

# EX-POW BULLETIN

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

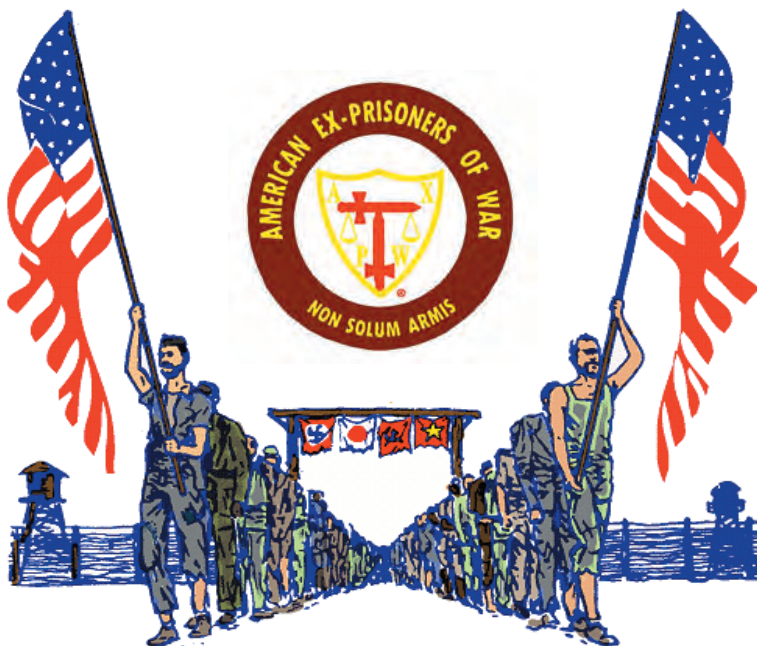
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**Number 5/6**

May/June 2017

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*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*National Convention ~ June 22-25, 2017*



Ex-POW Roy L. Carver of Carthage, TN writes: "These are pictures of the POW Olympics in Camp #5, Pyokdong, Korea. The POWs came from all the other camps to #5 for the games. My Sgt's #4 group left camp Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1952 and came back to camp on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. We went to these Olympics for two reasons: we would have gone anywhere just to break up the monotony of camp life; and because we liked to play the games. I was voted to be the Athletic Director by the POWs. Camp #4 was the winner."



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Deadline for the July/Aug  
issue is June 1, 2017  
Please send all materials to  
the editor at the above  
address.

## May/June 2017

### Memorial Day History

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities.

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today's observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity" by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

Jack W. Schwartz, of Hanford, California is an active member of Fresno Chapter #1. He will be turning 102 this year and wonders if he is the oldest Guam POW alive. If you can beat Jack, let me know and we can feature your story as well.  
Cheryl

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National Commander  
Charles Susino, Jr.

From where I sit, I have clear vision looking back on over 9 decades. My vision sees the changes in us, society in general, our country, and the life and mission of our military. Although our combat equipment has changed, and in many cases for the better since it puts less of our mili-

tary in harm's way, the mission is as critical as ever to protect our country and protect our freedoms. Unfortunately, our enemy has changed as well making it more challenging to identify and intercept. We see this in the news every day where terrorist cells strike in countries throughout the globe plus the many ongoing conflicts on a larger scale.

I am confident in our capabilities as a country and the individuals in our military and intelligence community to protect us. They take their mission seriously and have the same willingness to put their life on the line, the same as we all did. So my view of the future is positive. It is my wish that they too can look back on 9+ decades one day and view history as I have. I hope this bulletin finds all of you doing well and I hope to see many

of you at the upcoming National Convention.

-----Remember-----

*Charles Susino*



Commander Susino at Congressional  
Testimony  
March 22, 2017

## news from hq



Clydie Morgan  
Chief Operating Officer

Dear Members,

HQ has been fielding telephone calls and emails concerned about the closing of the national office. We are not closing down headquarters. We are just moving it back to our homes like it used to be.

You, and others, will not notice a major difference in how the organization operates. We will still have a magazine. We will still have our telephone number and email address. We will still have our website and Facebook page. We will continue to work with Con-

gress to maintain your benefits.

We are working more closely with several museums now to house some of the artifacts we have here at HQ. And, we are scanning in all the research papers, historical data, and medical articles we have here to allow for future studies and research. This will all be available our our website.

I hope this allays some of the fears out there. AXPOW will survive!

In other news, we are busily preparing for our National Convention. As membership ages, fewer of you are able to come to conventions, even though we switched back to summer and hold our conventions in Arlington - an easy flight from nearly everywhere. If this turns out to be out last national convention, you don't want to miss it! Look for convention news in this Bulletin. We've been working hard and your 2018 AXPOW calendar should be

in your mailboxes in the next couple months. Since 2018 is the 20th anniversary of the dedication of our national museum at Andersonville National Historic Site, we've featured pictures of Andersonville and different exhibits. It doesn't seem possible that 20 years have passed since we first were there to see "YOUR MUSEUM". If you haven't yet seen the museum, we encourage you to make the trip. It's off the beaten path from nearly everywhere, but still well worth the drive.

Summer is in full swing here in Texas and will be showing up in your hometown shortly. Enjoy the warm weather, participate in Memorial Day and other events, attend a state convention if you can.

Clydie, Marsha, Donna, Sally  
Your National Headquarters

Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2017

# from the CEO



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The month of May offers us two opportunities to honor special people who have meant so much to each of us and contributed so much to our country:

Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day. I recall, how my Mother shaped my life, and how her faith sustained her during my captivity. Her prayers, just as the prayers for Mothers' of combatants throughout history, echoed

the wishes of many around the world for those of us held in Saddam's prisons.



Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day. From my childhood in Brazil, Indiana, I recall the many miniature U.S. flags placed around the war memorial in front of the courthouse to honor each of the military personnel who died in service to our country. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the Union war dead with flowers. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* newspaper claimed in 1906 Warrenton, Virginia, was the lo-

cation of the first Civil War soldier's grave ever to be decorated on June 3, 1861. Despite many claims by numerous cities of the first observance of Memorial Day, President Lyndon Johnson signed a proclamation on May 26, 1966 naming Waterloo, New York as the site. Again, I recall going with my Grandparents to visit our Cemetery to place a flag or bouquet near a tombstone.

Lastly, this month is the run up to our 2017 convention in Arlington, Texas. I look forward to joining with you in celebrating another productive year of remembering those who returned with honor and serving those who placed Nation above self.

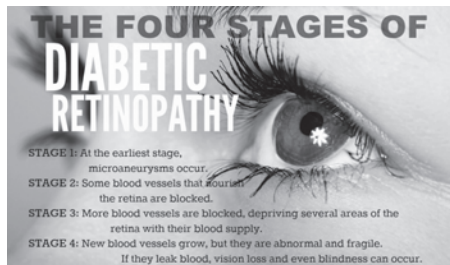
David



Florida Ex-POWs,  
their next-of-kin, and  
Lee Greenwood  
taken at Busch Gardens on March 4,  
2017



## Diabetic Retinopathy



### Can Cause Vision Loss, Blindness

Diabetic retinopathy is a complication of diabetes and a leading cause of blindness. It occurs when diabetes damages the tiny blood vessels inside the retina in the back of the eye. A healthy retina is necessary for good vision.

If you have diabetic retinopathy, at first you may notice no changes to your vision. But over time, diabetic retinopathy can get worse and cause vision loss. Diabetic retinopathy usually affects both eyes.

### Four Stages

The four stages of diabetic retinopathy are

- mild nonproliferative retinopathy
- moderate nonproliferative retinopathy
- severe nonproliferative retinopathy
- proliferative retinopathy.

The first stage is mild nonproliferative retinopathy. At this earliest stage, there are small areas of balloon-like swelling in the retina's tiny blood vessels.

The second stage is moderate nonproliferative retinopathy. As the disease progresses, some blood vessels that nourish the retina are blocked.

The third stage is severe nonproliferative retinopathy. Many more blood vessels are blocked, depriving several areas of the retina of their blood supply. These areas send signals to the body to grow new blood vessels for nourishment.

The fourth stage is proliferative retinopathy. At this advanced stage, the signals sent by the retina for nourishment cause the growth of new blood vessels. These new blood vessels are abnormal and fragile.

The new blood vessels grow along the retina and along the surface of the clear, vitreous gel that fills the inside of the eye. By themselves, these blood vessels do not cause symptoms or vision loss. However, they have thin, fragile walls. If they leak blood, severe vision loss and even blindness can result.

### Who Is at Risk?

All people with diabetes — both type 1 and type 2 — are at risk for diabetic retinopathy. People with diabetes are also at increased risk for cataract and glaucoma. That's why everyone with diabetes should get a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year.

Between 40 to 45 percent of Americans diagnosed with diabetes have some stage of diabetic retinopathy. If you have diabetic retinopathy, your doctor can recommend treat-

ment to help prevent its progression.

### How Vision Loss Occurs

Blood vessels damaged from diabetic retinopathy can cause vision loss in two ways.

1. Fragile, abnormal blood vessels can develop and leak blood into the center of the eye, blurring vision. This is proliferative retinopathy and is the fourth and most advanced stage of the disease.
2. Fluid can leak into the center of the macula, the part of the eye where sharp, straight-ahead vision occurs. The fluid makes the macula swell, blurring vision. This condition is called macular edema.

Macular edema can occur at any stage of diabetic retinopathy, although it is more likely to occur as the disease progresses. About half of the people with proliferative retinopathy also have macular edema.

### Symptoms and Detection

Diabetic retinopathy often has no early warning signs. Don't wait for symptoms. Be sure to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year to detect the disease before it causes damage to your vision.

### Vision Changes May Indicate Bleeding

In the early stages of diabetic retinopathy, you may not notice any changes in your vision. But if dia-

## medsearch, cont'd...

betic retinopathy reaches its final stage, proliferative retinopathy, bleeding can occur.

If this happens, at first, you will see a few specks of blood, or spots, floating in your vision. If spots occur, see your eye care professional as soon as possible.

### Early Treatment is Important

You may need treatment before more serious bleeding or hemorrhages occur causing vision loss or possibly blindness. Hemorrhages tend to happen more than once, often during sleep.

Sometimes the spots clear without treatment, and you will see better. However, bleeding can reoccur and cause severely blurred vision. You need to be examined by your eye care professional at the first sign of blurred vision, before more bleeding occurs.

If left untreated, proliferative retinopathy can cause severe vision loss and even blindness. Also, the earlier you receive treatment, the more likely treatment will be successful.

## Detection

Diabetic retinopathy and macular edema are detected during a comprehensive eye exam that includes a visual acuity test, dilated eye exam, and tonometry.

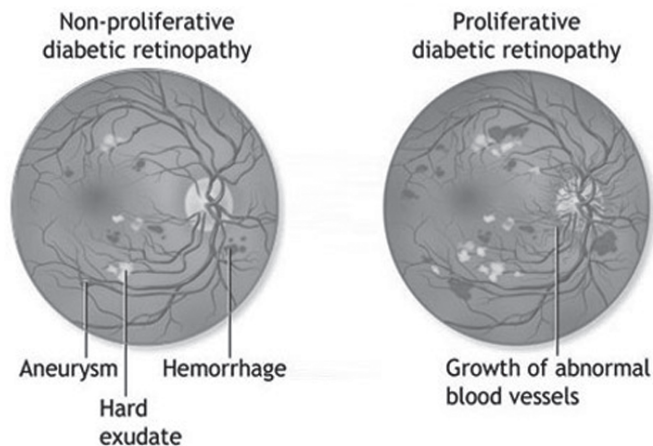
**A visual acuity test** is an eye chart test that measures how well you see at various distances.

**During the dilated eye exam**, your eye care professional checks your retina for early signs of the disease, including

- leaking blood vessels

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## TYPES OF DIABETIC RETINOPATHY



- retinal swelling such as macular edema
- pale, fatty deposits on the retina — signs of leaking blood vessels
- damaged nerve tissue
- 

**With tonometry**, an instrument measures the pressure inside the eye. Numbing drops may be applied to your eye for this test.

If your eye care professional believes you need treatment for macular edema, he or she may suggest a fluorescein angiogram. In this test, a special dye is injected into your arm. Pictures are taken as the dye passes through the blood vessels in your retina.

The test allows your eye care professional to identify any leaking blood vessels and recommend treatment.

## Treatment

### Preventing Disease Progression

During the first three stages of diabetic retinopathy, no treatment is needed, unless you have macular edema. To prevent progression of diabetic retinopathy, people with diabetes should control their levels of blood sugar, blood pressure, and blood cholesterol.

### Treatment for Macular Edema

Research found that that prompt treatment of macular edema with

anti-VEGF drugs, with or without laser treatment, resulted in better vision than laser treatment alone or steroid injections. When injected into the eye, these drugs reduce fluid leakage and interfere with the growth of new blood vessels in the retina.

In some cases, focal laser treatment is used along with the eye injections. Your doctor places up to several hundred small laser burns in the areas of the retina around the macula that are leaking.

These burns slow the leakage of fluid and reduce the amount of fluid in the retina. The surgery is usually completed in one session. Further treatment may be needed.

### Treatment for Diabetic Retinopathy

Proliferative retinopathy is treated with laser surgery. This procedure is called scatter laser treatment. Scatter laser treatment helps to shrink the abnormal blood vessels.

Your doctor places 1,000 to 2,000 laser burns in the areas of the retina away from the macula, causing the abnormal blood vessels to shrink. Because a high number of laser burns are necessary, two or more sessions usually are required to complete treatment.



## medsearch, cont'd...

Although you may notice some loss of your side vision, scatter laser treatment can save the rest of your sight. Scatter laser treatment may slightly reduce your color vision and night vision.

Scatter laser treatment works better before the fragile, new blood vessels have started to bleed. That is why it is important to have regular, comprehensive dilated eye exams. Even if bleeding has started, scatter laser treatment may still be possible, depending on the amount of bleeding.

### **Vitrectomy**

If the bleeding is severe, you may need a surgical procedure called a vitrectomy. During a vitrectomy, blood is removed from the center of your eye.

Scatter laser treatment and vitrectomy are effective in treating proliferative retinopathy and in reducing vision loss.

Once you have proliferative retinopathy, you always will be at risk for new bleeding. You may need treatment more than once to protect your sight.

### **Have Dilated Eye Exams**

The National Eye Institute (NEI) urges everyone with diabetes to have a comprehensive dilated eye exam at least once a year. If you have diabetic retinopathy, you may need an eye exam more often. People with proliferative retinopathy can reduce their risk of blindness by 95 percent with timely treatment and appropriate follow-up care.

### **Other Diabetic Eye Diseases**

In addition to diabetic retinopathy, other diabetic eye diseases that people with diabetes may face are cataract and glaucoma.

## Research

The National Eye Institute, or NEI, is conducting and supporting research that seeks better ways to detect, treat, and prevent vision loss in people with diabetes. This research is conducted through studies in the laboratory and with patients.

For example, researchers are studying drugs for the treatment of proliferative retinopathy that may reduce the need for laser surgery.

A major study has shown that better control of blood sugar levels slows the onset and progression of retinopathy. The people with diabetes who kept their blood sugar levels as close to normal as possible also had much less kidney and nerve disease. Better control also reduces the need for sight-saving laser surgery.

## Eye Diseases Health and Research Information

The National Eye Institute's Office of Science Communications, Public Liaison and Education responds directly to requests for information on eye diseases and vision research in English and Spanish. We cannot provide personalized medical advice to individuals about their condition or treatment.

E-mail: 2020@nei.nih.gov  
Phone: (301) 496-5248—English and Spanish  
Mail: National Eye Institute  
Information Office  
31 Center Drive MSC 2510  
Bethesda, MD 20892-2510



## National Institute on Aging

### **Overview**

NIA, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers of NIH, leads the federal government in conducting and supporting research on aging and the health and well-being of older people. The Institute seeks to understand the nature of aging and the aging process, and diseases and conditions associated with growing older, in order to extend the healthy, active years of life.

In 1974, Congress granted authority to form NIA to provide leadership in aging research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs relevant to aging and older people. Subsequent amendments to this legislation designated NIA as the primary Federal agency on Alzheimer's disease research.

### **Mission**

The Institute's mission is to:

Support and conduct genetic, biological, clinical, behavioral, social, and economic research on aging.

Foster the development of research and clinician scientists in aging.

Provide research resources.

Disseminate information about aging and advances in research to the public, health care professionals, and the scientific community, among a variety of audiences.

NIA sponsors research on aging through extramural and intramural programs. The extramural program funds research and training at universities, hospitals, medical centers, and other public and private organizations nationwide. The intramural program conducts basic and clinical research in Baltimore, MD, and on the NIH campus in Bethesda, MD.

# MedSearch Packets

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 1~VA Claim Information</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 2~Stresses of Incarceration &amp; After Effects Extreme Stress-</b> Covers the after effects on the nerves and body organs	<b>\$8.00</b>
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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 4~After Effects of Imprisonment</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 5~What Every Wife Should Know Before She Is Your Widow -</b> Social Security, insurance, burial procedures, allowances, etc. including what pathologist should look for in an autopsy	<b>\$11.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 6~Micro-Film Index: Asiatic Theater - Japanese</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 7~Micro-Film Index: European Theater - Germany</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 8~The European Story, History of POWs in Germany, and after-effects</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
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<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 10~The Japanese Story History of POWs in Japan, and after-effects</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Packet 11~NSO Director Answers Your Questions</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Presentation Set~(Packets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Modern Day Tragedy~medical &amp; claims evidence in support of PL 97-37</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>POW: The American Experience~overview on POW experience; reviews vitamin deficiencies, infectious diseases and service-connected statistics</b>	<b>\$6.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Map of German POW Camps~shows location of 76 camps</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Map of Japanese POW Camps~21" x 32" with camps featured in red</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2017

# legislative



## PNC Charles Susino Jr Chairman

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On March 22, 2017 I had the privilege of representing all of you and the AXPOW with legislative testimony to the Senate VA subcommittee in Washington DC. I was joined by Charles A Susino, Board of Director. The following is the verbal testimony presented. If you wish to view the testimony and Q&A session during the 2 hour hearing, please access them on the Senate VA subcommittee website. There, you will be able to view the video of the entire proceeding or access the written testimony from AXPOW as well as comments submitted by each of the Veterans' service organizations. It is also worth noting that President Trump met with several veterans' service organizations during the prior week. For the President to reach out and spend his time is viewed as a positive sign.

*Chairmen and members of the Senate Veteran's Affairs committee and guests, my name is Charles A Susino, Board member of the American EX-Prisoners of War. Over the years, my father, Charles Susino, Jr, National Commander of the AXPOW has provided testimony to your committee. He is here today seated behind me however his esophagus which was damaged in German prison camps during WWII is troubling him today and prevents him from speaking loudly for an extended period. So with your permission, I will read his testimony this morning. He will be available*

*during Q&A. What you hear will be my voice, but his words, so it will be read in first person.*

*Thank you for your tireless efforts in the last Congress. However, there is more work ahead on new legislation and improving implementation of legislation already passed.*

*A VA directive targeted to eliminate veteran's homelessness has been in effect for several years and results have been positive - an almost 70% decrease in the homeless veteran population. Sadly, however, that means that nearly 40,000 veterans are still on America's streets, without the basic shelter they both need and deserve. It is a National disgrace that any American veteran has no place to call home.*

*President Trump stated his commitment in supporting our troops. However, he has instituted a Federal hiring freeze. There is an exception protocol to receive permission for hiring. We ask the Secretary to be both aggressive and vigilant in requesting authorizations to hire for all open positions that are health care service providers to the veterans.*

*Our legislative agenda has been very consistent year to year. It is based on the earned benefits of the veteran for serving their country. Its center is healthcare and fair compensation to the veteran and their family.*

*In 1986, Congress and the President mandated VA health care for veterans with service connected disabilities as well as other special groups of veterans. It included veterans up to WWI. We ask Congress to revisit the special groups and update to include veterans of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Cold War, and our recent conflicts in the Middle East.*

*A common thread among the veteran service organizations has been improving the performance of the VA to benefit the veteran experience. No single Bill regarding management bonuses, employee discipline, etc. is sufficient. It must mirror Human Resource policies of identified companies with proven track records where high efficiency and accountability*

*persist despite changes in management. Only a comprehensive Bill can achieve the desired result. DIC has not been increased, aside from COLA, in decades and we ask for your support to correct this long standing inequity.*

*I draw your attention to the following Bills:*

*H.R. 104: Helping Homeless Veterans Act of 2017 which makes permanent certain programs that assist homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs.*

*H.R. 333: Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act permitting veterans with a service-connected disability of less than 50% to concurrently receive both retired pay and disability compensation*

*H.J. Res. 3: Approving the location of a memorial to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield. Memorials are a critical component of public awareness and education on the hardships of war. While we need to protect our freedoms we must remember the cost of freedom is very high.*

*H.R. 369: To eliminate the sunset of the Veterans Choice Program.*

*S. 24: A bill to expand eligibility for hospital care and medical services under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to include veterans who are age 75 or older*

*Please eliminate the veterans' means test for access to health care. Should a veteran who worked two or three jobs to provide better for his family later be deprived of healthcare? Each has served his country and earned the same benefits so let us not deprive any deserving veteran of healthcare.*

*Thank you for your time and consideration on these matters.*

*God bless our troops.*

*God bless America.*

*—Remember those that have sacrificed to protect our freedoms—*

The full written testimony is also available on our website.

Ex-POW Bulletin  
May/June 2017

# andersonville



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Supt. Charles Sellars  
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Spring came early to Andersonville National Historic Site this year, and it brings with it a busy season of public events. Our annual Living History Weekend was held March 12-13 and was a great success. The first Avenue of Flags for 2017 was raised on March 31 and was displayed through April 12 in honor of National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. As in past years, Robins Riders and friends offered their steadfast support and service by volunteering to help raise the over 100 flags for this event.

April 1 brought Park Day, an annual event organized by the Civil War Trust to encourage volunteer involvement in Civil War parks. Volunteers, including a group of Cub Scouts, helped beautify the park by landscaping around the National Prisoner of War Museum and repairing the reconstructed shelters in the prison site. On April 9, a special program focused on POWs of World War I will be presented in honor of National Former POW Recognition Day and in recognition of the 100th anniversary of America's entry into



World War I in 1917. Two events will occur in the park on April 15. Junior Ranger Day will encourage visitors of all ages to learn about Andersonville National Historic Site and earn a special patch and badge by completing a series of activities here at the park. Macon County's "Running through History" 5K Run/Walk will be held the same day. Participants will run/walk around the prison loop and entrance road in an event that benefits both the park and the Macon County Recreation Department.

May ends with one of our largest and most important annual events. Memorial Day activities will include our Avenue of Flags, a Memorial Mass conducted by the Knights of Columbus, and a special ceremony conducted in Andersonville National Cemetery to honor those who sacrificed so much for our nation. The Memorial Day ceremony will occur on Sunday, May 28 at 2 pm and will include a keynote speaker from the office of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army. Ceremonial wreaths honoring each branch of the military will be presented, and the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence Band will perform.

The Victory from Within Traveling POW Exhibit is currently on display at the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia. Bringing the exhibit close to the park has

allowed park staff to inspect the exhibit, which has been on the road at various venues across the country for the past 3 years. Staff will be making needed repairs to the exhibit before it is transferred to the next venue. A number of venues from South Carolina to California have expressed interest in hosting the exhibit, and we are in the process of confirming exhibition dates for the next 3 years.

The staff, volunteers, and interns at Andersonville National Historic Site and its mission are highly dedicated to our mission of honoring and sharing the stories of Camp Sumter and of all American former prisoners of war.

As a National Park Service site, it has been our privilege to steward the shared history of our nation for the past century. We look forward to continuing that mission and preserving America's legacy over the next hundred years.

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

## andersonville, cont'd...

### Living History Weekend at Andersonville National Historic Site

By Jake Koch, Lead Interpretive  
Ranger



William Faulkner famously stated that “the past is never dead. It’s not even past.” That quote, just like any quote from someone who is well known yet long gone can probably be taken in a few different ways. For me it is very fitting to our site. The reason this site was chosen to serve as the location of the National Prisoner of War Museum was because of the tragedy that occurred here over fourteen months in 1864 and 1865; however the overarching story, that of American Prisoners of War, carries on.

Most days the grassy prison site, with its granite and marble monuments and an occasional deer or turkey passing through, makes it hard to picture what happened here. The present day beauty of the site covers up the pain that was felt here, at least on the surface. While it may be hard to paint a mental picture of what occurred, most of our visitors still feel the solemnity that permeates the air here at times.

Living History Weekend, a program that we present every March, tries to rectify that visual

lapse to a certain extent. Nobody would hopefully want to see a total depiction of what the prisoners of Camp Sumter went through. Instead the purpose of the event is to provide a glimpse into the daily occurrences here in 1864 and 1865.

The prison here certainly evolved in that fourteen month period and was not the same in 1864 as it was a year later. We try to show that by having Saturday set as 1864 and Sunday set as 1865.

This change focuses in large part upon the guard force. In early 1864 the guard force was composed of combat veterans from the Army of Northern Virginia. These soldiers treated the prisoners

somewhat respectfully, as they had both been through the horrors of the Civil War battlefield. These combat veterans were soon needed back at the front and were replaced by various regiments of the Georgia Reserves. The Reserve guards were not as kind to the prisoners here, a change which unfortunately coincided with massive overcrowding of the prison site.

This year’s event, held on Saturday March 11 and Sunday March 12, was enjoyed by roughly 1,200 visitors. Over 60 reenactors volunteered their time to portray Union prisoners and Confederate guards, some



coming from as far away as Ohio and Iowa. The cannon detachment from Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield made the trek down from Atlanta to provide Historic Weapons Demonstrations and to show how cannon were used at Andersonville.

Park Guide Jennifer Hopkins and volunteer Amy Blaylock presented a 1<sup>st</sup> Person Interpretive program about the multi-layered story of women at Andersonville during the Civil War.

Stephan Zacharias, The Historic Area Supervisor at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village in Tifton, Georgia, came up to deliver a special program developed from a letter written by a member of the Georgia Reserves. In the letter, the Confederate guard requested that Confederate President Jefferson Davis look into the horrible conditions at Camp Sumter.

Mark Hale also returned to present his program of Father Whelan. All the special programs were well attended and greatly appreciated by the visitors.

The event successfully presented a small window into what occurred here over 150 years ago. For 362 days a year, the reconstructed Northeast corner of the prison sits empty of anything but unoccupied shelters, leaving everything to the visitor’s imagination.

Living History Weekend, along with Night Museum in November, gives us the chance to fill that corner with life, and to paint a picture of at least some of the sacrifices made by the prisoners here, which directly relates to the shared story of Prisoners of War throughout American History.

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# namPOWs



## The Beginning of the End!

by Giles Norrington  
gilesnorr@aol.com

During the Spring of 1972, the North Vietnamese prison camp authorities decided to move about half of us out of Hanoi. We were moved by truck, mostly in the dark, to a small, crude compound near the China border. The nearby village was called Cao Bang. We called the compound Dogpatch, a nod to Al Capp, creator of the comic strip Li'l Abner. (You will remember that Abner, the lovely Daisy Mae, tough-as-nails Mammy Yokum and the entire cast of characters lived in that valley. Dogpatch was a world apart— rough, primitive, no electricity and no running water.) So Dogpatch it was!

The camp was a matrix of stone buildings, each with a small, high-walled courtyard. We were allowed to congregate freely and, except for when our meals were brought and evening lockup, the guards left us alone. At least we are not being tortured for propaganda or subjected to endless harangues about how

we were losing hundreds of aircraft each day, or how good Communist life was in North Vietnam. In all, it was a live-and-let-live situation for both ourselves and our captors.

Intra-camp moves, we called them “shuffles” were commonplace in Hanoi. These moves were intended to keep us from organizing and to stymie our clandestine (and always risky) communications. We were good at both organizing and communicating, so the shuffles never worked all that well for the bad guys. However, in Dogpatch there was no point; the guards didn't seem to care whether we organized or communicated. But habits are habits, so even in Dogpatch, we had the occasional shuffle.

It began to make some sense to us in the fall of 1972, when we realized that everyone in our building was shot down within the same time frame. It took no time at all to learn that this was true in every building in Dogpatch! Even the most skeptical among us realized that they might...just MIGHT... be organizing us for, at the very least, a return to Hanoi.

The few remaining weeks in Dogpatch passed memorably. We were told about the B-52 raids over Hanoi (Linebacker II) but we were skeptical, at least at the time. Christmas was made special (in our building, at least) by our drawing the name of a roomie, then writing on a scrap of paper the description of a “gift” to be delivered once we were home...which still seemed more a wish than a hope.

Then, one night in mid-January, 1973, a convoy of trucks rolled into Dogpatch to take us back to Hanoi.

We would find out in a few days that the war was over...at least our part of it! We were told the terms and dates of our release. The forty-five remaining day seemed like the longest, slowest days of our captivity.

**THE END OF OUR ORDEAL WAS IN SIGHT....IT WAS REALLY, FINALLY, THE BEGINNING OF THE END!**

Epilogue: my group, the third of four groups, regained our freedom on March 14, 1973.



Members of Vermont Chapter #1 at its annual “Show and Tell” war stories meeting at the American Legion in Barre, VT. From left, J. Francis Angier, Harry Howe, Bill Busier, Ralph McClintock and Richard Hamilton.

# pow/mia

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



## Spring News

The POW/MIA issue has been getting some unusual attention lately. Numbers attending the DPAA nationwide family meetings have been going up. The age of the attendees has been going down. Dedication and determination to finding answers is now found in the younger generations, some far removed from the original fight.

Families of those lost in World War II and Korea remain the predominant attendees at family meetings. That is no surprise, as the number of losses for those wars far exceeds the losses experienced since then.

In January, the Dole Archives, Dole Institute of Politics, at the University of Kansas, announced a new exhibit. The display will focus on those that experienced the fight of their lives - the return of their loved ones from captivity in Vietnam.

The exhibit, "The League of Wives; Vietnam's POW/MIA Allies & Advocates" will open in May 2017. The focus will be the wives who organized, and later became, the National League of Families.

Featuring artifacts and oral histories, as well as documents and local contributions, the intent of the exhibit in the end is not only education, but travel to other institutions nationwide, where each stop will contribute a regional portion with customized additions already in the collections from those impacted in that area.

On the 2018-2019 travel schedule is the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum and the Virginia Historical Society.

The focus for Virginia is sure to be the late Phyllis Galanti, whose steadfast courage was an example of determination and grace in the grassroots effort to bring home her husband, Paul, and the others held captive during Vietnam.

Noted in her 2014 obituary, was the fact that she was "a woman known to almost every military veteran in Central Virginia." The Virginia War Memorial opened the \$9 million dollar *Paul and Phyllis Galanti Education Center* in 2010 before her passing.

The entire project is based on Heath Hardage Lee's upcoming book, "The Reluctant Sorority; The True Story of Survival and Rescue From the Homefront." The book's publication is set for 2018.

January/February saw the identification of 30 individuals formerly noted as unaccounted for. Three from Laos (the first in more than a year to be accounted for from the Vietnam War), fourteen from Pearl Harbor, five from Tarawa, three from Burma, two from Germany, two from North Korea and one from the Ukraine.

Budget cuts are dramatically impacting excavations and site inspections. Fewer Investigative and Recovery Teams are scheduled for operations in 2017 than were originally announced.

Funding for the fiscal year falls far short of what is needed in Vietnam to "increase the pace and scope of operations" that Vietnam itself has been seeking.

With President Trump's hiring freeze, the position of Director of DPAA is still in limbo.

We've been asked about scheduled site identifications or excavation site schedules. Unfortunately, we have been unable to determine if any such schedule exists as it pertains to which family case is next in line, or what part of a large area like Pearl Harbor is scheduled for remains exhumation next.

We do suggest maintaining contact with the family Casualty Officer. Keep the "Primary Next of Kin" for contacts updated, so no news is missed. Check every few months on where the case stands. Do not assume DPAA knows of your interest, concern, changes in contacts or phone numbers.

One concern coming to our attention recently is the declaration by one individual to be a "Non-Governmental Organization" or NGO, without evidence of registration with the U.S. government. As in all cases, we urge caution when dealing with anyone claiming to do work overseas - attempting to aid in excavations, site identifications, acceptance of remains, or gathering information from indigenous or local residents.

Dog tag scams in SE Asia are well known. Hundreds of "found" dog tags over the last few decades were either newly produced (on machines left behind), or were lost by service members who made it home after the war, alive and well. In our research, only one dog tag actually belonged to an individual on the DoD PMSEA list.

The same can be said for notes asking for help in getting "bones" to the U.S. for identification. Many include a "letter home" or dog tag, or some other type of information purported to identify an American. As with dog tags, the information has not proven to be related to any missing service member.

Be sure that any organization you deal with has a verifiable history, and appropriate registrations before you engage with them. They tie in to universities, think tanks, or laboratories. There will be references available for successful work done.

We cannot emphasize enough, that money given to or promises made by an individual are not usually recoverable without additional costs and/or lawsuits. Be vigilant.

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# civilians



Alice Golin,  
JVC

## New Orleans Reunion

by Angus Lorenzen, BACEPOW

New Orleans, what an exciting venue for a reunion with its old-world French quarter and the new National World War II Museum.



Entrance to the National WWII  
Museum

BACEPOW celebrated on February 2 and 3 of this year, the 72rd anniversaries of the liberation of the camps at Santo Tomas, Baguio/Bilibid, and Los Baños. A great turnout of 120 people attended, 38 of whom were prisoners in the camps, and the rest were family and friends. We welcomed many descendants attending, especially since these are the people we will rely upon in the future to carry forward the mission of BACEPOW, to keep alive the memory of what the Japanese did to American and our Allied civilians in the Philippines during WW II.

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Inside the entrance lobby of the  
museum

On the first evening, we attended a banquet which was opened by a color guard from Tulane University. Later, Angus Lorenzen spoke about the convergence of anniversaries – 100 years for the U.S. entry into WW I which had a profound effect on the early days of WW II in the Philippines, the 75th anniversary of the surrender of US forces on Bataan and the resulting death march, then shortly afterwards the surrender of Corregidor and all the Philippines, and the 75th anniversary of the incarceration of most civilian prisoners in the Philippines. Grim as these anniversaries are, the attendees were uplifted by the celebration of the 72nd anniversary of their own liberation by American

forces, and many war stories were told at the daily evening cocktail party.

Sherman  
Tank  
exhibit



Our guest speaker at the banquet was Tom Gibbs, a historian at the National World War II Museum, who described how and why the museum was established and why it became the “national” museum. The next day we attended the museum, first seeing a movie of the events of the war, then being welcomed by officers of the museum. We then were turned loose to tour and visited the extensive *Road to Tokyo* and *Road to Berlin* exhibits and along the way toured through the Merchant Marine exhibit.

The museum is now planning a Liberation Pavilion, and we provided materials they could use in planning these new exhibits. Perhaps we can have another reunion there when the liberation museum is active.



An assembly of the ex-prisoners from Baguio/ Bilibid,  
Santo Tomas, and Los Baños internment camps





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

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

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

**Sept. 14-16, 2017. The Ride Home 2017** in honor of Former POWs/MIAs. This year's Ride begins at Warner-Robins AFB on Thursday, services at Andersonville National Historic Site on Friday, Recognition Services on Saturday. For more information, please see the March-April 2017 EX-POW Bulletin Contact: Moe Moyers, The Ride Home, Inc., 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859; [moehoe@verizon.net](mailto:moehoe@verizon.net); 863-324-7268.

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

## Message from VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin



I am grateful to President Trump and to members of Congress for entrusting me with the privilege of serving Veterans and the dedicated employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs as your secretary. It is my highest professional honor.

Together, we'll ensure our nation's obligation to provide care and benefits to those "who shall have borne the battle" and fulfill our institutional ICARE Values: integrity, commitment, advocacy, respect and excellence.

That obligation and those values are sacred to me, first, as an American – a beneficiary of the service and sacrifices of Veterans and their families who defend our uniquely American freedoms and opportunities. They're also sacred to me because my father served the nation as an Army psychiatrist, and both my grandfathers were Army Veterans. My paternal grandfather served as chief pharmacist at the VA hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, and as a young doctor, I trained in VA hospitals. So, serving the nation and serving Veterans is a family tradition.

It was a privilege to serve as VA's Under Secretary for Health over the past year and a half. Now, I look for-

ward to continuing our collective efforts across the department and our country to deliver the care and services our Veterans need and deserve. Among many critical efforts already underway, we will continue building on significant progress increasing access for Veterans, preventing suicide, addressing unique needs of women Veterans, supporting Veterans' families and caregivers, continuing to drive down the disability backlog and Veteran homelessness, and pursuing necessary legislation to reform the outdated appeals process and for other critical legislative priorities.

With the support of the president, Congress, Veterans, their service organizations, and the American people, we – the dedicated employees of VA – will continue to fulfill President Lincoln's promise.

There is no nobler mission. There is no higher calling for any American. I am humbled and proud to serve with you.

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VA's five core values underscore the obligations inherent in VA's mission: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. The core values define "who we are," our culture, and how we care for Veterans and eligible beneficiaries. Our values are more than just words – they affect outcomes in our daily interactions with Veterans and eligible beneficiaries and with each other. Taking the first letter of each word—Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence—creates a powerful acronym, "I CARE," that reminds each VA employee of the importance of their role in this Department. These core values come together as five promises we make as individuals and as an organization to those we serve.

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# Briefs News

## DFAS announces new address for retirees, annuitants

Military retirees and annuitants corresponding with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will use a new address beginning May 1.

The old addresses in London, Ky., have been used for years but are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis to help speed up receipt and customer service.

The new mailing addresses (beginning May 1) will be:

Retired Pay correspondence:  
Defense Finance and  
Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Retired Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay correspondence:  
Defense Finance and  
Accounting Service  
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay  
8899 E 56th Street  
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

Mail received at the old mailing addresses after May 1 will be forwarded to the new address. Current phone and fax numbers are not changing.

## Veterans Choice

Following the U.S. Senate's passage by unanimous consent in early April,

the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that extends the Veterans Choice Program (VCP) until the funding dedicated to the program is exhausted. The VCP is a critical program that increases access to care for millions of Veterans. Without this legislation, the ability to use VCP funding would have ended abruptly on Aug. 7 of this year. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. David J. Shulkin released the following statement of support:

"Congress has once again demonstrated that the country stands firmly united when it comes to supporting our nation's Veterans," Secretary Shulkin said. "The Department of Veterans Affairs truly appreciates the quick bipartisan resolution Congress provided with the extension of the Veterans Choice Program.

"I want to thank Chairman Johnny Isakson, Ranking Member Jon Tester, Chairman Phil Roe, Ranking Member Tim Walz and all the members of our committees for their leadership as we continue to make improvements to increase Veterans' access to care," Secretary Shulkin continued. "I also want to thank Senator John McCain, who has championed choice for Veterans and whose work on this issue allowed for swift and successful resolution.

"VA looks forward to continued bipartisan support as we partner with Congress to not only develop a long-term solution for community care, but also work toward other critical legislation, such as accountability and appeals modernization to ensure Veterans receive the highest quality of care, benefits and support they have earned."

## Traumatic Brain Injury Centers

The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) recently added traumatic brain injury (TBI) network sites at Fort Gordon,

Georgia; Fort Drum, New York; and at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio. These sites help DVBIC spread the word among the military community about the latest in TBI research and treatment according to DVBIC Deputy Director Katherine Helmick. "If we want to impact and improve health care for our service members, we need to be where they are," Helmick said. "This puts us at all five of the VA's Polytrauma Rehabilitation Centers and at high volume military treatment facilities."

DVBIC will bring its knowledge of up-to-the-minute findings on the causes, symptoms and treatment of TBI, so that providers won't have to hunt down new information on their own. Each location also provides added benefits to DVBIC, which in turn will enable DVBIC to help patients more effectively. For example, the new site at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Audie L. Murphy Medical Center in San Antonio, offers DVBIC staff access to VA polytrauma system of care services. These services include rehabilitation centers, support clinic teams, points of contact and transitional rehabilitation programs. DVBIC will be able to learn from patients in San Antonio about what treatments are most effective. The Fort Drum site in the Guthrie Ambulatory Healthcare Clinic in Watertown, New York, makes it easier for TBI providers in the northeast to learn about new treatments. Before this site opened, these service members traveled all over New England to meet with providers from DVBIC and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Reducing patient wait times is an important goal for DVBIC. The Dwight D. Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon operates a TBI outpatient program for a significant number of patients with persistent brain injury concerns. DVBIC will now be on hand to figure out how this population and others like it can receive more efficiently targeted care.

news, cont'd...

## Support HR 1683

H.R. 1683 would authorize the minting of a National Purple Heart Hall of Honor commemorative coin to be sold to the public.

The proceeds of these sales would benefit the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, located in New Windsor, New York.

The mission of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is "the collection and preservation of the records of Purple Heart recipients in all branches of service and across all generations."

Since Congress began authorizing commemorative coins in 1892, there has never been a coin commemorating the Purple Heart.

Please ask your Representative to cosponsor the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor Commemorative Coin Act.

## Dayton Fisher House

Fundraisers have the money they need to build a new house at the Dayton VA where veterans and their families can stay while they receive care. The Fisher House, a two-story 13,500 -square-foot building planned on the campus of the Dayton VA Medical Center, will have 16 bedrooms for veterans who are receiving care at the medical center. The project is ready to move ahead with \$6.5 million raised for its construction, as well as another \$634,000 for its operation, said Chris Stanley, executive director Fisher/Nightingale Houses Inc. They have been fundraising locally since the project got a green light in 2015.

The VA is a historic landmark, so the groups have secured permission from national and state historic preservation offices, as well as the National Park Service, to demolish two buildings to make way for the

house. The VA will award contracts for site preparation and it's expected the project will break ground in early July and take 12 to 15 months to complete. The project got a head start with a \$1.08 million donation from local developer Randy Gunlock and his wife Vicki. Fisher House Foundation put up its own \$5.5 million for construction and furnishing for the house, and local fundraising efforts brought in the \$634,000 for the house's operating budget, so veterans don't have to pay to stay there. Additional fundraising has been in the works — with groups donating \$25,000 to \$50,000 to fund individual rooms. This weekend, the Cornell/Nicholson Team at UBS Financial Services is hosting a private client-appreciation event aiming to raise another \$25,000 for the house. They were connected to the Fisher House by the Gunlocks, Stanley said. The house will fill a niche that has not previously existed at the VA, Stanley said. As is, veterans receiving care there often stay at the hotels near downtown Dayton.

## Resolution to help POWs, MIA

Republican Rep. Mark Walker (NC) introduced a resolution to the House on March 21, 2017 that would establish a Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs.

House Resolution 219 would use existing funds to establish the committee, according to a news release from Walker's office. Committee members appointed by the Speaker of the House would investigate all unresolved matters related to any U.S. personnel unaccounted for "from conflicts ranging from World War II to the War on Terror."

## VA Burial Schedules are Now Available Online

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, The Department of Veterans Affairs announced a new online schedule for all VA national

cemeteries that will allow families, friends and community members to find time and location information for those being interred.

"We pride ourselves on continuously improving customer satisfaction and meeting the wishes of Veterans and their loved ones," said interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald E. Walters. The new online feature is available to anyone with a smartphone, tablet or computer.

Schedules of interments are updated hourly at [www.cem.va.gov/dailyburialschedule](http://www.cem.va.gov/dailyburialschedule), though some scheduled services may not be included as families may opt out of posting the information publicly.

Searches can be conducted by location or last name. The daily burial schedule provides date and time of the committal service, the location of the cemetery, as well as the funeral home providing services.

The schedule also provides a direct link to the national cemetery's web page, directions, location of committal shelters and additional information. VA operates 135 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico.

More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve and maintain 105 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2016, VA honored more than 345,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries.

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



Banquet, Saturday evening, June 24

Arlington Hilton  
(817) 640-3322  
2401 East Lamar · Arlington, Texas

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

↓ **LATE REGISTRATION rates below** ↓

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

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

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

Send registration and payment, made payable to AXPOW, to

**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40 • Arlington Texas 76010

(817) 649-2979



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



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

## Our Hotel: Hilton Arlington



2401 East Lamar Boulevard, Arlington, Texas 76006-7503  
Tel: 1-817-640-3322, Fax: 1-817-633-1430  
Room Rate \$128 night/free airport shuttle/free parking  
Hilton Arlington is located 10 miles south of DFW Int'l Airport in the entertainment district of Arlington.



## Attractions:

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

## AD Order Form

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

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

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

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

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 Pkwy, Suite 40,  
Arlington, TX 76010

## Short Agenda:

JUNE 22

THURSDAY

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 23

FRIDAY

OPENING CEREMONIES

MEMORIAL SERVICE

LADIES LUNCHEON

MEDSEARCH/NSO SEMINAR

CONVENTION CALL TO ORDER

COMMANDER'S RECEPTION

JUNE 24

SATURDAY

BUSINESS SESSION CONT'D

NEW BOARD MEETING

BANQUET/INSTALLATION

JUNE 25

SUNDAY

CHECK OUT

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# the korean war

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China—or even, as some warned, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some 5 million soldiers and civilians lost their lives during the war. The Korean peninsula is still divided today.

## The Korean War

By John Powers

The Korean War began on the morning of 25 June 1950 when North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea. The South Korean Army was outnumbered by about 2 to 1. Less than 500 Americans were stationed in South



Korea at that time in various advisory capacities. Within three days of crossing, the parallel North Korea had taken Seoul, the capital of South Korea. By August, South Korean and US forces were pushed back to the Pusan perimeter on the southeastern coast of the Korean peninsula. They remained there until 15 September when the landings at Inchon were followed by the Pusan breakout on 16 September. On the 27th of September, Seoul was recaptured by UN forces. Less than two weeks later US and South Korean (ROK) forces crossed the 38th parallel and headed toward the North Korean capital of Pyongyang. The push north continued until November when Chinese Communist troops entered the war. By the end of November UN forces were again in retreat southward. Seoul fell to Communist forces for the second time on 4 January 1951.

By the end of January 1951 UN forces were again attacking northward, reaching Seoul in the middle of March. Just over a year after the start of the war, on 10 July 1951, armistice talks began. These talks continued for two more years with little change in the amount of territory held by either side. An armistice was signed on 27 July 1953.

There are some serious misconceptions concerning the Korean War.

The first is that the Korean War was lost. In fact, not only was the Chinese Army defeated but the North Korean Army as well. US forces fought against both armies as part of the United Nations effort to drive them out of South Korea. The United Nations passed several resolutions pertaining to the invasion of South Korean territory. The first was Security Council Resolution 83, passed on 27 June 1950. It recommended that members of the United Nations furnish assistance to South Korea to repel the attack by the North Koreans. The resolution called for North Korea to withdraw its forces to the 38th parallel. No UN resolution called for anything more. None of them called for the taking of any North Korean territory.

The results of the war were just as asked for in Security Council Resolution 83. The United Nations, with the bulk of the forces coming from the US, won the Korean War. US forces did exactly what they were asked to do, just as American service men and women have done in every war they have fought in. They were asked to save South Korea and its people from Communist domination and they did so. Proof of that can be seen by comparing life in South Korea today to life in North Korea.

American troops involved in the Korean War paid a price for their participation. They were seen by many in the public back home as having lost the war. The American public was used to World War II style battles and victories. But Korea was different. Americans did not see that difference and few were directly involved in the war. This made it easy for the general public to ac-

## The Korean War, cont'd...



cept the misconception we had lost the war. It also became easy for them to accept the misconception that Americans who fought there must have been of lesser quality than American troops in previous wars.

A tremendous price was paid by those Americans who became prisoners of war in Korea. First, a larger percentage of American POWs died as prisoners in Korea than any war since the American Revolution. Second, most of those POWs who survived were assumed by the folks back home to have cooperated with the Communists. Any discussion of Korean War POWs collaborating, or not trying to escape, or dying because they were somehow deficient in character is completely invalid and a terrible insult to those Americans held as prisoners in Korea.

Right from the beginning of the war, American POWs were treated differently than in any previous war. From July to November 1950, there were seven documented incidents in which over 200 American prisoners were very deliberately executed by the North Koreans. The number of executions with no witnesses can only be guessed at.

Those prisoners not immediately executed were marched from their point of capture to temporary hold-

ing points. These were not camps but often homes or buildings in small villages or even caves. They would be held at these locations for a few weeks or a few months, then marched to permanent camps. One American captured at the end of November 1950 did not reach a permanent camp until Easter of 1951. Most of that time was spent being moved - on foot, during the Korean winter - from one place to another. POWs in the Korean War traveled by train, truck,

jeep, barge, ox cart, and in at least in one case, on the back of a cow. But most of all they moved from point A to point B on foot. In many cases, bare feet.

When first captured, it was not uncommon for POWs to have their boots and any heavy outer clothing taken away. The standard food ration was one or two rice balls a day and little water. Medical care was minimal, if any at all. The extreme cold, minimal diet, and lack of medical care for wounds immediately began to have negative effects on the POWs. When these circumstances forced prisoners to fall behind on forced marches, they were executed. These marches should be as well known as the Bataan Death March, but like most facts relating to the Korean War, the American public is almost completely unaware of these events.

The Tiger Death March is well known to those POWs who survived and serious students of Korean War POW issues. The name comes from the nickname given to the Korean officer in charge of the group. The Tiger Death March began on Halloween 1950, but many of its participants had been captured as early as July. Sixty-five of the military

POWs died before the march began. Prior to that Halloween day, they had already experienced lack of food, water, and medical treatment. They had been marched from one temporary location to another and then back again. They had been strafed and bombed by US planes. They had seen fellow POWs beaten and shot. In early September, another POW spotted the Tiger Death March group in Pyongyang. He described them as "...ragged, dirty, hollow-eyed men..." wearing what he could barely recognize as American uniforms. Another POW described them as, "...crawling with lice. A large proportion of them had no shoes. They wore light-weight summer fatigues." The sick, "...walked like figures in a slow-motion film..."

There were other death marches as well.

In the U.S., the war was initially described by President Harry S. Truman as a "police action" as it was an undeclared military action, conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. It is commonly referred to as "*The Forgotten War*" because of the lack of public attention it received both during and after the war, and in relation to the global scale of World War II, which preceded it, and the subsequent angst of the Vietnam War, which succeeded it.







# new members

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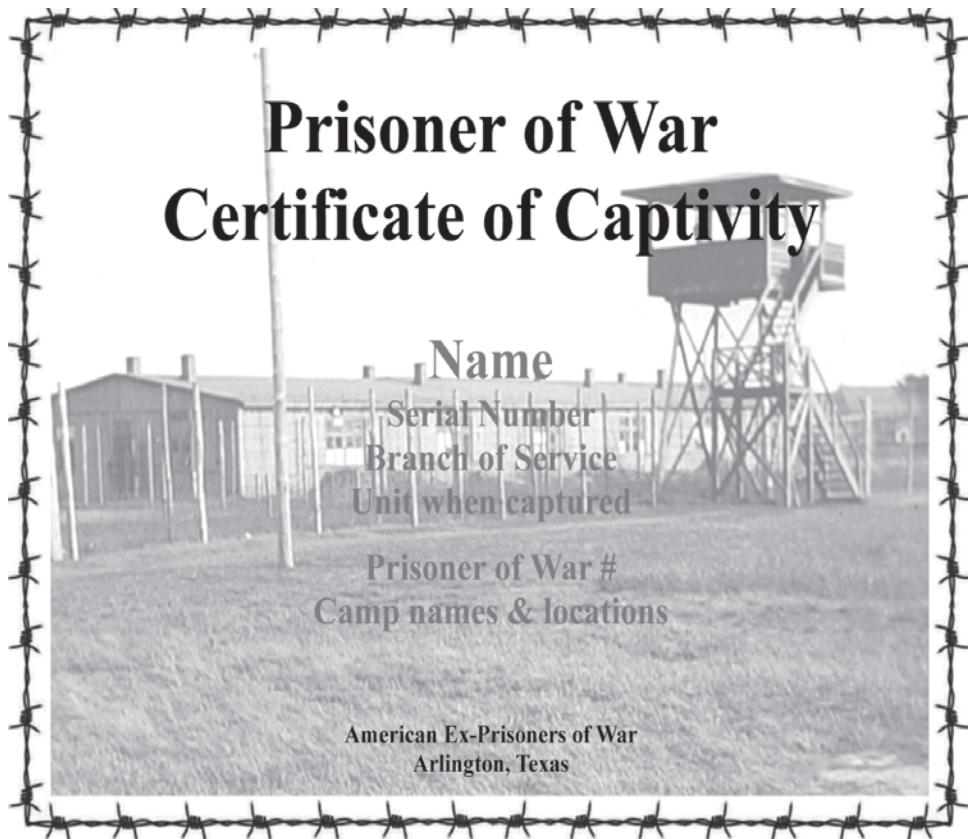
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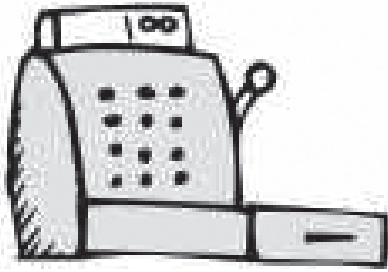
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# contributions



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## The Meaningful Gift

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

You, too can take action today to help ensure that the American Ex-Prisoners of War is there for returning POWs, their families and their dependents through your will or living trust. This gift can be funded with cash or securities, mutual

funds or other investments that are not serving your current needs. This special gift will benefit future generations as well as we transition to a legacy organization.

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

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

Your generous support of our programs over the years has made a tremendous difference to ex-POWs and their families. I hope you will seriously consider whether a final

gift to AXPOW will be the right option for you and your family.

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

Thank you!

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

*National Convention  
June 22-25, 2017  
Arlington, Texas  
come on down  
bring the kids  
and grandkids*



# taps



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

**BAKER, Melvin**, of Summerdale PA, died Dec 1, 2016. He served in 100<sup>th</sup> Div., Co. A, and was held in Stalags 2A, 12A, 10B, 10C and 2D. He survived by his wife of 73 years, Doris. Both were AXPOW life members since 1983.

**BARNES, Silas "Tiger"**, of Albany GA, died Feb. 23, 2016. He was a combat veteran, surviving over 3 years in captivity as a WWII Japanese POW after being captured on Corregidor. He held offices at the local, state and national levels in AXPOW, ADABC and other veterans' organizations. He is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Ellen.

**BEAVER, James H.**, 84, of Abingdon, VA died Feb. 3, 2017. Jim was a veteran of the U.S. Army having served in the Korean War, where he spent over two years as a POW. Jim is survived by his wife of 58 years, Gladys Herndon one daughter, two grandsons and their families.

**BESKE, Robert E.**, 93, of Waukesha, WI passed away Feb. 8, 2014. He served with the 103<sup>rd</sup> Combat Eng., 28<sup>th</sup> Div. and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge, then held in Stalag IXB. His wife, Anna, predeceased him; he leaves 1 son, 3 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

**BLANEY, Charles W. Jr.**, of Colorado Springs, CO, died March 23, 2017. Chuck served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 448<sup>th</sup> BG, 20<sup>th</sup> Wing. His B24 was shot down and he was captured and held in Luft 1, Barth. He was a long-time member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW where he served as commander and on the board. All his friends fondly remember him.

**BLITZ, Daniel C.**, of Manitowoc, WI passed away March 1, 2017. He served with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 97<sup>th</sup> BG, 342<sup>nd</sup> BS; captured when his B17 was shot down and he was captured. He was held in Stalag 17-B until libera-

tion. Dan leaves 2 daughters, 11 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren and their families.

**BLUE, Kenneth**, beloved husband of Theresia and father of Frank, died Feb. 16, 2017. He was captured while serving with the 36<sup>th</sup> Div., 141<sup>st</sup> Bn, A Co. He was a member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He will be missed!

**BRADY, Ward**, member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, passed away Feb. 15, 2017. He served in the AAC during WWII; he was shot down and held in a POW camp in Appledorp, Holland. He leaves his wife, June, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 7 grandchildren.

**BROOKS, William**, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW, died Mar. 12, 2017. During WWII he served with the 9<sup>th</sup> AF; he was held in Luft III, then marched to VIIA.

**DiMARIO, Vito**, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW passed away July 5, 2016. He was captured while serving with the US Army Inf., K Co., 16<sup>th</sup> Reg. and held in Luft III, then marched to VIIA.

**DOCKERY, Arthur D. Sr. "Doc"**, of Norfolk, VA died Oct. 26, 2016. Doc was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was held at the Buchenwald concentration camp until it was liberated by the American Army. He is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and their families.

**DOTHAGE, Mildred Marie**, 93, of Jonesburg, MO passed away Feb. 21, 2017. She was a long-time member of the Central MO Chapter, AXPOW. Her husband, Julius, predeceased her; survivors include 1 son, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**DUNLAP, Madelle Rae**, of Temple, TX died Feb. 16, 2017. She was 93. Her late husband, Elmer, was a POW

during WWII, held in Luft 1, Barth, until liberation. Both Madelle and Elmer were life members of AXPOW. She leaves 1 son, 4 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

**ELIADES, Jordan**, 93, passed away December 15, 2016 in Bakersfield California. He was shot down 11/23/1944 in a P-51 and captured in Holland while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 55<sup>th</sup> FG, 343<sup>rd</sup> FS. He was held in Stalag Luft 1, compound north 3 until being liberated. Jordan's wife Frances predeceased him; he leaves 1 daughter, 3 sons, 3 grandchildren.

**FIELDER, Mary Lee**, of Nashville, TN passed away March 2, 2017. She was 90 and until her death was a strong advocate for veterans. She had a special affinity for ex-POWs and their families. She was an Associate Member of AXPOW. Mary Lee is preceded in death by her husband, Samuel; she leaves 3 daughters, 1 son, numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**GOODNO, Loucile**, widow of Bob, died February 2, 2017. Bob served in ETO, H Co, 351<sup>st</sup> Inf., 88<sup>th</sup> Div. He was held in Stalag VIIA/Arbeit-Komm 3990/Germany, Moderna, Italy. Loucile is survived by 2 daughters and 3 sons. She was a loyal, long-time member of Florida Gulf Coast and will be missed.

**HARTY, Kevin D.**, of Mt. Dora, FL passed away Jan. 5, 2017 at the age of 96. He was captured when his submarine, the USS Grenadier, was sunk by the Japanese; he endured 3 years of captivity. Kevin leaves his wife, Virginia, 1 son, 1 step-son, 1

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## taps cont'd...

granddaughter, 1 great-granddaughter, and a large, loving extended family.

**HARVEY, William H.**, of Largo, FL died Oct. 2, 2016. He was 92. While on a mission to the Ploesti oilfields, his plane was shot down in Italy, he was captured and held one year. Bill was preceded in death by the love of his life, Jeannette and 1 son. He is survived by 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**HIVNER, Phyllis Douglas**, of Plano, TX passed away Sept. 7 2016 at the age of 81 after a long illness. She and her husband, James, were married for 61 years. Jim was captured in the Vietnam War; he was held for 7 ½ years until they were liberated in 1973. In addition to her loving husband, Phyllis is survived by 2 daughters, 4 grandsons, 3 great-grandchildren and their families.

**HUELS, Robert**, of Centerville OH, died January 12, 2017, surrounded by his loving family. Bob served in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 457<sup>th</sup> BG and was held in Luft 3 and Stalag 7A. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Florence, 7 children and 10 grandchildren. Robert and Florence have been AXPOW life members since 1989.

**IRVING, Frederick**, 95, of Amherst, MA passed away Nov. 13, 2016. He served on a B24, flying out of Italy; he was shot down over Hungary. Fred credits the Tuskegee Airmen with saving his life as they circled the crippled plane until the crew could bail out. He was captured and held in Stalag Luft III, then marched to Stalag VIIA. Survivors include 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

**JEFFERS, William W.**, age 93, of Greenacres, FL passed away Jan. 13, 2017. During WWII, Bill served with the AAC, 401<sup>st</sup> BG, 613<sup>th</sup> BS. He was captured at Zandvoot, Netherlands and held in Amsterdam, Oberursel,

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Wetzlar, and Stalags 13D & 7A. Bill joined AXPOW in the mid-1980s. He was first a member of the Northern Virginia Chapter (now Bill Rolen Memorial Chapter); when he moved to Florida, he joined the Suncoast Chapter where he served as treasurer. He was predeceased by his wife, Rosemary in 2005. He will be lovingly remembered by his 3 sons and their families. Bill was a great friend of PNC Ed DeMent.

**KENNIE, Fredrick**, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW died Jan. 17, 2017. He was 94. He was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 95<sup>th</sup> BG, 334<sup>th</sup> BS. He was held in Stalag Luft I, Barth.

**KESLING, Ralph W.**, of Klamath Falls, OR, died Dec 15, 2016. Ralph served in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 92<sup>nd</sup> BG and was held POW in Stalags 7A and 17B.

**KING, Stephan**, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW died Aug. 7, 2016. During WWII, he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was shot down over Germany, captured and held in Luft III, then marched to VIIA.

**KREFT, Edgar R.**, 91, of Rogers City, MI passed away Dec. 27, 2016. Ed served with the 643<sup>rd</sup> Tank Destroyer Bn, Co. A. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation at Bad Orb. He leaves his wife of almost 67 years, Shirley, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter. He will be greatly missed.

**LAUGHLIN, William**, member of the Oceanside Chapter, AXPOW, died Dec. 28, 2016. He was captured while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 450<sup>th</sup> BG flying out of Italy.

**LAUX, Jeanne M.**, Sun City West, AZ at the age of 91 passed away on March 18, 2017. She was a member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Sun City, AZ. Jeanne is survived by her husband, EX-POW Joseph.

**LEBOVITZ, Margaret**, widow of Ex-POW Harry (USN, captured on Guam), passed away Feb.11, 2017. She was an active member of the Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW.

**MacARTHUR, David Warren**, of Venice, FL died Jan. 20, 2017. He was captured when his plane was shot down over Greece and held in various camps, ending up at Luft III, then being marched to VIIA. David is survived by his wife, Sharon, 3 daughters, 1 son, 5 grandchildren and a loving extended family.

**McANLIS, David, Sr.**, 85, passed away in Elk Grove, CA February 4, 2017. David was born in the Philippines to missionary parents. He, and the majority of the family, were captured on the southern island of Mindanao by the Japanese and shipped to Manila. They were civilian internees in the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila and the Los Banos Internment Camp, south of Manila. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1949-1953. David leaves his wife of 65 years, Donna, six children, 16 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren, plus two sisters. David and Donna have been members of AXPOW and the 49ers Chapter, Sacramento, AXPOW. David will be missed by his extended family and friends.

**McFADDEN, Emma**, widow of Ex-POW Harland (WWII/Army Air Corps held in Camps O'Donnell, Cabanatuan, Mukden) passed away on Feb.20, 2017. She and her late husband were members of Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW.

**MURPHY, Dale E.**, life member of AXPOW and resident of Springfield, OH died Dec. 19, 2016. He was 96. Dale served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge; liberated at the end of the war. Fittingly, he passed away on the 72<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of his capture. Dale's beloved wife, Violet, and son Dale Jr. predeceased him; his daughter-in-law, Kathryn, survives him.

**NIXON, Thomas**, member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW died Sept. 24, 2016. He served in the Marines during WWII in Guam, Korea and Otsu Japan. He was captured on Guam and held in various POW camps for 3 ½ years. Tom was an active advocate for POWs; he

## taps cont'd...

served as AXPOW's National Director of Service Officers in the 1990s.

**NORMAN, Caldor R.** 91, died Jan. 29, 2017 at the age of 91. Drafted in 1943, he entered ASTP basic training in 1944 and later joined Company A, 398<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 100<sup>th</sup> Division. He was captured in Alsace and held in Stalag 4B until liberation. In 1952, Cal married his wife, Norma, who passed in 2011. Survivors include 2 children, 7 grandchildren, 1 sister and a large extended family.

**NORRIS, Constance "Connie,"** 91, of Santa Rosa, CA passed away on January 2, 2017. She was the widow of Ex-POW George (originally a U.S. Marine, then AAC, captured and held 3 ½ years). Connie and George were life members of AXPOW. They both served as commanders of the Golden State Chapter and George was an officer in the Department of California for many years. She is survived by 1 daughter, 3 grandsons and 5 great-grandchildren. Connie and George leave a loving legacy for their family.

**O'BRIEN, John D.,** of Yonkers, NY died Dec. 2, 2016 at the age of 95. He served with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 414<sup>th</sup> BS, 97<sup>th</sup> BG, flying out of Foggia, Italy. He was captured when his plane was shot down over Croatia; he was held in Stalag Luft III, then marched to VIIA. John was a member of the Greater NY Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Eileen, 2 daughters, 1 son and 1 grandson.

**OLHAUSEN, Corrine,** widow of Jacob (Ex-POW, 36<sup>th</sup> Div, 141<sup>st</sup> Inf.), passed away in May, 2016. She was a member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. She will be missed by her friends.

**PALTER, Samuel,** 94, passed away Feb. 14, 2017. He was captured while serving in the Army during WWII and held until liberation. Sam was past commander of the Dept. of MA and MA Chapter 1. He leaves his loving wife of 69 years, Barbara, 4 children and their families. He was a lifelong and devoted Red Sox fan.

**PROUD, David Eugene,** 94, of Chicago, IL died Jan. 28, 2017. During WWII, he was captured while serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, flying out of Italy. He was held until liberation. Survivors include his wife, Ann, 1 son, 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**RANDOLPH, William E.,** 94, of Waikoloa, HI passed away Dec. 13, 2016. Randy was a P-51 pilot with the 364<sup>th</sup> FG, 384<sup>th</sup> FS stationed in England. He was shot down, captured and held in various camps, ending up in VIIA until liberation. He was a long-time member of AXPOW and the OKI Chapter. Randy's wife of 68 years, Janet, survives him; he is also survived by 2 children, 2 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**ROMANELLI, Michael J.,** of Aberdeen, MD died Jan. 19, 2017. He was 94. He was captured at the Battle of Orscholz while serving with the 94<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 301<sup>st</sup> Reg., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, Co. B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon. He never reached a camp, being marched 100 days until liberation and sleeping in open fields. Michael's wife of 62 years predeceased him; he leaves 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and their families. He was a life member of AXPOW.

**SJAARDEMA, Donald,** of Bradenton, FL, passed away January 21, 2017 at the age of 94. Don was part of the 388<sup>th</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, trained as a bombardier on B-17s. He was stationed in England, and shot down on his third mission over Germany. He was a POW in Stalag Luft III and later participated in the forced march to Nuremberg. He was the past Commander of the Manasota Chapter, AXPOW and gave multiple talks to groups. He especially enjoyed sharing with high school History classes. Survivors include Ruth, his wife of 71 years, two daughters, one son, 10 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

**STAVELLA, Sebastian,** 95, of West Caldwell, NJ died Oct. 1, 2016. Sebastian served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 92<sup>nd</sup> BG, 407<sup>th</sup> BS during WWII; he was

shot down, captured and held in Stalag 17B and 7A. He was the beloved husband of 66 years of the late Isabelle; he also leaves two sons, 2 grandchildren and their families.

**STEFFES, Marion,** member of the Oceanside Chapter, AXPOW, died Nov. 21, 2016. During WWII, he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 351<sup>st</sup> BG, 511<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft I, Barth.

**SURVILLA, William J.,** of Lauderhill, FL passed away Feb. 7, 2017. He was 92. Bill served with the 98<sup>th</sup> BG, 15<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII; he was shot down, captured and held in Stalag 7A until the war in Europe ended. Bill is survived by his wife of 56 years, Jean, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

**TENNEY, Lester,** of Carlsbad, CA passed away Feb. 24, 2017. He was 96. Lester was captured on Bataan while serving with the 192<sup>nd</sup> Tank Bn, Co. B. He survived the Bataan Death March and was held in Camp O'Donnell before being taken to Japan to work as slave labor. He was an effective advocate for the American ex-POWs of Japan. His wife of almost 57 years, Betty, survives him; he also leaves 1 son, 2 stepsons, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**THOMPSON, Oral G.,** of Green Valley AZ, died November 9, 2016. He was 93 years old. He served in the 390<sup>th</sup> BG and was a POW in Stalags 7A, 13D and Luft 3. He is survived by his wife, Roberta.

**THORPE, Ernest N.,** of Clinton, IL passed away Jan. 31, 2017 at the age of 95. During WWII, he served with the AAC; he was shot down over the North Sea, rescued by a fishing vessel, turned over to the Germans and held in Luft III and marched to 7A. Survivors include his wife Helen, 2 sons, 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and numerous extended family.

# chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

There is a story about a man driving his old beat up pick up truck on a country road that was barely a road. As the man passed a farm he saw an old woman carrying what appeared to be a big heavy burlap sack of potatoes, so he stopped and offered her a ride. The woman climbed into the truck and they started towards the local town. As

they drove the driver looked around and saw that the woman still held onto the bag despite that between them there was ample room to set the large bag.

The moral of the story is despite being offered by the Lord an opportunity to put all of our cares, worries, concerns, fear anxiety and other fretful thoughts into the hands of the Lord, we do not. We often pray, "Oh Lord, help me out" or we say, "Lord here is my problem..." so we symbolically place them in God's hands but then we reach back and pick them up again, holding tightly onto them. We trust God but we keep our burdens.

I leave you with three scripture verses:

Psalm 55:22 "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee:


He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

1 Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you."

Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Prayer: Lord. I ask that those with burdensome problems give them to you and that they let you keep them. In your Son's name. Amen.





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(rev. 02/07)

# Spring Cleaning Raffle!

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



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



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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 96<sup>th</sup> 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.

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