

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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June 2008



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*Inside...More pictures of our newest BG/Former POW
Rhonda Cornum...Convention News and Forms...
News, Outreach, Events...NSO Success Stories and more*

A Grand Pinning!

Here she's shown with husband Col. Kory Cornum & LTG Walter Sharp; with Col. William Andrews (who had been shot down earlier and was the subject of the search that ended with her own capture; with her mom, Jen Scott and Dave Coker, Fisher House Foundation President; with Kory; Mr. Arthur Wu, Staff Director, U.S. House Veterans Affairs Comm., Oversight and Investigations, Rhonda, daughter Regan Fawley; BG Goodwin, Vaught, LTG Dunwoody & Spouse; Alice Booher & new BG Rhonda Cornum.



national commander



Warren G. King, Sr.

I recently attended the Advisory Committee meeting on Former Prisoners of War held at the Veterans Building in Washington, D.C. It was very informative, including suggestions to help the spouses and the home bound Ex Prisoners of War.

The Senate Bill (1315) on Osteoporosis has been entered with other bills and last word on it was that it had passed. No word on the House bill yet. It appears that the Diabetes bill will not be included with the others.

As I entered the area where the meeting was held, I was introduced to the Chairman of the Committee, Dr. Thomas M. McNish by Mary Rolen from the D.C. POW office. I also met the Honorable Gordon H. Mansfield, Deputy Secretary - Department of Veteran Affairs, who was there to address the committee. They both look forward to working closely with us and assured us the Committee will strongly support our efforts to get better services to our diminishing Ex-POW ranks.

Other reports included comments, observations and recommendations from different people that were not on the committee. Other committee members were introduced and gave a brief biography and a summary of what they were doing. The committee would like to have an annual report on living POWs sorted by their service, and the conflict and theatre in which they served. Some of these things support the POW claims when they are filed.

The primary goal of the committee recommendations is to provide better and more effective rating as rapidly as possible. This should be emphasized throughout the VA system due to the rapidly increasing rate of deaths of former POWs, especially the World War II POWs. Since the average rating of the POWs is 73%, it is urgent that additional effort be instituted to locate and re-evaluate those former POWs whose ratings are less than 100%. It was recommended that at least three (3) educational seminars be scheduled within the next 12-18 months for more training of those who evaluate the POW claims. The VBA should also mandate attendance at these seminars to assure the proper training of all POW rating specialists. Mental health departments should be integrated into the same physical locations where POW and other C&P examinations are performed in order to increase participation and to minimize the associated stigma of PTSD. It was recommended that at least one face-to-face meeting between all POW physicians and POW raters be mandated to develop a direct line between them, facilitating communication between them when they work on the same group of claims. Continued open lines will insure potential problems with POW exams and ratings will be resolved in the most expeditious manner.

Only trained qualified physicians and raters should perform and evaluate POW rating examinations, those who have attended and had certified training for the POW examinations. When a POW goes in for a re-evaluation, the committee recommends all ratings be re-examined, not just the specific item for which the exam was ordered.

There were more things discussed and recommended, and these things will be discussed again and evaluated before they are presented to Congress. All of the committee members were former POWs. I hope I have all these things posted correctly, since this was my first time.

While I was at the committee meeting, I met a man that was in the same building where I was housed at Sta-

lag VI-G when the building was bombed and burned. He was in the opposite end from me. His name is C. Earl Derrington, Jr. from Jackson, Mississippi. He has survived the ordeal and is doing well, thanks to his lovely wife. Earl was National Commander of AXPOW in the 1980s.



Everybody stay well and enjoy the summer. I will be visiting some of your state conventions and hope to see you there.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Warren G. King, Sr." with a checkmark above the end of the signature.

Warren G. King, Sr.
National Commander

Picture left to right: Thomas M. McNish, MD, Committee Chairperson; Warren G. King, Sr., National Commander, Ex Prisoners of War; Clarence E. Derringer, Ex-POW

Notable Quotes

"We must hold fast to our duty — the duty of being there for our former Prisoners of War and for all of our veterans." — Former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown

"Posterity, you will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it." — John Quincy Adams

"Americans, all free men indeed, remember that in the final choice, a soldier's pack is not so heavy a burden as a prisoner's chains." — President Dwight D. Eisenhower

"We honor our dead by caring for our living." — Australian quote

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On the cover: Newly promoted (to Brigadier General) Ex-POW Rhonda Cornum at her pinning, April 23, 2008.

In August of 1990, she was assigned as the flight surgeon to the 2/229 Attack Helicopter Battalion in the Persian Gulf. While performing a search and rescue mission for Col. Wm. Andrews, her Blackhawk helicopter was shot down. Col. Cornum was captured; she was repatriated on March 6, 1991.

HOOAH! You go, girl!

Housekeeping...

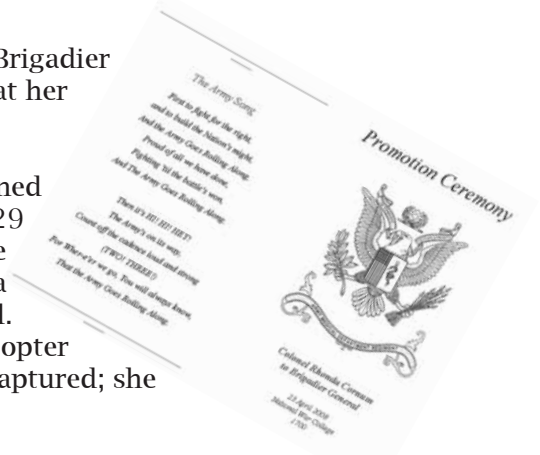
It's hard to believe it's already June. In just over three months, we'll be at National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. For those of you who haven't made your reservations yet, please look at the convention information pages in this month's Bulletin and get your reservations and registration papers in.

National Headquarters will be sending out credential packets to all chapters and state departments this month. If you have any questions, or don't receive a packet, please contact us. The delegate forms will be printed in the July/August Bulletin, along with the election information and resolutions.

Summer is State Convention time. If you can, please take the time to attend not only your own State Convention, but neighboring conventions as well. It is the place where we can really take the time to get better acquainted as well as have the opportunity to meet many friends that we don't get to see throughout the year. So make every effort to attend any convention you possibly can. Listen, laugh, learn, have fun, enjoy the meals, and most of all, enjoy visiting with old and new friends alike.

From the Quartermaster...the price of the military cap will now cost \$40.00, including S/H. The price of the caps in my last order increased by \$9.00 per unit. There are several reasons for the elevated cost; I no longer order in great volume and it has been several years since my last order. The new price is in effect immediately.

June is: Flag Day (14), Father's Day (15), and the beginning of Summer (20).



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As usual, this National Capitol Office remains extremely busy with enormous input and action with the attendance at many meetings on Capitol Hill. Yesterday, I attended a ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION in the Cannon House, called by Rep. John Hall (NY), Chairman, Subcommittee Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. Discussions were permitted by DoD, VBA and other VSOs like AXPOW. Discussions did include our HR 156, the DIC date of enactment which we were indeed interested. Last June the Representative Hall had his first hearing and ex-POW Norm Bussel came down and spoke. These discussions all were on: DIC/SBP & Death Pensions, Educational Benefits, CHAMP/VA and Bereavement Counseling for Survivors. There were some heartbreaking problems with the system presented and the urgency for improvement! Everyone felt that it was a productive meeting and a follow-up will be later.

On the above note, the House Veterans Affairs Committee is not ready to go to the floor with their Veterans Package. On a good note, today, April 24th, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee finished a day or more on their package. I am happy to report that S1315, Sec. 601. Addition of Osteoporosis to Disabilities Presumed to be Service-Connected in Former Prisoners of War with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I have been asked by some who put the PTSD in the Osteoporosis Bill? My answer is I have inquired of many and their answer

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is "We don't know." Anyway, as always, we will take just what the Congress gives us and be thankful. I am just pleased that we got that included. No, the Diabetes was not in the Bill, and both committees still say we need more research and data. So, we keep on plugging along with them. (If we live long enough!)

As I have said many times, YOU, the membership, must be in contact with your own House Member and insist that he co-sponsor our Bill - HR1197, Osteoporosis and Diabetes. In talking last week and again yesterday, your MEMBER wants to hear from you. This is their reply to my contact with them. It is up to the membership and the Directors to really work for this. Let us put this first on our agenda and succeed we will!

Mary

Following are excerpts from Senator Patty Murray's press release on April 24, 2008:

Murray Helps Expand Veterans' Benefits

Murray: Senate-passed Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act would provide much-needed housing and job-training assistance

On April 24, 2008, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), a key member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, joined the Senate in passing legislation to expand veterans' benefits and restore limited pension benefits to Filipino veterans who fought for the United States in World War II.

The bill passed by a vote of 96-1 after the Senate defeated an amendment to deny

extending benefits to the Filipino veterans. The legislation now must be negotiated with the House in Conference Committee. Murray said she was thrilled to see the bill approved...

"...This bill provides much-needed assistance as our veterans make the transition from the military back to family and jobs, I'm very happy that we were able to move past ... and pass it today."

Among other things, the Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act expands traumatic injury insurance, increases job training, and extends housing benefits to veterans with severe burns.

Senator Murray was instrumental in including two other provisions in the bill. One would help ensure that former POWs suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder could get health care and benefits for osteoporosis. Studies have suggested the condition is related to PTSD. The other would require the National Academy of Sciences to study the risk of developing Multiple Sclerosis as a result of serving in the Gulf War and subsequent conflicts.

Murray said she was also pleased that the Senate-passed bill would right a historic injustice by extending benefits to Filipino World War II veterans. The Filipino veterans were called to service by President Roosevelt in 1941, but they were stripped of full benefits by an act of Congress in 1946.

"It is long past time that we restored benefits to these Filipino World War II veterans, who are now in their twilight years," **Murray said.** "We have a moral duty to repay their sacrifice by providing them with the care they have earned - just as we should do with all of our veterans. Sixty-two years is too long to wait."

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



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Outreach Uniques Possibilities That Can Help!

AXPOW Outreach gets done especially by all our AXPOW National Service Officers who, if they accepted remuneration for their service, would be dis-accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs and subjected to Federal prosecution. Mostly at their own expense for postage, phone, supplies, etc. Of course, caring concern by AXPOW chapters for their members' needs is basic Outreach. But it can include other avenues. Like: Here's a good Outreach idea from PNC Bill Schmidt: "I believe we have money in Chapter and Dept. Treasuries that could be put to good use by buying life memberships for any returning PW from the post Vietnam era. You are talking about under a 100 people. If we can get them identified and contacted and they are given life membership, they would be in a position to carry out our mission long after you and I are dead and gone." Thanks, Bill! Now, a challenge to Membership Chairman Claude Watkins to identify these latecomer former POWs.

TAPS Column, EX-POW Bulletin:
New widows listed are being con-

tacted by these NSOs: Marilyn Corre, CA; Marion Rippee, MO; Lawrence King, SC; Doris Jenks, FL; Katherine Arnold, MA; Doc Unger, OH; Louise Dunham, AZ; Kaz Kazmierczak, MI; Alan Dunbar, NV; Richard Carroll, MN; Charles & Frances Heffron, TN; Paul Dallas, AL/NC; Betty Grinstead, IA; Charles Susino, NJ; Bob Derrington, CO; Betty Harlan, TX; Fred Campbell, NM/KS/OK; and AXPOW friend and POW Coordinator Nancy Mullins, MS.

SUCCESS

April 6th dawned and I was feeling burnt out. The scrambled eggs were ok, but I was just scrambled. Then the phone rang. "This is David Sjogren in the Providence, RI VARO. I know you didn't have the power of attorney when you called me last December concerned about Mr. S with only 10% in a nursing home here. I told you I'd call you to let you know how it came out for him and his wife. We got him 100% plus Housebound. A VFW Service Officer helped us with the claim, since AXPOW didn't have an NSO here. I knew you'd want to know." We often here about common courtesy, but this is EXTRAORDINARY on the part of POW Coordinator David Sjogren, so very considerate, a second miler. He made April 6th start getting better.

Then the mail came, with a card from Ruth in Wichita, Kansas: "Thank you so much for ALL of your help that guided me to get my DIC! It was your encouragement that helped me believe I was entitled to these benefits and you knew what I needed to do to get them. You are still a "soldier" for all of us widows. You are our guardian angel. God bless you and God bless the USA." And April 6th became a fantastic day. I could almost fly with those new wings. However, as past NSO Director Steve Yarema always said, "Our POW spouses have to be angels to have put up with us all these years." Steve had it right.

And the taxman cometh. It's April 14th, and a call comes from Mrs. S in East Texas. "I want to thank you for helping me get my DIC from the VA last year. But I've got a problem; I have not received a 1099 for my VA income." My reply, "Mrs. S, you won't get one. That is tax-free income. Isn't that wonderful?" Her response, "Yes indeed! I have been able to pay of my credit cards, my car loan and now I've almost got my home mortgage paid off. It is wonderful!"

Also a thoughtful April 17th note from Mrs. F in Independence, MO: "This is a 'thank you' note for helping my cousin TJ near Dallas, TX. The VA has approved 100% disability and nursing home care for him. Again, appreciate your help."

And April 23rd, a note from Hazel in Fort Worth area: "Thank you for that phone call you made to me that I might be eligible for compensation for my husband's ex-POW status. It has changed my life considerably Thank you for all you did for me and my daughter."

And an accolade to POW Coordinator Dennis Uldricks in the Oakland, CA VARO: On April 24, call from Dennis, "I want you to know we found a glitch in Mrs. B's DIC claim and the Oct. 7, 2004 liberalizing law will apply for her claim for effective date to go back a year retroactive." So considerate to call and let me know this about this widow's claim I'd sent him. But then, MORE. At once, Dennis called the claimant's brother, Carl, who'd assisted in presenting her claim to tell him the good news. Double THANKS to Dennis who serves the POWs and their dependents of northern California so diligently with genuine care.

outreach continued

Another California message from Charlie S near Los Angeles: "In February, 2006, I called you about POW compensation and thought I would let you know what has happened since then. It seemed each issue of the POW magazine strongly suggested all POWs should file a claim for VA compensation, and that was what you told me. I was still hesitant to file as I could really find nothing to complain about other than old age. But, I finally decided to give it a go, and go into doing it. Looking over the papers, I thought no way would I qualify, especially as they asked about income and assets. Then help came." AXPOW NSO Harry Corre stepped in to guide Charlie through the exams at West Los Angeles VAMC, and assured him income/assets did not matter for compensation. And Charlie went on, "I was awarded 100% disability, including a FAT back-payment check. I still can't believe it. Anyway, thanks again for urging me on, and now I realize how 'old and decrepit' I am." Thanks to Harry Corre. Another happy and surprised Ex-POW!

Excellent VA work: We've got to give thanks for POWs and their widows being served so expeditiously by the POW Coordinator Fred Johnson in the Philadelphia VARO. Eric B passed away in early April, 2008. AXPOW NSO Don Lewis of Dresher, PA sent claim in for new widow, Rose on April 14. April 26th she got a letter from the Philadelphia VARO saying she had gotten her DIC for \$1091 a month. It took just 12 days - surely a new record. Thanks, Fred Johnson and NSO Don Lewis!

We Exist to Help Those Who Cannot Help Themselves

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Irwin Stovroff is a veteran of World War II. As a bombardier on a B-24 Liberator, he flew on raids over Germany. Originally, a crew was supposed to fly 25 missions and then rotate out. As the war continued, the number of missions required missions increased.

In 1944, on what was to be the crew's 35th - and last - sortie, the plane was shot down. Parachuting close to Nazi lines, the survivors were quickly captured.

A long-standing oversight was corrected in 2001, when he was finally awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery during the war.

It was not until 10 years ago, when he was 75 that he decided to get involved in veterans' affairs. He now serves as a volunteer National Service Officer. He has helped over 400 veterans throughout the country, get their 100% benefit.

It was while he was volunteering at the VA hospital, that he learned the U.S. government does not supply assistance dogs for disabled veterans and that private schools like the Guide Dog Foundation provide these vital services. He was so inspired that he made an appeal in his Boca West community newsletter. When his initial effort did not generate much interest, he said "I know I could not do it alone". He approached his neighbor, Jerry Kramer, a Korean combat veteran, for help. Together the two men met with John Getz, chief of the Blind Rehabilitation Service at the West Palm Beach

VA Medical Center and a guide dog user himself to discuss assistance dog programs. Kramer left convinced about the need for funding for these programs.

"Vets Helping Today's Returning Heroes" is a tax exempt corporation created by two veterans. Our disabled warriors who return home with life-altering injuries, such as blindness, amputated limbs, spinal or brain damage, must depend on a private donor program to provide them with an assistance dog that will help them with their daily living activities. These dogs, which cost in excess of \$30,000, will provide mobility, independence and companionship.

Irwin reports only one in three actually graduates. For instance, a marvelous dog flunked the program simply because he didn't like getting his feet wet - wouldn't walk through a puddle. These guide and service dogs have wondrous abilities. Irwin says he is in awe of the dogs that address the "invisible" injuries - like those that have the ability to sense seizures and get help before it's needed.



Irwin is pictured with his "Flunked" dog. He brings him to his office at the VA twice a week while working on claims. I speak to Irwin on Mondays, while I am at our office at the VA Regional and his dog is lying near his desk, while he works. Irwin and his dog also visit patients in the hospital. Already more than a half a million dollars has been raised for dogs for these disabled veterans.

To learn more about this program visit their web site:
www.vetshelpingheroes.org.

Doris Jenks

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.

Coronary

Heart Disease: Number 1 Killer You May Be The Key To Preventing It

Coronary Heart Disease: Statistically Our Most Serious Threat

Coronary Heart Disease (or Coronary Artery Disease) is the number one killer of men and women in the US and other developed countries. Estimates for the year 2004 tell us that nearly 16 million people in the US have coronary heart disease involving...

- 8.9 million cases of angina (chest pain)
- 7.9 million cases of myocardial infarction (heart attack)

Of these nearly half a million people die of CHD in the US every year.

That's half a million people.

The sad fact about that statistic is many of these deaths could have been prevented. They could have been prevented because many of the underlying causes of coronary heart disease are controllable.

Every year US law makers pass laws to protect the American population from injury and death from a number of causes. It is the same in other countries. Yet hundreds of thou-

sands of people die every year from a disease that is in many cases preventable.

What Is Coronary Heart Disease?

Very simply coronary heart disease is a potentially life threatening condition resulting from the narrowing of the coronary arteries by the build up of fatty deposits known as plaque. The process of depositing plaque is called atherosclerosis.

The heart, like any other muscle, needs a constant supply of oxygen and nutrients. As the coronary arteries become increasingly clogged by plaque the heart becomes starved and unable to function properly.

Coronary heart disease, of course, makes the heart work harder. But the problem is much more serious than that. A number of other serious conditions can (and very often do) result including...

- Angina - chest pains which can be quite painful.
- Myocardial infarction - heart attack due to heart muscle damage.
- Congestive heart failure - a condition in which the heart cannot effectively supply the rest of the body with blood.
- Arrhythmia - irregular heart rate which can lead to sudden cardiac death.

Major Risk Factors For CHD

The conditions listed above can be

very serious. Therefore it is important for us to identify the factors that increase the risk of developing coronary heart disease. Avoiding some of these risk factors can in turn help us avoid the complications that stem from the development of coronary heart disease.

There are a number of risk factors that we can not change. These are...

Age is beyond our control. As long as we are alive we are going to age. Statistically 83% of people who die from complications of coronary heart disease are at least 65 years of age. However you will want to keep in mind that coronary heart disease develops over time. Take care of yourself early to avoid further complications later in life.

Men have a greater risk of heart disease than women. Men also tend to have heart attacks earlier in life than do women. A women's risk of dying from heart related diseases increases after menopause. Even then the risk is higher for men.

Heredity is an important risk factor for coronary heart disease. If your parents suffer from heart disease you are more likely to develop it yourself. Certain racial groups are more likely than others to develop heart trouble. However this fact is not due purely to genetics.

Different ethnic groups have different habits. Some of these habits

medsearch continued...

are linked to the development of coronary heart disease. Diet is a good example. Dietary habits of some groups can increase their likelihood of suffering from heart disease.

Blood pressure and diabetes are two other examples. Both of these conditions increase the likelihood of developing coronary heart disease. And both of these conditions can be influenced by us.

This fact, then, brings us to the next point. And listen to this point very carefully.

There are many risk factors of coronary heart disease that we CAN control. For example...

Smoking has a huge influence on heart disease. Cigarette smokers have a 2 to 4 times greater likelihood for developing coronary heart disease than do non-smokers. Pipe and cigar smokers increase their likelihood for heart disease though the risk is not as high as it is for cigarette smokers.

Non-smokers who are exposed to second hand smoke are at increased risk for developing heart disease as well.

High cholesterol increases one's risk of CHD. As one's blood cholesterol levels rise so does the risk of suffering from conditions related to coronary heart disease.

High triglycerides also affect the development of CHD. Though medical science has talked about high cholesterol risks for some time, triglycerides were not identified as an independent risk factor.

That is all changing. Increasingly high triglycerides are identified as an independent risk factor for developing CHD.

By the way, adding a high quality (and high potency) Omega-3 supplement to your heart health regime does not have to be expensive. It is a simple way to safeguard your heart.

Physical inactivity is another major contributor to CHD. Exercise helps reduce some of the factors promoting coronary heart disease. For example moderate to vigorous exercise can help...

- Control cholesterol
- Lower blood pressure
- Control diabetes
- Reduce heart and blood vessel disease
- Reduce weight

While exercising it is helpful to pay attention to your target heart rate. It helps guarantee that you are getting enough exercise.

The subject of exercise naturally takes us to a discussion on obesity.

Obesity contributes to overall likelihood of heart disease and stroke. The heavier you are the harder the heart has to work. Being overweight contributes to...

- High blood pressure
- High blood cholesterol
- Low HDL (the good cholesterol)
- High triglycerides

All of these factors promote the development of coronary heart disease.

High blood pressure has already been mentioned a couple of times. Hypertension increases the heart's workload. Like any muscle the heart adapts by thickening the heart muscle mass. This in turn causes the heart muscle to become stiff and less flexible. The result is an increased risk of...

- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Congestive heart failure
- Kidney failure

If you have high blood pressure along with other risk factors such as...

- high blood cholesterol
- diabetes
- smoking
- obesity

Your likelihood of having a heart attack or stroke is increased several times.

We simply must take coronary heart disease seriously. It is killing too many people. Though genetic influences do affect the development of CHD many other risk factors are in our control.

This is one area where we absolutely must take charge of our own condition.

If you have any of the controllable risk factors mentioned above then make every effort to control them. When possible use natural means to better your heart health.

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**Ex-POW Bulletin
June 2008**

andersonville



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496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Fred Boyles, Superintendent
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Wisconsin Monument gets a Makeover

By Jay Womack

Early in the afternoon of October 15, 1907, a train carrying 107 passengers and bound for Andersonville, Georgia left Madison, Wisconsin. Among the passengers were fifteen former prisoners of war who had survived the horrors of at Andersonville. The trip's purpose was to attend the dedication of the Wisconsin monument, which had recently been constructed in the northwest corner of the former stockade. The train arrived at its destination early in the morning of October 17 and the official dedication took place that afternoon.

Today the monument appears much as it would have 100 years ago. Comprised principally of Georgia granite, the monument's inscriptions include the Wisconsin coat of arms, 378 (the number of prisoners from Wisconsin who perished), and words attributed to Ulysses S. Grant: LET US HAVE PEACE. On top of the monument sits a large statue of an American eagle.

Like Wisconsin, many Union states that lost men at Andersonville constructed commemorative monuments in the early twentieth century. Part of the Andersonville NHS enabling legislation instructs the park to protect and preserve those monuments located within the prison and cemetery sites. To that end, the Wisconsin monument had its mortar joints repointed last year. Additionally, NHS employee Julius Lumpkin, who applies protective coats of wax to sculptures throughout the park, noticed that the eagle was showing signs of deterioration. The wings were starting to separate, the body had some major cracks, and the entire sculpture acted as though it might take flight when wind gusted through the prison site.

The eagle was removed from his perch above the monument and a search to find an art conservator knowledgeable in bronze and alloy metals was conducted. The park eventually found Slavco Sokolovski, a freelance art conservator based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Slavco is both an artist and a conservator of fine art and architecture. Formerly a senior conservator for fresco and murals at the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in his native Macedonia, he has been living and working in the United States since 2000. Slavco is experienced in a wide variety of conservation techniques, including the cleaning and conservation of metals, wood, stone, painted and gilded plaster, plus fine art such as paintings and icons. He has worked on styles and periods spanning the centuries, including Roman mosaics, Byzantine stone churches, Victorian residences, and American sculpture. As an artist, Slavco's work has been shown throughout the former Yugoslavia where his work is now part of both public and private collections. He has had exhibitions in Rome, Nuremberg, Dresden, Berlin, Washington, Boston, New York, London, Paris, and Saint Petersburg.

During a week spent at the park in early April of 2008, Slavco cleaned, repaired, painted, and re-installed the eagle atop the monument. After

100 years of exposure to the elements, the sculpture needed a thorough cleansing. Once the eagle's metal surface was free of dirt and oxidation, Slavco repaired the numerous cracks in the body. He then used pigmented epoxies to heal the separated wings and claws. When confident the bird was back in good physical shape, Slavco applied a special coating of bronze followed by multiple coatings of a final sealing and protective material. The final step was a reinstallation of the sculpture on top of the monument.



After completing his work, Slavco says the sculpture appears much as it would have just a few years after the dedication. He also discovered the sculpture is not bronze like many of the other statues in the park. Rather, it made up of a combination of zinc and copper alloys. Park Superintendent Fred Boyles stated, "We are fortunate to find Slavco who could restore this majestic sculpture to its original appearance in honor of the men from Wisconsin who were prisoners at Camp Sumter."

During the restoration work, the park staff took to calling the eagle "Old Abe." Although listed simply as an American eagle in the dedication of monument, Old Abe - the War Eagle from Wisconsin - was a very famous mascot during and after the Civil War. Surely the designers of the monument had Old Abe, mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, in mind when they built the monument over 100 years ago.

Picture: Art conservator Slavco Sokolovski applies a coat of bronze pigment to "Old Abe" after cleaning and repairing the sculpture.



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The Italian Campaign Redux

No, I'm not an Italian-American thinking of running for political office. Nor to my knowledge is Charlie Susino, although he should! I'm referring to the first invasion of Europe in WWII that, along with action on the Eastern Front is what enabled the Longest Day, 6 June 1944, to be successful.

As I type this, a group of about 40 is departing for Sicily and Italy to retrace the steps of the Allied invaders like Zack Roberts who attacked the "soft under belly of Europe in 1943. It's a little weird returning to my roots while revisiting what had been an enemy country when Mark Clark and the allies invaded it in 1943.

We'll visit battlegrounds in Sicily where the invasion - launched from Africa - started. We'll take an overnight ferry from Messina to the Salerno and Anzio area and visit various museums celebrating the allies' victories. We'll visit many sites between Naples and Rome where the Americans and Brits fought the Italians and Germans.

After three days in Rome, we'll head up to Tuscany for several days in Florence and surrounding areas. Many of the truly great works of art were spared but the Germans destroyed the beautiful bridges that were everywhere in Florence. It will be tough to imag-

ine what it must have been like for our GIs to be fighting through the countryside so steeped in many of the same traditions and heritage they'd grown up with in the U.S.

The trip will end in the industrialized area of Milan where the German juggernaut came to a screeching halt in Italy and thousands of German POWs were taken. We'll explore Lake Como. And depart from the Milan airport after days of learning what I only vaguely remember hearing as a child during "The Big One."

One thing I intend to do is look at the trip in the context of having been asked to fight similarly 20 years after the fall of Italy, Germany and Japan.

The Vietnam War has been described as "unpopular" by the media of the time. Reading the historical accounts of WWII, I wonder how popular the war would have been had there not been near total control of every form of communication by Uncle Sam. Would television shots showing the incredible mayhem inflicted on Italy and the terrible losses of American forces have inspired a Vietnam type anti-war movement? How would "The Big One" be perceived today if the protestors that shut down college campuses and several institutions in Washington in 1968 had been allowed to do so in 1943 without fear of being chastened by the various authorities who looked askance at such anti-American activities.

The one missing element in Vietnam compared was that activities that were deemed traitorous in WWII went unpunished during Vietnam. Civil disobedience was explained away (rationalized?) by the theory that it was just another viewpoint.

The attempt by the government to have a Great Society while drafting young men to fight proved extremely divisive in and of itself.

Sacrifice meant different things to different people where in WWII, sacrifices were made by everyone.

It was hard for a Vietnam Gold Star mother to identify with a Jane Fonda who was telling the world that her son was a war criminal.

The big problem was that what were once deemed the blessings of a democracy were now described as "rights" even though they weren't enumerated in any book of law. After WWII, GIs were rewarded by a grateful nation with the means to get an education and better life for themselves and their families. During Vietnam, young people assumed the government owed them various things that their parents had had to work hard to achieve.

The result? An entire generation that cannot begin to comprehend the enormity of the dedication of those who fought and served on the home front during "The Big One." For God and Country!

It would be laughable today for any politician to even try such an endeavor. Indeed, I watch our news coverage that laments our American casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan which are only slightly higher than peacetime Defense Department deaths in the line of duty while failing to report "enemy" casualties - which enemy would gleefully kill any one of us, man woman or child given the chance.

I don't know where it went wrong or what the future portends as we are facing the weirdest presidential election in our history or what, if anything, politicians can do to revive the spirit that took us into Italy in WWII against incredible odds.

But I'll look for clues on my journey. Stay tuned.

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

AMERICANS ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR

There are now 1,761 US personnel listed by the Defense POW/MIA Office as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.. Staff Sergeant James K. Caniford, USAF, and Captain Barclay B. Young, USAF, both listed as MIA in Laos on March 29, 1972, have now been accounted for. Their remains were recovered November 21, 2006 and recently identified. The most recent identifications, though many others are not yet announced, brought to 822 the number of US personnel returned since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. 90+% of the 1,761 still listed as missing and unaccounted-for were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE VISITS JPAC

During a visit to the US Pacific Command in February, Secretary of Defense Bob Gates visited Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), receiving briefings on JPAC's vast worldwide operations, and touring the Central Identification Laboratory.

PACOM COMMANDER SUPPORTS JPAC

Admiral Tim Keating, USN, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) testified before Congress in mid-March that PACOM's budget for Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) included funding to complete design of the long-sought new headquarters building for the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). He also pledged that PACOM's request for FY10 would include authorization and funding for construction, estimated currently to be just over \$100 million.

That welcome news is long overdue. Expanding JPAC's capabilities will help them meet increased demands for recovering remains of those lost before the Vietnam War, back to WWII. This is also an important signal to those serving today in the global war on terrorism, but especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. They must be able to depend on all of us here at home should they be captured or become missing in action while serving our country and defending our freedom.

JPAC COMMANDER TRAVELS

New JPAC Commander, RADM Donna Crisp, USN, has just visited Laos on her first visit to that country and is going on to Vietnam for a second visit. Shortly after returning, she will go to Papua New Guinea then on to Cambodia for a second visit to that country. Just before her first Southeast Asia trip, she visited the Republic of Korea

(South Korea) to discuss ways to expedite solving Korean War losses. On that trip, RADM Crisp went on to Beijing to meet with PRC officials in an effort to restore recovery operations in that country. Most recently, RADM Crisp visited India to pursue plans to conduct WWII recovery operations there.

UPDATE ON JPAC OPERATIONS

The JPAC teams operating in Vietnam and Laos have now concluded operations and returned to headquarters in Hawaii. US Ambassador to Laos Rovic Huso participated in the talks, as did Detachment 3 Commander LTC Brandt Deck, and DPMO, Stony Beach and JPAC staff. Ambassador Huso also arranged for RADM Crisp to meet the Vice Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense while in Vientiane. She went on to Hanoi where technical talks were being held with the VNOSMP to discuss results from recent joint field operations and plans for upcoming activities.

SOLDIERS MISSING FROM THE KOREAN WAR ARE IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of two U.S. servicemen, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are Cpl. Robert L. Mason of Parkersburg, W.Va.; and Pfc. Joseph K. Meyer, Jr., of Wahpeton, N.D., both U.S. Army. Both men will be buried Saturday. Mason will be buried in Belpre, Ohio, and Meyer will be buried in Wahpeton.

Representatives from the Army met with the next-of-kin of these men to explain the recovery and identification process, and to coordinate interment with military honors on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.

civilians

**Ted Cadwallader -
Chairman**
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On 23 February 1945 Company B, 1st Battalion, 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment, US 11th Airborne Division, a US Army ground provisional reconnaissance platoon including Filipino guerrillas, men of the 65th Troop Carrier Squadron, and the 672nd Amphibian Tractor Battalion effected a spectacular air-ground assault, liberation, and extraction of well over 2,000 defenseless civilians held as prisoners of the Japanese in the Los Baños Internment Camp in the Philippines. We are indebted to Margaret Squires, a former internee of the Los Baños camp, for her eyewitness account of this incredible raid on that memorable day.

Liberation Day, February 23, 1945, Los Baños Internment Camp, Philippines

By Margaret (Whitaker) Squires
815 S. 216th Street, Cottage #2
Des Moines, WA 98198

After three years in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila, the Philippines, my father, mother, sister Betty, and I were transferred in early December 1944 to the Los Baños Internment Camp some 45 miles southeast of Manila. As always we tried not to do anything to incur the wrath of our captors and made the transition, riding by train in cattle cars during the night, without incident. Most of the internees who welcomed us had previously been transferred from Santo Tomas since Los Baños was initiated in May 1943, so we were among many old friends when we arrived.

My mother, my sister Betty, and I were placed in the nuns' barracks known as "The Convent" and my father was placed in men's barracks. Conditions were much better in our new surroundings. We no longer were in a city but out in the country, not behind high walls but high fences, although both enclosures were covered with sawali (woven palm tree leaves). The nuns graciously welcomed our little non-Catholic family into cubicle nine, right in the middle of barracks 20.

Three months passed. I weeded in the Japanese garden five hours a day, went on walking dates and sat out on the grass in the evenings with the rest of the camp, singing parodies written and led by Father James Reuter, a young Jesuit priest from the priests' barracks next door, and getting thinner and thinner, as did everyone else. American fighter planes were wonderful morale boosters as they swooshed low over the camp several times, and fleets of bombers flew high overhead on their bombing runs toward Manila. To our anguish we often spotted holes in returning formations.

In the middle of the night in early January 1945, the Japanese guards rounded up all the camp shovels, returning dirty and disheveled a week later, again in the middle of the night. During that week, we stayed in the camp for safety reasons, located sacks of rice in the camp bodega (warehouse) and purchased food from the outside.

"Freedom Week" with the treat of three meals a day came to an end with the return of the tyrannical Japanese second-in-command officer, Sadaaki Konishi, and his cohorts, who then clamped down even further on our food rations. Also, we were forced to return the rice and any other "looted" items on pain of death.

At 7:00 AM on February 23, 1945, we slouched lethargic and hungry in lines of four in front of our barracks, waiting for roll call by the slower-than-usual Japanese guards. Our Red Cross comfort kit from the one shipment a year earlier was almost gone,

and the camp supply had run out. My father, who was not well, weighed 93 pounds, my sister Betty weighed 83 pounds, and my mother and I were down to 80 pounds each. A machine gun, nestled in a shallow cave, was visible on the hill overlooking us. We tried not to worry about a ditch that had been dug outside a portion of the camp perimeter. Later we were informed that we were slated for execution that morning.

Suddenly a drone of aircraft engines broke into our resigned silence, a different sound than any we had heard before. We turned and looked up to see nine C-47 transport planes flying in steadily formation toward us over the crest of the hill near the camp. They were the largest aircraft we had ever seen flying this low, at an altitude of about 600 feet, as they continued their approach over the boundary of the camp.

Gunfire ripped through the air, originating around the guard posts located at strategic points along the high sawali-covered barbed-wire fence. We watched in delirious disbelief as paratroopers dropped from the planes, to disappear quickly just outside the camp. The 11th Airborne Division's Reconnaissance Platoon, which had spent the night before not far from Los Baños, had approached the camp in pre-dawn hours with Filipino guerrillas. This group had set the flares at the nearby lake, Laguna de Bay, to signal the go-ahead for the division's Company B to jump from the planes and join the attack.

We ran back into the barracks as bullets ricocheted around us and threw ourselves on the dirt floor of the center aisle. A tall, young paratrooper in full regalia, gun at the ready, ran through our barracks with an entourage of guerrillas behind him, calling for us to pack up and be ready to vacate the area. The guerrillas repeatedly exclaimed "Excuse me, Ma'am, excuse me!" as they sidestepped our bodies on their way to

civilian cont'd...

the back entrance. The young paratrooper found his way blocked by Mother Bernard, a Maryknoll nun who had enveloped him in a huge hug. "Sorry Sister, I can't stop!" he gasped as he untangled himself from her arms and billowing white robes. He again called out for us to pack up and get ready to evacuate as he continued his dash out the back of the barracks with his native entourage trailing closely behind, with their shoelaces untied and flapping. My mother demonstrated steady nerves by getting to her feet, and with our set of pliers she cut a hole in the wire fence next to our cubicle, wide enough to allow another paratrooper and several of his guerrilla followers to pour through it.

Mother then fanned embers under our little clay stove that sat outside our cubicle, heating water with thrice-boiled coffee grounds. She was ready for freedom.

Just then we heard our teenage neighbor gasp, "I'm hit," and collapse. She lay where she fell as those around her tried to staunch the bleeding from an abdominal wound. GIs carrying a stretcher soon appeared, and after gently treating her wound they carried her away. Her family followed close behind.

Each of us grabbed a suitcase from under our beds. Already partially full because they held our worldly supply of clothes, they didn't take long to fill, and at the last minute I remembered my well-hidden diary and frayed but still useable toothbrush.

Troopers came by our barracks and shouted a hurry-up call for us to take our packed suitcases out to the front road. Fifty-four amtracs from the U.S. Army's 672nd Amphibian Tractor Battalion carrying additional paratroopers had navigated a segment of Laguna De Bay in the early morning hours, rumbled ashore and up to the camp, and then crashed

through the fence. They were assembled in front of the barracks, ready to take us on board and carry us to safety behind American lines.

We did not realize that all of us, including our rescuers, were in grave danger, with elements of the 8th Japanese "Tiger" Division still in control just over the ridge, not yet cognizant of the raid.

Dad, weak and unsteady, slowly and painfully struggled down to our waiting area with his suitcase. Mother brought tin cups full of her just-brewed "coffee" over to the GIs near "Typhoon Tess," the amtrac in front of our barracks. They gratefully accepted her offer, which they drank without a single wince.

While we waited to board we discovered that some of the barracks were on fire. Later we were informed that this was the only way the troopers could get the internees moving toward the amtracs. Although the original fires started inadvertently in a firefight, it proved to be effective in moving the internees and other barracks were set afire. It worked, we moved.

Soon the amtracs, each carrying about thirty-five passengers, moved out. Dad, being ill was one of the first to be boarded, and we followed as a family. Betty adventurously climbed up to sit near the machine-gunner at the front of our "steed," where she was allowed to stay until we ran into a skirmish near the lake. Hastily she abandoned her perch and clambered down to safety behind the supposedly bulletproof walls. We were told later that they really were not that bulletproof!

The amtracs made two trips across the corner of the lake and back that day. We spent the noon hour at the town of Cabayo, then, were taken by truck to the New Bilibid Prison at Muntinlupa with its barracks, giving us lodging, food, freedom—and safety behind American lines.

From the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment's Quarterly "Winds Aloft" Winter 2008 Issue #82:

Martin Squires was a sergeant in the 11th Airborne Division Provisional Reconnaissance Platoon, the group that came in ahead of the others, lit the signal flares for the C-47 jumpers, and attacked the guard posts. That evening in Muntinlupa he had circulated through the internees looking for anyone from the state of Washington, but had met only one, a missionary from Spokane, who sent his mother a wonderful letter. Margaret had worn a scarf around her neck advertising Seattle Frederick and Nelson's Department Store, but he hadn't seen it. He left early the next morning with his outfit.

The two actually met in Bellingham, where Margaret was attending college, in February 1946, after Martin had been discharged. His parents had moved to Bellingham from Forks on the Washington Olympic Peninsula during the war. He didn't know any young ladies, so his mother, who had read about Margaret's family in the Bellingham news, was the instigator for their getting together. She said, "Why don't you go see the family you helped rescue, or phone them?" He just wanted to relax and said, "Aw, Mom, you do it!" She did, and held the phone for him.

They were married in August 1947, and enjoyed 52 happy years of marriage before he was felled by a massive stroke and passed away February 1, 2000.

P.S. His mother was Margaret's best friend until she died.

P.P.S. Martin was in Co. E of the 511th PIR before he joined the Reconnaissance team and a continued honorary member, hence the excerpt from 511th's "Winds Aloft."

Footnote

Just days after the raid, major Japanese forces returned to the Los Baños area and, in retaliation for the successful liberation of the Los Baños internees, senselessly slaughtered some 1,500 Filipino men, women, and children in the town of Los Baños and nearby inhabitations.

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events and information



June 5-7, 2008. The Department of Arizona Convention will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at 5151 E. Grant Road in Tucson, AZ. Call 800-325-3535 for reservations. For more information, please contact Lew Sleeper at 520-751-9628.

June 11-12, 2008. The Dept. of Iowa will hold its 25th annual convention at the Starlite Village in Ft. Dodge, IA. Room reservations can be made by calling 800-903-0009. More information can be obtained at pat6547@yahoo.com or by phone to Pat at 515 570-8049.

June 11-14, 2008. The Dept. of New York Convention will be held in Ellenville, NY. Trips to Monticello Race Track & Casino. Kathy Crosby to sing! For more information, contact: Wm. Lee Birch, 1990 Bethel Loop, #10H, Brooklyn, NY 11239; 718-642-7647.

June 13-14, 2008. 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 19- 22, 2008. The Dept. of Texas will hold its annual convention at the Arlington Hilton, 2401 E Lamar Blvd, 76006 (817) 640-3322. For more information, contact Jim Lollar, Convention Chair, (903) 560-1734.

June 19-21, 2008. The Department of North Carolina will hold its annual convention at the Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 J M Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262. Room rate \$79.00 for single or double. For reservations call 1-800-445-8667 or 1-704-547-7444. For information contact Doris C. Dallas 916 Bingham Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304 or call 1-910-867-2775.

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

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

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

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

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

looking
for



My Uncle gave me a great description of his experiences in WWII. One name popped up a couple of times in his description of Stalag Luft 1. That name was of a Royal Army **Catholic Priest by the name of Charlton**. I would love to know what ever became of him. My uncle said he had been a POW since Dunkirk. M/R Mike Flanagan, Thomaston, Maine; Michael.Flanagan.CIV@msc.navy.mil.

I found a letter from T/Sgt **Frank Becay, Jr.** He was a POW in Luft III; his letter was dated July 23, 1944. I would like to find his family to give it to them. As a Vietnam Vet, I know how much the family would like to know about their father/grandfather. Thanks, Rick Mayher, 2918 Chelton Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 90909.

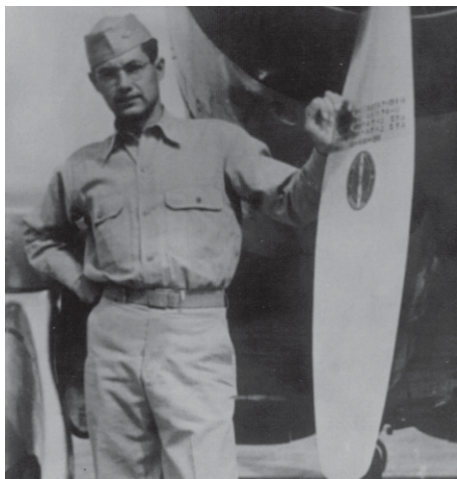
Anyone who was on the **Work Detail in Plauen IV Germany** from January 1945 to April 1945 please contact me. Don Keysor, 267 Lariat Loop, Lincoln CA. 95648 or tel. 916-408-7445 or e-mail me at d.keysor@starstream.net

I am looking for information about my older brother, listed MIA on July 16, 1950 on the banks of the Kumm River. He was serving with the 1st Batt, ACO, 19th Inf., 24th Div. He had shipped over from Japan

looking for continued...

after getting into some trouble there before going to Korea. His name was **Robert D. Quatier**. Please contact: Richard L. Quatier, 9901 NE 27 CT, Vancouver, WA 98686; 360-566-0219.

A friend of mind passed along a copy of the Ex-POW Bulletin and I found it to be quite interesting and informative. As an amateur historian, I have interviewed veterans of WWII about their experiences, but have not met any survivors of Bataan and Corregidor. I recently acquired an old photo that dates back to approximately 1941, perhaps earlier, and was hoping the members of AXPOW could help. The photo is of **Sgt. Howard E. Craig**; he is standing in front of his aircraft. On the back of the photo is the following inscription: "Howard was bombardier on this ship. He made two trips to China, Bombay and Calcutta, India in 1935-1936. He was sent to the Hawaiian Islands in 1941. Sent from Hawaii to Pampanga, PI, last address. Missing since the fall of Corregidor. 93rd BS, Fort Stotsenburg, Clark Field, Pampanga, Philippine Islands". I would very much like any information about Sgt. Howard Craig and what happened to him during the war. I especially would like to hear from anyone who knew him. Any help in this research would be very much appreciated. Thank you. Andrew Paspalas, 83 12th St., Cresskill, NJ 07626.



News Briefs

Accelerating Claims

VA is proposing to launch a two-year pilot program for accelerated claims and appeals processing at four VA regional offices, based on voluntary participation by eligible claimants. The purpose of pilot program, known as the Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative (ECA), is to provide a model to streamline the VA claims adjudication process system-wide with the ultimate goal of substantially reducing the time needed to resolve claims and appeals. If the pilot program is successful at the four trial sites, the data obtained may provide a basis for expanding some, or all, of the program nationwide.

Comments regarding the ECA must be received by VA on or before June 16, 2008, and should reference "RIN 2900-AM77-Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative-Pilot Program."

Veterans Compensation Equity Bill Introduced

The Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee recently introduced legislation to provide a minimum compensation level for veterans whose service-connected injuries require continuous medication or adaptive devices. The Veterans' Compensation Equity Act of 2008 would require all veterans who receive continuous medication or use of one or more adaptive devices, such as hearing aids, will be rated at no less than 10%. The legislation would also provide a minimum compensable rating when a veteran requires the use of a hear-

ing aid or other adaptive device, but is nonetheless assigned a non-compensable rating under the current Rating Schedule.

GI Bill

From MOAA:

In April, representatives Harry Mitchell (D-AZ) and Bobby Scott (D-VA) introduced a sweeping GI Bill reform package with the "Post 9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act" (H.R.5740). This is the new companion bill to the "Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2007" (S22) introduced by Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA). The house bill would :

- Reimburse the cost of a veteran's education up to the highest in-state cost at public colleges or universities and establish a housing allowance based on DoD's geographic housing allowance. Each veteran would get an individualized benefit based on school cost and location.

- Create a partnership with private colleges or universities. Private schools would be invited to pay half the difference between what the new GI Bill pays and the cost of the private college. The government would pick up the other half.

- Reservists called to active duty on "contingency operation" orders would accrue entitlement to the new GI Bill in proportion to the number of 90-day tours served, up to a maximum of 36 months.

- Officers commissioned from a service academy or ROTC scholarship program (who currently are denied GI Bill coverage) would be entitled to the benefits if they agreed to extend their service commitments.

news briefs con't...

Veterans Compensation Equity Bill

U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced the Veterans' Compensation Equity Act of 2008 bill S. 2825 on April 7, 2008 to provide a minimum compensation level for veterans whose service-connected injuries require continuous medication or adaptive devices, such as hearing aids.

Akaka said, "Today, veterans who suffer a service-connected injury that requires continual medication or adaptive devices, like hearing aids, may not receive any disability compensation payments. It is important that all of these veterans be compensated in a fair and equitable manner. Veterans with similar disabilities should receive similar benefits."

The Veterans' Compensation Equity Act of 2008 would ensure a minimum 10% disability rating for all veterans whose service-connected disability requires continuous treatment. The provision is in line with a recommendation made by leading veterans service organizations in the Independent Budget.

2008 Benefits Handbook

A new edition of the handbook "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" by the Department of Veterans Affairs updates the rates for certain federal payments and outlines a variety of programs and benefits for American veterans along with a listing of toll-free

phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. The 2008 edition of the 153-page booklet also provides an overview of programs and services for veterans provided by other federal agencies. The handbook can be [downloaded for free](#) from VA's website.

VA Clinic Openings

Veterans in seven additional states will have easier access to health care under a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) plan to open 14 new outpatient clinics in 2008. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake announced that VA will establish new clinics in:

- Arkansas - Phillips County
- Illinois - Coles County
- Indiana - Scott County
- Kentucky - Carroll County, Christian County and Graves County
- Oklahoma - Stillwater
- Tennessee - Bolivar and Campbell, Dyer, Roane, Sevier, Warren Counties
- Washington - Lewis County

The new clinics are scheduled to activate in 2008. The exact locations of the new facilities, along with their opening dates and the health care services they will provide, have yet to be determined. VA has previously approved 50 additional clinics that will begin providing services in 2008 for a total of 64 new clinics throughout the country this year. Many of the new clinics were designated as priorities under VA's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) plan. CARES, completed in 2004, was intended to ensure that VA uses its resources as effectively and efficiently as possible. With 153 hospitals and more than 700 community-based clinics, VA has the nation's largest integrated health care system.

The Department's health care budget of over \$36 billion this year will provide care to about 5.5 million veterans.

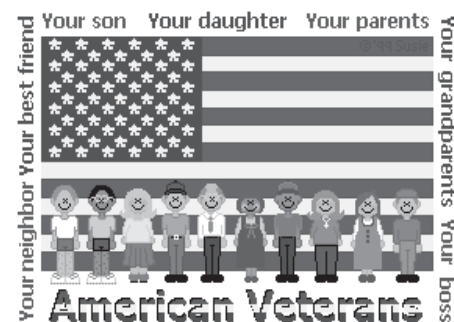
VA Dental Treatment Criteria

Outpatient dental benefits are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs according to law. In some instances, VA may provide extensive dental care, while in other cases treatment may be limited. Veterans are eligible for outpatient dental treatment if they are determined by VA to meet one of the following criteria:

- Those having a service-connected compensable dental disability or condition are eligible for any needed dental care.
- **Those who were prisoners of war (POWs)** and those whose service-connected disabilities have been rated at 100% or who are receiving the 100% rate by reason of individual unemployability are eligible for any needed dental care.

There are other groups of veterans with noncompensable or non-service connected conditions who may be eligible as well as those who are participating in a VA vocational rehabilitation program under 38USC chapter 31.

For more information about eligibility for VA medical and dental benefits, contact the Health Benefits Service Center at 1(877) 222-8387 or www.va.gov/healtheligibility.



Members' forum



From: ballfour@juno.com
Subject: Who the heck was KILROY??

Kilroy was Here!

In 1946 the American Transit Association, through its radio program, 'Speak to America,' sponsored a nationwide contest to find the REAL KILROY, offering a prize of a real trolley car to the person who could prove himself to be the genuine article.

Almost 40 men stepped forward to make that claim, but only James Kilroy from Halifax, Massachusetts had evidence of his identity.

Kilroy was a 46-year old shipyard worker during the war. He worked as a checker at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. His job was to go around and check on the number of rivets completed. Riveters were on piecework and got paid by the rivet.

Kilroy would count a block of rivets and put a check mark in semi-waxed lumber chalk, so the rivets wouldn't be counted twice. When Kilroy went off duty, the riveters would erase the mark.

Later on, an off-shift inspector would come through and count the rivets a second time, resulting in double pay for the riveters.

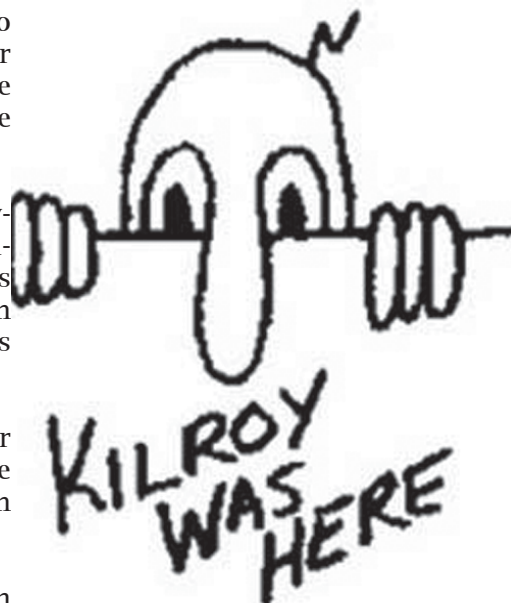
One day Kilroy's boss called him

into his office. The foreman was upset about all the wages being paid to riveters, and asked him to investigate. It was then that he realized what had been going on.

The tight spaces he had to crawl in to check the rivets didn't lend themselves to lugging around a paint can and brush, so Kilroy decided to stick with the waxy chalk. He continued to put his check mark on each job he inspected, but added KILROY WAS HERE in king-sized letters next to the check, and eventually added the sketch of the chap with the long nose peering over the fence and that became part of the Kilroy message. Once he did that, the riveters stopped trying to wipe away his marks.

Ordinarily the rivets and chalk marks would have been covered up with paint. With war on, however, ships were leaving the Quincy Yard so fast that there wasn't time to paint them.

As a result, Kilroy's inspection 'trademark' was seen by thousands of servicemen who boarded the troopships the yard produced. His message apparently rang a bell with the servicemen, because they picked it up and spread it all over Europe and the South Pacific. Before the wars end, 'Kilroy' had been



here, there, and everywhere on the long haul to Berlin and Tokyo.

To the unfortunate troops outbound in those ships, however, he was a complete mystery; all they knew for sure was that some jerk named Kilroy had 'been there first.' As a joke, US servicemen began placing the graffiti wherever they landed, claiming it was already there when they arrived.

Kilroy became the US super-GI who had always 'already been' wherever GI's went. It became a challenge to place the logo in the most unlikely places imaginable (it is said to be atop Mt. Everest, the Statue of Liberty, the underside of the Arch De Triumph, and even scrawled in the dust on the moon.)

And as the war went on, the legend grew. Underwater demolition teams routinely sneaked ashore on Japanese-held Islands in the Pacific to map the terrain for the coming invasions by US troops (and thus, presumably, were the first GI's there). On one occasion, however, they reported seeing enemy troops painting over the Kilroy logo! In 1945, an outhouse was built for the exclusive use of Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill at the Potsdam conference.

The first person inside was Stalin, who emerged and asked his aide (in Russian), 'Who is Kilroy?'...

To help prove his authenticity in 1946, James Kilroy brought along officials from the shipyard and some of the riveters. He won the trolley car, which he gave it to his nine children as a Christmas gift and set it up as a playhouse in the Kilroy front yard in Halifax, Massachusetts.

So now You Know.



Convention Registration
American Ex-Prisoner of War 61st National Convention
 September 16-21, 2008
 Kansas City, Missouri "The City of Fountains"



Registrant's Name: _____, Nickname: _____

Spouse's Name: _____, Phone: _____, e-mail _____

Address: _____, City: _____, State/
 Zip _____

Special Needs (wheel chair, etc): _____

Unit When Captured: _____, Theatre: _____,
 Camps: _____

REGISTRATION (per person) until August 5 - \$80, after Aug 5 - \$85, no refund after Aug 5 \$ _____

Ladies Luncheon is Thurs. Aug 18 from 11:45 to 1:30. Come enjoy a healthy light and luscious lunch then delight at songs by the "Gospel Lovin 4" for a mere \$30 per lady attending. \$ _____

Payable to: 2008 Convention Fund, Delta Endecott, P.O. Box 362, Drexel, MO 64742 **Total** \$ _____

Saturday Night Banquet:

Entertainment will be provided for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Please select a banquet menu choice: Oven Roasted Breast of Chicken ____ or Kansas City Striploin ____

American Ex-Prisoners of War 61st National Convention

Hotel Registration Form

Sheraton Kansas City Sports Complex

9103 East 39th Street, Kansas City, MO 64133

Toll Free 800-325-3535, or web site: sheratonkcsportscomplex.com

Name: _____ Address _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Circle Room Desire: King Bed Queen Bed 2- Double Beds

Special Needs (wheelchair, handicap room, etc) _____

Circle One: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover (one night deposit required)

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

ROOM RATES: \$83 PER NIGHT SINGLE or DOUBLE, ASK FOR **AXPOW** CONVENTION RATE

Check-in time is 3:00 PM, Check-out time is 12:00 Noon

Transportation to hotel from airport is on your own

Make Reservations Prior to Aug 17, 2008

No Cancellation Refund After to 72 Hours Prior to Arrival

Mail Form to Sheraton Kansas City Sports Complex,

9103 East 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64113

This is a non-smoking hotel

There are smoking rooms available at the

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

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American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2008



Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

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

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Drexel MO 64742**

National Convention

Tentative Agenda

Sept. 16-21, 2008

Tuesday Sept. 16:

National Service Officer Training
Registration Desk Open in PM

Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Wednesday Sept. 17:

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

Saturday Sept. 20:

General Business Session &
Balloting
Banquet and Installation of
Officers

Sunday Sept. 21:

Devotional
National Board of Directors
Meeting

Thursday Sept. 18

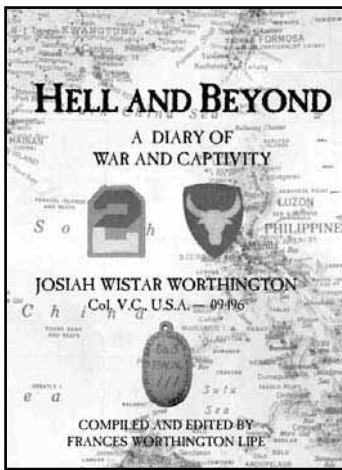
Opening Ceremonies
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Credentials Room Open
Ladies Luncheon
Legislative & MedSearch Seminars
Commanders Reception
with Entertainment

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

Friday Sept. 19:

Past National Commanders
Breakfast
General Business Session
Camp Reunions

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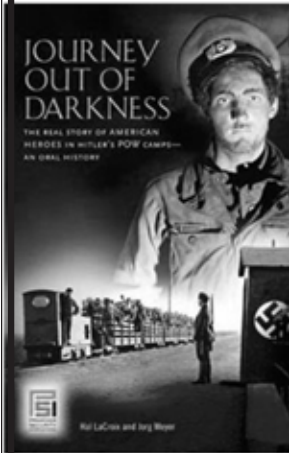
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The AXPOW Volunteer Giving Program parallels that of other VSOs, whereby the entire membership, including life members, is given the opportunity to contribute to the operation of our organization, based on ability and willingness to contribute. All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

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Chapter

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(If chapter or department, please give name)

Signed

Name

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City/State/Zip

Phone #

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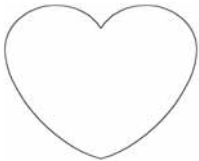
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new members

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



Annual Members "Welcome Home"	Jane Kennedy-Tenzar Canyon, TX 29 RCT W. Springfield, MA Daughter of Pierre JJ Kennedy, ETO	Willie B Westbrooke 39450 Ft. Oglethorpe, GA Widow of William Ray Westbrooke Luft 1
	Norman A Armbrust Washington Court House, OH AAC Luft 3A, Sagan, 7A 7/26/43-4/29/45	Henry R Kolm Violet 33878 39448 Bullhead City, AZ 16 Armrd FA Svc Co 9 Armrd Div Siegburg Limburg near Bravenshosten 12/18/44-4/45
James W Comstock San Diego, CA Son of William Comstock, ETO		
Sharon L McNeal New Port Richey, FL Daughter of Steve Odahowski, ETO	Life Members "Welcome Home" *new members to AXPOW	
Paul R Kennedy Chicopee, MA Son of Pierre JJ Kennedy, ETO	Sherman Lee Jones Joyce E 22519 39447	Ellen Carson 39449 Plano TX Widow of James Wheeler Carson ETO Daniel J Piedmont Anne K *39452 39453 Tucson, AZ AAC 17 B 10/43-5/45

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Single Membership	\$ 40
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taps



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

BINGOLD, Leonard, of Milwaukie, OR passed away recently. He was captured while serving with the AAF during WWII; He was captured in Siberia and held at Petropavlovsk and Tashkent until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Ruth.

BRAX, Richard J., 85, of Quaker Hill, CT died March 22, 2008. He was a life member of the CT Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 106th Inf. Div., 423rd Reg., Co. K; he was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and was held in Stalags 9A and 9B. His wife Rosalie, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 sisters and 3 grandchildren survive him.

CARTER, John Keith, 87, of Water Valley, MS died Feb. 15, 2008. He was shot down on his 1st mission flying "The Old Standby". John was held in Luft III, then Stalag 7A for 18 months. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, three children, two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and sister Emily Boswell.

CHERNITSKY, John "Jump", 87, of Uniontown, PA died March 4, 2008. John served with the 28th Div., 110th Inf. Reg. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held for 5 months until liberation. Survivors include his loving wife of 64 years, Dorothy, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 10 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 1 brother, 3 sisters and numerous nieces and nephews.

FILBERTH, Glen "Doc", of Lakeland, FL passed away Dec. 9, 2007 at the age of 91. He was shot down while flying B17s over Germany; he was held in Luft III and liberated by General Patton's Army in May, 1945. Doc was a member of the Imperial Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Mattie Lee, 1 daughter, 3 sons, 7 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and 1 brother.

FOLWELL, Lester D, 88, of Des Moines, IA died March 15, 2008. He served with the 394th BG, 584th BS, flying B-26 Marauders. He was captured when he was shot down over Germany; he was a POW for 3 ½ months until he escaped with another prisoner and made his way to Allied troops. Lester was the Chapter Commander of the Mid-Iowa Chapter and past Dept. Commander of the Dept. of Iowa. He leaves his daughter, Sheryl, 1 nephew and 1 niece.

HANSELL, Robert G., of Everett, WA died April 11, 2008. He served as a B-17 Bombardier during WWII; he was shot down and held in Stalag Luft III and Stalag 7A until liberation. He leaves his wife, Helen, 1 son, 2 daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

HOWE, Charles M. of Eugene, OR died Dec. 20, 2007 at the age of 88. He was a B-17 pilot with the 8th AF, 379th BG, 524th BS. His plane was shot down over Germany and he was a POW for 22 months. His wife of 65 years, Ruth, and a daughter survive him. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Willamette Valley Chapter.

HURT, Verna, wife of ex-POW Millard R. Hurt of Owensboro, KY died recently. She was a member of the Kentuckiana Chapter, AX-POW.

KARP, Irving, of Sun Lakes, AZ passed away Feb. 3, 2008 at the age of 83. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and was held POW in Camp 12A until liberation. His wife of 59 years, Adele, 2 sons and 1 daughter survive him.

KIDWELL, Richard, of Gahanna, OH died March 31, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 29th Inf. Div. He was held in Stalag 7A. He is sur-

vived by his wife Maxine, 4 sons, 1 daughter, 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

KIOUS, Harold E., 91, of Albuquerque, NM passed away March 6, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 91st BG, 322nd BS. He was shot down and captured during the Hamm Raid in 1943. He spent the remainder of the war as a POW, mostly at Stalag Luft III. Survivors include his son, Mike.

KUPFERMAN, Bernard, 86, formerly of Silver Spring, MD passed away Jan. 17, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 60th Inf. Reg., 9th Div. He was captured in Belgium and held prisoner in XIIA and IIIC until liberation. Bernard was a life member of AXPOW and the Chuck Williams Mid-Maryland Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sylvia, 2 daughters, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

LAKE, Leander "Chet", of Warren, PA (formerly of Cape Cod) passed away in March at the age of 83. He was captured after parachuting into Poland; he escaped, spent time with the Polish underground, then was recaptured and sent to Luft 1, Barth until liberation. Chet is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Carolyn, one daughter, two sons, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

LANG, James Irvin, and **LANG, Norma F.** of New Albany, IN passed away recently. They were members of the Kentuckiana Chapter, AX-POW. James served with the 15th AF, 2nd BG, 96th BS during WWII; he was held in Luft 4. James and Norma are survived by 1 daughter,

taps continued...

2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

LEAF, Richard, of Kewanee, IL died March 24, 2008. He served in the AAF during WWII with the 449th BS. Richard was a POW for 14 months in Stalags VI, IV and VIIA. He was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Marian, 2 daughters, 1 son, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

LEWIS, Eva, loving wife of Nathaniel, died March 23, 2008. Nathaniel served with the 117th Recon Sq. He serves as Historian for the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW. Eva is survived by her husband, 2 sons, 1 daughter, numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

LONG, Rodger Raymond, of New Market, IA passed away March 16, 2008. He was a member of the Southwest Iowa Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 168th Inf., 34th Div. He was captured and held in Germany for 27 months. Survivors include 2 sons, 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

LOTHROP, Oliver, 84, of Towson, MD passed away Sept. 6, 2007. During WWII, he served in Co. B, 106th Inf. Div. He was held prisoner in Stalag IVB until liberation. Oliver was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Albert J. Bland Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Berenice, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

MUSTACCHIA, Nicholas, 87, of Spring Hill, FL, died April 21. A member of the Army Air Corps, he was in the 8th Air Force, 351st BG, 511th BS. He was held in Stalag Luft IV and VI for 14 months. He was a

long-time member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by two granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

PABELLON, Lupo, member of the Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW, passed away April 6, 2008 in Manila. During WWII, he served with the American Army as a Philippine Scout and was a POW for 3 ½ years after the fall of Bataan. He was 89 years old.

PURCELL, Richard A., of Louisville, KY died recently. He served with the AAF during WWII, in the 450th BG, 721st BS. He was held in Lufts IV and VI, and then marched across Germany. Richard is survived by four nieces, six nephews and their families.

ROSEEN, Everett C., 90, of West Hartford, CT died March 29, 2008. He served in the Army with the 1st Signal Co., AW; he was captured on Bataan and was a POW for 3 ½ years in prison camps in the Philippines and Japan. He leaves one son and two grandsons.

SCARBOROUGH, John J. of Stratford Harbour, VA (formerly Bucks Co. PA) died June 6, 2007 at the age of 87. During WWII, he served in the 8th AF; he was shot down during the Schweinfurt Raid and held 18 months until liberation. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Regina, 1 daughter, 1 brother, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

SCHATZ, George A. Sr., 88, of Annapolis, MD, formerly of Ellicott City passed away Feb. 28, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 803rd Eng. Div. BN and was held prisoner in Bataan, O'Donnell, Bilibid, Cabanatuan, Hitachi and Ashio for 3 ½ years. He was a member of AXPOW and the Dept. of Maryland. Survivors include his wife of 66 years, Margaret, 2 sons, 2 brothers and 3 sisters.

SULLIVAN, Francis M. of Crossville, Tennessee, died April

30, 2008. "Hank" served with the 8 AF 95 BG 334 BS and was held in Stalag Luft 4 and 6. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Audrey.

THOMPSON, Clifford F., Sr., 83, of Baltimore, MD passed away April 3, 2008. During WWII, he served in Co. F., 7th Inf. Div. He was held prisoner on a farm in Germany. He was a member of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He leaves his wife of 20 years, Patricia, mother, Elsie, 1 son, 4 brothers, 4 sisters and several grandchildren.

THRASHER, Alice W., 86, of St. Leonard, MD died April 6, 2008. Her husband, Vincent served in the Army during WWII and was a POW in a Gerolstein Work Camp and Stalag XIII. Alice was a life member of AXPOW and the Dept. of Maryland. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, 4 sons, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and 2 brothers.

TOPPING, Margie D., 82, of Chesapeake, VA died Oct. 11, 2006. She was the beloved wife of Ex-POW David (Bataan survivor, 91st Sq., 27th BG) In addition to her husband of 60 years, Margie is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 2 grandchildren, 2 brothers, 5 sisters and numerous nieces and nephews.

TRAINER, Eloise, 93, of Salisbury, MD passed away Sept. 1, 2007. Her husband, Paul served with the 305th BG, 366th BS; he was a POW in Stalag III and VIIA. Eloise was a member of AXPOW and Maryland Easter Chapter. In addition to her husband, she is also survived by 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 1 sister.

UNDERWOOD, Robert Wayne, of Fort Worth, TX, died April 6, 2008. A survivor of the Bataan Death March, "Bob" was held captive for over four years. A member of the Fort Worth Chapter, he is survived by his wife of 62 years, Katherine "Kay".

taps continued...

VARNEY, Charles Broadwell, 91, of Whitewater, WI passed away Jan. 31, 2008. In 1936, he enlisted in the Marines on a dare, and was promptly recruited to play in the Marine Corps Band. After service, he took a construction job on Wake Island. He was captured there and spent four years as a POW in China and Japan. He is survived by his wife, Yoshi Arika, 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

WALLO, Andrew, of Pensacola, FL, died April 5, 2008. An AXPOW life member since 1978, he served with 8th AF, 384th BG, 545th BS, and was held in 7A, 13D, Frankfort and Luft 6. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marie.

WATERS, Ethel M., 81, of Silver Spring, MD died Aug. 23, 2007. Her husband, Edward served with the 385th BBG during WWII. He was a POW in Luft IV, and then marched.

Ethel was a member of the Chuck Williams Mid-Maryland Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves her husband of 61 years, 4 sons, 3 grandsons and 3 granddaughters.

WESLEY, William A., 83, of Baltimore, MD died Jan. 1, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 385th BG, 551st BS and was held prisoner in Stalag VII and Luft IV. William was a life member of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary.

WILBURN, George W., of Rush, KY died Dec. 18, 2007. He was a POW in WWII. Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Clotine, 3 sons, 2 daughters, 1 sister, 2 brothers, 22 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild. He will be missed by all who knew him.

WILLIAMS, Doris, 82, of Bel Air, MD passed away Dec. 26, 2007. Her husband, William, served in the 291st FA Obsn Bn, Btry B. Doris was a life member of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland Chapter. She is survived by her husband of 61 years.

WILSON, Kenneth L., 87 of Glendale, AZ passed away Jan. 14, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 112th Inf., 28th Div. He was captured and held in Stalag 11A for 9 months. Ken is survived by his beloved wife, Kathryn, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

WRIGHT, Anna Katherine of LaVale, MD passed away Nov. 15, 2007. During WWII, her husband, Damon H. served in the US Navy. He was a POW in camps and slave labor camps in the Philippines and Japan. Anna was a life member of AXPOW and member of the MD West Chapter. She was predeceased by her husband Damon.

chaplain's corner

The poet Ralph Waldo Emerson says it perfectly:



National Chaplain

John Romine

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

As I'm writing this, it's spring. When you, our very special ex-POWs read it, it will be summer here in Rogers, Arkansas. As always, the miracle of growth and rejuvenation astounds this poor humble servant of the Lord. My aching old bones don't ache quite so much. My thoughts are a little happier. The sun warms my face and makes me smile.

For flowers that bloom
about our feet,
For tender grass,
so fresh, so sweet,
For song of bird,
and hum of bee,
For all things fair
we hear or see,
Father in heaven,
we thank Thee!
For blue of stream
and blue of sky,
For pleasant shade
of branches high,
For fragrant air
and cooling breeze,
For beauty of the
blooming trees,
Father in heaven,
we thank Thee!

Let us pray: Dear God, our redeemer and friend, although we hesitate to be called a hero, may our work here on earth not only glorify You but help others as they

strive to survive in this old world. May we comfort and reach out to relieve suffering and hardships. May all the blessings that are bestowed upon us be passed on with loving and caring hands. May in our daily lives we live, love and touch others in Your Holy and Blessed way. Please Lord, protect our "heroes" who are standing in harm's way as they try to make a more peaceful world. May our prayers be heard by You as our rock and our redeemer. AMEN.

Thought for the month: The person who looks down on people is always disappointed that they do not look up to him and consider him a hero.





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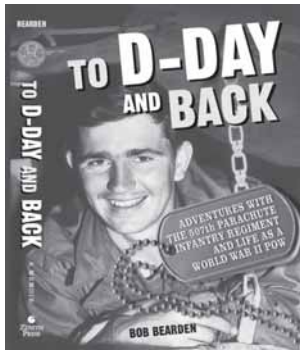
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2nd Place Lloyd Dull, Lancaster, PA
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3rd Place Lyle Pearson, Mankato, MN
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4th Place Pauline Owen, Belleville, IL
\$174.23

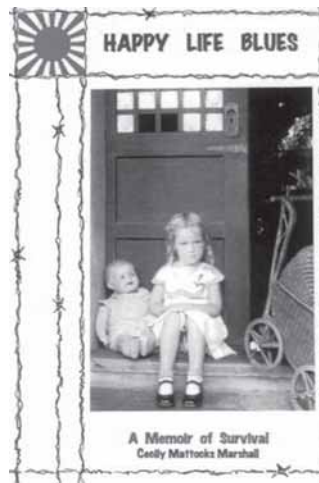
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Ex-POW Bulletin
June 2008

31

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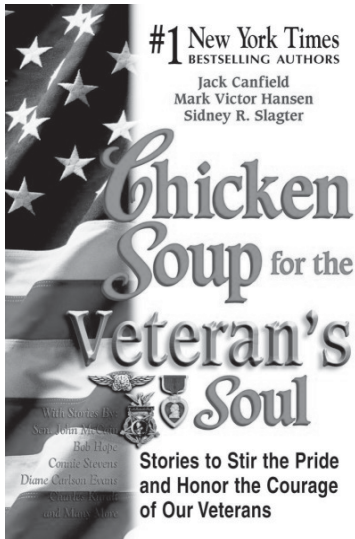
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Clockwise from top left. Second from left, Christian Bearisto, great-grandson of AXPON PNC William & Ethel Bearisto. Christian is a bass drummer for the Colonial Williamsburg Fife & Drum Corps. The Corps will be having their grand 50th Anniversary Weekend on July 4-6th in Colonial Williamsburg, VA; Joe O'Donnell submitted these pictures: Luft IV Revisited, 9/07: 1. The Fire Pond in "A" Lager 2. The infamous "Run up the road". This is where the thousands of POWs were made to run handcuffed in pairs. They were beaten, bayoneted, bitten by German dogs. 3. Entrance to the cellar "D" Lager; The Virginia Aeronautical Historical Society held their Annual Auction and Society Social at the Virginia Aviation Museum in Richmond, VA. VAHS Chairmen Al Orgain donated his 'airport car' - a 1988 Caddie to go on the block. The wife of the former Director of the Virginia Department of Aviation won the car with a bid of about \$2K. Many items came up for bid including Paul 'PABLO' Galanti's last Flight Suit! Pablo got on the mike to "Hawk" the item and describe its finer points. Then a lovely lady who was in attendance agreed to 'model' it! The winning bid was about \$1250 or so and was won by Ken Strafer, Coordinating Director for Project Enduring Pride. Ken was a EWO in SR-71s and graciously donated it back to the Museum so it would not languish in some ones closet collection dust. Ken also arranged for a mannequin to have it displayed on near Pablo's A4 in the Museum and won the bid on a rare "VTNA Patch" that was designed by "Shoe" cartoonist Jeff MacNelly. VTNA was the United States Naval Academy Training Squadron that Galanti commanded after his release. Only 20 of these patches remain in existence.



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