

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

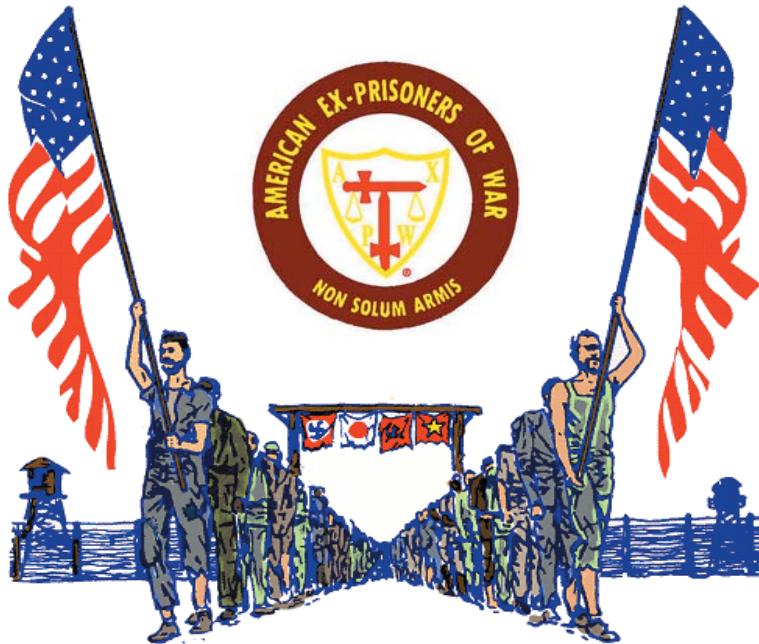
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May/June 2013



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*National Convention ~ June 26-29, 2013
Arlington, Texas
Election Issue!*

In Memory of Don Denny... Past Commander of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter

Friends of Don Denny purchased two benches in his memory to be placed at Bay Pines VA Healthcare System, where Don donated over 10,000 volunteer hours. When the first bench arrived recently, Jean (his widow) held a celebration. Pictured here are those who were in attendance, though there were many contributors who could not attend.



The wording on the back of the bench, which you cannot read here, reads "In Loving Memory of Don Denny — POW — Korea." Jean is second from right, sitting on the bench; their daughter is second from the left, standing. Not pictured is Ed Flowers, whose wheelchair would not make it to the bench over uneven ground.



table of contents

officers/directors	4
commander	5
NSO	6
medsearch	7
andersonville	11
namPOW	12
joint committee	13
outreach	14
civilian	15
pow-mia	16
events, info, looking for	17
convention	18
election information	21
news	24
stories	27
contributions	31
new members	32
taps	33
chaplain	37
raffle	39
voluntary funding	41
quartermaster	42

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Deadline for the July/Aug 2013 issue is June 1, 2013.

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

May/June 2013

See you in Arlington ~ June 26-29

Memorial Day...May 27, 2013

Early Observances of Memorial Day

The Civil War claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history, requiring the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding spring-time tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

Decoration Day

On May 5, 1862, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

Evolution of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Memorial Day Traditions

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. On a less somber note, many people throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because it unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

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axpow officers & directors 2012-2013

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**National Commander
Charles Susino, Jr.**

Dear Members,

A significant focus of my tenure as National Commander has been on using the strength and influence of the organization for the benefit of the POW and all veterans primarily with the public, political arena, and Government Military Organizations. I, like so many of you, spend countless hours in the community getting our message across and educating the public on the sacrifices of the veterans in preserving the freedoms we all share. In addition, it is living our motto of "helping those that cannot help themselves". There is an endless need to help veterans and their families so I applaud you all for your tireless work.

As I mentioned in the prior bulletin, I provided testimony to the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs chaired by Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Jeff Miller. In addition, I had a private meeting with Representative Michaud to discuss one-on-one the issues that are important to us. At the Hearing, I made eight key points during the testimony and participated in a Q&A session. The entire testimony is available on the Senate Veterans committee website or through Cheryl. In brief the eight areas of testimony are:

1. Washington budget cuts and holding a hard line against them looking at veteran benefits for savings.

2. The lengthening application processing backlog for veterans benefits.
3. The need for timely increase in VA medical staff to meet the increasing demands from returning soldiers from the Middle East.
4. Expanding the special veterans groups entitled to general health care benefits.
5. Passage of the Fiscal year 2013 Independent budget for the 26th consecutive time.
6. 112th Congress for passing the National Defense Authorization Act and the Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act.
7. Our support of the Stolen Valor Act.
8. Our support of new Bills introduced in Congress: HR 153, HR 241, S49/HR 257, & HR 369.

In addition we have taken a position on Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta's introduction of "The Distinguished Warfare Medal" which is awarded to servicemen for distinguished service for those who pilot the unmanned aircraft or cyberspace warfare. While we endorse the introduction of a new medal reflecting the changing responsibilities of servicemen with leading edge technologies, we opposed a ranking of the medal above any medal earned in the battlefield. Several members of Congress have introduced legislation to block the Defense Department's action to rank these medals above several medals earned in combat.

I wish you all had very successful celebrations of Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day on April 9 in your respective areas. It is especially important to celebrate our Day and maintain and increase public awareness for our sacrifices.

Upon receiving and reading this bulletin we will be a month away from the National Convention. I encourage you all to make the trip this year. It will be well worth your while!

Charles Susino

news from hq



The time is now!

Get your planning done for the National Convention. We have lots of good stuff for you again this year. Tour Cowboys Stadium and get your picture taken on the 50 yard line. Dance the night away to Big Band era music at the Commander's Reception. Or at least tap your toes! It's a great time to visit Arlington. Bring the whole family and send them off to 6 Flags Over Texas and Hurricane Harbor. Visit the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame. The Arlington Trolley system is available for you at no charge. There is something for everyone. Come join us for some good old Texas hospitality.

Thank you to all you members who support AXPOW with your donations. We are building our treasury up and it is only with your help.

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Why Some Soldiers Develop PTSD While Others Don't

Pre-war vulnerability is just as important as combat-related trauma in predicting whether veterans' symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) will be long-lasting, according to new research published in *Clinical Psychological Science*, a journal of the [Association for Psychological Science](#).

Researcher Bruce Dohrenwend and colleagues at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health and the New York State Psychiatric Institute found that traumatic experiences during combat predicted the onset of the full complement of symptoms, known as the PTSD "syndrome," in Vietnam veterans. But other factors — such as pre-war psychological vulnerabilities — were equally important for predicting whether the syndrome persisted.

The 2012 version of the Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents and Survivors is available from National Headquarters. If you would like a copy, please call: 817-649-2979 or email: axpow76010@yahoo.com.

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013

6

The researchers re-examined data from a subsample of 260 male veterans from the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study. All of the veterans in the subsample had received diagnostic examinations by experienced clinicians that included information about the onset of the disorder and whether it was still current 11 to 12 years after the war ended.

Dohrenwend and colleagues focused on the roles of three primary factors: severity of combat exposure (e.g., life-threatening experiences or traumatic events during combat), pre-war vulnerabilities (e.g., childhood physical abuse, family history of substance abuse), and involvement in harming civilians or prisoners.

The data indicated that stressful combat exposure was necessary for the onset of the PTSD syndrome, as 98% of the veterans who developed the PTSD syndrome had experienced one or more traumatic events.

But combat exposure alone was not sufficient to cause the PTSD syndrome.

Of the soldiers who experienced any potentially traumatic combat exposures, only 31.6% developed the PTSD syndrome. When the researchers limited their analysis to the soldiers who experienced the most severe traumatic exposures, there was still a substantial proportion — about 30% — that did not develop the syndrome. This suggests that there were other factors and vulnerabilities involved for the minority of exposed who did end up developing the PTSD syndrome.

Among these factors, childhood experiences of physical abuse or a pre-Vietnam psychiatric disorder other than PTSD were strong contributors to PTSD onset. Age also seemed to play an important role: Men who were younger than 25 when they entered the war were seven times more likely to develop PTSD compared to older men. The researchers also found that soldiers who inflicted harm on civilians or prisoners of war were much more likely to develop PTSD.

The combined data from all three primary factors — combat exposure, prewar vulnerability, and involvement in harming civilians or prisoners — revealed that PTSD syndrome onset reached an estimated 97% for veterans high on all three. While severity of combat exposure was the strongest predictor of whether the soldiers developed the syndrome, pre-war vulnerability was just as important in predicting the persistence of the syndrome over the long run.

The researchers conclude that these findings have important implications for policies aimed at preventing cases of war-related PTSD.

Given the seemingly potent interaction between combat exposure and pre-war vulnerability, these results emphasize the need to keep the more vulnerable soldiers out of the most severe combat situations.

Dohrenwend and colleagues also point out that the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, like the Vietnam War, are "wars amongst the people," and they underline the need for research examining the circumstances in which harm to civilians and prisoners is likely to occur. Such research could provide important clues for preventing such devastating violations of the rules of war.

In addition to Dohrenwend, co-authors on this research include Thomas Yager and Ben Adams at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University; and Melanie Wall of the Mailman School of Public Health and Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University, and the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

The research was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health (Grant R01-MH059309) and by grants from the Spunk Fund, Inc. and a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Mental Health.

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Restless Leg Syndrome

What is restless legs syndrome?

Restless legs syndrome (RLS) is a neurological disorder characterized by throbbing, pulling, creeping, or other unpleasant sensations in the legs and an uncontrollable, and sometimes overwhelming, urge to move them. Symptoms occur primarily at night when a person is relaxing or at rest and can increase in severity during the night. Moving the legs relieves the discomfort. Often called paresthesias (abnormal sensations) or dysesthesias (unpleasant abnormal sensations), the sensations range in severity from uncomfortable to irritating to painful.

The most distinctive or unusual aspect of the condition is that lying down and trying to relax activates the symptoms. Most people with RLS have difficulty falling asleep and staying asleep. Left untreated, the condition causes exhaustion and daytime fatigue. Many people with RLS report that their job, personal relations, and activities of daily living are strongly affected as a result of their sleep deprivation. They are often unable to concentrate, have impaired memory, or fail to accomplish daily tasks. It also can make traveling difficult and can cause depression.

As many as 10 percent of the U.S. population may have RLS. Several studies have shown that moderate to severe RLS affects approximately 2-3 percent of adults (more than 5 million individuals). An additional 5 percent appears to be affected by a milder form. Childhood RLS is estimated to affect almost 1 million school-age children, with one-third having moderate to severe symptoms. Some people with RLS will not seek medical attention, believing that they will not be taken seriously, that their symptoms are too mild, or that their

condition is not treatable. Some physicians wrongly attribute the symptoms to nervousness, insomnia, stress, arthritis, muscle cramps, or aging.

RLS occurs in both men and women, although the incidence is about twice as high in women. It may begin at any age. Many individuals who are severely affected are middle-aged or older, and the symptoms typically become more frequent and last longer with age.

RLS is classified as a movement disorder, as individuals are forced to move their legs in order to gain relief from symptoms.

More than 80 percent of people with RLS also experience a more common condition known as periodic limb movement of sleep (PLMS). PLMS is characterized by involuntary leg twitching or jerking movements during sleep that typically occur every 15 to 40 seconds, sometimes throughout the night. The symptoms cause repeated awakening and severely disrupted sleep. Although many individuals with RLS also develop PLMS, most people with PLMS do not experience RLS. People who have PLMS and do not have RLS or another cause for the PLMS may be diagnosed with periodic limb movement disorder (PLMD). PLMD may be a variant of RLS and thus respond to similar treatments.

What are common signs and symptoms of restless legs?

People with RLS feel uncomfortable sensations in their legs, especially when sitting or lying down, accompanied by an irresistible urge to move the affected limb. These sensations less commonly affect the arms, trunk, or head. Although the sensations can occur on just one side of the body, they most often affect both sides.

Because moving the legs (or other affected parts of the body) relieves

the discomfort, people with RLS often keep their legs in motion to minimize or prevent the sensations. They may pace the floor, constantly move their legs while sitting, and toss and turn in bed.

A classic feature of RLS is that the symptoms are worse at night with a distinct symptom-free period in the early morning, allowing for more refreshing sleep at that time. Other triggering situations are periods of inactivity such as long car trips, sitting in a movie theater, long-distance flights, immobilization in a cast, or relaxation exercises. Many individuals also note a worsening of symptoms if their sleep is further reduced by events or activity.

RLS symptoms may vary from day to day and in severity and frequency from person to person. Individuals with mild RLS may have some disruption of sleep onset and minor interference in daytime activities. In moderately severe cases, symptoms occur only once or twice a week but result in significant delay of sleep onset, with some disruption of daytime function. In severe cases of RLS, the symptoms occur more than twice a week and result in burdensome interruption of sleep and impairment of daytime function.

Individuals with RLS can sometimes experience remissions—spontaneous improvement over a period of weeks or months before symptoms reappear—usually during the early stages of the disorder. In general, however, symptoms become more severe over time.

People who have both RLS and an associated medical condition tend to develop more severe symptoms rapidly. In contrast, those who have RLS that is not related to any other

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condition and experience onset at an early age show a very slow progression of the disorder; many years may pass before symptoms occur regularly.

What causes restless legs syndrome?

In most cases, the cause of RLS is unknown. However, it may have a genetic component; RLS is often found in families where the onset of symptoms is before age 40. Specific gene variants have been associated with RLS. Evidence indicates that low levels of iron in the brain also may be responsible for RLS.

Considerable evidence suggests that RLS is related to a dysfunction in the brain's basal ganglia circuits that use the neurotransmitter dopamine, which is needed to produce smooth, purposeful muscle activity and movement. Disruption of these pathways frequently results in involuntary movements. Individuals with Parkinson's disease, another disorder of the basal ganglia's dopamine pathways, often have RLS as well.

RLS also appears to be related to the following factors or conditions, although researchers do not yet know if these factors actually cause RLS:

- Chronic diseases such as kidney failure, diabetes, and peripheral neuropathy. Treating the underlying condition often provides relief from RLS symptoms.
- Certain medications that may aggravate symptoms. These medications include antinausea drugs (prochlorperazine or metoclopramide), antipsychotic drugs (haloperidol or phenothiazine derivatives), antidepressants that increase serotonin, and some cold and allergy medications that contain sedating antihistamines.
- Pregnancy, especially in the last trimester. In most cases, symp-

toms usually disappear within 4 weeks after delivery.

Alcohol and sleep deprivation also may aggravate or trigger symptoms in some individuals. Reducing or completely eliminating these factors may relieve symptoms, but it is unclear if this can prevent RLS symptoms from occurring at all.

How is restless legs syndrome diagnosed?

There is no specific test for RLS. The four basic criteria for diagnosing the disorder are:

- Symptoms that are worse at night and are absent or negligible in the morning;
- A strong and often overwhelming need or urge to move the affected limb(s), often associated with paresthesias or dysesthesias;
- Sensory symptoms that are triggered by rest, relaxation, or sleep; and
- Sensory symptoms that are relieved with movement and the relief persists as long as the movement continues.

Physicians should focus largely on the individual's descriptions of symptoms, their triggers and relieving factors, as well as the presence or absence of symptoms throughout the day. A neurological and physical exam, plus information from the individual's medical and family history and list of current medications, may be helpful. Individuals may be asked about frequency, duration, and intensity of symptoms as well as their tendency toward daytime sleep patterns and sleepiness, disturbance of sleep, or daytime function.

Laboratory tests may be performed to rule out other conditions. Blood tests can identify iron and vitamin deficiencies as well as other medical disorders associated with RLS. In some cases, sleep studies such as polysomnography (a test that records the individual's brain waves, heart-beat, breathing, and leg movements during an entire night) may identify the presence of other causes of sleep disruption (e.g., sleep apnea), which may impact management of the disorder.

Diagnosing RLS in children may be especially difficult, since it may be hard for a child to describe where it hurts, when and how often the symptoms occur, and how long symptoms last. Pediatric RLS can sometimes be misdiagnosed as "growing pains" or attention deficit disorder.

How is restless legs syndrome treated?

RLS can be treated, with care directed toward relieving symptoms. Moving the affected limb(s) may provide temporary relief. Sometimes RLS symptoms can be controlled by finding and treating an associated medical condition, such as peripheral neuropathy or diabetes.

Certain lifestyle changes and activities that may reduce symptoms in persons with mild to moderate symptoms include decreased use of caffeine, alcohol, and tobacco; supplements to correct deficiencies in iron, folate, and magnesium; changing or maintaining a regular sleep pattern; a program of moderate exercise; and massaging the legs, taking a hot bath, or using a heating pad or ice pack. A trial of iron supplements is recommended only for individuals with low iron levels. Although many people find some relief with such measures, rarely do these efforts completely eliminate symptoms.

Medications are usually helpful but no single medication effectively manages RLS for all individuals. Trials of different drugs may be necessary. In addition, medications taken regularly may lose their effect over time, making it necessary to change medications periodically.

Common drugs prescribed to treat RLS include:

Dopaminergic agents (drugs that increase dopamine), largely used to treat Parkinson's disease, have been shown to reduce symptoms of RLS and PLMS when they are taken at bedtime and are considered the initial treatment of choice. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved pramipexole and ropinirole to treat moderate to severe RLS. Both drugs are generally **well tolerated** but can cause nausea, dizziness, or

medsearch, continued

other side effects. Good short-term results of treatment with levodopa plus carbidopa have been reported.

Although dopamine-related medications are effective in managing RLS, long-term use can lead to worsening of the symptoms in many individuals. This apparent progressive worsening is referred to as “augmentation.” With chronic use, a person may begin to experience symptoms earlier in the evening than in the afternoon until finally the symptoms are present around the clock. The initial evening or bedtime dose becomes less effective, the symptoms at night become more intense, and symptoms begin to affect the arms or trunk. Fortunately, this apparent progression is reversible by removing the person from all dopamine-related medications. Another important adverse effect of dopamine medications that occurs in some people is the development of impulsive or obsessive behaviors such as obsessive gambling or shopping. Should they occur, these behaviors can be reversed by stopping the medication.

Other medications may be prescribed “off-label” (not specifically designed to treat RLS) to relieve some of the symptoms of the disorder.

Benzodiazepines can help individuals who have mild or intermittent symptoms obtain a more restful sleep. However, even if taken only at bedtime they can sometimes cause daytime sleepiness. Benzodiazepines such as clonazepam and diazepam are generally prescribed to treat anxiety, muscle spasms, and insom-

nia. Because these drugs also may induce or aggravate sleep apnea in some cases, they should not be used in people with this condition.

Opioids such as codeine, propoxyphene, or oxycodone may be prescribed at night to diminish pain and help to relax individuals with more severe symptoms. Side effects include dizziness, nausea, exacerbation of sleep apnea, and the risk of addiction.

Anticonvulsants such as gabapentin and pregabalin can decrease the sensory disturbances such as creeping and crawling sensations and nerve pain. Dizziness, fatigue, and sleepiness are among the possible side effects.

What is the prognosis of people with restless legs?

RLS is generally a lifelong condition for which there is no cure. Nevertheless, current therapies can control the disorder, minimizing symptoms and increasing periods of restful sleep. Symptoms may gradually worsen with age, although the decline may be somewhat faster for individuals who also suffer from an associated medical condition. In addition, some individuals have remissions—periods in which symptoms decrease or disappear for days, weeks, or months—although symptoms usually eventually reappear. A diagnosis of RLS does not indicate the onset of another neurological disease, such as Parkinson’s disease.

What research is being done?

The National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), a component of the National Institutes of Health, is the primary Federal sponsor of research on brain and nervous system disorders. The NINDS

seeks to increase scientific understanding of RLS, find improved methods of diagnosing and treating the syndrome, and discover ways to prevent it.

NINDS-supported researchers are investigating the possible role of dopamine function in RLS. Researchers suspect that impaired transmission of dopamine signals may play a role in the disorder. Additional research should provide new information about how RLS occurs and may help investigators identify more successful treatment options.

Workshops and conferences sponsored by the NINDS as well as nongovernment organizations have emphasized the need for further research on animal models and the complex roles of dopamine interaction with iron levels. For example, serum ferritin, an index of iron deficiency, has been shown to predict the severity of RLS symptoms in older individuals.

In other related research, NINDS scientists are conducting studies to better understand the physiological mechanisms of PLMS associated with RLS.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on neurological disorders or research programs funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, contact the Institute’s Brain Resources and Information Network (BRAIN) at:

BRAIN

P.O. Box 5801

Bethesda, MD 20824

(800) 352-9424

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov>



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Prisoners of War Across Time

by Chris Barr, Park Guide

March 9-10, 2013 was one of the busiest weekends in recent memory at Andersonville National Historic Site. Around 1,400 visitors came through the National Prisoner of War Museum as part of the park's annual Civil War living history weekend, an increase of 40% over the previous year's program.

This was the second year of the park's Historical Interpreter Apprentice Program (HIAP), initiated last year through a grant from the National Park Foundation, and sustained and expanded in 2013 with support from the Friends of Andersonville. HIAP involves local high student volunteers through training, research, historical activities, and field trips for two months while they prepare to participate in park living history events. Coordinated by park ranger Stephanie Steinhorst, this youth-engagement program was re-

cently recognized as the Southeast Regional winner of the most prestigious annual award bestowed by the National Park Service for innovation in the field of interpretation and education. Living History Weekend is an opportunity for visitors to learn about the challenges faced by Union prisoners held in the Camp Sumter Confederate military prison at Andersonville between 1864 and 1865. Throughout the weekend, youth volunteers joined with experienced living historians - including descendants of Andersonville prisoners - to demonstrate daily life for Union soldiers and sailors and Confederate guards.

This year a living historian portrayed a Civil War surgeon and helped visitors understand the challenges faced by the medical staff at Andersonville.

Also new this year, several women depicted the Americus Ladies Aid Society, and spoke with visitors about how the presence of a large prison affected the local civilian population. The response to the program was overwhelmingly positive, with public participants remarking on the power of interacting with the living historians to build shelter and prepare food.

In addition to living historians portraying 19th Century conditions, the park was fortunate to have two former 20th Century Prisoners of War on site for the weekend. Bill Freeman, a Korean War POW was on site Saturday morning with his dog Casper, and spoke with Civil War living historians as well as visitors. Gerald Smith, a World War II POW, spent the day Saturday telling his personal story of being held captive in a German prison for six months. Several visitors commented to park staff about how they were affected by meeting real POWs after interacting with the historic presentation of Andersonville.



Photo 1: William Summe, a descendant of Andersonville Prisoner George Wesier, explains to visitors how his great-great grandfather improvised shoes after his were taken by guards.



Photo 2: WWII POW Gerald Smith shares his experiences with a group of Boy Scouts in the National Prisoner of War Museum.

**Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013**

namPOW news



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

Gotcha

Capt. John Thornton, WWII fighter pilot, recalled by the Navy for the Korean conflict as one of the Navy's first operational helicopter pilots, was one of the Navy's living legends. He might have been the role model for Mickey Rooney's role in *Bridges at Toko-Ri* except that he was captured and kept for nearly three years by the North Korean and Chinese Communists. Ever irascible, Thornton completed a Navy career after repatriation in 1953 and became known for his lecturing on his POW experience to mostly Navy and Marine Corps personnel whose duties might cause them to be held captive.

I distinctly remember his coming to my-about-to graduate jet flight training class at Chase Field in Beeville, Texas in October 1963. Like a leprechaun in uniform, then CDR Thornton regaled us with stories of his experiences in the Navy and in POW camp. And then he got seriously somber. The silence was deafening as Thornton looked around the room at each man then, in a voice that dripped gloom, said, "One of you will be a POW some day." Oh, wow. Bummer. Yeah, right, Commander. Let's all go to Happy Hour!

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013
12

Once, during a lecture on the Code of Conduct, I was fortunate to share the stage with VADM Jim Stockdale, MOH and Capt. Dick Stratton, two of my fellow Hanoi jailbirds and with then retired Capt. John Thornton. As the junior man (It was ever thus), I went last and deviated from my planned comments to remind Capt. Thornton of his prediction to that eager class of young, cocky F-11 student pilots. And then corrected him, "You said one of us would be a POW some day. Well, Captain, you were wrong."

"You see, two of us in that class became POWs for a total of 13 years... Thanks for getting us prepared."

But I digress. Imagine my surprise when 25 years later, Captain Thornton shows up at my local VA hospital as a patient. We got together and reminisced and had a camaraderie that few in the Richmond, Virginia VAMC comprehended. We even had the same dentist, a legitimate character, Dr. Larry Masters. Larry used to chuckle at Capt. Thornton's bawdy, politically incorrect jokes and together, we decided to put one over on the good Captain.

Thornton was due to come in for a rather lengthy procedure on 12 October 2001. Your humble scribe got there early and "suited up" in scrubs and a face mask and became Luigi, the Italian exchange student at our local dental school. Luigi was a terrible dental student. The school required him to do one last procedure and he'd finally graduate and go home to Sicily. His final act was to assist in the preparation for Capt. Thornton's dental procedure this morning.

The scene: Thornton is in the chair. In walks Dr. Masters who explains that Luigi will assist today and, don't let the photographer bother you, we need to take

some photos for our national accreditation. Luigi comes over and in his best Tony Soprano dialect, sings out, "Hey-a T-ornton. I'ma Luigi. I'ma gonna fixa you right up." Dr. Masters asked me (Luigi) to take Capt. Thornton's blood pressure. Luigi put the cuff on and pumped and pumped and pumped.

"Hey, Doc. This thing's a-broke." Dr. Masters tightened the seal and inflated the cuff. Capt. Thornton, in the chair with things sticking out of his mouth glanced nervously over his shoulder.

"Hey, doc. I'm a wanna pull that toot'." mumbled Luigi, reaching for the tongs.

"M-m-m-m-m-m-m-m." mumbled Capt. Thornton.

"Not this one," said Dr. Masters, "This one."

"M-m-m-m-m-m-m-m." mumbled Capt. Thornton.

"Say, Luigi, did you pass that AIDS check, yet?"

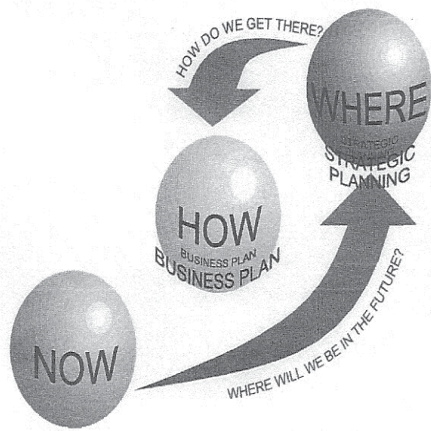
"M-m-m-m-m-m-m-m." mumbled Capt. Thornton.

"No, I'ma think the lab is bad," says Luigi while bending over and kissing Capt. Thornton on the top of his balding pate.

Off comes the mask, out come the tubes and Thornton leapt to his feet like a sprite. He turned around, looked and saw who Luigi really was and totally cracked up. "Galanti, you son-of-a-bitch, you got me!"

I cocked my index finger like a pistol, pointed it at him and said, "Gotcha. Finally!"

Captain John Thornton, one of my heroes, died of heart complications in Richmond, Virginia in 2005.



To the 547 Next-of-Kin Members of the American Ex-Prisoners of War

May I take this opportunity to address you as very special. You are the vitality of our members, and have experience with us to help in the transition to what may become a predominately descendent organization. Our current membership of 14,809 is mostly made up of WWII POWs, spouses, widows and widowers who are mostly over 90 years of age and have few years of life expectancy. In a few years we estimate our membership will shrink to less than 1000 next-of-kin, Vietnam and later POWs. This dramatic drop in the membership is why we are dedicating our upcoming convention to the children and grandchildren of ex-prisoners of war. Did you read our article in last month's bulletin where it describes a convention of fun, with a band, a trip to Cowboy Stadium and a few special meetings of next-of-kin. It will be a chance for you to make friends with those who have the common experience of being a descendent of an ex-prisoner of war. You will have the opportunity to understand how exciting it will be to continue the traditions celebrating in Veterans Day parades, April 9th Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day and mid-Sept. POW/MIA Recognition Day.

So come see us. It's not too late.
Lew Sleeper, Chairman, NOK/Strategic Planning Committee

As a next-of-kin member of AXPOW, I have found friendships with POWs of many states, my home state of Iowa and in particular in our South-

west Iowa Chapter. One of the greatest benefits is to know the extraordinary men who sacrificed months and years of their lives as POWs so that we may be free. I have learned many things by listening to their stories and experiences. AXPOW is an organization where the men could talk and share with other men who understand what it means to be a POW. It is also an organization where NOKs are able to share information and experiences as the children of a POW. It is getting to make new friends who have something in common – a father or mother or grandfather who was a prisoner of war. Because of my membership in AXPOW, I have had the opportunity to share my father's experiences as a POW with adult groups and high school youth. As an NOK I have had the opportunity to meet people from all over the nation and to become involved in the organization at the local, state and national level. ~Gloria Myers, NOK

My participation started with trying to discover the history of events which so very much affected my parents and me. The vicious nightmares of the war my English mother endured while I was very young and the puzzling way in which my father reacted to certain activities and events which were different than other fathers. My father attended a National Convention in Des Moines, IA in 1995. The only one he ever attended. I went with him and found that he wasn't different and there were many other men just like him. I watched the old men cry and saw my father cry when watching the video "Behind Barb Wire". He only cried twice in his life that I had ever seen. I saw an old man watching the video who simply gave out one loud sob and recrossed his legs in the other direction. The same involuntary sob as my son when coming home from Iraq after losing 7 buddies, one a hometown friend.

So I have learned a lot by observation and participating. I have listened closely and know so many stories. Stories you will not hear anywhere else. I have the pleasure of helping other POW families because I now know why old men cry and war brides have nightmares.

For those Next-of-Kin who have never participated, I would encourage them to do so as it will be an interesting and fulfilling experience. They will find POWs to be a unique group who are fun to be around and the history fascinating. It will also lead them to other sources and places to better understand war and their personal family histories. It will be a rewarding experience and give them the opportunity to preserve the legacy of POWs. ~David Claypool, NOK

I have learned so much from listening to the great men and women who were captured and held POWs. My father did not talk to us about his experience as a POW. I really wish he would have, but I know he had his reasons for not talking about it. All I know is we, as NOK, have to keep this going so the stories can be passed down to the next generation. We all hope there will be no more wars, but that is very unrealistic. Maybe by sharing our parents' stories, we can wake people up to the horrors of war. ~ Skip Moore, NOK

The one thing that I have been blessed with is my dad has talked about being a POW to myself and many others, and very importantly, to my children and grandchildren. I feel very blessed to have had that in my life. This organization is like a second family to me and is becoming that way to the rest of my family as well. I was young when I started going to convention with my parents, and I don't think I will ever forget the first time I saw my daddy cry because of that experience. There were lots of others I got to experience seeing that reaction with. There is nothing like it. I just don't know how to share that with others who have never been involved and not really sure they want to be. I still get emotional when I think of that or hear one POW telling another of their experience. I just wish there as some way to get these families to understand how important all they have either missed or will miss out on. ~ Pam Eslinger, NOK

va outreach



**JVC Bill Jeffers
Chairman**

The OUTREACH article appearing in The Bulletin prior to this issue was intended to complete the series on VA Health Care benefits. However, I now realize that there is more to discuss on this subject. It has since been brought to my attention that previous articles failed to address a couple of important VA Health Care provisions. One is that any veteran with at least a 10% service-connected disability is eligible for eye glasses provided by the VA. Also, any former POW, as well as any other veteran with at least a 70% service-connected disability is eligible for long-term nursing care under one of the three national Nursing Home services provided by the VA.

Now I will discuss some other VA health-related benefits. The VA may pay for or reimburse for emergency medical care in a non-VA facility in the U.S. for eligible veterans when VA or other federal facilities are either not available or it is not feasible to utilize them. Regulatory requirements dictate whether the cost liability rests with the VA or the veteran. It is therefore very important to notify the nearest VA facility which is capable of providing emergency services as soon

as possible after the non-VA emergency services are utilized. If emergency in-patient services are required, the VA can assist in transferring the veteran to an appropriate VA facility, if available. For veterans traveling or living outside the U.S., the VA will pay for foreign-supplied medical services for service-connected disabilities, or medical services for treatment of conditions which are aggravating a service-connected disability.

My HealthVet

(www.myhealth.va.gov) is VA's online Personal Health Record. It offers easy access anywhere the Internet is available. The program is for any veteran, active duty Service members, their dependants and caregivers. It offers trusted and secure VA health information for better management of health care and facts about VA benefits and services. It also helps users partner with their health care teams.

To register, go to the website: www.myhealth.va.gov and follow the directions. Users can record and track health information and history for their families and themselves; track, record and graph vital signs; keep activity and food journals; etc. Additionally, veterans enrolled at a VA health care facility can access advanced features of the program and thus link their personal health record with information from their electronic health record.

To access the advanced features, a veteran must first complete a one-time process called In-Person Authentication (IPA). This involves contacting their VA facility to verify their identity in person. After completing the IPA, VA patients can use My HealthVet to: refill their prescriptions by name, record non-VA medications, receive VA Wellness Reminders, see their VA appoint-

ments, see VA lab results, see listed allergies, and communicate with their health care teams through "Secure Messaging".

The VA views caregivers as vital partners in providing care worthy of the sacrifices by veterans. Each VA medical center has a Caregiver Support point of contact to coordinate caregiver activities and to serve as a resource expert for veterans, their families and caregivers of veterans. Several programs are available which address such aspects as: In-Home and Community Based Care, Respite Care, Caregiver Education and Training, Family Support Services and other benefits.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, Title I allows the VA to provide special benefits to the caregivers of veterans. These benefits range from counseling, lodging, subsistence and travel for non-resident family members to a resident primary caregiver who may be eligible to receive the same as above as well as a stipend, mental health services and access to health care coverage (if not already entitled to care or services under some health plan contract). Respite services may also be provided to caregivers. Caregiver Support (1-855-260-3274) gives info.

June 26-29, 2013

The American Ex-Prisoners of War National Convention

will be held in Arlington, Texas at the
Hilton
Arlington Hotel.
Meet old friends and new!

Take your grandkids to 6 Flags Over
Texas...Hurricane Harbor...Cowboy
Stadium...TheBallpark at Arlington!
We've got a great convention planned,
so now it's your turn to start planning to
attend...

Fill out the registration form on page 21
and get out your roadmaps!

See you in Texas!

civilians



**ND Alice Gollin
Chairman**

Corregidor Under Siege Again

Outrageous insult to the Filipino people

By Sascha Jansen, Senior Vice
Commander - BACEPOW
mabuhayma@aol.com.

Corregidor - this lofty Grand Dame's shared history with Spain since 1570, and America since 1898, tells an intricate tale of great history and lore of the Philippines. The scenic views, seen from all sides of this bastion of rock in Manila Bay, conjures up history like no other in the world. Over the years Corregidor was many things to many battles and sieges. But none as important as the two most costly sieges and pitched battles during WWII - the first few months of the war in the Philippines, when the Japanese invaded Manila, and the second in 1945, when the U.S. Armed Forces returned to retake it's possessions once again.

Take a good look at her today. Corregidor stands as a historically beautiful, yet grim reminder of battles lost and won, and of lives destroyed and saved. Her intricate tunnels tell stories of formidable men and women

holding their own in defense of their inalienable rights to stay free. Most of the ravaged buildings have not been restored, and left how they were after WWII in reverence to the Filipino and American soldiers who died there.

Sadly, there is another siege beginning - another tragic segment surfacing today on Corregidor. There is a scourge taking over the sacred grounds of the meaningful Pacific War Memorials built to honor American and Filipino soldiers from WWII, and other beautiful Memorials such as The Eternal Flame of Freedom, the Corregidor Lighthouse, the Japanese Memorial, MacArthur Memorial, and the Filipino Heroes Memorial. The placement and vulgar usage of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), and cheap sports dramatization of Zip Lines, are all created to enhance tourism on the Rock. What next, pray tell, a Casino or two to bring in the dirty money to replace the historic reverence that this piece of land stands for? Money Speaks! In this case - grubby money. Cumshaw? You can bet on it.

The history of valor and remembrance of those valiant Filipino and American men who shed their blood and fought side by side in WWII will fall by the wayside if people don't stand up and preserve the rights of their fallen heroes. The very idea of the unimaginable destruction and honky-tonk desecration of one of our most amazing and historical WWII sites has most of us bleeding and crying within.

Not only are these unimaginable atrocities committed in the name of sports and fun, trampling on hallowed grounds, but also has those memories of the fallen and dear men who lost their lives for the Philippines been snuffed out.

Our two countries shared a devastating journey during WWII.

Our men and women fought and died for a freedom from Japanese atrocities. Do not turn your backs on your country's heroes - do not turn your backs on your fallen countrymen whose souls keep Corregidor alive.

They say to you - We fought, and now we lay in nameless places. They say to you - We were so very young. They say to you - We thank you for your remembrance. May we now rest in peace. Anonymous

If you are just as angry and concerned as we are, please write to the following to express your opinion.

Please write to each name listed below. Remember - each one of us can make a difference.

Col. Art Matibag-Director-
Corregidor Foundation, (CFI):
agmcfi@gmail.com;
Divine Ronquillo - CFI -
dgmronquillo@yahoo.com;
Ms. Kristine Castro - SunCruises
kpcastro@suncruises.com.ph
(Sun Cruises owns the ATVs and
Zip Lines);
Sec'y of the Department of Tourism - Ramon R. Jimenez,
RRJimenezJr@Tourism.gov.ph.

BACEPOW
**Bay Area Civilian Ex-
Prisoners of War.**
**Membership is open to all
former prisoners
of the Japanese, their
families, and friends.**
**There is an active
descendants group.**
www.bacepow.net
**Commander, Angus
Lorenzen**

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards Chairman

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

Keeping Families in the Loop

by Alice A. Booher

We have been featuring a series about a variety of ongoing activities by the Department of Defense (DoD) to locate, identify and return remains to the families of MIA/POW/KIA's. Teams go out in the field to search, helped by many other groups internationally, and once remains are located and collected, new scientific programs assist in identifying those remains. This is an increasingly sophisticated process but often not as precise a science as one might want.

Another aspect to this outreach program involves family members, both providing them with details and obtaining data from them as well. Since there were more than 84,000 Americans missing from WWII, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War and the recent Middle Eastern conflicts, there

Captured/Missing:

US Service member captured while supporting combat operations:

Army Spc. Bowe R. Bergdahi, 27,
June 30, 2009, Afghanistan

**Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013**

16

are myriad families who have now expanded to generations who may never even have met the service relative whose remains are being researched or collected. Even when the missing person may not have been an immediate relative or even well known, the lack of location, identification and an effort to render a final resting place leaves a huge hole in the family. It is not just resolving unanswered questions but (to use a much overused term), offers some "closure" on the episode, an opportunity for the family to more fully heal.

DoD takes this responsibility quite seriously. Accordingly, DoD, via the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) conducts periodic updates and annual government briefings for families of American service members, at which time an attempt is made to share every known current detail.

In 2012, there were serial monthly meetings in Tampa FL; Dallas, TX; Indianapolis IN; Providence, RI; Marshalltown, IA; and San Juan, PR where 645 families were actively briefed on the status of their missing loved one.

Since the program started in 1995, so-far some 17,000 family members have been briefed on a face-to-face basis. In an effort to better facilitate contact with those who are most knowledgeable about the searches, two briefings are also held annually in the Washington, DC area, one for Vietnam Era families and the other for Korean War and Cold War families. Agenda items include civilian

and military specialist briefings on items such as foreign government negotiation, formulation of national policy, remains recovery and identification, DNA science, archival research, and intelligence analysis, none of which is necessarily a "hard science" in the final accounting. The events include formal presentations, Q&A sessions, and one-on-one meetings.

According to DPMO statistics, an average of about 150-200 family members and 30 government officials attend each meeting; 150 monthly meetings have been held since 1995. It is clear from those contacts that many families have become convinced of and may thereafter perpetuate erroneous information from the past.

The one-on-one aspects of the meetings help to clarify the truth as well as bring parties on both sides up to date; remarkably, they may even provide DoD with additional options or clues. Concomitantly, families are encouraged to bring in archival memorabilia, some of which may later be used to track the remains; or they may wish to prepare a display relating to the MIA that is available as well (see photo of Carrie Christie from a January 2013 San Diego "Family Update" meeting showing memorabilia from her uncle Lance Cpl Dennis Christie, USMC, listed MIA then KIA in Vietnam on June 11, 1967).

The ongoing meetings of families as a common constituency also allows those individual families to bond with others in similar circumstances, bringing strength to them and the entire process.





looking for



In 2004, you kindly posted an article in your newsletter from me enquiring for details of some American **WW2 Servicemen who had been briefly held in a wooden shed in Normandy** which now belongs to my friend.

The immediate result of this was that the son of one of these men (Jim Sheppard - M/Sgt Morris Sheppard) contacted me & since then we have not only had a good correspondence, but have also met up in Normandy to take a look at some of the places that his father was held.

As part of my research, I have built a website (www.menintheshed.com) which contains details of the men that were held there during the Normandy fighting as evidenced by their signatures on the inside walls. There were 18 in total...

- 1 RAF pilot (who was American!)
- 2 members of 505th PIR, 82nd Airborne
- 2 members of the USAAF
- 13 British soldiers

Thanks. Colin Foster;

colin@menintheshed.com

June 7-8, 2013. Dept of West Virginia Annual Convention will be held at the Best Western (formerly Holiday Inn) Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact Cmdr. Annette Smith, 621 Front St., Brownsville, PA 15417; 724-785-8536.

Oct. 1-6, 2013. The 30th Annual Mukden Survivors and Descendants reunion will be held in Hamburg, PA. Anyone interested in more information please contact the hosts, Terry and Dawne Clay (Wayne Miller's daughter). Dawne's Email address is dkclay1@comcast.net. Home address is: Dawne and Terry Clay, 751 Garfield Rd, Mohrsville, PA 19541. Home telephone # 610-926-0667.

SEEKING INFORMATION; ATSUGI, JAPAN

We are looking for anyone who might have been a Prisoner to the Japanese during WWII at or near Atsugi, Japan. Atsugi is not listed as a Prisoner of War Camp and today is actually a United States Naval Airbase. We have written the Base commander at Atsugi who investigated the matter and found no one who had knowledge of Atsugi interning American Soldiers or Airman during WWII. Mr. Gross, who was a navigator in the Army Air Corps is adamant that he was a prisoner for 8 months following an emergency landing of his aircraft. If you know of Atsugi, Japan and or remember Jack Gross please contact John Webb, Agent, former POW Coordinator at Big Spring VAMC at johnwebb6693@yahoo.com or phone 325-944-9879.



Dear Mr. Barker:

I am pleased to inform you that by decree of President Hollande on November 9, 2012, you have been appointed a "Chevalier" of the Legion of Honor.

This award testifies to President Hollande's high esteem for your merits and accomplishments. In particular, it is a sign of France's infinite gratitude and appreciation for your personal and precious contribution to the United States' decisive role in the liberation of our country during World War II.

The Legion of Honor was created by Napoleon in 1802 to acknowledge services rendered to France by persons of exceptional merit. The French people will never forget your courage and your devotion to the great cause of freedom.

It is a true pleasure for me to convey to you our sincere and warm congratulations.

In order to determine a date and time when the insignia could be bestowed upon you, please contact Ms. Marie-Laure Reed in our Consulate in Houston. In the meantime, please find enclosed a brief fact sheet, which explains in more detail the award you will receive.

Once again, my heartfelt congratulations.
Sincerely,

Francois Delattre
Ambassadeur de France
aux Etats-Unis





AXPOW Convention 2013
Arlington, Texas
June 26-29, 2013



Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington



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

Attractions:

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



Short Agenda:

<u>JUNE 26</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u> BOARD MEETING
<u>JUNE 27</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u> OPENING CEREMONY MEDSEARCH SEMINAR TOURS
<u>JUNE 28</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u> NSO TRAINING CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER COMMANDER'S RECEPTION
<u>JUNE 29</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u> CONTINUE BUSINESS MEETINGS NEW BOARD MEETING BANQUET

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013
18

AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11/due date May 15, 2013

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

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Ad-
dress: _____

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

Pkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010



AEP Convention 2013
Arlington, Texas
June 26-29, 2013



American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2013

Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

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

**Submit to: Milton M Moore, Jr., Chairman, 2965 Sierra Bermeja, Sierra Vista, AZ 85650
email: skip.m.moore@us.army.mil Phone: (520) 459-7925**

**Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013**



American Ex-Prisoners of War
2013 National Convention
June 26 - June 29, 2013
Arlington Hilton
2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas
(817) 640-3322



Name _____

Spouse (if attending) _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell phone _____

Branch of Service _____

POW Camps _____

Please list any special needs _____

Mode of Transportation _____

Hotel provides free shuttle to/from DFW Airport. To make arrangements, contact the hotel at (817) 640-3322

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

Banquet Meal Selection _____ Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

REGISTRATION (postmarked by June 15) - # of Persons _____ x \$130 = _____

LADIES' LUNCHEON - Number attending _____ x \$25 = _____

COWBOYS STADIUM TOUR - Number attending _____ x \$20 = _____

LATE REGISTRATION (postmarked after June 15)

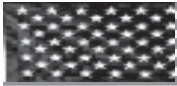
REGISTRATION (late fee) - # of Persons _____ x \$150 = _____

LADIES' LUNCHEON (late fee) - # attending _____ x \$30 = _____

COWBOYS STADIUM TOUR (late fee) # attending _____ x \$25 = _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send registration and payment, made payable to AXPOW, to



Decision 2013 Candidates

For National Commander James L. Lollar



I became a member of the 4th Allied POW Wing at Hoa Lo Prison, the Hanoi Hilton, after my B-52 Bomber was shot down over Hanoi, North Vietnam during Operation Linebacker II. After returning home, I completed a BS Degree in Accounting from Arkansas, was commissioned after OTS, & then completed an MBA in Financial Management from the University of Utah. I further served with the USAF Audit Agency & with HQ Aeronautical Systems Division investigating government contractors on numerous procurement programs. Since our marriage, Debby & I continue to "snow-bird" between our homes in Wills Point, TX & Phoenix, AZ. I am currently serving as National Senior Vice Commander which includes being the Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, Commander-Dept. of Texas, & Commander-Dallas Metroplex Chapter. In the past, I served as National Junior Vice Commander-Central Zone (2 terms) & as National Director-South Central Region (2 terms). I have also served as a member of the Budget & Fi-

nance Committee (2 terms), was Chair of the Ways & Means Committee (2 terms), was a member of the By-Laws & Resolutions Committee (1 term), & was Sergeant-at-Arms (3 terms). I promise to keep this Organization in its present state of greatness & will strive to help make it even greater. Your vote for my election as your next National Commander is & will be greatly appreciated.

For Sr. Vice Commander Milton M. Moore



Skip was born in Ft. Clayton, Panama Canal Zone in Oct. 1947. His father, Milton M. Moore Sr. spent 27 years in the United States Army and was elected as the National Commander of AX-POW in 1989. Skip served as National Sgt at Arms for 6 years. He spent 22 years in the Army and had two tours of duty in Viet Nam, retiring as a SSG (E6) in August of 1989.

Skip's son is stationed at Ft. Hood, Texas, after serving two tours in Iraq.

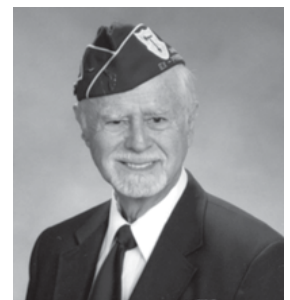
"I am extremely proud of what my son is doing in the military. My family has had a relative in every war the United States has

been involved with since the Civil War."

Currently, Skip serving as Jr. Vice Commander and chairman of the Nominations/Elections committee for AXPOW.

Skip and his wife, Margie, live in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

For Jr. Vice Commander ~ East Edward DeMent



Ed served as FL Dept. Treasurer, JVC, SVC and Commander. He currently is National Director

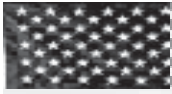
- Southeast Region, and chairman of the Andersonville Committee, acting as AXPOW's liaison with the Andersonville National Historic Site. He also has spent 27 years as a VAVS representative at James Haley Hospital in Tampa.

Ed enlisted in the Air Force in 1942. He served with the 456th BG out of Italy. He was shot down over Yugoslavia and held in Luft 3 (center compound) and 7A.

Ed lives in Tampa, Florida.



**Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013**



For Jr. Vice Commander ~Central Pam Warner Eslinger



I have been your Jr. Vice Commander for the Central Zone for the past year and South Central National Direc-

tor since 2008. My parents are PNC Jack & June Warner. I have been coming to the National Conventions since I was 4 yrs. old, so this is like a second family for me, and I love this organization, and want it to carry on for as long as we can make it work, to keep your legacy going for the young people to learn about.

I am very proud to say 2 of my 3 children are member of this great organization, and are planning on coming with some of my grandchildren for their family vacations, and I would like to encourage others to talk to their family members to do the same, so they can meet NOK their age and see what a great organization this is. We need their help to carry on your organization. Yes, I am a member and I want very much to be your next Jr.Vice Commander for the Central Zone, but this is your organization, I am just someone who loves you and wants it to carry on your legacy.

Thank you for letting me be a part of this GREAT ORGANIZATION!!!

For Jr. Vice Commander ~West Alice Golin



My name is Alice Golin and I have spent 4 years as a Chapter Commander, and three years as De-

partment of California Commander, and also one term as a Southwest Director. I am currently chairman of the Civilian Internee Committee -- fitting because the majority of this special group of POWs live in California. I have been working to make claims filing with the Dept. of Labor an easier process and feel we have made some good headway.

My husband, Mort, was a POW in Luft III and 7A during WWII.

For National Director~ NorthEast Cheryl Cerbone



I first served AX-POW as National Director- North-east from 1994-1999. During that time, I also served as Chairman of the Ways & Means, Public Relations (a position I first held in 1988), Constitution & Bylaws Committees and in 1999 I became Editor of the Ex-POW Bulletin. Currently, I remain your Editor. I also serve as Chair of Ways & Means and Public Relations, and as committee

member of Civilian and Publications Guidelines. I am excited about being part of AXPOW's future...as we transition into more of a legacy organization. I envision working to fund research projects on prisoners of war and ensuring the history of both our organization and the general POW populace. My father was our first Executive Director; he and my mother instilled a strong sense of volunteerism and "paying forward" for all we have. My husband, Michael, and I enjoy living on Cape Cod and spending time with our grandchildren.

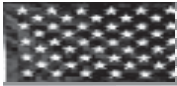
For National Director~ NorthCentral John Clark



John was born and grew up in Columbia, Missouri. He went through Air Force ROTC at the University of Missouri and in 1962, his senior year, he was Cadet Wing Commander. He graduated a Distinguished Military Graduate and received a regular commission in the US Air Force.

After more than 80 combat missions in the RF-4C, the then-Capt Clark was shot down over North Vietnam and captured on March 12, 1967. He was held in Hoa Lo (Hanoi Hilton), Power Plant, Son Tay, and Camp Faith. He was liberated in Hanoi on February 18, 1973. He had spent six years as a POW.

John is a member of the Central Missouri Chapter. He is currently serving as National Director for the North Central Region.



Decision 2013 Candidates

He is additionally chairman of the Convention Site Committee.

John and his wife, Anne, live in Columbia, MO.

For National Director ~ MidCentral Deenie Schmidt

I continue to serve as the secretary, treasurer, and editor of the newsletter of Ohio Chapter #1 in Columbus, Ohio. I've been doing this for more than 10 years.



I have strong feelings about keeping our organization alive and well, and getting and keeping our

next-of-kin members and future members active in the coming years.

I look forward to continuing my presence on the Board of Directors of the American Ex-POWs.

For National Director ~ SouthWest Lew Sleeper

Lew is a WWII veteran of the Army Air Corps. He flew missions out of England with the 8th



AF, then out of Italy with the 15th AF. On his 8th mission, he was shot down over the Ploesti Oil Fields and was a POW for 4 months.

After retirement, Lew has spent his time volunteering. His adventures have led him to the United States Peace Corps, International Executive Service Corps, the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

He was elected to the AXPOW Board of Directors at the Kansas City convention. He currently serves as the voice of the Strategic Planning Committee and the plans for the future of AXPOW.

Lew and his wife, Janice, live in Tucson, AZ.

Bits of Arlington Trivia & Facts

1. The City of Arlington was named after General Robert E. Lee's hometown in Virginia.

2. Arlington, Texas rests squarely on the divide of two distinct geological strata, a vast "grand prairie" called the 'Eagle Ford,' and an oaks-dominated woodland of gently rolling hills called the 'Eastern Cross Timbers.'

3. The 1880 census shows a population of 275 people. Arlington consisted of 8 general merchants, a hotel keeper, a saloon operator and two doctors.

4. In 1960, Arlington's population was 45,000. It is now almost 360,000 and is the 50th largest city in the United States, by population.

5. Before Las Vegas, it was Arlington! Arlington was the largest gambling destination in the country in the '30s and '40s. An illegal casino drawing in guests such as Al Capone, Bonnie & Clyde, Clark Gable and Mae West was operated in Arlington as "Top O' Hill Terrace." It is now Arlington Baptist College. Tours are available by reservation.

6. Horse racing was a favorite pastime at Arlington Downs, which opened in 1929. Even though pari-mutuel wagering wasn't legalized in Texas until 1933, pari-mutuel laws were repealed after the 1937 racing season, so the racetrack was retooled for rodeos and other events until it was razed in 1958. A Texas Historical Landmark marks the site of the old racetrack.

7. Within a 12-month time frame, the City of Arlington hosted NFL Super Bowl XLV, an

NBA All-Star Game, and MLB World Series.

8. Ballpark nachos, now a favorite snack at stadiums around the country, were invented at the Arlington Stadium, former home of the Texas Rangers.

9. The "dot race" also originated at Arlington Stadium! Like the nachos, the dot race spread to other venues around the country, morphing into such races as the Hot Dog Race, the Sausage Race and the Brat Race.

10. Two-foot long and weighing over a pound, Texas Rangers fans at Rangers Ballpark will never go hungry thanks to the \$26 "Boomstick" All-Beef Hot Dog. This massive meal can feed a family of 4!

News Briefs

Heroes Building Heroes with Education

by Alice A. Booher



Some events reflect high honors at every turn, and one such event was the 7th annual Chase Rescorlia Scholarship Dinner on Anastasia Island, FL on 16 March 2013. Constituted via the 501©(3) organization, the scholarship was initiated to honor PFC Leo C. Chase, Jr., and LT Rick Rescorlia, both of whom served in the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam and both of whom died heroes, decades apart. Chase, a smiling, slim African-American Florida son, was killed in action in 1967 at Ia Drang, Vietnam, just 5 days before he was to come home. Rescorlia, who was featured on the cover of the book *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*, was a hero at Ia Drang and elsewhere in combat in Vietnam, and was deeply affected by loss of his men there. He came home to years of service, and in New York City on 9/11, he died when he went back up into the South



Tower for one last time to look for stragglers; he is credited with having saved 2,700 lives by evacuating them that day.

To commemorate and further the example set by these two men, a scholarship was conceived by Sheriff David Shoar and members of American Legion Post #194 to assist underprivileged students with college or professional trade school tuition and books. Funds are raised including at the annual dinner, at which keynoters have included other heroes such as a Medal of Honor winner, survivors of the 1965 Battle of La Drang Valley, and distinguished Generals and other leaders including MG Ronald Bailey.

The 2013 dinner, keynoted by Vietnam POW CAPT Giles R. Norrington, USN (Ret), was appropriately scheduled for the 40th anniversary of his release from



captivity. A former Marine infantryman, Giles retired with 34 years of service as a naval aviator; he was shot down on May 5, 1968 and released March 14, 1973 from the Hanoi Hilton. He had been making his 22nd reconnaissance

flight into North Vietnam territory when communist rebels shot off the right wing of his RA-5C Vigilante. Erupting into a fireball and floating downward before trying to escape, he and his navigator Dick Tangeman, were soon captured and would spend 4 years, 10 months and 9 days as POWs. Giles has spoken and authored any number of articles on ethics and military history; he has spent his post-POW life in service to others including as a spokesman for a number of service organizations in Washington, DC, New London, CT, the Virginia Tidewater and elsewhere. By all accounts, Giles' speech on 16 March was inspiring, motivating and outstanding. At the end, a letter was read from a woman who had been 9 years old in 1971 and wore Giles' POW/MIA bracelet for 2 years; she returned it to him with a letter and photo, all of which they had had framed. Then Peggy Cornacchio was introduced from Salem, MA who had worn Giles' bracelet from 1971-1973; she spoke of it and presented it to him in person. Lots of tears, hugs and love shared by all.



Our ongoing thanks to civilian member of the St. Johns County Veterans Council Michael Rothfeld for details on these efforts which continue to commemorate the contributions of such extraordinary American heroes, with us both in spirit and person.

Photos: Chase-Rescorlia Logo; PGC Chase; Rescorlia Stamp; Capt. Giles Norrington; Giles & Michael Rothfeld

news, continued

President Awards

Posthumous Medal of

Honor to Korean War

Chaplain/POW

American Forces Press Service



President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to an Army chaplain for conspicuous gallantry during the Korean War, White House officials announced.

The ceremony took place April 11th at the White House.

Chaplain (Capt.) Emil J. Kapaun served with the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, during combat operations against an armed enemy at Unsan, Korea, Nov. 1-2, 1950.

When Chinese communist forces viciously attacked friendly elements, Kapaun calmly walked through withering enemy fire to provide comfort and medical aid to his comrades. When they found themselves surrounded by the enemy, the able-bodied men were ordered to evacuate.

Kapaun, fully aware of his certain capture, elected to stay behind with the wounded. As hand-to-hand combat ensued, he continued to make rounds.

As enemy forces approached the American position, Kapaun noticed an injured Chinese officer among the wounded and convinced him to negotiate the safe surrender of the American forces. Shortly after his capture, he pushed aside an enemy soldier preparing to execute a comrade. The chaplain, a Roman Catholic priest, died May 23, 1951, at a prison camp in Pyoktong, Korea. His nephew, Ray Kapaun, and family members were on hand for the ceremony.

Veterans don't have to worry about

sequestration cuts at

VA

Those who rely on the Department of Veterans Affairs for medical care, disability benefits or educational assistance will be spared whatever pain eventually comes from sequestration because the agency is exempt from the automatic budget reductions.

There was initial ambiguity because of two conflicting laws. One passed in 1985 allowed a 2 percent cut to veterans' health care in a sequestration while the other, passed in 2010, exempted the VA from any cuts.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki repeated that assertion in congressional testimony last July.

"VA is exempt from sequestration except for administrative costs," Shinseki said.

While the VA is completely exempt from sequestration, veterans could see some disruptions.

For instance, veterans filing disability claims must get their military and medical records from the Department of Defense, which is facing automatic reductions.

Pentagon officials blamed the sequestration for a decision not to link electronic health records with the VA during a house veterans committee hearing in February.

Distinguished Warfare Medal

Critics of the new Distinguished Warfare Medal have a new objection to the honor: Military officials broke more than 100 years of tradition by creating it without getting support from lawmakers first. Doug Sterner, a military honors expert and archivist for the Hall of Valor awards database, said the Defense Department went against protocol by not consulting with Congress before establishing a new award. Fourteen of the top 16 military medals by order of precedence — including the Medal of Honor, Silver Star and Bronze Star — all received Congressional approval prior to being established. The other 2 medals, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal and Defense Superior Service Medal, were created through a presidential executive order. The new Distinguished Service Medal followed neither of those paths.

On March 12th, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced plans for a 30-day review of the new medal following intense criticism from veterans groups and members of Congress, mostly over its ranking above the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. More than

news, continued

two dozen senators have petitioned the Pentagon to lower the medal in the order of precedence, and 65 representatives have backed legislation to force military leaders to make that change. The new award, announced last month, was created to honor "extraordinary actions" of drone pilots and other troops performing heroic deeds far away from combat zones.

A final decision on the matter is expected by April 12, 2013.

New Directions for the DVA/FPOW Committee

by Alice A. Booher

The Spring 2013 meeting of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Former POW Advisory Committee was held in Washington, DC on March 24-27, 2013. Continuing members include Dr. Tom McNish (VNE); Paul Galanti (VNE); Dr. Charles Stenger (WWII); Earl Derrington (WWII); Robert Fletcher (KC); Rev. Dr. Robert Certain (VNE); Norman Bussel (WWII); and Dr. Rhonda Cornum (Desert Storm). Staff/Consultants include Charles Johnston (DVA/EES); Dr. Larry Lehman (DVA/Mental Health Disaster Response & Post Deployment Activities); Dr. Jeff Moore (Mitchell Center for POW Studies) and Pam Burd, Designated Federal Officer.

Comprehensive briefings featured senior DVA staff, VBA and VHA leadership including BG Allison Hickey, USAF (Ret), Undersecretary of Benefits, VHA; David McLenachen, Dir., Pension & Fiduciary Service (including an extraordinary heads-up on Fast

Letter 13-04 that he sent to all VA Pension Management Center and Veterans Service Center Personnel on March 22, clarifying guidance on processing of DIC claims to ensure timely delivery of benefits to vulnerable survivors who have an immediate need for supplemental income following the death of a veteran; Dr. Robert Petzel, Under Secretary of Health; Dr. Lehman and Mr. Johnston. Committee Member Bob Certain, (who had met with the Secretary to present him with the Military Chaplains Association National Citizenship Award), had his invitation accepted from Secretary Eric Shinseki to personally meet with the committee resulting in a positive exchange and a promise from the Secretary to look into several areas of mutual concern.

Four new committee members were named: William (Bill) Andrews, Col, USAF (Ret), Desert Storm POW, ejected from the F-16 he was piloting near Basra on February 27, 1991. One rescue helicopter was shot down. On March 6, 1991, they were released by the Iraqis. He subsequently served as an F-16 squadron and group commander, as a staff officer for the Joint Staff in Washington, earned a PhD (history) and now teaches at the National Defense and Georgetown Universities.



Thomas J. Hanton, (Lt Col, USAF), MBA, was a Vietnam POW for 275 days after ejection over

the North. He served in the USAF (1967-1993), and then 15 years as a DoD contractor. He serves on a number of boards of military-oriented organizations and volunteers (e.g., Pres. of NamPOWs, Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Assoc., Society of Wild Weasels).

Shoshana Nyree Johnson, Spec., USA (1998-2003) as Quartermaster Corps

Food Service Specialist with the 507th Maintenance Co., 5/52, ADA BN, 11th ADA Brigade, was captured and held 22



days, having been shot in the ankles, injuring both legs, during a gun fight when her convoy was ambushed near Nasiriyah. She has also served as a member of the DVA Secretary's Advisory Comm. on Minority Veterans.

Hal Kushner, M.D., FACS, (COL, USA (Ret), VNE), is a board certified ophthalmologist, practicing in FL. As a POW, he spent 2 years captivity in Hanoi and 3 1/2 years in the jungles of the South Vietnam. He has done surgical missions on every continent and is currently President of the Board of Trustees of the Army Aviation Association Hall of Fame.



The next meeting will be held in the Fall 2013 in Seattle.

Your Stories



A Deeper Level of Hell

ONE MAN'S ORDEAL ON THE
HELLSHIP *NISSYO MARU*

By David Aquila



On the morning of July 17, 1944, U.S. Army private Andrew Aquila, 26, stood in a line of 1,600 American prisoners of war that stretched down Pier 7 of Manila Harbor. It was early, but the men were already sweltering under the rising tropical sun. Sent to Manila from POW camps throughout the Philippines, the prisoners waited to board the 6,527-ton, 420-foot *Nissyo Maru*, a rusting Japanese cargo ship that seemed barely seaworthy.

Shouts from the Japanese guards started the line of men moving forward. Aquila, clad only in tattered, cutoff dungarees, slung the canvas bag with his few possessions over his shoulder. He checked his pocket for the ball of rice he'd been issued, felt his half-full canteen on his belt, and finally patted the small pocket on the inside of his shorts, checking for his high school ring, which he'd managed to keep hidden from the guards. The youngest son of eight children, Aquila had been the first in his family to graduate; his older siblings had all

been forced to quit school and go to work when their father died. The ring was important, a thing of pride, but also a reminder of a place outside the hell he'd lived through since the American surrender on Bataan two years before. Every time he touched it and felt the cold, smooth gold, he knew he'd do all he could to get back home to his Italian neighborhood in Cleveland. He wondered about his family. Had any of his three brothers been drafted? Were they fighting? Were they even alive?

Another round of shouts from the guards snapped him back to reality, and he started up the gangplank. Barbarous treatment from the Japanese, harsh labor details, starvation, and disease had worn down his five-foot-eight frame to just 85 pounds, about half his normal weight. Like the others, he was suffering from dysentery, dengue fever, beriberi, malaria, and malnutrition. Still, Aquila felt lucky to be alive.

He'd already lived through so much. Drafted in 1941, he had arrived in Manila two weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor. A headquarters messenger with B Company of the 192nd Tank Battalion, he had taken part in the heavy fighting on Luzon after the Japanese invaded. He had survived the infamous Bataan Death March that killed thousands, and the nightmare of Camp O'Donnell, his first prison, where grisly conditions and rampant disease killed an average of 300 men each day during the initial months of captivity. Next, at Cabanatuan Prison Camp, he'd become so sick that he'd been sent to what the men called the Zero Ward, a dark hut that housed prisoners the doctors felt had zero chance of living. Aquila had made it, and over time, he had grown accustomed to deeper and deeper levels of a hellish existence that few could imagine. But as he boarded that ship, he didn't know that an even worse hell awaited him.

From the start, the Japanese bolstered their war effort at home by using "liberated" civilian populations and POWs as workers in factories, fields, mines, and mills. Prisoners were invariably given the most difficult and dangerous jobs.

To bring the POWs to Japan, the Japanese used transports that would earn the name "hellships." By 1944 these ships were carrying prisoners in numbers six times greater than what the Japanese had deemed acceptable at the beginning of the war. This practice, called *chomansai*, or super-full capacity, gave each man less than one square yard of space for voyages that lasted up to 70 days. The crowded, disease-ridden conditions, says historian Gavin Daws, were comparable to those on the slave ships of the 18th century.

Adding to the horror was the chance that Allies would sink these ships. Among combatants on both sides, the Japanese alone refused to guarantee the safety of POWs at sea or mark their prisoner transports. Friendly fire accounted for a staggering 93 percent of the POW deaths on these ships, according to Gregory Michno, author of *Death on the Hellships*.

Conservative estimates suggest that, in all, 50,000 Allied POWs boarded hellships during the war. Michno says that 21,000 didn't survive—more deaths than were sustained in combat by the U.S. Marines during the entire Pacific campaign.

On board the *Nissyo Maru*, the guards moved the men toward the rear of the ship and had them remove their shoes and drop their bags through a hatch into hold number three. The men were then directed to a narrow, wooden stairway that led into the dark hold. "I was in one of the first groups to go down," Aquila recalls. "I remember that heat. It just came up at you like a furnace."

As his eyes adjusted, Aquila saw a series of long wooden tiers that lined the forward, starboard, and aft sides of the hold. There were three levels, each about 4 feet high and around 10 feet deep. At the guard's orders, Aquila got into the lowest tier on the forward wall. "They motioned for us to sit in rows with our legs open so that the next guy in front of us could sit in between them, back to chest. They just kept packing us in."

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013

hell, cont'd

The Japanese seemed intent on cramming in all 1,600 prisoners. To make more room, the guards had the prisoners put the baggage into another hold directly below. Though the tiers were soon filled, the guards kept shoving in more men. Those who could move their arms twirled their shirts above their heads to stir the air. "It's too hot in here!" men shouted. "I can't breathe!" More men kept coming. The heat grew more oppressive. On deck the guards shouted and beat anyone who refused to go into the hold. Fights broke out as men vied for space and struggled to breathe.

Soon, the pressure of bodies pinned each man's arms to his sides. "Movement occurred only in mass waves, like jelly in slow motion," remembered another survivor, Preston Hubbard. Men fainted; some fell and got trampled. The men lifted some of the unconscious above the crowd and passed them hand over hand back up the stairs and onto the deck. Panic set in. Prayers mixed with curses and screams echoed off the steel walls of the hold. Those with water quickly drank it or risked having their canteens stolen. The desperate began to drink their own urine.

The guards kept screaming, pressing in more men. They shoved and clubbed those near them, kicking back to consciousness those who'd been passed up to the deck. "There was so much panic and noise. Men were losing their minds," says Aquila. "I felt trapped, but I couldn't do anything. It was getting hotter and I was having a lot of trouble breathing. I knew that if I let myself go, I would have passed out. So I just tried to hang on and stay as calm as I could. Then I started to pray. That helped me. I did a lot of praying."

Finally, hold number two, just forward of the bridge, was opened. Some 900 of the men were ordered there, leaving roughly 700 in number three, a space that would have comfortably held no more than a hundred. No one knows how many prisoners died that

first morning, but the hell of the voyage had only just started.

Around 9 p.m., the Japanese lowered a few large wooden buckets of steamed rice into the hold. There was no organized system of distribution yet, so men too weak to move did not eat. Many who did get some rice found their mouths were too dry to swallow.

"That first night was pretty rough," Aquila remembers. "We hadn't had any water and we were all in bad shape. A lot of men were screaming and moaning. Most of us had dysentery but there was nowhere for us to go. People just went where they were. No one slept that night, so I just kept praying and hoped for the best."

The *Nissyo Maru* left the dock the next morning and anchored farther out in Manila Bay. It would wait there a week for the other elements of Convoy HI 68, which had left Singapore on July 14. Once assembled in Manila, the group was to head to Formosa, then Japan.

Some 30 hours after the men boarded, they were given their first water ration. Throughout their voyage, each man was issued no more than a pint a day, despite temperatures in the hold that topped 120 degrees. "If the hatch was open," Aquila says, "we would stand under it when it rained and try to catch some of the drops in our mouths or in our canteen cups. Other guys were so thirsty they kept drinking urine. I felt bad for them. But that thirst was always there, and it made us all a little crazy." Some used pieces of their clothing to soak up condensation on the rusty, metal hull, wringing this foul liquid into their mouths. One man went berserk, ripped open another's throat, and drank his blood. When water was sent down, the guards laughed at the mad scramble of the prisoners.

Eventually, the Japanese lowered into the hold wooden buckets to use as latrines. They also set up on deck a benjo—a small, wooden outhouse built over the side of the ship. "But we were all so sick with dysentery and we couldn't control it," Aquila remembers. The buckets were always overflowing and spilling. "It was filthy and we just had to live in it." The

stench in the hold was overwhelming, especially when the hatch was closed. Aquila tried to stay positive. He knew this would help him make it through yet another level of hell. He and the POWs on board were, above all, survivors. Their years of captivity had taught them how to adapt and live with horror. Those who couldn't were already dead.

During the week in Manila Bay, the men tried to establish some sort of routine. "Most of the day was spent waiting in line," Aquila remembers. "We'd wait in line twice a day when food and water were distributed. Then we'd wait hours for the *benjo*. We'd go up, then come down, and get right back in line because we knew we'd have to go again in a little while."

A few men foraged for food in the bags stowed in the lower hold. When someone found one belonging to a Catholic priest, some prisoners ate communion wafers with their rice that evening.

On July 24, other elements of Convoy HI 68 arrived in Manila Bay. There were 21 ships in all—four transports, six tankers, two landing ships, a sea-plane tender, and seven escorts. The convoy headed north, toward Formosa, and a new danger.

At dawn on July 25, the USS *Angler*, one of three submarines patrolling the South China Sea, spotted the convoy and flashed word to its sister subs the USS *Crevalle* and the USS *Flasher*. The three were known as Whitaker's Wolves, after Lieutenant Commander Reuben Whitaker, skipper of the *Flasher*.

At 12:22 p.m., the *Crevalle* went to battle stations, submerged, and fired four of its stern tube torpedoes at the two largest freighters on the port side of the convoy, the *Aki* and *Tosan Maru*. All four missed. The Japanese, now aware of the enemy, began dropping depth charges.

After dark, the USS *Flasher* surfaced and regained contact with the convoy. A little after 2 the next morning, the *Flasher* radioed the other two subs that it was beginning the attack. Still surfaced, it fired six torpedoes at the same two freighters the *Crevalle* had missed.

Ex- POW Bulletin

May/June 2013

28

hell, cont'd



The watch on the *Aki Maru* saw the trails approaching. The ship turned hard to port, only to be hit in the bow. Twelve men were killed in the explosion. Right behind it, the *Tosan Maru* was hit twice. The ship started to drift, and fires broke out on board.

The shrieking whistle of the ship's alarm woke the men in the holds of the *Nissyo Maru*. "It was pitch black," Aquila says, "but we could all feel the ship vibrating as it picked up speed and then began to move in a zigzag. Men began shouting, 'What's going on?'"

Aquila heard the Japanese ship drop depth charges, followed by the deep thuds when they exploded. Then some of the navy men started to shout, "Torpedoes! Torpedoes are in the water! They're going under the ship!"

"Men started to really panic," Aquila says. Two of the *Flasher's* torpedoes missed their targets on the convoy's port side but hit the tanker *Otoriyama Maru*, which was in the middle of the column.

"All of a sudden we heard this big explosion," Aquila says, "and the ship rocked. We saw a wall of flames come over the top of the hatch, and our hold just lit up like daytime."

The *Otoriyama's* cargo of gasoline had exploded; the ship went down in minutes. Men on the *Nissyo Maru* remember hearing a boiling hiss as the burning metal of the hull slipped under the sea. Unexpectedly, the bright light from the explosion outlined the USS *Flasher*, and the submarine was forced to dive as the Japanese escorts fired frantically on its position.

The attack continued, along with the

panic in both holds. The men in the third hold ran for the staircase, pushing and screaming, "Get me out of here!"

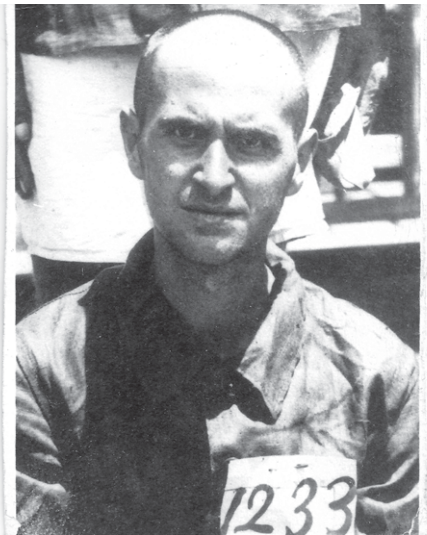
"I've never seen so much horror," Aquila says. "I remember fingering my ring and just closing my eyes. I was so scared at that point that I felt numb. It was almost like I was hovering over everything and watching the whole thing from above. We were expecting to be hit any second." As the panic increased, guards at the hatches to both holds pointed machine guns down and warned that they would open fire. Just as the guards looked as though they would shoot, one of the chaplains, Father John Curran, worked his way onto the staircase. "Now there's nothing we can do about this, men," he said. "So let's go ahead and start praying."

"His voice was so sure, and it calmed everyone down right away," Aquila remembers. "Then he led us in prayer for the rest of the attack."

Whitaker's Wolves eventually sank two freighters, the *Aki Maru* and *Tosan Maru*, in addition to the tanker *Otoriyama Maru*. They also severely damaged the tender *Kiyokawa Maru*. About 30 hours after first firing on the convoy, the submarines disengaged, their cache of torpedoes nearly spent. The American sailors on board those three subs had no idea how close they had come to killing 1,600 of their countrymen.

The *Nissyo Maru* put into dock at Takao, Formosa, at 1 p.m. on July 27, ten days after the American prisoners boarded. A large cargo of sugar was loaded into the lower hold below hold two. The convoy was reorganized, and the transport and a dozen other ships went on to Japan. Finally, at 4 p.m. on August 3, after an uneventful but choppy week at sea, Convoy HI 68 arrived at the port of Moji on the Japanese island of Kyushu. "We came up on deck and I'll tell you, it felt so good when that fresh air hit us," Aquila remembers. "I just kept breathing it in as deeply as I could. We were all filthy and we were sick but we were alive. I remember thinking, 'I made it again. I'm still alive, thank God. I made it again.'"

The ordeal of the men aboard the hellship *Nissyo Maru* was finally over;



official records put the death toll of prisoners at 12. After disembarking, Aquila and the other men in hold three were sprayed with DDT, put onto trolleys, then transported to Fukuoka Prison Camp 3, where they went to work in the Yawata steel mills. The men in hold two were sent to different POW camps throughout Kyushu. Aquila endured another 13 months of brutal captivity before Japan surrendered and U.S. forces landed on Kyushu. His work days began at dawn, and he and the other Americans spent long hours shoveling iron ore, hauling bricks, and cleaning hot furnaces. At their prison camp, the guards beat them severely, particularly after American air raids. Men who fought back were killed.

Sixty-seven years later, time has smoothed the sharpness of Aquila's memories from his years as a POW. But those 18 days of horror aboard the *Nissyo Maru* won't fade away easily. "That ship was the worst of it," says Aquila, now 93, while fingering the high school ring he still wears. "But you know, I made it. And I almost feel like the rest of my life has been a bonus for me, a gift. Just like frosting on the cake."

Andrew Aquila passed away 11/28/2011.

Autumn 2011 issue of *Military History Quarterly Magazine* <http://www.historynet.com/a-deeper-level-of-hell.htm#comments>

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013

Frenchy and A Lifetime Devotion to Special Ops

by Alice A. Booher



Born in 1923 about 100 miles north of Bordeaux, her name was Rolande Colas de la Nouye (Fournet) Amundson, but everyone knew her as Frenchy. She left home to attend college in Paris, studying to be a doctor. Three months before graduation in 1943, dreams were dashed when the Germans closed the school. She told her family she was living in Paris, and told the authorities she was living in Bordeaux, and did neither but sought out the Free French to become a part of the French Resistance and liaised with the OSS. She trained with the Free French Regiment of Chasseur Parachutists in the Special Air Service of the French Army. Moving to England to train with the British Special Operations Executive, the spy school graduate became a paratrooper with several successful jumps behind enemy lines to retrieve information for the Brits before being captured by German forces on attempting to land near Cherbourg. Her capture and torture by the Gestapo is delineated within the Green Beret Foundation and other special ops histories. Sent to the concentration camp at Mauthausen for 11 months and repeatedly raped and sodomized, she later recalled having to sprinkle lime on the bodies of dead Jews and working the rock

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013
30

quarry. At 89 pounds, wearing her only clothing, long underwear covered by a workman's smock, she was liberated by the American 65th Infantry Division on 1 May 1945.

She embarked on night school to be a nurse and worked as liaison officer with a French army-mess section in Paris, where she met and married army flyer Robert Fournet. They transferred to Saigon in 1947 where he flew against the communist guerrilla forces and Frenchy worked at and drove an ambulance for the government hospital in Cholon. The joyousness of their marriage was short-lived; their house was firebombed, and she lost the baby she was then carrying. The following week her husband was killed. Devastated, and urged to come home from French Indochina by friends in Paris, she took a job at the American Embassy. Serving as translator for General Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1951 at Camp des Loges, impressed by her wit and skills, Ike said that when she decided to come to the states, she should tell him.

In December 1954, she met and quietly married Eugene Amundson, then an army master sergeant stationed in Verdun. They moved to the U.S. in 1957, and she became a U.S. citizen the following year. While stationed at Ft. Gordon, GA, she began a 4 years personal battle with cancer and surgery. In 1960, after being admitted to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Ike paid her a visit, causing quite a stir. Amundson, an expert electronics technician in the Signal Corps, served in Panama, Thailand, Guam and Okinawa; with her health some-



what restored, Frenchy was close beside him.

Frenchy's exploits during wartime had already become legendary when she casually met some members of the U.S. Special Forces. They became firm pals; she received the honorary Green Beret by the 123th SPG (A) in 1977; and was inducted into the California State Military Reserve with the rank of LtCol. Thus began her "volunteering" career, working regularly as a docent at Camp Roberts Historical Museum, CA, near where she and her spouse lived and where her husband worked at a communications station. Volunteering evolved into philanthropy, with significant donations to the Special Forces and Special Operations Associations. French developed an extraordinary and captivating facility as a speaker; as a close buddy of comedienne Martha Raye they accompanied each other to international gigs for service members.

Frenchy's husband Eugene Amundson died in 1980 and her Green Beret friends escorted his remains to burial.



When she experienced a series of myocardial infarctions, cancer and two heart operations, her Special Ops friends rallied to donate huge amounts of blood. When Frenchy died in 7 October 1997, she received full military honors at Paso Robles District Cemetery, San Luis Obispo County, CA, and posthumous honorary promotion to Colonel. Since she had jumped behind enemy lines, she was also accorded the coveted Red Beret of the US paratroopers. A permanent exhibit has been set up about her at the Camp Roberts Museum so others never forget a life well and generously spent on behalf of both of her countries, her fellow POWs and the special ops folks with whom she worked and was one, and who had freed them.

contributions



**Please send donations to:
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Arlington, TX 76010.**

**Checks must be made payable to
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by Friends of Frank Vallese, at
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In memory of Lt Col R W
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In memory of my best friend,
Ilava Griffin, by Suzanne Kidd
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In memory of PNC Alfred 'Joe'
and Charlotte Galloway, by PNC
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Mavis Storandt
In memory of SFC Myron G Dick,
by Ethel Dick
In memory of Steve Swidarski, by
Lena Swidarski
In memory of Thomas Motosko,
by his family
In memory of those who died in
the 106 Inf Div, 423 Reg hq Co in
the Battle of the Bulge, Stalag 9B,
by George Marcum
In memory of Walter Martin, by
Marguerite Martin
In memory of W i l s o n
Edwards, by Barbara Edwards

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by Mrs. Loretta Przybysz
In memory of Ilava Griffin, by
Arlene Stripling and Family

See you in Arlington
June 26-29

**Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013**

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

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

It's very simple to make a bequest to the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Simply share this sentence with your attorney or financial planner and they can add the following to your will or living trust: "I give, devise and bequeath to the American Ex-Prisoners of War, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010, the sum of \$_____ or _____percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

new members

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Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979
Marsha.Coke@axpow.org



New Members "Welcome Home"



Harold B Kincaid
Kieran F Kincaid
Katy TX
Son of
Woodrow Thomas
Kincaid



Certificate of Captivity

Prisoner of War Certificate of Captivity

Name
Serial Number
Branch of Service
Unit when captured
Prisoner of War #
Camp names & locations

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013
32

American Ex-Prisoners of War
Arlington, Texas

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. You may include a picture with your order.



taps



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

BOWLING, Clayton E., of West Salem, OH died March 23, 2012. He was 91. She was captured while serving in the Army during WWII; he was a POW at Stalag 9B, Bad Orb. Clayton was a member of the Northeast Ohio Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Leoma, 3 sons, 2 daughters and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CARTER, Harold Bell, 91, of Columbia, MO passed away on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2013. A Navy veteran of World War II, he was captured on Corregidor and spent 39 months as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese. In 2005, he was the sole survivor to accept the Chinese government's invitation to return to Shenyang (Mukden) to commemorate the establishment of a museum on the site of the Hoten Prison Camp. He was preceded in death by his wives, Alberta and Faye.

CORBIN, Robert L., of Dayton, Ohio, died February 22, 2013. He served in WWII with the 84th Inf. Div., Battery A of the 909th. He was held in Oflag 64, 138 and 118. He is survived by his wife Edith and 2 daughters.

CRAWFORD, George, passed away Oct. 31, 2012. He served with the 15th Air Force, 456th BG. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft III. He was a member of the San Diego POW Chapter. He is survived by wife, Esther.

FILKORN, Ruth A., 82, of Warren, OH died Feb. 15, 2013. She was an avid Cleveland Indians fan and enjoyed cooking and gardening. She and her husband of 56 years, ex-POW Harry, were members of AXPOW. She also leaves 4 children, 1 brother, 2 sisters and 4 grandchildren.

FLETCHER, Mary Jo, of Lynchburg, TN died March 10, 2013. She and her late husband, ex-POW Benjamin, were members of the Alvin C York Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 2 sons,

1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

FREY, Frederick J., 92, of Montgomery, AL died Nov. 22, 2012. He was serving with the AAC when he was shot down on the Munster raid. He spent 18 months as a POW at Stalag Luft III and Stalag VIIA, Moosberg where he was liberated on 25 April 1945. He was a past State Commander, Dept of Alabama and a past Commander of the Montgomery, AL chapter of AXPOW. Fred leaves his wife of 66 years, Helen Claire, 4 daughters and 4 grandchildren.

FRUMAN, Norman passed away April 14, 2012. He was a member of the Oceanside Group of the San Diego POW Chapter. He is survived by his wife Doris. He was with the 42nd Division and a POW in OFLAG 13.

GAUTHIER, Earl, of Castro Valley, CA died in Feb. 2013. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 92nd BG, 325th BS; he was shot down, captured and held in Luft 4. Earl is survived by his loving family - 2 daughters, 1 grandson and 1 great-granddaughter.

GRAZIANO, Anthony, of Harleysville, PA died Oct. 10, 2012. He was captured while serving with the 3rd Div, fighting in France and Germany. He was held in Heppenheim, Germany until liberation. Tony was a member of the Charlottesville, VA Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Mary, 4 sons and 6 grandchildren.

GRIFFIN, Ilava Shafer of Houston, TX died March 22, 2013. She and her late husband, Pacific ex-POW HC, were active members of AXPOW and familiar sights at the National Conventions. She was a life member of the TX Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter and 3 great-grandchildren. She'll be missed by her many friends.

GRIFFIN, Thomas, of Cincinnati, OH, one of the last surviving Doolittle's Raiders, passed away in Ft. Thomas, KY on Feb. 26, 2013. He was 96. He was among 80 volunteers for the April 18, 1942 mission. The bombing run by land-based planes was credited with lifting American morale and shaking Japan in Pearl Harbor's aftermath. He parachuted over China and eluded capture, eventually returning to bombing runs from North Africa. He was shot down in 1943 and spent nearly 2 years in a German POW camp. He is survived by 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

GUST, Mary, widow of ex-POW George, of Northlake, IL passed away recently. She was chaplain of the Fox River Valley Chapter for many years.

HENRY, Edgar Norman, 92, of Dunbar, WV died Feb. 27, 2013. He served in the Army during WWII; he was a prisoner of war for 27 months in Germany. Edgar was a member of the Barbed Wire Chapter, AXPOW. He was a founding member and National Service Officer of the Kanawha Chapter. His wife, Colleen, predeceased him; he leaves 2 daughters, 2 sons, 9 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

JONES, John Patrick, 90, of Kansas City, KS passed away November 7, 2012. He was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Heart of America Chapter. He was a WWII veteran of the US Army. As part of the Normandy Invasion, he was wounded and taken prisoner by Germany; he was liberated after 1 year. Surviving him is his wife of 63 years, Rose, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

JONES, William Ancil, of Cincinnati,

taps continued...

OH died Dec. 14, 2012 at the age of 84. During the Korean War he served in the Army; he was a POW for 2 ½ years. His loving wife of 59 years, Vivian, survives him; he also leaves 3 sons, 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

KALINOWSKI, Stephen Jr., 90, of West Boylston, died October 2, 2012. During WWII, he served with the 110th Inf., 28th Div, Co G. USA. He was a POW in 2A, 6G, 11B. Steve was active in the Dept. of Massachusetts and the Central Mass. Chapter, AXPOW. He was responsible for spearheading the effort for a POW monument in Worcester and the Boylston overpass naming. He leaves 1 son, 3 brothers, 2 sisters and their families.

KATSARELIS, Peter Anthony, 92, of Triangle, VA passed away Jan. 27, 2013. Pete served in the AAC during WWII. He was shot down during the Schweinfurt mission, captured and held in Stalag 17B for 22 months. Survivors include his wife of 52 years, Helen, 1 son, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

KELLOGG, John F. died May 18, 2012 at the age of 94. He is survived by his wife Bea. He was a Pilot with the 96th BS, 2nd BG. He was in Stalag Luft III, and was a San Diego POW Chapter member.

KOCH, Donald, 92, of Lake Havasu City, AZ passed away Jan. 20, 2013. He was captured flying over France while serving with the 428th FS, 474th FG. After capture he was held in Luft 1, Barth. He is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Marion, 2 daughters and 2 sons.

KRAMER, ELIZABETH, age 93, of Jefferson City, MO died Sunday, February 10, 2013. She was married on May 20, 1947, in Jefferson City, to Cletus Joseph "Clete" Kramer, who preceded her in death on July 3, 2005. Survivors include three sons, one daughter, seven grandsons, one

granddaughter, one great-grandson, and one great-granddaughter.

LAJZER, Joseph D., of San Antonio, TX passed away March 16, 2013. He was captured on Bataan at the start of WWII; endured the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of imprisonment by the Japanese. He leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

LAUDNER, Del, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW died Jan. 23, 2013. He was 88. Del was a Tail Gunner on a B-24 in the 15th Air Force, 348th BS. He was shot down, held in prison in Vienna, then later sent to Luft 4. **LAUDNER, Mary**, wife of Del, passed away Nov. 24, 2012.

LERNER, Irving, of Worcester, MA, died, Feb. 23, 2013. He was 91. His wife of many years, Ruth (Goldman) Lerner died in 2008. He leaves 1 daughter, and 2 grandchildren. He was in The Airforce during World War II and was held as a prisoner of war. He was active in prisoner of war veterans organizations. For many years he worked for Senac Corp. and for many years he owned Lumar Co., distributors of household goods.

MARX, Isaac Sackman, 92, passed away in Monroe, LA March 26, 2013. He served in WWII with the AAC as a pilot. He was shot down and held as a prisoner of war for 8 months. Sack was a devoted husband to his wife of 64 years, Carol. She predeceased him. He leaves 2 daughters and 1 son, 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

MATTHEWS, W.F. "Hook", of San Angelo, TX, died February 26, 2013. "Hook" was part of the 131st Field Artillery, famously known as the "Lost Battalion". He was held in Java, and worked as slave labor for the Japanese war machine. He worked on the infamous "Death Railway" in Burma and Thailand. AXPOW life members since 1978, he is survived by his wife of 66 years, Gladys.

MONTELEONE, Joseph J., 92, of Holt, MO, passed away February 15, 2013. He served as a Staff Sergeant in the Army Air Force during WWII in the 242nd Bomb Squadron, 97th Bomb

Group. He was taken captive as a POW in Poland. Survivors are his wife, Phyllis, 9 children, 19 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

MORAN, Harold R., of Waldwick, NJ died Feb. 24, 2013 at the age of 89. He was captured while serving with Co F., 180th Inf., 45th Div. He was wounded at Montecasino, Italy, captured and held at Stalag 2A. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Veronica, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

MORARA, Adolph, of Lake Village, Arkansas, died December 26, 2012. "Red" served in the 15th AF, 456th BG, 757th BS. He is survived by his wife, Gloria. Both were AXPOW life members.

MOTOSKO, Thomas Peter, 93, of Fort Lauderdale, FL passed away Feb. 20, 2013. He was drafted into the Army and assigned to HQ Staff, 192nd Tank Bn in the Philippines. He was captured on Bataan, survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of imprisonment. Tom was predeceased by his wife of 40 years, Mary; he leaves 5 children and their spouses, 3 grandchildren and numerous extended family.

OBERLIN, Richard D., of West Unity, OH died Dec. 31, 2012. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 381st BG, 534th BS. He was shot down over France, captured and held in Luft 4, then marched across Germany. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth.

OSTROWSKI, James passed away August 5, 2012. He was with Co. A. 422nd Regiment, 106th Division. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held at Stalags 12A, 4B & 8A.

OSWEILER, Mark A., 97, served in the 80th Infantry Division of General Patton's Third Army. He was wounded and captured, then held prisoner in Stalag 17B. He participated in the 190-mile forced march to Braunau, Austria. Mark was liberated by American forces in May, 1945. He died in Auburn, California on May 15, 2012, and was preceded in death by his wife Anna Mae. He is

taps continued...

survived by two sons and two daughters.

PALMER, Harold G., of Sycamore, IL and member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW, passed away recently. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 770th (H) BS, 445th BG. After capture, he was held in Lufts 6, 4, 7A. He leaves his wife Betty Jane.

PATTERSON, Joseph F. "Bud" 92, of Sun City Center, FL passed away on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013. Bud was a World War II U.S. Army Air Corp Veteran and a POW. He was a member and past commander of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the American ex-POWs, and past State Commander as well. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Veronica, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

PEARCE, Charles W. passed away Sept 27, 2010. He was captured in Holland while serving with Company I, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. He was held 7 months.

PECK, Robert B., of Mechanicsburg, PA died Feb. 2, 2013. He was 87. He served in the 106th Inf. Div during WWII; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Bob was a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. His beloved wife of 64 years, Jean, predeceased him; he leaves 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 granddaughters, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

PFLUGHAUPT, Leander, of Houston, TX passed away February 14, 2013 at the age of 90. He was a life member of AXPOW, Department of Texas AXPOW, and the Texas Gulf Coast Chapter. He served with the 7th Armored Division, 23rd Battalion, Company B, in Europe during WWII. He was captured December 22, 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge, held in Stalag II-A near the Baltic Sea, and liberated by the Russians on May 5, 1945. He is survived by his wife Josephine, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

REESE, Robert J., of Lakeland, FL died Sept. 9, 2012. He was 90. He was shot down and captured while serving with the 405th FG, flying out of England. He remained in several POW camps until liberation. Bob was commander of the Lakeland Imperial Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 67 years, Vie, 1 son, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

RENO, William E, JR., 93, of Leawood, KS passed away Dec. 17, 2012. Bill, Dad or Gramps, as he was known to friends and family, now joins his wife, Emmy, who preceded him over 3 years ago.

RICHARDS, Elizabeth (Betty), 90, of Charles City, IA passed away March 2, 2013. She was a life member of the Northeast Iowa Chapter, AXPOW. She was the wife of Clinton W. Richards, a former WWII bomber pilot and POW in Stalag Luft III. He credits her with saving his life when he returned home from the war. She is survived by her husband, 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren, and a great great-grandson.

RITCHIE, Allen, (Ken) of Encinitas, CA passed away June 14, 2012. He was 87. During WWII, he was a member of the 101st Airborne, 907th Field Artillery, and was a POW in Moosburg's Stalag 7A.

ROGERS, John L. Jr. died Jan. 9, 2013. He served with K Co. 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. He was taken prisoner on Corregidor and spent time in Bilibid, Cabanatuan & Futsal City, Japan. He was a member of the Oceanside group of the San Diego Chapter. John is survived by wife Josephine.

ROSHOLT, Norman T., of Decorah, IA passed away Oct. 28, 2012 at the age of 88. He served in WWII with the 452nd BG, flying out of England. He was shot down and captured on the Holland-Germany border and held in Luft1, Barth until liberation. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Darlene, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

ROTH, Harold (Hal) died March 5, 2013. He was a radioman serving with the 26th Battalion Headquarters Company of the "Big Red One," the 1st Infantry Division, during WWII. Hal came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, with the second wave. He was captured when his unit was ambushed in the town of LaVal, France. Following his eventual capture in this engagement, Hal would spend time in Stalags 7-A, 12-A, and 17-A. Following the war, He was Florida State Commander before moving to Missouri where he became a driver behind the Missouri POW/MIA Museum. He is survived by his wife Shirley and other family members.

SAMPSON, George C., West Bridgewater, MA died March 5, 2013 at the age of 98. He was a WWII Army veteran in the ETO with the 106th Division, Co. E, 422nd Infantry, captured in the massive Ardennes breakthrough and held as a POW at Stalags IVB and IVA. He was a member of Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter. He is survived by one daughter, three sons, eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

SANDERS, Mildred Frances, 94, of Rockledge, FL passed away Feb. 17, 2013. Millie was a secretary at the Pentagon in DC at the beginning of the war. She was married to ex-POW Al (486th BG, 832nd BS). Survivors include 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

SCHWAB, Albert of Coronado Island, CA passed away June 1, 2012. He was 92. During WWII, he served with the Navy Medical Service Corp. He was taken prisoner in Osaka, Japan and held until liberation. He was a member of the SD POW Chapter. He is survived by wife Maggie.

SQUIRES, Gordon L., of Elkhart, IN died Feb. 29, 2012 at the age of 86. He served in the Army during WWII with the 95th Div., 379th Reg. After capture, he was held in Stalags 12A and 2A. Gordon was past Com-

taps, continued

mander of the Dept. of Indiana and the Michiana Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Nathene, 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

STONE, James L, 89, of Arlington, TX passed away Nov. 9, 2012. As an Army platoon leader on a desolate hilltop facing overwhelming Chinese forces during the Korean War, he rallied his men, then stayed behind to cover their retreat despite being wounded three times - actions for which he earned the Medal of Honor. He was captured and spent 20 months in a POW camp on the Yalu River. He leaves his wife, Mary Lou, 2 sons, 1 stepdaughter and 3 grandchildren.

STORANDT, Robert, 88, of Cata-ract, Sparta, WI died Feb. 12, 2013. He served with the 8th AF during WWII; he was shot down, captured and held prisoner in Stalag 17B for 13 months. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mavis, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. He was a life member of AXPOW.

TUHOSKI, Stanley, of Ft. Collins, CO passed away March 2, 2013. He was 87. During WWII, he served with the

106th Inf. Div., Co E., 423rd Reg. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Stan was a member of the Northeast Colorado Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 1 daughter, 1 son and 6 grandchildren.

UNREIN, Anthony F. Jr., of Littleton, CO died March 23, 2013. He was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 94th Div., 301st Inf., Co B. He was held in 12A, 13B and 13A. Survivors include 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

WALKER, Anne M., age 86 of Panama City, Florida, died January 22, 2013. She was preceded in death by first husband, Dick Hutchison, who was a former prisoner of the Japanese during World War II and in whose memory the Hutchison-Poplawski Chapter, AXPOW, of Panama City was named. Anne was the Chapter's first Commander and served as Adjutant/Secretary for many years. Survivors include her husband, Joseph Walker, daughter, Janis Green (Gene), son, Emory Hutchison (Angela), nine grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

WATSON, Roosevelt, of Berkeley, CA passed away April 8, 2011 at the

age of 91. Serving in the Army Air Corps, he was captured on Bataan, survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years captivity in the Philippines and Japan. He leaves his beloved wife, Winnie, 1 brother, 1 sister, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

WELLS, FRANCIS L. 84, of Poplar Bluff, MO died April 13, 2007. Survivors include his wife, Margie.

WIMMER, JACQUELINE, widow of William Wimmer, passed away September 7, 2012.

WOPATA, EUGENE, 87, of Independence, MO, passed away February 25, 2013. In March of 1944, he joined the Army. After basic training, he joined the 42nd Rainbow Division. On Thanksgiving Day 1944, he boarded the US Black in New York Harbor. He landed in Southern France and went into combat near Strasbourg. During the Battle of the Bulge, he was wounded and captured on January 6, 1945, near Gambsheim, France. Gene was taken to Stalag IVB near Muhlberg, Germany, liberated by the Russians on April 23, and escaped and returned to American lines on May 9, 1945. He was preceded in death by his wife.

chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

An Aspect of the Christian Life

If you ask any Christian, "How are you saved?" He or she is likely to

Ex- POW Bulletin
May/June 2013
36

quote Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace through faith are ye saved..." And if asked about "works" many Christians will quote verse 10 which says "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works."

Simply put once we are in a relationship with Christ we will do "good works" because Christ expects this of us. In 1 Timothy 5:8 we find that one of those good works is the care of our families. The scripture reads "But if any provide not for his own and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith; and is worse than an infidel."

So, now you are asking, "Benny what are you talking about?" First, let me say, that I believe most of our members are Christians because the Prisoner of War had no one else to depend on but God. Sometimes, good Christian people will overlook an

item in the care of their spouses and families by not providing for them the necessary forms and other information needed for their spouses to receive Dependent Indemnity Compensation also known as D.I.C. Further, this information needs to be in their hands or in a place known to them so that when our veteran member goes to his/her Heavenly reward our spouses will be "provided" an income that has been known in some instances to make the difference between living in poverty or being able to enjoy life.

Caring for our spouses in a "Christian work" that should not be neglected.



Benny

The Last Angel: Mildred Dalton Manning

by Alice A. Booher



There are angels in nearly every theology, specific versions like Gabriel and generic types like Seraphim. But perhaps the most beloved Angels are those Army and Navy women, captured in the Pacific theater in WWII, named by their fellow prisoners as the "Angels of Bataan and Corregidor". They started out as nearly 100 strong; as of March 8, 2013, there are none.

Mildred Jeannette (known as Millie) Dalton was the only daughter of Jesse B. Dalton and Flossie Bernice Dooly, born July 11, 1914 on a farm near Winder, Barrow County, GA. She lived with grandparents in Jefferson before graduating in 1932 from The Marin Institute. At age 16, she won an essay contest sponsored by a newspaper columnist; the prize was a trip to the mountains of NC. The columnist loaned her money, which she paid back, to study at Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Atlanta, GA. She served for 2 years as head surgical nurse and then at Forts McPherson and Benning. Her goal was to see the world, but as Millie told *The Courier News* of Bridgewater, NJ, "what I saw was a prison camp".

Joining the Army in September 1939, she arrived in the Philippines six

weeks before Pearl Harbor. She recalled she was in a store to be measured for riding boots when she heard and by the time she got back to Clark Field, it

too was being bombed. Casualties mounted; the nurses were sent to Bataan to set up 4 hospitals (per fellow POW Josie Nesbit's report, Manning was evacuated from Manila from Sternberg to Ft. Mills Corregidor). A 2nd LT when captured (1st LT when released), she spent May 1942 to February 1945 in Santo Tomas; 5'6" tall, 130 pounds at capture, she lost 15 as a POW. She rarely discussed the horrors of captivity but made exceptions for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 2001 and *Jacksonville Times* in 2004, saying that she feared crowds and dark places after the tunnels of Corregidor, and built extra shelves in her home to store staples for fear of running out of food, (hording her son remembered in *The Quan* in January-February 2002). Millie saved the two vials of morphine given the Angels by the chief nurse to commit suicide if their treatment became unbearable.

Millie returned CONUS suffering the residuals of beriberi, dengue fever and malnutrition, and soon lost all of her teeth. She was delegated to speak at war bond drives, including at a plant in Marietta, GA; Arthur Brewster (Bruce) Manning was the *Atlanta Constitution* reporter assigned to go with her. They married in December 1945; she became mother to Bruce's then 3 year old daughter March (Price who married James Huey, of Marietta, GA). Bruce became the women's editor, managing editor and ombudsman for the *Times-Union*, moving from Atlanta to



Jacksonville in the 1950's, and living there for 40 years until moving to Trenton. She and Bruce had two sons, William (Bill) D., a scholar and renowned artist (and his wife Deborah K. Benz of

Austell, GA); and James B. (and his wife Sandra K, both attorneys of Trenton, NJ). Bruce died in 1994; Bill died in February 2006.

Millie suffered respiratory problems for decades, unable to join with the other remaining POW women in March 1992 in Washington, D.C. when her COPD flared up, but was always gracious, funny, articulate and caring. In 2004, she was asked about integration of women into the military and said "More power to 'em". She had broken a hip and had various ailments, but lived alone and drove short distances in her tomato-red compact car with vanity plate "EX-POW RN"; she admitted she thought hard before buying it, a Japanese Toyota Corolla.

In the Fall of 2012, she was interviewed for the Frank Martin/ Ron Howard PBS production, *Unsung Heroes*, to be shown in November 2013, oxygen cannula in place, wearing a bright red blazer and matching red lipstick.

Millie died at Hopewell, NJ of pneumonia on March 8, 2013; she would have been 99 in July. Burial with full honors was on 15 March 2013 at the Washington Crossing Veterans Cemetery in Newtown, PA.

George Elliot wrote "The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us and we see nothing but sand; the angels come to visit and we only know them when they are gone". These special Angels are now all gone.





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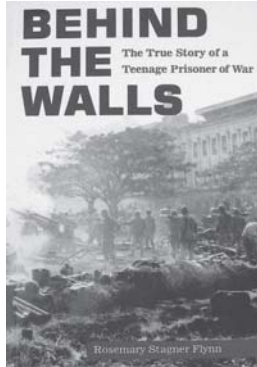
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"It was many years later that Rosemary Flynn was prompted to share her family's war years with her children. It is our good fortune that she chose to do so." Sascha Jansen. Review from BACEPOW: Beyond the Wire.

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Ex- POW Bulletin
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(6/13)



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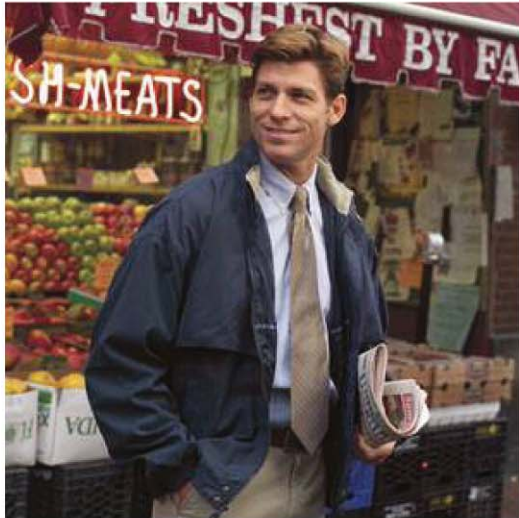
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