

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

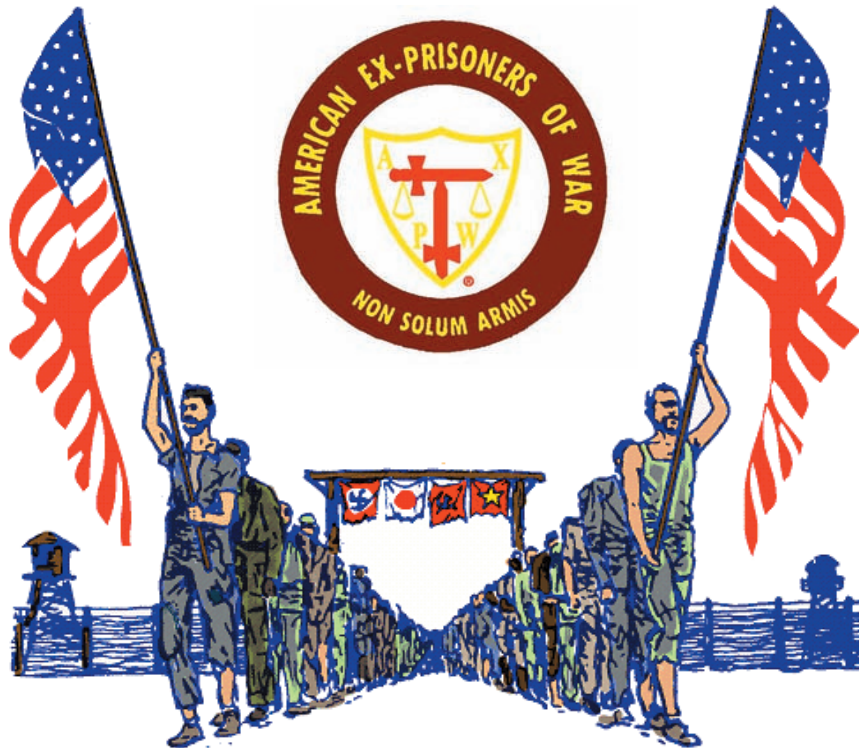
American Ex-Prisoners of War

Volume 64

www.axpow.org

Number 5

May 2007



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2007

Inside...MidYear Highlights...National Convention info...News, Outreach, Events...NSO success stories...and more

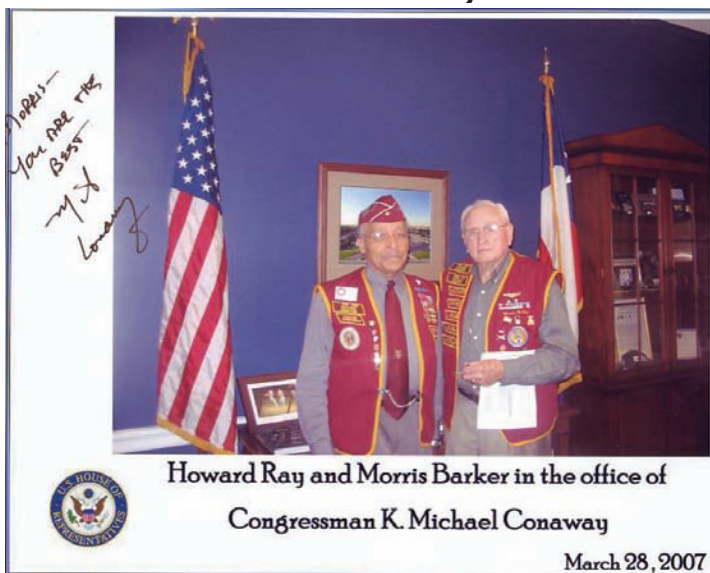


Top 1/r 1-3: Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution honored Vietnam former POW Navy Cmdr. Douglas Clower and Helen Smith, National Historian during the convention in Houston March 16, 2007. Doug received the DAR Medal of Honor Award; Helen received the Service for Veterans Award. L/R: Elmo Baker, USAF (Ret), Douglas Clower USN (Ret), Sally Patterson, TSDAR Americanism Chair, TSDAR Regent Lynn Forney Young, Helen Smith, Bill Gauntt USAF (Ret), Charles Stackhouse USN (Ret). Helen with her award. Helen with Sgt. Shawn Monroe.

Below: Our own Frank Kravetz was chosen as Citizen of the Year in Chalfant, PA for his decades of work helping fellow veterans around the country. Here he is, among his memorabilia, holding a model of his B-17; The Mahoning County Fair and the Canfield Harness Horsemen's Assn. sponsored a "Salute to Veterans Day". Our AXPOW Chapter (#13) was singled out and honored. They donated a blanket to the winning horse in the race program. Presenting the blanket: Ike Spack, Norm Swaney and Cmdr. Chuck Myers.



Midyear in Washington, DC



national commander



Robert W. Fletcher

Fellow Former POWs, Family Members, and Friends,

As I write this, spring is coming to the northern part of the country and the Mid-Year meeting took place a few days ago in Washington, DC.

Most of your Board members actually arrived in Washington on Tuesday, March 27. The reason is that 2 bills of great interest to former POWs have been introduced into the new Congress. HR 1197 was introduced into the House of Representatives by Representative Gus Bilirakis, and S 848 was introduced into the Senate by Senator Patty Murray. Both of these bills request that diabetes and osteoporosis be approved as presumptive illnesses for former POWs. Now the work of getting other Senators and Representatives to sign on as co-sponsors of these bills begins. Therefore, on both Wednesday and Thursday the Board went by bus to Capitol Hill to meet with individual Representatives and Senators for the purpose of gaining additional support for these bills.

In addition, I had the privilege of meeting with the Senate Democratic Steering Committee on Wednesday, along with about 15 representatives of other veterans' service organizations. The meeting was chaired by one of my Senators, Debbie Stabenow, whom I already

know. The meeting was well attended by more than a dozen Senators, all of whom expressed great concern about a number of pressing issues affecting veterans and the need to increase funding for services to veterans.

On Thursday I presented AXPOW's official testimony to a joint meeting of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees chaired by Representative Filner and Senator Akaka. Thursday afternoon my wife and I had the opportunity to attend the ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda in which President Bush and many other distinguished speakers honored the Tuskegee Airmen, 32 of whom were also POWs.

The Mid-Year meeting itself was held on Friday. All of your Board members were in attendance but one, who could not travel due to doctor's orders. Edward Kazmierczak was appointed as a replacement for Leonard Rose for National Director from the Mid-Central region, and Grover Swearingen will take over for Jim Clark as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Subcommittee. Vernon Ray and Edward Dostie have agreed to serve as additional Sergeants at Arms.

Unfortunately, the Board remains deeply divided between two factions, so there was a lot of contention and dissension throughout the day, especially related to our financial status and whether changes should be made to AXPOW's operating structure. The Board did agree that the cost of memberships for annual and life members should be raised. They voted to increase annual dues to \$40.00 for singles/\$50.00 for couples. The Publications Guidelines committee then requested and received Board approval to increase the subscription price of the Bulletin for non-members. The Ways and Means Committee will also be considering how to best approach current life members for additional donations.

ND Ed De Ment reported on a proposal to establish a traveling exhibit from the National POW Museum in Andersonville so that people around the country can gain more knowledge about POWs. After costs are established, possible sources of funding will be pursued.

After working with Frank Koehler, Chair of the Job Descriptions Committee, George Coker presented revised job descriptions for all of the positions, both paid and unpaid, that are associated with AXPOW. Several proposals were also received that will be presented for your vote at the National Convention. Details on these will follow at a later date.

As for myself, I will now begin attending as many of your state conventions as possible. Unfortunately some of them overlap so I will not be able to attend them all, but I appreciate your invitations. I plan to go to those in Hawaii, Tennessee, South Carolina, and California this month, as well as attending the Congressional Advisory Board Committee meeting in Washington DC April 16-18. I look forward to meeting many of you in my travels. In the mean time, please take it upon yourself to contact your senators and representative and ask them to co-sponsor S848 and HR1197.

Fletch



Cmdr. Fletcher joined President George W. Bush and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in honoring 300 Tuskegee Airmen in Statuary Hall. White House photo by Eric Draper.

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May 2007



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with their columns

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Cover: Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2007. President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force Days. The single-day celebration stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under one department — the Department of Defense.

And another Pueblo Correction:

I was so proud of myself when I made the correction in the March/April issue. THEN, I received a note from the “real” Earl.

Cheryl,

There was more than one “Earl” aboard the Pueblo! I don’t need to see my name in print but, I was the one who called you and said we were all “Starved and Tortured”. Earl Kisler just got his face pulverized by the North Koreans. Glad it wasn’t this Earl!

Earl Phares USNR (RET).

And following that...

Cheryl. You had stated in the article that the Pueblo was moved through international waters with “NO ATTEMPT to recapture.” This was SO CORRECT, that I just let the rest slide. Rather than more complaints about wording, I chose to compliment another critical point! It was also noted in that same article that the Pueblo crew was made to wait for their POW (medal) ribbon.

Point taken, but just turn the page in that same January 2007 issue. (see page 6)

I do respect Dr. Charles A. Stenger, PhD AXPOW for his sacrifice and work, however, his POW mortality tables on page 6 cause me great frustration.

How many times and how many people, including yourself, have I complained to about those numbers?

They **DO NOT** include the crew members, “navy, marine and civilian” of the **USS PUEBLO**. Those numbers are accessed and reported to as official fact by many groups including and in particular the Department of Veteran Affairs!

From time to time, his numbers include us BUT only as a sub-note...

I was so thrilled that you would take on the State Department with your comments on the “uninhibited Pueblo movement to Pyongyang...” ...however, your “conscience” has **his** back up **AGAIN!** :-)

Dale Rigby

Ivins, UT

Crew member

USS PUEBLO AGER-2

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Deadline for the July, 2007 issue is May 25, 2007.

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

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

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on capitol hill



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What a greeting! This attractive blonde threw her arms around Commander "Fletch" and gave him a big hug and then did the same with our "First Lady", Carol. The demonstrative lady was none other than the Jr. Senator from Michigan, Debbie Stabenow, Chairperson of the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee. The next greeting by Carl Levin, the Sr. Senator from Michigan, while more statesman-like, also generated lots of smiles and laughter.

This took place at an early morning meeting in the Capitol Building during our MidYear. All the VSOs were invited to sit at the table and share ideas and concerns with the Senators, many of whom don't serve on the Veterans Affairs Committee, but nonetheless were interested enough in the issues to come bright and early to meet with veterans.

Subjects discussed among the VSOs and Senators were the basic questions of money and budget for the VA. There seemed to be complete agreement that mandatory funding for the VA is a must this session. We heard statements including, "The budget has to be increased because today's veteran is different... different primarily for economic reasons", and "Today's veteran should have a G.I. Bill". The impression I got from the meetings and hearings is that Congress is more pro-veteran than it has been in years. I encourage you to contact your senators and representatives and urge them to cosponsor our bills while the sentiment is strong.

The day's events continued for the Fletchers. They are well known among the legislators in Michigan and Senator Levin gave them two tickets to the noon ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda honoring the Tuskegee Airmen of WWII fame, who were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award honoring civilians. President Bush and Colin Powell were in attendance and spoke at the ceremony. Festivities included a luncheon at the Library of Congress.

Washington was certainly in full bloom for the Veterans this spring - from the demonstrated support on the Hill to the cherry blossoms surrounding the Tidal Basin.

Les

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On March 27th, the Board of Directors arrived in Washington for the MidYear meeting. Only one Board Member because of illness did not get to come. Immediately we gave out materials and directions for the next two days of working Capitol Hill. On Wednesday, we proceeded to visit all three House of Representatives and tried to see as many as possible. As our new bills had been introduced a few days earlier, we wanted to obtain as many cosponsors as possible for our HR 1197 and S 848 introduced by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL) and Senator Patty Murray (WA) for our last two presumptives - Osteoporosis and Diabetes. Everyone worked diligently and as of today it is difficult to get the cosponsors as the House is out for Easter recess until the 17th and the Senate until April 10th. As soon as I know, I will be contacting your National Directors to relay to you until my next Bulletin. However, it is important that YOU, and I mean YOU, for you to contact your Representative and two Senators in their home offices. They are in contact with the Washington Office by email and phone several times a day and your voices will be heard! So your help is needed!

Then on Thursday, we attended the Senate and House Joint Veterans Affairs Hearing where Commander Fletcher testified together with seven other Veterans Service Organizations. After the testimony/hearing, we again tried to talk with as many Senators to ask for their cosponsoring our bill, S848. Please remember that the current cost would be minimal due to the diminishing number of POWs still alive who might have these two medical problems. Also, only a small portion are likely to seek these benefits or are already rated 100% disabled due to other problems. There would be no additional cost factor.

I do believe the hard work will pay off if we just continue to contact the members of Congress in the interest of all former prisoners of war.

If there is anything the National Capitol Office can do for you, please call the office. We certainly will try!

Mary

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

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OUTREACH Highlights Unusual Opportunities

Amazing things come unexpectedly. It happens with Outreach to former POWs and surviving spouses. Because of WE! WE've all got to be alert and working together, as we bring enhanced life to many former POWs and surviving spouses. WE all need to be alert to find those who are not aware of VA benefits due them.

Unexpected.

Recently at the close of Sunday worship, Joan Smith stopped to ask how I was doing. I told her I was happy to be busy daily, at 84, helping former POWs and their widows present their claims to the VA. She said, "My father was shot down over Italy in 1944; he and two other bomber crewmen were hidden by Italian partisans, and eventually got back to the American lines. But there were two they thought were captured by the Germans; my father never knew what happened to them."

Joan called me later to give me the names of the two missing officers. One I could never find; but I put the other on the internet, an uncommon name. There was only one in the whole USA, and his given names was Charles, the name of the missing crewman. I called the Binghamton, NY number and asked for him. "I'm sorry to tell you my husband passed away five years

ago." "Was he a prisoner of war in Germany?" "Yes, he was, for ten months." "Did he ever go to the VA?" "No, he never did." "What did he die of, according to the death certificate?" "Severe Stroke." MAGIC WORDS, a POW service-connected cause. Mrs. C's claim has now gone to the Buffalo, NY VARO and she will be receiving her widow's benefit she knew nothing about, as well as the ChampVA free Medicare supplement she needs very much.

Outreach calls to new widows in Jan/Fed TAPS columns in Bulletin:

By these NSOs: Frank Kravetz & Don Lewis, PA; Les Jackson, MD; Melanie Bussel, NY; Karnig Thomasian, NJ, Jeanne Copeland, AZ; Gordon Larson, TX; Betty Grinstead, IA; Irwin Stovroff, FL; Paul Dallas, NC; Mary Rolen, VA; Doc Unger, OH; Jim Aujian, CA; Curtis Campbell, IL; Lawrence King, SC; Fred Campbell, MO/WV/MN/LA/MT/KY. Plus POW Coordinators Ginger Raney, TX and Nancy Mullins, MS who check on those in their VA regions.

Exceptional Outreach:

NSOs Wren and Jo Bowyer came recently from CA to Temple, TX for a few months' sojourn.

Wren said, "I'm 88 and bored." It didn't take long for Wren and Jo to undertake an unusual Outreach, with great cooperation from the Waco VARO. With the assistance of NSO W.T. Jones of Georgetown, they have tried to contact 71 POWs who had a disability rating of less than 100%. Now at least 20 more POWs stand a good chance of getting 100%! Accolades to Wren & Jo, plus W.T. Jones and the Waco VARO.

And an update:

Mr. H. in Austin, TX had a 20%VA Disability rating as a former POW; he had had that for more than 50

years. Wren Bowyer talked to him and filed with the Waco VARO to upgrade this man's disability rating. Waco VARO set up examinations for him at the Temple TX VA Medical Center. Then he said he could not leave his invalid wife for more than two hours to go the 70 miles to Temple for his examinations. Temple VAMC persisted, and is setting up his appointments at the VA Clinic in Austin, so he will not be gone more than two hours from his wife on any day of his examinations. They are determined to get this man the VA benefits due him as a former POW, after all these years without. Thanks to Wren and Jo, Waco VARO, Temple VAMC and the Austin VA Clinic.

Success

Letter from Omaha, NE:

Upon reading the February EX-POW Bulletin, I noticed an item from the North Carolina woman thanking you. I thought, did I thank you for what you did for me? I meant to, but did I? It was a year and a half ago, and when you called, I remember asking if your call was important, and you replied "Yes". So due to my hearing problem I had you talk to my daughter. Thus, my widow's benefit and ChampVA! I am deeply grateful. Life has been made easier for me as a widow. Thank you again, Mary Jo W.

Letter to ND Morris Barker, Odessa, TX:

Mr. Barker, I am one of 20,000 members who have enjoyed the EX-POW Bulletin for so many years. After my husband died, things were hard, living on Social Security. Every month, I had to dip into my small bit of savings to pay all the bills. I was worried all the time

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outreach cont...

what would happen when my savings were gone. One day, I read in the Bulletin of the possibilities for widows' benefits. I called the Outreach Chairman and talked to him. He had Nancy Mullins from the VA in Jackson, MS call me, and she soon had the wheels turning. It didn't seem like any time until I got my first big check. It seemed like a gift from God, and surely could not be happening to me.

My life is not the same. I have peace that I had not known. I can pay bills, and not worry about them. I want to thank all the people who have helped to make our lives more pleasurable. Nancy Mullins is certainly a loving, caring lady who made sure I got my benefits. To help with more worthy outreach, I pledge \$25.00 each month and challenge others to give a portion of their benefits to help keep AXPOW alive and well. It is a blessing to have the feeling of independence again.

THANK YOU FOR THE GOOD WORK YOU DO.

Sincerely, Mary Leota S. of MS, formerly of Odessa, TX.

A third widow inquiring from Marion, NC, all chain word of mouth outreach. Former POW husband died in 1988, "Could I be eligible for a benefit? Death cause was cirrhosis of liver disease." Got claim to POW coordinator Jeff Henderson of Winston-Salem on Feb. 28, 2007. Thirteen days later, Jeff calls, "I've found heart trouble in his records too, and you can tell this lady she has her benefits." A happy lady with her DIC and ChampVA Medicare supplement.

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nso



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DIC (Dependents and Indemnity Compensation) Base Monthly Rate - \$1,067

Add: \$228 if AT THE TIME of the POW veteran's death the POW veteran was in receipt or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling (including rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of EIGHT years immediately PRECEDING death AND the surviving spouse was married to the POW for that same period.

If the surviving spouse is entitled to A&A, add \$265.

If the surviving spouse is entitled to Housebound, add \$126.

Who is Eligible for DIC?

To get DIC, you must be an eligible survivor of a veteran who died because of a SERVICE-CONNECTED illness or injury.

If the veteran's death was not service-connected, you may still be eligible if one of the following conditions existed at the time of death: If the veteran died AFTER Sept. 30, 1999 and was getting VA Disability Compensation for a total disability for the last ONE YEAR AND WAS A FORMER POW.

If the veteran died BEFORE Sept. 30, 1999 and was getting VA Disability Compensation for a total disability for the last TEN YEARS.

OR...the veteran was getting VA Disability Compensation for a total disability continuously since released from active duty and for at least 5 years.

You may be an eligible survivor if: you were married to the veteran for at least year (Note: If a child was born, there is no time requirement, AND your marriage was valid AND you lived with the veteran continuously until his/her death.

A&A: Aid and Attendance

This benefit is an additional monetary allowance available to veterans and their spouses, who require care in a long-term care setting, such as a nursing home. A&A benefits may also be available to veterans who reside outside of a nursing home, but who require the daily assistance of another to live independently.

Requirements: The veteran must be determined to be "permanently and totally disabled".

The VA will generally accept a letter from the person's personal doctor as to the veteran's disability. The letter should state that the person has an incapacity which requires care or assistance on a regular basis to protect the claimant from the hazards or dangers incident to his daily environment. The veteran does not need to be helpless - he/she need only show that he/she is in need of aid and attendance on a regular basis.

A patient in an assisted living facility is presumed to be in need of Aid and Attendance.

Homebound

This benefit is an additional monetary allowance available to veterans and their spouses who are not so disabled as to require the regular Aid and Attendance or another person but who, because of disability are permanently housebound.

The revised application form 21-534, has now included a question "Was the veteran a Former Prisoner of War?" This should get the application to the proper area in the VA for them to expedite the form. But in spite of this, due to the backlogs in the VA, be prepared to wait a few months for the checks for DIC to arrive.

pow medsearch

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Packet #5 (What Every POW's Wife Should Know Before She is Your Widow) has been updated again, with much time and effort on the part of Marlene Agnes, to include the most recent laws and benefits published. The packet may be purchased from National Headquarters. Cost of the updated packet is \$15.00~includes S/H.

Drug Interactions: What You Should Know

By The Council on Family Health in cooperation with the National Consumers League and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Medicines can treat and cure many health problems. However, they must be taken properly to ensure that they are safe and effective. Many medicines have powerful ingredients that interact with the human body in different ways, and diet and lifestyle can sometimes have a significant impact on a drug's ability to work in the body. Certain foods, beverages, alcohol, caffeine, and even cigarettes can interact with medicines. This may make them less effective or may cause dangerous side effects or other problems.

Drug interactions may make your drug less effective, cause unexpected side effects, or increase the action of a particular drug. Some drug interactions can even be harmful to you. Reading the label every time you use a nonprescription or prescription drug and taking the time to learn about drug interactions may be critical to your health. You can reduce the risk of potentially harmful drug interactions and side effects with a bit of knowledge and common sense.

When you take medicine, be sure to follow your doctor's instructions carefully to obtain the maximum benefit with the least risk. Changes in a medicine's effect due to an interaction with food, alcohol or caffeine can be significant; however, there are many factors that influence the potential for such varia-

tions, like dose, age, weight, sex, and overall health. If you have any questions or concerns about possible drug interactions, consult your health care professional.

Make sure your doctor and pharmacist know about every drug you are taking, including nonprescription drugs and any dietary supplements such as vitamins, minerals and herbals. If you have problems or experience side effects related to medication, call your health care provider right away.

Drug interactions fall into three broad categories:

Drug-drug interactions occur when two or more drugs react with each other. This drug-drug interaction may cause you to experience an unexpected side effect. For example, mixing a drug you take to help you sleep (a sedative) and a drug you take for allergies (an antihistamine) can slow your reactions and make driving a car or operating machinery dangerous.

Drug-food/beverage interactions result from drugs reacting with foods or beverages. For example, mixing alcohol with some drugs may cause you to feel tired or slow your reactions.

Drug-condition interactions may occur when an existing medical condition makes certain drugs potentially harmful. For example, if you have high blood pressure you could experience a reaction if you take a nasal decongestant.

Drug Interactions and Over-the-Counter Medicines

Over-the-counter (OTC) drug labels contain information about ingredi-

ents, uses, warnings and directions that is important to read and understand. The label also includes important information about possible drug interactions. Further, drug labels may change as new information becomes known. That's why it's especially important to read the label every time you use a drug.

The "Active Ingredients" and "Purpose" sections list:

- the name and amount of each active ingredient
- the purpose of each active ingredient

The "Uses" section:

- tells you what the drug is used for
- helps you find the best drug for your specific symptoms

The "Warnings" section provides important drug interaction and precaution information such as:

- when to talk to a doctor or pharmacist before use
- the medical conditions that may make the drug less effective or not safe
- under what circumstances the drug should not be used
- when to stop taking the drug

The "Directions" section tells you:

- the length of time and the amount of the product that you may safely use
- any special instructions on how to use the product

The "Other Information" section tells you:

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required information about certain ingredients, such as sodium content, for people with dietary restrictions or allergies

The “**Inactive Ingredients**” section tells you:

the name of each inactive ingredient (such as colorings, binders, etc.)

The “**Questions?**” or “**Questions or Comments?**” section:

provides telephone numbers of a source to answer questions about the product

Learning About Drug Interactions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the drugs you take. When your doctor prescribes a new drug, discuss all OTC and prescription drugs, dietary supplements, vitamins, botanicals, minerals and herbals you take, as well as the foods you eat. Ask your pharmacist for the package insert for each prescription drug you take. The package insert provides more information about potential drug interactions.

Before taking a drug, ask your doctor or pharmacist the following questions:

Can I take it with other drugs?

Should I avoid certain foods, beverages or other products?

What are possible drug interaction signs I should know about?

How will the drug work in my body?

Is there more information available about the drug or my condition (on the Internet or in health and medical literature)?

Know how to take drugs safely and responsibly. Remember, the drug label will tell you:

what the drug is used for
how to take the drug
how to reduce the risk of drug interactions and side effects
If you still have questions after reading the drug product label, ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

Remember that different OTC drugs may contain the same active ingredient. If you are taking more than one OTC drug, pay attention to the active ingredients used in the products to avoid taking too much of a particular ingredient. Under certain circumstances — such as if you are pregnant or breast-feeding — you should talk to your doctor before you take any medicine. Also, make sure you know what ingredients are contained in the medicines you take. Doing so will help you to avoid possible allergic reactions.

Examples of Drug Interaction Warnings

The following are examples of drug interaction warnings that you may see on certain OTC drug products. These examples do not include all of the warnings for the listed types of products and should not take the place of reading the actual product label.

Drug Interaction Information

Acid Reducers

H2 Receptor Antagonists
(*drugs that prevent or relieve heartburn associated with acid indigestion and sour stomach*)

For products containing cimetidine, ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are:

- taking theophylline (oral asthma drug), warfarin (blood thinning drug), or phenytoin (seizure drug)

Antacids

(*drugs for relief of acid indigestion, heartburn, and/or sour stomach*)

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are:

- allergic to milk or milk products if the product contains more than 5 grams lactose in a maximum daily dose
- taking a prescription drug

Ask a doctor before use if you have:

- kidney disease

Antiemetics

(*drugs for prevention or treatment of nausea, vomiting, or dizziness associated with motion sickness*)

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are:

- taking sedatives or tranquilizers

Ask a doctor before use if you have:

- a breathing problem, such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis
- glaucoma
- difficulty in urination due to an enlarged prostate gland

When using this product:

- avoid alcoholic beverages

Antihistamines

(*drugs that temporarily relieve runny nose or reduce sneezing, itching of the nose or throat, and itchy watery eyes due to hay fever or other upper respiratory problems*)

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are taking:

- sedatives or tranquilizers
- a prescription drug for high blood pressure or depression

Ask a doctor before use if you have:

- glaucoma or difficulty in urination due to an enlarged prostate gland
- breathing problems, such as emphysema, chronic bronchitis, or asthma

medsearch continued...

When using this product:

- alcohol, sedatives, and tranquilizers may increase drowsiness
- avoid alcoholic beverages

Antitussives Cough Medicine
(*drugs that temporarily reduce cough due to minor throat and bronchial irritation as may occur with a cold*)

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are:

- taking sedatives or tranquilizers

Ask a doctor before use if you have:

- glaucoma or difficulty in urination due to an enlarged prostate gland

Bronchodilators

(*drugs for the temporary relief of shortness of breath, tightness of chest and wheezing due to bronchial asthma*)

Ask a doctor before use if you:

- have heart disease, high blood pressure, thyroid disease, diabetes, or difficulty in urination due to an enlarged prostate gland
- have ever been hospitalized for asthma or are taking a prescription drug for asthma

Laxatives

(*drugs for the temporary relief of constipation*)

Ask a doctor before use if you have:

- kidney disease and the laxative contains phosphates, potassium, or magnesium
- stomach pain, nausea, or vomiting

Nasal Decongestants

(*drugs for the temporary relief of nasal congestion due to a cold, hay fever, or other upper respiratory allergies*)

Ask a doctor before use if you:

- have heart disease, high blood pressure, thyroid disease, diabetes, or difficulty in urination due to an enlarged prostate gland

Nicotine Replacement Products

(*drugs that reduce withdrawal symptoms associated with quitting smoking, including nicotine craving*)

Ask a doctor before use if you:

- have high blood pressure not controlled by medication
- have heart disease or have had a recent heart attack or irregular heartbeat, since nicotine can increase your heart rate

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are:

- taking a prescription drug for depression or asthma (your dose may need to be adjusted)
- using a prescription non-nicotine stop smoking drug

Do not use:

- if you continue to smoke, chew tobacco, use snuff, or use other nicotine-containing products

Nighttime Sleep Aids

(*drugs for relief of occasional sleeplessness*)

Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are:

- taking sedatives or tranquilizers

Ask a doctor before use if you have:

- a breathing problem such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis

- glaucoma
- difficulty in urination due to an enlarged prostate gland

When using this product:

- avoid alcoholic beverages

Pain Relievers

(*drugs for the temporary relief of minor body aches, pains, and headaches*)

Ask a doctor before taking if you:

- consume three or more alcohol-containing drinks per day

(*The following ingredients are found in different OTC pain relievers: acetaminophen, aspirin, ibuprofen, ketoprofen, magnesium salicylate, and naproxen. It is important to read the label of pain reliever products to learn about different drug interaction warnings for each ingredient.*)

Stimulants

(*drugs that help restore mental alertness or wakefulness during fatigue or drowsiness*)

When using this product:

- limit the use of foods, beverages, and other drugs that have caffeine. Too much caffeine can cause nervousness, irritability, sleeplessness, and occasional rapid heart beat
- be aware that the recommended dose of this product contains about as much caffeine as a cup of coffee

To order one copy of this booklet, write:

Federal Citizen Information Center
Item #527M

Pueblo, CO 81009

www.pueblo.gsa.gov

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Andersonville



Andersonville NHS
496 Cemetery Road
Andersonville, GA 31711
(229) 924-0343
Fred Boyles, Superintendent
fred_boyles@nps.gov

Andersonville Trust Makes Grants to Park

By Fred Boyles

At its annual meeting on March 1, 2007, the Trustees of the Andersonville Trust made nine grants to the park totaling \$62,500 for a wide variety of projects. Several of the grants went to support initiatives from the previous year while others were new projects.

Three projects funded were for promotion of the park to attract more visitors. One project was to place a billboard along Interstate 75 visible to southbound traffic. This billboard will be tied to an AM radio transmitter that provides travelers with more information about the park by tuning in the signal. The park will use the grant to apply for matching funds from the Georgia Department of Tourism. This is similar to the grant made a year ago by the Trust to place a billboard on the interstate visible to northbound traffic. The Trustees funded equipment needed to produce small displays to be placed in motels in the region. These displays will encourage motel guests to visit the park and museum. Another promotional grant was made

to create a modest advertising fund that will be used to advertise in print publications. National Park Service regulations do not allow spending government funds for advertising.

Several grants were made to support volunteer work and projects. Those included a partnership with the Georgia Arborists Association to provide much needed care for the trees in the park, support for the Luminary event planned for March 2008, and the ever popular efforts of groups to place flags at the park for Memorial Day. Another project was to continue another year in funding for curatorial support. This project allows the park to employ a college intern to work developing temporary exhibits, processing acquisitions and working to transcribe oral histories.



The Trustees expressed strong support of the park's partnership with Georgia Southwestern State University through the annual POW/MIA Forum. The first ever forum was held at the University in Americus in September 2006 with great success. The forum planned for 2008 is expected to build and expand on the program last year. A grant for this program was given.

The final and largest grant made to the park was a new initiative to plan and develop a traveling exhibit about the American prisoner of war story. A traveling exhibit will be a smaller version of the National POW Museum and putting it on the road to share with other museums and sites across the country. The park seeks to use funds donated by the Trust to be matched by the President's Centennial Initiative. This program proposed by President Bush in Feb-

ruary will make \$100 million available yearly for eight years to match funds by private support groups. The first grant of this project is the first of three planned and will take that many years to develop. More information about this exciting project will share in the future through the *Ex-POW Bulletin*.

The Andersonville Trust was created as an endowment fund 11 years ago to provide long term support to the park. Each year the Trustees hear proposals from the park for enhancement projects that the park cannot support with normal funding. As an endowment fund, donated monies are placed in investments that produce income that is granted yearly to the park. In 2004 the Trustees adopted a new investment strategy that resulted in a doubling of yearly income and funds granted to the park. The corpus of the Trust is valued at over \$ 1 million. Regular gifts to the Trust continue to be donated from a wide variety of sources.

"Growth of the Andersonville Trust and improved management of the funds has allowed us to do more for the park than ever before." stated Mark Stibitz, President of the Friends of Andersonville, "I am especially excited about the prospect of a traveling exhibit that will share the POW story with a larger audience and qualify us for President Bush's Centennial Initiative matching funds."

The park and Friends will develop a memorandum of agreement for the expenditure of the funds granted. According to procedures followed by the Trustees the monies will not be available to the park until July 1, 2007. Anyone wishing to donate to the Andersonville Trust can do so by mailing a tax deductible gift made payable to the Andersonville Trust at PO Box 186, Andersonville GA 31711.

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Photo: In 2006 the Andersonville Trust made grants to the park to produce 12 displays to place in each of the Georgia State Welcome Centers to encourage visitors to come to the park and visit the National Prisoner of War Museum. They are in place and having a positive effect.

# NamPOW news



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## Behind the Code - Bravo Zulu

More Navy signal code than those who served in Marine, Army or Air Force uniforms really need to know but bear with me!

From the Navy.mil website: The term originates from the Allied Signals Book (ATP 1), which in the aggregate is for official use only.

Signals are sent as letters and/or numbers, which have meanings by themselves sometimes or in certain combinations. A single table in ATP 1 is called "governing groups," that is, the entire signal that follows the governing group is to be performed according to the "governor." The letter "B" indicates this table, and the second letter (A through Z) gives more specific information.

For example, "BA" might mean "You have permission to . . . (do whatever the rest of the flashing light, flag hoist or radio transmission says) "BZ" happens to be the last item in the governing groups table. It means "Well Done."

Well Done, indeed and not in the sense that meat is overcooked.

BZ, Bravo Zulu, means your performance was outstanding. So I'm announcing in this column the Bravo Zulu Award to go to someone who does incredibly good work for no other reason that is something that

needs to be done and nobody else is doing it. That's it. No pecuniary award. No banner headline in the local fish wrapper.

Nothing except get a Bravo Zulu, Well Done from an admiring former POW. This first award goes to our vigilantes - those who track down and expose those who would ride the glory of the service of others. They're called "phonies."

A phony is somebody who claims to be something he isn't - usually claiming military bravado or accomplishments they haven't actually achieved. There are, of course, laws against so doing but in an era of permissive moral relativism, many are reluctant to get involved in debunking the phonies.

Phonies claim to be Navy SEALs, Fighter pilots, Special Forces, Marine Force Recon or any similar difficult to achieve designation. Phonies have myriads of medals - Purple Hearts, for sure, and up to the Medal of Honor.

Re: Bravo Zulu Awards, There are several who deserve them but the first Bravo Zulu Awards go to Vietnam POW and past president of Nam-POWs, Navy Capt. (Ret) Mike McGrath and Administrators of the POW Network, Chuck & Mary Schantag for exposing phonies. Their efforts have been spectacular and often result in a public humiliation of the "perp."

Additionally, recently, the Congress has passed a bill making it a felony to falsify one's military record. Much of the effort behind the legislation came from frustration in priorities of law enforcement and the VA wherein those agencies assigned too low a priority to these cases.

Why is it important? With bona fide POWs having trouble getting benefits they are owed, it is criminal that frauds could achieve those benefits without doing anything to

earn them. Our seriously wounded veterans sometimes have trouble getting credit for their injuries if certain documents cannot be found where occasionally phonies will forge documents to get the benefits the bona fide wounded veteran is denied.

Mike McGrath has personally exposed a phony Air Force Colonel who was a regular "duty hero" at the Air Force Academy - appearing in uniform with medals, wings and other accoutrements that were never earned. Mike showed up on his doorstep with a local TV reporter to ask a few questions. The "colonel" was outed and has been banned from the Academy grounds.

Mary & Chuck Schantag have exposed thousands of phonies including many phony POWs. Their website, <http://pownetwork.org> remains the definitive site on the internet for uncovering phonies. Their uncovered phonies are posted for all to see - some with several entries. The whole sordid story is on the Schantag's website.

Also is an annotated version of the DPMO PMSEA (Personnel missing in Southeast Asia) list which includes additional information on each of those who'd been listed as missing during the Vietnam conflict. Take a peek.

And Bravo Zulu to Capt. McGrath and to the Schantags for a job very "Well done."

The converse to the Bravo Zulu award is the Bravo Sierra Award. I'll leave it to your imagination what "BS" means. But stand by for those awards specially designed for bamboozlers who are the opposite of those accorded the BZ award.

## 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.

### U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING FROM THE VIETNAM WAR

There are now 1,787 US personnel listed as missing and unaccounted for by the Department of Defense. The accounting for these Americans brings to 796 the number of US personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of the 1,787 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnamese wartime control.

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The identifications of the American previously missing/unaccounted for from the Vietnam War was recently announced:

Colonel Norman D. Eaton, USAF, OK, MIA 1/13/69, Laos, RR 12/16/05, ID 11/20/06

### DASD CHARLES RAY RETURNS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA

Ambassador Ray recently completed his first visits to Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam since being appointed DASD late last year. Southeast Asian government officials, US Ambassadors and JPAC were known to be eagerly anticipating his involvement and leadership on the issue. Ambassador Ray plans to hold a briefing on his trip in February for family and veterans group representatives. Late last year, he visited Moscow to reinforce to the Russian Government the importance of naming a Russian Chairman as counterpart to US Chairman General Robert H. Foglesong, USAF (Ret).

### UPDATE ON JPAC OPERATIONS

Field operations related to WWII will occur in Thailand late February and are continuing in Papua New Guinea and Palau, preceded by operational talks that were concluded by JPAC Commander BG Michael Flowers.

A DPMO-led team recently completed talks in Beijing focused on pursuing an archival research program and restoring field operations there. There was little to report on specific results; however, the PRC agreed to consider all issues raised by the US, and it likely will take talks at a higher level to get a more positive relations.

Finally, a JPAC team recently returned from South Korea and discussions on renewed joint operations to begin later this year, plus discussions are ongoing for agreement with Japan to pursue remains

recovery at a highly visible site on Iwo Jima.

### SOLDIER MISSING IN ACTION FROM THE KOREAN WAR IS IDENTIFIED

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Korean War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Cpl. Jimmie L. Dorser, U.S. Army, of Springfield, Mo. He was buried in Lake Forest, Ca.

Dorser was a member of I Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (organized into the 31<sup>st</sup> Regimental Combat Team). The RCT was engaged against the Chinese People's Volunteer Forces along the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea from Nov. 27-Dec. 1, 1950. The unit was forced to retreat to the south and many men were reported missing in action under the intense enemy fire.

In 2002, a joint U.S.-Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (D.P.R.K.) team, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), excavated a mass grave on the eastern side of the Chosin Reservoir. The remains of five individuals were recovered.

Among other forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in Dorser's identification. The additional remains cannot be attributed to specific individuals at this time and will undergo further analysis.



## civilians

Ted Cadwallader - Chairman  
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### Part II: Chick Parsons and Santo Tomas Internment Camp (STIC)

By Peter Parsons  
Baguio, Philippines

During his stay in STIC, Chick Parsons' effort to escape the Philippines via diplomatic channels was being opposed by Claude Buss, the man left in charge of handling all American affairs; Buss branded Chick as another opportunistic American who should stay here with everybody else. Sometime later, after Chick had returned to STIC as a now-famous resistance fighter and organizer of guerrillas for General MacArthur, he wrote home a wry mention that when he did leave STIC in early June, 1942, there were several internees who were not so happy with his departure.

Buss, however, was absolutely correct in his assessment of Chick: he

was opportunistic, and he did get his whole family out on a Japanese hospital ship (the Ural Maru) to Formosa; then to Shanghai by Japanese bomber; and then to New York after two ocean legs, one on the Conte Verde, the other on the Gripsholm. [Although I was personally sad to leave my Amah, my dachshund, and our four sentries, I had seen Japanese beat and kill people and knew that their presence was not benign.]

Soon thereafter Chick was back in the Philippines on a submarine, the first of many such penetrations. He was working now for MacArthur even though he was a commander in the USN.

Although Chick was often seen in Manila itself, sometimes dressed as a Catholic priest, I doubt that he ever re-entered Santo Tomas again until after its liberation.

He was spotted by an internee, Mary Davies, when she was in a Japanese bus taking her to Philippine General Hospital for medical care not available at STIC. He looked up at her when the bus stopped and said, "Howdie, Mary."

And Reggie Spear says that he was briefed by Chick on the naval outpost at Mios Woendi, a tiny island in Indonesian waters, prior to his own submarine trip and subsequent visit to STIC. He told me that "Chick had been there and knew the ways in and out of Manila," but I take that merely to mean that Chick had once been interned at STIC.

Chick's re-acquaintance with Santo Tomas and his many friends therein occurred shortly after the February 3, 1945 liberation of the camp.

Chick, who had no longer any contact with submarines, now had a fleet of four gunboats that were wreaking havoc among the Japanese in the Visayas (Seventh Fleet Task Group 71) and continuing the job of supplying guerrillas and civilians with arms and medicine.

General MacArthur, however, brought Chick up to Manila and put him in charge of bringing food on a daily basis to the internees and other refugees now seeking shelter there. His message of Feb. 7 reads in part:

"...to Commander Parsons. Arrange for movement by air transport such food and other emergency supplies as may be set up by G4, Philippine Section for relief of American civilian internees. Initial shipments 9,000 pounds daily...Plan to air drop 5-6,000 pounds daily at Los Banos as soon as camp there is liberated by our forces."

On Feb 8, Chick was already landing planes on Espana Avenue in front of STIC. Of course he was now working with his old pal and business partner, Col. Pete Grimm, the new "commandant" at STIC.

## Reconnect with Long-Lost Friends In Our Upcoming Membership Directory. Make sure you are in the book.

Watch  
your mail  
for  
details!



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# events and information



**May 1-3, 2007. Stalag 17B Annual Reunion** will be held at the Hotel Arizona in Tucson, AZ. For reservations: 800-845-4596. For more information, call reunion chairman Vince Pale, 214 E. Hudson Ave., Villas, NJ 08251; 609-886-0923; vpb24@hotmail.com. Or Lydia Dostie, 941-475-5378; dusty538@comcast.net.

**May 8-10, 2007. The Department of Minnesota Annual Convention** will be held at The Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. For registration/reservation information, contact Donald Zupan, Reg. Chairman, 1968 Vierling Dr. E., Shakopee, MN 55379; 952-496-0177.

**May 12, 2007. 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 or 318-456-5976 or FAX 318-456-3520.

**May 15-19, 2007. Department of Florida Convention** will be held at Deerfield Beach Embassy Suites. Registration \$65 includes Wed. night dinner dance party and Sat. night banquet and dance. For more information call Bruce or Sami Hall at 386-788-1749, or email sambruceh@aol.com.

**May 25-26, 2007. The Department of Georgia annual State Convention** will be held at the Jameson Inn, Americus, GA. For further information contact Commander Ray Reiersen at 912 925-7073 or Lloyd Pate at 706 556-9413.

**June 7-9, 2007. The Department of Arizona Annual Convention** will be held at the Windmill Inn and Suites, 12545 W. Bell Road, Surprise, Arizona, 85374 phone 623-583-0133, Ext 507. For more information contact: Ruth Kilmer, 15834 Huron Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375, phone 623 214 0600.

**June 7-9, 2007. Stalags 9A, 9B, 9C and Berga Am Elster ex-POWs** will hold their annual reunion at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Kansas City, MO 64153. Contact: Jake Underwood, 913 Maple Road, Uniontown, KS 66779; 620-756-4647; jakeunderwood@ckt.net.

**June 8-9, 2007. The Dept. of West Virginia Annual Convention** will be held at the Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, WV. For information, contact secretary Annette Smith, 724-785-8536.

**June 14-15, 2007, The Department of North Carolina Annual State Convention** at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux Fayetteville, NC, contact Commander Paul Dallas or Adjutant/Treasurer Doris Dallas 910-867-2775.

**June 21-25, 2007. WWII PT Boats, Bases, Tenders 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion** will be held at the Drawbridge Inn, Ft. Mitchell, KY. For more information, contact PT Tenders, Boats and Bases, PO Box 38070, Germantown, TN 38183; 901-755-8440; [www.ptboats.org](http://www.ptboats.org).

**July 27, 2007. Ceremonies marking the 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the armistice ending the Korean War** will be held at 10AM on the mall in Washington, DC. Presentations by government and military personnel will highlight the program, organized by the Korean War Armistice Day Committee. For detailed information, contact J. Norbert Reiner, 6632 Kirkley Ave., McLean, VA 22101; 703-893-6313. Information about accommodations and tours is available

from Jack Cloman, 2702 Franklinville Road, Joppa, MD 21085; 410-676-1388.

**July 29-Aug. 5, 2007. The Korean War Ex-POW Association** will hold their 32nd Annual Reunion (for all Services) at the Charleston Marriott Town Center Hotel in Charleston, WV. CONTACT: F. Jack Chapman at (505) 523-2298 or by email : fjchap@aol.com.

**August 15-18, 21007. 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion** will be held in Fairborn, OH at the Holiday Inn. For reservations, call 937-426-7800. Reunion Chairman, Elmer G. Dorsten, 208 N. Elm St., Coldwater, OH 45828; 419-678-2618.

**Aug. 24-27, 2007. The Department of Ohio 2007 Convention** will be held at the Holiday Inn, Zanesville. 740-588-6617. Contact person is "Doc" Unger, (216) 521-1889.

**Aug 26-28, 2007. The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of Former Prisoners of War of the Far East** will be held at Smoky Shadows, Pigeon Forge, TN. For reservations, 800-282-2121. For information, contact: Wayne Carringer, 828-479-6263 or Lan'l Snyder, 281-422-2852.

**Sept. 4-8, 2007. The 106th Div. Assoc.** 61st Annual Reunion will be held at the Crown Center, Kansas City MO. For more info, contact John Kline - 952-890-3155.

**Sept. 12-16, 2007. The Third Infantry Division's 88<sup>th</sup> Reunion** will be held at the Sheraton Colorado Springs Hotel. For reservations, call 719-576-5900. For reunion info, contact: Linda Irvine, 360-663-2521; info@theReunionBrat.com.

**Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2007. The 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Thunderbirds)** will be holding their annual reunion. For further information, please contact: Raul Trevino, 2145 NE Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111; 210-681-9134.

## events, continued

**October 2007. The Second Schweinfurt Memorial Association, Inc.** (SSMA) will be celebrating the 64th Anniversary Reunion of "Black Thursday" (8th Air Force - Mission 115 over Schweinfurt, Germany on October 14, 1943) in Schweinfurt, Germany. (Tentative location for 2008 — Savannah, Georgia). For more information, please contact Julee and Bob MacDonald at 720-254-7418 or [juleemac@comcast.net](mailto:juleemac@comcast.net).

**April 29-30, 2008. The First Researching FEPOW (Far Eastern POW) History Conference** will be held at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire, UK. For more information, contact: Meg Parkes, Tel: (+44) (0) 151 632 2017; [www.kranji.co.uk](http://www.kranji.co.uk); [mm.parkes@btinternet.com](mailto:mm.parkes@btinternet.com).

I am looking for the **Tuskegee Airman** who was in my compound at 7A, Moosburg. Others in the compound were Lt. Clayton J. Smith from St. College, PA; Sgt. Doyle Daniels, Little Rock, AR; and myself, Gerald L. Smith, Durham, NH. We were liberated on April 29, 1945, and somewhere I lost my list of compound members. Please contact me at: 1 Back River Road, Durham, NH 03824; 603-742-3162.



La Pietre      Voci    Verdan    Wilcox

Looking for...Old buddies in the **Keesler Field, Oct. 1943 #52 Training Group, Squad 522:** Farrell, Boyd, Verdan, Voci, Ostrowski, Kehe, LaPietre, or anyone else in the above mentioned class. Please contact Ken Wilcox,

11032 W. Runion Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373, or via email at: [klwilcox6@aol.com](mailto:klwilcox6@aol.com). See picture above.

On Aug. 32, 1944, "F" Company of the 179<sup>th</sup> Reg., 45<sup>th</sup> Div. was split up into three sections and set up on three roadblocks to block Highway 84. The Nazi Eleventh Panzer Division was attacking us and we were surrounded by more than 1000 men and 60 tanks. Somehow, we were able to hold them off overnight, but on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 33 men on my roadblock, including three French Freedom Fighters, were captured by the Germans. This day would be remembered as "**The Infamous Battle of Maximeaux**". The German officer in charge did not know what to do with us and issued an order to kill us all. I was born in Germany and of course could speak German. I yelled at him and told him about the "Geneva Conventions". After a while, he listened to me and told me to get all the men inside the building. If you were among the 30 American soldiers and remember the situation, please write to me. Fred Rennert, 6851 Southport Dr., Boynton Beach, FL 33437.

Do you have any info about a **Hospital POW Camp just outside of KOLN (Cologne)?** I had been wounded the day of the "capture" and was taken on one of my own weapons carriers to a Russian POW camp (they were working on a railroad keeping it open) thence to a German "stud" camp (Germans fathering children using Russian captive women for the glory of the Reich). I spent Christmas eve and day there, then onto this huge Haufenstahl outside Cologne. We were billeted with French, Russian, British etc. I actually had a bunk with sheets!!! The food was meager but good (with a decent variety). There were also some wounded Air Force officers there. Any hints????? Thanks, Jim Reiss, [JARKiwi@cox.net](mailto:JARKiwi@cox.net).

My name is Sheldon Hollingshead. Captain Charles Dunn made me sergeant in the field while I was serving with the **45<sup>th</sup> Div., 180<sup>th</sup> Inf., Com-**

**pany A.** Colonel Shaeffer (sp?) was our CO. We were in Sicily, April 1943 before we were captured. If you remember this event, or were in my Company, please contact me. My address is: 2013 Verano St., Sacramento, CA 95838; 916-922-9460.

The following poem was submitted by AXPOW member James Carlascio.

"Last November 11<sup>th</sup>, I talked to about 300 students. One student made a poem out of my speech as a POW."

### Freedom is not Free

He was drafted  
At age 18  
For WWII  
He experienced  
The night sky being  
Like Fourth of July.

The enemies and sound  
Began to multiply  
Scared and homesick, he lie  
Flat on the ground.

He was captured  
And became a prisoner of war  
His feet became frozen,  
And he could not walk  
He was pulled by a sled  
And slept in no bed.

For him and  
Many other soldiers  
We have freedom  
But freedom is not free.

They paid for it  
By hard work and sacrifice  
He says he is no hero,  
The heroes  
Are in cemeteries  
But he is a hero  
A hero indeed!



59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION  
 Oct. 17-21, 2007  
 Springfield, IL  
 "Land of Lincoln"  
 Convention Registration

Registrant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Special Needs (Wheel chair, oxygen, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Unit When Captured \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre \_\_\_\_\_ Camps \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION (per person) until September 3 ~ \$65.00 after Sept. 3 - \$70 no refund after Sept. 7

Payable to: 2007 Convention Fund

Mail to: Marylou Andersen

1244 Red Oak Ct

Elgin, Illinois 60120

847-717-0343

*Saturday Night Banquet Choice:*

*Boneless Breast of Chicken* \_\_\_\_\_

*Traditional London Broil* \_\_\_\_\_

*Choose One*

**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

**60<sup>th</sup> National Convention**

**October 17-21, 2007**

**AGENDA**

**Tues. Oct. 16**

National Service Officer Training

Tours

**Wed. Oct. 17**

National Board of Directors Meeting

**Thurs. Oct. 18**

Opening Ceremonies

National Legislation Program

Medsearch Seminar

Commander's Reception

**Fri. Oct. 19**

Men and Women's Workshops

Education Seminar

Ladies/PNCs Luncheons

National Convention Call to Order

Reunion Night

**Sat. Oct. 20**

Continuation of General Assembly

Banquet & Installation of Officers

**Sun. Oct. 21**

National Board of Directors Meeting

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**AD ORDER FORM**

Overall page size is 8 1/2" x 11"

**AD PRICING**

Full page.....\$200

Half page.....\$125

Quarter page.....\$75

Business card..... \$35

Deadline for submissions: Sept. 1, 2006

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks or Money Orders**

**payable to:**

**2007 CONVENTION FUND**

**Mail order form with  
 ad materials and check to:**

**AXPOW Convention-Program Ad**

**Bob Foster**

**14 Conestoga Drive**

**Auburn, Illinois 62615**

*Total Registration:* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Ladies Luncheon, Friday Oct. 19*

*price to come*

*Grand Total:* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

We're planning a number of tours and other activities. Right now, we're still making plans, but more information will be in the Bulletin as we get closer.

There will be entertainment each night of the convention, including the Springfield Capitol Area Band, The Springfield Municipal Band and the St. Andrews society Pipes and Drums.

The PNC Luncheon is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Reunion Night will be Friday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

Check the June Bulletin and/or Registration at the hotel once you check in.

60<sup>th</sup> National Convention  
October 17-21, 2007  
HOST HOTEL ~ Springfield Hilton  
700 East Adams, Springfield, IL 62701  
217-789-1530

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Circle One: Visa    MasterCard    American Express    Discover    Diners Club  
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM RATES: \$79 PER NIGHT~Ask for AXPOW Convention Rate  
Please make your reservations prior to Sept. 3, 2007.  
Check in time is 3:00PM ~ Check-out time is 12:00 Noon  
complimentary breakfast, airport shuttle.  
Valet parking \$10.00 per day



**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Candidate for National Office  
2007**



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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## House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

### Statement of Robert W. Fletcher, National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners of War

#### Testimony Before the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs

March 29, 2007

Chairman Akaka, Chairman Filner, Ranking Member Craig, Ranking Member Buyer, Distinguished Members of the Veterans Affairs Committees and Guests.

By way of introduction, I am Robert Fletcher, National Commander American Ex-Prisoners of War, a Korean War POW. I was held for nearly three years under extremely brutal, inhumane conditions, as were the more than 4,000 held captive with me. Like all POWs - whatever "our war"- I am as proud of my country today as I was during my captivity. That will never waiver!!

As you know, POWs have paid a high price in long-term health consequences as well as the more immediate damage to mind and body. Yet, POWs have always been reluctant to complain or seek benefits. For many years, they were virtually "invisible veterans" to VA or Congress.

Beginning with the greater publicity focused on Vietnam POWs and the research findings of the National Academy of Sciences and other bodies - Congress and VA began to correct this oversight. POWs have no medical records for the time of their confinement. Until Congress began establishing "POW presumptives", it was extremely difficult for an individual POW to prove health problems were related to captivity. The meaning of a POW presumptive is simply that if you had that condition it was presumed to be causally related to captivity. These presumptives have been a god-send for many POWs.

What's the problem today? POWs are now dying at a very high rate. There are only 20,000 still alive out of the nearly 140,000 captured in WWII to the present. Despite solid research documentation, two medical conditions, osteoporosis and diabetes, have not yet been acted upon by Congress. "Low priority for funding" - not factual evidence- was the reason given for Congressional inaction last year, the year before that and so on! So today, there is very little time left to help POWs with these health problems. Clearly the conscience of the American people would support anything warranted. Isn't it time for Congress to act?

Supporting these two proposed presumptives is clearly justified and should have top priority. The current cost would be minimal due to the diminishing number of POWs still alive who might have these two medical problems. Also, only a small portion are likely to seek these benefits or are already rated 100% disabled due to other problems. There would be no additional cost factor.

We are again urging Congress to act now on these two long delayed presumptives. Will POWs who need this help be sacrificed for "other priorities" again this year?

In closing, I would urge each of you to become cosponsors of the bills introduced on our behalf. Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-FL) introduced H.R. 1197 and Senator Patty Murray (D- W A) introduced S. 848. Also, the continuing media publicity given to deficiencies in follow-up care for returning disabled veterans is a broader call for action from your committees as are the specific requests from Veterans Service Organizations. We support wholeheartedly all effort to give the surviving spouse of a military retiree the right to receive both SBP and DIC - the SBP has been paid for; the DIC is payable because the military retiree was rated for service connected disabilities. We have worked to assure that military retirees can receive both retirement pay and compensation for service connected disabilities. The surviving spouses deserve the same consideration. Thank you.

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#### To Contact the Committees

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House Committee on  
Veterans' Affairs  
335 Cannon  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-9756

Senate Committee on  
Veterans' Affairs  
412 Russell  
Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-9126



# News Briefs

## The Independent Budget for Fiscal Year 2008

This is the 21st year *The Independent Budget (IB)* has been developed by four veterans service organizations: AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. This document is the collaborative effort of a united veteran and health advocacy community that presents policy and budget recommendations on programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor.

The *IB* is built on a systematic methodology that takes into account changes in the size and age structure of the veteran population, federal employee wage increases, medical care inflation, cost-of-living adjustments, construction needs, trends in health-care utilization, benefit needs, efficient and effective means of benefits delivery, and estimates of the number of veterans to be buried in national and state veterans cemeteries.

We call on Congress to find a better way to fund veterans' health-care spending by removing the veterans' budget from the battle over annual discretionary spending. We call on Congress to establish a formula to provide VA health-care funding from the mandatory side of the federal budget, ensuring an adequate and timely flow of dollars to meet the needs of sick and disabled veterans.

## VA Handbook 2007

A new edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents handbook by the Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA) has been released. It updates the rates for certain federal payments and outlines a variety of programs and benefits for American veterans. Most of the nation's 25 million veterans qualify for some VA benefits, which range from health care to burial in a national cemetery. In addition to health-care and burial benefits, veterans may be eligible for programs providing home loan guaranties, educational assistance, training and vocational rehabilitation, income assistance pensions, life insurance and compensation for service-connected illnesses or disabilities. In some cases, survivors of veterans may also be entitled to benefits. The handbook describes programs for veterans with specific service experiences, such as POWs or those concerned about environmental exposures in Vietnam or in the Gulf War, as well as special benefits for veterans with severe disabilities. It also includes resources to help veterans access their benefits, with a listing of toll-free phone numbers, Internet addresses and a directory of VA facilities throughout the country. The handbook can be downloaded free from VA's Web site.

## Veterans Healthcare Empowerment Act

Expressing strong confidence in the current healthcare system run by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs (SCVA) U.S. Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) said that he is willing to see how the system might fare in competition with the free market. Under legislation he is introducing - The Veterans Healthcare Empowerment Act - veterans with service connected disabilities will be able to go to any hospital or medical clinic of their choice. "Many of my colleagues have spent the past week or so accusing VA of 'failing' our injured service-members. Most of their evidence is based on reports from the news media who have

highlighted recently a number of veterans who were treated badly by VA or who do not have faith in VA's care. I take these concerns very seriously. But, I am also a little frustrated by it," said Craig. "That's why I will introduce legislation that says: If you have a service-connected disability, go wherever you want. No strings. No ifs, ands, or buts. Let's find out where veterans choose to go."

Approximately 2.5 million veterans have service connected disabilities and approximately 1.7 million currently use the VA healthcare system. VA operates 154 hospitals and 881 outpatient clinics.

## PTSD

Patients with post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) are more likely to struggle with smoking, alcoholism and obesity, according to a new analysis of post-traumatic stress studies. Researchers say the findings show that counselors need to deal not just with the mental aspects of PTSD, but also the physical challenges that patients face. Relieving the PTSD will help with some of the burden, but these risk behaviors will still be a problem, said Dr. Miles McFall, Director of Psychology Service at VA Puget Sound Health Care System and an author of the analysis. The report, published in the latest issue of the Department of Veterans Affairs PTSD Research Quarterly, reviews various research performed over the last few years which shows PTSD patients are twice as likely to smoke, twice as likely to develop a drinking problem and nearly three times more likely to use drugs than the general population. Another study showed that nearly 83% of those suffering from PTSD are overweight or obese, compared to just under 65% of the adult population in the United States.

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# Members' forum



To AXPOW:

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the help of NSO Frank Kravetz. It was through his determined efforts that I am now receiving increased monthly compensation from the VA. I am 91 years old and my wife is 83. This increase helps us meet our monthly bills and remain independent.

Also, we frequently receive phone calls and mail from various organizations asking for information or money. Frank helps us determine whether they are legitimate or bogus.

Frank's attitude is always warm and friendly, and we know we can count on him.

Jack W. Ries  
Jamestown, PA

Dear Fred Campbell:

I received my EX-POW Bulletin 4 days ago and like always, I read it cover to cover. On page 7 there is an article about letting people know about an AXPOW NSO who had done something good for you. Well, I have had this idea since last Sept., but didn't know where to send my info.

At this time, I would like to thank Mr. Walter Peterson, the AXPOW

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NSO who really went to bat for me and set up all my appointments at our Branch office here in La Crosse, WI; he also set up all my appointments at the VA hospital at Tomak, WI. Plus, he also did a lot of explaining to me about what to take with me to these places. Because of his knowledge of how the VA worked, everything turned out 110% for me.

Please keep up the good work. I look forward to my EX-POW Bulletin every month.

This letter is from an old ex-POW and I tell everyone "if you have never been a POW, you don't understand what I'm saying". I was in Stalag IVB, Mulberg, Germany.

Gordon Hoffman  
Onalaska, WI

Dear Editor:

I am the biggest fan of the American Veterans' Administration. There have been controversies over the problems of our current VA Hospitals. As for me, I will be forever grateful for our wonderful VA system.

My deceased husband, Ed was a POW in a German prison camp for two years during WWII. He escaped, then ended up in a concentration camp from which he made a second escape. He made it home just before the war ended. Ed, and the many American soldiers who suffered through WWII still rely on the excellent care they receive through the VA.

They are now in their eighties and some still suffer from their war experiences and also now the afflictions of aging. Traumatic stress stayed with them the rest of their lives, especially those who were tortured and starved inside a prison camp.

Our returning soldiers from Iraq will be suffering the same effects of war for years ahead. They will

find the same compassion and health care through the VA. The doctors in the VA are highly qualified. The VA hospital in Phoenix is a model of excellence. I also visited the Tucson VA facility and found it to be in the same level of quality. The nursing homes are good, but filled to capacity. In Ed's case, they sent him to a private facility under VA contract. The VA gave years of unlimited care for Ed's physical and mental problems.

From my own personal experience, I salute and praise the VA; the doctors, nurses, volunteers and everyone involved - even to the cleaning crews for their dedication and excellence. I don't know how we would have made it through without it.

Mary Suominen Parisella  
Tucson, AZ 85711

Dear Cheryl:

Thank you all at the National Headquarters of AXPOWs.

The past commanders have been great and I wish the new Commander Fletcher the best of luck in the year ahead. Sorry I did not get to mail the enclosed order or letter I had written before Christmas, I believe.

I am enclosing three separate checks to cover the order, the MedSearch donation and also the General Fund donation.

Congratulations to Cheryl Cerbone, the editor of the fabulous EX-POW Bulletin. As a widow for fourteen years now, I find the Bulletin keeps me informed on all POW affairs. The MedSearch is what led my husband and I to the Bulletin and I am thankful it still continues.

Wishes for continued successes.

Gratefully,  
Marge Poker  
Wauwatosa, WI

The Members of the Brooklyn "Key" Chapter, AXPOW  
believe in our slogan:  
"We Exist to Help Those Who Cannot Help Themselves"



**In the last 12 years we have raised – and spent \$500,000.00 to help ALL VETERANS**

Several years ago, we purchased two new DELL computers for the National Service Office

We have donated \$4,000 to help the EX-POW Bulletin

We furnished two rooms for families of veteran-patients staying overnight

We purchased rehabilitation equipment, televisions and more

We now ask every chapter with money to buy space in our Bulletin. We need this wonderful publication – MedSearch, TAPS, Stories of the past and other news and articles. The Brooklyn "Key" Chapter is the busiest, most productive chapter in the country. We know most can't do what we have done, but we ask your help in keeping our EX-POW Bulletin alive.

If you want to help, call Lee at 718-642-7647.

THANK YOU!



**American Ex-Prisoners of War Website Biography**

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

**If you are not a current member of AXPOW,  
you must submit documentation of your POW status.**



Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Email

Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Where were you captured?

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

Medals received

Job in the military

After the war

Biography (please type or print one or two paragraphs.)

Submit 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white).

Telephone

Unit

Date captured

Date liberated

SEND TO: American Ex-Prisoners of War  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

Please include your check for \$65.

If you have any questions, please contact Clydie Morgan, National Adjutant,  
at 817-649-2979; HQ@axpow.org

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# 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

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Frank Brunner  
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In Memory of David Mulliner by  
Carl V. Heimaster  
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In memory of Claude Piantadosi,  
by Johns Hopkins University  
In memory of Dorothy Dippols, by  
Jack & Catherine Wilson  
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Janice Swack  
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Rush, by John & Phyllis Hutchins  
In memory of Jacob Roy 'Jake'  
Rush, by Carol & Roger Freeman  
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Rocky Mountain Chapter, CO  
In memory of Jessie Price, by the  
Inland Empire Chapter, CA  
In memory of John 'Jack' Johnson,  
by Erwin & Shirley Lange  
In memory of John Conard, by C &  
J Nattier

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In memory of John O Johnson, by  
Robert & Shirley Field  
In memory of Larry Wissman, by  
OKI Chapter  
In memory of Leroy Bowman, by  
M/M George Barnes  
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Peter & Mary Griffin  
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By the Columbia River Chapter  
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In memory of Bill Hurley, by Mel &  
Harriet Steffes  
In memory of Pauline Burger, by  
Mel & Harriet Steffes

# new members

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



|                                                                                                   |                                                                              |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>New Annual Members<br/>"Welcome Home"</b>                                                      | Sarah Clingman<br>Jay<br>Columbia, SC<br>Daughter of Barnwell<br>Linley, ETO | AAF<br>Stalag Luft 1<br>3/18/45-4/7/45                                              | 7A<br>10/14/44-4/29/45                                                                                                      |
| Paul John Costello<br>Lansing, MI<br>99 Div 393 BN C Co<br>12C, 13C, Sork Camp<br>12/17/44-6/1/45 | <b>New Life Members<br/>"Welcome Home"</b><br>*new member to AXPOW           | Norman Lichtenfeld<br>Mobile, AL<br>Son of Seymour<br>Lichtenfeld, ETO              | Deborah Wissman<br>*39294<br>Cincinnati, OH<br>Widow of Lawrence E<br>Wissman<br>2B, Work Camps, Prussia<br>12/28/43-5/3/45 |
| George H Brice<br>Tina M<br>Lafayette, NJ<br>AAC<br>Luft 3, others                                | W Dean Jones<br>Ruth Irene 3537 39289<br>Manchester, IA<br>301 BG<br>17B     | Louise Vitale 39292<br>Lancaster, TX<br>Widow of George A<br>Vitale<br>Camp 5 KOREA | Robert C "Buzz" Barton<br>Rey G * 39295 39296<br>Dallas, TX<br>AAC Bomber<br>Luft 3, Bavaria,<br>Nurnburg                   |
| Harrison W. Morgan, Jr.<br>Lancaster, PA<br>Son of Harrison Morgan<br>Sr. ETO                     | Archie Mathosian *39290<br>S Setauket, NY                                    | D Allan Gavan *39293<br>Center Harbor, NH<br>26 Div 104 Reg                         |                                                                                                                             |

## chaplain's corner



### National Chaplain

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

I recently read where a family moved to a new location. They soon found out that their fax machine would transmit messages but had trouble receiving. Every incoming message would cut off with these instructing words: "Too Much Noise and Restrictions on Line". They called a repairman and he soon found and corrected the problems. This tells us that we can have our say and transmit our requests to God, but sometimes have problems receiving His answers. It seems as though our natural fo-

cus is on what we want and not on what we need to hear from the Almighty God. If we allow things of this world to build up resistance to what he wants of us, we will find out that there are dozens of things and reasons we will refuse to hear His pleading for us to reach out to others as we should.

**Let us pray:** Dear Heavenly Father, we come to You with praise and thanksgiving for the blessings that you send to sustain us each and every day. May we in return do our best to do Your will. As we face the trials and tasks of life, may our lives overflow with appreciation and gratitude by showing Your love and kindness to everyone we meet. O Lord, we do want to become more like You in all things. So please help us to take a step back and listen to what You have to say to us. As we ask a special blessing upon all who listen to what you have to say. May a special blessing be upon our unique organization ...all who need Your kind of help... and upon our great nation so that peace may be upon this earth. In

Your Holy and Blessed Name we pray. AMEN.

**Thought for the month:** Worldly static disrupts our communication with God.

**And a chuckle:** One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up to him. "Pastor McGhee, what is this?" Alex asked. "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally managed to ask, "Which one, the 9:00 or 10:30 service?"



# taps



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

**BAILEY, William Arthur**, age 74, of Portland, OR died Oct. 4, 2006. Bill served in the Army in Korea; he was a POW for 27 months. Survivors include his wife, Betty, 4 stepsons, 1 sister, 1 brother, 22 grandchildren and 49 great-grandchildren.

**BEAUCHAMP, Allen V.**, 86, of Timonium, MD passed away Jan. 4, 2007. During WWII, he served in the Marines, captured by the Japanese in the Philippines. He survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years in 42<sup>nd</sup> Garage, Bilibid, Cabanatuan, Osaka, Kobe, Omomori and Yodogowa. Allen was a life member of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He is survived by 1 daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and stepmother.

**BITTNER, Thomas Edward**, 86, of Baltimore, MD passed away Dec. 6, 2006. During WWII, he served in the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 98<sup>th</sup> BG (H). He was a POW in Luft IV for 11 months. Tom was a member of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 3 brothers, 5 sisters and 4 grandchildren.

**BROWN, Delos**, member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, AXPOW and resident of Van Nuys passed away Jan. 7, 2007. Delos was captured on Wake Island on Dec. 22, 1941 while serving in the Navy. He was held in Woosun, China, steel mills in Yahata and Kokura, Japan; he spent 8 years in the hospital after liberation. His devoted wife, Betty, 1 sister and other family and friends survive him.

**BUSELMEIER, Rudolph Matthew**, age 90, of Coos Bay, OR passed away Jan. 4, 2007. On Dec. 8, 1941,

the Japanese bombed the Cavite Navy Yard, forcing the evacuation of the command to Manila and then to Bataan. Rudy was ordered to Corregidor where he was captured; he was held for 3 ½ years. He is survived by his wife, Janet, 2 daughters, 3 stepchildren, 1 sister, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**CAPEN, Morris N.** of Rancho Cordova, CA died March 14 at the age of 84. He had been a POW in Santo Tomas and Los Banos in the Philippines during WWII. Morris was a longtime member of the 49ers Chapter, AXPOW. He was also a past chapter commander (possibly more than once). He leaves his wife, Grace, 2 daughters and 3 grandsons.

**CLAYPOOL, Warren David**, 87, of Puposky, MN died July 22, 2006. Dave served with the 379<sup>th</sup> BG, 526<sup>th</sup> BS, 8<sup>th</sup> AF. He was a POW at Stalag Luft IV; liberated by the 104<sup>th</sup> Inf. He is survived by 7 children, 22 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. His son, David, currently served as the MN State Commander.

**CORPENING, Ira B.**, of El Cajon, CA passed away Feb. 10, 2007 at the age of 86. He served with the AAF during WWII; he was a POW in Germany. Ira's passion was airplanes. He spent many happy days volunteering at the San Diego Aerospace Museum. He will be missed by his wife of 62 years, 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

**CRAM, Milton B. Sr.**, 85, of Gilford, NH, died Feb. 20, 2007. Milt served in the Army during WWII with the 106<sup>th</sup> Div., 423<sup>rd</sup> Reg., Cannon Co. and served with the Army Corps of Engineers. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 16, 1944. He was a member of the New

Hampshire Chapter, AXPOW - director for 10 years. Survivors include three sons, one daughter, five grandchildren, and one sister. He was predeceased by his wife of 51 years, Vonda (Inman) Cram, in 1999.

**CYCHNER, Max J.** of Mount Prospect passed away Feb. 4, 2007. Max served in the Army during WWII. He was a POW in Europe. He was a member of the Fox River Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his daughter Joanne, 1 granddaughter and 1 great-grandson. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bernice.

**Di FRANCESCO, Maria Agnes**, 90, of Bethesda, MD died Dec. 29, 2006. Maria was a member of the Chuck Williams Mid-Maryland Chapter. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Vincent (POW in Oflag 64 during WWII), 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

**DIGGS, Ben F.**, of Pensacola, FL passed away Dec. 24, 2006. After capture in Germany, Ben and good friend Fred Quiel were slave labor on the Deutsche Eisenbahn. Now Fred is the only one left of the group. Ben is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Grace, 1 daughter, 1 sister and a large and loving extended family.

**DIVER, Clarence**, of Dunlap, IL passed away Feb. 25, 2007 at the age of 85. Clarence was captured while serving in the Army during WWII. He was a member of the Heart of IL Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his loving wife, Lucille, 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and several nieces and nephews.

**DREHER, Alfred (Ben)**, of Bremerton, WA died Jan 26, 2007. Ben was 92. He was commanding



# taps continued

officer of an Ordinance CO; he was imprisoned when the Japanese overran Corregidor. Ben was a long-time member of the Kitsap Chapter; he served as Chapter Commander before his illness. His wife, Ana, survives him.

**EMKENS, Ilene O.** died December 12, 2006. She was a member of the Greater Tampa Bay Chapter and was the widow of Harold A. Emkens.

**FILKINS, Clyde L.** of Westerlo, NY passed away Feb. 17, 2007 at the age of 87. During WWII, he served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 422 Reg., Co C. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Survivors include his wife, Margaret, 10 nieces and nephews and a host of extended family and friends.

**FINN, Willard E.** of Vienna, MO, member of Central MO Chapter AXPOW, passed away 03/03/07. He was a POW in Germany in WW-11. He is survived by his wife Bernice of 61 years a son Gary and daughter Barbara Brewer & grandchildren. He was in Army Air Corps during WW-11 & flew as a crew member on B-17 aircraft stationed in Italy.

**FISH, Joseph H.**, of Rego Park, Queens, NY passed away Nov. 10, 2006. During WWII, he served with the 117<sup>th</sup> Infantry and was a POW in Germany. He leaves his nephew Joseph, of Goffstown, NH.

**FULLOM, Gerald D.** of Centerville, PA died Oct. 5, 2006. He was 84. Gerald served with the 99<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div and was captured during the Battle of the Bulge. He was held at Stalag 4B until liberation. Survivors include his beloved wife of 62 years, Doris, 1 daughter and 2 grandsons. Both Gerald and Doris were life members of AXPOW.

**GALLOWAY, Ernest Agnew**, age 91 passed away Jan 29, 2007 at his

home in Goldsboro, NC. Ernie served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 279<sup>th</sup> BG. He was captured on a bombing run over the Rhur Valley. Ernie participated in the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III and the march across Germany. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Linda, and one daughter.

**GATTINELLA, Sebastiano "Bustie"** P., 87, of Salem, NH, died Feb. 14, 2007. He was a POW of World War II. He served as a radio operator in the USAF, [Battle of the Bulge]. Bustie was a devoted husband for 60 years and a loving father. He loved gardening. He is survived by his wife, Nellie, two sons, two brothers, three sisters and three grandchildren.

**GILBERT, Richard C.**, of Ashville, AL died Jan. 27, 2007. He was 83. Richard is the last Wake Island Marine POW survivor from AL, GA, FL or TN. He was held prisoner in China and Japan from Dec. 1941 to Sept. 1945. He was a life member of AXPOW and past commander of Cheaha Chapter. He leaves his wife, Alice, 3 daughters, 2 step-daughters, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**GOLDMAN, Jane F.**, 84, life member of AXPOW and the James L. Hale Memorial Chapter, passed away Feb. 25, 2007. Her husband, Ben, a POW in Germany, 1 daughter, 1 son and 4 grandchildren survive her.

**GRIEG, Anna Mae**, 84, of Glen Burnie, MD passed away Dec. 18, 2006. Mae was a member of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Leonard (a POW during WWII), 1 daughter, 1 son, 5 sisters, 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

**HATCH, Russell**, of North Haverhill, NH died Dec. 25, 2006. Russell served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF as a tail gunner on a B-17. He was shot down over France and held for 13

months. He leaves his wife of 58 years, Violet, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**HARGROVE, Robert Lee Jr.** of Moore, OK passed away Feb. 10, 2007. He was captured at Anzio Beach during WWII while serving in the Army. He was a POW for 16 months. He leaves his wife, Illa Mae, one daughter and many friends.

**HAYS, Edwin W.**, of Paramus, NJ died Feb. 3, 2007. He was 82. Ed was captured while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 95<sup>th</sup> BG. He was shot down over Denmark and captured. He spent 15 months in POW camps, enduring atrocities such as the Heydekrug Run, which was later classified as a war crime. Ed was a frequent speaker and advocate for other ex-POWs, veterans and their families. He had served as commander of the Garden State Chapter #1 for the past decade. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Joan, 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**HENRY, Lester J.**, of Hooksett, NH. During WWII, he served in the Air Force. He was captured in Germany and held at Luft 1, Barth until liberation. He is survived by his wife, Alice, 1 daughter, 1 stepdaughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sisters, nieces and nephews.

**HEPLER, Arnold Wayne**, 83, of Glen Burnie, MD passed away Dec. 14, 2006. During WWII, he served in the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 456<sup>th</sup> BG, 746<sup>th</sup> BS. He was held prisoner in Bucharest, Romania. Arnold was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He is survived by one daughter, one son, two sisters and two grandchildren.

**KENNEY, Dorothy E.**, of Port Orchard, WA died Jan. 21, 2007 at the

## taps continued...

age of 92. She was the widow of James Kenney, who was a Japanese POW after his ship, the USS Houston was torpedoed. Dorothy was a member of the Kitsap Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by a son and one grandson.

**KEPHART, Ruth**, of Stanley, ND passed away Oct. 18, 2006. She was the widow of Rodney, who was captured at Wake Island. Ruth was a life member of AXPOW and the Dakota North Chapter. She is survived by 1 daughter, 4 granddaughters, 1 great-granddaughter and 1 brother.

**KING Arthur Scott Jr.**, age 84, of Canton, NY died Feb. 27, 2007. Arthur served with 78<sup>th</sup> Division of the US Army WWII. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of the former Northern New York Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by one daughter, one son and 2 grandchildren.

**KLINGBELL, Arthur E.**, age 86, of Edina, MN passed away Feb. 7, 2007. He was captured while serving with the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines Cavite A. Survivors include Moya and her son Patrick, 12 nieces and nephews, cousins and many other relatives and friends.

**KUDASIK, Joe Jr.**, 85, of Central City, PA died Feb. 10, 2007. Joe served with the 91<sup>st</sup> BGG (H), 401<sup>st</sup> BS, AAC. His plane was shot down over Frankfurt, Germany; he was a POW for 15 months. Joe is survived by his wife, Helen, 4 children and 4 grandchildren.

**LIBERMAN, Abraham Roke**, of Wilmington, DE died Jan. 6, 2007. Roke served with the 91<sup>st</sup> BG, 324<sup>th</sup> BS in Bassingbourne AB in England. He was shot down in Brittany; he evaded capture for a few days un-

til an informant turned him in. He was taken to Stalag 17-B and held until liberation. Roke is survived by his wife of 30 years, 2 children, 5 stepchildren and 10 grandchildren.

**LUSBY, John R. Jr.**, 90, of Reisterstown, MD passed away Jan. 13, 2007. During WWII, he served in the 45<sup>th</sup> Div., Thunderbird, 180<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg. (H). He was held prisoner in Stalag II-B for nearly two years. John was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He is survived by one son, one daughter, one sister and four grandchildren.

**MCGRATH, Robert Evan**, of Portland, OR died Jan. 12, 2007. Bob served in the Pacific during WWII. He was captured while serving in the Army in Korea; he spent 33 ½ months as a POW. He is survived by his wife, Betty, 2 daughters, 1 brother, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**MEDZIE, Michael**, 84, of Champion, OH died Feb. 17, 2007. He was shot down over Berlin while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF on a B-17. He was a member of the Mahoning Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Surviving are his wife, Norma, 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, 7 sisters and 3 brothers.

**MILLER, Charles Edwin**, 83, of Joplin, MO died Feb. 2, 2007. He was a charter member of the SW Missouri Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served as a medic in the 1773 service command unit. He was captured in France and marched across Europe until liberation. His wife of 55 years, Berdy June, survives him; he also leaves 3 sons and 2 grandsons.

**MILLER, Joseph R.**, of Latrobe, PA died Nov. 12, 2006. During WWII, he was shot down over Germany while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 392<sup>nd</sup> BG, 557<sup>th</sup> BS. He was held captive in Luft 1, Barth. Joe was a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter, AXPOW.

He leaves his wife of 54 years, Agnes, and three daughters.

**MONTAGNA, Dominic**, 86, of Baltimore, MD passed away Jan. 16, 2007. During WWII, he served in the Army Air Force and was held POW in Stalag XVII-B. Dominic was a member of AXPOW and the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He is survived by one daughter.

**MOODY, Howard E.**, of Edgefield, SC died Jan. 21, 2007 at the age of 88. During WWII, he served with the 379<sup>th</sup> BG, 524<sup>th</sup> BS, stationed in England. He was a POW in several POW camps. He is survived by 1 daughter and 1 son.

**MORGAN, Harrison W.**, of Vero Beach, FL died Jan. 19, 2007 at the age of 84. Harrison served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Armored Div. during WWII. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge. Survivors include his 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

**MULLINER, David**, of San Diego, CA died Jan. 25, 2007. He was a photographer with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII, serving with the 461<sup>st</sup> BG, 766<sup>th</sup> BS. He was shot down while recording the results of a bombing run; he was a POW in Luft 4. David was an active member of the San Diego Chapter, AXPOW. He will be greatly missed.

**OLSZEWSKI, Bernard A.** 87, of Grayslake, IL (formerly of Ft. Myers, FL) died Jan. 10, 2007. He served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, 90<sup>th</sup> Div., 359<sup>th</sup> Inf., K Co. and was a POW in Stalag XIII A. Bernard was a member of the Southwest FL Chapter 100. Survivors include his wife, Irene, 5 children and 5 grandchildren.

**PARKER, Kenneth I.**, 86, of Germantown, TN passed away Dec. 10, 2006. Ken was the 913<sup>th</sup> Life Member of AXPOW and a member of the Mid-South Chapter.

**RUSH, Jacob Roy "Jake"**, of Colorado Springs, CO died Feb. 8, 2007. He was 84. During WWII, he served

## taps continued...

with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 381<sup>st</sup> BG, 534<sup>th</sup> BS. He was a POW in Stalag Luft IV. Jake was a member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**SCHMIDT (KENNEDY), Imogene** of LaCanada, CA passed away March 3, 2007. She was 88; with her death, only three "Angels of Bataan" are believed to be alive. Jeanne was captured by the Japanese on April 19, 1942 and remained captive in Santo Tomas until February 3, 1945. Her husband, Dick, who was a civilian POW in the Philippines as well, died several years ago. She is survived by one daughter. Jeanne was one of the two nurses who re-wrote lyrics for the then popular song, Easter Parade just before their capture at Hospital #2:

*This year's Easter bonnet Is an Army helmet- darn it! With olive paint and chin straps They won't give us the eye With all the dust upon it; We surely hate to don it But we won't be self-conscious At the Easter Parade.*

When some got orders to evacuate, Jeanne would recall that she managed to take only her toothbrush, a comb and a flashlight. Those who knew Jeanne will miss her greatly.

**SHEA, Edward P.**, 81, of Medford, MA died Dec. 25, 2006. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 332<sup>nd</sup> BS during WWII; he was shot down over Frankfurt and held in Stalag Luft III, IV and VI. He is survived by his wife, Carmela, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 2 grandsons.

**SIEBOLD, Charles P.**, age 81, died Dec. 1, 2006. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div., 422<sup>nd</sup> Reg., Co. B. Chuck was a POW in Stalag 4B until liberation. He was a wonderful husband to wife, Roberta; he also leaves 4 sons and 5 grandchildren.

**SULLIVAN, Edward J. Sr.**, of Wichita, KS died Jan 4, 2007 at the age of 85. During WWII, he served in the National Guard, joined the Army, transferred to the AAC and became a pilot. He was captured and held in Stalag Luft 1, Barth. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

**SUTTON, Freida**, 86, of Gainsville, TX died Jan. 30, 2007. She as a life member of AXPOW and the Cen-Tex Chapter #1. Her husband, Ex-POW Jerry, predeceased her. She is survived by two brothers.

**THOMAS, William B.**, of Selma, AL passed away Dec. 29, 2006. He was 91. During WWII, he served in the 803<sup>rd</sup> Army Eng. Bn. in the Philippines. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of captivity. His loving wife predeceased him; he is survived by 1 daughter and 1 brother.

**THOMPSON, Barbara**, long-time member and adjutant of the Low Country Chapter, AXPOW died Jan. 17, 2007. She is survived by 5 sons, 16 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Her husband, William, had been very active in the chapter; he preceded her in death.

**VERMOND, Ernest Blackburn**, 82, of Quarryville, PA passed away Dec. 12, 2006. During WWII, he served in the 106<sup>th</sup> Inf. Co E., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn, 422<sup>nd</sup> Reg. He was captured during The Battle of the Bulge; held prisoner in Stalags IX-A and IX-B. Ernie was a life member of AXPOW and member of the Albert J. Bland Maryland North Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Margaret, 3 sons, 1 daughter, 1 sister, 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**VIDAL, Donald C.**, age 88, former member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Marines died Feb. 6, 2007. He was captured and held in China and the Philippines. He will be deeply missed by his devoted wife of 54 years, Lila "Mollie", 1 brother, 2 grandsons,

and a host of extended family and friends.

**VOGEL, Joe B.**, 88, of Washington, DC died Feb. 22, 2007. During WWII, he was shot down while on a bombing mission on the French coast; he was held in Luft 1, Barth. Dr. Vogel went on to become a USIA press attaché. In 1979, he was sent to Israel for Middle East peace talks between President Jimmy Carter and Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Dr. Vogel was a member of the Chuck Williams Mid-Maryland Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Mary, 3 sons, 7 grandchildren and 1 sister.

**WICKENS, Lewis Arthur**, 83, of Mound City, MO passed away Jan. 24, 2007. He was shot down in Germany while serving with the Air Force; he remained at Luft 1 until liberation. Lewis was a member of the Pony Express Chapter, AXPOW. He was also past State Dept. Commander. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Lois, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 1 sister.

**WILLIAMS, Margaret E.**, 85, of Champaign, IL died March 1, 2007. She was the widow of Ex-POW Edwin. Both were members of AX-POW and the Illiana Chapter. Survivors include two daughters, three grandchildren and one great-grandson.

**WOLBERT, Robert Lee**, 83, of Oil City, PA passed away Feb. 6, 2007. He was captured while serving with the 96<sup>th</sup> BG, 413<sup>th</sup> BS as a waist gunner. He spent 13 months in Stalag 17B. Survivors include his loving wife of 61 years, Dorothy, 3 daughters, 2 sons, 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

**ZICKLER, John P.**, died Nov. 18, 2006. He was a POW in Germany during WWII; held in Stalag Luft 6, 4 and 1. He leaves his wife, Jean and son, John.



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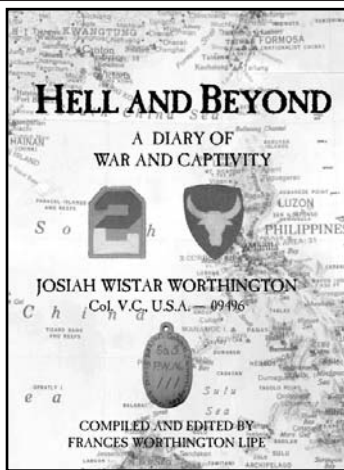
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**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
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Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing.  
Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated.

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Thank you for your support.



# request for membership application

## American Ex-Prisoners of War

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

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

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

**Mail to:**  
 American Ex-Prisoners of War  
 3201 East Pioneer Parkway, #40  
 Arlington, TX 76010-5936

(817) 649-2979 voice  
 (817)649-0109 fax  
 e-mail: hq@axpow.org

| Life Membership Rates   |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Under 35                | \$360 |
| 36-50                   | \$300 |
| 51-60                   | \$180 |
| 61 & over               | \$120 |
| Spouse of life member   | \$ 40 |
| Annual Membership Rates |       |
| Single Membership       | \$ 40 |
| Husband & wife          | \$ 50 |

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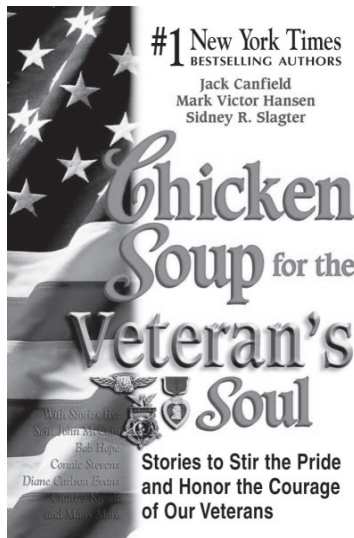
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**Make checks payable to: Veterans Stories, LLC,  
 95 Uno Lago Dr., Juno Beach, FL 33408**

**Questions? Call 888-387-6373**

**Ex-POW Bulletin  
 May 2007**

**Name Badge Order Form  
(for members only)**

AXPOW  
3201 E Pioneer Pkwy #40  
Arlington Texas 76010  
Choice of attachment  
(check one or we choose)

- Pin-on Actual size of badge is 2 1/8" x 3 3/8"
- Clip-on (size of a credit card)



**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Name Badge with name & chapter and city.....\$ 6.00  
(includes shipping and handling)

Ship to:  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**AXPOW Vest Order Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

Price: \$50.00, includes shipping/handling  
Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:  
**AXPOW NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**  
**3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40**  
**Arlington, Texas 76010-5396**

|                                        |       |                                                    |       |                                                      |       |
|----------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)      | 25.00 | Vest Chainguard w/eagles                           | 7.00  | AXPOW Metal License Plate Frame                      | 6.00  |
| Maroon AXPOW Sport Cap                 | 8.00  | Travel Alarm Clock with case                       | 10.00 | Aluminum License Plate                               | 4.00  |
| Eagle Sport Cap                        | 9.00  |                                                    |       | 3" Vinyl Decal                                       | 1.00  |
| Vinyl Cap Bag                          | 3.00  | 3" Blazer Patch                                    | 3.50  | 3" Inside Decal                                      | 1.00  |
| Barbed Wire pin                        | 2.50  | 4" Blazer Patch                                    | 3.50  | 8" Vinyl Decal                                       | 5.00  |
| Life Member pin                        | 4.00  | 8" Blazer Patch                                    | 10.00 | 12" Vinyl Decal                                      | 10.00 |
| Crossed Flags Lapel pin                | 4.00  | <b>CLOTH STRIPES</b> (specify which title)         | 2.00  | Bumper Sticker "Freedom Is Happiness"                | 2.00  |
| Brooch pin                             | 4.00  | Life Member · Chapter Commander                    |       | Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"                    | 2.00  |
| EX-POW pin (goldtone)                  | 4.00  | Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter |       | Magnetic Ribbons                                     | 5.00  |
| Logo pin                               | 4.00  | Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer                       |       | Memorial Seals                                       |       |
| POW Stamp pin                          | 2.50  | State Department Commander                         |       | 3 sheets, \$1.00; 10 sheets, \$3.00; 20 sheets, 5.00 |       |
| Past Chapter Commander pin             | 4.00  | Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant   |       | AXPOW Daisies (dozen)                                | 1.50  |
| Past Department Commander pin          | 4.00  | Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander          |       | In lots of 12, (ie , 24, 36, 48, etc.-per dozen)     | 1.25  |
| Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire                | 7.00  | Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian          |       | Wall Clock (battery included)                        | 20.00 |
| (specify gold, silver or antique gold) |       | Service Officer · Legislative Officer              |       | AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)                          | 5.00  |
| Necktie w/logo woven in fabric         | 20.00 | Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer     |       | Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)                     | 5.00  |
| (specify regular or pre-tied)          |       |                                                    |       | AXPOW Prayer Book                                    | 2.00  |
| AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie                    | 15.00 | 12x18 inch American Flag                           | 5.00  | Ladies Prayer Book                                   | 1.00  |
| U.S. Flag Bolo Tie                     | 18.50 | 12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag                         | 10.00 | POW Medal Poster Print                               | 5.00  |
| Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie                | 20.00 | 3x5 ft. AXPOW Flag w/3-color logo                  |       | AXPOW By-Laws                                        | 5.00  |
| Goldtone Bolo Bezel w/cord             | 9.00  | with fringe, indoor use                            | 60.00 | POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific                       | 11.00 |
| Logo Necklace & Pierced Earrings       | 10.00 | with grommets, outdoor use                         | 60.00 | "Speak Out" Education Packet                         | 6.00  |
| 2" Medallion (for plaque)              | 4.00  |                                                    |       | Canvas Totebag w/4" logo                             | 15.00 |

**We accept Master Card/Visa**

| QUANTITY | ITEM | SIZE / COLOR | PRICE |
|----------|------|--------------|-------|
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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**  
**AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR**  
**3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40**  
**Arlington, Texas 76010-5396**  
**817-649-2979**  
**axpowqm@aol.com**



**Ordered to destroy their American Flag by their Japanese captors, Paul Spain and his comrades saved and hid the stars. When airdrops brought food at war's end, they used cloth from parachutes and an old sewing machine to make this flag.**

**George Bush Gallery, Museum of the Pacific War, Nimitz State Historical Park, Fredericksburg, TX.**

Thanks to Alice Booher for submitting this picture.





# AXPOW Vests!

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

**\$50.00 each**, includes shipping/handling

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



Thank you for supporting the American Ex-POWS with your purchases of National Merchandise.

## change of address form

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

Please print:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

Mail to: National Headquarters, AXPOW, 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40, Arlington, TX 76010-5396

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

e-mail: [Marsha.coke@axpow.org](mailto:Marsha.coke@axpow.org)

Subscription Rates -- non members  
\$40.00 per year

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All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:

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National Headquarters  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax  
e-mail: [HQ@axpow.org](mailto:HQ@axpow.org)  
No collect calls, please

