

# EX-POW BULLETIN

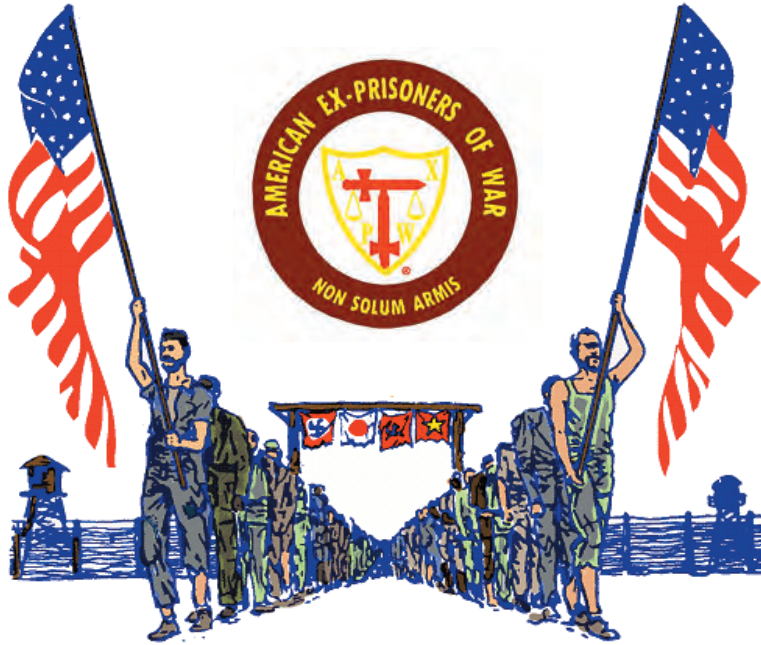
the official voice of the  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

Volume 72

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

Number 5/6

May-June 2015



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*

*Election  
Issue!*



*Ballot ~  
inside back  
cover*



AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

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Deadline for the July/Aug 2015  
issue is June 1, 2015

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## May/June 2015



Traditional observance of Memorial day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3PM local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of Remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps.'"

## Did you know?

The American Ex-Prisoners of War has had a number of credit card programs over the years. The last one, issued by Bank of America, was canceled by BOA because our members had excellent credit! You paid your bills on time and usually without incurring bank charges (which BOA relies on to make money). After we were cancelled - something we only found out when members tried to sign up for the credit card and were told there was no program - we scrambled to find a company who appreciated your credit-worthiness. We found that company in UMB, based in Kansas City . You can see the full page ads we run in each issue of the Ex-POW Bulletin.

Now here's our problem. There have only been about 200 members who have signed up for this credit card. We're not sure why, unless you think this card is IN ADDITION to the old Bank of America card. It is not. We've also heard that some members have gotten renewals for the BOA card. Since the program was dropped, we no longer receive any credit for your spending on it.

Every time a member - or member's family or friends - signs up for the new UMB credit card (which features our marching men on the face), AXPOW receives \$50.00. That's like making a \$50 donation to the organization when you sign up. We also get a percentage of every dollar spent if you use the card each month.

So won't you take a few minutes and apply for this new card today? If you want, you can do it on line...you can call Headquarters and they'll do it for you...or you can request a paper application and the US Post Office will be grateful for your mailing!

Thank you. Cheryl Cerbone, Chair, Ways & Means

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





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National Commander  
Milton M Moore, Jr.

Today is the first day of spring. Some places in America the weather is beautiful, like Arizona. Some places are still in the winter mode. I keep hearing that the northeast and north central part of the country are still getting snow. Stay warm my friends, stay warm.

I am on the down side of my year as your National Commander. It has been a very rewarding experience and I have really enjoyed my tenure. It was great to be able to go to Washington D.C. for Veterans Day and attend all the ceremonies there. I am getting ready to attend the Civilian Internee Convention in California. That will take place in April. I would love to have gone to the Missouri Convention but I have another commitment at that time. I wish I could be two places at once. PNC Susino gave a testimony in front of Congress in March. Thank you very much for that Charlie. Thanks to the hard work from NC Charles A. Susino, we received a donation of \$200,000.00 from the Lemkan Estate in New Jersey. So that is some of the good things we have had done during my tenure as your commander.

The down side to everything are rumors and false allegations toward members of our organiza-

tion. One thing my parents taught me was, if you don't have something nice to say about someone, then don't say anything. Some of our employees have been accused of things that they are completely innocent of. I don't like rumors and they have no place in our organization. Everyone must remember to get all the facts before you accuse someone of something. How would you like to have someone start a rumor about you? So please stop all the rumors and let's get back to what we are supposed to be doing. We exist to help those who cannot help themselves.

One last thing I want to bring up. We, your Board of Directors and I, had a vote on whether to continue to persue a 501c3 status or not. The Board of Directors voted to stop pursuing it. We are officially a 501c19, non profit organization. We also have been reinstated as a 501c4 organization. As in the past, if you or anyone donates to our organization it will not be tax deductible.

Don't forget to get your reservations in for our Convention in Arlington. June is right around the corner and I am looking forward to seeing as many people as I can there. I have had the honor of being your commander. Keep smiling everyone. It makes the day much brighter.

*Milton M. Moore*



# news from hq



It's crunch time for the 2015 National Convention! We have so much for you to do. We have arranged tous of Dealey Plaza, The 6th Floor Book Depository Museum and The Holocaust Museum, all in Dallas. The bus will pick you up at the Hilton and take you to downtown Dallas on Thursday, June 25. Check out the convention registration page for more details. 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. For all of you in the North, you can appreciate our southern warmth!

If you would like a copy of the proposed changes to the National By-Laws, contact HQ and we will send you one. You will be voting on them at the convention.

The ballot is printed on the inside back cover. Please read the instructions on the facing page and return your ballot as soon as possible.

The organization thanks the Audrey M. Lemkan estate in New Jersey for its generous donation to AXPOW. Her husband, Joseph Lemkan, was an active member of the Dept. of New Jersey. We appreciate being remembered in her will.

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May/June 2015

# nsO



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## Requirement of Standardized Claim, Appeal Forms

With the goal of making the application process easier and more efficient for our Veterans, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now requires Veterans seeking disability benefits to use standardized claim and appeal forms. These standardized forms guide Veterans to clearly state the symptoms or conditions for which they are seeking benefits and provide the information necessary for VA to start processing their claims and appeals.

The easiest and fastest way for a Veteran to submit an application for compensation is online through the eBenefits ([www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov)) portal. VA encourages Veterans to work with representatives of Veterans Service Organization (VSO), or their state or county representatives, who can assist with filing electronically or in paper form. Standardized forms are a key component of VA's transformation, which will help achieve the Department's goal to eliminate the backlog by the end of this year.

### There are two claim actions that now require standardized forms:

**1. Veterans' or Survivors' applications for disability compensation or pension** – Specific forms are designed to capture information necessary to identify and support benefit claims.

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- Veterans filing for disability benefits must now use VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits.

- Wartime Veterans filing for needs-based pension must use VA Form 21-527EZ, Application for Pension.

- Survivors filing a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), survivor's pension, and accrued benefits must complete VA Form 21-534EZ, Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits.

**2. Notices of Disagreement with any aspect of VA's decision on a disability claim** – The standardized Notice of Disagreement form is used when a claimant wishes to initiate an appeal.

- Veterans disagreeing with a VA compensation decision should use VA Form 21-0958, Notice of Disagreement.

- Veterans and survivors will not be required to use a standardized notice of disagreement form to initiate appeals of pension or survivors benefit decisions at this time.

VA recognizes that some Veterans may need additional time to gather all of the information and evidence needed to support their claim and therefore established a new *intent to file* a claim process. Applicants may notify VA of their *intent to file* a claim in order to establish the earli-

est possible effective date for benefits if they are determined eligible. An *intent to file* a claim may be submitted in one of three ways:

1. Electronically via eBenefits or with the support of a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) through the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal.

2. Completing and mailing a paper VA Form 21-0966, *Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC*

3. Over the phone with a VA call center or in person with a public contact representative.

Veterans may appoint a duly authorized representative, such as a VSO, who can notify VA of a claimant's intent to file using any of the methods listed above. VA will provide an individual up to one year from the date they submit their *intent to file* a claim to complete the required application form. Veterans may wish to use this one-year period to gather evidence necessary to support the claim so that evidence can be submitted along with the application form.

VA's move to standardized claim and appeal forms will make the process easier and more efficient for both VA and the Veterans, and allow VA to establish a quicker, more streamlined benefits delivery system.

## National Convention June 24-27, 2015 MedSearch/NSO Seminar Speaker

Ginger Raney, Veterans Service Officer, is currently employed by Texas Veterans Commission and is accredited with American Ex-Prisoners of War, Texas Veterans Commission and Veterans of Foreign Wars Organizations. Ginger retired from the Veterans Administration in 2011, after 31 years of service that was divided between Central Texas Veterans Health Care System and the VA Regional Office. During her tenure with the VA, she served as the Coordinator for the American Ex-Prisoners of War and held the position of Decision Review Officer at the time of her retirement. She currently serves Veterans through membership in Veterans' Organizations in her community, to include the position of Judge Advocate for McLennan County Veterans' Association, as well as, serving on the Board of Directors. She also serves on the Good Soldier Foundation board. Ginger is involved in the school district where she lives in order to ensure the students understand the important part veterans have played in the freedoms we enjoy today. Ginger's personal statement, "It is not a job, I get to serve Veterans every day!"



## Understanding Your Heart Valve Treatment Options

### New to managing your heart valve condition?

We encourage you to take some time to learn how your heart works and how each of the valves function. When you understand the specifics of what your doctor or healthcare team is trying to evaluate and accomplish through treatment, you'll be better equipped to help make great decisions.

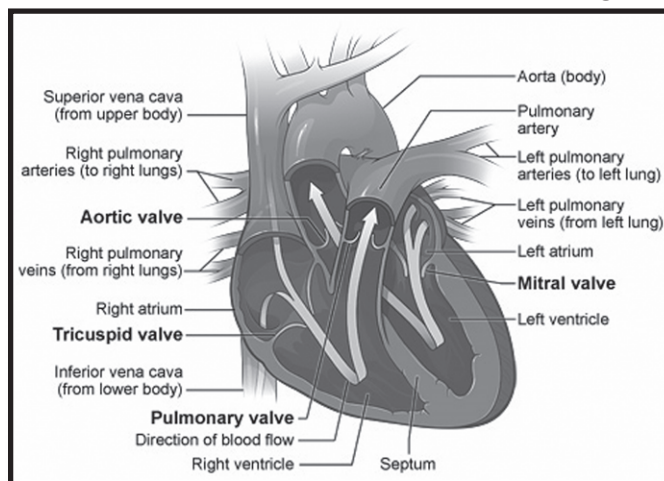
Good news: recovery statistics are very good for people who receive proper treatment. Some people live long and full lives with mild valvular problems and never require surgery. But once a heart valve begins to affect the heart's ability to pump blood, it is likely to require a repair or replacement.

Treatment for valve disease will include a plan to:

1. Protect your heart from further damage.
2. Assess your need for medication to help manage symptoms.
3. Repair the valve problem if needed.
4. Communicate steps for management, self-care and the importance of follow-up care.

Generally, once it's determined that a diseased heart valve needs treatment, the available choices are valve repair or valve replacement:

Valve repair — which preserves the patient's valve and leaflets. Sometimes repairs require a minimal surgery procedure and other times repairs need a more extensive surgery. Repair is most often possible for mitral valve regurgitation and tricuspid valve regurgitation.



Valve replacement — which may include TAVR (or TAVI) or other minimally invasive procedure.

In many cases, the best long-term solution may require a more involved surgery such as the Ross procedure or the insertion of a new tissue or manufactured valve.

Here are the four valves in order of circulation:

#### TRICUSPID VALVE

Closes off the upper right chamber (or atrium) that holds blood coming in from the body. Opens to allow blood to flow from the top right chamber to the lower right chamber (or from right atrium to right ventricle). Prevents the back flow of blood from the ventricle to the atrium when blood is pumped out of the ventricle.

Related valve problems include: Tricuspid atresia, Tricuspid re-

gurgitation, Tricuspid stenosis

#### PULMONARY VALVE

Closes off the lower right chamber (or right ventricle). Opens to allow blood to be pumped from the heart to the lungs (through the pulmonary artery) where it will receive oxygen.

Related valve problems include: Pulmonary valve stenosis, Pulmonary valve regurgitation.

#### MITRAL VALVE

Closes off the upper left chamber (or left atrium) collecting the oxygen-rich blood coming in from the lungs.

Opens to allow blood to pass from the upper left side to the lower left side (or from the left atrium to the left ventricle).

Related valve problems include: Mitral valve prolapse, Mitral valve regurgitation, Mitral valve stenosis

#### AORTIC VALVE

Closes off the lower left chamber that holds the oxygen-rich blood before it is pumped out to the body.

Opens to allow blood to leave the heart (from the left ventricle to the aorta and on to the body).

Related valve problems include: Aortic regurgitation (also called aortic insufficiency), Aortic stenosis

#### Essentials for properly working valves:

The valve is properly formed and flexible.

## medsearch cont'd...

The valve should open all the way so that the right amount of blood can pass through. The valve closes tightly so that no blood leaks back into the chamber.

Checking for possible symptoms of valve disease is important, and it can be a critical part of deciding on the right treatment or the ideal time for valve surgery. Frequently, symptoms can worsen gradually over time, making it important for patients to track any changes.

However, people who have valve disease might not ever notice any symptoms.

It's important to note that symptoms of valve disease, like chest pain, fatigue, lightheadedness, shortness of breath or syncope can be signs of several conditions.

### Who is at risk for heart valve disease?

Although the population of people affected by heart valve disease is considerably smaller than the number of people who have the more common conditions, like high blood pressure and coronary artery disease, valvular disease has become an increasing problem in recent years due to the increase in life expectancy.

### Valve disease and age

Heart valve disease is more common among older people. Today, thanks to improved quality of medical care and increased attention on prevention, people are living longer. As a result, heart valve disease has become a more common problem. As we age, our heart valves can become lined

with calcium deposits that cause the valve flaps to thicken and become stiffer.

### Valve disease and related health conditions

People who have had rheumatic fever or a case of infective endocarditis are at greater risk for heart valve problems. Heart problems like a heart attack, heart failure, arrhythmia, or previous heart valve conditions from birth (called congenital heart defects) can also increase the likelihood for developing valve problems.

### Valve disease and health risks

Many people live long and healthy lives and never realize they have a mild valve problem. However, valve disease can seriously increase a person's risk for sudden death or cause rapid development of problems in and around the heart that can become fatal without treatment.

People who have been diagnosed with a heart murmur, a defect like a bicuspid aortic valve, mitral valve prolapse or a mild form of valve disease should maintain regular check-ins with a healthcare provider and should be aware of possible symptoms should they start or become worse.

If surgery is needed to repair or replace a valve, antibiotics might be needed before dental procedures to help protect against endocarditis. You should discuss your individual risk and the recommendations with your doctor.

Aging people should also be

aware of changes that may come on very gradually. Not all declines in energy or stamina are related to "the normal problems of getting older." When the heart fails to pump enough oxygen-rich blood to the body, symptoms may appear. Problems like fatigue, shortness of breath, chest pain or discomfort and lightheadedness can indicate treatable problems related to the heart.

Do you notice that routine activities like walking faster or taking the stairs have become more difficult?

Have you stopped doing enjoyable activities that you used to do with relative ease?

Be sure to take notes on any changes like these and describe them to your healthcare provider.

### New Options for High-Risk Patients and People with Advanced Aortic Stenosis

One important reason to track any possible valve disease-related symptoms and get regular check-ups - especially as we age - is to ensure that any developing valve problems can be fixed at the right time. Unfortunately many people who need heart valve surgery simply do not get diagnosed in time

**Symptom Tracker**

**TRIAD OF SYMPTOMS**

**CHEST PAIN**

1 Do you ever experience chest pain or discomfort?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

2 Does exercise or activity ever bring on chest pain?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

3 Do you ever have unusual or uncomfortable heartbeats or palpitations?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

**SHORT OF BREATH**

1 Do you ever feel short of breath during your normal activities?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

2 Do you ever feel shortness of breath when lying down?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

3 Do you notice that you are more easily tired than you used to be?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

**LIGHTEADED**

1 Are you ever concerned that you may pass out or faint?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

2 Do you ever feel dizzy?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

3 Do you ever feel lightheaded when you get up?  
 Never  Often  Occasionally  Always

IF YOU ANSWERED "OCCASIONALLY" OR "OFTEN" ON ANY OF THE ABOVE, HOW FREQUENTLY DO YOU EXPERIENCE THIS?  
 Probably every week  Probably every month  Once or twice a year

TO WHAT DEGREE DOES IT DISRUPT WHAT YOU'RE DOING WHEN IT OCCURS?  
 I barely notice it  I pause momentarily  I need to stop to address it

WRITE IN: What specific activities cause you to feel WINDED OR SHORT OF BREATH?

WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES cause you to become PHYSICALLY TIRED?

Although symptoms are not the only important clue for valve disease treatment decisions, a change in symptoms is important to discuss with your healthcare provider.

www.hear.org/heartvalves



**Transfemoral TAVR Procedure (TF-TAVR)**

- Performed through the femoral artery in your leg
- Treatment for high-risk with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis
- Minimally invasive method to replace diseased aortic valve

**Transapical TAVR Procedure (TA-TAVR)**

- Through the left ventricle of your heart
- Treatment for high-risk patients with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis
- Option for patients with vessels that are too small or diseased to allow for transfemoral TAVR

**Transaortic TAVR Procedure (TAo-TAVR):**

- Through the aorta, the major blood vessel that arises from the left ventricle of your heart
- Treatment for high-risk patients with severe symptomatic aortic stenosis
- Option for patients with blood vessels too small or diseased to allow for transfemoral TAVR
- An alternative approach to transapical TAVR

that can be inserted into place using a minimally invasive surgery.

angiogram in terms of down time and recovery, and will likely require a shorter hospital stay (average 3-5 days).

**Valve-within-valve — How does it work?**

Somewhat similar to a stent placed in an artery, the TAVR approach delivers a fully collapsible replacement valve to the valve site through a

The TAVR procedure is performed using one of two different approaches, allowing the cardiologist or surgeon to choose which one provides the best and safest way to access the valve:

Entering through the femoral artery (large artery in the groin), called the transfemoral approach, which does not require a surgical incision in the chest or

Using a minimally invasive surgical approach with a small incision in the chest and entering through a large artery in the chest or through the tip of the left ventricle (the apex), which is known as the transapical approach.

**Who is a good candidate for this type of valve surgery?**

At this time the procedure is reserved for those people for whom an open heart procedure is too risky. For that reason, most people who have this procedure are in their 70s or 80 and often have other medical conditions that make them a better candidate for this type of surgery.

Although relatively new, TAVI can be an effective option to improve quality of life in patients who otherwise have limited choices for repair of their aortic valve.

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National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute  
P.O. Box 30105  
Bethesda, MD 20824-0105  
American Heart Association  
7272 Greenville Ave  
Dallas, TX 75231

to fix the problem in the best possible way.

Medications can be prescribed to increase the heart’s ability to pump blood which may help compensate for a valve that isn’t working correctly. However, a diseased heart valve is a mechanical problem that cannot be fixed with medication alone, and surgery is often needed to repair or replace the damaged valve. If the faulty valve never gets looked at until the patient realizes it’s a serious medical problem, the diseased valve may have weakened the person so much that open heart surgery to fix the problem has become too risky. For most patients, helpful treatment options are still available.

**What if open heart surgery is too risky for me?**

If you or someone you love is too sick or is considered too high-risk to undergo open heart surgery to receive a new heart valve, there is good news. People with high risks and severe aortic valve tightness may be good candidates for a less invasive repair or an alternative treatment called a **transcatheter aortic valve replacement** (TAVR or TAVI). If a person has life-threatening calcifications on a valve that has never been previously replaced, TAVI offers a quality “spring loaded” heart valve (or in some cases a balloon expandable valve)

catheter.

Once the new valve is expanded, it pushes the old valve leaflets out of the way and the tissue in the replacement valve takes over the job of regulating blood flow.

**How is TAVR or TAVI different from the standard valve replacement?**

This procedure is fairly new and is FDA approved for people with symptomatic aortic stenosis who are considered a high risk patient for standard valve replacement surgery. The differences in the two procedures are significant.

**What is involved in a TAVR procedure?**

Usually valve replacement requires an open heart procedure with a “sternotomy.”, in which the chest is surgically separated (open) for the procedure. The TAVR or TAVI procedures can be done through very small openings that leave all the chest bones in place.

A TAVR procedure is not without risks, but it provides beneficial treatment options to people who may not have been candidates for them a few years ago while also providing the added bonus of a faster recovery in most cases. A patient’s experience with a TAVR procedure may be comparable to a balloon treatment or even an

# legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr  
Chairman

On March 18, 2015, I had the pleasure of representing our organization to testify before the House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. Two such meetings are called by Congress to hear directly from the veterans service organizations with respect to their legislative interests and feedback on services received from the VA. The following written testimony was submitted by the American Ex-Prisoners of War and provided to each of the committees' Senators and Representatives. My verbal comments on the 18<sup>th</sup> were an abridged version.

Chairmen and members of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees and guests, my name is Charles Susino Jr., Past National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. I am honored to provide testimony and welcome the new committee chair and members.

A lot of positive work has been done over this past session of Congress addressing the needs of the veterans. We extend our gratitude for your efforts. Looking forward, several pieces of legislation need to move through Congress and those in place must be implemented effectively. On each such initiative there are several phases required to provide the necessary needs for the veteran. It is to identify the need and accurately develop legislation targeted to address the need. Once

Ex-POW Bulletin

May/June 2015

10

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

passed by Congress, effective implementation is necessary for the veteran to realize the benefit. All three phases are critically important and too often it is this last phase that falls short. This is true for both recent laws and ones that have been on the books for years. We have access and communication with members of Congress however to insure the implementation phase is achieving the desired results, our suggestion would be to provide formal, structured access by the service organizations to the top VA management including who direct the implementation side.

### VA Efficiencies and Accountabilities

We have confidence in Secretary McDonald in addressing head-on the many weaknesses of the VA system. As a former chief executive officer, an army veteran, and a father-in-law who was a WWII prisoner of war, we believe he has the back ground, understanding, and leadership to raise the VA to the level of performance required to meet our needs. We support the Secretary's efforts to reorganize the VA and obtain better access and understanding for the veteran without compromising efficiencies and accountabilities. We ask for your part that the oversight includes the kind of metrics that can measure if gains are being realized. We caution however in establishing a customer service organization as he suggests not to remove resources from the service providers, in the end they provide the care and treatment to the veterans. A key metric is the ratio of VA employees directly providing treatment and care to the veterans divided by the total number of VA employees, therefore the higher the percentage, the better organizational efficiencies and lower overhead. Stated another way, you want a higher number of care and treatment providers and a lower amount of administrative personnel. Lastly, metrics that are leading indicators



are most desirable. We support him however we, the service organizations, and you, Congress, need to hold the Secretary and the VA organization accountable. That requires close interaction and performance monitoring. Congress and the President must establish goals and expectations of performance and timeframes that are aggressive.

### H.R. 454: Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act

A newly drafted Bill, H.R. 454: Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act resides in committee. It is targeted to address an injustice to the surviving spouse of a military retiree. Under current law, the month the veteran passes away; their pension is rescinded from the individual's account. So at the worst time, while the spouse is grieving, money is being removed from their bank account because the veteran did not live the entire month. We believe this is inexpensive to resolve and shows the compassion deserving of the grieving spouse. Anecdotal evidence with other organizations providing a pension reveals the last month's check is retained and we believe our military retirees deserve the same consideration. In 1996 Congress voted to allow survivors to retain the veterans' last month pay for VA disability and pension payments. The military retiree survivors should have the same consideration.

### HR 4741 Surviving Spouses Benefit Improvement Act of 2014

In the last Congress, HR 4741 Surviving Spouses Benefit Improvement Act of 2014 was introduced to address issues related to the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation [DIC] payable to the surviving spouse. Currently, an eligible surviving spouse

## legislative, cont'd...

would receive a basic DIC benefit of \$1,215 monthly. This is 41.0% of the basic compensation rate for a veteran with a spouse receiving disability compensation at the 100% disabled rating. This has called into question the adequacy of DIC payments. In comparison to most other government programs, the spouse would receive approximately 50%, still a hardship when the family income is reduced by 50% yet most costs remain. We ask that the new Congress revisit this issue. You will find through research that some form of DIC has been in effect since the early years of our country's formation.

### **Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act**

A long standing concern has been the rate of suicide of returning veterans. Many veterans returning from service overseas struggle with depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. As a result, an estimated 8000 veterans take their lives each year which equates to a per cent age far exceeding the rate of the general population. We applaud the Congress and President for signing into law the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention Act. We ask that Secretary McDonald and Congress oversee the implementation and determine if it is achieving the desired results and if not, act promptly to make the necessary changes.

### **H.R. 526, the "Furthering Asbestos Claims Transparency Act"**

H.R. 526, the "Furthering Asbestos Claims Transparency Act", or the "F.A.C.T. Act" as it is being called, was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives at the end of January. It is being pushed by the defendants and corporations' trade associations in order to make it more difficult for victims to receive the compensation they are entitled to. Following the death caused by asbestos related illness, families desperately need to promptly receive the compensation for their medical and other costs. As you are aware this military exposure was concentrated in the Navy where asbestos was commonly used for pipe insulation throughout the navy

vessels. Asbestos has been banned for over 40 years however exposure to this deadly material impacts its victims years later, so to create a law at this time to restrict in any way just compensation is wrong for the victims, wrong for the military veterans and wrong for America. There is no debate as to the negative impacts on health and we ask that you take a strong stance against this act.

**Homeless Veterans** A troubling statistic is the amount of homeless veterans that exist in our country. The VA has stated in a directive that it is targeting to eliminate homelessness by the end of 2015. We ask that the Secretary report on the progress of this initiative and what if any corrective actions are being taken to achieve this goal. It is a disgrace that any American veteran has no place to call home.

### **POW/MIA Commemorative Chair**

We are proud of the many military memorials throughout our country, at the federal, state and local levels that honor those that have served our country. It is an ever present reminder to the public of the sacrifices of our military men and women to preserve America's freedom. Fewer memorials however, make it visually clear of the pain and suffering of the veteran and their families especially those that were lost and or imprisoned as a result of battle. We ask for your unified support of HR 5391 and S. 2053 authorizing the installation of a POW/MIA commemorative chair on the Capitol grounds. With such a highly visible location and modest costs, the Chair would promote the honor, respect, and individual and family suffering as a result of conflicts for the many tens of thousands of veterans since WWII.

### **Advanced VA Appropriations**

In Washington, there is a never ending struggle regarding appropriations within the government each year. We again ask for the simple change in procedure to provide advanced appropriations for VA health care and discretionary and mandatory accounts. To put this category of costs in the cross hairs of political debate each year is wrong and should be

corrected with this procedural change.

**Civilian Detainees** During wartime, there have been civilian detainees held in enemy prison camps, often side by side with our military prisoners of war. In fact, they were often individuals working on government contracts building facilities for the military which lead to their capture. To date, they do not receive any compensation nor health benefits resulting from their imprisonment. Overtime, the numbers of these individuals has reduced dramatically yet, there is time to do the right thing and include them within the VA healthcare system. This is deserving treatment for those civilians imprisoned because they were supporting our military operations. We ask that you take action to correct this long overdue injustice.

### **Special Groups Of Veterans**

This is a long standing subject for our veterans who faced the enemy. Back in 1986, Congress and the President mandated VA health care for veterans with service connected disabilities as well as other special groups of veterans. Almost thirty years ago, it included veterans up to WWI and we ask the special groups to be revisited and updated to include WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, and our recent conflicts in the Middle East. Congress should examine ways to accomplish this without compromising those veterans with service related disabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and appearing before you on behalf of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

God Bless Our Troops  
God Bless America  
—Remember—

Thank you  
Yours truly  
Charles Susino, Jr.  
Past National Commander  
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2015



# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
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Andersonville, GA 31711  
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Superintendent  
Charles Sellars  
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This spring has been a challenge for the staff at Andersonville, as we adjust to a much smaller staff and work toward a goal of finding and hiring a new group of committed park employees. Things might be progressing at a slower pace, but we continue to look toward the future, and create a renewed vision for park.

In March, the park's living history weekend was a success with almost 700 people braving threats of rain to visit the park, with around fifty living history volunteers helping portray the



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final months of the Civil War prison. Michael Halleran, author of "Better Angels of Our Nature: Freemasonry in the Civil War" spoke to a full room about the role of Freemasons in successfully aiding prisoners at Andersonville and other prisons. This fascinating study highlights the small, but important role of individuals, in aiding prisoners of war at great personal risk. Spring has officially arrived, with rumors that the summer gnats are already making early appearances, much to everyone's chagrin. With these warmer months come over 2,000 fifth, eighth and eleventh grade students to learn about the history of Andersonville prison and walk through the exhibits of the National Prisoner of War Museum. This year provides a special backdrop for their education on prisoner of war, and the impact of the American Civil War. This April marks the final months of the traditional Civil War 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the National Prisoner of War Museum will participate in a national event called "Bells Across the Land," which was created by the staff at Appomattox Courthouse in Virginia. Beginning at 3:15 pm, a bell will be rung at the museum for four minutes, with each minute representing a year of the Civil War. Community members, schools, churches and other groups are encouraged to ring bells in this symbolic gesture at the same time across the country. Ringing the bell on the grounds of Camp Sumter is a beautiful way to close this historic commemoration, but it is a somber reminder that for the prisoners still held at Andersonville, their freedom did not come immediately at the gesture of a pen or the ring-

ing of a bell. It is also fitting that this ceremony should fall on National Former POW Recognition Day, and honor all POWs who have served and sacrificed for the United States.



The park will hold its traditional Memorial Day observance on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. This year's guest speaker is Col. Thomas Carden, who is the commander of the Georgia Army National Guard. Col. Carden has numerous connections to Sumter County, including as a graduate of Georgia Southwestern State University. The National Guard Honor Guard has a long history with the national cemetery as they are frequent attendees at funeral services and continue to honor all that have served.

Don't forget to put September 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 on your calendars! While the signing of the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse might end the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries for most Civil War sites, Andersonville still has one big event to go. This will be a three day event, including guest speakers, a Memorial Illumination on the prison site, family activities, and the Funeral for 13,000 service on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Information about the schedule of events will be posted in the next issue. We hope that everyone will have the opportunity to share in this important anniversary.

# namPOWs



Paul E. Galanti  
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Welcome Home -  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC  
May 24, 1973

These were heady times indeed! Freshly back from North or South Vietnam or Laos or China we were full of ourselves! It had been a long time since we were in civilization. As POWs of a barbaric Communist government, we'd been held many years for some of us and a few months for the most recent POWs. Just being free would seem to be good enough. Imagine our being wined and dined by the President of United States in Washington, DC, the capital of our great nation!

President Nixon had addressed us earlier in the department of state auditorium. He shook hands with us as we filed in with some of the generals and admirals from the Defense Department! I recognized several friends there including one classmate from the Naval Academy who was a presidential aide. We sat down and were treated to one of the most inspiring talks I'd ever heard. Nixon started off by saying, "As you can imagine, during my term as President of the United States and also before that as Vice President, and in other

offices, I have spoken to many distinguished audiences. I can say to you today that this is the most distinguished group I have ever addressed, and I have never been prouder than I am at this moment to address this group."

Could he really have been talking about us? He went on bringing us up-to-date on what was going on in the world from his stratospheric viewpoint. It seemed like a very warm statement coming from a man whose diplomatic talents were without peer but whose personal interactions left something to be desired. At least according to his political enemies. None of whom were in that audience! We assembled audience required by our jobs to be apolitical stood and cheered until it sounded like it was a political convention when Pres. Nixon had just nominated!

But the best was yet to come! We went back to the hotels and changed into our formal attire and boarded the buses that would take us to the White House. I suppose the security was tight for the time but I don't remember any X-ray machines or magnetometers or putdowns - we just filed into the White House. I remember an aide saying that the entire building was open to us - even the family residence upstairs. "But please knock before you open any doors."

It was pouring rain and the South Lawn's grass was wet but the event was enclosed in several tents of the size one associates with circuses. We filed out into the dining area where the largest dinner ever to be held at the White House was about to begin. All the leaders from Congress were there. Many of the Executive Branch "heavies" were there as well as the representatives from the State and Defense Department. I'd wanted to ask somebody, "What took you so long,"

but feared it would be in bad taste especially since I was a relative newcomer having spent less than 7 years in the Hanoi POW prisons.

My late wife, Phyllis, who'd been Chairman of the National League of Families until we were released, said she'd like to introduce me to to someone. We walked to a short be-spectacled gentleman to who she said, "Dr. Kissinger, I'd like to introduce my husband, Paul." Kissinger looked up at me and in his guttural, German-accented growl, "Your wife - she gave me so much trouble."

The rest of the evening was a blur. The Air Force Strolling Strings. The Marine Band. So many luminaries - too many to remember - but one can start with the Washington "A" list! Each of us returned POWs was made to feel very special from these very, very special VIPs. Indeed a very far cry from the miserable, foul-smelling cells of the "Hanoi Hilton" that we'd inhabited so recently.

And it might have be the last night among so many friends for President Nixon who was about to begin his fall from grace - unjustly in this scribe's not-so-humble opinion. We'd see him again in 1975 at Casa Pacifica, when we were the first to break his self-imposed internal exile. It was a great night. Thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and guests.

That night after retiring to the hotel, I remember thinking, "Wow. What a night. It almost made our extended tour of 'Overseas Shore Duty' worth it." Hmmm. Not really. But it was truly a great evening!



# civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair

## Rescue at Los Baños: The Most Daring Prison Camp Raid of World War II

by Bruce Henderson

Shortly after sunrise on February 23, 1945, elements of the U.S. 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division along with Filipino resistance fighters struck the Japanese prisoner of war camp at Los Baños, Luzon, deep in enemy-held territory 40 miles south of Manila, in a daring air/sea/land operation to liberate 2,146 civilian internees — mostly American men, women and children held captive for more than three years since the the Japanese invaded the Philippines in the days after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

In 1944, with the war going badly for the Japanese, the guards at Los Baños had turned more brutal; prisoners were being starved on orders of the vicious, Western-hating camp commander. Anyone caught escaping — even those returning with food for the hungry — was shot. With medical supplies scarce, prisoners were dying of diseases like malaria, dysentery and tuberculosis. Then, in February 1945, Japa-

nese soldiers began digging deep trenches near the prisoners' barracks. Many in camp feared preparations were being made for mass executions and burials.

Since his return to the Philippines in October 1944, General Douglas MacArthur had been shocked by conditions at a number of POW camps already liberated by his troops. The prisoners were found half-starved and ill-treated; at some camps, recent mass executions had taken place. In February 1945, with his ground forces still fighting the bloody battle for Manila against entrenched Japanese defenders, he knew it could take weeks or longer to reach Los Baños in force and liberate the camp. "The thought of their destruction with deliverance so near," MacArthur explained, "was deeply repellent to me." On February 12<sup>th</sup>, he ordered the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne to carry

prisoners cheered the flyovers, prayed for liberation, and spoke excitedly amongst themselves about their pending freedom, they shared the same nightmarish worry: *Would the rescuers arrive in time?*

The internees' executive committee, which had been reluctant to sanction earlier escapes due to the threat of further deprivations, authorized the escape in mid-February of three young men who chanced execution if caught. Their mission: reach U.S. forces and tell them of the need for the speedy liberation of Los Baños. Under the cover of darkness, they crawled beneath double, barbed-wire fences without being spotted by the sentries and disappeared into the jungle. They soon came across a band of armed guerrillas who agreed to take them to American forces. It was a perilous journey of several

days by native bancas — canoes hallowed out from the trunk of trees — across crocodile-infected waters and on foot through dense jungles and forests, traveling mostly at night in order to avoid enemy patrols.

The detailed information the escapees provided as to the strength of the Japanese garrison and the location of

fences, gun towers, the armory, and other defensive positions, proved invaluable to the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne planners. The date of the rescue mission was advanced by several days, and H-hour was changed from 8 a.m. to 7 a.m. after the escapees reported that every morning at 6:45 a.m., the Japanese garrison of some 200 soldiers not on guard duty assembled in a large field — unarmed and wearing only loincloths — for 30 minutes of ritualistic calisthenics.



out a raid behind enemy lines to liberate Los Baños and move the prisoners to safety.

As airborne staff officers went to work planning the raid, the Los Baños internees were desperate to get word to U.S. forces about their worsening situation. They knew from reports on a radio smuggled into camp that the Americans had landed in Luzon, and for weeks U.S. aircraft had been flying overhead to and from the battle in Manila. While the



## Rescue, cont'd...



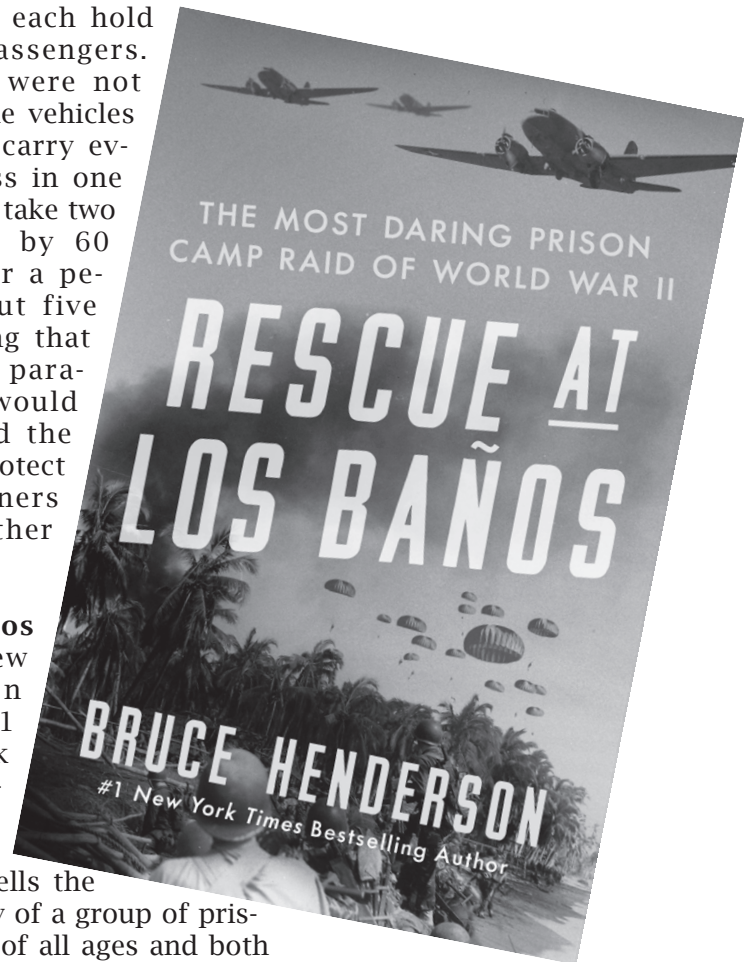
The coordinated strike on the camp by 170 paratroopers and 75 guerrillas was designed to use the element of surprise to overwhelm the guards on duty before they could take hostages or harm the prisoners. The challenge for the liberators was not only to keep the civilians safe during the assault but to move them quickly — and many were too weak to walk any distance — before a 10,000-man Japanese infantry division lurking nearby could show up with reinforcements, which planners believed could reach the prison camp as soon as three hours. Casualties were anticipated to be as high as 30%.

A plan to load the prisoners into trucks and moved them by armed convoy to U.S. lines was shelved when a reconnaissance flight found that bridges along the route had been blown up by the Japanese to slow the U.S. advance into southern Luzon. That meant there was only one way out: across the largest lake in the Philippines — 25-mile long Laguna de Bay — via amphibious tractors,

which could each hold about 30 passengers. Since there were not enough of the vehicles available to carry everyone across in one trip, it would take two round trips by 60 amtracs over a period of about five hours. During that time, the paratroopers would have to hold the camp and protect the prisoners from further harm.

**Rescue at Los Baños**, a new nonfiction book by #1 New York Times best-selling author Bruce Henderson, tells the timeless story of a group of prisoners of war of all ages and both genders who overcame unbelievable hardship with courage and resilience, and of the young American and Filipino fighting men who risked their lives to rescue them. The Los Baños prison camp raid — a forerunner to today's Special Operations — is considered the most successful airborne operation in history, and is still taught at our nation's military academies and war colleges.

"I doubt that any airborne unit in the world will ever be able to rival the Los Baños prison raid," General Colin Powell told surviv-



ing participants of the raid nearly half a century later. "It is a textbook operation for all ages and all armies."

~ February 23, 2015, was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Los Baños prison camp raid.

*About the book:*

**RESCUE AT LOS BAÑOS: *The Most Daring Prison Camp Raid of World War II***

By Bruce Henderson  
William Morrow/An Imprint of HarperCollins Publishers  
ISBN: 978-0-06-2325068; Hardcover price: \$27.99

Also available in E-Book, Large Print Paperback, and Audio Book

more info about me & my previous books is available at my website:

[BruceHendersonBooks.com](http://BruceHendersonBooks.com).

BACEPOW  
Bay Area Civilian Ex-Prisoners of War.  
Membership is open to all former prisoners of the Japanese, their families, and friends.  
There is an active descendents group.  
[www.bacepow.net](http://www.bacepow.net)  
Commander, Angus Lorenzen

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# pow-mia



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## DoD POW/MIA Accounting Agency Meets With Families of MIAs

By MC3 Clifford Bailey

### Until They Are Home. Keeping the Promise.

These are the stirring mottos of two former government POW/MIA recovery and accounting organizations now merged into the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). They are charged with the mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

Vital to that mission is keeping the families up to date on the progress of finding their loved ones' remains and this is accomplished by facilitating periodic Family Member Update (FMU) events across the nation.

These events are conducted by DPAA up to eight times a year in major metropolitan areas across

the country. At these events, family members of MIAs have an opportunity to hear from government officials - in group settings or one-on-one discussions - to learn how the search is going.

Sacramento was where first FMU of calendar year 2015 was hosted.

On February 21st, over 250 people attended the event at the Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast. In addition to gaining new information regarding their respective cases, the families are also able to connect with one another and share their personal stories.

"It makes me feel not quite alone," says Vera Bigham. She represents her husband, Capt. Donald G. Bigham, who went missing during a combat operation in the Korean War. "These other people, especially the wives, are in the same situation."

"You hear the others, and you're with other people who feel the same," Jacqueline Kurtz-Biggs said, who attended on behalf of her uncle, Captain David C. Bryant, Jr., an MIA from WWII. "You're not alone."

Loneliness; a missing piece; having someone significant from one's life ripped away without any answers is a common theme among the families at the FMU. Among those family members interviewed, all ten expressed how their families' lives have been profoundly changed by the loss.

"She spent most of her adulthood depressed," said MaryAnn Haberle of her mother. MaryAnn attended the FMU with her brother, Robert, and they're representing their father, Lieutenant William Joseph Haberle, a radar operator on a B-29 bomber that was shot down during the Korean War. "The fact that he was missing, declared dead but never found, I think she never gave up

hope," MaryAnn said.

There is solace in community, and though there may not be closure, at least there can be answers.

"It would feel good that he's brought home," said Robert. "We do have a place next to my mother where he would be interred...but it's obviously not going to change what happened."

When assured by a DPAA employee that the effort will continue, Jacqueline said, "That means so much."

It is for Jacqueline, Robert and MaryAnn, for Vera and all the families in attendance and all who have family members who never made it back that the DPAA soldiers on tirelessly, to keep the promise until they are home.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's mission is to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. Within this mission, we search for missing personnel from World War II (WWII), the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars, and other recent conflicts. Our research and operational missions include coordination with hundreds of countries and municipalities around the world.

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



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

**June 13, 2015. The Mayport Council - Navy League of the United States is hosting a "Battle of Midway" dinner** at the Renaissance Resort Hotel at World Golf Village, FL. ex-POWs and guests are free. Contact: Betty Howard, Past National Director - Navy League of the United States: spyglass3@att.net or 352-259-7905.

**Aug. 7-8, 2015. The Department of Ohio 2015 Annual Convention** will be held at the Drury Inn and Suites in Grove City, Ohio. Meeting starts at 1:00 p.m. on Friday. Reservations may be made by calling Drury Inn at 1-800-325-0720 — Group # 2227081; email [www.druryhotels.com](http://www.druryhotels.com) and enter the Group No. Reservations must be made by July 5, 2015. Cost of room will be paid by the State Chapter. Saturday evening banquet will be held at Mott's Military Museum, Groveport, Ohio. Transportation is furnished and is handicap accessible. For additional information contact: Vice Commander Barbara Uhl: [fbuhl@columbus.rr.com](mailto:fbuhl@columbus.rr.com) or snail mail: 625 Blue Valley Rd., Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

**Sept. 9-13, 2015. 6th Bomb Group, Tinian 1944-45 will have its annual reunion** in Portland, Oregon. For more information, contact Glenda Richards, 951-233-4516, [grr41797@msn.com](mailto:grr41797@msn.com)

*It's National Convention Time!  
Bring your kids and grandkids to Texas for a grand experience!*

# looking for



Hello, my name is Jameson Hirsch, and I am a Clinical Psychologist at East Tennessee State University. I am a researcher conducting an online survey **examining strengths and environmental factors that can influence your health and well-being**. Little is known about potential protective characteristics that might influence veteran's health, or about how you prefer to receive your health care. Thus, your participation in this brief survey will help to raise awareness about these issues and will help healthcare professionals to better understand the health of veterans living out in the community. Participation in this survey is completely voluntary and confidential. It will take about 20-30 minutes to complete the survey. Upon completion, you will be eligible to enter a raffle drawing for several Amazon.com Gift Cards. I would greatly appreciate it if all veterans would support the research by completing the survey via this link: Here is the link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/veterans\\_wellbeing\\_survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/veterans_wellbeing_survey). Thank you for your time and support. I greatly appreciate your assistance. Jameson K. Hirsch, Ph.D., Associate Professor Department of Psychology, East Tennessee State University, P.O. Box 70649, Johnson City, TN 37614; [HIRSCH@mail.etsu.edu](mailto:HIRSCH@mail.etsu.edu).

I work for a public radio production unit called American RadioWorks. We're based out of Minnesota but our audio documentaries air on public radio stations across the country. I'm currently doing research for a story about the **GI Bill - both the original 1944 bill, and the post 9-11 GI Bill**, and more generally the experience of student veterans returning to campuses now. For my background research, I have a couple of inquiries: We are looking for people to interview who used the 1944 or post-9/11 GI Bill. Any vet-

eran or military personnel from that era who has an interesting story to tell. We're looking for veterans who used the post 9-11 GI Bill, who have living relatives (grandfathers? Great-uncles?) who used the 1944 GI Bill. We want to record a conversation between veterans of both eras talking about their experience as students after coming back from war. Ryan Katz, American RadioWorks, [rkatz@americanpublicmedia.org](mailto:rkatz@americanpublicmedia.org); 651-228-4876.

The American Air Museum at IWM Duxford acquired World War II aviation historian, Roger Freeman's, collection of papers, books and photographs in 2012. Since 2012, we have been scanning the photographs which Roger collected. We have made over 10,000 of these **photographs at [www.americanairmuseum.com](http://www.americanairmuseum.com)** and the information held about them is editable by anyone who registers (free) on the site. You can also see contemporary aerial photographs of over 120 airfields and bases, supplied by English Heritage's aerial photography archive. Many of the people in the photographs are not identified. We would love you to add to the captions if you recognize anyone, and also to add your stories to the website in the 'people' section - we intend the website to be a permanent online record of the service of World War II veterans connected to the USAAF in the UK. Could you also share your photos, as we want the website to inspire new and future generations to become interested in this history through seeing photos of the Americans and Brits who made it. We're sharing the images for use by others in any non-commercial and attributed form and we would be asking you to do the same. For more information on image rights, check out this page of info on the site: <http://www.americanairmuseum.com/using-images-website/>. *American Air Museum Project team, IWM Duxford, Cambridgeshire, CB22 4QR, UK; 0044 (0)1223 835 000; [aamwebsite@iwm.org.uk](mailto:aamwebsite@iwm.org.uk).*



# Your Stories



## My Dad's Story

by Karen Fuoco  
KMBFuoco25@aol.com

**Vincent J. Byrnes U.S.Army  
106th Infantry Division 423SVC  
Battle of The Bulge- P.O.W.  
Milton, MA 2/13/22-11/25/09**



I have tried several times to begin my Father's time in service and with the 106th Infantry Division 423SVC. To begin and to write is still difficult for me. As the time since his passing is short, and I find myself becoming emotional. As I know the story, so do I envision the man and the suffering he as so many others endured. My research took almost 2 years, and yet I still came up short in a few areas.

What I do know for certain is he entered the U.S. Army Dec 29, 1942 left for Basic Training on

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Jan 2, 1943 to Ft Devens, Ma.. From here according to discussion my Dad held with my husband he was next assigned to Fort Jackson, SC. After getting field experience in combat -alike- conditions during the Tennessee manoeuvres in January 1944, the division was transferred to Camp Atterbury, IN on March 30th, 1944 for advanced training. Although it is documented the men of the 106th shipped out aboard the Queen Mary on November 10th, 1944. My Father's DD214 indicates he left at an earlier date. Oct 17, 1944.

Which is documented in information I received from former 106th members. The purpose of these men entering the European theater earlier than the bulk of the 106th is not known to me. I did learn however, once they arrived they had much down time, and little to do while awaiting the arrival of the complete company. I believe the location they arrived and waited was Cheltenham, England.

Where upon the arrival of the complete division, began more intense training for their soon to be transfer to the Ardennes.

After a brief period of consecutive training in Great Britain, the 106th Division crossed the English Channel and entered the European Theatre of Operations at Le Havre.

After a devastating truck ride the men entered the area of St. Vith, Belgium on December 11th, 1944. The 106th was ordered to relieve and take over the positions of the 2nd Infantry Division stationed on the "Schnee Eifel" AKA "Snowy Mountains". This was an area of rugged, pine covered hills on the border between Belgium and Germany. The men of the "Golden Lion" division took over the positions one by one, mostly old German Bunkers of the West Wall that were now reinstated as "US

Army Property". There was one drawback. When the men of the 2nd Division pulled out, they were smart enough to take all the stoves with them. So, it would be a cold winter for the men of the 106th.

This area was known as a relatively quiet area. But, according to information obtained from others, the men of the 106th did not find it to be so. Many heard sound and movement and on some occasions the voices of German soldiers. Although it was reported, (in my opinion), it obviously was not taken as seriously as we now know was the beginning of the end for many who were lost, captured, and wounded. They were literally over run beginning on Dec 16th in the Battle of their lifetime. The men of the 422nd were literally wiped out along with many from the 423. The 424th was further back. They retreated to fight another day.

I can only tell you from here what little I know. As the Germans attacked and advanced, my Dad was driving truck with his partner when all hell broke loose. They were fired upon, and the man seated next to my Dad was shot and died instantly. This was on Dec 19, 1944 as they approached the Schnee Eifel. My Father escaped the truck, only to face the barrel of a German soldier's rifle. My father called him a "F\*\*\*\*en son of a bitch", for which the German soldier who spoke English punched my Dad in the nose. On Dec 19, 1944 my Dad became one of the thousands of men of the 106th captured and imprisoned on that day. The truck, after it was ransacked, which as I have documented from another member, was then blown up. Leaving me to forever wonder, who the soldier in the truck with my Dad was.

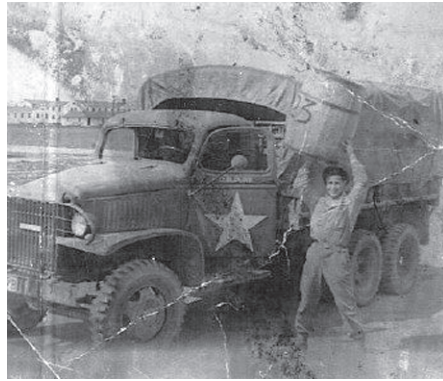
From here the rest is history. what was left of 422nd and 423rd

## My dad's story, cont'd

where also on Dec 19, 1944, after three days of battle, little to no ammunition, no food, no means of reinforcements or air drops due to weather, they were surrendered. A decision as history dictates was made in an attempt to save the lives of these few, proud, and brave men. Excerpt from the "History of The 106th Infantry Division" (Over the next three days, the 422nd and 423rd Regiments became completely cut off from the rest of the division. Reinforcements from the 7th Armored Division weren't able to break through and an ammo drop failed to arrive. On the 19th of December the ammunition reserves for the two Regiments were exhausted and the commanders, Col. Descheneaux and Col. Cavender decided that further fighting would do more harm than good. To save what was left of their men, they gave up the remainders of their Regiments.

Over 7000 men of the 106th went into German captivity and would spend the duration of the war in a series of POW camps. The 106th Division had been on the line for only five days.)

From here my best information is my Dad began his journey with the men he served with. They were marched for miles, railroaded in box cars, and marched again. (The boxcars as you may know were used for cattle, the men were jammed in these cars at app. 100 men per car. They had no room to move, sit, or lie down.



They would take turns sitting, and shifting around at the very least to lean upon a wall. Their helmets became their facilities, as well as their means to drink what little water they were given. Thus the immense outbreak of dysentery and the likes of diseases which eventually took some of their lives, or at best a lifetime of stomach ailments. As well the train was bombed, many were killed. One story tells of the men leaving the train and forming in the field the letters P.O.W. How my Dad journeyed from here is not known to me. But at best I assume he was marched, or in some cases as I've read they were held in a freight yard until another train was made available.

They slept in fields in bitter cold weather. No covering, of course no blankets, only the warmth of each others bodies lying side by side in a bitter winter known to be one of the worst in German history.

They were warned to march only. There were a few who attempted to pick up a turnip or any means of food source, water or nourishment in this attempt they were shot dead on the spot or left to die by the side of the road.

My Dad being and these men who bore this less than humane treatment made one stop during this horrendous journey where they were stripped of their personal belongings and clothing. Fed a watery version of what they called soup. Told to redress, and in doing so grabbed whatever they

could find, as they were being moved out again.

Eventually, they arrived at Stalag IV-Muhlberg, Germany. Here they were tagged, registered as POWs, fed for what it was worth.

After a short period, my Dad was transferred to Stalag 111 A Luckenwalde, Germany. The conditions here were as bad as those in Muhlberg. On this site a tent or tents were constructed for the overflow of prisoners. They slept on hay in a field under these tents. Cold, lice, dysentery, and numerous other issues plagued these men. There were few to no drops of essentials for these men. Being told in most cases the German's kept much of what was dropped to the Prisoners by the American Red Cross.

My Dad worked on the railroad, building the tracks that would eventually connect ( my summation one area of Germany, vital to the War effort to another). In my Father's words, he eventually devised a way to break the hammers, in a fashion the German's would not comprehend, thus limiting their time working on the railroad. At this point we assumed from words of another P.O.W. they were in a work camp somewhere in the vicinity of Magdeburg near the Elbe River. The only fact in words from my Dad's mouth, the men were working one day and found a cabbage in a field nearby. This one single cabbage became the mainstay for these men at least for a day. They made a feast of it as best they could.

My heart breaks to think and now know as much as I have found. As you can see all I have found is based upon the very few words my Dad expressed of his time in service, and articles I published

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## My dad's story, cont'd

based upon my limited information in the AXPOW Magazine, and The Cub Magazine- The 106th publication of The Golden Lions. The response I received was overwhelming from many men who served in WW11 with the 106th Infantry Division, and other divisions. I visited a few of these men, I spoke with them on the phone. I was even blessed to receive publications and books they had written.

For these men & and the many others who brought me through my journey of my Dad's days in service to his country I am eternally grateful.

I now know much of what my father lived, understood more now than ever why he was the man he was, and how proud in my entire lifetime I was to always call him "My Hero".

My Dad release from this horror came on April 15, 1945.

I have no definitive facts as to how he was liberated/ repatriated. However I do know Magdeburg was liberated on or near these dates by the 30th Infantry Division. They split into 3 groups, so the information I have is at best vague and uncertain. My hope would be that this was his and the men he was with, liberated by the 30th.

This informaton I received from Carl Wouters- Historian for this page.

\*\*\*The Magdeburg area where your Dad's Arbeitskommando was based was liberated by the US 30th Infantry Division. The town itself was liberated on April 18, 1945. An honest assumption is that he was then taken to the town of Halle, where there was a

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large collecting point for liberated POWs. The men were then flown out on C-47's to cigarette camps in France or hospitals in England.\*\*\*\*

He arrived home on April 29, 1945. Which tells me he was in relatively decent physical health. However due to his imprisonment and the conditions (Food, sanitary status etc) my Dad was plagued with serious stomach issues for the rest of his life.

His Mother and siblings were not notified until May of 1945 and at that time in a letter to my grandmother his whereabouts were listed as unknown

I do know he received R & R but where is unknown.

I had been told upon his arrival home, he was then being prepared to continue his time in the Pacific Theater of WW11. I find this abhor-able, after he had been held as a P.O.W in a German prison camp. But, as is dictated they do what they are called to service to do. Fortunately the war came to a close after Hiroshima, the peace treaty was signed, my Dad and many others like him were saved from facing more battle.

From this point he served the remainder of his 3 year tour of duty at Ft Fanning, Texas..Obviously known as a holding center for German P.O.W's.

After WWII the 106th was disbanded, and my Father received his Honorable Discharge on at the Convenience of the Government (RR-1 demobilization AR 615-365 15 Dec.,1945.

\*\* I have edited Dad's Story regarding his capture, due to new information I have received from other family members. As well assumptions supplied to me by Carl Wouters regarding his liberation/repatriation\*\*

## Carmen Staino's WWII Diary

transcribed by Rick Staino  
rickstaino@aol.com

My dad was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. This is the diary of his time then and after.

### **December 17, 1944**

The first Bn (*battalion*) got in a little trouble today and five men from each squadron had to help them out.

### **December 18, 1944**

We were awake all night expecting the enemy to attack anytime. I was pretty scared and cold. Shells were dropping all around us. I don't like the 88m (*this is an 88 mm artillery canon the Germans used*). The Jerry (*Germans*) is pretty good with them. It's late in the afternoon and we are getting ready to pull out from the lines.

### **December 19, 1944**

We walked quite a bit and all the men are tired. We haven't eaten for three days. We are getting ready to attack the town of Schoneberg. They said it would be easy to take. We don't have any armor only rifles. They didn't tell us there was a division there and we were all taken prisoners.

### **December 20, 1944**

The Jerry marched us about five miles to a little town through mud and slush and we slept in a church. They packed us like sardines. There was no place to go to the toilet so most of the men did it in their pants.

### **December 21, 1944**

They woke us up early this morning so we could do a little walking. We walk(ed) 35 miles and took two - five minute breaks. The men were in bad condition. No chow for about six days.



## Carmen Staino's Diary...

**December 22, 1944**

We arrived at a town called Galistein. We had a little to eat. Jerry barely talk(ed) and (*we had*) dishwasher coffee.

**December 23, 1944**

We slept in a court yard all night and it was darn cold. Lucky I had my bed roll. We are going to move out today by box car where to I don't know.

**December 24, 1944**

We slept in box cars all night. We traveled about 8 Km. We got a good Christmas present from our own men. We were struck by a two P-47s (*American aircraft*). wounded 47 killed 9. Lock(ed) in box cars like dogs. They wouldn't open the doors. The Nazis took off to the hills. Some men manage(d) to open some (*doors*) and let us all out. One thousand men; some helped the wounded the(n) ran into this open field and formed a PW US PW\*\*(the men stood in formation to these letters in the snow). A day I will never forget.

*\*\*Dad spoke about this when he told us to watch the movie "Hart's War". This scene was in the beginning of the movie*

**December 25, 1944**

We slept in the box car again. The rails ahead were all blown up so we were going to walk. They told us we had about 75Km to walk for transportation. They issued us some bread. Three men on a loaf of Jerry black bread.

**December 26, 1944**

The town we were heading for is Koblenz. We slept in a barn today. Every once in a while some of our planes would circle-come over and scare everybody to death. But they seem to know we are Americans. I guess because every time we see some planes we would make a PW-US-PW (*this was*

*a formation the American prisoners made).*

**December 27, 1944**

Still on the road and don't know how the men are holding up. No food and very little water.

**December 28, 1944**

We got to Koblenz today but no transportation. All railroads were bombed out.

**December 29, 1944**

The men are getting weaker by the by the minute. Nothing to eat but frozen apples and sugar beets. Most of us have frozen feet and won't be able to hold out much longer.

**December 30, 1944**

This morning we finally got transportation at a town called Wedges. We walked 150 miles.

**December 31, 1944**

We arrived at Stalag IVB. They merged us and gave us a shot just as the clock struck twelve. Happy New Year (*Dad underlined Happy New Year*). It was a Happy New Year they gave us a can of hot soup.

**January 1, 1945**

Today we got our places to sleep. They mixed us up with the English. Boy do I hate them and so does every other G.I.

**January 2, 1945**

Feel a little better now had a little chow and a warm place to sleep. Some of the men were in bad condition. A lot of them just about made it.

**January 3, 1945**

We drew our rations with the Limies (*Britains*). One bowl of soup and five men on a loaf of bread.

**January 4, 1945**

My feet are in pretty bad shape. Lay(ed) down in bed all day to try and keep them warm.

**January 5, 1945**

We got a Red Cross parcel today. Two men to one parcel. My friend Sellers and I are sharing one. We both slept in the same bed. He's about six foot tall and we both kept warm at night.

**January 6, 1945**

They sent a few of us on detail. We pushed a wagon about a mile to a dump. It was loaded with metal.

**January 7, 1945**

The Limies (*Britains*) are treating us pretty bad. Hooray for me and the hell with you. They cut us short with our rations. I hate them more now than the Jerrys.

**January 8, 1945**

Every once in a while Sellers and I take a walk around the Stalag. It's about a one mile walk. Can't stay outside too much our toes will fall off.

**January 9, 1945**

We took a walk today to see one of our buddy (*buddies*) in another barrack. We talked for a while and then went back and took a nap.



## Carmen Staino's Diary...

**January 10, 1945**

Feel a little sick in the stomach. Have to went (go) to the toilet about every five minutes.

**January 11, 1945**

Still feel sick. It seems like all the Americans are sick. You have to wait in line to go to the toilet.

**January 12, 1945**

All the American N.C.O. (*Non Commissioned Officers*) are leaving today for another Stalag. Hate to see them go. I know a lot of them.

**January 13, 1945**

We heard rumors today that we may leave this camp in a few days and go out on Commando. I hope it's true they say you get more to eat.

**January 14, 1945**

The Jerrys gave us overcoats and some under clothes. They really did come in handy.

**January 15, 1945**

They caught (*one*) of the Americans stealing a cake today from the oven. They beat him and gave him a cold shower. I think it's the same one who robbed my cake. I don't think he'll do it again.

**January 16, 1945**

Well we are leaving here tomorrow and we got another Red Cross parcel today for seven men. It's better than none at all.

**January 17, 1945**

Here we are back in these old stinking box cars again. They gave us a piece of bread and some meat. Of course someone stole a can of meat as usual and we were cut short. The boys were sure burned up and said if they caught

the one who lifted they hang him.

**January 18, 1945**

We rode all night and finally arrived at a town called Targau Stalag IVD. Sellers and I had our own rations together and got separated somehow the night before and were in different box cars. He had the box with most of our rations in it and some son of a @!&\*& stole it (*dad rarely cursed and didn't write out the "B" word. He just put some scribbling there but underlined it.*)

**January 19, 1945**

They put us in a big hall and we were issued straw and slept on the floor. It was a big cold room. We were a hundred men and a lot more were getting sick.

**January 20, 1945**

There was snow on the ground and it was cold out. We had to walk every day about a half a mile to get a bowl of water soup.

**January 21, 1945**

Every once in a while the Jerrys would come in for a detail of men to go get coal or chop wood. Most of the men would try and get hid. They would get mad and pull their guns out and picked out men

**January 22, 1945**

(*This date was written on the diary but there was no content. No more entries were written until April 18*)

**April 18, 1945**

Today we are leaving Germany on a C47 and we are going to Le Havre France. I put a Sign of the Cross on this place. I hope I never have to come back.

It's night now and we are at a town about 18 miles north of Paris. We could not go straight to La Havre because they don't have any night lights (*Dad is most likely referring to night lights at the airport, since planes could not land without lights*). We will sleep overnight and go to Le Havre in the

morning. A Red Cross truck was waiting with coffee and cake. That sure did come in handy.

**April 19, 1945**

This morning we are leaving for Le Havre which is about 50 miles from here. We had early chow and are leaving right away. We slept with the Air Corp as they treated us swell. All you have to do is say you were a POW and they give you anything they have. When we got to Le Havre they had a truck waiting for us and they took us to Camp Lucky by truck about 60 miles from Le Havre. The first thing we did was get de lace (de-loused) and some hot chow.

**April 20, 1945**

They tell us we will be out of here in less than a week. That was good enough for us. We got some clean clothes and I am beginning to feel more like a soldier ever day.

**April 21, 1945**

From today til May 1 it was the same thing over and over again. I wrote my name more times in this last week than I ever did in my life. Had all kinds of papers to sign about POW life and the way the Germans treated us.

**May 2, 1945**

We left Camp Lucky Strike and are leaving for the gold old U.S.A. We are aboard the U.S.S. Sea Robin, an American Transport. We are leaving at 1300 today and are going to England for some war debriefing. We should get this at 9 tomorrow morning. It will only take five hours to cross the English Channel but by the time we meet our convoy it will be about 10 tonight.

**(date illegible)**

Got up early today this morning and we are in England. At the South Hampton dock the same place I left for when I went over to France. We picked up 200 wounded men and are anchored out in the bay. We will leave some time in the morning for America.

# Special Bonds: POWs and USAFRH

By Alice A. Booher



More than seven decades ago, Charles N. Chambers lived to tell a historic tale. More recently, for over two decades, Chambers has lived in an extraordinarily historic location. Both histories have parallels in resilience and are honored by the retelling.

On July 6, 1944, Charles Chambers landed on Utah Beach, Normandy with the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. During the ongoing vicious exchange with the enemy, the platoon sergeant next to him and the medic were hit, and he was captured by a German paratrooper. According to an article prepared by Mary Kay Gominger and Wilfred “Mac” McCarty for the USAFRH Communicator newspaper, with two fingers dangling, Chambers was marched to a bombed out German hospital in Brest where he was held as a POW for 3 weeks; his folks at home were told (in telegrams he still can read to remind him he was one of the lucky ones), first that Charles was MIA and then that he was wounded. In Brest, German doctors operated on his hand during which surgery he lost a third finger.

Hospitalized for a week, he was transferred to another location and then by boat to a French village with Red Cross insignias on the roof. When American aircraft flew overhead he was told to remove his GI helmet. A week later, the Americans retook Brest. A liberated and hungry Charles could tell them where the remaining Americans were held and was gifted with a case of K-rations by his rescuer. Chambers recalls that during his POW time, the Germans handed him French Francs printed by themselves in an amount equivalent to his rank as a private. Sent back to England for further Allied operations, he returned CONUS on the QUEEN MARY. In 1947 Chambers reenlisted in the Army under a combat disabled program, and served until 1966. He retired as a Master Sergeant, having served in Korea and back in Germany during the Berlin Airlift. Chambers recalls that he first read of the “Old Soldiers Home” in Army Echoes magazine and when it came time to retire, he checked it out. Charlie, as he is known by his fellow veterans, has been there since at the Washington site. Moving with the times, Charlie has also become skilled on communicating via the computer.

Chambers is not the first, only or last former POW to live at this extraordinary location, whether it is the USAFRH Washington site or at the sister facility in Gulfport, MS.

The U.S. Naval Home opened in 1824; the Soldiers and Airmen’s Home opened in 1851, and together they became the Armed Forces Retirement Home Agency in 1991 by Act of Congress, and assumed their current names (AFRH-W and ARFH-G) in 2002. The concept of establishing homes for retired veterans is now internationally widespread, but the USAFRH concept footing was in 17<sup>th</sup> century England when it was seen as a substitute for pension benefits. King Charles II built an “invalids”

home in the 1690’s, now called Royal Hospital Chelsea, representative veterans of whom still visit annually in their glorious red and black uniforms. The lack of Congressional enthusiasm coupled with a lack of funds as retirement benefits for veterans following the Revolutionary War was legendary although a “plan” for such benefits was established for enlisted personnel starting some 20 years after the Civil War, and “Homes” were a logical alternative. During interim periods, some provisions were made for hospitals for naval personnel in port cities, and a plan was implemented for having costs deducted from active duty wages. In the early 1800’s, there were some sites (including Philadelphia and Annapolis) but the initial operation thereof was neither smooth nor sound. By 1827, a Naval Home was under construction but it took two more decades before a similar one was implemented for the Army, with the bar of public funding being the primary problem.

According to USAFRH historical documents and a chapter, “Armed Forces Retirement Home” by Voluntary Service Director, USAFRH-W Carolyn Haug in the book *Glimpses of the New Veteran*, (Carolina Academic Press, 2015) a more workable



*Charlie Chambers*

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## USAFH, cont'd...

plan began with some fortuitous funding that arrived as GEN Winfield Scott returned from the Mexican-American War in 1848 with reparations in "lieu of pillaging" Mexico City. Scott gave ample funds to his troops and the rest to Congress, petitioning the Government to use those funds to build a sanctuary for his soldiers when they became old or disabled. By 1851, in legislation sponsored by Sen. Jefferson Davis of MS, and signed by Pres. Millard Fillmore, four sites were selected (New Orleans, East Pascagoula, Harrodsburg and District of Columbia), and the Old Soldiers' Home



*Lincoln Building*  
opened its doors for enlisted veterans on a country farm in rural northwest Washington, DC.

From the start, adequate and ongoing funding has been an issue. A permanent trust fund was established nearly 150 years ago, fed by monthly, active duty payroll deductions of 25 cents. As of September 2013, Military Fines and Forfeitures accounted for 57% of the \$69 million Trust Fund. With the recent reductions in the active duty military forces the result has been year over year declines in funds obtained from fines and forfeitures. The second largest source of revenue stream for the Armed Forces Retirement Home is resident fees, accounting for ap-

proximately 25% of the revenue in FY13.

For many, the USAFRH-W environment is at its best when outside on the grounds of the extraordinarily beautiful gently rolling hilled campus, not unlike many fine universities, with plenty of green lawn, stately trees, many benches and flower gardens as well as unique Victorian buildings such as Stanley Hall and "Rose" chapels, and an old fashioned gazebo reminiscent of the meeting place/center of small towns in the 1920-1940's. The campus is adjacent to two of the most elegant and interesting cemeteries in the country, Rock Creek Cemetery and the Soldiers Home's own cemetery, forerunners and gold-post examples for other national cemeteries. It was there that freed slaves helped bury soldiers who helped to end slavery.

Major edifices include the Grant Building, originally intended as a barracks, mess hall and recreation center. The old Scott Building was built in 1852 and completed in the 1890s. The clock tower, with a unique wide-spectrum view, was built as a watch

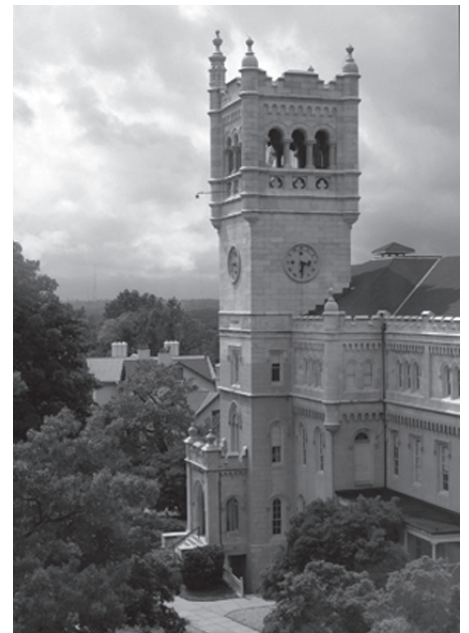
tower during the American Civil War and played a prominent role during General Jubal Early's raid on Ft. Stevens. One of the featured sites on the campus is the Gothic-Revival stucco-facade Anderson House, built in 1843 as a summer cottage for a local banker, it was renamed for MAJ Robert Anderson, one of its first residents, and now known as President Lincoln's Cottage. A library has been written on the Lincoln House, including during this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. According to these and a recent article by Jeffrey Anderson in The Washington Post on February 15, 2015, the cottage was a cool place for Lincoln to walk so as to escape the malaria infested buggy and oppressive heat of Washington and the trials of the War (from June 1862 to his death). Now carefully restored, the site serves as a lovely and gracious location for tourists who observe both the build-

ing and its select contents with artifacts contained therein as well as many other activities such as rental for weddings. The historic memories of the Lincoln Cottage includes Lincoln's drafting the Emancipation Proclamation.

USAFRH-W facilities include private rooms/showers; medical, dental & vision care (and daily transport to Walter Reed NNMC and other site medical resources), dining facilities, activities & programs, fitness centers, media room, full-service library, LifeTrail Course, swimming pool, walking trails, shuttle and transport to shopping, cultural activities and sites, recreational activities such as a 6-lane bowling alley, 9-hole golf course and the glorious still well-stocked fishing ponds, so dear to Pres. Eisenhower in the 1950's.

Operating a large successful retirement home requires ongoing efforts to work with the community and volunteers, which for USAFRH come from all venues. Residents also have a unique desire to "give back" by tutoring D.C. school kids, answering correspondence (e.g., as they did for Socks, the Clinton White House cat), or welcoming Honor Flight WWII veterans to Washington for lunch and a chat.

As WWII POW Charles Chambers is moving with the times through his



*Sherman Building*

## USAFH, cont'd...

mastering of the computer, so too is the USAFRH in which he is a treasured resident. Some of those changes were well planned and prepared in advance. Others were simply the necessary responses to what could be called "forces of nature".

Over the years various plans had been instituted for renovation and improvements, some of the planned proposals were temporarily derailed by recession. In 2002, the U.S. Congress authorized the USAFRH to use its biggest asset, its land, to replenish the coffers.

Accordingly, the Washington Home sold 49 acres of underutilized land to Catholic University of America and two beachfront properties in Gulfport for \$22.3 and \$1 million respectively in 2005 which helped the Trust Fund. But selling off land, no matter how desirable, is not the ultimate answer. So various proposals were solicited for development; with guidance of professional managers some substantive plans developed. Operational budgets were reduced significantly, some services were outsourced; buildings were closed and operations were consolidated. Concurrently, needs changed, as they have within the rest of the world community, with senior veterans living longer and having long-term care needs.

The forces of nature took a more immediate toll as well. Hurricane Katrina decimated the Gulfport campus leaving 416 veterans homeless in 2005. Due to heroic efforts, they were all evacuated safely and most made the trip to Washington where their presence expanded that site incrementally. Many had few belongings and the local community put together everything from comfort items to clothing which was distributed according to need. Eventually, with reconstruction in Gulfport, many of those veterans were able to subsequently return.

However, on August 23, 2011, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit the Washington campus causing significant

damage to the 1850's Sherman Building, a building housing USAFRH administration as well as resident activities (computer rooms, arts, crafts, etc.), dining services and a Charter School. Everyone was safely and quickly evacuated



but the damage was visible and major, with huge chunks of stone having crashed inward and onto pavements; the huge clock tower was literally held together with yellow tape like a huge package. Luckily, some heavy construction equipment was already on campus for the rebuilding of the old Scott building across the quadrangle, and immediately relocated to shore up the Sheridan Building.

Damage of the Sheridan building housing independent living residents included a scary knocking out 3 of 5 elevators with weights shifting. As noted in a press release prepared by PAO Sheila Abarr at the time, there was damage to many of the other 102 historic buildings, structures and objects including the Lincoln Cottage, all of which demanded repairs of one sort or another.

The repair and restoration has taken a long time and a lot of patience on the part of everyone. The "new" Scott building (seen behind Mr. Chambers) is now rebuilt and open as a glorious tribute to the best in retirement communities, with atriums, fountains, open spaces, exhibit and game room areas, and readily adaptable to all sorts of dining and other activities.

In February 2015, the Sherman Building was announced as the new leased home for a charter school for 250 students. According to The Washington Post, finding adequate facilities with outdoor space is a steep challenge for the city's charter schools, and they look forward to the exchanges between veterans and these younger visitors and to using the rich historical resources available.

In addition to the school, USAFRH has recently announced that it is seeking private partner capable of developing up to 80 of the 272 acres of the campus. The Home's master plan calls for an entire neighborhood of housing, offices, medical facilities, shops and a hotel, a total of 4.3 million square feet of development.

All of this can place the USAFRH on a stable financial footing. And it portends an ongoing and viable relationship between the special veterans [such as former POW and now computer aficionado Charlie Chambers] who reside there and the resilient glorious historic community in which they live.



# News Briefs

## VA Phone Scam

VA officials want to warn veterans about a new phone scam that's making its rounds across the nation. In the scam, the caller will claim to be from the VA, and that the veterans doctor wants to change their medication.

They will then ask for personal information such as Medicare details and social security numbers. Public Affairs Officer Brad Nelson with the Iron Mountain VA says that's proof positive the caller is a scammer.

"We want our veterans to know that's something the VA would never ask," said Nelson. "If they ever do get those types of calls, they should call their nearest medical center or clinic and let them know. We'll make sure we get that information to our privacy officer."

Nelson also advises that veterans never give out personal information over the phone to anyone and always ask the caller for identification and a callback number to ensure the call is legitimate.

## Women in

### Military Service Memorial

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington DC allows women to record their role in the nation's history. Dedicated in 1997, the memorial is the only national memorial honoring women who have served in our nation's de-

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### U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran of the Day

Today's VeteranOfTheDay is Dr. Rhonda Cornum of the U.S. Army. Rhonda was a flight surgeon aboard a Black Hawk helicopter on a search and rescue mission during Operation Desert Storm. The helicopter was shot down and she suffered two broken arms, a broken finger and a gunshot wound among other injuries.

"I do remember thinking, one, that I was going to die, and secondly, at least I was going to... die doing something honorable," Rhonda said about the helo going down. Rhonda was captured and held as a prisoner of war.

Rhonda later commanded the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and became the command surgeon for United States Army Forces Command. She retired in 2012 as a Brigadier General.

Thank you for your service, Rhonda!

fense in all eras and in all services. It is located next to Arlington National Cemetery.

According to the memorial's website, 2.5 million women have served in defense of the nation since the beginning more than 230 years ago; however, only 250,000 of these women are registered with the memorial. Registration is not automatic. Service women, past or present, must register themselves. People can also register women they know of who served. Memorial officials ask women to share their stories and encourage other service women to do the same.

Registration is free; however, people may make a donation.

Visit [www.womensmemorial.org](http://www.womensmemorial.org) and click on "Membership" to register. To register by mail, contact the memorial staff at 703-533-1155 or 800-222-2294 to request a registration form, or write: Women in Military Service for American Memorial Foundation, Dept. 560, Washington, DC, 20042-560.

Bring your kids and grandkids to Texas!  
National Convention  
June 24-27, 2015





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



*Banquet, Saturday evening, June 27*

**Arlington Hilton**

(817) 640-3322

2401 East Lamar • Arlington, Texas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**↓ LATE REGISTRATION rates below ↓**

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

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

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

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

Send registration and payment, made payable to AXPOW, to

**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40 • Arlington Texas 76010

(817) 649-2979

Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2015



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



## Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington



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

## Attractions:

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



## Short Agenda:

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

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## AD Order Form

Page size is 8 1/2 x 11/due date May 15, 2015

	Black & White	Color
Full Page .....	\$275	\$500
Half Page... .	\$200	\$300
Quarter Page...	\$130	

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

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

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

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

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

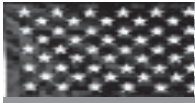
Ad Size: \_\_\_\_\_

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**



# Decision 2015 Candidates

## For National Commander Edward DeMent



Ed served as FL Dept. Treasurer, JVC, SVC and Commander. He currently is Senior Vice Commander, budget chairman and chairman of the Andersonville Committee, acting as AXPOW's liaison with the Andersonville National Historic Site. Ed was instrumental in the success of "Victory from Within", a traveling museum under the Andersonville umbrella. 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 456<sup>th</sup> BG out of Italy. He was shot down over Yugoslavia and held in Luft 3 (center compound) and 7A.

Ed lives in Tampa, Florida.

## 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 AXPOW 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.

Currently, Skip serving as National Commander.

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

## For Jr. Vice Commander ~East Cheryl Cerbone



I first served AXPOW 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 1986), 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, Bylaws and Publications Guidelines. I am excited about being part of AXPOW's future...as we transition into more of a legacy organization. A priority is 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 Jr. Vice Commander ~Central Pam Warner Eslinger



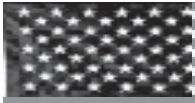
I have been your Jr. Vice Commander for the Central Zone for the past 3 years and South Central National

Director since 2008. My dad is PNC Jack 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 members of this great organization - my daughter Jan is National Director and my son, Jim is Sergeant-at-Arms. We have a big group coming to convention each year 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. I have been working hard as your Jr. Vice Commander for the Central Zone, and appreciate the trust and faith you have put in me to care for it and carry on your legacy.

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## For National Director ~ East Central Judy Lee



Judy has been an active member of AXPOW, the Department of Tennessee and her chapter for decades.

Members still remember the excellent National Convention put on in Knoxville in 1993; Judy and her late husband Charles were an important part of its success. After serving on National Committees -- most recently as Chairman of Credentials -- Judy was elected as National Director in 2007. She has been a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, working to ensure the future of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, as well as Credentials; she currently is chairman of Personnel and a member of the Budget and Finance and Protocol Committees.

Judy lives in Madisonville, TN.

## For National Director ~ South East Marty Klumpp

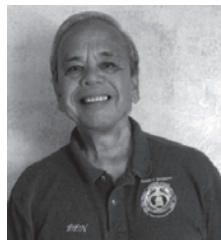
My name is Marty Galloway Klumpp and I was elected SE National Director last year. My parents are the late PNC Joe and Charlotte Galloway and my father-in-law was PNC John



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Klumpp. I am honored to say I learned everything I know about leadership and commitment from the work of those before us. I served on the Strategic Planning Committee, 2000-2003. My career and background is in non-profit management and professional fundraising. I have been successfully involved in multiple Capital Campaigns over the years, raising over \$30 million dollars, writing award winning grants, and successfully presented proposals to national foundations, corporations, and individuals. As the daughter of a PNC, I look forward to working with the organization to serve our Southeast Region.

## For National Director ~ South Central Ben Garrido



I am a US Army (Ret.) Vietnam Combat veteran. Since retirement I have been working to ensure disabled veterans

and their families receive the benefits they are entitled to by serving as a National Service Officer for the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

To honor my father, Vincent Garrido (WWII POW), I became active in AXPOW. I have been a National Director for the past six years. I have served as Chair of Grievance & Investigation and member of Next of Kin and Membership committees. I currently sit on the Nominations/Elections committee, the Strategic Planning committee and I act as Special Liaison to Military and Veterans & Military Organizations. I also served as Sr. Vice Commander,

Dept. of Oklahoma, MOPH.

My wife, Nancy and I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

## For National Director ~ South West Ted Cadwallader

Ted was born in the Philippines and, as a young boy, he and his family were interned as civilian prisoners of the Japanese for 37 months



(1942-1945) in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. Ted has served as the Commander, Department of California, AXPOW, and is the current Vice-Commander of the Department, and a former chair of the Civilian Internee Committee. He has been the commander of the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, AXPOW, for many years. Currently he is the National Director, Southwest Region, AXPOW. He is a retired Master Sergeant, U.S. Army Reserve, and is retired from the State of California, Department of Rehabilitation. Ted is married to Dianne and they have two grown, married offspring, a daughter in St. Petersburg, Florida and a son in Los Angeles, CA. Ted is dedicated to the heritage left to us by all former American POWs, as well as the impressive, important historical knowledge and ideals of the American Ex-Prisoners of War organization.





## AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

All contributions are to be sent directly to National Headquarters to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each issue.

I am enclosing my contribution to support the operation of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

**\$20.00      \$30.00                  \$40.00                  \$50.00                  \$100.00      Other**

Please circle one category:

Individual

Chapter

State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Please make checks payable to  
American Ex-Prisoners of War - Voluntary Funding  
Mail contributions to:  
National Headquarters  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010

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# contributions



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

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

*Thank you! We  
received a very  
generous donation from  
the estates of Joseph and  
Audrey Lemkin. We are  
very appreciative of  
their thoughtfulness and  
generosity.*

## GENERAL FUND

In honor of Julie Britton's 90<sup>th</sup>  
birthday, by Nancy & Norman  
Mahrley

In memory of Lt Col Dale J  
Stephens, USAF Ret, by the Brit-  
ish United Services Club of Los  
Angeles

In memory of Arthur Gross, by  
Betty & Norm Gustafson

In memory of Bruno Troccila, by  
Richard Trocciola and the  
Maersk Agency USA

In memory of James Verle  
Bennett, by Mid-Iowa Chapter

In memory of Lt Col Edward W  
Leonard, by Walt Stischer

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Anita Costello & Zavier Mauldin

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Council of New Jersey  
Grantmakers

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In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Donna Montesano

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Jean Marimon

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Kathy Schroeder

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Kay Hendon

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Linda Refi

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Linda Sampson

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
M/M James Lake

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
M/M Joseph Ventimiglia

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Margaret Simpson

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Marlene Walsh

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Mary Braneck

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Paul Saeman

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Residents Asswoc of Navesink  
Harbor

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Richard D Trenk

In memory of Margaret Venti, by  
Thomas Chapyak

In memory of Richard Jindrich,  
by Clayton Nattier

In memory of Robert "Bob"  
Franklin, by Arnold & Gladys  
Mueller

In memory of Robert "Bob"  
Franklin, by Senior Faith Church  
Group

In memory of Robert Ball, by  
Clayton Nattier

In memory of Robert C Franklin,  
by Donna Klaus

In memory of Robert C Franklin,  
by Linda Pehr

In memory of Robert Rudolph, by  
Wendell Fetters

In memory of Wilton 'Tut'  
Tawwater, by Jackson Health Sys-  
tem, Risk & Quality Team

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

In memory of Lt Leonard  
Prosuick, by Paul Thompson

Donald Staight, Pacifica CA  
Frank & Anne Kravetz, E Pitts-  
burgh PA

Kachadour Avedisian, Cranston  
RI

Maurice Markworth, Palmyra PA  
Mel & Harriet Steffes, San  
Clemente CA

Ohio Chapter #1

Robert Smith, Tomahawk WI

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

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

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

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

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

Thank you!



# Ladies Luncheon Friday, June 26, 2015

## "The Different Hats Women Wear"

Women wear so many different "hats" during their lives: wife, mother, grandmother, professionally, cook, chauffeur, babysitter, gardener, etc., etc. Sometimes during a day or hour we change "hats" several times! Carol Chandler has worn many hats during her life- figurative + literally! Carol loves hats! She probably has over 50 hats and wears one to church each Sunday! At church she is known as "the hat lady"! Come hear how Carol relates some of her actual hats to some of the "life hats" she (and probably you) has worn.

If you are coming to the Ladies Luncheon, bring and wear a hat!



## Certificate of Captivity

**Prisoner of War  
Certificate of Captivity**

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

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](mailto:axpow76010@yahoo.com). You may include a picture with your order.

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# taps



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

**ANGUILANO, Peter A.**, of Willoughby, OH died Dec. 21, 2014 at the age of 94. During WWII, he served in the Army; he was captured in Italy during the battle of Anzio Beach and held in 7A and 2B. Peter is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Eileen, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**AYRES, Edwin G.**, 93, of Viborg, SD passed away Jan. 30, 2015. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF; he was held in Luft IV until liberation. He leaves 1 son and his family.

**BENNETT, James Verle**, 93, of Jefferson, IA died Feb. 17, 2015. He was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Army, 30<sup>th</sup> Div., 176<sup>th</sup> Inf. in WWII. After capture, he was held in Stalag 3C. He was a member of the Mid-Iowa Chapter. Survivors include a son-in-law and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was the last WWII POW in Greene County, IA.

**BLACK, Ewell C.**, of Austell, GA died March 14, 2015. He was 90. During WWII, he served with the 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 422 Inf. He was captured and held in Stalags 12A, 4B, Kommando Gleina. Rev. Black was past commander for the Dept. of South Carolina, AXPOW. He is survived by one son and one daughter and their families.

**BONSALL, William A.**, of Morgantown, WV passed away Feb. 21, 2015 at the age of 91. Bill was captured after D-Day, serving with the 9<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. He was held in Stalags 12A and 3C. He and his wife Jean were members of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to Jean, Bill leaves 2 daughters, 1 son and 7 grandchildren.

**BRAUS, Paul "Dallas"**, 92, of Youngsville, LA died April 26, 2014. He was captured at Anzio Beach while serving in the Army; he was able to escape after several months and brought to freedom by the allied Rus-

sians. He was a member of AXPOW. His wife, Lorris, predeceased him; he is survived by 2 daughters, 2 sons, 13 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 28 great-great-grandchildren.

**CANNON, John C.**, of Cleveland, GA passed away March 24, 2014. He was 93. During WWII, he served with the 17<sup>th</sup> BG, 34<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag 17B until liberation. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Mountaineer Chapter, GA. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Jessie, 2 sons, 2 grandchildren and many extended family and friends.

**COSTELLO, Edward C.** of Hilliard, OH died January 27, 2015. He served in the USAF, 384<sup>th</sup> BG, 546<sup>th</sup> BS; he was shot down on his first mission. Ed was captured and held in Stalag 17B, Krems for 2 years. He was a member of the Ohio Chapter #1, AXPOW.

**DAVES, Edna M.**, of Fresno, CA passed away on March 5, 2015, one week to the day after her 92 birthday. She proudly served in WWII as a Navy Wave & Control Tower Operator at Alameda Naval Air Station in California. Edna was the widow of Ex-POW Edward H. Daves, a B-17 pilot with the 401st BG; held at Stalag Luft 1 in Barth, Germany. She is survived by her daughter & son-in-law, as well as a loving extended family.

**EDWARDS, Francis R.**, of Punta Gorda, FL formerly of Arcade, NY passed away Aug. 16, 2014. He was 92. He served in the Pacific with the Army Air Corps during WWII as a B-29 gun commander. After capture, he was held in Rangoon, Burma. He leaves his wife of 69 years, Barbara, 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

**FITZGERALD, Stephen L.** died on February 8, 2015. During WWII, he served with the 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Div. After capture, he was held in Stalag 7B. Stephen was the beloved husband of Barbara Wegener and the late Helen Bonczek; he also leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 2

grandchildren, 2 brothers, 1 sister and a large extended family.

**FUNK, Glenferd E.**, of McPherson, KS passed away Feb. 15, 2015. He was 96 and a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. While serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 465<sup>th</sup> BG, 782<sup>nd</sup> BS, he was shot down, captured and held in Bucharest until liberation. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Edythe, 2 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandson and 1 brother.

**GREVE, Walter C.**, of Aurora, CO passed away Feb. 28, 2015 at the age of 91. Walter was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 423<sup>rd</sup> Reg., HQ Co. He was held in Stalag IVB. He was a member of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 2 sons, 2 grandsons and 1 brother.

**HEARE, Robert D.**, 94, of Romney, WV died Sept. 25, 2014. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII and was a POW in 11A and Luft IV. He was on the Black March through Germany until liberated in 1945. Robert was a member of AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Iona, 2 children, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**HOOK, Marjorie Ione**, formerly of Dayton, OH and recently of Aurora, CO passed away Dec. 1, 2014. She was 90. Marjorie and her husband, ex-POW Ken, were members of the Dayton Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to Ken, she is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter and 5 grandchildren.

**JOHNSON, Paul Eugene**, 91, member of the Greater Greensboro Chapter, AXPOW, died Oct. 5, 2014. During WWII, he was shot down, captured and held until liberation. He leaves 3 sons, 1 sister, 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandson.

**KAROLY, Bennett T.**, 91, of Carmichael, CA passed away on January 17, 2015. Bennett was a waist gunner in the 15<sup>th</sup> AF and a former POW. He was the last surviving member of his particular aircrew. Bennett

## taps cont'd...

is survived by his wife, Linda, 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren. He was a life member of AXPOW and a former member of the 49ers Chapter.

**KLEINON, Jack**, member of the Fox River Valley Chapter died in Dec. 2014. He leaves his devoted wife and four children. He will be missed.

**LETT, Corney C.**, 93, of Proctorville, OH died Jan. 7, 2015. While serving in the AAC, he was shot down, captured in Holland and taken to Stalag 17B where he was held 17 months. Corney was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Erna, 1 daughter, 2 stepsons, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

**MACIK, Andrew**, 92, of Tierra Verde, FL, died August 6, 2015. He was in the ETO, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, and was held in Stalag VIIA. Andy is survived by his wife of 44 years, Carol, a stepdaughter, and a stepson. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW, where he served as JVC. He will be missed.

**MARTINEZ, Eloise**, of Murrieta, GA passed away Dec. 12, 2014. Eloise was the loving wife of Ex-POW Augustine. She and her husband of 67 years were life members of AXPOW. She leaves 3 daughters, 5 granddaughters and 10 great-grandchildren.

**McCLELLAND, Frank H.**, of Dravosburg, PA, died in February 2015 at the age of 92. He was a life member of AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 28<sup>th</sup> Div., 110<sup>th</sup> Inf. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag IID. Frank is survived by 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**MOORE, George Horace**, 92, of Mebane, NC passed away on January 14, 2015. He was captured near Damnefeld, Germany on July 7, 1944 while serving with the 615<sup>th</sup> BS, 401<sup>st</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. George was wounded by shrapnel and spent several days in a German hospital. He was assigned to

Stalag Luft 4 until January, 1945, and relocated to Stalag Luft I in Barth where he was liberated on April 30, 1945. He is survived by his wife Myra, 3 children, 8 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

**NASH, Albert L.** of Leicester, MA passed away February 4, 2015. He was 93. Al Proudly served his country in the Army Air Corps, as it was called when he joined. During a routine bombing run over Naples Italy his plane was shot down; he was captured and held in Stalag XVIIIB, Krems. Al was a member of American Ex-Prisoners of War Central Mass Chapter. His wife, Phyllis, predeceased him; he leaves 3 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and their families, several nieces and nephews and his godson. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends and always affectionately be remembered most simply as "Grampy".

**PELUSO, John J.**, of Newport, KY died Jan. 30, 2015 at the age of 92. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 79<sup>th</sup> Inf. John was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by two sons, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**PETH, Richard "Bud"**, of Bellingham, WA passed away March 10, 2015. During WWII, he served with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 484<sup>th</sup> BG, 827<sup>th</sup> BS. His B24 was shot down, he was captured and held until liberation. He is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and a loving extended family.

**REYNOLDS, Victor "Dick" C.**, of Peoria, IL died Jan. 20, 2015. He was 93. He was captured on Corregidor on May 6, 1942, marched to Manila, held in Cabanatuan and taken by Hell Ship to Narumi POW camp in Nagoya, Japan where he was held until liberated. Dick was a member of AXPOW, ADBC, and past commander of the Heart of Illinois Chapter. Survivors include his wife of 69 years, Lucille, 3 daughters, 2 sons, 1 sister, 19 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandsons.

**ROY, Carl W.** of Solomons, MD, passed away March 9, 2015. he was captured while serving with the AAC in the Philippines; a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He leaves his beloved wife of 67 years, Anna, 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 brothers, 6 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**RUDOLPH, Robert H. (Rudy)**, 90, of Lee's Summit, MO, passed away January 24, 2015. at the VA Hospital in Kansas City, MO. Burial was at the Holton Cemetery in Holton, KS. He proudly served his country in the US Army during WWII, assigned to the 45th Inf. Div.(Italy.) His first wife, Lois, predeceased him; he leaves his wife, Peggy, 2 daughters, 1 son, 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**SCHMIDT, Dona M.**, 88, passed away March 8, 2015. Dona, a life member, was the wife of 68 years to Vern Schmidt, Commander of Fresno Chapter #1 AXPOW. In addition to her loving husband, she leaves 2 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a large and loving group of family and friends.

**SIMCIK, John C.**, of Waco, TX died March 11, 2015. During WWII, he served with Patton's Third Army. He was captured in France and held until liberation. John leaves his wife, Mary, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 4 great-grandsons, 2 brothers and a host of friends.

**STEPHENS, Dale J.**, of Granada Hills, CA, died Dec. 26, 2014. He was a member and officer of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He was serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 392<sup>nd</sup> BG when he was captured; he was held in Stalag 17B until the end of the war in Europe. Dale is survived by his wife, Virginia, 2 sons, 1 daughter and their families.

**STOLULONIS, Felix**, of Worcester, MA died recently. During WWII, he served with the 26 Inf. Div.; he was captured and held in Stalags 12A and 4B until liberation. Felix was a member of Central MA Chapter, AX-



# taps cont'd...

POW. Survivors include his great-niece Linda.

**STRONG, George Woodrow**, of Bremerton, WA passed away Feb. 2, 2015. He was 96. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving in the Army with the 423<sup>rd</sup> Inf., 106<sup>th</sup> Div. He was held in "Slaughterhouse Five" in Dresden until liberation. He leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**TAWWATER, Wilton "Tut"** of Plainview, TX died Jan. 31, 2015. His B24 was shot down over Holland, he was captured and held in Stalag Luft IV, then marched across Germany until liberated. Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Dorothy, 2 sons, 2 grandsons and their families.

**THOMPSON, Homer H.**, of Moore, Oklahoma passed away March 23,

2015. During WWII, he served with the 84<sup>th</sup> Div., 335<sup>th</sup> Inf., Co. L; he was captured and held until liberation. Homer was an active member of the Oklahoma chapter and a volunteer at the OKC VA hospital. He is survived by his wife, Lorene, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**TRASK, Robert, W., "Bob,"** 94, of Hughson, CA passed away on December 14, 2014. Bob was in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Armored Division, ETO. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held in Stalag 11A. He leaves his beloved wife of 46 years, Donna, five children, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He will be missed greatly by those close to him and those who knew him.

**VERMILLION, William F.**, of Beresford, SD died Jan. 12, 2015 at the age of 94. His B-26 Marauder was shot down, he was captured and

spent 15 months as a POW. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Fern, 1 brother and many nieces and nephews.

**VIZACHERO, Emilio Jr. "Vince"**, founder and commander of the Neglected Heroes Chapter (NJ) AXPOW passed away Feb. 5, 2015. He was captured while serving with the 30<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. during WWII at the Battle of Mortain, France. He was held in various camps including 7B. He was liberated April 29, 1945. Vince was an active NSO, working to ensure veterans received the benefits they deserved. Survivors include his son, Emilio III.

**WALDROP, Robert**, 92, of Saint Helena Island, SC died Feb. 4, 2015. His B17 was shot down flying out of England; he was captured and held in Stalag Lufts VI and IV. His wife, Helen, predeceased him; he leaves 1 daughter, 1 granddaughter and 2 great-grandchildren.

## chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

We have two types of land in Mississippi. Dry land on top of the hill and wet land at the bottom. The wet land is also called a "swamp". It is wet, boggy and grows vines, briars, and assorted undergrowth as quickly as the sun rises, sometimes, it seems, overnight. It is a bog, when we walk through the swamp we easily sink to knee depths in mud.

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May/June 2015  
36

To often we are "swamped" by problems in life, such as depression, despair, family, job, sometimes our religious beliefs cause us worry, dread, and concern. Sometimes our possessions cause problems, getting them, keeping them, using them, replacing them as they become obsolete. In short, life is full of strife.

Imagine, a place, where food was scarce, a premium item. Where worry and depression are a constant presence. Where people carry no good will and as David complained in Psalm 142: "...no man cared for my soul." Is there such a place?

Yes. Our Family members who were Prisoners-of-war found such a place. You and I find such places in life, especially, in view of the commercialism of our modern society. Further, we see people in large cities who are generally described as "homeless". Who cares for them?

There is good news: God cares for His creation. The Swamp of life is just a temporary place. Psalm 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy

rod and thy staff they comfort me." We are walking through the valley, the swamp, the bog of life. We will not stay in the swamp. Further God is with us on top of the hill and He is with us when we are bogged down with the worries of life.

Psalm 142:7 "Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me."

The world teaches us to get more "stuff". God teaches us to exercise care for others and to rely upon Him. Our riches are in Heaven not here on earth. Our real peace is found in prayer to God, not in worrying about our problems and our swamps of life.

Prayer: Lord, as we pass through this life, we say thank you for taking care of us. Please guide our steps O Lord so that our footing is sure and we pass through the swamps with praise for you. In Your Son's name, Amen.

*Benny*



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

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

**IN MEMORY OF:**

---

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

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

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

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

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:**

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

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

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Memorial donations should be sent to:  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40  
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Donations are not tax-deductible.

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**IN MEMORY OF:**

---

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:**

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

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

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

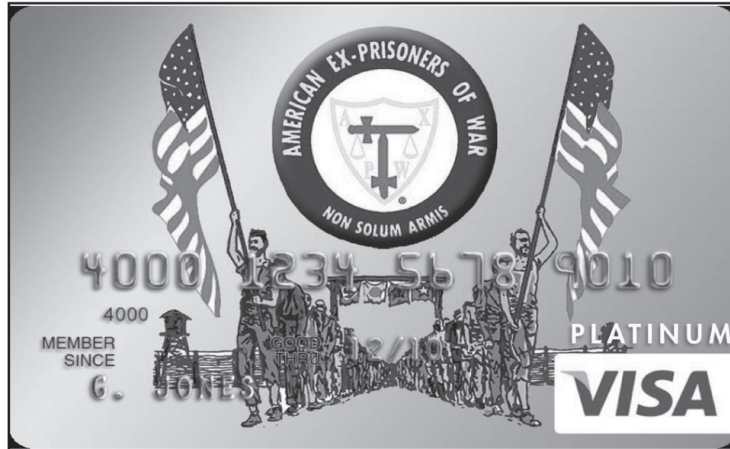
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**The National 4th (IVY) Division Association**

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

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

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

**"Steadfast and Loyal"**

# 50/50 drawing

June 28, 2014 Arlington, TX

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

These drawings help raise money needed for our operating expenses. They allow our members to participate in a very worthwhile project, while giving them a chance to win. 50% of the donations will be given to the General Fund and the other 50% are awarded as prizes. The amounts are determined after all donations are received. You do not have to be present to win. Please make copies of the tickets on the other side and offer them to your Chapter members, family and friends. We are asking \$5.00 for 6 tickets. These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mail to:**

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



## The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active  
since 1946

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

**The CUB Magazine is published three times  
per year. Published since 1946.  
Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

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

Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2015



**AXPOW Gravesite Medallion**



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

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

**\$75.00**

**plus \$15.00 S/H/I  
Shipping costs on two or more is \$20.00.**

**AXPOW Vest Order Form**

**(For members only)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**Price: \$55.00, includes S/H**

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

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

**\$10.00**ea

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00
Necktie w/logo (regular only)	30.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00
Brooch pin	5.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00
Logo pin	5.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00
Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Challenge Coins	10.00
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire (silver)	8.00
Vest Chainguard	8.00
4" Blazer Patch	4.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
AXPOW By-Laws	5.00

**Name Badge Order Form**

**(for members only)**

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Name Badge with name & chapter and

city: **\$6.00**(includes S/H)

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

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

**We accept Master Card/Visa**

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Aluminum License Plate	5.00
3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
3" Inside Decal	1.00
8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW DVD - ETO or Pacific	11.00
"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00

**CLOTHSTRIPES** (specify which title) 3.00

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Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander  
Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · Sr. Vice Commander · Jr. Vice Commander  
Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

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For orders over 100.00, add \$20.00 Checks/Money Order/Credit Card Accepted.

**Shipping/Handling/Insurance:**

**Total: \$**

**For credit card orders:** Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR CASTING YOUR BALLOT

Voting for National Officers/Directors. All members who are current on their dues are eligible to vote. Please follow these instructions.

**You must use the original ballot on the next page to vote. Photocopies will be destroyed and the vote will not be counted.**

The names on the back of the ballot (the mailing label) are the members eligible to vote. The first name listed is Voter 1 and the second name listed is Voter 2 (where applicable).

Place an X in the box next to the candidates name for whom you are voting.

Write-in candidates will not be allowed and there will be no nominations made from the convention floor.

Sign the ballot, place in an envelope and send it to:

AXPOW BALLOT  
3201 E PIONEER PKWY #40  
ARLINGTON TX 76010

Ballots must be received at National Headquarters by June 15, 2015 to be counted.

**Only current AXPOW members are eligible to vote.**

If you have any questions, please contact National Headquarters at 817-649-2979 or [hq@axpow.org](mailto:hq@axpow.org).

American Ex-Prisoners of War  
2015 Election  
National Ballot



	voter #1	voter #2	
<b>National Commander</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	DEMENT, EDWARD (FL)
<b>National Senior Vice Commander</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	MOORE, MILTON (AZ)
<b>National Junior Vice Commander</b>			
<b>Eastern Zone</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	CERBONE, CHERYL (MA)
<b>Central Zone</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	ESLINGER, PAM (OK)
<b>Western Zone</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	GOLLIN, ALICE (CA)
<b>National Director</b>			
<b>East Central Region</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	LEE, JUDY (TN)
<b>Southeast Region</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	KLUMPP, MARTY (GA)
<b>South Central Region</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	GARRIDO, BEN (OK)
<b>Southwest Region</b>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	CADWALLADER, TED (CA)

SIGNATURE(S) OF  
VOTER(S) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:  
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National Headquarters  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax  
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No collect calls, please

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AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

**\$10.00**ea

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

Please print:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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