

# EX-POW BULLETIN

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

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May 2008



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*

**Inside...Vietnam  
POW Escape  
List...Convention  
News and  
Forms...**



**News,  
Outreach,  
Events...NSO  
Success Stories  
and more**

*Armed Forces Day Poster - 1951*



The 5th annual anniversary of the reunion at Piestewa Peak of the POWs and in memory of the 35 who died 3/23/03 including the 21 ambushed out of the Maintenance Co.

They are: a group photo of the POWs and their families; former WWII Bataan Death March survivor and POW out of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. His wife, Helen, is in purple; his son accompanies him, and did last year to give the rattle; another of Mr. Koon with Ex-POW Jessica Lynch and Koon's son; baby Dakota Ann with her mother, Jessica Lynch. Dakota is now about 14 months; and one at the podium with POW Shoshana Johnson.





## **national commander**



**Warren G. King, Sr.**

Testimony before the Joint House/Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Washington, DC, March 6, 2008

Chairman Akaka, Chairman Filner, Ranking Member Burr, Ranking Member Buyers, Distinguished Members of the Veterans Affairs Committees and Guests:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to address the Joint Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees on behalf of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Originally, our membership covered about 120,000 who survived captivity - now some 19,000 remain alive today. The average age is 85 years with a life expectancy of five years. Most are World War II veterans. I was a combat medic in that war, captured in December 1944 and liberated in the spring of 1945.

I am mindful today, as you are, that the Iraq -Afghanistan conflict is still continuing and casualties are returning almost daily to our military hospitals -many with extremely debilitating wounds. Americans, regardless of their views on the wars, are united in their feelings that these veterans should be provided "whatever it takes for as long as it takes" to restore them to the highest level of independent and meaningful living as possible. Americans are also aware this high level of rehabilitation has rarely been achieved after

past wars. As memories of those wars fade, so does the determination to keep this promise. This concern is reflected in the Dole-Shalala Report on Iraq-Afghanistan wounded and the broader three-year Independent Commission findings just released.

What happened to World War II Prisoners of War after they were discharged from service is a classic example of this outcome. Just released POWs were briefly sent by the military to special camps for immediate dietary and stress treatments. They were then returned to military line outfits for transportation to the United States. Again they were provided brief rehabilitation and then sent to separation centers for routine discharge along with the millions of other veterans being processed. They simply were returned to civilian life as an invisible part of the 16 million WWII veteran population.

Almost by accident, thirty years after their discharges, WWII POWs became "visible" again. The publicity being accorded Vietnam POWs stimulated this awareness. Max Cleland, then VA Administrator, initiated a review of all battle statistics from WWII to obtain an actual account of how many WWII POWs there were. Belatedly, both Congress and the VA responded to this information with long overdue actions. Records of every WWII POW seen in Medical Centers or Benefit Offices were identified and presumptive medical conditions, recognized as causally related to captivity, were gradually established to facilitate treatment and disability benefits.

It has now been 60 years since the end of WWII -a very long time for the nation to fulfill its promise to these veterans! While most medical conditions causally associated with captivity have now been made presumptives and WWII POWs do receive priority care, there are two medical conditions that still deserve presumptive status. They are

Osteoporosis and Diabetes. The former is directly related to bone loss due to starvation during captivity, and the latter to the effect of prolonged stress and other factors on the body's basic defense system. These two proposed presumptives have again been introduced by Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Gus Bilirakis with supporting evidence. We are deeply thankful to Senator Murray and Representative Bilirakis who again introduced these bills. We strongly urge your committees immediate support.

We also seek your approval of HR 5315, introduced by Rep. Tom Udall (NM) to grant the Congressional Gold Medal award to the surviving soldiers of the Bataan Death March, WWII. This is not assigned to the Veterans Affairs Committee, but we urge your support when it comes before Congress.

Also, very important to former Prisoners of War, is HR 156, to amend Title 38, US Code, to provide for the payment of DIC to survivors of former prisoners of war who died before Sept. 30, 1999, with the same eligibility as applied to payment of DIC to survivors of former POWs who die after that date. This will be of great financial air to the surviving spouses of POWs.

In closing, we also urge your prompt support of all legislation to help veterans returning from the Iraq-Afghanistan conflict receive the rehabilitation they need to regain an active and meaningful life in their homes and communities.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Warren G. King, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style.

Warren G. King, Sr.  
National Commander

**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**May 2008**



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**The History of Armed Forces Day**

**May 17, 2008. Armed Forces Day** is a day for the United States to pay tribute to the men and women who protect us and our country.

Before 1950 there were five separate holidays to pay tribute to separate branches of our armed forces:

- Army Day: April 6
- Air Force Day: August 1
- Coast Guard Day: August 4
- Navy Day: October 27
- Marine Corps Day: November 10

Armed Forces Day began in 1949 when Secretary of Defense Mr. Louis Johnson announced that the separate holidays commemorating the Army, Navy, and Air Force were to be combined into one celebration on the third Saturday in May. This change was a direct result of a much larger government transformation: the unification of all the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense.

COVER: Armed Forces Day Poster 1951

Other dates in May:

- 1 Americans liberated at Rangoon
- 2 Germans surrendered in Italy
- 2 Luft 1 was liberated
- 6 Fall of Corregidor
- 7 Germany surrendered
- 8 VE Day
- 11 Mother's Day
- 22 Allies began offensive from Anzio, Italy
- 24 US Completed invasion plans for Japan
- 26 Memorial Day observed
- 27 1st black regiment left Boston to fight in the Civil War

**From the MedSearch Committee:**

Older copies of Packet #5 has Form 21-534, dated 1998. The first page of the new form has the question: "Was the veteran a Former Prisoner of War"? National Headquarters has a supply of the new forms. Just give them a call and they'll be sent to you. 817-649-2979. The newly printed copies of Packet #5 have the revised form.

**Correction:** In TAPS, William S. "Bill" Vaught's hometown was listed as Chamblee Heights, TN. It should have been Chattanooga, TN.

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

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# on capitol hill



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I hope to try and clear up some questions and calls which we have been receiving regarding the article in the March/April BULLETIN, page 6. Public Law 110-181, HR 1585 National Defense Authorization Act for 2008, Subsection G, Section 675.

The article may be self-explanatory, however, when it gives the address in the Navy and Marine Corps, it fails to give a telephone number where you could check on the form which you should fill out. Here is the phone number if you wish to check if you have not received the form yet. For the NAVY: 1-866-827-5672; for the Marine Corps: 1-703-784-9304. I believe they will clear this up for you. Hope so.

Mary

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**We need a grassroots effort to get our bills passed! Here are some ideas:**

## **Establishing and Maintaining Congressional Relationships**

Communicating with your elected officials and their staff gives you the opportunity to communicate the importance of our legislative initiatives to those who determine their future.

There are various ways to contact your Congressional Representatives, but written requests for appointments are probably the most effective. Write a letter inviting your Senator or Representative plus their staff to meet with you for a brief presentation. You can find your House and Senate delegations online. You can send your letter to either the local or Washington office. You can mail your letter to your Senator's or Representative's local office, but fax it to the Washington, DC, office to ensure timely delivery.

Meeting in your congressperson's home district is easy and extremely effective. Most Senators and Representatives return to their state or district offices during holidays and recesses, so check the House and Senate calendars online so you can suggest a reasonable date for an appointment. Develop a relationship with the local office staffers, who will likely be very receptive to your overtures. Keep in mind that they want to send their Senator or Representative out into the community.

Get acquainted with newly elected officials at town hall meetings, organization meetings, etc. Make a particular effort to meet the legislative assistant for veterans' affairs. Schedule an in-office meeting. Most members of Congress use recess periods and weekends at home to meet with constituents in their local offices. Schedule an appointment to meet locally. If you travel to Washington, DC, call the Washington office beforehand and make an appointment. You may meet with a legislative aide, but that's all right. A legislative assistant is considered a senior staffer. You can encourage the staffer to use you as a resource for any questions the congressperson might have.

Don't forget important post-meeting correspondence. Write a thank-you note to your Congressional representative. Also write a letter to the editor of your local news-paper(s) describing the meeting and thanking your Congressional representative for his/her support.

## **H.R.156**

**Title:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who died on or before September 30, 1999, under the same eligibility conditions as apply to payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the survivors of former prisoners of war who die after that date.

**Sponsor:** Rep Holden, Tim [PA-17] (introduced 1/4/2007)

Cosponsors (31)

## **H.R.1197**

Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007  
**Title:** To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war.

**Sponsor:** Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 2/27/2007)

Cosponsors (7)

## **S.848**

Prisoner of War Benefits Act of 2007  
**Title:** A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war.

**Sponsor:** Sen Murray, Patty [WA] (introduced 3/13/2007)

Cosponsors (2)

## **H.R.5315**

**Title:** To grant the Congressional Gold Medal to prisoners of war, captured on Bataan, Philippines during World War II.

**Sponsor:** Rep Udall, Tom [NM-3] (introduced 2/7/2008)

Cosponsors (11)

## **H.R.1570**

Samuel B. Moody Bataan Death March Compensation Act

**Title:** To provide compensation for certain World War II veterans who survived the Bataan Death March and were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese.

**Sponsor:** Rep Mica, John L. [FL-7] (introduced 3/19/2007)

Cosponsors (4)



# VA Outreach S\*O\*O\*N Before it's too late



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## Outreach Avenues Many Different Ways!

Department of Veterans Affairs: Message from Suzanne Smith, POW Coordinator in West Virginia VARO... "We are trying to make sure all POWs and their widows have their VA benefits. AXPOW may know of some we don't have on our list, and vice versa. Could we have a list of your West Virginia members?" I called Marsha Coke in AXPOW Headquarters and she sent the list to Suzanne. A few days later, Suzanne called and said "I've already found two widows from your list that we didn't have and have started their claims for DIC." Working together, we help people.

Word of Mouth: Myrna Taylor in Centerville, OH calls. "Friend Harvey in Henderson, KY, has a 40% VA disability rating. Please call him to see if you can help him get his full 100% benefit." I call to find several POW presumptives not addressed in Harvey's rating. Apply for upgrade, and he gets not only 100%, but special due to severity of heart problem. Harvey says, "They put \$33,000 in my bank account yesterday, and for the first time on our lives, we have no pay-day to pay-day worries."

National Outreach Project: Mrs. G in Grand Forks, ND: "I just want to thank you for helping me get my DIC, with a sizable first check. Now I can have the home repairs I've needed for a long time."

Mrs. S in East Texas community calls with a grateful voice. "I just got my DIC. I don't know how to thank you; it has more than doubled my monthly income!"

Our AXPOW National Service Officers are making such contacts all over the nation, and widows are getting their widow's benefits, many having been unaware of their eligibility.

And comes a welcome phone call from NSO Bob Derrington in Centennial, CO, saying he wants to help in this Outreach Project. A list of Colorado AXPOWs has gone to him and he will be calling to help POWs get their benefits, as well as any members recently widowed. Good!

And another AXPOW NSO who wants to help reach out to POWs and their dependents...Richard Carroll of Eagan, MN calls and wants to cover all those in Minnesota. Thanks to Richard for taking on the 8-page list to contact. The list is on its way and Minnesota will also be cared for by a very experienced NSO!

Gold Star Wives of America: They are sending us their POW widows needing help. Many have their DIC, but need information about ChampVA for Life, the free Medicare supplement.

TAPS Column, EX-POW Bulletin: New widows listed are being contacted by these NSOs: James Avjian, CA; Debra Hensley & Marianne Roenna, IL; Doris Jenks, FL; Katherine Arnold, MA; Mary Rolen, VA; Stella Webb, LA; Dennis Pavlike, NE; Alan Dunbar, NV Charles & Frances Heffron, TN; Louise Dunham, AZ; Paul Dallas, NC; Nancy Mullins, MS; Fred Campbell, KY/TX/OK.

If you know of an AXPOW member who has died, please let our AXPOW Headquarters know in Arlington, TX. Such deceased members will then be

deleted from the official roll, and the EX-POW Bulletin will no longer be sent to them. We cannot continue to waste our budget on an inflated membership roll, with such ensuing expenses. Of course, this applies also to deceased former POWs who are life members, but whose deaths have never been reported.

A Special Appeal: On June 1, 2001, I talked with Dorothy E. Lane of Hudson, NH. Her husband, Oscar B. Lane had died Sept. 11, 1992 suffering from heart disease, PTSD and cancer. In 2001 I had to tell Mrs. Lane that she had no DIC possibility. Now I found her letter again, and she may be eligible now, since the 10/7/2004 VA ruling heart disease a POW presumptive. Her 2001 phone number is no longer in service. If you know Dorothy Lane, who was married to Oscar B Lane when he died, please let me know. We may be able to get her DIC now.

## SUCCESS

Doing Outreach is a tedious task, with lots of phoning without any result, such as numbers no longer in service, hearing/speaking/understanding difficulties with some, and often suspicions generated because of scam calls often received. But it's all worthwhile when a widow calls: "I got a letter from the VA saying I got my widow's benefits."

Like the day recently when I talked with Mrs. B in Kansas City, KS, widowed since Dec. 2005. She had not known she was eligible since her husband died of heart problems. "Thank you so much for what you did. I told my son it's like being in heaven, with that additional \$1091 a month."

And Mrs. N in Smalltown Kansas: "That first check of over \$13,000 is a godsend. We needed a new furnace and it will take care of that,

## outreach continued

and then some. Thank you so much!"

From Mrs. H in northern Minnesota: "My first DIC check arrived so now I know it's for real. Thank you again for taking the time to work on my claim. I will be forever grateful."

And Glenda, whose father died 35 years ago in 1972, writes from northern Louisiana, "I would like to extend to you my sincere appreciation for all you did in helping my mother receive VA benefits on behalf of my father's POW status. Not only has this helped my mother, but getting all the paperwork together helped my brothers, sisters and me to learn more about my dad's time as a POW. On behalf of the whole family - Thank you so much."

All of the above got benefits because of the VA making heart, stroke and hypertension POW presumptives Oct. 7, 2004.

And today, an exciting call from Mrs. S in Hurst: "We just had a call from Waco saying we won our case!" Finally her daughter, legally blind since birth has been approved as a disabled dependent, with monthly income, plus ChampVA for Life Medicare supplement. This was accomplished along with great work by Waco TX VARO POW Co-ordinator Ginger Raney and Texas Veterans Commission's Jim Richman.

All this makes Outreach worthwhile and a joy to make it real:

WE EXIST TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES

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**May 2008**  
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## nso



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To date, I have received almost 100 Form 21 Applications for Re-accreditation. This re-accreditation form will get your information updated, but no new card will be issued.

The VA Regional office in St. Petersburg, recently sent out 94 outreach letter to Former Prisoners of War, who last filed in Florida. These Former Prisoners of War, do not have their 100% compensation and the letters invited them to file new claims. We are busy helping to assist these Former POWs to re-open their claims.

Our Former POW Co-Ordinator, Larry Brown, advised us that many of these Former POWs have moved and not informed the V.A. Regional office of this. Many veterans wrongly think because they informed the V.A. Medical center in their new state of their new address, the V.A. Regional office has no idea where they are. Their claims file has been left behind in their old state and only their medical file has been moved. If you have moved and not informed the V.A. Regional office in your new state, please call the V.A. help line at 1-800-827-1000 and give them your new address.

Thanks to Commander, Warren King's, article in the March/April Bulletin, I have received many letters asking for assistance to re-open claims for Former POWs.

The National Service Officers at the Regional Office in Florida of course, are still outreaching to widows, under Fred Campbell's program to see if they may be eligible for benefits.

### AID AND ATTENDANCE FOR WIVES OR WIDOWS:

If you are unable to accomplish all your daily chores, you may be entitled to additional compensation. To apply for this benefit, ask your doctor for a letter stating your disabilities and describe your limitations.

If, the letter does not sufficiently address all the information required for the VA to grant a favorable decision, you may be sent VDVA Form 10 for your doctor to complete. These letters and/or forms, should be sent to the V.A. Regional office in your state. Approval of this benefit will result in an additional \$129, if your husband is rated 100%. The amount of \$129 will also be added to widows in receipt of DIC.

In addition, I was informed today by a Former POW, who sent for Packet #5 that the Form 21-534 is dated 1998. The new form is dated 2005 and now has a question on the first page "Was the veteran a Former Prisoner of War"?

This question in most cases, will enable to claim to be given some priority, as it will get to the Prisoner of War area and be handled promptly. If you want a new form 21-534, please call our office in St. Peteraburg, at (727) 319-5914 and we will be sure to get one to you.

Thanks

Doris Jenks



## Vietnam Prisoners of War Escapes and Attempts

By John N. Powers  
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In all the writings on the Vietnam War it seems there does not exist any one specific document listing the escapes and attempted escapes of American prisoners of war. That is the purpose of this document. It is not intended to be a detailed account of any specific escape or escapes. To find details of individual escapes use the sources listed in the bibliography.

This first listing is of attempted escapes, escapes that did not lead to rescue, escapes that ended in recapture. The list is undoubtedly neither complete nor completely accurate. Neither the government nor the military has extensive information on most POWs from any war. Especially missing from this list are the attempts of those individuals for whom no record exists, those individuals who escaped only to die from their wounds, beatings, executions, or the elements.

This list includes over 80 escape attempts, at least 20 of which took place in North Vietnam, 5 of them in Hanoi itself. There were American POWs who made multiple escape attempts. No American POW escaped from North Vietnam and successfully reached friendly forces. American POWs did escape from camps in North Vietnam, some of them from camps in Hanoi. At least five escaped twice from camps in North Vietnam, some from established camps, others from guards while en-route to Hanoi. All of the men who escaped in North Vietnam were recaptured, usually, but not always, within the first day. One of them died from the torture which followed his recapture. One escape, which was planned to take place from the Hanoi Hilton, involved SR-71 Blackbirds flying overhead and Navy SEALs waiting at the mouth of the Red River. Senior Ranking Officers among the POWs canceled that attempt at the last minute.

In the European Theater of World War

II less than 2% of American POWs successfully escaped and returned to US forces. In Vietnam more than 4% of American POWs successfully escaped and reached US forces. Factor in the completely foreign culture, language, and terrain and you begin to realize what this means. Those who tried deserve more recognition than they have ever been given.

### Attempted Escapes

**Samuel Adams:** USAF Sgt, captured near Vung Tau 31 Oct 65 with Dusing, Moore, and Page, escaped two days later with Jasper Page (SVN), never seen again after escape. MIA.

**Cloden Adkins:** civilian captured in Hue during 68 Tet, held at Runamuck I, Skid Row, then Rockpile. Escaped from Rockpile (North Vietnam) in 1 Oct 71 with Thompson and Meyer. Adkins recaptured same day, Thompson and Meyer recaptured two days later. Released in 1973.

**John Thomas Anderson:** USA Sgt, captured 5 Feb 68 in Hue. Held in North Vietnam. Three escape attempts, on first one he got a mile from camp and passed out from wounds, the second time he walked into an enemy camp, and the third time he was captured and beaten by villagers. Released in 1973.

**Gerasimo Arroya-Baez:** USA Sgt, captured 24 Mar 69 in South Vietnam with Richard Bowers when their base near Saigon was overrun, escaped day of capture, recaptured later that day. Died in captivity. NVA list death as 22 Aug 1972.

**Edwin Atterbury:** USAF Capt, shot down 12 Aug 67 over North Vietnam. Escaped 10 May 69 from Zoo (outskirts of Hanoi, NVN) with John Dramesi, recaptured same day. Died 18 May 69 in captivity as result of beatings/torture after his recapture.

**Harold Bennett:** USA Sgt, captured 29 Dec 64 in South Vietnam. Attempted escape in Mar 65 with Donald Cook, immediately recaptured. Last seen by fellow POWs 28 May 65. VC announced his execution in Jun 65. MIA.

**Richard Bowers:** USA Capt, captured 24 Mar 69 in South Vietnam with Arroya-Baez when their base near

Saigon was overrun, escaped day of capture, recaptured later that day. Killed next day in his second escape attempt.

**Ernie Brace:** ex-Marine civilian pilot captured in Laos 21 May 65, escaped that night (Laos), immediately recaptured. Escaped 6 Jun 65 for a few hours (Laos), recaptured. Escaped 17 Apr 66 and evaded for four days (North Vietnam), recaptured. Escaped 17 Aug 66 (North Vietnam), immediately recaptured, buried up to his chin for seven days, eventually sent to Hanoi. Released in 1973.

**Harvey Brande:** USA SFC, captured 7 Feb 68 at Lang Vei SF camp, escaped 18 Feb 68 with Dennis Thompson and evaded for seven days (South Vietnam), recaptured, taken to North Vietnam. Released in 1973.

**Norman Brookens:** AID civilian captured in Saigon 4 Feb 68 with Utecht, moved to camp in Cambodia. Attempted escape 22 Apr 68 with Richard Utecht, James Rollins, and Australian Charles K. Hyland, immediately recaptured. Released in 1973.

**Richard Burgess:** USMC L/Cpl, captured 25 Sep 66 in northern I Corps, attempted escape in early 67 (South Vietnam), recaptured, escaped with Riate in Aug 67 (South Vietnam) by tunneling under a wall, evaded for two days, sent to North Vietnam. Released in 1973.

**Jack Butcher:** USAF 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, shot down over Laos 24 Mar 71. Held in Laos six weeks. Escaped, recaptured after a few hours. While being taken to Hanoi Butcher escaped again. The second escape was made known to US forces from intercepted radio messages in Laos from NVA units looking for him. US rescue efforts were massive, including direct involvement of the Secretary of Defense. Recaptured after 10 days on the run, Butcher was told he would be shot if he tried it again. Released in 1973.

**Carl Dennis Chambers:** USAF 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, shot down over North Vietnam 7 Aug 67 with Glen Wilson. They escaped while en-route to Hanoi, attempted to steal two small boats, recaptured af-

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ter 12 hours. Released in 1973.

**Arvin Chauncey:** USN Lt Cmdr, shot down over North Vietnam 31 May 67, escaped second night, recaptured. Released in 1973.

**George Coker:** USN Lt JG, shot down over North Vietnam 27 Aug 66, escaped the night of 12 Oct 67 with McKnight from Dirty Bird (Hanoi, North Vietnam), floated/swam approx 15 miles down river before recapture next day. Released in 1973.

**Donald Cook:** USMC Capt, captured 31 Dec 64 in South Vietnam. Attempted escape in March 65 with Harold Bennett, immediately recaptured. Died in captivity Dec 67. Awarded Medal of Honor for resistance as a POW.

**George Day:** USAF Maj, shot down 26 Aug 67 north of DMZ, captured, escaped shortly after (North Vietnam), evaded for two weeks with a banged up leg and his right arm broken in three places. He had crossed the DMZ back into South Vietnam where he was shot as he was recaptured. Awarded Medal of Honor for escape and resistance as a POW. Released in 1973.

**Eugene Debruin:** civilian with Air America captured 5 Sep 63 in Laos when C-46 was shot down, escaped May 64 with others for four days (Laos), recaptured. Escaped 29 Jun 66 again (Laos) with Dengler and Martin. Debruin not seen after escape. MIA.

**Joe Delong:** USA Pvt, captured 18 May 67 in South Vietnam. Attempted escape from camp in Cambodia Nov 67 with Perricone and Sooter. Probably killed in attempt. MIA.

**Dieter Dengler:** USN Lt JG, shot down 1 Feb 66 in Laos, evaded one day, captured. Escaped mid Feb 66 (Laos), recaptured that same day. On 29 Jun 66 escaped with Debruin and Martin. Evaded three weeks, rescued by US forces 20 Jul 66.

**John Dramesi:** USAF Capt, shot down over North Vietnam 2 Apr 67, escaped (North Vietnam) 10 Apr 67 while being transported to Hanoi, evaded one day, escaped 10 May 69 from Zoo (outskirts of Hanoi, North Vietnam) with Edwin Atterbury, evaded 12 hours before recapture. Released in 1973.

**William Eisenbraun:** USA Capt, captured 5 Jul 65 in South Vietnam. Attempted escape with Russell Grissett

in early fall 67. Died in captivity Sep 67, possibly as a result of beating for escape attempt.

**Walter Ferguson Jr:** USA PFC, captured 23 Aug 68 in South Vietnam, moved to camp in Cambodia. POWs held with him believe he was killed in an escape attempt in summer 1970.

**George Fryett:** USA Spec 4, captured 24 Dec 61 in Saigon, attempted escaped shortly after (South Vietnam), recaptured. Released 24 June 1962.

**John Graf:** USN Lt Cmdr, shot down 15 Nov 69 over South Vietnam. Pilot captured with Graf reported Graf attempted escape in late Jan 1970. Believed to have been killed in that attempt. Listed as MIA.

**Robert Greer:** USMC PFC, captured 7 Jun 64 near Da Nang in South Vietnam, attempted escape shortly after with Schreckengost. Some reports say he was killed in escape attempt. MIA.

**Edwin Russell Grissett:** USMC LCpl, captured 22 Jan 66 in South Vietnam. Attempted escape, recaptured. Attempted second escape in early fall 67 with William Eisenbraun, recaptured. Died in captivity the day before Thanksgiving Nov 68.

**Dennis Hammond:** USMC Cpl, captured 8 Feb 68 with Joseph Zawtock, escaped Apr 68 with Weatherman while at Kushner camp near Tam Ky (South Vietnam) by taking weapon from guard, shot in the leg by villagers and recaptured. Placed in stocks and beaten daily for two weeks (or two months). Died in captivity March 1970.

**David Harker:** USA PFC, Captured 8 Jan 68 in South Vietnam. Escaped shortly after capture, suffered knife wound in recapture. Released in 1973.

**Charles Jackson:** USAF Capt, shot down 24 Jun 72 over North Vietnam and captured, escaped, recaptured. Released in 1973.

**Wilson Denver Key:** USN Lt, shot down 17 Nov 67 near Hanoi. Escaped from back of truck and made it into the Red River, evaded for an hour before recapture. Released in 1973.

**James Latham:** USAF Capt, shot down over southern North Vietnam 5 Oct 72. Escaped early Nov 72, recaptured after six hours. Released in 1973.

**Duane Martin:** USAF 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, helicopter shot down 20 Sep 65 on border of North Vietnam and Laos, evaded two weeks, captured. Escaped 29 Jun 66 with Dengler and Debruin (Laos). Evaded with Dengler two weeks. Killed by villagers as they evaded.

**George McKnight:** USAF Capt, shot

down 6 Nov 65 over North Vietnam, escaped with Coker from Dirty Bird 12 Oct 67 (Hanoi, North Vietnam), got approx 15 miles down river, recaptured next day. Released in 1973.

**Lewis Meyer:** civilian captured 1 Feb 68 in Hue during Tet, escaped from Rockpile (North Vietnam) 1 Oct 71 with Thompson and Adkins, recaptured with Thompson after two days. Released in 1973.

**Thomas Moe:** USAF 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, aircraft damaged from faulty bomb fuses, bailed out 16 Jan 68 over Laos. Evaded with pilot for three days. Escaped twice in first few days of capture, immediately recaptured. Released in 1973.

**Walter H. Moon:** USA Capt, captured 22 Apr 61 in Laos. Made two escape attempts which, along with his refusal to cooperate, led to his execution 22 Jul 1961.

**Richard Perricone:** USA PFC, captured 12 Jul 67 near Pleiku in South Vietnam. Attempted escape from camp in Cambodia Nov 67 with Delong and Sooter, recaptured same day. Released in 1973.

**Robert Phillips:** USA Pvt, captured 23 Jun 70 in South Vietnam. Reportedly killed in escape attempt with Rozo, date unknown. MIA.

**Dan Pitzer:** USA Sgt, captured 29 Oct 63 in the Mekong Delta with Rowe and Versace. Attempted escape 23 Dec 64 with Rowe during an American raid on the area, quickly recaptured. Released 11 Nov 67.

**Ben Purcell:** USA Col, shot down over South Vietnam (helicopter) on 8 Feb 68, taken to North Vietnam. Escaped 7 Dec 69 from Skid Row (North Vietnam). Worked for three months to remove part of cell door. Headed into Hanoi, hitching a ride on the back of a bicycle. Recaptured next day. Escaped from Mountain Camp (North Vietnam) on 18 Mar 72, evaded just over a day, recaptured. Released in 1973.

**James Michael Ray:** USA PFC, captured 18 Mar 68 in South Vietnam. Apparently held in Cambodia. Awarded Silver Star for escape attempt in Jul 69. Reportedly died in captivity 6 Nov 69. MIA.

**King Rayford:** USA PFC, captured 2 Jul 67 in South Vietnam. Escaped with Ray Ziegler on 18 Feb 68 (South Vietnam), recaptured next day. Released in 1973.

**Alfonso Riate:** USMC Corp, captured 26 Apr 67, escaped with Burgess in Aug 67 (South Vietnam), evaded for

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two days, recaptured. Released in 1973.

**James Rollins:** civilian captured 4 or 5 Feb 68 near Saigon in South Vietnam, attempted escape from camp in Cambodia with Richard Utecht and Norman Brookens on 22 Apr 68, immediately recaptured. Released in 1973.

**James (Nick) Rowe:** USA 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, captured 29 Oct 63 in Mekong Delta with Pitzer and Versace. Attempted escape 23 Dec 64 with Pitzer during an American raid on the area, quickly recaptured. Escaped late at night Oct 65 with Tadios, recaptured next morning. Early 68 Rowe simply walked away from his camp but walked into a regular VC camp. He convinced everyone he was lost while looking for firewood. Fall 68 he attempted to reach a main canal and flag down a plane. Was able to convince guards he was simply fishing. Successfully escaped 31 Dec 68.

**James Rozo:** USA Spec 4<sup>th</sup>, captured 23 Jun 70 in South Vietnam. Reportedly killed in escape attempt with Phillips, date unknown. MIA.

**Fred Schreckengost:** USMC PFC, captured 7 Jun 64 in South Vietnam, attempted escape shortly after with Greer. May have been killed in escape attempt or later may have been collaborator, part of Salt and Pepper team. Evidence is not clear either way. Remains identified 1991.

**Charles Shelton:** USAF Capt, shot down over Laos 29 Apr 65. Made at least three escape attempts in Laos. MIA.

**Lance Sijan:** USAF 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, shot down 9 Nov 67 in Laos, evaded capture after bail out for 46 days. Captured 26 Dec 67, escaped, immediately recaptured, died from his injuries in captivity 22 Jan 68. Awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions while a POW.

**James Simspon:** civilian captured 5 Nov 68 in South Vietnam with British civilian Thomas Cornthwaite. Both killed in escape attempt shortly after.

**David Sooter:** USA CWO 1, captured 17 Feb 67 in South Vietnam. Attempted escape from camp in Cambodia Nov 67 with Delong and Perricone, recaptured same day. Released in 1973.

**Len Tadios:** USA Sgt, captured 11 Dec 64 in Mekong Delta, escaped Jun 65, recaptured after 3 days. Escaped late at night Oct 65 with Rowe, recaptured next morning. Died Mar 66 in captivity. (Called Davila in Rowe's book *Five*

*Years to Freedom.*)

**Dennis Thompson:** USA SSgt, captured 7 Feb 68 when Lang Vei SF camp overrun. He made two escape attempts as he was moved to a temporary camp in Laos, severely beaten. Escaped 18 Feb 68 (Laos) with Brande, evaded 7 days, at times carrying Brande piggyback. Recaptured 25 Feb 68. Attempted escape again, recaptured immediately and beaten almost to death. Released in 1973.

**Floyd (James) Thompson:** USA Capt, captured 26 Mar 64 south of DMZ, moved to camp in Laos. Three escape attempts in first month of captivity, each time convincing guards who discovered him he was only leaving camp area to urinate. Escaped 21 Jul 64, recaptured later that day. Escaped again 1 Oct 71 from Rockpile (North Vietnam) with Meyer and Adkins, recaptured two days later with Meyer. Longest held American POW of Vietnam War. Released in 1973.

**Richard Utecht:** civilian captured in Saigon 4 Feb 68 with Brookens, moved to camp in Cambodia. Attempted escape 22 Apr 68 with Norman Brookens and James Rollins, immediately recaptured. Released in 1973.

**Thomas Van Putten:** USA Cpl, captured 11 Feb 68 in South Vietnam. Made two attempts before his final successful escape March of 1969. He evaded for three weeks before being spotted by helicopters.

**Humberto Versace:** USA Capt, captured 29 Oct 63 in Mekong Delta with Pitzer and Rowe. Attempted escape late Nov 63, immediately recaptured. Medal of Honor citation lists 3 escape attempts. Other sources say there were five attempts. The VC/National Liberation Front announced he had been executed on 26 Sep 65. In 2002 he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions while a POW, even though the original recommendation had been submitted thirty three years prior.

**Orien J Walker, Jr:** USA Capt, captured 23 May 65 in Mekong Delta area. Escaped shortly capture, recaptured. Died in captivity Feb 66. (Called Tim Barker in Rowe's book *Five Years to Freedom.*)

**Earl Weatherman:** USA PFC, captured or defected 8 Nov 67 near Da Nang in South Vietnam. Escaped Apr 68 with Hammond from Kushner Camp near Tam Ky (South Vietnam), quickly recaptured, executed by villagers. Some fellow POWs had some doubts if death actually happened, considered Weath-

erman a collaborator. Others say he was killed by the villagers in the escape attempt. Not listed as a POW.

**Glen Wilson:** USAF Capt, shot down over North Vietnam 7 Aug 67 with Carl Dennis Chambers. They escaped while en-route to Hanoi, attempted to steal two small boats, recaptured after 12 hours. Released in 1973.

**Roy Ziegler:** USA CWO 1, captured 8 Feb 68 when helicopter shot down in South Vietnam. Escaped 18 Feb 68 (South Vietnam) with King Rayford, recaptured next day. Released in 1973.

### Listing of successful POW escapes (reached US forces)

#### All escapes were in South Vietnam unless otherwise noted

Thirty-three American prisoners of war escaped and then reached U.S. forces. Of those thirty-three successful attempts, twenty-eight of them occurred within the first month of captivity. Only three successful escapes took place after the prisoners had been held more than a year, each of them in the South.

**Donald R. Braswell,** USA E4, was captured 23 Aug 1967 and escaped 24 Aug 1967 with civilian Dewey Holt.

**Lee Brewer,** USA E5, captured 7 Jan 1968 and escaped 8 Jan.

**Issac Camacho,** USA SFC, was captured west of Saigon on 24 Nov 1963 along with Claude McClure, Kenneth Roraback, and George Smith when the Hiep Hoa SF camp west of Saigon was overrun. On 12 Jul 1965 Camacho escaped during a night rainstorm and made it to US forces. The others helped cover his escape. Camacho was the first US military POW to escape.

**Dieter Dengler,** LtJG USN, was shot down 1 Feb 1966 over Laos while flying an A1H off the USS Ranger. He evaded until 2 Feb. On 29 Jun he escaped with other POWs. On 20 July he was able to signal US aircraft and was rescued.

**Edward A. Dierling,** USA E5, was captured in Hue 3 Feb 1968 and escaped 23 Feb 1968 with Hayhurst after knocking out guard.

**Joe L. Dodd,** civilian, was captured 8 Oct 1965. Successfully escaped 25 Oct.



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**James Dodson**, USMC E3, was captured 6 May 1966 near Da Nang and escaped 17 Jun 1966 when he and Walter Eckes grabbed the guard's rifles while they were eating and escaped. They reached US forces four days after the escape.

**Walter W. Eckes**, USMC E3, was captured 10 May 1966 near Da Nang. On 17 Jun 1966 he and James Dodson grabbed the guards' rifles while they were eating and escaped. They reached US forces four days after the escape.

**Jerry L. Fann**, USA, captured 21 Mar 1967 and escaped 21 Mar 1967.

**Bruce A. Graening**, USA E3, captured 9 Mar 1967, escaped 18 Mar.

**Kenneth R. Gregory**, USA E6, captured 25 Aug 1968. He was found by a US helicopter on 26 May 1969 four days after his escape. He reported he had been scheduled for release if he signed a propaganda statement, but escaped the day before that was to happen. Listed in some sources as released.

**Jerry L. Guffey**, USA E4, captured 4 Mar 1969 and escaped 4 Mar.

**Walter D. Hamilton**, USMC Pvt, captured 18 Oct 1965 near Da Nang and escaped 29 October, along with Joseph North, Jr.

**Paul G. Hatch**, USA E3, captured 20 Aug 1969 and escaped 25 Aug.

**Robert A. Hayhurst**, USA E5, captured in Hue 3 Feb 1968 and escaped 23 Feb with Dierling after knocking out guard.

**Dewey T. Holt**, civilian or USA E4, was captured 23 Aug 1967 and escaped 24 Aug 1967 with Donald Braswell.

**Frank C. Iodice**, USMC Cpl, captured with Albert Potter 30 May 1968. Both escaped 1 June during an attack by ARVN forces.

**Everett M. King Jr**, USA E4, captured 1 Feb 1968 in Hue with Dierling and Hayhurst. Wounded, unable to walk, hid from his NVA captors in rubble on 8 Feb and managed to contact a US patrol on 9 Feb.

**Charles Klusmann**, USN Lt, Flying an RF8A from the USS Kitty Hawk, forced to bail out over Laos 6 Jun 1964. He and two Lao soldiers escaped the night of 30 August and reached friendly forces on 1 September.

**Donald E. Martin**, USA Spec 5, cap-

ured 2 Mar 1968 and escaped 15 Apr. **Steven D. Nelson**, USMC Corp, captured 7 Jan 1968 with Michael Roha. Both escaped 21 Jan, reaching US forces the next day.

**Joseph S. North, Jr**, USMC Pvt, captured 18 Oct 1965 near Da Nang and escaped 29 October, along with Walter Hamilton.

**Jasper Page**, USAF SSgt, captured 31 Oct 1965 near Vung Tau. Escaped several nights later with Samuel Adams when they jumped their guards. Adams was killed. Page made it to US forces on 4 Nov.

**Albert J. Potter**, USMC Sgt, captured with Frank Iodice 30 May 1968. Both escaped 1 June during an attack by ARVN forces.

**Richard F. Risner**, USMC Maj, captured 20 Aug 1968 and escaped 22 Aug.

**Michael R. Roha**, USMC Pfc, captured 7 Jan 1968 with Steven Nelson. Both escaped 21 Jan, reaching US forces the next day.

**James (Nick) Rowe**, USA 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, captured 29 Oct 1963 in the Mekong Delta area. After four escape attempts he successfully escaped on 31 Dec 1968 while US forces were bombing the area. He managed to flag down a helicopter which almost fired upon him before they spotted his white skin and beard.

**Linda Smith/Michelle L Smith**, both civilians, were captured 10 Mar 1975 and escaped 21 Mar.

**William P. Taliaferro**, USMC E4, captured 4 Feb 1968 and escaped 12 Feb. Also spelled Tallaferno. (He may have been released.)

**William B. Taylor**, USA Spec 5, captured 20 Mar 1968 when the O1D he was an observer in was shot down. On 6 May 1968 US helicopters attacked the camp he was held in without knowing he was there. Taylor had been severely injured in the crash of his plane. He was wounded again by the US attack. He crawled to a clearing and caught the attention of a US helicopter. When it came in he grabbed the skid but was shot off. The helicopter returned and the crew threw him aboard. He would not have been rescued if he had not first escaped on his own during the attack.

**Thomas H. Van Putten**, USA Cpl, captured 10 Feb 1968 and escaped 29 Mar 1969, evaded for three weeks before he was able to wave down a helicopter.

**Buddy Wright**, USA Sgt, captured 22 Sep 1968 while on a long-range recon-

naissance patrol in Cambodia. Escaped and evaded for 10 days, finally reaching US forces 6 Oct.

### Listing of successful POW rescues

There were only five Americans actually rescued from captivity during the entire war. One died shortly after rescue from wounds inflicted by his guards before they ran from the rescue forces. This was the only intended rescue. The others were unplanned rescues. One took place while the prisoner was being escorted from his point of capture to a prison camp. Another involved a helicopter assault in an area which turned out to hold prisoners. An American POW broke loose and ran to the helicopters. Two American civilians were accidentally rescued when their captors ran into an American ambush. There were many attempts to rescue American POWs, the most well known being the attack on the camp at Son Tay in North Vietnam. There were at least 45 raids aimed specifically at rescuing American POWs. After the war there were cases where prisoners reported they had been within sight and sound of American rescue forces but were prevented by their guards from taking any action. There were about five hundred South Vietnamese soldiers freed in these rescue attempts. Some American politicians and senior officers involved in the decision making for rescue efforts of American POWs hindered those efforts more than they helped.

**Larry D. Aiken**, USA E4, captured 13 May 1969. A Vietnamese reported seeing him in a VC hospital complex. A raid was carried out on 10 Jul 1969 to rescue Aiken. He was found outside the hut he had been seen in, suffering a fresh head wound. He was rescued but remained in a coma from the head wound until his death on 25 July. Aiken's recovery was the only "successful" planned rescue of an American POW during the entire war.

**Roger D. Anderson**, USA Pvt, captured 3 Jan 1968 about 65 miles south of Saigon. This may be the only planned rescue attempt that actually succeeded, even then it was accidental in the end. About five days after his capture an agent reported seeing Anderson being marched away from the area by a column of VC. Helicopter units were told to search towards Cambodia. On 12 Jan a helicopter pilot spotted a sampan with two men.

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When he buzzed them they gave him reason to open fire. One VC was killed. Anderson jumped up from the bottom of the sampan and took off his uniform shirt so they could see he was an American.

**Henry Hudson**, civilian, captured 21 Dec 1965. Later that same night an American unit ambushed the group as they were being marched through the jungle. Hudson, fellow civilian Edwin Jones, and their Vietnamese driver were rescued. Canadian Otto Shulten was killed by the guards.

**Edwin Jones**, civilian, captured 21 Dec 1965. Later that same night an American unit ambushed the group as they were being marched through the jungle. Jones, fellow civilian Henry Hudson, and their Vietnamese driver were rescued. Canadian Otto Shulten was killed by the guards.

**William B. Taylor**, USA Spec 5, captured 20 Mar 1968 when the O1D he was an observer in was shot down. On 6 May 1968 US helicopters attacked the camp he was held in without knowing he was there. Taylor had been severely injured in the crash of his plane. He was wounded again by the US attack. He crawled to a clearing and caught the attention of a US helicopter. When it came in he grabbed the skid but was shot off. The helicopter returned and the crew threw him aboard. He would not have been rescued if he had not first escaped on his own during the attack. He is listed on the escape list above.

### Anomalies

**Orville Frits**: USA Sgt, captured 20 May 67 with Grammar, tortured and killed. Not listed as a POW.

**William Grammar**: USMC 1<sup>st</sup> Lt, captured 20 May 67 with Frits, tortured and killed. Not listed as a POW. Frits and Grammar were not killed in action. Their bodies showed obvious signs of torture prior to their deaths. They were prisoners of war when they died.

**Frank Prendergast**: USN Lt JG, shot down over North Vietnam 9 Mar 67, Prendergast landed off shore in the surf and was captured by two North Vietnamese soldiers.

Prendergast shot one and exchanged shots with the other while the rescue helicopter approached. The rescue helicopter shot the soldier and picked up Prendergast. He is not listed as a

POW.

**Doyle Morgan USA, Leonard Sroveck USA, Ciro Salas USAF, Giacomo Appice USAF, and Jerry Schuller USAF**, were captured near Danang on 14 Jun 1954 by the Viet Minh. They were apparently thought by the Viet Minh to have been French troops. They were held in a POW camp with French POWs and were released on 31 Aug 1954. They do not appear on some official listings of American POWs in Vietnam.

**Charles Shelton and David Hrdlicka** may very well have been rescued in Laos by a native team. Sources indicate this team then attempted to bring them out, acting as a Pathet Lao unit which had captured the two Americans. While doing so they encountered a North Vietnamese unit which reminded the "Pathet Lao" soldiers that all prisoners were to be turned over to the North Vietnamese. To protect both the POWs and the native team, and with the agreement of both Shelton and Hrdlicka, this was done. Further rescue attempts were impossible. Both remain MIA. Laos was a dark hole which swallowed many Americans.

An Air Force pilot captured on 20 Dec 67 took part in a one of a kind escape attempt. **Robert Craner** was shot down while flying as a Misty Fac over North Vietnam with **Guy Gruters** (who had been shot down on 8 Nov 67 and rescued at sea.) As rescue efforts took place on 21 Dec Craner began talking to pilots overhead saying he was captured but was in a dialogue with his captors about trading him for a gold reward. Authentication proved it was actually Craner. This discussion continued with rescue aircraft overhead as they marched Craner north, at times one of the North Vietnamese soldiers talking on the radio. Gold bars were actually obtained and in a helicopter off-shore the next morning. When radio contact was made in an effort to arrange a pick-up point one of the North Vietnamese stated Craner could be picked up in Hanoi and communication was cut off. Both Craner and Gruters were released in 1973.

### American Women held as POWs

**Eleanor Vietti** was captured at the leprosarium at Bon Me Thout 30 May 62. She remains MIA.

**Betty Ann Olsen**, a nurse working at Ban Me Thout, Olsen was captured during Tet on 1 Feb 68. The group of

POWs she was held with was moved constantly back and forth across the border into Cambodia. Olsen contracted malaria, beri beri, and dysentery. She died in captivity in Sep 68. **Dr. Marjorie Nelson** was captured on 5 Feb 68 in Hue along with **Sandra Johnson**. They were held at what was called Camp Runamuck near Phu Bai. They were released on 31 Mar 68. **Ofelia Gaza** was captured near Vung Tau in June of 1966 with her husband Vincente. He worked for Air America and may not have been an American citizen. Vincente Gaza died in December 1966 and his wife Ofelia was released the beginning of January 1967. Neither are on the DPMO listing.

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There are frequent differences in rank and dates in these sources. At times the rank used is that of the individual after the war, not at time of capture. Specific dates are sometimes hard to pin down. Detailed information on enlisted men is harder to find than information for officers.

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## National Prisoner of War Museum Marks 10 Years

By: Fred Boyles

This April 9<sup>th</sup> marks the 10 year anniversary since the National Prisoner of War Museum was opened. It was April 9, 1998 when Senator John McCain came to Andersonville National Historic Site to dedicate the Museum devoted to telling the story of all POWs in American history.

The dedication ceremony was a major event that attracted over 4,000 attendees. Most of those who came were former POWs who wanted to be the first to see the museum that told their story. Other than the Arizona Senator and former POW, the ceremony also featured the Governor of Georgia, both Senators from the state and several members of congress.

Building the museum was the culmination of a long campaign to garner support and raise both private and public funds for construction. The Georgia Department of Transportation funded the construction of the entrance road and parking lot. Pri-

ivate funds were generated by the sale of a coin that was produced by the US Mint. Federal funds matched both the monies raised by the coin sales along with private contributions made by hundreds of individual donors and groups. The National Park Service designed the structure and let contracts for the building construction and the fabrication of exhibits and interpretive media. Several groups were vital to the effort to make the museum a reality. Most notably, the American Ex-Prisoners of War raised funds and awareness for the need for the museum.

Over the ten years improvements and repairs have been made to the museum. A new heating and cooling system was installed that allows for a more efficient environment and provided more comfort for visitors and care for the historic artifacts housed there. A new video program was produced in 2004 that told the story of Camp Sumter. In 2005 a new permanent exhibit called *Who is a POW* was opened that poses the dilemma of prisoner of war status that is often difficult to define. Just a year ago the museum received new carpet and a badly needed paint job. Today work is going on to make repairs to the commemorative courtyard. Over 1.6 million visitors have passed through the museum that has lead to many of the needed repairs.

The park and Museum are fortunate to enjoy the assistance of an active support organization. The Friends of Andersonville are a group dedi-

cated to assisting the site with volunteer help and funding for projects that government cannot support. At about the same time the museum was built, the Friends of Andersonville formed the Andersonville Trust. The Trust is an endowment fund that provides aid for park programs. Since its founding the Trust has provided over \$350,000 of support to the park for interpretive programs, resource protection, special events and promotion.



For the 10 years anniversary of the dedication of the museum, the park has made some modest plans to mark the event. A special cached envelope and special postal cancellation is planned for April 9, 2008. It will be offered for sale at the park. A special display marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary is being developed for the Museum lobby along with a birthday cake for visitors.



The National Park Service looks to the future to continue the legacy of educating the visiting public as to the story of prisoners of war in our nation's history. It is the story of sacrifice for our great nation that serves as an inspiration to this and future generations that the museum seeks to continue long into the future.



# namPOW news



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## How ya doin'?

In World War II, Bill Mauldin's cartoons dripped with irony showing the worldly GIs, Willie and Joe, in various states of sardonic misery. Typically, they accepted a particularly grossly unfair task with a cup of coffee, wry grins, a collective shrug of the shoulders, and a smart quip with the ever-present smoldering Camel hanging from the lower lip. One of his more poignant efforts showed weary looking Willie and Joe liberating a group of POWs with the caption, "Fresh, spirited American troops, flushed with victory, are bringing in thousands of hungry, ragged, battle-weary prisoners." You wanted to walk up to both the GIs and the repatriated POWs and ask, "How ya doin'?"



Mauldin received the Pulitzer for this cartoon and became the youngest man ever to win the top prize.

The irony, of course, is that Willie and Joe look as bad as the prisoners of war! I suspect that irony isn't lost

on our POWs from WWII - the photos I've seen of various liberations show the prisoners looking much happier than their liberators whose shocked expressions caused the casual observer to really wonder who had been the captive and who had done the rescuing.

In April 2003, I attended the reunion of the Doolittle Raiders at McClellan Air Force Base in Sacramento. Twelve of the Raiders were there including three of the eight POWs who survived the war. McClellan had been the last stop by the B-25Bs enroute to San Francisco and the USS Hornet - to be the takeoff origin of their one-way mission.

I was impressed by all the Raiders who'd been heroes to this very young lad in WWII but one stood out. Former Staff Sergeant Jacob DeShazer, bombardier of one of the B-26s had been captured and held by the Japanese following the raid for a very tough 3 ½ years much of it in solitary confinement. Two of his fellow crewmembers were executed as examples of the hatred felt by the Japanese Army who had lost much face when bombed on their home turf by the Raiders.

I remember meeting "Missionary" Jake in April 2003 with his big grin and, "How ya doin'?" What most impressed me was not the "sea stories" he and the others were telling about their training and Jimmy Doolittle. Jake had been transformed in prison, became a preacher and spent 30 years of his life converting Japanese to Christianity in Japan. It was something he felt he had to do to teach the Gospel. Mustve worked since he is responsible for starting 75 churches in a Buddhist/Shinto culture. I was saddened when I read of Jake's passing in March, 2008.

Also in April 2003, April Fool's Day to be exact, a Chinese fighter harassing a Navy Reconnaissance EP-3 in international waters caused a mid-air collision resulting in the death of the Chinese pilot and terrible damage to the Navy patrol bomber. After recovering from an impossible situation, Navy LT Shane Osborn, the pilot, successfully executed a forced

landing on Communist China's Hainan Island. Shane and the crew of 13 were captured and interred on a Chinese airbase officers' barracks. LT Osborn held the crew together during the tense ten days before the crew was released basically unharmed and with their secrets intact.

April 2003 was a momentous month - I got to meet several boyhood heroes, the Doolittle Raiders and, as if to emphasize the passing of a baton, a young Navy pilot saved a very expensive reconnaissance airplane and became, likewise a hero. Shane had pulled that crippled airplane through maneuvers it was never designed to do and saved the entire crew.

Several of the AXPOW officers and staff leadership met LT Osborn when he stopped by the Sheraton National in Arlington, Virginia to talk with some of us. He was a celebrity of sorts - nobody had ever successfully flown and landed such a damaged P-3 before - and was looking for something to do. But he came walking up to us, looking like his photos in all the magazines and newspapers, with a big smile on his face and a spirited "How ya' doin'?"

It occurred to me that I'd gone full cycle. Meeting a childhood hero, Doolittle Raider Jake DeShazer. Schmoozing at the meeting with Ex-POW WW II Bulge and Air War & Korean heroes from the AXPOW organization including a few from camps in Vietnam with me. And I finally had an answer to that cheerful, "How ya' doin'?"

Quite swell, thank you. No complaints. We are free in a free country. Everything else is irrelevant. As I'm fond of saying, "There's no such thing as a bad day when there's a doorknob on the inside of the door."

Note: The Honorable Shane Osborn is currently the Treasurer of the State of Nebraska and, apparently enroute to a successful political second career. No need to ask Shane, "How ya' doin'?"

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## pow-mia



### PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

POW/MIA car-window decals are available at a cost of \$20 per 100 by sending a check to the League office at 1005 North Glebe Road, Suite 170, Arlington, VA 22201. POW/MIA lapel pins are also available at \$3 each or 2/\$5. For added information please contact the League's web site at [www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org) or call the national office at 703-465-7432. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message.

### AMERICANS ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR

There are still 1,763 US personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The most recent identifications, though now months ago, brought to 820 the number of US personnel returned since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. 90+% of the 1,763 still missing and unaccounted-for were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

### REMAINS IDENTIFIED AS MAUPIN

The remains of Staff Sgt. Keith Matthew Maupin were recovered March 20 northwest of Baghdad by elements the Multi-National Division - Baghdad's 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, which is based out of Vilseck, Germany. DNA conclusively identified S/Sgt. Maupin on March 30, 2008.

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The recovery was the result of four years of intensive effort by MND-B Soldiers and multiple joint and interagency organizations; The Soldiers of 2nd SCR were able to recover Staff Sgt. Maupin's remains by approaching the recovery as a criminal investigation and employing appropriate investigative techniques.

Maupin was a United States Army Private First Class (PFC) captured by Iraqi insurgents on April 9, 2004, while serving in the Iraq War, after his convoy came under attack by rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire near Baghdad, Iraq.

### JPAC COMMANDER TRAVELS

The new JPAC Commander, RADM Donna Crisp, USN, recently completed her first trip as JPAC Commander to Vietnam and Cambodia, meeting with officials in both countries to introduce herself and become familiar with US officials and operations in both countries. Due to a conflict with Secretary Gates' visit, she had to postpone her planned visit to Laos. Shortly before her Southeast Asia trip, she also visited the Republic of Korea to discuss ways to expedite cooperation related to Korean War losses. Deputy to the JPAC Commander Johnie Webb had worked for many years with the South Koreans, including the last two years establishing a JPAC-like facility in South Korea. On that trip, RADM Crisp went on to Beijing to meet with PRC officials in an effort to restore recovery operations in that country.

### UPDATE ON JPAC OPERATIONS

The 102nd Joint Field Activities (JFAs) in Laos were concluded February 13th, following 30 days of recovery efforts by four teams operating in Khammouan and Xekong Provinces. The 40th JFA in Cambodia that began on January 15th completed its work on March 1st, followed by a repatriation ceremony attended by many senior Cambodian officials and US Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli, as well as JPAC and other US officials. The 41st JFA in Cambodia began as the 40th concluded, though the focus will be an excavation in Prey Veng Province and Phase 2 Testing on another site in Cambo-

dia, before moving on to Laos before completing their work. Phase 2 Testing (P2T, in JPAC shorthand) is more comprehensive than an initial survey/investigation conducted by the Investigation Team, but doesn't constitute an excavation. It is intended to more accurately fix the scope of the site to be excavated. The earlier Cambodia JFA teams were operating in Ratanakiri, Stung Treng and Kampong Sam Provinces, the latter off the coast of southern Cambodia, at Koh Tang (Tang Island), site of the May, 1975 USS Mayaguez incident. JPAC specialists, plus members of the US Navy's Mobile Diving Salvage Unit #1, recently completed work that began on January 15th in the Republic of Palau.

### U.S. AND CHINA SIGN POW AND MIA ARRANGEMENT

U.S. and Chinese officials signed a document to formalize research in Chinese archives on Korean War POW/MIA matters.

Ambassador Charles A. Ray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, signed the arrangement with Major General Qian Li Hua, of the Chinese Ministry of National Defense. The arrangement outlines expected cooperation between the U.S. and China in researching the archives, which may shed light on Americans who were missing in action or held as POWs in camps managed by the Chinese.

In seeking to account for the approximately 8,100 servicemen missing from the Korean War, Ambassador Ray's office, the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, has sought access to these archives for more than a decade. The cooperation of the Chinese people and government has led to the recovery of the remains of Americans lost in the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Korean War and WWII.

This joint archival effort is expected to open more avenues of research to enable U.S. analysts to narrow their searches for the specific locations where American remains may be buried.

# civilians

Ted Cadwallader -  
Chairman  
9501 Nut Tree Ct.  
Elk Grove, CA 95624  
(916) 685-5369  
[dcadwall@aol.com](mailto:dcadwall@aol.com)

## Highlights of the Sixty-Third Liberation Reunion

### February 1-4, 2008

Over 300 people converged on The Marriott Hotel in Fremont, California, which was the site of the BACEPOW (Bay Area Civilian Ex-POWs) Reunion Feb 1-4, 2008. They came from Wales, Canada, China and all points from the United States. With souvenirs, manuscripts, old historical pictures, books, videos and CDs, the old gang from the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere arrived in droves. Civilian and military POWs, Bataan Marchers, Liberators and Veterans alike joined together in the San Francisco Bay Area for the Sixty-Third Philippine Liberation Reunion. A special envoy from the Mukden POW Camp Museum in China attended with elaborate displays of their new museum projects being built.

Exceptional and varied speakers presented their topics all through the day on Saturday. Wonderful breakfast buffets were included each morning and specialty buffet dinners were offered in the evenings. A delighted throng gathered together Saturday

evening for an enjoyable cocktail party and reception, which culminated the programmed activities for the day.

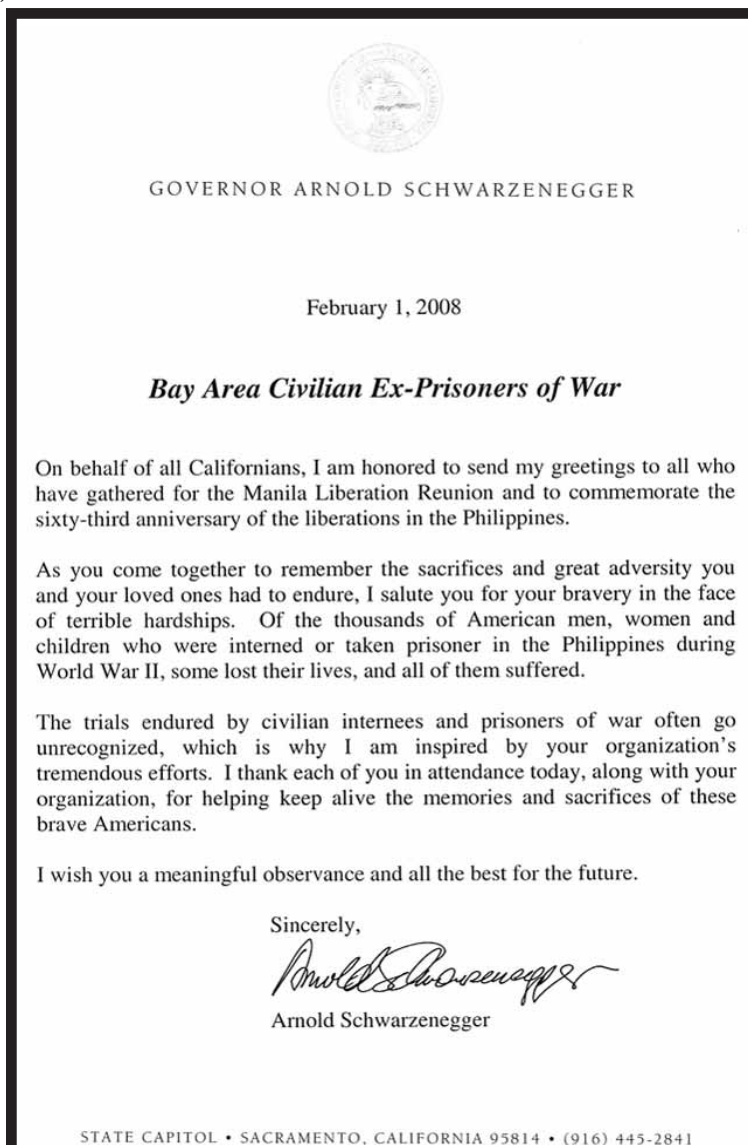
One of the main goals of BACEPOW for this particular reunion was to energize internee descendents to carry on our unique history. A Descendents' Forum and cocktail party was surprisingly well attended and hosted by Karen Kerns Lewis and her son Mark Lewis. Taking an active part in BACEPOW was one of the topics of discussion involved in the descendents' Saturday itinerary. It was the beginning of a strong interest shown by the descendents for the future of BACEPOW.

New interest in becoming part of the BACEPOW organization was shown by a nearly 100 percent increase in

membership, which was amazing in so short a time frame.

A BACEPOW newsletter, *Beyond the Wire*, made its debut at the reunion inviting any allied civilian who was in prison during WWII to join our organization and help keep our history alive.

The big Liberation Banquet Lunch on Sunday was a gala event. Our new BACEPOW Chapter Commander, Angus Lorenzen, presided as master of ceremonies while attendees sipped cocktails, sampled Filipino appetizers and cuisine for lunch. A live band from the musical group Family Affair played, as some of the guests sang and danced to both Filipino and American music. The many wonderful memorabilia displays in the foyer added to the grand affair.



Adding to the festivities many of the attendees wore Barongs and Ternos, colorful pineapple fiber native dress, and had a wonderful chance to visit with so many people they hadn't seen in years. It was a nostalgic affair with everyone wanting another reunion next year. Many thanks are due to the BACEPOW Board of Directors and volunteers for their help in arranging this successful gathering.

PS

Mark your calendars! Another reunion is in place for February 13-16, 2009.

A Return to the Philippines Tour will immediately follow on February 17-28, 2009.

MABUHAY!

Sascha Jean Jansen  
BACEPOW Board Member  
[Mabuhayma@aol.com](mailto:Mabuhayma@aol.com)  
(530) 795-0411

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## events and information



**May 1-3, 2008. Stalag17B** will hold its annual reunion in Tucson, AZ at the Hotel Arizona. Call for reservations and tell them you're with the group. 800-845-4596. For more information, call Vince Pale, 609-886-0923 or Lydia Dostie, 941-475-5378.

**May 3, 2008. Annual POW Luncheon will be held at Barksdale Air Force Base, LA.** For reservations or more information call Colonel Steve dePyssler, 866-544-2412 or [RAO@Barksdale.AF.mil](mailto:RAO@Barksdale.AF.mil) or 318-456-5976 or FAX 318-456-3520.

**May 13-15, 2008. The Department of Minnesota** will hold its annual convention at the Best Western Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. 320-253-0606. Please mention AXPOW when you make your reservation. For more information, contact Gladys Byrnes, 5688 Brent Ave., #322, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077.

**May 23-25, 2008. The Annual Georgia State Convention** will be held at the Holiday Inn, Perry, GA. For further information, contact Commander Bobbie Jean McIntyre at 229 423-4984 or Ray Reiersen at 912 925-7073.

**June 11-14, 2008. The Dept. of New York Convention** will be held in Ellenville, NY. Trips to Monticello Race Track & Casino. Kathy Crosby to sing! For more information, contact: Wm. Lee Birch, 1990 Bethel Loop, #10H, Brooklyn, NY 11239; 718-642-7647.

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**June 13-14, 2008. The Department of West Virginia** will hold its annual convention at the Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact Okla & Arlene Edgell, 212 Maplewood Dr., Fairmont, WV 26554; 304-363-5790.

**June 19- 22, 2008. The Dept. of Texas** will hold its annual convention at the Arlington Hilton, 2401 E Lamar Blvd, 76006 (817) 640-3322. For more information, contact Jim Lollar, Convention Chair, (903) 560-1734.

**June 19-21, 2008. The Department of North Carolina** will hold its annual convention at the Hilton Charlotte University Place, 8629 J M Keynes Drive, Charlotte, NC 28262. Room rate \$79.00 for single or double. For reservations call 1-800-445-8667 or 1-704-547-7444. For information contact Doris C. Dallas 916 Bingham Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304 or call 1-910-867-2775.

**July 27-Aug. 3, 2008. The Tiger Survivors Annual Reunion** will be held at the Double Tree, 7801 East Orchard Road, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80111. The TIGER CHOP CHOP will be at 5:30 PM on August 1, 2008 at the host hotel. Cost is \$38.00 per adult, \$19.00 under 12, payable in advance to Shorty ESTABROOK. DON'T FORGET AN ITEM FOR THE FREE RAFFLE. For more information, email Shorty at: [marites@satx.rr.com](mailto:marites@satx.rr.com).

**August 21-24, 2008. The Department of Ohio Convention** will be held at the Drury Inn and Suites, Columbus, OH. Call (614) 875-7000 for reservations. Any and all are invited to attend. Contact person is "Doc" Unger (216) 521-1889.

**August 22, 2008. The Department of Wisconsin** will hold its annual convention at the Elizabeth Inn, Plover, WI. 800-280-0778. For more information contact Edward

Wojahn, 1553 West Young Dr., Onalaska, WI 54650 or call 608-783-3670.

**Aug. 24-26, 2008. The 45<sup>th</sup> and final Reunion of Survivors of Bataan-Corregidor and other Former Prisoners of War** will be held in Pigeon Forge, TN. POWs, children, widows, guests are all welcome. For reservations call 1-800-282-2121. For more information, contact: Wayne Carringer 828-479-6205.

**Sept. 24-28, 2008. The Korean War Veterans Association** will hold its annual reunion at the Embers Hotel, Carlisle, PA. All Korean War Veterans Welcome! Please contact: Charles Egresitz, 717-652-4088 or 717-497-6971; [apebble@aol.com](mailto:apebble@aol.com) for more information.

looking  
for



I am requesting information from anyone who might know which states exempt former POWs, or other veterans with 100% service connected disabilities from state real estate and personal property taxes. They can contact me at [paul@PaulDillonCARTOONS.com](mailto:paul@PaulDillonCARTOONS.com) or by phone at 314-609-9037. My mailing address is Paul Dillon, 11833 Sologne Court, Maryland Heights, MO 63043-1509.

Looking for any information for the following enlisted Army Air Corp personnel: Pvt. Leon Edwin Heinz. Captured by Japanese on Cuyo May 1942. Transferred to Bilibib prison, Manila for 2 week internment. Transferred to Manila pier and worked for 25 months. Returned to Bilibid prison 15 days. Went to another camp before being transferred to Northern Honshu, Japan

## looking for continued...

to work in a copper mine October 1944 until released. Thank you, William Edward Heinz (son) weh57@comcast.net.

My father was captured in Germany at the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the **28<sup>th</sup> Division** and I want to contact anyone else from that time. Thank you. Joe Bissonnette, sbissonnette1@verizon.net.

My Pop, **SSgt. Harry Reuss**, was a POW in Stalag Luft IV as well as the Black March. Pop died 3 years ago now, but I never was able to find out what happened to the cruel German guard "Big Stoop." Pop always looked away whenever I asked about whatever happened to him. I always wondered that if justice was meted out to this clown when the Brits liberated our brave men. Thanks, Rick Reuss, P.T. 1421 Cherokee Court, Madison, IN 47250; reuss13@verizon.net.

Looking for former crew members of **William Powell** who was shot down over Germany on October 4, 1944. He was piloting the plane Male, Box. Those believed to still be living are: Regis Mannion, George Speliades, Joshus Loring, Robert Ware. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. Barbara Vowles, bvowles@comcast.net, 2943 Brookwood Drive, Fort Collins, Colorado 80525.

I need only two more **POW license plates** to complete my collection I need a plate from Maryland and Delaware if any one has one from each of these states that they are willing to part with I would be happy to display it in my collection . I will pay for the plate and for the mail fee. I may be contacted at 256 225 3250 or 256 831 6426. Thanks, Cecil Freeman, P O Box 928, Bynum, Alabama 36253.

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My Grandfather, **Edward J Schubert** was held from April 1943 until May 1945. He passed away in 1977 and not much was ever said of the horrors he faced. When my Grandmother died I was given all of his war related items. Sadly, in the late 1980's my Grandmother's house was burglarized and all of his medals were stolen. I did however, receive his POW medal (awarded posthumously ten years after his death) and numerous letters he had written while captive. Interestingly enough included is an account of captivity. The only trouble being is that it is all written in shorthand. There are a few pages that he himself had written but other than that I have no way of knowing what is written. Is there anyone out there that might be able to translate? I could scan & email them or mail photo copies to someone who might be able to help. I am also looking for any account of POW's held in Stalag 3B during that time frame. I am just getting into researcher this and would appreciate any help I can get. Thank you. Jeff Stephan, 1275 Timberland Dr., Marietta Georgia 30067.

I am trying to obtain POW records for my Aunt. Her husband, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. **Henry G. Leonard**, was a POW near St. Vith. We know he was liberated on 3/8/45. The camp was a small farm, with a cellar. In his notes he said the 99<sup>th</sup> liberated him. He was intended to go to Stalag 12. In some dark faded notes he also mentions 730<sup>th</sup>, and getting a ride from G company 102<sup>nd</sup> Jeep Div. Any help would be greatly appreciated. He was in the 80<sup>th</sup>, 317<sup>th</sup>. He's mentioned in Mr Adkins book, but no known documentation. Jay Hermanns,jaydude432000@yahoo.com.

I am historian of the Musee de la Resistance de Bourges and I am doing historical investigations in Avord. **The Avord airport** was occupied by the German Air Force during WWII. On Feb. 28, 1944, the 91<sup>st</sup> BG and 381<sup>st</sup> BG lost B-17s by

flak at Avord. Eight men from the groups were POWs. 91<sup>st</sup> BG - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George F. Cosgrove, S/Sgt. Alphonse V. Lagownik, S/Sgt. John H. ertuset, S/Sgt. James E. Konstantine, F/O Bernard H. Swinburne; 381<sup>st</sup> BG - Major Osce V. Jones, T/Sgt. J.W. Padgett, Sgt. William B. Blackmon, Jr. I would like to contact anyone who knows these men. Thank you, Mr. Frederic Henoff, 16 rue de l'Eglise, 67670 Mommenheim, France; henoff1960@aol.com.

## News Briefs

### VA Is Leader in Hospice and Palliative Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is providing hospice and palliative care to a growing number of veterans throughout the country as the need continues to rise for care and comfort at the end of life.

VA provides palliative care consultation services at each of its medical centers and inpatient hospice care in many of its nursing homes throughout the country. VA contracts with community-based hospice programs to enhance VA's ability to provide this critical service when and where needed. Because of the large number of World War II and Korean era veterans and a tripling of the number of veterans over the age of 85 from 2000 to 2010, the increase in the need for hospice care is expected to continue. The proportion of Vietnam-era veterans over the age of 65 will continue to increase through 2014, when Vietnam veterans will account for nearly 60 percent of all veterans in that age group.

To date, VA has partnered with community hospice programs in 35

news continued...

states to promote hospice services that are not provided directly by VA staff. These partnerships help veterans transition from VA hospitals to their homes in the community. Palliative care adds a focus on quality of life and comfort to veterans with life-limiting illness, and their families. Palliative care consultation teams include physicians, nurses, social workers and chaplains. Additional support may be provided by pharmacists, rehabilitation therapists, recreation therapists, mental health professionals and other specialists.

## VA Awards Contract for Disability Benefits Studies

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) awarded a \$3.2 million contract to Economic Systems Inc. of Falls Church, Va., to develop information relating to possible changes in the composition of disability payments to disabled veterans.

The contact is based upon recommendations of the Dole-Shalala Commission, which issued its final report in July 2007, and the October 2007 final report of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission. The contractor will provide its findings in August.

A second study will provide information on the appropriate levels of compensation necessary to compensate for any loss in earnings capacity caused by service-incurred or service-aggravated conditions. It will also provide information on potential "quality of life" payments called for by both studies.

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# M Members' forum



Hi Cheryl,

I am a former POW and I am 100% service connected.

In one of the magazines back around June of 2007 there was an article about the fact that if you were 100% service connected and you were living in an Assisted Living Facility you could apply for "Aid and Assistance" compensation.

I applied and after having two interviews where the V.A. looked into all the reasons for being 100% service connected to see if I qualified, to my surprise this month I received a letter that stated I was approved for an additional \$780.00 a month.

I thought there may be other 100% service connected POW'S living in Assisted Living Facilities that might apply as I did.

Sure is wonderful! When I applied I expected to get turned down. I am glad that I am a member of the association and get the Ex POW magazine otherwise I never would have known about it. Thanks again.

Sincerely,  
Arthur W. Starratt #15457  
11279 Taylor Draper Lane,  
Apt. 232  
Austin, TX 78759-2434

**To Cheryl Cerbone, Editor and Curtis Brooks, STIC survivor,**

Responding to the excellent and explanatory article by Curtis

Brooks' WHY WE STAYED in EXPOW BULLETIN, February 2008.

My Dad, Elmer William Herold, had a prosperous job with the Heald Lumber Co. (subsidiary of Benguet Consolidated Mining Co.) in Baguio. Just in case hostilities with Japan would occur, he built two huge oil tanks to supply oil for his fleet of lumber trucks. Reluctantly anticipating the invaders to acquire the oil, he scuttled the tanks on December 25, 1941. My Mother, Ethel Thomas Herold, began teaching a Red Cross class to local citizens, American and Filipinos, in case there would be a shooting war. She and Dad were horrified and condemned the Japanese for the Rape of Nanking. I remember black and white photos in the MANILA BULLETIN depicting the tortured and dead Chinese. As a twelve-year old, those vivid pictures frightened me. We were told to stay put, continue business as usual, we kids to continue our education. After the war we learned that we were purposely informed those same messages so "the Filipinos would not lose faith nor face with the Amerians". We were living in our comfortable house in the sprawling lumber yard. We never imagined in a million years that the Japanese would arrive in Baguio the eve of 27 December 1941.

Curtis, you and I met in February, 2002, at the dedication ceremony at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX. We three survivors unfurled the veil over the bronze plaque that was dedicated to us civilians. You represented STIC, Margie Squires—Los Banos. and me—Baguio/Bilibid. I wonder if you and I knew each other at Brent School. In 1938 I was in Miss Edna Miller's third grade class.

Respectively,  
Betsy Herold Heimke  
13820 Metcalf Avenue  
Unit#11320  
Overland Park, KS 66223  
[k.heimke@svcglobal.net](mailto:k.heimke@svcglobal.net)





# American Ex-Prisoners of War Candidate for National Office 2008



Candidate for office of:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Member Chapter:

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

Date and Place of Capture:

Places of Internment:

Date and Place of Liberation:

Biography (Please attach, including picture):

**To be eligible to run for a national office, a candidate must have been a member for the 3 previous years. Submit to: Grover Swearingen, Chairman, 408 Fair Park Avenue, West Union, OH 45693 ~ (937) 544-2459 phone & fax; db6194@dragonbbs.com**

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Drexel MO 64742**

## National Convention

### Tentative Agenda Sept. 16-21, 2008

#### Tuesday Sept. 16:

National Service Officer Training  
Registration Desk Open in PM

Hospitality Room  
Evening Entertainment

#### Wednesday Sept. 17:

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

#### Saturday Sept. 20:

General Business Session &  
Balloting  
Banquet and Installation of  
Officers

#### Sunday Sept. 21:

Devotional  
National Board of Directors  
Meeting

#### Thursday Sept. 18

Opening Ceremonies  
Registration Desk Open  
Hospitality Room Open  
Credentials Room Open  
Ladies Luncheon  
Legislative & MedSearch Seminars  
Commanders Reception  
with Entertainment

Note: If you are staying for the banquet, you will be checking out on Sunday, Sept. 21. If you are planning to attend the new Board of Directors meeting, please make plans to depart later in the day on Sunday.

#### Friday Sept. 19:

Past National Commanders  
Breakfast  
General Business Session  
Camp Reunions

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# Convention Registration

## American Ex-Prisoner of War 61<sup>st</sup> National Convention



September 16-21, 2008  
Kansas City, Missouri "The City of Fountains"

Registrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_, Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_, Phone: \_\_\_\_\_, e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_, City: \_\_\_\_\_, State/  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs (wheel chair, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

Unit When Captured: \_\_\_\_\_, Theatre: \_\_\_\_\_,  
Camps: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION** (per person) until August 5 - \$80, after Aug 5 - \$85, no refund after Aug 5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ladies Luncheon is Thurs. Aug 18 from 11:45 to 1:30. Come enjoy a healthy light and luscious lunch then delight at songs by the "Gospel Lovin 4" for a mere \$30 per lady attending. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable to: 2008 Convention Fund, Delta Endecott, P.O. Box 362, Drexel, MO 64742 **Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday Night Banquet:

Entertainment will be provided for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Please select a banquet menu choice: Oven Roasted Breast of Chicken \_\_\_\_ or Kansas City Striploin \_\_\_\_

## American Ex-Prisoners of War 61<sup>st</sup> National Convention

### Hotel Registration Form

Sheraton Kansas City Sports Complex

9103 East 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO 64133

Toll Free 800-325-3535, or web site: [sheratonkcsportscomplex.com](http://sheratonkcsportscomplex.com)

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

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

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Room Desire: King Bed Queen Bed 2- Double Beds

Special Needs (wheelchair, handicap room, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover (one night deposit required)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM RATES: \$83 PER NIGHT SINGLE or DOUBLE, ASK FOR **AXPOW** CONVENTION RATE

Check-in time is 3:00 PM, Check-out time is 12:00 Noon

Transportation to hotel from airport is on your own

Make Reservations Prior to Aug 17, 2008

No Cancellation Refund After to 72 Hours Prior to Arrival

Mail Form to Sheraton Kansas City Sports Complex,

9103 East 39<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64113

This is a non-smoking hotel

There are smoking rooms available at the

Holiday Inn, 4011 Blue Ridge Cut-off 816-353-5300.

**Ex-POW Bulletin**

**May 2008**

**22**

**Report from the Ways & Means Committee:**

Fellow Members, with great pleasure I would like to inform you of the excellent success we're currently experiencing this year with our fund-raising projects with JH Marketing Services, Inc. Thus far, your generous donations total \$186,218.52 with expenses of \$80,927.56, leaving a Net Income of \$105,290.96. On the Volunteer Donation Project sponsored & implemented by NJVC Morris Barker, your donations thus far are \$26,181.00. With the 2 programs combined, your enormously generous donations have brought in \$131,471.96, all of which has been deposited in the AXPOW bank accounts enabling the organization to continue to be financially solvent & fully operational.

In reference to JH Marketing Services, I would like to hopefully clarify an issue that's been brought up by a few uneducated members. Allegations of fraud have been whispered about in the past about JH Marketing Services' handling of our dona-

tions, but I want to assure each of you that not a single allegation has been proven nor has even 1 red-cent been un-accounted for. ALL donations you send in have been & will continue to be deposited directly into the AXPOW accounts under the sole control of our National Treasurer, Sonnie Bill Mottern.

The above income amounts are "as of" 31 March 2008, & the totals continue to grow each day. Once again, thank you for your generosity & keep those donations coming...!!!  
Chair: Nat. Dir. Jim Lollar  
Ways & Means Committee

**AMERICAN EX-PRISONER OF WAR FUNDING PROGRAM**

The AXPOW Funding Program to support the operation of our organization was approved by the Board at the National Convention in Springfield, IL in October 2007. The program was officially announced in the November/December 2007 Bulletin and a follow-up printing appeared in the January and February 2008 issue. I am very happy to report that the

program has been very successful and continues to be so. Your contributions will continue to help keep the comradeship that we enjoy today through contacts with other POWs on a State, Local and National level through the various meeting we attend. And possibly the most important outreach program, the NSO program designed to seek out POWs, spouses, and dependent children who need help with benefits such as DIC and CHAMPVA will continue to be strengthened.

In addition to individual contributions, it is especially gratifying to see the number of Memorials, and Chapters contributing to the Funding Program. I would encourage all members, Chapters and State Departments who have not yet had an opportunity to contribute to do soon, in order that our organization will remain strong and available to assist all POWs and dependents. In doing this, we can carry out our purpose, "We Exist to Help Those Who Cannot Help Themselves".

Morris Barker  
Jr. Vice Commander, AXPOW



**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR  
VOLUNTEER FUNDING PROGRAM**



The AXPOW Volunteer 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 the National Treasurer 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)

Signed

Name  
Address  
City/State/Zip  
Phone #

Please send contributions to:  
Sonnie Bill Mottern, National Treasurer  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
279 Huckleberry Road  
Bluff City, TN 37618  
423-341-4213



# new members

National Headquarters  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 649-2979  
Marsha.Coke@axpow.org



## New Members "Welcome Home"

Linda Simon  
Scottsdale, AZ  
Daughter of Arthur  
Bloomberg, ETO

Marianne E Leary  
Leawood, KS  
Daughter of Thomas C  
Leary, ETO

Harold C Schneider  
Margaret  
Bay City, MI  
1 Ranger Bn  
Anzio Italy, Hammerstein  
2B  
1/44-2/45

James Melvin "Cactus"  
Plant  
Canby, OR  
USAF  
Luft 1  
12/1/43-5/11/45

Ben H Norrid  
Laurain  
Cordova, TN  
AAC  
Luft 4 & 6 Tag 4239  
7/20/44-5/3/45

Daniel K Simpson  
Fullerton, CA  
Army  
12A  
3/4/45-3/27/45

William Clinton Holly  
Haynesville, LA  
Army Inf  
9B  
2/6/45-4/2/45

Joseph J Korosec  
Ann M  
Cleveland, OH  
AAF  
Stalag Luft 1

Electa Harrell-Tharp  
Anson, TX  
Sister of Reid M Harrell,  
ETO

## New Life Members "Welcome Home"

**\*new member to AXPOW**  
Charles H Brown  
Betty G **38177 39420**  
Kingwood, WV  
Carrier Air Group 12  
Ofuna Omori Honshu  
Japan  
2/16/45 to 8/29/45

Claire L Rochefort **39421**  
Weymouth, MA  
Widow of Arthur H  
Rochefort  
4B, Battle of the Bulge  
1/9/45-5/45

Betsy Kocourek **39422**  
Two Rivers, WI  
Daughter of Daniel Blitz,  
ETO

Janice Soeldner **39423**  
Orlando, FL  
Daughter of Daniel Blitz,  
ETO

Granville C "Granny"  
Lowe **39424**  
Terre Haute, IN  
101 AB DIV  
4B  
12/19-4/20

Gladys Byrnes **39425**  
Inver Grove Heights, MN  
Widow of Thomas A  
Byrnes  
17B

Wesley L Waldman  
**39426**  
San Antonio, TX  
15 AF 97 BG  
Luft 1

Doyle B Morgan  
Mary D **\*39427 39428**  
Odessa, TX  
12 Armored DIV Co C  
11B  
1/16/45-4/20/45

John W Moore  
Jane M **30659 39429**  
Fayetteville, NC  
Co B 35 Reg 25 Div  
Camp 5 KOREA

Louie M Hillis  
Mary Nell **38173 39430**  
Woodbury, TN  
29 Inf Co K  
Namwon Hadong 7/24/  
50-9/28/50

Ramon B Regalado  
**39431**  
Berkeley, CA  
Co L 57 Inf PS  
Pacific

Elaine R Jantz **39432**  
Hemet, CA  
Widow of Carl J Jantz  
Blibid, Cabanatuan 1 & 3,  
Clark Field, Formosa,  
Kawasaki

John D Comerford  
**\*39433**  
St Louis, MO  
Fleet Air Reconnaissance  
Sq One  
Lingshui Nas, Nainan  
Island China 4/1/01

Claude G Jackson, Jr  
**\*39434**  
Pasadena, TX  
Vienna, Munich,  
Frankfort, Nurnberg, UA

Ralph Lamb Sr **\*39435**  
Dunnellon, FL  
7 Armrd Div Co B 23  
Armrd Inf Bn  
3A work Kommando at  
Werdu 12/21/44-4/16/  
45

Harvey S Osborne  
Marell **\*39436 39437**  
Henderson, KY  
Inf  
9B, 12A  
12/30/44-4/2/45

Stanley C Zybort  
Helena **22614 39438**  
Little River, NJ  
392 BT 577 BS  
Lazarette C-10

Marion F Throne  
Cara L **10876 39439**  
Hume, MO  
7 Inf 3 Div  
2A, 7A, 5A

Catherine E Krueger  
**\*39440**  
New Braunfels, TX  
Daughter of Albert  
Preston, ETO

Howard E Schuch  
Evelyn M **\*39441 39442**  
Cincinnati, OH  
774 BS 463 BG H  
King Michael Garrison  
Schoolhouse, Hospital

Edward N MacDonald  
Ruth **\*39443 39444**  
Riverside, CA  
2 BG 20 BS  
Hospital  
8/19/43-9/27/43

Charles M Egresitz  
Judith **39445 39446**  
Harrisburg, PA  
40 Div 160 Reg  
Camp 2, Korea

# contributions



**Please send donations to:  
National Headquarters, 3201 East  
Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40,  
Arlington, TX 76010. You can also  
make a donation with a credit  
card (MasterCard or Visa). Just call  
817-6492979. Thank you!  
Contributions are not tax deductible**

## GENERAL FUND

Noble, Robert  
Piscitello, Archie  
In honor of Fred Campbell, by  
Lila Rieve  
In honor of Fred Campbell, by  
Grace Wilburn  
In memory of all past Piedmont  
Chapter members, by the Pied-  
mont North Carolina Chapter  
In memory of Edwin 'Bud' Huson,  
by Arthur Latchaw  
In memory of June Jackson, by  
Arthur Latchaw  
In memory of Leonard Lutjen, by  
the State Fair Chapter  
In memory of Ltc (ret) Harold  
Dorschner, by Betty Dorschner  
In memory of Robert 'Bob' Allen,  
by the Mid-Iowa Chapter  
In memory of Roy Nelson, by  
Bernadine & John Havens  
In memory of Vernon Lovell, by  
the State Fair Chapter  
In memory of Adolph Ramus, by  
Eldon Krug  
In memory of Pat DeVere, by John  
DeVere  
In memory of Roy Nelson, by  
Elizabeth Krotiak  
In memory of Roy Nelson, by  
Richard Fredrickson  
In memory of Roy Nelson, by Jim  
& Barb Smith  
In memory of Roy Nelson, by Ed  
& Connie Tormey  
In memory of Roy Nelson, by  
Melanie Campillo

## MEDSEARCH FUND

In memory of Dwight Bishop, by  
the Cen-Tex Chapter

In memory of George Schatz, by  
the Department of Maryland  
In memory of Landon Chilcutt, by  
the St. Louis Chapter of AXPOW

## LEGISLATIVE FUND

Razvoza, Nancy  
In memory of Bernard  
Kupferman, by Sylvia Kupferman

## VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Cecil, Albert  
Hendry, Carl  
Rivers, Robert  
Stockmeier, Fred  
Strother, Leota  
In memory of Charles Gialloreto,  
by Health America Advantra  
In memory of Cmdr. Ed Williams,  
by Robert Serizinger  
In memory of Eva Moore, by  
Cimros, dba Mutual Management  
Services  
In memory of Eva Moore, by PNC  
Gerald & Eunice Harvey  
In memory of Eva Moore, by Valle  
Venado Improvement Assoc.  
In memory of Fred Belcher, by Bill  
& Nancy Fornes  
In memory of Johnnie Carr, by  
the Capital City Chapter of Texas  
In memory of Juanita Holdcraft,  
by Dottie Vaughn  
In memory of Leonard Lutjen, by  
PNC Gerald & Eunice Harvey  
In memory of Loretta (Lee)  
Quagliariello, by phillip  
Quagliariello  
In memory of Vernon 'Joe'  
Loveall, by PNC Gerald & Eunice  
Harvey  
Hencke, Wynelle  
McGehee, Helen  
Peterson, Violet  
Provencher, Raymond  
Schmidt, PNC Bill & Deanie  
Stevens, Mel  
Tierney, Sam  
In memory of Arlee Hamby, by  
Sally Morgan  
In memory of Eva Moore, by Bill  
& Nancy Fornes  
In memory of Eva Moore, by Pat  
& Bill Manda  
In memory of Eva Moore, by  
Frank & Anne Kravetz  
In memory of George S Barry, by  
the Wichita Falls Chapter

In memory of Harry Hendrick, by  
Lorraine Hendrick

Harry Crane  
Robert & Beverly Jones  
Anthony & Mildred Genis  
I.E. & J.A. Krebs  
Morris N. Price  
Henry & Katherine Skubik  
John & Florence Trzaskos  
William & Shirley Schickler  
Samuel Silverman  
Francis M. Bufkin  
John & Nancy Vuchetich  
Morris Barker  
Irving & Dorothy Bailey  
Warren & Bette Edris  
Joseph & Helen Jacobson  
Virginia Palmieri  
Howard & Norma Adams  
Bill & Lois Benson  
Larry & Mary Dwyer  
Orville Jackson  
Ralph King  
Harold & Betty Marley  
Roy & Anna Olinger  
Don & Helen Powell  
Lyle & Norma Sheldon  
Edd & Sis Yongers  
John & Helga Edwards  
Joseph A. Furnival  
Kenny Hanson  
Frank D. Rosenthal  
Sonnie B. Mottern  
Dorothea Fleming  
Mr./Mrs. Ben Pollard  
Ernest & Helen Poulson  
William E. Hureaux  
Dick & Carol Jean Skinner  
Christopher & Elizabeth Milgo  
George & Chrisanthe Mechalakos  
Paul & Mary Bilchak  
Richard & Doris Bedford  
Lawrence J. Prince  
Leona M. Taylor  
Gerald & Eunice Harvey  
Franklin L. Steves  
Frank & June Hostetter  
Donald & Sallie Durant  
Percy & Naomi Paget  
William Koency  
Dora D. Address  
Marjorie & Leo Dyga  
John & Connie Keyes



# taps



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

## Leo J. "Moose" MASELLI National Commander 1958-1959

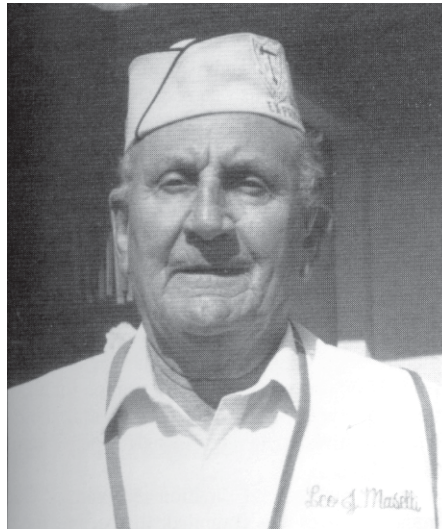


Moose joined the Marines on Oct. 19, 1939. In March 1940, he sailed for Shanghai, China on the USS Henderson. In November, 1940, he was evacuated along with the rest of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines, landing in Subic Bay, Philippines Islands about two days before Pearl Harbor. They took off for Marvailles Hills and eventually ended up on Corregidor, manning the beach defense of the island. Moose wrote: "I can recall while on Corregidor that I scrounged around the Rock and got enough lumber and chicken wire to make myself a bed. I put this home-made bed under a road culvert that night and went on duty patrolling the beaches. That night, the Japs got a direct hit on Battery Gary, and a 25 ton slab of cement from the explosion landed right on the road culvert. That was the end of my bed which I never did get to sleep on. After that close shave, I slept in a foxhole or a home-made tunnel."

After the fall of Corregidor, they were herded to the 92<sup>nd</sup> Garage on the Rock. Then they were marched through the streets of Manila and on to Cabanatuan, by way of Bilibid Prison. The next voyage was to Mukden, Manchuria. Moose was put to work in the MKK factory as an auto mechanic

until the Japanese Army got desperate for the trucks, then he ended up as a mechanic in the factory. After a year and a half, he was sent to the lead mines in Kanioka, Japan where he was held until liberation.

Moose continues: "In 1953, while on a vacation traveling through Texas, I read in the Dallas Times that there was going to be a National Convention of American Ex-POWs in Oklahoma City, OK. You guessed it, my first wife & I headed there for the convention.



This was the first time I had heard of AXPOW. We joined the organization there, and that's where I got my start getting active. On my return home, I contacted Don Hart and we started the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the AX-POW, Inc. I was Chapter Commander in 1955-56, California State Department Commander in 1957-58 and in Tacoma, Washington, I was elected National Commander in 1958-'59."

In 1961, by now known as "The Efficiency Expert", Moose transferred to the newly built Naval Air Station in Lemoore, CA - and married his wife Helen, nearly all in one motion. In 1964, their daughter Maureen was born. He retired from NAS Lemoore in 1968.

Moose, Helen & Maureen moved back to San Jose in 1970. The family became heavily active in the South Valley Family YMCA, Y's Men's and Y's

Menettes' clubs for 30 years. They also continued to work tirelessly with the AXPOW and local vets, trying to help them receive the benefits they were entitled to.

Maureen gave Moose & Helen 3 grandchildren, Chelsea, Spencer (whom he used to refer to as "Little Moose") and Trevor. Helen passed away in 2000, and Moose continued to live with the fighting spirit that got him through 3 ½ years of Japanese Prison Camp (where they were called "Guests of the Emperor" - not prisoners). Moose was well known at all 3 local VA Hospital facilities, jetting around on his scooter from department to department - often bringing flowers and/or candy to the nurses. He often quipped that he was the VA's official guinea pig because he had so many service-connected disabilities he was a good specimen for their studies and experiments.

His long battle with numerous ailments finally came to a close - and he truly fought to the end. Independent, stubborn and courageous sum up the man, who often was known for the quick reply "Never Fear, Moose is Here".

**ALLEN, Robert**, formerly of Des Moines, IA died Jan. 4, 2008. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge, ending up in Dresden, along with campmate Kurt Vonnegut. Bob's wife of 56 years preceded him in death; he is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 2 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 1 sister.

**BARKER, Kenneth M.**, of Huntsville, AL passed away Feb. 20, 2008. He was 85. During WWII, he served with the Rangers and participated in the D-Day attack at Normandy before capture. Ken was a member of the North Alabama Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Helen, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**BARRY, George Samuel**, 86, formerly of Wichita Falls, TX died Feb. 8, 2008. During WWII, George was captured at the Battle of the Bulge while serving in the Army. He was Vice Commander



## taps continued...

of the Wichita Falls Chapter, AXPOW before moving to Ft. Worth. Survivors include his loving wife of 42 years, Bettie, 4 sons, 3 daughters, 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**BIRCH, Gertrude A.** died February 8, 2008. She was 93 years old and the widow of ex-POW James T. Birch. He preceded her in death on December 26, 2006. They were Life Members of the AXPOW, and active in the New Hampshire Chapter. James served with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, HQ Co, 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 79<sup>th</sup> Division. She leaves one daughter and son-in-law, and two grandsons.

**BISHOP, Dwight C.**, 85, of Temple, TX passed away Feb. 20, 2008. He was a veteran of WWII, Korean and Vietnam. He was an ex-prisoner of war and life member and 3-time commander of Cen-Tex Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife of 65 years, Mary, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

**BISTER, WILLIAM C.**, 85, of Jericho, VT, passed away in White River Junction, VT on February 5, 2008. He was a life member of Vermont Chapter #1, AXPOW. He was a first lieutenant and navigator on a B17 in the 15<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 463<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group. On Bill's 29<sup>th</sup> mission he bailed out during heavy flack and was captured in Austria. He was interned in Nuremberg, Frankfurt, and following a forced march, ended up in Moosburg. He returned to Jericho and married Joyce Woodruff, who predeceased him after 49 years of marriage raising five daughters. His daughters, brothers and their families survive him.

**BOEGE, George Robert**, 84, of Missoula, MT died March 4, 2007. After hearing the news of Pearl Harbor, George enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He was stationed in Italy with the 451<sup>st</sup> Air Sq. when he was shot down over Yugoslavia. He was a POW in Luft III. He leaves his wife of 61 years, Phyllis, 1 daughter, 3 sons, 1 granddaughter and 5 great-grandchildren.

**BUGYIE, Steve and Ruth.** Steve "Bugyie Burner" died in November, 2007, and Ruth died in July, 2007. Steve served with the 506<sup>th</sup> BS, 44<sup>th</sup> BG

and was a POW in 17B. Both were active members of the Fox River Valley Chapter.

**BUTLER, Don W.**, 91, Wake Island POW, died Feb. 20, 2008 in Washington, DC. He was a POW in Japanese camps and slave labor camps until liberation. Don is survived by one sister.

**CALDWELL, C Wesley** of Natchez, MS died March 11, 2008. During WWII, he served in the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf Div and was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. He is survived by one son, one daughter and three grandchildren.

**CARR, Johnnie**, of Bastrop, Texas, died Feb. 20, 2008. Captured in Italy at the Battle of Rapido River, he was held in a series of German POW camps. Johnnie, a member of the Capitol City Chapter, was predeceased by his wife, Ruth.

**CHUDY, Alexander**, 91, of Lighthouse Point, FL passed away Dec. 14, 2007. He was captured at Kasserine Pass while serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Div in North Africa. He was held in Stalags VIIA, IIIB and IIIA until liberation. His wife, Joan, predeceased him; he will be missed by family and friends.

**COURTAD, Paul**, 86, of Upper Sandusky, OH died Feb. 3, 2008. He was captured while serving with the 615<sup>th</sup> BS and held in the only French jail by Gestapo. He was a member of the Northwest Central Ohio Chapter #7.

**CRULL, Howard M. "Spike"**, 83, of Portsmouth, OH passed away Sept. 126, 2007. He served with the 401<sup>st</sup> BG, 613<sup>th</sup> BS, 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII; he was a POW in Stalag 17B. He leaves his wife of 51 years, Inez, 2 sons and 1 granddaughter. He was a life member of Scioto Ohio River Valley Chapter, AXPOW.

**DARR, Charles H**, age 90, passed away Mar. 19, 2008 at his home in San Diego. He was captured Dec. 8, 1941 while serving with the Marine Embassy Guard in Peking. He was held at Woosung, Kiangwan, and Fengtai in China and Hakodate #2 in Japan until Sept. 15, 1945. Charles spent 31 years in the Marine Corps. He is survived by his daughter, son-in-law, and grandson.

**DAVIS, Dorothy L.**, 84, of Wewoka, OK passed away Jan. 5, 2008. Dorothy was an active member of Central OK Chapter where she served as Adjutant. She was also Adjutant for the former Dept. of OK. She leaves her husband Lawrence and many relatives and friends.

**DELAHORNE, Lloyd**, of Vista, Texas, died July 4, 2007. He served with the Army and was a POW from May, 1943, until September, 1945. He was in the 60th Coast Artillery and was in various prison camps in Japan; among them Tsuriga and Cabanatuan. A member of the Magnolia Chapter, he is survived by his wife, Shirley.

**DRAPER, Marshall**, member of San Fernando Valley Chapter, AXPOW, died Feb. 19, 2008. He was shot down on the first US air raid over Holland while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He is survived by his devoted wife, Marion, one daughter and many friends.

**DUMAS, Leonard J.**, of Malone, NY died Nov. 21, 2007 at the age of 82. He served in the AAF as a tailgunner on a B24. He was a POW in Germany for seven months. Leonard leaves his wife of 61 years, Myrtle, 1 son, 2 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

**DUNN, Quinton Perry**, of Ardmore, OK passed away March 3, 2008. He was 85. During WWII, he served with the 179<sup>th</sup> Inf, 45<sup>th</sup> Div. He was captured at Anzio and held POW for 14 months. Survivors include one daughter, one stepson, 5 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

**DURANT, Frank C.**, 77, of El Paso, TX passed away Feb. 22, 2008. Frank was a POW in Korea and a member of El Paso Chapter #1. He leaves his loving wife of 37 years, Maria, 3 sons, 3 daughters, 19 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, 3 brothers and 2 sisters.

**EASTMAN, Harold, Jr** died Mar. 17, 2008. He served with the 452<sup>nd</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Groups as a co-pilot in B-17s eventually flying 25 missions. He was captured and spent the remain-

**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**May 2008**

## taps continued...

der of the war in Stalag Luft III. After the war, he returned to the U.S. and married June Hunt of Milford, NH in 1946. His wife predeceased him in Dec. 2007. He is survived by his adopted sister, three sons, six grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

**Ennis, Earle Edward**, 86, of Stockton, CA passed away January 31, 2008. Earle enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 7, 1941 and was shipped to the Philippines on April 21, 1941. On April 7, 1942 Earle was captured by the Japanese. For 42 months Earle was held captive in the Philippines and Japan until liberated by American Forces on September 5, 1945. In 1977 Earle was a founding member of the Delta Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War, serving as chapter secretary. He is survived by one stepson, and two grandchildren. CA.

**FARINA, Silvio "Paul" Jr.**, of Braintree, MA died Feb. 24, 2008. He was captured while serving with the AAF during WWII. Survivors include his loving wife, Connie, 2 sons, 1 brother, 2 sisters, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**FAUROT, Henry "Hank"**, 83, of Dola, OH passed away March 2, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 175<sup>th</sup> Inf Reg, 29<sup>th</sup> Div. He was a POW in Stalag XIIA. FAUROT, Wilma, 80, died Jan. 29, 2008. Both Hank and Wilma were members of the NW Central Ohio Chapter #7, AXPOW.

**FOLWELL, Lester D.**, of Des Moines, Iowa, died March 15, 2008. A B-26 Mauraude co-pilot in the 394 BG, 584 BS, 'Les' was shot down over Germany. A member of the Mid-Iowa Chapter, he was predeceased by his wife, Dorothy.

**FOSTER, William B.**, of Hutchinson, KS died Feb. 25, 2008 at the age of 86. He was captured after being shot down over Luxembourg; he was a POW in Luft 1 for 5 months. He was life member of AXPOW and the Air Capital Chapter. His wife of 60 years, Beulah, 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren survive him.

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**FOX, John L.**, of Medford Lakes, NJ passed away Nov. 12, 2007. John served with the 303<sup>rd</sup> BG during WWII. He was shot down and held in Luft IV, then walked across Germany. He is sadly missed by his wife, Marge, and all the children.

**FRANCIS, Harold F.**, of Upton, MA passed away Jan. 13, 2008. He was 84. During WWII, he served with the 379<sup>th</sup> BG, stationed in England. He was shot down over Germany and held at Moosburg until liberation. He leaves his beloved wife of 64 years, Dorothy, 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**FRYE, William C., Jr.**, died Feb. 19, 2008 at the age of 90. He was a bombardier with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF when he was shot down and captured. He was a POW in Luft 1, Barth. Survivors include 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 sister.

**GOAD, Clarence G.**, 85, of Bainbridge, GA died Feb. 21, 2008. He as a charter member of the Hutchison-Poplowski Chapter, AXPOW and served as Commander. Clarence was captured on Anzio while serving with Darby's Rangers. He was held for 15 months until his 3<sup>rd</sup> and successful escape. He is survived by his wife, Virgilene, 2 sons, 3 daughters, 1 brother and 7 grandchildren.

**GOINS, Thomas**, of Bremerton, WA passed away Feb. 12, 2008. He was 86. During WWII, he was a paratrooper with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div. He was captured on D-Day and held in IIIC. Thomas was past commander of the Kitsap Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by two sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**GREGORY, Melvin E.**, 82, of Roseburg, OR died Jan. 12, 2008. Mel was captured during the battle for Anzio Beach while serving with the 34<sup>th</sup> Div. He was a POW for 15 months until liberation. Mel leaves one son, one daughter and two grandchildren.

**GWINN, Russell C.**, 85, of Augusta, GA passed away Feb. 6, 2008. He was shot down over Vienna and held as a POW until liberation. Russell was a life member of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter #1, AXPOW, where he served as commander and chaplain.

He leaves one brother, one sister, several nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

**HARRIS, Phenice K.**, 87, of Grants Pass, OR passed away Feb. 14, 2008. Phenice was the loving wife of Delbert (P-47 pilot, 353<sup>rd</sup> FG, Luft III POW). She also leaves one son.

**HINTON, Buel C.** died in February, 2008. Buel entered service in 1939 and was stationed in the Philippines at the time of Pearl Harbor. Buel was on the Bataan Death March and sent to Japan to work in a lead mine. He was liberated in Aug. of 1945. He is survived by one sister. Buel was a member of Fresno Chapter #1, AXPOW.

**IDLETT, Geraldine**, wife of past commander Douglas Idlett of the Bill Rolan Memorial Chapter, AXPOW, died Feb. 15, 2008. She will be missed by her family and her many friends.

**JONES, Kenneth L.**, of Tucson, AZ died Dec. 31, 2007. Ken served in the Army. He was captured in Korea and held for 28 months until repatriation. Ken was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Wanda, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**KELLY, Samuel** passed away on January 20th, 2008 in Tacoma, WA. He was a long time member of the Tacoma Chapter and the national organization of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. Sam is survived by his wife Melanie, who resides in Tacoma.

**KING, Myles A.**, member of Cecelia McKie Chapter, AXPOW, died Sept. 23, 2007 at the age of 89. He was captured while serving with the 357<sup>th</sup> FS, 355<sup>th</sup> FG, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was sent to Buchenwald concentration camp, then recognized as a POW and sent to Luft III, then marched across Germany. He is survived by his wife, Irene, 2 daughters, 2 sons and 12 grandchildren.

**KULCHAR, David**, 84, of Venice, FL passed away May 19, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 275<sup>th</sup> Inf, 70<sup>th</sup> Div. He was captured in the Vosges Mountain and held at various POW camps. He was a member of the Peace River Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include one son, two daughters and four grandchildren.

## taps continued...

**KWIATKOWSKI, Edward P.**, 85, member of the Milwaukee Barbed Wire Chapter, AXPOW, passed away Feb. 23, 2008. He leaves one daughter, six grandchildren, three sisters and numerous nieces and nephews.

**LEAF, Richard W.**, 85, passed away March 24, 2008. He enlisted in the Air Force October 1942 and was a waist gunner on a B 24 Bomber in the 449<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group out of Italy. He was shot down February 22, 1944 and spent 14 Months in 7A Stettin E. Prussia, Luft 4 and Luft 6. He was liberated from 7A, Moosburg, Germany. Dick and his wife, Marian, were active members of the Agua Fria Chapter, AXPOW. He is also survived by two daughters.

**LEARY, Thomas Conway**, of Leawood, KS died Oct. 10, 2007. He was 84. He was stationed in Italy while serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> FS, 52<sup>nd</sup> FG. He was shot down near Budapest and held in Budapest, Frankfort, Luft III and Moosburg. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Mary Jo, 3 sons, 1 daughter and 6 grandchildren.

**LINER, Ernest G.**, of Cedar Grove, NC passed away May 21, 2007. He was 86. Ernest served with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, flying out of Foggia, Italy. He was shot down and held at Luft IV, then marched. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Frances, 3 sons, 6 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. He is greatly missed by all.

**LITTLEFIELD, Doris** passed away on July 16, 2007 at the age of 86. She and her late husband Thad, were long time members of the Tacoma Chapter and the national organization of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

**McGREW, Alfred Curtis**, died Jan. 27, 2008. After enlisting in the Army, he was assigned to Battery, D, 60<sup>th</sup> CA (AAA). He was transferred to Btry H, 60<sup>th</sup>, CA at Middleside and was taken prisoner on May 6, 1942 at the surrender of Corregidor. Prison Camps included: 2<sup>nd</sup> Garage, Bilibid, Nichol's Field, Cabanatuan 3 and 1 in the Philippines and Omori, Nishan Flour Mill, Kawasaki and Suwa in Japan. He was transported to Japan on the "hell ship" Noto Maru in August 1944 to Moji, Japan. Al was liberated in Yokohama September 6, 1945. Al died sur-

rounded by his loving children and his wife of 59 years, Marjean.

**MOORE, Merle**, member of the Stone Belt Chapter, AXPOW, died Feb. 27, 2008 at the age of 91. He served in the Army with the 34<sup>th</sup> Inf; he was captured at Kasserine Pass in North Africa and held until liberation. His wife, Merdis, mourns his death.

**MOORE, James O.**, of Lincoln, AL passed away Feb. 12, 2007 at the age of 83. He served in the Army during WWII, assigned to the 34<sup>th</sup> Div. He was taken prisoner on Dec. 4, 1944 and held until liberation. Jim was active at the state and local level, serving as commander of both. He was Alabama Ex-POW of the year in 2002. Jim leaves his wife, Bettye, 2 daughters, 1 son, 2 stepsons and many friends.

**NELSON, Roy**, of Westmont, Illinois, died Feb. 18, 2008. A member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, he was in Stalag 2A. He is survived by his wife, Jane.

**OCHILTRE, Jamie**, 82, of Kettering, OH passed away March 11, 2008. Jim served in the Army during WWII; he was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. He was a member of Chapter #6, Ohio, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Bonnie, 1 daughter, 2 sisters, 4 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

**O'KENNON, Ira E., Jr.**, 84, of Bon Air, VA died Feb. 15, 2008. He served with the 385<sup>th</sup> BG during WWII; he was shot down over Germany and spent the remainder of the war as a POW. He is survived by his wife of almost 62 years, Gladys, 2 daughters and several nieces.

**OLT, Irvin Earl**, 89, of Butler Township, OH died Feb. 25, 2008. He was a member of the Dayton Area Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, Bud was a POW in Stalag 13C. He leaves a large and loving extended family.

**PENGAL, Edward H.**, of Wickliffe, OH passed away Oct. 10, 2007. Ed was captured in Africa while serving with the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Div., 47<sup>th</sup> Armored Med Bn. He spent 27 months in various POW camps. Ed was a member of the Barbed Wire Buckeye Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, 6 children, 9 grandchildren

and 1 brother. He will be missed by all who knew him.

**POCHARDT, Vernon H.**, of Barrett, MN, died March 2, 2008. He was 85. He served with the 91<sup>st</sup> BG, 324<sup>th</sup> BS during WWII. He was shot down over Germany and held 18 months until liberation. Survivors include his wife Mae, 2 sons, 4 daughters, 14 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

**PRIDGEN, Bennie M.**, 84, of Marion, SC passed away Oct. 9, 2007. He as a life member of AXPOW. Bennie was captured while serving with the 36<sup>th</sup> Inf Div in France; he was held at Stalag 7A. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Virginia, 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**PRUITT, Ann** passed away on December 23, 2007 in Tacoma, Washington after a heart attack and 3 surgeries. ANN was a devoted and active member of the Tacoma Chapter and always there to lend a helping hand in chapter activities. Ann was also a long time member of the national organization of the American Ex-Prisoners of War.

**PUE, Robert J.**, 87, of Ellington, CT passed away Jan. 2, 2008. He was a member of the CT Chapter, AXPOW. He was a pilot with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 384<sup>th</sup> BG, 546<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down over the North Sea and held 18 months in Luft 1, Barth. He leaves two daughters and one grandson.

**REICHEL, Donald H.**, 84, passed away March 21, 2008 in Sun City West, Arizona. He served in the Air Force and was a 1<sup>st</sup> LT, becoming an Ex Prisoner of war. He was in the 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and interned in Oflag 79. He was an active member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Arizona.

**SHARPE, Edward C.**, 86, of El Paso, TX passed away Jan. 15, 2008. He served in the AAF during WWII, flying out of England. He was shot down over Germany and held at Stalag 17B until liberation. He is survived by his son, Allan, of El Paso.

SHOTWELL, Ruth, of Duncan, OK died Jan. 15, 2008. She was the widow of



## taps continued...

Ex-POW Ed. Ruth is survived by one son, one daughters and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**SMALLEY, Eileen**, of Columbus, OH, wife of POW Dillie Smalley, died February 12, 2008. She was a member of Ohio Chapter #1.

**SOUTH, James Daniel**, 83, of Clyde, TX died Jan. 30, 2008. He was serving with the AAF, 45<sup>th</sup> BG, 756<sup>th</sup> BS, 15<sup>th</sup> AF when he was shot down and held in Luft IV. He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, 1 son, 3 daughters, numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews and family members. He also leaves good friend and barracksmate, Stratton W. Beesley.

**STILWELL, Norma**, 82, of Urbandale, IA died March 10, 2008. She was the widow of Ex-POW Chester; both were life members of AXPOW and the Mid-Iowa Chapter. She is survived by 3 daughters, 1 son, 6 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

**STONE, Robert Eugene**, age 89, of Miamisburg, OH passed away Feb. 10, 2008. Rocky was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Dayton Area Chapter. He was a WWII veteran and POW. He leaves his wife, Margaret, 1 son, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

**TAYLOE, John E.**, Adjutant of the Mohave Chapter (AZ) AXPOW died Feb. 6, 2008. During WWII, John served with the 710<sup>th</sup> BS, 447<sup>th</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was captured after being shot down over Holland and held 18 months at Luft 1, Barth.

**TEPE, Carl**, of Fort Worth, Texas, died February 20, 2008. He served in the Army Air Corp. He was shot down and held in Stalag Luft 4 and was on the 90-day death march. Carl is survived by his wife, Peggy.

**TITUS, Jennings**, of Petersburg, VA passed away March 1, 2008. He was captured while serving with the AAF during WWII. He was a member of AXPOW. Jennings is survived by 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

**URBAN, Patricia A.**, 80, of Camp Hill, PA died Feb. 26, 2008. She was the widow of ex-POW Stanley. She was a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves one son, four daughters, sixteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**UZZEL, Rev. Cecil C.**, of Clute, TX, passed away Jan. 3, 2008 at the age of 88. He served with Battery E of the 200<sup>th</sup> CA was a member of AXPOW. Captured in the Philippines, he spent 41 months as a POW in the Japanese camps and was a survivor

of the Bataan Death March. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Marthabelle, two loving children, 5 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

**WARTH Nellie Josephine (Jo) Dockery**, MAJOR, USAF,(RET) passed away on June 1, 2007 in Lexington, KY. She was 84 years old. Jo was the beloved wife of the late Charles Joseph Warth, dear loving Aunt of 4. Jo served her nation proudly first as a Army nurse being one of the first nurses to arrive in Germany on ship during WWII. She retired from Wright Patterson Air Force Base Hospital, Dayton, OH in 1971 as a Major, and lived many years in Cincinnati,

**WILLIAMS, Robert H.**, 84, of Auburndale, FL passed away Jan. 8, 2008. Robert was shot down over Japan during WWII. He was a POW until liberation. He is survived by his beloved wife of 50 years, Patricia Ann, 3 sons, 1 daughter and 1 granddaughter. He was loved by all.

**WILLSON, Robert Edwin**, member of the Dallas Metroplex Chapter, AXPOW died Feb. 3, 2008. Robert served with the AAF during WWII; he was a POW in Germany. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Frances, 2 daughters, 1 son and 2 grandchildren.

## chaplain's corner



### National Chaplain

**John Romine**  
1609 S. 23rd Street  
Rogers, AR 72758  
(479) 636-2287

**Ex-POW Bulletin**  
**May 2008**  
**30**

For the past 32 years, this humble servant of the Lord has been blessed in hundreds of ways. I receive letters, personal comments, phone calls, etc. from all over the good old USA, encouraging me to continue to express what I think the true and living God expects of us as his people. As I have mentioned so many times, I believe God had a hand in reminding us, "We exist to help those who cannot help themselves", and not, as you might think from letters I receive, some anonymously, we have those who would rather think, "We exist to help our selfish selves". I wonder how many offer a prayer before they make a decision or write and send a hateful letter or make an abusive phone call to a dedicated worker.

**Let us pray:** Almighty and Gracious God, may Your honor and glory be in

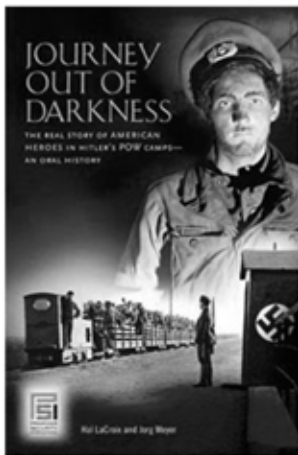
all things that we do and say and what we are. Help us Lord to remember that we are expected to fulfill and to pass on to others Your love and kindness in all ways that are pleasing to You. In Your Holy and Blessed name may we do our very best to love, share and live according to Your Holy guidelines, as we pray for peace, guidance and comfort those who need Your kind of love and care. In the name of our rock and redeemer. AMEN.

**Thought for the month:** We may not always be what You expect us to be, O God, but may we never give up trying to please and honor You.



## ***Journey Out of Darkness:***

***The Real Story of American Heroes  
in Hitler's POW Camps***



*Praeger Security International 2007*

***by Hal LaCroix  
with photographs  
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## **50/50 drawing**

**March 7, 2008**

**Washington, DC**

- 1st Place Harold McCarter, Glenmoore, PA  
\$696.91**  
**2nd Place Lloyd Dull, Lancaster, PA  
\$522.68**  
**3rd Place Lyle Pearson, Mankato, MN  
\$348.46**  
**4th Place Pauline Owen, Belleville, IL  
\$174.23**

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

**National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing  
3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40  
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**You can't afford to miss this convention!  
And your widow needs to find out  
what her entitlements are!**

The Department of New York is holding claims seminars in conjunction with our convention, along with a trip to Monticello Race Track and a sightseeing excursion to West Point.

There'll be nightly entertainment...  
vaudeville...shows...3 meals a day...beautiful accommodations...we're mixing business meetings and entertainment – all for your enjoyment! Kathy Crosby (Bing's widow) will be our entertainment for Friday night! Meet and greet National and NY State Officers. Call early! We've only got 75 rooms blocked.

**June 11-14, 2008**

**Ellenville, NY**

Contact: Wm. Lee Birch  
190 Bethel Loop #10H, Brooklyn, NY 11239  
718-642-7647



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since 1946**

If you are a former 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division vet, were attached to the 106<sup>th</sup>, a relative of a 106<sup>th</sup> veteran, you are eligible for membership in the Association.  
**Annual Dues \$10.00 < > LIFE Membership \$75.00**

**The CUB Magazine has been published every  
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**Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk/membership.htm>

Or contact John Kline, Membership Chairman

M Co., 423rd Inf Regiment

11 Harold Drive

Burnsville, MN 55337-2786

Phone: 952-890-3155

Email: [jpk@mm.com](mailto:jpk@mm.com)

106th Home Page: <http://www.mm.com/user/jpk>

**Ex-POW Bulletin**

**May 2008**

**31**

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
50/50 Drawing**

PLEASE PRINT

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

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

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

Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.  
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

**Mail your donation and entry to:**  
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3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396**

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

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
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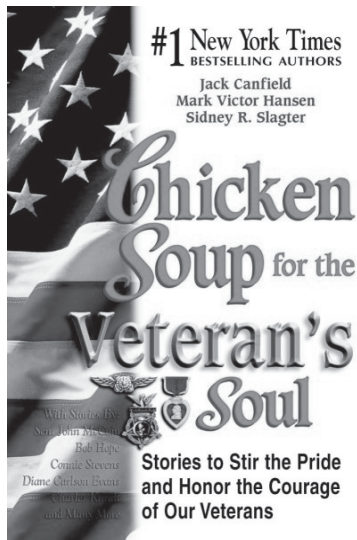
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**Ex-POW Bulletin  
 May 2008**

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(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



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## Andersonville Conducts Luminary...

Visitors who came out to see the second Luminary conducted on the evening of Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> at Andersonville National Historic Site witnessed a remarkable sight. Over 13,000 candles flickered in the cold night breeze in the historic prison site. But it almost didn't happen. On the morning of that day when hundreds of volunteers were to arrive to help assemble the bags with sand and candles they were greeted with snow. Yes, it was snowing in Southwest Georgia in early March. And then there was the wind. Sometimes gusting to 30 MPH, this made it especially challenging to place all the luminaries on site and getting them to stay in place. In the late afternoon when the candle lighting was begun, most blew out immediately. But in the end, it worked. For the volunteers who came the question to the staff was, "Who picked this date or couldn't you have commemorated this event on a nicer day?" But thanks to the dedicated volunteers and staff who pressed on, the event was a huge success. By the time the visitors started arriving at 7:00 PM the wind had diminished and the night was clear and cold. Like the millions of stars overhead, the thousands of candles were a testament to the men at Camp Sumter who lost their lives at Andersonville. Event planners were also careful to include 236 gray luminaries to commemorate those Confederate Guards who also died at the infamous prison camp. They were set in the location of the Guard Camp just outside the stockade. Visitors drove around the Prison Site along the tour road using their parking lights to appreciate the view. Some visitors exited the park and drove right back around to see it again.

One of the event sponsors was the Friends of Andersonville, who provided funding to support the project and volunteers. "It was a breathtaking sight to see all the candles in the dark to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. Stated Mark Stibitz, President of the Friends of Andersonville, We did this in their memory."



The Park's Volunteer Coordinator, Angela Clark, expressed her appreciation to those who braved the weather



to make the event a success. "The park is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers to assist with making this dream a reality. Re-marked Angela Clark, We especially appreciate the youth groups such as Scouts and Junior ROTC units that made the event a success." Many of the same volunteers came back on Sunday morning to assist the staff with clean up.

Photo Caption: Visitors to Andersonville National Historic Site on the evening of Saturday, March 8th were treated to a remarkable sight with over 13,000 flickering luminaries illuminating the prison site.

Photo Caption: Over 150 volunteers came out to assemble, light and clean up the luminaries on the weekend of March 8, 2008.



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