

EX-POW BULLETIN

the official voice of the
American Ex-Prisoners of War

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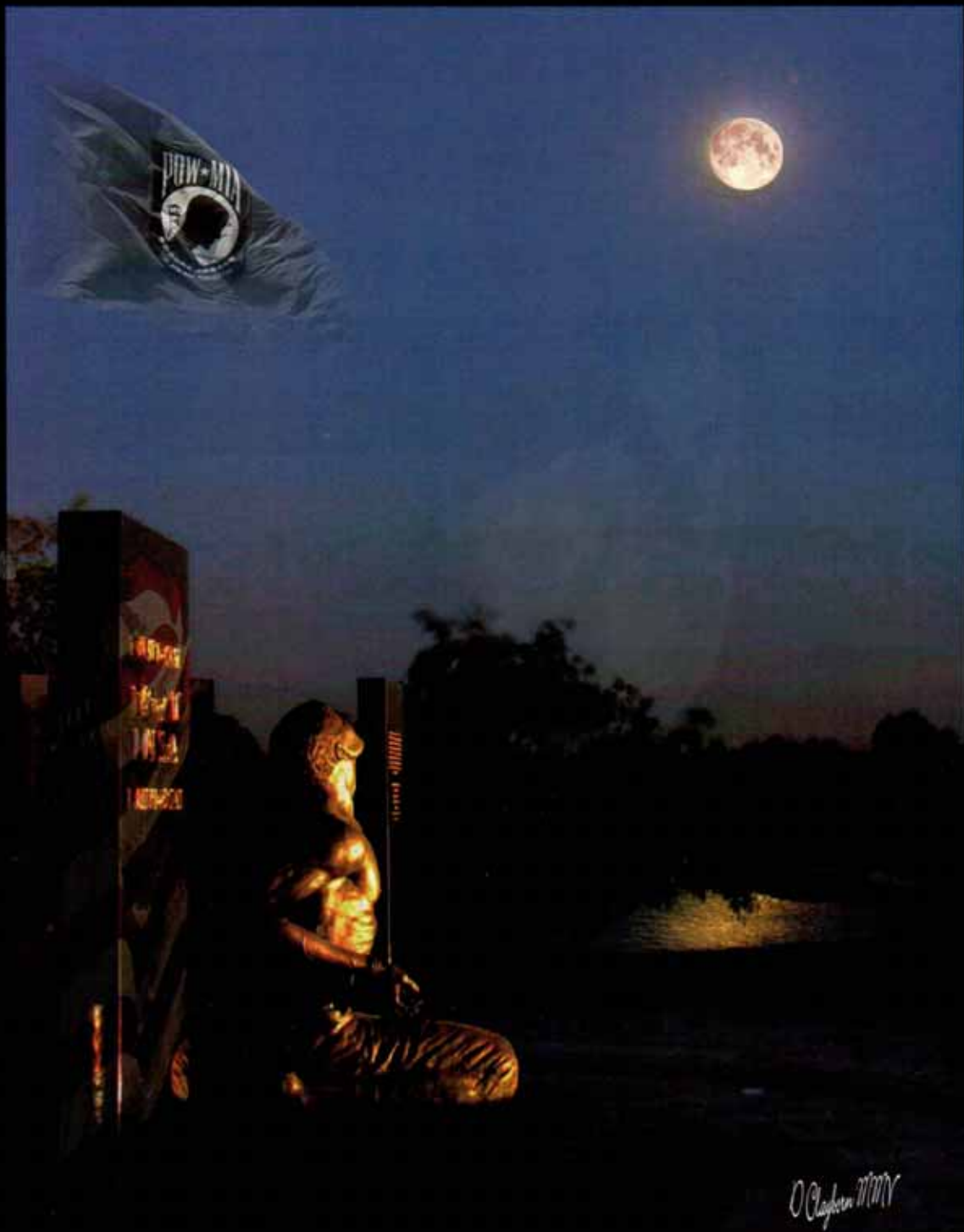
October~November~December 2017

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We exist to help those who cannot help themselves





O'Clayton MMY

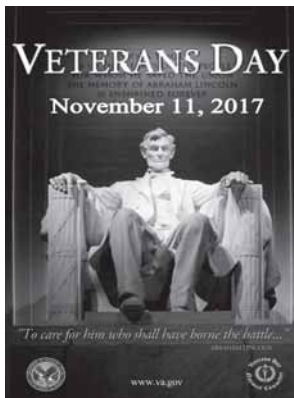
Inscription on the National POW/MIA Memorial:

We honor here the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of Americans held Prisoner of War and those still listed as Missing in Action since the time of the American Revolution. "Some died from disease and starvation, some perished in death marches, some were tortured, and some were lost...gone forever from their families ...all were deprived of their liberties so that you may enjoy yours."

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Oct/Nov/Dec 2017



Veterans Day 2017

Veterans Day honors military veterans and is observed annually on November 11. It coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I; major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. The United States previously observed Armistice Day. The U.S. holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Cover: WWI Veteran Joseph Ambrose marching in the parade celebrating the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC November 13, 1982.

Inside front cover: National POW/MIA Memorial, Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

Addendum: On Page 26 of the EX-POW Bulletin (July-Sept 2017), the article on the History of the POW/MIA Flag omitted work done by AXPOW member Sol Gross to promote POW/MIA Recognition Day:

At the April 12, 1978 meeting of the Pittsburgh Chapter, the officers and members voted to support chapter member Sol Gross in his campaign to promote a national holiday in honor of all American Ex-POWs, MIAs and POWs who died in prison camps. Joint Resolution 963: designating July 18, 1979 became Public Law 95-349 on Aug. 18, 1978. Bill sponsor was Rep. William S. Moorhead (PA-14).

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Deadline for the Jan-Mar, 2018 issue is Dec. 1, 2017

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

*Ex-POW and
photographer
Angelo Spinelli
documents
Christmas in his
POW camp.*



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National Commander
Charles Susino, Jr.

Through the Commander's article in the Bulletin, I have expressed my view on many subjects. Subjects affecting the military, the veterans in general, the AXPOW, and others. This Bulletin I wish to dedicate to you and your family.

As a veteran and a former POW, you have earned certain rights granted by

Congress and administered through the VA health care and benefits. It is best to be prepared for your time of need. For our final benefit, there is DIC for our spouse and it is important that you have the forms on hand, mailing address, etc so that initiating is very simple and reduces any delay.

In the cases of medical treatments such as in the hospital, as part of your discharge, you should request to see a social worker to assist in receiving services and compensation for outside care that may be required during your recovery.

In both cases, it is most important that you review the required approach with your spouse/next of kin so that they understand what is necessary and can assist or fully execute themselves.

Although the VA provides the benefits and services, it depends on the veteran and their family to initiate the action and follow through. While I believe it is a service the VA should provide the veteran, nothing happens unless you take the responsibility and initiative.

Lastly, no is a common response given to the veteran in need. Never take no for an answer...go to the next person or department until you receive what you need. This is not an entitlement, you earned it.

I hope this bulletin finds all of you doing well and look forward to a happy and healthy Veterans Day.

-----Remember-----

news from hq



Clydie Morgan
Chief Operating Officer

By the time you read this, headquarters will have moved. Our mailing address is:

AXPOW
P O Box 3444
Arlington TX 76007-3444

The telephone number stays the same at 817-649-2979.

It's been bittersweet. The necessity of downsizing has been hard for us but it has been a learning experience, too. Most of you will not notice a difference.

We opened the office in 1984. We have seen some tough times but the organization is running pretty smoothly now and is still active with legislation and the VA.

All the proof files and all the historical files have been scanned into the system. We will be adding the historical and research files to the website. This makes them accessible to students and historians. We are also working with John Skelly (our volunteer webmaster) to put our membership database on the website.

We are the last major organization for former POWs. We hope to around for a very long time so that your stories can be told and remembered.

Clydie,
Marsha,
Donna,
and Sally

Love
Joy
Peace

Joyous Christmas
Happy Hanukkah
from
Your Officers & Directors

from the CEO



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*We are who we are because we
were where we were when.*

*Some things in life are far beyond
our imagination; others just
happen.*

As I write this, I look forward to my trip to Andersonville in mid-September and the *The Ride Home* celebration and remembrance on National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Supported by many members of Rolling Thunder, this event serves to honor those who have served and the families who may still be waiting.



The families of those whose names are long forgotten suffer the frustration of the unknown. Their hearts are imprisoned—an ancient enemy holds their dreams captive. They will suffer a lifetime with the torment of not knowing.



But this day of remembrance like Veterans Day offers us an opportunity to not only say **Welcome Home** but to say **Thank You** for your service. And I know first hand that those who stay behind serve steadfastly our country with prayers and actions. During Somalia and the opening hours of Desert Storm, the real heroes were the families who for the first time watched their loved ones go into combat.

As you read this, consider the opportunity you may have on Veterans Day (November 11, 2017) to remember and to serve. Whether it be simply displaying the Stars and Stripes or spending a brief moment with a forgotten warrior, you can touch a heart and add vigor to a soul.



*We are who we are because
we are where we are when.*

David

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SVT

What is supraventricular tachycardia?

Supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) means that from time to time your heart beats very fast for a reason other than exercise, high fever, or stress. For most people who have SVT, the heart still works normally to pump blood through the body.

Types of SVT include:

- Atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia (AVNRT).
- Atrioventricular reciprocating tachycardia (AVRT), including Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome.

During an episode of SVT, the heart's electrical system doesn't work right, causing the heart to beat very fast. The heart beats at least 100 beats a minute and may reach

300 beats a minute. After treatment or on its own, the heart usually returns to a normal rate of 60 to 100 beats a minute.

SVT may start and end quickly, and you may not have symptoms. SVT becomes a problem when it happens often, lasts a long time, or causes symptoms.

SVT is also called atrial tachycardia, paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia (PSVT), or paroxysmal atrial tachycardia (PAT).

What causes SVT?

Most episodes of SVT are caused by faulty electrical connections in the heart.

SVT also can be caused by certain medicines. Examples include very high levels of the heart medicine digoxin or the lung medicine theophylline.

Some types of SVT may run in families, such as Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. Other types of SVT may be caused by certain health problems, medicines, or surgery.

What are the symptoms?

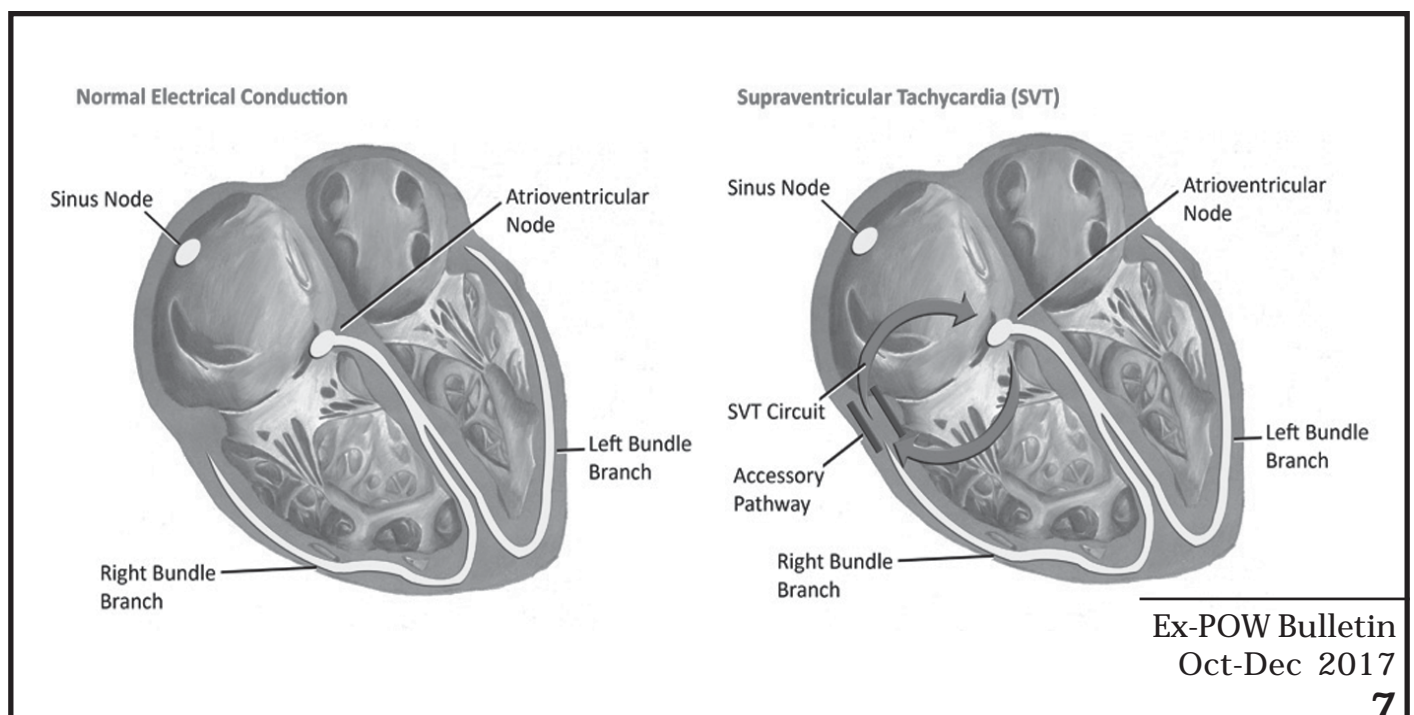
Some people with SVT have no symptoms. Others may have:

- Palpitations, a feeling that the heart is racing or pounding.
- A pounding pulse.
- A dizzy feeling or may feel lightheaded.

Other symptoms include near-fainting or fainting (syncope), shortness of breath, chest pain, throat tightness, and sweating.

How is SVT diagnosed?

Your doctor will diagnose SVT by asking you questions about your health and symptoms, doing a physical exam, and perhaps giving you tests. Your doctor:



medsearch, cont'd...

- Will ask if anything triggers the fast heart rate, how long it lasts, if it starts and stops suddenly, and if the beats are regular or irregular.
- May do a test called an electrocardiogram (EKG, ECG). This test measures the heart's electrical activity and can record SVT episodes.

If you do not have an episode of SVT while you're at the doctor's office, your doctor probably will ask you to wear a portable electrocardiogram (EKG), also called an ambulatory electrocardiogram. When you have an episode, the device will record it.

Your doctor also may do tests to find the cause of the SVT. These may include blood tests, a chest X-ray, and an echocardiogram, which shows the heart in motion.

How is it treated?

Some SVTs don't cause symptoms, and you may not need treatment. If you do have symptoms, your doctor probably will recommend treatment.

To treat sudden episodes of SVT, your doctor may:

- Prescribe a medicine to take when the SVT occurs.
- Show you how you can slow your heart rate on your own. You may be able to do this by coughing, gagging, or putting your face in ice-cold water. These are called vagal maneuvers.

If these treatments don't work, you may have to go to your doctor's office or the emergency room. You may get a fast-acting medicine such as adenosine or verapamil. If the SVT is serious, you may have electrical cardioversion, which uses an electrical current to reset the heart rhythm.

If you often have episodes of SVT, you may need to:

- Take medicine every day to prevent the episodes or slow your heart rate.
- Try catheter ablation. This procedure destroys a tiny part of the heart that causes the problem.

CATHETER ABLATION

What is catheter ablation?

Catheter ablation is a procedure that uses radiofrequency energy (similar to microwave heat) to destroy a small area of heart tissue that is causing rapid and irregular heartbeats. Destroying this tissue helps restore your heart's regular rhythm. The procedure is also called radiofrequency ablation.

Why do people have catheter ablation?

Special cells in your heart create electrical signals that travel along pathways to the chambers of your heart. These signals make the heart's upper and lower chambers beat in the proper sequence. Abnormal cells may create disorganized electrical signals that cause irregular or rapid heartbeats called arrhythmias. When this happens, your heart may not pump blood effectively and you may feel faint, short of breath and weak. You may also feel your heart pounding.

Medicines to treat rapid and irregular heartbeats work very well for most people. But they don't work for everyone, and they may cause side effects in some people. In these cases, doctors may suggest catheter ablation. The procedure is used most often to treat a condition called supraventricular tachycardia, or SVT, which occurs because of abnormal conduction fibers in the heart. Catheter ablation is also used to help control other heart rhythm problems such as atrial flutter and atrial fibrillation. Catheter ablation destroys the abnormal tissue without damaging the rest of the heart.

Quick facts

Catheter ablation is used to treat abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) when medicines are not tolerated or effective.

Medicines help to control the abnormal heart tissue that causes arrhythmias. Catheter ablation destroys the tissue.

Catheter ablation is a low-risk procedure that is successful in most people who have it.

This procedure takes place in a special hospital room called an electrophysiology (EP) lab or a cardiac catheterization (cath) lab. It takes 2 to 4 hours.

What are the risks of catheter ablation?

There are few risks. The most common problems result from the use of the catheters - long, thin tubes doctors insert into your arteries or veins. Inserting the tubes can occasionally damage your blood vessel or cause bleeding or infection. These problems are rare.

How should I prepare for catheter ablation?

- Your doctor will tell you what to eat and drink during the 24 hours before the test.
- Usually, you'll be asked not to eat or drink anything for at least 6 to 8 hours before the procedure.
- Tell your doctor about any medicines you take. He or she may ask you not to take them before your test. Don't stop taking your medicines until your doctor tells you to.
- Leave all your jewelry at home.

medsearch, cont'd...

· Arrange for someone to drive you home after your procedure.

What happens during catheter ablation?

A doctor with special training performs the procedure along with a team of nurses and technicians. The procedure is done in a hospital EP or cath lab.

· A nurse will put an IV (intravenous line) into a vein in your arm so you can get medicine (anesthesia) to prevent pain. You may also get a medicine (sedative) to help you relax but you will be awake throughout the procedure.

· The nurse will clean and shave the area where the doctor will be working. This is usually in your groin.

· The nurse will give you a shot — a local anesthetic — to numb the needle puncture site.

· The doctor will make a needle puncture through your skin and into the blood vessel (typically a vein, but sometimes an artery) in your groin. A small straw-sized tube (called a sheath) will be inserted into the blood vessel. The doctor will gently guide a catheter (a long, thin tube) into your vessel through the sheath. A video screen will show the position of the catheter. You may feel some pressure in your groin, but you shouldn't feel any pain.

· The doctor inserts several long, thin tubes with wires, called electrode catheters, through the sheath and feeds these tubes into your heart.

· To locate the abnormal tissue causing arrhythmia, the doctor sends a small electrical impulse through the electrode catheter. This activates the abnormal tissue that is causing your

"I was in the emergency department every few days with SVT. I felt awful and the medicines just weren't working. After catheter ablation I can go to work and exercise without SVT." Bill, age 61.

arrhythmia. Other catheters record the heart's electrical signals to locate the abnormal sites.

· The doctor places the catheter at the exact site inside your heart where the abnormal cells are. Then, a mild, painless, radiofrequency energy (similar to microwave heat) is sent to the tissue. This destroys heart muscle cells in a very small area (about 1/5 of an inch) that are responsible for the extra impulses that caused your rapid heartbeats.

· Catheter ablation usually takes 2 to 4 hours. If you have more than one area of abnormal tissue, the procedure will take longer. You can usually go home the same day, or you may have to stay overnight.

NOTE: During this procedure, the tip of a catheter is guided to the area of heart tissue that is producing abnormal electrical signals. Then the catheter emits a pulse of painless radiofrequency energy that destroys the abnormal tissue and corrects the irregular heartbeat.

What happens after catheter ablation?

You'll be moved to a recovery room. The sheath usually stays in your leg for several hours after catheter ablation. During this time, you have to lie flat. After the doctor or nurse removes the sheath:

· A nurse will put pressure on the puncture site to stop the bleeding.

· You should keep your leg straight for 6 to 8 hours after the doctor or nurse removes the sheath. The nurse will tell you when you can get out of bed.

· The nurse will watch you carefully and check your heartbeat and vital signs (pulse and blood pressure).

· Tell your doctor or nurse right away if you notice any swelling, pain or bleeding at the puncture site, or if you have chest pain.

· Before you leave the hospital, the nurse will give you written instructions about what to do at home.

· Aspirin is often prescribed for 2 to 4 weeks to minimize risk of clot formation at ablation sites.

What happens after I get home?

Follow the instructions your nurse or doctor gave you. Most people can return to their normal activities on the day after they leave the hospital.

· Don't drive for 24 hours after you leave the hospital.

· Don't drink alcohol for 24 hours after you leave the hospital.

· Avoid heavy physical activity for three days. Ask your doctor when you can return to strenuous exercise.

· A small bruise at the puncture site is normal. If the site starts to bleed, lie flat and press firmly on top of it. Have someone call the doctor or hospital.

How can I learn more about catheter ablation?

Talk with your doctor. Here are some good questions to ask:

· Why do you think catheter ablation will help me?

· Are there other treatments we should consider?

· How did I get this arrhythmia?

· Will I need to take medicine or have another procedure after I have catheter ablation?

National Institutes of Health
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Ex-POW Bulletin
Oct-Dec 2017



1. Santo Tomas prison camp internees Lee Rogers and John Todd.



10. POWs at Cabanatuan Camp 3 beaten with clubs.



11. Bilibid POW hospital ward, Philippine Islands.



12. Bataan Death March, April 1942.



2. Pvt. Robert Collins & M/Sgt. Woodrow Haines back behind UN lines, Chechon, Korea.



3. Pfc. Robert Brandon rations Red Cross parcels, Stalag IX-B.



4. Nichols Field Detail, PI, taken at Pasay Schoolhouse.



5. An American POW suffering from dry beri-beri being treated in Bilibid.



6. Private Joe Demler and another POW are liberated from XII-A, Limburg.



7. Survivors of Suchon Tunnel Massacre, Korea.



8. Three American POWs released by the Viet Cong near Tay Ninh City.



9. Nick Mustacchia. 100 days as a POW -- 100 lb. weight loss. Stalag Luft IV.

POW Photos Order Form

These black & white 8x10" photographs are available from MedSearch. Please include a donation of \$5.00 per picture, or \$50.00 for the complete set of 12 with your order. Fill out the form below with selections.

Fill in the number of copies of each picture desired in the blank beside the picture's identification number:

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3. _____ 7. _____ 11. _____

4. _____ 8. _____ 12. _____

Set of 12 photos _____

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legislative



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Chairman

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My hope is that the legislative column provides you an informative summary of the activities of Washington as it relates to veterans and more specifically those of us that have served and were prisoners of war. It is important that you stay abreast of the world events and issues facing veterans to put some of these actions in context. The world is a smaller place than it was when I served in WWII in the European theater and seemingly smaller every day. Events taking place a half a world away have a direct and immediate impact on America. We can not stand silently and we can't stand still as a nation.

Some of the more recent actions taken by the President consist of:

- *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017*, which provides three options for veterans to appeal disability rating decisions made by the Veterans Benefits Administration. The three options available to veterans dissatisfied with their initial claims rating decisions are to seek a higher-level review by a regional office on the same evidence presented to the original claims processors; to file a supplemental claim with a regional office that would include the opportunity to submit additional

Legislative Committee
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evidence; or to opt for an expedited consideration of their appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

- The president signed the *Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial Act* into law which allows the GWOT Memorial Foundation to secure federal approval for acreage on the National Mall, and coordinate a national design competition. We have all been witness to how long after the end of a conflict, a memorial is finally established, and sadly in some cases after many of the veterans have passed away never realizing the benefit of its establishment.

- V-J Day Commemoration took place on September 2 in Washington the 72nd anniversary of Victory over Japan Day at the National World War II Memorial. I hope many of you that are able to travel made the trip.

- The GI Bill got an upgrade with the President's signing of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2017. The new Bill protects the benefits veterans have earned, expands access and eligibility, and removes several restrictions.

- Last year's National Defense Authorization Act increased TRICARE costs for military retirees who enter the military after January 1, 2018, and their families. Current military retirees and their family members are exempt from these cost increases, but a proposal which was recently advanced by the Senate would remove this exemption so this action will have to be monitored.

- As we age, so many of our medications are prescribed on an ongoing basis. There will be a

change in policy for Pharmacy Automatic Refills beginning Sept. 1, 2017, through Express Scripts which will need annual consent from patients who want to receive automatic refills of maintenance medications enrolled in the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery program. After the last refill of a medication enrolled in the Automatic Refill program ships, Express Scripts will reach out to the beneficiary by telephone and/or email (depending on indicated preference) for consent. Express Scripts will not re-enroll medications unless they hear from a beneficiary via the automated phone call, online at Express-Scripts.com/TRICARE, or an Express Scripts Patient Care.

- Over the past few years, awareness has risen concerning the rapidly shrinking in-ground burial space availability at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). A recent report to Congress indicates that given current conditions, ANC will reach its capacity and will be forced to close in about 25 years. To remedy this, several proposals have been offered for consideration by the Department of Defense, including restricting the eligibility criteria required for burial, as well as expanding the cemetery by annexing pieces of Ft. Meyer. Last month, ANC launched an online survey, in order to gauge the opinions of visitors, military members, veterans and retirees, regarding the best way forward for this piece of hallowed ground. Please take a few moments and let your opinion be heard.

My wish is that all of you are of good health and can attend, or at the minimum view, one of the many upcoming Veterans Day functions in your area.

andersonville



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Fall brings cooler temperatures and special events to Andersonville National Historic Site.

This year's recognition of National Former POW/MIA Day in September will include our Avenue of Flags, a Convocation program, and the Ride Home Ceremony. On September 8, the park will raise the Avenue of Flags with the help of Robins Riders. This moving display of over 200 full-sized American, POW/MIA, and state flags brings many visitors to the park. At 11:00 a.m. on September 13 at Georgia Southwestern State University's Convocation, guest speaker Mindy Kotler will present "From Torture to Triumph: American POWs of Japan." Kotler, who is the founder and director of Asia Policy Point, will discuss her work with former POWs and the diplomatic efforts that led to an official apology by Japan. At 9:00 a.m. on September 15 at the National Prisoner of War Museum, our partner, The Ride Home, will bring dozens of former POWs and hundreds of supporters to the park for a special ceremony. Featured speaker Seymour Lichtenfeld will share his story and experiences as a prisoner

of war held by Germany during World War II.

In November, the park will offer an opportunity for visitors to experience the museum and historic prison site after dark during our Night Museum event. From 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on November 11, living historians will give visitors a glimpse into what life was like for Union prisoners struggling to survive and stay warm under the night skies at Andersonville. At 7:00 p.m., guest speaker April Baldwin, a Park Ranger from Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, will present "Reconstruction: Life at Andersonville after the Civil War".

December will bring our Wreaths Across America event. In partnership with the Civil Air Patrol, we invite visitors to sponsor and place wreaths on graves in the national cemetery after a memorial ceremony conducted at the rostrum at noon on December 16. Wreaths are placed to honor those resting here and ensure their sacrifices are not forgotten. Our goal is to eventually place wreaths on all of the nearly 21,000 graves in Andersonville National Cemetery.

We invite you to join us this fall for one or more of these commemorative events.

New volunteers and interns have arrived to offer vital help for our museum and visitor services program. Doug and Diane Taylor will be staying on one of the park's RV pads while volunteering at the museum until the end of October. Intern Tanner Christy is helping with museum operations and special projects this fall. Katherine Williamson is getting some great experience at the park in a student internship through a partnership with Georgia Southwestern State University. We would not be able to offer interpretive tours, school programs, and other services to our visitors without the valued help and contributions of these interns and volunteers.

The "Victory From Within" traveling POW exhibit is now on display at the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida. This museum also features its own, permanent Prisoners Of War Exhibit that focuses on POWs of Vietnam. We invite those in the Pensacola area to make a trip to the National Naval Aviation Museum to see the park's traveling POW exhibit and the museum's POWs of Vietnam exhibit.

April 2018 will mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of the park's National Prisoner of War Museum. Design and construction of the museum was the result of a re-



*Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
April 9, 1998*

andersonville, cont'd..

markable effort and partnership between the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Friends of Andersonville, and the National Park Service.

In the 1998 museum dedication booklet, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam and former POW Pete Peterson wrote: "Destiny has marked this remarkable place for high purpose. It is our legacy and the legacy of all Americans throughout our Nation's history that were POWs that we honor here. The National POW Museum will serve to educate this and future generations about their sacrifices and will capture in its displays a vivid picture of the high cost of freedom."

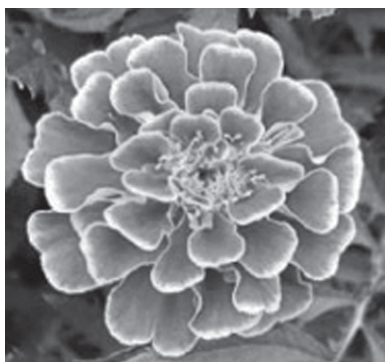
The park will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the National Prisoner of War Museum with special programs and activities on Sunday, April 8, 2018. We invite the American Ex-Prisoners of War and its members to join the Friends of Andersonville and the National Park Service in recognizing this milestone and the continued importance of preserving and interpreting the stories of all American POWs. We invite all former POWs to be our honored guests at this event and hope you will attend. We are also seeking former POWs who are willing to speak and share their experiences with visitors during this April 2018 event. If you or someone you know might be interested in speaking at this event, please contact Jody Mays, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management, at 229-924-0343 ext. 115 or jody_mays@nps.gov for more information.

"There is nothing so American as our national parks.... The fundamental idea behind the parks...is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us." -Franklin D. Roosevelt (1936)

namPOW

Marigold & The Mad Bomber of Hanoi

by Richard A. Stratton, USN (Ret.)
aka The Beak
rastratton@msn.com



During the month of June 1966, a Polish and an Italian diplomat in Saigon decided that they would use their good offices and connections to attempt to surreptitiously bring North Vietnam and America to the bargaining table with the objective of ending the Vietnam war. During that same month, a Lieutenant Commander in Lemoore California joined a Light Attack Squadron that was working up to deploy to participate in that very same war. The peace initiative was code named "Marigold" and the LCdr was nick named "The Beak".

On the surface of it, the peace initiative was not a pipe dream but a possibility however remote.

The Polish diplomat had connections in Hanoi on the highest level and had access via the International Control Commission. The Italian diplomat had the trust and confidence of any number of European communists in diplomatic circles as well that of the American Ambassador to the Republic of Vietnam.

By October of 1966 Marigold had reached a delicate stage whereby there was a tentative agreement made for high level official delegates of the DRV and the USA to meet in

Poland to discuss the framework for opening secret negotiations between the two countries. In the same month, The Beak set sail from San Diego in the USS Ticonderoga headed for air operations against the DRV.

Just as Marigold was now being controlled by the highest levels of government so to were air operations being controlled literally from the basement of the White House (target assignments) and the Pentagon (rules of engagement). In Poland, communications were crossed, meetings were missed and misunderstandings proliferated. The Tico got on station and was busy chasing bicycles and water buffalos up and down the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

By December, the DRV had decided that it was more interested in preparing for the late winter Tet Offensive to win the war than they were in an immediate peace effort. The great rendezvous of doves in Poland fell through with a resounding crash and recriminations. The White House finally released to the Tico a meaningful target, the Van Dien truck repair facility in the Hanoi area. The air wing mounted two alpha strikes (30 aircraft with support flights) in succeeding days. Uncle Ho cried "foul" that the previously protected Hanoi area had been violated and alleged massive civilian casualties. LBJ denied hitting the city of Hanoi and stated that any casualties were self-inflicted by SAM's falling back on the city. Uncle Ho called LBJ a liar (hardly original) and used the raids as the excuse for breaking off all peace feelers including the most promising Marigold. The blame was LBJ's.

Hanoi had invited any number of friendly journalists and other fellow travelers over to observe the results of the American War crimes. These junkets included folks allied with Bertrand Russell's International War Crimes Tribunal. They engineered all kinds of show and tell op-

namPOW cont'd...

erations to illustrate the “war crimes” however, they were lacking “The Mad Bomber” who had destroyed their sacred capitol city. Inconveniently, the USA and declared a Christmas bombing halt. So, they had no Yankee Air Pirate to put on display to blame for the demise of Marigold and the perfidy of LBJ.

Come January and the bombing of Vietnam begins anew. Within days “The Beak” conveniently shot himself down with his defective Korean War Era rockets and was literally plucked out of a tree by the peasants and delivered to the militia. During interrogation, he had little to offer under torture that is of any military value. Most of his weapons were old iron bombs and rockets left over from WW II and Korea. Targets were assigned by the White House and given to the ship with 24 hours’ notice at best. It did not take long for The Beak to be turned over by the military to the political cadre. They finally had their Mad Bomber of Hanoi.



John Takman, a member of the miniscule Swedish communist party, was touring NVN as part of the Russell International War Crimes Tribunal. How delightful it would be for him to witness the confession of one of the Yankee Air Pirates who had targeted and executed the

dastardly raid on the city of Hanoi which the President of the USA had denied ever happening!

In the meantime, the political cadre were collecting samples of The Beak’s writing – penmanship, grammar, vocabulary, slang and flow. This process was involuntary, under duress, nonsensical, and at time irrational. From The Ropes torture sequence his hands were malfunctioning, the pen was hard to grasp or hold and his penmanship was blessedly almost illegible. After a few weeks, the lead Cadre, The Rabbit, showed The Beak a statement which he, the Rabbit, had written using fragments written by The Beak over the course of a month. It was the statement of The Mad Bomber of Hanoi admitting to the December raids which had ruined Marigold! Since The Beak had not flown the Van Dien raids nor had he bombed Hanoi, it would have been difficult to confess to something that he did not do. It was total fabricated pack of garbage.

The Beak was told that he was going to read this at a political rally. The Beak allowed how that was not going to happen. He bragged that he was fluent in five languages; he lied. He had studied Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, and English –and flunked them all. The product was a forced tape recording of The Beak reading the speech while monitored by two fluent English speakers to ensure no tricks.

About a week later, March 6, 1966, The Beak, dressed up in his formal prison garb, bulked out with a couple of loaned sweat shirts and a fevered swollen beak blinking like that of Rudolph, was taken out of his cell, blindfolded and dumped at bayonet point into the rear of a weapons carrier. After about an hour he was ushered into what appeared to be the backstage wing of a theater.

The tape recording of the Mad Bomber statement was played. The Beak was pushed out on to the

stage and told to “bow prettily” to the head table and the audience. Realizing that the botched tape recording was still a credible piece of junk; The Beak resolved to do one more thing.

He reasoned that it would make no sense to shout out as there could be no friend in that audience. A crowd of photographers rushed the stage and provided the inspiration to play a part – The Manchurian Candidate. The Beak would pretend to be brain washed or drugged, box the compass with profound bows and make the guards drag him off stage. One of the guards helped things along by yelling out, after the first round “BOW!”. At which point The Beak boxed the compass with profound bows again.



They got the hook and hauled the Beak off stage. Some reporter asked for a copy of the statement in my own handwriting, which of course they could not produce since he did not write it. The Cadre asked The Beak why he did not bow prettily. He replied that he was afraid of cameras, panicked and reverted to his “ancient Roman Catholic custom of the profound bow.” Since some animist mountain Vietnamese do indeed fear that cameras will steal their souls and since Hanoi had its share of Roman Catholics, the Cadre tended to believe The Beak. However, they did spend the entire night having The Beak generate a hand-written copy of

marigold, cont'd...

the statement to be whisked off by messenger at daybreak.

Lee Lockwood, a photo journalist, was being held over an extra day at the end of a long trip through NVN. He was not told why but the reason was they wanted his camera at The Mad Bomber's performance. He got a picture of the bow and made it a part of the spread he sold to Life magazine. He had the decency to make the observation that something was wrong over there. The event caused the Department of Defense to finally acknowledge the prisoner mistreatment and the State Department to officially recognize the DRV's violation of International Law regarding Prisoners of War.

The two prime diplomats involved in the abortive Polish sponsored peace negotiations could not bring themselves to believe that their efforts were dead in the water. They held out hopes through the end of the annual year and the Luna Year. However, the performance of The Mad Bomber of Hanoi and the Tet offensive convinced them that their project was finished.

The years passed and Henry Kissinger finally managed to commence secret negotiations to seriously address the disengagement of USA from Vietnam. On March 4, 1973 The Beak was dressed up in release grey chinos, marched onto a bus with nary a gun in sight and taken to Hanoi's Gia Lam airport to participate in the release specified in the Peace Treaty. Our Senior Ranking Officer lined the bus load up and marched them to the demarcation line. As your name was called, you would cross the line, salute the US receiving officer and then follow an escort officer to a waiting C-141.

The names were being called out by a North Vietnamese officer using a bull horn. The voice sounded familiar. As The Beak got to the demarcation line he could clearly see that



it was The Rabbit calling out his name. The Beak was furious. He remembered six years ago - March 6, 1967. He crossed the line, saluted the USAF Colonel and grabbed his arm in a death grip. In a stage whisper he spit out: "Get an ID and picture of that Son of a Bitch with the bull horn; he is responsible for torturing 95% of us!" The Colonel struggled to free his arm and replied: "For cripes sake we got him Dick. Get the hell out of here. You are screwing up the release."



Talk about being in the wrong place at the wrong time! In 1967 The Beak was the spitting image of the VC caricature of a Yankee Air Pirate: light attack bomber pilot, six feet tall, big nose, crew cut dark beard and 180 pounds. The VC had an immediate need of producing the miscreant who bombed their capitol, of proving LBJ a liar, and of justifying the termination of Marigold due to US malfeasance.

The Beak was made to order. You can't win them all. Needless to say, the marigold is not The Beak's favorite flower.

pow/mia



Mary Schantag, Chairman
P.O.W. Network
info@pownetwork.org

Recovery Efforts Aided by Non-Profits

While the position of Director of DPAA remains open at this point, remains identifications continue at an astonishing pace when compared to years past. As of late August, the DPAA website listed the remains identifications as coming from the countries of:

Belgium 1, Burma 3, Cambodia 1, France 2, Germany 5, India 1, Italy 3, Laos 5, Netherlands 1, North Korea 25, Palau 3, Papua New Guinea 2, Pearl Harbor 17, Pearl Harbor Hawaii 8, Philippines 4, Poland 2, Saipan 1, Solomon Islands 1, South Korea 11, Tarawa 11, Tarawa Atoll 6, Ukraine 1, Vietnam, 7, Yugoslavia 1.

The branches represented with the announcements include:

Civilian 3, U.S. Air Force 5, U.S. Air Force Reserve 3, U.S. Army 46, U.S. Army Air Forces 13, U.S. Marine Corps 12, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve 10, U.S. Naval Reserve 1, U.S. Navy 24, U.S. Navy Reserve 4.

Due to budget restraints, many of the identifications come from earlier exhumations of remains from foreign cemeteries or battlefields. When those remains were unidentifiable, many were interred once

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again. In the late 40's those remains were disinterred again and moved to the Punchbowl in Hawaii. In 2016, with new technology available, those remains were again moved to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

Included in the statistics are the efforts at recovery by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) that are working deep water and specific geographical areas of loss. All recovered remains still must go to a DPAA authorized lab for the process of identification, but this allows multiple efforts to be ongoing at the same time, in more areas than ever before.

There are family members or independent researchers compiling huge amounts of data from old records or recently received documents requested long ago under the Freedom of Information Act. Some of those involved (no official, all inclusive list can be located) as NGO's in the work to recover aircraft or remains lost decades ago include:
<https://bentprop.org/>; <http://www.wfirg.com/>; <http://www.koreanwarpowmia.net/index.htm>; <http://www.miarecoveries.org/>; <http://historyflight.com/nw/>; http://historyflight.com/nw/aboutus_staff.php; <https://www.pacificwrecks.com/>

Many times these organizations have more results, at a lower cost, with a faster recovery process than DPPA direct efforts. Without the need to reply solely on USG funding, they are free to pursue projects without budget deadlines or the restraints of government to government negotiations.

Many pursuits are in areas that DPAA has previously considered to have little chance of success.

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According to press and History Flight's website, they have recovered 110 Americans in the Pacific, and 7 in Europe in the last few years using state-of-the-art recovery techniques.

In 2017, the private, non-profit History Flight recovered remains of long-missing U.S. personnel from the Nov. 20-23, 1943 Battle of Tarawa and its aftermath on Betio Island. It was the "second-largest single recovery of U.S. battlefield remains since the Korean War, topped only by History Flight's 2015 recovery of 35 sets of remains, including those of Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman, Jr., also on Betio."

A private researcher and USMC Vietnam veteran from Rhode Island is working on locating many of the casualties memorialized in local cemeteries, but not data based anywhere. World War II records are incomplete, with no centralized list according to Ted Darcy. It has taken him over 17 years to document the 72,598 names on his list. Many are still missing.

Darcy started by hunting for wrecked planes to salvage. By the time he was done with a "first case" of an unknown, he was hooked and continues salvage efforts and the documentation of WWII losses.

He says his salvage efforts pay the high cost of records retrieval for each deceased service member he finds a need to research.

It has taken him over nine years to document locations of remains from the battle fields of Tarawa, hoping one day to bring home and have identified, 343 sets of remains "in one shot."

The BentProp Project focuses on World War Two losses within the Palau Islands. They too, are "self-funded," working with just 20 volunteers to recover both aircraft and aircrew lost on September 15, 1944. Much of their work is tedious research, so the success rate of their field work yields the best result.

In doing work on foreign soil, coordination is mandatory between governments and the organization. Additionally, the involvement of various historical centers such as the Marine Corps Historical Center, the Navy Heritage and Historical Center, and the Air Force Historical Research Agency are vital.

While the BentProp project works independently of DPAA - they do notify DPAA of mission plans, mission findings, and final results. They are not privy to any information from DPAA, and make sure that should remains or evidence be found, rules of chain of custody or site integrity are followed.

So far, BentProp has successfully located 8 MIA's and has 32 open POW/MIA cases.



civilians

A Death Sentence

reprinted from *Beyond the Wire*

The Intramuros in Manila, the old walled Spanish town, is a popular spot for tourists and residents as well. You can ride a carromata to visit local attractions, and the streets and shops are decorated in wild colors for festivals. At the north end of the Intramuros is Fort Santiago overlooking the Pasig River where it empties into Manila Bay, a tranquil place with spreading trees providing comfort and shade. The Intramuros is almost wholly rebuilt since its devastation during the Battle of Manila, though it has taken many years to correct the wholesale destruction. The churches and other buildings have been rebuilt and its enormous surrounding wall restored with huge stone blocks.

It's difficult to believe that in 1945 this beautiful and historical place was virtually leveled during the Battle of Manila as the Japanese defended to their death the defensive positions within the walls, holding out for three weeks against the American forces seeking to liberate Manila. For the duration of their occupation of Manila, the Japanese used Fort Santiago as headquarters for the Kempetai, their secret police, where they could interrogate and execute prisoners. Then during the battle, they herded hundreds of prisoners into an underground cell below sea level where the rising tide drowned them all. Other prisoners were kept in drier cells, where they were neglected by their prison guards so they died of thirst. At any time during the Japanese occupation, it was considered virtually a death sentence to be arrested and taken to Fort Santiago. If a person survived the torture, it may only have been for the relief of being taken out and executed. Not many people survived to tell about what happened within those walls, but the following is excerpted from the deposition for the War Crimes Tri-

bunal of Joseph Eisenberg, a civilian newspaper correspondent.

From April 11, 1942 until about November 1942 I was held by the Japanese as a prisoner of war after being captured by the Japanese Army on Bataan. Thereafter I was considered as an internee.

I was taken to Fort Santiago where I remained as a prisoner of war until transferred in June 1942 to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, where I remained until November 9, 1942 when I was transferred to the hospital at Santo Tomas Internment Camp. I remained in the camp until transferred to Los Baños Internment Camp in May 1943, where I remained until December when I was transferred back to Santo Tomas for further hospitalization. I remained in this camp until January 13, 1945, when I escaped and remained hidden in Manila until February 11, when I made my way to the American lines.

While I was in Fort Santiago, there were daily instances of beatings and tortures on the part of the Japanese Military Police, whose name throughout the city of Manila was a byword for fear. It was commonly believed by the Philippine people that no one who was imprisoned at Fort Santiago ever left it alive. It appeared to be a common practice of the Japanese Military Police to beat up and otherwise brutalize everyone brought in, even prior to questioning. I heard many prisoners being beaten in adjacent cells to mine. I saw a number of beatings myself in our cell and saw the results of numerous others, including burning with lighted cigarettes. I was myself beaten several times. I was slapped vigorously across the face, beaten with the flat of a sword, still in its scabbard across the back and shoulders, and then with a board across the kidneys. It was a common practice to beat the prisoners across the kidneys and buttocks with some heavy implement, usually a heavy board or the flat of a shovel. The customary procedure was to hang the prisoner up by his arms, which were tied behind him, a rod or board thrust through the crook

of his elbows and across his back and the board supported by a rope from the ceiling so that the prisoner was left dangling with his feet off the floor. This practice often resulted in a man's arms almost being wrenched from the shoulder sockets.

In my case, I was forced to kneel on an open sharp edged, grocery box, with my bare shins in contact with the wood, which produced great pain. Another time I was forced to kneel with my feet thrust straight out behind me so that all my weight rested on my instep which exerted a great strain on the tendons which produced excruciating pain.

Another one of the most serious phases of the imprisonment was the terrible crowded conditions in the cells and the lack of any adequate sanitary facilities. I was in a cell 13½ ft. x 16 ft. with anywhere from 16 to 22 men. With 16 men in the cell, it was barely possible for all to recline. With more than 16, it was not possible and we were forced to sleep in a squatting position.

The cells were located, along corridors underneath the building and had no outside ventilation, and because of the heat and congestion, the atmosphere was stifling. There was a narrow slit in the floor of the cell at the rear, covered by a trap door, under which was located a long shallow tin box. This was the toilet facilities and was supposed to be emptied by a prisoner every day, but the guards often wouldn't allow this and the result was a foul smell of human waste added to the stench of unwashed bodies.

There was a water tap imbedded in the floor of the cell at the rear for washing purposed, but the water supply was greatly inadequate due to the overcrowded condition of the prison and it was often neces-

civilians, cont'd...

sary to wait for several hours to obtain an adequate trickle of water. The food furnished us was very meager. It was quite evident that it was part of the routine of the Japanese to keep their prisoners in a weak and emaciated condition because several times when prisoners obtained an extra serving of rice by a subterfuge and this was discovered, they were severely beaten. Whenever anything out of the ordinary occurred in a cell as, for example, a disturbance which might occur among the men, the cell was usually punished collectively by removing them to a less desirable cell, if possible. Additional forms of punishment were to put prisoners in solitary confinement without food or water for a varying period of time, some such prisoners going for a period of six days without food. As a result of the unsanitary way of handling food, permitting flies and other insects to crawl over it, also probably because of the poor quality of the food supplied to begin with, there was a great deal of dysentery and other stomach disorders prevalent in the prison. It was practically impossible, however, to secure the services of a doctor. My normal weight was 168 pounds and when I was transferred from Fort Santiago to Philippine General Hospital on June 20, 1942 - suffering from beri beri, malnutrition, stomach ulcers and general collapse, I weighed 104 pounds.

BACEPOW
Bay Area Civilian Ex-
Prisoners of War.
Membership is open to all
former prisoners
of the Japanese, their
families, and friends.
There is an active
descendants group.
www.bacepow.net
Commander, Angus
Lorenzen

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Oct. 19- 22, 2017. The 100th Bomb Group Foundation reunion will be held at the Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd in Herndon, Virginia. This reunion includes an open arms invitation to members of the Stalag Luft III, the Great Escape Prison Camp former prisoners of war and family. For more information, contact: Val Burgess: vburgess@burgessdesigngroup.com; 307 674-4080 or Nancy Putnam: reunion@100thbg.com, 414 339-2818.

Jan. 6- 14, 2018. USS Pueblo 50th Anniversary Cruise will be taken aboard the popular Carnival Conquest. For information/reservations: VIP World Travel, 4971 Ringwood Meadow, Sarasota, FL 34235; 941-377-0017 or 800-323-7448; mail@vipworldtravel.travel. Website: www.vipworldtravel.travel.

March 3, 2018. USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations will host a 'Day of Remembrance' at USS Houston CA-30 monument, Sam Houston Park at the Heritage Society, 1100 Bagby Street, Houston, TX at 2:30PM. for more information, see: usshouston.org; or contact@usshouston.org.

April 8, 2018. The 20th anniversary of the National Prisoner of War Museum will be held at Andersonville National Historic Site with special programs and activities. AXPOW's Board of Directors meeting will be held at Andersonville during this week. There will be more information on this important event in the next Ex-POW Bulletin.



I'm looking for information about **F.S. Paules that was camp leader of POW camp Stalag Luft 4 in 1944.** I'm wondering if he is still alive? If you have any information about living POWs from that camp it would be very helpful to my research. I'm in possession of some documents that were written in 1944 and hidden within the camp - they were recovered by a local guy and given to me when I've been putting up candles in front of Stalag Luft 4 monument in Modrolas, Tychowo (German Gross Tychow). They are containing statements of eyewitnesses of shooting to US soldiers by German guards but also some other documents. Most of them are undersigned by T/Sgt F.S. Paules. I'm a WW2 history passionate that live not far away from the Stalag Luft 4 site. Thank you for any help. Peter Koltys. piotr.koltys@icloud.com

My name is Olga. I am a literary agent of the Ukrainian writer Ivan Korsak. He writes historical novels. Today he is in search of any articles or other information about the participation of people of **Ukrainian descent in the war in Vietnam.** We would be extremely grateful for the materials on the participation of Ukrainians in this war as well as the advices. We are ready to receive them on the terms that you will propose. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. I would be grateful if you could attend to this matter as soon as possible. Olga Volkova, literary agent: tel. +380504387810 or litagent.korsak@gmail.com

To have your event listed or to place a request in our "looking for" column, please email the editor at axpoweditor@comcast.net at least 90 days in advance.
Thank you.

News Briefs

Remembering Linebacker II

By Mark Brasfield | Courier News
mbrasfield@blythevillecourier.com



Rev. Dr. Robert G. Certain, Colonel, USAFR (Ret.) speaks to a crowd of several hundred, Tuesday, at the Arkansas Aeroplex before the unveiling of the restored Linebacker II monument.

The B-52 was above the target at the precise time.

Radar didn't indicate any threat from the enemy.

"At 15 seconds to go on the bomber, we opened the bomb bay doors," recalled Rev. Dr. Robert G. Certain, Colonel, USAFR (Ret.), as he spoke to several hundred, Tuesday, during a rededication of the Linebacker II memorial at the Arkansas Aeroplex. "Five seconds later I started a stopwatch just in case something went bad. And just as I clicked on my stopwatch, the power shut off. We lost our radar. I thought the co-pilot had hit the generator switches and knocked them offline. But immediately he started yelling out, 'they've got the pilot, they've got the pilot!' The EW (electronic warfare) was yelling, 'is anybody alive?!' I turned around, there's a fire

right behind me in the wheel well right in front of the bomb bay. We dropped the bombs; we realized the fire was also by the fuel tank and we had 10,000 pounds of jet fuel on top of that fire.

"That was not a good situation. EW punched out. Boom! I thought, thanks a lot. Realizing the situation was not going to get any better, we had a choice to make: we could go down in flames like the Air Force song says or we could jettison that piece of junk and make a nylon let-down to a non precision approach."

Certain joked that he can vouch that it is unwise to eject over the target just bombed.

He ejected at 35,000 feet, free fell for 20,000 feet, before the parachute opened.

"I looked between my combat boots and watched 27 750-pound bombs walk through that target right below me," Certain said.

About 15 minutes later, he landed on the edge of a ditch in North Vietnam.

"We had a full moon that night," Certain said. "I had on a white helmet. The parachute had white panels and I don't have any pigment in my skin and I had orange hair. If I took my helmet off, I look like a traffic cone. I was surrounded by the enemy. Fortunately, there were four militia with AK-47s who kept the civilians from killing me and I was captured within a few minutes."

Certain was repatriated a few months later, though his friends — nine other members of Linebacker II — would give the ultimate sacrifice in the December 1972 battle.

Three lost their lives the first night: Lieutenant Colonel Donald Louis Rissi, Capt. Robert J. Thomas and Gunner Senior Master Sergeant (SMSGT) Walter Lee Ferguson.

Linebacker II, the largest ever bombing campaign by American B-52s,

occurred during Christmas holidays in December 1972, when the United States dropped at least 20,000 tons of explosives onto North Vietnam, mostly over Hanoi (the capitol of North Vietnam at the time). It is generally accepted that the campaign was what brought the North Vietnamese back to the peace table and thereby hastened the end of the Vietnam War.

"It's a great honor to meet the families of my friends who died," Certain said, just before the unveiling on the renovated Linebacker II monument. "I knew all of the crew on Tan 3 also...These men were all friends of mine. They all lived honorable lives and their efforts helped to win the war in Vietnam. Why on earth this nation thinks we lost it beats me. Why the DOD thinks that the war ended in 1975 beats me. The war ended on January 29, 1973 when the North Vietnamese signed a treaty that we dictated. We won the war, and B-52s won that last battle. We got all the prisoners home on both sides of the conflict and restored the peace for two years until the North decided to invade the South."

During Linebacker II, General James R. McCarthy (Ret.) led his wing on two B-52 raids against Hanoi, North Vietnam. He was the Airborne Mission Commander on Dec. 26, 1972 — the largest air raid of the Linebacker II campaign.

"In every war, there are unsung heroes," McCarthy told the crowd. "In the Vietnam War, we had quite a few, and in Linebacker II we had more than our fair share."

He pointed out that a lot of Linebacker II information is still classified.

"So the story of Linebacker II has yet to be told," McCarthy said. "There are things that have been

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declassified and hopefully within the next several years we will see somebody come forward and tie it all together. Because, actually, it was more of a victory than we thought.”

He added: “We were going against SA-3 missiles, which was state of the art. A B-52 was never designed to go against them, but our guys were there and despite those missiles they got the job done.”

Certain was stationed here in 1971 and flew more than 100 missions over Southeast Asia in 1971-72.

In May of 1972, Certain learned that he wouldn't be here for his planned wedding; he had to leave for Guam in seven days. He and his bride — the former Robbie Wade of Blytheville — were married as soon as he got off alert.

Certain said on Dec. 18, 1972 his crew was scheduled to return to Blytheville.

“We were told on the 15th, all missions were canceled for the 16th and 17th,” he said. “Everybody was put on crew rest. I was kind of hoping the war was over. But my crew found a truck with keys in it and drove out to the flight line and noticed they were fueling, loading up water — because B-52s burn water — and weapons. So obviously, we were not going to turn east when we took off.”

“When we were taxiing out, we had to stop taxiing because of an earthquake,” Certain continued. “Not a good sign. Then, we were called by the tower that somebody had done a bag drag in front of us and the drill was that they would rotate to the tail end and everybody else would move up one.”

His crew would eventually take the lead, “which was my favorite position because I was the best navigator in the Air Force and my crew was the best crew in the Air Force. Well, at least we were the best from Blytheville. We were an all-select, all-instructor crew.”

The crew battled other issues as well, including the aircraft not pressurizing at one point and a mix up with the tanker.

But they would make to the target at the precise time and soon become true American heroes.

Certain details the events of the battle in his book, *Unchained Eagle: From Prisoner of War to Prisoner of Christ*.

In his capacity as military chaplain, Certain served parishes in the Dioceses of West Texas, Mississippi, West Tennessee, Arizona and San Diego. He is now Rector of St. Peter and St. Paul Episcopal Church in Marietta, Georgia.

He serves as an advisor to the Secretary of Defense through the Defense Health Board, on its committee on Psychological Health and Medical Ethics and on the Task Force for Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces. He is also an advisor to the Secretary of the VA through the Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War.

Meanwhile, also speaking at the rededication of the Linebacker II Memorial and ground breaking of the future Hulk 46 memorial was Chaplain Brigadier General Steve Schaick, who is the Deputy Chief of Chaplains, USAF, at the Pentagon. Schaick was installation chaplain at Blytheville (Eaker) Air Force Base from August 1988 to August 1991. Professional trumpeter Bill Hershey of St. Louis played *To the Color and Taps* at the event, which marked 25 years since the closure of the base.

The 95th Composite Squadron, Civil Air Patrol from Texarkana presented the colors.

And, of course, the final highlight of the event came around 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, when a B-52 flew into Blytheville and a large crowd had an opportunity for an up-close view of the aircraft that landed here for the first time in a quarter century.

The sounds of the B-52 brought back memories for many local residents, taking them back in time to when Blytheville was a key part of foreign policy.

Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new program, Veterans Pre Need Burial Eligibility Determination, that will greatly assist Veterans and their families. This program, which is found at, <http://www.cem.va.gov/pre-need/>

- 1-Allows Veterans and their families to have peace of mind as to their future burial eligibility in a national cemetery and
- 2-Saves Veteran's families valuable time after a Veteran has died.

Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, if readily available, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299_or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151

Once VA determines that individuals are eligible, those individuals will be entitled to the same benefits they would receive were a determination made at the time of need (time of death). These include any or all of the following, at no cost to the family:

news, cont'd...

- Burial in any open VA national cemetery, including opening and closing of the grave
- Grave liner
- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- Government-furnished upright headstone, flat marker or niche cover
- Burial flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

Spouses, and eligible dependents, can be buried with their Veteran at a VA national cemetery as well even if they pre-decease a Veteran.

Veterans Choice Program

The Veterans Choice Program began in 2015. On August 12, 2017, the President signed the VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017 which authorized \$2.1 billion in additional funds for the Veterans Choice Program (VCP). The law reflects the ongoing commitment of VA and Congress to make sure Veterans get the right care, at the right time, from the right provider.

If you are already enrolled in VA health care, the Choice Program allows you to receive health care within your community rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. Using this program does NOT impact your existing VA health care, or any other VA benefit.

Am I Eligible?

Have you been told by your local VA medical facility that they can't schedule your appointment within 30 days of the clinically indicated date or if no such date can be determined, your preferred date?

If your current residence more than 40 miles from the closest VA medical facility with your full-time primary care physician?

Do you need to travel by air, boat or ferry to the VA medical facility closest to your home?

Are you faced with an excessive burden due to traveling to the closest VA medical facility based on geographic challenges, environmental factors, or a medical condition?

What do I do if I think I am eligible?

Call the Choice Program Call Center at 866-606-8198 to verify your eligibility and set up an appointment.

Remembering Prisoners of War

By Paul Fattig



Longiotti, photographed in 1945, received a Bronze Star for his participation in the battle of Anzio. — Jim Craven

When Cordino Longiotti sits down to a bountiful lunch honoring former prisoners of war today, his thoughts will likely go back for a moment to leaner times.

Back to the days in 1944 when he was in a POW camp in Italy.

"All we got for breakfast was a cup of coffee," he recalled. "For lunch, we had a cup of soup and a slice of bread. Dinner was either a cup of soup or tea."

And he'll tell you the soup was thin, the coffee and tea weak and the pieces of bread small. Fights broke

out over food. His weight dropped to a skeletal 90 pounds.

Longiotti, now 94, of Ashland, Oregon is one of a dozen former POWs from throughout the region feted at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics in observance of National Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action Recognition Day.

Hailing from Greenville, PA., the retired hardware store owner and remodeling contractor was drafted into the Army on Feb. 4, 1943. Before donning a uniform, the son of Italian immigrants met a beautiful young woman named Loretta Sanitate. The two kept up a correspondence as he was deployed to North Africa, Sicily and finally to Italy.

Serving as a machine gunner for the 179th Infantry Regiment, he saw action in Salerno and Anzio. It was during the latter that he would be awarded a Bronze Star.

"Everybody should have received a Bronze Star there — it was real bad," said the former private first class with a shrug.

In the bloodbath that was Anzio, his regiment lost some 55 percent of its men. The battle began Jan. 22, 1944, and waged well into spring.

After a day and night of combat, Longiotti and four other soldiers in a machine gun emplacement along a road realized on the morning of Feb. 18 that they were alone.

"Everyone had deserted us," he recalled of other American troops who had apparently fallen back.

But the enemy had not. Rounds were striking the emplacement from both the front and back.

remembering, cont'd...

"We couldn't even stand up," he said. "And our machine gun was no longer working."

German soldiers with their bayonets fixed came up from behind. The Americans raised their hands in surrender.

The Nazi soldiers took his pistol and the watch Loretta had given him.

"We carried our sergeant out in a blanket — he was wounded," he said, adding, "I don't know whatever happened to him."

Back in Pennsylvania, his parents and girlfriend were told he was missing in action. They would not know he was alive for another five months.

The POWs spent three months at the camp near Laterina in Italy, where food was scarce.

"We were starving to death," he said. "There was a lot of diarrhea. And lice. Oh man, we were loaded with louse. You'd pick them off and kill them."

When a POW escaped and was caught, the soldier would be shot and put on display, he said.

"They'd bring them back in a box and put them out in the yard for everybody to see," he said.

Yet there was an attempt to tunnel out. The tunnel started in the officers' barracks about 40 feet from the fence.

"Every day they would walk out in the yard and pretty soon dirt would start falling out of their pant legs

and pockets," he said. "They'd scatter that dirt around."

Longiotti was preparing to escape with other POWs through the tunnel when the escape was called off.

"They figured out they hadn't reached the outer fence," he said, explaining there were two fences. "They had miscalculated."

Unfortunately, a POW from Scotland informed the guards about the tunnel. The informant was transferred to another camp and several POWs were placed in solitary, he said.

"We found out later they had tunneled beyond the second fence after all," he added.

Longiotti was later transferred via train to southern Germany to a POW camp near the hamlet of Unterthurheim. When he was interviewed, Longiotti, who had never milked a cow in his life, informed his captors that he was a farmer.

With food difficult to find, he figured there would be some on a farm. He and 17 other POWs were kept in the camp at night but sent out to work on a nearby farm by day.



"We ate what the farmers ate," he said. "It wasn't a lot but it was food. There was a lot of sauerkraut and soupy stuff."

The soldier, who at one point became extremely ill with what doctors there believed was diphtheria, was able to notify his loved ones that he was alive.

"Nobody knew where I was for five months," he said, noting he received only about three cards from Loretta during the time he was a POW. Loved ones could only send one card a week and were restricted to writing 25 words.

His camp was liberated on April 26, 1945.

"They let us go to the farms," he said. "We all knew the Americans were coming. One guard, a sergeant who stayed in the same house I did, gave me his pistol when the troops got there."

Longiotti returned home and asked Loretta to be his wife. The two had two children and numerous grandchildren. Loretta passed away in 2012.

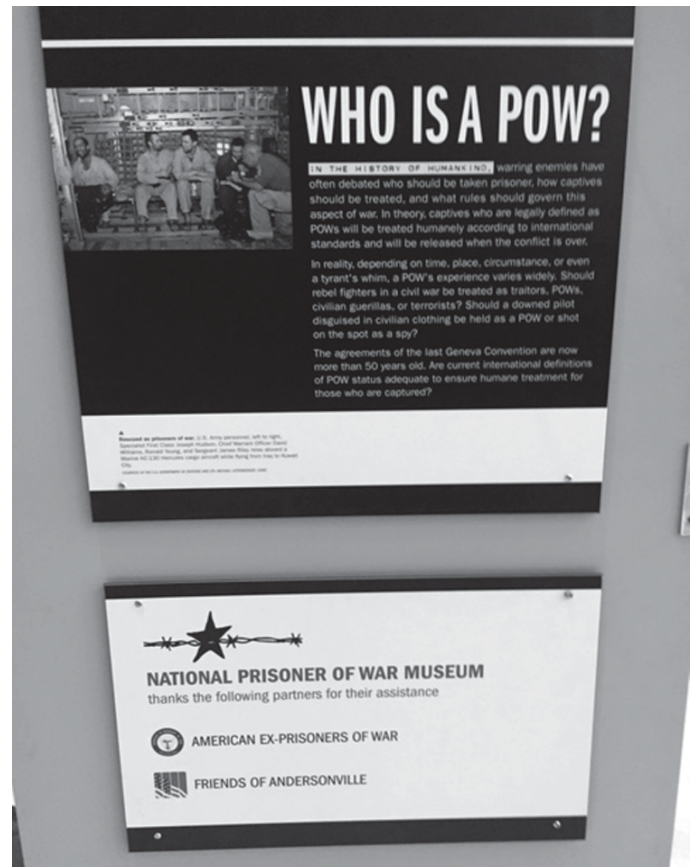
"I thought he would come home in a box," she said in 2007. "We didn't hear from him for a long, long time. When I found out he was alive I sent a lot of cards but he didn't get very many."

The two went to Italy for the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Rome in 2004. They met President Bush and Laura Bush during a celebration at the U.S. Embassy.

"My experience wasn't as bad as some," Longiotti said of other POWs. "We didn't get beaten up. But it was bad enough."

MailTribune.com
Medford, OR
Paul Fattig 776-4496 or
pfattig@mailtribune.com

“Victory from Within” at the National Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola, FL



Reference; Milton, Frank G.
Service #; 35248072
Service Dates; March 23, 1944 to May 18th, 1945, killed in Belgium.
Unit; 9th Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Regiment
Burial Site; Ardennes War Cemetery, Belgium
Plot D, Row 6, Grave 36



Contents inside my Grandfather's WWI footlocker prompted me to further investigate my great uncle Pvt. Frank G. Milton's death reported on May 18th, 1945, and his service in World War II. Through information contained within, and additional research I was able to locate much information about his time in service, time in service after capture, and death.

Frank G. Milton was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Regiment serving in the European Theater in 1944. In October 1944 he was in Germany and an engagement ensued with Nazi Forces, which resulted in his capture October 10th, 1944. He was originally taken to Stammlager (Stalag) XII A, where he was allowed a notification post card to the United States indicating his POW Status and following October 20th, 1944 imprisoned in Stalag Luft IIB, and a work camp in Hammerstein, West Prussia.



In a letter recovered of Pvt. Emil Heikkenen in December 1945, he indicates that they served together as POW in Stalag IIB, with his capture dated October 6th, 1945. Heikkenen indicates that on January 29th, 1945 the Germans removed the POW from IIB and began a march west through Germany. Conditions were poor, with shelter being occasional, and food being little, if any. Bartering with locals, when possible, trading cigarettes and chocolate they had that wasn't stolen from Red Cross supplies, for potatoes or bread for the men. Mr. Heikkenen states that the march lasted until March 5th, 1945, arriving in a camp in Krummell, Germany, some estimated 400 + Kilometers. On May 02, 1945 they were liberated by the Soviet Red Army in Krummell, and Pvt's, Emil Heikkenen and Frank G. Milton departed and spent time in Weissenberg, Germany. Heikkenen describes their ability to garner food during this time, and the fact that they were able to eat as normal. The two proceeded to Luneburg Germany, where a departure was planned for the POW.



On May 17th, Pvt. Frank G. Milton and Pvt. Emil Heikkenen, having survived this together separated, with Heikkenen taking a different plane.

Mr. Heikkenen passed away in 1989 in Atlantic Mine, Michigan. His letter, and his "former POW" card are attached herein. The date of his card is May 19, 1945.



On May 18th, 1945 Private Frank G. Milton boarded a British Military Lockheed Hudson Aircraft v9169, serial number AE505 piloted by Lieutenant F/O Robert Charles Hawkins of the 161 squadron RAF. This aircraft was part of "Operation Exodus" and flew British and American POW from Luneburg, Germany to EVERE, Brussels, Belgium. The reason for both American and British POW aboard was that the flight was reportedly not full, so they took American POW. The flight arrival time was approximately 16:30 hours. The Lockheed Hudson aircraft made a hard landing, bounced, reaccelerated and flew upwards, it then entered into a rearward tail spin, and then nose dove into the ground, exploding, killing all service members and crew aboard.



This crash is referenced in two publications, one being the book "The Price of Peace" authored by Colin Cummings.

Frank G. Milton, was born Frank G. Mrakuzic on November 10th, 1912, in Waukegan, Illinois. He later changed that name through the Lake County, Illinois Circuit Court to Frank G. Milton on June 7th, 1926.

At 32 years of age, and a tool and die maker by trade, he voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army on March, 23, 1944 for the duration of World War II. Milton enlisted at Fort Benjamin Harrison Indiana, 1944 and proceeded to training with Co. B 67th Training Bn. 14th Regiment, Camp Fannin, Texas.



He was assigned to the 9th Infantry Division, 39th Infantry Regiment and served his country in the European Theater with that Division entering into Germany. He was captured October 10th, 1944, prior to the Battle of the Bulge in what would be the precursor to the Ardennes Offensive. He survived 177 days imprisoned in Stalag 2B, a work camp, and at the wars end, a Nazi forced continuous march across Germany lasting from January 29th, 1945 until March 5th, 1945 during winter. He, and fellow POW were liberated on May 2nd of 1945 by the Soviet Red Army in Krummell. He died with fellow POW and supporting military RAF aircrew on their flight to freedom.



The following service members were killed in that crash and their service numbers are as follows:

F/O Lt. Robert Charles Hawkins DFM 156639 161 Squadron, RAF
F/O Murray Watson DFM 171406 161 Squadron, RAF
Eric F. Clemens F/O Wireless Operator 175891 161 Squadron, RAF
Sgt. Ernest A. Cox 770487 161 Squadron, RAF
Eric Hadley F/O Air Gunner 161625 161 Squadron, RAF
Arthur Appleyard LAC 1750209 161 Squadron, RAF
PFC W. Panakakos 33747116 30th Infantry Regiment
Private Lawrence V Carnavale 31428519 423rd Inf. Reg.
S/S Billy J Murray 18162953 92nd BG/325th BS
Private Frank G. Milton 35248072 9th Inf. Div.
PFC Patsy Cirelli 35286259 121st Inf. Reg.
Cpl. Virgil H. Wood 20704921 1st Ranger Bn
Private Oscar F. Price 39701289 82nd Airborne Div.
S/S Francisco D. Sanchez 39569266 485th BG/828th BS
Private Ernest H. Nevis 37728164 87th Cav Recon Sq
Private Nathan O. Williams 34875161 320th Inf.
S/S Rudolph W. Gohl 19146550 44th BG/701st BS

Frank G. Milton, service number #35248072, is a family member and this is about his service and death, but it is also about telling one of the many stories about this war and generation of people, and all that was sacrificed.

He is buried with Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty of his fellow service members at Ardennes American War Cemetery in Neupre, Belgium.



He is gone, but he will not be forgotten.

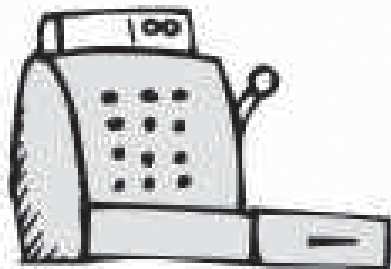


Respectfully Submitted,
Mark A. Milton
Son of surviving next of kin, John A. Milton,
who is the son of decedent's brother George A. Milton
399 Forest Meadow Lane
Orange Park Florida 32065
(904)466-3409 cell
m.milton@unf.edu

MEMBERSHIP COUNT (6/19/2017)

Alabama	167	Oklahoma	204
Alaska	10	Oregon	114
AP/AE		Pennsylvania	423
Arizona	234	Puerto Rico	7
Arkansas	99	Rhode Island	36
California	799	South Carolina	206
Colorado	120	South Dakota	28
Connecticut	97	Tennessee	225
Delaware	30	Texas	880
District of Columbia	6	Utah	37
Florida	797	Vermont	34
Georgia	213	Virgin Islands	1
Guam	2	Virginia	245
Hawaii	26	Washington	273
Idaho	43	West Virginia	67
Illinois	289	Wisconsin	322
Indiana	197	Wyoming	6
Iowa	136	Foreign	28
Kansas	152		
Kentucky	101	TOTAL:	9,966
Louisiana	123		
Maine	60		
Maryland	170	ETO	3,384
Massachusetts	293	PAC	469
Michigan	219	KOREA	398
Minnesota	170	USS PUEBLO	18
Mississippi	169	VIETNAM	92
Missouri	229	IRAN	2
Montana	30	IRAQ	5
Nebraska	68	SOMALIA	1
Nevada	54	FARS/CHINA/2001	2
New Hampshire	57	CIVILIAN	126
New Jersey	280		
New Mexico	109		
New York	455	SURVIVING SPOUSES	4,776
North Carolina	240	NOK	693
North Dakota	34		
Ohio	552		
Oklahoma	204	ANNUAL	336
Oregon	114	LIFE MEMBER	9,630

contributions



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GENERAL FUND

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Ohio

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the Bulletin, by Vermont Chapter
#1

In memory of Anthony Joseph
Hufnagel, by Bridget Mullarkey

In memory of Anthony "Duff"
Hufnagel, by Marylou Andersen

In memory of Anthony Joseph
Hufnagel, William Triantafel

In memory of Anthony Joseph
Hufnagel, Marianne Roenna

In memory of Anthony Joseph
Hufnagel, Harry Kotecki

In memory of Bruno J Trocciola,
by son Robert Trocciola

In memory of Claude Davis Young,
by Elaine Kimray Young

In memory of Erwin & Shirley

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Lange, by Sharon Hulback

In memory of Erwin & Shirley

Lange, by Sonja Wendt

In memory of Genevieve Schenck,
by her family

In memory of Guido Pallozzi, by
Bernice Pallozzi

In memory of Harold White, by Gus
Buckalo

In memory of Helen McGee, by her
friends

In memory of Helen McGee, by
Kathleen Lintula

In memory of Irene Balay, by Lance
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Deborah Soukup

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Susan Slawek

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Dorothy Jurkovic

In memory of PNC Maurice Sharp,
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In memory of PNC Maurice Sharp,
by Ellen Hendrix

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by Gaylen & Ginger Fitzsimmons

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by Marilyn & Don Ratszall

In memory of PNC Maurice Sharp,
by Brenda & Steve Chavez

In memory of PNC Maurice Sharp,
by Velma Wilson

In memory of PNC Maurice Sharp,
by James E Wells

In memory of PNC Maurice Sharp,
by Deborah L Wells

In memory of Robert Roenna, by
Marylou Andersen

In memory of Thomas W Cima, by
his family

In memory of Verne Seidel, by
Karen Woodhouse

In memory of Verne Seidel, by
Michele Phillips

In memory of Verne Seidel, by Tim
Seidel

In memory of Walter Grotz, by
Mary Grotz

In memory of William Edd Roberts,
by John Sant

VOLUNTARY FUNDING

Harry Fornalczyk, Erie PA

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WI

thank you!

In June, at our national
convention in Texas, we held
our last 50/50 drawing. These
drawings were started by one
of our directors who saw a way
for our members to both
contribute to AXPOW and also
quite possibly benefit. We'd like
to thank three of our winners
for generously donating back
to AXPOW's general fund.

Connie Dager, Glendale, AZ
George Korb, Kingsville, MD
Cliff Armgard, Genoa, WI

You Can Leave a Legacy...

There are a number of ways to let the legacy of your commitment to the American Ex-Prisoners of War continue on.

An easy option is to visit a bank and buy a CD naming the American Ex-Prisoners of War as the beneficiary, payable-on-death. If you have a life insurance policy that is no longer needed to provide for dependants consider making AXPOW the beneficiary. Some assets such as IRAs, Keogh Plans and other qualified retirement plans do not pass directly through your will and also require you to name a beneficiary. Perhaps you're receiving payments from the sale of a business, real estate or are receiving royalties? You may be able to designate AXPOW as the successor interest to receive any payments that continue after your death.

Your generous support of our programs over the years has made a tremendous difference to ex-POWs and their families. I hope you will seriously consider whether a final gift to AXPOW will be the right option for you and your family.

Please take a few minutes of your time to help. And feel free to contact
CFO Marsha Coke at 817-649-2979; axpow76010@yahoo.com or
CEO David Eberly at (757) 508-8453; eberlydsl@verizon.net

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new members



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request for membership application American Ex- Prisoners of War

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

Do NOT send dues with this request for an application

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e-mail: HQ@axpow.org



WELCOME!

Lowry Rush Watkins Jr
Louisville KY
Great grandson of Thomas Walker Bullitt, Civil War

Peter Mascone
Clarksville MD
Son of Attilio Mascone, ETO

Debbie DuFrene
Moselle MS
Daughter of Clifford Shows, ETO

Anthony R Paredes
Tacoma WA
Son of Rudolph Paredes, PAC



Prisoner of War Certificate of Captivity

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

American Ex-Prisoners of War
Arlington, Texas

Certificate of Captivity

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

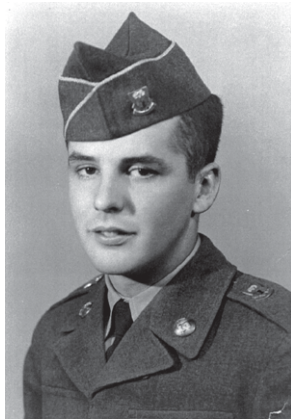


taps



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

Past National Commander Maurice Sharp of University Place, WA, passed away July 30, 2017, at the age of 84. Maurice was born in Watson, Missouri on June 8, 1933.



On October 2, 1952, he began his career in the Army, serving in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was just 19 years old when he was captured and taken as a prisoner of war in Korea. He served in the Army for more than 22 years and was stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Leonardwood, Missouri, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Ord, California, and Fort Lewis, Washington before retiring as a First Sergeant at Fort Lewis on November 30, 1974. During his military career, Maurice earned numerous medals, including the Bronze Star medal with "V" for "Valor. It was a great honor and he was especially proud of this medal, because not all those who earned the Bronze Star had the "V" on it as well.



Maurice joined the American Ex-Prisoners of War on September 30, 1994 and became a member of the Tacoma (WA) Chapter. He remained a member until the chapter disbanded in 2016. After encouragement of his good friends Fran Agnes, Gordy Clark and Jim Wells, he decided to run for office in the national organization of the Ex-Prisoners of War. He held offices of National Director, Jr. Vice Commander, Sr. Vice Commander and ultimately served as National Commander from 2002-2003. He met and worked with many prominent leaders of our nation; Governor Gary Locke, Representative Dick Muri and Senator Patty Murray, to name a few. In 2003 he was appointed by Governor Locke to serve on the Washington State Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee. While serving as National Commander he and his wife Bonnie were honored to be invited twice to the White House for breakfast, where they had the great privilege of meeting President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush.

Maurice was himself an avid promoter of AXPOW and what it stood for. He spent many hours working with POWs and living up to the organization's slogan: "We exist to help those who cannot help themselves". He worked diligently, along with his wife Bonnie, to guide POWs to the people who could help them get their rightful disability, which he felt they so richly deserved. Maurice was also very active assisting the widows wherever help was needed. One of his favorite things to do was to be invited into the schools and share his knowledge with the students regarding ex-POWs and what they went through. This unselfish act was very much appreciated by the students and teachers alike. He also served faithfully for many years as a volunteer for the Tahoma national Cemetery Honor Guard.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Bonnie, 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, 1 brother and 2 sisters.



PRISONER PAID IN RED HOSPITAL—Pfc. Donald J. Gardner (left) of Buffalo, N. Y., shows reporters at Freedom Village some of 15,000 Chinese War he was "paid" while in a Red prison camp hospital. He was able to buy cigars and a bar of soap with the money and still have some left over, he said. With him is Pfc.

Maurice loved working in his yard and each year he strived to have the most beautiful yard and flowers on the block. Two of his favorite pastimes were hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed traveling with his wife Bonnie and made numerous trips sightseeing throughout the U.S. They also enjoyed cruises to Alaska, the Bahamas, Canada and New England. In Maurice's early military years, he was assigned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii for three years and he and his family enjoyed making numerous trips back to Hawaii. His great love was his wife, his kids, and his grandchildren with whom he spent many hours.

Ex-POW Bulletin

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taps cont'd...

BENTON, Rose V., of East Palestine, OH died July 10, 2017 at the age of 89. She was the loving wife of ex-POW Paul for 62 years. Both were members of the Steel Valley Chapter #13 of Ohio and life members of AXPOW and DAV. Paul predeceased her; Rose leaves four nieces and one nephew.

BLOCH, Jean H., of The Bronx, NY, widow of deceased member Jacques W. Bloch (106th Division, 422/K, Battle of the Bulge, Stalag XIB, Follingbostel) passed away Aug. 29, 2017. She was 92. Known for her unflinching optimism, her sense of humor and her intellectual curiosity, she is survived by her two children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She will be missed.

BROWN, Jennings, 94, a life member of Fresno Chapter #1, passed away on August 10, 2017. Jennings was a gunner on a B-17 bomber in WWII assigned to the 303rd Bomb Group out of Molesworth, England. He was shot down on his 6th mission, sent to Stalag Luft 1V, and released in Luft 1 by the Russians in spring of 1945. Jennings is survived by his wife of 73 years, Beverly, 4 children, 7 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

CALLAHAN, Darothy, of Elk Grove, CA died May 25, 2017. She married her late husband of 63 years, ex-POW Clifford on Dec. 27, 1945. Together they raised 5 children, 14 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren and served as foster parents to 96 infants over a 10 year period. Throughout her life Darothy enjoyed reading, singing, traveling, hosting family get-togethers, helping those in need and most of all spoiling her pets. Generosity and hospitality were her mantra.

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Del Re, Mario Jr., 97, passed away May 25, 2017. Mario, a navigator on a B-17 in WWII, was assigned to the 379th Bomb Group in Kimbolten, England and was shot down on his 4th mission on August 16, 1943 and severely injured. He was a POW for 18 months. Mario is survived by a host of family and friends. He was a life member of Fresno Chapter #1.

DICKEL, James Patrick Sr., 86, of Mt. Savage, MD died Jan. 3, 2017. He was captured while serving with the 24th Div. stationed in Japan at the outbreak of the Korean War. He survived the infamous "Tiger Death March" and was held 38 months until his release. Jimmy leaves his wife of 63 years, Mary Lou, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 6 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren and a large, loving extended family. He will be missed.

EMMERT, Wallace, 102, a life member of Fresno Chapter # 1, passed away on June 15, 2017. Wallace was a WWII pilot of a B-17 Bomber. Flying out of England, he was shot down and wounded in October, 1943. He was hospitalized in Holland until a release-exchange of POWs in December of 1944 when he was returned to the US. He is survived by his son Wallace Emmert, Jr.

FIGURACION, Dominador "Dan", of Lakewood, WA died Apr. 3, 2017. He was the favored son of two countries - the Philippines and the USA. Dan was a Philippine Scout during WWII and was an active member of the Tacoma Chapter, AXPOW. Survivors include his loving wife of 71 years, Ely, 7 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

FORTNAM, Robert William, of Concord, NH passed away Aug. 1, 2017 at the age of 94. He served with the 305th BG during WWII, flying B-17s. After being shot down, he crash landed in Holland, then captured by Germans and held in Luft III. After his return from the war, Bob married his longtime sweet-

heart, Marion L. Johnson. Marion passed away in 1993. Bob is survived by his wife of 21 years, Janet. Between Bob and Janet there is a large extended family. Bob leaves 5 children, 2 stepchildren, 10 grandchildren, 6 step grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren, 1 brother and many nieces and nephews

FREY, Gordon George, 93, of Geneva, IL died July 22, 2017. During WWII, he served with the Army Corps of Engineers; landed in France and was captured and sent to Oflag 64 in Poland. He endured the forced march across Germany before being liberated. Gordon is survived by his loving wife, June, 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, 1 great-grandson and his beloved cat, Cat 2.

GUNVALSON, Russell Lloyd, 93, of Rochester, MN passed away May 23, 2017. He served as a forward artillery observer in Battery A, 590th Field Artillery Bn, 106th Div. Captured in the Battle of the Bulge, he was held in Stalag 9-B and 9A until liberation. Russ was preceded in death by his wife, Idelle; he leaves 1 daughter, 1 son, 4 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

HARROW, Douglas, of Stone Mountain, GA, died February 25, 2017. He was a civilian internee held in Santo Tomas Manila. He is survived by his wife, Virginia. Both are AXPOW life members since 1991.

HARTSHORN, John of Hamilton Square, NJ passed away July 6, 2017 at the age of 91. He served with the 78th Div., 310th Inf., L Co; he was captured in Germany and held in Stalag 12A. Jack leaves his wife, Doris, 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

HUFNAGEL, Anthony Joseph, 98, of Glendale Heights, IL died Aug. 3, 2017. He was the beloved husband of 66 years to Isabel, loving father of 5 daughters and 1 son, cherished grandfather of 16, great-grandfather of 13, and brother of Agnes. Tony

taps cont'd...

was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and an active member of the Fox River Valley Chapter, AXPOW.

MEYLER, Walter P. of Seabrook, TX died May 15, 2017. He was 94. Walt was shot down on October 29, 1944 while flying a P-51 and leading a flight in a 12 ship sortie against the railroad yards at Worms, Germany. Though wounded, it was six days before he was captured and then moved by train to Stalag Luft III. He was assigned to West Compound Barracks 169, Room 3. On January 27, 1945 West Compound was alerted for a forced march evacuation. He eventually arrived at Stalag VIIA where he was held until liberated. Walt is survived by a sister, two sons, two grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. His wife of 71 years, Elizabeth, passed away shortly after him on June 6, 2017.

MURPHY, Alvin M. of Sterling, CO, passed away June 20, 2017. During WWII, he served with the 15th AF, 465th BG, 783rd BS. He was shot down, captured and held in Stalag Luft IV, Lager D. Alvin was a member of the former Northeast Colorado Chapter and life member of AXPOW. He leaves 1 son, 6 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

PENNINGTON, Robert E., 93, of Houston, TX died April 16, 2017. He served in the 26th Inf. Div., 328th Reg., Co E; he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and held until liberation. Bob and his wife, Frances, were married 70 years; he is also survived by 1 son, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

PRICE, Jerome Pearl Barnes, of Clanton, AL passed away April 8, 2017 at the age of 80. She was the beloved wife of ex-POW Morris (Korean War, 23rd Inf., 2nd Div., Camp 5). Survivors include 1 son, 3 daughters, 1 sister, 10 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, 4 great-great-

grandchildren and a host of nieces and nephews.

ROBERTS, William Edd, of Windcrest, TX died July 9, 2017. He was captured while serving with the 15th AF, 463rd BG during WWII; he was held in Luft IV, then marched across Germany until liberation. Bill was an active member of AXPOW, serving as National Director, Commander of the Dept. of Texas, and offices in the San Antonio Chapter. He volunteered at the South Texas POW-MIA Office and the Audie Murphy VA hospital. He leaves his wife, "Cookie", 2 daughters, 1 step-daughter, 1 son, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and their families.

RUSSELL, John M., 93, of Redding, CA died Jan. 13, 2017. During WWII, he served with the 8th AF, 388th BG. He was shot down over the Baltic Sea, rescued by fishermen, captured and interned in barracks 32B, Stalag 17B. He was liberated by the 13th Armored Div. John is survived by 2 sons, 1 daughter, 8 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

SCHAETZL, Ruth I, 93, formerly of Fishkill, NY died June 15, 2017 in Myrtle Beach, SC. She was the widow of Joseph (ex-POW, 87th Inf., Co G, held in 12A). They both enjoyed attending conventions and reconnecting with former Army buddies and spouses. Survivors include 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 granddaughter, 1 grandson, 2 great-granddaughters and their families.

SCHWARZ, Gertrude Emma, affectionately known as 'Gerri', or 'Trudy', was born in Newark, NJ August 3, 1923. She passed away June 26, 2017. After finishing high school, as the nation labored through WWII, she worked in a factory. In 1946 Trudy married her childhood sweetheart whom she had known since she was three—Navy man Otto C. Schwarz. A survivor of USS *Houston* (CA-30), Otto had just been liberated from

prisoner-of-war camps in Burma and Thailand at the conclusion of WWII. While raising two sons. Otto regularly lamented at how he missed, and might never see again, so many fellow shipmates and prisoners of war (many from Australia). At Trudy's urging he began the process of making contact with those approximately 268 men—an effort which led to the birth of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations® which is still alive and well to this day. Trudy leaves a large and loving family, including: 2 sons and their families, and 5 grandchildren.

SEIDEL, Verne, life member of AXPOW and resident of Raymond, IA passed away June 18, 2017. He was 99 and the oldest World War II veteran and POW in Black Hawk County. Verne served with the 168th Infantry and was captured at Faid Pass in North Africa on February 17, 1943 and held at Stalag IIIB in Furstenberg, Germany. In April 1945 Verne married Irene Berend of Raymond who passed in 2016.

Verne was a strong advocate for veterans and was proud of his service in the Army and as an Ex-POW.

He is survived by one son and two daughters and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be remembered by his family and friends as a kind and good man.

STAHLHUT, Robert Fred, 96, of Indianapolis, IN died June 24, 2017. He served with the 384th BG, 644th BS during WWII and when his B-17 was shot down, he spent 22 months in Stalags 7A and 17B. Robert was an active member of AXPOW both at the local and state levels; he volunteered at the VA in Indianapolis. He is survived by his wife of nearly 72 years, Irene, 10 children, 35 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-grandchild.

taps cont'd...

STOPPER, Stanley, of Peabody, MA and Pompano Beach, FL died Feb. 23, 2017. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 53 years, Ethel. He proudly served his country in the 106th Inf. in WWII; he was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, taken prisoner and held in Stalags 11B and 2A. In addition to his wife, Stanley is survived by many nieces and nephews and extended family. He had a full life with wonderful friends and will be sorely missed.

VAUGHN, Kenneth L., 95, of Belleville, IL, passed away May 3, 2017. at his home with his loving family by his side. In 1940 he enlisted, flying out of Polebrook, England. His plane was shot down and he was captured by the Germans. He was held in Luft I, Barth until liberation. He was a member of the 351st Bomb Group Association, and the Okaw Valley Chapter, AXPOW.

He leaves his loving wife of 69 years, Jean, 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

WALDEN, Eva Lucille, of Tulsa, OK died Feb. 1, 2017 at the age of 97. She was the widow of ex-POW George (Korean War, Camp 3). Eva and George belonged to the Tulsa Chapter, AXPOW and the Korean War EX-POW Association. She is survived by 1 son, 2 grandsons, 5 great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and friends.

WASZAK, Edward F., 92, of Crystal Lake, IL passed away July 1, 2017. Serving with the 12th Armored Div in France, he was captured in the "Bloody Herlsschein" battle; he was held in Stalag 11-B. Ed was past commander of the Fox River Valley Chapter. Survivors include his wife, Therese, 1 daughter, 2 sons, 5 grandchildren and their families. He will be missed.

WEISMAN, Kenneth W., of Wendell, ID died June 23, 2017 at the age of 93. Kenny was stationed in England with the 838th BS, 487th BG, 8th AF. He was shot down over Rhode, Germany, captured and held at Stalag VIIA until liberation. He is survived by one brother and one nephew.

WILLS, Anne, a long time life member of Fresno Chapter #1 passed away on May 21, 2017. Anne was the widow of Norval Wills, a WWII POW who passed away in 2005. Both were very active & dedicated members.

WRIGHT, Jennie B., 96, of Pleasant Garden, NC died July 5, 2017. She was the widow of ex-POW Walter. Both were active members of the Greater Greensboro Chapter, AXPOW. She is survived by 2 sons, 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

chaplain



Benny Rayborn

A few years I was walking through my dark house in the middle of the night and tripped over an ottoman (foot stool) that had been left a few inches from its chair.

Ephesians 5:11- 12 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

The basic instructions of God are : "Keep away from sin" and "Don't talk about it."

Sin behavior (Those acts we do that are contrary to God plans and instructions)-Sinful behavior is referred to as "unfruitful works of darkness". Like myself stumbling in the dark house so do people stumble through life. Many do not know where they are going, nor where they are, nor what to do once they get to their destination.

From the above scripture we learn two things : First, do not sin-do not be a rebellious child of God and further do not even talk about others' wrong doing. That's gossip.

Gossip when repeated often enough is well known to become a monster that destroys friendships, families and reputations.

Our brains are amazing. We forget but we seldom completely forget.

An example is I find myself occasionally saying, "I know their name but I just can't recall it." The memory is there but retrieving it is another matter. But let gossip be told me, THAT I can remember!

God warns us to not gossip about the sins of other people. We sometimes find ourselves with a "want to know" Attitude that will soon have us walking in darkness away from God.

Psalm 18:28 "For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness."

Benny

USE ME, GOD.
SHOW ME HOW TO TAKE
WHO I AM, WHO I WANT
TO BE, & WHAT I CAN DO,
& USE IT FOR A PURPOSE
GREATER THAN MYSELF.



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Ex-POW Bulletin
Oct-Dec 2017



AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR VOLUNTARY FUNDING PROGRAM

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

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My name is Luis Rivera and I am a Veteran / Employee / Volunteer , at the Brockton VA Hospital. Last year I volunteered to take care of the POW-MIA Monument , which was donated by the SouthEast Chapter, AXPOW in 1995. These are the before , during and after pictures. Thank you to the following people: Jeff Barnes, and the grounds crew, who were able to acquire some perennials, which will flourish every year. The gentleman in the wheelchair is a patient from building 4 , who kindly offered to transport the flowers from my truck to the memorial. His name is Dick and he served with the 2nd of the 18th. Jeff Munsell from our greenhouse , who noticed that we needed some color and not only donated the colorful Geraniums but also took some of his precious time to plant them. Last but not least , is a very special shout-out to Father Francis from our Chapel, whom I asked to bless the flowers again this year and was happy to do so. Thank you Father Francis and everyone else involved.





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