her about ALS now being a presumptive for all veterans;

Illinois, POW died in 1980 - enduring ALS for years, died in VA hospital, but VA doctor put cause of death as "natural causes". So family is trying to find evidence to present to the VA, maybe from the VA, to show ALS as cause of death;

Mississippi, veteran died of ALS in 1992 - claim in process;

Illinois, US Navy veteran died of ALS in 2004 - claim in;

Missouri, US Air Force veteran died in 2002 - AXPOW member reminds widow that ALS presumptive is for all veterans.

THINK! Know of a veteran who died of ALS? Let us help. THINK!

March/April EX-POW Bulletin TAPS, contacts by: PA, Don Lewis; MD, Mary Rolen; SC, Lawrence King; OH, Doc Unger; CA, Frank Burger, Harry Corre; MO, Marion Rippee; NC, Paul Dallas; MS, Nancy Mullins; AZ, Louise Dunham; FL, Doris Jenks, JoAnn Kannapinn; AL, Fred Liddell; WA, Maurice Sharp; WI, Walter Peterson; ID, Bud Hinckley; VA, Beth Brooks; TX/SD/IL/OK/CO/ME, Fred Campbell. Thanks to many willing to help!

NSO Ben Garrido of Tahlequah, OK calls, fishing near Corpus Christi, TX on Gulf Coast...sees POW license plate in Wal-Mart lot, talks to driver...here's phone number to call reluctant former POW...am calling to help with VA claim. Bravo, Ben!



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We once again attended the ceremonies in Hawaii for Former POWs. The agenda included a picnic on the beach in front of the Hale Koa Military Hotel. Another day there was an Admiral's tour of the Arizona Memorial and Ford Island and surrounding areas, lunch at the Officer's club, the Air Museum of the Pacific and a visit to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC).

On April 9th there were ceremonies for POW day in the Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific. This concluded with a banquet at the Hale Koa with wonderful Korean and Hawaiian entertainment.

Only 3 World War II Former POWs attended, including Bud and Ronnie Patterson and Mr. and Mrs. Randolph from the Big Island of Hawaii.

There were approximately 20 Former Korean POWs also in attendance.

Also attending were Rolling Thunder representatives, John and Fran Harrison.

The Rolling Thunder is again sponsoring a three day week-end to Andersonville. Time is running short to sign up for this wonderful occasion. If you are interested in attending, please call our office and

nsO

we can get you in touch with the Rolling Thunder representative to get you registered for this wonderful event.

The dates for this event are Sept. 17, 18, and 19th.

At our Former POW Advisory Meeting at the Tampa VA, we were advised the VA is still working out the details for the new Former POW presumptive, Osteoporosis. When they are complete, they will be sending out a letter advising Former POWs in their database of the new presumptive.

The claims pending for Former POWs in Florida has increased, along with an increase in those filing for Dependent's Indemnity Compensation. Also a number of widows and/or wives are applying for the Aid and Attendance and/or housebound benefit. This is a wonderful additional benefit for those women who are unable to do those household chores they did in the past and those in assisted living facilities or under nursing care. This will allow them to hire someone to help with these chores.

Andersonville National Historic Site, Rolling Thunder Chapters, Georgia Southwestern State University to Honor Nation's POWs/MIAs, Sept. 17-19, 2009;
info@POWRideHome.org

Rolling Thunder's 2009 Ride Home — a multi-day annual activity held in conjunction with the National Park Service's Andersonville National Historic Site and Georgia Southwestern State University to recognize and honor the nation's Prisoners of War (POW) and those Missing in Action (MIA) — will be held in Andersonville and Americus, Ga., Sept. 17-19, 2009.



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.

Depression

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is depression?

Depression is more than just feeling blue or sad. It is an illness. When you have depression, it interferes with daily life and normal functioning, and causes pain for both you and those who care about you.

2. How many older adults suffer from depression?

If you have depression, you are not alone. Of the 35 million Americans age 65 or older, about 2 million suffer from full-blown depression. Another 5 million suffer from less severe forms of the illness. Untreated depression can lead to suicide. Of the roughly 30,000 suicide deaths in 2004, adults age 65 and older accounted for about 16 percent of them. White men age 85 and older have the highest suicide rate in the United States.

3. What are the different types of depression?

Major depressive disorder, also called major depression or clinical depression, is characterized by a combination of symptoms that interfere with your ability to work, sleep, eat, and enjoy activities you once liked. Major depression keeps a person from functioning normally.

Dysthymic disorder, or dysthymia, is a less severe but sometimes more long-lasting form of depression. It is characterized by symptoms last-

ing two years or longer that keep you from functioning normally or feeling well.

Many older adults experience subsyndromal depression — real symptoms of depression that are less severe than major depression or dysthymia. Having subsyndromal depression may increase your risk of developing major depression.

4. Is depression a disorder of the brain?

Imaging technologies show that the brains of people with depression look different than those who do not have the illness. The areas of the brain that control moods, thinking, sleep, appetite, and behavior appear not to be functioning well, and important brain chemicals are out of balance. But these images do not reveal WHY the depression has occurred.

5. How do I know if I am at risk for depression?

The risk factors for depression are family history, life experiences, and environment. If you have depression, you may have experienced it when you were younger, and may have a family history of the illness. You may also be going through difficult life events, such as physical or psychological trauma, losing a loved one, a difficult relationship with a family member or friend, or financial troubles. Any of these stressful experiences can lead to depression.

If you experience depression for the first time later in life, other factors may be at play. Depression may be

related to changes that occur in the brain and body as we age.

For example, some older adults may suffer from restricted blood flow, a condition called ischemia. Over time, blood vessels harden and prevent blood from flowing normally to the body's organs, including the brain. If this occurs, an older adult with no family history of depression may develop what some doctors call "vascular depression."

6. What other conditions may co-exist with depression?

Depression often co-occurs with heart disease and stroke. It can also co-occur with diabetes, cancer, Parkinson's disease, and other serious medical illnesses. Depression may make these conditions worse, and vice versa. Sometimes, medications taken for these illnesses can cause side effects that contribute to depression.

7. What are the symptoms of depression?

Symptoms of depression often vary depending on the person. Common symptoms include:

- feeling nervous or emotionally empty
- tiredness or a "slowed down" feeling
- feeling guilty or worthless
- restlessness and irritability
- feeling like life is not worth living
- sleep problems such as insomnia, oversleeping or wakeful-

medsearch continued...

ness in the middle of the night; eating more or less than usual

having persistent headaches, stomach-aches or other chronic pain that does not go away when treated

loss of interest in once pleasurable activities

frequent crying

difficulty focusing, remembering or making decisions

thoughts of death or suicide

8. What should I do if I think I am depressed?

First, visit your doctor. Talk to him or her about your symptoms, discuss any medications you are taking, and discuss any other medical conditions you may have. Certain medications taken for other medical conditions, a vitamin B12 deficiency, some viruses, or a thyroid disorder can cause the same symptoms as depression.

Your doctor should give you a complete physical exam and do any lab tests to rule out the possibility that medications or another medical condition are causing your depression. If these can be ruled out, he or she may refer you to a mental health professional such as a psychologist, counselor, social worker, or psychiatrist.

The doctor or mental health professional will ask you about your symptoms, such as when they started, how long they have lasted, their severity, whether they have occurred before, and if so, whether were they treated and how. He or she then will diagnose the depression, and work with you to choose the most appropriate treatment.



9. Is depression treatable?

Yes. Even the most severe cases of depression are highly treatable. As with many illnesses, getting treatment early is more effective and reduces the chance of recurrence. If you have other medical conditions, it is especially important to treat depression because having depression may delay recovery from or worsen the outcome of other illnesses.

Treatment choices differ for each person, and sometimes different treatments must be tried until one works for you. It is important not to give up. The most common forms of treatment for depression are medication and psychotherapy.

10. What types of medication are used to treat depression?

Medications called antidepressants work to control natural brain chemicals called neurotransmitters, which get out of balance when a person is depressed. Scientists studying depression have found that these chemicals are involved in regulating mood.

The newest and most popular types of antidepressant medications are called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). They include fluoxetine (Prozac), citalopram (Celexa) and several others.

Similar to SSRIs are serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) and include venlafaxine (Effexor) and duloxetine (Cymbalta). Another newer antidepressant bupropion (Wellbutrin) is neither an SSRI nor an SNRI but is popular as well. Older antidepressants, called tricyclics and monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs), are still used sometimes, too.

SSRIs and SNRIs are more popular than the older classes of antidepressants because they tend to have fewer side effects. However, medications affect everyone differ-

ently so talk with your doctor to decide which type is best for you. People taking MAOIs must follow strict food and medicine restrictions to avoid potentially serious interactions. If you take an MAOI, your doctor should give you a complete list of foods, medicines, and substances to avoid.

11. How do I take antidepressants?

All antidepressant medications take several weeks to have an effect. You must take regular doses for at least three to four weeks, sometimes longer, before you are likely to feel the full benefit. You should continue taking the medication for the amount of time specified by your doctor, even if you are feeling better, to get the full effect and prevent the depression from returning.

12. I have been taking an antidepressant for a while, and now I am feeling better. Can I stop taking it?

Stopping medication should be done only under a doctor's supervision. They need to be gradually stopped to give the body time to adjust. Although they are not habit-forming or addictive, antidepressants should not be stopped abruptly because that can cause withdrawal symptoms or the depression may return. If your depression is chronic or keeps returning, you may need to stay on the medication for a long time.

If you are experiencing your first episode of depression, you also may want to stay on antidepressant medication for a while, even if your symptoms have disappeared. Recent research shows that patients age 70 and older who took antidepressant medication for two years after they became symptom-free were 60 percent less likely to experience a relapse than those who stopped taking the medication.

medsearch cont'd...

13. What kind of side effects can I expect from an antidepressant?

The most common side effects that antidepressant medications can cause are headache, nausea, insomnia or nervousness, agitation or a jittery feeling, and sexual problems. Often, the side effects are mild and temporary. However, if you have any unusual reactions or side effects that interfere with your normal functioning, you should report them to your doctor immediately.

If you are already taking several medications for other conditions, it is important to talk to your doctor about any potentially adverse drug interactions that may occur while taking antidepressants.

14. I've heard that the herb St. John's wort is used to treat depression. Does it work and is it safe?

A bushy, wild-growing plant with yellow flowers, St John's wort has been used for centuries in many folk and herbal remedies. It is commonly used in Europe to treat mild depression, and it is a top-seller in the United States as well.

Recently, the National Institutes of Health conducted a clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of the herb in treating adults suffering from major depression. (A clinical trial is a research study with people to find out if a drug, treatment, or therapy is safe and effective.) The trial found that St. John's wort was no more effective than a placebo, or sugar pill, in treating major depression. Currently, another study is looking at the effectiveness of St. John's wort for treating mild depression.

Be sure to consult your doctor before taking St. John's wort, as it may interfere with other medications. On February 10, 2000, the Food and Drug Administration issued a Public Health Advisory stating that the

herb may interfere with certain drugs used to treat heart disease, depression, seizures, certain cancers, and organ transplant rejection.

15. Will psychotherapy effectively treat my depression?

Psychotherapy can help older adults with depression who are unable or unwilling to take medication. Two main types of psychotherapies — cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and interpersonal therapy (IPT) — are effective in treating depression. These therapies are sometimes called "talk therapies."

During CBT, a mental health professional will help you change negative ways of thinking and behaving that may contribute to your depression.

During IPT, a mental health professional helps you understand and work through troubled personal relationships or events that may cause your depression or make it worse. Sometimes treatment will include both medication and psychotherapy. Studies have shown that this combination treatment is highly effective in treating depression among older adults.

16. How effective is treatment for depression?

Up to 80 percent of older adults who are treated with an antidepressant, psychotherapy, or a combination of both find relief from depression. Treating depression also helps improve the outcomes of any co-occurring illnesses.

17. How is treatment for depression being improved?

Unfortunately, late-life depression often goes undiagnosed or is inadequately treated. Some studies have found that up to 75 percent of older adults who die by suicide had visited their doctors within one month

of their deaths. However, researchers are working to help both doctors and patients better recognize the signs of depression and the potential for suicide in older adults.

One study is developing and testing an education and intervention program designed to help primary care clinics and providers identify and treat late-life depression. Another study found that depressed older adults who had a "care manager" monitor their symptoms, side effects, and progress got better more quickly — and stayed better longer — than those who did not have case-managed care.

Finally, researchers are studying the role of hormone changes in late life to find out if hormone replacement therapy may benefit older adults with depression. Other studies are looking to better understand the relationship between other medical illnesses and depression. Still others are looking to help older adults get better access to depression treatment.

19. How can I get immediate help if I am in a crisis?

If you are thinking about harming yourself or attempting suicide, tell someone who can help immediately. Call your doctor, call 911, or go to the nearest emergency room. You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255; TTY: 1-800-799-4TTY (4889) to speak to a trained counselor at a suicide crisis center nearest you.

Information supplied:
National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Aging
Building 31, Room 5C27
31 Center Drive, MSC 2292
Bethesda, MD 20892

AXPOW MEDSEARCH CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

Camp descriptions available from AXPOW. All are from the National Archives. If your camp is not listed, it is because the National Archives does not have it available.

JAPANESE CAMPS

	DONATIONS
Akenobe #6	\$.70
Batavia, Java	.90
Beppa	.50
Bilibid Prison	1.30
Bridge House Jail, China	.50
Burma	.40
Cabanatuan #1	.50
Cabanatuan #3	2.10
Camp O'Donnell	.60
Changi, Singapore	.70
D 12, Hitachi	.90
Davao Penal Colony	.70
Fengtai, China	.50
Fukuoka #1	.90
Fukuoka #2	.90
Fukuoka #3	.90
Fukuoka #10	.70
Fukuoka #11	.50
Fukuoka #17	.70
Fukuoka #22	.70
Hakodate Branch Camp #2	.70
Hoten, Juken, Manchuria	.70
Initial Phase – Philippines	1.10
Jinsen, Korea	.50
Kiangwan, China	.70
Manila, Port Area	.40
Mitushima, Tokyo Camp #2-D	.70
Makaishima, Honshu	.70
Mukden, Manchuria (temporary)	.50
Nakhon Pathom, Thailand	.50
Naval POW Camp, Shanghai	.40
Notogawa #9-B	.50
October Ship (Hellship)	.90
Omine	.50
Osaka #3, Oeyama	.70
Osaka #5-B	.70
Osaka #12-B	.70
Osaka Group, Sakurajima, Osaka	.70
Palawan Barracks	.90
Rangoon Prison, Burma	.90
Roku Poshi	.70
Saigon POW Camp, French Indo-China	.50 .70
Sendai Camp #6, Hanawa	.50
Sendai Camp #11	.50

JAPANESE CAMPS

	DONATIONS
Southeast Asia-Saigon, Port Area	.50
SS Oryuku Maru (Hellship)	.90
Sumatra	.90
Thailand (Siam)	.50
Tientsin, China	.40
Umeda Bonshu	.70
Utashinai, Hokkaido	.50
War Road Jail, China	.50
Woosung	.50
Zentsuji Headquarters	1.10
Taiwan Formosa, includes Camps 31, Taihoku: Camp V, Taihoku: Camp VI, Taihoku, Kinkaseki: Camp II, Taichu: Camp III, Heito: Camp IV, Kagi & Tako	2.10

GERMAN CAMPS

	DONATIONS
Camp Conditions (general)	.70
Dulag Luft	.40
Hohemark Hospital & Luckenwalde	.90
Marlag und Milag Nord	.90
Oflag 13-B	1.50
Oflag 64	
Reserve-Lazaret Obermassfeld (the orthopedic hospital)	.70
Rumania	.50
Stalag 2-B	1.50
Stalag 3-B	1.70
Stalag 7-A	1.50
Stalag 9-B	1.10
Stalag 17-B	1.50
Stalag Luft 1	1.50
Stalag Luft 3	1.50
Stalag Luft 4	.40
Stalag Luft 6	.40
Transit Camp - Section of Dulag Luft	1.10
German Orders Governing Prisoners of War in Europe	2.30

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Ex-POW Bulletin

June 2009

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andersonville



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

A Farewell Note from Fred Boyles

It is with a profound sense of sadness that I inform my friends in the American Ex-Prisoners of War that I am leaving Andersonville. I have accepted a transfer to Cumberland Island National Seashore in Southeast Georgia and will start there in early June.

First, let me tell you a little about Cumberland Island. It is a 40,000+ acre barrier island that is the most southern place on the Georgia coast. A federally designated wilderness, the island is home to several endangered species and the best example of an unspoiled maritime forest in the nation.

The island is also home to a number of historic resources such as Plum Orchard, a mansion built by the Carnegie family. It is accessible only by boat. The mystique of the island became front page headlines about ten years ago when John Kennedy Jr. chose a small clapboard church there for his secret wedding.

My 19 years at Andersonville has been the most gratifying that any civil servant could imagine.

With the help of all of you, we have recorded over 1,000 former POW and spouse oral histories and increased the size of our artifact collection with precious items from your POW experience. With your donations, we have created the Andersonville Trust endowment fund that has already made significant gifts to the park that is enabling us to do so much to share your story with a larger audience.

But without a doubt our greatest moment was eleven years ago when we joined together and opened the National Prisoner of War Museum. I was so fortunate to be a part of such a momentous day and the subsequent years of watching visitors profoundly moved by the stories you have helped us tell.

I know that you all are aware that Andersonville is blessed with highly competent and dedicated staff. They are constantly coming up with new ideas to improve the efficiency of the park while giving the best possible customer service to our 170,000 annual visitors.

In fact it was Fred Sanchez who initiated the concept of a major traveling exhibit that is moving ahead into the final design phase. Once complete, that project will allow us to reach 50,000 more visitors per year with your story. This is an exciting project that I hate to leave in mid-stream but I know with your help that it will come to fruition. I can't tell you how much each and every one of these dedicated public servants mean to me.

After I have departed, the National Park Service will bring in Acting Superintendents to keep things moving forward. It will take about a year to fill the job on a permanent basis. The new crop of Superintendents has been excellent in the last few years. I have every confidence

that Andersonville will get an enthusiastic top performer.

The greatest benefit of this job has been in knowing you. Meeting and developing friendships with so many former POWs and their families has been a gift of a lifetime.

During the years of developing the museum, there were so many AX-POW members that were both dedicated foot soldiers for the cause and became trusted friends for life.

As I learned many of your stories I became even more mindful of how God has blessed our nation with freedom and the patriots who made amazing sacrifices that allow us to live in a free country. There are too many of you to name, but a few especially close friendships I will treasure. I have also seen many of my closest POWs friends leave us. That has been especially difficult. But the positive memories have been preeminent. By far, I have had so much fun with you all, those memories are the best.

Debbie and I will be living in St. Mary's, Georgia. It is a quaint seaside town that is next to Kings Bay Naval Base, home of the Atlantic Fleet's ballistic missile submarine program. Since I am a sailor, I will enjoy that. We plan to keep our roots in Americus and eventually plan to return. That will allow me to continue to be active at Andersonville and our remarkable Museum. If you are ever in St. Mary's, please look us up. It would be my special treat to show the Island.

And from the bottom of my heart, thank you for being such good friends and supporters of Andersonville.

With all my love and best wishes,
Fred

namPOW news



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Navy Commissions New Guided Missile Destroyer Stockdale

Facts below come from the Navy's Commissioning Press Release - editorial comments are the author's alone.

The Navy commissioned the newest Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer, USS Stockdale, during a ceremony on Saturday, April 18, 2009, in Port Hueneme, Calif. In attendance were Stockdale's family, numerous Navy and political leaders and about 35 former POWs who served with Admiral Stockdale in Hanoi. DDG 106, the new destroyer honors Medal of Honor recipient Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale (1923-2005), the legendary leader of American prisoners of war (POWs) during the Vietnam War.

Stockdale was the highest-ranking naval officer and the only Navy Air Wing Commander (CAG) held as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. A brilliant officer, Jim Stockdale was described by the smartest man the author has ever known as the smartest man he ever knew and by the toughest man the author's ever

known as the toughest man he ever knew. While several other Vietnam POWs were higher ranking, none had the proximity to lower ranking prisoners that enabled them to exercise the leadership that held the group together as did "CAG" Stockdale.

Former POW, Charlie Plumb, a nationally known motivational speaker who lives nearby, and who himself was held prisoner for six years Northern Vietnam has been involved in the Stockdale Commissioning and says of the event, "We Ex-POW's from the Vietnam war see the commissioning of the USS Stockdale as more than just putting a new destroyer into naval service. This great ship represents an American icon, Admiral James Bond Stockdale. Many of us owe our very lives to this great leader."

RADM Bob Shumaker, second longest POW in North Vietnam (8 years) was the keynote speaker and highlighted to outstanding leadership "CAG" Stockdale provided to all Vietnam prisoners.

Then Commander and Air Wing 16 Commander (CAG) Stockdale's plane was shot down Sept. 9, 1965, while leading a major combat mission over North Vietnam. Stockdale spent more than seven years in captivity at prisons in North Vietnam, including time at the "Hanoi Hilton" and the infamous "Alcatraz" reserved for those POWs whom the Communists designated as the blackest of criminals. Four of Stockdale's seven years were spent in solitary confinement. While imprisoned, Stockdale is credited with organizing a set of rules to govern the behavior of fel-

low prisoners of war and for helping to develop a code for prisoners to communicate with each other that included tapping on cell walls.

Stockdale's rules formed the acronym B-A-C-K-U-S or "Back US."

- B - No bowing in public (the captors were continually trying to humiliate the POWs)
- A - Stay off the air (North Vietnam continually tried to use the POWs for propaganda)
- C - Admit no crimes (the Communists accused POWs of crimes as an excuse to withhold acceptable treatment)
- K - Don't kiss them goodbye with a favorable statement (Don't leave smiling - the Communists wanted good propaganda)
- U - Unity over
- S - Self



In recognition of his leadership and sacrifice he was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1976.

Stockdale received 26 combat medals and awards, including two Distinguished Flying Crosses, three Distinguished Service Medals, two Purple Hearts and four Silver Stars. He was also named to the Aircraft Carrier Hall of Fame, Naval Aviation Hall of Fame, and was an honorary member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots.

(continued on page 15)

namPOW continued...

Sybil Stockdale served as sponsor of the ship named for her late husband. The ceremony will be highlighted by a time-honored Navy tradition when she gives the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life!" Mrs. Stockdale founded the National League of Families of POWs and actively promoted efforts to improve conditions for the American POWs.

Stockdale is the 56th of 62 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. The ship will be able to conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection.

Stockdale will be capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously and contains a myriad of offensive and defensive weapons designed to supply maritime power to protect U.S. vital interests in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world.

Cmdr. Fred W. Kacher the first commanding officer of the ship (Plankowner in Navy parlance) and will lead the crew of 276 officers and enlisted personnel. The 9,200-ton Stockdale - larger than some WW II vintage cruisers - was built by Bath Iron Works, a General Dynamics Company.

The ship is 509 feet in length, has a waterline beam of 59 feet, and a navigational draft of 31 feet. Four gas turbine engines will power the ship to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

The destroyer Stockdale - like her namesake - is poised to lead the way as our Navy steams into the 21st Century. But with a built-in legacy few of our Navy ships have ever had.



pow-mia



PNC John Edwards Chairman

889 Randall Road
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POW/MIA Archival Research and History

"To continue the worldwide search for historical documents that may contribute to case resolution for U.S. POW/MIAs from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War."

Archival Research Directorate

The Archival Research Directorate (AR) plays a key role in accounting for American POW/MIAs by locating, reviewing, and analyzing historical documents containing details about the context and circumstances of an individual's loss during recent U.S. conflicts.

Since the mid-1990's, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) has developed a worldwide research program, gathering information leading to the fullest possible accounting of U.S. servicemen and selected civilians still missing from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War. DPMO historians who perform archival research have identified more than 400 libraries, archives, and special collections in 20 foreign repositories, and approximately 100 domestic archival facilities as essential tools in the process of accounting for the missing servicemen of past wars. Dur-

ing the last decade, AR researchers have reviewed records in Hanoi, Phnom Penh, Canberra, Seoul, Pyongyang, Geneva, and London, as well as many cities across the continental United States.

The Archival Research Directorate performs most of its historical research in the Washington, DC area, primarily at the National Archives & Records Administration II (NARA II) in College Park, Maryland, the Federal Records Center in Suitland, Maryland, and at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. In the last few years, DPMO researchers have obtained thousands of records that have provided family members information about their loved one's loss, including details about the missing person's unit; the nature of the unit's operation at the time of the individual's disappearance; and the number of individuals missing from the same event. Other records recount the search and recovery efforts undertaken after the incident occurred; graves registration efforts to locate the remains of a lost individual; and any existing burial information. In the Washington, DC area, NARA II is home to hundreds of thousands of records, personnel files, and a host of other military-related documents.

In addition to carrying out case-specific research and analysis, AR historians are developing broader geographic area studies that investigate the history of missing personnel in specific geographic regions and as the result of large-scale battles.

The Directorate also continues development of the Personnel Missing Second World War Database (PMWWII), the first comprehensive list of the more than 78,000 Americans still missing or not identified from World War II.

civilians



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The Siege of Santo Tomas part 2

Hayashi's home was close to the ball park at Koshien, Nishinomiya. He had been in service in Java, was the proud father of children in Japan (by his wife), in China, Java, and Thailand by temporary contacts. He was a desk administrator, ringing his bell and summoning in his staff members as he wished them, but acting largely as a rubber stamp. My guess is that he came in October, but of that I am not sure. (the judge commandant was named Onozaki.) I did not see Hayashi lose his temper, as Yoshie did, but I did get the impression of a systematic mind whenever I had the occasion to interpret for him. The Japanese interpreters always ducked the solemn jobs, and made me handle them. Hayashi organized what he had to say, was apt to read a manuscript, and though smiling, was quite formal on formal occasions. We saw little of him, for he was in an inner room. Occasionally he would wander out in shirt sleeves and carpet slippers. He always had an officer of the day handle roll call, he never acting in that capacity. Who picked him for the job of commandant, I don't know, but it was evident that they needed a man who would attempt to carry through some policies in regard to work that the internees

had been stalling on, so a military man was picked and sent to us.

Demolition began quite early in Manila. Then air raids became increasingly frequent. The island of Mindoro had been acquired just off the coast of Luzon. Air bombing and naval shelling of the Batangas coast (opposite Mindoro) followed. Following New Year's celebration by the Japanese staff they picked up their stuff and sent more of it out of camp. Where, we didn't know. At roll-call on the morning of Jan. 7, 1945, Lt. Shiraji was officer of the day. (He had replaced Komatsu as finance and supply officer.) He made a little speech in which he said orders had been received for the moving of a unit (*but* it might have been a bureau of our administration, which is a department, or a squad of soldiers). He said the internees were not to get nervous but to go along just as usual.

Because it was not quite clear what *he meant*, it seemed wise to get an official text approved before its being put on the loudspeaker, so I went over to the office with a text. The lieutenant in charge of the guards, said to hold off on any loud speaker announcement. At nine o'clock the Internee Committee and the interpreters were called into the commandant's bed-living room. (this was not his office, and indicated less formality.) On the table he had two bottles of rum and six glasses. There were three Japanese and four internees. Hayashi gave orders to hunt up another glass, but I put him at his ease by saying the number was exactly right, for I didn't drink. A jar of sugar stood on the table and Hayashi got a small cup and filled that with brown sugar and set it before me, so I ate sugar while they drank rum.

He opened up with the statement that they had been waiting for the time to set us free. The general in charge of prison camps (prince and General, Koo or Kou? a Korean of the old imperial line) had left Manila (we understood it was by air for Tokyo, but I am not sure whether this was pure supposition or actually told us later) and Hayashi was now in charge of all camps in the Philippines. He

had set Los Baños free that morning and would also set us free, but not quite yet. He must wait for advice from outside. Every little while a message would be relayed to him from the telephone. One such I overheard was that it looked as though the getaway was to be at noon. At first they had considered fortifying the camp and making a stand there, but this would have proved unfair to the women and children, so they decided to make their stand somewhere else, would leave the camp and fight the Americans elsewhere. He himself intended to kill a thousand Americans with his sword, etc., etc. The Americans were not like the Japanese. The Americans considered war as a game. If they lost they surrendered in order to play another game some other time. Not so the Japanese. To them war was a life or death matter. They fought until they won or were dead.

There was much talk, all the men got slightly flushed in their faces and it loosened their tongues. The commandant asked for cake but was told there were no cakes. "Get something." So the solution was reached by opening a couple cans of corned beef. We had to eat with our fingers, but we ate it clean. We were plenty hungry then. He expatiated considerably on the humanitarian attitude of the Japanese as over against the attitude of the Americans, British and Dutch. When he was turning a camp loose he was leaving food supplies for two weeks. When the Americans, British and Dutch turned internees loose, they did it without leaving them anything. He said he didn't want the internees to know they were leaving until alter they were gone. The committee and interpreters were to go to the gate with them and see them off, then the committee was to take the official rolls which then would be granted all stamped, and could hold those to turn over to the first American officer who showed up. In the interim between J. leaving and A. coming in, the camp would be well advised to keep everyone inside, for the military police would be in charge of the city and things might go hard with any internee loose outside.

(Part III in July-August issue)





June 4-6, 2009. Department of Arizona 27th Annual State Convention will be held at the Phoenix-Mesa Holiday Inn, located at 1600 S. Country Club Drive, Mesa, Arizona. For room reservations call 480-964-7000 directly or 1-800-HOLIDAY. Please let them know you're with the AXPOW Dept of AZ State Convention for the discounted room rate. For registration forms and more information, please contact East Valley Chapter Commander, Harry McLane at 480-986-0002.

June 9-11, 2009. The Department of New York Convention will be held at Villa Roma, 356 Villa Roma Road, Callicoon, NY 12723. Claims information and assistance will be available. Nightly entertainment, golf, loads of activities. Call Wm. Lee Birch, State Commander at 718-642-7647 for all the details.

June 12-13, 2009. The Department of West Virginia will hold its annual convention at the Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact Okla & Arlene Edgell, 212 Maplewood Dr., Fairmont, WV 26554; 304-363-5790.

June 18-20, 2009. The Department of North Carolina will hold its State Convention at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC. For reservations call 910-323-0111. You should arrive on the 18th and leave on the 20th. All convention activities will be on the 19th including the banquet. For Additional Information, call Commander Edward Halliburton at 704-846-7302 or contact Paul Dallas at 910-867-2775 or by email; threatt273aol.com.

Aug. 18-23, 2009. The 8th Air Force Historical Society will hold its 35th Annual Reunion at the Millennium

Hotel, Cincinnati, OH. They will be hosting an "Air Corps POW Roundtable as part of the reunion. For more information, contact Gregory Hatton, 350-65th St., Apt. 22C, Brooklyn, NY 11220; 718-836-5951; gregoryhatton@earthlink.net.

August 25-30, 2009. The Third Marine Division Association will hold its annual family reunion in San Antonio, TX at the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. Anyone who served in, was attached to or served in support of the Third Marine Div. at any time is eligible and cordially invited to attend. Contact: Jeffrey Dement, 23830 W Ottawa St., Plainfield, IL 60544; 815-436-3783; jeffdement@aol.com; www.caltrap.com.

August 26-29, 2009. The 80th Infantry Blue Ridge Division Veterans Association will hold its 90th Annual Reunion at the Pittsburgh, PA Airport Marriott Hotel. Call for reservations: 412-788-8800. For more information, contact: Donald Stewart, 412-442-6758; Donald.Stewart@us.army.mil

September 8-13, 2009. The AX-POW National Convention will be held in Boise, ID. Please see convention pages in the Bulletin for more information.



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historical records of the hardships and tragedies experienced by America's POW's in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Call Turner today to place your order: (800)788-3350.

News Briefs

Birmingham Set to Host National Veterans Golden Age Games 23rd Year of VA-Sponsored Sporting Competition

From California to New York, an estimated 700 "golden age" Veterans will travel to Birmingham, Ala., to compete June 1-5 in the world's largest sports and recreational competition for senior Veterans.

The Golden Age Games are open to all U.S. military Veterans age 55 or older who receive care at a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facility. The games give participants the opportunity to compete in ambulatory, visually-impaired and wheelchair divisions, according to their ages. Events include swimming, bicycling, bowling, croquet, air rifle, golf, shuffleboard, horseshoes, discus and shot put.

The 23rd National Veterans Golden Age Games are co-sponsored by VA, Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) and the Veterans Canteen Service (VCS).

This year's event is hosted by the VA medical center in Birmingham.

The games are designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide

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news, continued...

range of abilities and disabilities. Through a partnership with the National Senior Games Association, a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, the games serve as a qualifier for the National Senior Games held every other year.

“HHV is extremely pleased to continue its support of this wonderful therapeutic program,” said Mike Lynch, executive director of HHV. “The games continue to demonstrate VA’s commitment to offer programs that help Veteran patients in their health recovery and to send the message that Americans support their service to our country.”

“The Golden Age Games continue to grow every year, and the athletes who participate are testimony that the spirit of competition, camaraderie and commitment to an actively invigorating lifestyle. This spirit not only helps to prevent illness, it strengthens the hearts and rejuvenates the soul,” said Marilyn Iverson, director of the Veterans Canteen Service.

The majority of the competitive events for the Golden Age Games, including opening and closing ceremonies, will be held at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Center. The opening ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 1. The competition begins with golf on Tuesday, June 2, at 8 a.m., at Highland Golf Course. Closing ceremonies will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 5, at the convention center.

For more information on the Golden Age Games, log on to www.Veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov or call Jenny Tankersley Ballou, public affairs coordinator for the

National Veterans Golden Age Games, at (757) 728-3450 or (757) 660-5239.

Veterans’ Groups Give Unanimous Support to Caregiver & Rural Health Bills at Health Care Hearing

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, chaired a hearing on April 22, 2009 during which several veterans organizations testified in support of pending health care legislation. The backing of Paralyzed Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, and Disabled American Veterans adds momentum to the Chairman’s veterans’ health care agenda, which includes reforming health care funding, breaking down health care barriers for rural veterans, and establishing a permanent support program for family caregivers.

“VA must adapt to the changing needs of America’s veterans and their families. These bills recognize veterans’ families as partners, allow veterans to receive the care they’ve earned, and make veterans’ health care funding more timely and secure. I look forward to moving these important measures from the Veterans’ Affairs Committee to the President’s desk,” said Akaka.

S. 801, the Family Caregiver Program Act of 2009, would establish a permanent program for the caregivers of disabled veterans, providing them with training and certification, access to VA health care and financial support, and new travel benefits.

S. 734, the Rural Veterans Health Care Access and Quality Act of 2009, would improve health care staffing, enhance access to quality care, and provide travel benefits, for veterans living in rural and remote areas.

S. 423, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009, would promote timely and predictable funding for the largest health care system in the country, which has started 19 of the past 22 fiscal years without knowing its budget for the year. S. 423 is cosponsored by a bipartisan group of more than one-third of the Senate, and is supported by the President and numerous veterans service organizations.

Chairman Applauds Passage of Budget Resolution with Advance VA Funding Provision

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee, thanked his colleagues for supporting the fiscal year 2010 Budget Resolution, which contains language based on his bill to provide secure funding for veterans’ health care one year ahead of the regular budget process.

While the Budget Resolution is non-binding, it plays a major role in guiding appropriations, and the inclusion of advance funding for veterans marks yet another step forward for the **Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009**.

“The inclusion of the advance funding provision in the Budget Resolution shows growing momentum for securing on-time funding for veterans’ health care. I thank Chairman Conrad and my other colleagues for including this important provision, and I look forward to the enactment of my broadly supported bipartisan bill to improve veterans’ health care,” said Akaka.



Never Forgotten

Armory dedicated to Edwards, Erwin Nine

by Lesley Hughes, News Editor
The Erwin Record
423-743-4112

They will never be forgotten.

A sign unveiling the new name of the National Guard Armory in Erwin (Tennessee) will ensure just that, and the men of the famed "Erwin Nine" and Sgt. 1st Class Mark O. Edwards will not be forgotten and their service to the community, county and country will live on through the armory's new name.

A new sign at 615 S. Main Ave. reads "Erwin Nine/SFC Mark Edwards Armory" and was dedicated Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008 in honor and in memory of nine World War II veterans - the "Erwin Nine" - and Mark Edwards, a Tennessee National Guard soldier who died while deployed with his Erwin unit in 2005.

"As we gather here today to remember and honor these brave men, it is a somber occasion," Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett said. "Were honoring men who without a doubt put their lives on hold to defend everything we enjoy here today. (They are) brave men who were willing to put their lives on hold to ensure

that we continue to enjoy the liberty that we enjoy.

"Although their service was more than 50 years apart, these brave men had the same beliefs. They believe like Daniel Webster believed more than 150 years ago, God grants liberty to only those who love it and are always willing to guard and defend it. Mark Edwards and the 'Erwin Nine' loved liberty and proved through their service that they were ready to defend it."

The "Erwin Nine" is the name given to nine World War II soldiers captured separately in Germany who all, incredibly, were from the small town of Erwin. The member of the U.S. Army Air Force who were shot down at different times and at different places during the Allied Forces bombing of Germany in 1944. They were subsequently - and coincidentally - imprisoned in the same German prisoner-of-war camp in Stalag Luft IV, even though there were more than 50 prison camps scattered across Nazi Germany. All nine endured the living conditions as POWs and returned home to their families after the war. Two of the three still-living members of the "Erwin Nine" - Dick Franklin and George Hatcher - were in attendance on Saturday. Stan Norris was unable to travel to witness the event.

The "Erwin Nine" and the dates

each member was shot down in 1944 are: Clyde D. Tinker, Feb. 8; James H. Hensley Jr., Feb. 22; Allen S. Alford, Feb. 24; George D. Swingle, April 27; George L. Hatcher Jr., May 27; J. Fred

Miller, July 2; Dick L. Franklin, July 12; Homer Stanley Norris, July 22 and Richard G. Edwards Jr., Sept. 13.

"I am very proud and honored," Franklin said.

"I'm especially proud and honored it's the Tennessee National Guard that did it. Even though we flew, there was not an Air Force until 1947. We were a branch of the Army. I've always had a soft spot for the National Guard. These are the people who let us sleep easier at night. They are all volunteers and are always there when we call them."

Franklin, 84, a POW for 10 months, was popular among many of the "Erwin Nine" during his time at Stalag Luft because he had just returned from Erwin less than 10 weeks before. Many of the soldiers wanted to have an update from Erwin. They wanted details on if he had seen their families and wives.

"The upper most thought in my mind today was really about the ones who are not here," Franklin said, his thoughts drifting back to 1944.

"It comes rushing back. It's been so long ago that it's pretty well out, but anytime something like this comes up, you tend to remember. Things come back that you haven't thought of in a long time. My main thought today was for the ones who aren't here."

Sue Jean Wilson attended in memory of her late uncle, Clyde Tinker. "It's very moving and very fitting," Wilson said. "I was always amazed that nine men from Erwin were placed in the same camp. It was one of those things that was meant to be. It made them stron-



Maj. Gen. Gus L. Hargett speaks during Saturday's ceremony naming the armory in honor of and in memory of the "Erwin Nine" and Sgt. 1st Class Mark Edwards.

never forgotten, cont'd...

ger, and I believe that's why they all made it back home."

Although Tinker passed away years ago, Wilson said knowing the "Erwin Nine" will forever be remembered would have "pleased him greatly."

A large crowd of citizens, politicians, dignitaries and soldiers watched as the armory's new plaque was unveiled.

"It brought tears to my eyes," said Hatcher, 88, who was a POW for 11 months and three days and lost 35 pounds from starvation and forced marches across Germany. "It's a great honor to have the 'Erwin Nine' mentioned and named for the armory," Hatcher said. "I just wish all the members of the 'Erwin Nine' who have gone on before us could be here to celebrate with us. I am so proud of the town of Erwin and the people here who came to celebrate with us. It's a wonderful feeling. It makes me proud to look back and see that I served."

Charlotte Edwards, widow of Richard Edwards Jr., wished her late husband was alive to witness Saturday's honor. "He would have been impressed. Tremendously," she said. "I just think it is all wonderful."

She took the day to not only remember her husband, the "Erwin Nine" and Mark Edwards, but to thank the Guardsmen who attended the ceremony for their sacrifices and service to the country.

"I have just been telling them, 'Thank you,' " she said, greeting each person in uniform. "I just want to thank them, not only for today, but mostly for their service."



Some family members of the "Erwin Nine" attended Saturday's event. Pictured, from left, are Margaret Swingle, Faye Hensley, Charlotte Edwards and Doris Alford.

The dedication and unveiling ended with the "POW Prayer," written by Miller while he was captive in Stalag Luft:

"Alone - always lonely, and filled with harm," Miller wrote. "Understood only by a comrade in arms. Love of your God, your country, and your own. We never lost faith in our loved ones at home."

Along with the Erwin Nine, the armory was also named in memory of Sgt. 1st Class Mark O. Edwards. Mark Edwards passed away on June 9, 2005, in Iraq while serving his deployment with the H Company 2nd Squadron of the 278th Army Calvary Regiment. He was a veteran of 22 years of military service.

"I've heard Mark was a diligent servant who took his Bible with him as he worked as a mechanic," Hargett said.

"His friends told me how he was an inspiration to everyone he came in contact with. It is only fitting that this memorial will stand as a tribute to Mark for all of his fellow soldiers at this armory that we call home. To Mark's family, thank you for sharing Mark with us. We all miss him greatly."

Kim Edwards, Mark's widow, held back tears as she explained that her husband would have been greatly honored and would make the same sacrifices today if he were still alive.

"What Mark did, if he were here today, he would do it again," she said. "This is an honor for him and the other men to know that they will not be forgotten. It's a wonderful experience. It's like no other feeling I can't explain."

Hearing the words spoken by Hargett about her husband, Kim was proud to have known and loved Mark. "It made me, myself honored to know a man like Mark," she said. "Ev-

erybody that knew him loved him. He was a hero. He was a hero to this country."

Others in attendance were equally proud of Mark's service to his country and the honor of his name adorning the armory along with the "Erwin Nine."

"It's beyond measure," said Catherine Edwards, Mark's aunt. "He is probably looking down today and saying, 'Yes, I am proud.' "

Mark was mobilized with his unit on June 17, 2004, nearly one year before his death on June 9, 2005. "I can see him and how happy he was the last time I saw him," Kim paused through tears. "He came back in and then he got back on the plane. He didn't regret anything he did for his country. He was honored."

For the "Erwin Nine" and for Mark Edwards, Catherine pointed to the memories that live on after they're gone that makes the dedication mean so much. "This lets us know that he will never be forgotten," Catherine said.

To that, Kim added, "That is so important. It is. It means everything."

Veterans Day for Veterans

As we all know, US Congress set aside November 11 of each year to recognize our country's greatest heroes, our veterans. However, many veterans are not allowed the day off from work to accept our gratitude for their sacrifices. Many are "blue-collar" workers that don't have the day off, and in some cases are forbidden from taking the day off to participate in Veteran's Day activities. I heard one man share a story that he asked for the day off and was told he could not have it. When he stated that he would take it without pay he was told that if he took the day off there would not be a job waiting for him on his return.

We are circulating petitions to bring awareness to this issue. We simply want a veteran to be able to take Veteran's Day off, a day created for him/her, without penalty from their employer. Our government felt that it was important enough to set aside November 11 to honor our veterans; we only want the right for all veterans to be able to participate in recognition activities if they choose.

I am attaching a copy of the petition we are using. Is there any way it could be published in the Bulletin with an explanation of our cause? We hope to be able to show our State Representatives and Senators that there is indeed an interest in this cause. We are getting interest and signatures from veterans and interested citizens across the country. We would like to ask AXPOW members to obtain as many signatures as possible by approaching local chapters of Veteran organizations, neighbors, and friends.

Petitions can be returned to me at the address on the petition.

VETERAN'S DAY For VETERANS (Also)

We the undersigned call on our elected Representatives in the United States to amend Fed. Law 5 U.S.C. See 6103 and Pub. Law 94-97 (Stat.479). To Wit: Being that the Veteran who served in turn will be Honored by having the choice of being off from their employment on Veteran's Day.

Organization: _____

Please return completed petitions to: VDFVA Committee, Susan Vinson,
Past Secretary-Treasurer, Palmetto Chapter AXPOW
606 Old Friars Rd.
Columbia, SC 29210

Please sign on top line and print your name on the line underneath.

1. _____	12. _____	23. _____
_____	_____	_____
2. _____	13. _____	24. _____
_____	_____	_____
3. _____	14. _____	25. _____
_____	_____	_____
4. _____	15. _____	26. _____
_____	_____	_____
5. _____	16. _____	27. _____
_____	_____	_____
6. _____	17. _____	28. _____
_____	_____	_____
7. _____	18. _____	29. _____
_____	_____	_____
8. _____	19. _____	30. _____
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9. _____	20. _____	_____
_____	_____	_____
10. _____	21. _____	_____
_____	_____	_____
11. _____	22. _____	_____
_____	_____	_____



American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2009



Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

To be eligible to run for a national office, a candidate must have been a member for the 3 previous years. Submit to: Grover Swearingen, Chairman, 408 Fair Park Avenue, West Union, OH 45693 ~ (937) 544-2459; db6194@dragonbbs.com

National Convention Tentative Agenda Sept. 8-13, 2008

Tuesday Sept. 8:
National Service Officer Training
Registration Desk Open in PM

Wednesday Sept. 9:
National Board of Directors Meeting
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Thursday Sept. 10:
Opening Ceremonies
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Credentials Room Open
Ladies Luncheon
Legislative & MedSearch Seminars
Commanders Reception with Entertainment

Friday Sept. 11:
Past National Commanders Breakfast
General Business Session
Camp Reunions

Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Saturday Sept. 12:
General Business Session & Balloting
Banquet and Installation of Officers

Sunday Sept. 13:
Devotional
National Board of Directors Meeting

Note: If you are staying for the banquet, you will be checking out on Sunday, Sept. 13. If you are planning to attend the new Board of Directors meeting, please make plans to depart later in the day on Sunday.

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AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11

Ad Pricing

Black & White	Color
Full Page\$250	\$500
Half Page... .\$175	\$300
Quarter Page...\$125	
BusinessCard..\$50	

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Ad Size: _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

**Checks Payable to:
2009 Convention Fund
Mail Form with Ad materials and
check to: Marsha Coke, National
Headquarters, 3101 E. Pioneer Pkway,
Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010**

Sept 8-13, 2009
 ~~ **Boise Idaho** ~~

To be held at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Boise. Room rates are \$92 per night, plus tax. Parking at the hotel and airport transportation are free. Registration will be \$77 per person and include the following:

- ~ Welcoming Package with name button, itinerary, list of attendees, & local information
 - ~ Hospitality Room stocked with snacks & beverages all 5 days
 - ~ All associated taxes and gratuities
- (Ladies Luncheon will be \$17.00 per person.)

**Call the Doubletree at 208-343-1871 no later than August 7, 2009
 to make your hotel reservations.**

Doubletree Riverside Hotel
 2903 Chinden Boulevard
 Boise, Idaho 83717

REGISTRATION FORM

YES SIGN ME UP FOR AMERICAN EX POW'S ANNUAL CONVENTION!!!

NAME _____

POW CAMP _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME OF YOUR GUESTS _____

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST CONVENTION? YES: _____ NO: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

NUMBER OF PERSONS ATTENDING _____	x	\$77	=	_____
LADIES LUNCHEON NUMBER ATTENDING _____	x	\$17	=	_____
CITY/WARHAWK TOUR NUMBER ATTENDING _____	x	\$33	=	_____
SHAKESPEARE THEATER NUMBER ATTENDING _____	x	\$43	=	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED			=	_____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 8, 2009

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT
 50721 State Hwy 410 E Greenwater, WA 98022; (360)663-2521

Confirmation of Registration and Itinerary will be sent out by August 15, 2009. A \$20 per person cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations received within 30 days of the event. Cancellations received within 10 days of the event will be non-refundable. Call the DoubleTree Hotel at 208-343-1871 no later than August 7, 2009 to make your hotel reservations. Be sure to mention you are with the American EX-POW Convention to receive your group rate of \$92 a night, plus tax. These prices are available 3 days prior to and after your event should you choose to extend your stay.

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We'll see you soon in beautiful Boise Idaho!!

THE BOTTOM LINE

I have found that it is like walking on eggs when promoting a fund-raising drive, particularly in these recessionary times, when so many people are hurting financially.

In my article, KEEPING AXPOW STRONG, I even had the nerve to suggest that we raise several million dollars in the next five years, and create a bottom line fund to provide income for what may become a legacy organization.

Let me try to explain why this is not too ambitious.

First, however, let me say that this appeal is not directed toward anyone with limited means. There are many ex-prisoners of war who have a very limited income as well as some widows.

Now, allow me to walk on eggs, or skate on thin ice when I appeal to those ex-prisoners of war like myself who have benefited from well-deserved ex-POW compensation, and have also been blessed with a successful busi-

ness career. We must contribute voluntarily. We are not being pressured to give back our award. We give in gratitude, to insure that the presumptives we all fought for are preserved, and to continue service officer activity.

Let me guess that among our 20,000 members there are 5,000 like me who believe we should try to prevent the closing of our doors within the next five years. If we each gave just \$100 a year for the next five years, over and above what we contribute for address labels, or memorial donations, we could create a trust of \$2,500,000 in five years. YES WE CAN! Let's all 5,000 of us give \$100 via the Volunteer Funding Program before the convention to prove that it can work.

Then we will all dance with joy, or at least stomp our canes in Boise.

Lew Sleeper
National Director, Southwest
6636 E VillaDoradoTucson, AZ 85715
(520) 751-9628 Voice
(520) 490-1082 Cell
sleepjl@aol.com

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)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

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

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Mail contributions to: Sonnie Bill Mottern
National Treasurer, American Ex-Prisoners of War
279 Huckleberry Road, Bluff City, TN 37618; 423-341-4213
Donations are not tax-deductible at this time



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

Arthur Tilley, Bangor ME
In memory of Anna Wilkinson, by Adeline Robinson
In memory of Bernard 'Bernie' Krommendyk, by Adeline Robinson
In memory of Bette Simpson, by Arturo & Elisa Camacho
In memory of Blount Trice, by SAP Client Services at Conoco Phillips Co
In memory of Charles "Eldon" Randall, by Bonnie & Steve Wilson

In memory of Delilah Ahrens, by Keith & Randine Shepherd
In memory of Edward Johnson, by Dennis Adamscheck
In memory of Edwin Lewis Gardner, by Bill & Jean Blount
In memory of Edwin Lewis Gardner, by M/M Blair McCaslin
In memory of Edwin Lewis Gardner, by Gail Bundrick
In memory of Martha Parrish, by Keith & Randine Shepherd
In memory of Oren Hanbaum, by Margaret Roessler
In memory of Vincent Aguilera, by Arturo & Elisa Camacho
In memory of William Wanhala, by Dennis Adamscheck

MEDSEARCH FUND

In memory of Mary Leonard, by the Northwest Central Ohio Chapter
In memory of Steve Czecha, by JM Tommy Anderson
In memory of Stephen Czecha, by the Department of Maryland

BULLETIN

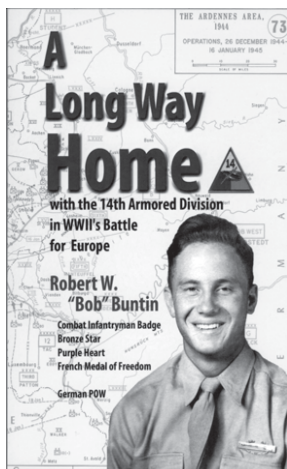
Brooklyn Key Chapter

Volunteer Funding

George Schroski
Rudy & Ruby Johnson
Francis Stack
Eugene & Irene Ostrowski
John W & Betty Bauer
Iris & Orlando Friesen
Marvin Roslansky
John & Lorna Brinser
Gerald Hanus
Elsie & Karla Barnes
Leonard & Shirley Graeser
RT & MS Kaufman
John & Arletia Stewart
CJ & Mary McCurry
Tom Wilkens
Mae Morgan
John & Nancy Vuchetich
Teofil & Norma Golec
Lawrence Prince
Arthur & Beatrice Alexander
John Bulla

NSO

James Bowler, Rochester MN
In memory of William 'Bill' Fornes, by the Department of Georgia
In memory of Winfred Gaines, by the Department of Georgia



This is a personal account of becoming separated from the remnants of my company and lost in the Vosges Mountains of Southeastern France on New Years Day, 1945. It is a story of survival in the bitter cold of snow-covered mountains, avoiding capture, then suffering that fate after almost a week, all alone, and surviving captivity. It is also my experiences as a member of a rifle squad, of being wounded; and about

love and war, and the intertwining of the two. It is an autobiography about growing up in Southside Virginia on a farm, voluntarily drafted into the Army; and becoming a member of the First Rifle Squad of the Third Platoon of 'C' Company, 62nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 14th Armored Division ("The Liberators").

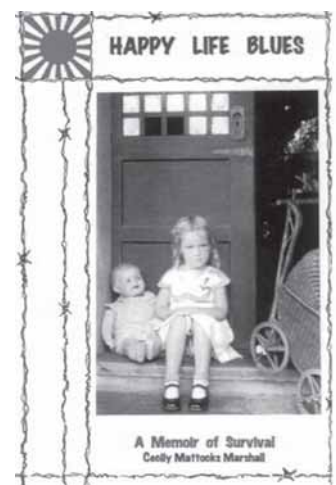
A Long Way Home, by Bob Buntin
Paperbacks \$15 Hardbacks \$20
add \$2 for shipping and handling.
Send your order, check payable to: Bob Buntin
505 College Ave., Blackstone, Va. 23824

HAPPY LIFE BLUES

Even as the storm clouds of war were gathering in the Pacific, the Mattocks family was living a happy and productive life in the Philippines. HAPPY LIFE BLUES tells the story of how their lives were changed forever after the events of December, 1941.

It recounts the peaceful prewar days, their years of hiding and imprisonment and how they adapted to those dramatic events. Despite the years of loss, deprivation and uncertainty of the future, the family maintained an optimistic spirit which would sustain them in their struggle for survival.

Available: Amazon.com
Or write to: Cecily Marshall,
290 Goodale St.,
W. Boylston, MA 01583
Price \$15.00 plus \$3.50 S/H



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taps



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

ARKET, Eugene Charles, 87, of Hoover, AL passed away March 25, 2009. During WWII, he served in the Army; he was a POW in Germany. Gene was a member of AXPOW. Survivors include 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 brother, 4 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

BAKKEN, Stewart E. died Feb. 2, 2009. He was assigned to the 117th Inf. Reg. and fought in the Normandy and Siegfried line campaigns. He was captured Oct. 9, 1944 and held in Stalag IIIC until he escaped during a Russian attack on the camp. He was a life member of AXPOW and frequent volunteer at the Fargo VA. He is survived by 3 sons and 6 grandchildren.

BAUSWELL, Nelda, member of the Okaw Chapter (Illinois) AXPOW, passed away on April 7, 2009. She is survived by a husband, Victor.

CRESS, Delbert H., of Spokane, WA died Feb. 9, 2009 at the age of 86. He served with the 8th AF, 455th BG, 701st BS during WWII. He was shot down over Germany and held for 14 months in Stalag Luft IV. Del was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his beloved wife of 63 years, Fay, 3 daughters, 8 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

DUNLAP, Bernice "Bunny", of Cape Coral, FL, formerly of Plymouth Meeting and Philadelphia, PA passed away March 26, 2009. For 51 years she was the loving wife of ex-POW Charles Dunlap, who predeceased her. Charles was past commander of the SW POW Chap-

ter 100, AXPOW. She is survived by a large, caring extended family.

ETHRIDGE, Robert C. passed away April 5, 2009. He enlisted in the Navy and saw action in North Africa, where he was shot down, wounded and taken prisoner of war. He is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Bob was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona and a life member of AXPOW.

FEREK, Mary "Virginia", 88, of Ft. Lauderdale, FL died March 3, 2009. She was the widow of Victor Ferek who had been a POW in Germany. She was a kind and loving person who will be greatly missed by the Oakland Park Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves two nephews and their families and many friends.

GLASSON, James Avery "Butch" of Taft, TX died Feb. 16, 2009. He was 86 years old. During WWII, he served with the 461st BG, flying B-24s. He was shot down over Yugoslavia, captured and held in Stalag 7A. Butch was the commander of the Corpus Christi Chapter, AXPOW for 10 years. He is survived by his wife, Maxine, 2 daughters, 1 son and 8 grandchildren.

GODWIN, Louis W., 87, of Princeton, TX died July 16, 2008. Luis served with the Second Engineers in the Army. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. He was a life member of AXPOW. Hazel, his wife of 63 years survives him; he also leaves 1 sister, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

HEDIN, Carl, of Sachse, Texas, died April 18, 2009. A member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, Carl served with 384 BG, 544 BS and was

held in Luft I. He is survived by his wife, Gretchen.

HOWARTH, Lois G., 92, of Molalla, OR passed away in March 2009. Her husband, James, preceded her in death. He served in the 351st BG, 511th BS, 8th AF during WWII; he was shot down over Germany. Lois was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW.

INZER, Paul G., of Montgomery Creek, CA died Dec. 12, 2008. He was 83. Paul was captured in the Philippines while serving in the Army. He survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity, including time in the Japanese coal mines. He leaves his loving wife, Jean, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

LARIOZ, Martin, 76, of Moses Lake, WA passed away Jan 25, 2009. He served in the 5th Reg., 1st Cav., "E" Co., 2nd Bn. during the Korean War. He was captured at Waegwan on Aug. 15, 1950. Martin was on the 400 mile Korean Death March; he was a survivor of the Sun'Chon tunnel massacre. He was held at Camps 4 & 1 and other isolated areas at Chosen Reservoir. In 1951, he escaped and made it back to US lines. Martin was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter. He was past commander of the Dept. of Washington, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 stepchildren and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

LEONARD, Mary L., 87, of Lima, OH died March 13, 2009. Mary was the wife of Richard, who survives her. Both were members of the Northwest Central Ohio Chapter #7, AXPOW. She also is survived by 1 son,

taps continued...

1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

MALCOLM, George S., 85, of Ft. Lauderdale, FL passed away Mar. 23, 2009. During WWII, George served with the 8th AF, 545th BS, 384th BG H, Wing 1. He was shot down and captured by the Germans and was a POW for 14 months. George was a member of the Oakland Park Chapter AXPOW. He served as JVC, then SVC and was a great asset. He is survived by his loving wife, Julia, 2 sons, 3 daughters, 14 grandchildren and many friends.

McElroy, Jess R., a member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW passed away March 9, 2009. He joined the Navy at 17 and the Reserves after the war. He was called back to duty in the Korean War as the third member of a single engine airplane. His plane was shot down Dec. 13, 1951, and he was taken POW. He was a member of the '364 Mile March' in bitter sleet and ice; later he worked in coal mines.

McMULLIN, George W "Bill" of Alamo, TX died April 2, 2006. He was 84. Bill was captured while serving with the 106th Inf. Div., 423rd Reg., Co. K during WWII. He was held in 9B. Survivors include his wife, Juanita, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 17 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

MICELI, James J. passed away Feb. 3, 2009 at the age of 87. Jim served in the AAC as a bombardier and navigator during WWII; he was shot down over the Ploesti Oil Fields and held in Romania. He is survived by two daughters and six grandchildren who miss him dearly.

NESTLE, Louise, life member of AXPOW and the Agua Fria Chapter passed away April 11, 2009. Louise served as Communications Attendant for the chapter. Her husband, Leahman, deceased

in 2003, was a Pacific POW having been in Corregidor, Bilibid. Louise is survived by two sons.

PAINTER, Martin J., 85, of Spokane, WA died Dec. 3, 2008. He was preceded in death by his brother POW LaVerne E. (2nd Observation SQ; he died when the Hellship "Shinyo Maru" was sunk). Martin was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Una, and two sons.

PAWLUK, Walter S., 91, of Meriden, CT died March 15, 2009. He served with the 106th Inf. Div., 422nd Inf. A.T. Co. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and held at Stalags 4B, 2A and 8A. Walter was a life member of the Connecticut Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 2 daughters, 1 grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren.

PETERSON, J. Paul, of Portland, CT died April 2, 2009. He was 89. Paul was captured while serving with the 15th AF, 459th BG, 759th BS. He flew two missions of the Ploesti oil fields and was shot down over Hungary. He was held in Luft IV, then marched across Germany. Paul was a life member of the Connecticut Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 1 brother, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

PETERSON, Magnor Andreas "Pete" died April 3, 2009 in Vancouver, WA. He was 94. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1940 and was assigned to the 19th Bomb Group, 93rd Bomb Squadron. He was first deployed to Clark Field, then Bataan. He survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity in the Philippines and Japan. Pete was a member of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Northwest Chapter and the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Fort Vancouver Chapter. Survivors include his loving wife of 62 years, Bernice Cora, 2 daughters, 1 son, 5

grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

PITOTTI, Dario, of Beckley, WV passed away March 4, 2009. During WWII, he served with the 15th AF; 306th Wing. He was shot down on a bombing mission and captured; he was held in Stalag Luft III for one year. Dario was a member of AXPOW and the West Virginia Chapter. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Helen, 3 daughters and 2 sons.

PRATER, Frank, of Gause, Texas, died in March, 2009. He was a North China Marine captured by the Japanese in Tientsen China on Dec. 8 1941 and held in China and then in Hakido Japan and was released Sept. 11, 1945.

PROVOST, Theodore F. "Ted", age 90, of Navarre, Ohio passed away April 13, 2009. He was held as a POW after he was captured with his ship the *USS Pigeon ASR G*. Ted was a member of ADBC and the North Central Ohio Chapter 8 AXPOW. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife of 63 years, Marvella; 1 daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, 1 brother and 2 sisters.

RAHAL, Nicholas S., 87, of Watertown, CT died Feb. 21, 2009. He served with the 36th Inf. Div. Field Artillery, took part in the initial landing at Salerno, Italy, and was captured at Mount Casino. He was a POW at Oflag 64 and 7A. Nick was a member of the Connecticut Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Gail, relatives and friends.

REID, Dean W., 85, of Spokane, WA passed away Feb. 22, 2009. He served with the 8th AF, 379th BG during WWII. His plane was shot down over Germany and he was held for almost one year at Sagan, Nuremberg and Moosberg. Dean was a member of the Spokane-In-

taps continued...

land Empire Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 62 years, Margaret, 1 son, 1 daughter and 6 grandchildren.

SEMYAN, Michael, 87, of Youngstown, OH died April 13, 2009. During WWII, he was serving with the 8th Infantry. He was captured and held until liberation. Michael was a member of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW. His wife of 59 years, Helen, predeceased him; survivors include one daughter, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and one sister.

THOMPSON, Harry A. Jr., of Pharr, TX passed away April 21, 2008. He was 86. Harry was captured while serving with the AAC. He was held in Stalag Luft III for one year. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Rose, 2 sons, 1 sister, 2 brothers, 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

WENZEL, Lorene, wife of ex-POW Martin, died in April, 2009. Both Lorene and Martin were members of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW.

WILKINSON, Anna, 85, of Sioux City, Iowa, passed away April 4, 2009. She was the wife of Howard Wilkinson, also deceased, who was a Japanese POW. He was liberated from Camp #10 Batanges Luzon. They were members of the Iowa Tri-State Chapter. They have three daughters, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

WINN, Donald, of Aransas Pass, Texas, died April 17, 2009. A member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, Donald served with 8th AF, 93rd BG and was held in Nuremburg and Stalag VII A. He is survived by his wife, Jean.

Ex-POW Bulletin
June 2009
28

Grave Marker Ceremony



Union, or Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) grave marker.

Date: June 20, 2009

Time: 5pm

Location: Thurmond-Fairview Cemetery, just outside Rhome, Wise County, Texas (From Rhome, take US 81/287 north about 3 miles to FM 407; follow FM 407 east about 1.5 miles to cemetery.)

Biography;

Cyrenius Waite (C.W.) James was born in Pulaski County, Kentucky on January 4, 1831, where he made his living as a farmer. Twenty years later on March 18, 1851, he was married to Amanda (Mandy) Jane Hall in Pulaski Co., KY where she birthed their first two children, John and William Henry "Billy" James.

Six years after marrying in KY, Mandy and C.W. moved to Champaign County, Illinois. Mandy bore six more children in IL who were named: George Mack, Squire Martin, Mary Martha, Andrew Jackson, Harvey and Sarah Ellen "Ellie" James.

Tuscola, IL is where James enlisted on August 1, 1862, as a volunteer Private under Colonel Allen Buckner. One month later on Au-

gust 28, 1862 in Mattoon, IL, he was organized and mustered into Company B of the 79th Regiment of IL Volunteers.

On December 30-31, 1862 and January 1-3, 1863, the 79th was stationed near Murfreesboro, Tennessee at Camp Sill; where the regiment engaged in the battle of Stones River.

James was captured on December 31, 1862 by the Confederate Army, along with almost 3,000 other Union soldiers. After the capture in Murfreesboro, TN, he was transferred to a Prisoner Of War camp in Marietta, Georgia. James spent time as a POW in GA until April 30, 1863, when he returned to his company.

One year and one month after Cyrenius Waite James was released from prison on June 1, 1864; he was promoted to Full Corporal. Then on September 2, 1864, James was notably wounded in the left leg during a battle in front of Lovejoy's Station as a noncommissioned officer. Corporal James was mustered out of service on June 12, 1865 at Camp Butler, Springfield, IL and discharged on June 23, 1865.

In 1872, he and his family traveled to Rhome, Wise Co., Texas from IL where Mandy gave birth to their last two children, Rhoda Ann and Marion Albert James.

After preserving the Union, James was no longer able to farm, or work, because of his condition. And, he battled the U.S. government for a \$16.00 increase in his pension for a total of 46 years, until he passed away. Like many other native Illinois settlers, on July 8, 1911 Cyrenius Waite James died in Rhome, Texas.

Jack Christopher Blair
Life Member, AXPOW
jack.blair@mavs.uta.edu



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MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION**
to honor a loved one or a former colleague
Donations are not tax-deductible.

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Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)

new members

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



Annual Members

Welcome Home

Carolyn S Noonan
 Walnut Springs TX
 Stepdaughter of Terence Kirk PAC

Sandra G McCloud
 Robert E 33412 39588
 Robertsdale AL
 Daughter of Louis Guillory ETO

Inez Sands Taylor 39592
 MacClenny FL
 Widow of Lonnie James Taylor
 7A

Life Members

Welcome Home

*new member to AXPOW

John F Rothermich
 Adeheid R 5081 39586
 Buchanan GA
 6 Armd Inf 1 Armd Div
 3B Bari Hospital Italy

George Scott Miller Jr 39589
 Goshen NY
 Descendant of Civil War POW

Herbert A Gears *39593
 Irving TX
 Grandson of Ruben Huff ETO

Sherman Lee Jones
 Nelda 22519 39587
 Canyon, TX
 29 RCT
 Taejon Ryanyong Seoul

Manuel Leal Jr 39590
 Brownsville TX
 38 Inf Div
 9B

Jerry Allen *39594
 Wayzata MN
 Son of Robert G Allen ETO

Mildred W Kirk 39591
 Burleson TX
 Widow of Terence Sumner Kirk
 PAC

Florentino B Moscoso
 Dolores *39595 39596
 Los Angeles CA
 Battery D 88 FA
 Capas Tarlac
 5/7/42-5/18/45

request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

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

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

Do NOT send dues with this request for an application

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

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 June 2009
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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

The Department of New York Convention will be held June 9-11, 2009



Villa Roma,
356 Villa
Roma Road,
Callicoon, NY
12723;
Telephone
(845) 887-4880; Toll Free: 1-800-533-6767.

All POWs have free registration and rooms are half price! There will be a documentary film company on hand to record your stories. Claims information and assistance will be available. Nightly entertainment, golf, loads of activities. The highlight of the convention will be Secretary of Veterans Affairs General Eric Shinseki who will be there for the banquet.

Call Wm. Lee Birch, State Commander at 718-642-7647 for all the details.

50/50 drawing

March 6, 2009
Arlington, Texas

1st Place	Alice Gilligan New York, NY	\$676.40
2nd Place	Robert Boebel Fox Lake, WI	\$507.30
3rd Place	Victor Breite St. Louis, MO	\$338.20
4th Place	John DeVere South Charleston, WV	\$169.10

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

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

They Experienced Living Hell as POWs.

SILENT TEARS Lest We Forget



by
STANLEY TOKARZ

Stan Tokarz's brother John survived Japanese prison labor camps after enduring the horrors of the infamous Bataan Death March. It was after the fall of the Philippines to the Japanese invaders. Those horrors and torture were never discussed by John, who died in 1991. He just refused to talk about World War II when it came up, indicating that he and the other POWs. had suffered a great deal.

Stan Tokarz researched the ordeals of capture, torture, starvation, murder, brutality and confinement of the many prisoners of Bataan because he feels our younger generations must have a record of the hell on earth at the hands of the Japanese that our survivors of Bataan and life in the PO camps endured in WWII.

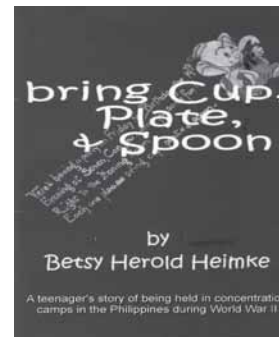
send check or money order:

\$25.00

Stanley R. Tokarz
70 Briarwood Circle
Worcester, MA 01606

On Monday morning, 8 December 1941, we Brent School kids wildly cheered to a formation of air planes flying directly to Tokyo., "Go to there and bomb it to smithereens!"

Several hours later we heard big BOOM-BOOM and saw thick black smoke rising from Camp John Hay... the American Army base in Baguio, Philippines. The sun played a trick on us so we couldn't see the big, round red "rotten fried egg" under the wings. Suddely it dawned on us that those planes were Japanese. Twenty days later we were captured, ordered to meet at Brent School for a 3 hour or 3 day meeting that actually lasted for over three yreas of starvation, depravation, humiliation. Lacking utensliis in the Prison Camp, and for the few birthday parties, we had to tell our guests to bring CUP, PLATE AND SPOON.



BRING CUP, PLATE AND SPOON available from author: Betsy Herold Heimke
13820 Metcalf Ave. Apt 11320
Overland Park, KS 66223
k.heimke@sbcglobal.com
Price \$20.00 plus \$4.00 S/H

Ex-POW Bulletin
June 2009

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Name: _____ Telephone: () _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

Mail your donation and entry to: **American Ex-Prisoners of War
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Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter.
Thank you for your support. (09/09)

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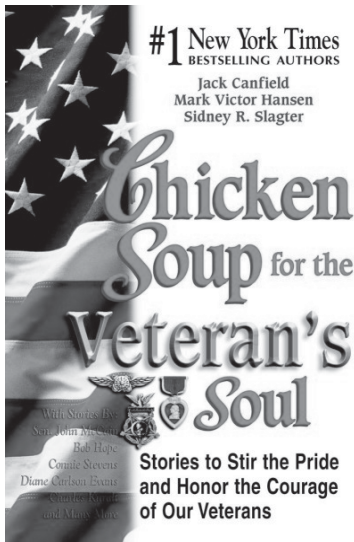
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Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



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AXPOW Vests!

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