

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

Volume 72

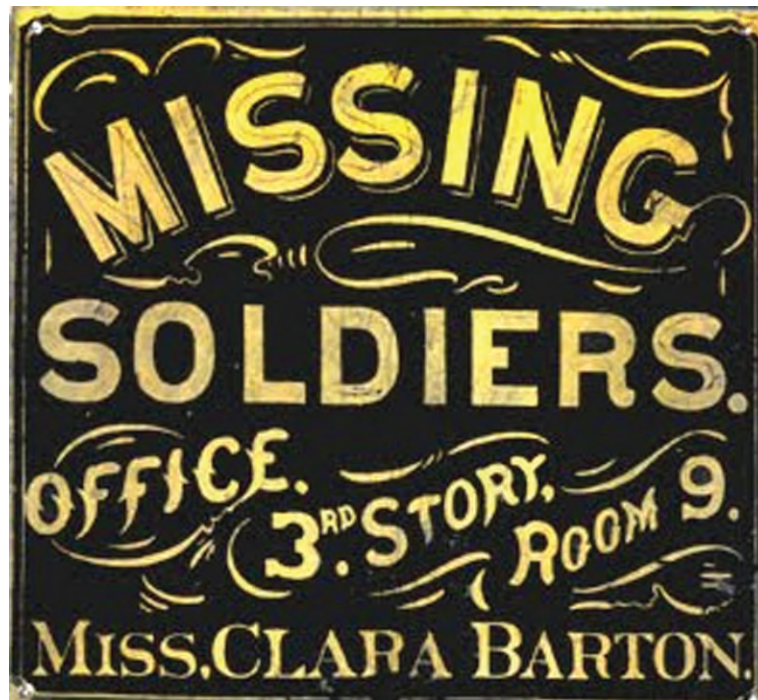
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Number 3/4

March-April 2015



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*





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# March/April 2015



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### April 9, 1942

**In the Philippines...** American General King surrenders 75,000 men (12,000 Americans) to the Japanese. A death march begins for the prisoners as they are taken to San Fernando, 100 miles away. Many thousands of them die on the march. Resistance continues in isolated areas of Luzon and other islands. General Wainwright and his troops continue to hold out on Corregidor Island.

**At home...** Information was leaking out about the atrocities and subhuman treatment that American prisoners of war were receiving in Japanese prison camps in the Pacific. When wives and mothers heard about their sons and husbands who had been taken prisoner, they started calling and writing their congressmen in an effort to find help or get assistance for their loved ones. Finally, two mothers, whose sons were members of the 200th Coast Artillery and had been captured by the Japanese, came up with an idea. It was **Mrs. Charles W. Bickford** and **Mrs. Fred E. Landon** who, on April 10, 1942, persuaded other parents and relatives to hold a mass meeting. They formed an organization to get relief to the captured boys on Bataan. On April 14th, the *Bataan Relief Organization* began with Dr. V. H. Spensley, as Chairman.

### Hardly feels like spring in the Northeast, but...we're heading into the warmer weather and that means it's National Convention time.

Everyone in Texas is gearing up to show you all a great time! This year, the Convention committee has put together activities to please POWs, their kids and grandkids. The next-of-kin chorus will sing their hearts out at the Commander's Reception...there are tours to Dealey Plaza, the 6th Floor Museum in the former Texas Schoolbook Depository and Dallas Holocaust Museum...and more. Along with the business of AXPOW, you and your families will enjoy the camaraderie, the sights and sounds of Arlington. So COME ON DOWN!

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Deadline for the May/June  
2015 issue is Apr. 1, 2015  
Please send all materials to  
the editor at the above  
address.

## UMB Credit Card

Every time a member – or member's family or friends – signs up for the new UMB credit card (which features our marching men on the face), AXPOW receives \$50.00. That's like making a \$50 donation to the organization when you sign up. We also get a percentage of every dollar spent if you use the card each month. You also get benefits from using the card...there is no annual fee and at the end of the year, you'll receive a statement of your annual charges, broken down by category. Makes filing your taxes easier!

So benefits for us and benefits for you. Won't you take a few minutes and apply for this card today?

EX-POW Bulletin (ISSN 0161-7451) is published bi-monthly (six times annually) by the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, Arlington, TX 76010. Periodical postage paid at Arlington, TX and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to EX-POW Bulletin, AXPOW Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkwy, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396. Founded April 14, 1942, in Albuquerque, NM, then known as Bataan Relief Organization, Washington State non-profit corporation, "American Ex-Prisoners of War", October 11, 1949, recorded as Document No. 133762, Roll 1, Page 386-392. NONPROFIT CORPORATION. Nationally Chartered August 10, 1982. Appearance in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the American Ex-Prisoners of War of the product or service advertised. The publisher reserves the right to decline or discontinue any such advertisement.



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**National Commander  
Milton M Moore, Jr.**

I can not believe it is February already. I am three quarters into my term of being your National Commander. It has been a fantastic journey so far. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a wonderful New Year. The big thing for me in December is that I married a fantastic woman on 21 December. That was a wonderful Christmas present for me.

The Super Bowl is over with and now March Madness will be upon us before we know it. Before you know it spring will be here along with base-

ball. The last eight months have seen a few changes. Our audit for the 2013 - 2014 will be completed by our National Convention. I have no doubt that this audit will soothe the minds of everyone. We are also expecting a donation from an estate that will really help this organization. I want to personally thank my Board of Directors for the communications we have been having. I value their opinions and their truthfulness. We are striving to make this a better organization.

Now I am asking for the membership to let me know what it is that you want from us. What are your ideas and suggestions? I would also like to remind everyone that the National Convention is right around the corner and start planning on attending it. I would love to see as many of you make it to this years convention. You are the backbone of this organization.

It is time for me to close this now. Please be good to one another and keep smiling.

### **National Convention 2014 TOURS**

1. Dealey Plaza , the area where President John F. Kennedy was shot. There is a memorial to him and it is right across from the infamous Grassy Knoll.
2. 6th Floor Museum in the former Texas Schoolbook Depository building where Lee Harvey Oswald hid out. The Museum chronicles the assassination and legacy of President John F. Kennedy; interprets the Dealey Plaza National Historic Landmark District and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza ; and presents contemporary culture within the context of presidential history.
3. Dallas Holocaust Museum across the street. The permanent exhibit gives visitors a view of the Holocaust by focusing on one day during the Holocaust—April 19, 1943. On this day three important and very different events happened: The 20th Deportation Train from Belgium was attacked by partisans; The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising began; The Bermuda Conference met. These events illustrate wartime heroism, Jewish resistance against all odds, and government and diplomatic indifference to the fate of Europe’s Jews. The exhibit also highlights the first European box car brought to the US . This car was likely used to transport Jews to concentration or extermination camps.

Total cost is \$40, including transportation and admission into all three historical sites. Register on the Convention Registration page.

## **news from hq**



It’s getting closer! What, you ask? Our National convention in Arlington, Texas!

Once again we have lots of events planned for you. We will take you to several historic sites in Dallas this year. Our tours include Dealey Plaza and the grassy knoll; The 6th Floor Museum where Lee Harvey Oswald hid and the Holocaust Museum. You remember where you were when you heard about President John Kennedy! Now visit the memorial.

We also are working on bylaws revisions. These will be voted on at the convention by the members present. The Bylaws committee has posted an outline of the proposed changes on page 21. If you would like a copy of them please contact National Headquarters.

Although our merchandise inventory is shrinking, we are still stocking the graveside medallion and the challenge coins. These two items are still very popular with you and we will keep them in stock.

A few weeks ago, we sent you all a card-sized magnifier. Everyone can use a little help reading the fine print! There is no obligation to donate, but we hope your generosity to AXPOW continues. If we are to continue with the vital work we do, we need to count on your support. Without the revenue from these programs, we will cease to exist.

Hope to see you in June!  
Ex-POW Bulletin  
Mar/Apr 2015

# nso



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## VA Announces Single Regional Framework under MyVA Initiative Internal Organizations to Realign Their Existing Structures

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced in January, 2015 that it is taking the first steps under the MyVA initiative to realign its many organizational maps into one map with five regions to better serve Veterans.

The new regions under the MyVA alignment will allow VA to begin the process of integrating disparate organizational boundaries into a single regional framework to enhance internal coordination.

“We want every Veteran to have a seamless, integrated, and responsive VA customer service experience every time. This regional alignment is the first step in empowering Veterans to interact with one VA - MyVA,” said Secretary Robert McDonald. “Ultimately, this reform will improve the Veteran experience by enabling Veterans to more easily navigate VA and access their earned care and benefits.”

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VA’s new regional design utilizes state boundaries to divide the country into five regions. Each organization within VA will begin work to ensure their structures are aligned within this framework by the end of June 2015.

Veterans are already seeing the impacts of changes made through the MyVA initiative. For example, at the suggestion of VA employees, the Department has made improvements to VA call center operations, to allow call center agents to suspend or resume certain benefit payments at the request of the Veteran, which eliminates additional steps typically required of Veterans. Also at the suggestion of employees, VA is working towards piloting improved signage in certain facilities, to make sure Veterans know where they are going and that directions are easy to follow.

Additional VA efforts are currently underway to define the next steps to transform the Department into one that is more centered on the Veteran.

### Background on MyVA

Launched on September 2, 2014, MyVA is an initiative which will reorient VA around Veteran needs and empower employees to assist them in delivering excellent customer service to improve the Veteran experience. It is the largest department-wide transformation in VA’s history and will be a product of ideas and insights shared by Veterans, employees, members of Congress, VSOs, and other stakeholders.

The Regional Map can be seen at: <http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/docs/myva-5-regions-map.pdf> ]

2015 VA Disability Compensation/Basic Rates			
	Veteran Alone	Veteran & Spouse	Additional for A/A/ spouse
30%	\$407.75	\$455.75	\$44.00
40%	\$587.36	\$651.36	\$59.00
50%	\$836.13	\$917.13	\$74.00
60%	\$1059.09	\$1156.09	\$89.00
70%	\$1334.71	\$1447.71	\$104.00
80%	\$1551.48	\$1690.48	\$118.00
90%	\$1743.48	\$1888.48	\$133.00
100%	\$2906.83	\$3068.90	\$148.64

Dependency and In-Dependency Compensation	
Basic Monthly Rate = <b>\$1,254.19</b> (38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(1))	
Additional allowances:	
Add \$310.71 If the surviving spouse is entitled to A&A	
Add \$145.55 If the surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound	
Add <b>\$266.32</b> If at the time of the veteran’s death, the veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling (including a rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death AND the surviving spouse was married to the veteran for those same 8 years.	

## Mesothelioma

The tissue that lines your lungs, stomach, heart, and other organs is called mesothelium. Mesothelioma is a tumor of that tissue. It usually starts in the lungs, but can also start in the abdomen or other organs. It can be benign (not cancer) or malignant (cancer.)

Malignant mesothelioma is a rare but serious type of cancer. Most people who get it have worked on jobs where they inhaled asbestos particles. After being exposed to asbestos, it usually takes a long time for the disease to form.

Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference between malignant mesothelioma and lung cancer. Your doctor uses imaging tests and a biopsy to make the diagnosis. Malignant mesothelioma is often found when it is advanced. This makes it harder to treat. Treatment may include surgery, radiation, and/or chemotherapy.

About 2,000-3,000 new cases are diagnosed each year in the U.S.

### Who gets Mesothelioma?

Approximately 70 to 80 percent of people who get mesothelioma have been heavily exposed to asbestos at work. Usually, the disease shows up 35 to 50 years after exposure, so most people with it are over the age of 65. Mostly men get the disease, but women can also get mesothelioma. It is most common in whites and Hispanics/Latinos than in African Americans or Asian Americans.

### What Causes Mesothelioma?

Working with asbestos is the main cause of mesothelioma. Asbestos is a group of minerals that has been used widely in the U.S. since the 1940s. It is used in cement, brake linings, roof shingles, flooring products, textiles, and insulation. If tiny asbestos particles float in the air, people can breathe them in or swallow them. This is especially dangerous in the manufacturing process. Those particles can cause several cancers, including mesothelioma. Shipyard workers, people who work in asbestos mines and mills, producers of asbestos products, workers in the heating and construction industries, and other tradespeople are at higher risk for mesothelioma. It may take 30-50 years after someone is exposed to asbestos before any symptoms of mesothelioma appear.

Scientists believe that smoking does not increase the risk of mesothelioma. Combining smoking and asbestos exposure, though, greatly increases your risk of developing lung cancer.

### How Serious is Mesothelioma?

Often, by the time mesothelioma is diagnosed, it is in an advanced stage because it takes too long for symptoms to appear.

The success of the treatment and how well a person responds depends in part on age, their overall health, and their heart health. Because diagnosis often is made at an advanced stage of the can-

cer, average survival time is only about one year. Five-year survival rates are slowly improving, and scientists are testing new treatments in the final stage of research (clinical trials).

### What are the Symptoms of Mesothelioma?

Symptoms can vary depending on which organ is involved but can include:

- Shortness of breath
- Persistent cough
- Pain under the rib cage
- Weight loss
- Abdominal pain and swelling
- Fever
- Anemia
- Problems with blood clotting

### How is Mesothelioma Diagnosed?

- Complete physical exam, including lung function tests, lung X-ray, blood tests
- CT (CAT) scan or MRI, which give detailed pictures of tissues and organs inside the body
- Biopsy—surgery to remove a tissue sample that is studied by a specialist (pathologist)

### How is Mesothelioma Treated?

Like most cancers, treatment can vary depending on what stage the cancer is in (how far it has progressed) and where it is located,

## medsearch cont'd...

as well as the patient's overall health and age. Treatment can include:

- Surgery to remove tumors
- Radiation
- Chemotherapy
- A combination of the above
- Removal of fluid build-up from the chest or abdomen (to relieve pain and other symptoms)

There are different types of treatment for patients with malignant mesothelioma.

Different types of treatments are available for patients with malignant mesothelioma. Some treatments are standard (the currently used treatment), and some are being tested in clinical trials. A treatment clinical trial is a research study meant to help improve current treatments or obtain information on new treatments for patients with cancer. When clinical trials show that a new treatment is better than the standard treatment, the new treatment may become the standard treatment. Patients may want to think about taking part in a clinical trial. Some clinical trials are open only to patients who have not started treatment.

Three types of standard treatment are used

### Surgery

The following surgical treatments may be used for malignant mesothelioma in the chest:

- Wide local excision: Surgery to remove the cancer and some of the healthy tissue around it.

· Pleurectomy and decortication: Surgery to remove part of the covering of the lungs and lining of the chest and part of the outside surface of the lungs.

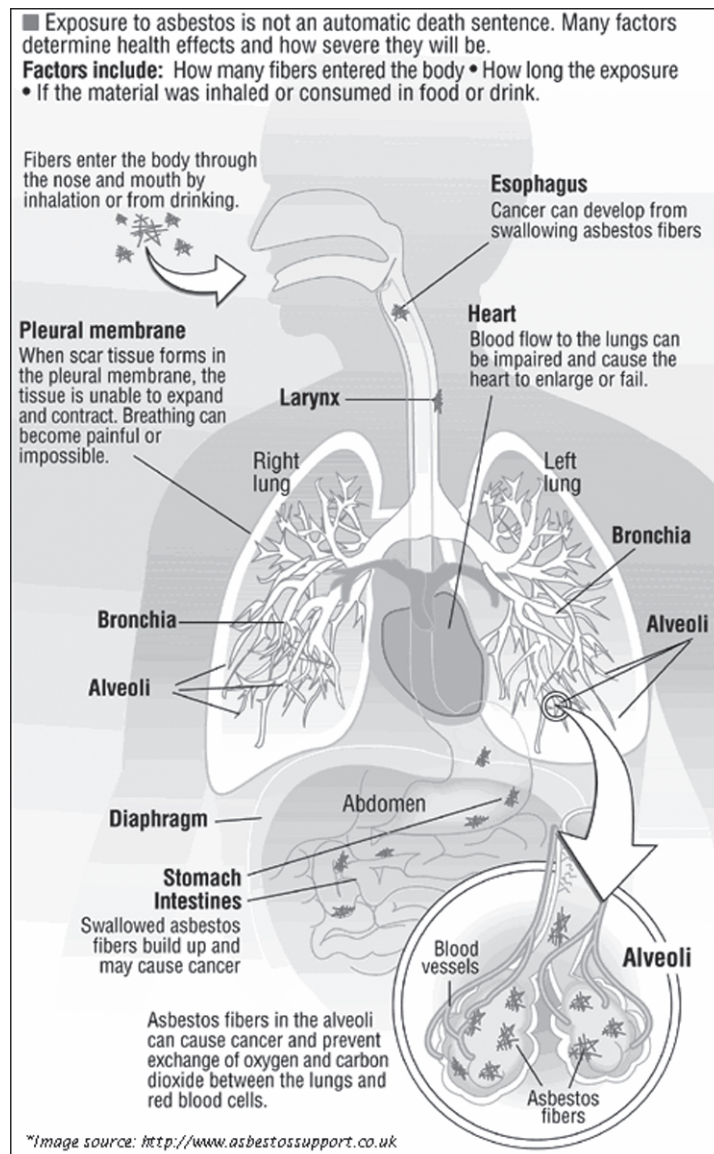
· Extrapleural pneumectomy: Surgery to remove one whole lung and part of the lining of the chest, the diaphragm, and the lining of the sac around the heart.

· Pleurodesis: A surgical procedure that uses chemicals or drugs to make a scar in the space between the layers of the pleura. Fluid is first drained from the space using a catheter or chest tube and the chemical or drug is put into the space. The scarring stops the build-up of fluid in the pleural cavity.

Even if the doctor removes all the cancer that can be seen at the time of the surgery, some patients may be given chemotherapy or radiation therapy after surgery to kill any cancer cells that are left. Treatment given after surgery, to lower the risk that the cancer will come back, is called adjuvant therapy.

### Radiation therapy

Radiation therapy is a cancer treatment that uses high-energy x-rays or other types of radiation



to kill cancer cells or keep them from growing. There are two types of radiation therapy. External radiation therapy uses a machine outside the body to send radiation toward the cancer. Internal radiation therapy uses a radioactive substance sealed in needles, seeds, wires, or catheters that are placed directly into or near the cancer.

The way the radiation therapy is given depends on the type and stage of the cancer being treated.

### Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is a cancer treatment that uses drugs to stop the growth of cancer cells, either by killing the cells or by stopping them from dividing. When chemotherapy is taken by mouth



## medsearch cont'd...

or injected into a vein or muscle, the drugs enter the bloodstream and can reach cancer cells throughout the body (systemic chemotherapy).

When chemotherapy is placed directly into the cerebrospinal fluid, an organ, or a body cavity such as the chest or peritoneum, the drugs mainly affect cancer cells in those areas (regional chemotherapy). Combination chemotherapy is the use of more than one anticancer drug.

Hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy is used in the treatment of mesothelioma that has spread to the peritoneum (tissue that lines the abdomen and covers most of the organs in the abdomen). After the surgeon removes all the cancer that can be seen, a solution containing anticancer drugs is heated and pumped into and out of the abdomen to kill cancer cells that remain. Heating the anticancer drugs may kill more cancer cells. The way the chemotherapy is given depends on the type and stage of the cancer being treated.

New types of treatment are being tested in clinical trials.

Talk with your primary care doctor for more information.

### Can malignant mesothelioma be found early?

Mesothelioma is uncommon, and there are no widely recommended screening tests for this cancer in people who are not at increased risk. (Screening is testing for cancer in people who don't have any symptoms.)

For people with known exposure to asbestos, some doctors recommend imaging tests such as chest x-rays or computed tomography

(CT) scans to look for changes in the lungs that might be signs of mesothelioma or lung cancer. But it is not clear how useful these tests are in finding mesotheliomas early.

In recent years, doctors have found that people with mesothelioma often have high levels of certain substances in their blood, including *osteopontin* and *soluble mesothelin-related peptides* (SMRPs). Blood tests for these substances may one day be useful in finding mesotheliomas early, and in monitoring the course of the disease in people who have mesothelioma.

Most mesotheliomas are found when a person goes to a doctor because of symptoms. People who have been exposed to asbestos should know the possible signs and symptoms of mesothelioma (discussed in the next section). Many of these symptoms are more likely to be caused by something other than mesothelioma, but it's important to report any new symptoms to your doctor right away so that the cause can be found and treated, if needed.

### What should you ask your doctor about malignant mesothelioma?

As you cope with cancer and its treatment, you need to have honest, open discussions with your doctor. You should feel free to ask any question, no matter how small it might seem. Here are some questions you might want to ask. Nurses, social workers, and other members of the treatment team may also be able to answer many of your questions.

- What kind of mesothelioma do I have?
- Has my cancer spread beyond where it started?

- What is my cancer's stage (extent), and what does that mean?
- Is my cancer likely to be resectable (removable by surgery)?
- Will I need other tests before we can decide on treatment?
- Will I need to see other doctors?
- How much experience do you have treating this type of cancer?
- Should I get a second opinion?
- What are my treatment options?
- What is the goal of treatment?
- What do you recommend and why?
- What risks or side effects are there to the treatments you suggest?
- What should I do to be ready for treatment?
- How long will treatment last? What will it be like? Where will it be done?
- How will treatment affect my daily activities?
- What will we do if the treatment doesn't work or if the cancer recurs?
- What type of follow-up might I need after treatment?

Along with these sample questions, be sure to write down some of your own. For instance, you might want more information about recovery times. Or you may want to ask if you qualify for any clinical trials.

NIH: National Cancer Institute  
U.S. National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20894

American Cancer Society  
250 Williams Street NW  
Atlanta, Georgia, 30303

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<b>Packet 10~The Japanese Story</b> History of POWs in Japan, and after-effects	<b>\$10.00</b>
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<b>The Modern Day Tragedy</b> ~medical & claims evidence in support of PL 97-37	<b>\$4.00</b>
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<b>Map of German POW Camps</b> ~shows location of 76 camps	<b>\$3.00</b>
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**Check packets you wish to order and send, with payment, to: AXPOW  
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Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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# legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr  
Chairman

The New Year has brought the introduction of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress in January and with it, some changed members including Congressional committee leadership. Very importantly, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee has new leadership. Senator Johnny Isakson is now the Chairman of the committee and Senator Richard Blumenthal is the Ranking Member. In the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Congressman Jeff Miller remains the Chairman and Congresswoman Corrine Brown has been promoted to Ranking Member. The Chair positions are particularly influential since they determine when a Proposed Bill is sent to the floor for a vote.

The implementation of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act (VACAA) continues to be a top priority. By example, recently expanded VA's military sexual trauma (MST) program includes veterans who experienced military sexual trauma during inactive duty training. In addition, the VA issued a direct final rule to exempt mental health peer support services from copayment requirements. Starting on January 27, 2015, veterans will be able to participate

2014-2015 Legislative  
Committee  
PNC Charles Susino, Jr.  
ND Charles Anthony Susino  
charles.susino@gmail.com

in VA's successful mental health peer support program without a financial burden.]

With respect to one piece of new legislation, the last Congress was unable to pass a Bill addressing the unacceptably high rate of suicide among veterans, which averages 22 per day, much higher than the national average. These sad cases represent where the veteran served his or her country and arrived home safe, to later take their own life. On December 9, 2014, the House of Representatives passed its version of the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans (SAV) Act.

It is now up to the Senate Veterans Affairs committee to garner support for a Senate version. In brief, the Bill requires a third-party evaluation and recommendations for existing suicide prevention programs. It would also provide for a new website that offers veterans information regarding available mental health care services; create a pilot loan repayment program for VA psychiatrists; improve the exchange of training, best practices, and other resources, etc and extend the ability for certain combat veterans to enroll in the Veterans Health Administration for one year. Please contact your Senator in support of Bill S.2930. (SAV) Act.

There are two long-standing areas where we believe Congress needs to take action. As mentioned in previous columns, we need your help to continue to encourage Congress to update and expand the list of "special

groups" of veterans it established in 1986 who fought in foreign wars to receive medical treatment from the VA regardless of whether they are service related. Congress identified the special groups decades back and only included veterans up to WWI, we continue to believe the more recent warriors are deserving and in need, especially as they get up in age. We want to keep this issue visible in Washington until action is taken.

The other area is the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation [DIC]. We believe the DIC should more closely correlate to the veteran's disability amount. In the last Congress, Representative John Tierney from Massachusetts introduced Bill HR 4741, Surviving Spouses' Benefit Improvement Act of 2014. It provides increases to the monthly rates of veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It also prohibits benefits under any other law (other than duplication of benefits) from being reduced or offset because the surviving spouse is eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation. Because the DIC received by the surviving spouse is approximately 41% of the compensation received by the 100% disabled veteran, the funds are insufficient to maintain their standard of living resulting in hardship. Aside from cost of living, there has not been an increase in the DIC in decades and we believe it is long overdue and should be commensurate with other Federal programs of approximately 50%.

# 114<sup>th</sup> Congress

## House & Senate Veterans Affairs Committees

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### **House Veterans Affairs Committee**

Jeff Miller, Florida *Chairman*  
336 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4136

Gus Bilirakis, Florida, *Vice Chair*  
(202) 225-5755

Doug Lamborn, Colorado  
(202) 225-4422

David Roe, Tennessee  
(202) 225-6356

Dan Benishek, Michigan  
(202) 225-4735

Tim Huelskamp, Kansas  
(202) 225-2715

Mike Coffman, Colorado  
(202) 225-7882

Brad Wenstrup, Ohio  
(202) 225-3164

Jackie Walorski, Indiana  
(202) 225-3915

Ralph Abraham, Louisiana  
(202) 225-8490

Lee Zeldin, New York  
(202) 225-3826

Ryan Costello, Pennsylvania  
(202) 225-4315

Amata Radewagen, American Samoa  
(202) 225-8577

Mike Bost, Illinois  
(202) 225-5661

Corrine Brown, Florida  
*Ranking Member*  
2111 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-0123

Mark Takano, California  
(202) 225-2305

Julia Brownley, California  
(202) 225-5811

Dina Titus, Nevada  
202-225-5965

Raul Ruiz, California  
(202) 225-5330

Ann Kuster, New Hampshire  
(202) 225-5206

Beto O'Rourke, Texas  
(202) 225-4831

### **Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**

Johnny Isakson, Georgia  
*Chairman*  
131 Russell SOB  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3643

Mike Johanns, Nebraska  
(202) 224-4224

Jerry Moran, Kansas  
(202) 224-6521

John Boozman, Arkansas  
(202) 224-4843

Dean Heller, Nevada  
202-224-6244

Mike Rounds, South Dakota  
(202) 224-5842

Bill Cassidy, Louisiana  
(202) 224-5824

Thom Tillis, North Carolina  
(202) 224-6342

Dan Sullivan, Alaska  
(202) 224-3004

Patty Murray, Washington  
(202) 224-2621

Bernie Sanders, Vermont  
(202) 224-5141

Sherrod Brown, Ohio  
(202) 224-2315

Jon Tester, Montana  
(202) 224-2644

Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut  
*Ranking Member*  
(202) 224-2823

Mazie Hirono, Hawaii  
(202) 224-6361

Richard Burr, North Carolina,  
(202) 224-3154

Joe Manchin, West Virginia  
(202) 224-3954

### **General Contact Info:**

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 224-3121

U.S. Senate Committee on  
Veterans' Affairs • 412 Russell  
Senate Bldg. • Washington D.C.  
20510

Republican Staff (202) 224-  
9126 • Democratic Staff: (202)  
224-2074

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Ex-POW Bulletin

Mar/Apr 2015

12

# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343

The beginning of 2015 witnessed a great loss at Andersonville National Historic Site. On Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, Kimberly Ann Douglas Robins passed away at her home. Kim served as the cemetery coordinator for Andersonville National Cemetery and was the driving force behind many of the patriotic holidays and POW events offered throughout the year.

Kim worked at Andersonville for nearly ten years, beginning as a park guide in May of 2005. For five years, she served as lead park ranger, overseeing operations in



the park's National Prisoner of War Museum.

It was in this capacity that she began a partnership with Georgia Southwestern State University to hold a POW/MIA convocation annually; she also formed strong relationships within the POW community and was recognized as an honorary member of the Nam-POWs, an organization of former American POWs held in Vietnam.

Since 2011, Kim had served as cemetery administrator, facilitating hundreds of burials within Andersonville National Cemetery. Her compassion for our nation's veterans and their families was visible every day as she worked with next of kin, funeral homes, military honor guards, and park staff to ensure that each burial was completed honorably. Kim was a vibrant and passionate young woman, who loved working with veterans and sharing the POW story. Her passing has left an immense hole in the hearts of her co-workers and the POW support community. She leaves behind a husband, Glenn Robins, and a son, Blake. She also leaves behind a legacy of outstanding service and dedication to her work. She will be missed.

In happier news, the staff at Andersonville National Historic Site is sending Chief of Interpretation and Education Eric Leonard to a new position as Superintendent of Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in South Dakota.

Eric served as the Chief of Interpretation at Andersonville since 2010. During his five years, he ushered in new programs and exhibits that shared the POW story with visitors across the country. Eric assisted park staff in the creation of the "Victory from Within" traveling exhibit, the new Junior Ranger booklet "Captured," and the most recent addi-



tion of a museum guide and prison site walking tour. His tireless efforts have built a strong program that is one of the leading interpretive programs in the country.

Some of Eric's favorite memories of Andersonville included giving tours to new visitors, meeting the men and women whose stories he shared on a daily basis, and participating in the annual flag placement on Memorial Day weekend. Eric was an important part of the Andersonville team and he will be greatly missed. Eric, his wife Elizabeth, and children Sam and Awyn have just completed their move to South Dakota and will now have to acclimate to the changes from Georgia. We send them warm wishes; they are going to need them in South Dakota.

The staff at Andersonville continues to adapt to the absence of these important people, and will hopefully be able to introduce new faces in the future.

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***"Victory From Within: The American Prisoner of War Experience"***  
traveling exhibition

**June 2014 - June 2015: Frontiers of Flight Museum (Dallas, Texas)**

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Mar/Apr 2014

# namPOWs



Paul E. Galanti  
804.389.1668 (cell)  
p.galanti@verizon.net

Vice Admiral William P. Lawrence was a personal role model and inspiration to me right up to the day he died. It's my opinion that he is as close as the Naval Academy has ever come to graduating a MacArthur. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Class of 1902 at West Point, excelled at nearly every endeavor at our sister academy - including being First Captain and valedictorian.

Admiral Lawrence stood very high in the Class of 1951 academically, was the Brigade Commander militarily, was elected by his classmates as Class President and by his football teammates as their Captain. He also spearheaded the effort that revamped the Honor Code into its present form. But, unlike MacArthur, Bill Lawrence endured personal suffering and tragedy his West Point counterpart could never imagine.

That "Billy" Lawrence would be so successful was almost preordained. He had been programmed to succeed since his earliest days in Nashville and thrived on competition. Throughout his life, he met men who influenced him and made such an impression that, later when he was in positions of responsibility, his personal influence on those around him was truly remarkable.

He graduated 8<sup>th</sup> in his class at Annapolis, did well in flight training, was relegated to shore duty for a short while then became a Navy test pilot.

While stationed at NAS Patuxent River, he flew the F8U-3 and became the first Navy pilot to exceed Mach 2.0 in that airplane.

Several of his associates at Pax applied for and became the first group of astronauts. Bill was kept from competing for the astronaut opening by a minuscule heart murmur that was only discovered by the meticulous examination required of all contenders for these highly coveted "slots." Characteristically, he accepted the findings and pressed on to command a Navy F-4 squadron in combat in Vietnam.

Shot down and captured in June 1967, Bill's time as a prisoner of war was a continuation of his "never waste time" philosophy. When the Communists tried to play with his mind, Bill would replay football games; re-live his many interesting flights as a test pilot and in combat; design and build things in his mind. Despite the brutal torture, continual harassment and solitary confinement, he never wavered. Try as they might, the vicious North Vietnamese interrogators were never able to break Bill Lawrence.

Finally, President Nixon got fed up with North Vietnamese perfidy and using the "peace talks" as an instrument of their propaganda. Within 60 days of the start of the "Christmas Bombing," the first group of POWs was on its way home with C-141 fueling stops in the Philippines, Hawaii and Travis AFB in Sacramento.

While at Clark AFB, Capt. Bill Lawrence was told that his wife had divorced him (under grounds of desertion). It was a very rough time for him but he ended up with custody of his younger daughter, Wendy.

Then Bill met Diane Rauch - a beautiful, successful physical therapist - through the graces of one of her patients, John McCain. They met and married very shortly afterward. Diane was made an honorary member of several classes of midshipmen who considered her a second "Mom."

After several good assignments, Capt. Lawrence became an Admiral and a good one. Then the "MacArthur of Annapolis" became Superintendent of the Naval Academy during a very difficult time. Women at the Academies

were not well accepted, and there was much alumni pressure to abolish the presidential directive. In the middle of the very acrimonious debate, Admiral Lawrence's daughter, Wendy, was a midshipman at Navy in the class of 1981, the second USNA class to admit women. As it turned out, Wendy became a midshipman student leader, successful Navy helicopter pilot and an astronaut who made three flights before retiring as a Navy Captain.

Bill had a very serious stroke when he was the Chief of Naval Personnel. Although his mind was as sharp as ever, his body refused to comply with the commands issued by his brain. The admiral who routinely beat Navy varsity midshipmen tennis players was unable even to move around on his own. However, almost up to the last day of his life, Bill Lawrence would pick up the phone and call friends inviting them to his class luncheon at Annapolis. Or to join him at the Navy football game. Or to tell them jokes, many of which can't be repeated here.

He died while napping on December 2, 2005 the day before he was to journey to Philadelphia to watch his beloved Navy football team in its annual clash with arch-rival, Army.

His funeral at the Naval Academy Chapel was attended by thousands. Seated in special seating up front near his widow, Diane, were many former POWs and several rows of his USNA classmates. Bill was eulogized by fellow POW Senator John McCain '58 and his friend and protégé from Midshipmen days, H. Ross Perot '53.

The burial, on a cold, drizzly day followed a long walking procession by his many friends and military comrades. As the last shot from the volley of three sounded, a flight of four FA-18s broke into the missing man formation over the gravesite.

As the sun came out and the single F-18 was streaking toward it, I couldn't help thinking that Billy Lawrence was riding that bird skyward. It was indeed a fitting ending and tribute to one of the finest men this great country has ever produced.



# civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair

## The AHC: A “Unique and Priceless” Library

The AMERICAN HISTORICAL COLLECTION is one of the largest, most diverse and most complete libraries in the world in its specialty, Philippine-American history. Its holdings at present comprise some 13,000 volumes and 15,000 photographs, plus documents, manuscripts, periodicals, paintings and drawings, maps, microfilms, films, and audio tapes. It is the best resource of its kind outside the U.S. Library of Congress, and it was the LOC itself that pronounced the AHC “a unique and priceless collection.”

Do you want to know the name of every person interned at Santo Tomas University in Manila between 1942 and 1945—and what they ate for dinner on September 24, 1943? The AHC holds the original records of the Santo Tomas and Los Baños camps. Do you need to find out what the U.S. Insular Government spent on road and bridge-building in 1910? The complete records of the Philippine Commission are at the AHC. Are you interested in what the *Philippine Magazine* had to say about the Manila Symphony season of 1938? The AHC has complete or nearly complete records of many pre-World War II periodicals and newspapers, including scientific and technical journals.

The Collection naturally emphasizes the period of U.S. hegemony in the Philippines, 1898-1946, but contains much material on the years since. It is also constantly being updated, as

new books and articles on the U.S. era or Philippine affairs by U.S., Filipino and other authors are published, evaluated and acquired.

The AHC was the brainchild of the third U.S. Ambassador to the independent Philippines, Myron Cowen (1949-1951). Shocked by the terrible destruction wreaked on Philippine libraries in World War II, he convened a group of American “old-timers”—businessmen, professionals and educators—to seek their help in creating a new reference library. They responded generously.

Over the years the Collection has expanded through acquisitions and gifts, including some very valuable personal libraries. Today it is housed at and administered by Ateneo de Manila University, one of the country’s premier academic institutions. Since 1972, the *Bulletin of the American Historical Collection*, a quarterly journal of Phil-American history, has been published to showcase the Collection’s holdings and to

The Collection is open to visitors and researchers on weekdays and Saturdays. A visit is rewarding, as displays featuring Collection material are informative and provocative. You can contact the AHC by phone : (63-2) 426-6001, ext. 5817; by fax: (63-2) 426-5961; and by e-mail: [amhistco@admu.edu.ph](mailto:amhistco@admu.edu.ph). The Collection also has a website <http://rizal.lib.admu.edu.ph/ahc>.

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### BACEPOW

Bay Area Civilian Ex-Prisoners of War.  
Membership is open to all former prisoners of the Japanese, their families, and friends.

There is an active descendents group.  
[www.bacepow.net](http://www.bacepow.net)  
Commander, Angus Lorenzen

Come to the 70th  
Anniversary of  
Liberation Reunion  
*Sacramento Riverside  
Embassy Suites,  
California*  
Friday April 24 to  
Sunday April 26, 2015

#### Friday

Reunion Registration

#### Saturday

Speakers Program

#### Sunday

Descendents Meeting

Board of Directors’ meeting

Banquet

Reservations at the Embassy Suites Riverside Sacramento Hotel should be made early to obtain the special BACEPOW rate of \$149.

Reservations can be made online:

[www.embassysuites.com](http://www.embassysuites.com) using our group code **BPW**. Or call (916) 326-5000 and ask for the Bay Area Civilian Ex-POW’s 70 anniversary rate. Your reservation includes a complimentary hot cooked breakfast and the managers cocktail party. Valet parking is available at a discount rate of \$18 or use self-parking nearby.

Those who are willing to participate in a study on PTSD affecting civilian prisoners of war , please contact Dr. Dan Doolan (son of a Santo Tomas internee) at [doolan@sonic.net](mailto:doolan@sonic.net) or (707) 327-6886 to arrange a 1/2 hour interview during the reunion period.

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
Mar/Apr 2015

# pow-mia



PNC John Edwards  
Chairman

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

On Sept. 26, 2014, U.S. Army veteran and AXPOW Past National Director (SC) Leroy Williamson laid a wreath at the Monument to the Allies at Moscow's Park Pobedi (Victory Park). The wreath laying ceremony was one of the highlights of a weeklong visit to Moscow which fulfilled Williamson's lifelong dream to honor the Russians who had liberated him from Stalag Luft I, Barth Germany near the end of World War II. In an emotional speech, he said he had the "extreme honor" to thank the 44th Guards Red Banner "Baranovichi" Rifle Division for liberating 9,200 prisoners of war in 1945.

"One of my greatest hopes in my life has been to honor those Russian soldiers who rescued more than 9,000 POWs on May 1, 1945 at Stalag Luft 1," said Williamson, a proud Texan. "And I feel that my dream has been realized today." When he laid the wreath in a light Moscow mist, Williamson was accompanied by a decorated Russian veteran, Vladimir Kuts, who had fought for both the Red Army and U.S. Army during the Great

Patriotic War. Later, they toured the Museum of the Great Patriotic War and had lunch with other veterans.

"I recall 70 years ago the kindness shown by the members of the 44th Division when they liberated us," Williamson said. "I remember our liberators stacking their weapons and dancing and singing for us ... I remember receiving fresh donuts [and] the first fresh meat I had eaten in 14 months."

When planning their trip to Russia, Williamson and his son, Dr. John Williamson, reached out to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow for assistance in contacting Russian veterans of WWII. Major Robert Patterson, Chief of DPMO's Moscow office, worked with Russian veterans' service groups and Russian Ministry of Defense officials to find and contact Red Army veterans who were involved in liberating the camp. Major Patterson also helped coordinate the wreath-laying and luncheon. Williamson and his son went to the U.S. Embassy, where they were greeted by Ambassador John Tefft.

Describing his wreath-laying and lunch with Russian veterans as "a wonderful day," Williamson said Americans and Russians should never forget that "together we achieved a great victory over an oppressive and evil empire."

## Recovered/Returned:

Cpl. C.G. Bolden, U.S. Army, Company C, 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost Jan. 5, 1951, in North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 16, 2015.

Capt. David Chorlins, U.S. Air Force, 602nd Special Operations Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, was lost Jan. 11, 1970, in Laos. He was accounted for Jan. 17, 2015.

Sgt. 1st Class James W. Holt, U.S. Army, Company C, 5th Special Forces Group, was lost Feb. 7,

1968, in Vietnam. He was accounted for Jan. 10, 2015.

1st Lt. James F. Gatlin, Jr., U.S. Army Air Forces, 575th Bombardment Squadron, 391st Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force, was lost Dec. 23, 1944, in Germany. He was accounted for Jan. 9, 2015.

Cpl. Robert Higgins, U.S. Army, Battery C, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost Feb. 13, 1951, in South Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 6, 2015.

Sgt. Joseph M. Snock, Jr., U.S. Army, Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment, was lost Nov. 30, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 5, 2015.

Col. William E. Cooper, U.S. Air Force, 469th Tactical Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, was lost April 24, 1966, in Vietnam. He was accounted for Dec. 22, 2014.

Pvt. Jack M. Redman, U.S. Marine Corps, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, was lost Nov. 20, 1943, in Tarawa. He was accounted for Dec. 20, 2014.

Cpl. Francis D. Knobel, U.S. Army, Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 12, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Dec. 10, 2014.

Pfc. Anthony Massey Jr., U.S. Army, Company C, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost Nov. 28, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Dec. 5, 2014.

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"Keeping the Promise", "Fulfill their Trust" and "No one left behind" are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,000+), Korean War (7,921) Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,642), 1991 Gulf War (0), and OEF/OIF (6).





**June 12-13, 2015. Dept of West Virginia Annual Convention** will be held at the Best Western (formerly Holiday Inn) Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact Cmdr. Annette Smith, 621 Front St., Brownsville, PA 15417; 724-785-8536.

**June 24-27, 2015. AXPOW National Convention** will be held in Arlington, Texas. More information can be found starting on page 18.

**Sept. 9-13, 2015. 6th Bomb Group, Tinian 1944-45 will have its annual reunion** in Portland, Oregon. For more information, contact Glenda Richards, 951-233-4516, [gr41797@msn.com](mailto:gr41797@msn.com)

## looking for



There is interest by some people who would like to retrace the steps that we took from **Stalag Luft IV**, Poland on our 650 mile, 87 day so-called, "Black Death March." We are planning this visit in the fall. No definite date has been set. If there is any ex-POW who was on that march, and/or son, daughter or family member who might have an interest in doing this trip, please contact me by mail, phone, or email. Herbert S. Gold, 406 Highland Street, Cresskill, NJ 07626; 201 569-3079; [stalagluft4@gmail.com](mailto:stalagluft4@gmail.com).

Subject: Lyrics to a Poem. Have you ever heard of a **poem titled "The Price of Clean Sheets"**? An

airman wrote it when the ground pounders ragged him about being airborne rather than living in the trenches. If you have heard of it, please contact me. Ann Still, [annstill@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:annstill@tampabay.rr.com).

I am the son of **Jack Christian Peterson** who was shot down on his first mission in a B-17 and spent the remainder of the war in a German concentration camp. He is no longer alive. He passed away on his birthday May 8, 1996. I have had some help from a vet who does military background checks. He was able to send a lot of info on the downing of the B-17 named the **Blonde Bomber (91st Bomb Group, 322nd Squadron)**. I have names of the flight members and the stories or testimonies of how the plane was shot down. He sent some info on the camp where my dad ended up - **Stalag Luft IV**. I'm sure by now most of the people he was in the camp with are passed away or have moved from the address I have from the crew members home towns. He never talked about the situation in the camp, but I know from relatives that he was never the same after he came home. He went through rehab in Pensacola, Florida before returning to Oconto Falls, Wisconsin. [cpcrispy45@msn.com](mailto:cpcrispy45@msn.com); 541-870-4477.

I am looking for stories of soldiers who believe that they or a fellow soldier was **saved during battle by some heavenly intervention** or unseen force. Examples were people who saw a fellow soldier defend them that no one else saw, or they had strong feeling they should move and missed being hit by a shell. Any unexplainable story of a person who was saved or who witnessed a miracle while at war. Please respond to Karen Tobin at [kmt068@aol.com](mailto:kmt068@aol.com).

My name is Andi Gustavson—I am a graduate student who is

working on the history of snapshot photography and war. I was hoping some of the members of your group may be willing to contribute to this project by submitting photos. I am building a digital archive for an important group of conflict photographs that has yet to be recognized by museums, archives, or historians. I am trying to gather the personal snapshots that were most significant to servicemen and women while enlisted or in serving in warzones. The archive is called the **Personal Pin-up Project**. Here is the link to the archive: <http://www.personalpinupproject.com>. People willing to share their images can upload the one photograph that was most treasured by them or someone they know as they went off to war. Submissions may include snapshots of lovers, wives, husbands, girlfriends, boyfriends, other family members, pets, etc. I am also willing to digitize hard copy snapshots if vets want to participate but need help. The Personal Pin-up Project is unique in its focus—there is no archive dedicated to documenting the private experiences of war. This collection of treasured photographs will reveal the personal side of war, making publicly available for the first time images that were highly valued by the servicemembers who kept them. It is my hope that by exploring the snapshots taken by servicemembers into warzones and overseas, we can learn more about the intimate and daily experiences of conflict and the relationship between war and love, hope, longing, desire, frustration, admiration, and nostalgia. I would be happy to answer any questions about the project: [personalpinupproject@gmail.com](mailto:personalpinupproject@gmail.com). Please consider uploading an image to this important project. Thank you.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Mar/Apr 2015



AXPOW Convention 2015  
 Arlington, Texas  
 June 24-27, 2015



## American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2015

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):

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

**Submit to:** David Claypool, Chairman  
 PO Box 38  
 Hampton MN 55031  
 (612) 245-2247  
 claypool23@midco.net



**American Ex-Prisoners of War**  
**2015 National Convention**  
**June 24 - June 27**



*Banquet, Saturday evening, June 27*

**Arlington Hilton**

(817) 640-3322

2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse (if attending)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Branch of Service** \_\_\_\_\_

**POW Camps** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list any special needs** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel provides free shuttle to/from DFW Airport. Upon arrival, contact hotel at (817) 640-3322**

In addition to the customary functions, Registration Fee also includes  
breakfast and lunch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

**REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked by June 15) - # of Persons** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$135 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$28 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOUR - DEALEY PLAZA, SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM**  
**and DALLAS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**      **Number attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$40 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**↓ LATE REGISTRATION rates below ↓**

**REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked after June 15) - # of Persons** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$150 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$35 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOUR - DEALEY PLAZA, SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM**  
**and DALLAS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**      **Number attending** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$50 =** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration and payment, made payable to AXPOW, to

**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40 • Arlington Texas 76010

(817) 649-2979

Ex-POW Bulletin

Mar/Apr 2015



AXPOW Convention 2015  
Arlington, Texas  
June 24-27, 2015



## Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington



2401 East Lamar Boulevard, Arlington, Texas 76006-7503  
Tel: 1-817-640-3322, Fax: 1-817-633-1430  
Room Rate \$119 night/free airport shuttle/free parking  
Hilton Arlington is located 10 miles south of DFW Int'l Airport in the entertainment district of Arlington.

## Attractions:

Area attractions include Cowboys Stadium, Ranger Ballpark in Arlington, Six Flags and the Arlington Convention Center. Situated in a suburban business area, the Hilton Arlington is located within walking distance of many area restaurants.



## Short Agenda:

<b><u>JUNE 24</u></b>	<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b> BOARD MEETING
<b><u>JUNE 25</u></b>	<b><u>THURSDAY</u></b> OPENING CEREMONY DEALY PLAZA 6TH FLOOR MUSEUM (BOOK DEPOSITORY) DALLAS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM
<b><u>JUNE 26</u></b>	<b><u>FRIDAY</u></b> MEDSEARCH/NSO SEMINAR CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER COMMANDER'S RECEPTION
<b><u>JUNE 27</u></b>	<b><u>SATURDAY</u></b> CONTINUE BUSINESS MEETINGS NEW BOARD MEETING BANQUET
<b><u>JUNE 28</u></b>	<b><u>SUNDAY</u></b> CHECK OUT

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## AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11/due date May 15, 2014

	Black & White	Color
Full Page .....	\$275	\$500
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Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail Form with Ad materials and check to:**  
**National Headquarters, 3201 E. Pioneer Pkway,**  
**Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010**

# Report of the By-Laws Committee

## THIS SHALL SERVE AS OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION AS REQUIRED BY AXPOW BYLAWS

Since the 2014 National Convention the By-Law Committee has been working to adjust the By-Laws to fit our present situation. The AXPOW Organization will not be able to continue as it exists.

Many factors affect this change but the loss of membership and persons willing or able to fill positions of responsibility seem the most prominent.

The proposed number of Directors will be 5 Regions and 4 at large. The change over to the lesser number will be by attrition. While adjusting the Board of Directors to a smaller number with realigned representative boundaries all members have a better possibility of representation. AXPOW has a better chance to maintain a viable operation in the near future with the adjustments that are being proposed. No new chapters or departments are anticipated. The

creation of new chapters or departments will no longer be carried in the By-Laws. However, we will continue to support those that exist.

The Title of Past National Commander has been recognized as a position of honor. As we go forward the changes allow for only ExPOWs or Civilian Internees to hold the position of Commander.

The responsibilities of the office will shift to a Chief of Staff who will bear the burden of administration normally expected from a Commander. The business plan with a Chief of Staff will assist in setting and following policy as determined by the Board.

Membership expansion is proposed. AXPOW will accept as members all family members, including aunts, uncles, cousins and descendants. A new class of membership will also be created of 'associate members' for those the board of directors feel

would be an asset to the organization.

Many changes involve housekeeping and other changes are those that better define a regulated business process. A more reasonable business practice will assist in guiding AXPOW through declining years. The By-Law Committee looks for your support to ensure that the concepts presented are accepted.

The By-Laws will go into a Committee of the whole at the 2015 National Convention in Arlington June 24-27<sup>th</sup>. The proposed changes will be voted on by Members present.

Copies of the proposed By-Laws may be obtained from AXPOW Headquarters, [HQ@AXPOW.ORG](mailto:HQ@AXPOW.ORG).

Respectfully submitted,

David D Claypool, Chair  
David Eberly; Charles A. Susino;  
Cheryl Cerbone; Jan Williams; Pam Warner Eslinger; Members

### Fresno Chapter #1, Vern Schmidt:

Jan. 21, 2015. Today at our monthly meeting of AXPOW, two WWII prisoners of war met for the first time since liberated in Japan almost 70 years ago. Neither knew each other then, but an article in Sunday's Fresno Bee brought these two men together for the first time. Jack Schwartz, 99, saw the story of 93 year-old George Heimbuch in the Bee, stating that he was in a prison camp known as Kawasaki 2B.

That caught Jack's interest as he was also in Kawasaki 2B. The tempo of our meeting changed into a "Welcome Home Affair" as these two elders shared emotions of the beatings and lack of food and medical care in this prison. Jack was a naval officer captured on Guam on Dec. 10, 1941, 3 days after Pearl Harbor and served 1367 days as a POW in Japan. George, at 19, enlisted in the AAC and was sent to the Philippines and was captured on May 10, 1942. Both Jack and George were sent on "Hell Ships" to Japan and both were sent to Kawasaki 2B. George suffered a blow to the back of his head resulting in a permanent disability, but he smiles about it now, grateful he survived over 3 ½ years of brutal treatment. He also had his nose broken twice. On the other hand, Jack, being an officer, says he was given responsibility without authority and suffered at the hands of the mean guards as well. Another point of interest came out when member Margaret Lebowitz said "my husband, Harry, also in the Navy, was captured on Guam, both he and Jack were on the same ship, the "Argentina Maru". Harry, a navy medical person was in another prison camp and with his medical knowledge was given responsibility to administer assistance to the POWs, followed by another chore in the crematorium, not what you'd call a very pleasant job. This being George's first-ever visit to our chapter, he was intrigued by the warm and friendly group who welcomed him. His daughter, Janet Davis, and husband Phil heard about our meeting and George couldn't wait to meet Jack. George, like Gen. MacArthur, said "I'll be back".



We look forward to seeing this man with his smile from ear to ear at our next meeting.

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# Extraordinary Service, Surprise Discovery

by Alice A. Booher



Her name was Clarissa Harlowe Barton but she asked everyone to call her Clara - and that was a name that came to have far-reaching echoes in many chambers of practical power. Born in Oxford, MS in 1821, her first recorded nursing adventure was to tend to a brother who was hurt in a farming accident. Innately shy, she took up teaching. In Bordentown, NJ, she established a free public school but when they selected a man to head it, she quit.

Barton found work at the U.S. Patent Office, and would become one of the first permanent female employees of the U.S. government. She was working as a recording clerk at the Patent Office in 1861 when troops arrived in Washington, often confused and routinely without many necessary items. Barton began by taking bedding and other supplies to "her" men and boys from the 6<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, many of whom she had known as a child, who had been temporarily housed in the unfinished U.S. Capitol building after being attacked in Baltimore by Southern sympathizers. According to *The Manuscript Society News* (quoted in *Linn's*): "Professor Ed Smith of

American University in Washington, DC, and an authority on the involvement of African Americans in the Civil War, remarked that (Barton) was fond of many regiments but "adopted" the famed black 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Massachusetts, accompanying them into battle at Fort Wagner and caring for the few who survived. The exploits of that regiment were the subject of the motion picture *Glory* produced few years ago".

Barton would receive assistance in her primarily privatized efforts from some other groups such as the U.S. Sanitary Commission, but never officially affiliated with any of them; their collective aid ranged from staple items such as bedding, clothing, personal goods, to more ephemeral ones such as writing letters, praying, sharing problems. She received passes to share medical provisions and voluntary services to the battle and field hospitals, initially gathering medical supplies after the First Battle of Bull Run, and in 1861, began taking her privately funded nursing operation to the front lines. It was said that after the Battle of Cedar Mountain in northern Virginia in August 1862, she showed up in the middle of the night complete with mule drawn wagon and supplies much to the relief of the exhausted and supply-less surgeons. She expanded efforts to troops at the battles of Fairfax Station, Chantilly, Harpers Ferry, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Charleston, Petersburg and Cold Harbor. At Antietam, a bullet had purportedly passed through her sleeve, killing the soldier she was nursing. At some locations, her efforts preceded and often supplanted those of the official ancillary supply units. She added activities such as writing letters home for or about the soldiers, and became painfully aware of ancillary issues such as the inability to hook up soldiers with their families, or to give families data on what may have happened to KIAs, MIAs and POWs.

In March 1865, President Lincoln wrote "*To the Friends of Missing Persons: Miss Clara Barton has kindly offered to search for the missing prisoners of war. Please address*

*her...giving her the name, regiment and company of any missing soldier."* Barton thus established the Office of Correspondence with Friends of the Missing Men of the United States Army, operating the office out of her own downtown Washington, D.C. boarding house rooms from circa 1862-1868, during which time she and her assistants (including one Dorence Atwater) received and answered 63,000 letters. Through newspaper ads, flyers and other networking mediums, they solicited for contacts from grieving parents and sweethearts, family and friends of MIA men, brothers, sons, etc... Barton and her staff took the letters and researched them, and eventually published lists of the names of the MIA's so that anyone with knowledge of their whereabouts could contact their office, quite a remarkable and expansive enterprise indeed. By the time the office closed in 1867-8, they had identified the fate of more than 22,000 MIAs. This effort would be the forerunner of the American Red Cross's service personnel tracking service.

As we have discussed in prior *Bulletin* articles, towards the end of the Civil War (and about two months after Lincoln's Assassination), with the assistance of the aforementioned Dorence Atwater, who had been a POW in Richmond and then a POW/parolee at Andersonville, Barton and a team of 30 or so from the Army under orders from Secretary of War Edward Stanton, established a system for identifying casualties and their graves, particularly those in hospital sites and POW camps. The efforts started by their pouring over the letters received as well as captured hospital records cases, comparing them to toe-tags and other rudimentary identifications present.

While laborers erected headboards at Andersonville, Barton and her office began to write to notify the POW/MIA families of their service person's final resting site and whatever pertinent details might be available to help them locate their remains and/or be assured of being made

## Clara Barton, cont'd...

aware of whatever circumstances were known about their last days and their death. Because of her special connection with the POWs at the Andersonville site and having identified 13,000 of their graves there, Barton was asked to help raise the flag near that location at its Cemetery dedication in 1865. [It should be noted that those 13,000 POWs had not received appropriate burials; however, that sorrowful absence is expected to be redressed as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities at Andersonville with a luminaria service for 13,000 in September 2015.]

Barton never married but from the 1862 or so, she had a longstanding friendship with Col John J. Elwell. Her convoluted but fascinating personal and professional story is remarkable; best herein left for another day, it was reported by her own hand and many others.

In sum, in 1869, an exhausted Barton decided to travel to Europe for some rest. Her boarding house friend and landlord, Edward Shaw, stored her belongings in the attic above her rooms. As a result of her European travels, [during which time she met with folks like Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, and redefined her role as an activist], Barton expanded her humanitarian efforts to Europe through the Swiss Red Cross, including calling for international agreements



to provide assistance for the sick and wounded during wartime without respect to nationalities. The first of these was signed abroad in 1864 and after considerable effort; similar words were ratified by the United States. In the interim, Barton herself participated in relief efforts in the Franco-Prussian War. She was less than successful in convincing President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1877 to support the treaty (he considered it an unnecessary “entangling alliance”). His successor James Garfield was supportive, but before he could act, he was assassinated. Finally, Garfield’s successor Chester Arthur signed the treaty in 1882 and a few days later the U.S. Senate ratified it. The American Red Cross’s first Congressional charter was issued in 1900, and a second issued the year after Barton left the group; for the earliest years, it acted primarily as a disaster relief effort in addition to the more traditional wartime services. Throughout the remainder of her life, Barton would speak and write throughout the community particularly veterans. She contracted tuberculosis in 1910, and died at age 90 on April 12, 1912 at her home in Glen Echo, MD, located at the edge of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, which was later turned into a National Historic Site by the National Park Service.

Fast forward in your minds over considerable time to 1996, when an inadvertent and utterly incredible discovery was made at 437-1/2 Seventh St., NW, in downtown Washington, D.C., a fairly seedy area (so-called ripe for “modern” urban renovations area) not far from the National Portrait Gallery, Washington’s Chinatown, and the current Verizon and Walter E. Washington Convention Centers. The General Services Administration (GSA), which owns sites all over Washington, had routinely scheduled a building at that address for demoli-



tion. This particular site had not been fully occupied since 1911. GSA carpenter Richard Lyons was sent to look it over and secure the site for further work. When he walked up two narrow flights of stairs to reach #9 of the former boarding house and took a wobbly ladder to the attic above, he discovered to his surprise, undeniable and significant remnants of Barton’s Missing Soldiers Office as well as many of her personal belongings. With Lyons’ persistence, the proposed site demolition ceased and everyone began to regroup. Lyons himself became a relentless advocate for saving and restoring the site.

On December 2, 1998, the *New York Times* announced the discovery of 10 boxes of military records at the 7<sup>th</sup> St., location. Among the items found was a 9x9 3/4” tin door sign, with a nail hole in each corner and gold paint scratched in places reading “Missing Soldiers Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Story, Room 9, Miss Clara Barton”. Further delving into the artifacts here and other Barton resources showed that while the office had functioned on her own initiative, there was a flat fee of \$15,000 fee provided by the U.S. Congress in March 1866 to reimburse her for the efforts to locate MIA soldiers. According to the Clara Barton Birthplace Museum website, Barton’s final report (40<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senate, MIS. Doc. 3d Session, No. 57), gives her own details of the workings of the office, including that it was her es-

## Clara Barton, cont'd...

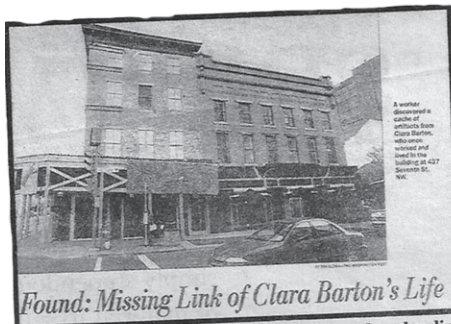


Figure 2. Clara Barton's records from her days heading the Missing Soldiers Office (1862-68) have recently been found in this derelict building in Washington, D.C.

timate that some 40,000 remained MIAs at the end of the war; that there had been received some 63,182 persons who had returned information; that they had distributed 58,693 flyers printed and 99,057 printed rolls. She also cited the clerks hired, etc. It was clear that Room 9 of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street site and adjoining areas had served as both her living quarters and the office. The GSA assented to preserve the structure, and began to plan to replicate the original 1853 exterior.

According to several sources including the *Washington Post*, GSA and other historians and *Linn's Stamp News* (June 1, 1998), only the recent history of the building was clear. From the early 1920's until 1992, a family that ran the Boyce & Lewis Shoe Store on the first floor owned it. A family member, Stuart Eisen, was quoted as saying that the upper floors were difficult to explore because a beam had been placed across a stairway (which apparently translates, as "we never checked the attic"). Several years later, by the time GSA was thinking of selling/demolishing the site, photo captions show that calling the building "derelict" were pretty optimistic.

In 2001, GSA handled the sale of the building for the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation (PADC), which included an easement for the preservation of the spaces associated with Barton. According to GSA, under the easement terms, JPI, the purchaser, completed an \$8 million facade restoration and interior rehabilitation to make the easement area accessible and code-compliant. GSA completed a Historic Structure Report and assumed responsibility for interior conservation, estimated to cost \$1.5 million using the PADC funds set aside for that purpose. GSA later signed a letter of intent summarizing how the agency and the National Museum of Civil War Medicine would proceed toward a management agreement for the interpretation and public access to the preserved easement spaces at the building. Included therein were educational programs, exhibit development, marketing, fund raising, operations, etc. As restoration work began, managed by The National Museum of Civil War Medicine with HQ in Frederick, MD, details came to light, e.g., the place used a carved mail slot for incoming mail; it had no indoor plumbing; Barton, who lived in one room, herself had once wallpapered a wall, and representative samples were located on the walls and duplicated; original carpet remnants were found in the attic and were reproduced for the runner; reproduction LED lighting was installed resembling period gas lights with simulated flickering flames. Plans were also undertaken to concurrently utilize the national celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the war to raise funds and establish exhibits. The 7<sup>th</sup> Street site is now called the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office (CBMSO) Museum and, since March 2014 has transitioned to a Museum with tours. The site welcomes a small staff as well as docent volunteers, is on Twitter and

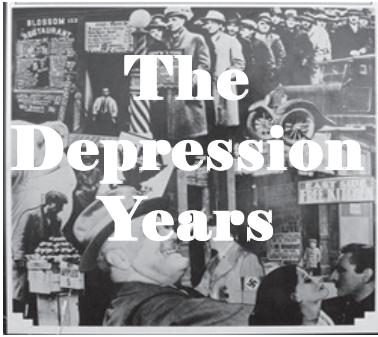
Facebook, and has a Go Fund Me page on the internet where they are undergoing efforts to raise funds for an artifact security system. Among those permanent items on display are some found by Mr. Lyons including a rubber shelter for protecting supplies on the battlefield. Other items found "in the attic" were medicine bottles, clothing, documents, letters, piles of blood stained socks and sewing materials, presumably to be washed and mended before going back to the battlefield.



The story as told by *The Huffington Post* of dogged persistence by GSA carpenter, newly minted historian, Richard Lyons is also now fabled in museum (including The Smithsonian and National Park Service whom he quietly brought into the mix) circles, including how he made sure that the precious finds were not lost. At the 2010 National Awards and Recognition Dinner, the American Red Cross presented GSA National Capitol Region's Richard Lyons, a 29-year GSA employee, with a special award for his work to preserve the apartment, office and belongings of Clara Barton.

As for the former Missing Persons Office, it is now beautifully restored, standing in a renovated part of Washington next to a ubiquitous Starbucks, available for tours and well worth the visit.





## Growing up in the Depression

As I write this I am 90 years old. Being born at our home in Clinton, Iowa in 1924. I am a child of the great depression and these are the events as I remember.

I was the 2nd oldest in a family of 10 children. The thing I remember the most was always being hungry. My folks rented a tenant farm house from Mr. Kruse, a farmer. My Dad worked the farm for him and I started school at the Primary school which we walked to everyday, and it was miles away from the farm.

My folks then left the farm and rented a house in town. When I was 10 yrs old my older brother and I had to go out to the forest north of town to cut wood with a cross cut saw and work from dawn to dark as my dad cut down trees we cut the wood. In winter we shoveled snow to earn money in the summer we cut lawns and dug gardens. We collected coal along the railroad tracks, cleaned scrap metal to sell and hauled ashes for people. We would fish and hunt for food on the table. I would also hunt muskrats/ raccoons and get 10 cents per hide. We would eat the meat. We learned to work hard and you never complained it was a way of life and you needed to work to have food on the table. We were

poor like so many family's back then and I remember not being allowed to attend my 8th grade graduation, because my parents couldn't afford the required pants and dress shirt, so I came and sat in the back of the auditorium and watch my classmates graduate.

My friends and I were river rats, we learned to swim in the Mississippi. And were always barefoot. For fun, we fished, swam, and camped on the Mississippi River. In the winter we would skate the back waters on the Mississippi river playing hockey with tin can and building fires to keep warm. We would sled down hills with shovel handles between our legs. I bought my first gun at Montgomery Wards Store, a 16 gauge shot bolt action ranger shotgun at 12 yrs old, and it cost \$12 dollars. With that gun I hunted pheasants, rabbits, ducks, geese and coons. It was meat for our table.

In 1936 I won the marble championship of Clinton out of all the schools in town. The prize was a baseball and bat. And met the Mayor of Clinton

In high school I worked as an usher at Lyons Theatre and making 10 cents an hour. Then after I was done at the theatre at 10 pm I would catch the bus and go to work at Swift and Company, loaded eggs and butter into railroad box cars till 2 Am. The pay was 25 cents an hour. I would then get up and go to school in the morning.

I was a member of 82nd Airborne and made the invasion of France at Normandy on D-day, and dropping into St Mere Eglise and landing in a Greenhouse. Fought through the hedgerows of Normandy.

I was wounded on June 29th. I was then a prisoner of war and sent to the coal mines as forced labor. I escaped and returned to allied lines. I came home and married my sweetheart who waited for me, not knowing if I was alive.

I had a successful Construction Business for 45 years. I felt that God prepared our generation with the Depression to fight in WW 2.

*By Henry Langrehr  
1717 Circle Drive East  
Clinton, IA 52732*

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The Great Depression in the United States began on October 29, 1929, a day known forever after as "Black Tuesday," when the American stock market—which had been roaring steadily upward for almost a decade—crashed, plunging the country into its most severe economic downturn yet. Speculators lost their shirts; banks failed; the nation's money supply diminished; and companies went bankrupt and began to fire their workers in droves. Meanwhile, President Herbert Hoover urged patience and self-reliance: By 1932, one of the bleakest years of the Great Depression, at least one-quarter of the American workforce was unemployed.

This is the second in a series of stories of growing up in the Depression. We hope to continue running these slices of American life, so send in your story to the editor and we'll publish them on a semi-regular basis. Next deadline is: April 1, 2015.

Thank you! Cheryl

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# News Briefs

## Awards Replacement

### Use SF 180, Request Pertaining To Military Records

The military recognizes that military medals are often a cherished part of family history and makes replacement medals, decorations, and awards available to veterans or their next of kin if the veteran is no longer living or able to make the request on his or her own behalf. Replacement medals, decorations and awards should be requested on SF 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. This form can be downloaded from <http://www.va.gov/vaforms>. Each request should be filled out neatly, and should include the veteran's branch of service, social security number, dates of service, and it should be signed by the veteran or the next of kin if the veteran is incapacitated or deceased. Where to forward it to is indicated by an address code on the back of the SF 180. In general, requests made by the veteran are fulfilled at no cost. This includes requests made by family members who have the signed authorization of the veteran. There may be an associated fee for requests made by next of kin, especially if the request involves archival records (records are considered archival records 62 years after the veteran's date of separation from military service).

## New POW/MIA Agency

The Pentagon is taking the first steps to set up a new agency that will direct the effort to search for

America's missing war dead. Defense officials say they will begin merging two existing agencies into one POW-MIA office that will be more streamlined and effective. The new organization will be running next year. The decision comes as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel prepares to leave the Pentagon. Last March Hagel announced he would create a new office to deal with POW-MIA issues that would be more focused and innovative.

The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,539) Korean War (7,685), Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,638), 1991 Gulf War (0), and OEF/OIF (6). Over 600 Defense Department men and women — both military and civilian — work in organizations around the world as part of DoD's personnel recovery and personnel accounting communities. They are all dedicated to the single mission of finding and bringing our missing personnel home. For a listing of all personnel accounted for since 2007 refer to [http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/accounted\\_for](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/accounted_for). For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call or call (703) 699-1169.

## Appointment Wait Times

Veterans have to wait a month on average to get an appointment with a primary care physician at the VA Medical Center in Hampton, Virginia - longer than any other veteran's facility in the country and significantly more than the national average of one week, according to the most recent data released by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The av-

erage wait time at the Hampton VA Medical Center and its regional clinics is 30.53 days. The second-longest wait time is 28.45 days at the VA in Fayetteville, N.C. Only four VA facilities in the country have wait times over 20 days. The national average, measuring from the preferred time for the appointment to the actual appointment, is 6.95 days.

## Legion of Honor

The accolades continue to pour in for an aging group of World War II soldiers. Twenty-seven World War II Japanese-American soldiers were decorated with France's highest medal — the Legion of Honor — in January for their part in liberating France as members of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. Pauline Carmona, consul general of France in San Francisco, gave the honors at a ceremony at the Japanese Cultural Center Jan. 23, 2015. Navy Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., incoming Pacific forces commander and possible candidate for chief of naval operations, was the keynote speaker. Harris, whose mother is Japanese, has said the nisei soldiers were his role models. Harris is the highest-ranking Asian-American in the history of the Navy and the first to gain the rank of four-star admiral. Gov. David Ige, whose father was a member of the 100th Battalion, and U.S. Rep. Mark Takai also attended the ceremony.

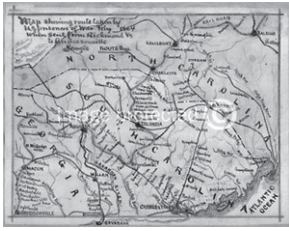
The Oahu ceremony is one of three held in Hawaii by the French government to honor the veterans who served in the Army unit composed mainly of Japanese-Americans.

Last year 67 Asian-Americans were approved for the Legion of Honor by the French government, said attorney Pat Lee, honorary French consul in Honolulu.

# Andersonville

## Resources

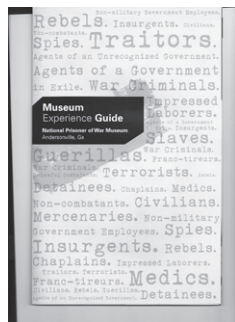
by Alice A. Booher



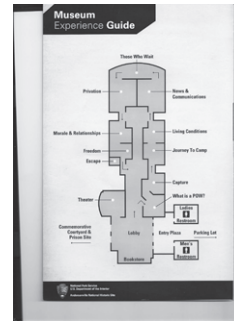
Before, during and since the National POW Museum's opening in 1998, even the most casual of readers of the *Bulletin* would certainly have noticed that there are few venues about which we have written more frequently or enthusiastically than the POW Museum/Cemetery and former Prison at Andersonville, GA. Recently, in March-April 2014, we discussed the ambitious two-year long commemorative program to celebrate the lapse of 150 years since that Civil War, an effort in the aggregate called "When We Held Each Other Prisoner". Then Site Superintendent Brad Bennett noted the unique challenges of commemorating that complicated tragedy measured not in terms of a battle of weeks or days, but in the words of one prisoner, "by inches". Bennett noted that the two yearlong event would be broken into twelve two month segments with focus on a single word theme representing conditions, events or emotions and would include both Andersonville and other POW camps, some of which we have also already or soon will discuss in detail in the *Bulletin*.

The July-August 2014 *Bulletin* cover story delved further into plans enunciated by Eric Leonard, then Andersonville's Chief of Interpretation and Education (and more recently the Site's Acting Superintendent; see also the Andersonville article in this *Bulletin* about his new position as Supt. of the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site in SD) for a long-range interpretative plan for conveying to visitors some potent insights into the complicated situation at Andersonville. An extraordinary tool had just then been introduced in the form of a new booklet to address the problem of interpretative efforts for young people who visit the Site, and for whom the only

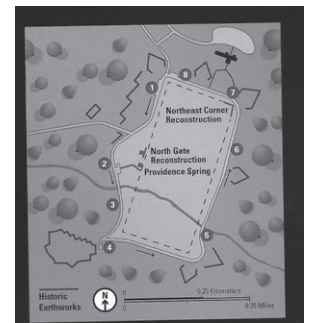
meaningful intersection with the convoluted POW history was and is through a museum activity or the Junior Ranger program. As explained by Park Ranger Stephanie Steinhorst in the January-February 2014 issue of *Legacy* magazine, the new Andersonville program (and booklet) requires cooperation from the participating child's family and a lot of hands-on input from the already extended park staff and rangers. The *Bulletin* article discussed the extraordinarily fine structured but slightly intimidating booklet called *Captured! A Prisoner of War Story*. The multiple page booklet managed to take the utterly revolting aspects of POW life and tell not one tale, but an aggregate story of sadness and suffering and resilience that children would find interesting, and which would be ultimately uplifting while adhering to factual accuracy. The booklet includes a maze, choices between bad and worse, and practical options for one standing in the shoes of the POW, all done with the goal of a lasting and more positive than frightful impact on the kids. It concluded with a "POW memoir" section for the kids to recount their choices. The booklet is couched in such terms that even if the child does not complete the somewhat daunting tasks, they will not feel defeated. One particularly salient feature addresses the conundrum of Civil War families not knowing where their loved ones were, whether MIA/or POW, and the booklet cogently explains the need for the Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office, coincidentally the cover story in the current *Bulletin*.



In the last month or so, two more resources have been issued by the Andersonville Site geared more toward the adult visitors: a *Museum Experience Guide* and an *Andersonville Prison Site Walking Tour* placard. The latter document is an oversized two-sided heavy stock card to be carried with the visitor as a guide on a 1.1 mile loop



walking tour of 30-45 minutes. The pivotal stopping points addressed on the card are: (1) The Wisconsin Monument (and location of other state memorials); (2) North Gate Reconstruction; (3) South gate; (4) Star Fort (HQ for Gen Winder and Capt Wirz, elevated for viewing the camp, armed with cannons, and adjacent to the makeshift hospital area); (5) The Sinks (the creek, principal water source); (6) Shelter Corner (tents and similar structures in addition to rough barracks); (7) Stockade Reconstruction (with only 328 escaping during the War); (8) Wells (POWs dug down 40-80 feet for water and some served as cover for escape attempts). Each stopping point is briefly described as to its importance in the life of a POW and for the POW camp as a whole. The necessarily limited information has been heavily honed to provide important points and encourage further investigation either on site or at the Museum or other resources after the tour. The second new pamphlet is a four-fold, a l s o s l i g h t l y oversized heavy paper document for use inside the Museum itself. The panels, under a banner of "What is a POW?", are devoted to Capture, Living Conditions, Those Who Wait, Privation, Morale, Escape and Freedom. Brief excerpts, illustrations, and anecdotes are included to stimulate thoughts about each area. As the Andersonville POW Site is an extraordinary resource for anyone who visits, all of these documents will ably assist in the learning process involved in and as a result of that experience.



Ex-POW Bulletin  
Mar/Apr 2015

## memorials/ plaques

The Missouri Veterans Commission has placed a memorial at the State Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, Missouri to honor SFC Harold C. Ray of Moberly, Missouri.

HAROLD CLIFTON RAY Sergeant First Class (SFC), United States Army, C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. Prisoner of War (POW) on 26 April 1951. (since no remains were recovered the original date of death was reported as Dec 31, 1953. Following interviews with survivors it was determined that he died much earlier and date was changed to June 30, 1951.) Does not appear on "Johnnie Johnson List," since in a different group, but does appear in the "Missing in Action, Captivity" report compiled from returning POWs. Field Search Case 475F.

As a POW, SFC Harold C. Ray moved by stages northward into



the hill country above the fighting lines. It was reported that he worked toward a cluster of POW

holding camps near Suan in North Korea, but it has now been discovered that he was separated from the main group of POWs and was taken, part way by truck, to Wonsan on the east coast, instead. After remaining there for a short time, his group of wounded men moved inland to a rear area Chinese field hospital near Yondok. SFC Ray's condition worsened and his companions were told that he finally died of complications. They were not present at the moment of his death, but requested that he be buried as well as local conditions allowed. The other POWs then continued their journey to the permanent camps on the south bank of the Yalu River. Army authorities, not having a specific date of death, assigned 30 June 1951, the end of the month. The American government has not yet been allowed to work in the Yondok area, but have identified the site to North Korean authorities. In recent years, the North Koreans have done unilateral exhumations, and they returned some human remains in 1990-94, but none of the returns were identified as SFC Ray.

My name is Robert Brink II and I was encouraged by my Aunt to send this photo of a plaque I created to memorialize the liberation of my father's family on February 23, 1945 from the Los Banos Internment Camp.

My father, Robert Arlington Brink, passed away on December 22, 2013. His brother, John William Brink, passed away on April 7, 2014. While cleaning out one of my Uncle's desk drawers, I found these two bullet casings that my uncle had picked up from the deck of the amtrac he and his family were riding in during their journey across Laguna de Bay after their liberation. He had picked up a lot more than the two casings on display but they were lost over the years.

The plaque reads: "Bullet casings collected by John William Brink on the Day of Liberation, courtesy of the valiant "Angels" of the US Army's 11th Airborne Division, of 2,147 internees held by the Japanese at the Los Banos Internment Camp, Luzon, Philippines, 23 February 1945.



BRINK FAMILY MEMBERS LIBERATED Myron Edgar Brink (Age 52)  
Maude Elizabeth Rice-Brink (age 47)  
John William Brink (Age 16)  
Robert Arlington Brink (Age 14)  
Pamela Jane Brink (Age 11)

# Your Stories



Recently, as a WWII veteran along with thirty-three other veterans, I was selected to visit Washington DC by the Honor Flight/Austin Organization at which time we visited many of the Military Monuments, with emphasis on the WWII Monument. I especially want to thank Tina Lee, Representative and Allen Bergeron, Chairman, Honor Flight Austin (HFA) for a well designed and planned program. They are to be commended for their devotion and care for all veterans. It is important to point out that the entire trip, including airfare, meals, hotel, and inside Washington transportation was all at the expense of the HFA Organization.

Many activities were planned during the trip that brought memories of the time we served in the military. Those who served, and were away from their families for months, and at times years, will possibly remember one important event that we looked forward to was *Mail Call*. During *Mail Call* we were always anxious to find out how our families were doing without us, and those who had



children hoped to get pictures which would give them an opportunity to see how the kids were progressing. Unlike today, with all the advanced technology, all we had to rely on and look forward to from home was mail. If you remember, the technology during our time in the service was a *Big Chief Writing Pad and a Number 2 pencil*. Mail for veterans during WWII was sent free by just writing Free in the apace where the three cent stamp would normally be located.

On the return trip from Washington to Austin we were surprised with an old fashion *Mail Call* at which time I received fourteen (14) letters from friends and relatives. The HFA had contacted a family member who supplied them with names and addresses from which letters were received.....another well planned event by the Organization.

proper veteran. Some of the letters were read by the flight attendant were very emotional.

In addition, I would like to point out, and as you know, those who served in WWII and were on the flight were ninety (90) or above, so the safety and movement in and around Austin and especially Washington, was paramount in the minds of HFA. To help with this situation we were all appointed a Guardian who was given the responsibility throughout the entire trip of pushing us in a wheelchair everywhere we went. Many of the Guardians were military personnel from Austin and the Pentagon, and all were very attentive. One was a female Bird Colonel from the pentagon pushing a Sargent all day long.

It was interesting to see that at the stops at the various airports, the halls would be lined with hundreds of people including military formations, and those playing the bagpipes, cheering and clapping, thanking us for our service.....a very exciting and enjoyable trip for which I'm thankful.

Morris Barker  
Past National Commander  
Army Air Corp WWII



The main purpose of this letter is to thank those who wrote me, thanking me for my service.....I appreciate the letters very much. The Southwest flight attendant was very efficient in getting all the letters to

# ~Happy 73<sup>rd</sup> Birthday AXPOW~

It all began on December 24, 1941. General MacArthur had designated Bataan as the center of American resistance to the Japanese invasion of the Philippines. On Christmas Eve, he ordered his forces to withdraw and prepare for a last stand. The conditions of the peninsula - jungle, swamp and mountains - that were ideal for repelling the invaders, also made Bataan almost impossible to supply, and shortages of food and medicine plagued the forces throughout the siege.

Fierce Japanese assaults began on January 9<sup>th</sup>, and gradually forced American and Filipino troops deeper into the jungles. When the US ordered General MacArthur to leave the Philippines in March, his armies appeared to be holding the Japanese to a draw, but dwindling supplies of food and medical supplies weakened them. MacArthur insisted the Americans could hold out until May. They could not. On April 9, 1942, they surrendered. And the most horrific death march in history began.

So too, begins our story. The idea for our organization began with two mothers - Mrs. Charles W. Bickford and Mrs. Fred E. Landon - whose sons were captured by the Japanese. With the help of Dr. V.H. Spensley, whose son was also captured, the Bataan Relief Organization was created to provide supplies and support to the survivors of Bataan. Their motto: "We will not let them down" struck a responsive chord in every family with a child, parent, brother or sister fighting for the light of freedom.



It has been a long process from these two mothers to the very special organization we now have, but we have not forgotten our roots. We are families. And we are unique in that respect. We have no associate members or auxiliaries. We believe that our former prisoners survived because they were loved. And they came home to stand arm in arm with the ones who loved them to help ensure that their experiences would not be forgotten next time Americans paid with their freedom to fight for ours.

Families are our strength. It is the family that provides the unwavering love and support for all of us. And it is the family that makes it possible for us to live up to our motto: "We exist to help those who cannot help themselves."

## April 9<sup>th</sup>...uniquely ours

The Fall of Bataan and the seed that became AXPOW began on April 9, 1942.

The first National Convention was held on April 9, 1948 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was the beginning of the creation of a truly national organi-

zation for ex-POWs from all conflicts. Today, membership is made up of ex-POWs and families from the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm, Somalia, Bosnia, China and Iraq. As future POWs come home, we expect to meet them with open arms and support.

(thanks to Helen Smith):

The second national convention of Bataan Veterans Organization held in Hollywood, CA, April 8-10, 1949. At the afternoon session on April 8, the topic was NAME CHANGE. Several suggestions were made. One suggested was Associated Prisoners of War. Kenneth Day made the following statement: Quote from April 8-10, 1949 minutes. "We are now trying to change the form of this group. We are trying to make it a national organization of ex-prisoners. Not prisoners. I am not a prisoner of war. I am an ex-prisoner of war. I am sorry to have to disagree with you on that. I think you have an excellent point there, too. The suggestion of Associated Prisoners of War would have been pretty good, until they dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima, and immediately after that there were no more prisoners of war - among the Americans at least. Then we became ex-prisoners of war."



## 73rd Birthday, continued...



On the literature, on the publicity, on everything that we have posted to publicize this convention, under the name Bataan Veterans Organization is Former Prisoner of War.”

The name chosen was American Ex-Prisoners of War.

April 9<sup>th</sup> was chosen by AXPOW as OUR unique Day of Recognition. Until the mid-1990s, we enjoyed annual Congressional Proclamations. For our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1992, we were given special recognition with a ceremony in Statuary Hall, with guest speakers from both House of Congress. After Congress discontinued commemorative days, we began receiving Presidential Proclamations. In 2014, President Obama’s latest proclamation paid tribute to all former prisoners of war...

### Presidential Proclamation -- National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2014

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

#### A PROCLAMATION

Since the earliest days of our Republic, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces have answered the call to serve. They have put their lives on the line for our Nation, and many have sacrificed their own freedom to safeguard ours. On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we honor those who stood up, took an oath, put on the uniform, and faced immeasurable challenges far from home.

These patriots often suffered physical and mental torture during captivity. Many endured starvation and isolation, not knowing when or if they would make it safely back to our shores. Families experienced days, months, and sometimes years of uncertainty, but they showed remarkable strength that mirrored the grit of their loved ones through long stretches of imprisonment. These warriors rendered the highest service any American can offer our country — they fought and sacrificed so that we might live in peace, security, and prosperity.

Today, we are solemnly reminded of our responsibility to care for those who have borne these burdens for us. We recommit to honoring that sacred obligation — to serving our former prisoners of war, our veterans, and their families as well as they have served us. With unyielding pride and unending gratitude, let us fulfill our promises to the courageous heroes of generations past, to this generation of veterans, and to all who will follow.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2014, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day of remembrance by honoring all American prisoners of war, our service members, and our veterans. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

*“Since the earliest days of our Republic, the brave men and women of our Armed Forces have answered the call to serve. They have put their lives on the line for our Nation, and many have sacrificed their own freedom to safeguard ours. On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we honor those who stood up, took an oath, put on the uniform, and faced immeasurable challenges far from home.*

*These patriots often suffered physical and mental torture during captivity. Many endured starvation and isolation, not knowing when or if they would make it safely back to our shores. Families experienced days, months, and sometimes years of uncertainty, but they showed remarkable strength that mirrored the grit of their loved ones through long stretches of imprisonment. These warriors rendered the highest service any American can offer our country — they fought and sacrificed so that we might live in peace, security, and prosperity.*

*Today, we are solemnly reminded of our responsibility to care for those who have borne these burdens for us. We recommit to honoring that sacred obligation — to serving our former prisoners of war, our veterans, and their families as well as they have served us.*

*With unyielding pride and unending gratitude, let us fulfill our promises to the courageous heroes of generations past, to this generation of veterans, and to all who will follow.*

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BARACK OBAMA”

With our unique special focus on **EX-Prisoners of War – those who have returned to their homes and families**, and our unique expertise in welcoming these Ex-POWs and their families from ALL wars, we expect our future membership to be smaller, but no less dedicated to this special group of heroes and those who love them.

## Happy Birthday!



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# contributions



Please send donations to:  
National Headquarters, 3201 East  
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,  
Arlington, TX 76010.

Checks must be made payable to  
AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners  
of War You can also make a  
donation with a credit card  
(MasterCard or Visa). Just call 817-  
649-2979. Thank you!

## GENERAL FUND

In memory of Arthur Philbrook,  
by the Mid-Iowa Chapter  
In memory of Arthur C  
Philbrook, by Adeline Robinson  
In memory of Edward Daves,  
by Edna Daves & Family  
In memory of Evelyn Kruger, by  
the Mid-Iowa Chapter  
In memory of Gloria Abriola, by  
Frank & Mae Koehler  
In memory of L D Cox, by  
Alfred Evans  
In memory of Lois Dopf, by  
Cynthia Fitzgerald  
In memory of Margaret Venti,  
by Jan Nicholson  
In memory of Marion Odel  
Case, by Vernon Schmidt  
In memory of Marion Ray, by  
Frank & Mae Koehler

In memory of Michael  
Loccorriere, by Frank & Mae  
Koehler

In memory of my husband Louis  
Codian, by Marguerite Codian

In memory of Nadine Bennett,  
by the Mid-Iowa Chapter

In memory of Paul Shull, by V  
Jean McLane

In memory of Richard Jindrigh,  
by Phyllis Hutchins

In memory of Richard Jindrigh,  
by the Mile High Chapter

In memory of Robert Ball, by  
Phyllis Hutchins

In memory of Robert Ball, by  
the Mile High Chapter

In memory of Rosemary B  
Young, by Willis Young

In memory of Vincent Sacco, by  
Frank & Mae Koehler

In memory of William 'Bill'  
Hanson, by Barbara & John  
Speicher

In memory of William Dopf, by  
Cynthia Fitzgerald

In memory of William Hanson,  
by Elizabeth Hanson

## BULLETIN

Frank & Mae Koehler, Toms  
River NJ

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Adeline Robinson, Lawton IA  
Arthur Cormier, Buford GA

C Norman Gustafson, Scotch  
Plains NJ

David Goldstein, Westfield NJ  
Francis Plumly, Barnesville OH

John Gatens, Fairlawn NJ

Kevin Hermening, Mosinee WI  
Mary Chittick Gardner, Arcadia  
CA

Robert Nobles, Ithaca NY

In memory of Art Philbrook, by  
Barbara Philbrook

In memory of Art Philbrook, by  
Jackye Ray

In memory of Edward A  
Fleming, by Michael Fleming

## The Legacy of your love can live on after...

An important way you can help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is always there for returning POWs, their families and their dependents is through your will or living trust.

It's very simple to make a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner and they can add the following to your will or living trust:

"I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

Thank you!



# new members

National Headquarters  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010;  
(817) 649-2979



## New Members "Welcome Home"

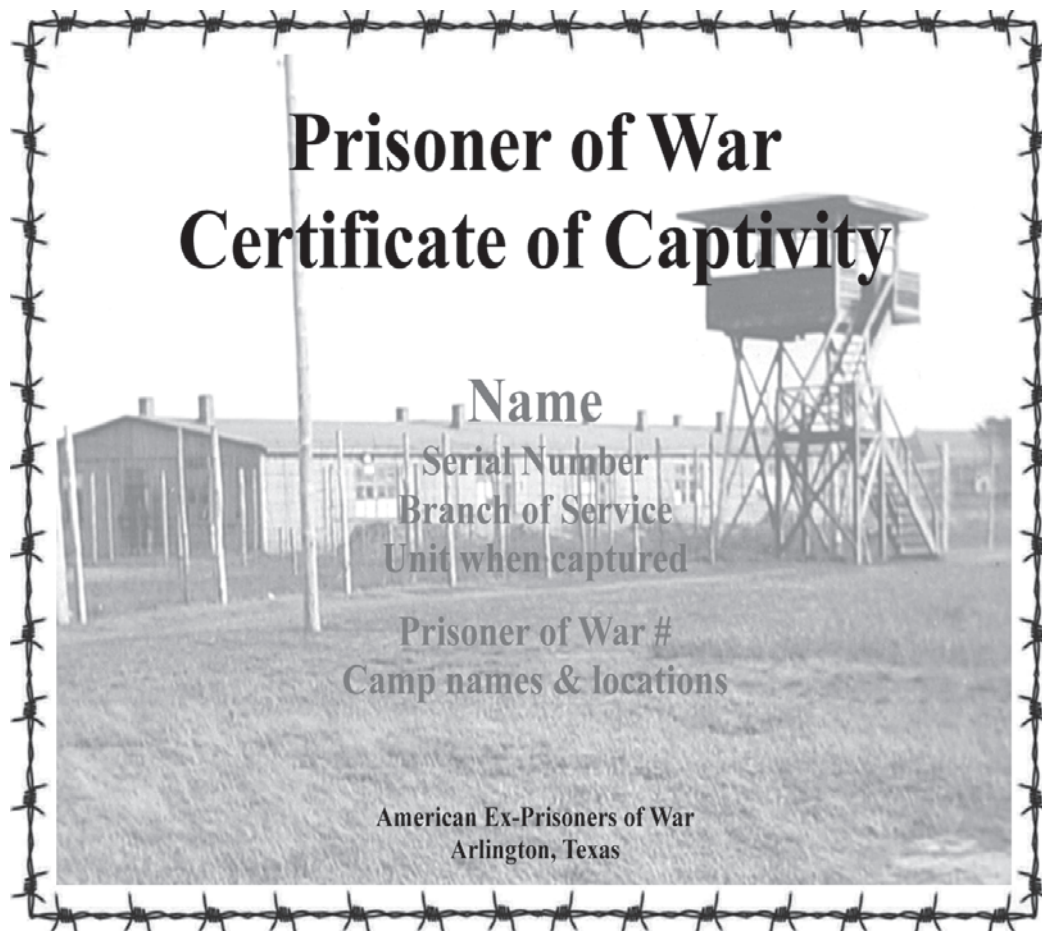
Leanne Wakefield  
Sunnyvale CA  
Granddaughter of Ross  
Martin Chisholm, PAC

Lynne C Shoup  
Toledo OH  
Daughter of Robert Geisert,  
ETO



If you tell where  
he's going ...  
He may never  
get there!

# Certificate of Captivity



Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½" x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To receive this certificate from AXPOW, please order from National Headquarters. If you are ordering at Convention, you can place your order in the Merchandise Room. We will need your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations. You can call 817-649-2979 or email: [axpow76010@yahoo.com](mailto:axpow76010@yahoo.com). You may include a picture with your order.

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# taps



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

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**ALLEN, William M. "Bill"**, 83, died December 27, 2014. Bill is a Past Commander of the Department of Florida Ex-POWs as well as the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. He was held for 31 months in Camp #5, North Korea. He is survived by Helen, his wife of 60 years, two children, and five grandchildren.

**BALL, Robert E.**, of Lakewood, CO passed away Jan. 8, 2015. He was 91. During WWII, he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 401<sup>st</sup> BS, 91<sup>st</sup> BG. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft III until liberation. Robert was a life member of AX-POW and member of the Mile High Chapter. His wife, Margaret, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren survive him.

**BENNETT, Nadine**, 94, of Jefferson, IA passed away Feb. 4, 2014. Survivors include her husband, James (POW in Germany). Both Nadine and James were charter members of the Mid-Iowa Chapter, AXPOW.

**BOND, William W.**, 93, of Warminster, PA died Dec. 24, 2014. He was captured in the Huertgen Forest and held until liberation. Bill was a member of AXPOW and the Dept. of PA. He leaves his wife of 69 years, Florence, 2 sisters, 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter and numerous nieces and nephews.

**BOTT, Lawrence J.**, of Columbus, OH passed away Sept. 5, 2014 at the age of 89. He was captured in Alsace, Lorraine while serving as a medic in WWII and held until liberation. Survivors include his

wife of 64 years, Lois, 4 sons and 11 grandchildren.

**BRACE, Ernest** civilian POW who endured nearly eight years of torture during the Vietnam War, died December 5, 2014 in Klamath Falls, OR. He was 83 and said to have been the longest-serving American civilian prisoner of war in that conflict. He had earlier served in the Marine Corps, flying 100 combat missions during the Korean War. He was shot down over the Sea of Japan. He leaves his wife, Nancy, 4 sons and 8 grandchildren.

**BUNYARD, Basil C.**, 100, of Lees Summit, MO passed away December 20, 2014. Basil was captured by the Japanese after the sinking of his ship, USS Houston, after night action on February 28, 1942 in Sundra Strait in a desperate battle against an entire Japanese battle fleet. Most survivors became slave labor to the Japanese on The Railway of Death and The Bridge on The River Kwai. Because of his special technical skills, he was sent to a labor camp in Japan. Survivors include one son, two grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

**CALDERBANK, Catherine**, 84, died December 16, 2014, in Largo, FL. She is the widow of Bernard Calderbank, ETO, 350<sup>th</sup>BG, 522<sup>th</sup> BS, who served on a B-17. Catherine is survived by a daughter, two sons, 2 grandsons, one great-grandson, and a sister. She was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War.

**CASE, Marion Odell**, member of Fresno Chapter #1 passed away Dec. 26, 2014. He was a glider pilot in Europe, landed behind Ger-

man lines in Operation Market Garden in the fall of 1944, was captured, then liberated in May 1945. He is survived by two daughters and a host of friends.

**CHILCUTT, Elizabeth** passed away January 7, 2015. She was the widow of EX-POW Landon "Chili" (504 PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Stalags 12A and 7A). She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. She was one of the "matrons" of the St Louis AXPOW chapter serving as treasurer for many years. She always helped at the state conventions.

**FULCO, Roy J.**, of Shreveport, LA died Sept. 30, 2014 at the age of 93. In WWII, he was captured on his 9<sup>th</sup> mission with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 93<sup>rd</sup> BG. He as held in Luft 1, Barth until liberation. Roy is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Martha, 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**GROCKI, Robert D.**, 87, of The Villages, FL passed away Sept. 11, 2014. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII, was shot down on his 16<sup>th</sup> mission, captured and held in Luft 1, Barth. Robert was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife, Gretchen, 2 sons and 3 grandsons.

**GROUTEN, Corrine Joy** died Dec. 6, 2014. She was 91. Her first husband, Benjamin Joy was KIA in WWII. Her second husband worked under Gen. Patton. Corrine's third husband was Grant Butcher, ex-POW. Together they helped found a chapter in Washington State. Her fourth husband was Webster Groueten. Corrine is survived by 1 daughter and 2 grandsons.

# taps cont'd...

**HALE, Lorene E. Wenger Ralston**, of Scottsdale, AZ passed away Dec. 9, 2014. She was 97 years young. With her late husband, Alfred (ex-POW, captured on Corregidor), Dolly was an active member of AXPOW and the Rocky Mountain Chapter, where she served as treasurer. She leaves 1 brother, 1 daughter, many grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She will be missed by all who knew her.

**HOMAR, Abraham S.**, 95, of W. Hartford, CT passed away Dec. 6, 2014. He served with the 91<sup>st</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> AF, was shot down and held in Luft 6, then moved to Luft 4, then marched west. Abraham was chaplain of the Connecticut Chapter, AXPOW. His wife, Judith, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 brother survive him.

**JINDRICH, Richard F.**, of Lakewood, CO died Dec. 28, 2014. He was 95. He was captured while serving in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII. Richard was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Mile High Chapter. He is survived by 1 son, 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

**JIRON, Salvador "Sal"**, of Glendale, CA passed away Sept. 29, 2014. He served in the Navy during the Korean War. His wife, Dorothy Rose was a civilian POW in Santo Tomas Internment Camp during WWII. Sal leaves cousins, extended family and many friends.

**JUNDANIAN, Thomas** of Palos Heights, IL passed away Nov. 30, 2014. During WWII, he served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. Div., 99<sup>th</sup> Reg. He was captured and held in Stalag 4B. In his retired years, he remained very active in veteran affairs, helping the widows of other former POW's receive benefits to which they were entitled. His wife, Florence, predeceased him; survivors include 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, 1 great-granddaughter and many nieces and nephews.

**JURCYK, Ted**, of Pickerington, Ohio, died December 5, 2014. He served with the 398<sup>th</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> AF, was cap-

tured and held in Luft 4. He was a member of Ohio Chapter #1. Survivors include his wife, Pauline, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren and 2 sisters.

**KENNEDY, Rosemary C.**, 90, of Farmington, CT passed away Oct. 17, 2014. She was an active member of the Connecticut Chapter, AXPOW, attending with her beloved husband Pierre, adjutant of the chapter.

**KISER, James R. and KISER, Margie**, of Ft. Walton Beach, FL passed away in 2012 and 2013. James was captured in Korea; he was held in Camp Two until the cease-fire. Both were active in POW events. Their daughters and their families miss them very much.

**KLEMA, Richard J.** of Portersville, CA died Sept. 5, 2014. During WWII, he served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Div. After capture, he was held in 3A, 3B and 7A until liberation.

**KRUGER, Evelyn**, 91, of Webster City, IA passed away Dec. 25, 2014. She was the widow of Verle (WWII POW, 12A, 13C, 13D and 7A). Evelyn is survived by 4 children, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**MUSGRAVE, Howard J.**, of Sun City Center, FL passed away in January, 2015. While serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, flying out of Italy, he was captured and held in Luft 1, Barth until liberation. He is preceded in death by his wife, Doris and one son. He is survived by three grandsons and three great grandchildren and their families.

**O'NEILL, William J**, 89 of Rotonda West, FL passed away October 14, 2014. He was captured during the battle of Anzio, while serving with the 45<sup>th</sup> Div., 157<sup>th</sup> Inf., Co H but escaped from a camp in Italy and was behind enemy lines for over 60 days. Bill was a member of the Peace River chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of twelve years, Jean, 4 children, 16 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

**PHILBROOK, Arthur**, 92, of Webster City, IA died Dec. 27, 2014. He was a life member of AXPOW and past

Commander of the Mid-Iowa Chapter. During WWII, he served with Co. E, 133<sup>rd</sup> Inf., 34<sup>th</sup> Div. He was captured near the Po River Valley and held in Stalag 7A. Art leaves his wife, Barbara, 1 son, 2 daughters, 2 sisters, 1 brother, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**PRITCHARD, LuAnna Mae**, 89, of Jefferson City, MO passed away November 25, 2014. She was the widow of ex-POW Murray Pritchard. LuAnna is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**RAYBORN, Mark Jr. (III)**, of Lumberton, MS passed away November 25, 2014. During WWII, he served with the 91<sup>st</sup> Div., 361<sup>st</sup> Inf. K Co. After capture, he was held in Stalag 7A. HE was a life member of AXPOW and the W. "Jack" Cleere Memorial Chapter in Hattiesburg, MS. He was predeceased by his wife, Ola; survivors include his son Benny and his family.

**RODRIGUEZ, Juan**, of Lexington, KY passed away Oct. 28, 2014. Serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf., 422<sup>nd</sup> Reg., he was wounded and captured at St. Vith, Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He spent the remainder of the war in various POW camps and being marched across Germany. Rod was past Commander of the Daniel Boone Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his beloved wife of 66 years, Lorraine, 1 sister, 2 brothers, 4 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

**SHULL, Paul Arwin** died December 14, 2014. A former resident of Missouri, he was living in Mesa, Arizona. He was a crew member on B-17s and B-24s in the European theatre and flew 2 missions in support of D-Day. On his 24<sup>th</sup> mission his aircraft was shot down and the entire crew bailed out. German civilians killed the pilot, co-pilot, radio operator, and ball turret gunner. He and the rest of the crew were taken to

# taps cont'd...

Stalag Luft 1 until their repatriation on May 14, 1945.

**THURMON, John A.**, 92, of Wellington, MO, passed away September 28, 2014. He was born March 2, 1922 in Wellington, MO. He was captured while serving with the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group and held until liberation in Stalags Luft 3 and 7A. John is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marylou, a sister, three children and nine grandchildren.

**TRUESDALE, Mildred Hammond**, 89, of Heath Springs, SC died Dec. 7, 2014. She was the widow of ex-POW Victor. Survivors include 2 sons, 3 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and their families.

**WALKER, Darwyn E.**, 95, of Springfield, MO passed away Dec. 25, 2014.

He served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was captured on January 23, 1945 and held until liberation. Darwyn was a member of AX-POW.

**WOEHL, Gilbert A.**, 92, of Lodi, CA passed away December 23, 2014. Gil served in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Divisions in WW II and was captured in Holland on October 29, 1944; he spent the rest of the war as a POW in Stalag 2A. Gil was the commander of the Delta Chapter, AXPOW, Lodi/Stockton, CA. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Verla, 1 son, 1 daughter and 2 grandchildren.

**WOODWARD, Jack**, of Louisville, MS died Dec. 4, 2014 at the age of 92. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 590<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, Headquarters Battery; he was held in Stalags 9A and 9B until liberation. Survivors

include his wife of 57 years, Hildreth, 1 daughter and her family.

**WORCESTER, Winthrop Sargent Jr.**, 93, passed away January 15, 2015. He was captured while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 483<sup>rd</sup> BG, 816<sup>th</sup> Squadron stationed in Foggia, Italy. Shot down during the Memmingen Mission, he was held at Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany. Win is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jane Gibb, whom he met at Piper Aircraft after discharge from the service. He leaves 3 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**WYATT, Margaret**, 84, of Bessemer, AL died Dec. 14, 2014. She was the beloved wife of William "Buck" (ex-POW held in 4B). Buck and Margaret were married 69 years. In addition to her husband, Margaret is survived by 1 daughter, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

## chaplain



ND Benny  
Rayborn

By the time you read this the New Year's Holiday will be past, along with a few others in Jan. and February: President's Day, MLK Day or even my wife's favorite holiday: Valentine's Day. (Don't forget fellows!)

But my thoughts are still racing to the one thing that many of us do at or around the first of every year. We make resolutions. Most are intended to make us better in some way. Ex-

amples are to lose weight or to stop a habit such as smoking or make a new desirable habit: to visit loved ones more often.

With the passing of my Father in late November, I became acutely aware that we will all one day meet God. This has influenced this article. As a result, I have selected three scriptures to pass on to you.

The first: Isaiah 43:18-19 "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing: ..."

The second: Ephesians 4: 23-24: And be renewed in the spirit of of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

The Ephesians scripture has to do with living a life style that is pleasing to God. Why would we want to live a new life? Our third scripture (Hebrews 9:27) says, "And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" As my Mother used to say, "We will answer for what we do."

they were in immediate danger of death (depending literally on the whim of their captors). Many came to know God and trust in Him to keep them safe, healthy and alive through their captivity. Amazingly, we "free people" depend on God for the same reasons, to get through life with our sanity intact. It is possible that all of us need to do a "new thing", to trust God with as much determination as did our POWs.

Prayer: Lord, I humbly ask for guidance for our government's leaders, for each member of the AX-POW, our families and those we meet. I thank you in advance for this. In Your Son's Name I ask this so that each of us may be a new and better person. Amen.

*Benny*



Our Prisoners of War knew that they wanted to do a new thing. They knew



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# What is the origin of the 21-gun salute?

The use of gun salutes for military occasions is traced to early warriors who demonstrated their peaceful intentions by placing their weapons in a position that rendered them ineffective. Apparently this custom was universal, with the specific act varying with time and place, depending on the weapons being used. A North African tribe, for example, trailed the points of their spears on the ground to indicate that they did not mean to be hostile.



The tradition of rendering a salute by cannon originated in the 14th century as firearms and cannons came into use. Since these early devices contained only one projectile, discharging them once rendered them ineffective. Originally warships fired seven-gun salutes—the number seven probably selected because of its astrological and Biblical significance. Seven planets had been identified and the phases of the moon changed every seven days. The Bible states that God rested on the seventh day after Creation, that every seventh year was sabbatical and that the seven times seventh year ushered in the Jubilee year.

Land batteries, having a greater supply of gunpowder, were able to fire three guns for every shot fired afloat, hence the salute by shore batteries was 21 guns. The multiple of three probably was chosen because of the mystical significance of the number three in many ancient civilizations. Early gunpowder, composed mainly of sodium nitrate, spoiled easily at sea, but could be kept cooler and drier in land magazines. When potassium nitrate improved the quality of gunpowder, ships at sea adopted the salute of 21 guns.

The 21-gun salute became the highest honor a nation rendered. Varying customs among the maritime powers led to confusion in saluting and return of salutes. Great Britain, the world's preeminent seapower in the 18th and 19th centuries, compelled weaker nations to salute first, and for a time monarchies received more guns than did republics. Eventually, by agreement, the international salute was established at 21 guns, although the United States did not agree on this procedure until August 1875.

The gun salute system of the United States has changed considerably over the years. In 1810, the "national salute" was defined by the War Department as equal to the number of states in the Union—at that time 17. This salute was fired by all U.S. military installations at 1:00 p.m. (later at noon) on Independence Day. The President also received a salute equal to the number of states whenever he visited a military installation.

In 1842, the Presidential salute was formally established at 21 guns. In 1890, regulations designated the "national salute" as 21 guns and redesignated the traditional Independence Day salute, the "Salute to the Union," equal to the number of states. Fifty guns are also fired on all military installations equipped to do so at the close of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Today the national salute of 21 guns is fired in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family, and the President, ex-President and President-elect of the United States. It is also fired at noon of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect.

Gun salutes are also rendered to other military and civilian leaders of this and other nations. The number of guns is based on their protocol rank. These salutes are always in odd numbers.

Source:

Headquarters, Military District of Washington, FACT SHEET: GUN SALUTES

Ex-POW Bulletin

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**The National 4th (IVY) Division Association**

Formed at Camp Greene, NC, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units. The 96th Annual Reunion will be September 9-14, 2014, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Check our website at [www.4thinfantry.org](http://www.4thinfantry.org) for membership and reunion information.

**"Steadfast and Loyal"**

# 50/50 drawing

June 28, 2014 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place JEANNE BREESE, AZ \$202.20
- 2nd Place MARIE CARLSSON, TX \$151.65  
*donated back to organization*
- 3rd Place MARIE CARLSSON, TX \$101.10  
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- 4th Place ELLEN BLOCKER, MS \$50.55

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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## request for membership application American Ex-Prisoners of War

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

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Organized at  
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If you are a former 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106<sup>th</sup>, a relative of a 106<sup>th</sup> veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.

**The CUB Magazine is published three times  
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Thank you for your support. (6/15)

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Thank you for your support.

6/15





## AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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