

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

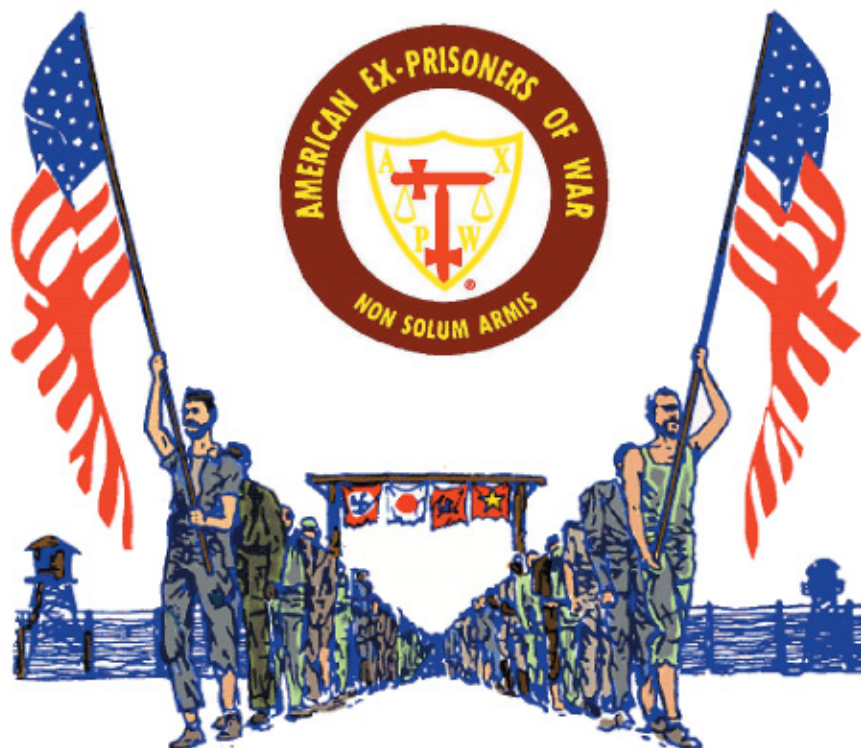
## American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 64

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Number 6

June 2007



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*Inside...Reunion at Piestewa Peak...National Convention  
info...News, Outreach, Events...NSO success stories...and more*



Clockwise, L/R: 1-3: POW Recognition Day in Boston. The members of the Dept. of MA are shown at the ceremonies, riding the Duck Mobile and enjoying the camaraderie of friends; 4-6: POW Advisory Committee meeting in Washington, DC in April; The Memorial at Camp O'Donnell today.



## **national commander**



**Robert W. Fletcher**

Fellow Former POWs, Family Members, and Friends,

Since I wrote to you last month, I have been doing a fair amount of traveling related to former POW business. A few days after returning from the Mid-Year meeting in Washington DC, my wife and I took up the gracious invitation of Tsuyoshi "Nick" Nishimoto (who was in Camp 5 in Korea with me) to attend the POW Recognition Day ceremonies at the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii. This is the cemetery to which remains from locations around the Pacific Theater including Wake and other

Pacific Islands, as well as from Japanese POW camps, have been transported. It is a beautiful spot, high on a site overlooking Honolulu. On that day, the graves of all former POWs were marked with American flags.

While in Honolulu we also had a chance to tour the Battleship Missouri and to pay our respects at the site where the remains of the Battleship Arizona came to rest in Pearl Harbor. In addition we had a special tour of the laboratory where the remains of formerly unidentified veterans are identified so that their families can choose a final resting place for them. It was fascinating to see and hear about the very painstaking and difficult job that is entailed in order to identify these remains. Also, if you or anyone you know has a relative who is still missing from military action, I encourage you to have a female member of the family contribute a sample of DNA through a mouth swab. This makes it easier for the laboratory to identify remains when there are few other clues.

As you can tell, Nick was a thoughtful host and I am pleased to report that there was a nice group of AX-POW members from other states

who were there as well. However, Nick reports that next year may be the last time he will plan these activities. If you have a chance to go, I encourage you to do so.

Shortly after returning home, I hit the road with National Director Ed Kazmierczak to attend the Tennessee state convention under the direction of Commander Bates Southall. As I talked with the attendees, their main concerns reflect what I have heard elsewhere. How much longer can AXPOW continue to exist due to both our continued decline in membership and our declining financial reserves?

Ed and I had planned to attend the South Carolina state convention in Rock Hill as well, but realized that was too much driving for the time available. Therefore, we left Tennessee and headed for Washington DC for the Congressional Advisory Board meeting. I am pleased to say that VA Secretary Nicholson took time out of his busy schedule to come and meet with the Board and discuss some of our past concerns with us. The Advisory Board's focus now is approval of the last two presumptives for former POWs, diabetes and osteoporosis. We are recommending to Secretary Nicholson that he approve these presumptives without going through Congress, something he has the power to do. However, until he indicates a willingness to do so, all of us need to keep pushing our Senators and Representatives to sign on as co-sponsors of H.R. 1197 in the House or S. 848 in the Senate, which will accomplish the same thing.

Within the next month I will be traveling to California, Washington State, and Florida and hope to meet many more of you there. And as always, please feel free to reach me by phone, letter or email at any time.

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

Watch  
your mail  
for  
details!



**Ex-POW Bulletin  
June 2007**



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On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces moved across the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea. The United States viewed this as a transformation of the Cold War into a "warm war." The US announced that it would respond by defending South Korea.

In mid-September 1950 a daring amphibious invasion at Inchon fractured the North Korean war machine. In the following two months UN armies pushed swiftly through North Korea. However, with victory seemingly in sight, China intervened openly, and the Soviet Union not-so-openly, on the side of their defeated fellow Communist neighbor. The UN was thrown back midway into South Korea.

By the middle of 1951, the front lines had stabilized near where the war started twelve months earlier. Negotiations began amid hopes that an early truce could be arranged. But this took two more frustrating years, during which the contending forces fought on, with the U.S. Navy providing extensive air and gunfire support, a constant amphibious threat, relentless minesweeping and a large logistics effort.

The war eventually claimed more than 33,000 U.S. lives as well as approximately 3.5 million Asian lives over next three years. On July 27, 1953, both sides signed a cease fire agreement establishing a demilitarized zone in the same general area as the demarcation line between North and South Korea in 1950.

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**Deadline for the July/Aug, 2007 issue is June 1, 2007.**

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

Also in June...

The Battle of Midway began on June 4.

June 6 ~ D-Day. Allied troops storm the beaches of Normandy.

Flag Day is June 14.

June 17 ~ The Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775.

The Japanese began surrendering on Okinawa on June 20, 1945.

June 28 ~ Seoul fell; the US ordered the first planes and warships to defend South Korea.

PNCs Maurice Sharp and Sonny Mottern were born.

On the cover: From the feature story on page 20: An Extraordinary Extended POW Family. Percy Piestewa, Joe Hudson, Jessica Lynch & Dakota Ann, Patrick Miller, Brandon Whiterock (Lori's son) Shoshana Johnson, Terry Piestewa. Front Row: Carla Piestewa (Lori's daughter) with friend Gracie Rungie (Piestewa Peak in back).

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# on capitol hill



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Today, April 30, 2007...

I have just talked with Rep. Gus Bilirakis' office regarding the bill he introduced (HR1197) for Osteoporosis and Diabetes and to my complete surprise we have only three co-sponsors. They are Reps. Chris Carney (PA), Jeff Miller (FL) and Bart Gordon (TN).

We had worked the Hill when the Board of Directors were here on 28 and 29 March, and thought surely we had a number of co-sponsors. Also, Rep. Bilirakis had sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to all House Members the first of April.

WHAT IS HAPPENING? YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR MEMBER IN HIS HOME OFFICE AND PUSH, PUSH, PUSH MORE! We - I mean you - must insist that your Member help in this important legislation.

Senator Patty Murray who introduced the Senate Bill 848 has received NO co-sponsors; she too will get a "Dear Colleague" letter to all the Senators explaining the urgency for this bill to be included in the report of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee to the full Senate before too long.

TIME IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF YOU READING THIS COLUMN TO DO YOUR PART!

I must reiterate that the cost will be minimal to none due to the diminishing number of POWs still alive who might have these two medical conditions. Also, only a

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small portion are likely to seek these benefits or are already rated 100% disabled due to other problems. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO ADDITIONAL COST FACTOR.

I too will try harder - my Members have said they will co-sponsor AND NOW I WILL SEE! You must contact them in their home districts and they will contact the Washington Office by email or phone. Keep pushing and more pushing. This is so important this session of Congress to push for this action for the former Prisoners of War!

I hope in my next column in the Bulletin I can report a number of co-sponsors! Let us all try. This is needed to impress the committee!

Bless all of you and yours

*Mary*

**Below is a sample letter for you to send to your Congressman. Look up their name and local office address in your phone book.**

Dear Senator (Surname) or Dear Representative (Surname):

Most Americans take it for granted that growing older entails the usual aches and pains. Not so American Ex-Prisoners of War. Many of our aging ailments are a direct or indirect result of our captivity!

That's why I am asking you to support an important piece of legislation - the Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007. This bill would establish Osteoporosis and Diabetes as two new causal effects of the Prisoner of War experience. It has the support of the Advisory Commit-

tee for Former Prisoners of War, as well as many veterans service organizations.

The costs of this Bill would be minimal, due to the fast declining number of former Prisoners of War. Your action could, however, make a huge difference in the lives of those who would qualify under the law.

Congress now has the opportunity to improve the quality of life for those individuals who gave so much for their country. I urge you to voice your support for the Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007 by co-sponsoring this bill now!

Please call Senator Patty Murray or Representative Gus Bilirakis and add your name today!

I look forward to hearing from you soon on this issue.

Sincerely,  
(Your name)

**Copy the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees with your correspondence. To Contact the Committees in Washington, DC:**

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Veterans' Affairs  
335 Cannon  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senate Committee on  
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# VA Outreach

## S\*O\*O\*N

### Before it's too late

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#### Outreach Essentials Our Friends at VA

We are designated by AXPOW as the VA Outreach Committee. Actually, what we do is try to figure out ways to reach out to former prisoners of war - and their dependents - to make sure they have the benefits to which they are entitled from the Department of Veterans Affairs. That's our task, given responsibility as a committee. The problem is that a lot of former POWs have been to the VA in time past and would just as soon forget the experience they had there. And many say they don't want to take a government handout; it's against their independent nature. And others cannot associate their POW experience sixty-plus years ago with all the health problems they have now. "No, I hadn't any frostbite," even though their toenails are falling off now due to fungus, and their feet are persistently cold.

And then there's Bud. My cousin in Huntington Beach, CA, tells me her neighbor next door was a POW in WWII, in German POW camp 17B. Bud doesn't think he's due anything from Uncle Sam. He remembers, great chow, central heat, therapy walks in the snow, etc. HA! But Congress has legislated over twenty presumptive conditions, triggered by our POW experiences. Certainly it was an honor to serve, get shot down, and survive. Yes. I just hope Bud will call me, so VA

Outreach will work for him and his wife.

Thank goodness the VA has changed. We POWs have great friends at the VA. I find that to be the case with almost every VA Regional Office across the country. The POW Coordinators really want to help us POWs and our widows get the VA benefits due us. And they reach out to us with genuine zeal to extend the care needed. For example, just today, Don Wardle in Salt Lake City is trying to find a way to send a VA doctor 50 miles to the nursing home where Bill Mc. is a patient and cannot be transported, to examine him for an upgrade in his disability rating.

Another kind of VA Outreach: On April 9, Former POW Recognition Day, I was invited to speak to the Waco VARO staff, and POW Coordinator Ginger Raney introduced me to a very courageous young man, Jay Fondren. Jay was back from Iraq where he lost two-thirds of each leg and his right thumb. Weeks of rehab at Walter Reed Hospital, and later rehab in Texas. He was 6'1", married with one infant when he went to Iraq. After intense rehab, now at 5'2", he walks on two prostheses, with a cane for balance; he and his wife now have a second child.

Life goes on, and our VA helps make good things happen. Jay was their speaker on Veterans Day 2006, and is now a full-time VA Service Representative, with the enthusiastic support of Waco VARO Director Carl Lowe.

VA Outreach is real.

Outreach calls to new widows in March/April TAPS column in the EX-POW Bulletin - by these NSOs: Don Lewis, PA; Melanie Bussel, NY; Karnig Thomasian, NJ; Jack Messemer, AZ; Betty Grinstead, IA; Ann Still, AL/GA; Irwin Stovroff, FL; Paul Dallas, NC; Mary Rolen, Beth Brooks & George Coker, VA; Doc

Unger, OH; Jim Aujian, Harry & Marilyn Corre, CA; Cheryl Cerbone, MA; Edward Kazmierczak, MI; Sonny Mottern, TN; Lawrence King, SC; Morris Barker, TX; Roland Weber, IN; Fred Campbell, CO/AR/OK/KY. Plus POW Coordinators Ginger Raney, TX and Nancy Mullins, MS who check on those in their VA regions.

#### SUCCESS

Easter card from Margie B in Marion, NC: "I am thankful for you and hope you know this. It's still unbelievable what you did for me. Thank you and God bless you."

And from Minden, LA:

"Today as I read about long-term care, I wonder how much time I have left. Many things have already been taken away by the doctors. How good it is that I have the extra money to hire someone to mow my grass. I'm sure there are many ladies who are grateful for what you are doing. I know I am. Maxine".

From Doris Jenks' files, a note dated July 19, 2004: To NSO Irwin Stovroff in Boca Raton, FL: "Dear Irwin, I just received my notice that I have been awarded my 100% VA disability. I want to thank you so very much for all the work you did in my behalf. It has been a long and hard road, but your efforts are very much appreciated. My wife is very pleased and so am I. I know you have done this so many times. My award came on a very eventful day, 60 years to the day after I was shot down in Germany, July 19, 1944. What a blessing to have a friend like you. Sincere thanks and our hopes you are always there for another veteran. You are the greatest! Thanks again, Jane & Charles W, Orlando".

From Bob and Rey B. in Dallas TX: "Finally Rey and I have returned to

## outreach cont...

earth from cloud nine. This is to express our deepest gratitude and appreciation for your guidance and advice during the application process for an increase in my VA disability. In my wildest dreams never did I expect an increase to 100%. Upon reading the exam findings, the emotional trauma as a result of leaving behind the five members of my crew killed in the mission had a lot to do with the decisions. It weighed heavily on my mind. And now I find I could have received hearing aids through the VA — \$8,500 worth. I just had not paid attention.

PS. I have joined the American Ex-POWs!"

### And finally...

A Georgia company is offering one of its mobility assistance products free to World War II and Korean War veterans to honor their service.

Can-Am Care, LLC, is offering its HUGO Folding Cane free to older veterans in need of mobility assistance. The company describes the cane as "the most versatile, functional and ergonomically correct cane in the world." It is adjustable to different heights, and fits most people between 5' to 6'5" and can support up to 550 pounds. The HUGO Cane easily folds into four sections and can be conveniently stored in its handy pouch. A Sure-Lock System ensures cane rigidity and stability. The HUGO Folding Cane is also features an interchangeable handle option which allows the user to customize the cane. The cane is being offered through the company's "HUGO Salutes Our Veterans" program. Veterans are encouraged to contact Can-Am Care toll-free at 1-888-412-4992 Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm EST or on their website: [www.HUGOSalutes.com](http://www.HUGOSalutes.com).

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## nso



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We again attended the ceremonies for the April 9th Recognition Day held at the National Cemetery of the Pacific. Our National Commander and his wife, Carol were in attendance, along with a number of Korean Former POWs and a few from the World War II era.

This year we had two Former POWs from Florida who were held by the Japanese almost 4 years. One from Florida in attendance was Randall Edwards, who we owe gratitude for starting our National Service Officer program in our state, will be 90 this July. We also had 3 other National Service Officers from our Fla. office in attendance.

The National Cemetery of the Pacific has 46,272 buried there through 2005. Remains from locations around the Pacific Theater-Wake Island, South Pacific Islands and from Japanese POW camps were transported to Hawaii for interments.

The cemetery was opened to the public on July 19, 1949 and services were held for five war dead. 1-inknown army, 2-marines, an army Lieutenant and 1-civilian, famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle, killed by a sniper on April 18, 1945 -4 months before the end of WWII.

Buried next to Ernie Pyle, is Hawaii's own Lt. Colonel Ellison

Onizuka, who was killed when the space shuttle Challenger exploded on January 28, 1986.

There are 30 Medal of Honor recipients buried there.

Also buried here are 800 Unidentified remains from the Chosin Resevior area in North Korea.

From the street level, looking up the stairway is the Memorial Building. In the center you see a 30 foot female figure - Columbia, with a laurel branch. She represents all grieving mothers.



Directly behind the statue is a chapel. On each side of the] chapel, are map galleries showing Battle Sites of WWII (Pacific Area) and the Korean War.

Also, on both sides of the stairways are marble walls called the "Courts of the Missing" (5 on each side) inscribed with the names of 26,280 MIAs. The names are alphabetized and by branch of service.

Doris Jenks

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

## Medical Problems of Aging

Aging is neither a disease nor an illness. To be old does not mean to be sick or senile. As we age, we change and sometimes that change is a slow decline in life function.

Too many times, the elderly themselves and their loved ones feel that aches and pains, as well as more serious medical problems, are part of being old. If an elderly person has a health problem, appropriate medical attention should be given, as with any other age group. When an elderly person is sick, more serious future problems can be avoided with prompt medical care. Most so-called age-related bodily changes are affected by lifestyle factors, such as poor diet, smoking and environmental factors, such as pollution and chemical exposure. No two individuals age the same way and not all elderly individuals experience similar health problems.

Considerable research has shown that older adults vary tremendously in their health status and the problems they suffer. Above all, it is important to keep in mind that the elderly can do something about their health in later life. For example, a small change in lifestyle, such as exercising more or quitting smoking, may lead to a significant change in health status.

The elderly person can have special problems that require equally special understanding for diagnosis and help. There are many underlying psychological changes. Although these changes are normal, they may alter the way an elderly

person responds to disease and is able to cope with physical problems.

Understanding is important, but surprisingly, medical schools have only recently begun to educate their students about normal aging. Physical disease in the elderly may be more difficult to detect. Signs or symptoms may be diminished or absent. They also may be delayed at onset or not characteristic of the same disease in a younger person. For example, an elderly heart attack victim may have no chest pain because of age-related nerve changes. An elderly person with a severe infection may not be able to produce white blood cells to fight the infection or even produce a fever.

Physical disease may show as a mental change. The same elderly heart attack victim with no pain may have symptoms only of confusion because of an insufficient blood supply to the brain. The patient with pneumonia may be called senile because a lack of oxygen slows brain functioning. It takes a sharp mind to notice changes in an elderly person's thinking and recognize physical disease as one of the culprits. All too often, people with new thinking problems will be called senile, and ignored or put in an institution. Their underlying, often treatable, illness will go undetected.

Drugs in the elderly may act differently, interact frequently, and be harder to control. Since elderly persons tend to have many medical problems, they often take many medications and the risk of drug toxicity and drugs interacting with other drugs rises enormously. In

addition, some elderly patients take drugs for problems that they or their physician have long forgotten, or for problems that have been long resolved. They may also be taking over-the-counter medications without the physician's knowledge.

Because of the changes that come with aging, the older body and brain handle drugs somewhat differently. A good health care professional is aware of this and adjusts drug doses appropriately for the patient's age, kidney, liver and brain functions. Drug dosages and use must be monitored regularly and carefully.

Medical problems of the elderly are frequently multiple. As we age, we can develop new and complicating health problems. The geriatric health care worker has to keep in mind these multiple ailments and treat them as carefully as possible without jeopardizing the "whole" patient. This can be complicated, especially when the treatment for one problem condition may exacerbate another.

Along with multiplicity, health problems in the elderly are frequently chronic. This is an enormous burden for the aged patient in terms of physical health, life satisfaction, and finances. Older adults visit their physicians six times for every five visits by the general population. They are hospitalized twice as often, have longer hospital stays, and use twice as many prescription drugs as younger persons. Obviously, the

## medsearch continued...

medical problems of the elderly are special and often complex.

### Physical Changes

*Physical disease in the elderly may be more difficult to detect. Signs and symptoms may be diminished or absent, delayed in onset or not characteristic of the same disease in a younger person.*

The illnesses that affect the elderly can fill textbooks and generally are not different from those affecting other age groups. As people grow older, acute medical conditions become less frequent and chronic conditions become more prevalent. Research shows that four out of five persons age 65 and over suffer at least one chronic condition; and multiple conditions are commonplace. Several illnesses are described below. The description may include causes, symptoms, medication and aids. (Note! These are only descriptions. Only a physician should diagnose and prescribe medication.) The caregivers, however, must be alert to symptoms and behavior and must carefully communicate their observations to the health care professional. While none of the following illnesses is peculiar to old age, each is common among the elderly.

**Hypertension:** High blood pressure (above 140/90).

**Congestive Heart Failure:** Failure of heart to pump adequate amount of blood to the body.

**Angina:** Short-periods of chest pain due to insufficient blood flow to heart muscle.

**Arthritis: (Osteo):** Ninety-seven percent (97%) of all people over age 60 have some degree of osteoarthritis.

**Diabetes:** Disease in which the body cannot make use of sugars and starches in a normal way. The result is that glucose accumulates

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in the blood and may appear in the urine.

**Stroke:** Occurs when blood supply to part of the brain tissue is cut off or reduced.

### Mental Changes

Contrary to popular belief, older adults have fewer mental impairments than other age groups. The primary mental health problem of older age is the result of cognitive impairment. The common cognitive impairments seen in the elderly are known as dementia disorders and can be divided into acute and chronic.

#### Acute Brain Syndromes

These are also known as delirium and are characterized by mental changes which occur in recent hours or days. They are most often caused by physical disease (e.g., heart attacks, infections, strokes, dehydration) or drug toxicity. The symptoms are confusion, disorientation, inattention, stuporousness, agitation, excitement. These symptoms may also be mistaken for irreversible dementia and can go untreated or sometimes written off as expected in an elderly person. The important thing to remember is that these acute brain syndromes are often treatable and reversible.

#### Dementia Disorders

This is a group of brain diseases that can lead to a loss of intellectual functioning such as remembering, reasoning and thinking. Dementia is not a disease but rather a group of symptoms which may accompany a disease or condition. More common symptoms may include changes in personality, mood, and behavior. Some examples of diseases that produce dementia include: Alzheimer's disease; vascular disease; multi-infarct dementia; Creutzfeldt-Jakob; Lou Gehrig's; Parkinson's; and Huntington's disease.

The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's Disease and it

affects an estimated 4 million Americans. Like other dementias, its rate of progression can vary from person to person. Since the disease is progressive and degenerative, it eventually leaves the patient unable to care for themselves. Some of the warning signs of the disease include: short term memory loss; wandering; restlessness; mood swings; poor or decreased judgment. As a caregiver you may be noticing some examples of behavioral changes like repeating the same questions over and over, poor hygiene, difficulty preparing a meal, getting lost, misplacing belongings, suspiciousness, and irritability. Currently there is no known treatment to stop or reverse the disease. However, there are prescription medications available to treat mild to moderate symptoms such as memory loss.

Since there are many causes of dementias that may be treatable (depression, nutritional deficiencies, stroke) it is important have the patient undergo a complete medical workup.

#### Ways to help

Seek and maintain medical advice and support.

Limit distractions.

Encourage movement and exercise. Don't take aggression and combativeness personally.

Offer encouragement.

Attend support group meetings.

Utilize supportive services in the community.

Obtain educational material on Alzheimer's Disease. It is available from your local Agency on Aging or the [Alzheimer's Association](#).

Not all mental changes in the elderly are due to organic brain syndromes. Elderly people who have suffered from mental illness earlier in life are more likely to develop the same problems in old age.

Some of these psychiatric illnesses are:

## medsearch continued...

**Reactive depressions** - related to stressful life changes, such as loss of a spouse or close friend, loss of function, job, home, or other important things.

**Unipolar/bipolar affective disorders** - depressions and manic disorders that are not reactive to changes, but are related to biochemical brain abnormalities.

**Schizophrenia** - one of the most common of the mental illnesses, it is also found with relative frequency in the elderly population, especially among the long-institutionalized.

**Alcohol abuse** - not often thought of as a problem among the elderly, it is nevertheless surprisingly common.

**Suicide rates** - although extremely low they are higher for elderly persons than for other age groups.

**Drug or medication abuse** - usually unintentional it is frequently detrimental.

The physical and mental changes may make old age seem like a time of disease and mental decay, but the intention is to inform about the special problems which occur with aging, not because of it. By identifying these problems, and treating them aggressively, one can help restore the elderly person to as functional, satisfying and healthy a life as possible. If more people were able to recognize and distinguish between diseases that may accompany old age and those changes that are related to the normal aging process, then perhaps they would be less negative about the aging process.

**Information supplied by:**  
**National Council on Aging**  
 1901 L Street, NW, 4th Floor  
 Washington, D.C. 20036  
 tel: 202.479.1200

**Alzheimer's Association**  
 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl. 17  
 Chicago, IL 60601-7633  
 tel: 312.335.8700

## POW MEDSEARCH PACKETS

<b>Packet 1</b>	
<b>VA Claim Information</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 2</b>	
<b>Stresses of Incarceration &amp; After Effects Extreme Stress</b> -Covers the after effects on the nerves and body organs	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 3</b>	
<b>After Effects of Imprisonment</b>	
Covers arthritis, alcoholism, visual, ulcers, varicose veins, impotency, brain damage, etc	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 4</b>	
<b>After Effects of Imprisonment</b>	
Part 1 - the heart, arteries and veins; Part 2 - cancer	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 5</b>	
<b>What Every Wife Should Know Before She Is Your Widow</b> - Social Security, insurance, burial procedures, allowances, etc. including what pathologist should look for in an autopsy	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Packet 8</b>	
<b>The European Story</b> , History of POWs in Germany, and after-effects of incarceration	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 9</b>	
<b>The Korea Story</b> , History of POWs in Korea, and after-effects	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 10</b>	
<b>The Japanese Story</b> History of POWs in Japan, and after-effects	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Packet 11</b>	
<b>NSO Director Answers Your Questions</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Presentation Set</b> (Packets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>The Modern Day Tragedy</b> - medical & claims evidence in support of PL 97-37	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>POW: The American Experience</b> - overview on POW experience; reviews vitamin deficiencies, infectious diseases and service-connected statistics	<b>\$6.00</b>
<b>Map of Location of German POW Camps</b> shows location of 76 camps	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Map of Location of Japanese POW Camps</b> 21" x 32" with camps featured in red	<b>\$4.00</b>

Check packets you wish to order and send, with payment, to:

**American Ex-Prisoners of War**  
**MEDSEARCH, 3201 East Pioneer Pkwy.,**  
**#40, Arlington, TX 76010**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (includes shipping/handling\*)

**MasterCard and Visa accepted (circle one) (\$5.00 minimum charge)**

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Shipping / Handling fees: In U.S.A.;** 1-3 packets, add \$5.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$8.00; 7 or more packets, add \$10.00. **In Canada;** 1-3 packets, add \$7.00; 4 -6 packets, add \$9.00, 7 or more packets, add \$13.00. **Overseas;** 1-3 packets, add \$12.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$18.00, 7 or more packets, add \$25.00

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# Andersonville



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

## Memorial Day At Andersonville National Cemetery

By Gerry Allen  
Cemetery Administrator, ANHS

Once again, Memorial Day - formerly known as "Decoration Day" - passed this year with diminishing attention. It is a holiday that much of America now uses as an unofficial jump-start of the summer season. It is also thought of as a day of picnics, baseball, family get-togethers, and other activities. As the baby-boomers, X and Y generations and their children mature, the original meaning of the day begins to slowly extinguish.

America, with its fast pace, seems to be losing its touch with this holiday. Originally declared "Decoration Day," its purpose was to decorate the graves and remember those patriots that died in the Civil War. Different towns and villages brought wreaths, crosses, and flowers to their local cemeteries.

While several towns and villages claim to be the originators of Decoration/Memorial Day, the most common belief is that the first Decora-

tion Day was held on May 5, 1866, in the village of Waterloo, New York. Subsequently, on May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, Commander-In-Chief, Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed "Decoration Day" a holiday to be observed on May 30, 1868.

The practice of decorating veterans' graves with small flags was believed to have begun with the first official Decoration Day service held at the Arlington National Cemetery in 1868. These flags were part of the flowered decorations distributed over the Union soldiers' graves. These decorations were then also distributed over the Confederate soldiers' graves after Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant proclaimed their graves looked bare and also deserved decorations.

In 1882, the name was officially changed to "Memorial Day," and soldiers who had died in other conflicts were also honored. The South did not officially observe Decoration Day, but chose to honor its dead on separate days until after World War I. In 1971, Memorial Day was officially declared a national holiday.

### FLAGS



As more and more of America's veterans die and are buried in national cemeteries, a trend has developed toward curtailing the practice of decorating each veteran's grave with an individual flag for both economical and efficiency reasons. Many national and state cemeteries now decorate the site with flags lining the roads throughout the cemetery. The flags used for these "Avenues of Flags" are donated to the cemeteries by the next-of-kin of the veterans buried within the cemetery. This is a patriotic gesture of the families to the permanent residents of the site.

This past year, the Andersonville National Cemetery was decorated with both the Avenue of Flags as well as individual flags on each grave. The Avenue of Flags was organized and assembled by the Robins Air Force Base Motorcycle Club. 75 to 100 motorcycles entered the park with eager participants ready to undertake the project. Approximately 250 flags were raised on temporary twenty-foot flagpoles along the roads in the cemetery and around the National Prisoner of War Museum. Nearly two hours later, they exited the park with the colors of the flags waving over the site.

Then, over 350 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Cub Scouts, Daisy Scouts, and Tiger Cubs descended upon the cemetery early on Saturday before Memorial Day. After a brief ceremony and the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance," these 350 scouts and their leaders covered the cemetery like ants on a picnic table. Within one hour, over 18,500 graves were decorated with two foot high American flags. It is hoped that these scouts learned an appreciation of the meaning of the holiday, as well as understanding the patriotic sacrifices of the men and women they honored with their efforts.

The scouts were then invited to the picnic area for a feast of hot dogs, cookies, fruits, and drinks. There was, and still is, a great reward in seeing the nation's youth participating in a symbolic gesture towards America's veterans, which was the original purpose of the holiday when initiated one hundred thirty-nine years ago.

When the sun came up on the Andersonville National Cemetery early Memorial Day, there was a stillness that was broken only by the cries of the birds, the jabbering of the squirrels, and the occasional rustling of the flags. As light slowly brightened the Cemetery, the colors of the flags reflected the gratitude and appreciation to the former soldiers and sailors who offered the ultimate sacrifice for those of us living in this great nation.

# NamPOW news



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804.389.1668 (cell)  
pgalanti@comcast.net

*“To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan.” — Abraham Lincoln, 2nd Inaugural Address*

The military health care “crisis” is another of those spin-driven artificial outrages that defies rationality. It is just so easy to generate horror stories when one is using exceptions to prove a rule.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, on the verge of being shut down and moved to Maryland, reopened an old building to house its larger-than-expected number of outpatients. A *Post* reporter discovers the old building to have had mold and falling plaster and ceiling tiles. The reporter finds some disgruntled patients and writes her probable Pulitzer story. And creates a PR firestorm in Congress as the scandal *du jour* for the oh-so-righteously indignant pols.

A *Times-Dispatch* team discovered some flaws in the delivery of health care services at McGuire Veterans' Affairs Medical Center in Richmond and the tone of the article implies that the treatment is akin to a third world country.

As a career Naval officer, a nearly seven-year Vietnam prisoner of

war, as one who's been active in veterans' issues for many years, and as a fifteen-year executive active in state and national medical professional societies, permit me to use a finer brush to paint the conditions in these institutions.

Having been treated by military medicine, by the VA at McGuire and by a third-world country's “medical” system, I'll say unequivocally that the treatment is outstanding - defined as the best that can be given with existing financial resources. We're getting good medical “bang-for-the-buck” with both military medicine and the Veterans Health Agency of the VA.

There are artificial distractions that influence medical outcomes. When an agenda-driven reporter unleashes an exposé typically after having been tipped-off by a disgruntled employee or patient with an axe to grind, the investigations bring the institution to a crawl. The reaction is typically of the “Ready-Fire-Aim” mode that equals “do something *now* so that we can show we're doing something.” Usually, as in what happened at Walter Reed, the wrong individuals often get disciplined or fired. Clinical treatment gets slowed as hordes of investigators arrive to “get to the bottom” of this problem. Some possible causes for lack of resources are missed or glossed over when snoopy reporters ask, “How many of the hospital's resources are absorbed by VIPs that include congressional members and their staffs and families?”

Re: McGuire. I was incredulous when I read the stories of awful treatment. I know some of those who had problems with the system and, with one exception that was quickly rectified, their medical treatment and support from the hospital staff and Richmond community were and continue to be excellent. One family from the western part of the U.S. researched all the facilities available in the VA

system and decided that McGuire was the absolute best. In saying the treatment is excellent, I'm using the mainstream of patients and families rather than exceptions to prove the rule.

The VA system is overloaded due to some political pandering to let everybody who ever wore a uniform into the system. Despite that, the many dedicated health professionals and volunteers at McGuire - including the adjunct faculty from the VCU/MCV schools, perform admirably. They strive and usually succeed in living up to the promise made by Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

The Navy ATP-1 Allied Signal Book contains the abbreviation BZ (pronounced “Bravo Zulu”) which means “Well Done.” To the wonderful health professionals at military hospitals for their dedication, professionalism and commitment I give a resounding, hearty “Bravo Zulu.”

For their erstwhile, zero-sum detractors, I give a rating that is not in the ATP-1, “Bravo Sierra.”



## pow-mia



### PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

POW/MIA car-window decals are available at a cost of \$20 per 100 by sending a check to the League office at 1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 170, Arlington, VA 22201. POW/MIA lapel pins are also available at \$3 each or 2/\$5. For added information please contact the League's web site at [www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://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.

The Department of Defense continues a concerted effort to locate the families of service members missing from our Nation's wars to be able to provide them with information about the Department's concerted efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting for their missing loved ones. Additionally, the Department is seeking DNA reference samples that it can use in its identification efforts.

### **Soldier Missing from the Korean War is Identified**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

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He is Cpl. Clarence R. Becker, U.S. Army, of Lancaster, Pa. He was buried April 25, 2007 in Indiantown Gap, Pa.

### **Vietnam War Casualties Accounted For**

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

They are Col. Norman D. Eaton, of Weatherford, Okla., and Lt. Col. Paul E. Getchell, of Portland, Maine, both US Air Force. Eaton was buried April 25 at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., and Getchell was buried later this spring at Arlington.

The identification of the remains of one American previously KIA/BNR from the Vietnam War was released on April 11th. LT Michael R. Newell, USN, from Ellenville, NY, was reported killed in action on December 14, 1966, in an F8E on a mission over North Vietnam. His remains were repatriated August 15, 2005, identified November 27, 2006, and his name was released April 11th. The accounting for LT Newell brings to 797 the number of US personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of the 1,784 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

### **Ten Missing WWII Airmen are Identified**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of ten U.S. servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

They are 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Raymond A. Cooley, of Leary, Texas; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Dudley R. Ives, of Ingleside, Texas; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George E. Archer, of Cushing, Okla.; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Donald F. Grady, of Harrisburg, Pa.; Tech. Sgt. Richard R. Sargent, of North Girard, Pa.; Tech. Sgt. Steve Zayac, of Cleveland, Ohio; Staff Sgt. Joseph M. King, of Detroit, Mich.; Staff Sgt. Thomas G. Knight, of Brookfield, Ill.; Staff Sgt. Norman L. Nell, of Tarkio, Mo.; and Staff Sgt. Blair W. Smith, of Nu Mine, Pa.; all U.S. Army Air Forces. The dates and locations of the funerals are being set by their families.

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

### **DoD and DEA Team Up on Personnel Recovery**

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced April 20 that Ambassador Charles A. Ray, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, and Michael A. Braun, the assistant administrator, chief of operations at the Drug Enforcement Administration, signed a memorandum of agreement concerning mutual support in personnel recovery.

This is the first such MOA on personnel recovery signed by the DoD and the DEA. Similar agreements are being coordinated with other organizations within the U.S. government.

Partnership between the DoD and DEA demonstrates the U.S. government's efforts to expand personnel recovery capabilities through interagency cooperation.

For additional information on the Defense Department's personnel recovery mission, visit the DPMO Web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call (703) 699-1169.

## civilians

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

## Civilian Reunions, Yesterday and Tomorrow Walnut Creek, California

Ninety people were in attendance on February 3, 2007, at a Civilian Philippine Liberation Reunion Luncheon in Walnut Creek, CA, at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The Bay Area Civilian Ex-prisoners of War Chapter (BACEPOW) hosted ex-internees from various World War II concentration camps in the Philippines, with relatives, friends, and guests. Included were "civilians-in-hiding," Filipinos Scouts, a female guerrilla, military POWs, and POW supporters from other wars.

Don Thompson, BACEPOW Commander, presided over the function. The keynote speaker was Larry Strickland, AXPOW National Director, Southwest Region, who spoke of his experiences as a POW captured on the USS Pueblo and held in North Korea in 1968. Ted Cadwallader, Chair of the AXPOW Civilian Ex-POW Committee, discussed the proposed change of title for civilian ex-internees members of the organization from "Civilian Ex-POWs" to "Civilian Wartime Internees."

The Lou Gopal documentary of the civilian experience in the Japanese camps in the Philippines, [Victims of Circumstance](#), was presented, as was the Peter Parsons' DVD story of his father, Chick Parsons, [Secret War in the Pacific](#).

[Mark Your Calendars for February 2-4, 2008!](#)

The next Civilian Philippine Liberation Reunion weekend will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek, CA. Plans are in progress for this activity and additional information will be forthcoming. Please join us next year. We look forward to your attendance at this informative and fun gathering celebrating liberations in the Philippines in early 1945.

For information contact: Sascha Jansen, [Mabuhayma@aol.com](mailto:Mabuhayma@aol.com)

Thanks to all who joined us in February, 2007.

BACEPOW Reunion Committee

## St. Augustine, Florida

The BAGUIO/BILIBID Reunion was born in the minds of three former teenagers, now seventy-year-old, grandparents at the 37th Infantry Reunion, held in Macon, MO in August 2005. We three were chatting and laughing about playing hide-and-seek in Camp Holmes and trying to hide as far away as possible from the Guard House. Scrounging for sufficient paper for homework. Wearing clogs on our feet because we had outgrown our shoes. And ALWAYS wondering WHEN WILL THE AMERICANS COME TO LIBERATE US and what would that be like. We decided to name the Reunion "OUR LAST HURRAH".

The theme of the Feb 6,7,8, 2007 Reunion (St. Augustine, FL) was not to just say "Hi-and-hello", but to SHARE our experiences with especially kids who are at the ages we were in the prison camp. Several of us "survivors" spoke to 5th through 8th grade students; arranged by Fred ("B.D.") Crouter. Gene Pope, 37th Infantry Division Veteran rounded up twelve Vets of his same Division to also share their "war stories". The 2nd Battalion of the 148th Infantry of the 37th Division "unexpectedly discovered and LIBERATED Bilibid, 4 February 1945 ——what a great

day we will never forget. Several of those gallant Vets who were in Bilibid also attended.

Lots of hugs and tears and THANKS. It is indeed lopsided that those Vets consider us "heroes"; whereas THEY are our heroes because they risked their lives for our freedom. We sincerely hope those kids who heard our stories learn that "freedom isn't free."

We were 456 in Bilibid when liberated and 37 of us attended the reunion. Three "flew the pond from England". Actually two from the UK and one from Ireland. Several children AND grand children of us former Bilibidders were there, too. Dot Douglas Whittle did MOST of the planning because she lives in Gainesville, FL. Katie Ream Sobeck (Silver Springs, MD) did the bookwork. And I, assisted by son-in-law, Cory Thompson, did the Program using US Army/Signal Corps photos, thanks to John ("Reamo") Ream. Without the internet, we never could have put the event together !!!

Betsy Heold Heimke,  
Life-member EXPOW,  
Heart-of-America Chapter.



Betsy was only a teenager when she and her family were imprisoned at Camp Holmes and later at Bilibid Prison camp in Manila.

Her mother fashioned an American flag out of odd garments in the camp and concealed the flag until after their rescue.

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# events and information

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**June 2, 2007. The Dept. of Alabama Annual Convention** will be held at the Birmingham VA Hospital. For more information, please contact Wilma Bristow, Adjutant, 205-477-6494 or 205-281-1190 (cell); wilmabristow@bellsouth.net.

**June 7-9, 2007. The Department of Arizona Annual Convention** will be held at the Windmill Inn and Suites, 12545 W. Bell Road, Surprise, Arizona, 85374 phone 623-583-0133, Ext 507. For more information contact: Ruth Kilmer, 15834 Huron Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375, phone 623 214 0600.

**June 7-9, 2007. Stalags 9A, 9B, 9C and Berga Am Elster ex-POWs** will hold their annual reunion at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Kansas City, MO 64153. Contact: Jake Underwood, 913 Maple Road, Uniontown, KS 66779; 620-756-4647; jakeunderwood@ckt.net.

**June 8-9, 2007. The Dept. of West Virginia Annual Convention** will be held at the Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact secretary Annette Smith, 724-785-8536.

**June 13-14, 2007. The Dept of Iowa** will hold their state convention at the Best Western Metro North at 133 SE Delaware, Ankeny, Iowa. The phone number for reservations is 1 800 937-8376. More information will be available from P. Ludwig, [patlesone@yahoo.com](mailto:patlesone@yahoo.com) or by calling 515- 570-8049.

**June 14-15, 2007, The Department of North Carolina Annual State Convention** at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux Fayetteville, NC, contact Commander Paul Dallas or Adjutant/Treasurer Doris Dallas 910-867-2775.

**June 21-25, 2007. WWII PT Boats, Bases, Tenders 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion** will be held at the Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY. For more information, contact PT Tenders, Boats and Bases, PO Box 38070, Germantown, TN 38183; 901-755-8440; [www.ptboats.org](http://www.ptboats.org).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Feb. 2-4, 2008. The next Civilian Philippine Liberation Reunion weekend** will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Walnut Creek, CA. Plans are in progress for this activity and additional information will be forthcoming. Please join us next



## events, continued

year. We look forward to your attendance at this informative and fun gathering celebrating liberations in the Philippines in early 1945. For information contact: Sascha Jansen, [Mabuhayma@aol.com](mailto:Mabuhayma@aol.com).

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

## looking for



I am the Historian for the American Fighter Aces Association. I am trying to determine if **Robert Reynolds** is still alive; and if not, where and when he died. He served with the 354th Fighter Group, and was shot down and captured on September 12, 1944, and released at the end of the war.

I have no further information on him, other than he was apparently born in 1924, and his hometown was Orlando, Florida. I did discover a Robert Reynolds in the Florida death index, and his death notice states that he served in the USAF. But I cannot "that" Robert Reynolds to "my" Robert Reynolds. Did anyone know him, or know what happened to him. Many thanks. Frank Olynyk, 207 Chelmsford Dr., Aurora, Ohio 44202.

I'm looking for anyone who knew **Fred Riedel** who was shot down in Germany and ended up in Luft 1 at Barth. His cousin wants to know where he was captured and who was a friend to him. Thanks, Wendell A. Fetters, 2001 Condolea Drive, Leawood, KS 66209; 913-491-1611.

19 years ago, Andy Rooney had a humorous article on meaningless "medals". It ran in the 385<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group paper. There is a (new to me) "medal" mentioned of late. The **Victory Medal**, or Winning Side Medal. It was not around at the time of Andy's article. Where did this medal come from? How long has it been around? Thank you, Buell Martin, 3 Pickett Lane, Unionville, CT 06085.

We are searching for anyone with information about **Bernard (Berco) Iticovici** or his relatives. Bernard was a French POW, number 29347, at Stalag VIIIA, Gorlitz, Germany in 1941. He was inducted into the French Army in 1940 and in June 1940 was captured during the Battle for France. It is possible that Bernard was present at Messaien's first performance of his "Quartet for the End of Time" at Stalag VIIIA on a cold January day in 1941. With thanks, David Lewin, 156 Totteridge Lane, London N20 8JJ England; Tel: +44 208 446 0404; Fax: +44 208 445 8732.

## Members' forum



Dear NC Fletcher:

It would seem most appropriate that the American Ex-Prisoners of War, given the histories of many of its members, should take a stand on the national level to condemn the pos-

ture of the current administration in Washington, DC with reference to the use of torture of prisoners held under the regulations of the so-called "War on Terror".

Official approval of these methods of torture is anathema to the moral tenets of this country and common humane principles.

This organization is the obvious choice to speak out against this outrageous form of coercion of prisoners held by agents of the government of the United States.

Additionally, the current prime minister of Japan has tried to downplay the use of "comfort women" by the armed forces of Imperial Japan during WWII. He also wants to renege on a prior apology made by a previous government official to survivors of this crime.

A non-binding resolution by Rep. Mike Honda in Congress calls on Japan for reparations to be paid to the few surviving victims of this onerous personal aggression. The American Ex-Prisoners of War should support Mr. Honda's resolution in every way.

We in this organization must stand and be counted in firm opposition to these insolent actions, which have personal, historical meaning for many of us.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Cadwallader  
Life Member 34331  
Civilian Internee, Santo Tomas  
Internment Camp, Manila,  
Philippines  
1942-1945.

59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION  
 Oct. 17-21, 2007  
 Springfield, IL  
 "Land of Lincoln"  
 Convention Registration

Registrant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs (Wheel chair, oxygen, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Unit When Captured \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre \_\_\_\_\_ Camps \_\_\_\_\_

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

Payable to: 2007 Convention Fund

Mail to: Marylou Andersen

1244 Red Oak Ct

Elgin, Illinois 60120

847-717-0343

*Saturday Night Banquet Choice:*

*Boneless Breast of Chicken* \_\_\_\_\_

*Traditional London Broil* \_\_\_\_\_

*Choose One*

**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

**60<sup>th</sup> National Convention**

**October 17-21, 2007**

**AGENDA**

**Tues. Oct. 16**

National Service Officer Training

Tours

**Wed. Oct. 17**

National Board of Directors Meeting

**Thurs. Oct. 18**

Opening Ceremonies

National Legislation Program

Medsearch Seminar

Commander's Reception

**Fri. Oct. 19**

Men and Women's Workshops

Education Seminar

Ladies/PNCs Luncheons

National Convention Call to Order

Reunion Night

**Sat. Oct. 20**

Continuation of General Assembly

Banquet & Installation of Officers

**Sun. Oct. 21**

National Board of Directors Meeting

**Ex-POW Bulletin**

**June 2007**

**18**

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**Auburn, Illinois 62615**

**Total Registration:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Ladies Luncheon, Friday Oct. 19**

*price to come*

**Grand Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

We're planning a number of tours and other activities. Right now, we're still making plans, but more information will be in the Bulletin as we get closer.

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

The PNC Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Reunion Night will be Friday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Check the June Bulletin and/or Registration at the hotel once you check in.

60<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
October 17-21, 2007  
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**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Candidate for National Office  
2007**



Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

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

**Submit To:**

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

**Ex-POW Bulletin  
June 2007  
19**

# An Extraordinary Extended POW Family

By Alice A. Booher

In July 2005, I wrote a *Bulletin* article about two Army friends, POWs, one who died in captivity, and the other who fulfilled her friend's wishes for her family in a Flagstaff house built by *Extreme Makeover-Home Edition*, and a new Hogan and Vets Center on the reservation. Less than two years later, this follow-up piece is, quite simply, all about family.

Lori Ann Piestewa, born in 1979, was the 4<sup>th</sup> child of Hopi/Mexican Priscilla (Percy), and her Hopi husband Terry, a Vietnam veteran and son of a WWII veteran. Living on a Hopi enclave in the midst of the Navaho reservation in Tuba City, AZ, Lori married her HS sweetheart who went into the Army; as a single mother of two, she too later joined the Army.

Lori's Hopi name is Qotsa-Hon-Mana, "White Bear Girl". Piestewa means "water pooled on the desert by a hard rain". Her Army friends knew her as "Pie". Her story is well known as a member of the Army's 507<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Co. convoy that took a wrong turn and was ambushed. On 3/23/03, in the first major loss of life in OIF, 11 soldiers were killed. Seven were captured, 5 POWs in one group, and 2 of the 3 women POWs in another. Piestewa and Lynch were taken to a hospital nearby where Pie died soon thereafter.

Commemorating the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ambush, on March 23, 2007, first in a moving multi-cultural experience at Phoenix' Piestewa Peak (formerly Squaw Peak), coordinated by Ernest Martinez and a Memorial Commit-

tee, Inter Tribal Council of AZ, City of Phoenix and AZ OIC, the Piestewa family was joined by former POWs who served with their daughter, and myriad other service personnel and Native Americans, in a day of remembrance.



At the now annual sunrise service, Pie's 7 year old exuberant, irrepressible daughter Carla, sang a song composed by Navaho recording artist Radmilla Cody called "Woman Warrior, She's My Hero". Carla had earlier joined her shy, solid 8 year brother Brandon Whiterock, who is enrolled in his father's Navaho Nation, in leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The "Gentle Giant" and "Thumbelina" is what grandmother Percy calls these glorious reflections of Lori's good.

The day-long events included a Gourd Dance at the Cook School in Tempe, a review honoring all veterans, and an evening candlelight vigil and reception at the Phoenix City Hall Atrium for those who had lost family members in Iraq and Afghanistan.

One ex-POW, now 23 but with ageless grace, articulately voices her love for her former roommate while she steadfastly deflects praise from herself onto all who did not return. Usually a crowd avoider, one who can be counted on to join this event is Jessica Lynch, with a limp, not using crutches but with braces under her clothes.

This time, she shares a special bundle. On January 19, 2007, in Parkersburg, WV, against all odds,

Jessi and her partner Wes Robinson became parents of a daughter whom they named Dakota (Sioux/Lakota dialect for "friend" or "ally") Ann in memory of Lori. Tiny 2 month old blue eyed, red haired Dakota Ann Robinson slept through Phoenix Oyate's *Flag Song*, the national anthem sung in Navaho and *America the Beautiful* but when it got too quiet, she loudly protested.



Often avoiding the spotlight but also always present is African American former POW Shoshana Nyree Johnson, now a civilian, living in El Paso with her 5 year old daughter. The Panama native with an Army father, culinary arts student, healed gunshot wounds in both legs and fractured ankles, is ramrod erect, dressed in a tailored black business suit, hair short and glossy, and a smile that lights up her whole face. About her friend Pie, she is profound: "We would never have guessed how much she would impact not just the Hopi Nation, but the entire U.S. She has changed not only the name of a mountain but the way the world looks at Native American women. Her bravery and courage will live on forever. All that would not have been possible without her family....and all the families that stand behind us and support us and enable us to do our jobs as soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines. All we ask is that you take a moment out of your day to remember those who sacrifice so much."

POW Patrick Wayne Miller of Walter, KS, awarded the Silver Star for his actions, decided at the last minute



in 2006 to join the AZ services; too overcome to speak, Johnson passed on a “thank you and a God bless” for him. Johnson, who credits Miller with saving her life, recalls his off-key rendition of Toby Keith’s “*Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue*” in captivity. Still in the Army, father of 2 kids, in 2007, silently, with a visibly heavy heart, he returned to AZ to remember those lost. Percy Piestewa says simply of Patrick, “We love him”.

Fellow former POW Joseph Neal Hudson of Alamogordo, NM, father of an 8 year old daughter, speaks of the friendship among them transcending differences of culture and background. Now medically retired from the Army, he volunteers for DAV in El Paso and edits their monthly newsletter while helping other vets to file appropriate claims. His voice is strong and unwavering even if his back is riddled with gunshot wounds and shrapnel. “It’s amazing that all races, all nationalities, all ages across the whole country have come together, one team, one fight”. Promising to be back in 2008, he says the Piestewa family has given all the former POWs a second home in AZ.

And the 507<sup>th</sup> POWs were not alone. WWII former POW Phillip W. Coon, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantryman from Sapulpa, OK, captured at Marvales, Bataan Death March and Japanese Hell Ship survivor, honored member of the Muscogee Creek Nation, gave baby Dakota a traditional turtle rattle. Coon’s wife Helen sang twice in the services, and his son was close by his side.

Myriad other Native Americans and military were represented, in and out of uniform. So was DVA with the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center’s [the 450 bed VAMC was ordered built by President Harry S Truman in 1947 on 27 acres of land from the Indian School Reservation] VA Voices serenading the sunrise service. Many other veterans’ service organizations, Patriot Guard riders, military bases, schools and units also participated.

The POWs received blankets and medals. In addition to a lovely copper colored coat and pink Pendleton blanket, Dakota was given a surprise baby shower at the American Lutheran Church.



The Piestewa’s thanked guests who traveled far with a supper in their new home. Percy says the house was given to them, but they will give it back. Indeed, in the spirit of the larger, loving family, that is what they have been doing. And come March 23, 2008, if they can, the whole extended POW “family” will return to AZ to remember and celebrate.



# News Briefs

## VA Searching for Last Doughboys of World War I Only Four Believed Still Alive

With the number of known living American veterans of World War I now standing at four, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is seeking public assistance in determining whether others are still alive.

“These veterans have earned the gratitude and respect of the nation,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. “We are coming to the end of a generation that helped bring the United States to the center of the international arena.”

Nicholson noted that VA usually knows about the identity and location of veterans only after they come to the Department for benefits. None of the four known surviving World War I veterans has been on the VA benefits rolls.

The Secretary asks members of the general public who know of a surviving World War I veteran to contact VA. To qualify as a World War I veteran, someone must have been on active duty between April 6, 1917 and Nov. 11, 1918. VA is also looking for surviving Americans who served in the armed forces of allied nations.

Information about survivors can be e-mailed to [ww1@va.gov](mailto:ww1@va.gov); faxed to 202-273-6702, or mailed to the Office of Public Affairs,

## news continued...

Department of Veterans Affairs (80), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420.

About 4.7 million men and women served in the U.S. armed forces during World War I. About 53,000 died in combat, with another 204,000 wounded.

The four known surviving World War I veterans are John Babcock, 102, from Puget Sound, Wash.; Frank Buckles, 106, Charles Town, W.Va.; Russell Coffey, 108, North Baltimore, Ohio; and Harry Landis, 107, Sun City Center, Fla.

Babcock is an American who served in the Canadian Army. The other three survivors were in the U.S. Army.

## VA Claim "Fixers"

The US Department of Veterans Affairs is receiving an increasing number of claims for VA benefits from veterans or survivors who avail of the services of a "Claims Fixer". VA often finds these claims contain fraudulent evidence that has been submitted by the Fixer. When it is suspected that a claim involves a Fixer it is investigated with a resultant delay in processing the claim. If it is determined that fraud was committed, the veteran's right to VA benefits is forfeited. This is a lifetime forfeiture meaning the veteran and /or their dependents lose all rights to ever be considered for VA benefits for the rest of their lives. Claim Fixers have no connection within VA. If approached by someone claiming to have an "IN" with the VA, the VA office should be notified immediately. Claim Fixers cannot affect the outcome of your claim. They can

only jeopardize your entitlement to VA benefits.

To protect yourself against Claim Fixers:

Avoid them. Anyone charging a fee to assist you is a claims fixer.

Do not sign ANY documents or forms unless they are accurate.

Do not submit any medical evidence or doctor's statements unless the information is factual.

Do not pay someone the benefits you have earned in defense of your country. They have no right to those benefits.

If you have questions about VA benefits or services, contact an AX-POW National Service Officer or your local VA. Please remember, VA does not charge for any service or assistance they provide.

## Heroism and Athletics Converge in Milwaukee This Summer VA and PVA Bring Veterans Annual Wheelchair Sports Event

Five hundred disabled American heroes will converge on Milwaukee June 19 - 23 to test their agility, athleticism and strength of spirit in the 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games, the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world. Veterans from the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq will again join veterans from the Gulf War, Vietnam and other conflicts in 17 competitive events.

The Wheelchair Games, presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), are open to all U.S. military veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments. For the first time at the Games, a demonstration track event will be held for athletes who

are able to stand using prosthetic devices.

The Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee and the Wisconsin chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) are hosting the 2007 Games. Veterans competing in the National Veterans Wheelchair Games come from nearly all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Great Britain.

At the Games, veterans will compete in track and field, swimming, basketball, weightlifting, softball, air guns, quad rugby, 9-ball, bowling, table tennis, archery, handcycling, a motorized rally, wheelchair slalom, a power wheelchair relay and power soccer. Trap shooting and wheelchair curling will be exhibition events this year.

Sports are important in the therapy used to treat many disabilities. VA is a recognized leader in rehabilitation, with therapy programs available at VA health care facilities across the nation. For many injured veterans, the Wheelchair Games provide their first exposure to wheelchair athletics.

The 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games begin June 19 with a wheelchair basketball demonstration at Red Arrow Park, as well as the 2007 Disabled Sports, Recreation and Fitness Expo. Kids Day at the Games is slated to take place on June 22 at the Milwaukee County Zoo, where local children, many with disabilities, will meet the athletes and learn about wheelchair sports.

Opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the Midwest Airlines Convention Center, along with many of the week's competitive events. Admission is free to the public and the community is encouraged to attend.

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



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

Several years ago, we purchased two new DELL computers for the National Service Office

We have donated \$4,000 to help the EX-POW Bulletin

We furnished two rooms for families of veteran-patients staying overnight

We purchased rehabilitation equipment, televisions and more

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

If you want to help, call Lee at 718-642-7647.

THANK YOU!



### American Ex-Prisoners of War Website Biography

[www.axpow.org](http://www.axpow.org)

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



Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Email

Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Where were you captured?

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

Medals received

Job in the military

After the war

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

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

Telephone

Unit

Date captured

Date liberated

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

Please include your check for \$65.

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

Ex-POW Bulletin

June 2007

23

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In memory of Leroy Bowman, by  
Dr. & Mrs. George Nelson

In memory of my wife, Myrtle, by  
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## chaplain's corner



### National Chaplain

**John Romine**

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

For some unknown reason, my feeble mind has taken me back to some events that happened at the end of WWII. I was shot down June 9, 1944 and liberated April 29, 1945. Those months as a POW seem to be dominating my thinking. Then came liberation. I cannot help but remember some of the greatest people in the whole wide world. How we shared those mea-

ger rations. How we helped each other any way we could to make life a little easier. After we were liberated, it took several days for arrangements to be made to move us to an open field for planes to come pick us up. Those who liberated us were still fighting a war and had very little time for us; but they did stop and unload their most welcome rations that they had stored on their trucks and tanks in case of an emergency. I believe with all of my heart that at the true and living God had a great deal to do with our survival. Our liberation. And the reaching out to help each other through a very hellish time. It is this kind of help and concern that our unique organization was based on and still needs now. So many have gone on and most, if not all, are coming to that time in life where they need a hand of friendship. Please reach out in that same comradeship and concern that we shared back then.

**Let us pray:** Almighty and loving God, help us to remember our love and concern for each other as we faced situations far beyond our own abilities to even survive. May praise and glory be given to You for Your blessings that we enjoy each and every day. May Your will be done in all things so we might know how to become more like You as we face the trials and tasks of life. Forgive us our faults and shortcomings as we ask Your blessing upon us...our loved ones...our sick and afflicted...our great nation...and those still listed as POW/MIA. We ask these things in Your holy and blessed name. AMEN.

**Thought for the month:** The person who wants to do something to help others finds a way; the other kind finds excuses.



# taps



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

**ABBOND, Walter**, of Las Vegas, Nevada, died Christmas Eve, 2006. He served in the Army and was a POW in Stalag 4B. He is survived by his wife, Maizie.

**ANDERSON, William F.**, 86, of Spokane, WA passed away Jan. 26, 2007. He served in the AAC during WWII, flying out of Foggia, Italy. He was shot down, captured and marched into central Germany. Bill was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Elaine, 2 sons and 2 granddaughters.

**AZARES, Francisco**, of El Paso, TX died March 18, 2007. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 1/2 years of captivity. He then served in Korea and Vietnam. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Celerina, four children, one grandson and one great-granddaughter.

**BARDOWSKI, Marylin Rae**, 76, of Belton, TX passed away March 24, 2007. She as the widow of the late Zenon R. "Bud". Rae leaves behind a son, Stephen, one niece and two nephews. She was a member of Cen-Tex Chapter, AXPOW.

**BEHRENS, Richard M.**, 88, of Grand Coulee, WA died Feb. 26, 2007. He was captured in the North Africa campaign while serving in the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineers, 34<sup>th</sup> Div. He was held in Stalag 7A, 3B and 4B. Dick was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Joyce, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**BOWMAN, Leroy Wilson "Rebel"**, of Chaptico, MD passed away

March 6, 2007 at the age of 87. He was a life member of AXPOW and member of the former Maryland South Chapter. Rebel was captured on Dec. 10, 1941 on Guam and held nearly 4 years in Zentsuji, Osaka and Hirohata prison camps. He leaves his loving wife, Elise.

**BROWN, Ira James**, 75, of Ft. Smith, AR died Feb. 24, 2007. He served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars and he was a member of the Old Ft. Smith Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Wanda, 4 sisters and 1 brother.

**CAPEN, Morris N.** of Rancho Cordova, CA passed away March 14, 2007. He was 84. Morris had been a prisoner in Santo Tomas and Los Banos in the Philippines; he then served in the Navy, Seabees and Air Force. He leaves his wife, Grace, 2 daughters and 3 grandsons. He was a member of the 49ers Chapter, AXPOW.

**CLEVEN, Dale W. "Buck"** of Sheridan, WY died Nov. 17, 2006. He was shot down over Bremen and captured. He was a member of the Dakota West Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Lee, 1 sister and 1 nephew.

**DEEHR, Vern P.**, 87, of Spokane Valley, WA passed away Oct. 21, 2006. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 379<sup>th</sup> BG, 425<sup>th</sup> BS. He was a POW in Luft III and VIIA. Vern was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Catie, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

**ELLIOTT, James Walker**, of Fort Worth, Texas, died April 15, 2007. Jimmy was a B-24 ball turret gunner. On his 12th bombing mission, his crew of ten had a mid-air colli-

sion. Jimmy was one of four who parachuted to safety. He was captured and transported to Luft 4, and marched "The Black March". After being liberated, he went to Camp Lucky Strike at LeHavre, France, where he happened to meet and visit with General Dwight D Eisenhower in the chow line. Jimmy was predeceased by his wife, Merle.

**GOLDMAN, Jane**, age 83, of Hampton, VA passed away Feb. 24, 2007. She as the wife of Ex-POW Ben for 64 years; both were members of the James L. Hale Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband, she leaves 1 daughter, 1 son and 4 grandchildren. She was a talented teacher and will be remembered by former students, co-workers and friends across the country.

**HAMM, William**, member of the Dayton Area Chapter #6, AXPOW, died recently.

**HATCH, Russell E**, 85 of North Haverhill, NH, died December 25, 2006. He was shot down over France on Dec. 1, 1943. He received a leg injury and was soon captured by the German soldiers. After some recovery, he was sent to Stalag 17 where he was held for 13 months. He had been a member of VT Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Violet; a son, a sister, a brother, four grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

**HIBBS, Richard G.**, of Shreveport, LA died Feb. 26, 2007. He was 85. He was captured while serving with the Marines during WWII. At the time of his death, he was the last surviving Marine of the Bataan Death March. He is survived by one son, one daughter, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## taps continued

**HORMAN, DAN**, of Stanley, Wisconsin, passed away in early 2007. Dan was a member of the National American Ex-Prisoner of War Organization and a member of the Tacoma, Washington Chapter.

**HUSON, Edwin S. "Bud"**, of Kingsville, MD passed away March 14, 2007. He was 83. During WWII, he served in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 92<sup>nd</sup> BG, 327<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down while on a bombing mission; he was held POW in Luft IV. Bud marched across Germany on the 85 day Black March. He was a life member of AXPOW and JVC of the Albert J. Bland MD North Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Eleanor, one son, one sister and two grandsons. Bud will be missed by his many, many friends.

**JOHNSON, Gerhard**, of Wausau, WI, died March 12, 2007. He served in the Army with the 36<sup>th</sup> Division, and was taken POW in Italy. He was held 17 months in a German camp. He is survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, Elaine.

**JONES, Oleta V.**, 78, of Amarillo, TX died Feb. 3, 2007. She was the loving wife of Sherman Lee "Dusty" Jones, an ex-POW and survivor of the Sunchon Tunnel Massacre in Korea. Survivors include her husband, 3 daughters, eight grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**KAROBONIK, Alec**, of Tucson, AZ passed away March 13, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 45<sup>th</sup> Div., 157<sup>th</sup> Reg., 1<sup>st</sup> BN, C Company. He was captured at Bitche Magino, Lorraine and held in Stammlager XIIA, Limbert, Bad Orb, Germany. Alec was a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, AXPOW.

**KIEFER, James W.**, 77, of Hopewell, VA died March 29, 2007. He served in both WWII and Korea; he was a POW in Korea. He leaves his wife Linda, 5 daughters, 3 sons, 15

grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

**KINMAN, HAZEL**, of Seattle, WA passed away recently. Hazel was a long time member of the American Ex-Prisoner of War Organization and a member of the Tacoma, Washington Chapter.

**LACY, William L. Jr.**, 85, died April 7, 2007, in Clearwater, FL. He served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Division, 423<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, Co. F. He was a POW in 4B, Gorletz, Germany. He was a member of the Barbed Wire Seminoles and the Florida Gulf Coast Chapters, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Patricia, two sons, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**LEAVENWORTH, Robert Dana**, 81, of Hereford, AZ passed away April 7, 2007. He was a crew member on Salvo Sally, B-24 Bomber, 484<sup>th</sup> BG, 826<sup>th</sup> BS. He was captured Aug. 28, 1944; he was held in Stalag Luft IV, then marched across Germany. Bob was a member of the Cochise Chapter where he held numerous positions including Commander. He is also a past Commander for the Dept. of Arizona. His most rewarding work was that of conducting seminars for the students, adult groups, as well as the military, concerning being a POW during WWII and the "Real World" at that time. He is survived by his loving wife, Addie, two sons, two brothers, and two grandchildren.

**LAABS, Herbert**, of New Ulm, MN passed away Jan. 28, 2007. He was 88. Herb was a POW in Germany; held in Stalag III until liberated by the Russians. His wife Jolene, survives him; he also leaves one son and one daughter.

**LITHOGOW, James**, of Trenton, NJ passed away April 5, 2007. During WWII, he served with the Army Air Corps, flying a B-17 over Germany. His plane was shot down and he was captured; he was a POW in Luft IV. James was past commander of

the Big Apple Chapter, AXPOW; he remained an active member. In recent years, his brother, Henry, took care of James. Henry is the sole survivor of the family.

**LITTLEFIELD, Thad** passed away October 12, 2006, at the age of 85. Thad is survived by Doris, his devoted wife of 61 years, and two children. He also leaves 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Thad was a member of the American Ex-Prisoner of War Organization and a long time loyal member of the Tacoma, Washington Chapter.

**LUBINSKI, Pauline Bailey**, 81, of Austin, TX passed away Dec. 5, 2006. She was the widow of ex-POW Raymond. Both were members of AXPOW. Pauline is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter, 1 brother and extended family and friends.

**LUKASHEVITZ, Joseph (Lukawich)**, 85, of Palm Coast FL died April 9, 2007. He was a member of the East Central Florida Chapter, AXPOW. Joseph was serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 741<sup>st</sup> BS, 455<sup>th</sup> BG when he was shot down over Germany. He was a POW for more than one year in Stalag Luft #17, Sagan, Germany. He is survived by his wife, Lilo and one daughter.

**LUMADUE, Harold N. "Jake"**, of Dunbar, WV passed away March 21, 2007. He was 83. He was captured while serving with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion, Co. A. during WWII. He was a POW for 15 months in Germany. Jake was a member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter #1, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Alma, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, and a host of nephews, nieces and cousins.

## taps continued...

**McCAMMON, James Allen**, of Ft. Smith, AR passed away March 12, 2006. He served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Div during WWII; he was captured at the Battle of the Bulge. James was a member of the Old Ft. Smith Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Roberta, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**MEAGHER, James L. Sr.**, 82, of Salisbury, MD died March 18, 2007. During WWII, he served in the 106<sup>th</sup> Div., 422<sup>nd</sup> Reg., Co. H. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was captured and held POW in Stalag II for 5 ½ months. Jim was a life member of AXPOW; the founder and first Dept. Commander of Maryland and the founder of the Maryland East Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Elda, 3 sons, 1 brother, grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**MILLER, Charles E.**, 83, of Joplin, MO died Feb. 2, 2007. He was captured while serving as a medic in the Army, on Nov. 11, 1944. Charles served as chapter commander of the Southwest MO Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 56 years, Berdy June, 3 sons and 2 grandsons.

**MITCHELL, Charles R.**, of Chelsea, MI died March 25, 2007. He was an ex-POW and member of the Wolverine Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his beloved wife, Louise, 4 daughters, 4 sons, 21 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

**NICELY, Donal**, member of the Dayton Area Chapter, AXPOW, died recently.

**NIELSEN, Chase J.**, of Brigham City, UT passed away March 23, 2007 at the age of 90. He brings the number of survivors of the famous

Doolittle's Raid down to just 14. The Tokyo Doolittle Raid was led by Lt. Col. James Doolittle and consisted of 16 B-25 Mitchells and 80 Airmen who took off from the deck of the USS Hornet April 18, 1942. The mission was launched early when the fleet was spotted by Japanese picket boats. The premature launch led to inadequate amounts of fuel that caused some of the planes to crash land off the coast of China. Although two men were killed in the crash landings, eight surviving crewmembers were taken into custody by the Japanese as POWs. Of the eight who were captured, three were executed and one died while in captivity. After 40 months of imprisonment, Colonel Nielsen was rescued by a para-rescue team and brought back to the United States. In January 1946, he returned to China to testify in the International War Crimes Trials against four Japanese officers who ultimately were found guilty of war crimes. Survivors include his wife, Phyllis, three children and three stepchildren.

**NOLTE, Andrew J.**, 87, of Panama City, FL passed away April 2, 2007. Nolte was a veteran of WWII and Vietnam. He was captured in WWII. He was an active member of the Hutchinson-Poplowski Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include two sons, three grandsons and five great-grandchildren.

**NORRIS, Irving**, died Aug. 20, 2006. During WWII, he was a gunner on Wm. Cupp's plane, piloted by Floyd E. Addy. They were serving with the 861<sup>st</sup> BS. Irving was captured when the plane was shot down and he was a POW in Luft IV.

**OLSZEWSKI, Bernard A.**, 87, of Grayslake, IL, formerly of Ft. Myers, FL passed away Jan 10, 2007. He served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, 90<sup>th</sup> Div., 359<sup>th</sup> Inf., K Co. He was a POW in Stalag XIIA. Bernard was a member of the Southwest FL Chapter 100, AXPOW. He is survived by his

wife, Irene, 5 children and 5 grandchildren.

**PATTON, Henry Robert 'Pat'**, of Murray, Utah, died March 16, 2007. Patton was one of the few who escaped the Bataan Death March, and was a guerrilla fighter and POW, weighing 69 lbs when he was released. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Thelma.

**QUINN, Warren**, of Shreveport, LA died Feb. 3, 2007. Warren was captured while serving with the AAC in the Philippines during WWII; he was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He leaves four daughters, one son, seven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

**REDMON, Bert**, of Delphos, Ohio, died March 13, 2007, on his 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary. A machine gunner, he served with the 99<sup>th</sup> Division, Co C, and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by his wife, Nina.

**REYNOLDS, Eva**, age 80, of Hammond, IN passed away Feb. 2, 2007. She was a member of Northern Indiana Chapter. She leaves her beloved husband, John, 2 daughters, 1 son and grandchildren.

**RIDENOUR, William**, member of the Dayton Area Chapter, AXPOW died recently.

**SAUDER, Mavis Ray**, member of the Oklahoma City Chapter, AXPOW, died March 21, 2007. Her husband, Bill, passed away May 14, 1997. She is survived by 3 daughters and 1 son.

**SMITH, Charles D.**, age 86, passed away Aug. 28, 2006. He was a member of the Northern Indiana Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves one son, one daughter and several grandchildren.

**SOUZA, June**, of Medical Lake, WA died Jan. 29, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Clarence "Bud". Bud served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 94<sup>th</sup> BG,

## taps continued...

331<sup>st</sup> BS during WWII; he was held in Lufts I & IV. June was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter.

**STEARMAN, Guy**, 86, of Coldwater, KS died recently. He was captured on Corregidor while serving with the Navy during WWII. He survived 3 ½ years of captivity at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Garage, Bilibid Prison, Cabanatuan, Prison Camp 1, Yokohama and Tokyo Camps. His daughter, Teresa, survives him; he also leaves 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

**SUZDAK, Beulah M.**, 78, of Winthrop, NY died March 23, 2007. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Joseph; a daughter and two grandchildren. During WWII, her husband served with 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 44<sup>th</sup> BG; he was held at Stalag 17B. She and Joseph were members of the former Northern New York Chapter, AXPOW.

**TRIPP, Glenn E.**, of Springfield, VA passed away March 24, 2007. He was 92. Glenn was captured on Wake Island in Dec. 1941 while serving in the Navy. He was used as slave labor in China and Japan until liberation. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Dorothy, 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 2 sisters.

**TRIPP, Harry P.**, 89, of Libby, MT died Oct. 30, 2006. He served in the Navy during WWII; MTB Sq-#3, USS Perch. He helped evacuate MacArthur from Corregidor to Mindanao; he was captured on Mindanao and was a POW at Davao and Yokkaichi for 3 ½ years. Harry was a member of the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**USSERY, Vern H.**, 83, of Ft. Smith, AR died March 27, 2006. During

WWII, he served in the Air Force, 455<sup>th</sup> BG; he was a POW. Vern is survived by his wife, Grace, 2 sisters, 1 brother and several nieces and nephews. He was a member of the Old Ft. Smith Chapter, AXPOW.

**VONNEGUT, Kurt**, of Manhattan, NY (formerly of West Barnstable, MA) died April 11, 2007. He was 84 and had remained the idol of the Boomers generation for nearly 40 years. Mr. Vonnegut often said the defining moment of his life was the firebombing of Dresden, Germany, by Allied forces in 1945, an event he witnessed firsthand as a POW. (He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div.) His experience in Dresden was the basis of "Slaughterhouse-Five," which was published in 1969 against the backdrop of war in Vietnam, racial unrest and cultural and social upheaval. To Mr. Vonnegut, the only possible redemption for the madness and apparent meaninglessness of existence was human kindness. He is survived by his wife, Jill Krementz, and seven children.

**WARD, Albert G.**, of Richmond, IN passed away March 23, 2007. During WWII, he served in the Army, 318<sup>th</sup> Inf. He was captured and held for 7 ½ months. He leaves his wife, Alberta, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

**WARNING, Milton Walter**, 82, of Kaukauna, WI died March 20, 2007. During WWII, Milt was assigned to the 9<sup>th</sup> Div., 52<sup>nd</sup> Armored Inf. BN. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and was a POW until liberation. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Arleen, 3 daughters, 1 son, 6 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Milt was a member of AXPOW.

**WASSINK, Eugene L.**, of Sheboygan, WI passed away Nov. 4, 2006 at the age of 86. He was captured while serving with the 168<sup>th</sup>

Inf.; he was held for 33 months. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, 6 children, 14 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and extended family and friends.

**WEISS, William J.**, 82, of Weatherly, PA died March 18, 2007. He was shot down while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 506<sup>th</sup> BG; he was held in Stalag 17B, Barracks 31A. Bill leaves his wife of 61 years, Margaret, 1 daughter, 1 grandson and 1 great-granddaughter.

**WHIPPLE, JOHN W. "JACK"** passed away March 19, 2007 at the age of 87. He is survived by June Whipple, 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Jack joined the US Marine Corps and was taken prisoner by the Japanese and released after the end of WWII. He was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and an active, devoted member of the Tacoma, Washington Chapter.

**YARBROUGH, Ralph**, of Floral, AL passed away March 31, 2007. During WWII, he served in the AAC, 450<sup>th</sup> BG. He was shot down over Italy and held for 18 months; he was liberated when Italy was invaded. He is survived by 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters, extended family and special friend, Louise Smith.

**YOUNG, Genevieve A.**, 82, of Clinton, MD died March 4, 2007. During WWII, her husband, Milton, served in the 48<sup>th</sup> Material SQ; he was a POW in O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Osaka & Ackenobe. Genevieve was a life member of AXPOW and member of the former MD South Chapter. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, 1 son, 2 daughters, 3 sisters, 2 brothers, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

# new members

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



## New Annual Members "Welcome Home"



Ruben Camacho  
Ann V  
Santa Maria, CA  
36 Inf Div 141 Reg  
Hospital, 12F, Metz France, 2B  
9/9/43-5/5/45

Robert W Hammelsmith  
Lois  
Pinon Hills, CA  
89 Tank BN  
Camp 5  
6/1/51-8/53

Paul John Costello  
Lansing, MI  
99 Div 393 BN C Co  
12C, 13C, Sork Camp  
12/17/44-6/1/45

George H Brice  
Tina M  
Lafayette, NJ  
AAC  
Luft 3, others

Harrison W Morgan, Jr.  
Lancaster, PA  
Son of Harrison Morgan Sr., ETO

Sarah Clingman  
Jay  
Columbia, SC  
Daughter of Barnwell Linley, ETO

**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**June 2007**  
**30**

William J Rossman  
Alice R  
Racine, WI  
450 BG 723 BS  
Frankfurt, Lithuania, Stalag 4, 6,  
Nurnburg

## New Life Members "Welcome Home"

\* depicts new member to AXPOW



W Dean Jones  
Ruth Irene 3537 39289  
Manchester, IA  
301 BG  
17B

Archie Mathosian \*39290  
S Setauket, NY  
AAF  
Stalag 1  
3/18/45-4/7/45

Norman Lichtenfeld 39291  
Mobile, AL  
Son of Seymour Lichtenfeld, ETO

Louise Vitale 39292  
Lancaster, TX  
Widow of George A Vitale,  
Camp 5

D Allan Gavan \*39293  
Center Harbor, NH  
26 Div 104 Reg  
7A  
10/14/44-4/29/45

Deborah Wissman \*39294  
Cincinnati, OH  
Widow of Lawrence Wissman

2B, workcamps, Prussia  
12/28/43-5/3/45

Robert C "Buzz" Barton  
Rey Johnson \*39295 39296  
Dallas, TX  
AAC Bomber  
Luft 3, Bavaria, Nurnburg

Laura Keck 39297  
Warner Robins, GA  
Widow of Wilbur H Keck  
Stalag 1

Katha S Lindquist 39298  
Veedersburg  
Daughter of Francis Lindquist

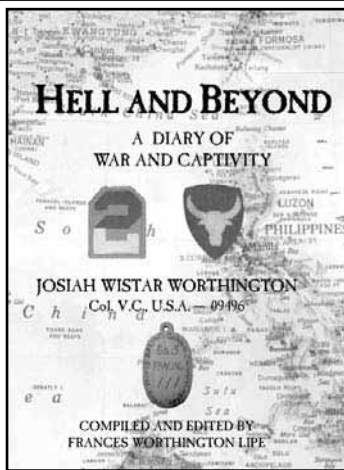
Mark D Curtis \*39299  
Wagoner, OK  
Co C 57 Signal BN  
Germany  
5/30/44-6/8/45

Connie Bouvier La Rose \*39300  
Bristol, VT  
Daughter of James A Bouvier,  
ETO

Rosemary Stagner Flynn \*39301  
Sonoma, CA  
Civilian  
Santo Tomas  
3/3/43-3/27/45

Robert James Flynn \*39302  
Pensacola, FL  
Attack Squadron 196 (VA-196  
Iron Basket Prison, Peking China  
8/21/67-3/15/73

Harold W Ovis  
Estelle \*39303 39304  
Delray Beach, FL  
9 AF 387 BG  
Luft 1  
12/23/44-5/13/45



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**Latest winners drawn in Washington, DC  
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- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>1st Place \$922.72</b> | Russell Kaufman<br>Mentone CA         |
| <b>2nd Place \$692.04</b> | Dorothy Farrell<br>Killeen TX         |
| <b>3rd Place \$461.36</b> | Gerald & Marylou Andersen<br>Elgin IL |
| <b>4th Place \$230.68</b> | Alland Grossman (Mrs.)                |

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes.

The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

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Burnsville, MN 55337-2786  
Phone: 952-890-3155  
Email: [jpk@mm.com](mailto:jpk@mm.com)  
106th Home Page: <http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

## From Among the Many

Depression Soldier Prisoner of War  
*The journey that led through many  
traumatic and joyful experiences.*

This book is a true life story of one person who has lived 84 years as part of a unique group - sometimes called the Greatest Generation. I lay no claim to greatness, but I've lived among heroes. I believe this story parallels the life experiences of many of my generation.

During WWII, I served as a soldier with Company L, 157<sup>th</sup> Inf. 45<sup>th</sup> Div. I participated in 5 campaigns and 1 invasion; I was a prisoner of war for 3 1/2 months.

My purpose for writing this book is to share some true history, bring back memories and remind people of the time when our country was in one accord. It has been well received by those who have read it.

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**Ex-POW Bulletin  
June 2007**

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
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Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

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

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
50/50 Drawing**

PLEASE PRINT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Mail your donation and entry to:**  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
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3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

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



# request for membership application

## American Ex-Prisoners of War

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Do NOT send dues with this request for an application**

**Mail to:**  
 American Ex-Prisoners of War  
 3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40  
 Arlington, TX 76010-5936

(817) 649-2979 voice  
 (817)649-0109 fax  
 e-mail: hq@axpow.org

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

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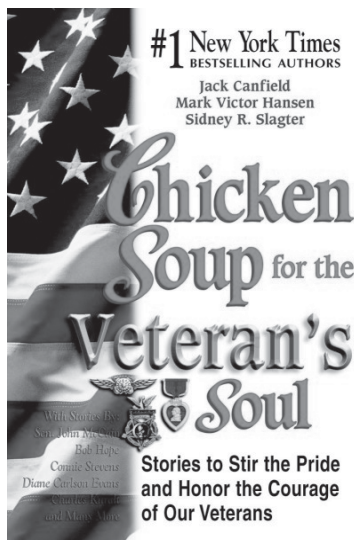
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**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**June 2007**  
**33**

**Name Badge Order Form  
(for members only)**

AXPOW  
3201 E Pioneer Pkwy #40  
Arlington Texas 76010  
Choice of attachment



(check one or we choose)  
 Pin-on Actual size of badge is 2 1/8" x 3 3/8"  
 Clip-on (size of a credit card)

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Name Badge with name & chapter and city.....\$ 6.00  
(includes shipping and handling)

Ship to:  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**AXPOW Vest Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) \_\_\_\_\_

Long, Regular or Short \_\_\_\_\_

Name on front of vest \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name (back of vest) \_\_\_\_\_

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling  
Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:  
**AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**  
**3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40**  
**Arlington, Texas 76010-5396**

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	7.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	6.00
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	Travel Alarm Clock with case	10.00	Aluminum License Plate	4.00
Eagle Sport Cap	9.00			3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	3" Blazer Patch	3.50	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Barbed Wire pin	2.50	4" Blazer Patch	3.50	8" Vinyl Decal	5.00
Life Member pin	4.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Crossed Flags Lapel pin	4.00	<b>CLOTH STRIPES</b> (specify which title)	2.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom Is Happiness"	2.00
Brooch pin	4.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	4.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Logo pin	4.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		Memorial Seals	
POW Stamp pin	2.50	State Department Commander		3 sheets, \$1.00; 10 sheets, \$3.00; 20 sheets, 5.00	
Past Chapter Commander pin	4.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		AXPOW Daisies (dozen)	1.50
Past Department Commander pin	4.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		In lots of 12, (ie , 24, 36, 48, etc.-per dozen)	1.25
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(specify gold, silver or antique gold)		Service Officer · Legislative Officer		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	5.00
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(specify regular or pre-tied)				AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
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Logo Necklace & Pierced Earrings	10.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00	"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
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QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

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**Total: \$**

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(Check one) Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**  
**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR**  
**3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40**  
**Arlington, Texas 76010-5396**  
**817-649-2979**  
**axpowqm@aol.com**

# Hammon Local Heroes Dedication and Veterans Day Program



Hammon (OK) is a small rural community of only 500 people. Three women, all daughters of veterans—Brenda Archer, Cheryl Ivey, and Pam Warner Eslinger, raised over \$35,000 in less than a year to build this memorial. Over 670 names of veterans are included on the monument all at NO COST to the veteran or the veteran's family. An additional stone is being engraved at this time and will be set by Memorial Day to include over 50 additional names of those who served from the Hammon community. This project was also proudly sponsored by local American Legion Post 185.



Around 600 people—veterans, their families, students, and community members gathered at the Hammon City Park on November 10, 2006 braving gusts of 50 mph to attend the Local Heroes Dedication and Veterans Day Program. The program was kicked off with a flyby of two navy jets. It was an awe inspiring sight. One of the pilots was 1991 Hammon graduate Lt. Commander Jason Morton. He and his wingman, Lt. Kevin Overmann, are stationed in Lemoore, California. After landing at Tinker, it took the pair 17 minutes to fly to Hammon for the flyby! Now that's incredible! Next came the flag salute and National Anthem. Brenda Archer welcomed the crowd and served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. Rep. Percy Walker sang a patriotic melody and gave a few words. Congressman Frank Lucas spoke to the crowd about the important things our veterans have done in securing our freedom and how important it is to support our troops who are currently fighting. Myrtle Drinnon, a Gold Star Mother, placed a wreath in honor of all those killed in action. Jack Warner, a WWII veteran and former POW placed a wreath in honor of all POW's. Ed Tippens, a WWII veteran, placed a wreath in honor of all veterans, and Ed Krapcha, placed a yellow wreath in honor of all currently serving. The junior high and high school choir sang two songs and the elementary students also sang two songs honoring our veterans. The winners of the poetry contest were recognized and the new Veteran's Quilt was shown. The quilt was designed by the local Gifted and Talented students and chances for the quilt were sold with monies going to buy helmet inserts for those currently fighting. Billy Shaw sang "God Bless the USA" and Brad Dean lowered the flag while VFW officer Dennis Calloway played taps. Veterans and families were also treated to a Thanksgiving meal at the Hammon School Cafeteria prior to the dedication ceremonies. It was a truly wonderful day for Hammon and all local heroes!



# AXPOW Vests!

The uniform of the American Ex-POWs consists of the military cap and the vest. These vests are custom-made with your name on the front, and your chapter and logo shield on the back. Orders take approximately six weeks to complete. Order now to wear at National Convention!

**\$50.00 each**, includes shipping/handling

For pins, vest guards and other items to "dress up" your vest, order from the merchandise page inside.



Thank you for supporting the American Ex-POWS with your purchases of National Merchandise.

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Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

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All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:

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No collect calls, please

