

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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November/December 2015



We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



Flag Raising Sept. 19, 2015 ~ Andersonville National Historic Site

The Funeral For 13,000~ Sept. 19, 2015 Andersonville National Historic Site



November/December 2015

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Deadline for the Jan/Feb issue
is Dec 1, 2015

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

This issue features the events surrounding this year's POW/MIA Recognition Day and The Ride Home.

The Ride Home Inc. is a Non Profit Corporation paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War who have returned home and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action. POW/MIA Recognition Day reminds us of the sacrifices our soldiers and their families. Combined Conflict totals more than 7,000 POW and over 10,000 still listed as MIA. To pay tribute to the Former Prisoners of War and The Families of those Still Missing In Action, We host The Ride Home. This annual event takes place in and around the cities of Americus and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the National Prisoners of War Museum. With the support of American Patriots, we are able to host this event, provide dinner and lunch, as well as lodging for nearly 200 Honored Guest. This annual event is open to the public and we strongly encourage you to come help us show gratitude for the sacrifices POW and MIA families have made for Our Great Country.

From the editor: Sally, Marsha and I would like to especially thank the members of Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter #1 for their great hospitality. We had the opportunity to meet and spend time (and ride!) with: Bob and Mary Cooper, J.J. Justice, Jerry Lipson, Charlie Donovan, Dave Richards, Lance Armstrong, Barbara, Larry and Dietra Morris and Arvin and Jean Williams. Bob was our guide for the 4 days and we really appreciate how he made us so comfortable.

PHOTO Credits: Bob "f-stop" Brinley, Alice Booher, Marsha Coke, Cheryl Cerbone

COVER: BG Rhonda Cornum (USA-Ret.) raises the American Flag over the cemetery at Andersonville National Historic Site - a reenactment of Clara Barton raising the flag in 1865 (sketch at right).

On August 17, 1865 a small ceremony was held in the newly established Andersonville National Cemetery. Clara Barton was given the honor of raising the American flag during this service, which also featured the playing of the Star Spangled Banner.



*"Miss Clara Barton Raising the National Flag, August 17, 1865,"
at Andersonville. Sketched by I. C. Schotel. Harper's Weekly,
October 7, 1865.*

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National Commander Edward DeMent

First of all, I'd like to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas/Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year. I certainly hope you have a great and safe Holiday Season.

I want to thank you your support as I head through my year as National Commander. Because of the experiences we have had and the bonds that we share, we are family. We always feel that when we are with you.

We are getting older. It is harder to do the things we used to do. It is harder to see, harder to hear, harder to speak, harder to go to meetings. Fewer POWs are able to hold office or participate in service projects.

We are depending more and more on our younger members, on our spouses, and our children to carry much of the load. We appreciate all who serve in any way.

Serving as your commander is a heavy responsibility. I take that responsibility very seriously. Because of aging and loss of members, and decline in income,

we have obstacles to overcome this year. Our Board of Directors is meeting this month in Texas and our agenda will certainly include ways to keep AXPOW financially stable in the coming years.

As I write this, I am preparing to attend the Stalag Luft III reunion in New Orleans. It will give me the opportunity to meet POWs and their families from Luft III and perhaps recruit some new members!

I'm also looking forward to representing you in Washington, DC on Veterans Day. My schedule is busy - starting with a Veterans breakfast at the White House, at the Tomb of the Unknowns as the wreath is placed, then over to the other side of the amphitheatre for the Veterans Day speech. It is a great honor to be the face of AXPOW.

I recently returned from a very special event -- one I try to attend every year. The Ride Home sponsors POWs and MIA families from all over the country to come to Andersonville, Georgia and be honored. This year, Andersonville National Cemetery and Museum had a very good turn out with approximately 1,800 people in attendance.

The Ride Home program was outstanding as we were honored and presented with medallions. The Prisoners of War in Attendance were: 49 from World War II, 44



from Korea, 41 from Vietnam, 2 from the Gulf War, 4 from Pueblo (ship captured by North Korea in 1968).

The National Park Service had several programs, one of which was the long-overdue funeral of 13,000 Union soldiers who died between February 1864 to April 1865 at the Andersonville Prison Camp. Inside of a wooden box representing a burial casket were 13,000 paper stars with children's names and notes. A white horse pulling a wagon with the American flag on top of the casket had a full honor guard. To see this, and honor 13,000 men will never be forgotten. It was a tremendously moving ceremony.

We are heading into a new year in the life of **American Ex-Prisoners of War**. Working together we can make it our best year yet. Your officers and directors have been elected to lead the organization in the direction that the members want to go.

Please share your ideas and suggestions with us.

God Bless Our Troops.
Yours in Patriotism,
Edward L. DeMent



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from the CEO



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So, what did you do today?

Many of our generation may recall President Kennedy's challenge from his 20 January 1961, inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country". That quote also resonates as the keynote of our mission in AXPOW to our brothers and sisters who fell in harm's way. By serving those who have gone before us—who have stood morally strong under the often fierce hand of the enemy, we uphold the slogan: "...help those who cannot help themselves".

Today, there are many ways to help, but all require our precious time. How ironic that those of us who spent a lifetime in faraway camps or in cold, dark, damp concrete cells had nothing but time. Yet, all most returnees ever want is someone to share a moment. To the NOK and friends, those moments are fading, and I

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encourage you to listen and to record for future generations as some may understand the trials and heartbreak of solitude. Some may find other ways to serve: offer a ride, run an errand, or make a grocery run. No matter what you do for another, it shows you care and your action gives meaning to our motto: "not by arms alone".

A friend is a follower of Pastor Rick Warren, author of the concept of *a purpose driven life*. If we take this mantra and apply it as a challenge, then we will ask ourselves, "What am I going to do today?" This is the real question and it calls to question the measure of our purpose .

AXPOW is family, and to face the organizational challenges of tomorrow, we must begin at home today. Love a returnee, support your local chapter, and participate in and grow the National Organization.

It is not what AXPOW can do for you, but what you can do for AXPOW and the gallant men and women who *returned with honor*.

David

news from hq



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Or, so they sing! We don't get much snow here in Texas but we do have lots of holiday spirit! Hope you are able to celebrate with family and friends.

We are rapidly running out of merchandise. The only items we restock are the Challenge Coins, Grave Medallions, and Graveside Flags. We still have a dwindling stock of pins and such. Check out the merchandise page for availability.

The National Board of Director meeting is Monday, November 16 at the Hilton Arlington here in Texas. The meeting is open to the general membership so if you are in the area, come on by.

Have a Joyous Holiday Season!

Clydie, Marsha, Sally, and Donna

Merry Christmas!
Happy Hanukkah!
Joyous Holidays!
From
Cheryl, Clydie,
Marsha, Sally,
Donna
blessings and good
wishes for the new
year



PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES

Public Law 97-37
(Layman's Terms)

Originally published
by William P. 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! Tell 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. There fore, most individuals suffer from hypovitaminosis, which is a relative deficiency of vitamins in the diet. The specific type, intensity and duration of deprivation 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 in the diet generally produces no lasting side effects. However, vitamin deficiencies other than the

medsearch cont'd...

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, hyper-attentiveness, 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 different causes for peripheral neuropathy, and vitamin deficiency

medsearch cont'd...

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 hydro-

chloric 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

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Map of Japanese POW Camps~ 21" x 32" with camps featured in red	\$4.00

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3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40, Arlington, TX 76010**

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VA Former Prisoner of War Advocate Program

One of the highest priorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs is meeting the needs of former Prisoners of War (POW's), extraordinary men and women who have endured captivity, suffered extreme deprivation and sacrificed their own freedom to preserve the freedom of all Americans.

Congress recognized this in 1981 with the passage of Public Law 97-37 entitled "Former Prisoners of War Benefit Act".

Former POW's with established service connected disabilities receive special priority for health care in VA hospitals and clinics. They are exempt from making copayments for inpatient and outpatient medical care and medications.

The VA actively reaches out to all former POW's.

Each VA Medical Center has an Advocate for Former Prisoner of War (FPOW) to assist FPOWs in accessing the care and support they need. For more information, please contact the nearest VA Medical Center to speak with the Former POW Advocate. The FPOW advocate can assist with VA

health care benefits as well as Veteran Benefit Administration claims.

The FPOW Advocate Program seeks to personally give ex-POWs and their families the security of knowing we are available to focus on your individual concerns and rights. We recognize there may be times when a Veteran or family member is unable to get their concerns resolved at the point of contact. The best time to let us know of any concern or question is at the time it happens so we can resolve it quickly. The FPOW Advocates are eager to help in a timely manner.

AXPOW NSOs who would like a copy of the latest list of POW Advocates (by VAMC), please email me at Ruth.Powell2@va.gov.

VA More Than Triples Volunteers in Facilities Nationwide through Summer of Service

Department Welcomes New Volunteers, Strategic Partnerships to Better Serve Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that the 2015 Summer of Service initiative, which launched in May, has exceeded the goals set for community volunteers serving Veterans and the development of new partnerships to reach Veterans and their family members. VA's Summer of Service mobilized approximately 300,000 citizens across the country to honor the nation's sacred commitment to caring for Veterans.

"Community by community, state by state, VA and the country came together to serve those who have served this nation. I am incredibly proud of the hundreds of thousands of volunteers who came into VA facilities to stand alongside our hard-working em-

ployees to help America's Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "At VA, we know that there is more work to do to serve America's heroes. We cannot do it alone. This summer, the American people recognized our vital role caring for those who have borne the battle and joined us in this sacred mission. Committed employees and volunteers, and strong partnerships, are the cornerstone of our efforts to transform this Department into one that Veterans and all citizens can be proud of."

The Summer of Service built upon the Department's existing partnerships to grow the number of individuals and organizations serving Veterans in their communities. VA facilities nationwide worked closely with their Congressional partners, Veterans Service Organizations, Mayors and local communities, private sector and non-profit organizations, and VA employees in unprecedented ways to support VA's commitment to care for those who "have borne the battle" and their families.

Through VA's outstanding volunteer program, the Department engaged approximately 300,000 volunteers around the country, far exceeding our goal of 100,000 volunteer connections. Through the work of Veterans Service Organizations and other community/civic groups, supplemental services and programs were made available for America's Veterans.

As part of VA's Summer of Service, the Department committed to holding VA Open Houses in VA facilities across the country, to spur increased local engagement.

legislative



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Washington continues to focus on the effectiveness of the VA system, proposing Bills designed to address further needs of our Nation's veterans, and ongoing sequestration which establishes funding caps imposed by the Budget Control Act.

Regarding sequestration, there continues to be an absence of leadership in Congress to establish a bipartisan plan to balance the budget and bring an end to arbitrary spending caps. The Department of Defense has felt its impact and VA has largely been spared but Washington's inability to address this problem continues to be troubling.

Veterans Homelessness is to be an important cause for AXPOW. The VA recently awarded \$4 million in funding offered through the Grant and Per Diem Program to 21 community agencies currently serving homeless veterans, modest, but activity in the right direction. The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing to better understand current veterans' homelessness initiatives and to find ways to reach the ultimate goal of ending veterans' homelessness. The hearings were well attended by high level agency officials with influence and resources applicable to the

2015-2016 Legislative
Committee
PNC Charles Susino, Jr.
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cause. We will continue to report on this nagging veteran problem. Moving to pending legislation, there are many proposed Bills noteworthy of watching and taking action with your Congressman. American Heroes COLA Act of 2015, Bill HR 677, states that whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase by the same percentage the amounts payable as veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled adult children, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Construction Reform Act of 2015, Bill HR 3106, is written to authorize major medical facility construction projects for fiscal year 2015, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the administration of medical facility construction projects, and for other purposes to be assigned to other Departments better equipped to manage very large projects such as the Army Corp of Engineers. This should help the credibility issue with respect to budget overruns of recent projects. Chairman Miller has sent the Bill to the Senate and House for consideration.

With respect to Washington Memorials, way back on October 25, 1999, the United States Congress created the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission to establish a memorial to honor the 34th President and Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe during WWII and charged it with creating "...an appropriate permanent memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower...to perpetuate his memory and his contributions to the

United States. Final detailed design approvals were finally provided over this summer however funding for the memorial remains in doubt despite the recent implementation of a private fundraising effort.

For the TRICARE prescription drug policy, effective October 1, changes to the program go into effect and require certain beneficiaries to refill select maintenance medications through home delivery or at military treatment facilities. TRICARE has published a summary of the changes on its website for you to obtain additional information.

Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015 continues to move its way through Congress to adjust on December 1, 2015, the rates of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children. Please note that this Bill is an annual requirement and different than Bill HR 677 which ties to the Social Security increases automatically.

Remember

You can research the status of any Bill in Congress by accessing the website govtrack.us and search by Bill number or subject. Politicians must hear from us to take action!

House Veterans Affairs Committee

Jeff Miller, Florida
Chairman
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-4136

Senate Veterans Affairs Committee

Johnny Isakson, Georgia
Chairman
131 Russell SOB
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3643

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andersonville



Andersonville NHS
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Supt. Charles Sellars
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The third week of September marked the finale of 150th anniversary commemorations for Andersonville National Historic Site. Held in conjunction with The Ride Home, this week brought hundreds of POWs, families, friends, and supporters to the area.

The week opened with the production of Saul Levitt's "Andersonville Trial", staged by Sumter Players Inc. The cast and crew did a fantastic job with the play, and although they played to small audiences, it was well received by the community. The play introduced the struggle of military officers regarding the legacy of their wartime actions, and the pursuit of justice when the guns have fallen silent.

At mid-week, Brig. Gen. Rhonda Cornum (ret.) spoke at the Georgia Southwestern State University convocation to over 450 students and community members. Her program, which recounted her captivity, also spoke about how she learned from the experience. Students went away engaged and inspired.



luminaries at the prison site

Friday was the traditional Ride Home ceremony, and served as the opening for the special event. Guest speakers included Ms. Pam Cain and Mr. Bill Norwood. A highlight for the ceremony was the donation of a flag from the Korean Ex-Prisoners of War Association.

Friday afternoon witnessed almost 200 community members from local universities, fraternities, churches, and other park supporters who came to set out the 13,000 luminaries in the prison site. The work took over seven hours. By dark, the luminaries glimmered in the darkness like small campfires. Visitors to the park commented how the luminaries allowed them to picture the crowding in the prison site. The luminaries covered both hillsides, and it is difficult to imagine that there were once three men for every point of light. The lights continued through until Saturday night. While there was some loss of light due to time and moisture, the slow fading of the luminaries was a poignant reminder of strain that captivity places on each prisoner. Over 200 vehicles visited the luminary over the two nights, and 100 pounds of food were donated to Harvest of Hope food pantry. Approximately, twenty park staff and volunteers sweated through Sunday morning and successfully picked up the luminaries.



Sgt. Major Daniel Dailey

On Saturday, September 19 over 700 Prisoners of War, families, friends, supporters, and visitors attended the Funeral for 13,000 memorial service at Andersonville National Cemetery. Under sunny skies, with a slight breeze, the park hosted the Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey as the keynote speaker. A ceremonial casket, built by park volunteer Wade Barr, was filled with 16,000 paper Memory Stars decorated by children from across the country. Draped in a 35-star flag the ceremonial casket was brought to the rostrum in the cemetery by a horse and caisson led by Hall County, GA deputies, and escorted by members of the United States Army, Navy, and Marines. Throughout the service, the Maneuver Center of Excellence Brass Quintet provided patriotic music. Remarks were shared by Dr. Lesley Gordon from the University of Akron on the experiences of prisoners at Andersonville, Poet Laureate of

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andersonville, cont'd...

Georgia Judson Mitcham shared a special piece of poetry, and Interim Rector Frederick Buechner of the Calvary Episcopal Church in Americus, GA. offered the invocation and benediction. The ceremony was well received by the audience and provided a very emotional experience for the dozens of Civil War descendants in attendance.

The entire Funeral for 13,000 service was covered live, and recorded by C-SPAN. For anyone that wishes to watch the program, they can view it online at <http://www.c-span.org/video/?328089-1/andersonville-prison-com-memoration>.

The "Victory from Within" traveling exhibit has just completed its time at the Reese Museum on the campus of East Tennessee State University. Beginning on October 9, 2015, the exhibit will be on display at the Fort Douglas Military Museum on the campus of the University of Utah, where it will remain until April of 2016.

On a sadder note, Stephanie Steinhorst has left Andersonville NHS to take the position of Chief of Interpretation at Andrew Johnson National Historic Site in Greeneville, TN. Stephanie will be missed greatly here at Andersonville, but we wish her the best in her new endeavors. If you are in east Tennessee, please stop by to see Stephanie as she moves from telling the stories of Andersonville and the Prisoners of War, to telling the story of our country's reconstruction after the end of the Civil War.

Photo Credit: Hugh Peacock

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namPOWs



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Celebrating Military Service

This will be kind of a wacky POW story.

Although many of us thought it before, Tom Brokaw immortalized "America's Greatest Generation" in the public mind.

I didn't realize that until I spent a weekend with an Honor Flight coming from Northern Chicago to Washington DC. A close friend, hospitalized with Parkinson's was on the flight - he had asked for me to join the group. It was a great reunion but the trip made it even more special! This group was composed of veterans from several generations. One day it turned Washington DC upside down and saw all the belated monuments to our various workers. I had seen most of the monuments before, but this time it was different. I was most impressed by the crowds everywhere. I had visited the Vietnam Wall several times but I hadn't seen the World War II or the Korean Monuments.

Here's the rough agenda: We left the hotel at BWI airport in Baltimore at 8 AM. Through DC's infamous rush hour traffic we arrived at U.S. Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue, stopped there for about 15 minutes and set out to visit everything else! In order we went to the World War II Memorial, we visited the Lincoln

Memorial, Vietnam and the Korean War Memorials, the Air Force Memorial (which looks a lot better since the Navy Annex was torn down!) We visited the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and then what highlighted the day for me was visiting Arlington National Cemetery.

With both parents and in-laws and my late wife buried there, it has always had disproportionate interest to me. To me it is one of the most impressive tourist attractions the Washington DC area.

We visited the tomb of the unknown soldier, observed the changing of the guard. Never ceases to amaze me the huge crowds that show up for the ceremony. I observed the young people present being silent, possibly for the first time in their young lives! The cemetery and ceremony has obviously made a deep impression on all present including the young people.

Leaving the cemetery, we visited Women in Military Service for America Memorial, then we journeyed to the Iwo Jima Memorial. This had been a very full day and the aging group was exhausted.

At dinner that night most reviewed the wonders of having done so much in one day - for most it had been more than they had done in the previous six months!

On Saturday morning, they went to the airport and back to Chicago. As I watched them go, I couldn't help but think of many, many members of the public who came up to them individually and thanked them for their service. This was very sincere and not something done for self-aggrandizement. In my mind I've begun to think that possibly the greatest achievement of the greatest generation was teaching our younger generations humility and respect for the great things our country has done.

That, and that alone, was enough to make the trip worthwhile.

civilians



JVC Alice Gollin, Chair

On my first job after graduating from the university I had a mentor who was an old mining engineer who had worked as an explosives expert in the Alaska goldfields. He told me this story.

During the war, he was approached by a government agent and asked to consult on a problem. When he agreed, he and other “consultants” were escorted onto a train in Los Angeles that, after many hours, stopped in the middle of the desert. After debarking they were driven for several hours into the mountains where they arrived in a small town on a large plateau. For several days they observed wild men setting off explosives in a large pit, and were asked to comment on how the explosives could be made more efficient. The group was then returned to Los Angeles in the same clandestine manner.

None of the “consultants” knew what they were doing.

Time and declassification of the Manhattan Project makes it clear now that they were observing Los Alamos scientists developing the implosion devices for the atomic bombs. In addition to huge classified facilities at Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Hanford, many individuals at private companies and universities were making secret contributions to the largest industrial project ever undertaken. Despite its enormous size and cost, the project was so highly classified that it was unknown except to a small handful of people until its results became apparent 70 years ago and profoundly affected the outcome of

World War II and its aftermath. In August of 1945, we entered the Atomic Age! Germany and Japan had also been doing nuclear research during the war to develop their own bombs, but only the U.S., with its enormous resources, was able to succeed in such a short period of time.

In recent years, it has become popular with revisionist historians and politicians to state that it was unnecessary for the U.S. to drop the bombs on Japan because that country was already preparing to negotiate peace with the Allies. It is said that Japan had approached the Soviet Union, which was then still neutral in the Pacific war, to help in the negotiations. The European war was over and Stalin was starting to instigate the policies in Eastern Europe that caused the Cold War. He now saw an opportunity to expand the Soviet Union’s influence into Asia.

Through an extensive spy network that had penetrated the Manhattan Project, the Soviet Union was aware of the successful A-bomb test in New Mexico and that the U.S. was now preparing to drop A-bombs on Japan. Ever the opportunist, Stalin decided that, instead of assisting Japan in negotiating peace, he would join the Allies in subjugating our enemy. The Soviet Union declared war on Japan on August 8, two days after the atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima. Early in the morning of August 9, the day the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, the Soviets started their invasion of Manchuko (Manchuria).

After the bombs were dropped and Japan announced its unconditional surrender, the Soviets occupied Manchuria and Korea, accepting the surrender of Japanese forces in Northern China. The weapons they confiscated were turned over to the Chinese Communists in Northern China, which gave them a huge arsenal to attack Generalissimo Chiang Kai Shek and his Nationalist army.

During the war, the U.S. had supplied the Chinese Army with weapons to equip 200 divisions and trained these divisions to fight the Japanese. The Generalissimo instead withheld

many of his troops from aggressive action against Japan and reserved as much of the U.S.-supplied weapons for the postwar action against the Communists.

The surrender of Japan triggered the conflict with the Communists that had been suspended while both armies fought the Japanese. Well equipped with Japanese weapons, the Communists swept down from the north and through China, driving the Nationalists to surrender or depart for Formosa. By 1949, the Communists were in complete control of China. In 1950 North Korea’s communist Army invaded the south, and America and its allies were at war in the Pacific again.

Meanwhile Stalin dropped the Iron Curtain around the nations in Eastern Europe that had been captured during the advance on Germany, and the Soviets started instigating communist revolutions around the world. The British were fighting a communist insurgency in Malaya and France was fighting one in Indo China.

As the communist threat broadened, American strategy became one of strengthening the Japanese economy so it would become a bulwark against the spread of communism in Asia. The U.S provided enormous economic assistance and produced a peace treaty in 1951 that could be interpreted as forgiving Japan for all of its atrocities during WW II and eliminating any further financial responsibility for its acts. Japan’s rapid recovery from the war and its growth became the West’s defense against the inroads of communism.

Today, Japan’s conservative government takes advantage of the revisionists who say that the events at Hiroshima and Nagasaki were unnecessary, and that it was only right for America to compensate them for the huge destruction the bombs rendered. But when one looks at history without the jaundiced eye of the revisionists, it is clear that we had

civilian, cont'd...

little choice in trying to quickly end the war. Unfortunately, the opportunistic involvement of the Soviet Union resulted in creating further chaos throughout much of Asia, while being highly beneficial to Japan, which is now the third largest economy in the World.

One could rationally argue that the dropping of the A-bombs on Japan actually helped that nation.

First, at the cost of less than 200,000 people it saved the lives of millions of Japanese military and civilians who would have been killed if the Allies had been forced to invade the Home Islands. Second, it created a need for the U.S. to provide enormous economic assistance to help the economy recover and to make Japan a reliable anti-communist ally. And third, it created a sense of guilt in Americans that today allows the Japanese to deny their responsibility for the atrocities they committed during the war. In just two actions, the Imperial Army killed almost three times as many people as were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki – the Rape of Nanking and the Manila Massacre - but today use many propagandist techniques to deny their responsibility.

Isn't it time that we stopped putting up with this nonsense that the U.S. should not have dropped the bomb on Japan?

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looking for



ON THE SUBJECT OF RECRUITING THE KIDS, THE 8TH AIR FORCE IS SEARCHING FOR WHAT I CALL THE 2ND GENERATION.

The 8th Air Force Historical Society is searching for 2nd generation veterans. We are losing many World War II veterans due to their age.

I am president of the 96th Bomb Group. There are four squadrons in the 96th Bomb Group – 337th, 338th, 339th, and 413th. The 8th Air Force Historical Society has many groups under their command.

I thoroughly enjoy the camaraderie with the 8th Air Force members. Our reunion is held once a year for five days, the Armed Forces makes all of our arrangements for the reunion.

To keep the 8th Air Force Historical Society active and to carry on their legacy, we need to RECRUIT 2nd generation members.

Please contact Joe R. Garber for more details. paljoe2@aol.com. Phone 386-672-5359; Fax 386-673-2049; 46 Coquina Ridge Way, Ormond Beach FL 32174.

I'm attempting to locate former prisoners of war who may have had this POW experience. I am trying to find someone who had worked on the farm near the Poland border with me and the long march.

Following the Anzio Invasion, approximately a month later, Feb. 22, 1944, the Germans were overtaking us and our Commanding Officer ordered us to surrender. We were rounded up and walked to Rome. In Rome, we were put in a barbed wire area for less than a week. We were then put in trucks and transported to a railroad station, boarded boxcars, rode about 4-5 days, stopping in Switzerland where we were deloused then showered.

We reboarded the boxcars, headed through the Alps where we were stopped and were given soup. Our destination

was Munich, Germany. We were held in a schoolhouse for about a week. We were then trucked to work at the Lowenbrau Brewery cleaning the beer barrels, floors, etc.

From there we went by boxcar to 7-A, Moosberg, Germany where we were housed in barracks holding about 40-50 men. Our diet consisted of potatoes.

From Moosberg, 15 of us were sent by truck to work on a farm near the Polish border. We lived in an abandoned blacksmith shop with a fire pit in the middle. We slept on straw around the inside perimeter. We harvested potatoes daily. We worked on this farm for about 2 months. One incident on the farm: one of the guys used a milk can fermenting all kinds of stuff he collected. When it was fermented, we all had a party. We all became violently ill and when the guards came to release us to work the next morning, they had a very nasty surprise. In another incident, two guards were killed – one guard by a bull; the other guard was crushed by a fallen tree.

From here we went to Hammerstein, Germany, Stalag 2-B. The Germans knew the Russians were advancing and they needed to move the POWs. We began a two-month march west from the Polish border across Germany, crossing the Elbe River. Some have estimated the march close to 900 miles.

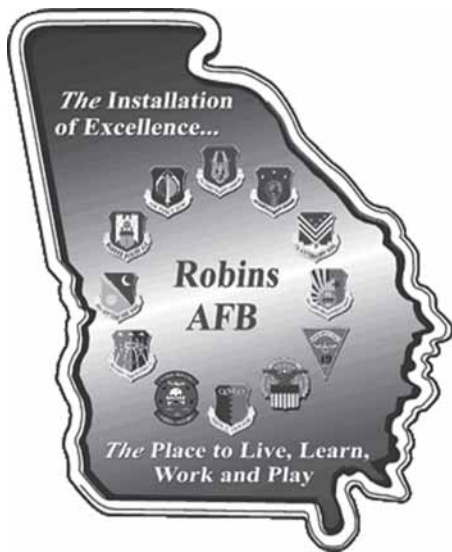
While on this march, a buddy, Walt Ramsey, and I decided to attempt an escape. At the end of the day, we all had bedded down for the night in a wooded area.

Early morning, Walt and I made our move. We stole a bag from one of the wagons and kept running. We hid by day, moving at night. The stolen bag contained sugar. We dug potatoes, put the sugar on them and that kept us going.

We could see the artillery fire from the Americans advancing. We headed west toward the gunfire hoping to reach them, which we eventually did.

Bruce Hall, Hco, 157th Reg. 45th Div.; 5285 Plantation Home Way, Port Orange, FL 32128; 386-788-1749; sambruceh@aol.com.

Warner Robins Tribute to POW/MIAs by Alice A. Booher

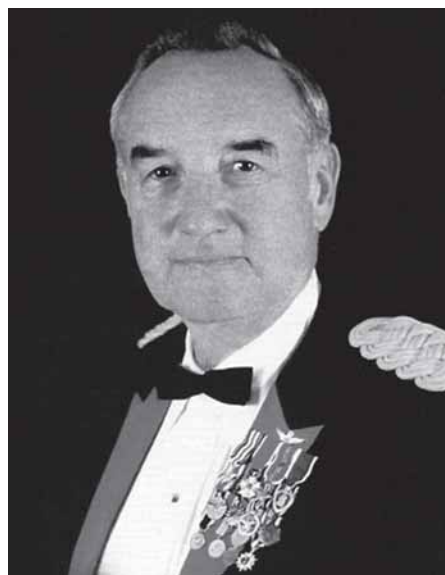


Georgia's sprawling Warner Robins Air Force Base (AFB) on the route from Atlanta through Macon to Americus is home to the 78th Air Base Wing, 461st Air Control Wing, Air Logistics Complex, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center and the Museum of Aviation. It is a place where devotion to POW/MIAs is an integral and ongoing focus. Inside the courtyard is an elegant POW/MIA memorial, dedicated in 2008 after 12 years of fund raising, an 11' high granite base ringed with insignia from all services, topped by an extraordinary bronze eagle sculpted by renowned artist Jon Hair.

For years, the Robins POW/MIA Memorial Organization has concurrently hosted an annual recognition event. The recent program kicked off on 16 September 2015 with a 24-hour Vigil Run; the following day, 17 September 2015, as the final racers hoisting the POW flag sprinted around the course, the audience assembled at Hangar 1 of the Museum of Aviation, a location dedicated to the

Vietnam Era. Visitors under the wings of representative aircraft, included hundreds from the POW/MIA community as well as a full house of uniformed active duty and civilians. The hour-long program featured music, prayer and superb lighting effects, and a well-executed Missing Man table with hats for all military service and civilians and saluted by young airmen circling the table.

Keynote speaker for the official service was **COL Querin "Quin" Herlik, USA (Ret)**. Wisconsin born in 1932, Herlik enlisted in the US Army Reserve in 1954, was commissioned a 2nd Lt through Army ROTC in June 1955, and entered active duty in November 1955. After training/service CONUS and in Germany, Herlik attended Fixed Wing Aviator training at Fort Rucker, AL, and was awarded his Aviator Badge in November 1961, qualifying as an O-1 Bird Dog and U-6 Beaver pilot. After his first aviation assignment with the U.S. Army Special Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, NC (11/61-3/64), he went to South Vietnam with the 73rd Aviation Company at Nha Trang, (4-12/64); and the 7th Aviation Platoon at Da Nang (1-4/65).



Again CONUS, he served at U.S. Army Weapons Command, Rock Island, IL and Chief, Liberty Army Airfield Operations with the U.S.

Army Aviation School Element at Fort Stewart, GA (5/66-3/68), before returning to Vietnam where he served as XO, 138th Aviation Company at Da Nang (5-7/68), and then moved to Commander, 146th Aviation Co. out of Saigon in August 1968. Herlik was shot down on a classified mission in his RU-1 Otter reconnaissance aircraft in Cambodia and was captured and taken as a POW on February 12, 1969. His Silver Star Citation notes that after being shot down, Herlik recognized the potential loss if the enemy possessed the downed plane, and took up a defensive position near the aircraft. In the ensuing intense firefight, he and fellow crewmembers took a determined stand with a small caliber weapon, continuing to fire until they were certain that the aircraft was destroyed.

After capture, Herlik continued to resist intense interrogations concerning his mission or activities aboard the aircraft. After negotiation by Pres. Nixon, he and his crewmembers were released on March 11, 1969. On his return CONUS, Herlik served in many responsible positions until his retirement from the Army on December 31, 1985. Col Herlik wears the Master Army Aviator Badge, and accumulated 4,268 flying hours during his Army career, including 912 combat flying hours in Southeast Asia. He and his wife Pat live in the Augusta-Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), GA.

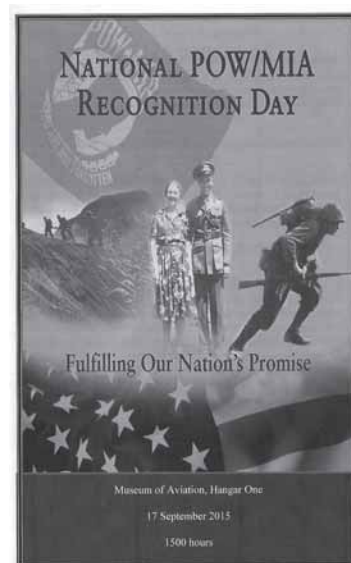
His three adult children, twin nurse daughters and a USAF pilot son joined him as a special surprise at Warner Robins. Now local Commander of the AXPOW Augusta Chapter, Herlik's Vietnam POW/MIA memories

tribute, cont'd...

include of many comrades who did not return including three pilots from his unit who were shot down and killed.

In earlier describing his immediate post-capture experience, Herlik noted, "they took three of us back into South Vietnam. And they hung onto us and marched us over 50 miles in the first two nights and after three days with them, thank God, the co-pilot was alive in Cambodia, and he got off the story that he was alone and where are the other three (?)". Thus alerted, the Administration was able to negotiate for release of all of them. According to Jim (Moe) Moyers of The Ride Home, Herlik was one of three POW men (along with the late COL Ben Purcell and CAPT Bill Robinson) who joined with their motorcycle group a decade ago to support dedicated efforts of spreading and celebrating the POW/MIA stories.

Hooah!



The Ride Home, Sept. 16-20, 2015.

My perspective, by Sally Bateman Morgan

Wednesday, Marsha and I arrived in Georgia and met up with Cheryl. Bob Cooper from Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter #1 came and gave us the itinerary for the week. On Thursday, we drove to Robins AFB for their POW/MIA ceremonies. What a surprise! I had never seen the Missing Man Table done with all the branches of service - AND Civilians! It made me feel very proud. At the end all the POWs - military and civilian - had a group photo. On Friday we had the ceremonies at Andersonville, which were beautiful. Friday night all POWs were treated to a banquet at the university in Americus...and again, military and civilians were honored. Saturday we all went back to Andersonville for the Funeral for 13,000, and then to a special lunch and presentation at the college. Again, another surprise! We all had names on our chairs, so we sat and then each POW was presented with a medal commemorating The Ride Home 2015. What an honor the four days were. And one of the highlights was riding on the back of a motorcycle for two days! This 85-year-old woman thanks everyone who made her week so special.

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Andersonville at 150, The Ride Home at 13, Vietnam at 50: POW/MIA Recognition Events 2015

by Alice A. Booher

POW/MIA recognition is deserved every day of the year, but each September, special focus is both traditional and proclaimed. One core location for this annual activity is GA, including the Andersonville National Historical Site (ANHS), located 135 miles south of Atlanta. ANHS is the site of the infamous Civil War prison, a national cemetery and the National POW Museum. [Noteworthy is that 40% of the Union POWs who died in the Civil War died at Andersonville and statistically, the same percentage of guards died of disease, as did prisoners.] On the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the National Park Service, the Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW), The Ride Home, HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN, Inc., and Friends of Andersonville hosted special activities. The ANHS's impressive Avenue of the Flags was raised on September 11 to welcome all visitors, and from September 10-13, the Sumter Players production of "The Andersonville Trial" funded by

the Friends of Andersonville was performed. The celebration for September 16-20, 2015, commenced with a morning kickoff keynote convocation address by Persian Gulf POW BG Rhonda Cornum before students and visitors at GSW's Storm Dome Student Center on "Keeping the Promise". Founded in 1906 in Americus (population 17,000), GSW has 2,700 students, on 250 beautiful rolling green acres with 44 buildings including the James Earl Carter Library of 190,000 volumes.



[General Cornum was an Army flight surgeon with the 229th Attack Helicopter Battalion when her Black Hawk helicopter was shot down in February 1991 during a search and rescue operation; captured and held by Iraqi forces, she was repatriated at the end of the Persian Gulf War. Her flight suit, boots and cast were donated in 1998 to the POW Museum at Andersonville. Cornum completed another successful 25 years in the Army after captivity, including as commander of the 28th CSH, in Bosnia, and of the massive military hospital in Landstuhl Germany, and as Director of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness

including the young collegians.] The GSW video of her speech ran that night on PBS and coverage was front page above the fold news in the weekly Americus Times-Recorder.

The following day, September 16, attendees traveled by bus and POV in mid-afternoon to Warner Robins AFB's annual POW/MIA recognition ceremony, featuring COL Quin Herlik, Vietnam Era POW in Cambodia as discussed in a separate article in this Bulletin. Aviation Museum Hangar A was filled with visitors as well as USAF personnel. The enthusiastic group included Bulletin editor Cheryl Cerbone, and POW stalwart "Mom" Morgan [the now 85-year-old Sally Bateman Morgan's father was a US Marine, married to a Chinese woman living in Tientsin. When the Japanese invaded China, Sally (then 11) and her brothers were entrusted to a missionary, John Blaylock, to get them to safety. They got to Manila but were captured in January 1942 and held POWs until February 1945, first in Santo Tomas and then Los Baños. In Andersonville, Sally, mother of four - Clydie, Debbie, Marsha (who was also in Andersonville) and Billy - was not surprisingly "game" (as were a number of others) for riding with one of the bikers from Rolling Thunder



program. She serves on the VA Secretary's Advisory Committee, and on numerous Boards. She retired from the Army in 2012. Cornum captured the sense of captivity and the course for hope and resilience for the audience

POW/MIA cont'd...

Florida Chapter 1.] Afterwards, attendees got together in smaller groups for a relaxed dinner. The



prime organizer, The Ride Home's Moe Moyers had a family medical emergency, and the remaining Ride Home folks pitched in even more to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Friday, September 18 was a long day packed with activities, starting with The Ride Home's gaggle of bikes, buses and other sundry vehicles and visitors from all over the world and CONUS, assembled at dawn in the only location in town large enough to accommodate them all, the Americus' Walmart parking lot, with a Georgia State Troopers convoy escort to the Andersonville Historic Site. Superintendent Charles Sellars, the Park's multitalented Stephanie Steinhorst and the new cemetery administrator Charles Barr at the Andersonville National Cemetery rostrum hosted the Opening Ceremony. Preliminary speakers included Pam Cain, daughter of MIA Col

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Oscar Mauterer and former Treasurer and current Board member of the National League of Families; and Bill Norwood, past president of the Korean War POW Association. He represented the Korean War POWs, Inc., recently disbanded, donating a check for \$22,475.94 for the travelling Wall exhibit. Their flag was conserved by the experts at NPS and will go to the Museum.]

Norwood was a rifleman assigned to drive trucks when he arrived in Korea in September 1950 with the 24th Infantry; caught in an ambush on April 25, 1951, he marched for 4 months from the 38th Parallel to the camp at Ch'ang-Song, survived serious illness and was repatriated via Freedom Village at the DMZ on August 15, 1953. The thousands of Park visitors and volunteers, walking, in wheelchairs or on golf carts, listened to historians and others, were encouraged to visit all site areas and museum, to participate in numerous projects and crafts, and communicate with the other attendees. Throughout the day, speakers were scheduled for hourly slots in a large slightly shadier tent behind the POW statue courtyard and overlooking the POW Prison site, including an informal late morning chat by Dr. Cornum on "Look to the Future, Learn from the Past". [Throughout the weekend, donations of canned goods were collected in large bins at the site to remember the hunger suffered by the Civil War POWs and those who remain hungry today in the Americus community.]



In late afternoon, again assembling at the Walmart parking lot, the escorted entourage made their way to the GSW Storm Dome and the opening ceremony of The Ride Home's "Keeping the Promise" with Americus Fire and Rescue presenting colors, Pledge of Allegiance, invocation, moment of silence and Missing Men tables for both MIA's (represented by next of kin/survivors, individually named and escorted to an unusual, awesome and very effective 21 seat-long table; and missing man for POWs in the more tradition 4 chair square table. The nationally recognized recording artist and composer Chris Van Cleve, himself the son of a Vietnam POW shot down in

Laos/Cambodia on April 22, 1969 provided music. The gently spirited and articulate MC was Col Patricia Blassie, USAF from Warner Robins AFB.

Col Blassie served 11 years as an enlisted member attaining the rank of Master Sergeant when she was direct commissioned via



POW/MIA cont'd...

the deserving airmen's program in 1989. She has since served in leadership positions at Buckley AFB, XO to the Chief of AF Reserve and twice as Mission Support Group Commander (911th Airlift Wing and 459th Air Refueling Wing at Andrews AFB. A Col since February 2006, Blassie became an integral participant in one of the most incredible stories of post-Vietnam. On Memorial Day 1984, a then unknown Vietnam warrior was interred as the Vietnam Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. With the advance of mitochondrial DNA testing, in 1998, the remains were disinterred from the Tomb and testing revealed that they belong to 1970 USAFA graduate, 1st LT Michael Joseph Blassie, USAF, a member of the 8th Special Operation Squadron, who died when his A-37B Dragonfly was shot down near An LO c. On behalf of the family, Col Pat Blassie became the principle advisor in the identification of her brother and brought him home to Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO in July 1998. She is now active in The Ride Home group.

The hundreds of attendees were welcomed by GSW President Charles E. Patterson, and the HEROES banquet began at 1500 with a series of presentations including POW/MIA proclamations from the governors of FL and MA and multiple special presentations. (e.g., Max Lofgren of CA reported on a gloriously restored hot rod, a silver '55 Chevy with the names of all Vietnam POW/MIAs on it (viewed by many in the parking lots), to be later turned over to the League of Families. Robert Morrison reported his local VFW Unit's extraordinary sale of dog tags (to The Wall) in TX, and submitted several generous check donations while



challenging other VFW's to do such a project. Michael Coon, son of the late American Indian POW Philip Coon (on whom we have reported in the *Bulletin* on several occasions), introduced Sherry Cass of Cass Publishing, the author of a new book on his dad, *Soldiers Silent Prayer*, which was available for sale at the site. Other fund raising efforts were recognized and prizes collected, including a stunningly beautiful quilt won by WWII POW Bill Jeffers. The Ride Home's Kat McLaughlin acknowledged many hard workers; Mary Schantag, POW Network CEO, gave a special award to recently retired Col Deborah Graves for her work for POWs and others, now to include with the 50th Vietnam Commemoration.

There were two primary speakers, BG Cornum whose somewhat lighter and introspective conversation followed an insightful talk and a short PDA film from MG James T. Jackson, USA (Ret), who is now the Director of the US Vietnam War Commemoration. [General Jackson, with an outstanding 32 year army career (82nd Airborne, 2nd Ranger Battalion, in Korea and commanding a spectrum of crack units at Forts Benning and Bragg), was commanding general of the Military District of Washington at the time of the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001, and was first to

take operational the expanded homeland security facets of the new Joint Force Headquarters for the National Capital Region. On retirement into the private sector, he also had a 3-month deployment to Iraq to support the coalition. (Over the weekend, General Jackson would also make a formal Vietnam Commemorative presentation at the State Capital.)] At 1945 hours, the entourage returned with Georgia State Patrol escort

to the Andersonville site for a Memorial Illumination Ceremony with 13,000 LED generated luminarias for the POWs buried there in 1864-5.

Everyone hit the sack for much needed rest and in the morning HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN, Inc. and The Ride Home, Inc. conducted their annual (open) meetings at the historic Windsor Hotel while numerous memorial wreaths were placed at the cemetery site at Andersonville. The huge escorted biker-POV procession again travelled to Andersonville by 1215 hours for



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POW/MIA cont'd...

an extraordinary service, a "Funeral for 13,000" with The Ride Home paying their respects to their fallen comrades. The Ft. Benning Maneuver Core of Excellence Brass Quintet, a 1000 hours wreath transitioning and guest speakers including Judson Mitcham, the poet laureate of GA and Civil War historian Dr. Lesley Gordon from the University of Akron, greeted attendees. An honor guard ceremonial procession cadenced by the haunting music of GA State Piper Dan Bray preceded the simple pine American flag-draped casket carried on a horse-drawn, equally simple wooden cart/catafalque. Pallbearers placed it in front of the podium on the grass, where representative honors were given by each military service.

Program keynoter was the 15th Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey whose well-researched and directly spoken historical discussion featured the story of one of the POWs of the Civil War. [Infantryman Dailey enlisted in the Army in 1989, and after Ft. Benning, assignments included Germany, Operations Desert Shield and Storm, Ft. Riley, Camp Casey, Korea, and combat deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003-4, 2005-6, 2007-9 and CSM Ft. Carson and US Div. North, Iraq in Support of Operation New Dawn). He became TRADOC CSM in 8/2011 and CSM of the Army in January 2015.]

The single casket, filled with 13,000 paper stars and placed on black-draped pair of sawhorses, represented the nearly 13,000 initial trench interments at Andersonville from February 1864 through the prison's 14 months of operation. Those

trench configurations (with bodies placed shoulder to shoulder next to one another, row after row) account for the unique Andersonville cemetery gravestone configuration with the sides of the stones often nearly touching one another. As Dr. Gordon put it, these POWs deserved a "Reverent Burial" [The cemetery continues to be a "working" cemetery with some 22,000 graves, accepting new veteran burials.

Andersonville is one of 14 cemeteries administered by the National Park Service]. [Ranger Barr, (who recently assumed responsibility at the cemetery following the sudden death of longtime Andersonville Ranger and cemetery chief Kim Robins), is an Iraq War veteran who wears the Combat Infantryman Badge and a Purple Heart from his second Iraq tour.] At the conclusion of the Memorial Service, the American flag was raised above the center of the huge compound by BG Cornum in Class A uniform, in memory and recognition of all service members and to specially acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of Clara Barton who raised the first U.S. flag over the Cemetery in 1865. The C-Span (3) network ran the tape of ceremony on that evening; it is scheduled for TBD rerun.

At 1415, the crowd left the Site, with hundreds going to the George Southern Technical College for lunch where presentation of colors was led by the Westover Junior High School TOTC Color Guard of Albany, GA. Acknowledgement and thanks were given to many of those who had

worked so hard for the event, followed by a moving and inclusive Recognition Service for some 175 POW/MIA honorees, survivors, next of kin and MIA families. Presented by The Ride Home, the honorees were individually named as they stood, giving their service and captivity date, and ranged from WWII through the Persian Gulf including four POWs from the *USS PUEBLO*. Special presentations were made to honor all veterans from Vietnam as part of General Jackson and his office's participation concurrent with the Vietnam's 50th anniversary. The day was completed with a special entertainment show featuring a contemporary group of three singers reminiscent of

The Andrews Sister of WWII and singing those unforgettable renditions at the Rylander Theater at 1900 hours. The memorable and ghostlike luminaria loop around the Site also reopened again at 1900 hours. Parenthetically, it probably should be noted that the massive crowd was probably the best fed group in the country throughout the week in both officially sanctioned and catered meals and those prepared by the good folks of commercial Americus. The overall impression of the packed several

days of camaraderie seemed to be that it was a remarkable and extraordinary series of patriotic and POW/MIA commemorative events, many portions of which might modestly dim but would never fully fade from memory, shadowed in part by the soft glow of those 13,000 luminarias.





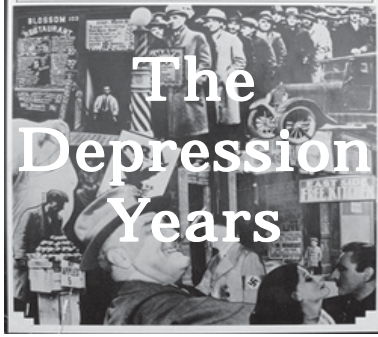
THE RIDE HOME





THE RIDE HOME





I was born in March of 1923 in our home near Starkenburg, Missouri. This small German immigrant community was where my great-grandfather had settled in 1852. The 3-room dogtrot cabin he built, just north of Starkenburg still stands and is still being lived in; modern amenities have been added.

I was the second of five children, two boys and three girls. While living in Starkenburg, my father helped grandpa on the farm and taking care of the cattle.

In 1925, we moved to a two-room house on Rush Island that had a little ground to farm. The following year, we moved to a slightly larger place owned by the same man. This place had more land to farm, more pasture for some cows and a larger house. Two rooms and a kitchen.

We put everything to use; nothing was wasted. Pop and Mom always had eggs, milk, cream, butter and sometimes my mom's cottage cheese to take to market to sell. Many times a large glass of milk and a piece of cornbread was what my brothers and I ate for lunch.

As I got bigger, I had chores, gathering eggs, helping with the milking and the garden. My older brother helped with the livestock and farming. Sitting atop the plow or disc and driving the mules, my brother put in as many hours as Pop did.

Pop hunted, we all fished, and we had our fun, too. Pop made a small wagon and fixed up a small harness for our dog. Penny spent many hours pulling us around the yard.

We were poor and sometimes just got by through the grace of God. But since most everyone we knew lived the same way, we kids never really realized there was a depression. We walked to and from school.

Then came the big flood of the Missouri River in 1935. Mom put my 10-year-old brother, my 4-year-old sister and me on the barge, which was hauling livestock and people to higher ground around Hermann. All we had was the clothes on our backs. That was one long, slow barge ride.

Once at Hermann, we walked to Aunt Lizzie's house. Having three extra mouths to feed was a hardship, so we stayed only a short while and then with other family members, until we ended our retreat from the high waters at Uncle Henry's.

Pop, Mom and my older brother stayed behind and moved our livestock north to higher ground. They ended up at Toy Reinhardt's place, living in the barn. They stayed there until the water started receding. We had 11 inches of water and Missouri mud to clean out of our house. The garden was ruined so Pop ended up having to sell some livestock and chickens to get by that year.

In 1936, I graduated from 8th grade and we moved to Lost Creek in Warren County. In 1939, we moved into town. Pop tried his hand at selling stoves, as a Watkins dealer, working at a shop making axe handles, canes and walking sticks. He

finally ended up working in Warrenton at Binkley's factory.

After my graduation, I held several waitress jobs, but in 1941, I moved to Granite City, IL and went to work making parts for B-17s and B-24s at Curtiss Wright in St. Louis. I rented a room from an aunt and uncle who lived in Granite City.

The depression showed many how to get by on a little less, thus getting us ready for the shortages and rationing during the war and the shortage of jobs when the war was over.

I married a veteran who spent 14 months in German prison camps. We raised three children and watched our grandchildren grow. The grandkids laughed and joked about me folding Christmas wrapping paper up to be reused the next year. They would say, "You can buy more you know". I would think to myself, 'you have no idea how precious this is or how hard it is to break the teachings of childhood', and I would just smile.

By Mildred Dothage
250 E. Locust, Room 214
Wellsville, MO 63384.

The Great Depression in the United States began on October 29, 1929, a day known forever after as "Black Tuesday". By 1932, one of the bleakest years of the Great Depression, at least one-quarter of the American workforce was unemployed.

This is the fourth in a series of stories of growing up in the Depression. We hope to continue running these slices of American life, so send in your story to the editor and we'll publish them on a semi-regular basis. Next deadline is: Dec. 1, 2015.

Thank you! Cheryl

News Briefs

Soldier Missing From Vietnam War Accounted For

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that the remains of a serviceman, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be buried with full military honors.

Army Maj. Dale W. Richardson of Mount Sterling, Illinois, will be buried Aug. 29, in Mountain View, Ark. Richardson was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and was the passenger aboard an UH-1H Iroquois (Huey) helicopter that was en route to Fire Support Base Katum, South Vietnam, when it was diverted due to bad weather. After flying into Cambodian airspace, the aircraft came under heavy enemy ground fire, causing the pilot to make an emergency landing in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. The Huey's four crewmen and its four passengers survived the landing. One crewman was able to evade being captured by enemy forces and later returned to friendly lines. The other three crewmen and one passenger were captured. Two of the captured crewmen were released by the Vietnamese in 1973, and the remains of the other two captured men were returned to U.S. control in the 1980s and identified. Richardson died at the site of the crash during a fire fight with enemy forces. His remains were not recovered after

the fire fight.

From 1992 through 2008, joint U.S. / Kingdom of Cambodia (K.O.C.) teams investigated the site without success. On Feb. 18, 2009, a joint team interviewed witnesses in the Memot District of Cambodia who claimed to have information on the loss. The witnesses identified a possible burial site for the unaccounted for servicemen. The team excavated the burial site but was unsuccessful locating the remains.

From Jan. 16, 2010 to March 11, 2011, joint U.S. / K.O.C. teams excavated the area, but were unsuccessful recovering the crewman's remains.

In February 2012, another joint U.S. / K.O.C. team re-interviewed two of the witnesses. The witnesses identified a secondary burial site near the previously excavated site. The team excavated the secondary burial site and recovered human remains and military gear from a single grave.

In the identification of Richardson, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister.

Today there are 1,627 American service members that are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

VA-led Consortium Launches Brain Bank for Research on PTSD

A consortium led by the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has launched the first brain tissue biorepository (also

known as a "brain bank") - to support research on the causes, progression and treatment of PTSD affecting Veterans.

The national brain bank will follow the health of enrolled participants during their lifetime. Participants in the brain bank will donate their brain and other body tissue after their death. The donated tissue, along with each Veteran's health information, will provide crucial information for use in research on PTSD and related disorders.

"Although we have learned a great deal about abnormalities in brain structure and function from brain imaging research, there is no substitute for looking at the neurons themselves," said consortium director Dr. Matthew Friedman. "Understanding the cellular and circuit contributions to abnormal brain activity in PTSD is critical in the search for potential biomarkers of susceptibility, illness and treatment response and for developing new treatments targeting the conditions at the cellular level."

Dr. Friedman also is the founder of the national brain bank, and former Executive Director and current Senior Advisor to the National Center for PTSD. The national brain bank will investigate the impact of stress, trauma and PTSD on brain tissue in order to advance the scientific knowledge of PTSD, particularly the identification of PTSD biomarkers.

PTSD is a significant mental health concern among Veterans. In 2013, 533,720 Veterans with primary or secondary diagnosis of PTSD received treatment at VA medical centers and clinics. PTSD is a serious mental disorder resulting from exposure to direct or indirect threat of death, serious injury or physical

news, cont'd...

violence, including sexual violence.

The national brain bank is seeking Veterans with PTSD to participate in research about PTSD that affects Veterans. Veterans without PTSD are also eligible to participate in the brain bank because it is important to study Veterans without PTSD to compare the impact of stress, trauma and PTSD on brain tissue. Veterans interested in learning more about enrolling in the brain bank are encouraged to call its toll-free number 1-800-762-6609 or visit its website http://www.research.va.gov/programs/tissue_banking/PTSD/default.cfm.

Review Expanded of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will start the process of amending its regulations to establish presumptions of service connection for certain conditions resulting from exposure to contaminated drinking water at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

For more information, Veterans and family members should contact the nearest VA healthcare facility by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune. For further information on Camp Lejeune: VHA Office of Public Health has a Website on Camp Lejeune historical water contamination at: www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp.



Vermont Chapter #1, AXPOW's annual meeting held October 1, 2015 to update us on VA benefits. The luncheon meeting was hosted by the Lebanon, NH Elks Club and sponsored by the White River Junction, VT Veterans Administration Medical Center. Pictured are, (L to R) Harry Howe, Clyde Cassidy, Francis Angier, Bill Busier and Richard Hamilton.

VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has revised its regulation regarding the presence of animals on VA property. The updated regulation will ensure VA practices remain consistent with applicable federal law. It will also assist individuals entering VA facilities in developing a clear and consistent understanding of the criteria governing facility access for service animals.

"As I have traveled to VA facilities throughout the country, I have heard from many Veterans about what a vital role their service animals play in their lives," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "The revised regulation will ensure Veterans and employees have clear guid-

ance regarding the presence of service animals in our facilities."

Under the revised regulation, only dogs that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals. Other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under the regulation for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. The regulation further confirms that service animals may access VA property subject to the same terms that govern the admission of the public to VA property, and may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards are not compromised.

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Members' forum



To the Editor:

I appreciated Bob Thompson's article in the EX-POW Bulletin, taken from his diary and turned into a book, the story of the march from Nuremberg to Moosberg. I was also on that march and would like to add my own comments from my own diary.

For me the march was not "the best of times" in captivity. When our bomber was shot down I was badly wounded in my right leg (but that's another story). When we left Stalag 13-D on April 4, 1945, we were only about 5km south of the camp when our long column of POWs was strafed by P-47 fighters who could not distinguish us from a column of German soldiers. We dived into the woods to escape. When the attack was over, 3 American officers at the head of the column were dead and at least 5 were wounded. After that we used toilet paper or anything we could find to make a large POW sign on the ground, at the head of the march, whenever we heard planes. On April 5th, we started marching at 8AM and walked continually until 2PM. We watched as Nuremberg was bombed behind us. It began to rain heavily and when we reached Neumarkt, we were

given some soup and bread. At 2AM, April 6th, we were awakened and in the heavy rain started out again. At 6AM, very tired and very wet, we stopped and were allowed to sleep for 4 hours. Then it was on the road again with rain soaked packs and blankets. At 1PM, we reached Sondesdorf and received a Red Cross parcel, one for each two men. On April 10th, I was caught bartering with a farmer for an egg and the German guard made me clean out toilet holes by hand. I wound up with an infected finger and lost a nail. On April 13th, a formation of bombers flew over and dropped a cluster of incendiary bombs. They did little damage but scared the life out of us. This was in Masgasethentann. On April 15th, we heard that FDR had died. It was a great shock to everyone. This, I hope, adds to your story about the march.

George Rubin
Former Armorer Waist Gunner
486th BG
64 Medford Leas
Medford, NJ 08055
g.rubin64@gmail.com

Cheryl:

POW Bob Thompson must have been on a different POW march from Nuremberg to Moosberg, Germany Stalag VII-A, because my experience was not a "scenic tour with plenty of food, guards who let you fall out and join the march a day later, bread stations along the way.

I and three of my crew - Ramsey, Charlton and Tooley were in the lead group of POWs; our leader was a white-headed American POW officer who marched alone leading the evacuation. We marched 36 hours (with a 10 minute break every hour) straight without sleep. The rest is in my diary.

"The Americans were getting close now so we were ordered to

march on April 4, 1945. The only food we had was a Red Cross parcel. We made backpacks out of extra clothes and carried everything we had. They only weighed about 40 lbs. but was plenty heavy for us as we were weak from under nourishment. We evacuated the camp at 11AM. At 3PM we were marching along...then 10 P-47s came over. Three of them came down and strafed and bombed us. I looked up and saw the bombs falling so we ran under the bridge and lay down next to the wall. A bomb landed about 25 feet from the bridge. Dirt and tree leaves fell all over us. Logan ran into the bomb blast and then he got 5 50-cal. Bullets in his leg. The bullets were glancing off the ground and flying all around us. Then it was over just as quick as it started. One young English flyer had his head blown off; his body was lying by a tree. We left him there.

Another guy was lying in the ditch; he was covered up with a blanket but he kicked it off as he died. Logan didn't know anything, but he didn't die for two hours. His leg was almost blown off and they couldn't stop him from bleeding to death. Another friend had his legs cut open by debris. One of the fellows beside me had a piece of shrapnel from the bombing in his foot, but didn't know it until his boot filled with blood. There were plenty of wounded, but we marched on. Everyone was scared and nervous so that at every sound, they ran. We slept in the woods at night. The next day we marched until 4PM, then sweated out a soup line until 12:30AM. Then we marched again at 2AM."

Ralph J. Kalberloh, Sgt. US Army
Air Corps
350th BS, Bloody 100th BG, 8th AF,
shot down Feb. 3, 1945 on the
biggest mission of WWII to Berlin
400 Turnberry Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

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Leominster's Boy Scouts, Troops 151 & 477 matching to Honor our POWs for all they suffered in keeping us free



Leominster's Girl Scouts, matching to Honor our POWs for all they suffered in keeping us free



Leominster's P.O.W.s

Thank You

For all that you suffered in keeping us free!

WWII

- Bidmead, Ernest C., Pfc.
- Bumell, Roland J., Cpl.
- Day, Raymond E., Col.
- Finwell, Edward P., GM 1-C (Commander of Base) (South March 1942)
- Fisher, Mathias, Sgt.
- Fountain, Ross, Pfc.
- Fournier, Arthur A., Pfc./Cpl.
- Gabriel, Felice P.J., Sgt.
- Gaffney, Joseph L., Jr., Pvt.
- Gage, Arthur, Cpl.
- Gamache, Robert C., 1st Lt.
- Gass, Melvin, Staff Sgt.
- Goffington, Peter C., Capt.
- Graffagnino, Rocky, Staff Sgt.
- Graffagnino, Rocky, Staff Sgt.
- Hubert, Duane J., Pfc.
- Hyatt, Robert E., 2nd Lt.
- Jones, Harwood J., Tech. Sgt.
- Lucas, Norman, Tech. Sgt.
- Luchance, Paul A., 2nd Lt.
- Landgraf, Gene, Pfc.
- Letters, Carl J., Staff Sgt.
- Levin, Morton F., 1st Lt.



Leominster's P.O.W.s

Thank You

For all that you suffered in keeping us free!

Memorial and Recognition

LL Wurts Reports for NURSE DUTY

LL Anne B. Wurts, ANC, daughter of Edward V. Wurts of Shoben Farms in Leominster has reported for assignment on the nursing staff of Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco.

On April 9, 1980, a bronze plaque was dedicated at the Mount Samat shrine by men who survived Bataan and Corregidor. It reads:

TO THE ANGELS- in honor of the valiant American military women who gave so much of themselves in the early days of World War II. They provided care and comfort to the gallant defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. They lived on a starvation diet, shared the bombing, strafing, sickness and disease while working endless hours of heart-breaking duty. These nurses always had a smile, a tender touch and a kind word for their patients. They truly earned the name- THE ANGELS OF BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR.

LL Anne B. Wurts, ANC from Leominster City, Massachusetts (Copyright © 1974-2012, Licensed 2/15/14)

Note: Over 100 Nurses from all Branches of Services were POWs during World War II.



Leominster's P.O.W.s

Thank You

For all that you suffered in keeping us free!

WWII Civilian P.O.W.s

- Rev. Edward B. O'Sullivan, Jr., M.S. (Barrister)
- Rev. Alexander O'Malley, C.P. (Cleric)
- Inez (Miss) Longway & her children Ralph & David (12-month Old Advanced Military in Philippines)

Korea

- Lagay, Donald, Sp8
- Newton, Eric C., Jr., Pfc. (later with in captivity)
- Rothschild, Frank, Sgt. 1st Class

Note: All POWs are individuals, former military who were in Leominster or of the Leominster area at the time recognized.

Note: (South March 1942)

- Verconans, Joseph F., Pvt.
- Visco, Donato A., Cpl.
- Whitener, Daniel N., CWO (Commander of Base) (South March 1942)
- Winston, Richard C., 1st Lt.
- Wurts, Anne B., 1st Lt. (also Korea captured for 2 1/2 years)



Leominster Historical Commission, Leominster Public Library & Leominster Historical Society



Leominster's P.O.W.s

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Leominster Historical Commission, Leominster Public Library & Leominster Historical Society

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “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

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and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first “Veterans Day Proclamation” which stated: “In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans’ organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs as Chairman of a Vet-

Veterans Day, cont'd...

erans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.”

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

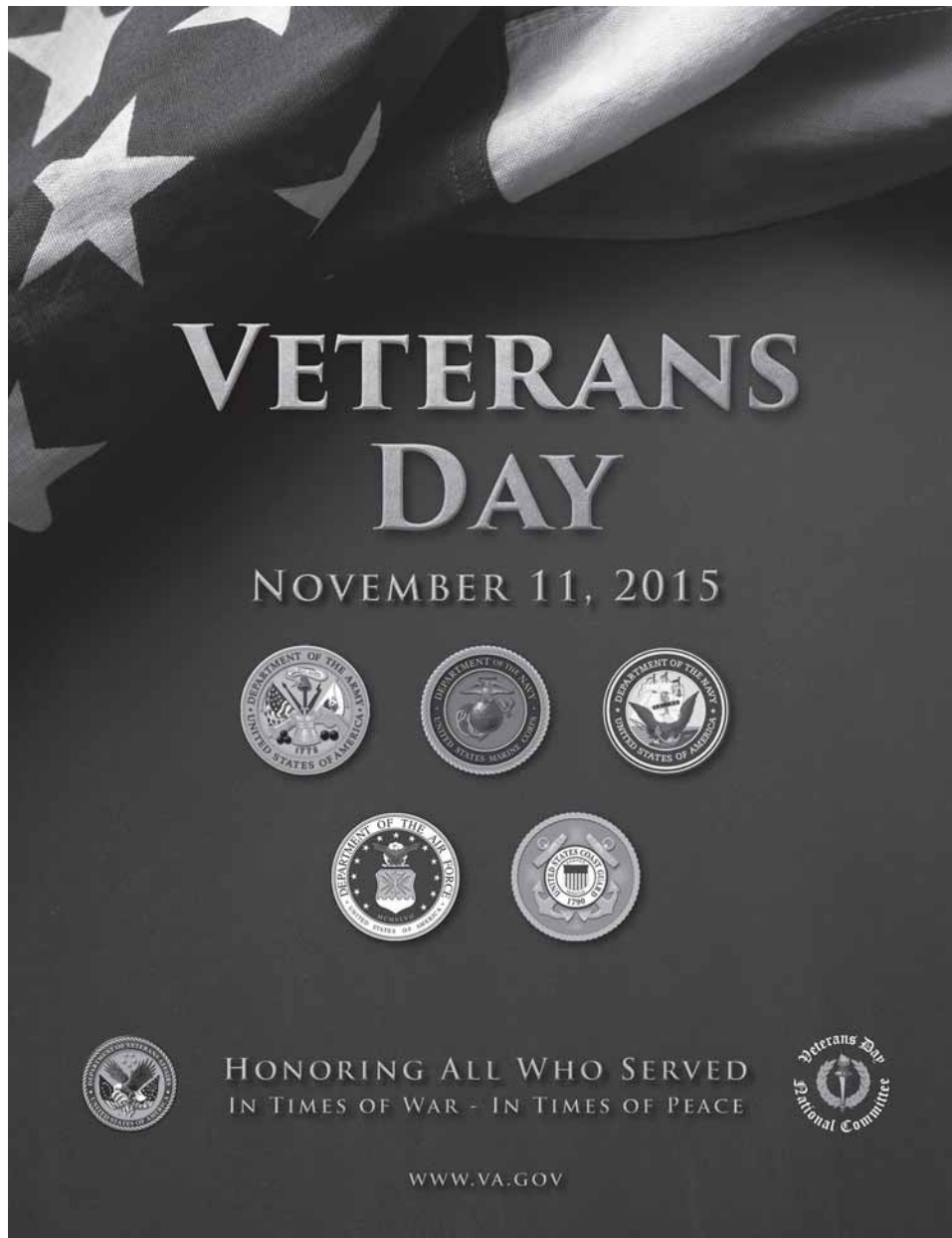
The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, rec-

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of

Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

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reational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

contributions



GENERAL FUND

In memory of Claire Hannah, by the East Valley Chapter, AZ
In memory of Doris Wem, by the East Valley Chapter, AZ
In memory of Gil Pagel, by the East Valley Chapter, AZ
In memory of Imogene Knight, by Spencer & Linda Knight
In memory of Josephine Roslansky, by the East Valley Chapter, AZ
In memory of Paul Jurkovic, by Dorothy Jurkovic

In memory of Penny Kissen, by the East Valley Chapter, AZ
In memory of Phil LaManna, by Frank & Maefred Kohler
In memory of Sarah Chandler, by Kay Kuykendall
In memory of Sarah Chandler, by Lyle Chandler
In memory of Sarah Chandler, by W T Glazener, Jr.

BULLETIN

In memory of Rodney C Shogren, by Central Minnesota Chapter
In memory of Robert Lindberg, by Karen Vibbert

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

David Goldstein, Westfield NJ
Helen B Petri, Wheeling WV
Jane B O'Brien, East Greenbush NY
Lillian Reathford, Florence AL
Maurice J A Markworth, Palmyra PA
Robert I Snovel, Sellersville PA
Ruth Rakosnik, Lisle IL
Steel Valley Chapter, Ohio

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 families and their dependents is through your will or living trust.

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

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

Please take a few minutes of your time to help.

Thank you!

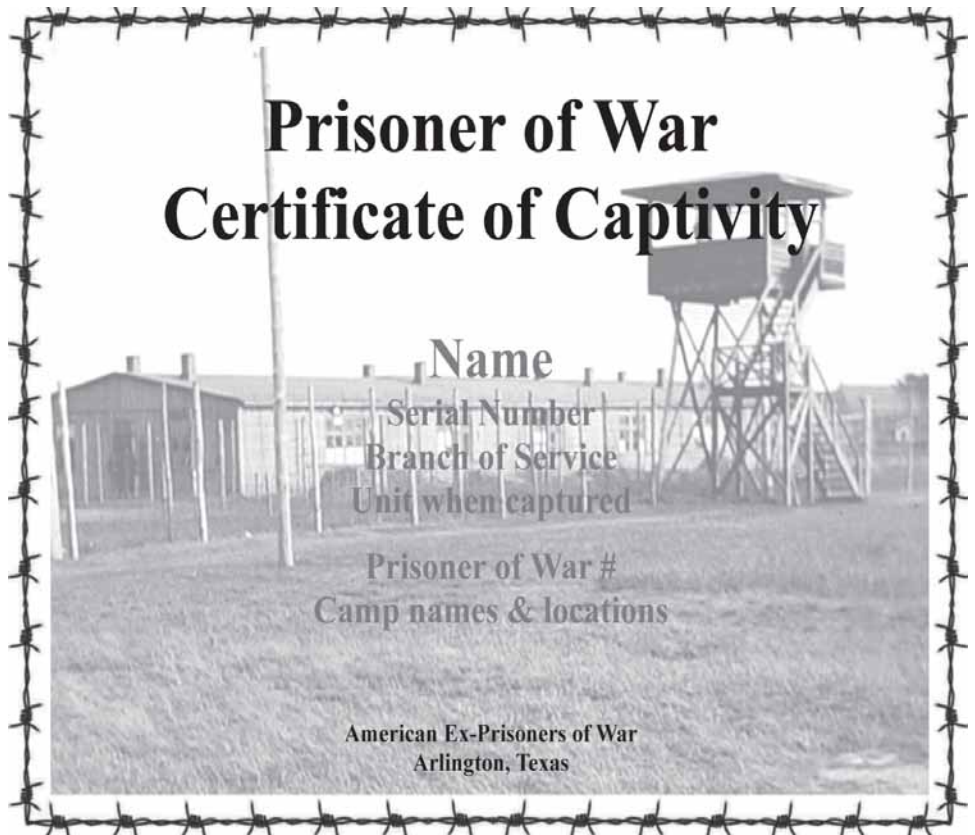
Suitable for framing, this certificate of captivity, printed on 8½" x 11" quality paper, proudly displays your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To receive this certificate from AXPOW, please order from National Headquarters. If you 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. You may include a picture with your order.

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Certificate of Captivity Great Christmas Gift!



new members

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



Alan Marsh
Lizella GA

Over 23 years association with American Ex-Prisoners of War. As employee of the National Park Service/Andersonville National Historic Site, instrumental in planning and development of the National Prisoner of War Museum. Conducted hundreds of oral history interviews with AX-POW members.

New ASSOCIATE Members



Jim Tuorila
St Cloud MN

Jim is an outstanding supporter of ex-POWs and a long-time supporter of them. He is an avid hot-air balloon pilot and founder of Freedom Flight, Inc. the POW/MIA balloon team. He has published several articles on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and is well known as an expert in diagnosing and treating PTSD.

WELCOME!

chaplain



ND Benny
Rayborn

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take."

A child's bedtime prayer.

Survey after survey, poll after poll shows that the majority of Americans not only believe in prayer but that we are a praying people. Despite what our courts are ruling and special interest groups

seek, Americans for the most part are a praying people.

We seek God's aid to handle every conceivable situation. Little, or big. Trifling or large, we pray. And we expect answers! If we did not expect answers then we would be talking only to ourselves but most three year old children know that prayer is talking to God, the Almighty who can handle our fears, and any situation that confronts us. Psalm 17:6 "I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God; incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech." One truth about prayer is that we expect God to listen. Not only to listen but to answer.

There are (at least) three answers to prayer. "Yes" (the answer we want). "No" (The answer we don't want. And "wait" (Which often seems like "No". God has His own time table).

So what is prayer? It is indeed talking to God. It is also requests for

mercies (kindness) that we need and/or want. It is also praise for blessings that we received. It has been said that as oxygen is to the lungs so prayer is to our souls. It is an indication of our faith which points to the condition of our soul. Therefore, it seems that we should encourage all people to pray.

I will close with a quote from 1 Thessalonians 5:17...

"Pray without ceasing."

Benny



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taps



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

ARROTTA, Albert T., Norwood, MA died Jan. 11, 2013 at the age of 90. He was captured while serving with the 461st BG, 767th BS, flying out of Italy. His B-24 was shot down, he was captured and held in Luft 1, Barth until liberation. With Goodman, Krupa, Dorsey and Miller as influences, he remained a fan of big bands and spent many evenings at Wonderland Ballroom dancing the night away. He leaves nephews, a niece and friends who will miss him dearly.

BAILEY, Irving F., of Fishkill, NY passed away Sept. 14, 2015. She was 93. During WWII, he served with the 15th AF, 98th BG. He was shot down over Austria, wounded and kept in Neumarket Hospital for 1 month, then sent to Stalag 17B and finally marched to Austria where he was liberated. Irving is survived by his wife of 64 years, Dorothy. He was a member of AXPOW and the Hudson Valley Chapter.

BITTE, Evelyn A., of Elk Grove Village, IL, 89, died Sept. 1, 2015. She and her beloved husband, the late Robert, were members of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Evelyn was the loving mother of 3 sons, 1 daughter; she also leaves five grandchildren.

DITEWIG, Wilbur E., 95, of Kankakee, IL passed away. He served with the North China Marines during WWII and was a POW in Woosung, Kiangwan, Hokkaido. He was a member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include 2 sons, 1 daughter, 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchild-

dren and a large and loving extended family.

FETTERS, Wendell, 90, passed away July 31, 2015. Wendell was a decorated WWII veteran. He was a POW and remained active in various veterans groups until his death. He was a hero to his country and to his family and friends. Following WWII, he continued serving his country during the Korean War. His wife, Jean of 69 years, 2 daughters, 1 son, 7 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a sister survive him.

GIBBS, Edward N., 90, of Columbia, MO died Sept. 28, 2015. He served in the Army Air Force in World War II and was captured after being shot down in Germany. He was a member of AXPOW. His first wife, Kitty Sue, predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, Edy, one son, two daughters, three step-children, 29 grandchildren, and 39 great-grandchildren.

GRIMBALL, Harry M. Jr., of Charleston, SC passed away Aug. 17, 2015. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 381st BG, 525th BS. After being shot down, wounded and captured, he was first held in the hospital, then Luft III until repatriation. He leaves his fiancée, Florice Torrance, 2 daughters, 1 son, 10 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

GUDERLY, George W., of Inverness IL, died July 31, 2015. He was a member of the B-17 bomber crew, 463rd BG, 774th BS. After capture, he was held in Luft 4 and Stalag 11B. His wife, Lois, survives him.

HOCH, Melba D., of Kutztown, PA passed away April 22, 2015. She was the loving wife of 68 years to Harry (ex-POW, held in 7A).

HOUSTON, Jean Marie, longtime member of the Rocky Mountain Chapter, AXPOW, passed away Aug. 6, 2015. She and her late husband, Harvey were married 67 years. He passed away in May, 2015. They will be missed by all who knew them.

KRAVETZ, Frank, of Chalfant, PA passed away Aug. 7, 2015. He was a proud WWII combat



veteran, serving with the 8th AF, 457th BG. He was captured after being severely wounded and held in Stalag XIIIID, then VIIA until liberation. Frank was a past National Director, past commander of the Pittsburgh chapter, and active NSO with AXPOW. He and his late wife, Annie, were always a welcome presence at the National Conventions and were great friends of all. Frank leaves one son, twin daughters, four loving grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

LINDBERG, Robert Edward, 89, of Mason, MI died July 4, 2015. He served in Italy with the 1st Armored Div., 13th Armored Reg., Troop D, Armored RSM. He was wounded and captured and held in Stalags 2B and 7A.

LINDBLOOM, Edward M., 94, passed away July 31, 2015 at Bay Pines Community Living Center. He served in ETO: 8th AF, 463rd BG, 774th BS. He was held in Stalag Luft I. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Irene, a daughter, a brother,

taps cont'd...

a sister and numerous grandchildren. Ed was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter and will be missed.

LOSEY, JAMES C. age 91, of Columbia, MO, passed away on Friday, September 18, 2015. He served with the 576th BS, 392nd BG, Eighth Air Force. James was a prisoner of war in Germany for 13 months. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Chris, 2 daughters, 8 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

MARTIN, Buell S. of Unionville CT, died Sept 6, 2015. A B-17 tail gunner in the Army Air Force, he served with the 385th BG. He was shot down on his 22nd mission and was held in Luft 1 & 2.

McDERMOTT, William T. of Bayville, NJ passed away Aug. 4, 2015 at the age of 92. He was captured while serving with the AAC on a B-17 with the 8th AF, 388th BG, 561st BS. He was held in Stalags 7A and 13D. William was predeceased by his wife, June. He leaves 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was a loving man and will be missed by all who had the honor to know him.

PAGEL, Gilbert A., of Mesa, AZ and Yuma, CO died Aug. 4, 2015. He was 94. During WWII, he served with the 15th AF, 454th BG, 738th BS. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag 7A and Luft III. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, 2 sons and 1 daughter.

PATTERSON, William D., of Union Hall, VA passed away Feb. 26, 2015 at the age of 91. The Germans captured him during the Battle of the Bulge while serving with the 28th Inf. Div. He was held in Stalag 4B. Survivors include his wife, Joyce, 1 son, 1 daughter, 1 grandson, 1 great-grandson and 1 great-great-grandchild.

PERRELL, Thirza, wife of the late Raymond C., died Sept. 13, 2015. She was 93. Her husband, survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years captivity, died in 1986. 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and their families survive her.

PERRY, Edward P., of Hatboro, PA died June 25, 2015. During WWII, he was captured while serving with the Army Air Corps. He was held in 7A until liberation.

PROCHAK, John Michael, 92, of Austintown, OH passed away Aug. 31, 2015. He was one of the original Darby's Forces during WWII, captured and held in 7A and 11B. He then continued service in Korea and Vietnam before retiring. He leaves 2 daughters, 3 granddaughters, 4 great-grandchildren, 1 great-great-granddaughter, 1 brother and 1 sister.

ROMINE, MICKY, 94, passed away August 15, 2015 at the Missouri Veterans Home in Cameron, MO. He served his country in the United States Army as an Army Ranger in WWII. Two sons and two sisters survive him; Micky was preceded in death by his wife, June Ellen.

SELLS, Jim Frank, of Las Vegas, NV passed away on August 5, 2015. He was 91. During WWII, he served with the 28th Inf., 8th Div., Co. K. He was captured and held in Stalag 7A. Jim was very loved, respected and honored by his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife Verna, sharing 69 years together. He also leaves 3 sons, 2 daughters, 12 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 2 sisters.

SHORE, Clifford E. "Bill", 91, of Pleasant Garden, NC died Aug. 4, 2015. Bill was a USA veteran with the 100th Div., captured and held in 4B until liberation. Survivors

include his wife, Mae, 1 daughter and several nieces and nephews.

STOKES, Claire M., 86, of Sun City, AZ passed away on July 25, 2015. She was a very involved member of the Agua Fria Chapter, Sun City, AZ. Claire was the widow of Edward V. Stokes, the love of her life, and will be interred with him in Arlington National Cemetery. She is survived by a sister, numerous nieces, nephews and their families, cousins and friends.

VanDUZER, Raymond passed away September 16, 2015, at Bay Pines VA Hospital, Florida. He was a former WW II POW, held in Camps XIIA, IIIB, IIIA, and XIA. He served as a Combat Medic with the 112th Infantry. He was a Past National Director, Past Commander, Department of Florida, and a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. He is survived by his wife Janet and two sons.

WALDO, Henry B. "Bruce", 89, of Hot Springs, AR died March 2, 2015. He served with the 17th Airborne, 513th Para. Inf. Reg. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge, then taken to Stalag 4B. He escaped in April, met up with American troops and was on the ship returning home when word came that the war in Europe was over. Survivors include his wife, Nancy.

WENTZ, Mary W. age 91 passed away May 18, 2015 in Kenton, OH. During WWII, she worked at Wright Field in Dayton and the Signal Corps during WWII. Mary and her beloved husband, William were life members of AXPOW and Ohio Chapter #1. In addition to her husband of 71 years, she is survived by 2 sons, 1 grandson, several nieces, nephews and extended family.

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**American Ex-Prisoners of War
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION**
to honor a loved one or a former colleague
Donations are not tax-deductible.

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 #40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396

(rev. 02/07)



**American Ex-Prisoners of War
MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTION**
to honor a loved one or a former colleague
Donations are not tax-deductible.

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 _____

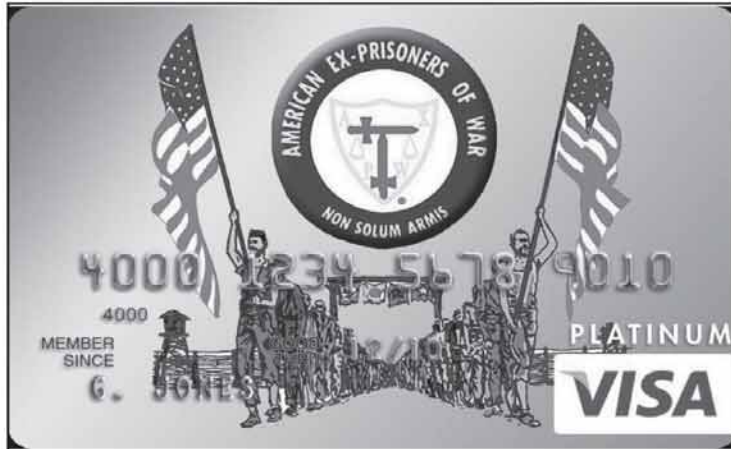
City, state and zip code _____

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

(rev. 02/07)

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From UMB

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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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The National 4th (IVY) Division Association

Formed at Camp Greene, NC, on November 17, 1917 for service in World War I. The "IVY Division" has a long and distinguished heritage that continues through World War II, the Cold War in Europe, Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Membership in the Association is open to all former Veterans and currently serving Soldiers of the 4th ID and attached units. The 96th Annual Reunion will be September 9-14, 2014, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Check our website at www.4thinfantry.org for membership and reunion information.

"Steadfast and Loyal"

50/50 drawing

June 27, 2015 Arlington, TX

- 1st Place** GROVER MULLINS, MO **\$322.60**
- 2nd Place** ANGIE SARACENO, AZ **\$241.95**
- 3rd Place** DOROTHY MURPHY, FL **\$161.30**
- 4th Place** JACK WARNER, OK **\$80.65**

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

These donations are not tax deductible. Fill out the tickets and send them and your donations to:

**National Headquarters ~ 50/50 Drawing
3201 E. Pioneer Pkway, #40
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



The 106th Infantry Division Association

Organized at
Camp Lucky Strike 1945 active
since 1946

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

**The CUB Magazine is published three times
per year. Published since 1946.
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

**Ex-POW Bulletin
Nov/Dec 2015**



AMERICAN EX PRISONERS OF WAR

TOP QUALITY WIND SHIRT

100% Microtech Microfiber with nylon lining for easy on/off

Wind and water resistant

Women's version has zipper for easier donning

Rib knit trim at vee neck, cuffs, and waist

S-5XL (men) or S-3X(women) \$50.00

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

\$12.95 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

Size_____ Please CIRCLE male or female style

Desired lettering under logo (\$1.50/line; 14 characters/ spaces per line)_____

Check enclosed or VISA/MasterCard/ AmEx_____

Card security code(4 digits on front of AmEX card, three digits on back of others)_____

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 660-626-6902

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AXPOW Gravesite Medallion



The Medallion is 4", Bronze/Brown with Lacquer. Hardware for mounting is included. Weight - approximately 1.25 lb.

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

\$75.00

**plus \$15.00 S/H/I
Shipping costs on two or more is \$20.00.**

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 S/H

Please allow 8-10 weeks for delivery.

AXPOW Challenge Coin



great gifts...great hand-outs...great way to show your pride in your organization
AXPOW Logo on front/Five services on reverse

\$10.00 ea

Official AXPOW Cap (specify size)	40.00
Vinyl Cap Bag	3.00
Necktie w/logo (regular only)	30.00
U.S. Flag Bolo Tie	20.00
Mini POW Medal Bolo Tie	30.00
Brooch pin	5.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	5.00
Logo pin	5.00
POW Stamp pin	3.00
Past Chapter Commander pin	5.00
Past Department Commander pin	5.00
Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Challenge Coins	10.00
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire (silver)	8.00
Vest Chainguard	8.00
4" Blazer Patch	4.00
2" Medallion (for plaque)	6.00
Canvas Totebag w/4" logo	15.00
AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	6.00
Special Prayer Cards (pkg of 25)	6.00
AXPOW By-Laws	5.00

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 S/H)

Ship to: _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

We accept Master Card/Visa

12x18 AXPOW Graveside Flag	10.00
Aluminum License Plate	5.00
3" Vinyl Decal	1.00
3" Inside Decal	1.00
8" Vinyl Decal	6.00
12" Vinyl Decal	10.00
AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
Ladies Prayer Book	1.00
POW DVD - ETO or Pacific	11.00
"Speak Out" Education Packet	6.00

CLOTHSTRIPES (specify which title) 3.00

Life Member · Chapter Commander · Chaplain · Historian · Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas · Chapter Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer
Dept Commander · Past Dept Commander
Dep't Treasurer · Dep't Adjutant · Sr. Vice Commander · Jr. Vice Commander
Service Officer · Legislative Officer · Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer

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 _____

**FOR ALL ORDERS, MAIL TO:
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR
3201 East Pioneer Parkway, Suite 40
Arlington, Texas 76010-5396
817-649-2979
axpow76010@yahoo.com**

The Ride Home 2015~ Sept. 17-20





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
e-mail: HQ@axpow.org
No collect calls, please

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

Bronze Grave Medallions



\$75.00 plus \$15.00 S/H/I

Shipping cost on two or more is \$20.00.

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