

# EX-POW BULLETIN

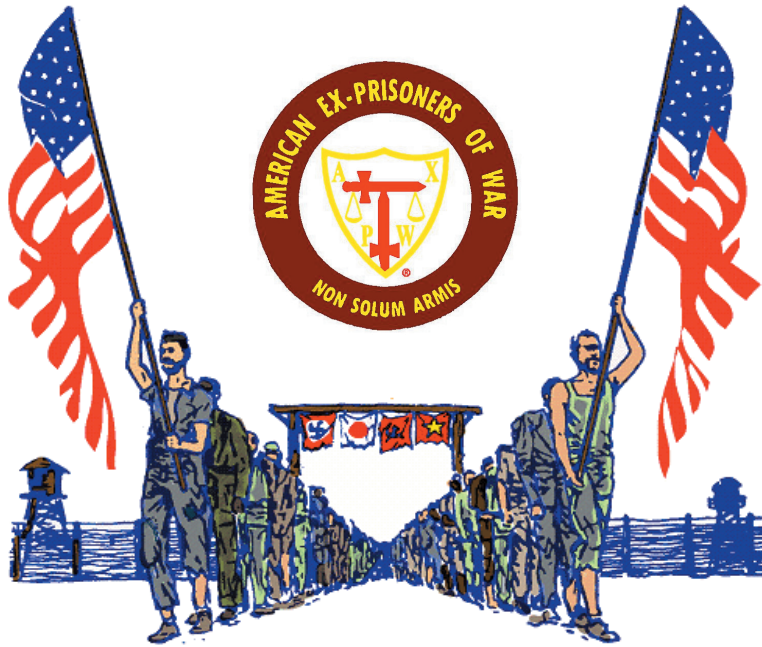
the official voice of the  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

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November/December 2013



*We exist to help those who cannot help themselves*



*"The Bracelets"*

# POW/MIA Recognition Day

Georgia Southwestern State University/Andersonville National Historic Site/  
Rolling Thunder-The Ride Home



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Deadline for the Jan/Feb 2014  
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Please send all materials to  
the editor at the above  
address.

## November/December 2013

In the 1970's, we wore Prisoner of War (P.O.W.) and Missing in Action (M.I.A.) bracelets bearing the name of a captured or lost soldier. We did this to keep this person in our hearts and minds, even if we did not know them personally. We proudly wore these bracelets, and some still do, as a symbol of hope that the POWs and MIAs would return home to their families.

Today, we also keep others in our memories... victims and heroes of terrorism. To keep the memory alive of those who have died innocently at the hands of terrorists or fighting terrorism, we now also wear Memorial Bracelets. By wearing a Memorial Bracelet, we show our patriotism and offer our moral and financial support to the families of these victims and heroes of terrorism.

One special bracelet is for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl ~ captured June 30, 2009. He has been held more than four years in Afghanistan. It's time to Bring Bowe Home. To order Bowe's bracelet, go to: <http://www.memorialbracelets.com/index.php>.

### Renewal Notice! Annual Members!

The January, 2013 issue will be the last one you receive if you don't renew. Take a minute and send your 2013 dues to National Headquarters.

### Veterans Day is November 11.

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."  
~ *President Woodrow Wilson*



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with their columns



National Commander  
James L Lollar

With sadness I report the passing of National Director Lewis "Lew" Sleeper from the Southwest Region. Lew has been a great asset to the Organization over the past several years serving not only as an ND but also as Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee. We should all send our heart-felt condolences to his wife, Janice, and Lew will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

The 2014 Calendar was recently mailed to you for your use and enjoyment. The calendar is dedicated to the Civil War era with emphasis on Andersonville POW Prison located a few miles outside Americus, Georgia. Although not required, please be generous with your donations sent in to the National Headquarters in support of this annual project.

I recently asked the Board of Directors to assist in finding members who would be willing to become National Directors. There's currently vacancies in the East-Central, Southeast, Southwest, and Northwest Regions. I now ask you, the membership, to step-up and accept the ND responsibilities to maintain the necessary representation for these Regions on the Board.

Please contact me if you're willing to serve.

Let's all welcome Mr. Edward "Ted" Cadwallader as National Director for the Southwest Region. Ted was a civilian POW captured by the Japanese in the Philippine Islands during WW II. Ted has been active over the past several years supporting the Organization as Commander for the Department of California and the 49r's Chapter, and he will be a great addition to the Board of Directors.

The next Mid-Year Meeting is on 22-24 November 2013, and the next National Convention is on 25-29 June 2014, both at the Hilton Hotel in Arlington, TX. Please mark your calendars and schedules to attend if at all possible...your attendance will be greatly appreciated...besides we'd love to see you again.

**From the Editor:**

2014 schedule of Bulletin deadlines:

- Jan./Feb. issue due Dec. 1.
- March/April issue due Feb. 1.
- May/June issue due April 1.
- July/Aug. issue due June 1.
- Sept./Oct. issue due July 25.
- Nov/Dec. issue due Oct 1.

**2014 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

All AXPOW Offices will be closed on the following dates:

- New Years Day January 1
- MLK/Civil Rights Day January 20
- Presidents Day February 17
- Memorial Day May 26
- National Convention 24-29
- Independence Day July 4
- Labor Day September 1
- Columbus Day October 13
- Veterans Day November 11
- Thanksgiving November 27-29
- Christmas December 25-31

news  
from  
hq



The Holidays are upon us once again. Hope everyone has plans to celebrate with family and friends.

It's time to make sure your annual dues are paid up. If you haven't renewed for 2014, please do so now. You won't miss a single issue of the Bulletin.

The Challenge Coins have turned into a best seller for us. They make nice, affordable gifts. Also, Certificates of Captivity and our online biographies are available. Information on these items is available elsewhere in the magazine.

As we phase our merchandise out, we are trying to keep a small amount of items for you. Here are a few great Holiday Gift ideas: Our AXPOW tote bag ... POW Biography for our website ... Certificate of Captivity ... and of course, the Challenge Coins. Shop early!

The AXPOW membership roster book project is going well. If you have not contacted Harris Publishers to update and expand your listing in the book, please do so. Give them a call at 1-800-934-1659.

Happy Holidays to all. Enjoy!

National Headquarters

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## Flags for Deceased Veterans: Receiving 1 Free Flag from the Department of Veterans Affairs

Burial flags are provided by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) for free, for use in draping a deceased veteran's casket or urn in their service. The one free flag is offered to honor anyone who honorably served in any branch of the United States military. The flag is provided to any man or woman who served in the armed forces, who received any discharge other than dishonorable.

### Who is Eligible for Flags for Deceased Veterans?

Anyone who served in the military and meets one of the following conditions is eligible to receive a free burial flag.

- · Served during wartime
- · died during active duty after May 27, 1941
- · served at any point after January 31, 1955
- · anyone who served during peacetime and was discharged or released from the service prior to June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1950.
- · certain people who while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces helped organize a military in the Philippines, who died either on or after April 25<sup>th</sup> 1951.
- · certain people who served in the Selected Reserves.

### How to Receive Flags for

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### Deceased Veterans

To receive one of the flags for deceased veterans, you must fill out VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes. The flag may be obtained from your local regional VA office or your local post office. If more assistance is required, your funeral director will be able to assist you with securing the burial flag. Only one burial flag will be issued to each veteran.

For those who do not want to go through the application process to receive a free flag, or for those who have lost or damaged their free flag from the VA, it is possible to purchase your own burial flag directly from Veterans Flag Depot that specializes in flags for deceased veterans.

### Displaying the Burial Flag

The way the burial flag is displayed depends on whether there is an open or closed casket. The proper way to display the flag is detailed on the application form for the burial flag. As the flag is made of cotton and 5'x9'.6" in size, it is not ideal for an outdoor display.

The flag is most often given to the next-of-kin after being used in the funeral. In the instance that there is no next-of-kin available to leave the flag to as a keepsake, the VA will release the flag to a friend who requests it.

After use in the service, the flag can be folded and stored appropriately for safe keeping by family members or a close friend. The flag can then be passed down to children and grandchildren of the deceased veteran.

### Folds of the flag

1<sup>st</sup> fold is a symbol of life

2<sup>nd</sup> fold is a symbol of the belief in eternal life

3<sup>rd</sup> fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world

4<sup>th</sup> fold represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in god, it is to him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His guidance

5<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the country, for the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

6<sup>th</sup> fold is for where people's hearts lie, it is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag to the flag of the United States of America and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and justice for all.

7<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic

8<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death that we might see the light of day.

9<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to womanhood, and mothers, for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

10<sup>th</sup> fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born. 11<sup>th</sup> fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

12<sup>th</sup> fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the father, the son and Holy spirit.

13 fold, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their nation's motto "In God we Trust" After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

## PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Public Law 97-37  
(Layman's Terms)  
Originally published  
by William Paul Skelton, III,  
MD F.A.C.P.  
updated by the Department of  
Veterans Affairs

*You should keep these and/or make copies. Whenever you open your claim, take them with you and make sure the adjudication officer sees them and have him read them! Make sure he knows all about them. Tell him your story as it relates to your problem.*

### 1. ARTHRITIS, TRAUMATIC

Also known as articular trauma. This disorder looks and is treated just like degenerative arthritis (arthritis associated with age) except it is caused by severe damage to a single or few joints producing early onset arthritis. Since it has a definite cause, it is called a secondary form of arthritis. This is an extremely difficult diagnosis to make, but in general one has to prove that a specific trauma occurred to a single or very few joints, and other changes consistent with degenerative arthritis are not present throughout the rest of the body at the same time. In short, these changes need to be localized.

### 2. AVITAMINOSIS

The total lack of vitamins in the diet. This disorder is a fatal condition unless it is supplemented with vitamins within a few weeks. Therefore, most individuals suffer from hypovitaminosis, which is a relative deficiency of vitamins in the diet. The specific type, intensity and duration of depriva-

tion determines the long-term effects.

### 3. BERIBERI

Caused by a severe lack of vitamin B1 (thiamine) in the diet. This produces changes in the nerves (both in the brain and extremities) and the heart. Brain changes could produce dementia or psychosis. Nervous changes are usually associated with numbness and/or painful feet. Beriberi heart disease is an acute condition, similar to congestive heart failure, except that the heart pumps more blood than in normal congestive heart failure and it is associated with the presence of an excessive amount of lactic acid in the body. It is unknown at this time whether this can produce a chronic state.

### 4. DYSENTERY, CHRONIC

A disease characterized by frequent and watery stools, usually with blood and mucus, and accompanied by rectal and abdominal pain, fever, and dehydration. This is an infection in the colon and can be caused by a multitude of different organisms, the most common of which is amoeba which can produce a mild or severe dysentery and possibly be associated with a chronic irritable colon. Bacillary dysentery is associated with the bacteria shigella, but will not cause a chronic state. There are multiple other bacteria that can cause dysentery which usually do not produce chronic states. Viral dysentery can also present like amoebic or bacillary dysentery and will not produce a chronic state.

### 5. FROSTBITE

The actual freezing of tissue. This is graded on a continuum with one representing mild to four

representing mummification of the tissue. The extremities furthest from the heart are usually affected, with primarily the nose, ears, fingertips, and toes being involved. This usually produces long-term side effects such as numbness, discoloration, excessive swelling, and pain in the affected area.

### 6. HELMINTHIASIS

Infection with any type of worms that parasitize the human. Most infections usually resolve spontaneously either with proper treatment or as the natural course of the disease. Strongyloides is known to persist in a permanent state in humans due to its ability to re-infect the host.

### 7. MALNUTRITION

Merely means bad nutrition. The nutritional depletion may be either caloric, vitamin, fatty acid, or mineral deficiency, or more likely a combination. Depending on the type, intensity, and duration, it may yield permanent side effects or no lasting side effects at all.

### 8. PELLAGRA

Literally meaning rough skin in Italian, also known as black tongue in dogs. It is caused by a virtual lack of vitamin B3 (niacin) in the diet, producing the classical trio of diarrhea, dermatitis, and dementia. All are easily treated early on with no side effects. The dementia, if left untreated, may produce permanent mental deficits.

### 9. ANY OTHER NUTRITIONAL DEFICIENCY

The lack of protein and calories

## medsearch cont'd...

in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects. However, vitamin deficiencies other than the aforementioned B1 (beriberi) and B3 (pellagra) can have very disastrous effects on one's body. Also deficiencies of certain fatty acids and essential minerals in the diet can have lasting and long term sequela.

### **10. PSYCHOSIS**

A generic term for any of the insanities. Generally, it is thought of as a mental disorder causing gross disorganization of a person's mental capacity and his ability to recognize reality and communicate with others regarding demands of everyday life.

### **11. PANIC DISORDER**

Characterized by discrete periods of apprehension or fear with at least four of the following during an attack: shortness of breath, feelings of heart skipping, chest pain, dizziness, sweating, fainting, trembling, fear of dying, or doing something uncontrollable during an attack. These attacks need to occur at least three times within a three week period, not associated with physical exertion or life threatening situations. Also there needs to be an absence of severe physical or other mental illness which could cause these symptoms.

### **12. GENERALIZED ANXIETY DISORDER**

Characterized by generalized persistent anxiety and with symptoms of at least three of the following four categories:

- (1) Motor tension as characterized by shaking, jumpiness, trembling and restlessness;
- (2) Autonomic hyperactivity, such as sweating, cold or clammy

hands, high or irregular heart rate, dry mouth, etc.;

- (3) Apprehensive expectations, anxiety, worry, fear, anticipation of misfortune to himself or others;
- (4) Tendency to insomnia, hyperattentiveness, irritable.

All these symptoms had to have lasted at least one month. Also, there needs to be an absence of all other mental disorders and physical disorders which could explain the symptoms.

### **13. OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE DISORDER**

This may be either obsessions or compulsions. Obsessions are recurrent, persistent ideas or impulses that are thoughts that invade consciousness and are experienced as senseless or repugnant. Attempts are made to ignore or suppress them. Compulsions are repetitive and seemingly purposeful behaviors that are performed in certain similar manners. The behavior is felt by the individual to produce or prevent some future event. Generally, the individuals recognize the senselessness of the behavior and do not derive pleasure from carrying it out, although it often relieves tension. Also, the obsessive or compulsive individuals are associated with a significant sense of distress in that it interferes with social or role functioning.

### **14. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER**

The re-experiencing of a trauma of a past recognized stress or that can produce symptoms of distress. This re-experiencing needs at least one of the following:

- (1) Recurrent and intrusive recollection of the event;
- (2) Recurrent dreams;
- (3) Sudden feelings that the trauma was occurring because of an association, an environmental or ideational situation.

Also involved is reduced involvement with the external world beginning after the trauma, revealed by at least one of the following:

- (1) Hyperalertness or exaggerated startle response;
- (2) Sleep disturbance;
- (3) Guilt about surviving when others have not;
- (4) Memory impairment or trouble concentrating;
- (5) Avoidance of activities that arouse recollection of the traumatic event;
- (6) Intensification of symptoms by exposure to events that symbolize or resemble the traumatic event.

### **15. ATYPICAL ANXIETY DISORDER**

This is a category that is used for diagnosis when the affected individual appears to have an anxiety disorder that does not meet the criteria for entry into any of the other known anxiety disorders.

### **16. DEPRESSIVE NEUROSIS/ DYSTHYMIC DISORDER**

Characterized by depressive periods in which the patient feels sad and/or down and has a loss of interest in the usual activities that cause pleasure or involvement in usual pastimes. These depressive periods are separated by periods of normal mood, lasting a few days to a few weeks, but no more than a few months at a time. During the depressive period, too little sleep or too much sleep, low energy or chronic tiredness, loss of self esteem, decreased effectiveness or productivity at work, social withdrawal, loss of interest in pleasurable activities, excessive anger, inability to respond with apparent pleasure to praise or reward, less active or talkative than usual, pessimistic attitude about the future, tearful or crying thoughts about death or suicide. There are also no psychotic features present..

### **17. PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY**

Literally Greek for the suffering of nerves outside of the brain and spinal cord. There are several dif-



## medsearch cont'd...

ferent causes for peripheral neuropathy, and vitamin deficiency and possibly mineral deficiency are just two. Other causes to be considered are various toxins such as lead, copper, and mercury, a hereditary predisposition to neuropathy, deposition of amyloid or protein produced by one's own body mounted in response to an infection, infections such as by leprosy, which is the most common form of neuropathy in the world, and multiple other less common causes.

### **18. IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME**

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a common disorder of the intestines that leads to crampy pain, gas, bloating, and changes in bowel habits. Some people with IBS have constipation (difficult or infrequent bowel movements); still others have diarrhea (frequent loose stools, often with an urgent need to move the bowels); and some people experience both. Sometimes the person with IBS has a crampy urge to move the bowels but cannot do so. Through the years, IBS has been called by many names - colitis, mucous colitis, spastic colon, spastic bowel, and functional bowel disease. Most of these terms are inaccurate.

### **19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE**

A peptic ulcer is a sore or hole in the lining of the stomach or duodenum (the first part of the small intestine). In addition to the pain caused by the ulcer itself, peptic ulcers give rise to such complications as hemorrhage from the erosion of a major blood vessel; perforation of the wall of the stomach or intestine, with resultant peritonitis; or obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract because of spasm or swelling in the area of the ulcer. The direct cause of peptic ulcers is the destruction of the gastric or intestinal mucosal lining by hydrochloric

acid, an acid normally present in the digestive juices of the stomach.

### **20. CIRRHOSIS**

The liver, the largest organ in the body, is essential in keeping the body functioning properly. It removes or neutralizes poisons from the blood, produces immune agents to control infection, and removes germs and bacteria from the blood. It makes proteins that regulate blood clotting and produces bile to help absorb fats and fat-soluble vitamins.

In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces normal, healthy tissue, blocking the flow of blood through the organ and preventing it from working as it should.

Many people with cirrhosis have no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. However, as scar tissue replaces healthy cells, liver function starts to fail and a person may experience the following symptoms: Exhaustion, fatigue, appetite loss, nausea, weakness and/or weight loss. Cirrhosis may be diagnosed on the basis of symptoms, laboratory tests, the patient's medical history, and a physical examination. A liver biopsy will confirm the diagnosis.

### **21. STROKE & COMPLICATIONS**

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is suddenly interrupted or when a blood vessel in the brain bursts, spilling blood into the spaces surrounding brain cells. Brain cells die when they no longer receive oxygen and nutrients from the blood or there is sudden bleeding into or around the brain.

The symptoms of a stroke include sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion or trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing in

one or both eyes; sudden trouble with walking, dizziness, or loss of balance or coordination; or sudden severe headache with no known cause. Includes the three major types of stroke: ischemic, hemorrhagic, and embolic, as well as complications from stroke.

### **22. HEART & COMPLICATIONS**

Heart disease includes atherosclerotic heart disease, and hypertensive vascular disease (including hypertensive heart disease, and hypertension). Ischemic heart disease and coronary artery disease are included within this provision.

Complications of atherosclerotic heart disease are included. Complications may include myocardial infarction ("heart attack"), congestive heart failure ("heart failure"), and arrhythmia ("irregular heart beat").

Hypertensive vascular disease refers to disease associated with elevated blood pressure. Complications caused by hypertensive vascular disease are included. Diseases arising from viral or bacterial causes are not included.

### **23. OSTEOPOROSIS**

Osteoporosis is a disease in which bones become fragile and more likely to break. If not prevented or if left untreated, osteoporosis can progress painlessly until a bone breaks. These broken bones occur typically in the hip, spine, and wrist.

Any bone can be affected, but of special concern are fractures of the hip and spine. A hip fracture almost always requires hospitalization and major surgery. Spinal or vertebral fractures also have serious consequences, including loss of height, severe back pain, and deformity.

## POW MEDSEARCH PACKETS

<b>Packet 1~VA Claim Information</b>	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 2~Stresses of Incarceration &amp; After Effects Extreme Stress-</b> Covers the after effects on the nerves and body organs	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 3~After Effects of Imprisonment</b> -Covers arthritis, alcoholism, visual, ulcers, varicose veins, impotency, brain damage, etc	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 4~After Effects of Imprisonment</b> Part 1 - covers the heart, arteries and veins; Part 2 covers cancer	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 5~What Every Wife Should Know Before She Is Your Widow -</b> Social Security, insurance, burial procedures, allowances, etc. including what pathologist should look for in an autopsy (includes shipping and handling charge)	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Packet 6~Micro-Film Index: Asiatic Theater - Japanese</b> Possible help in locating POW records	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Packet 7~Micro-Film Index: European Theater - Germany</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Packet 8~The European Story</b> , History of POWs in Germany, and after-effects	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 9~The Korea Story</b> , History of POWs in Korea, and after-effects	<b>\$8.00</b>
<b>Packet 10~The Japanese Story</b> History of POWs in Japan, and after-effects	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Packet 11~NSO Director Answers Your Questions</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Presentation Set</b> ~(Packets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10)	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>The Modern Day Tragedy</b> ~medical & claims evidence in support of PL 97-37	<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>POW: The American Experience</b> ~overview on POW experience; reviews vitamin deficiencies, infectious diseases and service-connected statistics	<b>\$6.00</b>
<b>Map of German POW Camps</b> ~shows location of 76 camps	<b>\$3.00</b>
<b>Map of Japanese POW Camps</b> ~21" x 32" with camps featured in red	<b>\$4.00</b>

**Check packets you wish to order and send, with payment, to: AXPOW  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40, Arlington, TX 76010**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (includes shipping/handling\*) **MasterCard and Visa accepted (circle one)** (\$5.00 minimum charge)

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**\*Shipping / Handling fees: In U.S.A.:** 1-3 packets, add \$6.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$9.00; 7 or more packets, add \$12.00. **In Canada:** 1-3 packets, add \$9.00; 4 -6 packets, add \$14.00, 7 or more packets, add \$20.00. **Overseas:** 1-3 packets, add \$16.00; 4 - 6 packets, add \$22.00, 7 or more packets, add \$30.00

# andersonville



Andersonville NHS  
496 Cemetery Road  
Andersonville, GA 31711  
(229) 924-0343  
Brad Bennett, Sup't  
Brad\_Bennett@nps.gov

National POW/MIA  
Recognition Day  
observed by  
Andersonville  
by *Stephanie Steinhorst,*  
Park Ranger

The National Park Service, with the support of the Friends of Andersonville and Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW), sponsored two programs in 2013 in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. On Wednesday, September 18th, GSW hosted the 8th annual POW Convocation, featuring Mr. Bill Norwood, Founder and President of the Korean War Ex-POW Association. Mr. Norwood spoke about his personal experi-



ences as a POW in Korea from 1951-1953, the sorrow of his fellow POWs who did not survive the ordeal, and the hardships faced by military families still waiting for answers about their loved ones who have been listed as Missing in Action for the past six decades. On Thursday, September 19th, former Iraq POW Shoshana Johnson spoke at the historic Rylander Theater in downtown Americus, Georgia, recounting various stories from her twenty-two day captivity in 2003. Ms. Johnson's account was elaborated upon by fellow Iraq POW Joseph Hudson who was present in the audience. Ms. Johnson spent the greater part of Friday, September 20th at the National Prisoner of War museum speaking with visitors and signing her memoir, "I'm Still Standing: From Captive Soldier to Free Citizen — My Journey Home."



Friday morning was also marked by the dedication of a new plaque honoring all women held in captivity as POWs along the commemorative walkway in Andersonville National Historic Site. The large audience in attendance included many members of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, including civilian internees from WWII, as well as other veterans and supporters

present for the Ride Home event taking place in the area over the weekend. POW Joe Hudson also donated artifacts from his captivity in Iraq to the National Prisoner of War Museum for preservation and future display. His donation marks the first 21st century POW artifacts to be added to the museum collection. Receiving the donation on behalf of the park was Superintendent Brad Bennett, Museum Curator Bridget A. Beers, and Chief of Resource Management Alan Marsh.



In addition, Southland Academy in Americus commemorated the day by inviting former Vietnam POW Al Agnew to participate in the pre-game coin toss in their Homecoming football game. Agnew was held prisoner in North Vietnam and was among the last to be released as part of Operation Homecoming in 1973.

These park-sponsored programs are part of a series of area events in recognition of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, including the annual "The Ride Home" event which remembers military service members still listed as Missing in Action and to honor former POWs.

*Photos: Korean EXPOW Bill Norwood with Brad Bennett; Iraq EXPOW Shoshana Johnson; Iraq EXPOW Joe Hudson donating artifacts, Vietnam EXPOW Al Agnew at the Southland Academy game.*

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# namPOW news



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## Christmas in Hanoi (x7)

Heartbreak Hotel interrogation prison, Hanoi, December 25, 1966.

It was bitter cold and damp. I'd been a POW for a little more than six months with much of it in a sweltering solitary confinement. Fifty of us had been paraded through Hanoi's city streets as thousands of Vietnamese chanted obscenities and threw various objects at us at the urging of their communist political commissars. I'd had severe, brutal interrogation sessions that had left my emaciated body screaming in pain. Our daily meals of watery pumpkin gruel and rice had recently changed to sewer greens and rice twice a day.

A mouth-watering scent wafted through the boarded up windows momentarily eclipsing the harsh, sewer smell of the toilet bucket. Wow... What was that? The smell of onions? Of actual meat? Of an exotic oriental smelling aroma of fish sauce?

To digress slightly, and for purposes of total disclosure, I am

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and have always been an optimist. Totally, unrepentantly and without any hint-of-shame optimist! From the day in June 1966 when I'd parachuted into North Vietnam from my burning A-4 Skyhawk and been immediately captured, I was convinced my internment would last six months to a year (at most).

So now I was approaching my first Christmas in Hanoi. Last year my squadron and ship had been at sea flying combat missions off the coast of South Vietnam but we'd had a "stand-down" for Christmas day, itself. The meal aboard ship had been a traditional Christmas dinner. And now with delightful aromas emanating from the usually pungent cellblock, my morale skyrocketed – and mouth watered. My emaciated 100 lb. frame longed for something that tasted as good as the aroma that drifted through the window boards.

When the meal came, it was a small chunk of turkey flavored with nuoc mam, the Vietnamese fish sauce.  
And some white rice.  
And a banana.  
And even a few sips of beer.  
It's obviously a good sign. We'd be going home soon! And I was never going to complain about food again.

We didn't go home that year but, for whatever reason, the communists went through this charade every year. It served as a way to mark time. Infrequently, they'd bring in their "Catholic priest" who'd serve communion to a few "believers" (as the Communists called them) while dutifully recording the event with their propaganda cameras.

In the Son Tay prison camp, I remember hearing the Christmas story according to Marx and Lenin on the camp P.A. system.

Summarized here with apologies for a 47-year-old memory:

Jesus was a poor working man who was being exploited by the capitalistic foreign invader Pontius Pilate, but Jesus rallied the masses against the imperialist colonialists and for that he was martyred by the criminal invaders. Moral. We are all the same. Only the U.S. government exploiting its lackeys in South Vietnam, like the Roman imperialists, are attempting to enslave the heroic "Vietnamese people." A long diatribe against "Johnson, McNamara and Dean Rusk" would follow, followed by exhortations to "side with the Vietnamese people" as opposed to following blindly "The U.S. Government."

*(Note the similarity between the verbiage of the Communists at Christmas time and our present day morally relativistic Fourth Estate.)*

Each year the Christmas "celebration" in four or five different prisons went about the same. In 1972, several hundred of us were in a mountain camp near Lang Son near the Chinese border. It was somehow different. I remember thinking about the last eight Christmases – 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 — all of them in WESTPAC on cruise or in POW camps. I thought, "You know, I've been here a long time. (But felt better when I realized that I was a newcomer. Good grief, Alvarez has been here 22 months longer than I have.) This is really a good sign." I thought, for the thousandth time, "We should be out of here in six months to a year."

I was wrong. We were home in less than two months.

The next Christmas was much better!

# va outreach



Bill Jeffers, Chairman  
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## VA OUTREACH #10

This article will share with you some information about a situation that has frustrated many veterans and their next-of-kin (NOK) for many years. This is particularly true for thousands of WW2, Korea and some Viet Nam veterans.

So many times when these veterans or their NOKs seek military records, they encounter what appears to be a dead end, ie, those records are among those lost in the St. Louis National Personnel Records Center fire on July 12, 1973. That fire destroyed a major portion of records of Army military personnel for the period 1912 through 1959 as well as records of Air Force personnel with surnames Hubbard through Z for the period 1947 through 1963.

The good news is there are alternate record sources that often contain information which can be used to reconstruct service record data lost in the fire. However, complete records cannot be reconstructed.

To illustrate what is described above, I will offer a case in point.

The daughter of a deceased Army veteran wanted to find out what medals her father had been awarded. As is often the case, her father had been very vague concerning his military service and he never revealed whatever medals or citations he had received during his service which included WW2 and Korea. I learned of her frustration encountering so many dead-end attempts, including inquiries to her Congressman, to get the information she desired.

I contacted one of our AXPOW National Directors who is also an NSO, Ben Garrido, who has made good connections with the St. Louis National Personnel Records Center. Ben received a reply from the Center which included much of what I described above and which also provided a listing of the medals the subject veteran had been awarded. Also revealed was the fact that the veteran was authorized to wear the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. This veteran's military records were among those lost in the St. Louis fire, but the Records Center discovered other sources for the desired information.

If a request is made to reissue the medals awarded a veteran (due to loss of the originals, for example) Army Regulations state that re-issues of authorized awards can be accommodated for NOKs in the following order: unremarried widow, eldest child, father, mother eldest sibling or eldest grandchild. Otherwise, anyone can contact an authorized

commercial vendor of military insignia in order to purchase the earned award. For vendors in your area, you can search the local yellow pages under "Military Surplus", or the web under "Military Insignia".

If you are a veteran, or a veteran's NOK, requests for service records can be made online by visiting <http://vetrecs.archives.gov>.

The Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining To Military Records is used to request information from military records. This form and instructions for its use is available at <http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf> on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site.

Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service less than 62 years ago and medical records are in the legal custody of the veteran's military service department and are administered in accordance with rules issued by the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security

Personnel records of veterans who were discharged, retired, or died in service 62 years or more ago have been transferred to the legal custody of the NARA and are referred to as "archival" records. Page 2 of SF 180 gives the addresses of the military branches or other custodians to which completed SF 180 forms should be sent depending on the current status of the subject veteran.

The "bottom line" of all this is: don't despair. The records information you are seeking is likely to be somewhere.

**Save the Dates!**  
**June 26-29, 2014**  
**AXPOW National**  
**Convention in**  
**Arlington, Texas!**

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# legislative



PNC Charles Susino Jr  
Chairman

As part of the new legislative committee, we will be providing an article for each bulletin. This is the first of our series. It is important for the EXPOW organization to be an active participant in the political process concerning Veterans and specifically EXPOW benefits. Each veteran and the public play an equally important role since in the end, politicians "listen" to voters and they respond best by hearing from many voters on an issue. As an organization, our role is to communicate to the politicians so they understand our views thereby influencing the laws that impact the veteran. Further, we help insure the implementation of the laws is as designed.

The committee will engage to stay abreast of the political issues and proposed Congressional Bills that impact us. However, the more eyes on Washington the better. Currently there are over 5400 proposed Bills in Congress at various stages of progression with approximately 200 dealing with the armed services. So, in our column we will highlight only those proposed Bills, which we feel you should be aware and

recommend actions as necessary. Recognize that of the 200 proposed Bills only a small portion ever get voted on by both Houses of Congress so our communication and actions will be selective. Washington is a dynamic. Besides Bills, Washington takes other actions that can affect veterans. For those that want to monitor Bills in Washington closely, we encourage you to do so with one suggested site is [http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/browse#current\\_status=2&committees=2688](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/browse#current_status=2&committees=2688)

During September, a big issue on Capital Hill is the Budget/debt ceiling. The debt ceiling needs to be raised to keep the government from shutting down along with a strong push to cut spending to reduce the rate of government borrowing. The Obama administration has suggested reducing the Cost of Living Adjustments [COLA] for social security and veterans benefits by changing the basis of those increases from the Consumer Price Index [CPI] to the Chained CPI. The Chained CPI increases would be less because it assumes seniors and veterans would be able to absorb the inflation by purchasing different and cheaper items thereby not realizing the full effects of inflation. The economic theory is flawed since it assumes that the senior or veteran has not already done the substitution to make ends meet.

To initiate our objection in New Jersey, I sent out 50+ letters to all members of Congress who participate in Armed Services Committees explaining our position. The assumption is those committee members should be

more receptive to our position. In addition, I sent letters to all New Jersey Congressman recognizing they should be listening to in-state voters. Our belief is the Obama administration will continue to push this issue so it is important that our members write letters as well. I expressed my objection in person at the February 28, 2013 Veterans Subcommittee hearings to Senator Sander's question stating, "It is unconscionable for the government to consider reducing veteran's benefits. The veterans gave their best and the government should give their best for the veterans."

Bill HR 2189 is sponsored by Jeff Miller (R) Florida, which establishes a commission to examine the VA backlog for veteran's benefits. The VA has been struggling with this issue a long time and seemingly despite their best efforts, material progress has not been made and for that reason, we support this measure.

Lastly, TRICARE is changing how it follows the law relative to paying for non service-connected disability treated at a VA facility. Since VA facilities are not Medicare certified by law they cannot bill Medicare and only pay 20% of the TRICARE allowable charge and you pay the VA the 80% Medicare would have paid if you used a Medicare-certified provider. Therefore, for all of your non-service related medical treatment you should consider your options. We encourage you to talk to your VA facility with any specific questions. There are other changes with TRICARE so if you have not received the information in the mail concerning these changes make sure you either contact them by phone at 1-866-773-0404 or visit them on their website.

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

*Charles Susino Jr. &  
Charles Anthony Susino*

# 113<sup>th</sup> Congress

## House & Senate Veterans Affairs Committees

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### **House Veterans Affairs Committee**

Jeff Miller, Florida *Chairman*  
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Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4136

Gus Bilirakis, Florida, *Vice Chair*  
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Doug Lamborn, Colorado  
(202) 225-4422

Phil Roe, Tennessee  
(202) 225-6356

Bill Flores, Texas  
(202) 225-6105

Jeff Denham, California  
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Jon Runyan, New Jersey  
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Dan Benishek, Michigan  
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Tim Huelskamp, Kansas  
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Mike Coffman, Colorado  
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Mark Amodei, Nevada  
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Brad Wenstrup, Ohio  
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Paul Cook, California  
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Jackie Walorski, Indiana  
(202) 225-3915

Mike Michaud, Maine, *Ranking Member*

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Corrine Brown, Florida  
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Mark Takano, California  
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Julia Brownley, California  
(202) 225-5811

Dina Titus, Nevada  
202-225-5965

Ann Kirkpatrick, Arizona  
(202) 225-3361

Raul Ruiz, California  
(202) 225-5330

Gloria Negrete McLeod, Calif.  
202-225-6161

Ann Kuster, New Hampshire  
(202) 225-5206

Beto O'Rourke, Texas  
(202) 225-4831

Tim Walz, Minnesota  
202-225-2472

### **Senate Veterans Affairs Committee**

Bernie Sanders, Vermont  
*Chairman*  
332 Dirksen Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-5141

Jay Rockefeller, West Virginia  
(202) 224-6472

Patty Murray, Washington  
(202) 224-2621

Sherrod Brown, Ohio  
(202) 224-2315

Jon Tester, Montana  
(202) 224-2644

Mark Begich, Alaska  
(202) 224 - 3004

Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut  
(202) 224-2823

Mazie Hirono, Hawaii  
(202) 224-6361

Richard Burr, North Carolina,  
*Ranking Member*  
(202) 224-3154

Johnny Isakson, Georgia  
(202) 224-3643

Mike Johanns, Nebraska  
(202) 224-4224

Jerry Moran, Kansas  
(202) 224-6521

John Boozman, Arkansas  
(202) 224-4843

Dean Heller, Nevada  
202-224-6244

### **General Contact Info:**

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 224-3121

U.S. Senate Committee on  
Veterans' Affairs • 412 Russell  
Senate Bldg. • Washington D.C.  
20510  
Democratic Staff (202) 224-  
9126 • Republican Staff: (202)  
224-2074

# pow-mia



PNC John Edwards  
Chairman  
889 Randall Road  
Niskayuna, NY 12309  
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## **Americans Accounted For:**

There are still 1,644 personnel listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. Recently, DPMO posted the identification of Colonel Francis J. McGouldrick, USAF, CT, listed as MIA in Laos on December 13, 1968, is now accounted-for. His remains were repatriated May 22, 2012 and identified August 28, 2013. The number of Americans announced by DPMO as returned and identified since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now 939. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and ID'd before the end of the war, bring the official total of US personnel accounted-for from the Vietnam War to 1,002. Of the 1,644 unaccounted-for personnel, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,276 (VN-469, VS-807); Laos-308; Cambodia-53; PRC territorial waters-7; over-water losses on DPMO's list of No Further Pursuit cases number well over 600.

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## **WWII Servicemen Returned**

Two U.S. servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been identified and were returned to their families for burial with full military honors. They are Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Valorie L. Pollard, 25, of Monterey, Calif. and Sgt. Dominick J. Licari, 31, of Frankfort, N.Y. Remains representing Pollard and Licari were buried as a group in a single casket, on Sept. 19, at Arlington National Cemetery. The individually identified remains of Licari were buried on Aug 6, in Frankfort, N.Y. On March 13, 1944, Pollard and Licari were crew members of an A-20G Havoc bomber that failed to return to base in a country now known as Papua New Guinea. The aircraft crashed after attacking enemy targets on the island. In 2012 the A-20G crash site in the mountains of Papua New Guinea was excavated and the remains of Licari and Pollard were recovered.

Family members seeking information about missing loved ones may call the following Service Casualty Offices: U.S. Air Force (800) 531-5501, U.S. Army (800) 892-2490, U.S. Marine Corps (800) 847-1597, U.S. Navy (800) 443-9298, or U.S. Department of State (202) 647-5470.

## **National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day:**

On July 27, the National Mall in D.C. as America paused to observe the 60th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean War — a conflict that defined a generation and decided the fate of a nation. President Obama proclaimed July 27, 2013, as Na-

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## **Captured/Missing:**

US Service member captured while supporting combat operations:

Army Spc. Bowe R. Bergdahi, 27,  
June 30, 2009, Afghanistan

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tional Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. In his speech, just steps from the Korean War Memorial, he noted how our troops hit the beaches when Communist forces were pressing south. The American's pushed back and fought their way north through hard mountains and bitter cold. He recognized the sacrifices of service members and their families who lost loved ones or are still waiting for the return of loved ones missing in action. He highlighted one family, who represent many, who finally are able to return their loved one home with an upcoming burial, keeping our promise to never forget.

## **POW/MIA Recognition Day:**

September 20, the Secretary of Defense hosted a ceremony at the Pentagon for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. At the Pentagon event, there were more than 200 veterans and family members and 200 personnel from the Pentagon. I think Secretary Hagel stated it best when he said, "Today, as the POW/MIA flag is raised in communities across America, we pledge to live by its creed, "You are Not Forgotten." We as a country are committed to our former POWs, our missing, and their families, just as we are committed to those who wear the uniform today." We were very honored to have former POWs and families of the missing present at the ceremony.

## **Chicago Family Member Update (FMU):**

On Saturday, September 14, the Family Member Update meeting was held in Chicago. At the meeting, DoD officials from across the Personnel Accounting Community briefed more than 210 family members of missing Americans on our efforts to account for their missing loved ones. It was the third largest meeting we have held in the past 10 years, which demonstrates the continued passion of the families and the importance of the meeting.



# civilians



Alice Gollin  
Chairman

## YMCA Relief Program

By Angus Lorenzen  
bacepow@earthlink.net

Robert Heinlein once wrote, "*Beware of altruism. It is based on self-deception, the root of all evil.*" This statement certainly applies to the Neutral Welfare Committee of the International YMCA in Tokyo in 1943 when it decided to provide books, sports equipment, and musical instruments to prisoners of war. No doubt the POWs would delight in the opportunity for a game of soccer after they got back to camp from their 12-hour shift in a Japanese coal mine, then after a hearty dinner, get together for a musical jam session.

Mr. H. A. Hanson, a Swedish citizen, was appointed by the committee to carry out its goals in the Philippines. After petitioning the Japanese Headquarters for Military Prisoners, Hanson received permission for the program, with certain restrictions, in late 1943. One restriction was that the Japanese authorities would inspect the relief goods, and another was that the YMCA representatives would not have access to the prisoners.

Hanson wired W. Bagge, Swedish Minister in Tokyo and head of the committee, that he had approval of the Japanese to proceed with the program in the Philip-

ines. He added that the approval included the distribution of food, clothing, and vitamins, which were badly needed because Red Cross activities were non-existent. He asked how much money would be available. Bagge wired back that Red Cross supplies had just been landed in Manila, and that the YMCA program would be limited to books, sports equipment, and musical instruments. *(Red Cross packages had been picked up from the Gripsholm during the prisoner exchange in Mormugao and delivered to Manila by the Teia Maru, then sat on the dock in Manila for months. Santo Tomas received its allocation in January 1944, and the internee Executive Committee determined that the Japanese had removed some of the packages for their own use. It directed that the remaining packages be opened and some of the canned food removed for an emergency. The rest were distributed to the prisoners at 1/2 package per person. This was the second distribution of Red Cross packages, the first being in January 1943.)*

Hanson considered it imperative that he be authorized to deliver all articles for the necessities of life as granted by the Japanese. He again wired Bagge, pleading to be allowed to supply food, clothing, and vitamins; but on December 21, Bagge replied that it would not be possible to authorize his request. Hanson had already formed a committee of other neutral nationals, and had decided to proceed on its own to provide foodstuffs to the camps until such time as the Red Cross was permitted to do so. During December, deliveries were made to 7 POW camps around Manila with approximately 4,300 prisoners, and deliveries were also made to Japanese headquarters for 400 prisoners on small details. The deliveries included food staples, sweets, and tobacco products donated by Manila residents, and of course the requi-

site games and recreational equipment were paid from the YMCA funds. The deliveries were made by truck directly to the camps, though no member of the committee was allowed to accompany it.

The last shipment was made on December 31, 1943, after which the Japanese informed the committee that no more shipments would be allowed because Manila was suffering from an ever-increasing shortage of food. Up until this time, no shipments were made to the civilian camps because private individuals were allowed to send packages to the internees. In a letter, Caroll Grinnell, Chairman of the Santo Tomas Executive Committee, wrote, "We shall be very happy to receive such materials from time to time. However, it is our desire that the War Prisoners Camps be given preference and that need of this camp be considered only after those of the War Prisoners Camps have been fulfilled".

In February 1944 the Japanese shut down the package line at Santo Tomas, ending the ability of individuals to continue to send supplies to the internees. In the middle of April, Hansen received news that the situation regarding food supplies, especially for the children in Santo Tomas, was becoming more and more grave, and about that time, Bagge finally relented and gave permission to use YMCA funds for relief supplies.

Hanson then received permission from the Japanese to make weekly deliveries of eggs and milk for the children. On April 27, He arranged delivery of 2,000 eggs and 100 quarts of milk, and on the following day a delivery of

## civilians, cont'd...

about a ton of meat. Both deliveries were made directly to the gate of Santo Tomas and received by the internee Executive Committee.

Following this delivery, the Japanese informed Hanson that only one delivery was permitted each week to either a War Prisoner Camp or a Civilian Internment Camp. Subsequently, deliveries were made each week to a camp, including May 10 to the children of Santo Tomas, and on June 7 to the civilians in Santo Tomas, Los Baños, and Baguio. All of these deliveries were made to the Japanese Headquarters for Military Prisoners.

Though the Japanese provided a receipt, Hanson did not receive one from the prisoners, so there was no assurance they received the supplies. On June 7, Hanson was officially advised that no more shipments would be permitted.

Numerous attempts were made to renew shipments, but Hanson was informed that the orders to stop deliveries came from Tokyo. The perishable goods the committee had accumulated had to be disposed, and Hanson's committee provided some to hospitals where civilian internees were treated and the remainder was sold and the funds retained. There still remained a stock of non-perishable goods, and Hanson finally received permission to deliver this to Santo Tomas on December 21, 1944, along with a quantity of fresh fruit bought with the retained funds. The Santo Tomas records show that mongo and brown beans, sugar, coffee, and cigarettes were received on December 28 from YMCA, but no fresh fruit.

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Though we have Hanson's records of the relief supplies delivered for the various camps (to the Japanese Prisoners Headquarters), except for Santo Tomas we have no records of what was actually delivered and suspect that a good deal of the supplies were not delivered. Hanson points out as an example that they were compelled to unload milk for the children of Santo Tomas at the Japanese Headquarters, where on at least one occasion it was left standing in the sun for the whole day.

We give our sincerest thanks to Mr. Hanson and his committee of neutrals in Manila for their hard and frustrating efforts to get relief supplies to the prisoners. But we can't have much respect for the Neutral Welfare Committee of the International YMCA in Tokyo for its closed-minded blocking of the Manila committee's efforts to get food, clothing, and vitamins to the prisoners.

### BACEPOW

Bay Area Civilian Ex-Prisoners of War.

Membership is open to all former prisoners of the Japanese, their families, and friends.

There is an active descendents group.

[www.bacepow.net](http://www.bacepow.net)  
Commander, Angus Lorenzen

**Norfolk reunion** on April, 24 - 27th or 28th - 2014. We are booked and contracted at Marriott Courtyard in Norfolk. Our hotel is a block and a half from MacArthur Memorial property. Contact: Sascha Jansen  
[Mabuhayma@aol.com](mailto:Mabuhayma@aol.com)  
(707) 448-2909



**March 13-15, 2014. USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations Reunion** will be held at: Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown. Contact: John Keith Schwarz Executive Director- USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations; 202-268-2261/703-867-0142. [contact@usshouston.org](mailto:contact@usshouston.org).

**June 26-29, 2014.** The American Ex-Prisoners of War National Convention will be held at the Arlington (TX) Hilton Hotel. There will be information on the convention/rooms/activities in the next issues of the EX-POW Bulletin. Bring your kids and grandkids and have a wonderful time!

looking  
for



Richard B. Paul, Navigator, 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 2<sup>nd</sup> BG, 49<sup>th</sup> BS. We flew Mission 134, Jan. 27, 1944 in WWII. It's possible he can verify an incident that happened during this flight that may entitle me to a Distinguished Flying Cross. I would appreciate any information regarding Richard B. Paul, or any other crew member who might remember me. Thank you. Lawrence Carastro, 2948 Eastwind Dr., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034; (904) 261-4929; [jcarastro@yahoo.com](mailto:jcarastro@yahoo.com); cell (786) 200-0023.

# POWS and the Birth of a National Cemetery System

by Alice A. Booher

In many ways, the American prisoner of war (POW) was both a genesis and impetus for a national cemetery system.

During the Revolutionary War, casualties were often buried where they fell, on military reservations or hospital grounds, or in family plots. There are some horrific stories of treatment of POWs during that time (e.g., Col Ethan Allen of the Green Mountain Boys, himself a POW for 3 years, wrote that 11,000 POWs were killed by their British captors. It is clear that many American sailors, held as privateers, suffered harsh conditions as POW, and were joined by some other combatants held as POWs on one of three hospital ships or one of several prison ships (mostly in Brooklyn, NY but also Charleston and St. Lucia Harbors). The prisoners who died were often sent to a quick watery grave or taken nearby inland for speedy burial;

identification of burial sites was haphazard if any. For the larger spectrum of land-based casualties, many church yards set up small special sites for military burials or at least memorial slabs to commemorate same including multiple named and/or unnamed casualties. Practically speaking, many casualties fell not far from home; they did not die in large volume at any given time, and since British opposition troops were from overseas, all American casualties fell on "friendly" land presumably suitable for a respectful burial.

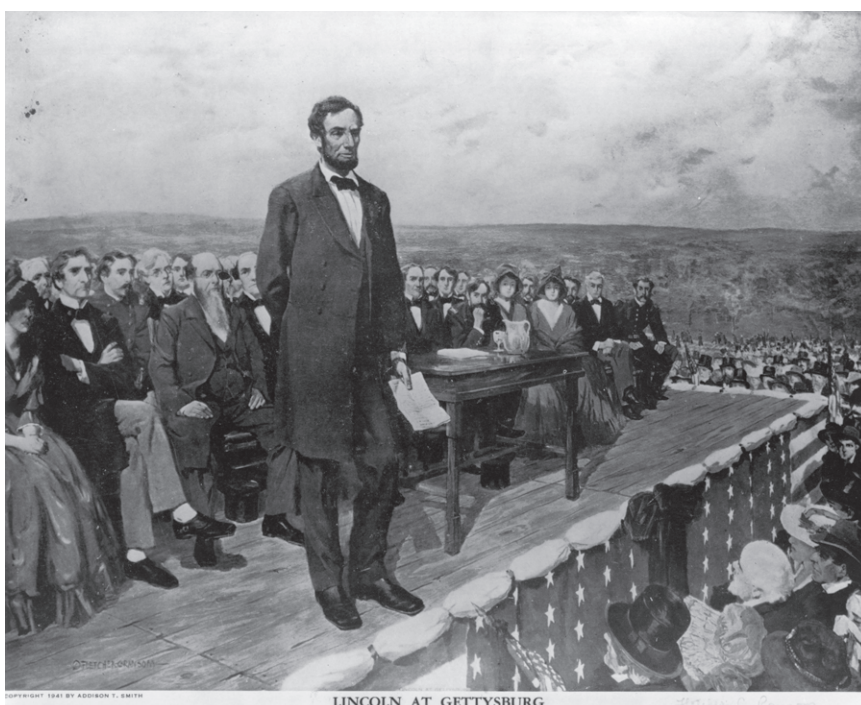
Circumstances of burial during the War of 1912, the Mexican and Indian Wars as relates to POWs, the distinctions between civilian to Indian prisoners versus military personnel held by enemy, is murky and will be saved for another article since no formal burial/cemetery consensus was reached at any level during that time.

But the essence of the American Civil War rendered any prior "*ad hoc*" methods inadequate and inappropriate to handle the massive battlefield casualties. The

Civil War had been brutal with horrific losses on both sides and whether Union or Confederate, the dead often fell far from home, almost always in viscerally hostile enemy territory. Early on, in September 1861, War Department Orders #75 mandated the Quartermaster General assume responsibility for burial of officers and soldiers, ordered that a register of all burials be kept, and that a "headboard" be placed on each grave. First made of wood with painted or chalked data thereon, neither was durable in the elements.

As deaths came faster than land titles could be established, burials often took place prior to consecration of the interment sites; public health and immediacy of identifying bodies and durability of more permanent markers gained importance in planning for designated burial spaces. For expediency, the first 14 official "national" cemeteries so designated in 1862 were primarily at already established special burial locations in Philadelphia or Annapolis, or at existing military properties or battle sites such as Gettysburg (dedicated 19 November 1863 with a short Address by President Lincoln) or Antietam, or military locales like Forts Scott or Leavenworth. One of the oldest and most beautiful of these was and is at the U.S. Soldiers and Sailors (later Airmen's, and now Armed Forces Retirement) Home in Washington, D.C.

In July 1862, via legislation primarily purposed for other things, Congress had empowered President Abraham Lincoln to purchase cemetery grounds and have them securely enclosed. However, throughout the war there was no lasting or official



LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG

## cemeteries, cont'd...

system to document missing or dead soldiers. Civilian vendors had a version of a dog-tag available, but few soldiers bought and wore one.

By 1863, according to esteemed author and POW expert Robert C. Doyle, and for a variety of reasons, treatment of POWs on both sides took a turn for the worse. Notwithstanding all of the explosive political rhetoric on both sides, after the cessation of further POW exchanges by General Grant in 1864, more POWs died, exacerbating the burial crisis.

A different sort of problem arose from the sheer masses of Civil War POWs on both sides. By the end of the war, 37 major POW camps were established in the North and another 38 POW camps in the South. Certainly some of the POWs captured and imprisoned died of wounds from the battlefield, but increasingly, the high mortality rate derived from lack of sanitation and disease along with crowding and other inherent conditions. It was thought that eventually some 56,000 died in POWs camps both North and South. Something had to be done to address this multi-faceted crisis.

One horrific example was the open-aired, filthy POW camp at Fort Sumter, GA (near Americus, often called Andersonville), where from February 1864 until liberation in May 1865, some 45,000 enlisted men and

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some women were POWs, of whom 13,000 died. While some died of war wounds, and a few from in-prison assaults, these deaths were primarily of starvation, malnutrition, diarrhea and communicable diseases. Thus the already existent need to identify bodies and bury them properly developed into the inexorable problem of doing so expeditiously and in such manner as to avert further health crises. In the North, the frigid climate took its toll [e.g., 1864-5, the period September to February, 1,848 POWs died at the Union POW Camp in Elmira, NY].

Significant action to resolve the dilemma was generated by a single woman, Clara Barton, who had achieved fame (and accordingly, some clout) as a nurse on the battlefield. She had been receiving letters from families trying to find their missing loved ones. In June 1865, she heard from a young former POW at Andersonville, a clerk named Dorence Atwater who has been paroled to work at the hospital there, who had diligently maintained his own set of death records. Barton contacted Secre-



tary of War Stanton and she and Atwater accompanied the Army expedition to Andersonville to identify the graves, hauntingly distinctive due to the lack of coffins and the close proximity between headstones still visible, tilting in the red Georgia clay. Many headboards were prepared and letters sent to families about their loved ones. She then took the program back to Washington and set up the Missing Soldier's Office (1865-1867), during which time she identified more than 30,000 MIA/POWs including nearly 13,000 who had died and were buried at Andersonville in a cemetery consecrated for that purpose.

In the meantime, spaces were becoming scarce at the other existing viable burial locations, so Quartermaster Montgomery Meigs recommended the buying up of property at the mansion of Robert E. Lee and his wife Mary Anne Randolph Custis, a granddaughter of George and Martha Washington. In May 1861, after Vir-

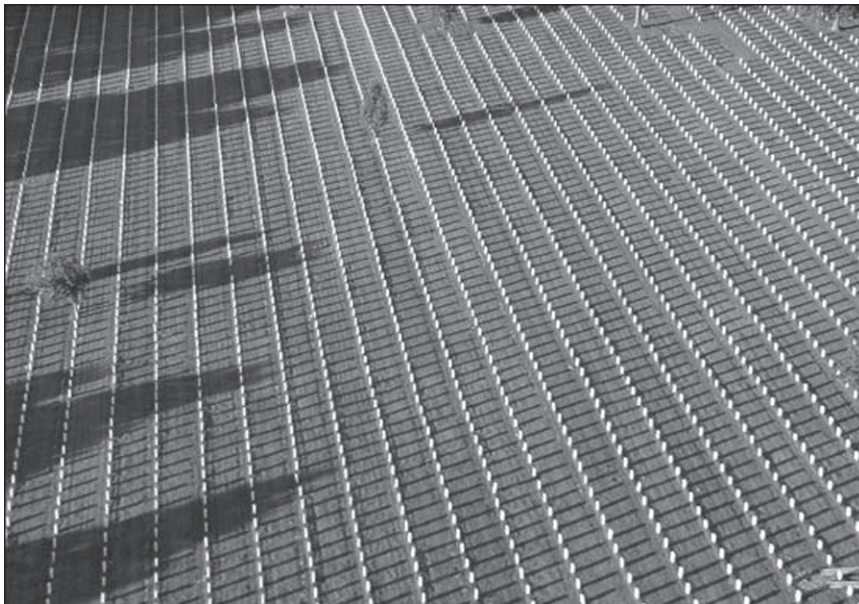


## cemeteries, cont'd...

ginia had ceded from the Union, the Union Army had occupied the property and the grounds were designated as a burial grounds for the war dead. The first Arlington burial took place in May 1864, and soon thereafter, Secretary of War Stanton designated the mansion and 200 acres of the land as a cemetery. Immediately after the surrender by Lee to Grant in April 1865, the Quartermaster Department undertook a nearly impossible program, called the Federal Reburial Program, to recover, identify and bury all Union soldiers not otherwise claimed by family. For a number of reasons both on land and sea, this simply was not fully efficacious and the program ended in 1870, with 299,606 Union soldiers and of-



ons endeavored on their own to facilitate suitable respectful burials, often in common graves. Instances include those 1,616 Confederate POWs who died at Camp Morton (1862-1865) in Indianapolis, IN, in a common grave which was moved eventually in 1931 to Crown Hill Cemetery. Some of these sites have since undertaken more fitting reinterments, and many local volunteers have endeavored to identify the deceased soldiers. In Indianapolis, two policemen prepared bronze plaques with the



*Arlington National Cemetery*

icers having been located and re-interred in 73 national cemeteries, estimated at a sad 58% success rate. Additional national cemeteries were set up at various former POW sites including Andersonville (GA), Florence (SC), Salisbury (NC) and Woodland (NY).

A number of other locales in which there had been POW pris-

names of the Southerners who died at Camp Morton, re-dedicated in a ceremony in October 3, 1993 that included representatives (and actual soil samples)

from the 14 former Confederate states and territories. Other examples of new burial sites were the old cemetery at Fort Columbus on Governors Island off the tip of NY City, the POW hospital

at Beaufort, SC, Point Lookout in Baltimore, MD, and Johnson's Island in Sandusky, OH.

After the Civil War, Congress passed amendments to the National Cemetery Act of 1867 to expand the coverage for veterans, and cemeteries were established far beyond Civil War battlefields and POW camp sites. New locations included Ft. McPherson (NE), Santa Fe (NM) and San Francisco (CA) where the cemetery on the grounds of the Presidio became the first on the West Coast. As they expanded, there were also improvements to the planning and appearance of each, one of the first major changes being replacing wooden headboards with marble headstones.



This is the start of an occasional series, in which we will provide more information on the impact POWs have had on the now extraordinary National Cemetery System and other facets of the VA, now DVA.

# News Briefs

## Unsung Heroes Alert

by Alice A. Booher



It is anticipated that we will have a follow-up report in a future Bulletin, but reserve time sometime after October 2013, [which will be the U.S. Army educational version], and then March 2014 for viewing a two hour, two-part PBS-version of a documentary presentation entitled *Unsung Heroes: The Story of America's Female Patriots*. Written and directed by Emmy and Sundance Film Festival award winner Frank Martin and produced by Academy Award winner Ron Howard, the film will include candid oral history interviews with Guadalupe Alexander, Staff Sergeant, USA; Vernice "FlyGirl" Armour, Captain, USMC; Françoise Bonnell, LTC, USA (Ret), Dir. USA Women's Museum; Linda Bray, Captain, USA (Panama); Laura Brown, Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine Corps; Jessica Cobble, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army; Rhonda Cornum, Ph.D., M.D., BG, U.S. Army, (Ret); Dorothy Riley Dempsey, BM1, U.S. Coast Guard, WWII (SPAR); Congress-



woman Tammy Duckworth, LCOL, U.S. Army Reserve; Ann Elizabeth Dunwoody, General, U.S. Army, (Ret); Steve Ellis; Marsha Four, 1<sup>st</sup> LT, USANC; Leigh Ann Hester, Staff Sergeant, USA (silver star); Michelle J. Howard, VADM, USN; Denise Marie Jelinski-Hall, CMS, NGB; Beverly Kelley, CAPT, USCG (Ret); Nicole Malachowski, LtCol, USAF; Mildred Manning, 1<sup>st</sup> LT, USANC (WWII POW PTO); Carol A. Mutter, Lt Gen, USMC (Ret); Jessica Myers, CPO, USN; Elizabeth M.



Norman, Ph.D., Historian, Teacher and Author; Deanie Bishop Parrish, WASP (WWII); Cynthia Pritchett, CSM (USA (Ret)); Jackey Smith, MCC, USN; Irene Trowell-Harris, R.N., Ed.D., MajGen, USAF (Ret), Dir., DVA Center for Women Veterans; Wilma L. Vaught, Brig Gen, USAF (Ret), Pres., WIMSA; and Latianna Wilson, Sgt, USA.

There will be myriad previously private and unpublished photos as well as on-camera discussions with these fascinating, wildly achieving, remarkable individuals, including those especially pertinent to POWs such as Desert Storm's Rhonda Cornum and the last interview with the final WWII woman POW, Mildred Dalton Manning. Dr. Beth Norman, who wrote *We Band of Angels* (about the WWII POW women), and who wrote *Tears in the Darkness* with her husband Michael Norman about the WWII POW men in the PTO, is interviewed as is her mother, WWII SPAR Dorothy Dempsey. We are proud that the AxPOW Archival Photo Group has been cooperating with the project for some time. The Bulletin will later include additional still photos graciously provided by Mssrs. Howard and Martin. Looking forward to these final products!

## US Still Hopes To Win Release Of Captured Soldier: Hagel

By Agence France-Presse

The United States has not given up trying to win the release of an American soldier captured by the Taliban more than four years ago, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said at a ceremony honoring US prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action on Sept. 20, 2013. The Pentagon chief reaffirmed the military's vow "to never leave a fellow service member behind. That commitment extends to Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, who was captured by

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## news, cont'd...

enemy forces in Afghanistan more than four years ago".



"Using our military, intelligence, and diplomatic tools, the United States is continuing its efforts to secure Sergeant Bergdahl's safe release," Hagel said. Bergdahl disappeared in June 2009 from a base in Paktika province and the Taliban later said they had captured him.

The sergeant remains the only US soldier known to be held by the Islamist militants, who have released several videos of him indicating he was alive. At one point, US officials discussed a possible deal in which Bergdahl would have been freed in exchange for the release of five Taliban detainees at the Guantanamo Bay prison. But the negotiations collapsed last year.

## Affordable Health

### Care Act

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched an awareness campaign and a new website, [www.va.gov/aca](http://www.va.gov/aca), to let Veterans know what the Affordable Care Act means for them and their families. Veterans receiving health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs will see no change in their benefits or out-of-pocket costs when portions of the Affordable Care Act take effect next year. "VA wants all Veterans to receive health care that improves their health and well-

being," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "If you are enrolled in VA health care, you do not need to take any additional steps to meet the health care law coverage standards. If you are not enrolled in VA health care, you can apply at any time."

**FROM BETTY HARLAN:** Coverage under VA's CHAMPVA program means you already satisfy the requirement to have health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act, also known as ACA or health care reform. You don't need to do anything more to avoid an individual fee from the IRS. Beneficiaries continue to enjoy health care coverage without having to pay enrollment fees, monthly premiums or deductibles.

## America's Newest Medal of Honor Recipient - *Staff Sergeant Ty Michael Carter, USMC, USArmy, Medal of Honor, Afghanistan.*

*President* Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ty Michael Carter on Aug. 26, 2013, making the cavalry scout only the fifth living service member from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan to receive the nation's highest award for courage.

President Obama recognized him for his "conspicuous gallantry" in the dramatic Battle of Kamdesh, a day-long firefight with Taliban militants at a remote Afghan outpost near the Pakistan border.

Early in his remarks in the White House's East Room, President Obama turned to Carter's young children and said: "If you want to know what a true American hero looks like, then you don't have to look too far."

The quick-moving staff sergeant braved a blizzard of bullets to

take out Taliban fighters and rescue a wounded brother-in-arms during the Oct. 3, 2009, clash, which left eight American soldiers dead and wounded more than 25 others, according to the Army's official account of the event. It was the deadliest day for U.S. forces in the war effort that year.

"Without regard to his own safety, Ty Michael Carter proved himself time and time again," according to the Army account.

"He resupplied ammunition to fighting positions, provided first aid to a battle buddy, killed enemy troops, and valiantly risked his own life to save a fellow soldier who was injured and pinned down by overwhelming fire" after Taliban militants slammed Combat Outpost Keating with rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns, mortars and rifles, according to the Army.

## Virtual Honor Flight

Veterans United Home Loans has partnered with Virtual Photo Walks and Central Missouri Honor Flight to provide virtual tours of not only the World War II Memorial in Washington D.C., but also Pearl Harbor, Normandy (the site of the D-Day Invasion), and battleships like the USS Alabama. Future plans include adding Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

This Virtual Tour is primarily for veterans who are not able to travel on an Honor Flight. Using new technology, these aging and even terminally ill veterans can experience an Honor Flight without leaving their home. Volunteers bring laptops to these veterans. During the virtual tour, these heroes can talk with fellow veterans, see their memorials,

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## news, cont'd...

and ask questions. Additional volunteers with video cameras attached to live streaming rigs serve as the arms and legs for the veteran, responding to their requests to move in closer or linger at a certain location near their memorial. If the veteran does not have internet capability, a portable wi-fi unit will be brought to their home. The service is free and open to any veteran of any conflict who is not able to participate in an Honor Flight. If you are a veteran or you know of a veteran who cannot travel and would enjoy a virtual tour, contact Virtual Photo Walks at [www.virtualphotowalks.org](http://www.virtualphotowalks.org). If you do not have internet capability, contact:

Veterans United  
c/o Sarah Hill  
20 Southhampton Drive , Unit 101  
Columbia, MO 65203

We are losing our World War II veterans at a rate of about a thousand a day nationwide. It is our desire to give as many as possible a chance to see their memorials in person through Honor Flight or through Virtual Photo Walks. There is no cost and top priority is given to WW II and terminally ill veterans from all wars.

Your virtual guardian, (an approved representative from Veterans United & Virtual Photo Walks), will provide the equipment needed to take this "Virtual" experience and will be next to you the entire time to make sure you can hear and see your memorial(s). While this is primarily a Missouri project right now, veterans from all over the country may apply and

volunteers will be sought to take this project anywhere.

***There is no cost and top priority is given to WW II and terminally ill veterans from all wars.***

## Honoring Veterans after death

*The success of the flag protocol at the White River Junction VAMC*

**What they did:** White River Junction developed and implemented the use of an American Flag to honor deceased Veterans

**How they did it:** Three ICU Nurses, Patti Crimmin-Greenan, Theresa Stearns and Richard Cook wanted to provide a way for all of the staff to honor Veterans' lives and memory immediately following death. They also wanted to show the Veterans' family how much the staff honors and respects their loved one and the service of all Veterans, and to set an example for their fellow employees.

Their idea was to use the following protocol for all inpatient deaths, including those occurring after hours:

1. Either a chaplain or a nurse approaches the family around the time of death and describes the flag drape protocol as an option.
2. When families agree, the American flag is used as a drape over the gurney to transport the Veteran through the hospital to the morgue.
3. An encased American flag is placed on the empty bed for up to two hours as a mark of respect. (The flag cases are designed and built by a Veteran who is a finish carpenter and also volunteers at the Medical Center in the Recreational Therapy program).

Dan Moriarty, a colonel in the Army Reserves and the social work executive for White River

Junction, was instrumental in making sure that the flag ritual followed standards of flag protocol. Another instrumental person in developing and documenting the flag protocol was Fr. Joseph O'Keeffe, US Army retired, Chief of the White River Junction Chaplain Service. Together, they obtained flags from Purchasing and Contracting and distributed them to inpatient units. Then they educated White River Junction staff about proper flag etiquette and flag handling. They also worked with the local Infection control office to ensure that there were no concerns with the protocol.

## POW Medal

### Recognizes Aviators' Suffering

by Olivier Grivat, [swissinfo.ch](http://swissinfo.ch)  
*International Service of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation*

Nearly 70 years after being interned in a Swiss disciplinary camp and, for many, punished for trying to escape, a group of 157 American Second World War pilots and crew members have been awarded the Prisoner Of War Medal by the US Congress.

"With this POW medal, I'm glad to have recognition after 68 years, but disappointed it took so long," said Lieutenant Colonel James Misuraca. "I have never been angry with the Swiss people. I was angry at the Swiss military for incarcerating me in a hell-hole like Wauwilermoos [prison]."

Around 1,750 American aviators were interned in hotels in the Swiss alps during the war, in line with the 1907 Hague Convention, and could not be set free until the hostilities ended. Those who attempted to escape to rejoin their troops were placed in disciplinary camps.



## news, cont'd...

Grandson of George Mears, B17 pilot held at Wauwilermoos, Major Dwight Mears has completed his doctoral thesis on American internees in Switzerland.

According to his research carried out at the Swiss federal archives in Bern and the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, over 150 men were entitled to the prisoner-of-war medal, 11 of whom are still alive. Those who are dead will receive the medal posthumously.

Mears said that conditions in the camp had not been reported correctly. "Switzerland's wartime general, Henri Guisan, demanded that all Red Cross reports about the internment camps be submitted to army censors first if delegates wanted access".

Switzerland was the only neutral country during the Second World War to fully enforce the 1907 Hague Convention requiring the internment of foreign soldiers until the end of the conflict, according to Mears. Unlike Sweden, Portugal or Turkey, the Swiss neither handed over internees to Germany, nor did they take attempts to escape lightly.

The Air Force secretary is expected to give final approval of the medals by Sept. 15, 2013. "It's vindicating that the law was passed," Mears said. "I'm gratified that the Air Force is honoring the legacy of these men."

## VA Prosthetics

The mission of the Veterans Affairs Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service (PSAS) is to provide comprehensive support to optimize health and independence of the Veteran. VA is the largest and most comprehensive provider of

prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the world. Although the term "prosthetic device" may suggest images of artificial limbs, it actually refers to any device that supports or replaces a body part or function. PSAS provides a full range of equipment and services to Veterans. These range from items worn by the Veteran, such as an artificial limb or hearing aid; those that improve accessibility, such as ramps and vehicle modifications; to devices surgically placed in the Veteran, such as hips and pacemakers. In support of PSAS the VA provides various allowances, grants, and equipage to veterans who utilize the services of PSAS.

## VA Patient Centered Care

Veterans should see more timely access to mental health providers and other civilian medical specialists under a new Patient Centered Community Care (PC3) initiative, which the Department of Veterans Affairs will phase in across the country over the next six months. The initiative is centered on two five-year contracts worth a combined \$9.3 billion and awarded Tuesday to separate health management companies tasked with consolidating and standardizing quality of providers that veterans are referred to when the VA can't deliver in-house care in a timely way. Health Net Federal Services LLC of Arlington, Va., and TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. of Phoenix, Ariz., will establish vast non-VA provider networks across all six VA medical regions, taking three apiece.

Health Net, the current TRICARE support contractor for military beneficiaries in that system's North Region, will be responsible for VA regions that span the New England states, the Northern Midwest states and all Eastern

seaboard states down through Florida and Alabama. Health Net's combined regional contracts are valued at \$5 billion.

TriWest, which supported a provider network across the TRICARE West Region until last April, landed VA contracts worth \$4.4 billion to provide networks of mental health and specialty care in Western states, including Alaska, Hawaii, and all South Central states from Texas to Mississippi.

State borders don't neatly define VA's six regions, so Health Net will have responsibility for 38 states or parts of states as well as Puerto Rico. TriWest will provide non-VA provider networks for 28 states or parts of states as well as U.S. territories in the Pacific.

## WWII 70th D-Day Anniversary

The tourist office of Saint Mere-Eglise in France has released the initial plans for the 2014 memorials and ceremonies honoring the 70th year after the D-Day arrival of Allied forces, liberating France and re-establishing peace in Europe. The tentative Program was last updated in June, 2013. Several ceremonies and events are not completely defined, so be sure to watch regularly the updates at <http://www.sainte-mere-eglise.info/>

For further information contact Tourist Office of Sainte Mère Eglise, 6 rue Eisenhower, 50480 Sainte Mère Eglise Tél : +33 (0)2.33.21.00.33 Fax : +33 (0)2.33.21.53.91; Web : [www.sainte-mere-eglise.info](http://www.sainte-mere-eglise.info).

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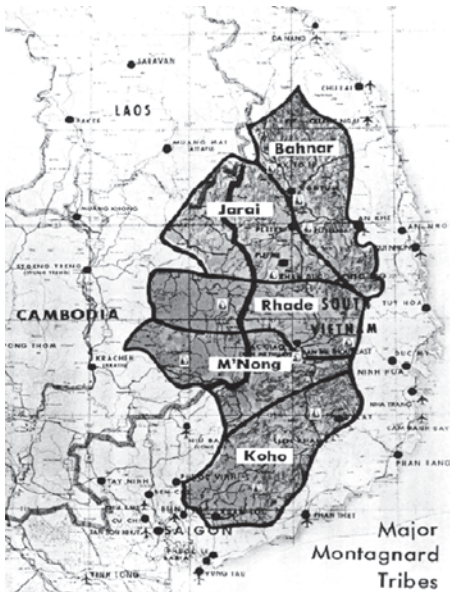
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# Bracelets of Honor:

## Part I of II

by Alice A. Booher

For several generations of American men and women, it would be the only piece of jewelry they would wear besides a wedding ring and a watch. Yet the plain metal wristband began in one of the most remote and unusual ethnic communities on earth. Endearingly called “Yards” by many American soldiers, a shortened version of the name Montagnards (“mountaineers”) given to them by the French, their heritage is one of the oldest on earth.



credit: October 1969 *Typhoon*

These indigenous peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, are an aggregate of dozens of nomadic tribes and different ethnic groups, a genetic and linguistic mixture, widely distinguished in many ways from the ethnic Vietnamese and for myriad reasons, long at odds with them over

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pretty much everything. After a discriminatory and convoluted cultural and political history, many Montagnards sided with American military/intelligence, first with the OSS in the early days when the fight was with the French against the Japanese; then with the CIA who found them of use against the Viet Minh; and finally, during the Vietnam War, particularly in concert with the American Special Forces in the South. In the 1960-1970's, both South Vietnamese and American military trained them on the ground, enlisting their wartime assistance with considerable success. Data from the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in 1998 and in 2002 from the U.N. Commission



on Human Rights estimated that 40,000 Montagnards served with the U.S. military as scouts, interpreters and soldiers during the Vietnam War; unofficial sources estimate that at least 200,000 Montagnards perished because of that alliance.

Wily, cunning, dedicated and brave, their skills were remarkable. Many ground troops saw only their handcrafts and tidy villages of elevated hooches on stilts; for others, they became trusted lifelines – and these would proudly wear a gifted Yard bracelet, (AKA circlet, khong or kong) crafted of old brass rods or shells, beaten down, filed, plain or etched, stone-smoothed,

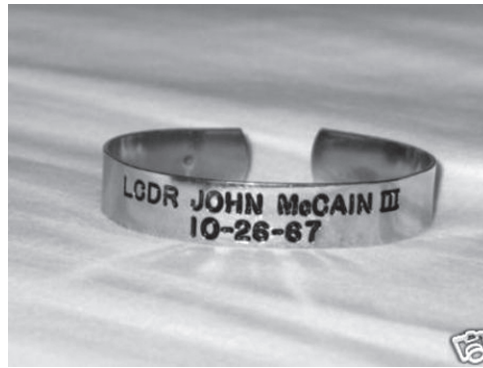


some with simple engravings. For the very lucky, the gifting might occur during a ceremony involving rice wine and a shaman.

A small irony may be that the subsequent bracelets, a simple article of apparel that would take on such importance for public focus on POW/MIAs, would derive from a primal facet of Vietnam of which many were not fully cognizant. Ground troops knew them by sight but very few knew them well. Rochester and Kiley's *Honor Bound* notes that of the POWs, Army special ops' Floyd (Jim) Thompson, captured in March 1964 and held in virtual isolation for 9 years in Laos and the North, was often guarded by

## bracelets, cont'd...

Montagnards who purportedly treated him with some kindness. Several other American POWs were held at one or another time with Yard prisoners. One was an authority: Michael Benge, among 23 civilians taken POW in the South during Tet, was a former



Central Highlands, as an AID adviser.

Concurrently CONUS, with casualties mounting and more and more American military personnel either captured or missing, returned veterans and activists, many of them students, demanded accountability. With piecemeal troop withdrawals, the tide of war arguments grew louder and more heated; there was less controversy but no less passion for renewed focus on the plight of those MIA or POW. The campaign needed a sustainable visual reflection of concern.

In late 1969, a California student group called Voices in Vital America (VIVA) met the wives of three missing pilots and were shown a Yard bracelet by a returned veteran, Air Force pilot, Bob Dornan, then a TV talk show host (later Congressman), whose friend, David Hendricks, had been shot down by the Pathet Lao in Laos. Dornan suggested that the Yard bracelet might be reproduced and modified to remind wearers and observers of the missing and captured, to include the name and pertinent

details on a missing American.

All agreed it was a terrific idea, but as recalled by one of the VIVA co-founders, Carol Bates Brown, it was not easy. With a lot of hard work in a relatively short period, funding, production and distribution was arranged. VIVA attended the National League of Families meeting in late September 1970, and on Veterans Day, the bracelet program was launched. Entertainers like Bob Hope and Martha Raye were enlisted to help. When VIVA closed its doors in 1976, countless POW/MIA awareness bumper stickers, flyers, buttons and 5 million bracelets had been distributed.

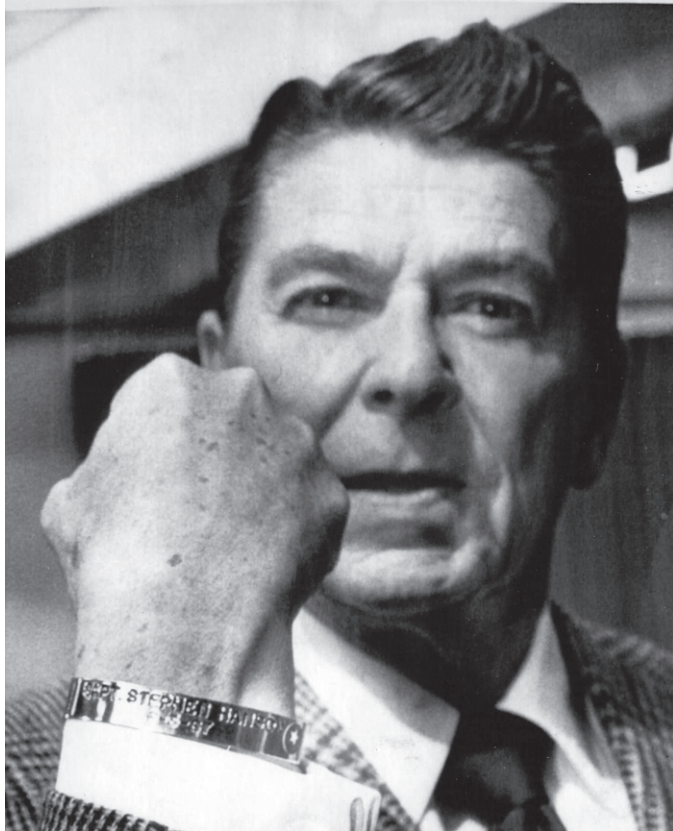


The bracelets (copper, brass, aluminum, black, gold, silver, red) became a silent but well recognized item of apparel in civilian and military populations. The Secretary of the Navy, in a message dated September 19, 1972, authorized the "wearing of POW/MIA bracelets for Navy and Marine Corps personnel - at any time they desire, including while in uniform - as an expression of concern for their fellow service members who are prisoners of war or missing in action. The bracelet shall be of simple design, not more than one-half inch wide and containing rank/rate, name of the POW/MIA and date of capture or



## bracelets, cont'd...

mission". The other military services followed suit.



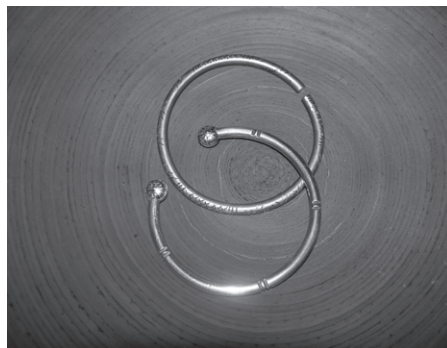
As new service personnel were captured, word spread in POW camps that these bracelets existed. A few of the new captives had worn the bracelets with the names of some of the old-timers. The Paris Peace Accords were signed on January 27, 1973 in the presence of bracelets. In a public plea for ongoing accountability, on February 23, 1973, then California Governor Ronald Reagan told students that with the signing of a cease-fire in Laos, he hoped that the Marine pilot whose bracelet he wore, Stephen Hanson, shot down on June 3, 1967, would be added to the list of POWs in Laos. [*Honor Bound* notes he and some of his crew were later identified as KIA while others were POWs]. Other

public figures quietly honored the commitment by wearing the bracelet like the actor John Wayne, who received one while filming *The Green Berets*, put it on and never took it off.

During Operation Homecoming, the 591 released POWs first caught sight of the bracelets as soon as they reached Clark Air Base in the Philippines. On March 14, 1973, Giles Norrington and his bus bench-mate Ned Shuman were astonished when a rolled 3'x 2' poster board was shoved into their bus window, on which serendipitously was slipped a metal bracelet

with Giles' name on it. A new phenomenon began to welcome back the man whose name was on your bracelet, and return the bracelet to him. The U.S. had listed 1,350 Southeast Asia POW/MIAs and 1,200 Americans reported KIA and bodies not recovered – excellent reasons for continuing to wear those bracelets.

[Part II of II of **Bracelets of Honor** will be in the January-February 2014 issue of the *EX-POW Bulletin*.]



### How to order a bracelet:

POW/MIA bracelets were initially introduced in the late 1960s by a now-defunct organization, Voices in Vital America (VIVA). The purpose of the bracelets was, and is, to increase public awareness about the plight of Americans still prisoner, missing, and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

At one time distributed by the National League of Families, bracelets are now available from a decades-long strong issue-supporter, the nonprofit, Ohio Chapter MIA-POW (see address below) which donates 100% of all proceeds to help sustain the League's efforts. Demand for the bracelets continues, as is evidenced by the frequent inquiries to the League office. The original stainless steel or similar silver bracelet is the most in demand and signals continuity of concern by the American people. The National League of Families is the only national organization comprised solely of the close relatives of U.S. servicemen and civilians still missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. Our threefold goal is the return of live prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and the repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died while serving our Nation in Southeast Asia.

POW/MIA Bracelets: Bracelets are stainless steel, 1/2 inch wide, bearing name, rank, service branch, country, and date of loss. Please note that data is engraved on bracelets, not filled in black. Names on hand with the Ohio Chapter are made with permission of the families, and most come with a short bio of the missing man. Special names may be requested, but no bio is then available.

100% of all proceeds go to the National League of Families! Cost is \$15.00 each and includes shipping.

Please send **check or money order** (*The OH Chapter does not accept credit cards*) to:  
Ohio Chapter MIA/POW  
P.O. Box 14853  
Columbus, OH 43214  
(614) 451-2405

# Your Stories



## My Father's Story

Charles Masoomian  
3816 Santiago Drive  
Plano, Texas 75023  
972-867-4531 hm  
206-245-3361 cell  
[charlesmasoomian@gmail.com](mailto:charlesmasoomian@gmail.com)

*Zaven "Doc" Masoomian - WWII Veteran, "Prisoner of War" Survivor and "Purple Heart" Recipient*

### **Early Life**

Zaven grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts, in a working class community where many Armenian emigrants, like his parents, had settled. The Armenian emigrants were naturally very patriotic and grateful for their new home. As a boy he developed a love of classical music and a keen interest in understanding how radios worked. After graduating high school in 1939, he went to study radio science in Boston and became licensed to operate and maintain powerful radio transmitters which the public not only enjoyed, but started to depend on. He started his career with two brief jobs, one in Vermont at a small AM transmitter and the second back in Worcester at WORC. His love of classical music prevailed and he applied to and was accepted to work at the prestigious classical music station, WQXR, in New York City in 1941 as a Radio Broadcast Engineer. But as war developed his plans would change. Having just started his "dream job", Zaven enlisted into the Army AirCorp in January of 1942 in New York.

### **Stateside Training**

He completed his basic training in Atlantic City and San Antonio before starting Primary Flying School in Stamford, Texas and later that spring at Randolph Field, near San Antonio. It was in Stamford that he met his wife, Margie Mercer at a USO dance in the Stamford Library to tunes of The Glen Miller Band played by a local band. In Stamford he completed his 90 days of Primary Training, flying the PT19. He later was sent to Garden City, Kansas, for "Intermediate Training" where he flew BT13s and learned how to break out of a "spin." From there he went back to Lubbock, Texas, for Advanced Two-Engine School and flew his first two-engine plane. It was there he earned his 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant rank and got his pilot wings. Having earned his wings, he was sent off to Washington State to learn to fly B17s, the now-famous "Flying Fortress." Strong ocean winds and tall mountains made night-time navigation a challenge. From Washington, it was back to Kansas, to Detroit, Presque Isle, Maine, Scotland and London to await his next assignment.

### **Europe**

He was immediately assigned to the 615<sup>th</sup> Squadron in the 401<sup>st</sup> Bomber Group of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force at Deenethorpe Airfield in Northamptonshire, England. England was cold that winter and the young crew quickly learned the value of a simple wood fire in a pot-bellied stove. Their 1<sup>st</sup> mission was to Cognac to bomb the Luftwaffe Airbase. "It was a good run, we flew in tight formation." Though it took hours of circling the airport waiting for the last plane to get in the air, the 21 B17s, flying in close formation, with 13 50 caliber machine guns each, presented a formidable challenge to the Luftwaffe. Still, they lost 4 of the 21 planes on that mission.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> 1944, he flew his second and final mission to Oscherslaben, Germany; to bomb an aircraft factory was "one of the greatest air battles of World War II." The Group put up the most aircraft to date as part of a maximum effort. German resistance was fierce, involving heavy flak, dozens of fighters and balloon mines. The Group shot down 150 of Luftwaffe fighters. This mission was the first to use long-range fighter escorts from the P51 Mustangs. Deep in German territory, they were getting severely battered by flak and fighter fire, Zaven got on the radio to ask for fighter support. "Hey little brother where are you?" "I'm two wings behind you and coming up." Col Howard replied. Major James Howard, a P-51 pilot, remained after all other U.S. fighters had left and engaged a swarm of Luftwaffe fighters attacking the 401<sup>st</sup>, for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor." 60 B17s were lost. Flak struck the right engine of the B17 that pilot Lt. D.C. Sprecher and copilot 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Zaven Masoomian were flying. The engine caught fire and could not be extinguished, so the crew had to bail out over Oscherslaben. Waist Gunner, R.G. Vindhurst and Tail Gunner, J.R. White were shot and killed from enemy fire. The rest of the crew, along with Zaven, bailed out, were captured and made Prisoners of War by the Germans.

### **Prisoner of War**

The officers were taken to Stalag Luft I in Barth, Germany, near the Baltic Sea. Along with the other ~ 9,000 American and British airmen who were imprisoned there, he subsisted on the weekly Red Cross packages of meat, cheese

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## Masoomian, cont'd...

and cigarettes. The Germans supplemented the food packages with a few boiled potatoes, carrots, kohlrabi and a ¼ lb of "some kind of bread," all of questionable quality. Sometimes the Germans provided a bucket of barley in the morning. Zaven's weight dropped to 95 lbs.

Cigarettes became the major form of currency, which allowed them to acquire a small radio from one of the guards, so they could listen to the BBC at night. Poker and bridge kept their minds off the boredom. Zaven's sister sent him three books, Hans Brinker, A Midsummer-Night's Dream, and the Autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini, which he enjoyed immensely.

### **Liberation**

On May 1st, 1944, the Russians arrived and left the POWs free to go. Most waited for the American transport planes to arrive on May 12th, but "Doc" and two other Americans decide to hitchhike west. It was easy to get a ride on a Russian tank or truck or horse-drawn wagon. They made it to Rostock 35 miles to the east and had a friendly chat with a couple of inquisitive Russian soldiers. The three men traveled on another 75 miles on foot or hitching to Lubeck in British-held territory. Their "German" POW dog-tags afforded them special privileges. There they were "de-loused" and fed very well. The British told them they could take any car in the motor pool to drive to the coast and wouldn't have any trouble finding gas along the way. Zaven got a beautiful Mercedes convertible working that had the rotor in the distribu-

tor removed, by using the rotor from a German half-track. No sooner than they had gotten rolling on their new set of wheels, when they stopped at the airport to see all the excitement when a German fighter pilot landed to give himself up (rather than fall into Russian hands). His plane was swarmed by GIs. Apparently, everyone wanted the shiny new Luger they all spotted on his belt, as he stood up in the cockpit with his hands raised to surrender. The guys' shiny new Mercedes also drew attention and a British chaplain who offered them passage on a C47 to Venlo, Netherlands. As soon as they landed there a man leaned his head out of a B17 taxing by and said "Doc! What the hell are you doing here? Hop in, I'm going to London." Zaven was on the fast track home. He was given accommodations at the Regal Street Officer's quarters and lots of well-deserved food. After a few weeks of rest and eating well he had gained enough weight to go home, took an LST at South

Hampton and arrived at Norfolk, Virginia unceremoniously on July 4<sup>th</sup>. From there he took a train back to Worcester, his family and fiancée, Margie Mercer.

Zaven and Margie were married that summer and moved to New York to raise 4 children. Zaven was able to return to work at WQXR for 44 years, eventually becoming the station's Chief Engineer.

### **References**

- 1. Stalag Luft I Online**  
<http://www.merkki.com/>
- 2. Kriegie "An American POW in Germany"** By Oscar G. Richard III  
a. A book describing the author's firsthand account of his experience as a POW in Germany. Oscar shared the same room with Zaven until they were liberated by the Russians at the end of the war.
- 3. The History of the 401<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group** <http://www.401bg.org/Site/History/>



### **New Membership Directory!**

The American Ex-Prisoners of War has partnered with Harris Connect, LLC (the company that has done our last two directories) to give our members the opportunity to connect with fellow POWS. This

project will result in a Membership and Personal History Directory for AXPOW.

Your information is a valuable contribution to making this endeavor a success.

Please call:

**(800) 934-1659**

to update your information and receive your chance to be included in this project.

You will also receive a postcard to fill out updated information. There will be more coming in future Bulletins.

# contributions



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

Checks must be made payable to  
AXPOW or American Ex-Prisoners  
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(MasterCard or Visa). Just call  
817-649-2979. Thank you!

## Thank you!

to Ruth Natvig & Lloyd Kilmer  
for their generous donation in  
honor of the 2014 AXPOW  
Calendar and in memory of my  
parents - Chuck and Ruth  
Williams ~ Cheryl

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

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

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

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

Please take a few minutes of your  
time to help.

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# new members

National Headquarters  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010;  
(817) 649-2979



## New Members "Welcome Home"

James C Lash  
Garrett IN  
Son of James E Lash,  
PAC



## Certificate of Captivity

### Prisoner of War Certificate of Captivity

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

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American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Arlington, Texas

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**TERRIFIC HOLIDAY IDEA!** Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½" x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To receive this certificate from AXPOW, please order from National Headquarters. If you are ordering at Convention, you can place your order in the Merchandise Room. We will need your name, service number, branch of service, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names and locations. You can call 817-649-2979 or email: [axpow76010@yahoo.com](mailto:axpow76010@yahoo.com). You may include a picture with your order.





# taps



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

**BENNETT, George H.**, of Columbus, Ohio, died August 5, 2013. He served in the ETO with the 15<sup>th</sup> AF, 340<sup>th</sup> BG, 97<sup>th</sup> BS. He was held in Luft 1. His beloved wife Angie predeceased him. He is survived by 1 sister, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 3 grandsons and 2 great grandsons. He was a member of Ohio Chapter One, AXPOW.

**BLANKENSHIP, Cathryn**, of Richmond VA, died July 23, 2013. She is survived by her husband, Leonard, who was held in Stalag 3A. They were members of the Denny Landrum Chapter, AXPOW.

**BORCHERDING, Duthiel "Dutch"**, 93, of Washington, MO passed away June 22, 2013. He was shot down while serving with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF during WWII; he was held until liberation. Dutch was a member of the St. Louis Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves his wife, Delores, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

**CLARK, George H.**, of Baxter Springs, KS died July 31, 2013. He was captured in North Africa and was a POW for 2 ½ years. Survivors are his wife, Dorothy, 1 son, 2 stepsons, 4 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren and 1 sister. He was a member of the NE Oklahoma Chapter, AXPOW.

**DENNIS, Lowell W. Jr.**, of Hewitt, TX passed away Aug. 22, 2013 at the age of 90. During WWII, he was captured on Sicily along with 100 other members of the 45<sup>th</sup> Div. He and three others escaped after 5 days in the field. Lowell is survived by his wife of 50 years, Beverly, 3 daughters, 2 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**ELSBECK, Peter G.**, of Floral Park, NY died June 15, 2013. He was 91. He was shot down while serving

with the 751<sup>st</sup> BS, 457<sup>th</sup> BG; he was held in Stalag Luft III until liberation. His loving wife of 67 years, Margaret, survives him.

**FORD, Joseph Edgar**, 81, of Rutherfordton, NC passed away March 28, 2013. He was a POW for 2 & ½ years during the Korean War. He leaves his wife of 59 years, Jane, 2 sons, 3 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**FORD, Truett**, of Hurst, TX, died August 21, 2013. AXPOW life members since 1980, Truett and Mary were both active members of the Fort Worth Chapter, attending meetings every month, and bringing all the canned drinks to the bi-annual picnics hosted by the chapter at the Dallas VA. Truett served in the 36<sup>th</sup> Div., Co. D, 142<sup>nd</sup> Inf., and was held in Stalags 3A and 2A. He is survived by his wife of almost 67 years, Mary. He will be greatly missed by the Chapter.

**HEBERT, Gerald J.**, of Manchester, NH passed away June 25, 2013. He was 88. A member of the "Lost Battalion", he was captured at Anzio while serving in the US Army. Jerry was a member of New Hampshire Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves 1 daughter, 2 grandsons, 1 great-grandson, 4 brothers and their families.

**JAY, Edward James Jr.**, of Rolling Meadows, IL, 93, died Aug. 20, 2013. He was captured while serving during WWII. Survivors include his wife, Marion, 4 sons, 1 daughter, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

**KELLEY, Dorris R.**, of Tulsa, OK passed away Mar. 30, 2013 at the age of 90. He was a member of the Tulsa Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served with the 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer during the Battle of the Bulge. After capture, he was

held in Stalag 13C until he escaped. He leaves his wife, Gwen.

**KENNEDY, Linwood Bruce**, of Kinston, NC died Aug. 11, 2013. He was a charter member of the Coastal Plains Chapter, serving as JVC and Chapter Commander. He was captured while serving in the Army; held in Stalag XIIA. His wife of 63 years, Gaynelle, 2 sons, 1 granddaughter and 1 great-granddaughter survive him;

**KNOX, John**, of Pompano Beach FL died July 22, 2013. John was part of the 445<sup>th</sup> BG, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He was shot down over Kassel, Germany and was a prisoner in Stalag 9C until liberation. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, "Dede", 1 daughter and 2 sons. He always enjoyed the magazine and the various events they attended over the years.

**LASH, James E**, of Gary, Indiana, died in February, 2013. He served with the 59<sup>th</sup> CA, and was held in Yokohama and Cabanatuan.

**LERNER, Charles** of Deerfield Beach, Florida, died July, 2013. He served with the 7 Armrd Div, 48 Inf, and was held in Stalag 2A, from 10/27/44 to 5/7/45. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Rose.

**McGLINCHEY, Frank P.**, 87, of Bayonet Point, FL died Jan. 8, 2008. During WWII, he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 100<sup>th</sup> BG, 350<sup>th</sup> BS; he was captured and held in Luft 1, Barth. Frank was an active member of Florida Chapter #1, AXPOW. He leaves 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, 1 sister and many nieces, nephews and friends.

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# taps cont'd...

**MONTGOMERY, Floyd W.**, of Economy Boro, PA passed away June 27, 2007. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> AF, 385<sup>th</sup> BG, 549<sup>th</sup> BS, flying out of England. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag 17B. He is survived by his loving wife, Marianne, 2 daughters, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and their families.

**MYLLKOSKI, Leo Robert**, of Sebastian, FL passed away Nov. 21, 2012. He was 93. He was captured while serving in the AAC during WWII; he was held in Stalag 17B until liberation. Survivors include his loving wife, Lillian.

**NATTIER, Elizabeth Jean**, of Lakewood, CO died July 31, 2013. She and her husband, Clayton (ex-POW/8<sup>th</sup> AF, 306<sup>th</sup> BG/Luft 1) were members of the Mile High Chapter, AXPOW. In addition to her husband of 68 years, Elizabeth leaves 2 daughters, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**PALLOZZI, Guido G.**, of Malta, NY passed away July 26, 2013. He was 89. During WWII, he served with the 157<sup>th</sup> Inf. Reg., 45<sup>th</sup> Div. "Thunderbirds". He was captured in the Black Forest and held in Stalags 12A, 10B and 10C until liberation. Guido was a life member of AXPOW and Chaplain of the Northeast NY Chapter. Survivors include his loving wife, Bernice, 1 son, 1 daughter, 3 stepchildren, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

**PALMIERI, Virginia**, 87, of Morgantown, WV died July 16, 2013. She and her late husband Patsy were long-time members of the Barbed Wire Mountaineers Chapter, AXPOW. Virginia leaves 1 daughter and 3 grandchildren and their families. She will be missed by all who knew her.

**RIES, Jack W.**, of Jamestown, PA passed away July 5, 2013. He was captured in North Africa in 1942 while serving with the 168<sup>th</sup> Reg., 34<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. USA. He was held in POW camps in Germany and Poland until liberation. Jack is survived by his wife, Evelyn, 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

**SKORKA, Francis M.**, 94, of Chicopee, MA died April 10, 2013. Frank served with the 106<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div. and was captured at the Battle of the Bulge. He was a life member of AXPOW and is survived by 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

**SLEEPER, Lewis A. Jr.**, of Tucson, AZ died September 9, 2013. At 19, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and ran missions as a ball turret gunner over the Ploesti oil fields and Bucharest rail yards. Shot down in 1944, he was taken prisoner of war in Romania. Lewis was active in AXPOW where he served as National Director for the Southwest Region. His last article for the EX-POW Bulletin, "Why is it Worthy for AXPOW to Survive?" appeared in the July/August 2013 issue. Lewis is survived by his wife, Janice Lee, 2 daughters, 1 step-daughter, 1 step-son, 8 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

**THOMPSEN, Charles R.**, 93, of Roosevelt, Utah passed away June 24, 2013. He was shot down while serving with the 100<sup>th</sup> BG during WWII; he was held in Lufts III and VII until liberation. Charles leaves his wife of almost 67 years, Jane, and 5 children and their families.

**WOLFROM, Charles J. "Bud"**, of Dublin, Ohio died August 13, 2013. He served in the Eighth Air Force and was a POW in Stalag Luft 3. He was a member of Ohio Chapter One. He is survived by 4 sons, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

**WOODWARD, Joyce A.**, of Denver, CO died Aug. 7, 2013. She was 94 and was the widow of ex-POW Chester (15<sup>th</sup> AF, 454<sup>th</sup> GB/Stalags 7A, Luft 3). Surviving family includes 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

**WOODWARD, Zora Sellers**, widow of Ex-POW Louis, passed away June 6, 2013. Louis was captured in North Africa and held in POW camps in Germany. They were active members of the Mississippi Chapter, AXPOW. Louis and Zora were married for 51 years. They had 5 children, 6 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. They are missed by all who knew them.



Peace, Love & Joy this holiday season  
Clydie, Marsha, Cheryl, Donna, Sally

# chaplain



ND Benny Rayborn

## Don't Speed!

Have ever had a day when everything seems to "go wrong".

Modern Americans know that many things seem to work against us. From family members, to jobs, to friends to even our laws. For example, running late for a meeting, what do you do when you encounter a stop sign? A stop sign means stop, not, slow down a little and go through the intersection without stopping. Another example, is being late and speeding. We pray, "Oh Lord don't let me get a ticket!" Tickets for speeding or running a stop sign are not the Lord's problem, it's ours. Don't speed and come to a complete stop at the stop sign and you will not have to worry about tickets. Stopping for stop signs and not speeding are examples of using common sense.

Many things can work against us. Some are caused by our own actions (such as speeding tickets) and some are caused by others (such as being a prisoner of war) and some (sickness) seem to have no cause. Sometimes we suffer, it seems for no reason. Regardless of the cause, we are to rely on God. Why? Genesis 1:1 says "In the beginning God cre-

ated the Heaven and the earth." Consider this: Any being that can create the universe is powerful enough to handle any problem that we have. We may consider our problems earth moving but they certainly are not universe moving. In short: God can take us through the problem. Ask any prisoner of war. He will certainly relate that when no one else was available he appealed to a higher power that we call God.

At this point many preachers will quote from Habakkuk 2:4 "...the just shall live by his faith." However, I think a better response is Isaiah 26: 3-4, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." The "Thou" in verse three is God. God does answer prayers and with faith in God comes a peace that is said to pass all understanding. These last two verses show that we should trust God "...whose mind is stayed on thee:" Because God's "everlasting strength" will take us through this life and throughout eternity.

There are a number of points that may be drawn from this article such as God does not always help us avoid our problems but rather He takes us through them. But, I wish to leave you with this: God is trustable. Do you trust God?

*Benny*



# Members' forum



Kudos to: Charles Susino, Jr., National Commander 2012-2013.

Recently through a friend of mine, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Charles Susino, who immediately showed interest in reviewing my file. He thought the 30% I was awarded by the VA in Florida in 1994 was too low and those who were handling my case should have followed up. I assigned Mr. Susino Power of Attorney and he arranged for me to undergo a complete physical exam at the VA Hospital in East Orange, NJ.

In a letter dated 8/23/2013, The Department of Veterans Affairs advised me that a 100% permanent and total evaluation was assigned, effective 5/31/2013, in accordance with their rating schedule. Without Mr. Susino's assistance and guidance I am sure I would still be struggling with my 30% Disability Compensation. Mr. Susino is to be commended for his continued good works while National Commander during 2012-2013.

I am very grateful for his help in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Raymond J. Sanguinetti,  
EX-POW

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Nov/Dec 2013



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

**IN MEMORY OF:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**GIVEN BY:**

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

**Name**

**Address**

**City, state and zip code**

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BE SENT TO:**

**Name**

**Address**

**City, state and zip code**

Memorial donations should be sent to:  
**American Ex-Prisoners of War**  
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)

**Terrific Holiday Idea!**  
**Order one for your spouse, your dad, your granddad!**

**American Ex-Prisoners of War  
Website Biography  
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:

Telephone:

Spouse:

Email:

Conflict and Theater of Operation:

Branch of Service:

Unit:

Where were you captured?

Date captured:

POW camps you were held in:

How long were you a POW?

Date liberated:

Medals received:

Job in the military:

After military service:

Your biography listing may include 1 or 2 photographs (color or black and white) and a 1000 word or less narrative. Please type or print your narrative. Photos and narratives may be emailed to [hq@axpow.org](mailto:hq@axpow.org) please reference "Biography" and your name.

Send to:

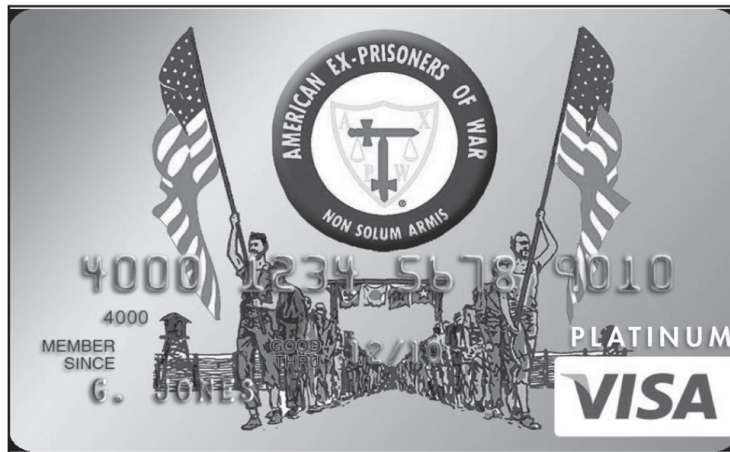
American Ex-Prisoners of War 3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40 Arlington, Texas 76010-5396.

Please include your check for \$65.00, your photos and narrative (or indicate what date they were emailed).

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Nov/Dec 2013

**Every credit card sends you a statement.  
This card lets you make one.**

## **American Ex-Prisoners of War Custom Visa® Platinum Rewards Card.**



- No annual fee.
- \$50 donation by the bank when you first use the card.\*
- Ongoing contributions made when you continue using your card.
- Low Introductory APR on purchases and no balance transfer fees for 6 months.<sup>†</sup>
- Enhanced Visa Platinum benefits, including 24/7 Emergency Customer Service, 100% Fraud Protection, Auto Rental and Travel Accident Insurance and much more.
- Earn points at hundreds of participating online retailers redeemable for name-brand merchandise, event tickets, gift cards or travel reward options.

**Make your own statement with your custom**



**American Ex-Prisoners of War**

**Visa Platinum Rewards Card** **VISA**

**Apply today at:**

**<http://www.cardpartner.com/app/axpow>**

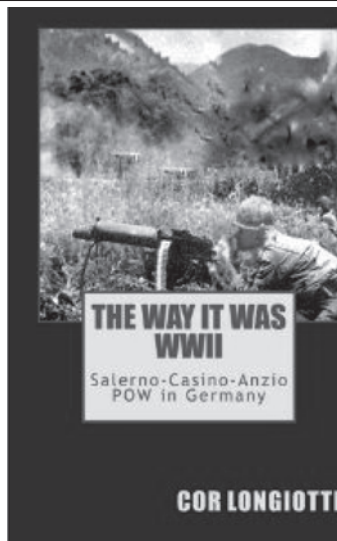
The AXPOW Visa card program is operated by UMB Bank, N.A. All applications for AXPOW Visa credit card accounts will be subject to UMB Bank N.A.'s approval, at its absolute discretion. Please visit [www.cardpartner.com](http://www.cardpartner.com) for further details of terms and conditions which apply to the AXPOW Visa card program. \* Donation made when card is used once within 90 days of issuance. † After this period a low variable APR will apply.

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Anzio & POW in  
Germany

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The story of a machine  
gunner in the Italian  
campaign in WWII.

As a machine gunner in  
the 45<sup>th</sup> Division, 179<sup>th</sup>

Infantry, making two  
beachhead landings and twice being trapped behind  
enemy lines. Ending up as a POW in Italy and  
Germany.

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US. to Cor Longiotti, 522 E. Valley View Rd.,  
Ashland, OR 97520

Also available on: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (ISBN 978-  
1484077078)

## 50/50 drawing

June, 2013  
Arlington, TX

<b>1st Place</b>	Marvin Roslansky, AZ	<b>\$160.40</b>
<b>2nd Place</b>	Vera Meinhardt, WI	<b>\$120.30</b>
<b>3rd Place</b>	Phyllis Harman, PA	<b>\$160.50</b>
<b>4th Place</b>	Maurice Markoworth, PA	<b>\$40.10</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Mail to:

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



## The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at  
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active  
since 1946

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

**The CUB Magazine is published three times  
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**Annual Reunions held yearly since 1947.**

Jacquelyn Martin, Membership Chairman  
121 McGregor Ave.

Mount Arlington, N.J. 07856

973-663-2410

E-mail: [jsc164@aol.com](mailto:jsc164@aol.com)

Ex-POW Bulletin  
Nov/Dec 2013

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing</b></p> <p>PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: (    ) _____  Address: _____  City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p>Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. <b>Mail your donation and entry to:      American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396</b></p> <p>You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support. <span style="float: right;">(11/13)</span></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing</b></p> <p>PLEASE PRINT Name: _____ Telephone: (    ) _____  Address: _____  City/State/Zip: _____</p> <p>Here is my donation of \$5.00 for 6 chances to win the drawing. Prize amounts are determined by the total amount donated. <b>Mail your donation and entry to:      American Ex-Prisoners of War 50/50 Drawing 3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40 Arlington, TX 76010-5396</b></p> <p>You do not have to be present to win. Your donation is not tax deductible. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Donation not required to enter. Thank you for your support. <span style="float: right;">(11/13)</span></p>
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## AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

Please circle one category:

Individual    Chapter    State Department  
(If chapter or department, please give name)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone #

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

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Ex-POW Bulletin  
Nov/Dec 2013

### Name Badge Order Form

(for members only)

Actual size of badge is size of a credit card



PLEASE PRINT:

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

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

(includes shipping and handling)

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

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

Mail orders to:

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

### AXPOW Vest Order Form

(For members only)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**Price: \$55.00**, includes shipping/handling

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

Mail orders to:

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

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

**We accept Master Card/Visa**

QUANTITY	ITEM	SIZE / COLOR	PRICE

For orders up to 4.00, add \$3.00; For orders 4.01 to 7.99, add \$4.00; For orders 8.00 to 25.00, add \$8.00, For orders 25.01 to 49.99, add \$13.00; For orders 50.00 to 99.99, add \$15.00

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

**Shipping/Handling/Insurance:**

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**  
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**3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40**  
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Classic "Varsity" look top quality jacket

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Unisex sizes S—3x

S-XL \$215.00 (Call 660-627-0753 for pricing larger orders)

Add \$1.50 per line for added lettering such as "State Commander" or "Next of Kin" (14 characters/spaces per line)

Plus \$2.00 for each size above XL

\$8.95 shipping each within Continental U.S.

Shipments to Missouri add 5.6% sales tax

A portion of the price is returned to American Ex-Prisoners of War

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Check enclosed or VISA/MasterCard/AmEx\_\_\_\_\_

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Expiration Date\_\_\_\_\_Signature (CC only)\_\_\_\_\_

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

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Lone Pine Embroidery, 32245 Lone Pine Way, Greentop, MO 63546

Or E-mail to Roger@lonepineridge.com

Or call us at 660-627-0753





All orders for products sold by AXPOW National Organization, including dues/subscriptions should be mailed to:  
American Ex-Prisoners of War  
National Headquarters  
3201 E. Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40  
Arlington, TX 76010-5396  
(817) 649-2979/ (817) 649-0109 fax  
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org  
No collect calls, please

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



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great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization

AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

**\$10.00**<sub>ea</sub>

### 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 ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please allow 4 weeks to make address corrections.

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

Or fax: (817) 649-0109

Or e-mail: axpow76010@yahoo.com