

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the

American Ex-Prisoners of War

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We exist to help those who cannot help themselves



National Commander Warren G. King, Sr. and wife, Mary

NEW AXPOW Fundraising Program ~ See Page 18!

Inside...Convention pics...News, Outreach, Events...NSO success stories...and more

National Convention ~ Springfield, IL



national commander



Warren G. King, Sr.

Warren “listens and gets it done!”

POW:

- Works with members and VA officials to get POW members' compensation and other veteran benefits.
- What is good for one, “maybe” good for others.
- “Main Aim” - the Ex-Prisoners of War and their spouses.
- Talks to school students, ROTC and others to get a good education.
- Be patriotic — participate. Volunteer when needed.
- Help when help is needed.
- Learn to read a road map, and how to find your direction, day or night.

MILITARY:

- Army medical service in World War II. Entered service immediately after I registered at 18 years (old) young. Had three months basic training, transferred to medical, Brooks General Hospital in San Antonio, Texas for nursing training.
- Had nursing education for three months — equivalent to civilian nursing training of three years.
- Sailed to Europe on the Queen Mary along with 26,000 troops and Prime Minister Winston Churchill of England. Joined the “Famous Fourth” Infantry Division,

22nd Regiment, Co. B as a “Combat Medic” replacement.

- As we exited the Hurtgen Forest on December 3, 1944, I was captured with four infantry soldiers (due to a communication error).

- Taken to Bonn - POW Stalag 6G. Were burned out there. Moved to Stalag 12A in Limburg (met my childhood neighbor there). Moved to 4B - Muhlburg, near Berlin.

- Liberated by Russian soldiers (five of us POWs walked away one day and forgot to go back. The Russians would not let us go until they were promised compensation for all the U.S. soldiers they liberated — so we escaped.

- Returned to U.S. in '45. Had a 60-day furlough. Returned to Veterans Hospital in Camp Kilmer, N.J. and worked there until time to be discharged, in Nov. 1945.

- Received several WWII medals including ETO-two stars medal, Combat Medical Badge, Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Star and others.

CIVILIAN:

- Back in civilian life, I did various jobs before I settled on photo engraving and printing.

- Part Owner in Photo Engraving company. Hired mostly veterans - about forty-five (45) of fifty-six (56) employees. Worked shifts that ran 24 hours a day, five days a week.

- Retired after forty-two (42) years.

SERVICE AFFILIATIONS:

- POW Chapter Commander, 12 years.

- Served as AXPOW Jr. Vice Commander one year (one term).

- Served as AXPOW National Director for four years (two terms).

- Life member of American Legion. Executive Board member of American Legion Post 82 for eight years.

- Life Member of VFW, Military Order of the Purple Heart, AXPOW, D.A.V.

- Life Member of Fourth Infantry Division, 22nd Reg., Co. B and Carolina Chapter.

- Veteran Volunteer Service member for eight years.

FAMILY LIFE:

- Married to the “sweetheart of Tennessee,” Mary King for fifty-nine years.

- We have two sons and two grandsons - one doctor at Duke University, two schoolteachers, one bookkeeper and volunteer.

- Mary and I have been in all fifty states and twelve foreign countries.

- Warren helps people get books published.

- Writes poems and songs in his spare time.

- Hobby is photography.

- “Jack of all trades — master of none.”

P.S. We just finished attending our National Convention at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Illinois. It was a very eventful, but good convention. I was unexpectedly elected your National Commander for this coming year. Hopefully, everything will run smoothly and everyone will pull together since we are all working for the same thing — POWs exist to help those who cannot help themselves. I vow to continue to work 24-7 for the organization as I have for years.

This Convention was an excellent one - our hosts and the hotel staff were extremely helpful and nice. The food was really good and the accommodations were wonderful. Unfortunately, we had four members who fell ill and required hospital attention. We hope they are all doing well, and our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Now let's put all our differences behind us, be kind and get along and let's make this a great year for the POWs.

Warren

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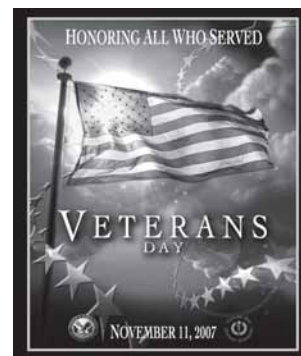
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The Veterans Day National Ceremony

is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11AM, a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds "Taps." The balance of the ceremony, including a "Parade of Flags" by numerous veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb. The host of this year's National Veterans Day Ceremony is The Marine Corps League.



A Great Idea!!!

You can arrange to send a prepaid phone card, including a card that allows Service Members to call home for two hours from Iraq, Afghanistan or Kuwait. To send a phone card to any Service Member for the Holidays, call 800-527-2345 or visit www.aafes.org.

Get out your Scotch Tape and...

Please add to your new AXPOW Membership Directory:

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USAF 1940-1961
17th Pursuit Squadron, 24th Pursuit Group
Nichols Field, Rizal, P.I.
Bataan Death March
O'Donnell; Cabanatuan; Bilibid (Pandacan Detail);
Bridge detail at Nueva Ecjia; "Nissayo Maru";
Narumi (Nagoya, Japan)
Member since 1971, LM since 1986
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Please add to your 2008 AXPOW Calendar:

Happy Birthday!
PNC **John Edwards**
Oct. 21, 1926

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

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on capitol hill



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Vets Commission Calls For Uniform Disability Rating System for Veterans

On Oct. 3, 2007, The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission released its report: *Honoring the Call to Duty: Veterans' Disability Benefits in the 21st Century* calling for the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) to use a consistent and uniform policy for rating disabilities of U.S. veterans.

"For almost three years, the Commission has studied the existing systems and found disparities that directly impact the benefits that our veterans receive," said Commission Chair, James Terry Scott, retired Army Lt. Gen. "It is important that all those who have served our Nation receive an appropriate, equitable and consistent benefit for their sacrifices."

The Commission's report provides 113 recommendations that would help to ensure that the benefit fairly compensates the service-disabled veterans and their families, as well as help them live with dignity as they rehabilitate and reintegrate into civilian life. The Commission identified 14 priority recommendations, among them include:

-Using an updated VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) that would include the evaluation and rating of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental disorders and of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in both the DoD and VA and would be revised to account for new

diagnostic classifications, medical criteria and medical advances;

-Identify specific criteria for PTSD rating and establish a holistic approach to PTSD that couples compensation, treatment, and vocational assessment. Re-evaluation should occur every 2-3 years to ensure that treatment is effective;

- Initially increasing compensation rates up to 25 percent to take into account the quality of life and other non-work related effects of severe disabilities on veterans and their families;

-Eliminating the ban on concurrent receipt for all military retirees and for all service members who are separated from the military due to service-connected disabilities, as well as eliminating the SBP/DIC offset for survivors of retirees and in-service deaths, with priority for the more severely disabled veterans.

-Expediting compatible information systems for VA and DoD;

-Realigning the disability evaluation process so that the Military Services determine fitness for duty and service members who are found unfit for duty are referred to VA for disability rating;

-Improving the claims cycle by establishing a simplified and expedited process using best practices and maximizing use of information technology.

At the start of its work, the Commission developed 31 key research questions, which helped define the scope of its mission and enabled the Commission to arrive at essential findings on the appropriateness of the benefits.

During the course of its comprehensive investigation, the Commission conducted eight fact-finding site visits throughout the country and heard from thousands of veterans, advocates and family members regarding

the current veterans' disability system. In addition, the Commission employed the Institute of Medicine to review the medical and functional criteria used to rate impairments and other related areas and the CNAC Corporation to provide an overall analysis of the disability and survivors benefits.

"We thank all of the veterans and their family members who took the time to share their experiences with us," said Scott. "Your contributions not only helped us understand the day-today trials you face but allowed us the opportunity to meet a few of the brave men and women who have defended our country with great personal sacrifice.

"On behalf of all of the members, it has been an honor to serve on this Commission. It is our obligation, as a grateful Nation, to show our appreciation and take care of our disabled veterans. Through this Commission, we were given the opportunity to ensure that we do it right for all generations of veterans—now and into the future."

There are almost 25 million U.S. veterans worldwide—more than 19.5 million are wartime veterans.

The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission is an independent, bipartisan body created by Public Law 108-136 and appointed by the President and leaders of Congress, mandated to study the benefits and services intended to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors for disabilities and deaths attributable to military service. The Commission conducted a thorough, objective, and impartial analysis of the full range of programs that are intended to meet the needs of disabled veterans and survivors.

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

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OUTREACH PROGRESSES

Here's Looking For YOU!

At least 60 workers are making this happen, countrywide. Our VA Outreach program to reach out to all AXPOW members to make sure they have the VA benefits to which they are entitled is ACTIVE. Like:

NSO Ben Garrido of Tahlequah, OK, attended National Service Director Doris Jenks' NSO Training Seminar last year at the National Convention in Nashville. Since then he has been accredited by the VA as a new NSO. And now he is calling all AXPOW members in Oklahoma.

AND

NSO Betty Grinstead in Silver City, IA is contacting AXPOW members in Iowa, all 234 of them. And she got a list of all POW auto license plate holders in Iowa...many were not members of AXPOW, 393 MORE to contact. That's a lot of postage and calls to pay for. Thank goodness we have a VA Outreach item in our AXPOW budget. Our NSO widows doing this contact work must not have such an expense burden on them.

And we are finding some who don't have their benefits. In calling all members in Alaska, I found a former POW who had been in the same German POW camp as I had. He did not know about VA disabili-

ty benefits. Now, POW Protocol Examinations for what should be a significant VA benefit for him and his wife.

In calling AXPOW members in West Central Texas, most have their benefits. BUT, Jean in small town, husband died in 1992, POW husband never would go for POW protocol exam, thus no widow's VA benefit. "What did he die of?" Answer: "Double pneumonia, but near bottom of death certificate it says, 'contributing cause, acute stroke.'" I told her we should be able to get her the widow's benefit, based on stroke. Another claim for a happy lady, thanks to Oct. 7, 2004 VA ruling making stroke, as well as heart disease POW presumptives.

And alert members help: Sept. 21, 2007, Big Spring VAMC hosts POW/MIA luncheon for POWs and spouses/widows. Morris Barker parks by POW from Odessa; they'd never met before. "Do you have your VA benefits?" Doyle answers, "What do you mean? What VA benefits?" Also, he'd never heard of AXPOW. Before meeting and eating is over, another POW protocol claim is begun, with significant benefit possible for Doyle and his wife. Be alert. If you know of former POWs or their widows who may have been denied VA benefits years ago, please call us so we can help them get their due benefits.

And now, 36 new POW surviving spouses in the TAPS column of Sept. 2007 EX-POW Bulletin, with gratifying phone calls:

From NSO Don Lewis, "I've taken care of new widows listed in the Sept. TAPS from Pennsylvania." From NSO Betty Grinstead in Iowa, "You don't need to call me; I've already contacted the surviving Iowa widows in the recent TAPS column." And these also are calling to make sure they have their appropriate widows' VA benefits: Melanie Bussel, NY/CT; Wren Bowyer, CA; Alan Barber, NV; Marianne Roenna,

IL; Rose Mary Meredith, AL; Richard Crow, OR; Charles Heffron, TN; Doc Unger, OH; Louise Dunham, AZ; Doris Jenks, GA; Lloyd Gabriel, WA; and Fred Campbell, IN/NE/HI/CO/TX/MN.

"We exist to help those who cannot help themselves"

SUCCESS

Mrs. Smith in Athens, TX, husband died in 1991. She has had no VA benefits. But now she does because his death certificate said he died of "acute myocardial infarction with congestive heart failure", thanks again to 2004 rule change to include heart disease. I told her about the free Medicare supplement, ChampVA, and the retroactive \$12,000+ check coming soon, and her comment was, "Now I can get out of debt, and not leave that on my children."

Busy NSO Betty Grinstead writes: "Dear Fred, Bill B. is 83 years old. He has never filed for VA compensation as he didn't know he was entitled to any help. We filed and he was awarded 100%. Being in the Air Force, he had five buddies he contacted. They too didn't realize they had any help coming. They applied for compensation also. So far two of them have their 100%. We're unsure about the other three. My 83 year old guy is one happy man! Give your girlfriend a hug! Betty"

I hugged my girlfriend...still do after 62 years hitched...productive hugs: 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. Watch those hugs!

Effective January 10, 2008, VA is amending its regulations governing the accreditation of service organization representatives. As amended, the regulations require service organizations to recertify the qualifications of their accredited representatives every five years, and to notify VA when requesting cancellation of a representative's accreditation based upon misconduct or lack of competence, or if a representative resigns to avoid cancellation of accreditation for misconduct or lack of competence. The amendments also clarify that VA's authority to cancel accreditation includes the authority to suspend accreditation.

Concerning the circumstances under which a representative may be suspended, VA believes that further clarification is unnecessary. The plain language of section 5904(b) authorizes VA to suspend or exclude from further practice before VA agents or attorneys found incompetent or to have engaged in misconduct. Congress' recent amendment of section 5902 in Public Law 109-461 codifies VA's long-standing interpretation of section 5902 by providing VA with authority to suspend the accreditation of representatives or exclude them from further practice before VA on the same grounds as apply to agents and attorneys. VA's decision to suspend or cancel an individual's accreditation will be based on the facts and circumstances of the particular case, with suspension being appropriate in cases involving extenuating circumstances or less egregious conduct not warranting permanent cancellation of accreditation.

The purpose of these amendments is to ensure that claimants for veterans' benefits have responsible, qualified representation in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims.

nso



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Many recent widows of Former Prisoners of War are confused when a letter arrives from the V.A. after they file their application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

A 7 Page Acknowledgment letter is sent from the V.A. after the application is received at the V.A.

A question on the first page will state "What Do We Still need from You?". It continues to state "In support of your claim for DIC we need evidence showing the veteran died in service or medical evidence showing that the veteran's service-connected conditions caused or contributed to the veteran's death. We also pay DIC if the veteran was a POW and continuously rated totally disabled due to service-connected conditions for at least 1 year before death".

No additional evidence is required if the death certificate indicated the veteran died of a Former POW presumptive or he died of a service-connected disability. The DIC will be granted in this case as a service-connected death. This means in addition to the monthly DIC payment of \$1,067 (or \$1,295 if the veteran was 100% for at least 8 years) the widow will receive at least \$2,000 for the burial benefit. So, in this case, just sign and return Page 7 (VCAA Notice Response) to the VA and check the Box "I have no other information or evidence

to give VA to substantiate my claim. Please decide my claim as soon as possible". By promptly returning this page and signing the bottom, it will speed up your claim.

Also, if the Former POW died of a disability other than a service-connected disability or a Former POW presumptive, but he was rated 100% for at least one year, the widow is still eligible for her monthly benefit, but the burial reimbursement will only be up to \$600. This is a one-time check. The Page 7 Form should also be returned in this case and Check "I have no other evidence" OR submit medical evidence from the veteran's doctor indicating one of the presumptives could have contributed to his death. In this case check the lower box and return to the VA. This will increase the reimbursement for burial to \$2,000.

In either case above, the receipt of the letter does not mean you may not be granted your DIC. It is an acknowledgment letter also stating "We have received the following". The forms you have sent will be listed.

Doris Jenks

happy holidays!
from Cheryl, Clydie,
Marsha, Donna, Mom,
Les, Charlie, Mary,
Sonnie Bill



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

PRESUMPTIVE SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES Public Law 97-37 (Layman's Terms)

**Originally published
by William Paul Skelton, III,
MD F.A.C.P.
updated by the Department of
Veterans Affairs**

All ex-POWs should keep these and/or make copies. Whenever you open your claim, take them with you and make sure the adjudication officer sees them and have him read them! Make sure he knows all about them. Tell him your own 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 reinfect 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.

medsearch continued...

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 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 the 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 tired-

medsearch continued...

ness, 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 and possibly mineral deficiency are just two.

Other causes to be considered are various toxins such as lead, copper, and mercury, a hereditary pre-disposition 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, gassiness, bloating, and changes in bowel habits.

Some people with IBS have constipation (difficult or infrequent bowel movements); still others have diarrhea (frequent loose stools, often with an urgent need to move the bowels); and some people experience both. Sometimes the person with IBS has a crampy urge to move the bowels but cannot do so.

Through the years, IBS has been called by many names - colitis, mucous colitis, spastic colon, spastic

bowel, and functional bowel disease. Most of these terms are inaccurate.

19. PEPTIC ULCER DISEASE

A peptic ulcer is a sore or hole in the lining of the stomach or duodenum (the first part of the small intestine).

In addition to the pain caused by the ulcer itself, peptic ulcers give rise to such complications as hemorrhage from the erosion of a major blood vessel; perforation of the wall of the stomach or intestine, with resultant peritonitis; or obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract because of spasm or swelling in the area of the ulcer.

The direct cause of peptic ulcers is the destruction of the gastric or intestinal mucosal lining by hydrochloric acid, an acid normally present in the digestive juices of the stomach.

20. CIRRHOSIS

The liver, the largest organ in the body, is essential in keeping the body functioning properly. It removes or neutralizes poisons from the blood, produces immune agents to control infection, and removes germs and bacteria from the blood. It makes proteins that regulate blood clotting and produces bile to help absorb fats and fat-soluble vitamins. In cirrhosis of the liver, scar tissue replaces normal, healthy tissue, blocking the flow of blood through the organ and preventing it from working as it should.

Many people with cirrhosis have no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. However, as scar tissue replaces healthy cells, liver function starts to fail and a person may experience the following symptoms: Exhaustion, fatigue, loss of appetite, 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.

Andersonville



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Andersonville Marks POW/MIA Recognition Day by Fred Boyles

Andersonville National Historic Site sponsored a series of events to commemorate National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Recognition Day. The day is set aside by Presidential Proclamation on the third Friday in September annually to remember all who have been POWs and those still listed as MIA. The theme of the 2007 program was Race and the American POW.

On Wednesday, September 19th, the park co-sponsored with Georgia Southwestern State University a public forum at the historic Rylander Theater featuring Colonel Fred Cherry, USAF (Ret.) and Commander Porter Halyburton, USN (Ret.). The forum was moderated by Dr. Glenn Robbins, Professor of History at Georgia Southwestern. The two aviators were POWs in Vietnam where their captors placed them in a cell together thinking that

their racial differences would result in conflict. The two men became life long friends. Both credit the other for saving their life through the 7+ years of captivity and torture. The event was attended by over 300 people. With the help of Eastern National, a book signing of Two Souls Indivisible was held with the two speakers after the program.

On Thursday, September 20th, the park sponsored a reception to honor former POWs. The reception was sponsored by the Friends of Andersonville with funding provided by the Andersonville Trust.

Georgia Southwestern was the location on Friday morning of a student convocation attended by 700+ college and high school students to hear former POW and aviator from the famed Tuskegee Airmen, Luther Smith, speak about his experiences. Captain Smith spoke about his desire to fly, along with his service with the Tuskegee Airmen and his shoot down and capture. The program was introduced by University President, Kendall Blanchard who thanked all those who sponsored the event and recognized all the former POWs in attendance. The East Cowetta High School Marine Corps JROTC provided a silent drill team tribute to the approximately 50 former POWs in attendance. All the former POWs were escorted in an impressive procession from Andersonville to the University by over 120 motorcycles from Rolling Thunder.

On Saturday morning a ceremony sponsored by Rolling Thunder was conducted at Andersonville National Cemetery. The program was aimed at remembering those families who have loved ones still missing in action and to seek a full accounting for each MIA. The principal speaker was Chief Warrant Officer Guy Hunter, USMC (Ret.) who was a POW in Iraq during the first Gulf War. The event was attended by over 450 visitors. During the "Roll Call" part of the program, each former POW in attendance was recognized.

"It was humbling to have the support of so many former POWs at this year's event." Stated Park Ranger Kim Humber, Event Coordinator for the National Park Service, "It was our goal for the event to honor our POWs and to educate young people about what has been sacrificed for our freedoms." The partnership between Andersonville, Georgia Southwestern and Rolling Thunder has evolved into a major park event. Each of the public events received extensive media attention for the park and for the cause that POW/MIA Recognition Day stands for. Plans are already being made for the 2008 program.



Former POW's Bill Price and John Dominey are speaking to Luther H. Smith at a reception. Captain Smith spoke to a large group of students about his experience as a Tuskegee Airman and as a POW in Germany.

NamPOW news



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The Man

Since most of the AXPOW community comes from WWII and Korea, I'd like to introduce a Vietnam POW who is one of the true gems among all POWs and perhaps the only chronicler of the very long Vietnam POW experience in existence in a form anyone - including out reading-challenged youth - can understand.

Permit me to introduce CAPT J. Michael McGrath, USN (Ret). Mike was a POW in several camps in North Vietnam for nearly six years. He was severely wounded when he ejected from his burning A-4C Skyhawk and brutally beaten and tortured by having his broken bones twisted. He's one of the toughest men I've ever known in all ways that men can be tough. But he's also - usually - one of the gentlest. Tough but, oh, so gentle. At least that's his public persona schtick.

Captain of our wrestling team at Navy, Mike was an All-East champion and All-American contender. His wrestling teammates and Mike's often pinned opponents named him "Masher" in honor of his wrestling acumen.

Masher might be the only All-East champion collegiate wrestler who is an accomplished artist. And, with his crippled, war-injured arm, maybe the only one-armed golfer.

We checked into USNA at the same time on 30 June 1958 - nearly the last in our class to do so but only so we'd have a shorter plebe year. We ended up in adjacent companies and had several classes together for two years.

We went to Pensacola at the same time and he was about a week behind me at the bases in Pensacola, Meridian, Mississippi and Beeville, Texas. We both got sent back to the training command as instructors for a year then both got A-4Cs for our fleet assignments. Mike was assigned to VA-146, the Blue Diamonds; I got VA-216, the Black Diamonds.



Galanti, McGrath, Davis, dog

We lived in the same six unit cul-de-sac at NAS Lemoore and Phyllis and Marlene became good friends. Mike got bagged a year after I did but at his retirement, he confessed that he really didn't get shot down. He told the assembled masses, "I knew that if Galanti was on the ground in NVN, there was some kind of good deal we didn't know about so I 'just went down to check it out'." Mike also confessed that he was the one responsible for several dastardly pranks at the Naval Academy that had gone unsolved for nearly 30 years - including firing the "Virgin Cannons" (a story for another time!) and moving some parade field marker blocks shortly before an important parade. It caused considerable hilarity among the midshipmen and much embarrassment to our Superintendent and Commandant.

Also in our Lemoore housing cul-de-sac was future POW Doug Burns and future POW Ted Kopfman lived right behind us. When Mike got bagged in 1967, pilots refused to live in that cul-de-sac so the Navy had to fill the units with ground-pounders, docs, maintenance-types, etc.

After we got back from Hanoi and after flight training refresher, we both ended up at USNA working for the Commandant, an A-4 skipper, later a four star and whose boss at USNA was Admiral Bill Lawrence. Life was indeed good.

Mike returned to the fleet after repatriation, spent a year in Spanish language school then became the Naval Attache to the embassy in Bogotá, Colombia. He flew for United Airlines after retirement and currently lives in Colorado Springs with Marlene. John and Rick, their two boys, and families live close by.

Mike is also the historian for Nam-POWs and an ex-President of the national Vietnam Ex-POW Society. In addition to being tough and gentle, he's also very talented artistically, an outstanding athlete and has been the glue that has almost single-handedly kept our Nam-POW organization so strong. He's also funny and has been known to party on occasion.

And that is Masher McGrath. My bud for a long time. And the only thing that ever makes me mad about Mike McGrath is that there's nothing to get mad about. If only he were a conceited, pompous jerk, I could handle it! So hand salute, Masher, for all you do to keep us lesser mortals straight. Even if you do occasionally take a Mulligan when you weren't supposed to.

pow-mia



PNC John Edwards, Chairman

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

AMERICANS ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR: There are now 1,767 US personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. DPMO has released the names of six US personnel as now being accounted for, including:

Major Perry H. Jefferson, USAF, MIA 4-3-69, SVN, CO
Airman 1st Class George W. Long, USAF, KIA/BNR 5-12-68, SNV, KS
CAPT Warren R. Orr, USAR, MIA 5-12-58, SVN, IL
LTjg Norman L. Roggow, USNR, KIA/BNR 10-8-67, SVN, IA
LTjg Donald f. Wolfe, USNR, KIA/BNR 10-8-67, SVN, MT
LTjg Andrew G. Zissu, USNR, KIA/BNR 10-8-67, SVN, NY

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This brings to 816 the number of US personnel returned since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. 90+% of 1,767 still missing and unaccounted-for were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON RECOGNITION DAY: Secretary of Defense Bob Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace, USMC, hosted the Pentagon's National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony. In his remarks, Secretary Gates stated, "I would also like to thank the families and friends of those still missing. Missing-in-action status is marked by ambiguity and uncertainty - a severe test of spirit and resolve for anyone seeking closure. Your attendance today proves once again that the bond of love transcends the passage of time - that while our nation's heroes may remain missing in body, they are always present in spirit. We will neither forget our duty to bring home all POWs and MIAs, nor relent in our efforts to do so."

Though extemporaneous, General Pace's remarks were relevant, informal and meaningful to those present, based on his many years of service in and commitment to our Armed Forces. Patricia Scharf, widow of Col Charles Scharf, USAF (MIA October 1, 1965 over North Vietnam, remains recovered December 16, 1992 and announced as identified August 10, 2006) was recommended by the Defense POW/MIA Office and reportedly selected by Secretary Gates' Protocol Office to make remarks from her perspective.

There were countless ceremonies held across the country and around the world, including in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

UPDATE ON OPERATIONS: Technical talks, led by JPAC Commander BG Mike Flowers, USA, and

Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) Director Nguyen Ba Hung were held September 12th. On January 4, 2008, RADM Donna Crisp, USN, will assume command of JPAC at a Change of Command. Foreign Ministry official Nguyen Ba Hung is being promoted and will no longer serve as the Director after TET 2008, having served through the visits of President Bush in November 2006 and the reciprocal visit by President Triet in June of this year. The incoming VNOSMP Director has not yet been identified.

DPMO-led archival research talks were held in Hanoi on September 26th in an effort to get some movement on this stalemated program. In Cambodia, the third recovery operations of this fiscal year ended on September 17th with a formal repatriation ceremony at the international airport in Phnom Penh in which US Ambassador Joseph Mussomeli participated, as did senior Cambodian officials, led by General Pol Saroeun, Deputy Commander of the Cambodian Army and, by direction of Prime Minister Hun Sen, Chairman of the Cambodian POW/MIA Committee. Field operations in Laos and Vietnam resume later this month. A team of seven JPAC personnel finished operations in South Korea where they had been investigating multiple ground and aircraft incidents of loss since September 5th. This was the fourth and final JPAC mission to South Korea during Fiscal Year 2007, ending September 30th.

Regarding the expanding program of investigations and remains recoveries related to WWII incidents, operations have recently taken place in the Netherlands, Hungary, Austria, France (including an underwater investigation on the Island of Corsica), Luxembourg, Italy and Germany, with ongoing operations concluded on September 29, 2007.

civilians

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Manila Liberation Reunion 2008 Feb 1-4, 2008



Two of the most important things in life are good friends and good food. With those true words to live by, the Bay Area Civilian Ex-POWs (BACEPOW) invites you to our 2008 Manila Liberation Reunion this coming February in Fremont, California in the San Francisco Bay Area. The beautiful Fremont Marriott will be our reunion headquarters where good long time kaibigans can meet once again to replenish old ties and to make new friends. Our collective experiences during the war in the Philippines will be the glue to bring us together.

Our reunion is open to all civilians, ex-POWS, (military and civilian) guerrillas, liberators, veterans from U.S. and Philippine Units and descendants. February 1- 4, 2008 will bring the Philippines to you.

Delicious Filipino menus by our head Chef, Frank Avila, will be served for our Sunday Lunch Banquet. A variety of Lumpia's, Empanaditas and a good chicken Adobo with Pancit will test your pallets. Pinakbet, Lechon and Salad Filipina with a good Leche Flan will

make you stand, salute, and sing the Philippine National Anthem. Merienda's and shopping at Filipino shops and markets is on the program. Informal guest "conversationalists" will hold court in the Hospitality Suite daily. Come and meet important guests from the Philippines and the United States who have been invited to join us to celebrate our 63rd Manila Liberation Reunion.

This Reunion, 2008, we will be having interesting raffles and door prizes. Other prizes and Philippine Trivia game prizes will be given. Bone up on your Philippine WWII history to play our trivia games. Practice your Tagalog - we'll be testing you.

Please urge your descendants to come along. We will be energizing our next of kin to join BACEPOW and to gather for a Saturday Forum and Cocktail Party to meet and bring an exchange of ideas to further preserve our historical past. We know how important it is to keep our civilian history afloat and to maintain the Philippine/American experience in our United States education process. Our descendants have the ball in their court. KEEP EM FLYING!

If you are part of the old gang from the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and want to join our reunion, tell a few stories and kick up your heels (if you can still get them off the ground), this is the place for you. If you run into any Old China Hands, Cebuanos or misplaced Ilocanos - bring them along. Wear your Barong Tagalogs and Ternos. Don't own one? Buy them at the party. COME JOIN US NEXT YEAR! MABUHAY! Check your Bolos at the door!

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events and information



Feb. 1-4, 2008. The next Civilian Philippine Liberation Reunion weekend will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Fremont, CA. Plans are in progress for this activity and additional information will be forthcoming. Please join us next year. We look forward to your attendance at this informative and fun gathering celebrating liberations in the Philippines in early 1945. For information contact: Sascha Jansen, Mabuhayma@aol.com.

MAY 1 -5 2008. The Anzio Beach-head Veterans of WWII annual reunion will be held in St. Louis, MO. For more information, contact John Boller, phone 1 631 691 5002; e-mail juniorjlb@msn.com.

looking for



I'm looking for information about my father. His name was Elwin E. Bigelow. Service Number 268484, Marine Corps 4th Battalion, Master Sergeant USMC. He was stationed in Shanghai and then captured on Corregidor/Bataan.

He was never able to talk about his this time except to mention things like Camp O'Donnell, Bataan, Corregidor, Cabanatuan, Palawan and Hirohata. I've pulled his Military file but it only included items after his repatriation. I do have a copy of a newspaper article that states that he was in the camp at Hirohata

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when the Japanese surrendered. Thank you, Keith Bigelow, 123 Briar Place, Danville, CA 94526; 925-838-0550; kbigelow@aol.com.

I am looking for anyone who worked at the Ammendorf Paper Factory in Germany as a POW from Jan. to April 1945. John D. Knappenberger 1910 MoHo Dr., Orlando, FL 32839; jdksak@earthlink.net.

My family member was interned at Stalag 2B for many months. I am seeking to know the location of farm Kommando #1302. Example: Falkenburg #1546. Also, I would like to make contact with anyone who may have known "Goldie" (Dave) from Chicago, Unit 142nd, 36th Division, who was at farm Kommando at Stalag 2B. Also, I am hoping to communicate with family members and/or locate memoirs of Harry Galler, Brooklyn, NY, who was interned at Stalag 2B for many months. Thank you. J. Goldman P.O. Box 59024 Chicago, IL 60659; jg2333@msn.com; (773)262-5449.

My uncle, Frederick Saint, was captured in the Philippines and died on a "hell ship". I was wondering if your organization might have any information on what exactly happened to him during his POW years. Thank you, Jim Sather; j-sather@sbcglobal.net.

Name: Malcolm D. Mills Report Date: 28 Dec 1943 Latest Report Date: Jul 1945 Grade: Civilian Serve Branch: Civilian Area Served: Southwest Pacific Theatre: Philippine Islands Detaining County: Japan Camp: Camp Holmes, Baguio Luzon Philippines 16-120 Status: Returned to Military Control, Liberated or Repatriated. I am attempting to find this information for a cousin. The above mentioned POW was my cousin's Great Uncle. He would like to know where he is buried, and of course

he would also like to connect with descendants of Malcolm Mills. Anything you could do to help facilitate this I would certainly appreciate it. My name is Jinny Jackson Smith at jinny@usit.net and my snailmail is Jinny Jackson Smith, 4101 Hwy. 149, Palmyra, Tennessee 37142.

We are looking for any former WWII POW or member of the armed services, who may have worked at Ft Hunt Virginia on MIS -X. Or anyone who has been a POW who was assisted by the MIS-X program in any way. Ray Brislin, 6710 Hardscrabble court, Wilmington, NC 28409; 571 435 5144 cell; 910 793 3029 home.

I am searching for information about my uncle Robert R. Schultz from Marinette, Wisconsin who served in the 8th Air Force, 339th Bomb Squadron. He served as a waist gunner on a B-17 called Wildfire. His last mission came on January 29, 1944 when in a substitute airplane, the Flyin' Ginny, he was shot down near Frankfort. He was a prisoner of war for 15 months, most of it at Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Germany. I am looking for any and all information about my uncle since I am writing his history for our family. My cousin loaned me his prison camp diary and I have found more than 100 POWs who signed his book. He was in the South Compound (Block 135 room 2) until the West Compound opened when he moved to barracks 162 room 2. I want to find out more about his prison months as well as the March from Sagan to Nuremberg. He ended up at Moosburg and was liberated from this location. I am also trying to find out more about his training stateside and his months at Snetterton Heath Air base. Jeffrey Schultz, 264 Rose Ave., Fond du Lac, WI 54935; email: history2@thesurf.com; 920-923-3192.

events, continued

I am looking for any information on Norman Kolbaba of the 106th infantry. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and was released after the war. He passed away a few years ago and I am his grandson. I would like to talk to anyone who knew him during WWII. Thank you. Dane Kolbaba, 1511 East Julie Drive, Tempe, Arizona 85283; Danekolbaba@hotmail.com.

Looking for anyone who may have known my father, Verus Langham who was a tanker, platoon commander in B Company, 756th Tank Battalion, deployed at the Colmar Pocket in France when his tank was hit by panzerfaust (bazooka) fire that penetrated his tank's armor - sending shrapnel into his leg. His wounds were serious enough he could not escape from his tank - he ordered his men to leave him there and make good their escape before being surrounded by enemy soldiers (two, or three, of those men returned after WWII's end and told my mother of that heroic deed which saved them from capture, or death). Dad was then captured and taken to a Lazarette (hospital "camp") in Emmendingen, which is in Baden, Werttenberg, Germany for interment. Documents in my possession (his IDPF) reflect that on December 30th, 1944 he was admitted at that camp hospital - the same day of being taken prisoner. He died from complications of those "internal wounds from 'grenade splits'" - gangrene, as the family was informed - on January 2nd, 1945 at that place and was subsequently buried on the 8th of January. When French forces liberated that camp they reburied him in the military section of the same cemetery in Emmendingen; years later - 1948/1949 he was re-buried at St. Avold, Lorraine, France. Any-

body who may have been there and knew him or anything of him is invited to contact either of his two children (myself - whom he never saw as he was deployed while Mom was pregnant with me; my sister, Nancy Jane Langham - who was 2 years old at the time he was taken captive). We are available at anytime for a chat by calling us (479) 736-9405, or writing us at P.O. Box 1160, Gentry, Arkansas 72734-1160. We would welcome the slightest tidbits of information about the man - our father - or about the place where you were also prisoner of war and whatever else you may want to share about yourself.

My uncle, Lloyd Morehead of Rulo, NE was taken prisoner by the Germans in WWII. I believe he was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and may have been a prisoner for 3 or 4 months. He is deceased. Can you suggest any way to get information about his service? According to governmental archives website he was a private in the Army, but it does not tell which division or unit. David Overfield, 4600 Portrait Lane, Plano, TX 75024; 972-265-2214.

My name is Louis Hensgens from The Netherlands. I recently adopted 2 war-graves from WWII at the American Cemetery in Margraten, Netherlands. One of my soldiers had as hometown Cook County Illinois; his name is Louis S. Prangl. Louis served in the 569th Bomber Squadron, 390th Bomber Group, Heavy. He flew 21 missions as a waist-gunner of a B-17, crew 30. He died on Feb. 14, 1945 on the mission to Cheb, Czechoslovakia. His plane was hit by flak; they crashed near Wiesbaden, Germany. The MACR # is 12350. His service number is: 36658360, probably his number at first was 36358751. I hope to collect a lot of information so I can make me a picture of Louis, his life before the war and during the war. The story's of those heroes who gave their lives for freedom for the world must be told; that is the least we can do. My question is: In crew # 30 the 2 listed below became POWs after the crash on Feb. 14, 1945. Is there

any information of them, like hometown, address, etc.:

· Harold C Flanigan,
#02060492 : First Lieutenant(?);
navigator

· King M Weldon,
#18233225 : Sergeant: Bombardier

I hope it get me a new puzzle-piece of Louis' lifestory. Thank you. Louis Hensgens, Breyenrode 8, 6365 CS Schinnen, Netherlands; e-mail: louis.hensgens@home.nl.

During the preparation to build houses in the Schiphol-Amsterdam Area in Holland, Europe, the building Company found 0.50 ammunition. Further research found that one of the 0.50 caliber Browning Machinegun could be identified with the serial number and the MACR of Capt. Sanford's B26 "Hells Fury" which crashed on December 13th 1943. Capt. Robert Sanford was the only survivor. He was taken POW and brought to Stalag Luft in Barth. I am the secretary of the Dutch Airwar Research and Excavation foundation and we are part of the Historical part of the finding of the aircraft remains, we cooperate with the Council and Dutch Air Force. We had a meeting at the Council of the town Aalsmeer and will try to find relatives of Capt. Sanford and its Crew. We would like to inform them about this research. The Mayor of Aalsmeer is also very interested in the finding of the next of kin of these young hero's who gave there live to liberate Europe. I really hope that you can help us out. If you like, I could send you some documents with information of the airplane. Thank you so much for your time, Regards, Ed IJsbrandij, secretary of DARE, Ravensbos 123, 2134TR Hoofddorp, The Netherlands 0031-235641792; www.dare40-45.nl; www.wkdankbaar.nl.

American Ex-Prisoners of War Funding Program

At the National Convention in Springfield, IL, your Board of Directors unanimously approved an annual Voluntary Funding Program for all members. This program is designed to keep our organization solvent and readily available to assist those within our organization. Robert Fletcher and I wholeheartedly support the program in order that our AXPOW organization may continue to function in an orderly and efficient manner in the future, and assist POWs, dependents, and dependent children in their needs. The management of the funding program has been assigned to the Ways and Means Committee.

In order to acquaint the membership with the needs of our organization, the Volunteer Funding Program was first presented in the January 2007 issue of the Ex-POW Bulletin. The final draft has been revised on the recommendation of the Board which will more effectively adhere to our needs.

Times have changed dramatically since the inception of the organization in the 1940s, with little adjustment on our part to face these changes financially; however services have been extended, and rightly so, to all members. It has been estimated that if we do not seek new and innovative funding methods, the AXPOW organization will cease to exist in the next three to five years, leaving current and future ex-POWs without representation.

Over the past few years, we have seen a shortfall in funding for the organization. In his letter to the Board dated Sept. 18, 2006, Mr.

Fletcher, then Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, stated, "If we are to face financial reality, some very tough decisions need to be made regarding AXPOW funding". The shortage of funding over the past few years has resulted for several reasons. Mainly because of decreasing membership. We are losing approximately 4300 POWs each year. That is 12 POWs daily.

Currently the AXPOW organization includes approximately 19,000 members (down from 35,000 initially) of which 91% are Life Members, made up of 290 chapters and 33 State Departments. We are all aware that life memberships do not generate enough revenue to keep our organization functioning to assist POWs. Only about 2000 members pay annual dues of \$40.00 which in itself is not enough to sustain our organization financially.

Other reasons for decreasing revenue is that printing costs have increased over the years, and in-house marketing sales have decreased, giving rise to depleting funds. Maintaining an office, business technology and mailing costs have increased considerably, where revenue has remained constant in most instances, and decreased in others. All these functions are critical in meeting needs of POWs, especially as we advance in age, requiring new areas of funding be explored.

What if we fail to meet our needs financially?

If we fail in our funding effort, the communication arm of the organi-

zation, The Bulletin, will cease to be published, which keeps us informed about AXPOW activities, legislation affecting POWs, as well as many other topics of interest. We will lose the strength of our National Directors who so ably seek legislation through Congress for current and future POWs in the realm of presumptives.

Possibly the most important outreach program of the AXPOW organization, the NSO Program, will no longer function as efficiently as it should, to seek out POWs, spouses and dependent children who need help with benefits, such as DIC and ChampVA.

Another important issue, we will lose the camaraderie that we enjoy today through contact with other POWs on local, state and national levels.

Other veterans service organizations (VFW, American Legion, Purple Heart, DAV) are experiencing similar funding problems. The VFW with its 1.5 million members recently announced a new funding program called LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP, which includes an annual volunteer contribution program for all members, based on a formal giving program.

The AXPOW Volunteer Giving Program parallels that of the VFW, 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.

We realize that the Bylaws exempt life members from annual dues, therefore it is stressed that this is a voluntary program, and a worthy one, which will keep the AXPOW organization available to assist

American Ex-Prisoners of War Funding Program

POWs and dependents in the future with their needs.

In addition to individual voluntary contributions, I also urge Chapters and Departments to contribute under the funding program, to help keep our organization functioning for our members.

Under this program, all contributions are to be sent directly to the

National Treasurer to be used for the operation of the organization. A complete accounting of contributors will appear in the Bulletin each month.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in making this a successful program in order that the AX-POW organization will be available to help those who cannot help themselves. I will be happy to an-

swer any questions you may have regarding the funding program. Please fill out the form below to contribute to the AXPOW organization in order to fund the programs badly needed by our current and future membership.

Thank you

Warren G. King, Jr.
National Commander

-----cut here-----

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTEER FUNDING PROGRAM 2007-2008

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

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

Please circle one category:

Individual

Chapter

State Department

(If chapter or department, please give name)

Signed _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

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

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Your Stories



Morning Walk

Dedicated to my father, my hero
and all The Tiger Survivors

By Shawn Steven Kennedy



In the grey of an early morning
dawn,
sun climbing the eastern sky
He walks toward his ritual, a
silent memorial for all the guys.
For all the fathers, the many
brothers,
To all the broken-hearted
mothers, with American pride
proud and true.
For all those who bled and who
died, for the red, white and blue.

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His mind drifts back to another
place and time.

It's 1950, only 21, young and
reckless, in his prime.

Never to have left his mountain
home, how could he have known
That it would be five long years
before he'd ever see home.

On to Korea, July sun setting in a
summer sky, as Sasebo drifted
away.

"Only for a few weeks", he heard
one soldier say.

Young men they couldn't foresee,
in the future, home they would
cry.

So many would fall laying in the
mud, with their eyes to the sky.

In Korea with uncommon valor
they fought, captured, a march of
death,

Under the Tiger starving and
cold, many would take their last
breath.

Back to present, now in his 70 +
years, he raises his flag of
freedom.

With eyes not without tears, a
heart full of pride.

Remembering the cost of
freedom, remembering all those
who died.

For the ones who did make it
home, heroes just the same,
To remind us the supreme cost of
freedom, never to forget their
names.

Soldier

By Francis Fanzilli

Sizzling turret clips hit the ground
as he fires round after round at the
oncoming German Me109 fighter
planes. The plans fire back furiously;
three of the four engines on the
soldier's plane explode in a
volatile blaze. Half of the plexi-
glass dome above the turret is
blown off, and a powerful blast of
wind rushes into the cabin. The
soldier stumbles into the bomb bay
to close the doors (the hydraulic
system was destroyed.) he col-

lapses on the catwalk over the open
bomb bay, clasping his head be-
tween his legs; his arms securely
fastened around his neck, looking
down at the open ocean, his life
flashing before his eyes in an ex-
plosion of emotions. He is prepar-
ing to die. The B-17 bomber de-
scends rapidly in a freefall towards
the ocean, the other soldiers in the
cabin frantically dump machine
guns and ammunition into the
ocean in order to lighten the plane.
The pilot wildly attempts to pull
the nose of the plane up in order
to crash land in a field at the edge
of land bordering the ocean. In the
waning seconds, the nose jerks up
and the plane ferociously crashes
into the field, just feet from the
ocean, while simultaneously deto-
nating into a fiery mess. The sol-
dier is thrown into the metal rail-
ing on the catwalk. The impact
sends objects crashing throughout
the plane. A scorching inferno
around him, the soldier, marred
with bruises, desperately crawls
out of the plane with some of his
comrades. He is alive. 24 hours
later, the soldier finds himself
thrown naked into a frigid stone
cell. Throughout the 17 months in
which he grimly resides in the
prison camp, the enemies attempt
to starve and freeze him, but to no
avail. The soldier is Michael
Colamonico of the Air Force, 92nd
Bomb Group, and his plane was
shot down on Dec. 31, 1943, crash
landing on the coast of France, di-
rectly into an enemy fortification.
He was imprisoned in Stalag 17B
prison camp for a year and a half.
He is still alive.

Individuals involved with WWII ex-
perienced a flurry of emotions be-
fore, during and after the war. Sol-
diers, seniors, wives and families
as a whole - each possessed strong
feelings as a result of the war. Sol-
diers experienced a spectrum of
emotions that ranged from pride
to depression to complete shock to
devastating fear. For a number of
soldiers, the repercussions of these
experiences manifested in illnesses

stories, continued

such as post-traumatic stress disorder or “shell shock”.

Michael’s harrowing situation extracted a number of emotions from him; all within a short interval of time. He experienced pure shock as the plane was being shot to oblivion. He was sure he was going to die as he looked down at the open ocean below the crashing plane. Shortly thereafter he was overcome with relief when he realized he was alive, yet he knew he was going to die. The 17 months afterwards were spent in combinations of depression, terror and uncertainty. He was in horrendously callous conditions, being handled by people who were not at all concerned with his life. Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, until the day of liberation, a gun was held to his head. He was in the hands of his enemies, who were not afraid to deny the soldiers food to the brink of emaciation, nor were they afraid to freeze the soldiers to death. He had no idea when or if he would be able to leave; he had no contact with the world during that period.

The most extreme conditions create the most extreme emotions. Memory of these emotions is inescapable because of the extremity of them. Being in a crashing plane, heading for the ocean, preparing to die, draws out a whirlwind of emotions that flash before the soldier’s eyes in a blur of prior experiences. The emotion is so strong that the experience can be remembered vividly for the rest of the person’s life. The exact emotion that the soldier felt while going down with the plane can be felt again at any time in the soldier’s life. He is stuck with that emotion. He can remember the plane splitting through the clouds under him, sending them whirling upwards, as the plane rapidly descended. He can remember the explosion of the engines being blown

out by gunfire. He can remember the crippling firestorm that the plane exploded into as it crashed into the ground. He can never forget the rifle held firmly to his head at all times. And he can vividly recall the startling fear that coincided with each of these events. These were by far the most frightening moments of the person’s life, as a soldier or not, and they were the most powerful emotions he has ever felt to this day. Soldiers in the vanguard of battle during the war were frequently bombarded with similar experiences and emotions, ones that others could never be able to feel other than the small percentage that were in a comparable position.

Another soldier has just arrived in Times Square with the rest of his Navy platoon and his family comes after they receive a call that he is back. This is the first they hear from him in years; they are caught by complete surprise. During his time overseas, they received a telegram stating their son was missing in action. His grandmother had a stroke and was bedridden for months; now they are all wonderfully celebrating their son’s triumphant return. Many soldiers had similar experiences upon arriving back at their homes; they felt famous and were regarded as heroes by many. They were the subjects of numerous parties and celebrations. Family and friends came from all over the country to embrace the soldiers that had been overseas. They were showered with gifts; all their meals were paid for; at bases, their tabs were picked up with enthusiasm by complete strangers. Weeks later, the glory dies down. Some soldiers get jobs, some go to school, others do nothing. The buzz surrounding them dies down and the rapid patriotism once displayed by citizens is conveniently stowed away. The soldiers transitioned from life in the fast-track, struggling for their lives each day, living under constant adrenaline rush and feelings of

paranoia to the relatively mundane existence of having a nine to five job, or enrolling in a nearby community college. The comrades that they had lived with for years are no longer around them. Many have problems dealing with the sharp change of environment; some seems nervous and are unable to relax.

While boredom is setting in for many of the soldiers back from combat, Michael is dealing with the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Numerous experiences during his time at war contributed to him developing the disorder. Having a loaded rifle aimed at his head for a year and a half had a remarkable effect on his mental state. Watching enemy soldiers being violently executed by his comrades after his group was liberated was an appalling experience that triggered a plethora of devastating mixed emotions. Being shot at by the turret from an enemy fighter plane and then nearly dying in the crash evoked a staggering sensation of fear. Michael has frighteningly vivid flashbacks to many of his disturbing experiences. At night he has nightmares that dramatically increase his heartbeat, putting him at high risk for heart problems. He has already survived multiple heart attacks as well as a quadruple bypass procedure, and doctors installed a defibrillator inside him to monitor his heart. The PTSD compounds all of these heart problems exponentially.

Intense emotions and vivid experiences, both good and bad, reside with the soldiers for a lifetime. These soldiers are changed individuals, mentally and physically, negatively and positively. Vacant minds and ineptitude plague some, while others have minds brimming with awareness from their experiences. Some deliver numerous

stories, continued

speeches about their war efforts, while others lay fallow, choosing to share little about their past. Some are physically stronger than ever when they return, others have trouble completing fundamental daily tasks that are taken for granted. Paranoia follows some unrelentingly; at one point they were continuously watching their backs to preserve their lives. No longer are enemy soldiers in intimidating military fatigues brandishing rifles at them in battlefields; instead middle-aged women push shopping carts filled with groceries in half empty parking lots. For these soldiers, the world is a much different place. But times goes on...and they live on.

Winter 1944

By Rita Spalding-Harpring

Mountains tipped in white,
hiding the sun,
scattered valleys echoed their
irony.

Side-by-side, chained together,
wooden shoes on feet bleeding
a skeletal pattern of human
snowflakes.

Young men whose dreams, lives,
bodies were hideously lost,
inside the barbed walls of prison
camp winters,
Inside all the snows that forever
followed them
and all the winters that would
forever haunt their sleep.

So few could talk about the
shoes, blood, chains,
or any of those secrets that made
them who they would become.
Could they not understand those
frozen secrets

made us love them even more in
the bitter snows of our own lives?

I am a member of American Ex-Prisoners of War as the daughter of a deceased veteran, Ora Spalding, who was imprisoned in Germany during WWII. Like many other POW veterans, he suffered from health problems for the rest of his life and eventually died of respiratory failure on December 26, 1988.

I have a story that I would like to share with the POW magazine. It all began a year ago in May 2006. A lady and her husband, Destie and Rodney Hermes live in Redmand , Washington. They were looking for survivors of their nephew's plane that was shot down Oct. 21,1942 over Saint Vougay, France . The telephone rang and the person asked if this was Robert E. Jackson who was shot down by the German's Oct. 21,1942.



Bob said he was and he thought the people were going crazy as they kept saying, "It's him; it's him!". They talked for some time as Bob is the only survivor from this story. In the plane crash Capt. John Bennett, the pilot and (navigator) Lt. Robert E. Jackson were the only two from the ten men that lived to go on to Stalag Luft III.

The prison story is not what I'm writing about. The Germans they took them to the infirmary in a wheel barrel and the townspeople wondered if all American were as tall as Bob (who was 6'2"). He was

unconscious when they bailed out, but he knows that someone with him pulled the rip cord on his parachute.

Well Destie & Rod went to France and met the townspeople. The town and mayor Jean-Paul Palut are planning a big celebration for the 65th year of this happening in their village. Believe it or not, some farmer nailed a wing from Bob's plane to his barn and it is still there and has sent him a piece of it and we have it in a shadow box.

Capt. John Bennett passed away about 5 years ago, Bob and he stayed close and would he ever have enjoyed this tribute to the Americans that these people are planning for the 65th anniversary of that plane crash on Oct. 21,1942. Bob has his tickets reserved; of course he keeps saying at his age anything can happen.

He'll be 89 in Dec. and the VA doctors have taken excellent care of him he is legal blind and has taken advantage of Hines VA in Chicago, also has leukemia which the KC Veterans Hospital (Dr Haung) has him in excellent shape to take this eventful trip.

And here's the end of the story...

Trip to France October 16-25, 2007

Tuesday, October 16:
Left Kansas City for a flight to Paris. Left K.C. at 2:31 p.m., arrived in Houston 4:35 p.m.. Left Houston at 6:40 p.m. and arrived Paris 11:05 a.m. Wednesday. There is a seven hour time difference between Olathe, KS and Paris France.

Before we left Houston, the Captain and several crew members talked to Bob and welcomed him on board. The captain announced on the plane that Bob was traveling on the plane and was a World War II Veteran.

stories, continued

Wednesday, October 17:

Arrived at Charles DeGaulle airport at 11:05 a.m. We made our way from the airport to the train station. At the train station we were met by Celine Paluts and Frangois, her boyfriend. They helped us get on the right train to Surdon. Celine accompanied us on the train to Surdon. At 3:06 p.m., we arrived at Surdon and were met by Destia Hermes. She took us to her Villa where we stayed overnight. Denise and Abby Skiles were also on the train to Surdon. They represented the Sgt. George W. Wright family. We had dinner that evening with Destia and Rob Hermes, and Denice and Abby Skiles at the Hermes' Villa.

We were overwhelmed to find out we were going to the dedication of a monument where the B-17 had crashed. The monument was dedicated to the French people and seven freedom fighters. The French people tried to hide the American airmen who were in the B-17 when it crashed. The French people who were caught aiding the Americans were executed. After the dedication we went back to the Villa for a French dinner. We had a toast with the French delegation. Bob finally went to bed around 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 18:
A travel day

Friday, October 19:

First we went to the St. James Brittany American cemetery. the cemetery where three of our crewmen were buried-three that were not returned to the United States. Bob and the family members of the other crew members were given American and French flags. The crew members buried there are Lt. Thomas L. Morgan, Sgt.. William J. Thompson and Sgt. Andrew L. Jackson. At the grave sites, they put wet sand over the names of the Americans on the white tombstones so the names would stand out to take

pictures. They said the sand was from Omaha beach.

Next we went to visit the Omaha and Normandy beaches. The Omaha beach is where the Americans landed. There is a museum at the beaches that we visited. At the cemetery Bob helped lower the American and French flags at 5:00 p.m. This was truly an honor. The museum at Omaha beach is very informative about the war and is noncommercial. We visited the chapel at Omaha beach. From there we went to the point where the British landed. We saw where bunkers were destroyed by bombs and saw where bombs had exploded and left big holes in the ground.

Friday evening we drove on the St. Vougay and were met by at least 100 people. We stopped at the mayors office and Mayor Clair Henaff, Yves Palud and other village people were there to meet us. We were escorted out to the site and a number of people brought food out and stayed and visited until midnight.



Saturday, October 20:

Saturday morning we drove to the home of the man who saw the B-17 shot down. He was a young man

at the time. He had sent a letter requesting that Bob come visit him. We set around his table and had snacks and had a toast. We were there about 2 hours. A local TV station showed up and interviewed Bob and he made the local news that evening on TV.

We visited the barn where they had used the wing of the B-17 to enclose one end of the barn. There were numerous bullet holes in the metal and you could make out a star in the metal. We were given a piece of the wing to take home.

Saturday afternoon we went out to a memorial that was built in a field in memory of the troops that were lost in battle. They had a memorial service at the memorial. Bob raised the French and American flag at the memorial. There was a flyover while we were at the memorial service. There was an estimated 500-1000 people at this service.

Saturday evening we went back to St. Vougay for an evening meal. There were a number of people from Brett 44. They represented Brett 44. They had uniforms from the movie "Saving Private Ryan." At the evening meal there were three to four hundred people in attendance. At the evening meal, Bob and several other people make speeches. The evening meal was Cus-Cus, an Algerian meal of sausage, chicken and rice.

Saturday evening Bob was presented with several memoirs. Among them was a May West life jacket, a framed shadow box that has pictures of the crew, French and American flags.

Sunday, October 21:

Sunday morning we met at the St. Vougay church. The service was outside. The service was in memory of those sacrificed their lives in

stories, continued



World War II. Flowers were placed at a tomb outside the church. From church we went down to street to a building where the local veterans gathered.

A number of local Veterans talked. Sunday afternoon there was a parade. All members of the American delegation were able to ride World War II army vehicles. Brett 44 was dressed in old Army uniforms.

We next went to the farm field where the war memorial had been erected and they set up a table where Bob could sit and he signed his autograph on everything including French underwear. He probably signed his name 1,000 times. The local radio station was also there. There was a gold book presented by the Mayor that Bob signed that was to be placed in the mayor's office enshrined to be kept there forever.

At the memorial there were flowers placed at the monument. There were 8 trees planted. There will be a tree planted in memory of Jack Bennett because he is deceased. When Bob passes on there will be a tree planted for Bob. A plaque will be added that bears the names of all ten crew members.

Sunday evening we went back to the town and had a banquet of scallops, rice and a pastry. French des-

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serts were served. We returned to our Villa at about 8:00 p.m. When we got back to the Villa, Eves Palud and his family were coming out to say good bye. We no sooner got back and people wanted to talk to Bob. One of these people observed Bob being shot down and Bob received excellent information.

Bob's fall was broken because his parachute was hung up in a tree. This saved his life. After these people left, the Mayor showed up. Bob finally went to bed around 10 p.m. The rest of the group looked at pictures that were taken that day.

Monday, October 22:

Monday morning we caught a train to Paris. We left for Paris by train at 9:12 a.m. The trains in Paris arrive on time. Celine, daughter of Jean Paul escorted us to Paris. Jean Paul drove up to the train depot. Frangois and Celine escorted us to the hotel. We arrived at 2:30 p.m. at hotel. Bob finally had a chance to rest.

Tuesday, October 23:

At 2:00 p.m. Franqois Benevent took us on a tour of Paris. He took us to the Societe des amis der merseede armee, a Museum of World War II From there we drove down to famous street, Shaun de les.

We saw the Siene River and stopped to take a picture of the Eiffel Tower. We drove under the tower. Then he took us back to the hotel.

He came back at 6:30 p.m. to have dinner in the home of Herve and Michele Pot. Herve was out of town. His brother Jean Marie joined us for dinner. The dinner was of the French tradition. Shrimp salad, fried potatoes and duck, red wine. For dessert we had something very special, crème brulee. Before dinner we had champagne. They then gave us a short evening tour of Paris and took us back to the hotel.

Wednesday, October 24:

Michele Pots drove us to the American hospital. Michele's family owns the farm that the memorial is on at St. Vougay. At the hospital we were met by Lusie Remillard, director of development. She and David McGovern, a board member, took us on a tour of the hospital.



Bob and Virginia Murray (American consul of Rennes) in front of the victims world wars monument of St-Vougay, on Sunday morning celebration.

At noon we had lunch with the American Ambassador to France, Craig R. Stapleton along with Mr. John Riggs, chairman of the board, David McGovern, board member and Lucie Remillard. The ambassador was there for two hours.

At 2:00 p.m. Jean-Luc Morvan who used to live at St. Vougay was there to take us back to the hotel.

Francois and Celine came by the hotel that evening for a good-bye drink.

Thursday, October 25:

We were up early Thursday morning to get to the airport We arrived at MCI about 5 p.m. and two very lovely ladies were at the airport to escort us home.

ROBERT (Bob) Jackson

Heart of America Chapter
Bill Reno chapter commander

125 Pasadena
Olathe, Kansas 66061
913-782-3934
shirleeandbob@sbcglobal.net

Desert Storm POW Nominated for Brigadier General



By Alice A. Booher

On Oct. 16, 2007, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced that the Commander in Chief, President George W. Bush, had nominated Col. Rhonda L. S. Cornum for promotion to the grade of brigadier general. Since July 2007, Cornum has been Chief of Surgery, Ireland Army Community Hospital, Ft. Knox, KY.

With a Ph.D. in nutrition and biochemistry from Cornell, Cornum was commissioned into the Army. Assigned to the Letterman Army Institute of Research, her research focused on wound healing metabolism and improving liquid blood preservation and transfusion therapy.

She earned her M.D. at the Uniformed Services University, and completed a General Surgery Internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (AMC). In 1987 she transferred to the Army Aeromedical Center (AAC), Ft. Rucker, AL, as Chief, Primary Care/Community Medicine, then Chief, Aviation Medicine, and in 1989, Chief, Crew Life Support Branch, [AAC Research Laboratory, re: enhancing pilot performance and use of helmet mounted displays in advanced attack helicopters].

In August 1990, she became flight surgeon, 2/229 Attack Helicopter Battalion. In February 1991, while on a search and rescue mission for a

downed USAF F-16 pilot, her Blackhawk Army helicopter was shot down; 5 of the 8 person crew were killed. The 3 survivors, including Cornum, all badly injured, were captured by Iraqi forces and repatriated on March 6, 1991.

She attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base and began Urologic Surgery training in 1993. Added to academic and clinical responsibilities, she renewed blood/metabolic research including use of absorbable fibrin bandage, and alternate strategies for treating prostate cancer. In 1998, Cornum was assigned as the Asst. DCCS and staff urologist at Eisenhower AMC, Ft Gordon, GA.

July 2000, she assumed command of the 28th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Bragg, NC and deployed as Medical Task Force Commander to Bosnia for SFOR 9, with 3 subordinate units to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. She graduated National War College in June 2003 and assumed command of Landstuhl Regional MC, Germany, during which time Landstuhl cared for over 26,000 war heroes, including 5,540 battle injuries, evacuated from Iraq and Afghanistan. She became Command Surgeon at FORSCOM, Ft. McPherson, GA, responsible for casualty care of the deployed force; providing medical expertise to organize, man, train, equip and mobilize Soldier-medics and medical units.

In addition to senior flight surgeon wings, Colonel Cornum wears the airborne, air assault, and the expert field medic badges. Decorations include the Legion of Merit (3 OLC), Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (4 OLCs), Purple Heart, Air Medal, POW Medal and others. Dr. Cornum has written or co-authored one book, four book chapters, and numerous scientific articles. She sits on numerous committees and boards, including the Secretary's POW Advisory Committee for the DVA.

News Briefs

New VA Secretary Announced

On Oct. 30, 2007, President Bush nominated Dr. James Peake to direct the Department of Veterans Affairs. Peake, was chief medical director and chief operating officer of QTC Management Inc., which provides government-outsourced occupational health and injury and disability examination services.



Former Veterans Affairs Secretary James Nicholson stepped down Oct. 1st. Gordon Mansfield, the VA's deputy secretary has been serving as acting secretary.

Retired LTG Peake, 63, the son of a medical services officer and Army nurse, has spent 40 years in military medicine. He retired from the Army in 2004 after being lead commander in several medical posts, including four years as the U.S. Army surgeon general. He is currently Chief Medical Director and Chief Operating Officer QTC Management, Inc.

Dr. James Peake, Lieutenant General, United States Army Medical Corps (Retired), brings to his position a wealth of experience in the uniformed and private sectors. He is a 1966 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and began his career as an infantry officer. Dr. Peake worked

news continued...

his way through many important positions. He is a highly decorated Vietnam veteran where served as platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division. After Vietnam, he attended Cornell University Medical College and became board certified in general and thoracic surgery. His military and medical career earned his nomination by President George W. Bush to serve as the 40th Surgeon General of the Army and Commander, United States Medical Command. He served in this position from 2000 to 2004.

More recently, Gen. Peake was Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Project Hope, a non-profit international health foundation with offices and programs in more than 30 different countries on five continents.

Dr. Peake is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the American College of Cardiology, and member of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. He has been honored with the order of Military Medical Merit; the "A" Professional Designator; and the Medallion, Surgeon General of the United States.

His experience on active duty includes military/civilian humanitarian operations in responding to the Miami / Dade County impact area of Hurricane Andrew as the commander of the 44th Medical Brigade and Surgeon to the Joint Task Force Commander. While at Project HOPE he helped to orchestrate the use of civilian volunteers aboard the Navy Hospital Ship Mercy as it responded to the Tsunami disaster in Indonesia and also as part of the Hurricane Katrina response aboard the Hospital Ship Comfort.

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VA Clarifies Policy on Flag-Folding Recitations "13-Fold" Ceremony

To ensure burial services at the 125 national cemeteries operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reflect the wishes of veterans and their families, VA officials have clarified the Department's policy about recitations made while the U.S. flag is folded at the gravesite of a veteran.

"Honoring the burial wishes of veterans is one of the highest commitments for the men and women of VA," said William F. Tuerk, VA's Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs. "A family may request the recitation of words to accompany the meaningful presentation of the American flag as we honor the dedication and sacrifice of their loved ones."

Traditional gravesite military funeral honors include the silent folding and presentation of an American flag, a 21-gun rifle salute, and the playing of "Taps."

The clarification includes the following:

- * Volunteer honor guards are authorized to read the so-called "13-fold" flag recitation or any comparable script;
- * Survivors of the deceased need to provide material and request it be read by the volunteer honor guards; and
- * Volunteer honor guards will accept requests for recitations that reflect any or no religious traditions, on an equal basis.

Veterans with a discharge other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a na-

tional cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker.

Operation Big Switch



This photo was taken of me, Denny Young, on August 22, 1953. I had been serving in the United States Armed Forces on the front line attached to the 555 Field Artillery, 24th Division. I was captured in Korea on April 25, 1951. We had used all of our ammunition (105's) that were on the truck on the advancing Chinese troops. Some of the Chinese had come over the hill without guns and were only carrying sticks. It was a long, hard battle. We were over-run at night and captured. Thus began a 300 mile march to North Korea which lasted about three months. The Koreans fed us very little food, mainly millet and sorghum seed. The time I spent in P.O.W. captivity was extremely harsh. While there, my appendix burst and was removed by Chinese doctors. It took me 21 days to get up and take one step, but I was determined to survive. 27 long months later on August 5th, 1953 marked the beginning of P.O.W.'s being released on Operation Big Switch. Every day I waited for my name to be called. There was talk of some P.O.W.'s not being returned. I believe the truck I left on 17 days later was one of the last. I still remember 2 men who were with me that day, George Walden and Carl Bishop. It was truly the happiest day of my life. Each year the Korean War Association holds a reunion that I faithfully attend. This

news continued...

event is a family reunion to me with my brothers in the war.

Denny B. Young

Bill Would Allow Vets to Salute the Flag

From John Kline, Editor the CUB

The Senate has introduced a bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and service personnel not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemembers not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag. **Current status according to the Library of Congress:** Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Washington State Former Ex-POWs Honored



Eight former prisoners of war from the Vancouver/Portland area were honored September 8th in a pre-POW/MIA celebration hosted by Heidi Freeman and Oscar Bergstrom at their home in Vancouver. Their beautiful back lawn with patriotic decorations was the setting for a seafood luncheon with all the trimmings, topped off with an 'American Flag' decorated cake. Forties 'big band' music pro-

vided by DJ Gordon Griffith of Amour Audio helped create an atmosphere which brought back fond memories for the 'old soldiers.'

The regular Ft Vancouver Chapter of the American Ex-POWs meeting was combined with the September 21st National POW/MIA Recognition Day which honors former prisoners of war and those who are still listed as missing in action.

The honorees included five who served in the South Pacific: Ed Niemeyer, a Bataan Death March survivor; Cal Graham, taken prisoner on Corregidor; James Sweiberg and Norm Swanson who were captured on Wake Island; and Gene Evers who was a prisoner during the Korean War. The three who were captured by the Germans were Jim Miller, a B-17 tail gunner and Gene Liggett and Dale Bowlin, artillery forward observers. The group represented over 200 months in captivity. All of the honorees gave brief descriptions of their POW experiences. Several are available to share those experiences with small groups, particularly students.

More than 40 folks attended the event, including veterans of Viet Nam, Afghanistan and Iraq. When Heidi, who met her first Bataan Death March survivor five years ago, was asked why she and her husband sponsored the celebration, she replied "These 'heroes' are my passion and this is our way of showing our appreciation for what they have contributed to our way of life here in America." Heidi has run in two New Mexico Bataan Marathons and she and Oscar attended the National Bataan Death March Survivor's Reunion in Virginia last spring.

Without exception everyone agreed it was a fine way to honor the former POWs and to recognize the ultimate sacrifices of those listed as MIAs.

Eight Ex-POWs were honored at the September meeting of the Ft Vancouver Ex-POWs. From left to right, standing: Cal Graham, Gene Evers, Gene Liggett, Dale Bowlin. Seated: Jim Miller, Norm Swanson, James Sweiberg, Ed Niemeyer.

Foundation Board

Approves Six College Scholarships For Heirs of Ex-Prisoners of War at Year End Meeting



Past National Commander Paul Dallas, president of the Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation, presided over the year-end meeting in Springfield, IL on October 19, 2007. Vice President Charles Lee and Directors PNC William Bearisto, Harry Corre, ND William Richardson, Ethel Bearisto, proxy for Eugene Powell, and Assistant Secretary Sherrie Bieber were present.

The highlight of the meeting was the approval of six college scholarships for \$2,000 each to the following recipients, all heirs of EX-POWs: Jeffrey Herendeen of NY

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(pre-med), Joseph Coleman of IL (mechanical engineering), Benjamin Newport of NC (business), Kelly Carlsen of CA (physical therapy), Jared Haynie of MO (chemistry), and Randall Simon of AZ (animation/media). This is the first year the Foundation has been able to implement a scholarship program. The Board increased the scholarship fund for the 2007-2008 year. Anyone who is a descendant of a former military prisoner of war with a GPA of 3.0 or above may apply for a scholarship. For applications, rules and requirements write to Sherrie Bieber, Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation, 17268 Antigua Point Way, Boca Raton, FL 33487. All applications must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2008.

Since the Foundation's inception in 1997, over \$238,000 has been given to various programs to help EX-POWs and their families. One of the most important programs involves funding of the National Service Officers. More than \$60,000 has been used for NSO training Nationwide and reimbursing National Service Officers for their expenses incurred in filing claims for former prisoners of war. These classes prepare Ex-POWs, their wives, friends and relatives to assist ex-prisoners of war in filing claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs for their benefits including ChampVA for spouses and DIC for widows.

Another important area funded by the Foundation is Education. Funds have been used for CDs relating POW Stories and Camp descriptions. These were distributed to various schools and libraries by Ex-POWs speaking to children in grade school, high school, colleges and on military campuses. Handouts were printed and provided to the Organization's education chairman,

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the late Bob Bieber, to distribute at his Educational Seminars at various National Conventions.

In addition to these programs, the Foundation has donated funds for equipment at the Arlington, TX office and the Washington, DC office. The Foundation paid \$13,600 for a new Minolta copier for National headquarters and \$1,629 for a new computer in the Washington office. Every year the Foundation receives requests for many grants. Grants in the amount of \$137,271 have been approved to support other projects. Anyone who wishes to apply for a grant should contact Paul Dallas, Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation, 916 Bingham Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304 or call 910-867-2775 and request the necessary forms, rules and regulations.

New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch and Gerald Hebert unveil Memorial



Before a standing-room-only audience of more than 300 people, NH Chapter #1 Commander Irene M. Wells conducted the dedication ceremony for a memorial honoring New Hampshire servicemen and women held as prisoners of war. The ceremony took place on Sept. 21, 2007 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Guest speaker, NH Sen. John Barnes, himself a Korean War veteran, had all POWs join him at the podium. In a dramatic moment, he said he was "proud to be standing among a group of real American Heroes. He then asked them to

share their POW experience with the assembly.

The ceremony included Tom Graham on Bagpipes, patriotic sing-along led by Maj. Jerome Loring, Echo Taps played by Noel E. Taylor and Robert Gamache (members of the Muchachos). The New Hampshire National Guard under the command of BG Stephen Burritt supplied the Color Guard. The NH VFW also honored the NH POWs by joining in to Post Colors. Sheila Peters, CPhT and POW Coordinator at our NH VAMC, as well as Lori Chase, Social Worker, Vermont VAMC, participated in the ceremony.

The POW Memorial Monument Committee consisted of: Allan Gavan, Chairman, Edward Parker, Gerard Hebert and Wesley Wells.



PHOTO: Wesley Wells, Edward Parker, NH Commander Irene Wells, Gerard Hebert and Allan Gavan.

VA To Host PTSD Research Conference

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will convene a "consensus conference" with the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health to improve the designs and methodologies all three agencies will use in future research studies regarding Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Dates will be announced later.

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



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

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

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

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

We purchased rehabilitation equipment, televisions and more

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

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

THANK YOU!



American Ex-Prisoners of War Website Biography

www.axpow.org

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



Name

Nickname

Address

City/State/Zip

Email

Conflict and Theater of Operation

Branch of Service

Where were you captured?

POW camps you were held in

How long were you a POW?

Medals received

Job in the military

After the war

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

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

Telephone

Unit

Date captured

Date liberated

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

Please include your check for \$65.

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

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The American Ex-Prisoners of War Platinum Plus[®] MasterCard[®] Credit Card



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Arlington, TX 76010. You can also
make a donation with a credit
card (MasterCard or Visa). Just call
817-6492979. Thank you!

Contributions are not tax deductible

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Mary Piscitello, Pittsboro NC
Richard Ritchings, Brick NJ
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Michael Cunningham, Shirley NY
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Robert Seitzinger, Vancleave MS
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Mary Holdsworth, Carol Bruce, G.
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by Donald Behney
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& Nancy Fornes, Sally Morgan
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by James & Anna Caire
In memory of Joyce Behney, by
Donald Behney
In memory of Lloyd F "Jack" Marler,
by Rose & Henry Ludeke, Marie
Clegg
In memory of PNC William "Sonny"
Mottern, by Sally Morgan, Frank &

Anne Kravetz, Cheryl Cerbone, Bill
& Nancy Fornes

In memory of Richard Steele, by
Dorothy Steele

In memory of Robert Ellsworth, by
the Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of William Riggall, by the
Inland Empire Chapter

In memory of Al Zimmerman, by
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In memory of Andy Caire, by Rob-
ert Seitzinger

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lain, by Henry 'Hank' Chamberlain

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AXPOW Funding Program

(see page 18 for details)

Debbie Lyon

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The Joy of Giving

John Greenleaf Whittier



Somehow, not only for

Christmas,

But all the long year

through,

The joy that you give to

others

Is the joy that comes

back to you;

And the more you spend

in blessing

The poor and lonely and

sad,

The more of your heart's

possessing

Returns to make you glad.

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taps



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



PNC William E. "Sonny" Mottern, 87, of Watauga, TN, died Tuesday, October 2, 2007.

A native and lifelong resident of Carter County, TN, he was the son of the late William J. and Carrie E. Mottern.

He was born June 24, 1920, and married his high school sweetheart, Eulah "Sweetie" Shepherd, October 17, 1941. From December 1943 through December 1945, "Sonny" served on active duty with the 15th Infantry-3rd Division in France, where he received a battle field promotion to S/Sgt. He was captured December 19, 1944, near the Rhine River in France and was held in four German prisoner camps, being moved by box car and forced marches. He was liberated on April 29, 1945, by General George Patton.

Sonny was discharged December 7, 1945, and awarded the Bronze Star, One Bronze Star Cluster, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, American European-African Campaign Medal, World War II Victory

Medal, Combat Infantry's Badge, Honorable Service Medal and the POW Medal. He was called again to serve his country as Chairman of the Carter County Draft Board during the Vietnam Conflict.

Sonny was elected and installed as National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War on September 21, 1996, at the 49th National

Convention in Birmingham, Alabama. In 1997-1998, he served as the National Senior Director of the Board and he was appointed President of the American Ex-Prisoners of War Service Foundation and filed an 501 (C) (3) Application with the Internal Revenue Service which was approved November 24, 1998, for donors' deductibility of federal income taxes to the American Ex-Prisoners of War Organization.

On April 19, 1996, he was named by the Governor of Tennessee as a Colonel, Aid-De-Camp for Valor and Dedication in the Performance of his duties in service to the Ex-POWs and all Veterans of the state of Tennessee. He also served on the Military and Veterans Advisory Board for Tennessee.

April 19, 1997, he was appointed by the Governor of Tennessee as Tennessee Ambassador of Goodwill. He was a National Service Organization Representative for the Department of Veteran Affairs. He was currently serving as Treasurer of the Military Ex-Prisoners of War Foundation.

Sonny's community involvement and leadership included; Elder in the Brick Christian Church, mem-

ber of the Chamber of Commerce, past Master of the Masonic Lodge, Life Member of the VFW, DAV, Purple Heart, the American Legion and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. He was a previous owner of the Dixie Battery Company in Elizabethton and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Watauga Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, George and Robert Mottern.

Survivors include his wife, Eulah B. "Sweetie" Mottern; son, Sonnie Bill Mottern and wife, Shelby, Bluff City; daughter, Ruth Lewis, Watauga; a brother, Howard Mottern, Watauga; and a sister, Cleo Watkins, Johnson City; four grandchildren, Michelle Kessler and husband, Tom, FL, Eddie Lewis, Watauga, Brad Mottern and wife, Tonya, Johnson City, and Carrie Mottern, Bluff City; and four great-grandchildren, Taylor Mottern and Blaise, Lukas and Piper Kessler. Several nieces and nephews and two special friends, Dr. Eugene Galloway and Dr. Harrison Turner, also survive.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the "Sonny and Sweetie" Scholarship Foundation, Emmanuel School of Religion, 1 Walker Drive, Johnson City, TN 37601.

ANTHONY, Elizabeth of Greeley, CO passed away Sept. 15, 2007 at the age of 88. She was the widow of Richard P. Anthony, a pilot in the USAC and former member of the Northeast Colorado Chapter, AXPOW. Elizabeth raised four sons and one daughter while moving with her husband to different stations in the US, Italy and France.

taps continued

BASSETT, Milton M., 83, of Bristol, CT died Aug. 29, 2007. He served with the 306th BG, 369th BS, 8th AF. He was shot down over France and held in Stalag Luft IV. Milton was predeceased by his wife, Beatrice; he leaves one son.

BEADLE, William, of Edwardsburg, MI, died August 12, 2007. A member of the Michiana Chapter, he served with the 15th Air Force, 738 BG 454 BS, and was shot down over Ploesti and was a POW in Luft I and IV. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mae.

BLITZ, Shirley, 83, of Manitowoc, WI died May 11, 2006. She was a member of the Northeast WI Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by her husband, Daniel, who was a POW at Stalag 17B, Krems. Shirley and Daniel enjoyed 60 years of married life. In addition to her husband, she leaves two daughters.

BRIGGS, John Henry, Jr., of Reydell, AR passed away Aug. 3, 2007. John served with the 450th BG on a B-24 Liberator. He was captured when his plane was shot down over Romania during the Ploesti oil field bombing. He was held until liberation. Survivors include 4 sons, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, 2 sisters and many special friends. He was a member of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter.

CENTORE, Nello B., of New Port Richey, Florida, died Oct. 11, 2007. He served with the 492 BG 856 BS and was held in Luft 1 and 4. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Jean.

CHAVEZ, Ethor, of West Hills, CA died Aug. 6, 2007. During WWII, he served with the 59th Coast Artillery in the Pacific. He was captured in April, 1942 and held until liberation at 92nd Garage, Bilibid, Cabanatuan, Yokahama, Sendai. He

leaves his devoted wife, Erminia, 2 sons, 1 daughter and many friends.

CHUBA, Joseph V., 83, of Wayne, NJ passed away May 24, 2007. He served with the 95th Inf. Div., 377th Reg., Company A. He was captured at Imeldange, France; he later escaped, first meeting advancing Russians, then British scouts. His wife of 53 years, Annette, 4 children and 7 grandchildren survive him.

CLOUTIER, Arthur O. of Pawtucket, RI (formerly of Seekonk, MA) passed away January 4, 2007. He was a veteran and Prisoner of War in WWII. Survivors include one son, Gerald, one granddaughter, one great-grandson and three sisters.

DANIEL, Irene, of Merced, CA passed away Aug 24, 2007. She is survived by her husband, Charles, a life member of AXPOW and a member of our Fresno Chapter # 1. Both Charles and Irene have been very supportive members of the Chapter for many years. She will be missed.

DIERKING, Clarence, 87, of Grand Island, NE died Aug. 16, 2007. He was a member of the Cornhuskers Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, he served in the Army. He was a POW for 19 months in Germany. Clarence leaves his wife, Irene, 1 son, 2 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and 1 brother.

FARRAR, Harold passed away June 4, 2007. He was serving as a Gunner on a B-24 when he was shot down during WWII.

FASOLI, Frank E., of Hanover, MA passed away Feb. 8, 2006. He was a life member of AXPOW and the Southeast (MA) Chapter.

FORD, Roy E., of Arizona passed away Aug. 22, 2007. Roy served with the 15th AF. He was shot down over Yugoslavia and held at Stalag Luft III until liberation. He was a

member, past commander of the POW WOW Chapter and Dept. Commander of AZ. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 61 years, Bonnie, 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

FREDERICK, Joseph P. Sr., of Wingdale, NY passed away Aug. 16, 2007. During WWII, he survived the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years of imprisonment by the Japanese. He was a member of the Hudson Valley Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves 1 son, 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

GAUTIER, James Donovan Jr., age 88, of Ocean Springs, MS died September 28, 2007. During WWII, he was captured on Bataan and was a POW for 3 1/2 years. He survived the infamous Bataan Death March. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Mrs. Emmie Gautier of Ocean Springs; two sons, two daughters, one brother, two sisters, nine grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, and many sweet, loving and caring neighbors.

GROVER, Robert E., of Bettendorf, IA died May 2, 2007 at the age of 82. While serving with the 509th Paratroop Battalion, he wounded at the Battle of the Bulge and captured on Christmas Day. Bob spent 98 days in Stalag 12A. He was a life member of AXPOW. Survivors include his loving wife, Lois, 3 daughters, 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

HADFIELD, Margaret G., age 84, of Bristol, CT passed away Aug. 20, 2007. She was a life member of the Connecticut Chapter AXPOW. Survivors include her husband, Charles (8th AF, 390th BG, 571st BS, Lufts 3&7), 1 son, 2 daughters and 1 grandson.

HOWELL, Willie Wilton, age 84, of Bedford and Mathews Counties, VA, died Aug. 9, 2007. He served

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taps continued...

with the 7th Armored Div., 23rd Armored Inf. Bn. He was captured at St. Vith during the Battle of the Bulge and ended up at Stalag XIB. Willie was a life member of AXPOW. He leaves his beloved wife of 65 years, Mary, 2 daughters and a host of loving family members and friends.

KALLAL, Howard, 83, died Aug. 4, 2007 in Palm Harbor, FL. During WWII, he was captured and held in Stalag Luft IV. He was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Irene, 4 sons, 1 daughter, 20 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

KELLY, Alex, 90, a survivor of the Bataan Death March, passed away Sept. 22, 2007. He was a resident of Bethesda, MD. After capture, he was sent to O'Donnell and Cabanatuan, then to Yokohama and Nagata in Japan. He leaves 3 sons, 1 sister, 1 brother and 6 grandchildren.

KNEISLEY, Walter G., 84, of the Pennsylvania Conestoga Chapter AXPOW died September 21, 2007. He had celebrated 62 years of marriage with his wife Beatrice. He served in Co. B 142nd Inf., 36th Div. He was held in Stalag 9B.

LINDSEY, Herman Monroe, of Leawood, KS died Aug. 25, 2007. He was 86. He served with the 8th AF, 351st BG as a navigator on a B-17. He was shot down and held until liberation by Patton. Herman was a life member of AXPOW. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn.

MacISAAC, Alexander W. "Pat" of Yarmouthport, MA died Sept. 25, 2007. He was 82. During WWII, he served in the Army. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge.

Survivors include his beloved wife, Mary, 1 sister, numerous nieces and nephews.

MERSERVE, Howard W. "Guffer", 89, of Hooksett, NH died August 31, 2007. During WWII, he served in the Army. He was a POW in Stalag 11B, Luft 4 and the Black March. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Lillian N., one daughter, one son, six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was a member of the New Hampshire Chapter, AXPOW.

MIHALIK, Olga, of Toronto, Ohio passed away Sept. 5, 2007. She was a charter member of the Yellow Creek Chapter, AXPOW, located in Steubenville, OH. Olga was the wife of ex-POW Nicholas A. Mihalik.

MITCHELL, Charles R., of Chelsea, MI passed away March 25, 2007. He was captured while serving in the Army during WWII. His wife, Louise, 4 daughters, 3 sons, 21 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren survive him.

MURPHY, Edythe J., 87, of Hummelstown, PA died Sept. 10, 2007. She was the widow of the late Jack W. Murphy. Jack was captured while serving with the 97th BG. Edythe was a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by 1 son, 1 daughter and 4 grandchildren.

McGEE, James F, 88, of Hope Mills, NC, died October 12, 2007. He served in the armored division and was held in Stalag 7A. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Thelma.

NATALLE, Lauraine, 84, of Perry, IA died Aug. 27, 2007. She was the widow of ex-POW Emil Natalle, who was captured in the Battle of the Bulge. Lauraine was a life member of AXPOW and the Mid-Iowa Chapter. She is survived by one sister and several nieces and nephews.

NEWMAN, Louise, widow of Carl, died September 18, 2007. She was a member of the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter, American Ex-Prisoners of War. Louise taught public school for over 30 years and had a strong spirit.

O'BRIEN, Albert J., of Wynantskill, NY passed away July 11, 2007 at the age of 84. He served with the 485th BG during WWII. "Obie" was a turret gunner on a B-24 when he was shot down. He spent 6 months in a German hospital, then was transferred to Luft 1. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Jane, and one daughter. He was a member of the Northeast NY Chapter, AXPOW.

PAVLOVICH, John Jr., of McKees Rock, PA died Feb. 25, 2007. He was 82. During WWII, he served with the 84th Inf. Div. He was captured and spent nearly one year in German camps. John was a life member of AXPOW and the Pittsburgh Chapter. He is survived by his wife, Marie and loving family. His fun loving presence is missed by his many dear friends.

PLOCHER, Martin, of Riverside, California, died August 3, 2007. A member of the Army Air Corps, he was a B-17 pilot attacked by German fighters and forced to ditch in the English Channel. He and his crew were picked up by a German boat and taken to Stalag Luft 3. He is survived by his wife, Nellie.

PORELL, Frank, 88, of Camp Hill, PA died Sept. 7, 2007. He served with the 384th BG(H), 547th BS. He was shot down, captured and held for 18 months. Frank was a member of the PA Capital City Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by 1 daughter, 2 sons, 4 grandchildren and 1 sister.

POTTS, Arthur Wyman, of Wall Township, NJ died October 9, 2007. He was 82. In World War II he and his identical twin brother, Bill, served together in Europe with the 106th Infantry Division and after VE

taps continued...

Day with the 285th Port Battalion, Antwerp Belgium. Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Ruth-Alice Cunningham and five children: three daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren. His identical twin brother William of Port St. Lucie, Florida and an older brother, Robert, of Greeley, Colorado predeceased him.

RENNERT, FRED, of Boynton Beach, FL, passed away September 24th, 2007 at the age of 82. During WWII he served with the 45th Div., 179th Reg. He was a prisoner of war in Germany and saved his company from certain death, since he spoke fluent German. Fred was the beloved husband of Corinne, his wife of 57 years, loving father to his daughter and son, devoted grandfather of 4.

ROBINSON, Agnes M., passed away January 21, 2006. She was the widow of Donald B. Robinson, ex-POW. Survivors include her daughter, Judy.

ROCHFORD, Arthur H., 82, of Weymouth, MA passed away July 26, 2007. He was captured while serving with the 32nd Inf. Div. during the Battle of the Bulge. He leaves his wife of 56 years, Claire, 2 brothers, 1 nephew and 1 niece.

ROONEY, Edward E., 89, of Spokane Valley, WA passed away Aug. 23, 2007. Ed was captured while serving with the 507th Parachute Inf. Reg., 82nd Airborne Div. while participating in D-Day. He was held in Oflag 64. He was a member of AXPOW and the Spokane-Inland Empire Chapter. Survivors include his loving wife of 65 years, June, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and 1 sister.

ROSEN, Melvin H., of Falls Church, VA died Aug. 1, 2007. He was 89. Melvin was a survivor of the Bataan Death March, confinement on three hellships, and 3 ½ years of captiv-

ity by the Japanese. He leaves his wife of 60 years, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

SCHNEIDER, LeRoy N., 86, one of the few remaining US Marines who fought on Wake Island, died Aug. 18, 2007. He was captured on Dec. 23, 1941 after the island was captured. He spent the next 3 ½ years as slave labor for the Japanese. LeRoy was a member of the Fox River Chapter, AXPOW. He is survived by his devoted wife of 61 years, 2 sons, 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren 1 brother and many nieces and nephews.

SMITH, James Henry, 83, of Leesburg, FL (formally of Grove City, OH) passed away October 6, 2007. Jim served in the Army's 28th Infantry - 8th Div. during WWII. In the Battle of the Bulge, he was captured and was held for 4½ months in Stalag XII-A in Germany. He was a life member of AXPOW. In addition to his wife of 42 years, Carol, he is survived by his daughter and his beloved twin grandsons.

STALEY, Edmund W., Sr., 82, of West Haven, CT died Aug. 20, 2007. He served with the 15th AF, 376th BG. He was a POW at Stalag Luft 6 and 4. He was a life member of Connecticut Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his wife, Gloria, 1 son, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

STEELE, Richard of Las Vegas, Nevada, died September 19, 2007. He served in the USAF and was a POW in Stalag Luft 3. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy.

STEWART, James R., of Memphis, TN died Feb. 14, 2007 at the age of 83. He was a life member of AXPOW. During WWII, he served in the Army, 9th Div. He was captured and held in Germany until liberation. He leaves his wife of 60 years, Sue, 1 son, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

SUNDERMEYER, Harold (Cap), age 92, of Holts Summit, MO died September 18, 2007. He served in US Army during WW-11 & was Prisoner of War.

SUSSMAN, Herman passed away Sept. 27, 2007. He served with the AAC during WWII; 15th AF, 2nd BG, 96th BS. He was a member of the Wolverine Chapter, AXPOW and attended the San Diego Support Group meetings in California. Survivors include one daughter.

TATE, Wesley B., 85, of Spokane Valley, WA passed away June 28, 2007. During WWII, he served in the 680th Ord. Co. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and 3 ½ years imprisonment in Japanese POW camps. He later fought in Korea and Vietnam. Wesley was a life member of AXPOW and the Inland-Empire Chapter. He is survived by 2 sons, 2 daughters, 6 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 1 sister.

TIBBETS, Paul W. Jr., the commander and pilot of the Enola Gay, the B-29 Superfortress that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima in the final days of World War II, died Nov. 1, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio. He was 92. In the hours before dawn on Aug. 6, 1945, the Enola Gay lifted off from the island of Tinian carrying a uranium atomic bomb assembled under extraordinary secrecy in the vast endeavor known as the Manhattan Project.

Six and a half hours later, under clear skies, then-Colonel Tibbets, of the Army Air Forces, guided the four-engine plane he had named in honor of his mother toward the bomb's aiming point, the T-shaped Aioi Bridge in the center of Hiroshima, the site of an important Japanese army headquarters.

At 8:15 AM local time, the bomb known to its creators as Little Boy

taps continued...

dropped free at an altitude of 31,000 feet. Forty-three seconds later, at 1,890 feet above ground zero, it exploded in a nuclear inferno that left tens of thousands dead and dying and turned much of Hiroshima, a city of some 250,000 at the time, into a scorched ruin. Colonel Tibbets executed a well-rehearsed diving turn to avoid the blast effect.

Three days later, an even more powerful atomic bomb — a plutonium device — was dropped on Nagasaki from a B-29 flown by Maj. Charles W. Sweeney.

On Aug. 15, Japan surrendered, bringing World War II to an end.

In December 2003, the Enola Gay found a new home. Fully restored and completely assembled, it went on display at the newly opened Smithsonian air museum branch outside Dulles Airport in Virginia. Survivors include his wife, Andrea, two sons from his first marriage, Paul III and Gene, and a grandson, Col. Paul Tibbets IV.

VAN ASSEN, Louis G., of Trout Run, PA died Sept. 23, 2007. He

was 82. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held at Bad Orb Camp 9B in Germany. He leaves 2 sons, 2 daughters, 2 sisters, 9 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

VAN EVERY, Harold, of Minneapolis, MN passed away Aug. 11, 2007. He was a member of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter, AXPOW. During WWII, his B-17 was shot down; he was held at Luft III, then marched to Nuremberg, then Moosberg. He leaves one son, one daughter and two grandchildren.

VICK, Harold J., 85, of Redding, CA passed away July 5, 2007. Harold was a sergeant in Company C, 194th Tank Battalion and a tank commander in battle in the Philippines. He was a survivor of the Bataan Death March and was a POW in Japan for three and one-half years. He was a life member of AXPOW and the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, His beloved wife, Sue, preceded him in death after 64 years of marriage. He is survived by 1 daughter and 1 grandson.

WENRICH, Ethel, of Johns Island, SC passed away May 6, 2007. Ethel was a member of the Low Country Chapter, AXPOW. She leaves her husband, Edward (8th AF, 401st BG, 613th BS, Stalag Luft 1), 3 daughters, 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

WELLS, James Edwin Sr., of Moss Point, MS died Sept. 1, 2007 at the age of 86. He served with the 713th BS, 448th BG during WWII. He was shot down during D-Day and spent 11 months at Luft IV, then marched across Germany. He was a member of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter, AXPOW. He leaves four sons and one daughter.

WILKINS, Joy E. "Jack" of Greenville, TX died July 1, 2007. He was 84. While trying to enlist, he was turned away by the Navy and Marines because he was only 16. Finally an Army recruiter accepted him. Jack was captured on Bataan while serving in the Army. He spent 3 ½ years as a Japanese POW. Survivors include his wife Wanda, 1 daughter, 2 sons and 3 grandchildren.

chaplain's corner



National Chaplain

John Romine

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

Sunday evening, Sept. 23, 2007, our educational TV station had an

informational program called "In their Words". A veteran would talk just a bit, then a scene of the actual battle or incident he was talking about was shown. Although I was not involved with much if anything shown, just enemy fighters, flak and dropping bombs on 43 missions and then being shot down and a POW for 11 months, I got glimpses of Hitler and his swastika...the Holocaust...ships and planes on fire and going down in flames...the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Some 60 million died worldwide, many of them innocent casualties of war; there were more than 16 million Americans in uniform. I have always been amazed at how everyone cooperated and made a concentrated effort to put a stop to the hellishness of that war. This came out loud and clear about what happened back then and it is our hope and prayers that

we will do the same as ex-POWs and with the Almighty God's help in the New Year.

Let us pray: May the trials and concerns of life be placed in Your hands O God, our rock and redeemer. We know that it is right and proper to set aside special days to honor You as the True and Living God. May we as Your people take time to count our blessings and give You credit for providing them. Continue to bless our great nation and may praise and honor be given to Thee O Lord, both now and forevermore. We pray for all who need Your kind of love. May it be found in our efforts to do Your will. In Your name we pray. AMEN.

Thought to Remember: May the New Year be filled with happiness and love for one another.

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Nov/Dec 2007

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new members

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



New Annual Members "Welcome Home"



David H Crawford
Eufaula, AL
59 AVN CO
North Korea

Carolyn Howie Boyle
San Francisco, CA
Daughter of Jamiel & Dorothy
Howie
Born 3 months after mother was
liberated

Sarah Lee Ream Conelly
Elvin J
Walnut Creek, CA
CIVILIAN
Camp John Hay, Camp Holmes,
Old Bilibid

John F Ream
Kinsington, CA
CIVILIAN
Camp Holmes, Camp John Hay,
Bilibid

Richard "Doug" Willard
Carlsbad, CA
CIVILIAN
Santo Tomas

James J. Rucker
Panora, IA
42 Rainbow Div Co G 232 Reg
12
1/4/45-4/28/45

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William C Holmes
Milwaukee, WI
15 AF 484 BG 825 BS
Frankfort, Nurnburg, 7A
2/6/45-5/45

Herman E "Red" Day
Lillian L
Lafayette, LA
ARMY
12A
3/1/45-4/45

George H Bennett
Columbus, OH
15 AF 340 BG 97 BS
Luft 1
9/13/44-5/11/45

New Life Members
"Welcome Home"
***indicates new member**
to AXPOW



Okla Elmer Edgell
Arlene L 25952 39343
Fairmont, WV
B-24 Tailgunner, 446 BG 705 BS
Holland

Lawrence E Marx
Constance 38594 39344
Flint, MI
11 AF 404 BS
Petropavlosk, Okha, Sahkalin
Island, Irkutsk

Rochelle Beauchamp Whitener
39345
Grand Junction, CO
Daughter of Virgil Beauchamp,
PAC

Mae Norr Morgan 39346
Fountain, CO
Widow of Glenn L Morgan
2B, 3B
12/44-5/45

Anna Grace Bellis Sperry 39347
Salt Lake City, UT
CIVILIAN
Santo Tomas
42-45

Annette Chuba 39348
Wayne, NJ
Widow of Joseph V Chuba
12A, 2A

Naomi C Bearman *39349
Tulsa, OK
Widow of William J Bearman
Nagoya

Bettye Z Coyle 39350
Omaha, NE
Widow of Richard W Coyle
Luft 1, Pomerania
3/44-5/45

Lula Fraley *39351
Florence, AL
Widow of Homer Fraley
12A, 4B, Forced labor camp
12/44-4/45

Jamie W Cox *39352
St Pete Beach, FL
Daughter of Homer Still, ETO

Edward C Costello *39353
Large, FL
USAAC
17B
6/43-5/45

Edgar W Fergus
Charlotte G 39354 39355
Ft Myers Beach, FL
9 AF 98 BG 343 BS
7A, 11B, 8C, Luft 3
9/3/43-5/45

new members continued

Russell E Mann 39356
Southold, NY
358 FG 365 FS
Luft 3, 7A
11/44-4/45

Edward W Horn 39357
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
9 AF 344 BG 497 BS
Dulag Luft, Wetzlar Luft, 13D,
Nurnburg, Luft 3, 7A



Velda F Eubank 39358
Willow Hill, IL
Widow of Harold Ernest Eubank
3A
12/12/44-5/10/45

Wynelle Hencke 39359
Ft Worth, TX
Widow of Arthur Robert Hencke
Italy, 2B, 4B

Edward M Isbell 39360
Henderson, NC
82 AB 507 PRCHT Reg
12A, 4B, Railroad

Neal A Murphy 39361
Schiller Park, IL
ARMY 781 Tank BN
5A, 7A
1/25/45-4/29/45

Robert E Wilson 39362
Circleville, OH
CO E 157 Inf 45 Div
12A, 4B, 7A
9/12/44-4/30/45

Clarence Arthur Giltz 39363
Fishers Landing, NY
8 AF 385 BG 550 BS

Dulag Luft, Nurnburg, 7A
3/2/45-4/25/45

Albert B Kerekes 39364
Debary, FL
751 Tank Bn
Transit camp in 2B, others
1/25/44-4/45

Margaret Crowley 39365
Hyannis, MA
Widow of John P Crowley
Luft 1
12/20/43-5/14/45

Sarajo De Shaw 39366
Bokeelia, FL
Widow of Albert G De Shaw
Luft 1

Carman Fred Rhoades 39367
Scottsdale, AZ
356 FG
Luft 1

Agnes N Miller 39368
Latrobe, PA
Widow of Joseph R Miller
Luft 1

Walter G "Bull" Endlich
Anna Ruth *39369 39370
Newcomerstown, OH
Prcht Bn 509
Spanish Morocco, North Africa
11/8/42-2/15/45

William R Brinkmier
Martha "Betty" 39371 39372
Deland, FL
AAC
Luft 3, Stalag 7A
4/18/44-4/30/45

David E Proud
Ann M 39373 39374
Mt Morris, IL
15 AF 461BG(H), 459 BG
Dulag Luft, Luft 4



James F Dobson
Idamae 39375 39376
Upper Marlboro, MD
483 BG 815 BS
Luft 4 & 1

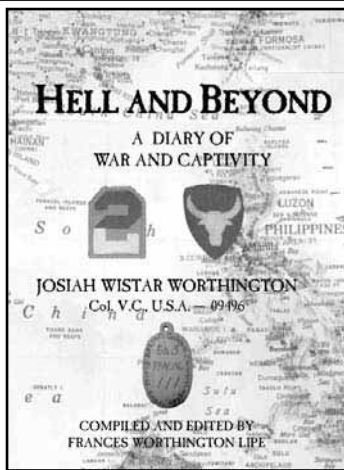
Hubert O Peterson
Mary 39377 39378
Harrisburg, PA
USAAC
Dulag Luft, Luft 6, Luft 4
3/8/44-5/3/45

Jerry Wolf
Doris 39379 39380
Springfield, VA
8 AF 390 BG 570 BS
Luft 4, Luft 3, Dulag Luft, Wetzlar
5/28/44-4/29/45

Norman D Gibbs
Betty J 39381 39382
Banning, CA
AAF
Frankfort, Wetzlar, Nurnburg, 7A
1/15/45-5/45

William A "Robbie" Robinson
Ora Mae 39383 39384
Madisonville, TN
USAF
Hanoi Hilton 9/20/65-2/12/73





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| Richard Knoblock , Bartlesville OK | |
| 4th Place | \$253.05 |
| Donald Durant, Sun City Center FL | |

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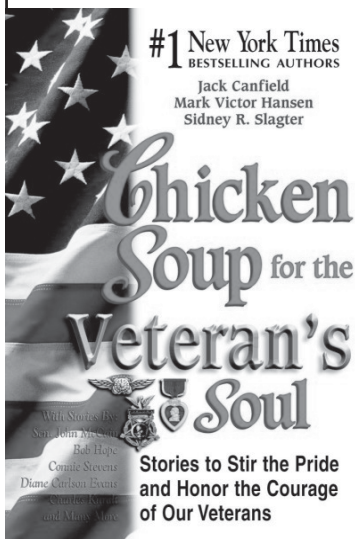
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Brooch pin	4.00	Life Member · Chapter Commander		Bumper Sticker "Freedom - Ask us"	2.00
EX-POW pin (goldtone)	4.00	Past Chapter Commander · Chapter Adj/Treas Chapter		Magnetic Ribbons	5.00
Logo pin	4.00	Adjutant · Chapter Treasurer		Memorial Seals	
POW Stamp pin	2.50	State Department Commander		3 sheets, \$1.00; 10 sheets, \$3.00; 20 sheets, 5.00	
Past Chapter Commander pin	4.00	Past State Dept. Commander · Department Adjutant		AXPOW Daisies (dozen)	1.50
Past Department Commander pin	4.00	Department Treasurer · Sr. Vice Commander		In lots of 12, (ie , 24, 36, 48, etc.-per dozen)	1.25
Eagle pin w/Barbed Wire	7.00	Jr. Vice Commander · Chaplain · Historian		Wall Clock (battery included)	20.00
(specify gold, silver or antique gold)		Service Officer · Legislative Officer		Travel Clock (battery included)	10.00
Necktie w/logo woven in fabric	20.00	Past Chapter Officer · Past Department Officer		AXPOW Notecards (pkg of 25)	5.00
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AXPOW Logo Bolo Tie	15.00	12x18 inch American Flag	5.00	AXPOW Prayer Book	2.00
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Goldtone Bolo Bezel w/cord	9.00	with fringe, indoor use	60.00	AXPOW By-Laws	5.00
Logo Necklace & Pierced Earrings	10.00	with grommets, outdoor use	60.00	POW Videotape - ETO or Pacific	11.00
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