

# EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the  
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 74

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Number 3/4

March/April 2017

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*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*

**THE WEATHER**  
Yesterday's Max: 32.8 C, or  
91.0 F, at 4:30 P. M. Min.:  
25.5 C, or 78.0 F, at 6:55 A. M.

## The Tribune

**5 Centavos**  
4 Pages

MANILA, PHILIPPINES, FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1942

YEAR XVIII

# BATAAN COMPLETELY OCCUPIED BY JAPANESE

## Japanese Forces Take Cebu

**15 Generals  
Among War  
Prisoners**

TOBY, April 24 (Dowd)—  
Japanese 30th Army, announced  
at 4:30 P.M. this afternoon  
that Japanese forces since the



**Japanese  
Flag Planted  
In Cebu City**

ABOARD A JAPANESE WAR-  
SHIP, April 24 (Dowd)—Diaz  
said 14 Japanese warships at  
10 A.M. yesterday morning at



*Flag-Raising at The Battle of Iwo Jima Feb-March 1945  
by California artist Chris Noguez*

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## March/April 2017

**Thursday, 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.

**In the India Ocean...** The Japanese fleet continues its attacks. It is hunting the main British fleet. Trincomalee is attacked by Japanese aircraft and the British carrier HMS *Hermes* is attacked and sunk.

**In Burma...** In the Irrawaddy Valley, both the Japanese and British forces prepare offensives. The Japanese however have the advantage of earlier reinforcement and are in a position to attack first.

**On the Eastern Front...** German forces in the north advance to begin the relief of the encircled 16th Army forces at Demyansk. Meanwhile, in the Crimea, Soviet attacks are renewed with little success in the area.



**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. Their motto was "We will not let them down."  
**Happy Birthday, AXPOW**

Inside front cover: talented California artist Chris Nogues' depiction of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima in charcoal.

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National Commander  
Charles Susino, Jr.

I hope this bulletin issue finds each of you and your family in good health. At our age, our health is our single greatest focus and the VA plays a most important role. We deserve nothing less than timely quality care. Never accept a no for an answer if your needs are not met by the VA. It is not always easy but

at times we simply need to be our own advocate, speak up.

For those of us that served our country and were imprisoned by the enemy, those times are getting further away. Yes, the memories and relationships with our brothers are still strong. That will never change. But we are getting older and there are fewer of us.

What has changed is how the AXPOW has served our tight community of veterans. When our members were many, our mission and capabilities were equally ambitious. When Washington did not respond to our most basic needs, we all rose to the challenges to be heard. Fortunately, our biggest hurdles are behind us. It again comes back to receiving timely quality health care from the VA. So as our numbers have reduced along with the reduced funding, AXPOW is responding.

I have spoken about the transition which is led by David Eberly and its progress. He is taken measured steps as we go through this transition, where at a time with reducing members, reducing funds, and reducing new needs our day to day work and dramatically reduced costs is requirement of the transition.

As we continue to go through this process, we will report progress and I ask for your ongoing support of AXPOW and myself as your Commander.

~Remember those that have sacrificed to protect our freedom~

## news from hq



Clydie Morgan  
Chief Operating Officer

### CHANGE IS HARD!

That said, as we transition AXPOW into your legacy organization, there will be changes. Rest assured, however, that you, as members, shouldn't notice them.

When you want to talk to me or to Marsha, you call our phone number. When you want news, you can read it in your Bulletin. When you are looking for information, you'll still be able to find it. You'll be receiving letters asking for your donations and you're 2018 calendar will still appear in your

mailbox. Almost all of what we do now, we'll be continuing to do.

So what's different? For starters, this June will probably be our last national convention so if you can, make plans to come. Too many of you can't travel and we've found it just too expensive for the very few who do attend. We're in the process of moving our Headquarters to our homes, much like we had it in the past. You can read Past Adjutant/Treasurer, Treasurer, Quartermaster Sally Morgan's excellent article on our history on page 7 in this Bulletin. Again, it came down to expenses. We're having "virtual" board meetings in the future, with the exception of a meeting in September at Andersonville. Our merchandise has been in the process of winding down for a couple years now. Most of you have all you want or need and for those who don't, we're having a great sale starting in the June/July issue of the Bulletin.

As we continue, our wonderful organization will also continue to tell the stories of your experiences.

If you have questions, talk to our officers and directors, or CEO David Eberly, or me.

We're all working hard for you and our future.

Clydie

See you  
in Arlington!  
June 22-24, 2017

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Mar/Apr 2017

# from the CEO



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“The beat goes on” became a happy refrain following my shocking heart attack several years ago and serves as the basis for this report to you, the members of AXPOW.

In the last Bulletin, I promised that your Board of Directors would finalize plans to carry out the mandate of the members last Spring. We did.

During e-meetings in January, critical discussions led to a vote to continue the transition toward the much-heralded legacy-focused organization. This also followed my comments a year ago in the article titled Paradigm Shift:

“Our AXPOW Organization is facing a paradigm shift. With fading interest in fraternal activities and the diminished need to assist returnees and their families, we must move forward to consolidate our focus and our remaining resources on the legacy of the POW experience and efficiently archive our historic database. This emphasis will forever preserve the sacrifices of those who have given so much and will provide a venue of remembrance for future generations.”

To quote and paraphrase a few lines of Bob Dylan, another songwriter and recent recipient of a Noble prize for literature:

“Come writers and critics  
Wherever you roam...  
And don't criticize  
What you can't understand...  
The line it is drawn  
As the present now  
Will later be past...  
Cause the times they are  
a-changing”

In AXPOW, the beat goes on, and to paraphrase Sonny Bono's lyrics: as “Grandmas (and Grandpas) sit in chairs and reminisce” the “drums keep pounding” to remind the next generations of not only the spirit of those held as prisoners in far away lands but of the story of their existence and sacrifice.

Please join us in June to celebrate the legacy of our Greatest Generation.

David

## Fresno Chapter #1 Christmas Party

This year our party was held in the Tin Roof Barn, set up to handle gospel concerts, western music, etc. They invited our Chapter to be their guests for a sit-down dinner with Christmas music by their gospel band. We had 58 people in attendance, five WWII Ex-POWs, two Korean War Ex-POWs and one Vietnam Ex-POW. We also had three widows. We believe Jack Schwartz at 101 years old, captured on Guam, Dec. 10, 1941-liberated Sept. 8, 1945, held 1367 days was probably the longest serving in WWII. Bill Sanchez was on the Bataan Death March, Gerry Eckenrod was severely wounded in the Battle of the Bulge and declared KIA (he even came home as KIA and had problems convincing the VA he was alive).

We feel this is truly a great photo with some interesting facts. Vern Schmidt, Commander



L-R: James Gough (80+), Earl Miles (91), Samuel Banuelos (80+), Pasqual Reyes (94), Bill Sanchez (98), Jack Schwartz (101), Joel Hinojosa (90), Gerry Eckenrod (99)

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# a little history lesson

My name is Sally Bateman Morgan. I am a former civilian internee, interned in two camps between 1942-1945 in the Philippines.

While living in Kansas City, Missouri in the early 1970's there was an article in the local newspaper about a gathering of former prisoners of war. I contacted the name that was given in the paper to see if I was eligible for membership. I was told the bylaws was changed in 1949 to allow internees for membership.

I attended my first national convention, held in Orlando, Florida in 1973. The National Commander was Harold Page.

A short time after the convention, my husband's job transferred him to Houston, Texas. After moving to Texas we became active with the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter (AXPOW) We were active in the Chapter and the State Department. We continued to attend all National conventions.

In 1981, we were transferred to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. With the move, we became members of the Fort Worth Chapter. At one of the National convention, my husband, Bill Morgan, was asked to serve as the Sgt-at-Arms. He continued at this post until he passed away in 1990.

In 1982 while attending the National convention in Colorado Springs, Colorado, I was approached to be a candidate for the office of National Adjutant/Treasurer.



With much consideration and discussion with the family, I accepted. I was elected to serve.

Although I have worked

with/for the American Ex-Prisoners of War on the local and State level, I had no idea what was needed for the new job. It was quite an awakening. I had to designate a room in my home as the National Headquarters!

After returning home from Colorado, we decided to enclose the patio, and make it an office. This was done with great help from members of my home church who were familiar with carpentry work. All this took place in the summer of 1982. The previous Adjutant/Treasurer who lived in San Antonio transferred all files. With the help of my two daughters, we set up "shop."

At that time all the members' data information was recorded on 4" X 6" cards. NO COMPUTER! To update a member's information, we pulled the card and used a typewriter. A very cumbersome job.



My oldest daughter, Clydie, was working for the Federal Reserve Bank where she had computer experience. The following year, we purchased our first computer, Radio Shack TRS 80. In her off-time, Clydie wrote the program to enter all data from our card files into the computer.

With the help of Clydie and daughter Marsha, we worked for two years in my home office.

To this day, I still maintain the oversized mail box first purchased in 1982.

We had a small barn type building built in the back yard to accommodate some of the National merchandise we shipped. The noisy printer



was located in my living room. Headquarters printed the labels for the monthly Bulletins.

In 1984, the job of National Adjutant/Treasurer was divided. I continued serving as the Treasurer, Clydie Morgan was a candidate for the Adjutant's position. She was elected.

Serving as National Commander at that time was Alfred P "Joe" Gallo-way. It was decided by the Board of Directors and the membership to move National Headquarters to public facilities. We researched possible locations and the present address became our new office. We started out with 1,000 square foot of space; later it was enlarged to 2,000. The present facility has served us well for the last 33 years.

I served ten National Commanders as their Treasurer, 1982-1992.

A lot of changes have taken place since I became a member in 1973.

What do I miss the most? The forty-plus years of friends that have left us.



## Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) occurs when a blood clot (thrombus) forms in one or more of the deep veins in your body, usually in your legs. Deep vein thrombosis can cause leg pain or swelling, but may occur without any symptoms.

Deep vein thrombosis can develop if you have certain medical conditions that affect how your blood clots.

Deep vein thrombosis can also happen if you don't move for a long time, such as after surgery, following an accident, or when you are confined to a hospital or nursing home bed.

Deep vein thrombosis is a serious condition because blood clots in your veins can break loose, travel through your bloodstream and lodge in your lungs, blocking blood flow (pulmonary embolism).

Deep vein thrombosis signs and symptoms can include:  
Swelling in the affected leg. Rarely, there may be swelling in both legs.  
Pain in your leg. The pain often starts in your calf and can feel like cramping or a soreness.

Deep vein thrombosis may sometimes occur without any noticeable symptoms.

### When to see a doctor

If you develop signs or symptoms of deep vein thrombosis, contact your doctor for guidance.

If you develop signs or symptoms of a pulmonary embolism — a life-threatening complication of deep vein thrombosis — seek medical attention immediately.

The warning signs of a pulmonary embolism include:

- Unexplained sudden onset of shortness of breath
- Chest pain or discomfort that worsens when you take a deep breath or when you cough
- Feeling lightheaded or dizzy, or fainting
- Rapid pulse
- Coughing up blood

Deep vein thrombosis occurs when a blood clot forms in the veins that are deep in your body, often in your legs. Blood clots can be caused by anything that prevents your blood from circulating normally or clotting properly.

Many factors can increase your risk of developing deep vein thrombosis (DVT), and the more you have, the greater your risk. Risk factors for DVT include:

**Inheriting a blood-clotting disorder.** Some people inherit a disorder that makes their blood clot more easily. This inherited condition may not cause problems unless combined with one or more other risk factors.

**Prolonged bed rest, such as during a long hospital stay, or paralysis.** When your legs remain still for long periods, your calf muscles don't contract to help blood circulate, which can increase the risk of blood clots.

**Injury or surgery.** Injury to your veins or surgery can increase the risk of blood clots.

**Pregnancy.** Pregnancy increases the pressure in the veins in your pelvis and legs. The risk of blood clots from pregnancy can con-

tinue for up to six weeks after you have your baby.

**Birth control pills or hormone replacement therapy.** Birth control pills (oral contraceptives) and hormone replacement therapy both can increase your blood's ability to clot.

**Being overweight or obese.** Being overweight increases the pressure in the veins in your pelvis and legs.

**Smoking.** Smoking affects blood clotting and circulation, which can increase your risk of DVT.

**Cancer.** Some forms of cancer increase the amount of substances in your blood that cause your blood to clot. Some forms of cancer treatment also increase the risk of blood clots.

**Heart failure.** People with heart failure have a greater risk of DVT and pulmonary embolism. Because people with heart failure already have limited heart and lung function, the symptoms caused by even a small pulmonary embolism are more noticeable.

**Inflammatory bowel disease.** Bowel diseases, such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, increase the risk of DVT.

**A personal or family history of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism (PE).** If you or someone in your family has had DVT or PE before, you're more likely to develop DVT.

**Age.** Being over age 60 increases your risk of DVT, though it can occur at any age.

**Sitting for long periods of time, such as when driving or flying.** When your legs remain still for many hours, your calf muscles don't contract, which normally helps blood circulate. Blood clots can form in the calves of your legs if your calf muscles aren't moving for long periods.



## medsearch, cont'd...

A concerning complication associated with deep vein thrombosis is pulmonary embolism.

### Pulmonary embolism

A pulmonary embolism occurs when a blood vessel in your lung becomes blocked by a blood clot (thrombus) that travels to your lungs from another part of your body, usually your leg.

A pulmonary embolism can be fatal. So, it's important to be on the lookout for signs and symptoms of a pulmonary embolism and seek medical attention if they occur. Signs and symptoms of a pulmonary embolism include:

- Unexplained sudden onset of shortness of breath
- Chest pain or discomfort that worsens when you take a deep breath or when you cough
- Feeling lightheaded or dizzy, or fainting
- Rapid pulse
- Coughing up blood
- Postphlebotic syndrome

A common complication that can occur after deep vein thrombosis is a condition known as postphlebotic syndrome, also called postthrombotic syndrome. This syndrome is used to describe a collection of signs and symptoms, including:

- Swelling of your legs (edema)
- Leg pain
- Skin discoloration
- Skin sores

This syndrome is caused by damage to your veins from the blood clot. This damage reduces blood flow in the affected areas. The symptoms of postphlebotic syndrome may not occur until a few years after the DVT.

You usually won't have time to make any special preparations for a doctor appointment to diagnose deep vein thrombosis. DVT is considered a medical emergency, so it's important to get evaluated quickly.

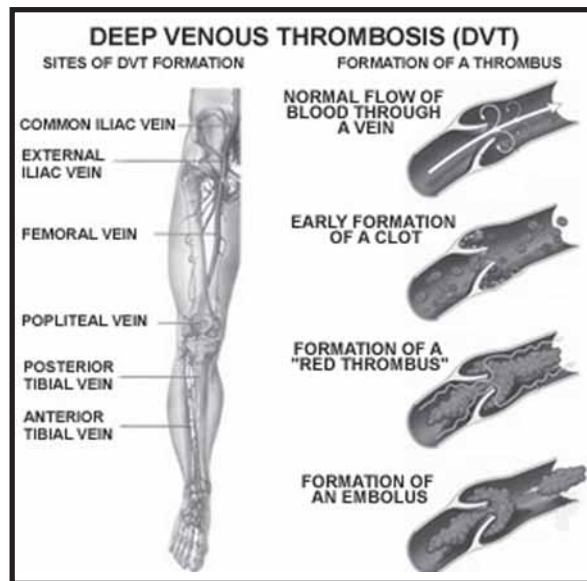
If you do have time before your appointment, it's a good idea to

prepare some information. Here's how you can help get ready for your appointment, and what to expect from your doctor.

### What you can do

**Write down any symptoms you're experiencing**, including any that may seem unrelated to deep vein thrombosis.

**Write down key personal information**, especially if you have a family history of blood-clotting disorders.



**Make a list of all medications**, vitamins or supplements that you're taking.

**Take a family member or friend along**, if possible. Sometimes it can be difficult to remember all of the information provided to you during an appointment.

**Be prepared to discuss** if you've had any hospitalizations, illnesses, surgery or trauma within the past three months, or if you've recently been traveling.

**Write down questions to ask** your doctor. Preparing a list of questions can help you make the most of your time with your doctor. For deep vein thrombosis, some basic questions to ask your doctor include:

- What's the most likely cause of my symptoms?
- What kinds of tests will I need?
- What's the best treatment?

What's an appropriate level of physical activity for me now that I've been diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis? What about once my clot is gone?

Will I need to restrict my physical activity or travel plans?

What are the alternatives to the primary approach that you're suggesting?

I have other health conditions. How can I best manage these conditions together?

### What to expect from your doctor

Your doctor is likely to ask you a number of questions, such as: When did you first begin experiencing symptoms?

Have you been inactive lately, such as sitting or lying down for long periods?

Do your symptoms bother you all the time, or do they come and go?

How severe are your symptoms?

What, if anything, makes your symptoms improve?

Does anything worsen your symptoms?

Do you have a family history of health problems related to blood clots?

To diagnose deep vein thrombosis, your doctor will ask you a series of questions about your symptoms. You'll also have a physical exam so that your doctor can check for any areas of swelling, tenderness or discoloration on your skin. Depending on how likely you are to have a blood clot, your doctor may suggest further testing, including:

**Ultrasound.** A wand-like device (transducer) placed over the part of your body where there's a clot sends sound waves into the area. As the sound waves travel through your tissue and reflect back, a computer transforms the waves into a moving image on a video screen. Sometimes a series of ultrasounds are done over several days to de-

## medsearch, cont'd...

termine whether a blood clot is growing or to be sure a new one hasn't developed.

**Blood test.** Almost all people who develop severe deep vein thrombosis have an elevated blood level of a clot-dissolving substance called D dimer.

**Venography.** A dye (contrast agent) is injected into a large vein in your foot or ankle. An X-ray procedure creates an image of the veins in your legs and feet, to look for clots.

**CT or MRI scans.** Both computerized tomography (CT) scan and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) can provide visual images of your veins and may show if you have a clot. Sometimes a clot is found when these scans are performed for other reasons.

Deep vein thrombosis treatment is aimed at preventing the clot from getting any bigger, as well as preventing the clot from breaking loose and causing a pulmonary embolism. After that, the goal becomes reducing your chances of deep vein thrombosis happening again.

### Treatment options include:

**Blood thinners.** Medications used to treat deep vein thrombosis include the use of anticoagulants, also sometimes called blood thinners, whenever possible. These are drugs that decrease your blood's ability to clot. While they don't break up existing blood clots, they can prevent clots from getting bigger or reduce your risk of developing additional clots.

Usually, you'll first be given a shot or infusion of the blood thinner heparin for a few days. After starting heparin injections, your treatment may be followed by another injectable blood thinner. Other blood thinners can be given in pill

form. Newer blood thinners also may offer additional options in the near future.

You may need to take blood thinners for three months or longer. If you're prescribed any of these blood thinners, it's important to take your medication exactly as your doctor instructs.

You may need periodic blood tests to check how long it takes your blood to clot. Pregnant women shouldn't take certain blood-thinning medications.

**Clotbusters.** If you have a more serious type of deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, or if other medications aren't working, your doctor may prescribe different medications.

One group of medications is known as thrombolytics. These drugs, called tissue plasminogen activators (TPA), are given through an IV line to break up blood clots or may be given through a catheter placed directly into the clot. These drugs can cause serious bleeding and are generally used only in life-threatening situations. For these reasons, they are only given in an intensive care ward of a hospital.

**Filters.** If you can't take medicines to thin your blood, a filter may be inserted into a large vein — the vena cava — in your abdomen. A vena cava filter prevents clots that break loose from lodging in your lungs.

**Compression stockings.** These help prevent swelling associated with deep vein thrombosis. These stockings are worn on your legs from your feet to about the level of your knees.

This pressure helps reduce the chances that your blood will pool and clot. You should wear these stockings during the day for at least two to three years if possible. Compression stockings can help prevent postphlebotic syndrome.

Once you receive treatment for deep vein thrombosis you need to

watch your diet and look for signs of excessive bleeding, as well as take steps to help prevent another DVT. Some things you can do include:

**Check in with your doctor regularly** to see if your medication or treatments need to be modified.

**Take your blood thinners as directed.** If you've had DVT, you'll be on blood thinners for at least three to six months.

**Watch how much vitamin K you're eating** if you are taking warfarin. Green leafy vegetables are high in vitamin K.

**Be on the lookout for excessive bleeding**, which can be a side effect of taking medications such as blood thinners.

**Move.** If you've been on bed rest, because of surgery or other factors, the sooner you get moving, the less likely blood clots will develop.

**Wear compression stockings** to help prevent blood clots in the legs if your doctor recommends them.

To prevent deep vein thrombosis, some common preventive measures include the following:

**Take any prescribed medications as directed.**

**Avoid sitting still.** If you've had surgery or have been on bed rest for other reasons, try to get moving as soon as possible. If you're sitting for a while, try not to cross your legs because this can limit blood flow. If you're traveling a long distance by car, stop every hour or so and walk around. If you're on a plane, try to stand or walk occasionally.

**Make lifestyle changes.** Lose weight and quit smoking.

**Get regular exercise.** Exercise lowers your risk of blood clots.

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# legislative



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As this column makes its way to your reading, President Trump will be well over a month into his presidency. After inauguration, he wasted no time getting started taking positions on Obamacare, tax reform, trade deals, energy resources and the list goes on. It will be especially interesting and important to us regarding his interest and involvement on veterans' issues. His first 100 days promises to be eventful and I encourage each of you to stay abreast of the actions and weigh in on matters of importance to veterans.

Most noteworthy was the nomination of David Shulkin as VA Secretary. Since this position has the

2016-2017 Legislative  
Committee  
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ND Charles Anthony Susino  
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greatest impacts on our day to day services provided to us, the following provides some background on his prior leadership positions. He is a medical doctor and has previously held the position of under Secretary of Health for VA from 2015 to present. Between 2010 to 2015, he was the president of the Morristown Medical Center in New Jersey. Prior to that position, he was the Chief Executive Officer of Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City and founded a doctor quality ranking system called DoctorQuality. On the personal side, although he is not a veteran, he comes from a family with a rich military history with both grandfathers serving in WWI and his father was an Army Captain. We look forward to working with Dr. Shulkin and wish him the very best in his new position.

On President Trump's first day in office, he took action in many areas including government spending. He signed an executive order which puts a freeze on all federal hiring except for military personnel and departments deeming the vacancy

impacts national defense and public safety. This directly impacts the VA workforce which currently has 45,000 open positions. A specific area to watch is the new administration aims to look at possibly privatizing the VA healthcare. This is a concept that has been examined many times before with the most recent being part of the solution in reducing long waiting lines and excessively long commutes for treatment. We will need to monitor this closely.

On March 22, I, along with many other Commanders of Veterans Service Organizations will provide testimony to the Senate and House Veteran's Affairs Committees. This is an annual opportunity to communicate directly to key Congressman on the legislative agendas for the year. I have had the privilege to represent AXPOW for many years and each time presented to the Senate Committee. Along with the new Congress come changes in leadership of the committees. For this 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, Senator Johnny Isakson will remain as Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee with Senator Jon Tester serving as new ranking member. On the House side, Representative Miller will be replaced by Phil Roe and Tim Walz serving as ranking minority member.

Regarding specific legislation, at the end of the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress the President Obama signed into law, the *Jeff Miller and Richard Blumenthal Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2016* providing research for the health effects of toxic exposures, expand homeless veterans' benefits, and restore education benefits for Guardsmen and Reservists who are called to serve on active duty.

~Remember those that have sacrificed to protect our freedom~



*Past National Commanders' Breakfast at National Convention*

# What to do when a Veteran Passes Away

One of the eventualities in life that spouses and families of veterans face is the death of their loved one who served America in uniform. To help ease the burden on loved ones, veterans can make preparations in advance.

## Important records

The first step is to make certain the family has easy access to important documents such as:

- The veteran's discharge certificate (DD form 214).
- VA documents, if any, indicating a VA claim number.
- A copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees (if any previous marriages).
- Insurance policies, including beneficiary designation.
- A copy of the family will (not required for VA benefits).
- Location of safety deposit boxes (not required by VA).

## VA burial and memorial benefits

Veterans who die on active duty, or with discharges that are other than dishonorable, are entitled by law to:

- A gravesite in any national cemetery with available space. Burial benefits in a VA national cemetery include the following: gravesite, headstone, marker or medallion, opening and closing of the grave, and perpetual care of the grave site. Many national cemeteries have columbaria or gravesites for cremated remains. Gravesites in national cemeteries cannot be reserved. See: [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)
- A government headstone, marker, urn, or medallion in a national and/or private cemetery. VA provides headstones and markers anywhere in the world for the unmarked graves of veterans who died before Sept. 11, 2001. For the marked

graves of veterans who died on or after Sept. 11, 2001, double marking is authorized. Flat bronze, flat granite, flat marble, upright granite and upright marble type are available to mark the grave in a style consistent with the cemetery. Niche markers are also available for urns.

- A government-issued U.S. flag to drape over the casket, and for presentation to the surviving spouse or next-of-kin. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service. The flag will be issued once only for burial purposes and will not be replaced if lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed.

- A Presidential Memorial Certificate signed by the President of the United States. Presidential Memorial Certificates express the nation's recognition of a veteran's service. Certificates bearing the signature of the president are issued honoring deceased veterans with honorable discharges. Eligible recipients include next-of-kin and other loved ones. The award of a certificate to one eligible recipient does not preclude certificates to other eligible recipients. To establish honorable service, a copy of a document such as a discharge (form DD-214) must accompany requests for a certificate. A Presidential Memorial Certificate is issued when a headstone or grave marker is issued.

The family's funeral director will be able to make death reports to the VA and Social Security. They will arrange for burial, headstone, flag and Presidential Memorial Certificate.

## Military funeral honors

As of Jan. 1, 2000, all eligible veterans, including military retirees, are entitled to military funeral honors. The funeral honors ceremony will include the folding and presentation of the U.S. flag and the playing of Taps. For information, visit [www.ceremonialbugle.com](http://www.ceremonialbugle.com). The appropriate individual must request the funeral honors. DoD policy calls for funeral directors, rather than next-of-kin, to contact the military. This toll-free number, (877) 645-

4667, has been set up for funeral directors. See [www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/mfh) for details.

# Veterans Administration Process when a Veteran Passes Away

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) realizes the loss of a loved one is a difficult experience.

VA has established the streamlined process for families, executors and legal representatives to follow to notify VA about the death of a Veteran enrolled in the VA health care system.

## Why should I notify VA about the death of an enrolled Veteran?

Notifying VA limits the chance for others to falsely use the Veterans identity.

By updating the Veteran's information, you will reduce the likelihood of VA continuing to send you correspondence about VA benefits, services and bills.

You will be helping VA to maintain up-to-date records, which will enhance the agency's efforts to better distribute services to the Veteran community.

## The Steps for Notifying VA are Simple and Easy to Follow

1. Step one is for the next-of-kin and/or legally authorized representative under State law to retrieve an official copy of the Veteran's death certificate.
2. Step two is to submit the death certificate to VA by:
  - a. hand delivering or mailing a copy of the death certificate to the Office of Decedent Affairs at the VA medical facility where the Veteran was receiving healthcare benefits, or
  - b. contacting the VA Health Resource Center at 1-877-222-8387 for additional instructions.

# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Supt. Charles Sellars  
charles\_sellars@nps.gov

"There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us." -Franklin D. Roosevelt (1936)

## A Successful Wreaths Across America Event at Andersonville National Cemetery

by Charles Barr,  
Cemetery Administrator

Wreaths Across America was held on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 in Andersonville National Cemetery at 12:00 pm. Wreaths Across America is a national program that encourages individuals, community groups,

and families to sponsor wreaths for placement in national cemeteries throughout the United States. These wreaths may be placed on specific graves, or left undesignated to place on one of thousands of unvisited graves. Wreaths may be purchased and sent to Andersonville National Cemetery by visiting [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). Wreaths may also be purchased from local florists or home improvement stores and placed at the cemetery throughout the month of December.

On December 17<sup>th</sup> the Civil Air Patrol conducted a brief but beautiful ceremony for Wreaths Across America with Lt. Col Robert Kelly (Civil Air Patrol) and Acting Superintendent Lisa McInnis both giving keynote addresses to the 215 people present for the ceremony. Once the ceremony was completed, wreaths were placed on the headstones in the Memorial section and in the remainder of section R that was not covered last year.

In total there were approximately 600 wreaths placed throughout the cemetery, including 315 wreaths from Wreaths Across America. Remaining wreaths were either bought from local florists or were handmade. The number of wreaths was down this year from 2015, but we will continue to support Wreaths Across America and can hopefully

one day reach our goal of a wreath on every grave in Andersonville National Cemetery.

"Placing a wreath on the grave of one of our fallen military is a simple and beautiful way to honor their memory and sacrifice," said Lisa McInnis, Acting Superintendent of Andersonville National Historic Site. "For those placing wreaths on the grave of a friend or family member, it may bring back cherished memories of holidays spent together. For those placing a wreath on other gravesites, the act of honoring a fallen soldier, one who may no longer be visited by anyone, can be a powerful experience."



Other special events will be coming up at Andersonville National Historic Site in the next few months. Our annual Living History Weekend will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. People from all over the

United States will travel to Andersonville for this event to spend the weekend portraying Union prisoners, Confederate guards, and other historical figures associated with Camp Sumter Civil War military prison. The first Avenue of Flags for 2017 will be going up on March 31<sup>st</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup> in honor of Former POW/MIA recognition day. Our second Avenue of Flags will go up from May 19<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> in honor of Memorial Day. Memorial Day activities take place starting on Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup> through May 29<sup>th</sup>. We will place a flag on every grave and host a special ceremony on Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.



All events held at Andersonville National Historic Site are open to the public and are free of charge.

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# namPOWs

## Turn Off the Lights

By Bob Certain  
eagle@unchainedeagle.com

On 1 February 1973, the prisoners in the Hanoi camps were told to bathe, shave and put on clean clothes. In the afternoon all the POWs in the Zoo, where the newest prisoners were held, were brought into a large auditorium. When we were assembled, the camp commander made the official announcement that the Paris Peace Accords had been signed on 29 January. All prisoners were to be released on both sides within sixty days of the agreement.

We were elated! Linebacker II had been successful, and the lack of bombing for the last month had not signaled a failure or the start of another bombing pause. We would be going home no later than 29 March and could start a real countdown to release.

Within days, we could see USAF C-130s flying in and out of Gia Lam Airport, about five miles distant. Were they bringing CARE packages, picking up KIA remains, evacuating the wounded, and repairing the runway for the C-141s that would eventually fly in to pick us up? Our minds were ripe for speculation, and we engaged in it freely. We did continue to be harassed in a few irritating ways. Camp authorities still ignored us when we used our military rank. One cell was left unlocked and open all day; but the men refused to come out as long as the rest of us were locked down.

When 10 February rolled around, we were all on edge. We had speculated

we might be first, since we were in the best shape; but the prisoners code specified that it would be first in, first out. I had argued in vain with the camp authorities that two of our guys needed bone and tendon repair and should go home with the first group. That morning, we knew they were going nowhere. During the afternoon lockdown, we heard in the distance the distinctive whining of C-141 engines. Immediately, we were at the windows watching it make its approach to the airport – a beautiful gray and white transport with a big red cross painted on its tail. At the last minute it made a missed approach, turning right toward the Zoo. As he approached, he waved his wings in salute to us and reentered the landing pattern. We were shouting and jumping for joy. The guards tried to quiet us down, but it was no use.

The second release date was scheduled for Saturday, 24 February; but no C-141s arrived. An announcement over the camp radio claimed that the U.S. had violated the terms of the treaty by failing to sweep the mines out of Haiphong harbor. That meant to us that the NVN government had probably done something to test the U.S. government. When the 141s appeared on Monday, the crisis was over. We would later learn that NVN had refused to release four men captured in Laos but held in Hanoi, claiming they were Laotian prisoners. With the threat of renewed BUFF strikes, they relented.

The 17 March release occurred on schedule, and we grew increasingly restless, anxious, hopeful, and defiant. On 25 March we were measured for civilian clothes and shoes and told we could carry home a souvenir from the prison. Two days later, we received a visit from the Four Power Commission and the international press corps. That gave us one more chance to demonstrate defiance to the camp

authorities. We cleaned our rooms and laid out our “personal” belongings at the head of our bed boards. We knew the camp authorities hated it when we referred to each other by rank, so we took it several steps further. Our plan was to mill about the courtyard as usual, and when the gate opened to let in our visitors, to fall into military formation by cell, with the senior officer in the front, and lined up in file in order of rank. The camp authorities were taken completely off guard; the camp commander was clearly flustered, but strained to make the best of the situation.

The U.S. Army representative on the Commission, a Colonel Roberts, was straight from central casting – head and shoulders taller than the camp commander. Standing beside him, he accepted a salute from Lt. Col. Bernasconi, and instructed him to dismiss his men to their cells. With crowds of reporters all around us and with cameras rolling, we marched into our cells and stood at parade rest at the end of our bed boards.

28 March was the freedom flight for half the camp. That night was very restless for all of us as we anticipated our flight out in the morning. We were up early, dressed in our release clothes, packed our bags and talked nervously as we waited. The last release of American prisoners occurred on 29 March 1973, sixty days after the Paris Peace Accords had been signed. We “turned out the lights,” boarded buses and were taken to Gia Lam Airport where our Hanoi Taxi flew us to freedom.



# pow/mia

Mary Schantag, Chairman  
P.O.W. Network  
info@pownetwork.org

## POW/MIA year review

It was actually a year of surprising news and accomplishments as the new Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) moved forward with mandates from Congress for accountability and progress.

The DPAA website continued to improve all year, with more detail, more accuracy and more timely notification of identifications. New lists of those still unaccounted for were added, and now include WWII POW/MIA's for each state.

Mid-year, the newly appointed director, Mike Linnington, resigned suddenly and unexpectedly, leaving DPAA in search of a new director. In 2007, we saw only seven POW/MIA remains identified. It got better as the years went on, with twenty-eight identifications being completed in 2008. On December 31, the year end tally was 141 identified cases.

The past year was also the year that Non Governmental Agencies (NGO's) were repeatedly acknowledged as working with the DPAA in research, excavations and identifications. Only a low percentage of the remains delivered to DPAA labs in the last year, were actually recovered by DPPA.

Twenty-four sets of remains turned over to DPAA by *History Flight*, from Tarawa (1943 losses) recovery efforts, were identified in 2016. Since 2014, they have recovered over 100 sets of remains. History Flight came to light as working the recoveries, when media reported on the case of missing Medal of Honor recipient Marine Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr, being located and identified.

Numerous identifications were from the loss of the USS Oklahoma. The

dead were buried in the Punchbowl, and 388 sets of remains were disinterred in late 2015. Thirty-five WWII remains were identified and returned to families in 2016.

Sixty-six more identifications were made from early remains recoveries. Many cases were turned over by North Korea in the 1990's. Forty-six identified were lost at the Chosin Reservoir in late 1950 and returned to loved ones this past year. In the early 2000's, JPAC and DPMO worked with South Korea in repatriating remains, and fourteen of those were returned to families for burial.

Two Southeast Asia cases were announced as identified after a lengthy, year plus wait before the notifications were publicized. A total of one from Laos and 3 from Vietnam were announced as identified in 2016.

Diligent research by private individuals is bringing to light the misconceptions and miscommunications that still burden this issue. Declassification of historical documents has been promised for decades. A person doing research and asking for declassification can wait ten years or more to receive answers. Even when some documents are declassified, finding them, and reading them can be its own nightmare for these individuals, as much is "sanitized."

John Zimmerlee, one the nation's leading experts on Korean War POW/MIA cases and family member, continues his painstaking work on matching case files with incidents. When asked "What happened to our missing Loved-Ones?", Zimmerlee states that "not all answers to that question are in North Korea, China or Russia; a disturbing number are likely in our own National Archives, 6th Floor, 'Classified!'" He states he has massive amounts of information that relates to Korean War POW/MIA's that must be shared with families of those unaccounted for. He insists answers can and have been found that can bring many of these families peace.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte introduced Senate bill 3448, the *Bring Our Heroes Home Act of 2016*. If enacted, this bill would have released decade's old POW/MIA documents still withheld by agencies throughout the government. Last check, the bill still was in committee, and Senator Ayotte did not win re-election.

The 2016 budget for DPAA included "developing an information technology solution to establish accounting community accessible personnel files for each missing person that contain all available information regarding the disappearance, whereabouts, and status of missing persons, and are available to families upon request, completing the digitization of the Individual Deceased Personnel Files of U.S. service members missing since WWII and transferring of information to the Library of Congress and the National Archives for public access."

As we started the year, neither project has progressed far.

Mitochondrial DNA remains the final step in identification. Advocates question whether using Nuclear DNA shouldn't be a first step. It could lead to more accurate identifications with less time and expense. Additional research would only be necessary if there was no match. As it is, the cost of each identification is over \$1.6 million dollars.

To list each and every name identified this year would clearly exceed the limits allowed for this column. Suffice it to say we offer our gratitude for those that made the identifications possible. For the families we offer our prayers for peace now that they have their loved ones home.

For 2017, the hope is that common sense can overcome any political agendas with the goal being answers for every family that still waits.

# civilians



Alice Gollin,  
JVC

*"Welcome to America, folks!"*  
*"You are now on U.S. soil!"*  
(Part II)

by Sascha Jansen, STIC Prisoner  
mabuhayma45@gmail.com

As our group moved slowly around the U.S. Embassy, we were continually in awe at the many riches of history encountered. Through each hallway and corridor were wonderful framed black and white pictures of historical eras of the American presence in the Philippines. The American citizens who made things happen, and those who made a difference in the structure of the Philippine's foundation and future, were paramount in these collections.

Uniquely, the collection of many WWII pictures of U.S. prisoners graced these hallways. We were asked by the Embassy historian, Virginia Foster, to identify some of these unlabeled photographs, and we gladly complied.

One of the women in our group, Margaret Whitaker Squires, who had been a prisoner in Santo Tomas and Los Banos, found a picture of herself at 15 yrs. old in one of the pictures. The official Embassy photographer was summoned and a picture of Margaret, with a joyous smile, was snapped beside the old photograph of her as a young girl in Santo Tomas.

This year, with the showing of the movie, THE GREAT RAID by Miramax, the name Lt. Col. Henry Mucci has become a house-hold word. The Lib-

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eration of the Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines 60 years ago gave testimony to Mucci and his 6<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion for the daring rescue of the military prisoners held within.

Lt Col Henry Mucci was chosen by General Walter Krueger to put together an elite fighting force in excellent physical condition and proficient in stealth techniques, to handle this important mission.

A man of vision, charisma and intellect, Mucci set out to train a group of "mule skinnners" for one year in the mountains of New Guinea. The results were "one of the first American special operations fighting forces," combat ready for anything!

We were learning a lot about this military icon as we stood in front of the newly dedicated, MUCCI BALCONEY, on the back gardens of the Embassy. "He inspired us and trained us," says Captain Robert Prince, 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of the POW raid. "Mucci's actions and decisions on the raid were flawless." "We loved him - we feared him - we would follow him anywhere."

Space does not permit more ink on this superb leader. He retired as a full Colonel and later became an oil representative for a Canadian firm in Bangkok. We salute you, Col. Mucci, your hero soldiers and the Philippine guerrillas who made this raid a success.

In describing "the back yard of the house", prominent pieces of land facing Manila Bay, one of the most poignant and interesting stories emerge.

While waiting for the arrival of the Japanese Military to enter Manila on January 2, 1942, the four remaining officials of the U.S. High Commission - George Gray, Elise Flahaven, Margaret Pierce and Virginia Hewlett had removed the U.S. flag from the flagpole in front of the building. As protocol dictated, they burned the flag and carefully buried its ashes in the back garden to prevent it from falling into enemies hands.

Across the street from the "house" many refugees from the provinces were held up at the Bay View Hotel also waiting for the invaders to arrive. My family and I were among that number. With tears in our eyes, we watched in attention, as the flag was being lowered, not to be seen again for three years. After the enemy took over, we were privy to the "fried egg" being hoisted on this same flagpole, again, through many tears, we watched "by strong invitation."

Today there is a rough-hewn headstone of the American Flag where the ashes of old glory still rests. The names of those High Commission loyal employees with that stone tell the story of that important day.

Three years later, during the Battle for Manila, the High Commissioner's Office Building was under siege as fierce fighting for control of the property continued with *mano a mano* and room to room combat.

The day after this particular conflict was rested in February of 1945, General MacArthur paused briefly in battle to conduct a short ceremony. In raising a new American Flag on that very flag pole that was now torn by shelling and flak, he paid tributes deserved to the four employees of the original "house" and to the memory of those Filipinos and Americans who died for freedom.

Each year, the Ambassador and his staff, holds a short and special ceremony at this flag pole continuing the tradition set forth by General MacArthur during the Battle for Manila.

Today, the colors fly free and majestic on this plot of land known as America. It flies with the values we hold so close and important and never abandoned - patriotism and duty. There is a plaque with the pole that tells this story.

Oh, yes, it flies on the same flagpole, still riddled with jagged holes and ripped edges from flak and ammo - a reminder of another day and another time we will not soon forget.





**April 25- 29, 2017. 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion** 2017 reunion of Vietnam Veterans will be held in Nashville TN. All members, guests and friends of the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion are invited to attend. For details of the reunion and hotel information: <http://reunion.227ahb.org/> or contact: Howard Burbank, [chickenman@227ahb.org](mailto:chickenman@227ahb.org).

**May 29- June 1, 2017. 7th Infantry Regiment Association (Cottonbalers)** 2017 Reunion in Savannah, Georgia. The reunion will be at the Hilton Savannah Desoto, 15 East Liberty Street. Contact: Dave Jensen, 256-485-5692, email: [djensen@mtnviewhospital.com](mailto:djensen@mtnviewhospital.com);

**July 26- 30, 2017. Society of the First Infantry Division, "Big Red One"** celebrates 100 years of service to our country in Kansas City, MO. Contact: 215-654-1969; [SFIDPA@gmail.com](mailto:SFIDPA@gmail.com); [www.1stID.org](http://www.1stID.org).

**Sept. 2017. USS Bradley (DE/FF-1041)**, New Orleans, LA. The association is eagerly searching for former crewmembers. If you served aboard the Bradley, please contact Bruce Gottsch, PO Box 1256, New City, NY 10956-4702. 845-634-3993; [bgottsch@verizon.net](mailto:bgottsch@verizon.net); [www.ussbradley.com](http://www.ussbradley.com); [www.mlrsinc.com/bradley](http://www.mlrsinc.com/bradley)

**Jan. 6- 14, 2018. USS Pueblo 50th Anniversary Cruise** will be taken aboard the popular Carnival Conquest. For information/reservations: VIP World Travel, 4971 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota, FL 34235; 941-377-0017 or 800-323-7448; [mail@vipworldtravel.travel](mailto:mail@vipworldtravel.travel). Website: [www.vipworldtravel.travel](http://www.vipworldtravel.travel).

# News Briefs

## From the Secretary

Dear friends and fellow Veterans, It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as the 8<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and it has been an honor to call each of you a friend. We have accomplished much together, and I am so proud of how far we have come in the last two and a half years.

I have always considered the relationship between Veterans organizations and VA to be sacred. You hold us to a higher standard, consistently pushing us to do better and live up to the promise we have made to our nations Veterans. You played a critical role in developing and implementing solutions that have fueled the MyVA transformation. Your advice and counsel over the years have been indispensable to our efforts. As I have noted many times, the MyVA transformation is not my plan, or even VA's plan, but your plan. I cannot thank you enough for the support and frank conversations that have helped us better serve our Veterans.

You have likely heard the news that the President-elect has selected our very own Under Secretary of Health, Dr. David Shulkin, to be his nominee for Secretary of Veterans Affairs. David has played a critical role in our MyVA transformation, and has substantially increased access to care for Veterans. I am encouraged by this choice, and I look forward to working with him to ensure our Veterans continue to receive the high quality care, benefits, and honor they deserve.

I ask that you give David your support as he takes on this awesome responsibility. I have no doubt he will continue to share your passion

and commitment to serving Veterans, their families and survivors. Sloan and I wish him the very best on this very important mission and continued success on the path to transformation.

Thank you for everything, and best of luck in all you do in supporting our nation's Veterans, their families, and survivors. I will forever be your champion. Bob McDonald, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

## *The Vietnam War*

is a ten-part, 18-hour documentary film series directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick that will air on PBS in September 2017. The series attempts to look at all sides of the war, examining its impact on Vietnamese as well as Americans on both sides of the war. The conflict spawned massive protests against U.S. involvement in Vietnam and prompted President Lyndon Johnson to reject a re-election bid in 1968. With National POW/MIA Recognition Day being conducted on 15 September 2017 and 1600 plus Missing in Action still unaccounted for from this war, their choice of time to commence the ten-part series is appropriate. Watch your local listings for more information.

## Presumption of Service Connection

*VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a

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## news, cont'd...

minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

## Shopmyexchange.com Will Open to All Honorably Discharged Veterans

After four years of coordination with the Departments of Defense, Army and Air Force as well as several other federal agencies, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) will welcome home approximately 15 million veterans on Nov. 11.

Extending online shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans will directly improve family and support programs for Soldiers, Airmen and their families. Consistent with each exchange's dividend policy, increased earnings as a result of the shopping benefit is expected to generate tens of millions of dollars in increased annual dividends to Quality-of-Life programs for the military community

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## from Capitol City Chapter, TX

Sina Chandler, Commander, Paul Chandler, Adjutant and Chapter Members meet for the last time.



## and from Vermont Chapter #1



Members of Vermont Chapter #1 at a VA benefits luncheon meeting 9/22/2016. From left Bill Busier, J. Francis Angier, Richard Hamilton, Harry Howe and Clyde Cassidy.

including contingency operations, Army Child Development Centers, Youth Services and fitness centers, Air Force Outdoor Recreation, combat uniforms, overseas school lunches and more.

The Veterans Online Shopping Benefit also strengthens AAFES' online business to better serve current shoppers. Including honorably discharged veterans will conservatively double exchanges' online presence, improving the experience for all shoppers.

## The Future of Mobility Related Technology

Do you use one or more assistive devices for mobility, such as a cane, walker, manual wheelchair, power wheelchair, scooter or lower extremity prosthesis?

Rory Cooper, PhD of the Human Engineering Research Laboratories and the University of Pittsburgh would like to know about the assistive devices you use and your opinion about devices that may be available in the future. Your feedback is important to help guide future research and development. If you would like to participate in this research study you can go to <http://tiny.cc/mobilitytech> to complete the questionnaire. The questionnaire will take 15 minutes or less to complete and, if you choose, you can enter your name into a drawing to win \$100 upon completion.

If you are unable to access the internet or have questions about the research study please contact one of our Clinical Coordinators at 412-822-3700.



# American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 22-24, 2017



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 24  
**Arlington Hilton**  
**(817) 640-3322**  
**2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas**

## Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington



2401 East Lamar Boulevard, Arlington, Texas 76006-7503  
Tel: 1-817-640-3322, Fax: 1-817-633-1430  
Room Rate \$122 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.

## AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11/due date May 15, 2017

	Black & White	Color
Full Page .....	\$200	\$300
Half Page... .	\$130	\$200
Quarter Page...	\$75	
Business Card...	\$25	

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

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks Payable to:

**AXPOW**

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

## Short Agenda:

### JUNE 22

### THURSDAY

BOARD MEETING

### JUNE 23

### FRIDAY

OPENING CEREMONIES

MEMORIAL SERVICE

LADIES LUNCHEON

MEDSEARCH/NSO SEMINAR

CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER

COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

### JUNE 24

### SATURDAY

BUSINESS SESSION CONT'D

NEW BOARD MEETING

BANQUET/INSTALLATION

### JUNE 25

### SUNDAY

CHECK OUT

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# American Ex-Prisoners of War 2016 National Convention June 22-24, 2017



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 24

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 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Friday and Saturday

REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked by June 14) - # of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$130 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

**↓ LATE REGISTRATION rates below ↓**

REGISTRATION FEE (postmarked after June 14) - # of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$150 = \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES' LUNCHEON (Friday noon) - Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# C-Lager: Stalag Luft IV & the 86-Day Hunger March

The story of *C-Lager: Stalag Luft IV & the 86-Day Hunger March* is about the service history of Sergeant Don Dorfmeier, an over-view of the war in Europe, and the airmen in his lager who participated in the long march out of Pomerania. Fittingly, the story chronicles the heroism and spirit of the airmen who served in the US Army Air Corps during WWII and exhibited the courage and inspiration to persevere in spite of great hardships and much suffering that would “haunt them for years to come.”

(EXCERPT)

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## THE HUNGER MARCH

On 6 February 1945, 2,503 ambulatory prisoners of war interned in C-lager were marched out of Stalag Luft IV amid much haste and confusion. Staff Sergeant Don Dorfmeier and the men of his barrack had been wakened early that morning and told, “. . . be ready to move within the hour.” Some men recalled being told of their departure the previous evening, and therefore had some advanced notice. Yet, even with advanced notification, the actual order to depart was considerably more sobering. Shortly, those airmen healthy enough to walk without assistance, assembled on the compound’s parade field fully dressed in their issued overcoats

and carrying makeshift rucksacks or blanket bedrolls. Other disabled men, such as Staff Sergeant Otha B. Huckaby, assigned to barrack number III, and those recovering from dog bites and bayonet wounds inflicted on them last summer, would follow later.

After Don and the other airmen were assembled on the parade field, they marched out of the compound in sequential order of their barrack number. From the compound, the airmen moved first to the Vorlager, where each man was issued one-third loaf of bread and one Red Cross food parcel to sustain him for an anticipated march of short duration. Some men were offered a second parcel, yet few individu-

als possessed either the strength or capacity to carry an additional ten pounds of weight. The men then proceeded, in isolated clusters, to the one road leading out of the compound where they were greeted by agitated guards shouting commands and exhortations of “*Mach Schell and Rous, Rous!*”

Under an overcast sky, the POWs were pressed four abreast and departed Stalag Luft IV in column formation, which extended some two kilometers in length. In the lead position of the column was Technical Sergeant John Anderson, along with his roommates assigned to barrack number I. Although ambulatory, the physical and mental health of Anderson and most of the airmen in the column ranged from fair to poor. The majority of these men had lost, at a minimum, ten percent of their body weight while in captivity, which adversely affected their physical and

psychological stamina. Moreover, Flight Surgeon Leslie Caplan had speculated that prior to the evacuation 70 percent of the airmen interned in C-lager were wounded or suffered from some form of physical ailment and/or psychological disturbance.<sup>365</sup> Most of these ailing and disabled airmen had been evacuated several days earlier with the departure of some 3,000 POWs transported by rail to other internment camps. However, hundreds of other incapacitated men were now forced to depart Stalag Luft IV on foot.

The first few hours of the march were exhilarating for some of the American POWs, and served to create an illusion of freedom for those airmen who had been held captive for so long. Staff Sergeant Joseph O’Donnell, interned for nine months in B-lager, recalled exalting in the joy of being exposed to novel sensory images, as he embraced the “belief that being on the road was preferable to confinement in the camp.” Other airmen actively considered escaping from the column and waiting in the woods for the approaching Russian Army. However, not all the airmen shared O’Donnell’s optimism or willingness to contemplate escape. For many men, the evacuation of the camp, with the attendant losses of physical safety and psychological security, provoked great anxiety.

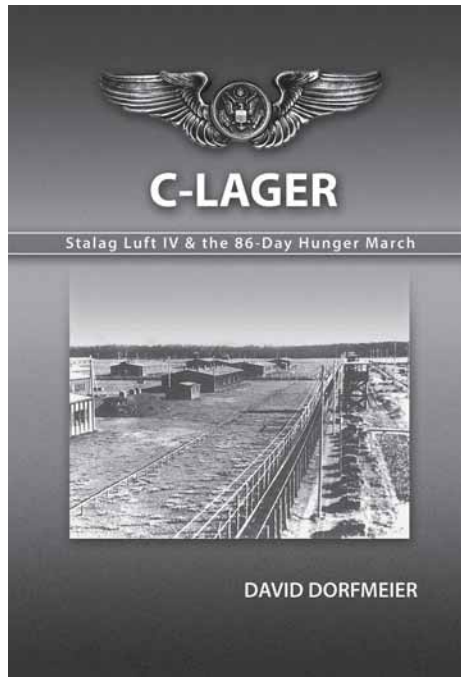
The story of *C-lager: Stalag Luft IV & the 86-Day Hunger March* chronicles my father’s experiences, the air war in Europe; his capture, participation in the longest forced march of any group of Allied POWs moving into northern Germany during the winter of 1945, and ultimate escape during the closing weeks of WWII. For more information see, [www.c-lager.com](http://www.c-lager.com). The book can be purchased for \$17.95 at [www.Amazon.com/Books](http://www.Amazon.com/Books).

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# National POW/MIA Recognition Day

## The R i d e Home 2017



Did you know that there are only two (2) days on our Julian Calendar that we set aside to recognize all Americans, civilian and military, who have been held against their will by enemies of the United States?

The first date is 9 April, Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. Why 9 April you ask, because that is the day the largest number of American Military were taken captive by an enemy during combat operations. After a three-month heroic battle in the Philippines, Major General King, Jr. surrendered all troops under his command to Colonel Mootoo Nakayama of the 14<sup>th</sup> Imperial Japanese Army. The total number varies by reporting source but it is safe to say the total exceeded sixty thousand (60,000) combat troops, at least, were taken as Prisoners of War.

The second date, The Third Friday of September, came about more as a compromise than any historical significance to the date. It was Commander in Chief Jimmy Carter who initially requested a Joint Resolution from Congress annually to which he provided a Presidential Proclamation. The Recognition Day was held in April, to the liking of the American Ex-POW organization, or in July from 1978 through 1985. The debating

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parties, American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Vietnam POW/MIA Families reached a compromise and starting in 1986 the day has been the Third Friday of September in which we recognize all former Prisoners of War (POW) as well as those who are still classified as Missing in Action (MIA).

For well over a decade a small group of POW/MIA advocates from across the country have been extending an invitation to Former Prisoners of War, civilian & military, and to the Families of those who are still classified as Missing in Action with the goal of fulfilling the Commander in Chief's proclamation, which notes: ***"I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."***

In their effort to meet the President's request this group, appropriately named "***The RIDE HOME***" will be working in conjunction with; The National Prisoner of War Museum, located on the grounds of Andersonville Historical Site, Andersonville Georgia, Central Georgia Technical College, Warner Robins Campus, corporations, private organizations as well as individual patriots from the communities of Warner Robins, Perry, Georgia, and Andersonville Georgia.

The Itinerary for this national event begins on Thursday, 14 September 2017, with honored guests checking in early afternoon followed by a Recognition Day Service, open to the public, at Museum of Aviation located at Warner Robins Air Force Base. Friday morning, 15 September, following a Law Enforcement escorted ride, service at the National Prisoner of War Museum, open to

the public, also. Friday evening the Hero's Banquet on the Central Georgia Technical College campus. (Dinner requires pre-paid reservation for everyone except the Honored guest.) KEEPING the PROMISE and Candlelight Services follow the dinner and are open to the public. Saturday, 16 September, Recognition Service followed by the FLYBOY - GROUND-POUNDER Lunch, open to the public, followed by open socials at participating hotels/motels in the Perry/Warner Robins market.

For all the former Prisoner of War Honoree's, the Next of Kin of our Missing in Action Honorees who wish to attend the RIDE HOME 2017, below we have included the registration form for this year's event. Due to the fact this is a National event all registration applications will be vetted prior to acceptance. If you mail your application to the RIDE HOME Corporate address noted at the top of the form, we will start the process and you'll be contacted acknowledging your participation at this year's event. Due to popularity of the event all applications will be addressed on a first come first served basis. If you wish to have some of your family or friends join you at the event the RIDE HOME Team will be happy to help you obtain/arrange room accommodations as well as reservations for the two meals for your guest/friends.

We look forward to saying "Thank YOU!" face to face, for not just your service to this great Republic, but for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make on our behalf.

For Questions or Concerns feel free to contact; Moe - 407 448 1181 or [moe@verizon.net](mailto:moe@verizon.net)

Until they all come home.....

# The Ride Home 2017

Thursday, Friday, Saturday ~ September 14- 15- 16, 2017

www.theridehome.com

The RIDE HOME Inc.

3818 Litchfield Loop

Lake Wales, Florida 33859

YES, I will attend \_\_\_\_\_

NO, I will not attend \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form by June 30 2017, to the RIDE HOME address above.**

POW or MIA Name: \_\_\_\_\_

MIA Rep Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Area of Capture: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Capture: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Release: \_\_\_\_\_

Area at time MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of MIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Remains returned: \_\_\_\_\_

## Room Accommodations

We will try our best to accommodate your room preferences; however, we cannot guarantee your request.

Room accommodations will depend on availability at the time your information is received.

Your lodging is offered Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights courtesy of The Ride Home.

Please reserve a room for the following dates (check all that apply):

Thursday, September 14 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday, September 15 \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday, September 16 \_\_\_\_\_

Smoking: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Smoking? \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Size: Queen/King: \_\_\_\_\_ Two Doubles: \_\_\_\_\_

## Special Requirements

Handicap accessible, handicap shower, etc.

Are you interested in being a passenger on a motorcycle at either of the Escort Rides?

(Circle one)..... YES NO

Concerns or Questions - Contact Ginny or moe at 863 324 7268 or [moehog@verizon.net](mailto:moehog@verizon.net)

## *Doolittle Raid on Japan, 18 April 1942*

The April 1942 air attack on Japan, launched from the aircraft carrier Hornet and led by Lieutenant Colonel James H. Doolittle, was the most daring operation yet undertaken by the United States in the young Pacific War. Though conceived as a diversion that would also boost American and allied morale, the raid generated strategic benefits that far outweighed its limited goals.

The raid had its roots in a chance observation that it was possible to launch Army twin-engined bombers from an aircraft carrier, making feasible an early air attack on Japan. Appraised of the idea in January 1942, U.S. Fleet commander Admiral Ernest J. King and Air Forces leader General Henry H. Arnold greeted it with enthusiasm. Arnold assigned the technically-astute Doolittle to organize and lead a suitable air group. The modern, but relatively well-tested B-25B "Mitchell" medium bomber was selected as the delivery vehicle and tests showed that it could fly off a carrier with a useful bomb load and enough fuel to hit Japan and continue on to airfields in China.

Gathering volunteer air crews for an unspecified, but admittedly dangerous mission, Doolittle embarked on a vigorous program of special training for his men and modifications to their planes. The new carrier Hornet was sent to the Pacific to undertake the Navy's part of the mission. So secret was the operation that her Commanding Officer, Captain Marc A. Mitscher, had no idea of his ship's upcoming employment until shortly before sixteen B-25s were loaded on her flight deck. On 2 April 1942 Hornet put to sea and headed west across the vast Pacific.

Joined in mid-ocean on 13 April by Vice Admiral William F. Halsey's flagship Enterprise, which would provide air cover during the approach, Hornet steamed toward a planned 18 April afternoon launching point some 400 miles from Japan. However, before dawn on 18 April, enemy picket boats were encountered much further east than expected. These were evaded or sunk, but got off radio warnings, forcing the planes to take off around 8 AM, while still more than 600 miles out.

Most of the sixteen B-25s, each with a five-man crew, attacked the Tokyo area, with a few hitting



Nagoya. Damage to the intended military targets was modest, and none of the planes reached the Chinese airfields (though all but a few of their crewmen survived). However, the Japanese high command was deeply embarrassed. Three of the eight American airmen they had captured were executed. Spurred by Combined Fleet commander Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, they also resolved to eliminate the risk of any more such raids by the early destruction of America's aircraft carriers, a decision that led them to disaster at the Battle of Midway a month and a half later.

### **The People of the Raid**

After dropping their bombs, mainly on or near their intended targets, Doolittle's sixteen B-25B bombers left Japanese airspace, essentially unhindered by enemy air interception and anti-aircraft gunfire. One of them, suffering from excessive fuel consumption, had no hope of

reaching China and so headed for the closer Soviet Maritime region. After landing north of Vladivostok, this plane and its five crew members were interned by the then-neutral Soviet authorities. The crew ultimately returned to the U.S. through Iran.

The other fifteen planes, with their seventy-five men, flew on toward China, where darkness forced four to crash-land or ditch offshore. With fuel running out after some fifteen hours of flying, eleven crews took to their parachutes. Three men were killed at this time. Local residents saved most of the others and

heroically spirited them through Japanese-held territory to safety. The vengeful enemy retaliated with a vicious ground offensive, killing tens of thousands of Chinese over the following months. The Japanese also were able to capture eight men from two planes' crews. Three of these prisoners of war, Second Lieutenants Dean E. Hallmark and William G. Farrow and Sergeant Harold A. Spatz, were executed at Shanghai in October 1942. Another, Lieutenant Robert J. Meder, died in prison more than a year later.

The remaining airmen eventually returned to duty with the Army Air Forces, and twelve of these lost their lives later in the war. Their leader, Lieutenant Colonel "Jimmy" Doolittle, was quickly promoted to Brigadier General and awarded the Medal of Honor. Twenty-three of his men received Distinguished Flying Crosses. One of the latter, the seriously injured 2nd Lt. Ted W. Lawson, wrote a best-selling memoir of the raid and its aftermath. In 1944, this book, "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo", served as the basis for a Hollywood motion picture of the same name.

*DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD  
WASHINGTON DC 20374-5060*



# new members

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



## WELCOME!

Martha Centeno  
Clemson SC  
Daughter of Edwin  
Centeno, ETO

Martha Sondgeroth  
Yakima WA  
Daughter of Sylvester  
Barthel, ETO



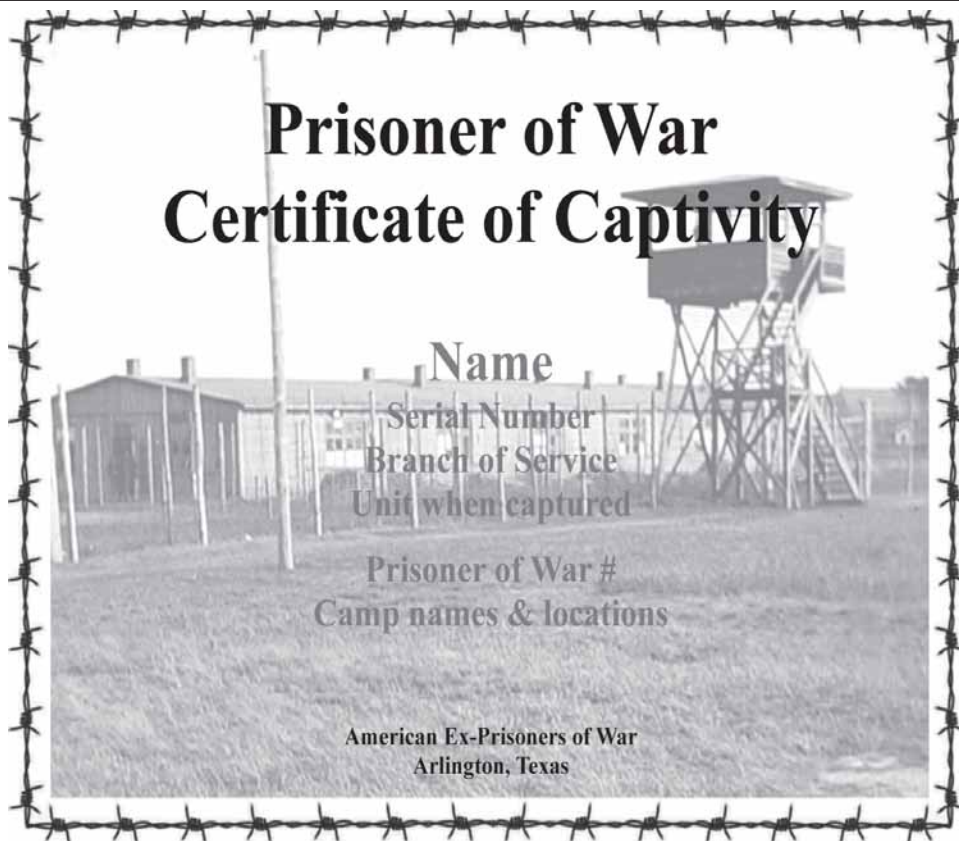
## WELCOME!

Jim "Moe" Moyer  
Lake Wales FL  
Associate member

Mary Schantag  
Branson MO  
Associate member

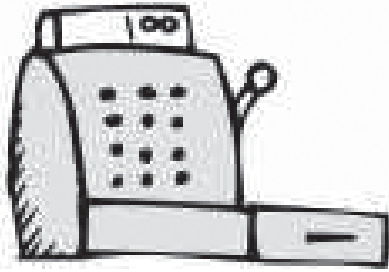
## Certificate of Captivity

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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# 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.

Thank you!

## GENERAL FUND

In honor of Rufus Choate, by  
Anne Zuehlke

In memory of Anna & Alex

Muschynka, by Isabelle Wick

In memory of Charles Hrobak, by  
Fred Liddell

In memory of Clifford "Kip"

Reddick, by Alfred & Marlene  
Zettel

In memory of Clifford "Kip"

Reddick, by Randy & Lynnette  
Kyler

In memory of Clifford "Kip"

Reddick, by Hilmer & Darlene  
Wagener

In memory of Clifford "Kip"

Reddick, by Ida Mae Reddick

In memory of Eugene Schmitz, by  
Genie & Leon Monk

In memory of Eugene Schmitz, by  
Lory & Bill Vernon

In memory of Harold Winston

Clotworthy, by Wilma Clotworthy

In memory of Irma Burke, by  
Donald Ditter

In memory of Irma Burke, by Dick  
& Dee Anderson

In memory of George Willoughby,  
by Shirley Willoughby

In memory of James J Rakosnik, by  
Ruth Rakosnik

In memory of Kenneth Thomas

Lockhart, by Activities Utd,

Wyckoff Reformed Church

In memory of Leslie T McIntyre Jr,  
by Evon Collins

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
the Cotter Family

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
Kallie Rempelakis

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by

Edward & Ellen Wojtowicz

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
Digital Federal Credit Union

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
Dennis & Sharon Clancy

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
Ellen Brenneman

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
John, Terry & John Daniel Dugan

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
John Craig

In memory of Mary Rempelakis, by  
Ann Horton

In memory of Paul  
Hollen Jr, by Lakey Schwartz Logan

In memory of Paul Hollen Jr, by  
Vanyla Schwartz Tierney

In memory of Stanley W MacArthur,  
by Helen Taylor

In memory of Stanley W MacArthur,  
by

In memory of Stanley W MacArthur,  
by

In memory of William Arthur Zion,  
by Stella Zion

In memory of Wilma Falgione, by  
Berniece Wyman

MEDSEARCH  
Barbed-Wire Buckeye Chapter, OH

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Brian Cleworth, Seattle WA

Edward Weiss, Erie PA

Herman Streitburger, Bedford NH

Irving Lautman, Montros Twp, NJ

## The Meaningful Gift

A number of years ago, one of our members made the decision to establish a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He felt strongly that he truly cared about the future of AXPOW and wanted to leave a legacy to us. He and his wife are now gone, but their generous gift enabled them to demonstrate in a very meaningful way their commitment to the organization.

You, too can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is there for return-

ing POWs, their families and their dependents through your will or living trust. This gift can be funded with cash or securities, mutual funds or other investments that are not serving your current needs. This special gift will benefit future generations as well as we transition to a legacy organization.

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 \_\_\_\_\_(named investment) or

\_\_\_\_\_percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Your generous support of our programs over the years has made a tremendous difference to ex-POWs and their families. I hope you will seriously consider whether a final gift to AXPOW will be the right option for you and your family.

Please take a few minutes of your time to help. And feel free to contact CFO Marsha Coke at 817-649-2979/axpow76010@yahoo.com or CEO David Eberly at (757) 508-8453 /eberlydsl@verizon.net

Thank you!

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# taps



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

**BALAZA, Charles**, 95, of Yardville, NJ passed away Dec. 10, 2016. He was captured while serving with the 59<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery on Corregidor and held in several POW camps in the Philippines and Japan. Charles was a founding member of the Continental Chapter, AXPOW and worked helping others receive their benefits. He leaves his beloved wife of 67 years, Marie, 4 children, 4 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and friends.

**BOUCK, Lyle J. Jr.**, of St Louis, MO died Dec. 2, 2016. He served with the 394<sup>th</sup> Reg., 99<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. Before running out of ammunition and being overrun and captured on December 16, 1944, Lt. Bouck's vastly outnumbered 18 man I&R platoon repulsed 3 German assaults outside the Belgian town of Lanzerath, delaying SS Lt. Col. Jochen Peiper's initial thrust at the Battle of the Bulge by 12 hours. In doing so Lt. Bouck's platoon became America's most decorated platoon of WWII. Lyle's wife Lucy predeceased him; he leaves 2 daughters, 2 sons, 13 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 1 brother.

**CRAM, Carol Mae**, 76, of Palm Harbor, FL passed away Jan. 11, 2017 in Cumming, GA. She married WWII POW James Vilas Cram, from Galesville, WI, on February 22, 1964. He was the love of her life and they were married for 46 years until his death on March 16, 2010. She and James lived in Oregon from 1964 until retiring to Florida in 1992. She is survived by 1 stepdaughter, 6 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren, 1 sister and a large loving extended family.

**DEDEIAN, Ara**, 90, of Glen Rock, NJ

died May 28, 2016. While serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 590<sup>th</sup> FA Bn, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 9B until liberation. Ara was a member of the Garden State Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife of 65 years, Dorothy, 3 sons, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

**GRAY, James A.**, 91, of Garden City, NY, member of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW passed away Dec. 23, 2016. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag IX-B. James is survived by one daughter and one grandson. His wife, Ann, died in 2013.

**MESSEMER, John "Jack" Edward**, of Phoenix, AZ was liberated once more at the age of 94 on November 14, 2016. In World War II he served in ETO, 12th Air Force, 47th Bomb Group, and was held POW in Dulag Luet 7A & 17B. He also fought in Korea and spent 41 years in service to his country. After retiring as an Air Force Senior Master Sergeant he continued as a Veterans Service Officer. Jack was a long time member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Sun City, AZ, and is survived by a son, daughter and grandchildren.

**MORGAN, James Daniel**, of Medford, OR passed away Dec. 15, 2016 at the age of 76. He and 17 members of his family were American civilian POWs in Santo Tomas in the Philippines from Dec. 1941 to Feb. 1945. He later served in the Marines. James is survived by his wife, Donna, 4 stepchildren, 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren. He was a life member of AXPOW.

**NAVARETTE, Robert Harold**, 90, of Azusa CA passed away Dec. 7, 2016.

He served in the US Army, 331<sup>st</sup> Inf. Bn., 83<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div., Co B and fought in the Battle of the Bulge where he was captured March 2, 1945. He was held in Stalag 12-A until liberation. His loving wife, Helen, predeceased him; he is survived by 3 sons, 2 daughters, 23 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren.

**PLATTENBURGER, Mary Ellen**, of Rock Hill, SC passed away Dec. 8, 2016 at the age of 84. She and her late husband Archie were members of the Catawba Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves 2 sons, 1 sister and 4 grandchildren.

**RABIDEAU, Harold "Pete"**, of Potsdam, NY died Nov. 6, 2016. He was 91. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF and held POW for 15 months. He leaves his loving wife of 47 years, Erma, 4 daughters, 4 stepdaughters, 3 stepsons, 28 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

**REDDICK, Clifford "Kip"**, of New Ulm, Texas, passed away Nov. 1, 2016. While serving in the 4th USMC, he was captured in Corregidor and held in several camps for a total of 3-1/2 years. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Ida Mae, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and 1 brother.

**ROTH, William P.**, 95, of Audubon, IA died Apr. 21, 2016. He served with HQ Co., 168<sup>th</sup> Inf., 34<sup>th</sup> Div. during WWII. He was captured near Kasserine Pass, Tunisia and held in Stalags 7A, 3B and Kommando No. 1 until liberation by the 104<sup>th</sup> Div.

# taps cont'd...

He is survived by 2 sons, 2 granddaughters, 3 brothers and 1 sister.

**ROYER, Frank**, of Lake Waukomis, MO passed away Jan. 11, 2016 at the Kansas City VA where he volunteered for 29 years. He was 90. Frank served in WWII with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Div., 9<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg. Co. K. He was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. Frank was an active member of the Heart of America Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Bernadette.

**SAMOVOSKI, Rudolph "Poppy"**, of Palm Beach Gardens, FL died Dec. 6, 2016. He proudly served his country in the US Army, a veteran of WWII and former POW. Survivors include his devoted wife of 66 years, Margaret, 3 daughters, 1 sister, 8 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a large, loving extended family.

**SCHMITZ, Eugene William**, 98, of Mountainair, NM passed away March 8, 2016. He served with the 200<sup>th</sup> Coast Artillery and was one of the defenders of Clark Field, PI; survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 1/2 years as a POW. He leaves one daughter and her family. He will be missed by family, friends and neighbors who knew and loved him.

**SMITH, Louis M.**, 91, of Scottsdale, AZ died Oct. 19, 2016. During WWII he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 322BG. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft I, Barth Germany until liberation. Lou was a life member of AXPOW and member of East Valley Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Margie, 3 children, 9 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**SOLLENDER, Joel David** died Dec. 27, 2016 in La Jolla, CA. He was 92. He was captured by a German tank, on its way to the Battle of the Bulge on December 11, 1944 near the

Siegfried line in Alsace Lorraine, France. Marched many miles, crowded into a boxcar and held in a camp 30 miles south of Berlin until liberation. His loving wife of 58 years, Dotti, survives him; he also leaves 1 son (son Jeffrey predeceased him), 6 grandchildren. He is but one more of the diminishing count of the Greatest Generation. His family is honored to have shared time with him recently before he left us to join his band of brothers.

**WYNN, Bennie**, of Warner Robins, GA passed away Jan. 12, 2017. She was the widow of ex-POW William Wynn, Jr. (captured and held in the Philippines and Japan). Bennie was an active member of the Middle Georgia Chapter, AXPOW and a life member of National. She worked hard for veterans and their families. Survivors include one granddaughter, one great-granddaughter, several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

## chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

I recall my Mother when aggravated would sit on the couch and say "I don't need nobody but Jesus and God." My Mother was aggravated quite often as she had three active boys to raise.

Amazingly, Mother lived to be 79, my Father to 90, His Father to ninety-

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six. All three read their Bibles, the Holy Scriptures and tried their best to live by faith as well as the rules, statutes, commandments and precepts found in the Scriptures.

All three not only attended church to worship God but they were active in the church's activities. Their age did not stop them from seeking God. As our Ex-POWs and families age, they are not stopped from seeking God.

Psalm 92:13-14 "Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age: they shall be fat and flourishing."

Regardless of age, God has a use for you in His service. Regardless of age, you can still be active in many worship activities. Examples are that is found in the fact that most if not all churches now provide handicap parking and wheel chair access. Further, I knew of one

minister who at the age of ninety was no longer able to stand to preach a sermon but would sit in front of the congregation.

The point? You are never too old. You have value to your families, to church, to organizations such as AXPOW and to God. It does not matter if your steps are short and pace is slow, you are valuable to God and He can still use you.

Prayer: O Lord, May each of the readers and members of AXPOW realize they have value to other

## Benny





**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION**  
to honor a loved one or a former colleague  
Donations are not tax-deductible.

Please feel free to make copies of this form and use when making donations.

IN MEMORY OF:

\_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state and zip code \_\_\_\_\_

To be contributed to the \_\_\_\_\_ Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City, state and zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial donations should be sent to:  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)



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ALL CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO  
AXPOW OR AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

# Spring Cleaning Raffle!

We've decided that there is entirely too much stuff in the office as we continue our transition. So we've enlisted the help of the Ex-POW Bulletin to organize a Spring Cleaning Raffle. Sure, we could try to sell these very limited items, but a raffle is much more fun! Our POW Commemorative Coins are beautifully mounted and framed (with a retail value of \$250) and our AXPOW Pewter Plates were immensely popular back in the early 1990s when we sold them for \$50.00 each. Take a chance on our coin for \$10 and the plate for \$5. If you need more tickets, just print them off and send them in. The drawing will be at our National Convention in June. Good luck!



*US Mint Commemorative Silver Dollar was authorized by Congress, produced and sold to build the National POW Museum at Andersonville.*



*Pewter plate engraved with the AXPOW logo, surrounded by the names of the five wars in the 20th century. 5,000 were produced in this limited numbered edition.*

## American Ex-Prisoners of War COMMEMORATIVE COIN RAFFLE

PLEASE PRINT

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

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

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

Here is my donation of \$10.00 for the Commemorative Coin drawing

Mail your donation  
and entry to:

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
50/50 Drawing  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

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

## American Ex-Prisoners of War AXPOW PEWTER PLATE RAFFLE

PLEASE PRINT

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

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

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

Here is my donation of \$5.00 for the Pewter Plate drawing

Mail your donation  
and entry to:

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
PLATE RAFFLE  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

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



**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 25, 2016 Arlington, TX**

- 1st Place** ERNEST SMITH, KS **\$238.20**
- 2nd Place** JOHN ROBERTS, MI **\$178.65**
- 3rd Place** MARGARET MAHYFIELD, MS **\$119.10**
- 4th Place** NANCY GARRIDO, OK **\$59.55**

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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mail to:**

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



## The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active  
since 1946

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  
per year. Published since 1946.  
Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman  
121 McGregor Ave.  
Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856  
973-663-2410  
E-mail: jsc164@aol.com

**Ex-POW Bulletin  
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### AXPOW Gravesite Medallion



The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer. Hardware for mounting is included. Weight - approximately 1.25 lb.

*check with your local cemetery before ordering to see if medallions are permitted.*

**\$100.00 includes shipping/handling/insurance**

### Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card

PLEASE PRINT:



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

Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**(includes S/H)

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

### AXPOW Challenge Coin



great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization  
AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

**\$10.00**ea

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00	Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Necktie w/logo (regular only)	30.00	12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00	Aluminum License Plate	5.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00	3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
Barbed Wire Pin	3.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
Brooch pin	5.00	8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Logo pin	5.00	AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00	Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00	POW DVD – ETO or Pacific	11.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00	"Speak Out" Education Packet	8.00
Magnetic Ribbons	5.00		
Challenge Coins	10.00		
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire (silver)	8.00	<b>CLOTH STRIPES</b> (specify which title)	3.00
Vest Chainguard	8.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past	
4" Blazer Patch	4.00	Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas · Chapter Adjutant · Chapter	
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00	Treasurer · Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander	
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00	Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · Sr. Vice Commander · Jr. Vice	
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00	Commander · Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer	
		· Past Department Officer	

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 4.00, add \$3.00; For orders 4.01 to 7.99, add \$4.00; For orders 8.00 to 25.00, add \$8.00, For orders 25.01 to 49.99, add \$13.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$15.00  
For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order

**Shipping/Handling/Insurance:**

**Total: \$**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR ALL ORDERS, MAIL TO:  
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396  
817-649-2979  
axpow76010@yahoo.com**



# Boy—

THIS IS  
THE  
BREAKFAST  
FOR ME!

RUNDOWN? TIRED OF EATING?  
TRY THE AMAZING NEW KRIEGIE-  
KRUNCHIES, THE READY-TO-EAT  
CEREAL THAT ADDS LIFE TO  
LAGGING APPETITES... GETS YOU  
READY FOR THOSE LAPS AROUND  
THE COMPOUND.



**KRIEGIE**  **KRUNCHIES**

EAT KRIEGIE KRUNCHIES

AND BE JET-PROPELLED!



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

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
National Headquarters  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979  
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org  
No collect calls, please

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

## Bronze Grave Medallions



**\$100.00** includes S/H/I

### change of address form

Include your mailing label for address change or inquiry. If you are receiving duplicate copies, please send both labels. If moving, please give us your new address in the space provided.

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
Or fax: (817) 649-0109  
Or e-mail: axpow76010@yahoo.com