

EX-POW BULLETIN

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American Ex-Prisoners of War

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We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



*AXPOW MidYear March 26, 2011
Arlington, Texas*



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breaking news! bin Laden dead

Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist network and the most hunted man in the world, has been killed in a US military assault in Pakistan on May 1, 2011. A decade after more than 3,000 people died in a series of coordinated attacks on September 11, 2001, the world's most wanted fugitive is dead. In a late-night appearance in the East Room of the White House, President Obama declared that "justice has been done" as he disclosed that American military and C.I.A. operatives had finally cornered Bin Laden, the Al Qaeda leader who had eluded them for nearly a decade. American officials said Bin Laden resisted and was shot in the head. He was later buried at sea.

~~~~~  
**Soldier, rest, thy warfare o'er,  
 Dream of fighting fields no more.  
 Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,  
 Morn of toil, nor night of waking.**  
*Sir Walter Scott*

Memorial Day began as a memorial for Civil War veterans. It has become both, a National Decoration Day of family graves, and the holiday that opens the summer season. No survivor of that war remains, but the memories of it grow longer. As do our memories of the parades with floats; civic organizations and drum majorettes twirling their batons; lines and lines of young veterans from The Gulf War and shorter lines of older men who saw service in the Second World War. As long as there are wars, there will be veterans and casualties. We will still decorate the graves of those men whose bodies came home and remember those who don't.

Memorial Day falls on May 30, 2011. A national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 p.m. local time.

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*Deadline for the July/Aug 2011 issue is June 1, 2011.*

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

*From the Editor:  
 I want to thank everyone for all the calls and cards of sympathy I received after my mother died February 28th. Your thoughts and prayers mean more than you can know.  
 Cheryl*

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**National Commander  
Morris Barker**

On April 9, 2011, National POW/MIA Day ceremonies were held throughout the nation and around the world at various military installations. April 9<sup>th</sup> was chosen as the official date honoring POW/MIA on recommendation of AXPOW HQ, and approved by legislation, since it was the date in 1942 on which the largest number of WWII Americans were taken prisoner on Bataan (11,000). The capture which led to the Bataan Death March (61miles), an atrocity estimated by some to claim the lives of two in seven. The focus of the ceremonies each year is to insure that America remembers its responsibility to honoring those who serve(d) our nation and to take action in accounting for those who do not return. On Veterans Day, November 11, 2004 referring to MIAs, president Bush made this statement, "We will not rest until we have made the fullest accounting for every life." PNC Col. **John Edwards**, AXPOW POW/MIA Chairman, does an excellent job in his work through the Defense POW/ Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) in keeping us informed concerning those missing and also those recovered and identified from all wars.

**Charles Susino, Jr.** Vice Commander, Eastern Zone, represented AXPOW in an excellent manner as he appeared before the Joint Hearing of The Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives in Washington on March 30. JVC **Susino** expressed the needs, not only of POWs of our organization but, of all veterans as he addressed pending legislation of which we have an interest. "We join the American Legion, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the DAV in supporting several pending Senate Bills, which are also

the goals of AXPOW for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress", said **Susino**. He then addressed the pending Senate Bills fully in his presentation. He also thanked the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress for passage of The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (S.1963), giving severely wounded veterans and care members much-needed support.

In closing, **Susino** made these comments expressing the true feeling of all our membership. "When we send service members into harm's way, it is our non-negotiable duty to take care of them when they come home. I know that the President understands that veterans' health care cannot be jeopardized, that mental health concerns must be treated with the same seriousness as physical wounds, and that our benefits process needs to be improved. His overall request for increased funding for the VA health care during an exceedingly difficult budget year appears to reflect that understanding". Accompanying **Susino** to Washington was his son, life member **Charles A Susino**. I also want to thank ND **Judy Lee**, Eastern Central Region, for her support by her attendance at the hearing.



On March 26, the AXPOW officers and directors met in Arlington, TX for the mid-winter conference at which time several accomplishments were made. In addition to the cost saving measures approved by the Board and membership at the convention in Albany GA, the thrust of the mid-winter conference was to review additional steps to be taken to further reduce cost. I want to thank SVC Dr. **Carroll Bogard** for his leadership in directing this effort. Closing the Washington office and combining the Treasurers responsibilities with HQ personnel will reflect a sizable savings. Other

steps recently taken by HQ in reducing cost are outlined below:

Through the efforts and research of HQ personnel we have changed banks after it was determined that in some instances we were being assessed unreasonable deposit fees by Bank of America. This change will result in a considerable savings. E-mailing reports from HQ to those with computers will reduce mailing and copying cost. The organization has four direct-mail programs each year of which caging for these programs is a major expense. We are in the process of transferring all caging responsibilities to HQ . Caging for the spring direct-mail program will be performed by HQ personnel resulting in a sizable savings. In the future, HQ will do most of the organization's printing in-house including business cards, special request from members, shipping labels, cd/dvd labels and many other items. This will permit printing only the number of items needed as opposed to a minimum requirement which is more costly. Through negotiation with TXU (electrical co.) the rate per KWH has been reduced from approximately 20 cents KWH to the 10-12 cents range. This will be very helpful in reducing cost to the organization. Other cost reducing items are under investigation at this time.

Of the four direct-mail programs each year by AXPOW, two have been completed, Fall Calendar and Holiday Labels. The four programs provide a good portion of our operating cost each year. Below is an accounting of the two completed direct-mail programs:

|                     | Calendar  | Labels   |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| Product cost...     | \$27,162  | \$17,412 |
| Postage.....        | 4676      | 2674     |
| Reminder postage... | 1725      | 2335     |
| Caging              | 1900      | 1900     |
| Total cost.....     | \$35,463  | \$24,321 |
| Total receipts...   | .\$56,153 | \$49,904 |
| Net receipts.....   | \$20,690  | \$25,583 |

I want to thank those contributing to the Life Membership Supplement Program recently announced by letter to each life member. The program was designed to give those of us who took advantage of the opportunity to make a single lifetime payment....for some as low as \$36.00....to supple-

commander continued...

ment the original life membership fee in the amount of \$20.00 each year. This program is needed to insure continued existence of the organization, primarily to assist those of our membership in need through the NSO program, operational cost, and publication of the *Bulletin*, which is the adhesive that allows continued comradeship among all POWs to keep us informed about our friends and legislation of interest to all POWs. **The life membership fee at the time of its inception was adequate for the operation of the organization, however, it was not designed to cover the operating expenses we are experiencing today; some 40-50 later, augmented by the decrease in contributions, in-house sales, and declining membership.** Up to this date, of the 15,000 AXPOW life members receiving letters, approximately 3000 (20%) have responded making contributions to the program. **I want to encourage those life members who have not already done so, to contribute to the program; supplementing your original membership fee as outlined in the letter of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011.** For additional information on the program please see page 28 of your *Bulletin*. Thank you in advance.

**Memorial Day**, originally known as Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for all U.S. soldiers who have died in the military service. It is important that we who still live honor our fallen comrades. The official holiday (usually last Monday in May, but varies in some states) was first enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers following the Civil War and was extended after WW I to honor Americans who have died in all wars. Many of us will take part this year in Memorial Day events at various local veteran cemeteries while others will be fortunate enough to attend the national event at Arlington National Cemetery. Also, each year in Andersonville GA, the National Historical Site that serves as a memorial to all American Prisoners of War, an impressive ceremony is held paying tribute to our Country's men and women who paid for our freedom with

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their lives. This year, I want to thank **Edward De Ment**, Andersonville National Historical Site Coordinator, for his services in representing the AXPOW Organization and all POWs, at the Memorial Day Ceremonies in Andersonville on May 29.

*"Your silent tents of green we deck with fragrant flowers; yours has the suffering been, the memory shall be ours".*  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**Ed De Ment**, AXPOW Andersonville National Historical Site Coordinator, and Committee Chairman for the POW Memorial Museum Traveling Legacy Exhibit, reports that adequate funds have been contributed to allow construction of the exhibit to begin. The original cost of the exhibit is \$272,000 of which Andersonville has raised matching funds of \$136,000. Construction of the traveling exhibit will take approximately four months after all arrangements have been completed, and it is anticipated that the first showing will be in early 2012.

**Through Board and membership approval**, application is being made through IRS requesting reclassification of our organization from a 501(c)4 to a 501(c)19 classification. The purpose for reclassification is to allow tax deduction status for donor contributions to AXPOW, which would give us a broader base in requesting operating funds. Reclassification was made possible by Congress with the passage of Section 105 of the Military Family Tax Relief Act, by permitting veterans' organizations to include ancestors and lineal descendants as part of the veteran base, and deleting the requirement that 75% of members be war veterans (Public Law 97-248). This action will not change our non-profit status.

I thank the AXPOW Chapter Commanders and Editors of the various Chapter Newsletters who have supplied me with copies. They are informative and well presented in keeping local members up-to-date regarding various subjects of interest.

As a reminder, support your local, state, and national AXPOW organization with your attendance, and also our NSOs across the U. S. who are the reason for our existence.

Morris



news  
from  
hq

It's amazing that the year is almost half over! It is true: If you keep busy the time flies by!

Thanks to a great Board of Directors, we are moving forward. The treasurer's job has been transferred to HQ. Marsha Coke has gone to a full-time position to help me with the books. She is a tremendous help.

This Board is active and opinionated. It makes for lively discussions. It is good to have differing voices on important issues. It is good that the Board is able to come to consensus and make decisions that are good for AXPOW.

We are downsizing our merchandise. Sales have slowed over the years and we are not replenishing our stock. One item we are getting low on are the overseas caps. We still have at least one of every size but when these are gone we are not reordering any more. If you have been thinking of getting a cap, now is the time to do it.

The Spring Label program is out. You should see your labels in your mailboxes soon. Please be as generous as possible. These programs enable us to continue our work for you - our members.

Thank you for all of your support. The organization is still bringing in more money that it is spending this year. You do make a difference.

Happy Spring!  
Clydie, Marsha, Sally & Donna



# VA Outreach

## S\*O\*O\*N

### Before it's too late



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#### POW Surprises and Many Caring

Allen Sabol calls from University City, MO (St. Louis) about a fellow German POW who was in the Stalag Luft IV excruciating experience in the coldest winter in Germany in 40 years. Ted has an 80% VA disability rating. Then Paul Dillon, a next-of-kin whose father was a POW in Germany, calls from St. Louis, seeking advice on how to get Ted up from 80% to 100%, due to unemployment. Paul already is acquainted with POW Coordinators who have helped so many former POWs in Missouri. A slam-dunk. Paul will talk to Kevin Alsbrook or Barbara Bundy to get help for Ted. It's wonderful to have Allen and Paul there, being alert to VA claim needs. Paul also happens to be AXPOW Missouri State Dept. Commander. Caring goes on!

It's a mystery. Al Simpson has found a veteran in Benson, AZ, Robert, who is perplexed because his VA records show he was a POW. But Robert denies he was a POW. I call Robert to find out why he is listed as a former prisoner of war in Germany. I asked him about his combat experience. On special assignment, parachuting behind German lines. Well, yes, this one time "when we even got General Patton out of trouble, I was surrounded and captured by a German unit; but I got away after about three hours". I told Robert that somehow it must have been recorded that he was captured even for that short time. So officially, he was a POW for that one day. No doubt he thus was docu-

mented as a prisoner for one day. I told Robert that one day could give him the possibility of receiving some very significant VA benefits due former POWs, even with one day of POW time. Thirty days minimum was the POW time needed to qualify before Oct. 7, 2004. After that, conditions are presumed to be service-connected for these conditions, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LENGTH OF TIME IN CAPTIVITY. (VA Pamphlet 21-01-1, Nov. 2004):

"Neuro-Psychiatric: Psychosis, any of the anxiety states (e.g. PTSD). Cold Injury: Freezing of extremities, side effects, numbness, discoloration, fungus, etc. Traumatic Arthritis: Caused by severe trauma to specific joints. Stroke: Includes strokes and complications from strokes. Heart Disease: Includes heart diseases and complications."

Robert, how to your feet look? Oh they look terrible, splotchy white, toenails funny looking, with fungus. That definitely sounds like frostbite residuals. Robert, how many parachute jumps did you make? A lot. How are your back and knees? Oh, I have trouble with much arthritis. For Robert, it was a short time as a POW of the Germans, but he needs a POW protocol VA physical exam. I refer him to AXPOW NSOs Jack Messemer or Louise Dunham in Phoenix. He could be in for a nice surprise at what the VA can do for him. Even if he was a real "short-timer", 2 hours and 45 min.

A worried call from an ALS-death widow in Wichita, KS: "I am concerned because I have not received my IRS/1099 form for my DIC income for 2010, and I need to get my income taxes prepared to send in." THIS IS FUN. "Ma'am, that is tax-free income! You don't even need to mention it. So relax and enjoy. Also, be sure to get your ChampVA Medicare supplement; it's free!"

Cmdr. Barker's AXPOW financial appeal is turning out to be an instrument for Outreach. Betty Harlan, our NSO in Sudan, TX, is busy responding as needs come to our Arlington, TX headquarters. A POW widow in Chicago area sends in donation in response to appeal. Her husband died in 1992 of heart trouble, but she did not know she was possibly eligible for a widow's VA benefit. Our NSO Betty Harlan calls POW Coordinator Don Sherlock in Chicago VARO for

help. Don said he'd be glad to call to make sure this widow gets VA help. Maybe Watson will assist :-)

Another factor is military retirees whose concurrent receipt has, in the past, caused lack of motivation for retirees to pursue VA compensation. One in Montgomery, AL. Betty Harlan calls POW Coordinator in Montgomery VARO to help this POW apply for VA compensation. Then POW retiree widow in Pryor, OK needs help to apply for DIC. Betty calls Kathy Mosteller at Muskogee VARO. And another POW retiree in Dayton, OH with assisted living needs. Betty calls our NSO Doc Unger for help.

Our networking of NSOs with VA POW Coordinators works wonders.

An Arizona State Representatives Office in Phoenix knows the constituents of their district! Here's an e-mail message from Donna Homsher, Exec. Assistant to Rep. Debbie McCune Davis: "Fred, just thought I would share that I personally am aware of three widows who were able to apply for the ALS veterans' benefit. One, the money provided an avenue for her to expand enjoying her children and grandchildren. One was denied and the assumption was that she had too much in assets (this surprised me). The third was, the benefit is making a remarkable difference in her lifestyle. Apparently, she did not have much more than social security. I just wanted you to know your Dear Abby column made a difference in two women's lives. In learning more about the benefit, I worked closely with the Wounded Warriors program at our US Congressman Ed pastor's office. Thank you again, Donna"

Donna included her phone number and I called her to find out more about the widow who was denied because of too much assets. She was given wrong information by someone. I referred Donna to a PVA service officer (they specialize in ALS claims) in the Phoenix VARO, to get that lady her retroactive widow's DIC.

Thanks for Donna's outreach!

## NSO



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### **Connecticut State Veterans Benefits**

This information should be used as a guide to veterans' rights and entitlements. Due to the brevity, however, it must be understood that it serves only as a guide in an attempt to summarize benefits and programs. Veterans are eligible for a variety of state benefits. Eligibility requirements may vary according to the benefits program. At the time a veteran applies for benefits he/she must be a resident of the State of Connecticut. Some benefits require (90) days of active duty during a defined period of war in order to qualify, unless the veteran was separated earlier due to a service-connected disability or the period of war lasted less than (90) days. Veterans may also be eligible if they served in a combat or combat-supporting role (see below). Connecticut recognizes periods of war ranging from the Spanish-American War to the Persian Gulf, and Iraqi Freedom. **These periods are defined in CGS Sec. 27-103(a).**

#### **PERIODS OF SERVICE**

Those who served in the following manner may qualify for benefits:

#### **Active duty for at least ninety (90) days:**

World War II - *December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946*; Korean Hostilities - *June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955*; Vietnam - *February 28, 1961 to July 1,*

*1975*; Persian Gulf Era (*August 2, 1990 - a date to be determined by Presidential proclamation or federal law* - Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom; (Afghanistan) and Iraqi Freedom are included in this category).

**OR, Engaged in combat or in combat support role in the:** Lebanon Conflict - *July 1, 1958 to November 1, 1958*; Peace-keeping Mission in Lebanon - *September 29, 1982 to March 30, 1984*; Grenada Invasion - *October 25, 1983 to December 15, 1983*; Operation Earnest Will - *July 24, 1987 to August 1, 1990*; Panama Invasion - *December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990*

#### **BURIAL**

Any veteran with ninety (90) days active duty and with other than a dishonorable discharge is eligible for burial in a state veterans' cemetery. (CGS Sec. 27-122b). Spouses are also eligible for this benefit. Grave markers are provided.

#### **TUITION WAIVERS**

Veterans may attend Connecticut Public Colleges and Universities tuition free. Connecticut statutes provide that tuition may be waived for qualified veterans attending the University of Connecticut, Connecticut State Universities and the 12 Community-Technical Colleges. Waivers cover only the cost of tuition for credit-bearing undergraduate and graduate programs. Other charges, such as for books, student activity and course fees, parking, and room and board, are not waived. To qualify for a waiver at the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State Universities, veterans generally must be matriculated, that is, admitted to a degree program. The Community-Technical Colleges are more flexible. Remember to take a copy of your separation papers with you when applying for admission and registering for courses.

#### **TUITION COVERAGE**

Tuition waivers for veterans cover 100% of tuition for General Fund courses at all public colleges and universities and 50% for Extension Fund and summer courses at Connecticut State Universities.

For more information it is highly recommended you contact the Veterans Services or Financial Aid/Bursar's Office of the school you are interested in attending.

#### **HOW TO QUALIFY**

To be eligible for veterans' tuition benefits at any college or university,

a veteran must be honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces, 90 days active Military duty during war, and must have resided in Connecticut for at least one year upon enrolling in college.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS AND VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II**

Local Boards of Education may award high school diplomas to those World War II veterans who did not receive them when they left high school before graduation for military service. [PA 00-124]

#### **MOTOR VEHICLES**

State law provides for free motor vehicle registration and special plates for former prisoners of war and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. Veterans who were state residents at the time of induction and who apply within two (2) years of receiving an honorable discharge are exempt from paying for an operator's license and examination fees for one (1) licensing period (CGS Sec. 14-50 ©).

State law also provides that fees may be waived for the following registration items, subject to a formal determination by the Department of Motor Vehicles:

- Special license plates for disabled veterans, and Special-fee license plates for certain disabilities (loss of use of or loss of limb, or blindness) for handicapped and overtime parking.

#### **PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS**

Veterans, who have ninety (90) days of wartime service, including Merchant Marines who served during WWII, are eligible for a \$1,500 exemption for property tax purposes (e.g., real estate property or automobiles).

Veterans below a certain income level and/or disabled veterans are eligible for additional property tax exemptions. Surviving spouses of veterans may also be eligible for this benefit. Contact your municipality's Tax Assessor Officer for specific details. [(CGS Sec. 12-16, CGS sec. 12-18g) PA 88-343]

An exemption is the reduction of the property's assessed value for tax purposes. (CGS Sec. 12-18)

#### **INDEXING EXEMPTION**

Towns that evaluate after October 1988 must adjust their veteran's property tax exemptions above statutory limits. The adjustment must be proportionate to the change in the value of the town's grand list following revaluation. [CGS sec. 12-62) (PA 88-343)]

**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**May/June 2011**



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Thanks to NSO Director Ruth Powell for providing us with this information.

Guide to  
**VA Mental Health Services**  
for *Veterans & Families*  
**Developed by South Central**  
**(VISN 16) Mental Illness Re-**  
**search, Education, and Clinical**  
**Center (MIRECC)**  
**PART 2**

## Treatments for specific mental illnesses

VA offers treatment for a wide range of mental health problems. These problems include, but are not limited to, depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Treatments such as medications, psychotherapies (talk therapies), and psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery services help the Veteran along the road to recovery. VA uses treatments that have been proven to be effective for specific mental health disorders. These proven treatments are called evidence-based treatments.

Examples of common mental health treatments for Veterans include:

### Treatments for Depression and Anxiety.

Depression and Anxiety are common among the general public and among Veterans. Treatments include: Anti-depressant medications, anti-anxiety medications, and medications to ease sleep and other problems.

### Talk therapies, such as:

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) to help individuals understand the relationship between thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, learn new patterns of thinking, and practice new positive behaviors (relaxation techniques, using calming tapes to im-

prove sleep, exercising, or socializing with friends).

Acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) to help people overcome their struggles with emotional pain and worries. It helps them recognize, commit to, and achieve what's important to them.

Interpersonal therapy (IPT) to help people promote positive relationships and resolve relationship problems.

### Treatments for Substance Abuse

Substance abuse problems are common in the general public and among Veterans. When Veterans have trouble readjusting to civilian life, some turn to substances to help them cope. Persons can abuse or become addicted to alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs and misuse prescription medications. Treatments for substance abuse include:

Medications, such as Acamprosate or Naltrexone, to decrease cravings for alcohol and medications to ease withdrawal ("detox") from alcohol and drugs. Medications like buprenorphine and methadone can also be used as therapeutic substitutes for illegal drugs (heroin) or addictive prescription pain medications.

Talk therapies, such as:

Motivational enhancement therapy to help the individual strengthen his/her commitment to getting clean and sober.

Cognitive behavioral therapy to help the individual identify the needs that alcohol/drugs meet and learn new ways of meeting those needs. In this way, the individual develops new coping skills to avoid relapse.

Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) that include illegal substances, such as heroin and some prescription pain medications. Opioid Treatment Pro-

grams offer talk therapies and provide medications like methadone and buprenorphine to help Veterans stop abusing opioids. These medications work as carefully-monitored substitutes for the drugs of abuse. Methadone can only be obtained in methadone maintenance programs located at some VA hospitals. But buprenorphine, a newer medication similar to methadone, can be prescribed by any physician who has received training, even a primary care physician. This means that Veterans who live far from VA OTPs can receive buprenorphine from a primary care provider or psychiatrist at their local community based outpatient clinic.

Residential treatment programs for substance abuse allow Veterans to live at a treatment facility, usually for 30-90 days, while undergoing intensive treatment. This treatment environment provides support and structure to help the Veteran achieve long-term recovery.

Work therapies are commonly prescribed for Veterans to promote and support recovery as Veterans learn to live clean and sober lives.

### Treatments for PostTraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Posttraumatic stress disorder can occur after a person has a very serious or life threatening traumatic experience. For Veterans, this life threatening event often occurs during combat. However, other noncombat related events – such a natural disasters, motor vehicle accidents, or sexual trauma – can also threaten life and can result in PTSD. VA has been a national leader in the development of talk therapies for PTSD.

Treatments for PTSD include:

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**May/June 2011**

## medsearch continued...

Antidepressant medications, anti-anxiety medications, mood stabilizing medications, and other medications to ease nightmares, irritability, sleeplessness, depression, and anxiety.

### Talk therapies:

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) to help individuals understand the relationship between thoughts, emotions, and behaviors, learn new patterns of thinking, and practice new positive behaviors.

Cognitive processing therapy (CPT), a form of CBT that involves writing about one's traumatic experience and correcting negative thought patterns so that memories of trauma don't interfere with daily life.

Prolonged Exposure Therapy (PE) to help people reduce fear and anxiety triggered by reminders of the trauma. This is done by confronting (or being exposed to) trauma reminders in a safe treatment environment until they are less troubling. In this way, individuals can stop avoiding and reacting to trauma reminders and live their lives more fully in the present with greater freedom from the past.

Residential care for longer-term, intensive treatment within a structured setting.

### **Treatments for severe mental illnesses, like schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and bipolar disorder**

Even though these mental health problems do not occur as often as substance abuse, PTSD, and depression, they can be especially disabling. They may occur intermittently – that is, they typically improve at some times and get worse at other times. These problems can be so severe that a Veteran may lose touch with reality. VA offers a range of treatments and services for Veterans with severe

mental illnesses. These Veterans typically benefit from psychosocial rehabilitation services designed to promote recovery and improve everyday functioning at home and in the community. Treatments for serious mental illnesses include:

Antidepressant medications, mood stabilizing medications, antipsychotic medications and other medications to normalize mood, organize thoughts, stop hallucinations, and ease related symptoms. If a Veteran with severe schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder does not improve after trying two antipsychotic medications (and giving them enough time to work), the antipsychotic medication clozapine should be considered. Clozapine is a very effective antipsychotic medication but has side effects that require careful monitoring.

Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Services to optimize functioning.

Work therapies to promote and support recovery.

Residential care for longer-term, intensive treatment within a structured setting.

Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM). A team of mental health doctors, nurses, and social workers that treat Veterans in their homes and community. MHICM helps Veterans experiencing severe mental illness have less need for hospitalization and live more successfully at home and in the community.

### **Special programs for Veteran populations with special needs**

VA recognizes that some groups of Veterans have special mental health needs. In response to these needs, VA has developed special programs tailored for these groups. VA special programs include:

#### **Services for Women Veterans**

Several women's inpatient units, residential treatment programs, or special treatment tracks for women exist. In addition, mixed gender inpa-

tient units or residential treatment centers must ensure safe and secure sleeping and bathroom arrangements, including, but not limited to, door locks and proximity to staff. Each regional VA network (called a VISN) must have residential care programs able to meet the needs of women Veterans. However, the needs for some types of sub-specialty care (e.g., women with PTSD) may be limited, and women Veterans who need these services may be referred to regional or national resources.

#### **Suicide Prevention Services**

Suicide prevention coordinators work with mental health care teams to monitor and support Veterans at high risk for suicide. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (*press 1 for Veterans Suicide Hotline*) or go to <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>. A personal safety plan that helps the Veteran recognize signs that often precede his/her suicidal ideas and lists strategies that help the Veteran manage those thoughts and feelings. The plan also identifies people that the Veteran can turn to for help. Safety plans are created with the mental health provider and the Veteran (including family members, if desired). This way, a plan is designed specifically for the Veteran and his/her problem areas.

#### **Services for Veterans Just Returning From Deployment**

VA operates 232 community based counseling Vet Centers. Many providers at Vet Centers are Veterans themselves. Vet Centers provide readjustment counseling and outreach services to all Veterans who served in any combat zone. Military Sexual Trauma counseling and bereavement counseling are also provided. Services are available for family members for military related issues, and bereavement counseling is offered for parents, spouses, and children of Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserves personnel who died in the service of their country. Veterans have earned these benefits through their service, and all are provided at no cost to the Veteran or family.

## medsearch continued...

### **Military Sexual Trauma Services**

Veterans who experienced military sexual trauma (MST) may develop PTSD and/or other mental illnesses. Any Veteran who was sexually traumatized while serving in the military, can receive counseling. This is true for both male and female Veterans who served in any era. Special inpatient, outpatient, and residential treatment programs are available to male and female Veterans who experienced MST, using proven medications, talk therapies, and social supports.

### **Services for Homeless Veterans**

**1-877-4AID VET (877-424-3838)**  
or <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/NationalCallCenter.asp>

Outreach to Veterans living on the streets and in shelters who otherwise would not seek help. Drop in centers where homeless Veterans can shower, get a meal, and get help with a job or getting back into society. Medical treatment for physical and mental disorders, including substance abuse. Emergency shelter referral (temporary housing must be arranged within three days of shelter placement). Transitional housing in community-based programs. Referral to permanent housing through the use of rental assistance vouchers with case management. Long-term assistance, case management, and rehabilitation. Employment assistance. Residential treatment.

### **Services for Veterans Involved with the Criminal Justice System (Justice-Involved Veterans)**

Mental health assessments for Veterans charged with offenses (usually non-violent crimes) that allow for community-based alternatives to jail or prison. Assistance for Veterans to connect them with VA care and services when they are released from state or federal prisons.

### **Services for Older Veterans**

VA Community Living Centers (CLCs) for Veterans needing temporary assisted care until they can return home or find placement in a nursing home. Home-based Primary Care that includes a mental health professional

as part of the team providing care to Veterans in their homes. Screening for dementia like Alzheimer's disease and/or other problems that interfere with memory. Assessments that help decide whether the Veteran can safely live at home and make informed medical decisions.

### **Veterans Mental Health Councils**

These important groups provide a way for people (Veterans, their families, and community groups) who "consume" VA services to offer input to VA leaders about the structure and operations of mental health services. Each facility is strongly encouraged to implement and maintain a local Veterans Mental Health Council. Each Council has a VA mental health staff member as a liaison. Councils may include several different kinds of members:

Veteran consumers and family members of consumers

Veteran consumer advocates, such as:

Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) Representatives from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA), and other mental health advocacy groups

Local community employment and housing representatives

*If you're concerned about getting the care you need, talk to your provider about other treatment options.*

~~~~~

Glossary and Links to More Information

ACT—Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. A proven talk therapy for depression, anxiety, and PTSD. ACT helps people overcome their struggles with emotional pain and worries. It helps them learn to recognize, commit to, and achieve what's important to them.

CBT—Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. A proven talk therapy for

depression, anxiety, and PTSD. CBT helps people learn new patterns of thinking and practice new positive behaviors.

CLC—Community Living Center. A short-term home for Veterans who need temporary assisted care until they can return home or find placement in a nursing home. Also a long-term home for Veterans who cannot stay in a community nursing home or who need end-of-life care. For more information, visit: <http://www1.va.gov/GeriaticsSHG/page.cfm?pg=52>.

CPT—Cognitive Processing Therapy. A proven talk therapy for depression, anxiety, and PTSD. CPT helps people learn new patterns of thinking so their memories of trauma do not interfere with their daily lives. CPT uses some exposure therapy (see definition of "PE—Prolonged Exposure Therapy" below).

CWT—Compensated Work Therapy. CWT is a recovery-oriented vocational program that is part of VA's services to help Veterans return to work. For more information, visit: <http://www.cwt.va.gov/>

Dementia—Loss of memory and intellectual capacity that is severe enough to limit a person's ability to function. Alzheimer's disease is one common cause of dementia.

Domiciliary—A safe, home-like facility where Veterans live for a short time while they "get back on their feet." They receive services that help them get a job, return to school, improve social skills, and address physical and mental health problems.

DRRTP—Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Program. The coordinated treatment programs VA provides to Veterans living in domiciliaries. For more information, see Appendix C or: <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/DCHV.asp>

medsearch continued...

Evidence-based Therapy—Evidence-based therapies (or “proven” therapies) have been developed and studied scientifically. They are proven to be safe and very effective.

Incentive Therapy—A pre-vocational program for Veterans to perform work at VA Medical Centers.

IOP—Intensive Outpatient Program. At least nine hours per week of outpatient treatment.

IPT—Interpersonal therapy. A proven treatment for depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Interpersonal therapy focuses on a person’s relationships with other people. The therapy helps people promote positive relationships and resolve relationship problems.

MHICM-RANGE—Mental Health Intensive Case Management Rural Access Network Growth Enhancement Program.

In MHICM, a team of mental health doctors, nurses, and social workers treats patients in their homes in the community. MHICM helps Veterans experiencing severe mental illness have less need of hospitalization and live better at home in the community. In some cases, MHICM teams can serve rural areas as well.

MST—Military Sexual Trauma. MST is sexual assault during military service. It includes uninvited sexual advances or contact or forced sex while in the military and happens to men and women. MST can cause mental and physical problems. Every VA facility has a designated MST Coordinator who serves as a contact person for MST-related issues. For more information, visit: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/womenshealth/trauma.asp>

Peer Support—Veterans who have experienced mental illness them-

selves provide support to fellow Veterans struggling with similar issues.

Primary Care Provider—The provider (doctor, nurse, or counselor) who manages the Veteran’s basic physical and mental health problems and coordinates all of the Veteran’s medical care. When a Veteran needs to see a specialist, the primary care provider makes a referral to the specialist.

Principal Mental Health Provider—The mental health provider (doctor, nurse, or counselor) who manages the Veteran’s mental health problems and coordinates the Veteran’s mental health care.

PE—Prolonged Exposure Therapy. A proven treatment for PTSD. Prolonged exposure therapy helps people relive traumatic memories in a safe environment. Veterans first remember the trauma by retelling it. Then they slowly become more comfortable with sights, sounds, and smells that remind them of the trauma. The memories become less troubling and interfere less with the person’s daily life.

PRRC—Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Centers. PRRCs are outpatient programs that help the Veteran learn to more fully participate in his or her community. They use a recovery approach to help Veterans function better in their communities. PRRCs treat Veterans with severe mental illnesses, like major depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and schizoaffective disorder.

PTSD—Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. An anxiety disorder that may sometimes result when a person experiences a traumatic event. PTSD symptoms can disrupt daily life. They include re-experiencing the trauma and emotional distancing from other people or feeling emotionally numb. Other symptoms include being irritable or quick to anger, trouble sleeping, fearfulness, substance abuse, and feelings of panic. For more information: <http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/what-is-ptsd.asp>

[ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/what-is-ptsd.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/pages/what-is-ptsd.asp)

RRTPs—Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs. RRTPs offer a comprehensive, therapeutic temporary residence for Veterans undergoing intensive treatment. This treatment environment provides support and structure to help the Veteran make a long-term recovery and achieve his or her highest level of community integration.

Specialty Mental Health—Mental health services are provided by a mental health specialist (psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, or counselor). Specialty mental health treatments are usually offered for Veterans with serious mental illnesses like schizophrenia, depression or bipolar disorder, PTSD, and substance use disorders.

Supported Employment—An evidence-based program that helps Veterans with serious mental illness or a combination of physical impairments and mental illness be successful in the workplace.

Telemedicine, or Telemental Health—A cutting edge technology that allows a clinical provider to care for a patient from a remote location, using a camera and special TV that allows the patient and provider to see and hear one another. Telemental health can be used to perform assessments and conduct individual or group psychotherapy and medication management.

Transitional Work Experience—TWE offers work assignments in VA Medical Centers or community businesses. TWE helps Veterans gain work experience while getting therapeutic rehabilitation and preparation for community employment.

Don't miss
ACT II
The Next of Kin
Chorus
in Dayton!



1. Santo Tomas prison camp internees Lee Rogers and John Todd.



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



2. Pvt. Robert Collins & M/Sgt. Woodrow Haines back behind UN lines, Chechon, Korea.



3. Pfc. Robert Brandon rations Red Cross parcels, Stalag IX-B.



4. Nichols Field Detail, PI, taken at Pasay Schoolhouse.



5. An American POW suffering from dry beri-beri being treated in Bilibid.



6. Nick Mustacchia and another POW are liberated from a German prison camp.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



8. Three American POWs released by the Viet Cong near Tay Ninh City.



9. 100 days as a POW -- 100 lb. weight loss. Nick Mustacchia is shown.

POW Photos Order Form

These black & white 8x10" photographs are available from MedSearch. Please include a donation of \$5.00 per picture, or \$50.00 for the complete set of 12 with your order. Fill out the form below with selections.

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andersonville



Andersonville NHS
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Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Brad Bennett, Superintendent
Brad_Bennett@nps.gov

Spring Greetings from Andersonville

During the winter and early spring, we have been blessed with the presence of several former Prisoners of War at Andersonville National Historic Site.

F. Paul Dallas of North Carolina visited with family and friends from South Carolina to make a \$25,000 donation to the Friends of Andersonville for the "Victory From Within" traveling exhibit project. He did so on behalf of the Military Ex-Prisoners of War, and in memory of WWII POW J. Lawrence King. While Mr. Dallas was visiting the park, he also took time to sit down with Alan Marsh, the park's Chief of Resource Management, to conduct an oral history interview about his experience as a POW.

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More recently, Alan also interviewed Mr. Charles Hill and Mr. Samuel Hamilton who shared their captivity stories. Mr. Hill was held as a prisoner of war during the Korean War and Mr. Hamilton was a civilian internee at Santo Tomas internment camp during World War II. The interviews will be archived at Andersonville NHS and used for educational purposes. We extend our thanks to these gentlemen and the other 953 who have participated in the oral history program through the years.

From January through March, we also had the great pleasure of having another former WWII POW, Mr. Gerald Smith of New Hampshire, serve as a Guest Host at the National Prisoner of War Museum. Gerry, who has been volunteering at Andersonville NHS with his wife Dot since the 1980s, graciously shared his tales with several groups of students; to U.S. Army Warrant Officer Candidates from Fort Rucker, Alabama; and to countless members of the general public over a three-

month period. Mr. Smith also took time to be the guest speaker at a local Rotary Club lunch program during what he told us was his final visit to Andersonville. With hundreds of hours contributed to the park as a volunteer over the decades, we were honored to present Mr. Smith with a special recognition plaque before he headed north, a duplicate of which now adorns the Guest House, to remind future volunteers of his great legacy.

Speaking of legacies, we are extremely pleased to announce that the contract for fabrication of the POW Traveling Legacy project has been awarded! A firm based in New Jersey by the name of Exhibitology – which has an impressive track record of successful projects for multiple national parks, museums, and other institutions – was selected from several qualified exhibit construction companies by the National Park Service Center for Media Services in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. By the time you are reading this article, we will have met with the fabricators to begin building the

"Victory From Within" traveling exhibit!

We thank each and every one of you who have supported this project through its planning and design stages and especially through the fabrication fund-raising campaign over the past year-and-a-half. We're one step closer to taking your POW stories on the road to a museum near you!



Extraordinary Volunteer Gerry Smith

namPOW news



Paul E. Galanti
National Director, East Central
804.389.1668 (cell)
p.galanti@verizon.net

Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics

Mark Twain was fond of the term, "lies, damned lies and statistics" which Twain used frequently to demonstrate irony in his works and humorous writings. British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli was also fond of the term which he employed during his prominence usually when blasting Baron Otto von Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor of Germany in the 19th Century. The term usually sarcastically described using statistics as an obfuscation factor to bolster weak arguments.

In this, the era of the Internet, it seems very hard to tell the difference - and the lies, damned lies and statistics crop up often in political arguments. Using only the internet can be dangerous Witness the semi-phony story of actress Jane Fonda and POWs in Vietnam.

In 1999, a story surfaced on the internet that infuriated nearly all who saw it. It claimed that several POWs were tortured to meet with Jane Fonda and forced to participate in a publicity stunt with her. The POWs were allegedly tortured after she gave the Vietnamese interrogators some slips of paper the POWs had given her.

Long-term Vietnam POW Mike

McGrath, then president of Nam-POWs our fraternal society, refuted the claim and sent his response to the Internet where it went viral generating hundreds of responses ranging from "I didn't think it could be true" to disbelief that Jane Fonda was totally innocent of all charges - including betraying the country by fomenting lies about our involvement.

That was in 1999 but the story is still bouncing around the internet today. Three different POWs were mentioned by name and none of them ever saw Jane Fonda. Much of what was in the story was true but nearly all the POW stuff was made up. Mike McGrath repeats his refutation every few years when a new group of (usually) veterans expresses outrage at "Hanoi Jane's" duplicitous acts. The story takes slightly different form sometimes starting by saying Jane Fonda is being nominated for one of 100 women of the Century by Barbara Walters.

Here's what TruthorFiction.com says about it - note the summary says the story is partially truthful and partly fiction!:

Jane Fonda Supported the Enemy in Vietnam and Her Conduct Got American POW's Killed-Truth! & Fiction!

"In protest of Jane Fonda being considered as one of the top 100 women of the century, this email reminds Americans of her controversial visit to North Vietnam during the war. It quotes a POW named Jerry Driscoll who was taken from his prison cell, cleaned and dressed for a visit with Fonda, then ordered to give Fonda a positive account of his treatment. He spit at Fonda and was beaten and dragged away. Then a group of POWs which included a Col. Larry Carrigan were brought out to visit with Fonda. According to the story, "...she walked the line, shaking each man's hand and asking little encouraging snippets like: "Aren't you sorry you bombed babies?" & "Are you grateful for the humane treatment from your benevolent captors?" Many of the

POW's were listed as missing in action so to identify themselves to American authorities, they each wrote their Social Security numbers on small pieces of paper and slipped them to Fonda as she greeted them. To their horror, however, after Fonda finished meeting them, she turned to the North Vietnamese commanding officer and handed him the POW's pieces of paper. In the beatings that followed, three American POW's died and Col. Carrigan nearly died. The email then ends with a statement about events in North Vietnam from an unnamed American POW."

Here's the entire Truth or Fiction site's article: <http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/h/hanoiJane.htm>

Lesson Learned? When you get a mass-mailed email that really makes you mad, it is probably only partially true - if that. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is too good to be true. If it sounds outrageous, it stands a good chance of being wrong.

I personally think the best thing you can do is take just about anything from the internet with a huge grain of salt. I try to. Particularly if it's from a political site bragging about one of its own or lambasting an opponent. So I try very hard to be totally apolitical in this column (except when talking about one of those dirty scoundrels on the other side of the spectrum, of course).

Regardless, I still can't stand Jane Fonda...

Save the Date!
*National
Convention
in
Dayton, Ohio
Sept.
13-18, 2011*

**Ex-POW Bulletin
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pow-mia



PNC John Edwards Chairman

**889 Randall Road
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(518) 393-3907 phone & fax**

Americans Identified

There are now **1,695** Americans listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. DPMO just posted the news that the remains of CDR Frank Green, Jr., USN, MSgt Ralph Reno, Jr., USA, and SFC James Moreland, USA, have been identified. CDR Green, listed as MIA in North Vietnam on July 10, 1972, was recovered December 9, 2008, and his remains were identified November 1, 2010. MSgt Reno was recovered August 29, 2000, and his remains were identified as part of a group on October 5, 2010. Capt. Darrell J. Spinler, USAF, listed as KIA/BNR June 21, 1967 in Laos, were jointly recovered November 17, 2010 and identified January 5, 2011. The remains of SFC Donald M. Shue, USA, listed as MIA in South Vietnam on November 3, 1969, were jointly recovered April 3, 2010 and identified January 6, 2011. Finally, the remains of SP4 Randal D. Dalton, USA, listed as KIA/BNR on July 24, 1971 in Cambodia, were recovered September 11, 1989, and identified January 18, 2011. Also early this month, DPMO posted information that the remains of LCDR William P.

Egan, USN have been identified. Previously listed as missing in Laos, his remains were recovered December 22, 2009 and identified February 11, 2011. The number of Americans returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 888; another 63 US personnel, recovered post-incident and identified before the end of the war, bring the total to 951. Of the 1,695 unreturned American veterans from the Vietnam War, our POW/MIAs, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam - 1,300 (VN-477, VS-823); Laos - 330; Cambodia - 58; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters - 7. Over 450 were over-water losses.

Missing WWII Airman Identified

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors. U.S. Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. James G. Maynard, of Ellenwood, Ga., will be buried on April 22 at Arlington National Cemetery. On March 12, 1945, Maynard and five crew members aboard a C-47A Skytrain departed Tanauan Airfield on Leyte, Philippines, on a resupply mission to guerilla troops. Once cleared for takeoff, there was no further communication between the aircrew and airfield operators. When the aircraft failed to return, a thorough search of an area ten miles on either side of the intended route was initiated. No evidence of the aircraft was found and the six men were presumed killed in action. Their remains were determined to be non-recoverable in 1949.

In 1989, a Philippine National Police officer contacted U.S. officials regarding a possible World War

II-era aircraft crash near Leyte. Human remains, aircraft parts and artifacts were turned over to the local police, then to U.S. officials at the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC). From 1989 to 2009, JPAC sought permission to send teams to the crash site but unrest in the Burauen region precluded on-scene investigations or recovery operations. Meanwhile, JPAC scientists continued the forensic process, analyzing the remains and physical evidence already in hand.

At the end of the war, the U.S. government was unable to recover and identify approximately 79,000 Americans. Today, more than 72,000 are unaccounted-for from the conflict.

Accounting Cooperation

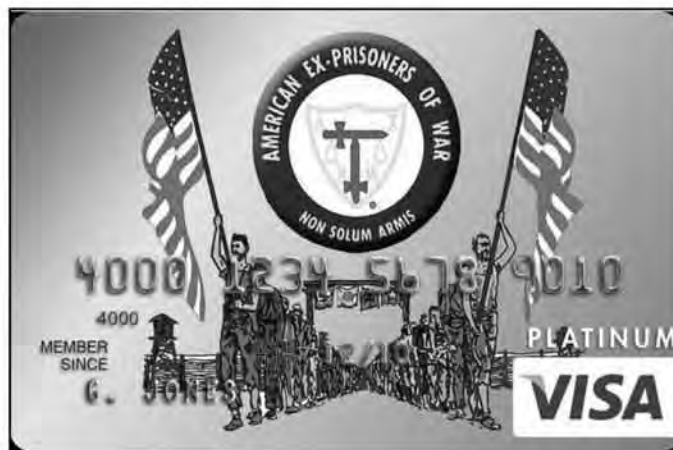
MG Stephen Tom, USAR, Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) recently was in Cambodia, visiting two excavation sites, one a Recovery Team (RT) and the other an Underwater Recovery Team (URT). He then visited Laos where he held POW/MIA consultations. They approved issuing 45-day visas that will enable 30-day operations at sites to be extended, if needed for completion. The Lao also supported JPAC requests related to team safety that are most welcome. There are still several steps that must be addressed before the helicopter situation is resolved, one being a reasonable cost for contracted helicopter support, but the JFAs are now ongoing in both countries and very recently concluded in Cambodia.

Missing/Captured

US Service members reported missing or captured while supporting combat operations: Army Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, 24, June 30, 2009, Afghanistan Army Staff Sgt. Ahmed K Altaie, 45, Oct. 23, 2006, Baghdad.

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June 8-9, 2011. The Dept of Iowa will hold their 28th annual convention at the Best Western Regency, Marshalltown, IA. Motel reservations can be made by calling 1-800-241-2974. For information and registration information contact Pat Ludwig 515 570-8049 or Pat6547@yahoo.com.

June 10-11, 2011. Dept of West Virginia Annual Convention will be held at the Best Western (formerly Holiday Inn) Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact Cmdr. Annette Smith, 621 Front St., Brownsville, PA 15417; 724-785-8536.

June 23-25, 2011. The Dept. of Arizona State Convention will be held at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, I-10 & Wild Horse Pass Blvd (exit 162). Call 800-946-4452 X4900 for discounted room rates \$79.00 per night or \$119.00 for suite plus tax with cut off date of May 23, 2011. Discount code: American Ex-Prisoners of War Dept of AZ. Please contact POW-WOW Chapter #1 Commander David Mills 480-473-8259 or Debby Lindhurst at dlindyP38@cox.net for registration info.

July 31-Aug. 7, 2011. The Korean War EX-POW Association Reunion will be held in Norfolk, VA. For details, contact Bill Norwood at 909 Whisperwood Trail, Cleveland, TN 37312; 423-476-3628; wnorwood@charter.net.

Oct. 12-16, 2011. USAAF (USAF) 95th(H)Bomb Group Association will hold its annual reunion at the Marriott SEA-TAC Airport, 3201 S. 176 St. Seattle, WA 98188. Reservations 800-228-9290; Contact info: 1-206-241-2000.

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looking
for



My name is Shontel Taylor and I am the medical secretary in the division of neurosurgery at Saint Louis University. We are currently conducting research on military **veterans with traumatic brain injury** sponsored by the Department of Defense and I would like to know if you would be interested in passing along some information to your members in our efforts to recruit participants for this very important study. Please feel free to contact me at 314-977-8560 Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:30pm CST and I will be glad to go over the study in detail including information regarding compensation and other benefits for military veterans who participate. Thank you for your time. Shontel Taylor, Medical Secretary, Saint Louis University-Neurosurgery Staylo48@slu.edu; 314-977-8562 work; 314-239-4595 cell.

My father, James F. Arsenault was a POW during WWII. He was held at a work camp called **Burzen Kommando 1637 in Poland** along with 38 other American soldiers. He is now 87 years old and in the process of putting together a book about his and some of the other men's experiences. He has the names and states of each man at the time, but that was over 65 years ago. He has kept in contact with some of these men but not all of them. Now that he is getting this project together we wanted to at least try and locate some of these men or their family's. If anyone knows anything about any of these men or their family's we would very much appreciate a reply. Also if anyone has a suggestion on how to go about finding these men that would be very helpful also. James F. Arsenault or Joanne Herook, 43 Anthony Road, North Reading, MA 01864; powburzen1637@verizon.net.

I am seeking info on my grandfather and was referred to you by the combatvets.net site. Here is an online

bio for my grandfather, **Ernest Raines**. <http://www.combatvets.net/asp/biopage.asp?ID=408>. I'd like to find the names of those who were in his barracks at **Stalag 17b**. Also, I came across some ID type photos for Stalag 17b POWs and wondered if there might be such a picture of my grandfather. Please let me know. Thank you. Jonathan Raines; jraines1jr@aol.com

I'm looking for an **article written by Lt. Walter Mitchell** now deceased. He had a story of being shot down on May 29th 1944. Flying a B24 from the 467th. After being captured by the Germans he tells why the surviving crew members were treated as spies. Having been shot down over Peenemunde a secret German rocket testing base flying back from the 15th mission. The crew didn't know this base existed at the time. Not a lot to go on I'm sure. I don't what year or issue it was in either. Ken McCracken Jr; b24mac@aol.com.

I was a POW in **Stalag Luft IV** and I am interested in anyone **liberated on February 5, 6, 7, 1944**. If you would be interested in communicating, please get back to me with phone numbers, addresses and e-mails so we could keep track of each other and share. Thanks, Herb Gold; stalagluft4@gmail.com.

As a historian at French University of Caen, Normandy, Valentin Schneider is preparing a television project concerning the prisoners of war of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. Whereas the stories of German POWs captured these days are fairly well known, the history of those American soldiers captured by the Germans remains widely unknown to the public opinion. That is why Mr. Schneider is searching American **veterans who have been captured by the Germans in Normandy** or wanting to tell something about captured comrades. He is also looking for any diaries, written accounts, letters from veterans or their relatives, drawings or photographs illustrating this difficult period. Every testimony, every document will in every case help to better understand the conditions of

looking for, cont'd...

capture and captivity. Contact: Valentin Schneider, Les Préaux F-61210 Giel-Courteilles, France; Tel.: +33 (0) 662 931 604, Fax.: +33 (0) 233 364 150; valentin.schneider@wanadoo.fr.

I'm writing on behalf of my father, **Clinton Lefevers**. Home of Record: North Carolina. Training prior to being shipped to England: Camp Croft, SC, Camp Reynolds, PA. Left New York for England about July 1, 1944. Left England for France about August 1, 1944. Captured near Mortain, France August 10, 1944 (Lt. Belk from his unit was captured the day before). Unit at time of capture: B Company, 3rd Battalion, 320th Regiment, 35th Division. After being taken to a hospital in Belgium and treated he was transported by train to **Stalag 12A** near Limburg, Germany. In late February 1945, Stalag 12A was evacuated and approximately 1200 prisoners were loaded on a train to be taken deeper into Germany. On March 1 the train was attacked by American fighter planes and the engines disabled. Although there were several casualties among the prisoners, once the attacking planes realized that the train held P.O.W. s, they stood watch until all the prisoners were off loaded and began to move toward the American lines. The prisoners divided into several groups and went in different directions but the group my father was with connected with the American forces on March 4, 1945. My father would very much like to make contact with anyone who shared this experience. He may be contacted by mail at the above address or by email at cjlefevers1921@bellsouth.net.

For a biography of **Mildred Gillars**, the "Axis Sally" of Nazi radio propaganda during World War II, we'd appreciate hearing from anyone who remembers her broadcasts, came face to face with her, or was interviewed by her in a POW camp, or heard stories of her visit to a camp. We're also interested in former POWs who were interviewed by the FBI about Axis

Sally, served as government witnesses at her trial, or offered to testify on her or the government's behalf. Similarly, does anyone recall Overseas Kid, the POW newsletter? If you read it or worked on it or possibly have kept copies of it, we'd very much like to speak with you. Finally, we'd like to hear from anyone with recollections of Max Otto Koischwitz, the editor of Overseas Kid, or Frank Stebbing, an American POW who reportedly wrote a column for the publication. Thank you. Stephen Michaud, Dr. Ann Pfau, 4516 Lovers Lane, #226, Dallas, Texas 75025; sgmichaud@gmail.com.

News Briefs

20 Years of Freedom!



by Bill Andrews
bill.andrews.afa@gmail.com

Eleven members of the 5th Allied POW squadron gathered in Pensacola FL between February 27 and March 5 to celebrate twenty years of freedom since their release at the conclusion of Operation Desert Storm. Dr. Bob Hain and Ms. Tami Toney of the Robert Mitchell Center for POW Studies hosted the group, providing annual physical examinations in support of their long-term POW study, caring support, and the Center's signature hospitality and friendship. The gathering provided an opportunity to renew the unique bonds of friendship forged under the most trying circumstances in Baghdad two decades ago.



Col George "Bud" Day and Mrs. Doris Day shared dinner with the squadron members and Mitchell Center hosts at the week's culminating event on Wednesday evening, March 2. The dinner reminded those assembled of the connections between generations of American Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. The heroism and honorable service accomplished by previous generations of American POWs transferred through their stories to the Desert Storm generation, who although small in number, continue to pass those stories on how to "return with honor" to generations to come. Col Day reminded the assembled squadron members of their opportunity and responsibility to use their speaking opportunities to encourage American audiences to actively engage in the future of this country by standing up for their beliefs in the American democratic process.

During the week Dr. Jeff Moore and Brig Gen Rhonda Cornum briefed the squadron on what the ongoing research at the Mitchell Center and other institutions has revealed about resilience. This promising research is being incorporated into Army and Air Force training to mentally strengthen American servicemen and women to better help them cope with the stresses of combat. Optimism and resilience training changes the dialogue from expectations of psychological harm to the message that despite hardships, American warriors can prevail and come out healthy like the example of Col Bud Day.

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news briefs, cont'd...

Vietnam Plaque

Returned

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex seized a Vietnam War memorial plaque that vanished in 2004 after its North Carolina owners sent it to a refinisher. The Department of Homeland Security said that the plaque was discovered April 19 during inspection of a shipment of surplus military items headed to Thailand. The plaque belonged to the Americans Who Care organization in Fayetteville, N.C., and lists the names of 19 service members who were prisoners of war or missing in action. A Homeland Security statement says Americans Who Care sent the plaque away to be repolished but the refinishing company declared bankruptcy and the plaque ended up being sold over the Internet. Customs sent the plaque back to Fayetteville.

Capitol City Chapter, AXPOW. 6 of the 15 members met in Bastrop, TX with Commander Sina Chandler.



Welcome Home

Vietnam Veterans Day

The U.S. Senate declared March 30th Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans

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Day. On March 30, 1973, U.S. troops withdrew from Vietnam under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. Senator Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, introduced the legislation saying, "Our soldiers served honorably and bravely in Vietnam. Unfortunately, they arrived home to a country in political turmoil, and never received the recognition they deserve. By setting March 30th aside as a day to focus on our Vietnam veterans, we can show our unified gratitude for their service and the sacrifices that these veterans made on our behalf." This is a long-overdue tribute to honor the men and women who served bravely during the Vietnam War. The US Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961, and in 1965, ground combat troops were sent into Vietnam. More than 58,000 members of the United States Armed Forces lost their lives and more than 300,000 were wounded in Vietnam. This is the second consecutive year of the resolution.

VA Honoree

by Vince Lisanti, PCC

Hudson Valley Chapter, AXPOW

During the last executive board meeting of the Hudson Valley Chapter (NY), a decision was made to honor Ms. Dottie Schleger, who is in charge of travel and transportation for the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System. She has provided vital transportation for handicapped veterans on a state wide range to VAMCs.

The gift that was chosen has an interesting history. It was conceived by Richard Dwyer, a retired police officer friend of mine. The images were selected and blended into a copy of the Declaration of Independence with the title "The Cost of Freedom".

An early copy of the poster was given to President George HW Bush for using the power of his position to guide the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through bureaucratic government agencies to establish a computer program for handicapped and elderly veterans on a national basis.

It is the sincerest wish of all of us who have received travel accommodations from Dottie "Travel" Schleger that the presentation be a gift of humble appreciation.



Photographer: Barbara DiCola

Kudos in PA

They were recognized both for their sacrifice and for fruitful lives they led afterward.

by Matt Hughes

mhughes@timesleader.com



Photos show Anthony Leptuck, wife Betty, and Fred Searles attending the POW Recognition Day activities in Wilkes-Barre, PA.



news briefs, cont'd...

Also, in attendance were former POWs George Sholtis and Henry Levandoski. The keynote speaker for the event was Lt. Col. Robert Hemphill.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center paid respect to a group of area veterans imprisoned during foreign wars during a Former POW Recognition Luncheon at the Quality Inn Suites & Conference Center.

"For those of us who never endured that ordeal, we can only conjure up mental images of what it must have been like," keynote speaker Lt. Col. Robert L. Hemphill said, "but these guys lived through it. ... Whether they were imprisoned for a few weeks or a few years, there was no end in sight."

The luncheon, attended by about 20 former POWs and their guests, commemorated not only the pain they endured for their country, but also the lives the former prisoners built from the ashes of their wartime experience.

"We salute those here who have tasted the bitter drought of imprisonment and the humiliation of capture; those who, in their continuing journeys, though wounded by their experience, have carved out for themselves meaningful and productive lives, not allowing the trauma of imprisonment at the hands of an enemy destroy what potential they had within them," VA Chaplain the Very Rev. Joseph Martin said in his invocation.

Purple Heart Guidelines

The Army has announced a clarification in its guidelines for receiving a Purple Heart, with an emphasis on battlefield concussions being eligible for the medal. Official Army guidelines have long considered

combat-sustained concussions a valid injury worthy of the Purple Heart, but in practice, it has been left to doctors or battlefield commanders to decide whether a blow to the head during combat warranted the medal. With recent studies on brain trauma, however, the rules have been revised to state what constitutes a concussion, with symptoms including momentary loss of consciousness or memory, dizziness, headache, nausea or light sensitivity. Medical treatment, also required for the medal, is defined by the rules to include merely rest and Tylenol. If you are a soldier who suffered a concussion and feel you may not have been appropriately recognized for a Purple Heart, the Army urges you to re-apply through your chain of command. Veterans can call 888-276-9472 or hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil.

The few POWs remaining in the Concho Valley represent history by Fred Campbell, San Angelo, TX

Recently after church my wife and I entered the drive-thru at the Burger King on Knickerbocker Road. The line was long as we moved up to get our hamburgers.

When we finally got to the window to pay, the cashier said, "The people in the car behind you are paying for your lunch, and they want to thank you for your service."

We were touched. What a nice gesture! And all we could do was wave to those thoughtful people in the car behind us. Then we had to move on to unblock the lane.

So this is a big thank-you to those kind folks who showed their appreciation for all those who have served, and are serving, in our military services. I felt humble to be counted among that group.

And I thought about the people in the car behind us and what they did. They had noticed the license plate on our car, with the message, "Former POW."

You won't see many of those around San Angelo. Of the 13,000 veterans here, there are only six of us left in our Concho Valley Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War. If you see a car with POW plates, it surely will be one of us:

* W.F. Matthews, captured by the Japanese in Java in April 1942, in the Army's Lost Battalion. He was missing in action all during World War II, his family unaware he was a prisoner of war, alive. At enlistment he was 6-foot-1 and 190 pounds; at liberation in 1945, he weighed 90 pounds.

* Wallace Brown, B-29 co-pilot, shot down over North Korea in January 1953. He was captured and turned over to the Chinese five months before the Korean War Peace Accord. But he was held in a Beijing jail in solitary confinement for 32 months, including 27 after Korean peace was declared.

Dag Hammarskjold, secretary-general of the United Nations, went to Beijing to persuade the Chinese to release Wally and his crew. All 32 months, their families knew nothing about what had happened to the crew, that they were POWs, and alive.

* Stratton Beasley, B-24 tail gunner, shot down, ditching in the Mediterranean Sea. He spent three days in a life raft. Picked up by German amphibious aircraft, Stratton later endured an 86-day forced march in frigid northern Germany out of Stalag Luft IV.

* Bill Murdock, B-17 ball-turret gunner, shot down near Munich. He spent many months as a POW in Stalag 17B at Krems, Austria, and suffered through a cold march with no shoes to liberation.

news briefs, cont'd...

* Charles Webb of Ballinger, B-24 pilot, shot down over Hungary. He was a POW in Stalag Luft III, and in early 1945 withstood a "blizzard march" to Stalag 13D in Nurnberg. He was liberated at Moosburg.

* I was a B-17 navigator on a plane that was hit by flak over Hamburg and crash-landed with only one engine on a farm in northern Holland. I was a POW in Stalag Luft III, enduring the same ice/snow/below-zero march with Webb, then went to Nurnberg, and was liberated at Moosburg. Thank God for Patton's Army.

Our POW chapter for the past several years has given a \$500 college scholarship to the top Junior ROTC graduating seniors at Central and Lake View high schools. We persist.

April 9 is annually designated as Former POW Day, commemorating the fall of Bataan in the Philippines to the Japanese. And many POWs follow: World War II, 130,201; Korea, 7,140; Vietnam, 725; Gulf War, 47; Somalia, 1; Kosovo, 3 and Iraq, 9.

And thanks again to the thoughtful folks who treated us to a hamburger on that special Sunday.

Fred Campbell of San Angelo is a retired minister.



Letter from an Iraq veteran to his POW grandpa... anonymous

A Soldier's Letter to His Grandfather

Even though you are in the middle of our outfit, you are still alone in thought.

Grandpa! Maybe it's that thought of being alone that triggers the thought of you and you folks back home.

Expecting anything at anytime, while "yes" we have had a shot or two fired at us, on the way by, or a rocket directed at us, now and then.

I, as most of the other guys or personnel in this outfit, am thanking you for the little packages sent with all the goodies and sweet things.

But, what I really wanted to thank you for was just being there when we need that hand on our shoulders, and the tingle of love it always conveyed.

Now I can't put this feeling in words, but I'll just say you make a (Good-Sole-Father), but a real good (Grandpa) always.

Grandpa! You have set an awful high bar for me to reach, to achieve such a standard as you have.

Tell Grandma I love you and hope you can be as proud of me as I am my loving Grandparent.

(Editor's note: National Commander Morris Barker received this heartfelt tribute with no name or return address. Many of our readers could think it was written by their grandson!)

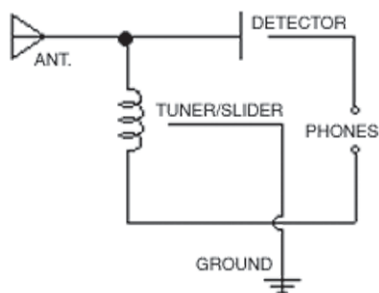


Military guards stand in honor of World War II vets at the World War II Memorial. Vets from left: Fred Johnson, from Macon, was on the USS Maryland at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked; POW Marvin O. Russell, from Loganville, was a B-17 gunner who was shot down and served 13 months in Stalag 17-B; and John F. Vogel, from Peachtree City, served in the Air Corps and was the oldest veteran on the trip at age 95.

Remember This?

EDITOR'S NOTE: PNC Zack Roberts sent me a drawing of a Foxhole Radio. How many of you remember them?

Building a foxhole radio is rewarding and the basic setup is very simple. It is, however, difficult to adjust, and it may take several attempts to find a proper razor blade for the detector. This is a project that requires patience and much trial and error, but it will pay off once it begins to work. These sets are extremely simple in construction, but tuning and modification require some basic understanding of theory, as well as practice. The sets presented here are based on old articles, notes, and people's recollections. There are fairly major variations in design and materials among these plans. It must be remembered that these were improvised under often adverse conditions; there was no "standard".



Field Radio

GIs, during World War Two, built these sets which took advantage of (comparatively) readily available materials. The instructions are purposely lacking in detail; these were a project designed with improvisation in mind. It is very tricky to tune and properly set the detector. But once you get it working, you will be amazed that you can actually receive signals through so crude a device. This design has survived mostly thanks to the article *Build a World War II Foxhole Radio* by Lance Borden, as it appeared in the *Electronics Handbook* vol. XVII, p. 47.

The basic components are:

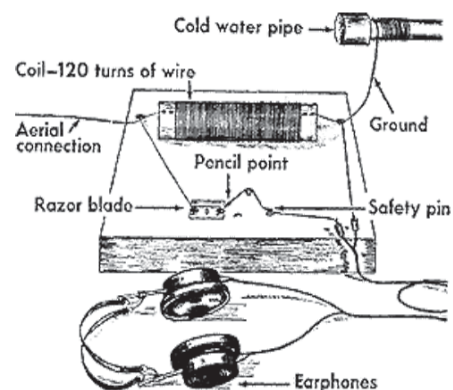
Razor blade "PAL Super Single Edge" by American Safety Razor Co., or a regular rusty one

Cardboard toilet paper tube
Wire coat hanger or other handy strip of workable metal
Headphones or earphone (2 - 4 K ohms)
Large safety pin
Lead from a wooden pencil
#22 AWG (or so) wire
Something for a base
Lacquer, glue
Small tacks or screws for fastening components

Refer to the schematic for wiring and connections. Wind the coil 100 turns around the tube. #22 AWG wire is recommended, but it is likely that whoever was in the field used whatever gauge was in the scrap coil, motor, or transformer they were cannibalizing. Spray / paint the coil with lacquer (or whatever is handy) to set it firmly. Scrape off whatever paint or varnish may be on the wire used for the tuner/slider. Spread the safety pin apart and bend the head 90 degrees to use it as a base for attaching the pin to the base. The pin should stick up from its bent head, then down to its point where the pencil lead is attached with some of the wire left from winding the coil. The sharpened pencil lead is the detector, which touches the razor blade, which is in turn attached to the base at one of its ends (through the hole) with a screw or tack. The tuner should be mounted so that it is free to pivot and slide across the coil (see the crystal radio page for basic construction tips). Use a scrap of paper or cardboard as a template for getting the tuner/slider the correct size. Sand off the varnish on the coil where the slider will touch it. Connect the ground and antenna, hook up the headphones, and through much patient adjustment of the detector and slider, you should eventually be able to pick up broadcasts. A capacitor (.001 - .002 uF) between the earphone terminals improves performance.

POW Radio

Prisoners of war during WWII had to improvise from whatever bits of junk they could scrounge in order to build



a radio. One type of detector used a small piece of coke, which was a derivative of coal often used in heating stoves. The piece of coke used was small, about the size of a pea. A small board was used and a depression was cut into it near one end to hold the coke. A screw and, if available, a screw cup were used to hold the coke in place. A wire lead to the receiver was run from this to the coil/aerial (see picture).

A foot or so (30cm) of steel wire (guitar wire, piano wire, etc.) was wound around a pencil, long nail, or similar, leaving about one inch (25 mm) unwound at each end. The wire should be somewhat springy. A second screw and screw cup is set about 3 inches (75 mm) from the first. Attached by this screw are one end of the steel wire spring and a second lead, which is connected to one lead of the headphones or earphones (if anyone has any information on how earphones from these sets may have been improvised, I would like to hear about it). The steel spring wire was then stretched so that it just rested on the coke. After much adjusting of the point of contact on the coke and the tension of the wire, some strong stations would have been received.

If the POW was lucky enough to scrounge a variable capacitor, the set could possibly receive more frequencies.

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AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
2011 CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 13-18
DAYTON, OHIO

NAME _____

SPOUSE _____

POW CAMP _____ BRANCH OF SERVICE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

BANQUET MEAL SELECTION: BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN _____

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL NEEDS _____

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY NOTIFY _____

IS THIS YOUR FIRST REUNION? YES _____ NO _____

REGISTRATION FEES

REQUIRED REGISTRATION FEE /NUMBER OF PERSONS _____ x \$128 = _____

LADIES' LUNCHEON NUMBER ATTENDING _____ x \$18 = _____

OPTIONAL TOUR NATIONAL AIR FORCE MUSEUM _____ x \$26 = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = _____

PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 2011

PLEASE SEND PAYMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:

THE REUNION BRAT

50721 State Hwy 410 E

Greenwater, WA 98022

(360)663-2521

- .. CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION AND ITINERARY WILL BE SENT OUT BY AUGUST 13, 2011.
- .. A \$20 PER PERSON CANCELLATION FEE WILL APPLY TO ALL CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE EVENT. CANCELLATIONS RECEIVED WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE EVENT WILL BE NON-REFUNDABLE.
- .. CALL THE MARRIOTT DAYTON AT 937-223-1000 NO LATER THAN AUGUST 24, 2011 TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS. BE SURE TO MENTION YOU ARE WITH THE AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR CONVENTION TO RECEIVE YOUR GROUP RATE OF \$109 A NIGHT PLUS TAX.
- .. IF ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE THE HOTEL WILL HONOR THE GROUP RATE THREE DAYS PRIOR AND THREE DAYS AFTER YOUR EVENT IF YOU CHOOSE TO EXTEND YOUR STAY.

American Ex-Prisoners of War 2011 National Convention Dayton Marriott

1414 S. Patterson Boulevard · Dayton, Ohio 45409
937-223-1000~800-450-8625

The Hotel

Room rates are \$109 per night, plus tax.
Parking at the hotel is complimentary.
*Call no later than August 24, 2011
to make your hotel reservations.*

Tour

The National Museum of the United States Air Force

Thursday, September 15th, 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm
Cost: \$26 per person

Local Attractions

National Museum of the U.S. Air Force
Dayton Art Institute
Dayton Aviation Heritage Nat. Historical Park
Carillon Historical Park
Dayton Dragons Professional Baseball
IMAX Theatre - Air Force Museum
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery
Riverscape
River Corridor Bikeway
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National Convention Tentative Agenda Sept. 13-18, 2011

Tuesday Sept. 13:

National Service Officer Training
Registration Desk Open in PM

Wednesday Sept. 14:

National Board of Directors
Meeting
Registration Desk Open
Hospitality Room Open
Hospitality Room
Evening Entertainment

Thursday Sept. 15:

Opening Ceremonies
Tour
Commanders Reception
Evening Entertainment

Friday Sept. 16:

Past National Commanders
Breakfast
General Business Session
Hospitality Room

Saturday Sept. 17:

General Business Session &
Balloting
Banquet and Installation of
Officers

Sunday Sept. 18:

Devotional
National Board of Directors Meeting

*The first All-American
Soap Box Derby
was held in
Dayton, Aug. 19, 1934*

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AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

Please circle one category:

Individual

Chapter

State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

Chapter/Department (if any)

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

**Ex-POW Bulletin
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Members' forum



KEEPING AXPOW STRONG, continued.

You may have read my prior articles on Keeping AXPOW Strong. They have emphasized the importance of recruiting next of kin to carry on the mission of AXPOW after we are gone. The importance of that recruiting continues.

It is also essential that we remain financially strong. Are we? Let me share with you some facts

that you might not be familiar with.

About five years ago we had over \$400,000 in reserves. This was money in our checking account, and investments such as certificates of deposits. In the past recent years we have consistently gone over budget \$50,000 or more, and our reserves were down to \$87,290 when we assembled for our Board meeting last September in Albany, Georgia. The whistle was blown! We went over last year's budget of \$435,000, and reduced it to \$360,000. I assume we will continue to reduce our expenses as our membership declines in the coming years. At the risk of being morbid, the bulk of our members are WWII vets and widows, pushing the age of ninety. Our life expectancy is three years. What will our Swan Song be?

My dream is that we stay within budget for the next three years, and that we rebuild our reserves.

Through your generous donations to the General Fund and Voluntary Funding, we are on top of our budget for the current fiscal year. You have given us \$270,646 as of this writing. Our expenses are \$229,619. We are now \$41,027 ahead for the year. This increases our reserves to \$128,317. Wonderful!

It has been said, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." We need a destination. Here is what I propose: As of this date, I am planning to give you two figures each month: 1. Our Year To Date Budget Status. and 2. Our Checking Account and Investment Reserves. Then you can decide the road to our financial future.

Low Sleeper, National Director SW

This is the letter that went out to all life members in January, 2011. If you haven't already made your donation to support AXPOW, please consider doing it now.

Thank you.

Dear Life Member,

A new year is upon us and we are looking toward the future for the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

That future is bright with your help. At our convention in Georgia last fall, the Board and delegates had to make some hard decisions. We've consolidated offices, eliminated board expenses and worked to give the organization a balanced budget for 2010-2011.

We need your support for this to happen. One of the decisions we reached was to ask all life members to donate \$20 a year to help defray the cost of running AXPOW. The costs for the EX-POW Bulletin and administrative costs have remained stable over the years, but our income is down as our membership declines.

This contribution will be above and beyond the donations you so generously give four times each year for our direct mail programs. It is earmarked specifically to make sure our great organization continues to exist.

When the life membership dues were established years ago, most of you took advantage of the opportunity to make a single payment — for some of you as low as \$36. **That money doesn't even cover the cost of one year's operating expenses today.**

helps cover the EX-POW Bulletin expenses. It provides the funds for administrative operations. It pays for the overhead of national conventions. And much, much more. For many of you, the EX-POW Bulletin is your only communication with your friends and comrades. For many others, it provides information about meetings, and keeps you up to date. And for many more, it gives you the tools necessary for ensuring you receive the entitlements to which you are entitled. Your National Headquarters is here for you whenever you need help, guidance or a friendly voice.

Please help AXPOW once again. Your donation helps make sure that we are here to "help those who cannot help themselves."

Morris Barker
National Commander

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And that's why we need your contributions again. Your \$20 a year

Money doesn't
grow on trees.
With TreasuryDirect,
it grows online!



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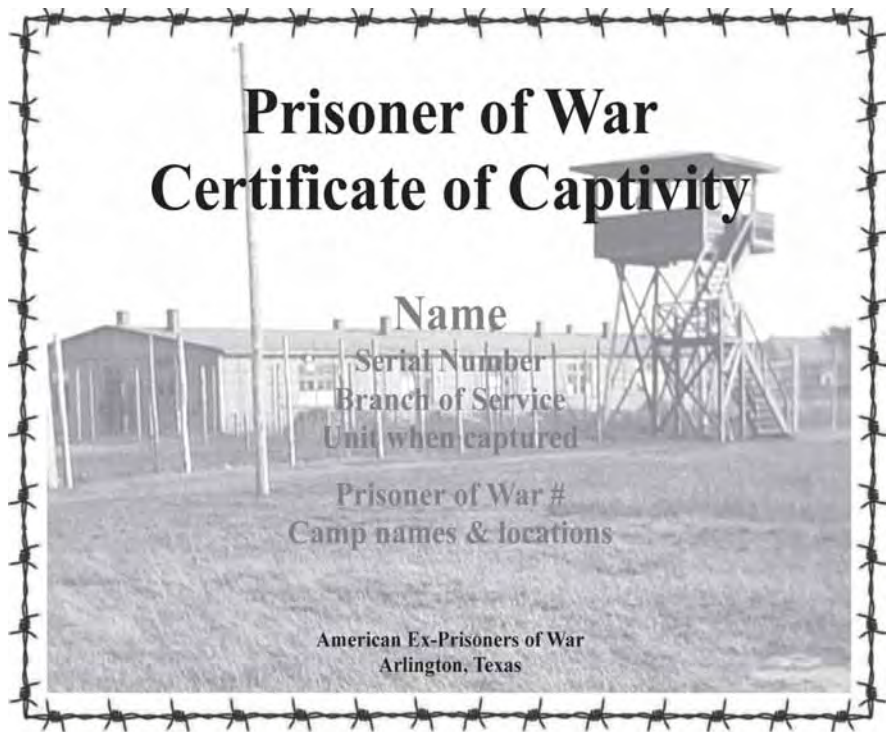
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BULLETIN

Brooklyn 'Key' Chapter, NY

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contributions, cont'd

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new members

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New Members **“Welcome Home”**



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CALLING ALL NEXT-OF-KIN

If you are planning on driving your folks to the National Convention in Dayton, and if you like to sing, (or not), now is your chance to entertain your parents - - they entertained you for many years - - now it's your turn. The NOKs will sing music from the 50's, and some of them might even LOOK like they are from the 50's. Come as you are or pack a little scarf with matching socks, and there you have it - - a 1950's outfit!

If you would like a list of the songs they'll be singing, write Deanie Schmidt at schmidt1925@gmail.com, or call her at 1-614-372-0788.

Last year's NOK entertainment was a howling success, and this year's will be even better.

And by the way, the entire convention should be grrrrreat! The tour of the Dayton Museum will be outstanding, the Ladies Luncheon will be awesome, and MORE. Plan to come!



2010 Next-of-Kin Chorus at their smash performancee in Albany, GA



taps



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

Frank Woodruff BUCKLES

The oldest member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War



Frank was born February 1, 1901 in MO and died February 27, 2011. The last WWI veteran has perished. And in his case, the 110 years of

his life were nothing less than remarkable.

At 16, the Marines told him he was too young and too skinny, and the Navy told him he was flat-footed, so he lied to the Army recruiter about his age and entered service. Buckles shipped out with the 1st Ft. Riley (KS) Casual Detachment to England in 12/1917 on the *HMS CARPATHIA* [some of those onboard had been on the ship when it had picked up survivors of the *HMS TITANIC* on 4/15/1912]. Initially, the unit replaced the 6th Marines, but he then drove motorcycles, cars and ambulances in the Gironde area, St. Andre de Cubzac, Basens, Bordeaux and St. Sulpice, an area of warehouses and a camp for German POWs. His oral and written history in the Library of Congress details, after the Armistice was signed, when he acted as Army escort taking POWs back to Germany.

His WWI discharge papers as a Corporal were dated 11/13/1919. One of his fondest memories was meeting and talking at length with Gen. John J. Pershing at a tribute in Oklahoma City in January 1920. Buckles said he was then only 18 and a corporal, but the general asked to speak to him and it turned out he had been born just 43 miles from his home in WV. He described Pershing as a wonderful man who "was really tough and did not take any guff". In recent years, more often than not, on Veter-

ans (or Memorial) Day, it would be Frank Buckles' photo on the front page of the newspaper sitting erect in his wooden wheelchair, with tartan lap robe and uniform coat, giving a smart salute to pay his respects at Pershing's gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery. On one such visit, Buckles was shown the small WWI memorial for DC veterans, and thereafter, he became the spokesperson and personal impetus on The Hill, Press and elsewhere for creating a WWI Memorial for all participants.

After WWI, Buckles worked for the White Star steamship line in the 1930's and 1940's, and after stints in Canada and NY was living as a businessman facilitating movement of cargo (and people in cargo ships) in the Port of Manila, The Philippines on December 7, 1941. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, he was held at Santo Tomas and Los Banos for 3 years, 2 months during which time he planted a vegetable garden, helped with therapeutic exercises for a polio victim and tended other POWs.

After release, and returning to the states, Buckles married Audrey Mayo in 1946 and in 1954, settled in Charlestown, WV on a farm his ancestors had owned since 1732 (overlooking Civil War sites Antietam and Harpers Ferry). After WWI he was not recognized much as a veteran, but after WWII, he used VA educational benefits at business school, and later VA medical benefits including hearing aids.

After the war, Buckles went with the 7th Regiment of NY, C Co. and became a staunch advocate for veterans and active in veterans organizations. He served as National Commander of the Veterans of WWI of the USA, Inc. a Congressionally chartered Veterans Service Organization founded in 1949.

Buckles continued to mow his hay fields with his John Deere tractors when invited to be the Grand

Marshall of the 2007 Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., at which time he was able to tell his story to the media. He recalled an earlier visit to Washington in 1999 to the French Embassy where President Jacques Chirac awarded him and 3 others the Legion of Honor. A Pentagon's special WWI exhibit opened on his 107th birthday. Since an Armistice party on The Hill in June 2008, and as a practical viable alternative, Buckles had spoken for the WWI Memorial for DC being restored with federal status. His burial took place with full honors at Arlington National Cemetery on March 15, 2011.

AMMON, Ralph I. Jr., 86, Mifflinburg, PA died Feb. 11, 2011. He was captured while serving in the Army - G Co., 3rd Bn, 141st Reg., 36th Inf. Div. He spent 16 months as a POW in Poland. Ralph was commander of the Susquehanna Chapter, AXPOW at the time of his death. He was instrumental in creating the current Veterans' Day program at the local high school. He leaves his wife of 63 years, Edna, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 brothers, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

ANDERSON, Jesse Earl, of McClure, IL passed away recently. During WWII, he served with 119th Inf., 30th Div. He was held in 2B and 12A as a POW. Survivors include his wife, Ruth.

BENTON, Paul of East Palestine, OH passed away Feb. 9, 2011 at 86. He was an artillery radio operator attached to the 101st airborne, jumped in to Normandy and then was attached to the British airborne for the jump in the "Market Garden" effort to Holland where he was captured by the enemy and spent 7 months as a POW in Stalags XII-A, VII-A and Arbeit Kommando 3390. A life member of AXPOW and the Steel

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taps continued...

Valley Chapter, he leaves his wife of 61 years, Rose, and 4 nieces and one nephew.

BERKOVSKY, Leon J., of Vienna, VA died Feb. 13, 2011. He was 88. During WWII, he served in the Air Force; he was shot down over Yugoslavia and held nearly a year. He was an active member of AXPOW and his local chapter. He is survived by his wife, Morene, 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren, 2 brothers and 2 sisters.

BLOCKER, Elenora F., of Holton, KS died March 4, 2011. She was the beloved wife of 65 years of ex-POW Leroy E. Both were life members of AXPOW. In addition to her husband, survivors include 3 sons, 1 daughter and their families.

BOGNI, Joseph V., of Roxbury, MA died Feb. 21, 2011. He was a long-time member of MA Chapter #1, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor and one daughter.

BRADFORD, Otis Lawrence [Larry], of Grove City, Ohio, died April 3, 2011. He was ETO 1 FA OBSN BN, POW at Oflag 64 in Schubin, Poland. He is survived by 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

BREEN, John Adrian, 86, of Elkhart, IA passed away Feb. 22, 2011. He was captured while serving with the 7th Armored Div. He was held in Northern Germany until liberation. John was past commander of the Mid-Iowa Chapter and dept. of Iowa. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Ann, 2 sons, 2 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and numerous extended family.

BUDZYNSKI, John J. of Chicago, IL died Jan. 6, 2011 at the age of 95. He was captured on Guam while serving in the Marines Dec. 10, 1941; he spent most of his captivity at Camp Zentsuji in Japan. His beloved wife, Mary, predeceased him; he is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grand-

children, 3 great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. He was proud to have served in the Corps.

CASTOR, Kenneth G., age 87, of Kettering, Ohio passed away on Dec. 20 2010. He had served with the 34th Division and was captured in Africa, serving 3 years as a prisoner of war. Ken had been a mainstay in the American EX-Prisoner of war in Ohio. He formed and was the Commander of the Dayton Chapter. He had helped in forming the Ohio Department in 1963 and was its first commander. He was preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn. He is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

CAVALLINI, Alexander, of Carlisle, PA passed away Feb. 21, 2011. He was 86. He was captured while serving in the Army during WWII, and later was a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Marion, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 brothers.

COVINGTON, Madison G. of Winter Haven, FL died Dec. 15, 2010. He was in the Army during WWII; 82nd Airborne, Unit 504. He was a POW in Germany in Stalag 7. Madison leaves behind his wife of 61 years, Margie, 5 children, 16 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

CSEH, Joseph F., a long-time member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, died March 14 in Clearwater, FL. Born in Cleveland, he moved to Clearwater in 1955. He served during World War II in ETO, as a member of the 7th Armored, US Army, until he was captured. He is survived by Lettie, his wife of 61 years, a daughter, a sister, a brother, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was a man of good humor; he will be missed.

CUPP, William L. of Northfield, MN passed away March 2, 2011 at age 87. He served with the 8th AF, 493rd BS during WWII; he was shot down over Belgium on June 14, 1944. He evaded capture for 11 weeks; he was held in Luft IV. Bill leaves his wife of 64 years, two children and one brother.

DART, John O., died Dec. 7, 2010 at the age of 89. He was captured while serving with the 28th Div., 103rd Combat Eng. in the Battle of the Bulge. John was held in Stalag XII-A and II-A. He is survived by his wife, Marcella.

DAUGHERTY, Mildred May Bane, 85, of Salem, VA died March 13, 2011. She was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, ex-POW Coy. Mildred was an active member of AXPOW and ADBC. Survivors include 3 daughters, 2 sons, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

DeLUCA, Elvira, of St. Charles, IL and member of Ocean County Chapter, AXPOW passed away recently.

EASTMAN, William G., 89, of Tulsa, OK died Feb. 2, 2011. During WWII, he served with the AAC, 95th BG, 336th BS, flying out of England. He was shot down over Germany and held in Luft I until liberation. He is survived by 7 children, 12 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

ENDONILA, Benny, of Jaro, Iloilo City, Philippines died March 17, 2011. He was 93. Benny served in WWII and was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. His loving wife, Josephine, predeceased him; he leaves one daughter (now serving in Iraq), one brother and his family.

ERTEL, Elizabeth "Betty", AXPOW Life Member and spouse of Richard Ertel, died March 26, 2011. Dick and Betty, members of Florida's Peace River Chapter, returned to Canandigua, NY several years ago. The Ertels were married 66 years. She is survived by 1 son, 2 grandchildren & 1 great-granddaughter.

FERNS, Lawrence J., of Roswell, NM died March 5, 2011 at age 88. Bud was a member of the 351st BG, 508th BS, 8th AF during WWII. He was captured and held as a POW for two years, primarily at Stalag 17B. A life member of AXPOW, he is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Mary Virginia, 3 sons, 4 daughters and numerous grand- and great-grandchildren who miss him very much.

taps continued...

FISCHER, Jack, of Fairfield, Texas, died March 7, 2011. Jack served with the 303rd BG during WWII; after parachuting out, he was wounded, captured and was held in Stalag Luft 4, Compound C. Jack was an active member of AXPOW, serving as Sgt-at-Arms on both the national and local levels. He is survived by his wife, Joy.

GEISS, Donald R., 86, of Grayling, MI passed away March 25, 2011. During WWII, he served with Co I, 28th Inf. Reg. He was captured after landing in Normandy, then sent to Stalag 3C in Germany and held until liberation. Donald leaves his wife of 62 years, Maxine, 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

GOLDMAN, Benjamin, 89, passed away March 22, 2011. He was a member of the James L. Hale Chapter (Hampton, VA), AXPOW. He was shot down and captured while serving with the AAC during WWII. He was held at Luft IV until liberated by Russian forces in April 1945. Ben's wife of 64 years, Jane, predeceased him; he leaves 1 daughter, 1 son and 4 grandchildren.

HAUS, John B 'Jack', of Conroe, Texas, died February 7, 2011. A navigator with the 91st BG on a B-17 flying out of England, he was shot down on his 11th mission. Only three of his crew survived. He was held in Stalag Luft 1.

HESS, Francis John Sr., of Boise, ID passed away Jan. 4, 2011. He was captured while serving with the AAC, flying out of England during WWII. He was shot down, captured and held nearly 2 1/2 years in German POW camps. Frank leaves his wife, Dorothy and seven children.

HOFFMAN, Bernard V., 87, of Harrisburg, SD passed away Feb. 28, 2011. Bernie was captured while serving in the Army during WWII. He was an active member of Sioux Land Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. The local American Legion hall is named "Bernard Hoffman American Legion Club".

HULCHER, Elizabeth "Lib" of Richmond, VA died March 2, 2011. She was 84. Lib was the widow of past Virginia State Commander LW "Bill" Hulcher; both were members of the Denny Landrum Chapter. She leaves 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

JAMES, Charlie, of Carlsbad, NM passed away March 13, 2011 at the age of 89. He served with the New Mexico National Guard, 200th CA (AA) Battery F and was captured on Bataan. He was held at Camp O'Donnell, Cabanatuan and Bilibid PI, then moved to Japan and forced labor in Osaka and Oeyama. Charlie was a life member of AXPOW and ADBC. He is survived by Lucille, his wife of 70 years, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

JOSTAD, Glen Arnold, of Brownsville, Minnesota, died February 20, 2011. He served as radio operator and gunner on a B-17 Bomber, 731 BS, 452 AB Div. Captured Feb 8, 1944, he was held in Germany and marched a 12-day, 200-mile march. He was liberated by Gen. Patton's troops April 29, 1945. Glen was a member of the Hiawatha Chapter, AXPOW.

KENT, Lawrence, of Fallon, Nevada, died February 20, 2011. He served in the army during WWII, spending three and a half years in a Japanese prison camp. He leaves his wife, two daughters, one son and wife, two grandsons and one brother.

LaGRONE, Mary, 84, of Lott, TX formerly of Killeen, died March 22, 2011. She and her husband ex-POW Harry John were members of AXPOW. He preceded her in death on Sept. 8, 1974. Survivors include three sons, two daughters, ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

LIVINGSTONE, Roy, former State Commander, former Barbed/Wire Seminole Chapter Commander, former Director of the POW Foundation, and a member of our Chapter, died April 7, 2011, at Bay Pines VAMC Hospice. He was in the European Theater of Operations, serving with the 8th Air Force, 306th Bomb

Group. He was held in Stalag XVIIIB. He is survived by his wife Dorris; a stepson; a stepdaughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

MASYS, Boles C., 90, of Haverhill, MA died Feb. 18, 2011. During WWII, he served with the 96th BG, 413th BS. His plane was shot down, he was captured and held in numerous camps in Germany until liberation. Survivors include 1 daughter, 3 sons, 1 sister, 9 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

MCGRATH, JOHN, of New Jersey, passed away February 16, 2011. He was a member of the 110th Inf., 28th Division. Having survived the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest, he was then captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He eventually ended up in Berga concentration camp. He was a member of the Ocean County Chapter. He is survived by two brothers and one sister and their families.

MILLER, Harry, of Mishawaka, IN died March 9, 2011. He was 85. He was captured while serving with the 44th Inf. Reg., Co C in Biche, France; he was held in Stalags 3A and 12A. Harry was an active member of the Indiana Dunes Chapter and a life member of AXPOW. He was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta.

MITTENDORF, Ehrhard Jr., of Marietta, GA died Dec. 28, 2010 at the age of 87. He was shot down after bombing Marienburg, Germany while serving with the 384th BG and held for 13 months in Luft I, Barth. He is survived by 2 sons and 1 daughter.

MOREY, Corwin "Bud", of Columbus, OH died Nov. 18. He served in the Pacific Theater as a Marine; he was held in Cabanatuan #2, Umeda Bursho #2, Tsunga. He is survived by two daughters and a son, thirteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

taps continued...

MORROW, Helen, widow of "Doc" Morrow passed away April 4, 2011. She and her husband were active members of the former Wichita Falls, TX Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 1 son, 2 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

MUISE, JAMES B. life member of AXPOW and long time member of the Agua Fria Chapter, of Sun City, AZ passed away on February 17, 2011. He served in the Army Air Corp. as a Navigation cadet, rising to the rank of 1st Lieutenant. While serving during WWII with the 493rd BG as a navigator, Jim flew missions over Germany. In 1945 he was captured and held POW in Luft 3 & 7A. He is survived by his wife Shirley, one sister, and two nieces and their families.

NOLL, Ralph C. passed away February 21, 2011. He was a member of the 100th, 397th, Company F, serving as a rifleman and scout. He was wounded in action and a POW, captured in Rimling, France. He is survived by his son Steve.

PEARSON, Robert D., of Britton, SD passed away Jan. 14, 2011. He was 89. Bud served in the AAC during WWII; he was captured and held for one year. He was a member of the Sioux Land Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, 3 children, 3 step-children and numerous grandchildren.

PEPER, Arthur D., 92, of Randolph, VT, died March 16, 2011. He was a member of Vermont Chapter #1. He was drafted in 1941 and served in the U. S. Army. Soon after his discharge, he was called to serve again, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in September, 1943. He entered pilot training in the U. S. Army Air Corps and served with the 711 Squadron, 447th Bomb Squad, 8th Air Force. While on a mission over Germany, his plane was shot down

and he was held as a prisoner in three different camps for a year, one of which was Stalag Luft 3 in Sagan, Germany. He is survived by his wife Rose, a daughter, a son, and three nephews.

POND, John Daniel, 90, of Front Royal, VA passed away Feb. 17, 2011. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 388th BG, 350th BS. He was shot down, captured and spent 14 months in Luft I. John was a member of the Bob Frakes Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Daphne, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

PRICE, Doris O., 77, of Copperas Cove, TX died Apr. 20, 2011. Doris is the widow of EX-POW William, who died in 1993. Survivors include 2 sons, 1 daughter, 2 sisters, six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

RAPP, Albert 'Al', of Gladstone, MO, died February 7, 2011. Al served in the 423 Inf, 106 Div, and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He was held in Stalag 4B. Active members of the Heart of America Chapter in Kansas City, Al is survived by his wife of 55 years, Lois.

RAYMOND, Roland 'Buddy', of E Hartford CT, died January 17, 2011. Buddy served in the USAAC where he was a B-24 tail gunner. Shot down over Austria, he was held in Stalag 17B. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Rita.

RECK, Robert P, 98, of Chicago, IL passed away Feb. 20, 2011. During WWII, he served in the Army; he was a POW in Germany. He leaves 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 7 nephews, and several great nieces and nephews.

ROGERS, D.L. of Gainesville, Texas, died February 26, 2011. He served with Co H, 36th Div, 143rd Inf, and was held in Stalags 2B, 3A, 3B and 7A. An AXPOW life member since 1982 and a member of the Fort Worth Chapter, he is survived by his wife Lillie.

SCHLEHUBER, Wilbert L. of Caldwell, TX (formerly Cherryvale, KS)

passed away Feb. 25, 2011. He was 91. During WWII, he served with the 376th BG. Bud was shot down over Albania, captured and held for 10 months until liberation. Survivors include 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

SHAFFER, Michael R. of Merritt Island, FL died March 2, 2011. He was born Aug. 8, 1926 in Anking, China and raised in the Philippines. As a teenager he spent three years as civilian POW with his parents. After repatriation, he returned to USA, only to find out he had been drafted. He served in the US Army Air Corps throughout the remainder of WWII. He leaves his wife of 50 years, Renee, 4 sons, 1 daughter and 10 grandchildren.

SMITH, Dorothy K., of Durham, NH passed away March 18, 2011 at the age of 86. She was the beloved wife of ex-POW Gerald L Smith. Dorothy was an active member of the NH Chapter #1, AXPOW. She and Gerry were 24-year volunteers at the National POW Museum at Andersonville, GA — beginning long before construction on the current museum was begun. In addition to her husband of 64 years, Dorothy is survived by 2 daughters, 3 sons, 16 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 2 brothers.

SPARKS, Lucille, long-time life member of the Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW, passed away Jan. 29, 2011. She was widowed by Robert Sparks, a former Commander of the chapter.

TAPSCOTT, Donald Edward, passed away in Jan. 2011, about 3 months before his 90th birthday. Don was captured Jan 2, 1942 in Caviti, PI. He was held at Bilibid Prison in Manila and Camp 17, Japan. He survived three "Hell Ships" on his voyage to Japan from the Philippines. Don is survived by his wife and three sons. He was a most noble and generous man to all who knew him.

TODARO, Catherine R., wife of ex-POW Joseph Todaro, passed away on January 12, 2011.

TODESKO, Angelo, of Morgantown, WV died March 12, 2011. He served

taps continued...

in the Army during WWII; he was a POW in ETO. Angelo was a member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Maxine, 1 son, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

URIAS, Leova T., of Fort Worth, Texas, died February 26, 2011. "Leo", a native of Sonora, proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served in the 106 Div, Co K, 424 Inf and was held in Stalag 12A. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Anita. Both were members of the Fort Worth Chapter, and life members since 1988.

WIDMAN, Albert Charles, 92, of San Bruno, CA passed away Nov. 20, 2010. During WWII, he served in the AAC; he was captured and held in Stalag 17B until liberation. Survivors include 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

WILLIAMS, Ruth Oakley Blair of South Yarmouth, MA, Washington DC and Stroudsburg, PA. June 11, 1918-

February 28, 2011. Ruth was the beloved wife of the late Charles Marvin Williams, and the dearly loved mother of Cheryl Cerbone and husband Michael of Yarmouth. She was the quirky sweet grandmother of Jessica Heppermann of New York, NY, Michael Cerbone and his wife Beth of Boiling Spring, PA, Andrew Cerbone and his wife Laura of New Fairfield, CT and Christopher Cerbone of Atlanta, GA. She is also survived by two adored and adorable great-grandchildren, Kara and Ava Cerbone of New Fairfield. She was predeceased by her parents, Thomas and Ruth Marie Blair of Stroudsburg, sisters Katherine and Dorothy and brother Thomas Sumner. Ruth was born in Washington and raised in Stroudsburg, PA. She dated Chuck throughout high school, married him before he went overseas during WWII and supplied him with letters, clothing and cigarettes while he was a prisoner of war in Barth, Germany. In 1943, her cherished father died and after graduation from college in New Jersey, she moved back to Stroudsburg to run his company and care for her mother and younger sister. After the war, libera-

tion of her husband and her daughter Cheryl's birth, she and her family moved with the Air Force and then the Dept. of Defense, Treasury and Customs until Chuck's retirement. Their next adventure was creating a legislative office in DC for the American Ex-Prisoners of War. First in their basement in Gaithersburg, MD, they finally got permission to open the National Capitol Office in DC where she was Chuck's "executive assistant". In 1998, they moved from Washington DC to South Yarmouth to be close to their daughter and never looked back. She was buried with her husband in Arlington National Cemetery on March 16, 2011. Mom is missed by her family and her incredibly supportive network of friends.

WYMAN, Carroll A., of Hastings, NE died Jan 27, 2011. He served in the 725th BS, 421st BG; he was shot down over Austria and held in Luft IV for 10 months. Carroll was a member of the former Cornhuskers Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Bernice, 1 son, 4 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

national chaplain



PNC Gerald Harvey

2 Kings 19:15-19

"Then Hezekiah prayed before the Lord; "Lord God of Israel - You are God - You alone - of all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the heavens and the earth. Listen closely, Lord, and hear; open Your eyes, Lord, and see; hear the words that Sennacherib has sent to mock the living God. Lord, it is true that the kings of Assyria have devastated the nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire, for they were not gods, but were made by human hands of wood and stone. So they have destroyed them.

Now, Lord our God, please save us from his hands so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord God- You alone."

As with King Hezekiah, what he learned, we can learn too. For God's people, renewed hope is as close as a prayer, whatever the circumstances may be. As we look at our lives we have three crucial needs that we all share.

1. We need something useful or meaningful to do.
2. We need someone to love and care about.
3. We need to have hope in our present life.

We need to have hope for our future with God.

King Hezekiah was put on the throne at the age of twenty-five. His people had been following other gods. The king trusted in the Lord and had his people remove their idols. He was terminally ill and was told by the prophet Isaiah to put his affairs in order. The king wept and prayed to God. God heard King Hezekiah and

granted him fifteen years additional life. God also promised to rescue Jerusalem from the enemy.

Life today keeps repeating itself. We find ourselves drifting away from God. As believers, we can show that our hope rests solely in God. As His children we are invited to pray and boldly ask God to work in our lives.

Let us put these truths into practice this week.

1. We can always have hope that God knows about our salvation and will help us persevere in faith.
2. We can bolster our hope for the future by encouraging one another to rely on God's saving power.
3. We can show that our hope is in God when we pray and boldly ask God to work powerfully in our lives, for His glory.

Faithfully continue your prayer life.

Ex-POW Bulletin
May/June 2011



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to honor a loved one or a former colleague
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(rev. 02/07)



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(rev. 02/07)

The Battle for Snow Mountain

by Donald Young

The Battle for Snow Mountain is a comic novel - based on Young's experience - which gives a vivid picture of the life of two GI's in a German prison camp, after their capture in The Battle of the Bulge, 1944. The story deals with their odd love affairs at home, their war experiences, accidental capture, escape from a POW camp, and return to Paris and freedom.

"I've never read a more powerful WWII novel than *The Battle for Snow Mountain*." (John Dizikes, former professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz.)

"Young's novel is an instant war classic, much like Vonnegut's *Slaughter House Five* and Heller's *Catch 22*" (Wallace Wood, book reviewer)

The Battle for Snow Mountain by Donald Young may be purchased from Pocol Press, 6023 Pocol Drive, Clifton, VA 20124 (1-703-830-5862). It can also be ordered at www.amazon.com (ISBN 978-1-929763-48-1) **\$17.95**



50/50 drawing

September 2010
Albany, Georgia

1st Place	Agnes Akullian Boca Raton, FL	\$339.60
2nd Place	William D Williams Bel Air, MD	\$254.70
3rd Place	Dennis Adamscheck Cloquet, MN	\$169.80
4th Place	Frank Gailer, Jr. San Antonio, TX	\$118.75

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

National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
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Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Let's Light Up Your Way With a **NUMBERED** keychain/flashlight combination (battery included).

If it's lost, the finder can return it to us and receive a \$15.00 reward. We will return it to you. If you give this as a gift, you need to give us the name and address of your recipient.

This is an attractive, silver-colored and thoughtful item. It is sent in a handy gift box and is ideal for friends and family.

This is a fund-raising project of the Dept. of New York. Profits are being used to give Wounded Warriors and their families a "Taste of the Big Apple". Five days/four nights airfare, hotel, food, admissions.

\$10 each including S/H

To: Dept. of New York, AXPOW
190 Bethel Loop, #104
Brooklyn, NY 11239



The 106th Infantry Division Association

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beeth2@hotmail.com

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The Quartermaster's Shop

order on page 42



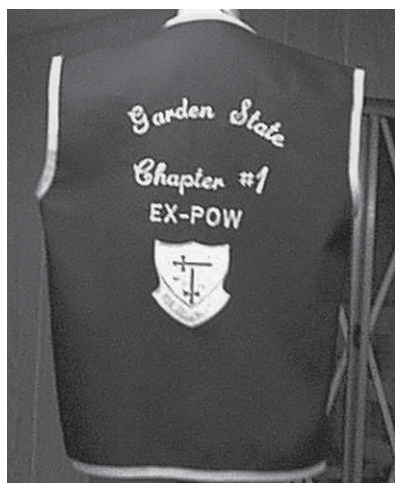
AXPOW Pocket Knife

11 function pocket knife includes a stainless steel knife, screwdrivers and much more! AXPOW imprint is protected by an epoxy dome, lasting a lifetime. Rubber grip ensures easy handling...individually gift boxed...folded knife measures 3 3/4"x1"

\$13.00 plus s/h

AXPOW Vests!

The uniform of the American Ex-POWs consists of the military cap and the vest. These vests are custom-made with your name on the front, and your chapter and logo shield on the back. Orders take approximately six weeks to complete.



\$55.00 each includes shipping/handling

For pins, vest guards and other items to "dress up" your vest, order from the merchandise page.

AXPOW Flashlights
Bright safety light when you need it! AXPOW logo in color...individually gift-boxed.
\$12.00 plus s/h



12 energy saving LED bulbs to provide ultra-bright light
The tough casing is made of aircraft aluminum
Water and shock resistant
4.5" long
Push button, sealed rubber switch, with handy carrying strap. Each is individually

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You love your country. Our Austrian Crystal Flag and USA pins are beautiful ways to show your patriotism. They make wonderful gifts ~ for yourself or someone you love.

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Bronze Grave Medallion

with AXPOW LOGO

The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer, weighs approximately 1lb 4oz, containing 84% copper, balance in other metals. The hardware for mounting is included in each packet.

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

\$75.00 plus s/h/i

(\$15.00 for one; \$20.00 for two or more)

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May/June 2011

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Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
 Line 1 _____
 Line 2 _____

Name Badge with name & chapter and city: **\$6.00**

(includes shipping and handling)

Ship to: _____
 Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail orders to:

AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Size (Men/coat, Women/chest measurement) _____

Long, Regular or Short _____

Name on front of vest _____

Chapter Name (back of vest) _____

Price: \$55.00, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00	Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	8.00	12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00	(specify gold, silver or antique gold)		3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo	
Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap	8.00	Jeweled Flag Pin	30.00	with fringe, indoor use	60.00
Black Eagle Sport Cap	9.00	USA Jeweled Pin	15.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00
Canvas Sport Cap (offwhite or tan)	10.00	Logo Necklace	5.00	3x5ft. blackPOW/MIA flag, outdoor use	25.00
AXPOW Pocket Knife	13.00	Logo Earrings (pierced or clip)	5.00	AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame	10.00
Necktie w/logo	30.00	2" Medallion (for plaque)		Aluminum License Plate	5.00
(specify regular or pre-tied)	5.00			3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	25.00	Vest Chainguard w/eagles	8.00	3" Inside Decal	1.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00	3" Blazer Patch	4.00	8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00	4" Blazer Patch	4.00	12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
Barbed Wire pin	3.00	8" Blazer Patch	10.00	Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
Life Member pin	5.00	CLOTH STRIPES (specify which title)	3.00	AXPOW Wall Clock (includes battery)	20.00
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Brooch pin	5.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Logo pin	5.00	State Department Commander		Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific	11.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00
AXPOW Pocket Knife	13.00	Service Officer · Legislative Officer		Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
Magnetic Ribbons	5.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		AXPOW Flashlight	12.00

We accept Master Card/Visa

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Phone () _____

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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